

**3** KISR successfully farms whiteleg shrimp in Kuwait



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# Kuwait keen on transforming education worldwide: Amir

## Opening summit, UN chief warns of 'winter of discontent'



NEW YORK: HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah delivers HH the Amir Sheikh Mawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's speech to the UN Transforming Education Summit on Sept 19, 2022. — KUNA



NEW YORK: United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres addresses the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly at the UN headquarters on Sept 20, 2022. — AFP

NEW YORK: Kuwait is keen on developing and transforming education within its borders and around the world, HH the Amir's representative, HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, said. Delivering HH the Amir Sheikh Mawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's speech to the UN Transforming Education Summit in New York late Monday, HH Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf affirmed that achieving the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will face many challenges, requiring diligence and perseverance.

The fourth goal focusing on ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all was a noble quest to achieve, he indicated, commending the efforts of UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres in this regard. HH Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf said Kuwait is keen to share Guterres' hopes in the "joint plan" to draw a roadmap for transforming education and providing a better, secure and inclusive future.

Continued on Page 6

## Hope for change as court reinstates all barred candidates

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The court of appeals on Tuesday decided to reinstate all candidates disqualified by the interior ministry to the election race and referred a highly controversial criminal law to the constitutional court for opinion. The court cancelled disqualification decisions of three candidates and suspended decisions against five others until the constitutional court has ruled on the law, thus allowing all petitioners to run in the Sept 29 snap polls.

The government immediately challenged the decision before the court of cassation, whose decisions are final. The appeals court on Monday had also quashed the disqualification of former MP Khaled Al-Mutairi. The controversial law, first issued by the 2013 parliament and then amended by the 2016 parliament, stipulates barring convicted political dissidents for life from running for public office, and is applied retroactively to old offenses.

The law has been repeatedly criticized as oppressive and a violation of the Kuwaiti constitution. Many candidates contesting the elections have called for the need to abolish the law by the next National Assembly, especially if a reformist majority wins seats. Candidate Ahmad Al-Saadoun, a leading opposition figure, described the law as the "worst" of a number of oppressive legislation issued in the past 10 years.

Saadoun and several other candidates launched their election campaigns at which they said they were optimistic the election will bring a major positive change in the country, especially after key pledges made by HH the Amir. He said the current elections are extraordinary by all standards because of the pledges made by HH the Amir in his June speech. HH the Amir pledged the government will not interfere in the polls nor in the election of the Assembly speaker.

Saadoun said all steps taken by the new government so far affirm the country's leadership is adopting a new course, adding the government has removed all obstacles and it's up to Kuwaiti voters to choose the best, expressing hope that a reformist majority will win. "The Amiri speech has drawn a new roadmap for the future," he said. "I declare my unlimited optimism for the future. We are before a historic opportunity to strengthen the constitution, as all attempts to undermine it have failed," Saadoun added.

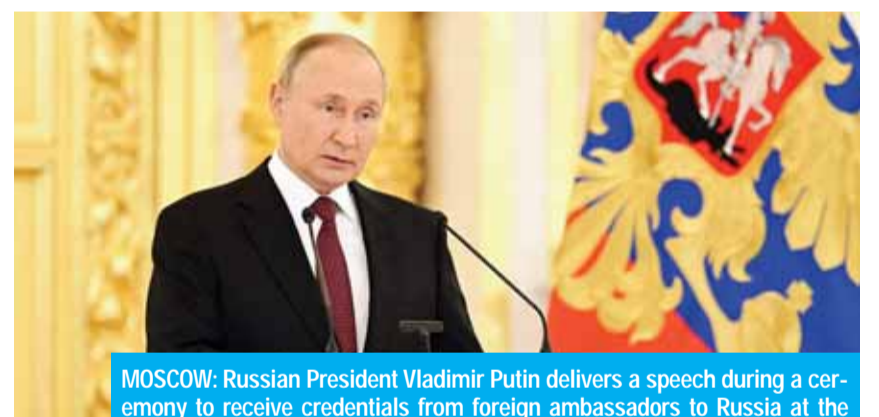
Continued on Page 6

## Cooperation with Kuwait to continue: Putin

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday affirmed Moscow's readiness to maintain constructive cooperation with Kuwait at various levels, including urgent international issues. Putin, during a ceremony where Kuwaiti Ambassador Mansour Ayyad Al-Otaibi handed his

credentials at the Kremlin, also noted that Russia would pursue coordination with Kuwait at the external policies' level, not only on issues related to the Middle East, but also regarding urgent international affairs.

Putin, in a statement aired by Russian television, noted there has been no optimal benefiting from the economic, commercial and investment potentials between the two countries - indicating his desire to see further efforts in boosting bilateral ties and cooperation between the two countries. — KUNA



MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin delivers a speech during a ceremony to receive credentials from foreign ambassadors to Russia at the Alexander Hall of the Grand Kremlin Palace on Sept 20, 2022. — AFP

## Aramco slams transition goals as 'unrealistic'

RIYADH: Oil giant Saudi Aramco's chief on Tuesday blasted "unrealistic" energy transition plans, calling for a "new global energy consensus", including ramped-up investments in fossil fuels to address painful shortages. Speaking at a conference in Switzerland, Amin Nasser, head of the world's biggest crude producer, lamented a "deep misunderstanding" of what caused the current energy crunch and said a "fear factor" was holding back "critical" long-term oil and gas projects.

"When you shame oil and gas investors, dismantle oil- and coal-fired power plants, fail to diversify energy supplies (especially gas), oppose LNG receiving terminals, and reject nuclear power, your transition plan had better be right," he said. "Instead, as this crisis has shown, the plan was just a chain of sandcastles that waves of reality have washed away. "And billions around the world now face the energy access and cost of living consequences that are likely to be severe and prolonged."

The primarily state-owned Saudi Aramco last month unveiled record profits of \$48.4 billion in the second quarter of 2022, after Russia's invasion of Ukraine and a post-pandemic surge in demand sent crude prices soaring. Yet even as it benefits from the current energy crisis, Riyadh has long complained that focusing on climate change at the expense of energy security would further fuel inflation and other economic woes.

With consumers and businesses in Europe facing soaring bills as winter approaches, the causes of the crisis run deeper than the Ukraine war, Nasser said Tuesday, asserting that the warning signs were "flashing red for almost a decade". They include declining oil and gas investments dating back to 2014 and flawed models for how quickly the world could transition to renewable sources, he said.

The "energy transition plan has been undermined by unrealistic scenarios and flawed assumptions because they have been mistakenly perceived as facts", Nasser said. His proposed "new global energy consensus" would involve recognizing long-term needs for oil and gas, enhancing energy efficiency and embracing "new, lower-carbon energy" to complement conventional sources.

Continued on Page 6

## Adnan Syed of 'Serial' podcast walks free

BALTIMORE: A US judge on Monday threw out the conviction of a man who has served more than two decades in prison for his ex-girlfriend's murder - a case that received worldwide attention thanks to the hit podcast "Serial". Baltimore City Circuit Court Judge Melissa Phinn vacated the conviction of Adnan Syed, 42, who has been serving a life sentence since 2000 for the 1999 murder of Hae Min Lee. Phinn ordered Syed released immediately on his own recognizance "in the interests of justice and fairness".

Cheers erupted in the packed courtroom when the judge ordered

officers to "remove the shackles" from Syed, who was sporting a thick beard and wearing a white shirt, dark tie and a white skullcap. Lee's body was found buried in Feb 1999 in a shallow grave in the woods of Baltimore, Maryland. The 18-year-old had been strangled. Syed has steadfastly maintained his innocence but his multiple appeals had been denied, including by the US Supreme Court which declined in 2019 to hear his case.

In a surprise move last week, the Baltimore City state's attorney, Marilyn Mosby, announced that she had asked the court to vacate Syed's conviction while a further investigation is carried out. Assistant state's attorney Becky Feldman told the judge on Monday the decision was prompted by the discovery of new information regarding two alternative suspects and the unreliability of cell-phone data used to convict Syed.

Continued on Page 6



BALTIMORE: Adnan Syed gestures while leaving the Baltimore City Circuit Courthouse on Sept 19, 2022, as he is released from prison. — AFP



# Kuwait's FM participates in GCC-China ministerial meeting



NEW YORK: Dr Sheikh Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah along with the Chinese and GCC foreign ministers. —KUNA photos



NEW YORK: Dr Sheikh Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, Foreign Minister meets with the Chinese representative to the UNGA.

NEW YORK: Dr Sheikh Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, Foreign Minister, participated in a ministerial meeting held between the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Republic of China. The meeting was held on the sidelines of the 77th UNGA session in New York. Meanwhile, representatives from China to the UN discussed ways of boosting GCC-China relations and exploring new horizons for strategic partnerships and economic cooperation, in a meeting held for foreign ministers on Monday. — KUNA

## Kuwait Deputy FM meets Iraq's ambassador

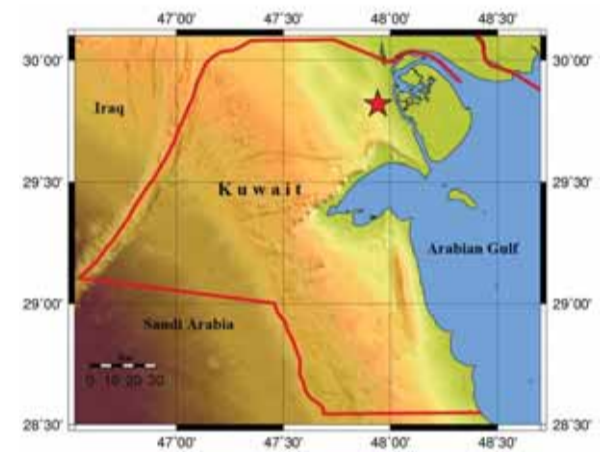


KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Magdy Al-Dhafaeri meets Iraq's Ambassador to Kuwait, Al-Manhal Al-Safi. — KUNA

KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Magdy Al-Dhafaeri met with Iraq's Ambassador to Kuwait, Al-Manhal Al-Safi on Tuesday. During the meeting, both sides discussed bilateral ties between the two friendly countries. — KUNA

## 3.3 magnitude quake registered in Al-Abdali

KUWAIT: Kuwait's National Seismic Network (KNSN) at Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) on Tuesday reported a 3.3 magnitude reading in the Southeastern region of Al-Abdali. Directing KNSN's operational body, Dr Abdullah Al-Enzi stated an earthquake took place at 1:46pm (GMT +3), estimated to have occurred 7km underground. — KUNA



## Kuwait FM meets with UNICEF ED

NEW YORK: Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah met with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Executive Director, Catherine Russell. The meeting was held in New York on the sidelines of the 77th session of the UN General Assembly. During the meeting, Kuwait's top diplomat lauded the UNICEF's noble role for over 70 years, in protecting children worldwide and helping children and their families who have had to face trauma from wars, poverty or exploitation. Meanwhile, Russell expressed great appreciation of Kuwait's efforts and initiatives to promote and protect children's rights regionally and internationally, considering it an ethical responsibility and a necessity for human progress. — KUNA



New York: Kuwait's Foreign Minister Dr Sheikh Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah meets UNICEF Executive Director, Catherine Russell. — KUNA



## Passion or profession

By Sawsan Saleh

KUWAIT: Choosing your profession is one of the most difficult decisions, simply because it is a huge part of your life and it can affect your mental health, as it can either be a huge relief in your life or you can suffer every day for the rest of your life. People can choose their profession based on different motivations—either they follow their passion or accept any available paid job. This can have different consequences in the long run.

Kuwait times interviewed citizens and residents with different perspectives and experiences to share their opinions about this topic.

Fatima Al-Zahra believes "people should pursue their passion because this will keep them happy in the long term, rather than doing a desk job. This will not work because when you are not passionate about it, you will be doing only what you need to do and at the end of the day you have nothing new to learn—you will be repeating it again and again and you will get bored of it."

Jafar Al-Haq said "I am working on my profession; I love my career choice because I can serve people as a future doctor. It is fun to have a passion and some people are lucky to find it in their same career."

Maya suggests a different but practical opinion when she says, "people must accept a paid job to support their families and ignore their dreams instead."

Regarding the availability of job opportunities that can fulfill our passion, Al-Zahra said, "Not in



Fatima Al-Zahra



Lisa Kiani

Kuwait! Not many opportunities are available for expats, unfortunately."

Fouad Mohammad added more to this point and said, "there are not many opportunities these days that satisfy us and the reason behind it is complicated because there is a lot of corruption in the government and people are being differentiated, so youngsters like us struggle as we work hard."

On the other hand, Lisa Kiani believes, "there are jobs out there that will fulfill your passion and if not, then that's a great chance for you to start your own business and be creative with your profession."

Meanwhile, Abeer Ibrahim explained, "Modern life has a huge impact on job availability nowadays, to be precise. The majority of firms demand technical skills, otherwise, you will not get the position. For instance, some countries like Kuwait encourage students to select specializations related to technology because it's the language of this era, instead of typical ones like accountancy or political science."

It is a real conflict between the heart and the head, that requires deep thought about it, to choose between your dream job or to apply for any vacancy which can sometimes be a real waste of energy.

