

King to host world leaders as UK counts down to queen's funeral

Kuwait's Crown Prince arrives in Britain to offer condolences



LONDON: Representative of HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, arrives in the UK to offer condolences on the demise of Queen Elizabeth II.— KUNA

LONDON: Representative of HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, arrived in the UK on Sunday along with his accompanying delegation to offer condolences on the demise of Queen Elizabeth II. The Amir's representative was received by representative of Britain's King Charles III, Deputy Charge d'Affaires for Essex Rear Admiral Roy Clare, Special Representative of the Foreign Office Michael Holloway and Kuwaiti Ambassador to the UK Bader Al-Awadhi.

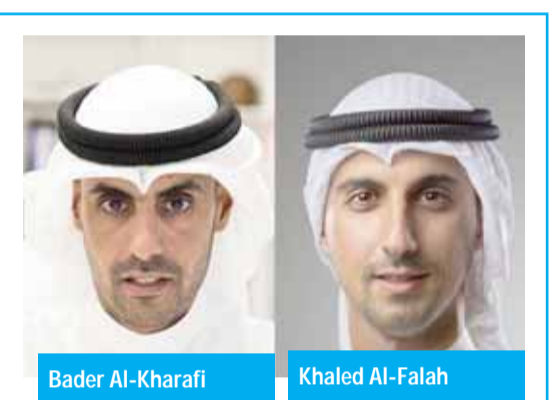
US President Joe Biden was also to pay his last respects in London to Queen Elizabeth II on Sunday, as ordinary mourners waiting in marathon lines were warned that time was running out to view her coffin lying in state. After witnessing the somber scene in parliament's Westminster Hall, Biden, Japan's Emperor Naruhito and other world leaders were due to attend a recep-

tion with King Charles III.

Biden, who flew in late Saturday, has said that Charles' mother "defined an era" after she reigned for a record-breaking 70 years leading up to her death on Sept 8, aged 96. Australia's anti-monarchy Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, who viewed the lying-in-state and met Charles on Saturday, told Sky News Australia that the queen was "a constant reassuring presence".

There was also a private audience at Buckingham Palace for Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern of New Zealand, which like Australia and 12 other Commonwealth realms now counts Charles as its sovereign. "You could see that it meant a huge amount (to Charles) to have seen the sheer scale and outpouring of people's love and affection for her late Majesty," she told BBC television Sunday. But in a sign of challenges ahead for the new king, Ardern added that she expected New Zealand to ditch the

Continued on Page 6



Bader Al-Kharafi named NIC Chairman, Khaled Al-Falah Vice Chairman

KUWAIT: National Investments Company announced forming its new board of directors, which includes Bader Al-Kharafi as Chairman and Khaled Al-Falah as Vice Chairman, as well as members Anas Al-Saleh, Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem, Thamer Al-Usaimi and Taiba Al-Qatami.

OUR VOTE GOES TO HER



To support the principle of equal opportunities and to enrich democracy with intellectual minds and competencies, **Kuwait News** supports **Kuwaiti women** in the **parliament elections**.

Local

Demand, supply uncertainty continues to be the biggest challenge: KPC CEO

KUWAIT: Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah, Chief Executive Officer, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said that, "One of the main challenges facing the gas industry is the inability to predict supply and demand, especially in light of the potential economic downturn and rapidly changing geopolitical balances". Speaking during the opening of the 28th session of the GCC Conference and Exhibition of the Gas Manufacturers Association, which was held under the title, 'Opportunities and Challenges in the Natural Gas Value Chain', he said that despite the growth of the natural gas industry, it was facing increasing competition from the global shift towards renewable energy sources and this transformation was another major challenge that must be dealt with seriously.

Al-Sabah has also affirmed that the Kuwaiti oil sector is playing an active role in reaching the New Kuwait 2035 vision. "We have seen the response of the oil and gas sectors on the impact of the pandemic in our lives and the global market, which has led to a decrease in demand and prices being historically at its lowest. Oil companies had to take important decisions in order to reach financial sta-

bility, where capital decreases have ranged from 10 to 80 percent while operational decreases reached 30 percent," he said.

"As lockdowns have decreased and demand for gas and oil have gradually increased, the security of gas has become a matter, of significance, especially with the conflict in Europe and the cutting of gas supplies, which signifies the importance of gas in our daily life. Other well-known challenges facing the gas industry still exist, in terms of exploration and development of gas fields, means of gas transportation and distribution, as well as measures to ensure the safety and viability of gas infrastructure, which are challenges of paramount importance."

In turn, acting CEO of Kuwait Oil Company (KOC), Khaled Al-Otaibi said that the demand for oil and gas returned to levels before the Covid-19 epidemic in 2019, noting that in light of the high-priced environment, KOC is determined to increase its production of natural gas in line with KPC's strategy to meet the domestic demand for energy. He also said that production would be increased mainly through the development of free gas production from the Jurassic fields, pointing out that

the KOC signed a contract for offshore drilling and oil and gas exploration in Kuwaiti territorial waters, which is one of the most important projects currently being implemented within the framework of the Corporation's strategy for the year 2040.

"There are many challenges that face gas production today, therefore, production prices must be decreased so we can compete, and we have to protect the environment by taking futuristic steps and improve our production system which will make up for the costs," he added.

"In order to improve our impact on the environment in accordance with regulations by the public environment protection authority, we have decreased the burning of gas by 0.5 percent during the 2021-22 fiscal year," he added.

Al-Otaibi stressed that there are a number of economic and environmental challenges facing the gas business across the entire value chain, calling for reducing production and operating costs, in order to remain competitive and deal with environmental concerns proactively, to protect the health of society.

Meanwhile, Hamad Al-Zuweir, the President of

the Gas Manufacturers Association, the GCC branch, said that this conference was previously scheduled to be held in March 2020, the same month in which the World Health Organization declared a state of health emergency as a result of the Covid-19 epidemic. He also said that the branch includes more than 31 member companies, including a number of national and international oil companies, sellers and contractors, referring to the Gas Manufacturers Association, as the number of participants in the conference reached more than 600 participants from all over the world. The five-day conference aims to exchange experiences, knowledge and best practices regarding the development of the gas industry at the regional and global levels.



Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah

Legalese

Constitution of Kuwait



By Fajer Ahmed

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The constitution of Kuwait is a very powerful document, it was implemented more than 60 years ago in 1961 in a very different time, yet somehow our grandfathers knew the values that would sustain Kuwait in the future, ensuring that people can live in peace and in harmony, regardless of their background or nationality. As elections are nearing, it is important for the potential parliament members to understand that their job would be to represent the people of Kuwait and to make sure that the laws they suggest and vote for, follow the constitution, in its integrity.

Here are a few articles of the constitution that I wanted to share:

Article 30

Personal liberty is guaranteed.

Article 35

Freedom of belief is unrestricted. The State shall protect freedom of belief in the observance of religious rites established by custom, provided such observance does not conflict with morals or disturb public order.

Article 29

The people are peers in human dignity and have, in the eyes of the Law, equal public rights and obligations. There shall be made, no differentiation among them because of gender, origin, language or religion.

This article is very interesting because the word 'people' is used and unlike other articles were the word Kuwaiti or citizen is used, indicating that this is for all people in Kuwait regardless of their nationality or citizenship status. This gives us an insight on the Kuwaiti constitution and the wisdom behind it.

Al Hamra Real Estate, HSBC initiate environment campaign

KUWAIT: Jenan Behzad, Head of Program and Activity and member of the Kuwait Association for the Protection of the Environment, said that they have initiated a campaign with Al Hamra Real Estate and in cooperation with HSBC Bank. The campaign is organized to ensure the protection of the environment and raise awareness among all members of the society.

"The campaign started on Sept 11 and ended on Sept 18 and is a multi-phase activity which includes the informative awareness along with specialized surveys to spread awareness among the people," she said.

"The awareness campaign includes the distribution of brochures and billboards to acknowledge the dangers and provide solutions for it."

CEO of HSBC, Samer Al-Abed said "We are loyal to our responsibility towards society, and it is important to take procedures to ensure the protection of our natural environment and the global cleaning day provides us with the chance to create awareness in many different ways which can solve the global garbage problem."

"We want people to know there are many ways to responsibly remove excess electronic supplies which can be recycled and reuse and we thank the association for its great effort in making the real difference towards that direction," he added.

Abbar Al-Habeeb, CEO of the managerial department in Al-Hamra Estate said that the company's policies were designed to ensure environmental sustainability and acknowledges the social responsibility to protect the environment and raise awareness, as many companies have awareness campaigns regarding the environment, "and we practice the most advanced global standards in recycling at Al-Hamra Estates."

"Our participation ensures employment standards which is assessed by the knowledge capability between participants with regards to protecting the environment," she added.



PARIS: Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, Mohammed Al-Judaie and Anne-Claire Legendre at the Arab World Institute.



PARIS: Anne-Claire Legendre, Speaker of the French Foreign Ministry holds the artifacts at the Arab World Institute.

Sheikh Mubarak Al-Mubarak at Arab World Institute in Paris

PARIS: The museum at the Arab World Institute in Paris has opened an exhibition, where for the first time, around 1100 archaeological artifacts such as Dinars and gold currencies that belong to the Arab

Islamic World during the 18th and 19th century, were on display. The exhibition was attended by Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah and the Kuwaiti Ambassador in France, Mohammed Al-Judaie as well as the Speaker of the French Foreign Ministry, Anne-Claire Legendre.

The institute is visited by thousands of visitors every year, comprising mostly of people interested in Arabic and Islamic cultures, where the library of the institute can be visited and which contain more than 17 thousand titles in Arabic, French and English, which talk about various subjects ranging

from literature, history, philosophy and theatre.

The Arab World Institute is considered as one of the best Arabic and Islamic culture institutes in the world, as it acts as a bridge between the Arab and western cultures and increases the interest in learning the Arabic Language. The institute, which was designed by some of the best architects in the world, aims to also shed light on the creativity of the Arabic culture in the past and the present, as well as what it had presented to the world scientifically that was 'enlightening' to Europe and the world as a whole.

KANF and KLS cooperate to launch Bab Rizk project

KUWAIT: Kuwait Association for Needy Families (KANF) and the Kuwait Lawyers society (KLS) have signed a Memo of Understanding (MoU), to launch the Bab Rizk project, to support and train stateless children to work in legal professions and other specializations. KANF member, Ahmad Al-Kandari and KLS member Abdulrazaq Al-Enezi signed the MoU to provide social and financial support for stateless children. "I am happy to sign this memo with the KLS which is based on our shared culture, to support stateless children and our shared goals," said Al-Kandari.

"The society is responsible through its strategy to provide support for needy families in Kuwait and within its framework is stateless families who live among us and their need for quality living," he added.

"The memo signed with KLS will provide economic and legal services to the society and support educated stateless people who are unem-



KUWAIT: KANF member Ahmad Al-Kandari and KLS member Abdulrazaq Al-Enezi sign the MoU

ployed, aiming to provide and develop stateless people in order to become people who can provide for their families."

"The project is one of the most important initiatives for KANF, which the association provides in order to make positive changes in young people's lives who are searching for a profession. Moreover, they can develop their professional careers as the project combines future job opportunities that correlate with the association and its relations by providing successful employment initiatives," he added.

KD 3 million worth of drugs seized

KUWAIT: According to the directives given by the Interior Minister, Talal Al-Khaled and his undersecretaries in increasing campaigns against drug smugglers and suppliers, the anti-drug department arrested two

people with drugs amounting to more than KD 3 million including firearms and bullets without license.

A statement issued by the Anti-Drug department said that, two people were caught smuggling large amounts of drugs into the country to sell them and after increased investigations and intelligence gathering, the anti-drug department issued a permit from the public prosecution and were able to inspect the home where a storage room was found to have a ton of Lyrica, 35 kgs of Synthetic Marijuana (Chemical),

Recycled products to be exported from Al-Zour soon

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Company (KIPIIC) will start exporting recycled products from Al-Zour Refinery, at the end of October or early November this year. It is expected that light testing will take place on exported products, before being sent to the global market.

Al-Zour refinery is expected to be one of the biggest of its kind in the region, as it will mainly produce petrochemical products in accordance with output regulations.

The refinery project is formed of five main departments and contractual sections for engineering, purchases from 2015. The refinery construction was mechanically completed last year, but it had faced delays during operation and the COVID pandemic.

18 kgs of Methamphetamine, 2 kgs of Hashish, 1 kg of powdered Lyrica, 3 kgs of Marijuana and 2000 pills of Captagon along with two Kalashnikov rifles and four hand guns.

"The accused have admitted that they intended to sell the illegal substances and legal procedures have been taken against them," informed sources said. The Anti-Drug department has added that it will continue its campaigns on drug smugglers and businessmen in order to protect the country.



KUWAIT: The accused with the confiscated drugs seized by the anti-drug department.



Local

Court upholds barring of seven candidates

Campaign heats up with calls for fundamental reforms, changes

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The administrative court yesterday upheld a decision by an interior ministry commission to disqualify seven candidates from running in the upcoming parliamentary polls on Sept 29. A number of the disqualified candidates immediately challenged the decision before the court of appeals whose decision is expected soon. The barred candidates include former MPs Abdullah Al-Barghash, Khaled Al-Mutairi and Mohammad Juwail. They also include Ayedh Al-Oteibi, Musaed Al-Quraifah, Hani Hussein and Anwar Al-Fikr.

The interior ministry commission had barred the men over previous court verdicts, which were of a political and criminal nature. In the meantime, the election campaign heated up yesterday with scores of candidates opening up their campaigns and demanding fundamental reforms

and changes. A majority of speakers highlighted the importance of the current elections as the country stands at a crossroad.

Prominent opposition leader and former three-time assembly speaker Ahmad Al-Saadoun who had contested most of the elections since 1971 said that the upcoming polls are different from all previous elections. He said these elections come after a clear pledge for the first time in Kuwait's history by an Amiri address to "safeguard" the 1962 Kuwait's constitution against any attempt to undermine it. Saadoun, tipped to become the next speaker if he wins a seat in parliament, hailed the pledges of the Amir to not interfere in the elections or the election of the speaker.

Former MP Faisal Al-Yahya said that the country should capitalize on the historical speech of the Amir by launching initiatives to work out a vision for fundamental reforms and to get rid of all corrupt people who have infil-

trated the structure of the state. Speaking at the election campaign of candidate Hamad Al-Olayan, Yahya said another initiative must be launched to develop the political system in the country in such a way, to guarantee the right of the people to govern and at the same time safeguard the status of the ruling family.

Yahya warned that if these initiatives were not implemented, the optimism that prevailed after the Amiri speech will vanish and the country will continue to revolve in a vacuum like it used to previously.

Candidate Hamad Al-Olayan said that the real dilemma the country is facing is that it has a political system that corrupt forces find too easy to penetrate, adding that fundamental reforms in every field will achieve sustainable development.

Former opposition MP Faisal Al-Muslim said that the Amiri speech has ended a decade of political turmoil, but a

number of lingering issues remain unresolved like pardoning political immigrant and prisoners, rehabilitating Kuwaitis whose citizenship was revoked for political reasons and others. Al-Muslim warned that if these issues were not resolved, it would remain an obstacle for cooperation in the future.

Meanwhile political activist Same Al-Mane called for fundamental political reforms which must top the list of priorities. These should include approving political parties, establishing an independent election commission and changing the electoral system to adopt lists rather than individual candidates.

Former MP Muhallal Al-Mudhaf said the government has taken a number of positive steps that gave us a "shot of optimism" and we hope this will continue. But he warned that if no constructive cooperation takes place, the country will return to the era of political disputes.

Kuwait initiates beach clean up to mark World Cleanup Day

By Majd Othman

KUWAIT: To mark World Cleanup Day, Kuwait launched a beach cleanup campaign in seven locations around the country, organized by Trash Hero Kuwait. A number of citizens and residents, along with many companies, participated in cleaning the beaches. The organizers and participants emphasized the importance of preserving the environment, hoping these kinds of campaigns could be held more than once a year.

"The cleanup day in Kuwait is held in collaboration with a lot of teams. This global event is marked in 191 countries, which is almost the majority of the world's countries, where people decide to go out and clean their environment and make the world a cleaner place. This is our goal and our mission - to make the world a cleaner and a nicer place for future generations," Abdulrahman Ali, a team member of Trash Hero Kuwait, told Kuwait Times.

"As for the people who joined us in the campaign, we would like to extend a huge thanks to everyone who wants to make a positive impact on their environment and in the wellbeing of themselves, in addition to the sponsors and companies that participated with us, such as Deliveroo, Asnaf, DHL, The Scientific Center, and many other great companies," he added.



KUWAIT: Volunteers clean up beaches in Kuwait to mark World Cleanup Day.



Fatima Al-Shatti, one of the participants, said she is thrilled to be one of the initiators of this campaign to support the environment. Due to a lack of events in Kuwait, she said this is a nice opportunity for her to spend time for a good cause.

Mohammad Kraez of German logistics company DHL said: "The company participates in several environmental campaigns annually. We think it is our responsibility to be a part of World Cleanup Day, in which the world is participating to clean the environment. One of the main DHL strategies is to become an environmental company at all levels by 2050, while we urge people to become more friendly to the environment in order to live in a more civilized environment."

Rawan Hashim of Asnaf Trading Company pointed out: "Our message on World Cleanup Day is to deliver the

idea to our children that they have to preserve the cleanliness of the environment, like they keep their houses and schools clean. We hope everyone becomes a part of this campaign and make it an essential behavior in their lives."

Anoud Al-Theferi of Kuwait in our Hearts campaign said: "Out of our responsibilities towards the environment, this is the third year we are participating in World Cleanup Day. We invite everyone to lend a hand to preserve our beloved country Kuwait, especially those who throw trash out of their cars, which indicates uncivilized behavior. We hope these kinds of campaigns become weekly events. The Municipality and ministries have to organize such events regularly."

Sarah Al-Yaqout from The Scientific Centre said: "We have participated in collaboration with Deliveroo for World Cleanup Day, which is marked in 191 countries

around the world. We feel it's very important to be engaged and active in spreading awareness regarding the environment and taking care of it for a more sustainable Kuwait. Such events help people learn more about the preservation of the environment." She emphasized the importance of holding these types of events regularly, adding that the Scientific Centre holds an environment month every March, which helps to create more events related to cleanliness and the environment.

Diana of Deliveroo said: "We participated in this campaign due to our desire to be a part of this initiative. At the same time, we at Deliveroo have a sustainable strategy that we want to achieve, and this is the start of our sustainability initiative in Kuwait. So, we collaborated with the Scientific Centre and Elate to hold a lot of campaigns on the environment."



KUWAIT: Prof. Ayed Salman with Marafi and Al Awadhi during the event.

Zain joins in celebrating 'Kuwait Codes' graduates

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading digital service provider in Kuwait, took part in the graduation ceremony held to celebrate the students of 'Kuwait Codes', the recently-concluded educational coding program for high school students. The event was hosted by Kuwait University's College of Engineering and Petroleum and came as part of Zain's strategic partnership with CODED Academy, which launched the program's second season to empower the next generation of young Kuwaiti coders.

