



**4** Housing affordability in Kuwait lowest in region



**5** Queen's death ignites debate over Africa's colonial past



**8** Boursa Kuwait data now available on Yahoo Finance, Apple Stocks



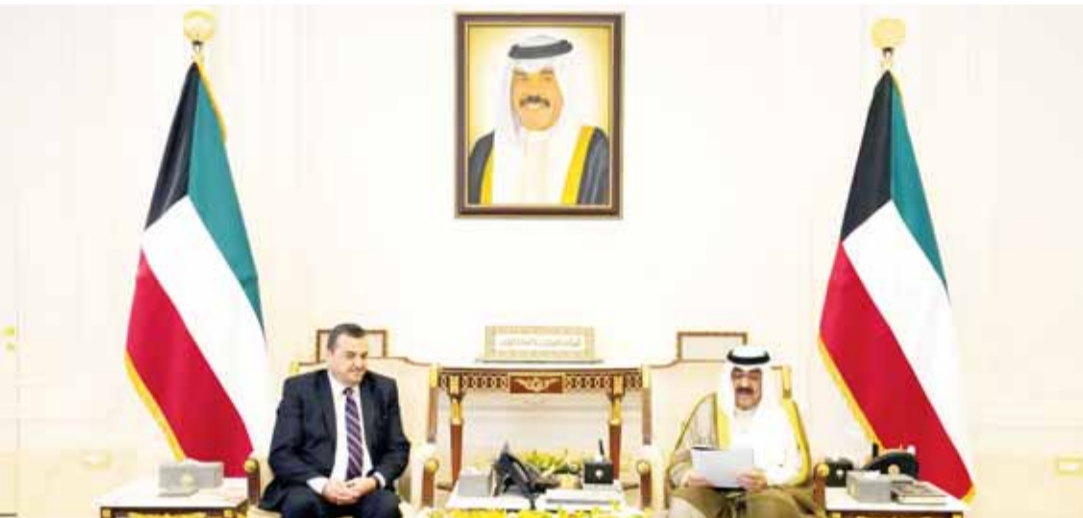
**15** New age Alcaraz wins US Open, becomes youngest world No. 1



# Authorities move to speed up deportation of illegals

## Interior, foreign ministries call on embassies to issue travel documents to violators

### Amir invited to Arab Summit in Algeria



KUWAIT: HH the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace Monday an invitation addressed to HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to attend the Arab summit in Algeria in November. Algerian Minister of Energy and Mining Mohammad Arkab handed the invitation sent by President Abdelmadjid Tebboune. — KUNA

KUWAIT: The government has given clear instructions to detain all iqama violators and deport them immediately, as is evident by the ongoing surprise campaigns the ministry of interior is conducting in densely populated areas. The foreign ministry, in coordination with the interior ministry, has contacted embassies in Kuwait and requested the appointment of a liaison officer at each embassy to obtain identification papers to facilitate the deportation process of residency violators, especially since some of them lost their documents or passports due to various reasons.

"The ministry of interior has asked embassies through the foreign ministry to speed up the issuance of travel documents of violators, as it will be strict in issuing fines against all violators who attempt to evade arrest or did not leave the country within the specified timeframe, as no new grace periods will be announced to leave without fines, as the government believes this method is not effective," sources told Kuwait Times.

Sources also revealed the interior ministry has found expatriates without any documentation, and some are children of expatriate residency violators. But the embassies of their countries do not recognize them because their parents did not apply for

their official registration, whether in Kuwait government records or with the embassies. They do not have valid documents that allow them to register their children, noting that the number of these violators is not small.

"This problem still persists between ministries and embassies and can be resolved by DNA tests to identify their parents, as many children were found with unidentified parents during campaigns in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh and Mahboula," the sources revealed. They added the interior ministry will not accept some Kuwaitis' objections on making them pay for the return tickets of fugitive or absconding workers, because they are the sponsors of these violators.

The sources reminded that from the outset, the sponsor undertakes to bear the cost of the return ticket for the worker if they leave for any reason, especially since the ministry of interior will face the problem of providing the airfare to deport the worker if they say they have no money to buy a ticket, while embassies will not bear the cost of deportation. The sources added the sponsor of an arrested runaway worker can deduct the price of the ticket to deport them before paying their dues in full.

### Cockatoos in 'arms race' with humans



SYDNEY: A sulphur-crested cockatoo opens the lid of a household waste bin in Sydney in this file photo. — AFP

SYDNEY: Australia's crafty, sulphur-crested cockatoos appear to have entered an "innovation arms race" with humans, scientists say, as the two species spar over the rubbish in roadside bins. The white birds, which can grow nearly as long as a human arm, initially surprised researchers by devising an ingenious technique to prise open household bin lids in Sydney and other areas.

Now, a new study says they have gone a step further by thwarting the escalating defenses of fed-up humans. The birds' and humans' behavior may reveal a hitherto unexplored "interspecies innovation arms race", said a study published Monday in Current Biology. Nestled between a forest and a surf-swept beach and bordered by cliffs, the picturesque town of Stanwell Park near Sydney is on the front line of the battle of the bins.

"If we don't close the bin right after throwing out the rubbish they'll be in there," said Ana Culic, 21, manager of the town's Loaf Cafe. "Cockatoos everywhere. Like, just rubbish all over the front area."

Her own family had tried scaring cockatoos away with owl statues to no avail.

Continued on Page 6

### Ex-MP Marzouq Khalifa to run for polls from jail

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Former MP Marzouq Al-Khalifa will be running for office from the central jail after the country's top court on Monday set Oct 10 as the date to issue its final verdict against the former lawmaker and scores of men from his tribe, Khalifa and the men were tried and convicted by the criminal court for organizing and taking part in outlawed tribal primary byelections ahead of the Dec 5, 2020

general polls, in which Khalifa won a seat in parliament for the first time.

The criminal court had sentenced Khalifa and his tribesmen for two years, and the verdict was upheld by the court of appeals. The men challenged the verdict before the court of cassation, the country's highest court whose rulings are final. Under Kuwaiti law, the convicts gave themselves up to authorities as a requirement for the challenge to be heard by the court of cassation. The judge sent all of them to jail pending the outcome of the trial.



Marzouq Al-Khalifa

### King Charles leads queen's coffin march

EDINBURGH: On foot and flanked by his three siblings, King Charles III on Monday led a somber procession carrying Queen Elizabeth II's body through hushed Edinburgh streets packed with mourners. The queen's oak coffin had on Sunday been driven to the Scottish capital from the Balmoral estate where she died last week aged 96, and held overnight at the royal residence of the Palace of Holyroodhouse.

After a regimental band played "God Save The King", her four children - Charles, Princess Anne, Princes Edward and Andrew - stepped out behind the hearse flanked by killed soldiers. Thousands of people lined the route to watch as the procession made its way to the 12th-century St Giles' Cathedral as cannon fired at one-minute intervals from Edinburgh Castle. The royals were joined by Prime Minister Liz Truss and Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon for a service of prayer and reflection for the monarch who reigned for a record-breaking 70 years. Later, the king and senior royals will stand vigil at the cathedral, with the coffin draped in the Royal Standard of

Continued on Page 6



EDINBURGH: Britain's King Charles III, flanked by Princess Anne, Prince Andrew and Prince Edward walk behind the procession of Queen Elizabeth II's coffin from the Palace of Holyroodhouse to St Giles Cathedral on the Royal Mile on Sept 12, 2022. — AFP

### UN reveals 50m people stuck in 'modern slavery'

GENEVA: Fifty million people around the world are trapped in forced labor or forced marriage, the UN said Monday, warning that their ranks had swelled dramatically in recent years. The United

Nations had set a goal to eradicate all forms of modern slavery by 2030, but the number of people caught up in forced labor or forced marriage ballooned by 10 million between 2016 and 2021, according to a new report.

The study by the UN's agencies for labor and migration along with the Walk Free Foundation found that at the end of last year, 28 million people were in forced labor and 22 million living in a marriage they had been forced into. That means nearly one out of every 150 people in the world are caught up in modern forms of slavery, the report said.

The COVID-19 pandemic, which worsened conditions and swelled debt levels for many workers, has heightened the risk, the report found. Coupled with the effects of climate change and armed conflicts, it has contributed to "unprecedented disruption to employment and education, increases in extreme poverty and forced and unsafe migration", compounding the threat, it said.

"It is shocking that the situation of modern slavery is not improving," Guy Ryder, head of the International Labor Organization (ILO), said in a

Continued on Page 6

# Kuwait's citizenship rights - a gray area

The Kuwaiti nationality is not granted to the children of Kuwaiti mothers and foreign fathers

By Majd Othman

**KUWAIT:** "She does not know what her children's future will look like" - in these exact words, the founders of the Gray Area campaign described the situation of Kuwaiti mothers who have children from non-Kuwaiti men, explaining the insecurity and fear from their uncertain future, which prevents them from getting their rights and depriving them from being secure and safe in the only homeland they know. Kuwait Times spoke to the founders of the Gray Area campaign and discussed with them, the steps taken towards spreading awareness of this cause and the steps taken to solve this issue. The team founders preferred not to mention their names, choosing to highlight the cause instead.

منطقة رمادية

**Kuwait Times:** Tell us more about your campaign? And what is your main purpose?

**Gray Area founders:** Gray Area is a local civic society organization, which was founded in September 2018 and advocates for the naturalization of citizenship of the children of Kuwaiti mothers, aiming to raise awareness on the state of simultaneous inclusion and exclusion experienced by people born of a Kuwaiti mother and non-Kuwaiti father. The Kuwaiti nationality is not granted to the children of Kuwaiti mothers and foreign fathers, leaving them in a gray area when it comes to their identities and legal status. Conversely, nationality is automatically granted to the children of Kuwaiti fathers and foreign mothers. In addition, spouses of Kuwaiti men can also apply for Kuwaiti nationality, whereas spouses of Kuwaiti women cannot.

**KT:** What are the main issues that you are covering under the cause of children of Kuwaiti mothers?

**Gray Area founders:** Children of Kuwaiti

mothers do not enjoy the same legal rights as other Kuwaiti nationals. For example, children of Kuwaiti mothers are required to renew their residency permits every five years in order to stay in the country. Their mothers, who serve as their 'sponsors' in the country, often cite feelings of stress and insecurity regarding their children's future. In the event that a Kuwaiti mother passes away, her children would have their residencies revoked, forcing them to leave Kuwait for their fathers' countries - sometimes for the first time in their entire lives. For children of Kuwaiti mothers and stateless fathers, there is often nowhere else to go.

In addition to this, children of Kuwaiti mothers are not legally allowed to inherit their mothers' houses, as expatriates are allowed to own property in Kuwait only under restrictive and specific conditions. Children of Kuwaiti mothers also face discrimination at the workplace, as Kuwait continues to implement Kuwaitization (policies prioritizing the hiring of Kuwaitis over expatriates) across both the public and private sectors. Children of Kuwaiti mothers also experience social discrimination, frequently citing hardships regarding identity and belonging.

Gender inequality in the nationality laws is also creating statelessness. According to a 2019 report released by the UNHCR, Kuwait is one of only seven countries around the world that have nationality laws that create the greatest risk of statelessness due to gender inequality. According to a 2019 report released by the Ministry of Justice of Kuwait, 127 Kuwaiti women married stateless persons in 2018. Thus, the common issues faced by the children of Kuwaiti mothers are the temporary residency issue, difficulties in getting a job, as well as the challenge in inheriting the house after their Kuwaiti mother passes away.

**KT:** Do you think that the new assembly changes will help the case of Kuwaiti children?

**Gray Area founders:** It depends on the candidates who will win in the election - if they support this cause or not. Despite the many candidate campaigns adopting this cause in the current or previous elections, nothing has hap-



pened so far, therefore we cannot predict the next assembly position until we see an actual move. From the slogans we hear in the current campaigns, we do see a reformative approach being taken, while if it is true, then this cause has to be in the list of reformation priorities, and if not, it will just be mentioned for the purpose of getting votes.

**KT:** Tell us about the campaign's achievements.

**Gray Area founders:** In the short time that Gray Area has been active, we have managed to raise awareness on the lack of legal rights pertaining to children of Kuwaiti mothers. We have used storytelling to offer children of Kuwaiti mothers, a platform that they can use to share important stories regarding their legal rights, social status, and identities.

Other accomplishments include activities carried throughout the course of the campaign, such as helping to combat misinformation and disinformation regarding the children of Kuwaiti mothers. During the previous elections, we created a website as well to help guide citizens to vote for political candidates that support our cause. Throughout the pandemic, we helped to raise awareness about the fact that the country was not prioritizing the vaccination of children of Kuwaiti mothers. In December 2020, Gray Area's campaign, Gray Stories, also won the European Union Delegation's Chaillot Prize for the Promotion of Human Rights in the GCC Region.

Meanwhile, in June 2022, we collaborated with the Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights to create a workshop for budding activists who wished to learn more about nationality rights and naturalization policies in the Arab region. We also ran a survey in 2019 on both Kuwaitis and children of Kuwaiti mothers, to assess their perceptions regarding the naturalization of the citizenship of the children of Kuwaiti mothers and regarding their attitudes towards granting children of Kuwaiti mothers,

the right to permanent residency, the right of inheritance, and other rights.

**KT:** Why do you think that women in Kuwait who married non-Kuwaitis are suffering to get their rights?

**Gray Area founders:** Women in Kuwait in general do not have many rights, especially in the political scene because of the society which still doesn't accept women in some places and how to respond to society when blaming them for their marriage choices, as well as their rights to choose who they want, and why they shouldn't be deprived of their legal rights due to their choices, especially when the constitution of Kuwait guarantees freedom for both genders.

We did a campaign before about granting citizenship to the children of Kuwaiti mothers and how to respond to society when blaming them for their marriage choices, as well as their rights to choose who they want, and why they shouldn't be deprived of their legal rights due to their choices, especially when the constitution of Kuwait guarantees freedom for both genders.

**KT:** How do you plan to increase the reach of your campaign?

**Gray Area founders:** Continued awareness. We are currently working on a campaign to help Kuwaiti voters vote for candidates who have vowed to make the children of Kuwaiti mothers a priority in their political plans.

**KT:** How did you find the reaction from citizens toward the campaign?

**Gray Area founders:** More and more Kuwaiti citizens seem to be learning about the issue. We noticed a tremendous lack of awareness among citizens at the start of the campaign, but have also noticed that the gap in awareness is narrowing down. Moreover, we have also noticed more political candidates making our cause a focus of their political campaigns, which we can attribute to the rise in awareness among the local population.

On the occasion of the

60<sup>th</sup>  
1961-2021  
ANNIVERSARY



Subscribe or renew your subscription  
KD 20 instead of KD 30 for 1 year

For individuals only

Tel: 24833199 ext: 353-355-356



kuwaittimes.com

#بس\_أمي\_كويتية

"I get really frustrated when I read comments that say "children of Kuwaiti mothers will eventually immigrate or go back to their father's country." If they decide to immigrate it's because all the doors were shut in their faces here, and not because they want to. It's different when you're in our position. I'd rather work here and save money so I can spend it on my mom and allow her to finally retire. She's in her 50s and she's still working because her retirement salary wouldn't be as great as what she's making now, and she's the one supporting us. I want to finish my studies to be able to support her and let her rest."

#توظيف\_أبناء\_الكويتيات

Local

# Values document - a political faux pas?

By Faten Omar

**KUWAIT:** A controversial document went viral on social media on Sunday, sparking widespread controversy and division between supporters and opponents of the document. After several candidates running in the Sept 29 parliamentary elections signed a document titled "The document of values", in which they pledged to support Islamic laws, the hashtags #Kandahar\_document and #values\_document, trended on Twitter, with thousands of citizens commenting on this topic.

The document calls to apply Islamic laws, including enforcing a modest dress code, banning tattoos, and gender segregation at schools, swimming pools and gyms, in addition to punishing anyone insulting the companions of the Prophet (PBUH) and setting up a hotline to complain about any act against Islamic law.

Supporters see the values document as representing the conservative Kuwaiti society. Nami Herab tweeted: "I read the document and did not see anything wrong. They want to make us enjoy the good and forbid sins, and this represents the core of our true Islamic

religion. Kuwaiti society is conservative; they have the right to regulate life and behavior in accordance with that. We do not want Kandahar and but also not El-Haram Street!"

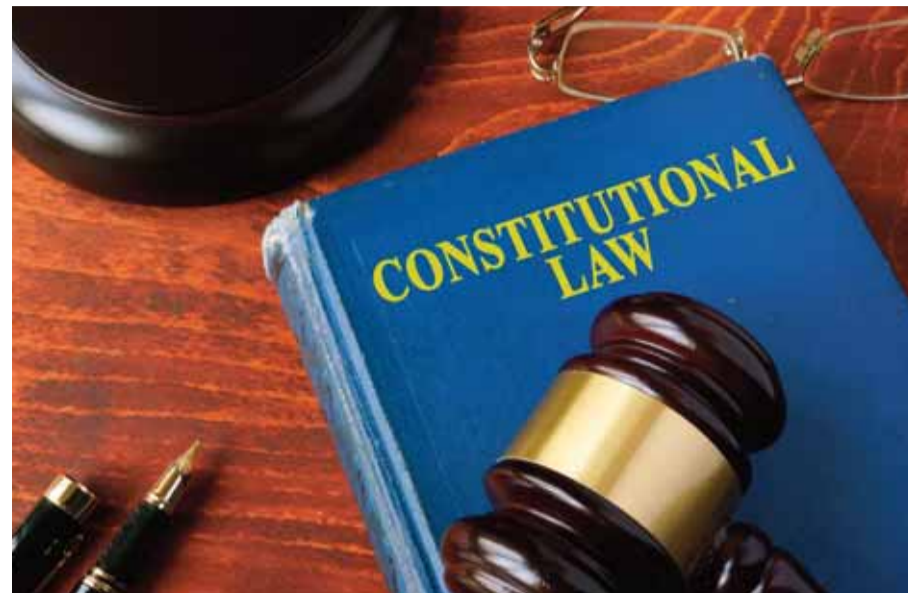
Ali Al-Safar tweeted: "Anyone who opposes such a reform is a shortsighted conspirator as he/she becomes an accomplice to the bioterrorism which threatens our national security through misbehaviors such as tattoos, suspicious spas and so on that spread infectious fatal diseases." As for Lulwa, the values document will lead to better generations for Kuwait, saying: "I am open-minded, but if something is in the interest of our children, why not? I don't mean we must approve intolerance and punishment, just behaviors people should abide by, like tattoos. People with such behaviors should not be allowed to be out in public."

Others could not digest the idea of making members of parliament, guardians of the people of Kuwait. Amina Al-Wahib tweeted: "The people who created this are clearly uneducated religious extremists that want to turn Kuwait into Kandahar." Hessah Al-Hasan commented: "Frankly, I just realized that fighting corruption begins

with fighting tattoos, while co-education at the university is the reason for the deterioration in the level of education. I never knew that yoga is the reason for the decline in medical services." She added sarcastically: "So canceling concerts will solve the housing problem? Seriously, well done! It is clear they are concerned with the interests and demands of the people."

Hazem Al-Sairafi, who has a tattoo, asked a supporter what his fate will be. "What is the fate of a person with tattoos? Be flogged with 100 lashes or retribution? I want to know my destiny," Sara pointed out contradictions. "I wish they would add in their document to ban travel to any country that does not apply sharia, because it is not reasonable to impose such rules and at the end of the summer you spend your time in Europe, where alcohol is served and naked people are present." She added: "They want to ban entering any cafe that plays songs, so they should ban cinemas as well, and ban smoking too, because it is forbidden by Sharia."