## Health Minister inspects new Farwaniya Hospital

KUWAIT: Minister of Health, Dr Khaled Al-Saeed has inspected the working of the new Farwaniya

hospital during an inspection visit. The minister has inspected the medical and treatment services which is being given to patients and has surveyed the responsibilities of medical squads. Al-Saeed has also listened to a detailed explanation about the operation of the electronic system, communication department and the quality of operations related to communication after which he gave instructions to start the next phase of the functioning of the new hospital.



KUWAIT: Health Minister, Dr Khalid Al-Saeed inspects the working of the new Farwaniya Hospital.



Local

# KISR initiates whiteleg shrimp farming project

Project hailed as an important step in boosting food production



Dr Sherine Al-Subaei



KUWAIT: Samples of the shrimp farmed as part of the project.



KUWAIT: The team behind the KISR project with Dr Sherine Al-Subaei.

By Faten Omar

**KUWAIT:** Rising volatility in the global food system is causing a breakdown in a system that's already fragile. Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) has managed to farm whiteleg shrimp as an important step to boost food production, availability and sustainability. Speaking to Kuwait Times, Dr Sherine Al-Subaei, scientific researcher and head of the project at the institute's Center for Environmental and Life Sciences, explained KISR's project and how it succeeded in harvesting shrimp farmed in Wafra and Abdaly. It also aims to farm fish in desert areas and improve aquaculture operations.

**Kuwait Times:** Tell us more about commercially farmed shrimp.

**Subaei:** The hydroponics projects started in the seventies in Kuwait, but farming in low salinity water started seven years ago. We started to think about modern technology that would be sustainable and can be used in low salinity water to be adapted at the Wafra and Abdaly farms. Previously, our focus was on local shrimp, but now we are working on farming non-local shrimp because of their advantages, such as the rapid growth, resistance to diseases and extensive farming, factors more qualified to be used for scientific research. This type of

shrimp is also suitable to be farmed in the private sector.

**KT:** When did you start the project? How has it developed since then?

**Subaei:** The project started in 2015. It began as part of a search for modern methods of shrimp farming in the Kuwaiti environment. In 2019, we finished building the shrimp farm in Kabd. It started operating after the COVID-19 pandemic. Even during the pandemic, we continued to bring groundwater from Kabd and were working on continuous experiments to collect information and make the operating time easier and ready to reach a higher level. Regarding the farm, survival rates never exceeded 15 percent, but have now reached 56 percent. At the Kabd farm, it has reached 89 percent and 70 percent in the outer lake.

**KT:** What quantities are produced?

**Subaei:** We produce around 1,500 kilos.

**KT:** How will the project contribute to the food security system in Kuwait?

**Subaei:** As a research institute, we are working on developing technologies so that the private sector is ready to implement and apply them to contribute to food security. The technology is ready and any company in the private sector can apply it, and within a year, the Kuwaiti local market can get its needed output. The experimental model shrimp

farm has reached a commercial production level. We are still in the process of selling the produced shrimp, but the private sector is the main specialized sector for selling and producing. We are in the process of signing agreements on joint projects with some major companies in Kuwait.

**KT:** How long does it take to farm shrimp to reach the required size?

**Subaei:** In general, the harvest takes place after four months, and in low salinity water after three months - it depends on the weight. The required size is when the shrimp reaches 16 gm, but for farming in seawater, we can reach greater weights in 4-5 months, as the size of shrimp can reach 25-30 gm with the same quality.

**KT:** What is the difference between wild and farmed shrimp?

**Subaei:** The difference is only in color due to the species, as the farmed species is darker than regular ones, but the nutritional quality and even the taste is the same.

**KT:** How much does it cost?

**Subaei:** The cost of producing a kilo of shrimp is between KD 1 to KD 1.5. If there is a local hatchery for shrimp larvae, the costs will be lower.

**KT:** Will the shrimp farm contribute to obtaining suitable stocks to meet the large demand for shrimp products in the local markets?

**Subaei:** Kuwait imports more than 2,000 tons of shrimp. If there is one large commercial farm, it will produce 2,000 tons easily. Even if there are 20 farms with an average production of 100 tons, the local market's needs will be met. The land on which shrimp farms are built must be allocated, in order to meet the country's need for production. Also, there should be laws and regulations governing this sector and technology must be adopted by the private sector.

If there is a desire from the government, within two years, the local needs will be met. For now, our priority is the Kuwaiti market, as 70 percent of shrimp is imported. Later, we may start exporting the farmed shrimp to other countries.

**KT:** What is your next plan?

**Subaei:** Our next plan will be on two levels. First, we will work on more research to reduce costs and increase production, using lower-priced feed while maintaining the same quality. On the large investment level, we have a fish project on the coast for major companies, with important operational facilities like a main hatchery for the production of shrimp larvae, a hatchery for fish (hamour, sheam and subaiti), a feed factory and units for the production of shrimp and fish. This project is a demo on an area of 80,000 square meters, as a model for large companies.

## Al-Mutairi expresses interest to strengthen Arab Media Network

**CAIRO:** Nawaf Al-Mutairi, Head of the Arab Media Network, Ministry of Information expressed on Tuesday, Kuwait's interest and support in strengthening the Arab media for enhanced solidarity and with a view to serve the interests of the Arab world. Speaking on the sidelines of the 97th session of the Permanent Committee for Arab Media, Al-Mutairi said that the discussions focused on a number of issues, especially the Palestinian cause, which included highlighting the cause on international platforms as well as focusing on issues caused by the infringement of the Zionist entity on the Palestinians.

Al-Mutairi also noted that the committee's agenda was structured to discuss Arab news outlets and their role in addressing terrorism in media units. The committee also discussed the dangerous impact of online gaming and social media on the youth in the



Nawaf Al-Mutairi

Arab world, adding that talks were on to plan a unified strategy to work in cooperation with international media outlets, in addition, to conceptualizing the creation of an Arab media platform. The Committee also said that their itinerary would be presented to the Executive Office of Arab Information Ministers, where their draft resolutions will be

presented for the 52nd session, to be held on Thursday.

It was also noted that Kuwait is to be nominated for the leading position in this committee and hold upcoming sessions and embrace a major role in the development of the media networks. The 97th session of the Permanent Committee for Arab Media was launched earlier on, to prepare for the Council of Information Ministers meeting on Wednesday as well as for Thursday's meeting, which is to be hosted by Egypt. — KUNA

## Kuwait Customs seizes hashish at T4 airport

**KUWAIT:** An officer at the T4 airport has seized eight bags of hashish from a passenger who

arrived in Kuwait from a European country. Kuwait Customs said that the arrest was made after the officer suspected a passenger of carrying drugs and after further inspection and checks done through an x-ray device, seized eight bags of hashish, hidden within her clothes in her luggage. A statement released by the Customs warned that strict legal action would be initiated against people who smuggle any illegal substance into the country.



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Email: info@kuwaittimes.com  
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## News in brief

## Athletics commission grants leave of absence for athletes

**KUWAIT:** In a bid to improve the competency of athletes in the country, Mahmoud Abul, Acting Head of the Athletics Commission has announced the decision to allow athletes to take a leave of absence from work, a decision taken after discussions with representatives from local unions. "The leave of absence will be granted to 25 football players, 18 handball players, 16 basketball, volleyball and indoor football players as well as 14 players of water polo. Two managers and two technicians from each sport will be granted leave as well," he said. Abul also added that the Olympics Committee plans to have a maximum of 60 players, 15 union sports players, 10 specialized sports club players as well as 20 players for shooting sports. He encouraged participants from all sports to improve the technical and physical abilities of players and collaborate together to gain victories.

## MoH requests health insurance or identity cards for bedoons

**KUWAIT:** Mustafa Redha, Health Ministry Undersecretary, has issued an internal announcement to his assistants and area managers to request all bedoon workers to bring their identification cards or their health insurance cards to process claims to be sent to the Ministry. The announcement was made, following a request put forth by the Audit bureau to the ministry on Aug 29, to provide a list of the names of all stateless workers for inspection.

## CSC prepares list of Kuwaiti employees

**KUWAIT:** The Civil Service Commission (CSC) is preparing a list of employees in the government sector who will replace expatriate workers, as the government is in preparation to decrease the number of expatriate employees in the government next year. The list covers employee positions across all departments except those lacking Kuwaiti replacements, such as the technical departments in the Ministry of Health or scientific specializations in the Ministry of Education. "Using statistics, the CSC will highlight, in a press conference later on, the departments where the highest number of Kuwaiti employees are listed as well as those departments which have not been able to replace expatriate employees with nationals. These departments will also be held accountable for violations against the nationalization policy," sources told Kuwait Times. "The CSC's statistics will be published alongside reports from the Audit bureau and the financial supervision commission which would follow up on government spending, as they believe many government departments are in violation of various regulations," sources added. It is worth noting that currently the priority is for Kuwaiti nationals, then children of Kuwaiti mothers, then stateless citizens and last expatriate residents. "The government will study the published reports in order to start its next phase which will include the inclusion of the private sector into the scheme next year," sources clarified.

## Kuwait participates in 48th Arab council In Egypt

**CAIRO:** Dr Mubarak Al-Azemi headed a Kuwaiti panel that participated in the 48th Arab Labor Conference. "The schedule at the conference will discuss many issues including a report by the head of the Arab Labor, agreements and suggestions, financial matters as well as digitalization of reports," Al-Azemi said. "The panel representing Kuwait has participated in the 58th meeting for the committee in the Gulf Cooperation Council on Sept 17, where GCC decisions have been agreed upon regarding the conferences' issues and nominees of the GCC have been named in constitutional and technical committees," he said. "We have also congratulated leading Arab businessmen including Kuwait's Khaled Al-Ghubaishan, Rashid Al-Haroun and Husain Al-Mashmoum."

## Social Affairs minister directs co-ops to provide bank statements

**KUWAIT:** Fahad Al-Shuraian, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Minister of Social Affairs has asked members of council of managers at co-ops to provide bank statements to the anti-corruption commission to ensure the safeguarding of investors' money. "The decision comes as a move to protect cooperatives and as a way for economic and social development which necessitates taking procedures that stops any attempts for corruption," Al-Shuraian clarified. "The generalization is for all co-ops and it is important for members of the council to provide their bank statements within the correct regulation framework," he added.

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# Kuwaiti youth transform passions into successful business ventures

**KUWAIT:** While some people depend on government salaries to cover their living expenses, a number of Kuwaiti youngsters have sought alternative modes of income by turning their passions into lucrative businesses. Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) met with several youngsters who expressed their deep desire to break the mold and to embody the saying "If you do what you love, you'll never work a day in your life". Art studio owner, Dalal Al-Hashel said that she was proud to be one of the first in Kuwait to open a space dedicated to 'latte art' - a discipline focusing on creating art from pouring micro-foams into cups of coffee.

Al-Hashel revealed that she began her quest in 2021 starting women-only classes in latte art, which proved to be very popular and lucrative. Meanwhile, coffee roastery owner Fawaz Nasser said that the initial seeds for his business were conceptualized during the 2020 COVID-19 lockdown. Post-lockdown measures, Nasser and his partner traveled abroad to gain experience and once back home, started their own coffee roastery business.

"There were many trials I faced due to being a youth and not having the necessary capital to open the business," said Nasser who had to take a bank loan to kick-start his quest to provide top notch coffee for clients. Similarly, Yasmeen Mohammad, a



ceramic and clay artist, indicated that she did not know that her passion for her art would lead her to open a business. Prior to pursuing her dream, Yasmeen was a government employee who took a leap of faith by quitting her day job and opening a shop at home. The home business was followed by a shop opening, which then turned into a showroom where she provides classes in ceramic and clay art for anyone interested in the activity. Speaking about such ventures, several members of the public have

expressed their support. Abu Yousef, a 74-year-old senior citizen, gave his approval and support to the youth saying that what they were doing was not very far from what the old generation used to pursue in terms of hard work and determination. Um Manal, another senior citizen, expressed pride in the youngsters' dreams of a better future, saying that his son was a car mechanic who left his government job to follow his passion, adding that his shop employs both Kuwaitis and residents. — KUNA

## Zain recognizes H&S Store Summer Program trainees

**KUWAIT:** Zain, the leading digital service provider in Kuwait, recognized the participants of the third H&S Store Summer Internship Program. The recognition came during the special event held at the company's main headquarters in Shuwaikh to celebrate 35 bright young people who successfully developed various valuable business and technical skills throughout 45 days during the summer season. The ceremony was held at the Zain Innovation Campus (ZINC), attended by Zain Kuwait's Corporate Affairs Department Manager, Hamad Al Musaiibeh and H&S Store Founder and General Manager Fahad Al Mithin. All participants were recognized for successfully completing the program, while the three top-performing trainees were also specially recognized for their excellence.

Zain extended its partnership with this unique program in line with its Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility Strategy, which closely focuses on the development of the education and youth sectors. The program achieved great success in its past two editions, with many students signing up to develop their skills and add to their knowledge by experiencing a hands-on approach in a real workplace environment. The H&S Store Summer



KUWAIT: Al Musaiibeh and Al Mithin with the recognized trainees.