The event was attended by the Acting Dean of the College of Engineering and Petroleum Prof. Ayed Salman, CODED Academy co-founder and CEO Ahmad Marafi, CODED Academy General Manager Omar Al Ibrahim, Zain Kuwait Media Relations Department Manager Alia Al Awadhi, as well as the students, their families, and representatives of the program's sponsors.

During the ceremony, Zain took part in recognizing the students who completed the program, which was launched in its second season earlier this year by CODED Academy in strategic partnership with Zain. The initiative is considered the first of its kind in Kuwait and is aimed at creating a technically advanced generation by offering the opportunity for high school students to learn and develop programming skills at four main streams: developing iPhone and Android apps, designing websites, and building video games.

'Kuwait Codes' targeted high school students of

14-17 years from across public and private schools in Kuwait. The free program continued for 6 weeks, where students learnt the most basic skills that empowered them to build their own projects.

As part of its strategic partnership with the program, Zain also recently hosted a student debate event at its main HQ with the participation of some of the best students from 'Kuwait Codes'. The students were split into teams, and they each presented various coding principals and approaches to the crowd. The teams were given enough time to research and prepare their debates to try and get the favor of the crowd against other teams.

Zain is proud to be one of the main strategic partners of CODED throughout the years, a partnership that has contributed to empowering hundreds of young programmers and developers into the local market. The company is keen on playing its part in empowering and creating the next generation of Kuwaiti programmers.

Many of Zain's corporate sustainability strategy initiatives center around youth and education development, and as digital skills are gaining accelerating importance in the future of education and the economy, the company has put the development of programming and digital competencies of the youth at the forefront of its priorities. Zain is keen on contributing to preparing the next generation of local talents with the skills required by modern markets.

Zain is also keen on playing a vital role as an integrated digital service provider in light of the rapid digital changes witnessed by the modern world. The company always seeks to reach new levels of excellence with its customers through offering the best innovative services, meeting their needs and aspirations, as well as supporting programs and initiatives that embrace tech innovation and aim at developing it.

assembly elections. The premises of the allotted schools will be handed over to an election affairs department on Monday and teachers and school staff will be on leave during these days, till they resume work on Oct 2. They would also be joined by around 221,410 middle and high school students in the new year, with the number of students in public schools currently at around 425,501 students. Around 16,235 teachers have started their academic year 2022/23, while around 204,000 students will start attending school next Sunday, on Sept 25.

On the occasion of the



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News in brief

Kuwait PM sends condolences to Jordan over building collapse

KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent on Sunday a cable of condolences to King Abdullah II of Jordan, expressing deepest condolences over the casualties, which occurred in a building collapse in the capital Amman.

Kuwait PM congratulates Chile on national day

KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent on Sunday a cable to the President of the Republic of Chile, Gabriel Boric, congratulating him on his country's National Day.

Decision to close restaurants and stores at midnight now underway

KUWAIT: The managerial decision to limit opening hours for commercial stores in residential areas in all governorates is now underway. The official gazette has published the decision by the Kuwaiti Municipality, which says all commercial stores and restaurants located in residential areas, except those located in central malls within a co-op must close by midnight. "Stores that have multiple entries and a separate door for deliveries can operate only for home delivery orders. Any exceptions must be permitted by the Ministry of Interior," the decision stated.

KRCS volunteers to provide support in Kuwait elections

KUWAIT: Around 200 Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) volunteers have agreed to provide their services to support the National Assembly elections scheduled to be held on Sept 29, said a top official from the society on Sunday. Anwar Al-Hasawi, the society's deputy chairman of the board, said that the volunteers' participation reflected their keenness and belief in the democratic process in Kuwait. The volunteers would assist voters, help in organizing the elections, and would also offer logistic and humanitarian support, stated Al-Hasawi. He went on to say that the volunteers have been trained to provide services at polling stations throughout the country, adding that the participation of 60 volunteers in the 2021 fifth constituency by-elections was taken as a blueprint for the upcoming KRCS involvement in the 2022 election process. Al-Hasawi also added that the KRCS would work closely with other state entities to make sure that the election would run smoothly.

Kuwait Education Ministry prepares for scholastic year

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Education announced that it has been working in preparation for the new scholastic year 2022-2023, to ensure that the season would pass without any major hurdles and that students would be able to attend classes in a hygienic environment. The ministry said in a statement on Saturday, that some 1,000 workers were employed and assigned to the schools for cleaning the facilities, indicating that supervisory personnel had ensured that contracting companies meet the required standards. Only two workers had to be legally penalized as they dishonored their contracting terms. The department reiterated its commitment to relevant laws and resolutions regarding the tenders, in addition to procurements that are only done in necessary cases. Up to KD 4 million (around USD 12 million) have been allotted as a budget for the tenders, the statement said, adding that it had to buy some necessities to relieve itself of bureaucratic transactions.

DHAMAN announces tie-up with Ribera Salud

KUWAIT: In a strategic step within its preparation for operating its health network, Health Assurance Hospitals Company (DHAMAN) announced the signing of a contract for managing and operating its medical services with the Spanish Company Ribera Salud, an expert in providing healthcare for more than 30 years in Spain and other several countries. The signing ceremony was attended by a number of DHAMAN Board members, CEO Thamer Arab and a number of company officials, and from Ribera Salud, Santiago Delgado, CEO for Strategy and Development, and Carlos Morata Pons, Director of Business Development. DHAMAN Chairman, Mutlaq Al-Sanea said, "We are pleased with this important step, which comes within our preparations to operate the DHAMAN network in compliance with the terms of the bidding document, through the cooperation with the international expert operator in implementing and managing the healthcare network with the highest standards of interna-

Photo of the day



KUWAIT: A baker gets Iranian bread ready in the kiln, in a bakery in Mubarakiya Street. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat



KUWAIT: Journalists with Mol officials at the media training workshop.

Media ethics outlined at training workshop

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: The development and training department at the Ministry of Information held on Sunday a workshop titled 'Create meaningful digital content'. The two-day workshop was held under the slogan 'Working professionally in a democratic country.' Media consultant Saleh Al-Mutairi explained how digital media evolved in Kuwait, and how to create meaningful content by using journalistic skills and technical abilities, as well as using a range of strategies to develop digital news. "Digital media thrived during the COVID-19 pandemic. It delivered news faster, disseminated information, and was more daring in its coverage. Digital media gained prominence among news outlets in delivering information - even the government felt its dominance," he added.

Mutairi said that social media has proved to be the best means for exposing events. "We saw how the video of a battered wife went viral recently. Social media shows us crimes we do not know about." He said news coverage should be objective and not influenced by personal beliefs and opinions and must be professional. "A successful journalist must be honest and elo-

quent in his coverage," he said.

The media consultant also explained the theory of understanding. "It is based on the fact that there is a difference between perceiving something and understanding it. The journalist must perceive the event, explain it, then understand the reason for its occurrence. To reach the stage of understanding, he must have a background," Mutairi said.

Mutairi said that digital media is a tough new field in Kuwait, and there is no clear law governing online newspapers. "We saw some unethical behavior by journalists covering the parliament. Journalistic values ??and ethics control how the news is reported. Our problem lies in getting ahead of other news outlets. The journalist must present the truth that brings him closer to his audience and hear what they want to say. Being the first to report the news does not mean fame, but rather he must be truthful in the dissemination of information, to educate and inform people," he added.

The lecturer also explained the media agenda theory, and how it controls public opinion and reformulates events. He spoke about the danger of online media in turning public opinion, like during the



KUWAIT: Media Consultants Ali Al-Ajmi and Saleh Al-Mutairi at the Mol training workshop

Turkish coup - with some even calling it hypodermic needle-like. "We saw this in the coverage that took place during the parliamentary elections, where some reporters deliberately violated the privacy of some candidates and embarrassed others," Mutairi said.



KUWAIT: DHAMAN Chairman, Mutlaq Al-Sanea and Alberto de Rosa, the President of Ribera Salud sign the agreement

ence required to run a network of this size in cooperation with the DHAMAN team who have the local expertise, which will undoubtedly be reflected on the level of services that will be provided in the primary healthcare centers and hospitals".

It is noteworthy that through this contract, Ribera Salud will manage and operate DHAMAN's network and its medical facilities in cooperation with the local team, to implement DHAMAN model that is based on providing high-quality health services while reducing the costs of the medical expenditures. Ribera Salud provides its medical services to more than one million people in Spain through 76 primary healthcare centers and 12 hospitals, which also provides its

services through a number of subsidiaries in Spain and abroad such as Saudi Arabia. Ribera Salud services are studied as a successful model in the best international universities, such as Harvard University and Berkeley University. Health Assurance Hospitals Company (DHAMAN) has completed two hospitals in Ahmadi and Jahra governorates with a capacity of 660 beds, in addition to four primary healthcare centers distributed in different governorates, which are currently operating as private centers that receive all healthcare seekers in preparation for the launching of DHAMAN network and the reception of the segment that will benefit from its services.



Dented plaque, creaking hospital, Queen's complex legacy in Aden

UN slams 'shameful' year-long ban on Afghan girls' education

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BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan: Volunteers carry humanitarian aid for people evacuated from the town of Batken in Bishkek on September 17, 2022. — AFP

Over 80 dead in Tajik-Kyrgyz border clashes

Kyrgyz soldiers say drone strikes on mosque and school killed 18

BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan: At least 81 people were killed in clashes between Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan this week, in the worst violence the countries have seen in years, while the international community called for calm. The situation on the contested border between the two Central Asian neighbors was however calm on Sunday afternoon, according to Kyrgyz authorities.

Clashes regularly erupt between the two former Soviet republics, as around half their 970-kilometre (600-mile) border is still to be demarcated. Tajikistan said on Sunday that 35 of its citizens were killed, the first official death toll since armed clashes broke out on Wednesday. On its Facebook page, the Tajik foreign ministry also reported 25 injured and said civilians, women, and children were among the victims.

The ministry accused Kyrgyz soldiers of killing

12 people in a drone strike on a mosque, and six others in an attack against a school. AFP was not able to independently verify the claims.



Putin calls for no further escalation

Meanwhile, Kyrgyzstan said Sunday at least 46 people had died in the southern border region of Batken, and 140 had been injured. Tens of thousands

of people were evacuated from Kyrgyz border regions over the past days, according to NGOs.

Kyrgyzstan declared September 19 a national day of mourning.

'Lasting ceasefire'

This toll by far surpasses figures from April 2021, when clashes left 50 dead and raised fears of a large-scale conflict. The two sides agreed a ceasefire Friday and Tajikistan's President Emomali Rahmon met his Kyrgyz counterpart Sadyr Japarov at a summit in Uzbekistan.

But the two countries traded blame for ceasefire violations only a few hours later.

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Sunday called for "no further escalation" between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in phone calls with the leaders of the Central Asian nations. Putin also

urged them to "take steps to resolve the situation as soon as possible by exclusively peaceful, political and diplomatic means" according to a statement from the Kremlin. Both Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are part of the Russia-led Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) but they regularly clash.

Still, the situation appears to be stabilizing.

On Sunday afternoon, the Kyrgyz authorities issued a statement saying the situation at the border "remains calm, trending towards stabilization". "There were no recorded escalation attempts or shots fired on the border. The parties are maintaining their ceasefire agreement and withdrawing their respective troops," the statement added.

On Saturday, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres had called on the leadership of both sides "to engage in dialogue for a lasting ceasefire," said a spokesman. —AFP

Russia, Ukraine trade blame for Kherson shootings

KYIV: Russia and Ukraine on Sunday accused each other of provoking fighting in Kherson, after a video showed clashes in the centre of the occupied Ukrainian city the previous evening.

The Ukrainian army is leading a counter-offensive to retake the southern city of Kherson, which was seized by the Russian army in the first weeks of the invasion. Russian official media Vesti-Crimea broadcast a video on Saturday evening showing an exchange of fire around two armored vehicles near Kherson train station. The Russian-installed administration of Kherson said later in the day it had "destroyed" a group of attackers.

"There was a clash in the centre of Kherson between sections of the Russian armed forces patrolling the streets of the city and an unidentified group of people," the administration said on Telegram. On Sunday morning, Ukrainian southern army command spokeswoman Natalia Gumeniuk said, "Yesterday's shootings and explosions in Kherson are provocations by the occupiers."

Gumeniuk added she had previously "warned

that provocations are planned in the south between September 17 and 20... to damage the image of the armed forces of Ukraine".

Ukrainian presidential aide Mykhaylo Podolyak blamed the shootings on "growing tensions" between different pro-Moscow factions preparing to flee amid news of the Ukrainian army's advances. Kirill Stremousov, a pro-Moscow official in

was detained on Tuesday.

She was declared dead by state television on Friday after having spent three days in a coma. Shortly after, a crowd gathered outside the Kasra hospital in central Tehran.

In her hometown of Saghez, where her body was laid to rest on Saturday, some residents hurled stones at the governor's office and chanted slogans against the authorities, according to Fars news agency. "The people are shocked and outraged by what happened to Mahsa Amini," reformist publication Etemad noted, stating that the country has suffered "multiple instances of violence by the morality police". The moderate Jomhuri-e Eslami daily warned against "social fragmentation" triggered by the "violent behavior" of the unit's officers.

Conservatives push back

President Ebrahim Raisi, an ultra-conservative former judiciary chief who came to power last year, has ordered an inquiry into Amini's death. Official state news agency IRNA reported Sunday that Raisi promised the family in a phone call that he would follow up the case, telling them "your daughter is like my own daughter and I feel like this incident happened to one of my own relatives."

However, some of the more conservative media



IZYUM, Ukraine: Graphic content / Forensic technicians carry a body bag at the site of a mass grave in a forest on the outskirts of Izyum, eastern Ukraine on September 18, 2022. — AFP

Kherson, said the city was "calm" on Sunday morning. Kyiv is "trying to attack but without any results", he said. "We won't say that everything is smooth and there is no problem in the Kherson region... (but) "everything will be fine."

There have been a series of targeted attacks against pro-Russian officials in Kherson and in other occupied areas in recent weeks. —AFP

Pelosi slams 'illegal attack' on Armenia

YEREVAN: US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Sunday condemned what she described as an "illegal" attack by Azerbaijan on Armenia that sparked the worst fighting since their 2020 war. Baku and Yerevan have accused each other of initiating the border clashes on Tuesday, which claimed the lives of more than 200 people. "We strongly condemn those attacks - on behalf of Congress - which threaten (the) prospects of the much-needed peace agreement," Pelosi told a news conference in Yerevan. "Armenia has particular importance to us because of the focus on security following an illegal and deadly attack by Azerbaijan on the Armenian territory."

Pelosi said the attack was an "assault on (the) sovereignty of Armenia". Hostilities between the Caucasus arch foes ended overnight on Thursday thanks to mediation by the United States, Armenian parliament speaker ALEN SIMONYAN said. Earlier attempts by Russia to broker a truce failed. "We are grateful to the United States for the agreement of the fragile ceasefire reached by their mediation," he told a news conference alongside Pelosi.

US-Armenia rapprochement

Pelosi's visit marks a growing closeness between Washington and Yerevan where frustration is brewing over the lack of support from Armenia's traditional ally Moscow which is distracted by its nearly seven-month war in Ukraine. Russia - which has a treaty obligation to defend Armenia in the event of foreign invasion, but which also has close ties with Baku - did not rush to help Yerevan despite a formal demand for military help. "We asked for military help and our demand was not accepted. Obviously, we are not happy," Armenia's security council chairman, Artyom Grigoryan, said Friday. Pelosi, who arrived in Yerevan on Saturday for a three-day visit, is the highest-ranking US official to travel to Armenia since the tiny nation gained independence from the Soviet Union in 1991.

On Sunday morning, a tearful Pelosi laid flowers at Yerevan's hilltop memorial of the 1.5 million Armenians killed in the Ottoman Empire during World War I. Armenia has long sought international recognition of the bloodletting as genocide - a claim fiercely rejected by Turkey but supported by many other countries. Pelosi said she was "proud" to travel to Yerevan after US President Joe Biden formally acknowledged the Armenian genocide last year. —AFP

Iranian woman's death spurs critics of 'morality police'

TEHRAN: As Iran reels from a woman's death after her arrest by its "morality police", the Sunday front page of financial newspaper Asia declared: "Dear Mahsa, your name will become a symbol."

The police unit-responsible for enforcing Iran's strict dress code for women, notably the wearing of a headscarf in public-had already faced growing criticism in recent months over its excessive use of force. The death of Mahsa Amini, 22, has reignited calls to rein in its actions against women suspected of violating the dress code, in effect since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

The day after her funeral, nearly all Iranian press dedicated their front pages to her story on Sunday.

"The nation has expressed its sorrow over Mahsa's sad death," stated the front page of ultra-conservative newspaper Javan. Originally from the northwestern Kurdistan province, Amini was on a visit with her family to the capital Tehran when she



TEHRAN, Iran: People check newspapers displayed at a kiosk in the Iranian capital Tehran on September 18, 2022, with the front pages featuring articles and photographs of Mahsa Amini, a woman who died after being arrested by the Islamic republic's "morality police" two days ago. —AFP

outlets sought to push back against the barrage of criticism. The government daily Iran newspaper accused reformists of "exploiting public sentiments by using an unfortunate incident to incite the nation against the government and the president". —AFP

International

Dented plaque, creaking hospital,
Queen's complex legacy in Aden

Reminder of Britain's complicated legacy in Middle East

ADEN: A battered plaque in a rundown hospital and a crackly, black-and-white newsreel are all that remain of Queen Elizabeth II's 1954 visit to Aden, the war-torn Yemeni city whose troubles are a reminder of Britain's complicated legacy in the Middle East. The plaque, scratched and dented and inscribed in English and Arabic, testifies that the queen, then 28, laid the foundation stone for the Al-Joumhouria hospital on April 27, 1954, less than a year after her coronation.

Visiting the hospital earlier this year, AFP recorded disturbing scenes: mildew, emaciated children and the stench of urine, as the under-equipped facility grapples with an impossible workload in the face of a long-running conflict. It was far from the brief but triumphant visit depicted in a Pathe newsreel nearly seven decades earlier, showing the queen and a smiling Prince Philip touring Aden in an open-top car and watching camel-mounted troops in a military parade.

British colonialism is inextricably linked with the Middle East partly because of the 1916 Sykes-Picot agreement, when Britain and France carved up much of the region between them amid the collapse of Ottoman rule during World War I. Many Arab leaders remain close to British royalty, however. After the queen's death this month at 96, sombre tributes were offered by monarchies that thrived under British protection.

'Colonialism undermines rights'

Saudi Arabia's King Salman said her "model of leadership" will be "immortalized". The United Arab

Emirates, whose president trained at Britain's Sandhurst military academy, declared three days of mourning and displayed the queen's image on Dubai's Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building.

The royal rulers of Qatar, Bahrain and Oman ordered flags to be flown at half-mast, and Jordan's King Abdullah II, whose mother was British, also sent his condolences. A lesser-noticed tribute also arrived from the separatist leader of Aden, the southwestern port city and the seat of the British colony that later became South Yemen until unification with North Yemen in 1990. Aidarus Al-Zubaidi, president of the Southern Transitional Council, tweeted that he was "deeply saddened" by the queen's death and extended his "heartfelt condolences".