People were not the only ones to support or reject the idea of the "values document". Secretary-General of the Democratic Forum Abdul Hadi Al-Sanafi



affirmed his rejection of this document, some of whose clauses go against public and private freedoms confirmed by the Kuwaiti constitution, stressing the need to confront it in the event of any attempt to approve it in the National Assembly. He said he has great confidence in the Kuwaiti voter and their awareness to choose better and vote for

those who have a good electoral program and ideas in the interest of the country and citizens.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Women's Cultural and Social Society released a statement rejecting the document, saying that Kuwait is a civil and constitutional state where personal rights and freedoms are protected by the constitution.



## Cabinet gives new departmental directives in weekly meeting

**KUWAIT:** The Cabinet has conducted its weekly meeting headed by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf Al-Sabah. The Cabinet decided - to approve the Kuwait municipality's request to approve the donation from Kuwait Finance House to repair the damage caused at Souq Al-Mubarakiya; to grant approval to Atlas International Estate company to construct a multi-storied parking building in block two in Hawally; to grant approval to the Kuwait Institute of Scientific Research (KISR) to create a separate company under the institute which would produce, market and sell its products, with its capital to be paid by the institute; to instruct the development and planning commission to continue the evaluation of Kuwait's economic rehabilitation in order to suggest suitable solutions in the event of any unforeseen economic difficulties in the future.

The Cabinet also asked the Minister of Finance and Economic affairs to provide quarterly reports

to the National Assembly and instructed the development and planning commission to coordinate with all sectors, to improve governance as well as the effectiveness of the current systems. Other decisions announced by the Cabinet are as follows:

- Instructed the municipality minister to take required action to develop the northern economic area (silk city) legally, executive and procedurally.

- Directed the municipality to continue with its efforts to coordinate with the finance ministry and the environmental authority, regarding the conversion of hard garbage into dry fuel, which can then be used to produce cement.

- Directed the Minister of National Assembly Affairs to follow up on anti-corruption rules, which was sent to the National Assembly and to encourage all government sectors to cooperate with Nazaha, in order to provide them with the data related to people in debt and to continue with the upgradation process.

Meanwhile, in a bid to improve the housing crisis in the country, Talal Al-Khaled, Deputy Prime Minister, has designated the Ministry of Defense headquarters in Jahra, to be given to the public authority for housing affairs. The Cabinet, in turn, has expressed their gratitude and appreciation for the defense minister's initiative.



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf Al-Sabah. — KUNA photos



RIYADH: Dr. Nayef Al-Hajraf, Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) meets with US Special Envoy to Yemen, Timothy Linderking, — KUNA

## GCC supports efforts to stabilize Yemen

**RIYADH:** Dr. Nayef Al-Hajraf, Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) announced the organization's support for the UN's efforts to restore security, stability and peace in Yemen. This decision was announced after a meeting between Al-Hajraf

and the US Special Envoy to Yemen, Timothy Linderking, which was held at the GCC Secretariat in Riyadh.

Meanwhile, both sides reviewed the UN's efforts to end the conflict in Yemen and spoke about intensifying the pressure on the international community, to initiate a serious engagement in the peace process. They also emphasized the importance of the GCC Council's presence to support the leadership Council in Yemen, to achieve security, peace and stability in Yemen and to support developmental efforts. — KUNA

## Sibi George appointed Indian envoy to Japan

**KUWAIT:** Sibi George, the current Ambassador of India to Kuwait has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Japan. He is expected to take up the assignment shortly. George will replace Sanjay Kumar Verma, the Indian envoy to Japan

who will be the next Indian Ambassador to Canada.

Over the last two years, Ambassador George has brought about significant changes in the functioning of the Indian embassy in Kuwait and has also introduced many new community outreach programs. He has also helped push deep-rooted Kuwait-India bilateral relations. George has previously served in Switzerland, Cairo, Doha, Islamabad, Washington DC, Tehran and Riyadh before taking up his assignment in Kuwait.

## Kuwaiti ambassador presents credentials to Bosnian foreign minister



BOSNIA: Ambassador Dahir Al-Khurainij presents credentials to the Director of the Protocol Department, Mirsad Pestic. — KUNA

**BOSNIA:** Ambassador Dahir Al-Khurainij presented his credentials as Ambassador of Kuwait to the Director of the Protocol Department at the Bosnian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mirsad Pestic. The Kuwaiti Ambassador said that he hoped to strengthen the strong ties between the two friendly countries and peoples at various levels, in compliance with the orders of the leadership of Kuwait. — KUNA

## Sri Lankan ambassador rewards honorary students

**KUWAIT:** Honorary Sri-Lankan students in Kuwait have been lauded for their high school results - an event which was organized by the Muslim Sri-Lankan community in Kuwait, Iqraa Islamic Committee, which is accredited by the ministry of endowment in Kuwait.

"I would like to express my appreciation to the society for its noble and exceptional support, which it offers to the community through its committee," Sri Lankan ambassador to Kuwait, Othman Johar said.

"Kuwait hosts hundreds of nationalities from different countries under the umbrella of respect, tol-



KUWAIT: Srilankan officials with the honorary winners.

erance and Islamic cooperation, providing about 130 mosques in different languages. This is an extension of the Sharia which calls for tolerance and cooperation with everyone, and today we are honored to participate in this celebratory occasion," said the director of Salsabil, Ahmad Al-Farsi.

local spotlight

## Alliance of leaders and scientists



By Dr Khalid Ahmad Al-Saleh

local@kuwaittimes.com

**W**e are hearing great promises these days, the days of getting ready for the National Assembly elections. There are tens of candidates promising us reform, as if reform is a readymade item successful candidates will deliver to us. If reform was this simple, we would be the most developed country today, but we are still hearing promises, and our movement is still very slow and not up to our aspirations.

Reform principles are based on imperfection, as there is no perfection and will never be. So, the most active people adopt the rules of critical thought and improvement, but the less active adopt the rules of statements and sometimes swearing and defaming. This is the core difference between nations - nations that are living in the renaissance era and those living the pre-renaissance era.

The human being, ever since he started living on earth, continued to develop. He was during the first stages of his life slow - sometimes very slow. The difference in humanity came with the critical mentality in the 16th century, as scientists of the European renaissance era reformed intellectual views, as they benefited from the fall of Constantinople by copying ideas of great nations that succeeded before them in liberating the mind of the human being headed by Arab and Muslim nations.

The movement of growth and civilization was quick during the recent history of human beings, and man walked on the Moon and made Earth a small village surrounded by endless waves. The secret of man's success in development was his ability to use his brain in order to improve his surroundings. He did not use slogans as tranquilizers, and did not base his values on his personal needs; rather he took a path with clear signs and everyone had a role in it. These are the nations we see today having success factors or moving towards them. But nations of backwardness have those who continue to make statements and promises without having clear action plans.

Once again, this is the core difference between people, as whenever the critical mentality disappears, and the more people shout and attack, and whenever pessimism and frustration spreads, it indicates the people's failure and laziness, and finally being behind the movement of civilization. The large amount of promises is not an indication of man's wish to work; rather it is completely the opposite. Also, attacks and screaming are not a sign of man's keenness on reform, but to the contrary.

Critical mentality is what we need today, a mentality that analyzes reality and uses proven scientific information to carry out its executive duty in full: an optimistic mentality that believes imperfection is the nature of life. So do not get angry when you see the defect - rather work on mending it with the least loss. A mentality that loves freedom, believes in human rights and respects every living being, because it is Allah's creation.

How can we instill these principles in ourselves, while most of us are full of anger and pessimism? How can we start correctly, while many of us are looking for temporary relief from anger instead of looking for a work plan based on development values, with patience and improvement of performance. This is the next challenge.

We have in Kuwait neutral scientific and intellectual leaders, and we need to listen to them. Leaders who do not appease, respect other opinions and believe in success values away from allotments. The successful leader is one who believes in the abilities of his citizens. With those leaders, the reform wheels start moving, and the more the leaders seek the help of these intellectuals, the more they guide us on the right path of reform.

Nations are led by their scientists and neutral experts, and the clever ruler is the one who gets his strength from them, not oppresses them, and their credibility and frankness must be respected.

## News in brief

## Cabinet approves Dr Essam Al-Rubaiaan as new CSC chief

KUWAIT: Mohammed Al-Fares, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Oil, Minister of State for Cabinet and Acting Minister of National Assembly Affairs, announced that the Cabinet approved a bill appointing Dr Essam Saad Al-Rubaiaan, as the new Chairman of the Civil Services Commission. — KUNA

## KISR inks MoU with Saudi Saline Water Conversion Corporation

RIYADH: The Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) and the Saudi Saline Water Conversion Corporation (SWCC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the field of water desalination. The MoU was signed on the sidelines of the opening session of an international conference held, to discuss the future of the desalination industry, organized by SWCC and titled 'Desalination in Space'. Dr Mana Al-Sedrawi, Acting Director General of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research said that, "this memorandum aims to enhance cooperation between the two parties in the field of sea water desalination, which would help create opportunities and joint research projects to localize the desalination industry for water sustainability." He also added that the MoU covers various aspects of mutual cooperation in the field, such as investment in intellectual property, simulation of advanced technological practices, exchange of information to establish specialized laboratories and the development of human resources to implement joint research initiatives. — KUNA

## Kuwait-registered vehicles can stay in Jordan for 18 months

AMMAN: Aziz Al-Daihani, Kuwait's Ambassador to Jordan, said that the Jordanian authorities have decided to extend the permits for vehicles carrying Kuwaiti license plates, to stay in Jordan for a time period, from eight to eighteen months. Al-Daihani said, "Kuwait's embassy in Jordan has been in correspondence with Jordan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to convey the requests from Kuwaiti citizens staying in Jordan, to extend the legal stay limit for their vehicles," adding that he would also be conveying to the authorities that "a similar allowance should be given to GCC citizens residing in Jordan." — KUNA

## PAS halts funding to equestrian bodies

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Public Authority for Sport (PAS) announced its decision, to temporarily halt its funding for the Kuwait Equestrian Federation and other similar clubs, in lieu of an upcoming probe by a fact-finding committee, who would look into certain complaints that involved the activities carried out by the authority. The committee was put together by Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs and will be chaired by a representative from the Department of Legal Advice and Legislation, which includes a number of senior auditors, lawyers, sports persons and academics from the Ministry of Interior. Meanwhile, the authority has also formed a separate committee, to study the board decision. A statement from the committee formed by the authority said that it was working on regulations that would govern the distribution and spending of financial aid to equestrian clubs. — KUNA

## Kuwait's Kyokushin team win medals in Arab championship

BEIRUT: The Kuwaiti Kyokushin Karate team won two gold and five bronze medals at the end of the 11th Arab Kyokushin Karate Championship held in Lebanon. Kuwait's Salem Rajaan won the gold medal in the junior open weight category after defeating Muhammad Nahal from Lebanon and Qais bin Qais from Iraq. Meanwhile, Dhari Al-Enzi won the gold medal in the men's open weight category after defeating Zakaria Faour and Mohammad Mansour from Lebanon. Ahmad Hassan, Abdualaziz Al-Azmi, Abdullaah Mohammad, Saud Al-Otaibi and Tarek Ali also secured places at the podium after winning three bronze medals. Hassan Al-Kandari, Head of the Kuwaiti team said that "this is the biggest medal tally that we have achieved for Kuwait", noting that out of a total of ten participating Kuwaiti athletes, seven athletes won medals at the Championship. — KUNA

## Photo of the Day



A tranquil afternoon by the Sharq coastline. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

## Housing affordability in Kuwait lowest in the region

By Majd Othman

KUWAIT: A report indicated that affordability of housing in Kuwait is the lowest among Gulf countries, with a price-to-income ratio of 15:8, making it one of the least affordable places in the world to own residential property, according to Kuwait Financial Centre (Markaz).

The report showed that although Kuwait attaches great importance to meeting the housing needs of its citizens through the Public Authority for Housing Welfare, which provides Kuwaiti citizens with options such as a prebuilt house or a plot of land with a long-term interest-free loan from Kuwait Credit Bank of up to KD 70,000, the supply of housing units could not keep pace with the increasing demand. The number of pending housing requests until the year 2020 at PAHW reached 91,794, while the waiting period from the submission of applications until allocation reached nearly ten years. The shortage of supply also caused a rise in private housing prices, and reduced the affordability of owning private homes.

"One of the reasons for the citizen's inability to bear the costs of buying property is price hikes and the absence of real estate financing for private housing, especially after Kuwait Central Bank stopped housing loans in the beginning of 2014. We



Sulaiman Al-Dulaijan

see its result in the increase in property prices and the inability of people to buy, in addition to other reasons, such as speculation that occurred during the pandemic, increase in prices and lack of supply in the market," real-estate expert Sulaiman Al-Dulaijan told Kuwait Times.

"The problem is that the state controls private housing land and disposes it through the Public Authority for Housing Welfare, which distributes the housing to those eligible after 15 to 20 years of submitting an application. This is the state of the administrative situation within the authority," he said.

Regarding the reasons for stopping housing loans, the decision was taken at that time because during 2010 to 2014, there was inflation in the economy similar to what the economy is facing presently, but at a slower pace. "Therefore, the Central Bank issued a decision to prevent any Kuwaiti citizen from buying any residential property by paying with their salary, while it was available for those who had another financial source. Citizens could

also take personal loans to buy houses," Al-Dulaijan explained.

"But the citizen is often unable to take a loan proportionate with the real estate prices in the market. If we assume that the citizen's salary is KD 1,500, the loan they can get according to the laws of the banks will not exceed KD 30,000 in the best case. But the average price of a private house in Kuwait currently is KD 300,000, while the investment housing sector has still higher prices, so the ability of a Kuwaiti citizen to buy private housing has become the weakest in the Gulf," he added.

Offering some solutions, Al-Dulaijan said, "The government should offer land to the private sector for infrastructure work away from the bureaucracy of the government, as the case is in the GCC and the terms of residential real estate financing need to be reconsidered, providing an opportunity for other investments away from speculation in private housing, which is one of the most important reasons for price hikes in real estate, as a result of a lack of other safe opportunities in the market," he said. The Markaz report noted that the main factors that exacerbate the housing problem in Kuwait are a lack of private sector participation, low-density division in urban areas, limited access to finance and the high cost of capital associated with infrastructure development.

## Rare hernia condition operated on at Sabah Hospital

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Dr Mohammad Al-Sulaimi, Senior specialist in General, Laparoscopic and Obesity surgery at Sabah Hospital, said that a successful hernia operation was carried out on a 17-year-old patient, who was diagnosed with a very large inguinal hernia. The doctor added that the hernia which reached till the patient's testis was a rare condition, as most cases of hernia in young people occur at birth or are corrected within a year.

Al-Sulaimi said that, "The operation was carried out using a laparoscope and a mesh was placed for the patient," adding that "the General Surgery and Laparoscopy department carry around four inguinal hernia operations per week and around 180 cases per year with a very high success rate."

Speaking on the prevalence of cases of inguinal hernia in the society, Dr Al-Sulaimi said that there were around 1700 cases in every 100,000 people, across all ages with a probability that it may reach 4000 cases for every 100,000 people. He also said that the chances of being diagnosed with the condition increased as people aged, with most cases being diagnosed in those aged between 40 and 60 years.

Dr Al-Sulaimi advised patients with inguinal hernia to avoid being obese and to even undergo operations to reduce their weight, if they were unable to control their weight, adding that they must avoid constipation, weight lifting exercises and also treat



Dr Mohammad Al-Sulaimi

conditions such as the enlargement of the prostate. He also advised patients to consume fiber rich and healthy food items.

## LuLu Hypermarket celebrates 'PonnOnam 2022'

KUWAIT: Retail giant, LuLu Hypermarket celebrated a week-long 'PonnOnam 2022' promotion that ran from 6 to 13 Sept at all outlets of the hypermarket in Kuwait.

The PonnOnam 2022 promotion was inaugurated at the Al Rai outlet of the hypermarket on 10 Sept by the top management of LuLu Kuwait along with Al Rai branch members and in the presence of a large gathering of shoppers, well-wishers and media personnel. Onam, a ten-day long cultural extravaganza, is one of the main festivals of the southern Indian state of Kerala. It is often known as 'PonnOnam' or 'Golden Onam' in reference to the bountiful harvest that traditionally takes place during this season. Along with colorful competitions and captivating programs that attracted customers, the week-long promotion also featured amazing discounts and special offers on a wide range of products including one-off prices on all Indian fresh vegetables, fruits and other food stuff. Meanwhile, a delightful array of over 22 dishes were available as part of the main 'Onam sadya' menu, including more than 11 varieties of irresistible 'payasams' (sweet porridges) at very special prices. An alluring mix of Onam flowers, imported specifically for the occasion, also added to the color and fragrance of the festival.

The traditional Onam practice of buying and



KUWAIT: Winners of the 'Pookalam' competition with officials at the PonnOnam 2022 fest.

gifting new clothes to family members on the main day of Onam festival was promoted at LuLu Hypermarket with very special offers on a range of branded clothing outfits as well as stylish sarees, churidars and menswear that were available at never-before discounted prices. Curated ethnic wear were also offered exclusively through LuLu outlets for the occasion. Underscoring the cultural aspects of the Onam festival, there were a slew of programs arranged to engage shoppers throughout the 'PonnOnam' promotion period. These included a variety of cultural programs at the Al Rai outlet on Sept 8 that was accentuated with the distinctive 'chenda melam' performance on traditional drums to welcome 'Maveli', the festival's mascot. Meanwhile, a traditional 'pulikali' or 'tiger-dance' was arranged at the Al Rai, AlDajeej and Fahaheel branches of the hypermarket.



KUWAIT: Participants perform a traditional dance at the PonnOnam 2022 fest.



Russian sisters see father scarred by Ukraine fight

## UN slams Russia's 'intimidation' of Ukraine war opponents

Page 6

Page 7



IZYUM, Ukraine: A Ukrainian soldier standing atop an abandoned Russian tank near a village on the outskirts of Izyum, Kharkiv Region, eastern Ukraine, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Ukraine forces said that their lightning counter-offensive took back more ground in the past 24 hours, as Russia replied with strikes on some of the recaptured ground. —AFP

# Ukraine recaptures more ground

## Russia strikes back but current counter-offensive will not end the war

**KRAMATORSK, Ukraine:** Ukraine forces said Monday their lightning counter-offensive took back more ground in the past 24 hours, as Russia replied with strikes on some of the recaptured ground. The territorial shifts were one of Russia's biggest reversals since its forces were turned back from Kyiv in the earliest days of the nearly seven months of fighting, yet Moscow signalled it was no closer to agreeing a negotiated peace.

"Ukraine has turned the tide in its favour, but the current counter-offensive will not end the war," US think tank Institute for the Study of War tweeted. Moscow announced air, rocket and artillery attacks on reclaimed areas in the Kharkiv region on Monday, a day after Kyiv said Russian strikes on electricity infrastructure caused power failures.

The retaliatory fire came as Ukraine said forces had recaptured more than 20 additional settlements, claiming "Russian troops are hastily abandoning their positions and fleeing". Kyiv had already announced the recapture of the strategic city of Izyum in the country's east, one of a series of victories claimed against Russia's army.

Ukraine said on Monday its forces recaptured 500 square kilometres (193 square miles) in the southern Kherson region which were in addition to the huge gains in the east over the weekend. Moscow conceded having lost territory, which



**"Russian troops abandoning their positions"**

experts saw as a serious blow to its war ambitions, but Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov saw no prospects for negotiations.