Internship Program came in partnership with Zain's Future University Network (FUN) program and aimed at developing students' skills within various administrative and technical areas, including product marketing, customer service, smartphone maintenance, and more. The program prepared students for the job market after completing their studies by working in a paid part-time job throughout 45 days during their summer vacation. FUN is a youth-tailored social program for students that bridges the gap between studying and a unique work experience at Zain by recruiting youth as the brand's main ambassadors. FUN is considered one of the largest sustainable projects that Zain has been developing over the years since its first edition in 2008. It offers university students a valuable opportunity to bene-

fit from an actual work experience to develop many skills and gain expertise for the job market on both professional and personal levels. Zain is committed to exerting more efforts into offering similar programs that enrich human resources development in all areas. The company spares no efforts in making its capabilities and resources available as well as reinforce its collaboration with entities and organizations that provide such initiatives and actively develop Kuwaiti talents. H&S Store was established in 2011 with the aim of offering its customers a wide range of high-quality tech products with a hassle-free shopping experience to ensure their satisfaction in Kuwait and throughout the GCC region, as well as providing specialized maintenance and repair workshops for smart devices.





**Khmer Rouge war crimes court winds up this week**

## Palestinian Authority arrest raid sparks deadly West Bank clashes



**LONDON: Flowers and tributes left in Green Park are pictured on Sept 20, 2022, a day after the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II. —AFP**

# Britain cleans up after queen's funeral

## Truss praise 'huge outpouring of love and affection'

**LONDON:** Flags on government buildings returned to full mast and an epic clean-up operation was underway on Tuesday as British public life resumed after the state funeral of Queen Elizabeth II, although the royal family remains in mourning for another week.

Around a quarter of a million people queued round the clock to view the queen's coffin as it lay in state in the days leading up to the funeral, the UK government said. Liz Truss, appointed prime minister by the queen just two days before she died on September 8, flew to the UN General Assembly hours after delivering a biblical reading at the lavish funeral.

En route to New York, Truss praised the "huge outpouring of love and affection" shown towards the late monarch, as well as the "huge amount of warmth towards" her successor, King Charles III. Charles, 73, and his family will remain in mourning for another seven days.

That means no official engagements after he spent an exhausting week touring his new kingdom and attending to the ornate pageantry of a role that he has spent a lifetime preparing to take on. The royal Twitter account published a picture of the queen hiking in 1971 at her Scottish retreat of Balmoral, where she died at the age of 96 as Britain's longest-reigning monarch.

The photograph was accompanied with the words: "May flights of Angels sing thee to thy rest. In loving memory of Her Majesty The Queen." The quotation is from the tragic conclusion of Shakespeare's play "Hamlet", and was also used by Charles in his first national broadcast as king the day after his mother passed away.

### Dramas old and new

Britain's National Grid said there was a drop-off of two gigawatts in usage on the UK power network—the equivalent of 200 million lightbulbs being switched off—from 10:30 am to 11:00 am (0930 to 1000 GMT) on Monday.

"This was because people were stopping their usual

activities in time for the funeral," a spokesman told AFP. Following a public holiday for the funeral, business life was resuming, and workers were busy clearing up the debris left by the estimated million-plus people who lined the streets of London on Monday.

Members of parliament are set to take an oath of allegiance to their new sovereign, as political life also resumes after the official period of government mourning. Culture Secretary Michelle Donelan said she did not know the final cost of the state funeral at Westminster Abbey, which entailed a vast security operation for hundreds of foreign dignitaries.

But she told Sky News the British public would agree that it "was money well spent". "You saw so many thousands out there and I don't think anybody can suggest that our late monarch didn't deserve that send-off, given the duty and the selfless service that she committed to over 70 years."

No date has been fixed for the coronation of Charles, Donelan added. That event will return the spotlight to Westminster Abbey and to debate over whether the new king can play the same unifying role his mother did.

### Disunited kingdom

But with the departure of the only monarch most Britons have ever known, attention was turning back to the country's soaring inflation problem and the crisis stemming from Russia's war in Ukraine. There are also deeper fissures over the very future of the United Kingdom, as Scotland's nationalist government agitates for another referendum on independence, and as Northern Ireland turns majority-Catholic for the first time.

"Is it possible that in the Windsor vault now lies buried the person who, more than any other, served to cohere these islands?" commentator Jonathan Freedland wrote in The Guardian newspaper.

"The last 10 days have been a holiday from the usual

political polarisation: admiration for the queen was one of the few things most people could agree on," he said.

"If that turns out to have been the magic of Elizabeth, rather than the Crown, then it's not clear how long there will be a United Kingdom for Charles to reign over." For most UK media, the focus remained on the unquestionable

grandeur with which the country and the world bade adieu to Elizabeth.

"An outpouring of love," the Daily Telegraph headlined, above a picture of Charles draping military colours held in life by his mother over her coffin in Windsor Castle. —AFP

## UN concern at 'lethal' Iran crackdown

**TEHRAN:** The United Nations and rights groups expressed concern Tuesday over what activists described as a lethal crackdown in Iran against protesters over the death of a young woman after her arrest by Tehran's notorious morality police. Mahsa Amini, 22, died on Friday three days after she was urgently hospitalised following her arrest by police responsible for enforcing Iran's strict dress code for women. Activists said she suffered a blow to the head in custody but this has not been confirmed by the Iranian authorities, who have opened an investigation.

There have been protests in Tehran but the fiercest clashes so far have been in Iran's northern Kurdistan province where Amini was from, with rights groups saying up to four protesters have been killed so far and dozens more wounded and arrested. New York-based Human Rights Watch said that witness accounts and videos circulating on social media "indicate that authorities are using teargas to disperse protesters and have apparently used lethal force in Kurdistan province."

"Cracking down with teargas and lethal force against protesters demanding accountability for a woman's death in police custody reinforces the systematic nature of government rights abuses and impunity," said Tara Sepehri Far, HRW's senior Iran researcher.

In Geneva, the UN said acting High Commissioner for Human Rights Nadia Al-Nashif expressed alarm at Amini's death and the "violent response by security forces to ensuing protests." She said there must be an independent investigation into "Mahsa Amini's tragic death and allegations of torture and ill-treatment."

### 'Stop further state killings'

The Kurdish human rights group Hengaw, which is based



**TEHRAN:** A picture obtained by AFP outside Iran shows a motorbike burning in the middle of an intersection during protests for Mahsa Amini, a woman who died after being arrested by the Islamic republic's "morality police", in Tehran. —AFP

in Norway, said it had confirmed a total of three deaths in Kurdistan province—one in the towns of Divandareh, Saqqez and Dehglan. It added that 221 people had been wounded and another 250 arrested in the Kurdistan region, where there had also been a general strike on Monday. A 10-year-old girl—images of whose blood-spattered body have gone viral on social media—was wounded in the town of Bukan but was alive, it added. Images posted on social media have shown fierce clashes especially in the town of Divandareh between protesters and the security forces, with sounds of live fire.

The Oslo-based Iran Human Rights (IHR) group said that four people had been killed in protests where people shouted slogans including "Death to the dictator" and "Woman, life, freedom". "The international community shouldn't be silent observers of the crimes the Islamic Republic commits against its own people," said IHR director Mahmood Amiry-Moghaddam.

"We call on countries with diplomatic relations with Iran, the EU in particular, to stop further state killings by supporting the people's demands to realise their basic rights." IHR said security forces used batons, teargas, water cannons, rubber bullets and live ammunition in certain regions "to directly target protesters and crush the protests." —AFP

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## International

# Palestinian Authority arrest raid sparks deadly West Bank clashes

## West Bank has suffered near daily violence in recent months

**NABLUS:** A rare operation by the Palestinian Authority security forces to arrest a Hamas member sparked clashes in the West Bank city of Nablus on Tuesday, killing one. A statement from the security forces confirmed the death of Firas Yaish and said they were "waiting for a medical report," on the circumstances of his killing.

He was killed "in a place where no security personnel were present," forces spokesman Talal Dweikat said in a statement. Unrest persisted through the morning, with hundreds of youths hurling rocks at PA armoured vehicles and the sound of gunfire ringing out across the city centre, AFP correspondents reported.

Hamas, historic rivals of the secular Fatah movement that controls the PA, condemned the arrest of 30-year-old Musaab Shtayyeh, calling it a "kidnapping... a national crime" and a "stain" on the PA's image.

It demanded the immediate release of Shtayyeh and Ameer Tbaileh, who was arrested with him,

and blasted the PA for keeping up security coordination with Zionist entity. "The authority has positioned itself as an exclusive agent of the occupation in the face of our Palestinian people," the statement said.

While Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas's forces maintain security ties with Zionist entity, which has occupied the West Bank since 1967, PA raids targeting Hamas members are not common. Fatah and Hamas have made various reconciliation attempts in recent years but relations remain tense. Hamas has controlled Gaza since 2007, when it ousted PA forces from the coastal enclave in deadly street battles.

The northern West Bank has suffered near daily violence in recent months. Zionist entity has conducted dozens of night-time raids in the area, particularly in Jenin, pursuing wanted individuals. Dozens of Palestinians, including fighters, have been killed in the raids that began after a series of deadly attacks against Israeli targets in March. — AFP



**NABLUS:** Palestinian protesters clash with Palestinian security forces in Nablus in the occupied West Bank on September 20, 2022, following the arrest of two members of the Islamist group Hamas. — AFP

## Missing Madeleine's parents lose case against inspector

**STRASBOURG:** The parents of Madeleine McCann, a three-year-old British girl who disappeared while on a family holiday in 2007, have lost their privacy case at Europe's top rights court against a Portuguese police inspector.

Her disappearance sparked a Europe-wide search and several police investigations, which led last year to a convicted sex offender in Germany. Police initially suspected that the child, known as Maddie, might have died accidentally and that her parents, Gerry McCann and Kate Healy, hid the body and staged an abduction.

In 2008, those claims were reiterated in a book by the Portuguese police inspector who initially led the case, Goncalo Amaral, prompting the parents to sue for libel. They won their case but it was later struck down by Portugal's supreme court, so the parents filed a case with the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, eastern France.

The couple—both medical doctors—said that Amaral's accusations had damaged their reputation and violated their right to private and family life, and that the supreme court's acquittal had violated their right to presumption of innocence.

But in its ruling handed down on Tuesday, the ECHR said Amaral's claims had already been made in official police reports, to which the media had been



**Gerry McCann and Kate Healy seen holding a photo of Madeleine.**

given access. It also noted that Maddie's parents had been placed under investigation before being cleared and that the book was published only after prosecutors closed the case. "Even assuming that the applicants' reputation had been damaged, this was not on account of the argument put forward by the book's author but rather as a result of the suspicions expressed against them," the court said.

It added that with regards to Amaral's acquittal, "it did not appear that... the supreme court had made comments implying any guilt on the part of the applicants or even suggesting suspicions against them".

Kate and Gerry McCann said in response that they were "naturally disappointed" with the court's decision. But they said on their website findmadeleine.com that "much has changed" in the 13 years since they started legal action against Amaral. — AFP

## Too weak to cry: Famine looms over Somalia's children

**MOGADISHU:** As flies buzz over his tiny body, two-year-old Sadak Ibrahim barely whimpers, too weak to cry or shoo them away—a heartbreaking glimpse of the hunger crisis gripping Somalia. The Horn of Africa nation is on the brink of a second famine in just over a decade, enduring its worst drought in 40 years after failed rainy seasons since late 2020 wiped out crops and livestock.

With a fifth monsoon forecast to fail, the United Nations warned this month that time was running out to save lives as it urged donors to contribute more to the relief effort. UN humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths said the situation was worse than the 2011 famine when 260,000 people died in the country, more than half of them children under the age of six.

Aid is slowly making its way to Somalia following delays caused by the war in Ukraine, which also sent the cost of transport and emergency supplies soaring. But many fear the help will arrive too late for the country's youngest victims like Sadak, with around 730 children already reported dead in nutrition centres between January and July this year, according to UNICEF. At De Martino Hospital in the capital Mogadishu, Sadak's anxious mother Fadumo Daud sat vigil by the toddler's bedside, a feeding tube dangling from his face, as she prayed for a miracle. "He is the only child I have, and he is very sick as you can see,"

the young woman told AFP, recounting the three-day journey that brought her to Mogadishu from Baidoa—one of the epicentres of the crisis.

### 'Dramatic increase'

In recent years, climate disasters have increasingly become the main driver of migration in Somalia, which is also grappling with a brutal 15-year Islamist insurgency. Every day, dozens of people stream into camps set up for displaced families in Mogadishu. The International Rescue Committee (IRC) non-profit runs seven health and nutrition centres in and around the capital, but their resources are sharply stretched with the crisis showing no signs of abating.

"The number of new arrivals has increased dramatically starting from June this year," IRC nutrition officer Faisa Ali told AFP. Most of the children turn up malnourished, she said, with their numbers trebling from a maximum of 13 a day in May to 40 now.

A mother of 10, Nuunay Adan Durow fled her home and travelled 300 kilometres (200 miles) to find medical help for her three-year-old son Hassan Mohamed, his limbs swollen due to severe malnutrition.

"For the last three years, we have not harvested anything due to lack of rain," Durow told AFP, describing how she was forced to trek for two hours daily to find water for her family. "We faced a terrible situation," the 35-year-old said, cradling Hassan in her arms as they awaited medical attention at an IRC centre on the outskirts of Mogadishu.