The sentiments were incongruous in a city that, nine years after the young queen's visit, orchestrated an armed revolution that eventually won independence in 1967, an uprising that is celebrated each October 14. Mohammad Qassem Numan, president of the Yemen Center for Human Rights Studies and an activist against British rule in the 1960s, said any nostalgia for imperial rule was misplaced.

"Those who glorify the period where the British were in Aden, either are young and are unaware of the reality of what was happening in Aden and in the south back then, or are old people reacting to the reality we are living right now which is very tiring," the 72-year-old told AFP. "Colonialism in all its forms undermines a person's rights, freedom and life. There was never a form of colonialism that respected humanity," he added, stressing that it can "only ever seek to protect its own interests".

her own role." Remembering her late mother-in-law, Camilla added: "She's got those wonderful blue eyes, that when she smiles they light up her whole face. I will always remember her smile. That smile is unforgettable."

In February this year, on the eve of the 70th anniversary of her accession to throne, Queen Elizabeth ended all debate about how Camilla should be known once her eldest son Charles became king.

The monarch said it was her "sincere wish" for her to be known as the Queen Consort, "as she continues her own loyal service". Camilla has taken on the role with a minimum of fuss after gradually overcoming public opposition that lasted years.

Camilla has been travelling around Britain with the new sovereign. She also took part in a brief walkabout outside Buckingham Palace, the proclamation of the new king and trips to Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales. Charles and Camilla finally married in 2005 after a long-running love affair that was at times adulterous. Camilla has faced longstanding dislike from many British people, who blame her for the failure of Charles's first marriage to Diana, princess of

Camilla hails Queen as 'solitary woman' in a man's world

LONDON: Britain's new Queen Consort Camilla paid tribute Sunday to Queen Elizabeth II for carving her own role as a "solitary woman" in a world dominated by men. In her first public comments broadcast since Queen Elizabeth's death, King Charles III's wife said it must have been "so difficult" for the late monarch, who inherited the throne in 1952 when she was just 25 years old. Her pre-recorded comments to BBC television were to be aired later Sunday before the national minute's silence at 8:00 pm (1900 GMT).

"She's been part of our lives for ever. I'm 75 now and I can't remember anyone except The Queen being there," Camilla said. "It must have been so difficult for her being a solitary woman. There weren't women prime ministers or presidents. She was the only one so I think she carved

Isolated Prince Andrew pays tribute to 'mummy'

LONDON: Prince Andrew, who has effectively been banished from royal life amid ongoing fallout from sex assault accusations, on Sunday paid tribute to the "compassion" of his "mummy", Queen Elizabeth II. "Mummy, your love for a son, your compassion, your care, your confidence, I will treasure forever," he said in a statement. The 62-year-old Duke of York reappeared in public last weekend having been largely hidden since allegations, which he denies, that he had sex with a victim of US child trafficker Jeffrey Epstein. He has attended events to honor the queen alongside other grieving senior royals, and stood vigil by her coffin on Friday. He was allowed to wear military colors for the vigil but has not been permitted to do so for other commemorative events, including Monday's state funeral.

During a silent procession through Edinburgh on Monday, he was heckled by one man in the crowd. Andrew, who flew Royal Navy helicopters in the 1982 Falklands War with Argentina, was honorary colonel of the Grenadier Guards. Its soldiers are part of the Household Division that guard Buckingham Palace in their distinctive bearskin hats and red tunics. Often referred to as 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 at some point to make his younger brother's royal exile

else," she told AFP, equipped with camping chairs, warm clothing and extra socks. "I will probably feel very emotional when it comes to it, but I wanted to be here to pay my respects."

Fiona Ogilvie, 54, who served in the Royal Air Force, had taken up position outside Westminster Abbey. "When you join the RAF you swear an allegiance to the queen, and that kind of stays with you," she said. "She was still doing her duty up to two days before she died, and you can't ask more than that," Ogilvie added, after the queen appointed Liz Truss as her 15th prime minister in one of her last official acts.

Starting with a single toll from Big Ben, Britain will hold a minute's silence at 8:00 pm (1900 GMT) on Sunday to reflect on the "life and legacy" of the queen. Near the Scottish town of Falkirk, 96 lanterns were to be lowered into a "pool of reflection" at the foot of the Queen Elizabeth II Canal, before wreaths



ADEN, Yemen: In this file photo Yemen's councillor Sayyid Abubakr bin Shaikh Alkaff kneels before Queen Elizabeth II to be knighted during the Sovereign visit to Aden, on April 29, 1954. —AFP

Asmahan Al-Alas, secretary general of the Yemeni Society for History and Archaeology, and a history professor at Aden university, said the colonizers modernized the city and introduced a range of "planning, education, economic and social" changes. But the policies "didn't focus on the aspirations of Adeni people", she said. Following unification between the socialist south and nationalist North Yemen more than three decades ago, the separatist question festered as economic and political conditions steadily deteriorated in the Arab world's poorest country.

A civil war sparked by the Houthi rebels' takeover of Yemen's capital Sanaa in 2014 has had catastrophic consequences, creating the world's worst humanitarian crisis according to the United Nations, with millions teetering on the brink of

famine. Aden bears the scars of conflict. Homes are pockmarked by bullet holes, buildings lie in rubble and water and electricity are intermittent, the result of infrastructure trashed by fighting. Some signs of British rule remain, including "Little Ben", a smaller version of London's Big Ben tower in black brick with a red-tiled roof, its clock long stopped.

The Crescent Hotel—where the queen is rumored to have stayed, although the account is disputed—is still standing but derelict, its roof gone and its rooms strewn with rubble. At Al-Joumhouria hospital, with the queen's plaque at its entrance, medical staff on wages of 10,000 riyals (about \$9) a day despair at the conditions. "The hospital isn't maintained or air-conditioned," nurse Zubaidi Said told AFP in February. "There are leaks in the bathrooms. The building is old and dilapidated." —AFP

Who's invited, and who's not, to Queen Elizabeth II's funeral

LONDON: Hundreds of foreign royals and leaders are expected to attend the state funeral of Queen Elizabeth II in London on Monday—one of the biggest diplomatic gatherings in decades.

Westminster Abbey has space for around 2,000 people, and around 500 heads of state and foreign dignitaries and their partners are expected, according to BBC and Sky News reports.

Also attending Britain's first state funeral for six decades will be the queen's family members, courtiers, public figures and UK politicians.

A host of royals from Europe and further afield have confirmed their attendance at the funeral for Britain's longest-serving monarch. Japan's Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako will attend their first overseas trip since assuming the throne in 2019. The visit marks a departure from Japanese tradition, which rarely sees the emperor attend funerals. Europe's royal families are closely related after centuries of mingling their bloodlines, so it will be no surprise to see several monarchs from the continent in the congregation.

Dutch King Willem-Alexander, Queen Maxima and Crown Princess Beatrix, Philippe King of the Belgians, King Harald V of Norway and Prince Albert II of Monaco will all attend.

Denmark's Queen Margrethe, who scrapped a series of events marking her 50th jubilee following the death of her third cousin, Queen Elizabeth, is also coming. Spain's King Felipe VI will be there too with his wife Letizia. So too will his father, former king Juan Carlos I, who abdicated in disgrace in 2014 and now lives in self-imposed exile in the United Arab Emirates.

Downing Street has not confirmed a UK media report that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's wife, Olena, will attend. US President Joe Biden and his wife Jill Biden head the diplomatic guest list and flew into Britain late on Saturday. Unlike some other leaders who have been asked to come in coaches arranged by the British government, Biden has reportedly been given permission to use his armored presidential limousine, known as The Beast.

French President Emmanuel Macron will attend, the Elysee Palace said, to show the "unbreakable" bond with Britain and pay respects to the "eternal queen". He is also among the leaders allowed to use their own transport, British officials said. Authoritarian leaders Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey and Jair Bolsonaro of Brazil are also coming. China has announced it will send its vice-president, Wang Qishan, at the UK government's invitation. —AFP



LONDON: Britain's Camilla (center), Queen Consort, and Britain's Prince Edward (R), Earl of Wessex, speak to guests during a luncheon for governors-general of the Commonwealth nations at Buckingham Palace in London on September 17, 2022 following the death of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II on September 8. —AFP

Wales. While Camilla is not topping polls of the most popular royals, her approval rating has hugely improved. —AFP



LONDON: Britain's King Charles III, Prince Andrew, Duke of York, and Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, arrive to mount a vigil around the coffin of Queen Elizabeth II at the Palace of Westminster on Sept 16, 2022. —AFP

permanent, experts say. For now, Andrew still officially retains his titles of Earl of Inverness and Counselor of State, meaning he could theoretically join other senior royals in stepping in for Charles if the latter were incapacitated. —AFP

are placed in the water. Those wanting to view the flag-draped casket have until 6:30 am (0530 GMT) on Monday to make it into the cavernous Westminster Hall opposite the abbey.

As the queue continued to snake for kilometers along the River Thames on Sunday, the waiting time stood at more than 13 hours, and the line is likely to be closed by the evening. "To avoid disappointment please do not set off to join the queue," the government said. Andy Sanderson, 46, a supermarket area manager, was in the line and finally reaching parliament. "She was the glue that kept the country together," he said. "She doesn't have an agenda whereas politicians do, so she can speak for the people."

As mourners slowly filed by on Saturday evening, Prince William and his estranged younger brother Prince Harry led the queen's eight grandchildren in a 12-minute vigil around the coffin. Harry — who did

two tours with the British Army in Afghanistan — wore the uniform of the Blues and Royals cavalry regiment in which he served. The move appeared to be the latest olive branch offered by Charles towards Harry and his wife Meghan after they quit royal duties and moved to North America, later accusing the royal family of racism.

Queen Elizabeth's state funeral, the first in Britain since the death of her first prime minister Winston Churchill in 1965, will take place Monday at Westminster Abbey in London at 11:00 am. Reflecting on the queen's wishes for the hour-long ceremony, the former archbishop of York, John Sentamu, said she "did not want what you call long, boring services". "The hearts and people's cockles will be warmed and at the same time, there will be a moment of saying this is a funeral service that is glorious in its setting," he told BBC television. —AFP

King to host world leaders as UK...

Continued from Page 1

UK monarchy "over the course of my lifetime". The first members of the public were already camping out in advance to catch a glimpse of Monday's grand farewell at Westminster Abbey, which is expected to bring London to a standstill and be watched by billions of viewers worldwide. E J Kelly, a 46-year-old schoolteacher from Northern Ireland, secured a prime spot with friends on the route the procession will take after the funeral. "Watching it on television is wonderful but being here is something



British colonialism inextricably linked with Middle East

International

UN slams 'shameful' year-long ban on Afghan girls' education

More than a million teenage girls deprived of education across the country

NEW YORK: The United Nations urged the Taliban on Sunday to reopen high schools for girls across Afghanistan, condemning the ban that began exactly a year ago as "tragic and shameful". Weeks after the hardline Islamists seized power in August last year, they reopened high schools for boys on September 18 but banned secondary schoolgirls from attending classes. Months later on March 23, the education ministry opened secondary schools for girls, but within hours the Taliban leadership ordered them shut again.



'Dark year, a year full of stress and disappointment'

Since then, more than a million teenage girls have been deprived of education across the country, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) said. "This is a tragic, shameful, and entirely avoidable anniversary," Markus Potzel, the acting head of UNAMA, said in a statement. "It is profoundly damaging to a generation of girls and to the future of Afghanistan itself," he said, adding the ban had no parallel in the world. UN chief Antonio Guterres urged the Taliban to revoke the ban. "A year of lost knowledge and opportunity that they will never get back," Guterres said on Twitter.

"Girls belong in school. The Taliban must let them back in." Several Taliban officials say the ban is only temporary, but they have also wheeled out a litany of excuses for the closures—from a lack of funds to time needed to remodel the syllabus along Islamic lines. Earlier this month, the education minister, Noorullah Muniir, was quoted by local media as saying it was a cultural issue, as many rural people did not want their teenage daughters to attend school.



KABUL: Afghan girls of up to primary grades attend a class at their school in Kandahar, Afghanistan, March 23, 2022. The UN today urged the Taliban to reopen high schools for girls across Afghanistan, condemning the ban that began exactly a year ago as 'tragic and shameful'.

'Year of disappointment'

Grade 12 student, Kawsar, who gave a fictitious name to protect her identity, said she was frustrated that her high school has been shut for a year now. "It's been a dark year, a year full of stress and disappointment," she said. "It's our primary right to have an education. The society needs female doctors and teachers, only boys cannot meet all needs of the society."

Many conservative Afghan clerics within the Taliban are skeptical of modern education. Last month, the authorities said they were increasing compulsory religious classes in government universities, though no subjects from the current curriculum would be dropped. Reacting to the education minister's comments in local media, Kainat, a school teacher, said parents and families across Afghanistan were keen to educate their

daughters. "They want their girls to achieve what they aim, every family wants their kids, including girls, to serve the nation," said Kainat, who also gave a fictitious name. "It's wrong to say that people in Afghanistan do not want their girls to be educated." After seizing power on August 15 last year during the chaotic withdrawal of foreign forces, the Taliban promised a softer version of their harsh Islamist regime in Afghanistan between 1996 and 2001.

But within days, they began imposing severe restrictions on girls and women to comply with their austere vision of Islam—effectively squeezing them out of public life. Apart from closing high schools for girls, the Taliban have barred women from many government jobs and also ordered them to cover up in public, preferably with an all-encompassing burqa.—AFP

Rain, landslides kill 48 in Nepal and India

UTTAR PRADESH: Heavy monsoon rains and landslides have killed almost 50 people in Nepal and India in recent days, authorities said on Sunday. In western Nepal at least 22 people died after landslides buried more than 100 houses on Friday, police official Narayan Dangi told AFP. Eleven people were injured, including three airlifted to hospital by army helicopter. "Rescue teams are still searching for one missing person," Dangi said. A major relief operation was underway with the police and army clearing debris and distributing food, tents and clothes. Over the border in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, heavy rains have killed 26 people since Friday, officials said.

The fatalities included nine laborers buried alive when a wall under construction in the state capital Lucknow collapsed on their huts, according to a government statement. The annual monsoon brings South Asia 70-80 percent of its annual rain but it also brings death and destruction, with nearly 1,400 people killed in Pakistan in recent weeks. The rainfall is hard to forecast and varies considerably, but scientists believe that climate change is making the monsoon stronger and more erratic.—AFP

Zulu king aide found dead in South Africa

KWAZULU-NATAL: An advisor to South Africa's Zulu king, who was crowned as monarch last month despite a challenge from within the royal family, was killed late Saturday on the sidelines of a traditional ceremony, according to a local official. Dumisani Blasius Khumalo "was killed by unknown gunmen last night, shortly after attending the Reed Dance in Nongoma," Sihle Zikalala, a member of the regional legislature, said in a statement. Some 10,000 people gathered Saturday in the small town of Nongoma, a Zulu stronghold in the southeastern KwaZulu-Natal province, for the traditional "reed dance".

During the centuries-old ritual, the girls present themselves to the king of the country's largest ethnic group, which numbers 11 million Zulus, almost one in five South Africans. It was the first reed ceremony for

27 people die in China quarantine bus crash

GUIZHOU, China: Twenty-seven people died en route to a COVID-19 quarantine facility when their bus crashed in southwest China on Sunday, local authorities said, in the country's deadliest road accident this year. The crash took place on a highway in rural Guizhou province when the vehicle carrying 47 people "flipped onto its side", Sandu county police said in a statement on social media.

Twenty people were being treated for injuries and emergency responders were dispatched to the scene in remote Qiannan prefecture, police said. The Guizhou government confirmed later Sunday that the vehicle had been "transporting people linked to the epidemic to quarantine" from the provincial capital of Guiyang, and that the accident occurred around 2:40 am (1840 GMT).

"At present, on-site rescue work is basically completed, the treatment of the injured and after-care of the deceased are being carried out in an orderly manner, and the cause of the accident is under investigation," the local government said in a social media statement. It was not clear whether the passengers were infected with COVID, close contacts, or living in the same building as virus patients. Guizhou has seen more than 900 new infections in the past two days and Guiyang, home to six million people, was locked down earlier in September.

Photos shared widely on social media Sunday showed a gold-colored passenger bus, its top is completely crumpled, being towed by a truck. Another viral photo appeared to show the bus driving at night, with the driver and passengers wearing hazmat suits, which are still commonly worn in China to protect against COVID. AFP could not verify the photos. "This feeling can't simply be represented by lighting a candle and saying RIP," read one Weibo post with more than 15,000 likes.

'Deep condolences'

Some people on social media used the accident to criticize China's unrelenting zero-COVID policy, which has often seen entire housing compounds of thousands relocated to purpose-built quarantine facilities, sometimes hundreds of kilometers away. "What proof do you have that you won't be on that bus at night someday?" read one viral Weibo post with over 15,000 likes. The top-rated reply read: "Who said we're not on that bus late at night, we're clearly all there." "We're all on this terrifying, dark bus," Guizhou's Communist Party chief and the provincial governor "rushed" to Qiannan prefecture to direct emergency response work, the local government said, adding the officials "expressed deep condolences to the victims".

"It is necessary to draw a lesson from the accident, examine the quarantine and transportation of epidemic-linked personnel and hidden dangers in traffic safety... resolutely curb the occurrence of major accidents," the statement said. Guizhou officials also vowed to set up a working group to investigate the cause of the accident. During a two-month lockdown in the megacity of Shanghai this spring, some housing compound residents were forced to leave their homes and were bussed to crude quarantine facilities in neighboring provinces in the middle of the night—despite testing negative for COVID.—AFP



IZUMI, Japan: This picture shows fallen bicycles amid strong winds as Typhoon Nanmadol approaches Izumi, Kagoshima prefecture on September 18, 2022. — AFP

'Dangerous' Typhoon Nanmadol slams into Japan

IZUMI, Japan: Typhoon Nanmadol made landfall in southwestern Japan on Sunday night, as authorities urged millions of people to take shelter from the powerful storm's high winds and torrential rain.

The storm officially made landfall around 7 pm local time (1000 GMT) as its eyewall arrived near Kagoshima city, the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) said. It was packing gusts of up to 234 kilometers (146 miles) per hour and had already dumped up to 500 mm of rain in less than 24 hours on parts of southwestern Kyushu region. At least 20,000 people were spending the night in shelters in Kyushu's Kagoshima and Miyazaki prefectures, where the JMA has issued a rare "special warning"—an alert that is issued only when it forecasts conditions seen once in several decades.

National broadcaster NHK, which collates information from local authorities, said more than seven million people had been told to move to shelters or take refuge in sturdy buildings to ride out the storm. The evacuation warnings are not mandatory, and authorities have at times struggled to convince people to move to shelters before extreme weather.

They sought to drive home their concerns about the weather system throughout the weekend. "Please stay away from dangerous places, and please evacuate if you feel even the slightest hint of danger," Prime Minister Fumio Kishida tweeted after convening a government meeting on the storm. "It will be dangerous to evacuate at night. Please move to safety while it's still light outside." The JMA has warned the region could face "unprecedented" danger from high winds, storm surges and torrential rain and called the storm "very dangerous." "Areas affected by the storm are seeing the sort of rain that has never been experienced before," Hiro Kato, the head of the Weather Monitoring and Warning Centre, told reporters Sunday.