"The special military operation continues and will continue until the objectives that were originally set are achieved," he added, using Russia's terminology

for the internationally condemned war. Eastern parts of Ukraine were hit with widespread electricity blackouts on Sunday evening, which President Volodymyr Zelensky said deliberately hit civilian infrastructure. He blamed "Russian terrorists".

"A total blackout in the Kharkiv and Donetsk regions, a partial one in the Zaporizhzhia, Dnipropetrovsk and Sumy regions," Zelensky said in a statement on social media. "No military facilities," he added. "The goal is to deprive people of light and heat."

### 'Weapon, weapons, weapons'

Local Ukrainian authorities pointed to Russian strikes on their power infrastructure, but some districts reported later that power had been restored. In Kharkiv region, a Russian strike on a power station killed one employee, Governor Oleg Synegubov said. He added that power had been partially brought back.

Ukraine's foreign ministry spokesman Oleg Nikolenko said the Russian attacks were an "act of desperation following Russia's immense losses and

retreat in eastern Ukraine". The Russian strikes hit 15 locations on Sunday, from Kramatorsk in the east to Mykolaiv in the south and Dnipro in between, Ukraine's military said.

The blackouts hit regions with an estimated combined population of nine million people-including territory controlled by Russia. The Russian attacks also disrupted railway services. Ukraine's national train service announced delays throughout the east including the country's second-largest city, Kharkiv.

Ukraine had already lost all power from the Russian-controlled Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant. The country's nuclear energy agency said the final reactor at the plant, Europe's largest nuclear power station, had been shut off as a safety measure.

The speed of Ukraine's fightback has apparently caught Russia's military off-guard, bringing swathes of territory Moscow had controlled for months back into Kyiv's fold. Images posted by the Ukrainian military showed crates of munitions and military hardware scattered across territory abandoned by Russian forces. — AFP

## Queen's death ignites debate over Africa's colonial past

**LAGOS:** From Kenya and Nigeria to South Africa and Uganda, Queen Elizabeth's death met with an outpouring of official condolences, mourning and memories of her frequent visits to Africa during her seven decades on the throne.

But the British monarch's passing also revived a sensitive debate over Africa's colonial past. Her death came at a time when European countries are under pressure to reckon with their colonial histories, atoning for past crimes and returning stolen African artefacts held for years in museums from London and Paris.

Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari and Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta were among those expressing condolences for the loss of an "icon." But many Africans reflected more on the tragedies from colonial times, including events that occurred in the first decade of her rule.

Kenya gained independence from Britain in 1963, after an eight-year-long rebellion that left at least 10,000 people dead. Britain agreed in 2013 to compensate over 5,000 Kenyans who had suffered abuse during the Mau Mau revolt, in a deal worth nearly 20 million pounds (\$23 million).

"The Queen leaves a mixed legacy of the brutal suppression of Kenyans in their own country and



ACCRA: File photo shows Britain's Queen Elizabeth II (C) shakes hands with an unidentified Ghanaian tribal chief introduced by Ghanaian President Jerry Rawlings (standing at right of queen) in Accra on the second day of the monarch's two-day state visit to Ghana. —AFP

mutually beneficial relations." The Daily Nation, Kenya's biggest newspaper, wrote in a weekend editorial. Elizabeth was visiting Kenya in 1952 when her father died and she became queen. "What followed was a bloody chapter in Kenya's history, with atrocities committed against a people whose only sin was to demand independence." "While the ties with Britain have been useful, it is difficult to forget those atrocities."

As part of recent restorations for the past,

Nigeria and neighbouring Benin have seen the return from Britain and France of the first of thousands of artefacts plundered during colonial times.

Nigeria's so-called Benin Bronzes — 16th to 18th century metal plaques and sculptures—were looted from the palace of the ancient Benin Kingdom and ended up in museums across the US and Europe. Nigeria's Buhari said the country's history "will never be complete without a chapter on Queen Elizabeth II". — AFP

## HIV, TB, malaria fight saves 50m lives over 20 yrs

**GENEVA:** The fight against HIV, tuberculosis and malaria has saved 50 million lives over the past 20 years, the Global Fund said Monday, appealing for \$18 billion to save millions more. "We have made tremendous progress," the global partnership created in 2002 to battle the three deadly diseases said in its annual report, with their death rates halved since then. "But our fight is not over," it cautioned, pointing to a range of colliding crises, including climate change, conflicts and the COVID-19 pandemic, that "threaten to knock us backward".

The Global Fund will next week hold a replenishment conference in New York, where it aims to raise at least \$18 billion in funds to cover its programs from 2024 through 2026. The fund, which brings together governments, multi-lateral agencies, bilateral partners, civil society groups, people affected by the diseases and the private sector, estimates that financing would help cut HIV, TB and malaria deaths by nearly two-thirds and save 20 million lives.

Last year, the Global Fund warned that the pandemic in particular was having a "devastating" impact on efforts to root out HIV, tuberculosis and malaria, leading to declining results across the board for the first time in the fund's history. But it said Monday that the massive resources it had pumped to counter the downturn had paid off and "recovery is underway". Since March 2020, the Global Fund said it had invested more than \$4.4 billion to fight the pandemic and mitigate its impact on its programs.

Fund chief Peter Sands stressed that "although most countries that fight HIV, TB and malaria have started to recover from the ravages of COVID-19, we need to accelerate our efforts if we are to fully recover lost ground and get back on track towards ending these diseases by 2030." He insisted that the 50 million lives saved over two decades was "proof that global commitment and community leadership can force the world's deadliest infectious diseases into retreat". The Global Fund, which provides nearly a third of all international financing to battle HIV, said that the number of people who received life-saving antiretroviral therapy last year rose to 23.3 million, up from 21.9 percent a year earlier. — AFP

## Sweden's far right makes strong gains

**STOCKHOLM, Sweden:** Sweden on Monday began a days-long wait for the final results of its too-close-to-call general election, with an unprecedented right-wing and far-right bloc in position to wrest power from Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson's Social Democrats.

The Scandinavian country has seen mounting political instability in recent years as the gradual rise of the far-right has upset the traditional balance of power in parliament. Sweden again found itself in a delicate parliamentary situation after Sunday's legislative election, with the right-wing seen holding a razor-thin lead over Andersson's outgoing left bloc.

"The close result in parliament suggests Sweden is heading for yet another messy mandate", newspaper of reference Dagens Nyheter wrote on Monday. With the vote deemed too close to call,

election authorities said a final result would only be ready on Wednesday, when the last ballots from abroad and from advance voting had been counted.

Editorialist Anders Lindberg of daily Aftonbladet said it appeared "impossible for the left to win because the votes from abroad are... usually in favour of the right". With 95 percent of votes counted on Monday, the right-wing led by conservative Moderates leader Ulf Kristersson was credited with an absolute majority of 175 of 349 seats in parliament.

Andersson's left bloc trailed with 174. If confirmed, the Social Democrats would be out after eight years in power. Kristersson, who vowed during the campaign to crack down on law and order amid soaring crime rates, said late Sunday he was "ready to build a new and strong government" if the results were confirmed. The election's big winner was, however, the anti-immigration, nationalist Sweden Democrats party, led by Jimmie Akesson. It was credited with 20.7 percent of votes, making it the biggest party on the right and the second biggest in the country behind the Social Democrats. — AFP



STOCKHOLM: Ebba Busch, leader of Sweden's Christian Democrats, reacts during an election party in Stockholm, Sweden, late Sunday evening, September 11, 2022, following general elections. —AFP

## International

## UN slams Russia's 'intimidation' of Ukraine war opponents

## Rights groups want council to appoint special rapporteur to examine situation

GENEVA, Switzerland: The United Nations on Monday condemned Moscow's "intimidation" of people in Russia opposed to its war in Ukraine, warning it was undermining fundamental freedoms. Speaking before the UN Human Rights Council, deputy UN rights chief Nada Al-Nashif decried the "intimidation, restrictive measures and sanctions against people (in Russia) voicing opposition to the war in Ukraine".

These actions, she warned, "undermine the exercise of constitutionally guaranteed fundamental freedoms, including the rights to free assembly, expression and association". Nashif, who is serving as acting High Commissioner for Human Rights until new chief Volker Turk replaces Michelle Bachelet, was speaking at the opening of the rights council's 51st session, which runs until October 7.

Nashif listed concerns about rights in a range of countries. But she took unusually harsh aim at Moscow. She decried "pressure against journalists, blocking of internet resources and other forms of censorship", saying such actions were "incompatible with media pluralism and violate the right to access information".

"We urge the Russian Federation to

reconsider measures taken to expand the 'foreign agent' label to include individuals considered to be 'under foreign influence', she said. She also called on the Kremlin to refrain from criminalising "undeclared contacts with representatives of states, foreign or international organisations deemed to be directed against the 'security' of the Russian Federation".

## 'Censorship'

Moscow left the rights council in April after it was suspended from the body over its invasion of Ukraine. But it remains an observer and could still speak up when countries debate Nashif's remarks on Tuesday.

Earlier this year, the council ordered a high-level probe into violations by Russian troops in Ukraine. The investigators are due to report back on September 23. There has been growing pressure for the council to also turn its gaze on rights abuses inside Russia itself.

Rights groups want the council to appoint a special rapporteur to examine the situation, but so far no countries have agreed to take a lead on such a resolution. Western countries are wary of what the

impact would be if a vote on the issue failed to garner enough support within the 47-member council.

"Everyone agrees there is a need... but what we haven't agreed on is timing," one Western diplomat said. "The impact of a defeated resolution would be felt for a long time," a European diplomat agreed.

The UN rights body also seems paralysed by uncertainty on how to respond to allegations of serious violations in China.

## China in focus

China is facing intense scrutiny since outgoing rights commissioner Bachelet released a long-delayed report last week on China's Xinjiang province. The report said China may have committed crimes against humanity.

It added UN weight to allegations by campaigners of a litany of abuses in Xinjiang, where they say more than one million Uyghurs and other Muslims have been detained. Beijing vehemently rejects the charges.

Western countries and their allies appear to agree action in the UN rights council is warranted. Rights groups are urging them to condemn the alleged violations or even order an investigation.



GENEVA: United Nations Acting High Commissioner for Human Rights Nada Al-Nashif delivers a speech next to Human Rights Council (HRC) President Federico Villegas during the opening day of the 51st session of the UN Human Rights Council at the UN offices in Geneva. —AFP

But fears abound that a failed attempt at action would signal a shifting power balance and weaken the council. China has meanwhile been energetically lobbying countries behind the scenes to "pre-emptively" counter any moves, observers say.

"We are ready to conduct business in a constructive way but if anybody launches joint actions against us, we have to be fully prepared," the Chinese ambassador to the UN in Geneva, Chen Xu, told reporters last week. —AFP

## Brussels bombing accused denounces 'unfair' trial

BRUSSELS, Belgium: French jihadist Salah Abdeslam, already jailed for his role in the 2015 Paris attacks, refused to take the stand Monday on the first day of the trial for the 2016 suicide bombings in Brussels.

He was one of the nine alleged members of the Islamic State (IS) group cell that launched both the March 2016 suicide bombings in Belgium and the November 2015 attacks in Paris facing terrorism charges in the Belgian capital.

"The way in which you are treating us is unfair," the 32-year-old told the presiding judge, leaving the dock a few minutes after the start of the first hearing in a trial due to last at least eight months.

The Belgian attacks, in which three suicide bombers hit Brussels airport and a crowded underground metro station, killed 32 people and shattered the lives of hundreds of wounded or traumatised survivors.

A tenth suspect, presumed killed while fighting in Syria, will be tried in absentia. "Here we are like dogs," shouted Tunisian Sofien Ayari, an accomplice in Abdeslam's escape, banging his fist on the wall of the box-like dock constructed in the purpose-built court.

## 'Like dogs'

While he had initially expressed the wish to attend the hearing, Abdeslam, in a blue and white striped polo shirt, changed his mind when he saw that Mohamed Abrini, Ayari and other co-defendants were being escorted out.

Abdeslam's complaint focused on the conditions in which he and the other defendants appeared in court, in glass-enclosed cubicles



BRUSSELS: Court-sketch made on September 12, 2022, shows defendant Salah Abdeslam during the opening of the preliminary hearing in trial of suspects in the March 2016 jihadist attacks, in Brussels, on September 12, 2022. —AFP

that keep them away from their lawyers and limit communication between them.

The trial is the largest ever staged in front of a Belgian jury, with 960 civil plaintiffs represented and the sprawling former headquarters of the NATO military alliance converted into a high-security court complex.

After Monday's preliminary hearing, the court will sit again on October 10 to choose 12 jurors and 24 potential substitutes. Evidential hearings will begin on October 13 and last at least until June next year. Many of the victims of the attacks are planning to attend the trial throughout, seeking understanding and closure following the carnage.

"My life was completely destroyed. I lost my friends, gave up my hobby as a pilot," said Philippe Vandenberghe, an airport manager who rushed to assist wounded passengers and now suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder.

The investigation quickly revealed, with the help of a computer found in a rubbish bin, that the perpetrators of the Brussels attacks were linked to those responsible for the attacks that left 130 dead in Paris. —AFP

## Germany 'regrets' Iran failure to agree to nuke deal

BERLIN, Germany: German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said Monday that Iran has failed to agree to proposals from European countries on reviving a deal on restricting its nuclear programme, warning this would put any accord out of reach "in the near future".

His comments came as Zionist Prime Minister Yair Lapid visited Germany in his latest diplomatic effort to persuade Western powers to ditch the agreement with the Jewish state's arch nemesis Tehran. Zionist entity has long opposed a revival of the 2015 accord, which has been moribund since then US president Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew in 2018 and reimposed biting sanctions on Tehran.

Momentum that built towards a restored agreement last month has slowed, with the three European nations party to the agreement—Germany, France and Britain—expressing doubts about Iran's sincerity over the weekend.

Speaking alongside Zionist leader in Berlin, Scholz said he regretted that Iran "has not yet given a positive response to proposals" from the Europeans. "There is now actually no reason for Iran not to agree to these proposals. But we have to note that this is not the case, and will not happen certainly in the near future."

Lapid said it was "time to move past the failed negotiations with Iran. They cannot and will not achieve the goal we all share to stop Iran from getting a nuclear weapon." The 2015 agreement, known formally as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), gave Iran sanctions relief in return for restricting its nuclear programme.

Negotiations underway in Vienna since April 2021 have sought to restore the agreement, by



BERLIN: German Chancellor Olaf Scholz (R) speaks during a joint press conference with Zionist Prime Minister Yair Lapid after talks in the garden of the Chancellery in Berlin, Germany, on September 12, 2022. —AFP

lifting the sanctions on Tehran and pushing Iran to fully honour its prior nuclear commitments.

In a joint statement at the weekend, Germany, France and Britain charged that Tehran "has chosen not to seize this critical diplomatic opportunity". "Instead, Iran continues to escalate its nuclear programme way beyond any plausible civilian justification", it added. Iran's foreign ministry criticised those comments as "unconstructive."

Further complicating efforts to revive the deal, the UN nuclear watchdog said in a report last week that it "cannot assure" the peaceful nature of Tehran's nuclear programme. Iran reaffirmed Monday its "readiness" to cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Before flying to Berlin, Lapid told his cabinet that "Zionist entity is conducting a successful diplomatic campaign to stop the nuclear agreement and prevent the lifting of sanctions on Iran. It is not over yet," he added. "There is still a long way to go, but there are encouraging signs." —AFP

## Ex-MP Marzouq Khalifa to run...

Continued from Page 1

The charter requires candidates to pledge that if they are elected, they will support Islamic bills submitted by lawmakers and that they will reject any attempt to re-introduce the mixing of the sexes at Kuwait University and other higher education

establishments.

Under the charter, signed by dozens so far, the potential lawmakers pledge to reject any mixed musical concerts and festivals and mixed activities at health clubs, swimming pools and hotels. The charter also calls to activate a law that requires decent dress at higher education establishments.

Many liberal and nationalist candidates refused to sign the charter, saying it contradicts the constitution and imposes restrictions on personal freedoms of individuals, a violation of articles in the constitution. Some liberal writers, publications and candidates described the charter as "intellectual terror".

honor my father in his new role".

The huge numbers who have turned out for the queen in Edinburgh are a taster of the crowds expected in London when the late monarch lies in state for four days at Westminster Hall from Wednesday. Around 750,000 people are expected, while the first person arrived for the queue on Monday - more than 48 hours before the line opens. "I just felt I had to do something. I just wanted to come today," said Steve Crofts, 47, waiting for the royals outside St Giles'.

Many people were up early to queue for wristbands that will allow them to file past the closed coffin, guarded by the king's bodyguard in Scotland, the Royal Company of Archers. Sue Stevens, 79, recalled being at school when King George VI died in 1952, resulting in his daughter, Elizabeth, becoming queen aged just 25. "It's the end of an era," Stevens said. "But having listened to him (Charles) over the last few days, I think he's well prepared for the task."

Britain has been plunged into mourning by the death of its longest-serving monarch, who has been a fixture of the nation's life and consciousness. While the government said organizations need not cancel events, everything from strikes to football matches has been postponed in honor of the only monarch most British people have ever known. Flowers, cards and candles have been left at royal residences across the country, where crowds have massed to pay tribute to the late queen and hail their new king. —AFP

## Cockatoos in 'arms race'...

Continued from Page 1

Then they tried placing bricks on the bin lids, but the cockatoos learned to remove them. Finally, they drilled a lock into the bin. "They're evolving. Yeah, like if you go back like five-ten years ago, they didn't know how to open bins so they're figuring stuff out," said the cafe's chef, 42-year-old Matt Hoddo.

Nearby, 40-year-old resident Skie Jones said he had resorted to an elastic cord to hold down the lid of his household bin after the birds worked out how to remove a brick and then a larger rock. "I have got a feeling I am going to be going for an actual lock," he said. "That's only a matter of time." Frequent sightings reveal that a single cockatoo can open a bin by holding the lid aloft

with its beak while standing near the front edge.

Then, with the bin lid still in its beak, it shuffles backward toward the hinge, forcing the lid ever higher until it flips open. The scientists found in an earlier study that knowledge of this technique spread as other birds looked on, creating local "traditions". Their new research shows that humans, frustrated at having their garbage spread across the street, learned to adapt. But then so did the cockatoos.

"When we first started looking at this behavior, we were already amazed because actually the cockatoos learned how to open the bins," said the study's lead author Barbara Klump, a behavioral scientist at the Max Planck Institute in Germany. As humans responded, though, "I was really astonished by how many different methods people have invented," she said. As the cockatoos learned to defeat some of the humans' protections, the two species appeared to be engaged in a "stepwise progression and reiteration", said the postdoctoral research fellow. —AFP

## King Charles leads queen's coffin...

Continued from Page 1

Scotland and topped with a wreath including heather from Balmoral, and the ancient Crown of Scotland.

The public will also be able to pay their respects to the monarch known as "Queen of Scots" until the coffin is flown to London on Tuesday ahead of the state funeral at Westminster Abbey on Sept 19. Prince Andrew was not wearing his military uniform, unlike his siblings, after stepping back from public life following a scandal over his links to US sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

But his presence represented a show of unity, as did the joint appearance at the weekend by Charles' warring sons William and Harry, as they surveyed flowers and cards left outside Windsor Castle. Harry, the youngest, who renounced royal duties in 2020 and moved to the United States, had earlier paid tribute to his grandmother, calling her his "guiding compass". "You are already sorely missed," the 37-year-old said in his first statement since her death on Thursday, adding that he and his American wife Meghan "now

## UN reveals 50m people stuck in...

Continued from Page 1

statement. "Nothing can justify the persistence of this fundamental abuse of human rights." It is a long-term problem, the report cautioned, with estimates indicating entrapment in forced labor can last years while forced marriage is often "a life sentence".