The drought has also affected parts of Kenya and Ethiopia but the risks for Somalia are particularly grave, with 200,000 people in danger of starvation and around 1.5 million children facing acute malnutrition by next month, the UN says. — AFP

## Kuwait keen on transforming...

Continued from Page 1

With regards to Kuwait, the prime minister said that his country is on a steady march via its 2035 New Kuwait development vision, cultivating the skills of the youth and enabling them to lead under the watchful eyes of the Kuwaiti leadership. Kuwait plans for development are compatible with the 2030 SDGs, stressed Sheikh Ahmad, noting that it is paramount to invest in education and scientific research, especially in the age of digital transformation sweeping the world, and this could all be achieved through a serious global partnership.

He added Kuwaiti national policy gave precedence to developing human resources to contribute to further creativity based on new modes of education supported by the government, the private sector, and civil society. Kuwait is keen on sustainable funding for education, allocating 12 percent of domestic spending to develop education, a high percentage according to international standards. H1 the Prime Minister also added that Kuwait has been investing in human and financial resources to ensure an adequate educational output, which is in line with the fourth SDG.

Kuwait will not hesitate to bear responsibility both regionally and internationally towards achieving the SDGs and will be willing to partake in all global partnerships dedicated by its vast humanitarian legacy, affirmed the Kuwaiti prime minister. He noted his country has provided development assistance to over 108 countries worldwide, especially through the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED). It is paramount for countries around the world to join and face all challenges against achieving SDGs, he said, adding that supporting education is amongst the key factors in achieving the SDGs.

The United Nations' massive global summit returned Tuesday with a stark warning from the world body's chief of an upcoming "winter of global discontent" from rising prices, a warming planet and deadly conflicts,

## Aramco slams transition goals...

Continued from Page 1

Nasser nonetheless said there should be no change in global climate goals. Riyadh has come under intense outside pressure in recent months to ramp up oil production, including during a visit by US President Joe Biden in July. So far it has largely rebuffed those appeals, coordinating with the OPEC+ cartel it jointly leads with Russia. Earlier this month the bloc agreed to cut production for the first time in more than a year as it seeks to lift prices

After two years of pandemic restrictions and video addresses, the UN General Assembly again asked leaders to come in person if they wish to speak - with a sole exception made for Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, while saluting efforts for global cooperation, warned of a dire state of the planet. "A winter of global discontent is on the horizon," Guterres said as he opened the annual General Assembly. "Trust is crumbling, inequalities are exploding, our planet is burning. People are hurting - with the most vulnerable suffering the most."

With global temperatures rising and a chunk of Pakistan the size of the United Kingdom recently under water, Guterres lashed out at fossil fuel companies and the "suicidal war against nature". "Let's tell it like it is - our world is addicted to fossil fuels. It's time for an intervention. We need to hold fossil fuel companies and their enablers to account," Guterres said. He called on all developed economies to tax profits from fossil fuels and dedicate the funds both to compensate for damage from climate change and to help people struggling with high prices. "Polluters must pay," Guterres said.

The summit was disrupted after the death of Queen Elizabeth II, with President Joe Biden of the United States, by tradition the second speaker on the opening day, instead due to speak on Wednesday. Day one features French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, the leaders of the two largest economies of the European Union, which has mobilized to impose tough sanctions over Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

With the Ukraine war leading to a global grain crisis, hunger is another major issue on the agenda. More than 200 NGOs called for urgent action from leaders gathered for the General Assembly to "end the spiraling global hunger crisis". "Around the world, 50 million people are on the brink of starvation in 45 countries," they said, adding that as many as 19,700 people are estimated to be dying of hunger every day, which translates to one person every four seconds. In the type of last-minute diplomacy common at previous UN sessions, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken convened a first meeting of the foreign ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia since a flare-up in fighting. — AFP

that have tumbled due to recession fears.

Long-term, Saudi Arabia plans to increase daily oil production capacity by more than one million barrels to exceed 13 million by 2027. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the kingdom's de facto ruler, has also tried to make environmentally friendly policies a centerpiece of his reform agenda. Last year, Saudi Arabia pledged ahead of the COP26 climate change summit to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2060, sparking skepticism from environmental campaigners.

Saudi Aramco, for its part, has pledged to achieve "operational net-zero" carbon emissions by 2050. That applies to emissions that are produced directly by Aramco's industrial sites, but not the CO2 produced when clients burn Saudi oil in their cars, power plants and furnaces. — AFP

## Adnan Syed of 'Serial' podcast...

Continued from Page 1

"The state has lost confidence in the integrity of his conviction," Feldman said. "We need to make sure we hold the correct person accountable. "We will be continuing our investigation," she said, while promising to "do everything we can to bring justice to the Lee family". Syed's attorney, Erica Suter, also addressed the court, saying "my client is innocent". Suter was asked by reporters how Syed, who did not make any public statement, reacted to the judge's decision. "He said he could not believe it's real," she said.

Baltimore City prosecutors now have 30 days to either bring new charges against Syed or dismiss the case. "We're not yet declaring Adnan Syed is innocent," Mosby, the state's attorney, told reporters after the hearing. She said the state was awaiting the results of new DNA tests on Lee's clothing before deciding whether to drop all charges or organize a new trial.

## Hope for change as court reinstates...

Continued from Page 1

New candidate Hamad Al-Mudlej, running in the first constituency, said Kuwait is coming out of a "dark decade" in which the state was hijacked and destructive legislation were issued. He said Kuwait today stands at a dangerous crossroads, adding he is optimistic the Kuwaiti people will not allow forces of corruption to take the country back to square one.

Mudlej said the next assembly will open all files of corruption and will start an era of accountability against all those who were involved in corruption. He said an unholy alliance of merchants and previous governments had controlled the state and are still planning to stage a comeback.

Former opposition MP Mohammad Al-Mutair said during the "dark decade", the "deep state" exploited state agencies to terrorize people, imprison them, dismiss them from jobs and revoke their citizenships. "Now, we are going to restart

Before the hearing began, Lee's brother, Young Lee, addressed the court by Zoom. An emotional Lee said he was "kind of blindsided" by the prosecutor's decision to vacate Syed's conviction. "Out of nowhere I hear that there's a motion to vacate judgment," he said. "It's tough going through this again and again and again." Lee said he "trusts the court system" and asked the judge to "make the right decision."

Syed's case earned worldwide attention when it was taken up in 2014 by "Serial", a weekly podcast that saw a journalist revisit his conviction and cast doubt on his guilt. His case has also been the subject of a four-part documentary on the HBO channel called "The Case Against Adnan Syed". The "Serial" podcast - a mix of investigative journalism, first-person narrative and dramatic storytelling - focused its first season on Syed's story in 12 nail-biting episodes.

Both Syed and Lee were high school honor students and children from immigrant families - he Pakistani, she South Korean - who had concealed their relationship from their conservative parents. Prosecutors said during the trial that Syed was a scorned lover who felt humiliated after Lee broke up with him. — AFP

the wheels of development and construction... We have already hit the foundations of the deep state hard," and as a result, they are targeting all reformist candidates, Mutair said.

Former opposition MP Marzouq Al-Hubaini said everyone is hoping that a reformist National Assembly will be elected and will take the country to the shores of safety. He said the first people who should be held to account are corrupt members of the National Assembly. "These elections are different from all previous polls. We are in a state of hope, in a state of restoring confidence," said Hubaini, adding the Amiri speech has opened a new page in Kuwait's political history, which returned hope to the country.

Former MP Hasan Jowhar said that the root cause of lingering political disputes in Kuwait has been the violation of constitution by the government and others, adding the Amiri speech was received by the people with joy, similar to the joy of liberation from the Iraqi occupation in 1991. He said Kuwait has \$1 trillion in assets invested by investment funds, adding that if "we invest the returns of those investments for two to three years in key projects in the country, we will diversify sources of income" to reduce dependence on oil as the only source of income.



## International

# Eleven schoolchildren killed in Myanmar air strike: UNICEF

## Fiercest fighting between anti-coup fighters and military have seen entire villages burned down

YANGON: At least 11 schoolchildren died in an air strike and firing on a Myanmar village, the United Nations children's agency said, an attack the country's junta said targeted rebels hiding in the area. Myanmar has been in chaos since the military seized power in a coup in February last year, with nearly 2,300 civilians killed in a crackdown on dissent according to a local monitoring group.

condemned Friday's violence in Depayin township in Sagaing. "On 16 September, at least 11 children died in an air strike and indiscriminate fire in civilian areas," UNICEF said in a statement issued Monday. It said schools must be safe and never targeted.

"At least 15 children from the same school are still missing," UNICEF said, calling for their immediate safe release. Video footage obtained from a local community group shows a classroom with blood on the floor, damage to the roof and a mother crying over her son's dead body.

military said in a statement. Junta spokesman Zaw Min Tun on Tuesday accused the KIA of taking villagers to a monastery and then firing on troops from there.

A villager contacted by AFP rejected the military's suggestions there were fighters in the area. "They just attacked the school. They say someone attacked them, then they fought back but this is not true," said the villager, who spoke on condition of anonymity for their own safety. The villager said the military had taken away some of the bodies and detained a number of people, including children and teachers. Save the Children Asia Regional Director Hassan Noor expressed condolences to the families and said schools should be off-limits and the safety of students protected.

"How many more incidents like this need to take place before action is taken?" Noor said, urging the UN Security Council and Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) to take swift action. ASEAN has led so far fruitless diplomatic efforts to resolve the crisis in Myanmar and its leaders will meet in Phnom Penh in November to discuss limited progress on a peace plan. — AFP



DABAYIN, Myanmar: Photo shows a young victim of an air strike on a school building in Depayin township in Myanmar's northwest Sagaing region, a day after an attack on the village by a Myanmar military helicopter. — AFP



15 children are still missing

The Sagaing region in the country's northwest has seen some of the fiercest fighting, and clashes between anti-coup fighters and the military have seen entire villages burned down. The UN children's agency UNICEF



PHNOM PENH, Cambodia: Picture shows Cambodian survivor of the infamous Tuol Sleng prison Chum Mey (L) telling his story to tourists at the Tuol Sleng genocide museum in Phnom Penh. — AFP

## Khmer Rouge war crimes court winds up this week

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia: Cambodia's UN-backed court set up to try Khmer Rouge leaders finishes its work this week, ending a 16-year process that has helped national reconciliation but brought only limited solace to survivors of the genocidal regime.

The Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) will on Thursday give its judgment in the appeal by 91-year-old former head of state Khieu Samphan against his 2018 conviction for genocide and crimes against humanity. It will be the last verdict given by the tribunal, which has cost more than \$330 million and been dogged by complaints about the slowness of its work as well as allegations of interference by Cambodia's ruling party.

For Chum Mey, one of only a handful of survivors of the notorious S-21 torture prison, nothing will erase the trauma of the Khmer Rouge butchering his wife and four children. "Only when I die, then I can forget everything," Chum Mey told AFP inside S-21, once a school and now a museum chronicling the atrocities of the Khmer Rouge.

Under leader Pol Pot, two million Cambodians died from starvation, torture, forced labour and mass execution—nearly a quarter of the kingdom's population wiped out by the ultra-communist regime as it sought to create an agrarian utopia.

Khieu Samphan is one of only three top leaders convicted by the special court, along with "Brother Number Two" Nuon Chea—considered the regime's chief ideologue—and S-21 prison chief Kaing Guek Eav, better known as Duch. Two previous appeals have been unsuccessful—in fact, the court increased Duch's sentence on appeal.

### Difficult start

The court had a difficult birth. In 1997 the Cambodian government asked for UN help in judging Khmer Rouge leaders. But it rejected the idea of another International Criminal Tribunal along the lines of those created for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, insisting on a sovereign court run by Cambodian and international judges.

Eventually an agreement was reached in 2003, but the first hearing—in the case against Duch—was not held until 2009. In total, five senior Khmer Rouge cadres, all elderly, faced trial at the court, but two died during proceedings and two others—Duch and Nuon Chea—died after conviction.

Regime leader Pol Pot died in 1998 before the court was established, while three other figures charged with genocide and crimes against humanity will not face trial due to disagreements between Cambodian and international judges.

S-21 survivor Chum Mey, who gave evidence in 2009, said the court had given only "about 70 percent of justice" but its work was still valuable. "The most important point is that the court prosecuting the Khmer Rouge leaders makes people know nationwide... about the killings by Pol Pot, so they won't let this happen again," the 91-year-old said.

Another source of controversy was the court's limited remit, which allowed it to prosecute only senior Khmer Rouge leaders. Exiled opposition leader Sam Rainsy says this decision effectively shielded Prime Minister Hun Sen—a former Khmer Rouge commander who has ruled the country since 1985.

The strongman premier has repeatedly warned against broadening the scope of the trials, saying it could threaten national stability.

### 'Mixed legacy'

"The court has a decidedly mixed legacy, a mix of solid accomplishments and disappointing failures," said Craig Etcheson, author of several books on Cambodia including one on the special court. However, the tribunal helped "super-charge the process of national reconciliation," Etcheson said.

"Parents feel more free to talk to their children about what happened to them... schools have incorporated new materials about the Pol Pot time into their curricula, neighbours began to talk to neighbours about their experiences," he said.