"Especially in areas under landslide warnings, it is extremely probable that some kinds of landslides are already happening," He urged "maximum caution even in areas where disasters do not usually happen." By Sunday evening, utility companies said nearly 200,000 homes across the region were without power. Trains, flights and ferry runs were cancelled until the passage

of the storm, and even some convenience stores—generally open all hours and considered a lifeline in disasters—were shutting their doors.

'Highest caution possible'

"The southern part of the Kyushu region may see the sort of violent wind, high waves and high tides that have never been experienced before," the JMA said Sunday, urging residents to exercise "the highest caution possible". On the ground, an official in Kagoshima's Izumi city said conditions were deteriorating rapidly by Sunday afternoon.

"The wind has become extremely strong. Rain is falling hard too," he told AFP. "It's a total white-out outside. Visibility is almost zero." In Kyushu's Minamata city, fishing boats tied up for safety bobbed on the waves, as spray from the sea and bands of rain sluiced the boardwalk.

Meanwhile, a strong earthquake struck southeastern Taiwan on Sunday, killing at least one person, bringing down a handful of buildings and tearing up roads—but forecasters said the threat of a regional tsunami had passed. The quake hit at 2:44 pm (0644 GMT) about 50 kilometers (30 miles) north of the city of Taitung at a depth of 10 kilometers, the United States Geological Survey said.

Its initial strength was given as magnitude 7.2 but the USGS later downgraded it to 6.9. Multiple aftershocks were recorded. Japan's Meteorological Agency and the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center issued tsunami advisories shortly after the quake, but both later said there was no longer a threat of high waves. Taiwan's National Fire Agency said one person was killed by falling machinery at a cement factory in the town of Yuli, which lay close to the epicenter. The health ministry said 79 people either sought medical treatment or were sent to hospital. At least three buildings collapsed in Yuli, including one that had a 7-Eleven convenience store on the ground floor.

Video footage posted by Taiwan's Central News Agency showed panicked residents running towards the building, which sent up a thick cloud of dust as it caved in.

The Hualien fire department said four people who were trapped in the building were rescued. Two other buildings in the town collapsed but no one was inside them, the department added. Two nearby bridges collapsed and two others were damaged. The Taiwan Railways Administration (TRA) said a train derailed at Dongli station in Hualien after it was hit by concrete from an overhead canopy that came loose during the quake. TRA said the 20 passengers on board were evacuated and no injuries were reported.—AFP



NONGOMA, South Africa: Queen Zola Mafu (center right), the 6th wife of the former Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini, attends the annual Umkhosi Womhlanga (reed dance) at the Enyokeni Royal Palace in Nongoma on September 17, 2022. —AFP

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2022

Business

Steep Fed rate hike seen as certainty after inflation data

Soaring prices inflicting pain on American consumers and businesses

WASHINGTON: The Federal Reserve is poised to unleash another massive interest rate increase this week after the latest data showed a worrying US inflation picture, which confirmed the need for the central bank to continue to act aggressively. Soaring prices have pushed annual inflation to a 40-year high, inflicting pain on American consumers and businesses, despite the welcome drop in gasoline prices at the pump in recent weeks.

The disappointing consumer price report for August, released last week, showed housing, food and medical costs continued to rise. And when volatile food and energy prices are stripped out, so-called core inflation accelerated. Families have been struggling with rising prices sparked initially by high demand as the world's largest economy emerged from the pandemic amid supply chain snarls. The situation has been exacerbated by COVID lockdowns in China and surging energy and food prices due to Russia's war in Ukraine.

It is not just current high inflation that concerns policymakers, but the fear that consumers and businesses begin to expect rising prices will become a permanent feature, which could set off a dangerous spiral and a phenomenon called stagflation.

That fear has driven the Fed to front-load its rate hikes, rather than pursuing the more customary

course of small, gradual steps over a longer period. The US central bank has cranked up the benchmark lending rate four times this year, including two straight three-quarter-point hikes in June and July.

The aim is to raise the cost of borrowing and cool demand—and it is having an impact: home mortgage rates have now topped six percent for the first time since 2008.

A third massive increase is expected Wednesday at the conclusion of the Fed's two-day policy meeting. And some people are raising the possibility the US central bank could take an even bigger step.

But concerns are rising that the aggressive action could tip the US economy into recession, which would reverberate around the globe. "The sizzling-hot, core inflation figures that came out this week for August have upped the pressure on the Federal Reserve to raise rates a full percentage point instead of 0.75 percent at the upcoming meeting," Diane Swonk, chief economist at KPMG US, said in an analysis.

"This will be one of the hardest and most politically charged of decisions. It marks the Federal Reserve's first move toward an actual recession."

Avoiding a repeat of the 1970s
Fed Chair Jerome Powell has made it clear that a

recession is a risk he is willing to take. In fact, it is a risk the central bank must take to avoid an even more dire outcome: a repeat of the damaging, runaway inflation of the 1970s and early 1980s. "We need to act now forthrightly, strongly as we have been doing and we need to keep at it until the job is done," Powell said in his last public comments before the policy meeting.

Powell's predecessor from the last high-inflation era, Paul Volcker, had to take extreme measures after rising prices became entrenched, resurging and surpassing the peak of the mid-1970s after repeated failed efforts to tame them. That led to a deep recession and unemployment over 10 percent.

The Fed's aim is to avoid "the kind of very high social costs" of the Volcker era, and maintain public confidence in the central bank's commitment to fighting inflation.

"The clock is ticking," Powell warned. While the latest data showed US annual inflation slowed slightly to 8.3 percent in August—from a peak of 9.1 percent in June—prices actually accelerated slightly in the month, reflecting widespread price increases.

Central bankers have the luxury of a strong job market, low unemployment and a resilient US consumer, but many economists now see a recession as likely.

Former US Treasury secretary Lawrence



WASHINGTON: In this file photo taken on July 27, 2022, Federal Reserve Board Chairman Jerome Powell speaks during a news conference in Washington, DC. —AFP

Summers is among those warning that joblessness will have to rise to get inflation under control.

He also favors more aggressive Fed action. "If I had to choose between 100 basis points in September and 50 basis points, I would choose a 100 basis points move to reinforce credibility," Summers said in a recent tweet. —AFP

Kuwait likely to boost natural gas output

KUWAIT: Kuwait is planning to boost its natural gas production to meet growing domestic demand and can also increase oil output if required in the market, according to senior executives familiar with the matter.

State-owned Kuwait Oil Company (KOC), a subsidiary of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, is seeking to ramp up natural gas production, according to a report that quoted KOC's acting chief executive Khaled Al-Otaibi as saying at an event on Sunday.

"With the world recovering from the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, demand for oil and gas returned to its pre-pandemic levels in 2019," he reportedly said.

Kuwait, which currently produces 650 million cubic feet of gas per day, plans to increase it to one billion, the report added. The country confirmed last month that it had increased its production to meet its OPEC commitment of 2.81 million barrels per day.

"The increased production is consistent with announcements made by the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation that it is bringing on line investments that ensure international oil markets are adequately supplied and can meet the expected future demand," Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Oil Mohammad Al-Fares had stated earlier.

spreads of peripheral debt low.

The Fed, in contrast, is in a relatively stronger position to raise rates. Although there has been considerable debate this year over how far the Fed will be able to hike rates without triggering a recession, robust economic data and the Fed's tough talk on inflation has markets pricing in more rate hikes in upcoming meetings. Fed Chair Powell's Jackson Hole address last month in particular has prepared markets for a "higher for longer" rate environment and has quashed expectations of an early Fed pivot. This has further contributed to the dollar's strength in recent weeks.

Energy crisis

But it is not just the Fed's monetary policy alone that has contributed to dollar strength. The impact of food and energy crisis in Europe goes beyond just inflation. It has also worsened trade dynamics for the region. Terms of trade (export prices/import prices) for the US have soared more than 10 percent since the pandemic and are at multiyear highs. By contrast, Europe, the UK, and Japan have seen their terms of trade fall sharply in that time. This is another reason why these currencies trade at multi-decade lows against the dollar.

We do not anticipate a return to old supply patterns in energy and food anytime soon and with Europe losing its access to cheap energy, this should weigh on the euro for some time.

China's bumpy growth

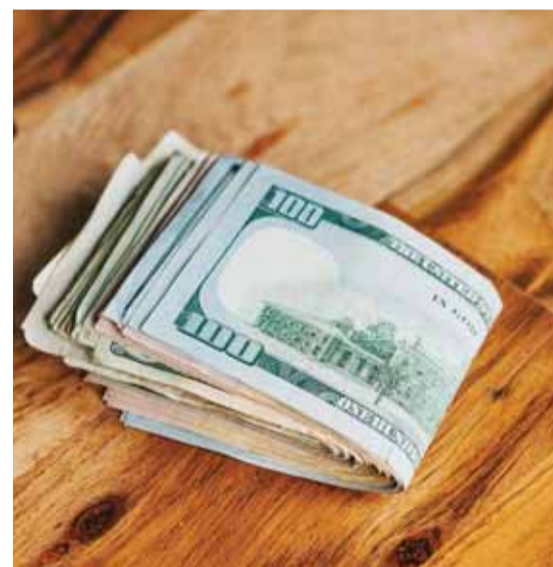
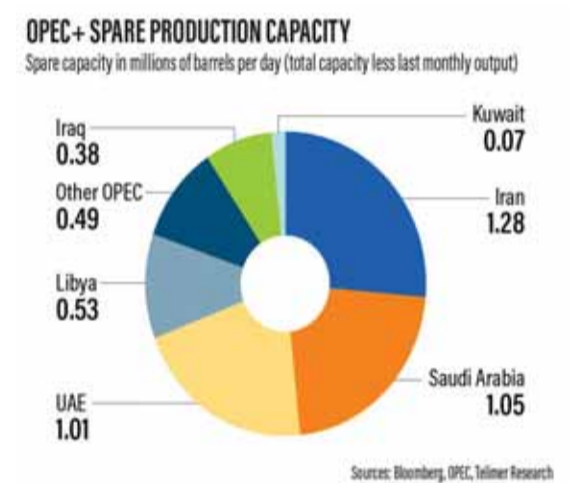
The third factor behind the dollar's strength has been China's challenging economic backdrop, which has been a drag on the yuan and other pro-growth currencies such as the Korean Won and the Taiwan dollar. China's restrictive zero-COVID strategy and property market weakness has resulted in a bumpier recovery this year with growth likely to fall short of its official target. A policy pivot by the Fed, a turn in Europe's energy crisis or a change in China's policies towards COVID-19 could help create a top for the dollar or reverse some of these gains. But

Northwest China.

The airline will be operating the new route starting September 19, initially with a flight every fortnight, moving to a weekly service in the near future. Flights will include a technical stop in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan for refueling, using an A320neo aircraft. Jazeera Airways Chief Executive Officer Rohit Ramachandran said: "This is a real milestone for Jazeera to be flying all the way to the People's Republic of China. Commercial ties between Kuwait and China have been growing and we see a positive outlook

for developing our network further into the region."

Xian is categorized as a second-tier city and was the starting point of the historic Silk Road. It is famous worldwide as the home of the Terracotta Army. Jazeera Airways operates commercial and cargo flights out of its Jazeera Terminal T5 at Kuwait International Airport. The airline flies to 50 popular destinations across the Middle East, Central and South Asia, Africa and Europe comprising high-demand business, leisure and weekend destinations.



none of these catalysts seem likely in the near term and the dollar is likely to stay strong.

That said, another huge move in the dollar from these levels is unlikely. So while we do not anticipate the dollar to give up gains rapidly, we do expect the dollar's strength to fade as the Fed rate hike cycle draws to a close in early 2023. So from an earnings standpoint, most of the headwind to multinational companies from a rising dollar is behind us. A strong dollar should also not be a deterrent from investing in international markets. For instance, despite the deteriorating economic outlook and the depreciation in the pound sterling, UK equities have outperformed this year.

More broadly, investors should be preparing for a change in the dollar's fortunes heading into next year. The return on a global portfolio is often affected by volatile currency moves. Reach out to your financial advisor to learn more about how you can rebalance your international portfolio as the dollar approaches its peak. — UBS report



Rohit Ramachandran

Investors expect change in dollar's fortunes next year

WASHINGTON: The dollar has had a remarkable run over the past year. The US dollar index (DXY), which measures the greenback's strength against a basket of currencies, has gained 17 percent over a one-year period and is up 6 percent from its 2020 highs.

Investors should be preparing for a change in the dollar's fortunes heading into next year. Notably, the dollar has gained against currencies of advanced economies and not just emerging market currencies, which is more typical in a central bank tightening cycle.

What's behind the gains? And what does it mean for the average American investor whose wealth is largely parked in dollar-based assets? First, let us look at what's driving the dollar rally, starting with the Fed's monetary policy.

Central banks around the world are hiking rates in their battle against inflation, but at a varying pace depending upon economic circumstances. The Federal Reserve has led the rate hiking cycle among the major central banks, raising the federal funds rate by 225 basis points in just the last six months, its most aggressive pace in decades. Meanwhile, the European Central Bank and the Bank of England have lagged behind, as they weigh the effectiveness of rate hikes amid soaring energy prices and the increasing likelihood of a recession. Last week the ECB delivered a record 75 basis point hike and warned of more to come, as it raised its outlook for inflation for 2023. While the ECB reiterated its commitment towards fighting inflation, markets remain skeptical of its ability to keep hiking rates in the face of weakening growth, while also keeping

Jazeera Airways extends network with flight to China

KUWAIT: Jazeera Airways on Sunday announced its first route to China with the launch of direct flights to Xian, Western China's third largest city with a population of over 12 million people and the most populous city in

India's Adani to inject \$2.5bn into cement firm

MUMBAI: India's billionaire Gautam Adani is planning to inject \$2.5 billion into a cement company and get his son to oversee the newly-acquired business, as the world's second richest man seeks to consolidate his infrastructure empire that includes ports, utilities and power generation, according to media reports. "What makes cement an exciting business is the headroom for growth in India, which exceeds that of every other country well beyond 2050," Adani said on Friday. He said his group's diverse businesses provide "unmatched adjacencies" for the cement business.

Ambuja Cement, a company Adani Group acquired in May, will issue 477.48 million warrants to Harmonia Trade and Investment - a company linked to the Adani family - at 418.87 rupees each, according to a stock exchange filing on Friday, in what is one of the biggest preferential allotment for any Indian company. Each warrant can be converted into one share each within 18 months of issuance.

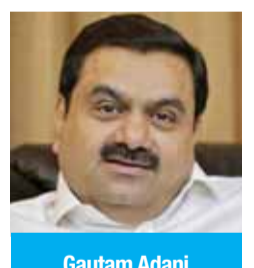
Adani was appointed a board director and chairman of Ambuja Cements. His elder son, Karan Adani, 35, will be a director on the boards of both Ambuja Cements and ACC, as well as being ACC's chairman. The ports-to-power conglomerate went from being a fringe player to India's second-largest cement maker after it bought the two companies from Switzerland's Holcim in May for \$10.5 billion - Adani's biggest acquisition so far.

The acquisition gave Adani's group an installed production capacity of 67.5 million tons annually. The recent announcements show the tycoon is making the cement units a growth engine for his empire, fortifying a logistics chain that includes sea-ports, airports, real estate and coal. Adani has been rapidly diversifying beyond his traditional fossil fuel roots to branch into data centers, digital services, telecoms and media.

Besides bringing in his son, the Indian billionaire is also planning to enlist key senior executives to help grow the cement business and mentor Karan. The scion is also expected to find synergies between the group's ports and cements businesses to create an integrated logistics company.

Adani has surged to prominence this year, as a leap in his fortune made him one of the richest people on the planet in a matter of months, outsmarting Indian tycoon Mukesh Ambani and business leaders including Jeff Bezos, Bill Gates and Warren Buffett. Adani, who started the year as No 14 on the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, now has a \$146.9 billion fortune that trails only Elon Musk's \$260 billion.

A combination of soaring coal prices and rocketing equity gains fuelled the wealth surge, which has enabled his conglomerate to supercharge its ambitions and diversify at high speed. The tycoon is also making a \$70 billion bet on green energy, a shift that has been criticized by some as an attempt to greenwash the group's coal focus. Adani Group's position as one of the largest renewable energy companies globally will facilitate manufacture of "premium quality green cement," Adani said. "All of these dimensions put us on track to become the largest and most efficient manufacturer of cement by no later than 2030," he said. — Agencies



Gautam Adani

Business

China doubles down on coal as domestic energy crunch bites

Beijing's policies may hinder fight against climate change

BEIJING: China has stepped up spending on coal in the face of extreme weather, a domestic energy crunch and rising global fuel prices-raising concerns Beijing's policies may hinder the fight against climate change. The country is the world's biggest emitter of the greenhouse gases driving global warming, and President Xi Jinping has vowed to reduce coal use from 2026 as part of a broad set of climate promises.

Beijing has committed to peaking its carbon emissions by 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality by 2060. Overall carbon emissions in China have fallen for four consecutive quarters on the back of an economic slowdown, research reported by climate monitor Carbon Brief showed in early September.

the country. In just the first quarter of 2022, regulators endorsed the equivalent of half the entire coal-fired power plant capacity approved in 2021, according to Greenpeace.

Inefficiencies

Authorities have also burned and mined more coal in recent weeks in order to meet increased air conditioning demand and make up for shrunken hydropower dams during China's hottest-ever summer. Premier Li Keqiang in June called for "releasing advanced coal capacity, as much as possible, and implementing long-term coal supply".

The independent Climate Action Tracker warns that

surplus energy from being transported across regions. Coal and gas give local officials a ready source of energy and are, in practice, "the only way for local officials to avoid power shortages", energy researcher Lauri Myllyvirta wrote in a Carbon Brief report.

'Politically crucial year'

China has made real progress in building up renewable energy capacity. The current operating solar capacity in the country accounts for nearly half the global total, according to San Francisco-based non-governmental organization Global Energy Monitor (GEM). But unlike wind or sunlight, stockpiles of coal and gas can be held for long periods of time and deployed as needed, giving local authorities a sense of security.

Yet, building more coal facilities means less focus on fixing problems with the grid, Myllyvirta said in comments to AFP, warning plant owners would be motivated to "slow down the transition as they will have an interest in making use of their brand-new assets".

At the same time, the central government wants to "avoid large-scale blackouts, which we witnessed last winter in the northeastern provinces, in this politically crucial year for Xi", Byford Tsang, senior policy adviser at climate think-tank E3G, told AFP. President Xi is expected to secure an unprecedented third term in power at a major Communist Party meeting next month. Tsang said skyrocketing international energy prices driven by the Russian invasion of Ukraine also pushed Beijing to shore up domestic coal production, pointing to a 17.5 percent drop in coal imports in the first half of this year compared to a year earlier.