Women and children are by far the most vulnerable. Children account for one out of five people in forced labor, with more than half of them stuck in commercial sexual exploitation, the report said. Migrant workers are more than three times likely to be in forced labor than non-migrant adult workers, it showed. "This report underscores the urgency of ensuring that all migration is safe,

orderly, and regular," Antonio Vitorino, head of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), said in the statement.

Modern slavery is present in basically every country, with more than half of cases of forced labor and a quarter of forced marriages in upper-middle income or high-income countries. "It would be a mistake to believe that forced labor is solely the problem of poor countries," Ryder told AFP. The report found that the number of people - mainly women and girls - stuck

in forced marriages had risen by a full 6.6 million since the last global estimates in 2016.

The number of people in forced labor swelled by 2.7 million over the same period. The increase was driven entirely by more forced labor in the private economy, including forced commercial sexual exploitation. But the report also said that 14 percent of those in forced labor were doing jobs imposed by state authorities, voicing concern about abuse of compulsory prison labor in many countries, including the United States. —AFP

## International

# China's President Xi to make state visits to Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan

## Trip will be Xi's first outside China's borders in more than two and a half years

BEIJING: China's President Xi Jinping will make state visits to Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan this week, Beijing said Monday—his first trip abroad since the early days of the coronavirus pandemic. Russia had already announced last week Xi will meet with President Vladimir Putin at a leaders' summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Uzbekistan, as Moscow seeks to bolster ties with Beijing after being slapped with unprecedented Western sanctions over its invasion of Ukraine.

Beijing on Monday confirmed Xi's attendance at the summit in the Uzbek city of Samarkand. The Chinese president will also "pay state visits to Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan" from Wednesday to Friday at the invitation of Presidents Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the foreign ministry said in a statement.

The SCO is made up of China, Russia, India, Pakistan, as well as four Central Asian countries — Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. The summit in Samarkand, a stop on the ancient silk road, will take place on Thursday and Friday.

Putin and Xi last met in early February in Beijing ahead of the Winter Olympic Games, days before the Russian president sent troops into Ukraine. Beijing has not condemned Moscow's

interventions in Ukraine and provided diplomatic cover by blasting Western sanctions and arms sales to Kyiv.

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi will also take part in the summit in Samarkand, the Indian government said Sunday, without saying whether Modi would hold bilateral talks with Putin or Xi.



### Modi to take part in the summit

India's relations with China have been frosty since fighting in 2020 on their disputed Himalayan border left at least 20 Indian and four Chinese soldiers dead. Modi and Xi have not held bilateral talks since 2019.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who took over as leader in April, will also attend the

summit, a foreign office official who asked not to be named told AFP. China is Pakistan's closest economic ally, although relations have strained recently over the scaled-back CPEC project and attacks by separatist militants on Chinese nationals and interests.

#### Pivotal period

The trip will be Xi's first outside China's borders in more than two and a half years. The Chinese president last went overseas in January 2020 for a state visit to Myanmar. A few days after his return, the entire city of Wuhan was locked down over a COVID outbreak. Since then, Xi has largely conducted his diplomacy virtually.

But in February, he received several foreign leaders during the Beijing Winter Olympics—his first in-person meetings with heads of state since the pandemic. Xi is readying for a pivotal twice-a-decade Congress of the ruling Communist Party in October, where he is widely expected to secure an unprecedented third term as president.

The event, which opens on October 16 in Beijing, will also unveil a new top leadership lineup and likely consolidate Xi's hold on the party. Previous Chinese leaders generally refrained from making overseas trips in the weeks before the



China's President Xi Jinping

Party Congress, when behind-the-scenes power struggles frequently intensified.

Formerly Cold War allies with a tempestuous relationship, China and Russia have drawn closer in recent years as part of what they call a "no limits" relationship acting as a counterweight to the global dominance of the United States. Last week, Beijing's top legislator Li Zhanshu became the highest-ranking Communist Party politician to travel to Russia since the Ukraine invasion. —AFP

## Papua New Guinea quake toll rises to seven

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea: The death toll from a massive earthquake in Papua New Guinea rose to seven Monday and is expected to grow as rescuers begin to reach remote landslide-hit communities.

Police Commissioner David Manning said the victims of Sunday's 7.6-magnitude quake had been found across the central north of the country, where there is widespread damage to homes and infrastructure.

"The tremors caused damage to buildings and public roads" he said, adding "a number of landslides were triggered." Three alluvial miners were buried alive near the settlement of Wau and four others died in locations across Morobe and Madang provinces, Manning said.

University of Goroka buildings were badly damaged and "there are reports of injuries to students on the campus and they have been admitted to hospital," said Manning.

Missionary groups and private aviation firms have been trying to reach isolated communities and airlift the injured to safety. Aerial reconnaissance by the Mission Aviation Fellowship indicated "visible slides in the Nankina area and that some are still actively slipping", according to the UN's Papua New Guinea Disaster Management Team.

Many people are feared to have been displaced but early on-the-ground assessments have been sketchy. Papua New Guinea Red Cross secretary-general Valachie Quagliata said the area's rough mountainous terrain made access difficult, with the



KOMBUL, Papua New Guinea: Handout photo shows an injured villager on a stretcher being evacuated by helicopter from Kombul village to the nearby city of Lae following a 7.6-magnitude earthquake which struck off Papua New Guinea's coast. —AFP

worst affected areas not accessible by car.

According to a UN assessment, the earthquake damaged the Ramu hydropower plant "resulting in a total system outage across the Highlands provinces, Madang, and Morobe".

"There will be major interruptions to power going forward," Quagliata said. An undersea cable linking the regional capital Madang to Port Moresby was also affected by the quake, as was a link between Madang and Sydney.

Parts of the vital Highlands Highway, which connects several of Papua New Guinea's main cities, have been damaged. However, regional airports in Goroka and Lae-Nadzab remained open with no

damage reported, according to the United Nations. Prime Minister James Marape has warned Papua New Guineans to be cautious after the "massive" earthquake, but said its impact was expected to be less than a 2018 quake which killed 150 people.

The country's national coronavirus hotline has been redirected to take calls from people affected by the earthquake. The quake struck at a depth of 61 kilometres (38 miles), about 67 kilometres from the town of Kainantu, according to the US Geological Survey. Papua New Guinea sits on the Pacific "Ring of Fire", causing it to experience frequent earthquakes. —AFP

## Cyprus politicians face trial in 'golden passport' scandal

NICOSIA: Politicians and a lawyer accused of selling Cyprus passports to dubious investors, exposed by a sting operation that ended the citizenship-for-investment scheme, are to stand trial next month, a court ruled Monday.

Nicosia Criminal Court said the trial of former parliament speaker Demetris Syllouris, ex-MP Christakis Giovanni, a senior manager of his real estate firm, Antonis Antoniou, and lawyer Andreas Pittadjis would open on October 26.

The charges against the four men include conspiracy to subvert the Republic, bribery and corruption, according to the official Cyprus News Agency. They were released on conditional bail ranging from €50,000 (\$50,000) to €30,000 each.

In August 2020, broadcaster Al Jazeera charged that high-ranking officials were ready to help a fictitious Chinese investor with a criminal past obtain a Cyprus passport through investment. Parliament speaker Syllouris and opposition communist party AKEL MP Giovanni were secretly filmed trying to facilitate a passport for the fugitive investor.

Prominent lawyer Pittadjis also featured in the video and others linked to Giovanni's property development company, Syllouris—who held the most senior political post after the president in Cyprus—and Giovanni later resigned, although both insisted they were innocent of any wrongdoing, saying the videos had been illegally recorded.

Until then, despite earlier criticism from Brussels, the government fiercely defended the passport scheme but abruptly had to scrap it in November 2020. Following the damaging fallout, the government commissioned a public inquiry by former judge Myron Nicolatos following the Al Jazeera broadcast. —AFP

## Russian sisters see father scarred by Ukraine fight

PSKOV, Russia: In the picture, Anastasia and Elizaveta Grigoryeva's father is faintly smiling, smartly dressed from head to toe in military uniform and holding a puppy to the camera. It's an image of their father no longer recognisable to the 18-year-old twin sisters—not since he left to fight in Ukraine some six months ago and returned a "broken man".

"He was there for the most intense fighting, under shelling, everything," Elizaveta tells AFP. "He says himself, being shelled for six hours will change a man. And so many deaths. He needs medical help," she adds.

The psychological scars her father has brought home from the battlefield has built pressure on a family already at odds over whether the conflict is justified. And their story points to a broader issue, one uncomfortable for the Kremlin—that fighting in Ukraine is taking a harsh toll at home and tearing apart some families. Elizaveta believes many more veterans will return traumatised.

The sisters, who are staunchly opposed to the military intervention in Ukraine, live in Pskov near Russia's border with Estonia. The medieval city of around 200,000 people is also home to the 76th Guards Air Assault Division—their father's paratrooper unit. In January, Grigoryev told his daughters he was leaving just for a few days for military drills in Belarus. He wouldn't return for six months.

#### 'War is a crime'

His unit took part in the calamitous assault for Kyiv that ended with the Russia's withdrawal from northern of Ukraine in March. Investigative journalists have placed the unit around that time near the Ukrainian town of Bucha, where Kyiv and international investigators have accused Russian forces of executing civilians.

Russia denies harming civilians but Anastasia and Elizaveta wonder if their father could have somehow been involved. "He says he didn't kill anyone," says Elizaveta. "But war is a crime in and of itself," Anastasia answers.



PSKOV: 18-year-old twin sisters Elizaveta (L) and Anastasia Grigorieva speak to a journalist during an interview in Pskov. Their father is no longer recognisable to the 18-year-old twin sisters, not since he left to fight in Ukraine some six months ago and returned a "broken man". —AFP

"Yeah, so, supporting or taking part in the war is already a crime," concludes Elizaveta. The sisters were shocked when Putin announced Russia's military intervention, and in early March took to the streets, carrying signs that read: "Peace in Ukraine, Freedom in Russia."

Turnout was low at the protest in Pskov and the sisters were immediately detained. They were threatened with jail time by police but eventually released. Instead there were ordered to pay a fine equivalent to around 330 euros for "organising" an illegal gathering.

While Anastasia and Elizaveta were entangled in legal problems at home, their father's well-being was deteriorating. In May, the 43-year-old soldier asked his family to start the administrative process needed to return him from the front. He left the battlefield "for health reasons" in mid-June and is now going through the procedure to be discharged from the army after around 20 years of service.

"That much stress has changed how he sees the world. He lost comrades. He saw corpses everywhere," Elizaveta says. New legislation introduced in Russia against maligning the military means he could face jail time if he speaks publicly about his experiences in Ukraine. —AFP

## Ethiopia rivals urged to seize moment for peace

NAIROBI: The international community on Monday urged warring sides in Ethiopia to seize the moment for peace after Tigrayan rebels said they were ready for talks led by the African Union to end almost two years of brutal warfare.

There has been a flurry of diplomatic efforts to push for negotiations after fighting flared in northern Ethiopia in late August for the first time in several months, torpedoing a humanitarian truce and cutting off aid deliveries to war-stricken Tigray.

Tigrayan authorities said Sunday they were "prepared to participate in a robust peace process under the auspices of the African Union," after previously rejecting AU mediation and saying they wanted Kenya to lead any talks.

"We are ready to abide by an immediate and mutually agreed cessation of hostilities," Tigray's regional government said in a statement coinciding with Ethiopia's new year. The government has not formally commented on the Tigrayan stance but has previously said it was ready for unconditional talks "anytime, anywhere," brokered by the AU, which is headquartered in Addis Ababa.

The Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) had until now vehemently opposed the role of the AU's Horn of Africa envoy Olusegun Obasanjo, protesting his "proximity" to Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed.

Untold numbers of civilians have been killed since the war erupted in Africa's second most populous country in November 2020, and the fighting has left millions of people across northern Ethiopia in need of emergency aid. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres urged "the parties to seize this opportunity for peace and to take steps to end the violence definitively and opt for dialogue".

#### 'Unique opportunity'

AU Commission chief Moussa Faki Mahamat also welcomed the development as a "unique opportunity towards the restoration of peace" and urged "both parties to urgently work towards an immediate ceasefire, engage in direct talks".

Similar messages were issued by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell. "We call on the country's leaders to put Ethiopia on a path that ends the suffering and achieves a lasting peace," Blinken said in a statement.

Ethiopia's international partners were ready to support the peace process, he said, but added: "Eritrea and others should cease fuelling the conflict." Fighting has raged on several fronts in northern Ethiopia since hostilities resumed on August 24, with both sides accusing the other of firing first and breaking a March truce.

The TPLF also accused Ethiopia and neighbouring Eritrea—whose forces were involved in the early phase of the war—of having launched a massive joint offensive on Tigray on September 1. Access to northern Ethiopia is severely restricted and it is not possible to verify what is happening on the ground.

"Unfettered humanitarian access" The Tigray statement made no mention of pre-conditions for talks, although it said the Tigrayans expected a "credible" peace process with "mutually acceptable" mediators as well as international observers.

TPLF leader Debretsion Gebremichael last week proposed a conditional truce calling for "unfettered humanitarian access" and the restoration of essential services in Tigray, whose six million people are suffering food shortages and a lack of electricity, communications and banking services.

In a letter to Guterres, he also called for the withdrawal of Eritrean forces from across Ethiopia, and for troops to pull out of western Tigray, a disputed region claimed by both Tigrayans and Amharas, the country's second-largest ethnic group. Debretsion had disclosed last month that two rounds of confidential face-to-face meetings had taken place between top civilian and military officials, the first acknowledgement by either side of direct contacts. —AFP

# Business

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2022

## Boursa Kuwait Data now available on 'Yahoo Finance' and 'Apple Stocks'

The integration offers investors access to price stock activity that can be added to the watch list

**KUWAIT:** Boursa Kuwait on Tuesday announced that the exchange's data and that of the listed companies are now available on the "Yahoo Finance" online platform and the "Apple Stocks" application. Boursa Kuwait announced this as part of its efforts to offer regional and global investors access to stock prices and associated data, and to Boursa Kuwait indices, which could all be added to the users watch list.

The "Apple Stocks" application is pre-installed on Apple smartphones, tablets, and computers. The application sources its information from "Yahoo Finance", enabling the user to monitor the stock market and follow stocks and indices of choice.

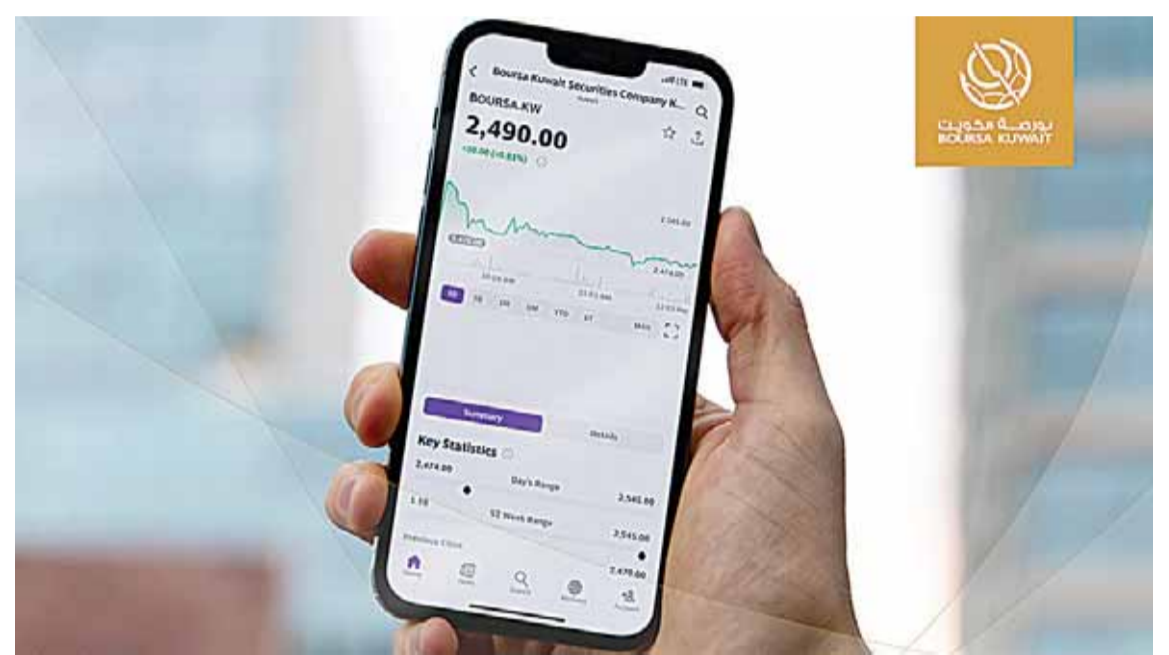
This initiative further builds on Boursa Kuwait's efforts to provide market data to investors and traders alike, as it falls in line with the company's aim to develop an informative and tool rich exchange platform for all market participants, supporting them to make sound investment decisions.

As part of this ongoing digital upgrade and transformation, earlier in 2021, Boursa Kuwait introduced its fully revamped and updated website [boursakuwait.com.kw](http://boursakuwait.com.kw) and continued to present investors and traders the ability to keep up with the stock market through their platform of choice wherever they are, through the launch of the all new Boursa Kuwait applications. The Boursa Kuwait apps are accessible through iOS and Android based smart phones, tablets, and Apple watches. The integrated system offers

stakeholders the advantage of viewing indicators and prices, accessing financial statements of listed companies, and following up on their developments and disclosures. It also offers detailed charts that showcase stock prices over a specified period of time, along with technical indicators to analyze historical data, price movement patterns and statistical trends from trading activity, for a more thorough overview. All applications provide the feature of alerts and the option to create a watch list.

Throughout its journey, Boursa Kuwait has adopted a progressive approach towards developing the operations of the exchange and its informative tools, to ensure it offers all of its stakeholders' easy access to information, reinforcing its transparency as an exchange. Moreover, Boursa Kuwait is driven by its persistence to elevate the overall status of the Kuwaiti Capital Market with a global echo, through the international standards it adopts, and the far reach and access of quality information it offers globally through multiple channels, fortifying its efforts towards digital transformation.

Boursa Kuwait's all-encompassing approach takes into consideration the diverse needs of its stakeholders. Coupled with its strong understanding of the local, regional and international business landscape, Boursa Kuwait plays a major role in bringing stability to the local capital market and is committed to ensuring that market participants



continue to stay up to date with the latest developments locally and worldwide.

Since its inception, Boursa Kuwait, a self-listed company and one of the government entities to successfully undergo privatization, has implemented many steps in accordance with international practices and standards to enhance the position of

the exchange regionally and globally, as well as transform Kuwait into a regional and global investment destination, by focusing on creating an attractive issuer base and broadening its investor base, increasing the depth and breadth of its products, as well as upgrading its infrastructure and business environment to international standards.

## Sri Lankan 'white elephant' Chinese tower to open

**COLOMBO:** A huge green and purple communications tower in Sri Lanka financed with Chinese debt that has become a symbol of the ousted Rajapaksa clan's closeness to Beijing will finally open this week, its operator said Monday. The 350-metre (1,155-foot) Lotus Tower-visible from all over Colombo and built for an estimated \$113 million-has been plagued by corruption claims since construction began in 2012 under former president Mahinda Rajapaksa.