Nearly a quarter of a million people attended the hearings, which took evidence from more than 300 witnesses, civil parties and experts. Etcheson argues the court was "a relative bargain" compared with other international tribunals, and donors were "far too stingy", causing delays in the proceedings.

Youk Chhang, director of the Documentation Center of Cambodia, which conducts research on the Khmer Rouge regime, believes it is a mistake to focus on the court's financial issues. — AFP

## Indian girl dies after being raped, set on fire

NEW DELHI: A 16-year-old Indian girl allegedly gang-raped and set on fire by two men has died in hospital, police told AFP Tuesday. The girl was a Dalit, the lowest rung in the Hindu caste system who suffer disproportionately high levels of sexual violence in a country with high rates of crime against women.

Her death on Monday came less than a week after two Dalit sisters, aged 15 and 17, were found hanging from a tree after being allegedly sexually assaulted and murdered by six men. Both incidents took place in the poor northern state of Uttar Pradesh, home to about 230 million people, where similar crimes regularly make headlines.

In the latest case the girl from a rural area was allegedly attacked by two men and set on fire early this month. She was shifted to a hospital in the state capital Lucknow where she succumbed to her injuries on Monday. "We arrested the accused within two hours of the incident being reported and assured the family of proper follow-up action against the perpetrators," local police chief Dinesh Kumar Prabhu told AFP. Prabhu said police had since been deployed around the girl's house "to check any untoward incident".

In previous cases low-caste families have been threatened or attacked to stop them testifying. Activists say police often fail to take seriously accusations made by the marginalised community and that they lack recourse to legal representation.

Last year the Uttar Pradesh authorities' swift cremation before an autopsy of a Dalit rape victim murdered by an upper-caste Hindu man triggered widespread outrage. Nearly 32,000 cases of rape were reported in India in 2021, according to government figures, but many more are thought to go unreported.—AFP

## Misinformation shrouds Philippine martial law era horrors

MANILA: American lawyer Thomas Jones still remembers the scars of Philippine torture victims he interviewed for Amnesty International inside the country's detention centres in 1975 during the rule of late dictator Ferdinand Marcos. But Marcos, who presided over widespread abuses and corruption during his 20 years in power, denied the lawyer's visit to the Philippines ever happened. Decades later the dictator's claim—debunked by AFP and others—has resurfaced on social media sites popular among Filipinos.

Amnesty estimates thousands of people were killed and tens of thousands tortured and imprisoned after Marcos imposed martial law on September 21, 1972. Under legislation signed in 2013 by former president Benigno Aquino, 11,103 victims of torture, killings, enforced disappearances and other abuses have been officially recognised and compensated. In the run-up to Wednesday's 50th anniversary of the start of martial law, pro-Marcos posts have flooded Facebook and TikTok with false and misleading claims that cast doubt on Amnesty's findings and downplay the abuses.

AFP has fact-checked multiple posts that carried footage of Marcos addressing US media in 1982. Marcos—father of current Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr who has defended martial law—accused Amnesty of relying on "hearsay" for his findings. And he falsely claimed the rights group "never" visited the country.

The clip resurfaced on TikTok in March after an anti-Marcos Senate candidate running in May 9 elections cited Amnesty for figures showing the horrors of martial law. "Amnesty International (said) 3,257 were killed during Marcos's time, 35,000 were tortured... 70,000 were imprisoned. It's a matter of record," Luke Espiritu said in a debate. Within hours of that livestreamed event, the Marcos footage had been stitched with the Espiritu video and circulated on TikTok and Facebook. It received more than 900,000 views, according to analysis by AFP's Fact Check team. One post drew more than 3,000 comments that questioned Amnesty's numbers and described the dictator as "a great leader destroyed by black propaganda". Jones said Marcos lied about the Amnesty visit and martial law abuses, and decades later Filipinos were being deceived by his son.

"People of the Philippines, they still don't know the facts," the 81-year-old told AFP from his home in Wisconsin. Jones and a colleague interviewed Marcos, members of his cabinet and 107 detainees during their visit.

Marcos admitted about 50,000 people had been

arrested in the first few years of martial law, while 71 detainees told them they had been tortured, Jones said. Amnesty published their findings in 1976, with their conclusion that "torture was used freely and with extreme cruelty, often over long periods".

The Marcos government denied torture was "widely used" and said Amnesty's report was "based on fabrications, biased, and without factual foundations".

### 'Short memories'

Josefina Forcadilla, 66, one of the detainees mentioned in the Amnesty report, remembers being interviewed by Jones and his colleague while she was imprisoned. "I was hesitant to talk to them at first, until they said they wanted to document what my family went through at the time," she told AFP. Forcadilla was 17 when police raided their house in search of her elder brother in April 1973. She said an officer boxed her ears, fondled her breasts and played Russian roulette with a gun while interrogating her about his whereabouts.

"I was in shock. I couldn't cry. I knew then that their purpose was really to kill," she said. She and three other siblings were eventually arrested. Her elder sister was assaulted and died in detention, while her brother was tortured and another sister gave birth in prison.

"My family can't help but ask, why do Filipinos have short memories?" she said. Amnesty visited the Philippines again in 1981 to document abuses that took place from 1976 onwards. In a 2018 statement, Amnesty said: "From 1972 to 1981, some 70,000 people were imprisoned and 34,000 were tortured; over 3,200 people were killed." Marcos was toppled from power in 1986. Rachel Chhoa-Howard, Amnesty researcher for Southeast Asia, defended the rights group's estimates, saying they were "based on our own field missions and documentation during the 80s and cross-referenced with other research at the time". But she said the true scale of the abuses may never be known "given the immensity and pervasiveness of violations during that time".

### Denying atrocities

Yet, the truth about what is known is itself under attack. Filipinos worried about martial law violence being whitewashed or erased by the new Marcos administration have been digitising books, films and articles documenting the brutality.

One group is Project Gunita, which has been scanning and posting old newspaper and magazine reports on social media to educate users influenced by pro-Marcos misinformation. "It's pointless to have our Google drives, it's pointless to have this database of information if it doesn't get to those people who need to read them," said co-founder Sarah Gomez. Joel Ariate, a member of the University of the Philippines' Marcos Regime Research group, said denying Marcos atrocities "has become like a bloodsport online". He said the key to fighting misinformation about martial law was to repeat the truth "as much as the lies".—AFP



MANILA, Philippines: Photo taken on September 3, 2022 shows Project Gunita members arranging period publications from the Philippines' martial law era to be archived, in Taguig, suburban Manila. — AFP

## Four feared dead after typhoon hits Japan

TOKYO: Two people were confirmed dead and another two were found "without vital signs" after Typhoon Nanmadol slammed into Japan over the weekend, a government spokesman said Tuesday.

The storm system made landfall by the southwestern city of Kagoshima on Sunday night, and dumped heavy rain across the Kyushu region before moving along the west coast. By Tuesday morning, it was downgraded to an extratropical cyclone as it crossed

to the northeastern coast and headed out to sea.

The storm toppled trees, smashed windows and dumped a month's worth of rain in a 24-hour period on parts of Miyazaki prefecture, where the two deaths were confirmed. Government spokesman Hirozaku Matsuno said another two people had been found "without vital signs," a term often used in Japan before a death has been officially certified by a coroner.

He said authorities were also searching for one person reported missing. At least 114 people were injured, 14 of them seriously. By early Tuesday, about 140,000 homes were still without power nationwide, mostly in Kyushu. Japan is currently in its typhoon season and faces around 20 such storms a year.

Scientists say climate change is increasing the severity of storms and causing extreme weather such as heat waves, droughts and flash floods to become more frequent and intense. — AFP



# Business

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2022

## Sweden central bank hikes rate sharply against inflation

### Stock markets drop on jumbo Swedish rate hike

**STOCKHOLM:** Sweden's central bank announced Tuesday a big interest rate increase to combat decades-high inflation ahead of more hikes expected by its peers in the United States and Britain later this week. The one-percentage-point increase, the biggest rise since the bank set an inflation target in 1993, surprised analysts who had expected a 0.75-percentage-point hike.

It more than doubles the policy rate to 1.75 percent. Central banks worldwide have been raising borrowing costs in efforts to tame runaway prices, at the risk of causing recession as the moves slow economic activity.

"Inflation is too high," Sweden's Riksbank said in a statement, adding that it was undermining the purchasing power of households and making it more difficult for them and businesses to plan their finances. The bank forecast that it will continue to raise rates in the coming six months.

"Inflation has risen rapidly and is high both in Sweden and abroad," the statement said.

Swedish inflation accelerated to 9.0 percent in August, the highest level since 1991. The central bank now expects the economy to shrink by 0.7 percent next year after previously forecasting growth. It raised its growth forecast for this year, however, to 2.7 percent.

The US Federal Reserve is expected to unleash a third straight 0.75-percentage-point rate hike on Wednesday, while the Bank of England is also due to raise borrowing costs the following day. Stocks retreated Tuesday as Sweden's jumbo interest rate hike, aimed at tackling inflation, stoked expectations of more increases this week from the US Federal Reserve and the Bank of England.

The Swedish central bank sprang the biggest rise in three decades, ramping up its rate by a full percentage point to 1.75 percent. The news sent the

region's markets into reverse as tighter global borrowing costs bear down on economic activity.

Frankfurt equities dropped about 0.8 percent as news of rocketing German producer prices further fanned inflation fears. London fell after reopening following the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II on Monday. The euro dipped against main rivals after Monday's surge, while oil prices slid on the stronger dollar.

US stocks fell early Tuesday with the Federal Reserve poised to begin its two-day meeting that is expected to result in another big interest rate hike. The Fed will announce its latest rate decision on Wednesday, with investors fearing that after two straight hikes of 0.75 percentage point, the central bank could even go for a third or perhaps even a full point this time. With the announcement widely anticipated, analysts have set their sights on the prospect of future increases.

#### Nerves jangling again

"European stocks rallied at the open-but a jumbo rate hike from Sweden's central bank sent the nerves jangling again as investors worry about what's in store from global central banks," Markets.com analyst Neil Wilson told AFP.

The Fed's decision is the main markets focus after figures last week showed consumer prices are still rising at a pace not seen since the early 1980s. The US Federal Reserve is forecast Wednesday to hike its key interest rate by another 0.75 percentage points.

Some observers have even speculated over a possible one-percentage-point move. One day later, the Bank of England (BoE) is predicted to deliver another sizeable increase in British borrowing costs. "The (Swedish) hike underlined just how serious central banks are taking the inflation threat and with



**STOCKHOLM:** Sweden's central bank expects the country's economy to shrink by 0.7 percent next year after previously forecasting growth.

75 basis point hikes from the Bank of England and Federal Reserve looking like slam-dunk certainties, the early optimism in the markets quickly evaporated," added Wilson.

"The reality of central bank tightening... is keeping a lid on stocks and will continue to act as a headwind for risk."

Sentiment on Wall Street was also dampened by data showing drop in housing construction permits, although housing starts increased 12.2 percent

month-on-month in August. "The key takeaway from the report is that the weakness in the permits data suggests the strength in starts is not sustainable, especially when also taking into account that mortgage rates have risen since the July-August period," said analyst Patrick O'Hare at Briefing.com. Asian markets meanwhile enjoyed a much-needed bounce Tuesday, tracking Wall Street's late rally as investors gird themselves for another big Fed hike, though fears of a recession remain elevated. —AFP

### Spain, UK making headway on renewable energy

**FRANKFURT:** Germany, China, Spain and the UK are leading the world's richest nations in the push towards renewable energy, a new report said Tuesday.

International non-profit Climate Group compiled the rankings of G20 countries based on both ambition and progress. Modest climbers included Australia, India, the United States and Japan-while Canada and Brazil score poorly, despite existing high renewable electricity use. Saudi Arabia and Russia hold down the bottom spots in the list.

"What we've recognized at the Climate Group over a number of years is the importance of the policy environment to enable rapid action on renewables," Mike Peirce, the organization's executive director of systems change, told AFP. The report-published during New York's annual Climate Week on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly-is designed with a group of 380 leading businesses in mind, called the RE100 companies, that have committed to go 100 percent renewable.

Twenty countries, including Spain as a permanent guest of the G20, were given grades from A to E. Areas examined included net zero targets, renewable power target ambition, share of renewables in total installed capacity in 2021, and renewable capacity additions in 2021.

Spain, which got an A, was lauded for setting out to deliver "one of the most ambitious renewable



power policies in the European Union," with all new power capacity additions over the last decade coming from green energy. Renewables accounted for 21 percent of Spain's total final energy consumption in 2020, surpassing its goal of 20 percent, with plans to increase this to 43 percent by 2030 and 97 percent by 2050 when it is due to reach its climate neutrality goal. India, which got a C, ranks fourth in the world for installed renewable power capacity with 158 gigawatts-but while there are key signs of ambition from the central government, the report cited high capital costs and grid connection challenges as significant headwinds.

Brazil and Canada were termed "stragglers," both receiving Ds despite having an abundance of

hydropower, with the report urging more diversification as severe droughts have put future energy generation at risk. The percentage of renewables in Canada's total final energy consumption slipped slightly from 25.8 percent in 2009 to under 25 percent by the end of 2019. While Canada is targeting net zero by 2050, it lacks any interim dates for checkpoints along the way.