Expanding coal capacity as a quick fix, however, goes against "immediate annual cuts in coal use that the UN and leading research organizations have called for", GEM analysts said. GEM said all of China's proposed new mines could together emit as much as six million tons of the greenhouse gas methane each year once operational. That is roughly equivalent to the annual methane emissions of Austria, according to World Bank data. "The more coal China builds now, the harder it becomes to finance and deliver renewable energy projects later," Wu Jinghan, climate and energy project leader for Greenpeace East Asia, told AFP.

"The longer we wait to transition, the steeper the transition pathway becomes," Wu said. "That means more disruptive and higher risk, financially and environmentally." — AFP



Wanted crypto founder Do Kwon says 'not on the run'

SINGAPORE: Do Kwon, the wanted South Korean founder of the failed cryptocurrency Terra, denied Sunday he was on the run after the Singapore police said he was not in the city-state as had been believed. Kwon's whereabouts have been thrown into question after the Singapore Police Force (SPF) statement late Saturday, and his tweets did not reveal where he was.

The collapse of Terraform Labs earlier this year wiped out about \$40 billion of investors' money.

A South Korean court on Wednesday issued an arrest warrant for Kwon. Early Sunday he said on Twitter: "I am 'not on the run' or anything similar", but did not reveal where he was.

"For any agency that has shown interest to communicate, we are in full cooperation and we don't have anything to hide," he added. "We are in the process of defending ourselves in multiple jurisdictions... and look forward to clarifying the truth over the next few months."

The 31-year-old was earlier believed to be in Singapore, where last month he gave his first media interview since the crypto operator folded in May.

Late Saturday, the SPF said in an email response to an AFP query that "Do Kwon is currently not in Singapore". "SPF will assist the Korean National Police Agency (KNPA) within the ambit of our domestic legislation and international obligations," said the brief statement, which gave no further details.—AFP



Coal loaded on trains at a coal plant in Huaibei, in China's eastern Anhui province. Coal power still makes up most of China's energy supply. — AFP

But at the same time, slowing growth has led authorities to rely on smokestack industries in an effort to boost the economy. The push to shore up coal power—which still makes up most of China's energy supply—has alarmed analysts who warn that it will make an eventual transition to a renewables-dominated energy mix more difficult.

Spooked by an energy shortage last autumn, Chinese authorities in spring ordered coal producers to add 300 million tons of mining capacity this year—the equivalent of an extra month of coal production for

even the "most binding" climate targets laid out by Beijing would be in line with global warming of between three and four degrees Celsius before the end of the century—well above the Paris Agreement's goal to limit global warming to 1.5C.

To meet that goal, it said, China would "need to reduce emissions as early as possible and well before 2030"—as well as "decrease coal and other fossil fuel consumption at a much faster rate than currently planned". Beijing's unwillingness to let go of coal stems partly from inefficiencies in its power grid that prevent



شركة الصفاة للاستثمار
AL SAFAT INVESTMENT COMPANY

KUWAIT BOURSA WEEKLY REPORT

WEEK ENDED ON 15 SEP 2022

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Market	M. Cap (KD ml)	Last Close	WTD %	MTD %	YTD %	Quantity Traded	Value Traded	No. of Trades	P/E	P/B	% of Total M. Cap
Premier Market	35,699	8,482.83	0.7%	-1.3%	11.0%	262,402,643	160,792,473	24,393	27.1	2.6	77.6%
Main Market	10,334	5,782.90	0.4%	-1.5%	-1.8%	717,253,614	62,521,235	19,400	17.6	1.3	22.4%
All Share	46,032	7,606.20	0.7%	-1.3%	8.0%	979,656,257	223,313,708	43,793	24.9	2.3	100%

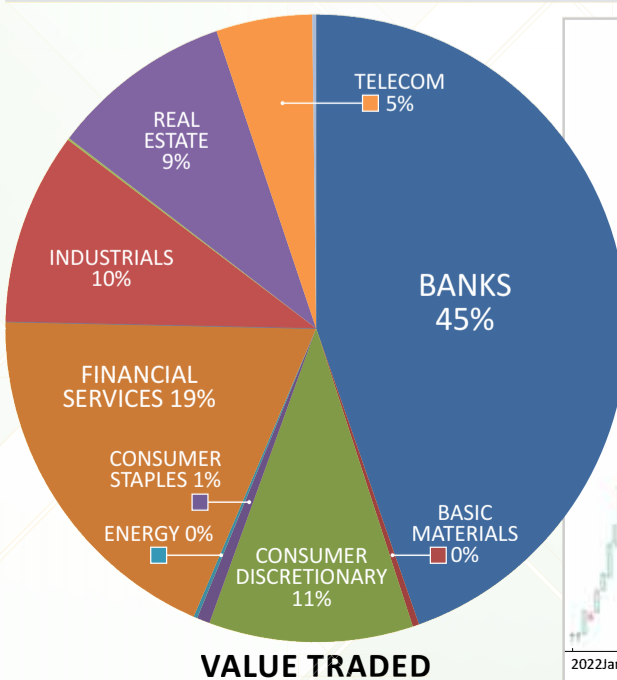
Sector	M. Cap (KD ml)	Last Close	WTD %	MTD %	YTD %	Quantity Traded	Value Traded	No. of Trades	P/E	P/B	% of Total M. Cap
BANKS	27,424	1,837.16	0.7%	-1.3%	13.2%	139,978,247	99,661,769	11,140	26.6	2.6	59.58%
BASIC MATERIALS	888	996.32	-0.6%	-1.3%	-2.8%	1,792,599	744,185	530	10.7	1.4	1.93%
CONSUMER DISCRETIONARY	985	1,469.95	-2.9%	-3.7%	10.0%	346,151,178	23,712,123	7,557	34.7	11.1	2.14%
CONSUMER STAPLES	156	512.99	-1.3%	-4.0%	-29.8%	3,670,036	1,512,997	248	34.1	1.1	0.34%
ENERGY	234	1,121.60	-0.4%	-6.5%	-21.5%	10,594,157	431,139	518	13.8	1.1	0.51%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	4,567	1,418.42	1.3%	-0.6%	-0.3%	294,450,535	42,183,093	11,056	18.2	2.1	9.92%
HEALTH CARE	215	434.02	3.2%	0.3%	-45.5%	1	0.520	1	11.7	3.4	0.47%
INDUSTRIALS	4,121	1,163.57	-0.7%	-4.1%	1.9%	31,831,168	22,158,376	4,829	39.1	1.6	8.95%
INSURANCE	656	1,575.40	-0.6%	0.0%	2.7%	2,327,537	221,081	234	9.4	1.0	1.43%
REAL ESTATE	2,795	1,305.35	3.4%	3.0%	-1.6%	127,910,569	21,087,389	5,209	25.4	1.4	6.07%
TECHNOLOGY	9	632.92	-1.1%	4.2%	-7.4%	6,000	509	4	0.0	0.8	0.02%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	3,757	1,224.94	0.9%	-2.0%	12.4%	18,729,268	11,152,315	2,192	14.4	2.1	8.16%
UTILITIES	224	536.84	-0.5%	1.5%	-10.5%	2,214,962	448,731	275	15.6	2.3	0.49%

Top Gainers				
Stock	last Close	Change %	Volume	Value
TAMINV	519	0.10	125,968	61,387
ATC	520	0.09	1	0.520
KMEFIC	138	0.09	131,086	17,294
MABANEE	910	0.08	6,485,228	5,769,180
GIH	385	0.07	3,884,239	1,460,508

Top Losers				
Stock	last Close	Change %	Volume	Value
GPI	18	-0.10	7,952,788	149,247
OSOS	104	-0.07	495,079	51,298
OSOUL	78.5	-0.07	3,303,425	263,460
ENERGYH	23.8	-0.06	823,298	20,346
ALAQARIA	36	-0.06	32,602	1,177

Top Volume				
Stock	Last	Change %	Volume	Value
IFAHR	38.4	-0.03	320,651,102	12,732,525
NCCI	139	0.03	100,447,532	14,221,588
KFH	900	0.02	67,250,478	59,831,200
NRE	166	0.05	38,196,452	6,253,566
NIND	264	0.00	24,926,828	6,598,890

Top Value				
Stock	Last	Change %	Volume	Value
KFH	900	0.02	67,250,478	59,831,200
NBK	1,035	0.00	22,714,332	23,529,434
AGLTY	803	0.00	19,402,482	15,622,030
NCCI	139	0.03	100,447,532	14,221,588
IFAHR	38.4	-0.03	320,651,102	12,732,525



Market Summary:

- Premier Market's weekly volume dropped 5% while value rose 13%. Main Market volume and value rose 1% and 21%, respectively.
- Premier and Main indices are trading at support levels showing no bear future signs to overcome previous resistance. This might lead to further decline.
- Technically, the All Share index closed at 7606, with support levels at 7574, 7556, 7503, and 7461, while resistance at 7635. Premier index closed at 8482, support levels at 8426, 8335, and 8273 while resistance at 8527. The Main index closed at 5782, with support levels at 5780, 5750, 5723, and 5696 while resistance at 5813.

Business

Crisis-hit German toilet paper maker turns to coffee grounds

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has sparked skyrocketing energy costs

FRANKFURT: Choked by soaring energy and wood pulp costs, German toilet paper maker Hakle is turning to waste from coffee production to stay afloat and help the environment.

Just two years ago, at the height of the coronavirus pandemic, the firm profited from a stampede of consumers rushing to stock up on essentials. But with the health crisis abating, Russia's invasion of Ukraine has sparked skyrocketing energy costs, forcing Hakle to file for insolvency recently.

Innovation could now be the key to survival. Huge quantities of coffee grounds are produced every year by the European food industry, and Hakle has found a way to transform the waste into material to make loo roll.

The first rolls using the new process were produced at the Duesseldorf-based company's factory last week, Hakle's chief marketing officer Karen Jung told AFP.

"The goal is 20 to 25 percent" of coffee grounds constituting the material for making the paper, replacing wood pulp, said Jung, adding the company was working towards reaching those levels.

"That does not sound like a lot—but it means that a quarter fewer trees have to be used," added Jung, whose company entered insolvency proceedings in September due to surging energy costs.

Hakle sees a strong economic case. The price of wood pulp—which is in high



demand in China, the world's biggest consumer—has risen rapidly since 2020. It is not the first time that the firm has taken an unusual approach to producing loo paper.

Two years ago, it used grass grown in the Rhineland to make toilet paper, said Jung, who runs the business with her husband.

Roller-coaster ride

The company has been on a roller-coaster ride in recent times. After 2020, when it raked in close to 80 million euros (\$80.2 million) in sales and made a

profit of about 700,000 euros, it is now seeing its fortunes reverse as costs explode. "The cost of a roll of toilet paper depends 80 percent on pulp, energy and logistics—and all three of these factors are driven by world markets," said Jung.

The price of gas rose up to 400 euros per megawatt hour, and up to 1,000 euros for electricity, a heavy blow for the firm's Duesseldorf factory, which consumes about 100 gigawatt hours a year.

With costs that "increase tenfold in the short term", that "really becomes a

problem", said Jung. The survival of Hakle, which is nearly a century old, is now at stake.

'Formula 1 race'

It has had several different owners over the past 40 years, including US consumer goods giant Kimberly-Clark and a Luxembourg private equity firm, before Volker Jung acquired 50 percent of the shares in 2019 with a new entrepreneurial approach that favors innovation. The preliminary insolvency proceedings of three months have given some breathing space to the company

as it seeks to fulfil a flood of orders, said Jung.

"After a short, total halt of activities (at the start of September), now we really have to put our foot on the accelerator, like in a Formula 1 race," said Jung. The company wants to continue investing at its site in Duesseldorf, where more than 220 workers are employed.

Hakle has already stopped using gas, replacing it with petrol, in its paper production processes. For the electricity used to transform it into rolls, the eventual aim is to cover half of its needs with solar power. —AFP



Power cuts to plunge S Africa into darkness

CAPE TOWN: Africa's most industrialized economy South Africa is again facing sweeping power cuts, caused by failures at ageing and poorly maintained infrastructure, the nationalized utility company said Sunday. The boss of state-owned Eskom Andre de Ruyter announced "a high stage of load shedding this week", using jargon for planned outages. On an eight notch scale of rolling blackouts, the country has reached the sixth critical stage.

Residents and businesses will face several outages of several hours daily. Level six was seen in June in the middle of the southern winter amid an increase in energy consumption and pressure on production. The rise in temperature since September with the arrival of spring usually leads to a drop in consumption, in particular with reduced heating demand.

Eskom generally takes advantage of the period to shut down production units for maintenance. But a high number of breakdowns, 45 in the space of seven days, led to a dramatic drop in production.

"Stage six load shedding will remain implemented until sufficient generating units are returned," Eskom chief operating officer Jan Oberholzer said. After years of mismanagement and corruption, the public company is unable to produce enough energy for the country, which is regularly plunged into darkness. Demonstrations against the deterioration of public services are regularly held.

Urging South Africans to use electricity sparingly, De Ruyter called for office lights to be extinguished at night, and for swimming pool pumps and water heaters to be turned off during peak hours.

"If everyone plays their role we can manage demand," he said at a media briefing.

Developing efficient large-scale generation capacity "will take time," the CEO added, adding that the possibility of implementing permanent load-shedding slots had been considered but ultimately rejected. South Africa produces 80 percent of its electricity from coal, creating serious pollution bemoaned by environmentalists. The country obtained 7.7 billion euros for its energy transition during COP26. —AFP

Deliveroo distributes food relief boxes to local families

KUWAIT: Just one month after the successful launch of their "Full Life" campaign, Deliveroo has started packing and distributing food relief boxes to the local community. Driven by its deep-rooted belief in the importance of giving back to our local communities, Deliveroo launched its "Full Life" campaign in Kuwait in collaboration with the Social Work Society (SWS) and Food Box.

More than 15 Deliveroo team members joined the SWS to pack and distribute food relief boxes from Food Box over the past weekend. Each box contained essential food ingredients for local families, including staples such as rice, wheat, sugar, oils, canned food, pasta, lentils, and more.

Seham Al-Husaini, General Manager of Deliveroo Kuwait, commented: "With Deliveroo's Full Life initiative in full swing, I am so proud to see the good that can come out of a fruitful collaboration with our customers, our campaign partners, and our team. By joining forces, we are able to distribute food relief boxes and contribute to granting food security to local families. We hope that customers continue to donate food relief boxes through the Deliveroo app and are looking forward to building on this cam-



aign's success and momentum in the future."

Deliveroo's Full Life campaign allows customers to donate food relief boxes from "Food Box" on the Deliveroo app and will be running until October 31, 2022. All food boxes are delivered to the Social Work Society (SWS), with both Deliveroo and the SWS coming together to distribute the boxes to communities in need. A variety of food boxes are available for purchase starting from KD 4.9, giving buyers the option to choose Food Boxes that suit their budgets and making it easier for everyone to



give back. To contribute to Deliveroo's latest campaign and to deliver food items to those in need, customers can donate a food box through "Food Box" on the Deliveroo application at the following link: <https://deliveroo.com.kw/en/brands/food-box>

As a pillar of the aggregator's global Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) strategy, the campaign was initially launched in the United Kingdom in 2021 to tackle food insecurities around the world and support local communities across Deliveroo's markets.

EU wants to suspend Hungary financing as it awaits reforms

BRUSSELS: The European Union's executive arm on Sunday proposed suspending 7.5 billion euros (dollars) in Hungary financing as it awaits promised anti-corruption reforms from Budapest.

The European Union and Hungary have been at loggerheads for months, with Brussels suspecting the government led by nationalist Prime Minister Viktor Orban of undercutting the rule of law and using EU money to enrich its cronies. "The commission proposes a suspension of 75 percent of the commitments for cohesion programs and cohesion policy amounting to (an) estimated amount of 7.5 billion euros," the European Commission's budget minister, Johannes Hahn, told a press conference Sunday.

"Hungary has committed to fully inform the

commission about the implementation of the remedial measures by the 19th of November," he said. "We will assess the situation again and act accordingly."

The final decision on the proposal will be taken by the EU Council.

On Saturday, Hungary's government said that MPs would vote next week on a series of laws aimed at easing the conflict. Gergely Gulyas, Orban's chief of staff, told reporters that MPs would vote within days on measures designed to allay concerns about graft and a lack of transparency in public procurement.

"The related bills will be submitted to parliament next week, we expect on Monday and Friday, and these laws will enter into force in November," Gulyas said, adding that this should clear the way for the tussle with the Commission to be closed. The measures are expected to include setting up independent anti-corruption watchdogs to monitor the use of EU funds as well as steps to make the legislative process more transparent. The conciliatory move from Budapest



EU commissioner for Budget and Administration Johannes Hahn. —AFP

comes as the Hungarian economy faces increasing pressure from a weakening local currency and fast-rising inflation. Both have hit new records this year.

Last week, the European Parliament declared that Hungary was no longer a "full democracy" in a symbolic vote that infuriated Budapest. —AFP

NBK Money Markets Report

US consumer prices surge, UK growth slows

KUWAIT: US consumer prices were resurgent last month, gaining 0.1 percent from July after no change from the prior month and disappointing expectations of a 0.1 percent drop. From a year earlier, prices climbed 8.3 percent, marking just a slight deceleration largely due to falling gas prices. The data comes despite the fact that two products that have contributed majorly to inflation over the past year - gas and used cars - are now posting price cuts. For example, the average US cost of a gallon of gas fell to \$3.83 at the end of August after topping \$5 for the first time ever in June.

Although there are signs that main drivers of higher inflation such as gas prices and supply chain issues are fading, underlying measures appear to be worsening. Core

CPI, which strips out volatile food and energy items, advanced 0.6 percent from July and 6.3 percent y/y, marking the first annual acceleration in six months. The core figure increase underscores how much inflation is now imbedded in the economy. The cost of groceries jumped again last month and are now up 13.5 percent in the past year - the biggest increase since 1979.

The report and particularly the substantial gain in the core figure was a fresh sign that the Federal Reserve will need to maintain aggressive action to combat inflation with higher interest rates. The central bank is expected to deliver another 75 basis point hike at their meeting on September 21st.

Wholesale prices decline

The prices that producers receive for goods and services declined last month, creating mild respite from inflationary pressures that are threatening to send the economy into a recession. The producer price index fell 0.1 percent m/m, according to a Bureau of Labor Statistics report. On a yearly basis, headline PPI increased 8.7 percent, marking a considerable pullback from the 9.8 percent rise seen in July and the lowest annual gain since August 2021. Meanwhile, the core figure that excludes food, energy and trade servic-

es increased 0.2 percent m/m and 5.6 percent y/y. The drop in prices stems largely from a decline in energy prices.

Retail sales rise

Consumer spending showed persistent demand despite high inflation as retail sales rose 0.3 percent m/m in August. The gain outpaced inflation and marked a strong reversal from July's 0.4 percent decline. Excluding gasoline, retail sales were up 0.8 percent. The figures are not adjusted for inflation. Broadly speaking, consumers were able to increase their spending due to falling gasoline prices which led to more spending in other categories. For the Federal Reserve, the data reveals consumer demand is holding up well while facing historic interest-rate hikes and record inflation. That should provide policy makers more reason to maintain their aggressive increases in borrowing costs.