It is one of several "white elephant" projects built with Chinese loans under Rajapaksa, elder brother of Gotabaya Rajapaksa who was ousted from the presidency in July after months of protests over Sri Lanka's dire economic crisis. The state-owned Colombo Lotus Tower Management Company said they had decided to open its observation deck to visitors from Thursday and earn ticket sales to minimize losses.

"We can't keep this closed. The maintenance costs are huge," chief executive Prasad Samarasinghe told reporters. "We want to earn the upkeep of the building and turn this into an entertainment centre." The company hopes to rent out office and shop space, including a revolving restaurant just below the observation deck offering views of the congested capital as well as the Indian Ocean.

Broadcasters say the structure, which cannot cover the island nor improve current transmissions from a mountain in the centre of Sri Lanka, is of no use as a communications tower.

A local media outlet on Monday called it a "towering story of pride and waste," a vanity project of



COLOMBO: This picture taken on September 12, 2022 shows an exterior view of the Chinese-built Lotus Tower in Colombo. —AFP

Rajapaksa who wanted a copy of Beijing's 405-metre Central Radio and TV tower. During his decade in power from 2005-15, Mahinda Rajapaksa borrowed heavily from China for infrastructure projects which failed including a deep-sea port handed to Beijing in 2017 on a 99-year lease.

Sri Lanka's current economic crisis is partly blamed on Chinese debt which accounts for over 10 percent of Colombo's \$51 billion in external borrowings. Sri Lanka defaulted on its debt in April and

earlier this month agreed to a conditional bailout of \$2.9 billion from the International Monetary Fund.

It depends on the Sri Lankan government striking a deal with creditors including China to restructure its borrowings. Beijing has so far only offered additional loans instead of taking a cut on outstanding borrowings. China has loaned billions for infrastructure projects in Asia, Africa and Europe under its gargantuan Belt and Road Initiative, which critics say is saddling nations with debt. —AFP

## Queen's funeral set to knock UK economy

**LONDON:** The UK's recession-threatened economy rebounded in July, data showed Monday, but is set to receive a further hit from a public holiday marking next week's funeral of Queen Elizabeth II. British gross domestic product expanded 0.2 percent after a drop of 0.6 percent in June, the Office for National Statistics said in a statement.

June's big decline had been attributed partly to an extra public holiday for the queen's Platinum Jubilee marking 70 years on the throne before her passing last week. Another public holiday is scheduled next Monday for the queen's state funeral. "The feeble 0.2-percent bounce back in July was driven by weak GDP in June due in part to the loss of working days from the Jubilee long weekend," noted Yael?Selfin, chief economist at KPMG UK.

"More concerning, July's GDP remains below the level seen in May,

pointing to an overall contraction over the first two months of summer." Britain usually has only one public holiday in early summer but the amount was doubled for the Jubilee. Time off work for millions of Britons next Monday means the economy will have had two more public holidays than usual in 2022. The Bank of England (BoE) expects the UK economy to enter recession before the end of the year on decades-high inflation fuelled by surging energy and food bills.

### 'More damaging'

"Looking ahead, the extra public holiday for the queen's funeral on September 19 has the potential to be more damaging for the economy than the extra day off for the Jubilee in June," Samuel Tombs, chief UK economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics, said following Monday's data. "That said, many businesses will be able to catch up work, as most of them did in June."

Pantheon is predicting the funeral to hit September GDP by 0.2 percent. "That suggests that a technical recession-widely defined as two quarters of declining GDP-is hanging in the balance."



LONDON: British gross domestic product expanded 0.2 percent after a drop of 0.6 percent in June.

The BoE forecasts UK inflation-already at a 40-year high above 10 percent-to keep surging this year.

In a bid to tame runaway prices, the central bank has hiked its main interest rate several times since the end of last year. More tightening of borrowing costs had been nailed on at a BoE meeting this week but its latest

monetary policy gathering has been delayed until after the funeral.

Mourners later Monday got the first opportunity to pay respects before the coffin of Queen Elizabeth II, as it lies in an Edinburgh cathedral where successor King Charles III will mount a vigil. The queen died in Scotland last Thursday, aged 96. —AFP

## Oil continues to slide amid demand fears

**LONDON:** Oil prices continued its downward slide on Monday shedding gains from highs reached in March owing to COVID-19-related movement restrictions in China. Brent was trading 1.35 per cent higher at \$94.09 a barrel at 5pm Kuwait time. It has dropped from its near-\$140-a-barrel high in March following the start of Ukraine war and is now up about 18 per cent since the start of the year.

West Texas Intermediate, the gauge that tracks US crude, was up 1.29 per cent at \$87.91 a barrel.

The halt by the European Union of Russian waterborne crude imports by December 5 and refined products by February 5 will provide further support for oil prices, according to UBS. Russia has continued to boost its exports to countries such as China and India, the world's largest energy importers, even as the US and the UK ban imports of its crude in response to its military offensive in Ukraine.

Last week, Russian President Vladimir Putin warned that his country would not supply energy to countries that back a proposed price cap by the US and Europe on Moscow's crude in response for its war in Ukraine.

Last week, the European Central Bank raised its key interest rates by 75 basis points to tame record inflation. The US Federal Reserve raised interest rates by 75 basis points in its past two meetings to bring inflation down from a 40-year high.

The Fed is expected to increase rates further when it meets from September 20 to September 21.

In a report on Monday, Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank said the OPEC+ alliance of producers could take further steps to cut output if oil prices remain under weakening pressure. ADCB cited the meeting of OPEC+ earlier this month in which the group indicated it will stand ready to hold an unscheduled meeting to address market developments, even before the planned October 5 meeting if necessary.

Meanwhile, stock markets rallied Monday, building on pre-weekend momentum as investors priced in the expectation of further interest rate hikes aimed at taming decades-high inflation. The euro surged against main rivals, a day after German central bank chief Joachim Nagel signaled that the European Central Bank (ECB) would probably continue raising its key rate.

The European single currency rocketed more than 1.4 percent against the dollar and 1.6 percent versus the yen before trimming gains around midday. The ECB raised the key rate by a historic 75 basis points last week, and markets expect a similar-sized hike at an October meeting. —AFP



## Business

# Boubyan Accelerator Program launched in collaboration with DIFC FinTech Hive

## After the qualification of 10 projects and startups from Kuwait and the region



Abdulla Al-Tuwaijri and Raja Al-Mazroui during the signing of the treaty



Abdulla Al-Tuwaijri and Raja Al-Mazroui with projects' directors

**KUWAIT:** Boubyan Bank has announced the launch of the training phase for projects and companies that qualified to continue with Boubyan Accelerator Program, which was launched in collaboration with DIFC FinTech Hive. The launch was announced during a ceremony attended by top management of Boubyan and in the presence of DIFC FinTech Hive's Executive VP, Raja Al-Mazroui and a group of strategic partners and investors in the local and GCC markets.

Abdulla Al-Tuwaijri, CEO - Private, Consumer & Digital Banking at Boubyan Bank, commented on this occasion by stating: "We are pleased to be here today to announce the launch of the training program for the first cohort of participants who were selected to continue their journey with Boubyan Accelerator Program, which targets regional startups looking forward to working in Kuwait, and aims to help them launch and accelerate their ideas."

"Ten projects and startups were selected out of 250 entrepreneurs who applied to join the program ever since the announcement of its first launch in

### Al-Tuwaijri: Reaching this stage of the program confirms our keenness on supporting startups and entrepreneurs

Kuwait. The program aims at reinforcing Boubyan's strategy and its remarkable steps started years ago towards leading the future of the financial sector in Kuwait, and reinforcing its status as a leader in innovation, digital services, initiatives, and entrepreneurship," Al-Tuwaijri added.

He added: "Qualified candidates will be joining an intensified and innovative program that will help them launch their ideas and accelerate their implementation. This reinforces Boubyan's role in supporting startups, especially the ones that could turn very successful and add value to the society, which aligns with our corporate social responsibility."

In this context, DIFC FinTech Hive's Executive VP, Raja Al-Mazroui stated: "Being the first and largest FinTech accelerator in the Middle East,

Africa, and South Asia, and emanating from our vision to bring FinTech initiatives together, develop them, and enhance innovation concepts as well as establishing partnerships, we are pleased to be the first supporter of accelerator initiatives and programs in the region. Moreover, we are pleased to collaborate with Boubyan Accelerator Program and to share our experience with them in line with our strategy, which aims to improve the future of FinTech and grow talents by offering ongoing support as per the best international standards."

Speaking about the 10 selected youth initiatives, Al-Tuwaijri said: "Technology was a must for these projects, whose selection was marked by diversification as they included digital education, FinTech, and e-commerce startups. Geographical location

was a selection criteria as well as they included participations from Kuwait, UAE, and KSA."

Projects that qualified for the next phase of Boubyan Accelerator Program under the FinTech category included Enabill from Kuwait, Xpence and Edfundo from UAE, and Money Loop from KSA. Under digital education, Kashkool Educational was selected from Kuwait, and under e-commerce and other participating technology initiatives participating in the program, Tdalal, Bookr Co, Punch App, Mnasati, and Looksie from Kuwait were selected.

Al-Tuwaijri elaborated: "Through this program, the bank will develop and accelerate action plans for startups and improve the technology used in their services in addition to holding many workshops and events that give them the opportunity to connect with strategic partners and investors in the local and GCC markets to pitch their projects. The program will also support their marketing efforts and finance management, thereby enhancing entrepreneurship in the promising technology sector."

## COFE App and Tasleeh announce B2B partnership

**KUWAIT:** COFE, the region's premier coffee marketplace app recently announced their partnership with Tasleeh, Kuwait's unique commercial property maintenance platform. With Tasleeh, COFE will now offer a full range of maintenance services to COFE Shops on its platform through their brand new COFE Maintenance feature.

The launch of this service is part of COFE's effort to become a 360 services provider, making their vendors' lives easy, so that they can focus on doing what they do best - coffee! COFE Shops can register their maintenance requests through COFE's Supply Chain portal, which will then be fulfilled by Tasleeh through platform integration.

Commenting on the partnership, Bashayer Al-Zayed, Head of Strategy at COFE said, "At COFE we have always focused on being a 360-degree solution provider for our vendors. We are very excited to welcome Tasleeh to the COFE Family, and are sure that they will be able to provide our vendors with the best-in-class services. This partnership marks a new journey for us as we begin to expand our B2B offerings to support COFE Shops in new and innovative ways."

Tasleeh has been a service provider of choice for home and commercial maintenance service partners in Kuwait. With a proven track record and dedication to high quality and consistent work standards,



Ali Al-Ebrahim and Abdul Wahab A Mutawa announce the new partnership

they are able to offer efficient and timely service in the fastest time.

Abdul Wahab A Mutawa, CEO of Tasleeh added "that business today cannot be run without innovation, smart operations, investing in digital leadership and building healthy relationships with forward minded clientele. This is why we are very honored to be working with COFE as part of our growing portfolio."

In the past few months, COFE App has launched a number of new features both for their users as well as vendors, with a focus on convenience, func-

tionality and speed. Some of the features include COFElytics - an in-platform analytics and promotion tool for vendors (B2B). Within the B2C segment they have also launched voice command ordering (Siri & Amazon Alexa), and the "I am here" button that allows users to alert the barista when they arrive at the store.

With a brand new COFE Store (ecommerce) offering set for launch in the coming months, COFE is on its way to leading the digital revolution for the coffee industry both within the region and internationally.

## UN urges EU against fossil fuels to fight energy crisis

**WASHINGTON:** The UN urged EU countries on Monday to continue battling climate change and not resort to more fossil fuels in their response to soaring energy prices and fears of winter shortages.

Russia has reduced supplies of gas to Europe since its invasion of Ukraine, sending prices for the fuel soaring. "There is no room for backtracking in the face of the ongoing climate crisis," deputy UN rights chief Nada Al-Nashif told the United Nations Human Rights Council.

She pointed to the devastating floods affecting more than 33 million people in Pakistan as an example of what happens when the world fails to act on climate change. "How many more tragedies of this sort do we need before the urgency of the moment jolts us into action?" she asked. Speaking at the opening of the council's 51st session in Geneva, Al-Nashif acknowledged that the soaring energy prices in Europe "threaten to impact the most vulnerable as winter approaches".

Moscow's invasion of Ukraine has seen the price of natural gas hit record levels, throwing the European Union economy into deep uncertainty. All eyes are now on whether Russian President Vladimir Putin will cut off the energy flow entirely. Last week Russia caused a major scare when it halted gas deliveries to Germany via the key Nord Stream pipeline for an indefinite period, a move the Kremlin blamed on Western sanctions. Before the war, 40 percent of the EU's gas imports came from Russia. Now Germany and others are scrambling to come up with new ways to heat homes and power factories. Al-Nashif, who is currently serving as acting High Commissioner for Human Rights until new chief Volker Turk replaces Michelle Bachelet, pointed out that "some EU member states are turning to investments in fossil fuels infrastructure and supplies".

"While that impulse is understandable, I urge the EU and its member states to consider the long-term consequences of locking in more fossil fuel infrastructure," she said. "It is essential to accelerate the development of energy efficiency projects and renewables."

Al-Nashif urged all countries "to seek an ambitious outcome" at the next UN climate conference in Egypt in November. They should seek to "address loss and damage and meet and increase climate finance commitments", she said.

On August 30, leading Earth systems scientist Johan Rockstrom said the cost-of-living crisis pushing millions of Europeans towards poverty was driven by fossil fuels. "This is fossil fuel-driven, supply-driven inflation," the director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research told AFP. —AFP

## Germany faces recession as energy crisis bites

**BERLIN:** Germany will fall into recession next year, a leading think-tank warned Monday, with Europe's biggest economy facing soaring inflation as Russia slashes energy supplies. The Ifo institute expects the German economy to shrink 0.3 percent in 2023 — slashing its forecast by four percentage points from a previous prediction in June. Inflation is expected to hit 8.1 percent this year and 9.3 percent next year, it said. "We are heading into a winter recession," said Timo Wollmershaeuser, Ifo's head of forecasts.

"The cuts in gas supplies from Russia over the summer and the drastic price increases they triggered are wreaking havoc on the economic recovery following the coronavirus." Real household incomes and purchasing power will drop sharply, the think-tank warned. There is likely to be a "return to normal" in 2024 with 1.8 percent growth and 2.5 percent inflation, Wollmershaeuser said. At the start of September, Russian energy giant Gazprom halted gas deliveries to Europe via the key Nord Stream 1 pipeline saying it would be under repair for an unspecified period. —AFP

## 'Certainly a risk' of US recession, says Yellen

**WASHINGTON:** The United States faces "a risk" of recession as its battle against inflation could slow the nation's economy, but a serious downturn can still be avoided, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said Sunday. An American recession "is a risk when the Fed is tightening monetary policy to address inflation," President Joe Biden's leader on financial, economic and tax policy told CNN, referring to the US Federal Reserve.

"So it's certainly a risk that we're monitoring," Yellen added, but "we've got a good strong labor market, and I believe it's possible to maintain that."

Faced with soaring inflation-it reached its highest level in 40 years in June at 9.1 percent, before dipping slightly in July-the central bank is gradually raising its key rates in order to ease the pressure on consumer prices, while hoping the move does not derail the world's largest economy. Commercial banks use the Fed's key rates to set the terms of the interest rates that they in turn offer their individual and corporate clients. Higher rates reduce consumption and investment.

The challenge for policymakers is to quell inflation before it becomes dangerously entrenched, but



WASHINGTON: In this file photo taken on July 28, 2022, US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen speaks on the state of the US economy during a press conference at the Department of Treasury in Washington, DC. —AFP

without sending the US economy into a recession that would reverberate around the globe. "Inflation is way too high, and it's essential that we bring it down," Yellen said. The Fed is aiming for a "soft landing"-bringing inflation back toward its goal of two percent-without forcing a recession, a move which could cause unemployment to spike. —AFP

## Business

# Mongolia completes rail crossing with China to boost coal exports

## China steps up investment in coal amid harsh weather, economic slowdown and fuel crisis

ULAANBAATAR, Mongolia: Mongolia has launched a rail line that could help boost coal exports to China to 50 million tons a year, the country's president said, ending a decade-long wait for the crossing. A ceremony to mark the launch of the rail service between the Tavan Tolgoi coal field and Gashuun Sukhait on the Chinese border was held on Friday.

Mongolian President Ukhnaa Khurelsukh was among the dignitaries in attendance, according to his website. Heavily dependent on mining, Mongolia has long sought cheaper and more efficient ways to export its minerals abroad and has a national strategy to expand its rail network connections with Russia and China.

Mining makes up a quarter of the country's gross domestic product. China has stepped up its investment in coal in the face of extreme weather, an economic slowdown and a global fuel crisis.

The 233-kilometer (145-mile) Tavan Tolgoi rail line has the capacity to export between 30 million and 50 million tons of coal to China annually, according to Tavantolgoi Railway LLC, the state agency that built the line. In 2020 the North Asian country exported 28.6 million tons of coal. Last year, exports fell to 15.9 million tons. The railway is also expected to lower the cost to transport coal to \$8 per ton, compared to \$32 per ton when coal

is delivered by truck, according to the railway authority.

Tavan Tolgoi is rich in coking coal, an essential ingredient in the steel-making process.

For years coal has been transported in trucks to China, a process that has led to long queues at the border and frequent accidents. Mongolian governments have attempted to build a railway from Tavan Tolgoi to the Gashuun Sukhait border for more than a decade.

Tavantolgoi LLC was formed in 2018 to complete the project. Ulaanbaatar-based Bodi International served as the general contractor. The Gashuun Sukhait-Gantsmod border crossing is now the second Mongolia-China border point with a rail crossing, with the other at Zamyn-Uud-Erlian.

Progress Rail, a division of Caterpillar, agreed to supply 16 locomotives to support operations for the railway project. The new locomotives are designed to fit the 1,520 mm gauge used in Mongolia, Russia, and other former Soviet republics.

Mongolia's current 1,900 km rail network was almost entirely constructed during the 20th century with help from the Soviet Union. It consists mainly of the Trans-Mongolia line between Russia and China, and a spur line to the city of Erdenet. —AFP



Mongolia has launched a rail line that could help boost coal exports to China to 50 million tons a year, ending a decade-long wait for the crossing. China has stepped up its investment in coal in the face of extreme weather, an economic slowdown and a global fuel crisis.

## CBK bonds and related Tawarruq

KUWAIT: The Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) announced the most recent issues of CBK bonds and related Tawarruq at a total value of KD 290 million for three months with a rate of return at 2.625 percent.

## Norway 'skeptical' about gas price cap, says PM

STOCKHOLM: Norway, which has replaced Russia as Europe's leading supplier of natural gas, said Monday it was "skeptical" about a gas price cap proposed by a majority of EU members.

"We approach discussions in an open spirit, but we are skeptical of a maximum gas price", Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store said in a statement following a phone call with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. "A maximum price does not change the fundamental issue that there is a gas shortage in Europe", he said.

European energy ministers who met Friday in Brussels said they were in favor of a series of measures aimed at combating soaring gas and electricity prices, with some calling for a cap on the price of gas imports in the EU. While the European Commission has proposed a price ceiling on gas imported from Russia, several member states, including Italy, called for a price ceiling on all gas bought by EU states, including liquefied natural gas (LNG).

Non-EU member Norway, which has benefitted from soaring prices following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, has until now kept a low profile on the issue, preferring instead to leave it up to oil and gas companies to negotiate their own contracts. The Scandinavian country recently replaced Russia as Europe's leading gas supplier, due to plunging Russian deliveries and an eight percent increase of its own deliveries. —AFP

## Auction to be held on Russia debt default insurance

MOSCOW: An auction to pay out insurance on Russia's unpaid debt was due to take place on Monday, an event formally marking the sanctions-hit country's first foreign default in more than a century.