To do better, countries must lay out strong roadmaps with key interim targets, implement financing solutions to drive investor confidence. "As Europe buckles under the weight of the energy crisis, its leaders are regretting that they didn't transition from fossil fuels faster. They mustn't lock themselves in to further damaging emissions," Peirce said. —AFP

### COVID cases down, but pandemic 'not over': EU drug agency

**THE HAGUE:** Europe's medicines watchdog said Tuesday that Covid-19 cases and death rates were falling, but warned the pandemic "is still ongoing" as it urged countries to roll out booster programs before the winter. Data collected over the last few weeks "showed that there has been a decrease in the overall number of cases and deaths caused by Covid-19 in Europe," the EU agency's head of vaccine strategy Marco Cavaleri said.

"However as autumn approaches we need to prepare for a new wave of infections in line with the trend shown by the virus in the past two years," Cavaleri said, speaking at a European Medicines Agency press conference. The EMA did not give exact figures. US President Joe Biden, in an interview aired by CBS on Sunday, said the pandemic was over in the United States. "The pandemic is over. We still have a problem with COVID. We're still doing a lot of work on it... but the pandemic is over," Biden told the CBS news program "60 Minutes" in an interview taped as he walked the floor of the Detroit Auto Show last week.

The Amsterdam-based EMA however said it still considered the pandemic as ongoing on the continent. "What is clear to me and what should be very clear from Dr Cavaleri's presentation is that we in Europe still consider the pandemic as ongoing," its chief medical officer Steffen Thirstrup told journalists in the online meeting. "It is important that member states prepare the roll-out of the vaccines and especially the adaptive vaccines to prevent further spread of this disease in Europe," he said.

The EMA last week approved the first vaccine - an adaptive version of Pfizer/BioNTech's Comirnaty - to specifically target the highly infectious BA.4 and BA.5 types of the coronavirus' Omicron variant. The vaccine also targets "the original strain of SARS-CoV-2" and comes 11 days after the drug watchdog approved vaccines by Pfizer and Moderna against the Omicron BA.1 variant.

Some countries like Portugal and Denmark were already rolling out these vaccines, particularly to the elderly, but in other European countries people showed resistance to the idea of getting yet another Covid shot. "We've seen polls in the Netherlands and Hungary pointing to a large degree of hesitancy among the general population for having these boosters," he said. "I find it very concerning," he said.

France's health authority said Tuesday it had approved three new vaccines against the prevalent Omicron sub-variants of the COVID-19 virus, in a bid to prevent a jump in infections as colder weather approaches. The so-called "bivalent" shots, approved by the European Medicines Agency earlier this month, target the BA.1, BA.4 and BA.5 Omicron variants, now responsible for the bulk of new cases since the outbreak began worldwide in early 2020. —AFP

### McDonald's re-opens in war-torn Ukraine

**KYIV:** McDonald's in Kyiv re-opened on Tuesday for the first time since Russia's invasion, a sign life was returning to normal in the capital after nearly seven months of war.

The US burger chain said in a statement earlier that after talks with Ukrainian officials, security specialists and suppliers "it would re-open at first for delivery only. AFP reporters on Tuesday saw a queue of delivery company employees outside one of restaurants waiting to collect orders.

"In October, these three restaurants will fully re-open along with McDrive and express windows," McDonald's said in the statement. "As part of the phased reopening program, seven more stores in Kyiv will open, followed by additional restaurants in the capital and other cities in the west of the country," it added. McDonald's suspended operations in Ukraine on February 24 after Russia invaded.

The highly-anticipated relaunch was seen by many Ukrainians as a symbolic show of support, with the chain shuttered in Russia. McDonald's earlier this year sold its Russian restaurants to businessman Alexander Govor after announcing a complete exit from the country. It said continuing to work in Russia was "no longer tenable, nor is it consistent with McDonald's values". —AFP



**KYIV:** A delivery employee carries orders at a McDonald restaurant in Kyiv on September 20, 2022 as the US fast-food giant starts to reopen in the Ukrainian capital amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine. —AFP



## Business



WAXAHACHIE, US: Fourth-generation farmer Steve Patman opens the door to a cotton module builder after harvesting the crop from a 140 acre field in Ellis County, near Waxahatchie, Texas, on September 19, 2022. — AFP



WAXAHACHIE, US: Fourth-generation farmer Steve Patman looks out to his field as he waits to cover a cotton module after harvesting the crop from a 140 acre field in Ellis County, near Waxahatchie, Texas, on September 19, 2022. — AFP

# Drought decimates Texas' key cotton crop

## US cotton production down 21% y-o-y, Texas to suffer a 58% drop

WASHINGTON: On Sutton Page's ravaged cotton fields, there is almost nothing left to pick. The Texas farmer managed to salvage maybe a fifth of his crop, but the rest was lost to the severe drought that has taken a steep toll across the region. This year, his harvest is "not well," he says, but in reality, the drought in northern Texas has proven to be a disaster, with most of Page's neighbors not even bothering to harvest their crop, leaving "bare, bare fields."

Texas produces almost half of America's cotton, and the United States is the world's third largest supplier, behind India and China. This year, national production will hit its lowest level since 2015, down 21 percent year-on-year, and Texas will suffer a 58 percent drop, the US Department of Agriculture estimates.

In the northwest of the state, where cotton is the

lifeline of the local economy and water is scarce, the 2022 harvest "could be one of the worst in 30 years," worries Darren Hudson, professor of agricultural economics at Texas Tech University. With the cascading consequences for the global textile industry, in an economy already reeling from the pandemic, Hudson put the likely economic impact for the region at \$2 billion. Landon Orman, 30, works on 2,000 acres of cotton near Abilene, three hours west of Dallas. His non-irrigated cotton did not even sprout, while his partially watered crop grew but its yield will be slashed by half.

In total, he predicts an 85 percent drop in production compared to a normal year. Like so many others, he has crop insurance, so "financially we're not really doing that bad. But as a farmer, it sucks pretty bad that we can't grow stuff sometimes."

### Depressing

In Lubbock, the region's cotton hub, rainfall over the past 12 months has roughly been half its normal volume, and what little fell came too late to save the crop.

"Starting in January, all the way to the month of May, no, no literally no rain," said Sutton Page, 48. And from May "we started having 100 degree days and 30 mile an hour winds and it just dried everything out." He had to plow 80 percent of his dying crop back into the ground to stop the land drying out. Of the few small plants that actually grew, it may not even be economical to harvest them.

"It's a little depressing to some degree, because you work hard all year and you get to get the farms ready and you fertilize and, and your crop doesn't come up," he said.

### Frequency

Cotton farmers in the plains of Texas know there will always be bad years, but the drought of 2022 could be the worst yet. And some worry there could be more on the way. The region is "seeing worse conditions than this time last year," and these are settling in over time, notes Curtis Riganti, a climatologist specializing in drought. "In the past 10 years, we saw maybe five or six of those years where we saw drought. Maybe one or two of those years we saw a very catastrophic drought," said Kody Bessent, director of one of the region's cotton growers' associations. These farmers in Texas, a state where climate skepticism abounds, prefer to see unpredictable weather cycles repeating themselves rather than the effects of global warming, which makes extreme weather events more common. —AFP



YOKOHAMA: This photo taken on September 17, 2022 shows people shopping at a clothing store in the Motomachi shopping street in Yokohama, Kanagawa prefecture, south of Tokyo. — AFP

## Japan inflation at highest level since 2014

TOKYO: Inflation in Japan hit 2.8 percent in August, the highest level since 2014, government data showed Tuesday, as soaring energy prices bite. The last time such figures were seen, prices had been artificially bolstered by an increase in VAT. Excluding years when tax hikes impacted the rate, August's inflation was the fastest pace in nearly 31 years.

Data from the internal affairs ministry showed elec-

tricity, gas and petrol were among the key contributors to rising prices. The figure for August was slightly above the 2.7 percent consensus forecast by experts, and comes on the heels of a 2.4 percent rise in July.

It comes ahead of this week's meeting of the Bank of Japan, which has bucked the trend of peers elsewhere and stuck with its ultra-loose monetary policy. Other central banks have opted to hike interest rates to fight soaring inflation, but the BoJ views the current price increases as temporary and linked to exceptional events such as the war in Ukraine.

The growing gulf between the bank's policy and rate hikes elsewhere has caused the yen to slump, reaching a decades-low level against the dollar. The BoJ's longstanding target is for sustained two percent inflation, which it views as necessary to turbocharge the world's third-largest economy. — AFP

## Green transition 'delayed by decades': IEA

PARIS: A lack of international collaboration risks undermining efforts to decarbonise polluting sectors and could lead to decades of delay on the road towards net zero emissions, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said Tuesday. At last November's COP26 climate summit in Glasgow, 45 countries vowed to work together on the deployment of green tech across a variety of sectors including electricity, transport and agriculture. Against the backdrop of surging energy prices and the threat of a global food crisis, the IEA urged nations to use the coming COP27 meeting in Egypt to "accelerate progress towards net zero emissions by decades, cut energy costs and boost food security for billions of people worldwide".

Greater coordination between countries would make key green technologies cheaper for developing nations to deploy at scale, the IEA said.

Its Breakthrough Agenda Report, requested by world leaders to check on the initiative's progress, noted some achievements, including a doubling of sales of electric vehicles to some 6.6 million units in 2021. It also said that renewable capacity in 2022 is forecast to be up eight percent year-on-year, pushing past the 300 gigawatt mark for the first time—the equivalent to powering some 225 million households. But it said much more progress was needed for the global economy to achieve carbon neutrality this century. —AFP

## Canada inflation cools to 7% in August

OTTAWA: Falling gasoline prices in August helped cool Canada's inflation rate to seven percent — below expectations — but the costs of groceries continued to soar, the national statistical agency said Tuesday. The data marked a second consecutive slowdown in price growth since a peak of 8.1 percent in June. Analysts had forecast inflation would drop only slightly. Falling short of those expectations was a "welcome surprise," Desjardins analyst Royce Mendes said in a research note.

"It wasn't all good news for consumers, though, with food prices rising sharply again," he added. Prices for groceries rose 10.8 percent — the fastest pace since 1981. Statistics Canada blamed extreme weather, higher input costs, Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and supply chain disruptions for the higher food costs. Excluding gasoline, overall prices rose 6.3 percent in August, following a 6.6 percent increase in July, according to the government agency. Gasoline prices — although up year over year — fell from the previous month, as global oil production picked up, it noted. The costs of traveler accommodations rose at a slower pace, along with household appliances, passenger vehicles and new homes. —AFP

## UK faces legal action from unions over strikes

LONDON: British unions have launched legal action against the UK government over a new law allowing agency staff to replace striking workers. It comes as tens of thousands of workers, spearheaded by the rail and postal sectors, are continuing with walkouts over a cost-of-living crisis in Britain.

Union umbrella group the TUC is taking action on behalf of 11 unions, while Unison-representing more than a million workers—and a teachers' union are bringing their own cases against the government, led by new Prime Minister Liz Truss. The government, while Boris Johnson was still in charge, amended a law over the summer to allow agency staff to help fill gaps caused by strikes.

"The right to strike is a fundamental British liberty," TUC General Secretary Frances O'Grady said Tuesday. "But the government is attacking it in broad daylight. Threatening this right tilts the balance of power too far

towards employers. It means workers can't stand up for decent services and safety at work—or defend their jobs and pay."

Strikes, postponed following the death of Queen Elizabeth II, are resuming over the next couple of weeks. Workers across various sectors have gone on strike across Britain since the summer as decades-high inflation erodes earnings. O'Grady said ministers failed to consult with unions over the law change, breaching a legal requirement.

"And restricting the freedom to strike is a breach of international law," she added in a statement.

"That's why unions are coming together to challenge this change in the courts." Over the summer, the UK rail sector carried out its biggest stoppage in more than 30 years. Some proposed non-rail strikes were halted after unions and companies agreed pay deals at the eleventh hour. But walkouts have still gone ahead by Amazon warehouse staff and criminal lawyers in recent weeks. Next week, workers at Britain's largest container port, Felixstowe, launch strike action for a further eight days. The walkout from September 27 until early October 5 comes after an initial eight-day summer stoppage at the port in eastern England. Teachers and health workers have meanwhile hinted at possible walkouts should they not receive new pay deals deemed acceptable. —AFP



OSLO: Norway's sovereign wealth fund, the largest in the world, announced Tuesday that it will require that the approximately 9,000 companies it has invested in worldwide achieve zero net carbon emissions by 2050.

## Norway's oil fund demands carbon neutrality by 2050

OSLO: Norway's sovereign wealth fund, the largest in the world, announced Tuesday that it will require that the approximately 9,000 companies it has invested in worldwide achieve zero net carbon emissions by 2050. "We set a target of net zero emissions by 2050 at the latest for all companies," Carine Smith Ihenacho, the fund's chief governance and compliance officer, said while announcing the fund's new climate action plan.

"We will engage with the companies to reach this target by setting credible preliminary targets and creating plans to reduce their direct and indirect emissions of greenhouse gases," she added.