Market movements

Safe-haven flows continue to dominate financial markets, helping the greenback preserve its strength against peers. The greenback gained 1.09 percent last week, leaving the euro to trade just above parity and the pound just above the 1.14 level after falling below it for the first time

since 1985 on disappointing data from the UK. On Wall Street, US stocks extended their slump as the dollar continued its ascent, illustrating in concern that the hawkish Fed may hinder economic growth. Moving to bonds, policy-sensitive two-year Treasury yields extended a rise to the highest since 2007, deepening the curve inversion that is historically as a recession signal.

Slower GDP growth

The UK economy grew more slowly than expected in July, with GDP rising just 0.2 percent m/m after a sharp drop of 0.6 percent in June. Output was flat in the three months to July compared with 0.3 percent growth in the three months to April. On a sectoral basis, services drove growth and expanded 0.4 percent. On the other hand, production fell 0.3 percent after a 0.9 percent decrease the previous month. Notably, one-off factors attributed to the sharp drop in June such as the extra bank holiday due to the Queen's Jubilee, which in turn flattered the July figure by comparison.

Kuwait

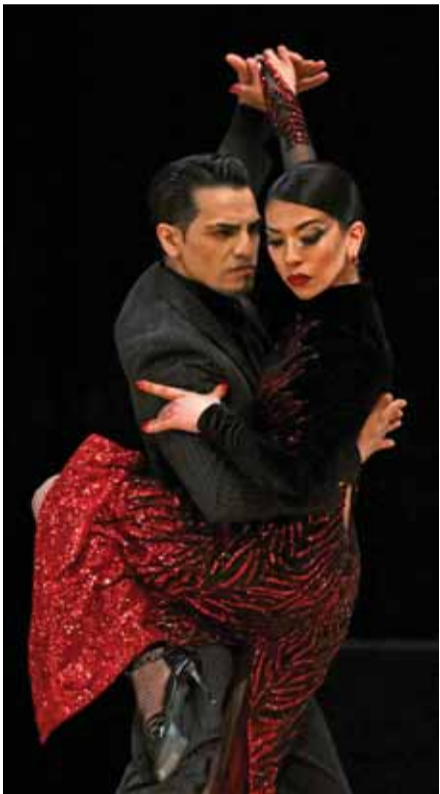
Kuwaiti dinar
USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30855



Winners of the Stage Tango Style category Argentine dancers Constanza Vieyto (left) and Ricardo Astrada pose during the World Tango Championship final in Buenos Aires, Argentina. — AFP photos



Winners of the Stage Tango Style category Argentine dancers Constanza Vieyto (left) and Ricardo Astrada (second left), pose with winners of the Pista Tango Style category Argentine dancers Cynthia Palacios (second right) and Sebastian Bolivar during the World Tango Championship final in Buenos Aires, Argentina.



Argentine dancers Sebastian Martinez (left) and Ayelen Morando compete during the World Tango Championship final.

Argentine dancers crowned world champions of tango

Two Argentine pairs were crowned winners of the world tango championships in Buenos Aires, the city government said Saturday. More than 20,000 people attended the music and dance shows during the competition, organizers said, with a final showdown on a stage in front of the historic Buenos Aires Obelisk in the heart of Argentina's capital.

In the stage category, which featured spectacular acrobatic stunts, Constanza Vieyto and Ricardo Astrada from the city of Pergamino beat 19 other couples to emerge champions. Forty pairs vied for the title in the traditional or "salon" category, dancing a tango that originated in Buenos Aires, with the crown going to Cynthia Palacios and Sebastian Bolivar from the city of Cipolletti. The world championships, held from September 6 to 18,

involved 560 couples from 30 countries, including the United States, France, Russia, Japan and the Philippines. — AFP



Japanese dancers Ezequiel Gomez (right) and Yuka Kitajima compete during the World Tango Championship final in Buenos Aires, Argentina.



Argentine dancers Cynthia Palacios (left) and Sebastian Bolivar dance after winning the Pista Tango Style category during the World Tango Championship final in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Kyiv pays homage to beloved dancer killed in combat

Hundreds of people gathered in Kyiv on Saturday to say farewell to beloved Ukrainian ballet dancer Oleksandr Shapoval, who was killed in fighting in eastern Ukraine. Some dropped to their knees and others clapped as soldiers carried his casket draped in a Ukrainian flag into the National Kyiv Opera. Relatives, col-

leagues, soldiers and fans came holding flowers, some tears in their eyes, walking past photos of the artist on stage and on the frontlines. Shapoval's two teenage daughters were in the crowd.

Shapoval, 47, had been a ballet dancer with the Kyiv Opera since 1994. He retired and started teaching dance in 2021, before volunteering to help defend his country on February 25, the day following Russia's invasion. After Russian troops withdrew from Kyiv, Shapoval fought in the eastern industrial Donbas region. He died in mortar shelling near Mayorsk, in the Donetsk region, on September 12. — AFP



Attendees take part in the funeral ceremony of volunteer soldier, Oleksandr Shapoval, a ballet dancer soloist of the Ukrainian National Opera.



Attendees take part in a funeral ceremony next to flowers and ballet pictures of volunteer soldier, Oleksandr Shapoval, a ballet dancer soloist of the Ukrainian National Opera who died during combat against Russian troops in Donetsk region. — AFP photos

Oscars Academy makes amends over 1973 Native American protest

Almost five decades after she refused an Oscar on behalf of Marlon Brando over the treatment of Native Americans by the US film industry, Sacheen Littlefeather was honored Saturday by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. In a moving ceremony in Los Angeles filled with singing and dancing, the Academy publicly apologized to Littlefeather, who was feted by activists in the wake of her protest, but blackballed by the movie world. Littlefeather, who is Apache and Yaqui, was booed at the 1973 Academy Awards—the first to be broadcast live around the world—while explaining on Brando's behalf why he would not accept his best actor Oscar for "The Godfather."

On Saturday she told a packed audience at the Academy's newly-opened museum how she had arrived at the ceremony just minutes before she took the stage because Brando had taken so long writing his non-acceptance speech. "I went up there, like a proud Indian woman with dignity, with courage, with grace, and with humility," she said. "I knew that I had to speak the truth. Some people may accept it. And some people may not." She was greeted on stage by Norwegian actress Liv Ullmann and "James Bond" star Roger Moore, who proffered the statuette she refused to accept.

Under strict instructions from Academy managers not to give an acceptance speech longer than 60 seconds, she delivered instead a dignified impromptu address. "I said okay, and I had made this promise to Marlon (Brando) not to touch the Oscar. And so I wasn't under any pressure that night," Littlefeather quipped. She said veteran Western star John Wayne had to be restrained from physically assaulting her as she left the stage. Littlefeather, a member of the Screen Actors' Guild, subsequently found it difficult to get work in Hollywood, with casting directors warned not to employ her.

'Courage'

Former Academy president David Rubin, who penned the apology earlier this year, took to the stage to read his words, which invoked "the emotional burden" Littlefeather bore and "the cost to your own career." "For too long the courage you showed has been unacknowledged. For this, we offer both our deepest apologies and our sincere admiration." Rubin's apology comes as the

movie industry reckons with what many view as a culture of sexism, racism and impunity. "The academy and our industry finds itself at an inflection point," Rubin said on Saturday. "We are actively examining our past and focusing on how best we can facilitate healing."

The museum, which opened last September, has pledged to confront the Oscars' "problematic history" including racism. One display already tackles the harassment of Littlefeather. The Academy has also moved to confront accusations of a lack of racial diversity in recent years. In 2019, "Last of the Mohicans" star Wes Studi became the first Native American actor to receive an Oscar, with

an honorary Academy Award recognizing his career.

Its museum has also previously hosted events on women who achieved historic Oscars milestones including a talk with Buffy Sainte-Marie—the first Indigenous person to win an Oscar, for best original song in 1983. Asked by reporters ahead of the ceremony how she felt about having to wait so long to hear the word "sorry," Littlefeather was philosophical. "It's never too late for an apology," she said. "It's never too late for forgiveness." —AFP



(From left to right) Natalia Aranguren, Isaiah Lehtinen and Buffy Sainte-Marie are seen onstage at the TIFF Tribute Awards Gala during the 2022 Toronto International Film Festival at The Fairmont Royal York Hotel in Toronto, Ontario. — AFP photos



(From left to right) Lisa Meeches, Madison Thomas, Buffy Sainte-Marie and Kyle Irving attend the "Buffy Sainte-Marie: Carry It On" Premiere during the 2022 Toronto International Film Festival.



This picture shows Musimin planting orchids on a tree in the forest at the foot of Mount Merapi in Sleman, Yogyakarta. —AFP photos



This picture shows Musimin preparing to plant orchids in the forest at the foot of Mount Merapi in Sleman, Yogyakarta. —AFP photos

'CROWNS OF THE FOREST': INDONESIAN HELPS ORCHIDS BLOOM AGAIN

Orchids in hand and a bamboo ladder on his shoulder, farmer Musimin scans the forest at the foot of Indonesia's most active volcano to point out clusters of the indigenous flowers he has been salvaging for years. The 56-year-old, who goes by one name like many Indonesians, is a self-taught conservationist with no formal background in botanics. He has dedicated his career to cultivating plants he compares to gemstones, and has been on a one-man mission to save the exotic blooms unique to the land on the outskirts of Yogyakarta on Java island. His work began after lava and ash ripped through the area from the powerful eruptions of Mount Merapi, the last major one in 2010. "I remember orchids used to be

abundant in the forest," he said.

"Locals from surrounding villages could take any orchids they wanted, and they sold the flowers at nearby tourist destinations." But many were destroyed by the ash clouds that fell on the land below the volcano. So he set about saving their wilting fortunes, over the years building two bamboo greenhouses where he could preserve the most special kinds of orchids. The volcano killed about 60 people when it erupted in 1994, destroying thousands of hectares of forest.

Another eruption in 2010 left more than 300 dead, while also wreaking havoc on the land. "The forest near my house was burnt dry and the orchids I used to easily find were gone. I regretted not keeping one

or two of them," said Musimin of the 1994 tragedy. That encouraged him to join the local government's effort to find the surviving orchids as he and his neighbors explored what remained. They managed to revive at least 90 varieties of orchids that would also end up surviving the 2010 eruption, he said.

'Pioneer of orchid conservation'

Now Musimin mostly works alone and wants those who enter the forest to leave the orchids to blossom instead of trying to profit from them. "A lot of people now choose to pick and sell orchids from the forest. I personally think the orchids are better off in their habitat, where they can live as the crowns of the forest," he said.

Other orchid centers run by locals who learned about conservation from Musimin have sprung up in the forest around the volcano, said Mount Merapi National Park spokesperson Akhmadi.

"He is, indeed, the pioneer of orchid conservation in Mount Merapi. His work has become an example for other groups we are working with, that have emulated and further developed his programs," he said. With others now taking Musimin's lead, the father of two wants to continue his orchid-saving legacy by passing down his self-taught botanical knowledge to his grandchild, whom he often takes into the forest. "I am showing him orchids as early as possible," he said. "Who knows, he could be my successor." — AFP



This picture shows Musimin pointing to a young orchid plant growing in the forest at the foot of Mount Merapi in Sleman, Yogyakarta. —AFP photos

Bangladeshi mystic fights demons with psychiatry

Evil spirits bedevil the families that seek blessings from an elderly Bangladeshi mystic-but he knows his prayers alone are not enough to soothe their troubled minds. Syed Emdadul Hoque conducts exorcisms but at the same time is helping to bust taboos around mental health treatment in the South Asian nation, where disorders of the mind are often rationalized as cases of otherworldly possession.



In this photograph Ferdousi Begum (left) describes her symptoms to Sufi leader Syed Emdadul Hoque (right) at the Maizbhandar Darbar Sharif shrine in Maizbhandar.

Hundreds of people visit the respected cleric each week to conquer their demons, and after receiving Hoque's blessing a team of experts will gently assess if they need medical care. Mohammad Rakib, 22, was brought to the shrine after complaining of "possession by a genie" that brought alarming changes to his behavior. "When I regain consciousness, I feel okay," he tells Hoque. But his uncle explains that the student has suffered alarming dissociative spells, attacking and scolding his relatives while speaking in an unrecognizable language.

"Don't worry, you will be fine," Hoque says reassuringly, reciting prayers that he says will rid Rakib of the spirit and to help him concentrate on his studies. Rakib is then led into a room by the cleric's son Irfanul, where volunteers note down his symptoms and medical history. "We think he is suffering from mental problems," Irfanul tells AFP. "Once we've taken his details, we will send him to a psychiatrist to prescribe medicines."

Sufi mystics

Hoque, 85, and his son are members of the Sufi tradition, a branch of Islam that emphasizes mysticism and the spiritual dimensions of the faith. They are descended from one of the country's most respected Sufi leaders, from whom Hoque has inherited the esteemed title of "Pir", denoting him as a spiritual mentor. Their hometown of Maizbhandar is one of the country's most popular pilgrimage sites, with huge crowds each year visiting shrines dedicated to the Hoque family's late ancestors to seek their blessings. Their faith occupies an ambiguous place in Bangladesh, where they are regularly denounced as heretics and deviants by hardliners from the Sunni Muslim majority.

But Sufi mystics have a deeply rooted role in rural society as healers, and Irfanul says his father gives his visitors the opportunity to unburden themselves. "Those who open up their stresses and problems to us, it becomes easier for us to help," he says. "My father does his part by blessing him and then the medical healing starts."

Hoque is helped by Taslima Chowdhury, a psychiatrist who worked at the shrine for nearly two years, travelling from her own home an hour's drive away in the bustling port city of Chittagong. "Had he not sent the patients to me, they might never visit a trained psychiatrist in their life," she tells AFP. "Thanks to him, a lot of mental patients get early treatment and many get cured quickly."

Despite Bangladesh's rapid economic growth over the past decade, treatment options for panic attacks, anxiety and other symptoms of mental disorder remain limited. A brutal 1971 independence war and the floods, cyclones and other disasters that regularly buffet the climate-vulnerable country have left widespread and lingering trauma, according to a British Journal of Psychology study published last year. Bangladesh has fewer than 300 psychiatrists servicing a population of 170 million people, the same publication says, while a stigma around mental illness prevents those afflicted from seeking help. A 2018 survey conducted by local health authorities found nearly one in five adults met the criteria for a mental disorder, more than 90 percent of whom did not receive professional treatment. But experts say Hoque's referral program could offer a revolutionary means of lifting the veil of silence around mental health and encourage more people to seek medical intervention. —AFP



In this file photo John Legend (right) and Chrissy Teigen arrive for the 74th Emmy Awards at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles, California. — AFP

Chrissy Teigen reveals 2020 'miscarriage' in fact was life-saving abortion

Model and television personality Chrissy Teigen, who is married to singer John Legend, has revealed that she had an abortion in 2020 to save her life when it became clear her son would not live, not a miscarriage as the couple said. The 36-year-old Teigen explained that she did not fully process what had happened when she was 20-weeks pregnant until after the US Supreme Court this year overturned Roe v Wade, the decision guaranteeing the nationwide right to the procedure.

"Let's just call it what it was: It was an abortion," Teigen said Thursday at an event organized by social impact agency Propper Daley, according to The Hollywood Reporter. "It became very clear around halfway through that he would not survive, and that I wouldn't either without any medical intervention," she explained. Teigen was hospitalized in September 2020 and later published multiple social media posts recounting her experience of losing a baby, which would have been her third with Legend. The couple share daughter Luna and son Miles.

She said at the time she was "shocked and in the kind of deep pain you only hear about." The couple's posts about the miscarriage triggered an outpouring of responses. On Thursday, Teigen, who is now pregnant again, said Legend had helped her realize what truly happened. "I told the world we had a miscarriage, the world agreed we had a miscarriage, all the headlines said it was a miscarriage."

"And I became really frustrated that I didn't, in the first place, say what it was, and I felt silly that it had taken me over a year to actually understand that we had had an abortion." Teigen and Legend, an entertainer with a rare EGOT of awards—an Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and Tony—met on the set of one of his music videos before marrying in 2013. — AFP

Qatar-based sound artist says it's time to slow down and listen

In a noisy, chaotic and fast-paced world, the Qatar-based sound artist Guillaume Rousere is on a mission: to get people to slow down and listen again. Birdsong, insects chirping, the sound of wind brushing through tall grass or over sand dunes—all these form part of what the 44-year-old Frenchman calls his "sound art". "Sound art is a discipline where the principal medium is sound and where the aim is to listen," said Rousere, who lives in the Gulf state that will soon host the World Cup. For a recent audio project, he set up a microphone at an organic farm in Qatar, where he also recorded man-made sounds such as those of cars, planes and farm machines.



French sound artist Guillaume Rousere is pictured as he presents his work at an art gallery in the Qatari capital Doha. — AFP photos

"I walk around the site I want to explore and let my ears guide me if I hear anything that draws me," he said, adding that often "it's a matter of luck". "I place the microphone and leave," Rousere told AFP. "I don't listen to it before I'm back in my studio." His sonic artwork is "not to be confused with music" made up of "organized sounds", stressed Rousere, who explained that his passion started in childhood when he would pop balloons to study the noise it made in different environments.

'Listen and disconnect'

His new, water-themed installation,



French sound artist Guillaume Rousere is pictured as he presents his work at an art gallery in the Qatari capital Doha. — AFP photos

"The World As We Know It Is Changing", aims to "take the audience on a journey, to listen and disconnect from the world," Rousere told AFP. "It's become all the more important to me because... we live in fast-paced societies that have stopped listening." Visitors sit in a darkened room, surrounded by four loudspeakers, for their experience of "profound listening", at Mathaf, a modern art museum in Doha's university district Education City.

They soon find themselves immersed



French sound artist Guillaume Rousere collects sounds in the nature north of the Qatari capital Doha. — AFP photos

in an ever-shifting soundscape, with flowing river water and the noise of human activity, but also narrated memories connected to water in different languages, as related images are projected on the wall. A previous installation, "Fragile Resilience", inspired by the sails of dhows that ply Arabian seas, was shown at the Paris UNESCO headquarters, at an event organized by a Qatari foundation. Rousere, who in the past managed musicians in Britain and studied sound art in Belgium, has lived in Qatar for nine years and was a resident artist at the contemporary art space Fire Station.

His sculpture "Allow Me"—this one made of stone—is displayed at the Msheireb metro station in downtown Doha. "Ever since I've been here, there has always been support for local and international artists," he said. The World Cup, which kicks off on November 20, has given the local art scene an additional boost, he told AFP. "I think there was already a great dynamic, but everyone realized that there was an international opportunity for visibility." —AFP



French sound artist Guillaume Rousere is pictured at his studio in the Qatari capital Doha. — AFP photos



People queue to see Sufi leader Syed Emdadul Hoque at the Maizbhandar Darbar Sharif shrine in Maizbhandar. — AFP photos



A mosque sits amidst fig trees in the Tunisian town of Djebba, southwest of the capital Tunis. — AFP photos



A Tunisian student participates in fig picking in the Tunisian town of Djebba, southwest of the capital Tunis.



Women place figs to dry in the Tunisian town of Djebba, southwest of the capital Tunis.