Moscow was unable to transfer funds to creditors in June due to Western sanctions over its invasion of Ukraine. The failure to pay its debt kicked off a complicated process to compensate investors who bought credit default swaps (CDS), a sort of insurance that bondholders purchase to protect against default by borrowers. But the auction was repeatedly delayed as organizers had to ensure that the sanctions

## Biden order to bolster US biotech industry

WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden sign an executive order Monday seeking to bolster the trailblazing US biotech sector's efforts to take on growing commercial rivals in China, officials said. The order will bring federal support for "areas that will define US biotechnology leadership and our economic competitiveness in the coming decades," a senior Biden administration official told reporters.

The official said that while US biotech research leads the world, the industrial applications are increasingly in the hands of other countries. "Unless we translate biotechnology innovation into economic and societal benefits for all Americans, other countries, including and especially China, are aggressively investing in this sector," posing a "risk," the official said.

Biden will discuss the executive order during a Monday speech in Boston on administration plans to ramp up the US scientific and health care-based fight against cancer. The official said the global economy is set to be revolutionized by biotechnology.

## Taiwan chip giant TSMC sees all-time high revenue in August

TAIPEI: Taiwanese semiconductor giant TSMC said its August revenue rose nearly 60 percent to a record high of Tw\$218.13 billion (\$7.06 billion) on soaring global demand. Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company operates the world's largest silicon wafer factories and produces some of the most advanced microchips used in everything from smartphones and cars to missiles.

The vast majority of the world's top-notch microchips are made by just two companies-TSMC and Samsung-both of which are running at full capacity to alleviate a global shortage.

The Taiwanese firm controls more than half of global foundry output, with clients including Apple and Qualcomm. Its August revenue rose 58.7 percent on-year and 16.8 percent from July to an all-time high of Tw\$218.13 billion-the first time it has reached the Tw\$200 billion mark, according to a company statement.

Revenue for the first eight months of the year totaled Tw\$1.4 trillion, a 43.5 percent increase on the same period in 2021. TSMC chief executive C.C. Wei told an investor conference in July that customer demand continued to exceed the company's ability to supply and he expected capacity to remain tight throughout 2022.

But he also expected "a few quarters of inventory adjustment" through the first half of 2023 due to softening demand for some products including smartphones and personal computers.

would not block the CDS payouts.

The country last defaulted on its foreign debt in 1918, when Bolshevik revolution leader Vladimir Lenin refused to recognize the massive debts of the deposed tsar's regime. Russia defaulted on domestic debt in 1998 when, due to a drop in commodity prices, it faced a financial squeeze that prevented it from propping up the ruble and paying off debts that accumulated during the first war in Chechnya.

The latest default follows a series of unprecedented Western sanctions that have isolated Russia from the global financial system, including a freeze on Moscow's \$300 billion in foreign currency reserves held abroad. Russia lost the last avenue to service its foreign-currency loans after the United States removed an exemption in May that had allowed US investors to receive Moscow's payments.

Russian authorities have insisted throughout that they have the funds to honor the country's debt, calling the predicament a "farce" and accus-

ing the West of pushing an "artificial" default. Moscow's foreign currency debt is relatively low, at around \$40 billion.

But the sanctions prevented it from paying bond holders in June.

### 'Credit event'

International ratings agencies, the institutions that decide whether a country is in default, were unable to officially declare whether Russia was in default due to sanctions prohibiting them from covering Moscow's debt. But Moody's ratings agency released a less formal "issuer comment" saying missed payments on interest totaling \$100 million amounted to a default.

The official ruling was therefore left in the hands of a little-known panel of investors, the Credit Derivatives Determinations Committee (CDDC), which organizes CDS auctions.

In late June, the London-based CDDC-made up of 15 leading banks and financial firms-declared that Russia's missed payment constituted



While Taiwan's semiconductor and high-tech industry has shown impressive growth, other parts of the economy are showing signs of an impact from the general global slowdown.

Taiwan's exports in August grew at their slowest pace in more than two years by just two percent to \$40.34 billion, the finance ministry said. That compared to 14.2 percent growth in July and was the slowest pace of increase since July 2020's 0.3 percent when exports were hammered by the emergence of the coronavirus pandemic.

Exports would have dropped 4.2 percent from a



WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden speaks during a remembrance ceremony to mark the 21st anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, at the Pentagon in Washington, DC, on September 11, 2022. —AFP

sional elections that he wants to bring offshore industry back to the United States, while focusing especially on high-tech businesses. On Wednesday, Biden is due to tout his administration's support for the electric vehicle industry during a trip to Detroit. —AFP

year earlier without the electronic components industry, which accounted for over 40 percent of overseas shipments in August, according to the ministry. Semiconductor exports rose 14.3 percent from a year earlier to \$15.69 billion last month but a slowdown in demand for consumer electronic products saw shipments for information/communication, audio and video products drop 1.6 percent on-year. Exports in the "old economy sector" largely declined last month, with plastics/rubber falling by 21.8 percent while chemicals were down 17.1 percent on-year. —AFP

a "credit event". CDS auctions are usually held around 30 days after the committee declares a credit event, but doubts over whether the sanctions allowed the process to take place caused the three-month delay.

Foreign investors are no longer able to trade Russian bonds, and the auctions are essentially transactions involving such assets. But the US Treasury Department issued a waiver in July to allow the auction on eight Russian bonds to take place this month.

JPMorgan, the investment firm, says the CDS against Russian default are worth almost \$2.4 billion.

The auction takes place in two stages. The first stage will set an initial price on the eight bonds, which will serve as a base to fix the final price for compensation in a second stage open more widely to investors. The CDDC said the settlement dates for the auction could be slightly delayed due to a bank holiday for the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II on September 19. —AFP

# Dogs Save The Queen: The monarch and her corgis



In this undated picture from 1954 Queen Elizabeth II, poses with her two children Charles (right) and Ann and a corgi in Balmoral. —AFP photos



In this file photo taken on January 31, 1959 Britain's Queen Elizabeth II is pictured at her office with her Corgis dog Susan.



In this file photo taken on February 26, 1970 Queen Elizabeth II poses with her Corgis dog.

Queen Elizabeth II's corgi dogs were the most loyal of all the monarch's servants, providing domestic companionship during nearly a century in the public glare. The queen and corgis went together in the British imagination like tea and cake, giving a worldwide exposure to the obscure breed, whose future is now under threat. The little, mainly sandy-colored dogs with pointy ears were a busy presence in the queen's court, following her from room to room in Buckingham Palace and featuring in official photos.

They were even given a starring role in the spoof James Bond clip filmed with the queen for the opening ceremony of the 2012 London Olympics. The queen stopped raising corgis in her 90s so as not to leave them orphaned after her death, and the 2018 demise of Willow, the last corgi she reared herself, served as a reminder of the monarch's own mortality. Nevertheless, the queen still kept two "dorgis"—dachshund and corgi crosses—to keep her company in her final years.

One, Vulcan, died in 2020. But in March 2021, it was reported that the queen had acquired two new corgi puppies, as the royal family battled a series of crises,

including her husband Prince Philip's illness. The dogs were reportedly living with the queen at Windsor Castle, west of London, where she moved to self-isolate from the coronavirus pandemic. Royal biographer Penny Junor told The Sun newspaper the dogs are "intensely loving and they have never let her down." "Of course, corgis also seldom rush off to LA to give interviews," she added, referring to grandson Prince Harry and his wife Meghan's televised chat with Oprah Winfrey when they accused the royals of racism and a lack of support.

### Dogs' dinners

The queen was so fond of her corgis that she personally supervised their daily meal, according to "Pets by Royal Appointment", by author Brian Hoey, a book on British royal pets since the 16th century. The dogs' dinners of fillet steak and chicken breast were prepared by a footman and served at 5:00 pm sharp every day, with the queen playing servant, pouring the gravy on the feast. Hoey suggested the monarch preferred the company of animals to that of humans.

The royals "are suspicious of practically everyone out-

side their own family, so the only creatures they really trust are not of the human variety", he said. Not everyone in the household was a fan, however. Prince Philip reputedly loathed the waddling, short-legged animals because they yapped too much, according to Hoey. The queen raised dozens of Pembroke Welsh Corgis during her lifetime and some have been a source of heartache. One of her favorites, Pharos, had to be put down after being savaged by Florence, the English bull terrier owned by the queen's daughter Princess Anne in 2003. The queen also used her corgis to great effect when British war surgeon David Nott suffered a terrifying flashback during a private lunch at Buckingham Palace.

Unable to speak about the horrors he had witnessed during the Syrian conflict, the monarch summoned courtiers to fetch the dogs and suggested he fed them biscuits under the table. "For 20 minutes during this lunch, the queen and I fed the dogs. She did it because she knew I was so seriously traumatized. You know the humanity of what she was doing was unbelievable," he told BBC radio in 2016. "Stroking the animals, touching dogs, feeding them... She talked about her dogs and how many she had. She was wonderful and I will never forget it." —AFP



A file television screen grab image taken on July 29, 2012, shows a footage featured during the Opening Ceremony of the London 2012 Olympic Games starring British actor Daniel Craig (left) playing James Bond escorting Britain's Queen Elizabeth II (second left), followed by a corgi, through the corridors of Buckingham Palace.

## Prince Andrew won't wear military uniform at queen's funeral

Prince Andrew will not wear a military uniform, unlike other senior British royals, at Queen Elizabeth II's funeral, underlining his continuing estrangement from the family. Andrew was stripped of his "His Royal Highness" and honorary military titles at the start of the year amid ongoing fallout from a sex assault scandal.

The 62-year-old re-appeared in public this weekend having been effectively banished from royal life over allegations he had sex with a victim of American child sex trafficker Jeffrey Epstein. He was photographed being driven to the queen's Balmoral estate on Thursday, the day of her death, and appeared alongside other grieving senior royals on Saturday and Sunday in Scotland. While fellow family members will wear uniform for five separate commemorative events for the queen, including her state funeral next Monday, Andrew will only don military colors for a final vigil in Westminster Hall, Britain's domestic Press Association news agency said.

Andrew was honorary colonel of the Grenadier Guards, whose soldiers are part of the Household Division that guard Buckingham Palace in their distinctive bearskin hats and red tunics. Often called the queen's "favorite son", he was accused of sexually assaulting a 17-year-old girl in 2001 who claimed she was delivered to him by Epstein.

Andrew, who denied the allegations, settled a US civil lawsuit over the allegations in February for an undisclosed sum. King Charles III is expected to make his younger brother's royal exile permanent, experts say. It is unclear if Prince Harry—who is also a non-working royal after he moved to the United



Britain's Princess Anne, Princess Royal (third left), Vice Admiral Timothy Laurence (fourth left), Britain's Prince Andrew, Duke of York (center), Britain's Lady Louise Windsor (third right), Britain's Sophie, Countess of Wessex and Britain's Princess Eugenie of York greet members of the public gathered outside of Balmoral Castle in Ballater. —AFP

States in early 2020 — will wear military dress to royal events this week and next. Harry is a former captain in the British Army who served in Afghanistan. He was the last senior royal to see frontline service in a conflict zone since Andrew, who flew Royal Navy helicopters in the 1982 Falklands War with Argentina. —AFP

## Prince Andrew to take on queen's beloved corgis

A key question around Britain's royal succession was resolved on Sunday when it emerged scandal-hit Prince Andrew and his ex-wife will look after Queen Elizabeth II's corgi dogs after her death. The prince and his former spouse Sarah Ferguson will take on Muick and Sandy following the queen's death at Balmoral on Thursday aged 96, Andrew's spokesman said. Andrew—the queen's third son and often reported to be her favorite—and Ferguson had given Muick and Sandy to the queen as a gift. The pets were a comfort to the queen while she was at Windsor Castle during the coronavirus pandemic, her dresser Angela Kelly said.

The fate of the two corgis—the latest in a long line of more than 30 of the sandy, short-legged dogs throughout Elizabeth's reign—had been a mystery. Muick joined the royal family at the start of 2021 along with a so-called "dorgi", a cross between a corgi and a dachshund, called Fergus. Fergus died after just five months and was later replaced with Sandy, a new corgi puppy from Andrew and his daughters, Princesses Beatrice and Eugenie, for the queen's official 95th birthday.

The corgi gifts came in the same year that Prince Andrew stepped back from his public duties due to the scandal over his relationship with convicted US paedophile Jeffrey Epstein. In February, Andrew settled a sexual abuse lawsuit in the United States with an Epstein victim, having previously been stripped



In this file picture released in London on February 4, 2022, and taken last month, shows Britain's Queen Elizabeth II stroking Candy, her corgi dog, as she looks at a display of memorabilia from her Golden and Platinum Jubilees, in the Oak Room at Windsor Castle, west of London.

of his honorary military titles. He and Ferguson married in a highly publicized wedding in 1986 and divorced ten years later, but have remained on good terms and share a home near Windsor Castle. —AFP

## 'Part of the family': Mexico City's dog race celebrates canine community



People and their dogs take part in the "Perritos en Fuga 2.5K" dog race in Mexico City. —AFP photos



Supporting tiny traditional outfits and donning pint-sized backpacks, about 300 canines of different sizes competed on Sunday in a Mexico City dog race. The "Perritos en fuga" race, which means "doggies on the run," saw pet owners and their four-legged friends brave the early morning cold in celebration of the city's canine community. After taking their marks on the starting

line, the dogs took off in all directions—with some picking fights with their rivals—accompanied by a soundtrack of traditional Mexican music. "Canine culture is very lacking and this is helping to encourage it," Ricardo Cabrera, 29, who took part with his dog in the race, told AFP.

"This is very good because sometimes there are no public activities to do with your pets other

than going to the park." There was no winner in the 2.5 km (1.5 mile) race, but all participants received gifts, including doggie food bowls. The event "makes the dog part of the family," 45-year-old veterinarian Monica Aguilar told AFP. "This is very important because it prevents so much abandonment—you are not going to abandon your family." —AFP





Models walk the runway for Fendi during New York Fashion Week at The Hammerstein Ballroom in New York. —AFP photos

## Fendi kicks off New York Fashion Week by celebrating the Baguette

Fendi kicked off New York's Fashion Week with a show celebrating its flagship Baguette bag, in a strong comeback for the runway after pandemic disruption. The Italian luxury house pulled out all the stops 25 years after the small bag became a fashion staple when it was carried by actress Sarah Jessica Parker on "Sex and the City," with 1990s supermodel Linda Evangelista closing out the show on Friday, 15 years after she last walked a runway. The bag's creator Silvia Venturini Fendi and the artistic director of Fendi's women's collections, Kim Jones, collaborated with designer Marc Jacobs, Tiffany & Co, Sarah Jessica Parker herself and the Japanese bag manufacturer Porter.

The result was an entire collection designed around the compact, rectangular purse-known for being worn under the shoulder, like carrying a baguette. With techno music pounding through Manhattan's Hammerstein Ballroom, models paraded with every form of the Baguette possible. There were bags, yes, but also mini Baguettes stitched on to Baguettes, or woven into the fabric of the clothes



themselves-pockets, parkas and sweaters; parachute skirts, cellophane opera capes and large fur hats-recycled, says Fendi. Silver and fluorescent yellow tones ran throughout, in homage to the glass facades of New York's skyscrapers and to the safety vests worn by the city's ubiquitous workers.

### The '90s are back

Meanwhile, the triumphant return of Evangelista came a year after she announced she was stepping out of the spotlight after botched cosmetic treatments. She was not the only star: Sarah Jessica Parker, of course, also attended; as did South Korean actor and model Lee Min-ho, who was greeted by a cheering crowd as he exited out to 34th Street. Covid-19 saw Fashion Week all but scrubbed in 2020, while in 2021 live shows returned but without many designers.

In 2022, however, it is back to its frenetic pace, with 101 shows on the official calendar through Wednesday, and the three other major shows-in London, Paris and Milan-to follow. "The live show is

something that is not replaceable," Steven Kolb, chief executive of the American fashion union (CFDA), told AFP. New York brand Proenza Schouler also held its show Friday, in the monumental hall of one of the city's first Beaux-Arts buildings in Manhattan's financial district.

The American brand Tommy Hilfger is also among the big names to be parading in New York this season. But it is the European houses such as Fendi, Marni of Italy, and COS, part of the Swedish H&M group, that CFDA is especially pleased to see. "That really elevates the international reputation of New York," says Kolb, who also sees it as a recognition of the size of the US market.

Even before the pandemic, New York had to deal with major defections such as Ralph Lauren and Calvin Klein, who wanted a change of pace or went to show their collections elsewhere. And the American market still has to do without a great talent like Kerby Jean-Raymond, founder of Pyer Moss, this season. — AFP



Canadian model Linda Evangelista (center) poses with Fendi designers at the runway for Fendi during New York Fashion Week at The Hammerstein Ballroom in New York.



Sarah Jessica Parker attends the FENDI 25th Anniversary of the Baguette at Hammerstein Ballroom.

## Burberry, Raf Simons cancel shows, retailers close as Queen's mourning begins

Burberry and Raf Simons cancelled their London Fashion Week Spring-Summer 2023 runway shows and British retailers including Selfridge's and Liberty closed shop Friday following the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

London Fashion Week, which was due to

begin September 16, will not be cancelled as the UK enters a national mourning period for the sovereign. But while brands should go ahead with holding core events like runway shows, the British Fashion Council (BFC) recommended other celebrations like store openings or parties

be cancelled.

The BFC also suggested brands and media hold off on circulating images from presentations and shows, releasing them only after the national period of mourning has ended. "London Fashion Week is a business-to-business event and an important moment for designers to show their collections at a specific moment in the fashion calendar," the industry body said in a statement. "Shows and presentations of collections can continue but we are asking that designers respect the mood of the nation and period of national mourning."

BFC also said retailers should immediately close their doors for 24 hours, as well as on the day of the funeral, and that employees should wear black wristbands. Any shows scheduled for the day of

the funeral (which has yet to be confirmed) should be rescheduled.

Buckingham Palace announced on Thursday the death of Queen Elizabeth II, Britain's longest reigning monarch. Neither Raf Simons nor Burberry said whether the shows, which were due to take place September 16 and 17 respectively, would be rescheduled. "As the country enters a period of official mourning, we will pause during this time of great sadness," the Raf Simons team said in a statement. "We will take this time to respect the legacy of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and her 70 years on the throne. Our thoughts are with the Royal Family and the people of the Commonwealth." —www.businessoffashion.com

Lifestyle | Features

# Standing ovation as Harrison Ford presents new 'Indiana Jones' at Disney expo



Harrison Ford speaking on stage.



Fans take pictures with a Disney+ video board as they cosplay in costumes during the Walt Disney D23 Expo in Anaheim, California. —AFP photos



Attendees view a model of a reimagined Mickey's Toontown during the Walt Disney D23 Expo.



An attendee takes pictures with an Hulk fist during the Walt Disney D23 Expo.



A fan in costume poses for pictures during the Walt Disney D23 Expo.

An emotional Harrison Ford unveiled a new trailer for the highly anticipated fifth "Indiana Jones" film on the second day of Disney's biennial D23 Expo, choking up as he described the movie as "fantastic." Thousands of fans from around the world flocked to the entertainment giant's biggest party held in Anaheim, California, to see their favorite characters brought to life and watch the first images of long-awaited movies and series.