According to the IPCC, the UN climate expert panel, achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 is necessary in order to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Paradoxically, Norway's wealth fund is fuelled by the Norwegian government's oil revenues and it is also known as the oil fund. It is worth more than 12,000 bil-

lion Norwegian kroner (nearly \$1,200 billion) and holds equity in over 9,000 companies in 70 countries.

To date, only about 10 percent of these companies have set a carbon neutrality objective.

The fund's ambition is to help groups in which it is invested develop a climate plan by maintaining a dialogue with them, using its voting rights at general meetings and, "as a last resort", divesting its shares, Ihenacho explained at a press conference. Governed by a set of ethical rules, the fund is among other things prohibited from investing in companies responsible for serious environmental or climate damage and coal, but it can also drop companies on its own initiative on purely financial merits.

"Sustainability is a prerequisite for good returns in the future," noted Oystein Borsum, the deputy governor of the Norwegian central bank, which oversees the fund. The fund has already divested its assets in four companies whose greenhouse gas emissions were deemed excessive. The new plan follows up on the Norwegian government's decision to strengthen the fund's climate mandate. In the first six months of 2022, the fund's value fell by 1.680 billion kroner, mainly due to turmoil in global stock markets. The only sector to show a positive return was the energy sector, including oil and gas companies, which benefited from soaring prices in the wake of the war in Ukraine. —AFP



## Business

# IKEA celebrates 'Extraordinary at the Ordinary' at the Avenues

'The Functional Home' is the first one of a series of solutions IKEA will launch this year



KUWAIT: An IKEA staff introduces a product. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



Marino Maganto outlines the 'Functional Home' concept

**KUWAIT:** Inspired by the vision to create a better everyday life for everyone, this year, IKEA starts celebrating the best in life: the everyday. The ordinary moments at home that create extraordinary memories.

During an event that took place at IKEA at the Avenues, IKEA launched on Tuesday the Extraordinary at the Ordinary movement. Marino Maganto, CEO of IKEA Al-Homaizi for Kuwait, Jordan and Morocco accompanied by the rest of the management team, shared with us this exciting news.

"Over the last couple of years, we have spent more time than ever at home with our dear ones. We have learnt to repurpose our homes for many different activities and to work from home while parenting. We have overcome many challenges

together, and now, we recognize the importance of our homes more than ever before," said Maganto.

"This year, more than ever, we want to bring joy and happiness to people. We want to share positive energy around us. We want to make this year extraordinary for everyone with The Extraordinary at the Ordinary movement! This movement is born to help everyone have a better life. It starts here and now. Whether you work with us, or not, whether you visit us or not, whether you ever shopped with us or not, there will always be something for you in this movement," Maganto added.

"We believe that 'Home' is the most important place in the world. By creating a better life at home, we contribute to a better life for everyone. You are the one that defines what better means and we are there to help you make it a reality."

"To create a better home, we visit thousands of homes every year to understand the many needs, frustrations and challenges of everyday life. We gather all these insights and incorporate them in everything we do; from designing our range, to creating the beautiful value for money solutions that you know and love. This competence in life at home makes us unique. We want to share all this knowledge with everyone," Maganto continued.

"We believe that a 'Better Home' is not primarily about how things look but rather about how they feel. A better home must always be functional, make you feel good and of course, it has to be beautiful and make you proud. This is why we are starting this movement with The Functional Home."

"The Functional Home is the first one of a series of solutions that we will launch this year to help

you have the home that you always dreamed of.

What do we mean by "The Functional Home"? The Functional Home is based on the needs and activities that you and your family do at home. It must be welcoming, family friendly, comfortable, practical and personal. The functional home evolves with you adapting to the changes that happen in your life. The functional home makes room for your memories. We believe that The Functional Home is possible for anyone to afford and make it a reality, Maganto explained.

So, how can we all make it a reality? Where do we start? To start sharing everything we know, we have created our IKEA Extraordinary at the Ordinary Magazine. This magazine is born to help you make your ordinary everyday not only better, but extraordinary!

## CEO says IKEA digital magazine to enrich customer feedback

By Majd Othman

**KUWAIT:** IKEA is celebrating life by creating extraordinary moments that happen in ordinary day-to-day situations. "We want to open up IKEA like we have done never before. Therefore, we launched our new digital magazine that will hopefully enrich the lives of



Marino Maganto

people of Kuwait and will help attain a sustainable and better-balanced life at home," Marino Maganto, CEO of IKEA Al-Homaizi for Kuwait, Jordan and Morocco, told Kuwait Times.

"The magazine is considered a digital tool that creates a database of knowledge, which consumers or anyone interested in knowing about our 'Functional Home' concept can access and gets some tips and ideas, recipes for healthy food and ways to find a solution for a specific problem," he said.

"Every year, IKEA is committed to lowering the prices of our products. This year, we will lower the prices of some specific items, although we cannot go against the global tide and prevailing circumstances. In the past one-and-a-half year, we absorbed a lot of price pressures on the market. So we tried to minimize the impact of price inflation on customers. Therefore, we price products individually, which means, we don't do a general pricing for all the products at all locations. It is a very meticulous process and we try to protect the products people love as much as possible," Maganto pointed out.

"Our plan for the next year is to get closer to people in Kuwait more than before. In the last two years, business was great, and since the pandemic, we have seen a big rise in e-commerce sales. IKEA Kuwait is one of the top stores in the world and it is very important, not only from a regional perspective, but from a global perspective too. Therefore, IKEA seeks to understand the needs of the customers in Kuwait in order to be unique in the market," he said.

## Burgan Bank introduces eKYC feature

**KUWAIT:** Burgan Bank recently launched its latest digital service, the "Electronic Know Your Customer" (eKYC) form, which allows customers to seamlessly update their personal information through Burgan Bank's digital platform in their own comfort without the need to visit the branches physically. This step comes in line with the Bank's strategy to develop innovative digital solutions for customers that respond to their needs and make their banking transactions more convenient than ever before.

Under this new eKYC service, Burgan Bank customers will be able to update their personal information simply via internet banking (online.burgan.com) a safer and faster alternative to completing the form physically at the Bank's branches. The service allows

customers to update their personal information including: marital status, spouse and children details, mailing and international addresses, bank accounts' details, employment information, tax details, and many more.

This flexible service, which can be accessed from anywhere and at any time, increases the safety and security of bank accounts and prevents cybercrimes. This comes in line with the Bank's strategy to continuously enhance its cybersecurity and fulfill the guidelines of the Central Bank of Kuwait.

The eKYC service will also play a significant role in creating an updated customer database and will make it easier for customers to open an account and apply for credit cards and loans without visiting a branch. This advances digital transformation across Burgan Bank's various vital operations and banking services.

Commenting on the latest service, Deniz Devrim Cengiz, Group Chief Digital Banking Officer at Burgan Bank said: "The eKYC Feature is part of Burgan Bank's strategy to advance towards digital transformation across its various vital operations and

banking services and aims to achieve speed and ease in all of the Bank's transactions. The service has simplified the data authentication process and reduces the amount of paper while being in line with the Bank's sustainability strategy."

Cengiz emphasized that Burgan Bank's customers' needs are a top priority. He further notes that this new service is crucial to a positive customer experience, providing customers with fast, seamless, and high-security digital services that meet their needs and save them time and effort to ensure the speedy completion of business activities. Cengiz also reaffirmed Burgan Bank's commitment and steady progress towards adopting digital transformation across its various vital operations and banking services to better serve customers and satisfy their diverse needs.



Deniz Devrim Cengiz

## China EV builder Leapmotor chasing HK IPO

**BEIJING:** Chinese electric vehicle manufacturer Zhejiang Leapmotor Technology is hoping to raise more than \$1 billion with an initial public offering in what would be the largest debut so far this year for Hong Kong. The Hangzhou-headquartered company is offering around 131 million shares priced at HK\$48-HK\$62 (\$6.10-\$7.90), according to a prospectus filed with the Hong Kong stock exchange on Tuesday.

The listing will be a test of investor appetite in China's EV sector, which has shown huge growth in recent years. The industry has also so far avoided the kind of sudden scrutiny from regulators that has bedeviled other tech sectors and hobbled profits.

China's electric car market is particularly competitive, with manufacturers jostling to take advantage of an industry boosted in recent months by generous purchase subsidies from local governments. The Chinese government introduced a string of measures, including a tax break extension, in July to stimulate sales of electric cars

against the backdrop of an economic slowdown.

The measures are supposed to support the economy at a time when sporadic COVID-19 lockdowns around the country have dampened consumer enthusiasm and business confidence. Founded in 2015, Leapmotor focuses on the mid to high-end EV market with a price range of 150,000 to 300,000 yuan (\$21,400-\$42,800).

Co-founder Fu Liqun also leads surveillance firm Dahua Technology, one of the world's largest manufacturers of security cameras. Surveillance industry research group IPVM in 2020 alleged that Dahua developed "discriminatory software" used to track members of the Uyghur minority in China.

Many Chinese EV manufacturers are looking to build an overseas presence and raise capital to fund that expansion. Hong Kong is a popular listing destination given its proximity to mainland China at a time when Washington and Beijing have clashed over the audit transparency of Chinese companies, some of which have delisted in the United States.

Chinese EV makers XPeng and Nio both forged secondary Hong Kong listings recently. China's EV market is huge, covering everything from luxury vehicles to more affordable models. Manufacturer Wuling last year sold 400,000 Mini EV vehicles, a mass market super compact with a price tag of \$4,000. The best-selling European electric car is the Renault Zoe, 77,000 of which were sold last year. —AFP



BEIJING: Chinese electric vehicle manufacturer Zhejiang Leapmotor Technology is hoping to raise more than \$1 billion with an initial public offering.

## Facebook parent Meta in EU setback against German rules

**WASHINGTON:** Facebook's parent company Meta on Tuesday suffered a setback in its challenge against German antitrust rules as a top adviser to the EU Court of Justice backed the regulator.

Meta's challenge came after it was banned by the German authority from collecting data from its various services including Instagram and

WhatsApp, and linking the information to the Facebook account of the user for advertising purposes.

The German Federal Competition Authority had prohibited Meta from the data processing practice after finding that it constituted an abuse of the company's dominant position on the social network market. Facebook had challenged the German decision at a court in Dusseldorf, which had sent the case on to the European court.

On Tuesday, the EU court's advocate general said that while the antitrust authority does not have the jurisdiction to rule on an infringement of data protection rules, compliance with such rules could be taken as an "important indicator" in ascertaining if an entity has breached competition rules.

The court adviser also noted that a ban on processing sensitive personal data, such as an individual's ethnic origin, health or sexual orientation, could apply in this case. In order for an exemption to the prohibition concerning such data to apply, the user "must be fully aware that, by an explicit act, he is making personal data public". The advocate general added that the "conduct consisting in visiting websites and apps, entering data into those websites and apps and clicking on buttons integrated into them cannot, in principle, be regarded in the same way as conduct that manifestly makes public the user's sensitive personal data".

The advocate general's opinion is non-binding but it often indicates which way the court will rule. —AFP





A woman visits an exhibition titled 'Allo, Beirut?', that shows archives of Lebanon's troubled past fused with artistic depictions of a grim present, at the capital's Beit Beirut heritage-house-turned-museum. — AFP photos



This picture shows an art installation, as part of an exhibition titled 'Allo, Beirut?', that shows archives of Lebanon's troubled past fused with artistic depictions of a grim present, at the capital's Beit Beirut heritage-house-turned-museum.

# LEBANON'S PAST ECHOES ITS GRIM PRESENT IN EXHIBITION



A man visits an exhibition titled 'Allo, Beirut?', that shows archives of Lebanon's troubled past fused with artistic depictions of a grim present, at the capital's Beit Beirut heritage-house-turned-museum.



People visit an exhibition titled 'Allo, Beirut?'



A woman visits an exhibition titled 'Allo, Beirut?'



A visitor checks an art installation, part of an exhibition titled 'Allo, Beirut?'



People visit an exhibition titled 'Allo, Beirut?'

In a war-scarred Beirut heritage house turned museum, archives of Lebanon's troubled past fuse with artistic depictions of its grim present to portray a country seemingly in perpetual turmoil. Newspaper clippings, film negatives and diary entries from the years before Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war tell a story of government corruption, public sector strikes and student protests. They are shown alongside contemporary pictures, video footage and art installations illustrating today's Lebanon, in the grip of political paralysis and its worst ever economic crisis.

"Allo, Beirut?", which premiered Thursday and runs until 2023, seeks to map out the decades-old rot at the heart of Lebanon's downward spiral, said the exhibition's director Delphine Abirached Darmency. "It's strange sometimes to explain what we are experiencing without knowing what happened in the past," she said. "Beirut is suffering, we are suffering," she added, arguing that much of Lebanon's misery is rooted in the problems of a bygone era. The exhibit was born in part from the discovery of the archives of late billionaire Jean Prosper Gay-Para, who owned the on-famous Les Caves du Roy nightclub and is widely regarded as a symbol of Lebanon's pre-civil war golden era.

"Those sick minds, obsessed with making money," Gay-Para writes about the country's political elite, in a text on display. That sentiment is still widely shared by a population battered by the unprecedented economic crisis that is widely blamed on the country's business and political barons. Gay-Para "was talking in the 1960s about what we are living today", Darmency said.