Tunisian 'hanging garden' farms cling on despite drought

High in the hills of northwestern Tunisia, farmers are tending thousands of fig trees with a unique system of terracing they hope will protect them from ever-harsher droughts. But the "hanging gardens" of Djebba El Oulia have been put to the test this year as the North African country sweltered through its hottest July since the 1950s. That has exacerbated a long drought that has left Tunisia's reservoirs at just a third of their capacity. The gardens are supplied with water from two springs high in the mountains. The water is fed into the orchards by a network of canals that are opened and shut at set times, according to the size of the orchard.

Crucially, a wide variety of crops provides resilience and in-built pest control, unlike the monocultures that dominate modern agriculture and require huge inputs of pesticides to survive. "We grow figs but also other trees like quinces, olives and pomegranates, and beneath them we plant a wide range of greens and legumes," said activist Farida Djebbi as insects buzzed between thyme, mint and rosemary flowers. Djebbi pointed out some of the channels, which irrigate the area's 300 hectares (740 acres) of steeply sloping orchards.

In 2020, the Food and Agriculture Organization recognized the system as an example of "innovative and resilient agroforestry", adding it to an elite list of just 67 "Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems". The system "has been able to adapt and take advantage of an inhospitable topography", the UN agency said. "Through the use of natural geological formations and the use of stones, local communities have been able to transform the landscape into fertile and productive lands." The FAO praised the diversity of local crop varieties grown by the area's farmers, as well as their use of wild plants to repel potential pests and of livestock to "plough" and fertilise the soil.



A Tunisian student participates in fig picking in the Tunisian town of Djebba, southwest of the capital Tunis.

While nobody knows exactly how old the system is, human habitation in the area predates the Carthaginian civilization founded in the ninth century BC. But while it may have endured for generations, the system is under threat as climate change kicks in. Activist Tawfiq El Rajehi, 60, says the flow of water from springs irrigating the area has dropped off noticeably, particularly

Growing up with figs

in the past two years. Unlike in previous years, the surrounding peaks no longer get covered in snow each winter, and the leaves of many of the trees in the lower part of Djebba are yellowing and sick. Rajehi, a teacher at the local school, said climate change and low rainfall were compounded by another factor: farmers favoring cash crops. "Some farmers have moved to growing more figs instead of less water-intensive crops because figs have



The son of a farm owner sorts figs for export in the Tunisian town of Djebba, southwest of the capital Tunis.

become more profitable in recent years," he said. "We need to keep a good balance and variety of plants." Nevertheless, residents say they are proud of their heritage. Farmer Lotfi El Zarmani, 52, said there was also growing demand for Djebba figs, which were given a protected designation of origin by the agriculture ministry in 2012 — still the only Tunisian fruit to enjoy the certification.

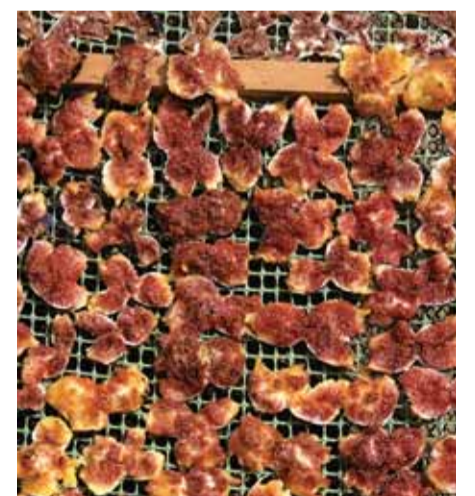
"They're getting a reputation, plus exporting them has become easier, plus they bring higher prices," Zarmani said, adding that most exports go to the Gulf or neighboring Libya. Rajehi's daughter, university student Chaima, put on protective gloves as she set out to harvest the fruit from her family's small lot. "Figs are more than a fruit for us. We're born here among the fig trees and we grow up with them, we learn from a young age how to look after them," the 20-year-old said. Djebbi is working to persuade farmers to preserve traditional ways of processing the products harvested in the area. She is working with 10 other women on a cooperative that distills essence from wildflowers, dries figs, and produces fig and mulberry jam. "Products we learnt how to make from our mothers and grandmothers are becoming popular because they're of such high quality," she said. — AFP



A worker sorts figs to export in the Tunisian town of Djebba, southwest of the capital Tunis.



An irrigation system is pictured amidst fig trees in the Tunisian town of Djebba, southwest of the capital Tunis.



Drying figs are pictured in the Tunisian town of Djebba, southwest of the capital Tunis.



Farmers sort figs for export in the Tunisian town of Djebba, southwest of the capital Tunis.



A youth rides a donkey in the Tunisian town of Djebba, southwest of the capital Tunis.

Sports

Alvarez retains undisputed super-middleweight crown

'Canelo' sees off Golovkin to complete epic fight trilogy

LAS VEGAS: Saul "Canelo" Alvarez retained his undisputed super-middleweight world title on Saturday, seeing off Gennady Golovkin to complete their epic fight trilogy in Las Vegas. Mexico's Alvarez was in charge for most of 12 rounds at an electric T-Mobile Arena, winning a unanimous decision to spark wild scenes of celebration among the Mexican fans who made up most of the sell-out crowd.

One judge scored the bout 116-112 while the two others saw it 115-113 for Alvarez, who took control early and continued to cruise even as Golovkin stepped it up in the late rounds. "Thank you so much, my friend," Alvarez said to Golovkin in the ring after a bout whose build-up was marked by some bitter rhetoric. "We gave the fans three good fights. Thank you for everything."

It was a welcome return to form for Alvarez, who suffered the second defeat of his career earlier this year after moving up to light-heavyweight to face Dmitry Bivol. "You have to continue to move forward," he said. "I have shown that defeats can show you can be great and you can regain your humility." This return to 168 pounds clearly suited Alvarez, even though he said he fought with a left hand injury that will require surgery.

"I've had issues with my hand since the Caleb Plant fight last year," he said. "I need surgery. It's not broken, it's more of a problem with my wrist. I got a bit tired at the end mainly because we haven't worked on much explosive stuff in the gym. It was hugely satisfying to win and with my hand problems, I out-jabbed one of the best ever." Golovkin, meanwhile, was left to rue a leaden start, only sparking into life when it was too late. "It was a



LAS VEGAS: Mexican boxer Saul 'Canelo' Alvarez (right) and Kazakh boxer Gennady Golovkin exchange punches during their fight for the Super Middleweight Title at T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada, September 17, 2022. —AFP photos

tactical mistake on my part to start slow, but we wanted to see how the fight was going to develop," Golovkin said. "I think we both started slowly."

Alvarez, who said he knew from the first round he wouldn't get the knockout he craved, improved to 58-2-2 with 39 knockouts. This highly anticipated third tussle between two of the hardest hitting fighters in the world came four years after their last meeting. Back in 2018, it was Alvarez whose hand was raised at the end of 12 frenetic, quality rounds which saw Golovkin suffer defeat for the very first time as he came out on the wrong end of a narrow majority decision.

Their first fight the year before ended in a draw. Bad blood had boiled between them ever since Alvarez failed

a drugs test and was banned for six months. Golovkin, who fell to 42-2 with one drawn and 37 knockouts, said any dispute with Alvarez was "100%" settled and he felt no animosity for him. Alvarez came to the ring roared on by his adoring public, many of whom were still in the mood for a party after Mexican Independence day celebrations in Sin City.

Mexico!

GGG has been on the road for almost a decade, so taking on Alvarez - and the pumped up crowd - was nothing new, unlike fighting at super-middleweight which was a first for the 40 year-old. Chants of "Mexico! Mexico!" roared out as Alvarez opened aggressively, but



LAS VEGAS: Jesse Rodriguez poses with the championship belt after defeating Israel Gonzalez to retain the WBC Super Flyweight Title at T-Mobile Arena on September 17, 2022.

couldn't find a way through the Golovkin rearward. The first couple of rounds were cagey with Alvarez throwing a lot but not connecting with everything.

Golovkin's face started to redden thanks to Alvarez's jab. The Mexican was firmly on the front foot. A big right hook in the fifth smashed against Golovkin's granite chin, but the Kazakh was able to absorb the force and push his cause on against his far more aggressive opponent.

Golovkin started to show his age as Alvarez continued with a barrage of shots which attempted to break down the GGG defense. In the ninth round, Alvarez found himself against the ropes but Golovkin just couldn't make any inroads even though he had begun to

throw more shots. The last few rounds were frenetic and action packed, Golovkin throwing everything at his Mexican opponent but it was too little, too late as Alvarez held firm.

Alvarez said he wasn't surprised at Golovkin's late pressure. "It didn't surprise me. I know him - he's a strong fighter." And he said he'd welcome a chance to avenge his loss to Bivol, but first he needs to get healthy. "I need to rest my body," Alvarez said. "I need to rest my hand, my body, but I will come back stronger. I will beat him." Golovkin, meanwhile, rejected the idea the defeat could send him into retirement. "Remember, I'm still champion at 160," said Golovkin, owner of the IBF and WBA middleweight world titles. —AFP



CALIFORNIA: Justin Lower of the United States hits his second shot on the 16th hole during the third round of the Fortinet Championship at Silverado Resort and Spa North course on September 17, 2022. —AFP

Lower regains PGA Tour lead at Silverado

SAN FRANCISCO: Justin Lower birdied the final hole on Saturday to cap a three-under par 69 and seize the outright lead at Fortinet Championship, where he is in search of his first US PGA Tour title. Lower, who barely kept his playing rights for the 2022-23 season, had five birdies and two bogeys at Silverado Resort in Napa, California, rolling in a four-foot birdie putt at the par-five finishing hole to give himself a one-shot lead on 13-under 203.

Lower had opened the tournament with a sparkling 63 on Thursday, but on Friday slipped two shots behind second-round leaders Max Homa and Danny Willett. England's 2016 Masters champion Willett and American Homa both carded even par 72s on Saturday to share second on 204 - one stroke in front of South Korean An Byeong-hun.

An's fourth birdie of the day at the par-three 15th had put him atop the leaderboard at 13-under, but he made a double bogey at the par-five 16th on the way to a one-under 71. Lower said his round was steady, once he got past a "nervy" bogey on the first hole. "I just tried to keep it in play, keep it in the fairway and just kind of go from there." He made back-to-back birdies at the fourth and fifth, giving a stroke back at the seventh where he was unable to get up and down from a greenside bunker.

Lower was in trouble at the par-five ninth, but holed out from the greenside rough for birdie. He rolled in a seven-footer for another birdie at 11. Just a month ago the 33-year-old Lower was distraught thinking he had missed keeping his tour card by a single stroke over the entire campaign of his rookie season. His place was secured, however, when players who defected to the upstart LIV Golf Series were removed from the season points list. Now he's in position to challenge for his first victory. "It's everything," he said. "It's why we play. Playing on the best tour in the world and you have a chance to win — it's pretty cool." —AFP

Smith outshoots Johnson to seize LIV Chicago lead

CHICAGO: Reigning British Open champion Cam Smith of Australia closed with back-to-back birdies to grab a three-stroke lead after Saturday's second round of the LIV Golf Chicago Invitational. World number three Smith fired a four-under par 68 to stand on 10-under 134 after 36 holes in the 54-hole shotgun start event at Rich Harvest Farms.

Two-time major winner Dustin Johnson fired his worst of 14 rounds since jumping to LIV Golf, a 74, to share second on 137 with fellow American Peter Uihlein, who fired a 66. England's Laurie Canter and South African Charl Schwartzel shared fourth on 138 in quest of a \$4 million top prize from a \$25 million purse. The Saudi-backed upstart series has caused turmoil in the golf world as several big-name stars have defected from the US PGA Tour to the rival circuit, prompting the PGA to issue indefinite bans on former members.

Smith, who captured his first major title in July at St. Andrews before jumping to LIV Golf after the

PGA Tour playoffs, began the day three back of playing partner Johnson but charged into the lead. "It was tricky out there," Smith said. "I got a couple of breaks and DJ didn't quite make the putts he usually does. "Game is feeling good. I'm looking forward to a great round tomorrow." Johnson opened with a bogey at the first hole and both birdied the par-5 second.

Smith curled in a long breaking birdie putt at the fourth while Johnson lipped out, settling for par. Both birdied the eighth but Smith missed an eight-footer for par at the par-5 11th to stumble two adrift. Johnson sent his approach over the green at the par-3 13th and lipped out on a six-foot par putt. Johnson also made bogey at the par-3 16th. Smith sank six-foot birdie putts at the 17th and par-5 18th while Johnson went over the 18th green and made bogey to leave the Aussie ahead by three.

Phil: golf must unite

Phil Mickelson, among the first to break from the PGA for LIV Golf, says the two sides need to unite after hard-line remarks against such a move by PGA playoff winner Rory McIlroy, PGA commissioner Jay Monahan and LIV Golf commissioner Greg Norman. "The PGA Tour for the last 20 or 30 years have had all the best players in the world. That will never be the case again," Mickelson said. "LIV

while Lee birdied three of the last five holes for 67.

One stroke off the pace on 204 were Australia's Hannah Green, Japan's Hinako Shibuno, South African Paula Reto and Ecuador's Daniela Darquea. "It's very important to play bogey-free golf," Furue said. "I believe it's more important than getting birdies, not having bogeys. So I'm very happy with that today." Furue won her first LPGA title in July at the Scottish Open after winning seven Japan Tour crowns. The first of those came as an amateur in 2019 and she won three each in 2020 and 2021.

She said her approach wouldn't change on Sunday as she tries to break away from the leading pack for her second win of the season. "My mentality will not change," she said. "Keep playing as I've been playing. If I see a chance, I'll try to get a birdie, try to make safe pars all the time." Lee, who

Furue, Lee, Vu share Portland Classic lead

LOS ANGELES: Japan's Ayaka Furue fired a bogey-free five-under par 67 to match Americans Lilia Vu and Andrea Lee for the lead after Saturday's third round of the LPGA Portland Classic. The 22-year-old from Kobe opened with a birdie, reeled off three in a row starting at the par-5 fifth and added another at the 14th to leap into contention at Columbia Edgewater in Portland, Oregon. Vu, Lee and Furue were on 13-under 203 after 54 holes. Vu, a 36-hole co-leader, shot 69

England and Pakistan build for T20 WCup in long-awaited series

KARACHI: Pakistan and England continue their build-up for next month's T20 World Cup in Australia when they begin a seven-match series in Karachi on Tuesday - the tourists' first visit since 2005. The long-awaited return of England comes five months after a trouble-free tour by Australia, their first in 24 years, which helped Pakistan's rehabilitation as a safe place to play cricket.

International cricket has gradually returned to Pakistan following years where they were forced to play home matches in neutral venues after a deadly attack on the Sri Lanka team bus in 2009. England had been originally scheduled to arrive in October last year but cancelled at short notice after New Zealand pulled out of a tour citing safety concerns.

England's withdrawal infuriated the Pakistan Cricket Board, who called it "disrespectful" as they made strides to show the country was a secure desti-

nation. England, the current 50-over world champions, are also scheduled to play a Test series in Pakistan in December followed by the return of New Zealand. The tourists are looking to bounce back from recent Twenty20 series defeats to the West Indies (3-2), South Africa and India (both 2-1). Pakistan are looking to recover after losing the T20 Asia Cup final to Sri Lanka in the UAE last week.

'Tough challenge'

New England skipper Jos Buttler, who took over after the retirement of long-time captain Eoin Morgan this year, is nursing a calf injury that could keep him out of the series. "It's an important series for the build-up towards that World Cup," said Buttler, who felt it was vital to travel with his side despite only having a chance of being fit for the final two matches. "Obviously the main aim for everyone is to turn up fully ready for that World Cup," said Buttler. "Pakistan are a very strong team and will give us a really tough challenge," added Buttler. Moeen Ali will lead the side in his absence. The return of explosive opener Alex Hales from three years in the wilderness after testing positive for a recreational drug will bolster England batting, according to Pakistan's top order batsman Shan Masood.



Cam Smith

Golf is here to stay, and this type of divisive talk is doing nobody good.

The best solution is for us to come together," Mickelson, a six-time major winner, and LIV Golf have filed an anti-trust lawsuit against the PGA that is set to go to trial in 2024. The 52-year-old US left-hander said LIV appeals to a younger fan base but golf also needs the "historical" base the PGA provides, declaring, "The inclusion of LIV Golf in the ecosystem of the golf world is necessary." —AFP

like Vu is a 24-year-old former world amateur number one seeking her first LPGA triumph, won her first pro title in April at a developmental tour event in Tucson, Arizona.

She opened and closed the front nine with birdies around another at the par-5 fifth, then birdied 14 and followed her lone bogey at 15 with back-to-back birdies and a closing par to have a chance at her first LPGA victory. "I've played solid golf all year long," Lee said. "I feel really comfortable out here. I've had some experience and that will help me out tomorrow." Vu, whose three 2021 developmental tour wins earned her a rookie LPGA spot this season, opened with a bogey and took another at six after a birdie at the fifth. But Vu followed with birdies at the par-5 10th and 12th holes and added back-to-back birdies at 14 and 15. —AFP

"I think England are one of the best white-ball teams," said Masood, who will make his Twenty20 debut for Pakistan as a reward for scoring heavily for Derbyshire in the English T20 Blitz. "England will pose a very good challenge for us and it's probably the ideal preparation to play one of the best sides before the World Cup." The first four matches are in Karachi on September 20, 22, 23 and 25 with the final three in Lahore on September 28, 30 and October 2.

A head-of-state style security cordon is being thrown around the England entourage, similar to that successfully employed for the Australia tour. Officials said 4,000 police and paramilitary personnel will be on duty to guard the teams and stadium on match days. Spectators will have to park at least a mile from the venue and be brought to the stadium in special secure shuttles after undergoing thorough bag and body searches. Squads for seven-match Twenty20 international series in Karachi and Lahore from September 20 to October 2. Pakistan: Babar Azam (captain), Shadab Khan, Aamer Jamal, Abrar Ahmed, Asif Ali, Haider Ali, Haris Rauf, Iftikhar Ahmed, Khushdil Shah, Mohammad Haris, Mohammad Hasnain, Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Rizwan, Mohammad Wasim, Naseem Shah, Shah Nawaz Dahani, Shan Masood, Usman Qadir. —AFP

Sports

St Mirren end champions Celtic's 364-day unbeaten league run

Birthday boy Colak's double edges Rangers past Dundee

GLASGOW: Reigning champions Celtic's near year-long unbeaten run in the Scottish Premiership came to an end on Sunday when the Glasgow giants suffered a shock 2-0 defeat by St Mirren. Goals either side of half-time from Mark O'Hara and Jonah Ayunga condemned visitors Celtic to a first league loss in 39 matches, a sequence spanning 364 days.

Celtic remain top of the table but they now lead Rangers by just two points after their arch-rivals won 2-1 at home to Dundee United on Saturday. St Mirren's first home win over Celtic since 2010 catapulted the Paisley club into third place, four points adrift of Rangers, with the Buddies joining Real Madrid as the only other team to have defeated Ange Postecoglou's men in any competition so far this season.

Birthday boy

Meanwhile, Antonio Colak celebrated his 29th birthday by scoring twice as Rangers ended a three-match losing streak with a 2-1 win at home to basement club Dundee United in the Scottish Premiership on Saturday. Rangers moved to within two points of leaders and Glasgow arch rivals Celtic, with the Scottish champions away to St Mirren on Sunday.