The second day of the expo began with a preview of what Disney, Lucasfilm, Marvel and 20th Century Studios have in store for the coming months. Eighty-year-old Ford received a standing ovation from some 6,000 attendees as he presented a teaser for the new "Indiana Jones" film, which also stars Phoebe Waller-Bridge. "I'm very proud to say that this one is fantastic," said Ford, choking back tears. "And this is one of the reasons," he added, pointing at Waller-Bridge. "Keeping up with this guy is exhausting," replied the British actress.

**'Very exciting'**

Lucasfilm unveiled a teaser trailer for its popular space western series "The Mandalorian," with actors Pedro Pascal, Giancarlo Esposito and Katee Sackhoff received warmly by the audience. Another highlight was a trailer for the upcoming "Star Wars" series "Andor," a "Rogue One" spinoff based on adventures of rebel spy character Cassian Andor, played

by Diego Luna. Mexico's Luna, also an executive producer on the project, addressed the audience in Spanish, to applause. Other teasers featured Jude Law in "Skeleton Crew," Christian Slater in "Willow" and Jon Favreau in "Ahsoka."

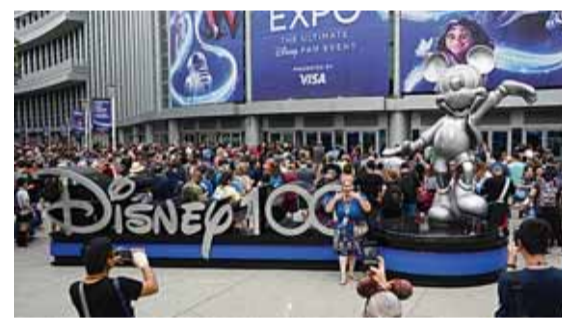
There were also previews of "Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania," premiering in 2023, with an all-star cast that includes Paul Rudd, Michelle Pfeiffer, Michael Douglas and Bill Murray, as well as of the Halloween special "Werewolf by Night," starring Gael Garcia Bernal. Marvel Studios pulled the curtain back on the second season of the series "Loki,"



Fans cosplay in Peter Pan costumes during the Walt Disney D23 Expo.

starring Tom Hiddleston, who flew in from Britain, where the episodes are being filmed, to attend the expo.

Fans also got a snapshot of "The Marvels," starring Brie Larson, as well as a teaser for "Thunderbolts," featuring Julia Louis-Dreyfus and Florence Pugh. Finally, with the help of 3D glasses, attendees got to immerse themselves in the world of "Avatar: The Way of Water," the long-awaited sequel to James Cameron's "Avatar." "I wasn't expecting this," said Peter Farrow, who traveled to Anaheim from San Francisco. "I got here at five in the morning today and even with high expectations I didn't expect this, it's very exciting."



A statue of Mickey Mouse welcomes attendees to the Walt Disney D23 Expo.

**'We all accept each other'**

The festivities began Friday at the vast Anaheim Convention Center. Celebrating its centennial, Disney said it will include "100 Years of Wonder" in its logo and introduced fans to Disney100: The Exhibition, which tells the story of the company founded in October 1923 by Walt Disney and his brother Roy Disney. A prominent part of the exhibition: the Mickey Mouse One, an aircraft that belonged to Walt Disney himself. Thousands of fans of "the happiest place on Earth" lined up early to get a taste of all on offer.

Princesses and Peter Pan, witches, storm troopers and an array of fantastical creatures filled the halls as the Expo—normally held every two years but canceled last year due to the Covid-19 pandemic—returned. "Feels like I've got to get emotional, because I've been so looking forward to come back," said actor Allen Waiserman, who arrived on opening day disguised as Cinderella's wicked stepmother.

Waiserman said he had worked for months on his outfit, and the transformation on Friday took five hours. "It's not just about the Disney brand anymore. It's about all the fans that we've met, who become like family for us—who accept you for whoever you are," he said. "All of my friends here accept me for being dressed in drag," he added. "We're just so happy to be back together." D23 runs through Sunday. —AFP



An attendee takes pictures of exhibits during the Walt Disney D23 Expo.



Fans wait in line to visit the D23 Expo Marketplace to buy merchandise during the Walt Disney D23 Expo.



Fans take pictures as they cosplay in costumes as mothers from Disney films during the Walt Disney D23 Expo.

## Javier Marias, Spain's king of fiction

Javier Marias, who died Sunday in his beloved Madrid aged 70 after suffering from pneumonia, was one of the great names in contemporary Spanish literature. Born on September 20, 1951 in the Spanish capital, he and his brothers grew up among piles of books—his father Julian was a famous philosopher and his mother was a literature teacher. "I was privileged as a child," he told the ABC daily newspaper in 2013, pointing to parents who were "cultivated, very reasonable... with what we call principles, which is a little unfashionable these days but shouldn't be."

He also discovered foreign horizons very early on when his family briefly went to the United States—his father was escaping repression over his criticism of Francisco Franco during Spain's dictatorship. Marias started writing in his teens and went on to publish novels and short stories revolving around love and passion, imbued with black humor. They have earned the admiration of Nobel laureates J. M. Coetzee and Orhan Pamuk.

**King of Redonda**

In 1971, when he was just 19, he published his first novel "Los dominios del lobo", "The Domains of the

Wolf". But Marias really rose to fame with "A Heart so White", published in 1992. "He had financial difficulties at the time," recalled Rafael del Moral, a translator and linguist who knew Marias. "But Carmen Balcells (the agent of famous authors such as Gabriel Garcia Marquez) had the book translated into German, and it rose to the number one spot in sales in Germany." He soared to dizzying heights after that, and his works have been published in more than 40 languages. A member since 2008 of the Spanish Royal Academy, the official authority on the language, he was also fluent in French and English and worked as a translator. Apart from awards, his writing also earned him a kingdom.

This was thanks to his novel "All Souls", in which he mentions British poet John Gawsworth, king of Redonda, a small rocky island that belongs to Antigua and Barbuda. Gawsworth inherited the title from British writer M. P. Shiel, who himself reportedly got it from his father, who claimed ownership of an uninhabited island that has now become something of a fictional literary kingdom passed from one writer to another. Marias was handed the title after he wrote the book, although there were other con-

tenders to the throne.

"It is only a title. The island was recovered by Antigua, it belongs to Antigua, and I am not going to have dynastic disputes about anything that is more fictional than real," he told The Paris Review literary magazine in 2006. Still, Marias took on the mantle of king—with a dash of tongue-in-cheek—naming Spanish filmmaker Pedro Almodovar "Duke of Tremula," for instance, or US director Francis Ford Coppola "Duke of Megalopolis."

**'Shameless'**

Back in his home country, Marias was no stranger to controversy. In 2012, he refused to collect a high-profile literary prize for his novel "The Infatuations" handed out by the culture ministry, then run under a conservative government. He was not a fan of official prizes and said it would have been "shameless" to accept an award that was never given to his father or Juan Benet, a Spanish novelist he greatly admired. As a columnist—he used to write for the weekly magazine of Spain's leading El Pais daily—he steered clear of political correctness and did not hesitate to rail against politicians of all stripes.



Javier Marias

Marias once described Spain's then prime minister Mariano Rajoy as an "airhead". Pablo Iglesias, head at the time of far-left party Podemos, was, according to him, "an autocratic and megalomaniac figure," while the Socialist party had been "stupidified." But above all, Marias spoke out against Spain's almost four decades of dictatorship under Franco, which ended with his death in 1975. "You have to have lived through the dictatorship to appreciate what we have now," told El Mundo daily a few years ago. "Taking into account all of the 'buts' there can be, it's a very good period." —AFP

## Sports

# Shanaka dedicates Asia Cup victory to crisis-hit Sri Lanka

## Sri Lanka defeat Pakistan by 23 runs

**DUBAI:** Skipper Dasun Shanaka on Sunday called the Asia Cup triumph a "real turnaround" for Sri Lankan cricket ahead of the T20 World Cup and dedicated the win to the crisis-hit nation. Sri Lanka defeated Pakistan by 23 runs in the final with Bhanuka Rajapaksa hitting an unbeaten 71 and Wanindu Hasaranga starring with bat and ball in Dubai. The win was nothing short of a fairytale ending for a team which started the tournament, a precursor to the World Cup starting next month in Australia, with an embarrassing loss against Afghanistan.

But Shanaka's men bounced back with five successive wins, taking down tournament favourites India in a Super Four contest and then twice getting past Pakistan with ease. "The players have been playing good cricket for two, three years but the winning factor was not there," Shanaka said after Sri Lanka's sixth Asia Cup title.

"This will be a real good turnaround in our cricket. This lot (of players) will continue for another five, six years, so that will be a very good sign for us." The island nation has suffered months of economic crisis and political unrest with blackouts, fuel shortages and protests becoming part of their lives. The Sri Lankan fans present at the Dubai International Stadium celebrated the win with drums and songs as the team took a victory lap of the ground with the trophy.

"They were waiting for it for so long, especially

the final," Shanaka told reporters. "We should dedicate this win to the whole nation." The Asian champions though will have to go through the qualifying stage for a chance of meeting the heavyweights in the main draw of the T20 World Cup which starts October 22. But Shanaka believes the qualifiers will help them acclimatize to Australia and the momentum is already with them.

"We played the qualifiers last year as well. We have the same set-up for the last three, four years and last two years have been good for us," said Shanaka. "The momentum is there and winning the Asia Cup really helps going ahead to the World Cup. Qualifiers will really help because we will play in the conditions before the main tournament happens, so it will be good for us." Coach Chris Silverwood, appointed in April to lead Sri Lanka having overseen England's Ashes humiliation in Australia, has been credited for the team's newfound confidence.

The Englishman was seen having a chat with Rajapaksa and Hasaranga, who made 36 and then took 3-27 with his leg-spin, during a key 58-run stand between the two batsmen that lifted Sri Lanka from a precarious 58-5 to 170-6. "He has always been a good motivator for us and always wants us to play aggressive cricket," said Rajapaksa. "We have been given the freedom to play as we wish. And that really helps us as a team and as a young unit to come and win games like this." —AFP



**DUBAI:** Sri Lanka's players celebrate with the trophy at the end of the Asia Cup Twenty20 international cricket final match between Pakistan and Sri Lanka at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on September 11, 2022. —AFP

## News in brief

### Jabeur to play on home soil

**TUNIS:** Tunisian tennis heroine and US Open finalist Ons Jabeur is to play in a WTA 250 tournament on home soil for the first time in October, the North African country's tennis association said Monday. The news came after Jabeur on Saturday for a second time missed becoming the first Arab or African woman to win a Grand Slam title, defeated by Polish world number one Iga Swiatek in straight sets. Tunisian Tennis Federation (FTT) chief Salma Mouelhi told AFP that world number two Jabeur would take part in the Jasmin Open in the coastal city of Monastir on October 3-9. Jabeur, 28, has become a national heroine in recent years but this will be her first WTA tournament back on home soil. She also became the first Arab woman to reach the final of Wimbledon in July, but has yet to win a Grand Slam.

### Dodgers clinch playoff berth

**LOS ANGELES:** The Los Angeles Dodgers became the first Major League Baseball team to clinch a 2022 playoff berth on Sunday with a convincing 11-2 victory over the Padres in San Diego. The Dodgers have booked a post-season berth for the tenth straight season, and with a 96-43 record, they look headed toward home field advantage no matter who they play. Justin Turner hit two home runs and drove in four runs to lift Los Angeles, who are closing in on a ninth National League West division crown. Turner's second blast was a grand slam in the seventh inning. "I don't think you ever take it for granted," Turner said. "I feel fortunate to be a part of an organization that cares about winning and puts winning first." The Dodgers' magic number for securing the division is two - meaning any combination of two Dodgers wins or Padres defeats will seal it. Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said the 10-year post-season streak - third all-time in major league history - is worth noting.

### Kabylie and V Club beaten

**JOHANNESBURG:** Former CAF Champions League title-holders JS Kabylie of Algeria and V Club of the Democratic Republic suffered preliminary round first leg losses on Sunday. A Yaya Sane goal on 63 minutes for Casa Sports of Senegal condemned two-time champions Kabylie to a 1-0 defeat in Thies near Dakar. Formerly called JET, Kabylie hail from the eastern city of Tizi Ouzou and were crowned champions in 1981 and again nine years later. The 'Canaries' also won the CAF Cup three times and the African Cup Winners Cup once. Both competitions were discontinued after the 2003 finals and replaced by the CAF Confederation Cup. Kinshasa outfit V Club, the 1973 champions, have struggled in recent years to make an impact in Africa and fell 1-0 to Gaborone United in the Botswana capital. Thero Setsile netted on 36 minutes to deliver a rare victory in the premier African club competition for the southern Africa nation. The other former champions in action on Sunday, ASEC Mimosas from the Ivory Coast, won 2-1 away to African debutants Coton Sport of Benin in Cotonou.

### Saqlain defends T20 style

**DUBAI:** Pakistan coach Saqlain Mushtaq defended his team's Twenty20 playing style after losing Sunday's Asia Cup final, saying they were on the right track for next month's T20 World Cup. Babar Azam's side failed to chase 171 to beat Sri Lanka, their 23-run defeat bucking the trend of teams winning while batting second in Dubai. Mohammad Rizwan made 55 in 49 balls for Pakistan and finished as the tournament's leading scorer with 281 runs in six innings. But Saqlain was not worried about Rizwan's sluggish strike rate of 117.57 runs per hundred balls in the high-octane format. By comparison, Virat Kohli scored 276 runs for India at a more rapid 147.59 across his five innings. "Everyone has their own style of playing cricket," Saqlain said. "We made the semi-finals of the T20 World Cup (last year) and now the final of the Asia Cup, so evidence suggests we are doing something right." —From AFP

## Ewing wins LPGA Queen City title with birdie run

**WASHINGTON:** Ally Ewing made five consecutive birdies on the back nine on Sunday and held off China's Lin Xiyu to win the Queen City Championship for her third career LPGA title. The 29-year-old American fired a bogey-free final-round six-under par 66 to finish on 22-under 266 at a rain-softened Kenwood Country Club in Cincinnati, Ohio. Lin birdied four of the last seven holes in shooting 65 and kept the pressure on Ewing to the final hole before losing by a stroke. Ewing birdied the 12th through 16th holes to seize a two-stroke edge then matched pars with Lin at 17. Short of the green at 18, Ewing missed her first green in regulation of the day while Lin gave herself a birdie 15-foot putt.

Ewing rolled a putt within three feet of the hole, but Lin answered by curling in her third birdie putt of the week at 18, only for Ewing to tap in for par and the victory, a smile and fist pump followed by tears of joy. "I struggled with nerves all day because I just haven't been able to put this all together for a full tournament this year," Ewing said. "So to see it and see all the results finally come into place, it's really exciting." World number 52 Ewing, who had not previously

## England seal season with SA series win

**LONDON:** England hammered South Africa (SA) by nine wickets in the third and deciding Test at the Oval on Monday, completing a remarkable 2-1 series win in just over two days of action. The home side, who resumed on 97-0, needed just 5.3 more overs to reach a victory target of 130, with Zak Crawley hitting the winning runs to finish 69 not out. England have now won six of their seven Tests under their dynamic new leadership pairing of captain Ben Stokes and coach Brendon McCullum.

It is a dramatic turnaround in fortunes for the side that had managed just one victory in their previous 17 matches. "It has been very pleasing to be able to captain this side," Stokes told the BBC. "The lads' mindset and attitude towards the whole

## Fiji dazzle to beat NZ in World Cup Sevens final

**CAPE TOWN:** Olympic champions Fiji turned on a dazzling display to win the Rugby World Cup Sevens after emphatic victories against Australia and New Zealand at the Cape Town Stadium on Sunday. Fiji overwhelmed Australia 38-14 in the semi-finals before romping to a 29-12 win over New Zealand in the final. It was Fiji's third world title, but their first since 2005, while New Zealand had won the previous two editions in 2013 and 2018. Fiji scored five tries against the All Blacks, whose defence had only been breached twice in their first three matches. Fiji made a sensational start, scoring two tries in the first two minutes through Joseva Talacola and Kaminieli Rasaku.

Moses Leo hit back for New Zealand but Elia Canakaivata and Filipe Sauturaga crossed the All Blacks line again to give Fiji a 24-5 half-time lead. Two yellow cards early in the second half threatened to undermine Fiji, but New Zealand's Akuila Rokolisoa was also sent to the sin bin soon after he nar-

rowed the deficit with a try.

Pilipo Bukayaro sealed victory for the Fijians in the last minute. "This is huge for Fiji," coach Ben Gollings told SuperSport TV. "The boys have been fantastic. We can score tries but we also have to stop them and it was a huge defensive performance." Strong-running Maddison Levi scored a hat-trick of tries as Australia denied New Zealand a third successive women's title. Australia won 24-22 after both teams scored four tries.

### Among Lin's best rounds

Lin missed out on her first title in her 189th tour event as she tries to become the second Chinese player to win an LPGA title after Feng Shanshan. "It was another really good day," Lin said. "I did whatever I could do. I put one of the best rounds I've played this year out here. "Come out second, which is a little sad, but Ally also played so well so congrats to her." Lin seized the lead with birdies on three of the first seven holes but Ewing birdied the ninth to match Lin for the lead at 17-under as they made the turn in the last group. "That calmed me down," Ewing said of holing her first birdie putt.

Fassi, who stumbled with two bogeys on the front nine, began the back nine with three consecutive birdies to pull two shy of the co-leaders. Lin and Ewing both birdied the par-4 13th to stay deadlocked at the top, but Ewing rolled in her third birdie in a row

summer has been fantastic. "The fact that different people have put their hand up and done something at different times in the Test matches has been great."

McCullum, who became England red-ball coach in May just two weeks after Stokes replaced Joe Root as skipper, praised his players for buying into the new attacking approach. "The way the guys have brought into the style that the captain has asked for, a style that is authentic to him, and the way he leads," he said. "And while the results have been fantastic, the mentality shift has been quite amazing. It has been something quite special to be a part of to be honest."

Defeat means South Africa have suffered their first Test series loss since Dean Elgar took over as captain last year. The skipper said the tourists were disappointed with the outcome after winning the first match of the series by an innings. "The way we started at Lord's made us think that momentum would be on our side but it turned quickly at Manchester and it was tough to get the momentum back on our side again," he said. "We are quietly disappointed at the end of the day."



**CINCINNATI:** Ally Ewing of the United States poses with the trophy after winning the Kroger Queen City Championship presented by P&G at Kenwood Country Club on September 11, 2022 in Cincinnati, Ohio. —AFP

at the par-3 14th to reclaim the solo lead. Ewing then sank her fourth birdie putt in a row to reach 21-under and boost her lead to two strokes with three holes remaining. Lin curled in a tricky birdie putt at the 16th but Ewing answered with her fifth consecutive birdie, setting the stage for the closing drama. —AFP

### Quickfire win

England resumed just 33 runs shy of their target after the umpires had halted play on Sunday because of bad light, to the disappointment of a capacity crowd. Alex Lees was 32 not out and Crawley unbeaten on 57 - his first fifty in 17 Test innings - when play started Monday under sunny skies but in front of a handful of spectators, who had been let in for free. Lees, having added just two to his overnight score, was dropped off the third ball of the day when he edged Kagiso Rabada, only for diving wicket-keeper Kyle Verreyne to floor the chance.