Returning Croatia striker Colak needed a mere eight minutes to give Rangers the lead but otherwise it was a frustrating first half for the Ibrox faithful. Colak, however, did double the lead four minutes after the break. But Rangers failed to put the result beyond doubt and Dundee United defender Liam Smith pulled a goal back in the 59th minute to

ensure a nervous last half-hour for the home side.

Rangers' 3-0 midweek defeat by Italian side Napoli in the Champions League meant the Ibrox club had conceded 11 goals and scored none in three games, turning Saturday's encounter into a must-win fixture. Colak took over from Alfredo Morelos, with 18-year-old Leon King in for James Sands and 20-year-old midfielder Charlie McCann making his first league start. The forward gave Rangers the lead after being played in by captain James Tavernier, with the forward taking a touch before shooting low past United keeper Carljohan Eriksson for his eighth goal of the season.

But far from opening the floodgates of a United defense that conceded nine goals against Celtic at Tannadice last month, it was the visitors who had the next chance with Ryan Jack off target with a drive from 16 yards out. United appealed for a penalty early in the second half when Tony Watt went down under pressure from Gers left-back Borna Barisic but referee Kevin Clancy was unmoved.

Barisic then played a key role in the Gers' second goal, his cross from the left knocked in at the near post by Colak. However, moments after Sadat Anaku came on the United substitute was involved in the build-up to their goal with Jamie McGrath playing in Smith, whose low drive came off veteran goalkeeper Allan McGregor and flew high into the net. The game was still in the balance but Rangers held on to the relief of their supporters.

Defeat left Dundee United, who have now conceded 20 goals in seven Premiership matches, still



Antonio-Mirko Colak

seeking their first league win of the season. Livingston moved up to third with Colombian star Cristian Montano's header proving the difference in a 1-0 win at home to Kilmarnock. Joe Campbell scored two second-half goals as Hibernian came

from behind to beat 10-man Aberdeen 3-1 at Easter Road after Luis Lopes had given the visitors an early lead before Martin Boyle equalised from the penalty spot. St Johnstone and Ross County shared the points after a goalless draw. — AFP

FIFA rejects appeal to kick Ecuador out of World Cup

PARIS: FIFA has rejected an attempt by Chile and Peru to have Ecuador thrown out of the World Cup, where they will play the opening match against Qatar. The complaint centered around Byron Castillo, a defender who played in eight of Ecuador's qualifiers for the World Cup. The Chilean football federation (FFCH) said there was evidence that Castillo, who plays for Leon in Mexico, was born in Colombia in July 1995 and not in Playas, Ecuador in November 1998.

The FFCH alleged "use of a falsified birth certificate, false declaration of age and false nationality". Following a hearing on Thursday, FIFA's Appeal Committee confirmed an earlier ruling by the Disciplinary Committee. "On the basis of the documents presented, the player was to be considered as holding permanent Ecuadorian nationality," FIFA said.

The FFCH reacted with fury, saying that Castillo had refused to appear at the hearing. "This is a dark day for football and for the credibility of the system. The footballing world heard a player who helped Ecuador qualify for the FIFA World Cup admit he was born in Colombia and that he gained an Ecuadorian



LUSAIL: Fans arrive at the Lusail Stadium for a match on the outskirts of Qatar's capital Doha. —AFP

passport using false information. No wonder he refused to participate in the FIFA hearing," said Jorge Yunge, the FFCH general secretary.

With just over nine weeks until the opening game on November 20, Chile or Peru can still appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport. "I have never seen in my entire life as a lawyer an injustice like this one," said Eduardo Carlezco, the lawyer for the FFCH. "Sad day for football and for fair play. The message is clear:

cheating is allowed. We will appeal to CAS."

Ecuador finished fourth in South American World Cup qualifying to secure the last automatic regional berth. They have been drawn against Qatar, Netherlands and Senegal at the finals. Peru finished fifth and lost a playoff to Australia. Chile ended up seventh, five points behind Ecuador. Castillo appeared in both matches between the two countries — a win for Ecuador and a draw. — AFP

S Africa beat Argentina to top Rugby Championship

BUENOS AIRES: South Africa brushed aside a series of scandals during the week to storm to the top of the Rugby Championship with a bonus point 36-20 win over Argentina on Saturday. Tries from scrum-half Jaden Hendrikse, centre Damian De Allende, a brace from hooker Malcolm Marx and a penalty try proved enough to take the Boks above New Zealand on head-to-head record with one round of matches left.

Argentina remain five points back alongside Australia and still with a theoretical chance of winning the tournament. But they paid for a high penalty count, numerous handling errors and poor discipline that saw half-backs Santiago Carreras and Gonzalo Bertranou sin-binned in the first half.

South Africa also had two players yellow carded, but a strong first 40 and a powerful finish proved enough. It had been a difficult build up for the Springboks with South African Rugby releasing a statement hours before kick-off in Buenos Aires denouncing "distracting and destabilizing" media reports. A South African website had claimed a Sunday newspaper would be publishing an "explosive report" into drug taking by Springbok players, which SA Rugby denied.



BUENOS AIRES: Argentina's Los Pumas scrumhalf Tomas Cubelli (2nd-left) puts the ball into the scrum next to South Africa's Springboks scrumhalf Jaden Hendrikse (left) during their Rugby Championship match at Libertadores de America stadium on September 17, 2022. —AFP

This came hot on the heels of fly-half Elton Jantjies and a team dietician being sent home from Argentina after a newspaper reported they were having an affair. "The whole week has been tough, I won't lie about it, but the people that support us have been behind us," said South Africa captain Siya Kolisi. "This is honestly one of the most pressure experiences I've had coming to Argentina. I'm proud of how the boys just pulled together and fought to the end."

The ugly headlines had no adverse affect on the pitch, though, as South Africa dominated the first period. The unflappable Emiliano Boffelli knocked over the first penalty of the game for Argentina on nine minutes but moments later Damian Willemse replied for the visitors. Both kickers then missed their second efforts from close to the halfway line, but after that it was one-way traffic. The first try came on 22 minutes as South Africa created space down the right for wing Canan Moodie. — AFP

time title holder and Olympic champion Annemiek van Vleuten failed to make the podium, with the Dutchwoman managing only seventh, a huge 1min 43.02sec behind Van Dijk.

"I never expected to win. I didn't think it was a perfect course for me but I had a good mental and physical approach with my coach," said Van Dijk. "I just thought I would give it my all today, a podium spot would be nice, but if it's not, it's not. I still had a great year. I never thought I would win today." She made a point of not looking at the times set by the other cyclists, instead concentrating on her own riding. "I wanted to focus completely on myself, but I was so surprised to cross the finish line first," she said.

For the first time at the worlds, women covered the same distance as the men, sharing a 34.2 kilometer route running along two laps of a technical

and twisting circuit with a small climb. Commonwealth Games time-trial champion Brown was among the first riders out with her time standing until Van Dijk's exploits. Reusser appeared on track to challenge Brown after setting a faster pace through the first split, but faded as Van Dijk, who was following her, rose to the challenge.

"It was a very long and nervous wait," said Brown. "I thought there was still a chance I could win the race overall, but Van Dijk had a phenomenal day. She's a seasoned time-trialer and she deserved the win." In another first, under-23 women competed for their own championship as part of the same race with Italy's Vittoria Guazzini, who finished fourth 52.11sec behind Van Dijk, taking the U23 gold. The men's time trial is later Sunday with Italy's Filippo Ganna the two-time defending champion. —AFP

Van Dijk defends world time-trial crown

WOLLONGONG: Dutch ace Ellen van Dijk successfully defended her time-trial crown at cycling's road world championships on Sunday for her third career title, outpacing Australia's Grace Brown and European champion Marlen Reusser. The 35-year-old was the final rider down the ramp and chased down Brown's blistering early pace to win by 12.73 seconds in 44min 28.60sec and clinch another title, having also won in 2013.

Switzerland's Reusser was third, 41.68 sec adrift at the opening event of the eight-day world championships at Wollongong, a coastal city 80 kilometers south of Sydney. In a major upset, two-

Premier League pays tribute to UK queen

LONDON: Premier League players and fans have the chance to honor Queen Elizabeth II this weekend, but the upcoming state funeral for Britain's longest serving monarch on Monday has seen three matches postponed. Demands on police to handle the huge crowds descending on London to pay their respects as the Queen lies in state have seen Liverpool's trip to Chelsea and Manchester United's clash against Leeds called off.

Brighton's meeting with Crystal Palace had previously been postponed due to a rail strike affecting supporters and will not go ahead despite the industrial action being called off. The football authorities were met with criticism from fans' groups after matches at all levels were called off at short notice last Friday in the wake of the Queen's death.

Cricket, rugby, golf and horse racing were among the many other sports to go ahead that weekend with tributes paid and rousing versions of the 'God Save the King'. Football has its chance over the coming days to follow suit, with the national anthem to be played before all seven Premier League matches. There will also be a minute's silence before the games and fans have been encouraged to applaud in the 70th minute to mark the Queen's 70 years on the throne.

Top three can pull away

The top three, Arsenal, Manchester City and Tottenham, are in action and have the chance to consolidate their positions with Brighton, United, Liverpool and Chelsea inactive until after a two-week international break. City can retake top spot in the early kick-off on Saturday, with Wolves the latest side tasked with stopping the rampant Erling Haaland.

The Norway striker has scored in his last six games and has 13 in total in his first nine matches for City after netting a spectacular winner against his former club Borussia Dortmund in the Champions League on Wednesday. Tottenham, by contrast, suffered their first defeat of the season at Sporting Lisbon in midweek and Antonio Conte has warned some of his stars they are not undroppable ahead of the visit of bottom-of-the-table Leicester. Arsenal hold a one-point lead at the top of the table and will end the month there if they win at Brentford.

Feeling the heat

At the other end of the table, a number of high-profile managers will be fearing the upcoming international break should they fail to win this weekend. Leicester's Brendan Rodgers has been outspoken in his criticism of the club's unwillingness to invest in the transfer window, but has so far been given a stay of execution despite a run of five straight defeats.

"We're in a situation we haven't been in before. Results haven't gone our way but what is important is we have to be brave," said Rodgers on Thursday. "Like in anything, in any sport, it's not just about the talent. The ones who succeed are the ones who have that grit, determination and perseverance." Everton are the only other side without a win this season, with the pressure rising on Frank Lampard ahead of West Ham's visit to Goodison Park.

Aston Villa boss Steven Gerrard is also under the spotlight after a summer of heavy spending resulted in just four points from their first seven games. There were promising signs for Gerrard in a 1-1 draw against Manchester City last time out, but he knows they have to back that up against Southampton at Villa Park on Friday. —AFP



LONDON: Arsenal's Brazilian striker Gabriel Jesus (3rd right) scores the team's second goal during the English Premier League football match between Brentford and Arsenal on September 18, 2022. —AFP

Arsenal overpower Brentford to regain Premier League top spot

Son ends goal drought as Spurs hit Leicester for six

LONDON: Arsenal moved back to the top of the Premier League with a dominant 3-0 win at Brentford, while Everton beat West Ham 1-0 to get their first victory of the season on Sunday. Injuries to captain Martin Odegaard and Oleksandr Zinchenko had stretched Arsenal's squad to the extent that 15-year-old Ethan Nwaneri came off the bench late to become the youngest player in Premier League history.

However, the Gunners showed no sign of weakness at a ground where they were beaten 2-0 last season to move back one point above Manchester City and Tottenham at the top of the table. William Saliba and Gabriel Jesus headed in before half-time and Fabio Vieira marked his first Premier League start with a stunning strike after the break.

Brentford boss Thomas Frank said he believes Arsenal will be title contenders and they played like it to blow away the Bees in the first 45 minutes. "We have a different mentality this season," said Arsenal midfielder Granit Xhaka. "We are training like we play and have class with the players that can make a difference." The match had been moved forward two hours to help ease police pressures around Queen Elizabeth II's funeral and Britain's longest serving monarch was remembered in a minute's silence before kick-off.

Once the action did get underway, it was one way

traffic as Arsenal bounced back in style from their sole defeat of the season away to Manchester United two weeks ago. It took just 17 minutes for Mikel Arteta's men to make the breakthrough when Saliba flicked Bukayo Saka's corner in off the far post. Jesus also used his head to score his fourth goal in seven Premier League games since joining from Manchester City as he powered home an enticing delivery from Xhaka.

'Gut feeling' on Nwaneri

The absence of Odegaard also made room for Vieira and the Portuguese midfielder made his mark with a sumptuous strike from outside the box to kill off any doubt over the outcome four minutes into the second half. An easy day for Arsenal was rounded off a minute from time when Arteta was able to hand Nwaneri his debut as just 15 years and 181 days, breaking Harvey Elliott's record as the youngest player in Premier League history when he appeared for Fulham as a 16-year-old.

"It was a pure gut feeling," said Arteta on handing Nwaneri a debut. "Yesterday he had to come because we have injuries, especially the injury of Martin and then I had that feeling from yesterday that if the opportunity could come that I was going to do it." At the other end of the table, West Ham will spend the

upcoming international break in the bottom three until Neal Maupay's first Everton goal gave the Toffees a much-needed win.

Frank Lampard's men are now unbeaten in five league games but had just four points on the board before kick-off from four consecutive draws. An injury to Dominic Calvert-Lewin forced Everton to seek more firepower in the final weeks of the transfer window and Maupay delivered on just his second appearance since a move from Brighton. The Frenchman spun onto Alex Iwobi's pass and fired in from the edge of the area to lift Everton up to 13th in the table. West Ham slip to 18th with just one win from their opening seven league games.

Spurs hit six

Meanwhile, Son Heung-min said he never doubted he would end his goal drought as the South Korea star responded to being dropped by hitting an incredible 13-minute hat-trick in Tottenham's 6-2 rout of Leicester on Saturday. Son came off the bench to score Tottenham's last three goals, including a pair of brilliant long-range finishes, in an emphatic victory that lifted them into second place in the Premier League.

It was the ideal response from Son after he had been axed for failing to score in his previous eight

appearances. Just days after Tottenham boss Antonio Conte had warned that no player was undroppable, Dejan Kulusevski came in for Son, who finished as the Premier League's joint top scorer last season. Explaining Son's omission, Conte said: "We needed to start making rotations because playing all the same players in all the games is not good."

The 30-year-old's treble showed he won't slink when Conte wants to take him out of the firing line. "My finishing has been poor this season. I've also been a little bit unlucky," Son said. "I was really disappointed, but I knew the goal was coming and I wasn't worried about it. I was working hard and always want to help the team. "I'm always having great supporters behind me and great staff. This makes me always believe and make me strong in these tough moments. I'm getting emotional to be honest, with the amazing support."

It was the perfect evening for Tottenham, who bounced back after losing for the first time in eight games this season on Tuesday when Sporting Lisbon netted a historic goal 15 minutes from the end of the Champions League. Tottenham's fifth win from seven league games moved them above Arsenal and level on points with leaders Manchester City. Bottom of the table Leicester's sixth successive defeat will pile pressure on boss Brendan Rodgers. —AFP

Bastianini nails Aragon MotoGP on last lap

ALCANIZ: Enea Bastianini won the Aragon MotoGP with a last lap overtake after mayhem at the start as world champion Fabio Quartararo crashed out to put a severe dent in his hopes of retaining the title. Bastianini shaded Francesco Bagnaia following a nerve-jangling duel over the closing laps to deny the factory Ducati rider a fifth straight win by four-tenths of a second.

With Quartararo the victim of first lap drama pole-sitter Bagnaia moved to within 10 points of Yamaha's defending champion with five races remaining. "Enea did an incredible job all weekend, he was very competitive," said Bagnaia, who will have the race winner as his teammate next season. "Fabio (Quartararo) was unlucky. I tried to do my best, but on the last lap I didn't feel I was able to retake Enea as these 10 points are important so I did okay." "It was a really nice race for me," said Bastianini, on a Ducati satellite bike.

"I made some mistakes but on the last lap I was in a position to attack this time to win. Amazing!" Aprilia's Aleix Espargaro took third at the end of a breathless 15th round of the championship which saw six-time world champion Marc Marquez's hopes of a

dream return after 112 days out turn into a nightmare. It was Marquez's Honda that Quartararo clipped, sending the Frenchman slithering across the track as his Aragon curse continued at the Motorland circuit where he has never made the podium.

'Bad day for Fabio'

Seconds later Honda's Japanese rider Takaaki Nakagami also hit the deck, after contact again with Marquez, who was forced to retire with damage to his bike. Yamaha boss Lin Jarvis reported his star man Quartararo had escaped without serious injury. "Obviously a really bad day for Fabio," he said. "The good news is he's okay. I've just heard from the clinic that he has nothing, no serious problem, only abrasions, but he'll be fine for the next race in Japan. "Unfortunately in the middle of the bunch he clipped the rear of Marquez's bike. Fabio is angry, upset, but from what we can see it appears a racing incident." Quartararo, whose miserable day ended with another fall from a scooter leaving the track, said: "I feel bad. For once we had the pace to fight for a good result here, unfortunately that wasn't possible." Marquez was back for the first time since the Italian MotoGP after further surgery on the right arm he injured in 2020.

"It was really unlucky," Marquez told motoGP.com of his disastrous opening lap. "On turn three I had a moment, when Fabio was really close and there was contact. "I felt something strange in turn five, turn 7 was ok, but coming out of it the bike started to lock and go on the left side. I had a piece of, Fabio's bike



ALCANIZ: Ducati Gresini Italian rider Enea Bastianini celebrates after winning the Moto Grand Prix GP of Aragon at the Motorland circuit in Alcaniz on September 18, 2022. —AFP

attached to mine." At a sun-kissed circuit the race was preceded by an immaculately observed minute's silence in honor of Britain's longest reigning monarch, Queen Elizabeth II, who died last Thursday. Following rendition of the Spanish and Aragon regional anthems, the umbrellas protecting riders and bikes from the heat went down and the lights went out with Bagnaia making a perfect getaway, avoiding all the chaos behind, to lead until Bastianini made his decisive last-gasp winning move. With only 17 points now splitting the top three in the riders' standings the tense title run-in moves on to Japan next weekend. —AFP

Monza claim first win to end Juve's unbeaten start

MONZA: Monza won their first ever match in Serie A on Sunday after stunning 10-man Juventus 1-0 to pile more pressure on under-fire Massimiliano Allegri. Christian Gytkjaer netted a historic goal 15 minutes from the end at the U-Power Stadium to move the club owned by Silvio Berlusconi off the bottom of the table and end Juve's unbeaten start to the season. Monza took their first three points of the campaign in their first match under Raffaele Palladino, who replaced sacked Giovanni Stroppa on Tuesday.

They are still in the relegation zone but a single point behind 17th-placed Verona, who were beaten 2-0 at Fiorentina. Troubled Juve, who lost Angel Di Maria to a straight red card five minutes before half-time, sit in eighth after winning just two of their opening seven matches. They are six points behind provisional league leaders Udinese following their 3-1 win over Inter Milan earlier on Sunday. —AFP