The batsman's luck ran out, however, when he was judged lbw on review to Rabada for 39, with South Africa at least spared the embarrassment of a 10-wicket defeat. Crawley hit the winning runs when he punched left-arm quick Marco Jansen through the covers for four - the 12th boundary of his innings, with Ollie Pope 11 not out. It meant for the third time this series, a match was won inside three days' playing time. Thursday's play was washed out completely before Friday's scheduled second day was abandoned as a mark of respect following the death of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II. —AFP



**CAPE TOWN:** Fiji's Kamineili Rasaku lifts Jerry Tuwai during their 7s rugby match against New Zealand in the finals of the Rugby World Cup Sevens tournament on September 11, 2022. —AFP

bronze medal, beating Australia 19-14. Argentina took fifth place with a 10-7 win against France while hosts South Africa ended a disappointing campaign with a 35-5 rout of Samoa in the seventh-place contest.

England, eliminated by Ireland in their opening match on Friday, won the Challenge final for teams which failed to

reach the quarter-finals, by defeating Uruguay 28-5. In three matches after being knocked out of contention for the main trophy they scored 99 points and conceded only five. France took the women's bronze medal with a 29-7 win against the United States after being beaten 38-7 by New Zealand in the semi-finals. —AFP

Sports

# Alcaraz, Swiatek lead US Open changing of guard

## Transition from the 'Big Three' era gathers pace

**NEW YORK:** Newly-crowned champions Carlos Alcaraz and Iga Swiatek led a changing of the guard at the US Open as the transition from the "Big Three" era and Serena Williams gathered pace. The exiled Novak Djokovic, prevented from competing in New York due to US government vaccination mandates for visitors from overseas, may yet return to add to his collection of 21 Grand Slam titles next year.

But the continued absence from men's tennis of the 41-year-old Roger Federer and the fourth round exit of 22-time Grand Slam champion Rafael Nadal provide further proof that the trio's era of domination is drawing to a close. The women's game is already confronting the departure of an icon, with the 40-year-old Serena Williams heading into retirement following an emotional farewell in New York.

Williams' exit in the third round, and Nadal's last-16 defeat, meant that for the first time since 2003 at a Grand Slam event, the quarter-finals of the women's and men's draws did not feature at least one of Williams, Nadal, Djokovic or Federer.

"It definitely shows that there's a changing of the guard going on, and obviously some of it has to do with age - for Roger Federer," Swedish great Mats Wilander told the Eurosport television network.

"Some of it has to do with Rafa not playing enough matches to be ready, and of course, a lot of it has to do with the fact Novak Djokovic wasn't allowed to come because he's not vaccinated. "But at the same time, the depth in the men's game is unbelievable." Adding weight to that view is the fact that the men's draw saw four new faces in the semi-finals, with debutants Frances Tiafoe and Karen Khachanov joining eventual finalists Alcaraz and Casper Ruud.

### 'We are the present'

The 19-year-old Alcaraz is not quite ready to call time on Nadal, Djokovic and Federer just yet, but acknowledges that a generational shift is well and truly under way. "As long as Rafa, Djokovic, Federer are there, they will be the best and the rivalry they have between them will always come first," said the

Spaniard after his five-hour 15-minute quarter-final epic with Jannik Sinner.

"But Jannik and I have shown that we are the present and we also have long careers ahead of us," added Alcaraz, whose title made him the youngest world number one in history. Alcaraz's coach Juan Carlos Ferrero cautioned against expecting Alcaraz to emulate the Grand Slam achievements of the Big Three. "I think it's going to be very, very difficult to achieve what they have done in tennis," Ferrero said.

"We're talking about 22 Grand Slams. He has only one. "But who knows? I think he has all the tennis and potential to be one of the best." Rising American star Tiafoe believes the depth in the men's game would prevent one or two players from dominating the post Big-Three landscape. "It's cool to see a new era," Tiafoe said. "I don't think it will be a big three. It will be like a big 12. There's a bunch of guys playing great tennis."

In women's tennis, meanwhile, newly-minted US Open champion Swiatek looks more than capable of

filling the vacancy created by the retirements of both Williams and Ashleigh Barty, the former world number one who stunned the sport by retiring in March at just 25. The 21-year-old Pole's straight sets victory over Ons Jabeur in Saturday's final was her third career Grand Slam, and her first on a surface other than the red clay of Roland Garros, where she won in 2020 and 2022. Swiatek's season has included seven tournament victories, as well as a remarkable 37-match winning streak.

Swiatek, most comfortable on clay, said her victory in New York on hard court could turn out to be a psychological watershed for her career, saying the "sky is the limit." "At the beginning of the season I realized that maybe I can have some good results on WTA events," she said. "I also made it to semi-final of the Australian Open. "But I wasn't sure if I was on the level yet to win actually a Grand Slam, especially at the US Open where the surface is so fast. "It's something that I wasn't expecting for sure. It's also like a confirmation for me that the sky is the limit." — AFP



## Football Premier League roundup

By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** The final match of the third round of Zain Football Premier League lived up to expectations as it was enthusiastic and exciting in most of the match. Kuwait controlled the events, as forwards Taha Yassin Khenissi and Shaikam Kareem coordinated attacks with support from the midfield particularly from Arshad Al-Alawi, Ahmad Al-Dhafiri and Mahdi Burahma - creating several opportunities to score.

Al-Arabi meanwhile, opted for defense and left matters to Al-Sanousi

Al-Hadi and Mohammad Soula. As the second half began, Taha Al-Khanshi was able to score in the 47th minute for Kuwait. He then scored the second goal in the 54th minute from the penalty spot. Al-Arabi was able to score its first goal in the 68th minute when Mahdi Burahma from Kuwait was sent off following a foul. The goal was scored by Al-Hadi Al-Sanousi. The match then saw attacks at both ends until Ali Faridoon headed an equalizer for Arabi in the 88th minute.

Kuwait did not give up on their attempts to score a winner and they got what they wanted when Amro Abdelfattah was fouled in the 18-yard box. Al-Khenissi scored the winner in the 98th minute from the spot. Kuwait, with Al-Khenissi's hat trick now has 6 points while Al-Arabi has 2 only.



## 'We've been warned': Bayern wary ahead of Lewandowski reunion

**BERLIN:** Bayern Munich will welcome Robert Lewandowski's Barcelona to the Allianz Arena on Tuesday, hoping to jolt themselves out of a poor run of Bundesliga form. Despite Wednesday's impressive 2-0 win at Inter Milan, Bayern have drawn three games in a row and sit in the unfamiliar position of third place after six matches.

While Bayern have not struggled to find the back of the net this season with 31 goals in nine games, they have missed Lewandowski's penetration at crucial moments in recent weeks. Lewandowski has had a dominant start to life in Spain, scoring six times in five La Liga matches for Barcelona to sit in his usual spot atop the goalscoring charts. With four wins and a draw, Barcelona are unbeaten in the league and sit second behind Real Madrid.

In the Champions League, Lewandowski opened his account with a hat-trick in Barcelona's 5-1 home win against Viktoria Plzen. Speaking directly after their 2-2 home draw with Stuttgart on Saturday, Bayern sporting director Hasan Salihamidic said his team knew better than most the kind of damage Lewandowski could inflict. "We have been warned," Salihamidic said about his former striker's form for his new club.

### 'He uses every opportunity'

Bayern have a strong recent Champions League record against Barcelona, with two 3-0 wins last season along with an 8-2 quarter-final thumping on the way to winning the 2020 title.

The six-time European champions are however fully aware that this Barcelona side is stronger than some of the recent incarnations.

"Worried? I don't know (about that)," Salihamidic said on Saturday when asked if his side were fearful ahead of Barca's visit. "We have to shift up two gears, even three against Barcelona. "Barcelona have top players, play good football (and) 'Lewa' is up front, he uses every opportunity." Manager Julian Nagelsmann said his side's Bundesliga form will not change the preparation for Tuesday's game. "I approach the week the way I would have done it if we had won," Nagelsmann said on Saturday.

"We're trying to come up with a good idea for Barcelona, which will be difficult. "I would have done the same thing if we had won 4-0 today." After his side's 2-0 win over Inter, Nagelsmann said his side were "looking forward" to taking on the man who scored 344 goals in 375 Bayern appearances. "I am looking forward to it (the reunion with Lewandowski). Not so much as an opponent because he's very dangerous, but as a person I will be pleased to see him."

Nagelsmann said he hoped fans would welcome Lewandowski back warmly, despite the acrimonious nature of his departure. "I hope the fans will honor that too, regardless of how things were with his departure." Bayern forward Thomas Muller, who said he was "mad at ourselves for the first time this season" after the draw with Stuttgart, said he was happy for the focus to shift away from his side's domestic problems. "We're really looking forward to the duel - not just because of Robert," Muller said. "It's a meeting at the summit in the group." —AFP

## Kuwait to host 6 International tournaments

By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** Six International Tennis Tournaments will be held at Sheikh Jaber Al-Abdallah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah International Tennis Complex for juniors and men. The tournaments will

start on September 19th until November 6th. Top-ranked world tennis players will compete for points. Secretary General of Kuwait Tennis Federation (KTF) Faleh Al-Otaibi said the Federation is ready for the organization of the tournaments under the supervision of the International Tennis Federation, adding that there will be four international juniors tournaments for four weeks, followed by two international tournaments for men for two weeks.

"We received requests from 70 players of both genders representing

28 countries. KTF selected the best 8 players from Kuwait to participate in the championships. The main goal behind organizing these international tournaments is to give Kuwait players the opportunity to gain the maximum possible benefit - being in touch with international players and to gain international ranking points," Al-Otaibi said, adding that it is an opportunity for fans to be at the matches in support of Kuwait players. KTF Secretary General thanked the Public Authority for Sport for its continued support.



Faleh Al-Otaibi, Secretary General of KTF

## Power takes IndyCar crown as Palou wins at Laguna Seca

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Australia's Will Power won his second career IndyCar drivers championship on Sunday with a third-place finish while Spain's Alex Palou captured the season-ending Monterey Grand Prix. Palou pulled away in the final 20 laps to defeat US runner-up Josef Newgarden by more than 30 seconds after 95 laps over the 2.238-mile Laguna Seca Raceway in Northern California.

"It's good to finish the season with a win," Palou said. "We had some power and good fuel mileage. It was an awesome day. Everything clicked." Power, who needed only a podium finish to clinch his first season points crown since 2014, took third to win the championship chase over Newgarden by 560-544 points with New Zealand's Scott Dixon third, 39 points adrift.

"It has been way too long," Power said. "What a team effort it was all year. You don't get years like this very often so I'm going to soak this in." Power, 41, won his only race of the season at Detroit but managed eight other podium finishes. "It was just playing the long game all year. It wasn't about going for the big wins," Power said. Power became IndyCar's all-time pole leader on Saturday with his 68th, breaking the mark he shared with legend Mario Andretti.

Power fulfilled a prediction his wife, Liz, made before the season that he would win the season crown and break Andretti's record. "She actually gave me confidence that I could do it, that's how much confidence I have in her gut feel," Power said. "She said those words and I just couldn't believe it came true."

Power battled handling and tire grip issues much of the race and knew the title was at stake when Newgarden, who started last in a field of 25, made a late charge. "I just knew I had to absolutely get the most out of those stints and not lose any more positions," Power said. "It was on the edge, very loose. What a relief." Newgarden, the 2017 and 2019 season champion, settled for a third consecutive runner-up points showing despite a season-best five wins from 17 races. —AFP

# Classifieds

## Hospitals & Clinics

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

## Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804

Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401

### CHANGE OF NAME

**Chollangi Maryvijaya** holder of Passport No. 22443181 do hereby change my name to Chollangi Indira as given name Chollangi Maryvijaya as surname for all purposes I will henceforth be. (C#0873) 12-09-2022

**I. MOHAMED HAJA** CHAHUL HAMID holder

of Passport No. V3760102 do hereby change my name to CHAHUL HAMID (as Given name) MOUHAMAD HADJA (as Surname) for all purposes. I will henceforth be known in the name CHAHUL HAMID MOUHAMAD HADJA and I also undertake to carry out this name change in all my documents. (C#0874) 12-09-2022

# Brady's Buccaneers open NFL season with win over Cowboys

A disappointing night for Cowboys; Prescott injured



ARLINGTON: Tony Pollard #20 of the Dallas Cowboys is tackled by Joe Tryon-Shoyinka #9 of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers during the second half at AT&T Stadium on September 11, 2022. — AFP

LOS ANGELES: Tom Brady had a frustrating start to the first match of his 23rd NFL season but a familiar finish as his Tampa Bay Buccaneers downed the Dallas Cowboys 19-3 in Texas. The seven-time Super Bowl champion Brady was sacked twice and threw one interception in a game where defenses dominated.

But a disappointing night for the Cowboys was made even worse when quarterback Dak Prescott departed late in the fourth quarter with an injury to his throwing hand. Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said that Prescott would require surgery and miss several weeks. "We have a lot to clean up," said Brady after the Buccaneers struggled to get the ball into the end zone. "But it's great to get a win on opening night and we have a lot of football ahead."

Brady, back in action after his decision to retire lasted just 40 days, said Tampa Bay's defense "deserves this" after the Cowboys were held to one field goal on the opening drive of the game. Tampa Bay's offense, relying on a ground game that saw Leonard Fournette run for 127 yards, piled up four field goals in the first two quarters to take a 12-3 lead before Brady threw the only touchdown pass in

the third quarter. Receiver Mike Evans made a spectacular one-handed grab while falling backwards in the end zone to make it 19-3.

Aged 45, Brady became the oldest quarterback to start an NFL game, but said he wasn't interested in dwelling on that kind of milestone nor was he in a mood to reminisce about past achievements. "I'm out here to do a job," said Brady, who has never lost a game against the Cowboys. "And I can do a better job than I did tonight." Prescott connected on just 14 of 29 passes for 134 yards and one interception before departing as the Bucs defense impressed to give new coach Todd Bowles an opening win.

Elsewhere, the Minnesota Vikings gave new coach Kevin O'Connell a 23-7 victory over reigning NFL Most Valuable Player Aaron Rodgers and the Green Bay Packers with Vikings receiver Justin Jefferson finishing with a whopping 184 receiving yards and two touchdowns. Rodgers struggled in the absence of wide receiver Davante Adams, now with the Raiders.

And Rodgers saw his NFL record streak against NFC North division opponents of 38 touchdown

passes without an interception ended when he was picked off by Harrison Smith. Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes adjusted seamlessly to the absence of receiver Tyreek Hill, now with Miami, throwing for 360 yards and five touchdowns in an emphatic 44-21 victory over the Cardinals in Arizona.

#### Close finishes

The first Sunday of the season saw a string of nail-biting finishes. Chris Boswell kicked a 53-yard field goal as time expired in overtime to lift the Pittsburgh Steelers to a 23-20 win over the Cincinnati Bengals. Boswell's winning kick saw the Steelers' dominant defensive performance pay off, despite a late injury to TJ Watt - who had one of Pittsburgh's four interceptions of Bengals quarterback Joe Burrow.

Burrow hit Ja'Marr Chase with a six-yard touchdown pass with two seconds left in regulation to knot the score at 20-20 and the game went to overtime when Minkah Fitzpatrick blocked the extra-point attempt by Evan McPherson. Fitzpatrick also returned an interception for a touchdown early in

the first quarter.

In Houston, Matt Ryan - playing his first game for Indianapolis after 14 seasons in Atlanta - directed three fourth-quarter scoring drives as the Colts rallied to force overtime against the Texans. Neither team could score on two overtime possessions and the game ended in a 20-20 tie. The New Orleans Saints erased a 16-point fourth-quarter deficit to stun the Atlanta Falcons 27-26 and Cleveland rookie Cade York nailed a game-winning 58-yard field goal with eight seconds remaining to give the Browns a 26-24 victory over the Carolina Panthers and former Browns quarterback Baker Mayfield.

In Nashville, the New York Giants edged the Tennessee Titans 21-20. The Giants had trailed 20-19 after quarterback Daniel Jones hit Chris Myrick with a touchdown pass with 1:06 to play. Brian Daboll, making his NFL head coaching debut, opted to go for the two-point conversion and Saquon Barkley powered into the end zone to give the Giants the lead, which held up when Randy Bullock missed a 47-yard field goal attempt as time expired. — AFP

## Juventus held by Salernitana after VAR controversy

TURIN: Juventus came back from two goals down at half-time to draw an incident-packed match with Salernitana 2-2 on Sunday as Atalanta gave up the Serie A lead after a 1-1 draw with Cremonese. Massimiliano Allegri's Juve drew for the fourth time this season but the point shared doesn't tell the story of a match which ended with four red cards being shown after Arkadiusz Milik's last-gasp winner was ruled out following a VAR check.

The Poland striker sent the Allianz Stadium into raptures with a glancing header five minutes into stoppage time, but the goal was chalked off for Leonardo Bonucci being off-side and interfering with play. Bonucci had leveled on the rebound from his own missed penalty just two minutes previously to set up a grandstand finish which ended in farce.

Milik was given a second yellow card for removing his shirt after scoring what he thought was the decisive goal and then Juan Cuadrado, Salernitana defender Federico Fazio and Allegri were all sent off as tensions flared on the sidelines. Allegri later asked to see footage which featured Antonio Candreva, who was near the corner flag and appeared to be playing everyone inside. "We haven't seen that video, what if he keeps everyone inside?"



TURIN: Salernitana's Italian goalkeeper Luigi Sepe (left) controls the ball over Juventus' Polish forward Arkadiusz Milik (center) during the Italian Serie A football match between Juventus and Salernitana on September 11, 2022. — AFP

We don't have that video, nobody has it, so I don't know," he said on DAZN.

A match that ended in chaos began with Salernitana putting in a superb opening 45 minutes which had them two goals to the good through Candreva's tap-in and a Krzysztof Piatek penalty on the stroke of half-time. Davide Nicola's side pulled off a survival miracle on the final day of last season and have got off to a promising start this term. Salernitana are 10th on seven points, three behind unbeaten Juve who are struggling with injuries and

form in the early part of the season. Their first ever point at Juve was the fourth draw in six games so far in the new campaign.

That was not the only match in Italy to feature VAR controversy as Lecce president Saverio Sticchi Damiani blasted officials for missing two handballs in their 1-1 draw with Monza. Monza earned their first point of their first ever Serie A season but Sticchi Damiani was incredulous after neither Pablo Mari nor Salvatore Molina touching the ball with their arms led to VAR reviews. — AFP

## Monaco beat Lyon for 2nd straight Ligue 1 win

PARIS: Monaco claimed a 2-1 victory over Lyon on Sunday for a second straight Ligue 1 win to put their disappointing start to the season behind them. Philippe Clement's side only won one of their first five league matches this term but have bounced back since a 4-2 home loss to Troyes, beating Nice last weekend and Red Star Belgrade in the Europa League in midweek. Lyon suffered a second defeat of the week after losing their unbeaten record against Lorient on Wednesday.

Both teams squandered several chances in the first half, before Monaco defender Benoit Badier put the hosts ahead in the 55th minute by heading home Caio Henrique's corner. The Brazilian provided the second goal from another set-piece eight minutes later, as Guillermo Maripan glanced

home his inswinging free-kick. Lyon got themselves back into the game late on with Karl Toko Ekambi's fourth goal of the campaign, but Monaco held on to move up to seventh in the table.

"We knew they were dangerous on set-pieces, we know that's our weak point," Lyon striker Alexandre Lacazette told Prime Video. "We lack size at this level. It's a shame because apart from these set-pieces we were well in the game." Monaco are behind Rennes on goal difference after their 5-0 thrashing of Auxerre. Earlier, Lorient continued their fine season by climbing into fourth place with a 3-2 home win over Nantes. Reigning champions Paris Saint-Germain remain above rivals Marseille on goal difference at the top of the table after their 1-0 success against Brest on Saturday. — AFP