### 'Condition of loss'

More than three decades after the devastating civil war, Lebanon is reeling from a financial crisis that has seen poverty spike as the currency has lost more than 90 percent of its value on the black market. Beirut also remains scarred by the huge 2020 portside blast of a pile of ammonium nitrate that killed more than 200 people and compounded a population exodus of a similar scale to that of the civil war period. In addition to the archive material, the show features installations by young Lebanese artists who were asked to express their feelings about their city.

Rawane Nassif made a short documentary about the Beirut neighborhood she grew up in, and to which she returned this year after two decades away to take care of her sick parents,

both of whom have since died. "The movie depicts the condition of loss," the 38-year-old anthropologist and filmmaker told AFP. "Beirut is in mourning. It is mourning the death of its people and the death of all the chances it once had." Visual artist Raoul Mallat, 28, also explored the theme of grief, in a short film com-

to difficulties, but the new exhibit has once more opened it to the public.

Holes in the walls once used by wartime gunmen have been fitted with screens showing footage of the unprecedented protest movement of 2019 that demanded sweeping political change before it ran out of steam. One



People visit an exhibition titled 'Allo, Beirut?'

### 'Built on rubble'

The venue for the exhibit is itself a testament to Lebanon's complicated past. The three-storey Beit Beirut, known as the Yellow House, was built in the 1920s by renowned architect Youssef Bey Aftimos. Riddled with bullet holes and other civil war damage, it stands alongside what used to be known as the "Green Line" that separated Beirut's Muslim and Christian districts during the conflict. It was renovated and turned into a museum and cultural space that temporarily opened in 2017. It closed again due

of the rooms is decorated with worn-out furniture and destroyed objects collected from the now-abandoned Les Caves du Roy nightclub in an attempt to recreate the space from Beirut's heyday.

The installation by Lebanese artists Rola Abu Darwish and Rana Abbout aims to make a symbolic statement about rubble and Lebanon's tumultuous existence. "Beirut is built on rubble," said Abu Darwish, 38. "One of the main elements of Beirut to me is rubble. It's part of where we live, how we live, and who we are. And I feel that in the direction we're going, we are going to be making more rubble." — AFP



People visit an exhibition titled 'Allo, Beirut?'



A woman visits an exhibition titled 'Allo, Beirut?'



This picture shows an art installation, as part of an exhibition titled 'Allo, Beirut?'

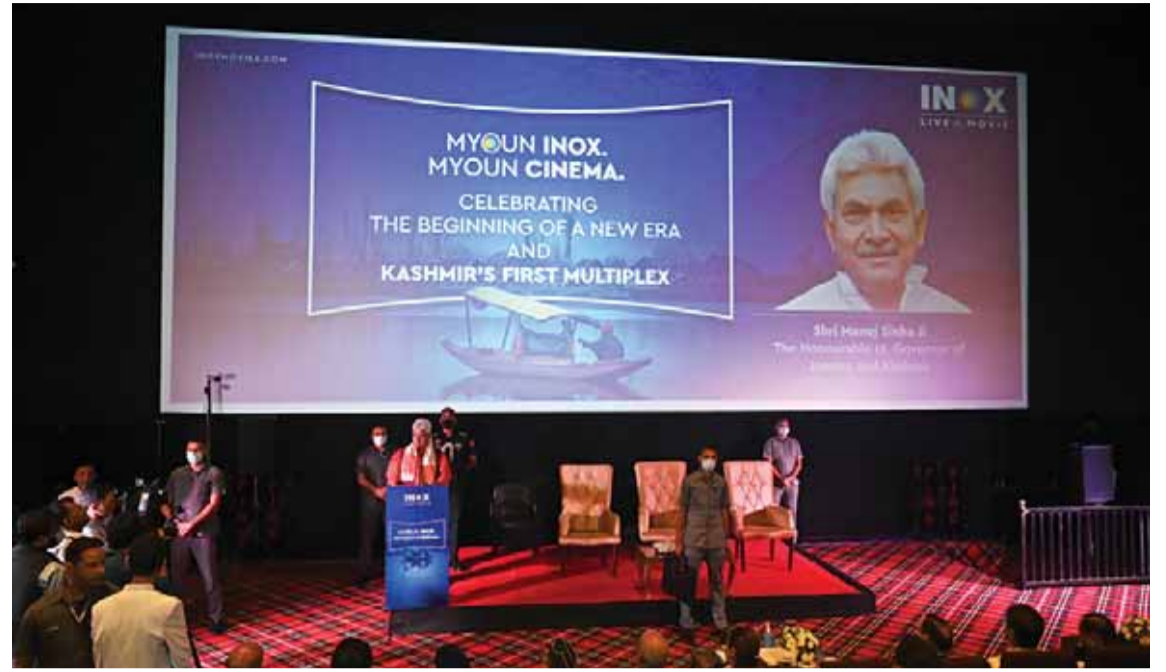


A woman visits an exhibition titled 'Allo, Beirut?'





Indian paramilitary troopers walk in front of a multiplex cinema during its inauguration ceremony in Srinagar. —AFP photos



Manoj Sinha (center left), the Lt Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, speaks during the inauguration ceremony of a multiplex cinema in Srinagar.

## Movies back in Indian Kashmir, decades after cinema closures



Guests stand as India's national anthem is played inside a multiplex cinema during its inauguration ceremony in Srinagar.

Silver screens lit up in Indian-administered Kashmir for the first time in a generation at the opening of a new cinema on Tuesday, decades after an armed rebellion shuttered local movie halls. India has been fortifying its control over the strife-torn Muslim-majority region after a grinding conflict between security forces and insurgents fighting for independence or a merger with neighboring Pakistan. Most cinemas were shut down by rebel groups in 1989, the year of a huge uprising against Indian rule, with the insurgents saying their Bollywood blockbuster screenings were avenues for cultural imperialism. The theatres were later mostly occupied by security forces, who used them as

detention and interrogation centers, with some still used by soldiers as staging posts.

Periodic attempts to revive cinema halls in Kashmir in the 1990s and later failed, with a heavy security presence deterring ordinary patrons. Authorities have feted the new multiplex as the consequence of an improved security situation since New Delhi took steps to bolster its control of the territory. Its opening was a symbol of a government commitment to "establishing peace" in the region, said Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, India's top administrator in Kashmir. "We are bringing back a lost era," he said at a ceremony and screening marking the movie house's opening

in the city of Srinagar. It was attended mostly by government and security officials. "The opening of this cinema reflects the changing picture of Kashmir."

The new multiplex opens to the public next week and Sinha's administration has pledged to support the opening of 10 more cinemas around the region. At least half a million Indian troops are permanently stationed in Kashmir, which is also claimed and partly controlled by Pakistan. India regularly blames Pakistan for backing the long-running rebellion against its rule, an allegation Islamabad denies. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist government has tightened its chokehold on

Indian-administered Kashmir since 2019, when it revoked the limited autonomy constitutionally guaranteed to the region.

Thousands of people were taken into preventive detention to forestall expected protests against the sudden decision, while authorities severed communications links in what became the world's longest-ever internet shutdown. Clashes between militants and Indian troops are still a regular occurrence and protests and civic life have been severely curbed. Foreign journalists are barred from the territory while local reporters are regularly harassed by police and security forces for their coverage. —AFP

### How many ants are on Earth? 20 quadrillion, study says

There are at least 20 quadrillion ants on Earth, according to a new study that says even that staggering figure likely underestimates the total population of the insects, which are an essential part of ecosystems around the world. Determining the global population of ants is important for measuring the consequences of changes to their habitat—including those caused by climate change. Ants play a significant role, dispersing seeds, hosting organisms and serving as either predators or prey. Some studies have already attempted to estimate the global ant population, but they resulted in a far smaller number than 20 quadrillion, which is 20 million billion.



For this new attempt-published Monday in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)* — researchers analyzed 465 studies that measured the number of ants locally in the field. The hundreds of studies used two standardized techniques: setting traps that captured ants passing by during a certain period of time, or analyzing the number of ants on a given patch of leaves on the ground. While surveys have been carried out on all continents, some major regions had little or no data, including central Africa and Asia.

This is why "the true abundance of ants globally is likely to be considerably higher" than estimated, the study says. "It is of utmost importance that we fill these remaining gaps to achieve a comprehensive picture of insect diversity." There are more than 15,700 named species and subspecies of ants that are found all over the planet, and probably an equal number that have yet to be described. But nearly two-thirds of them are found in only two types of ecosystems: tropical forests and savannahs. Based on the estimated number of ants, their total global biomass is thought to be 12 megatons of dry carbon—more than that of wild birds and mammals combined, and 20 percent of that of humans. —AFP

### Brad Pitt unveils his sculptures at first art show

In the actor's first-ever public art exhibition, Brad Pitt has unveiled his sculptures in a lakeside art museum in Finland, the gallery said on Monday. Located in Finland's third largest city of Tampere, this is the first time the "largely self-taught" American star presented his sculptures to the public, Sara Hilden Art Museum said. Pitt's sculptures were revealed by the actor himself on Saturday as part of a larger exhibition by British artist Thomas Houseago, alongside a ceramic series by Australian alternative rocker Nick Cave.

"For Nick and I this is a new world and our first entry. It just feels right," Pitt told

Finnish broadcaster Yle at the opening ceremony. Pitt's work includes a molded plaster panel "depicting a gunfight" and a series of house-shaped silicone sculptures that each have been shot with a different gauge of ammunition. "To me it's about self-reflection. It's about where I have gotten it wrong in my relationships, where have I misstepped," Pitt said at the opening.

The 58-year-old actor's unexpected visit took the Nordic country by surprise as his involvement in the exhibition was not previously announced. "In that sense this is exciting and wonderful," Chief Curator Sarianna Soikkonen told AFP. As well as hosting Pitt's sculptures for the first time, the art show is Houseago's exhibition debut in the Nordic countries. The decision to include his friends Cave and Pitt in his exhibition was shaped by the pandemic and "events in Houseago's personal life", Soikkonen said. —AFP



This handout photo shows British artist Thomas Houseago (center) posing with US actor Brad Pitt (right) and Australian musician Nick Cave (left) prior to the opening of the exhibition 'Thomas Houseago - WE with Nick Cave and Brad Pitt' at the Sara Hilden Art Museum in Tampere, Finland.

## Benin welcomes Hollywood take on women warriors

Benin's historic female warriors known as the Amazons of Dahomey are legendary across West Africa, but a Hollywood production is bringing them back into the limelight. The *Woman King*, released last Friday and shown at one Cotonou's few cinemas on Saturday, is inspired by the story of the Agojie women who protected the ancient Kingdom of Dahomey and fought against French colonial troops in the 19th century. The main character General Nanisca is played by the Oscar-winning American actress Viola Davis, who trains the next generation of recruits against a rival African kingdom and European slave traders.

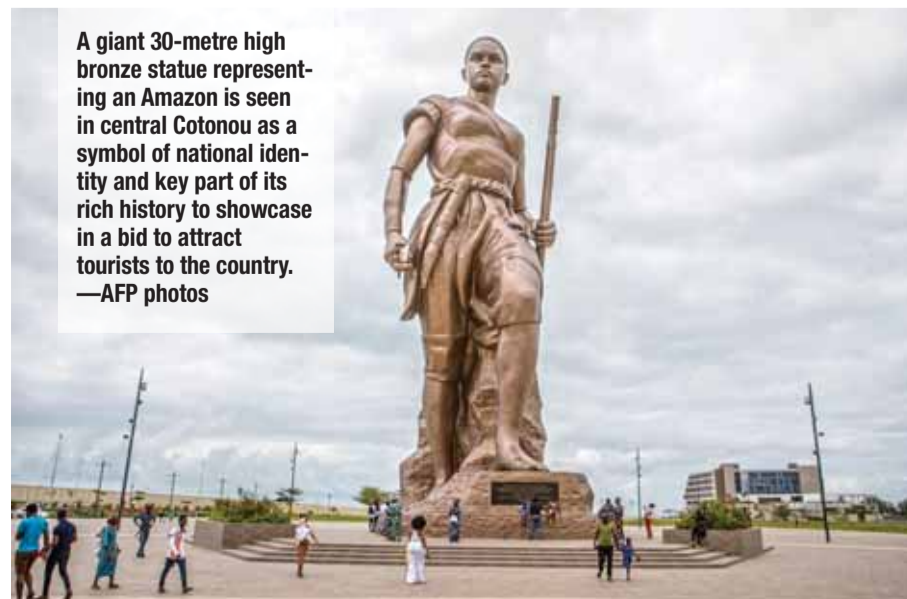
The production directed by Gina Prince-Bythewood and mainly filmed in South Africa has won praise for its leading roles for black actresses, but has also generated criticism that it glorifies slavery. At the premiere in Benin's economic capital, a descendant of Ghezo, a King of Dahomey, who attended the screening at

Canal Olympia cinema, shed tears during the viewing. "For the princess that I am, some of the scenes were very touching. These brave women gave their lives to protect Ghezo's heritage, which is my own," said 37-year-old Sylvine Senami Ghezo.

A younger viewer, 15-year-old Bahunde Efanam, was also emotional and said the film gave her "shivers". The Amazons of Dahomey have been celebrated many times before, including in the 2018 film *Black Panther* in which they inspired Wakanda's Dora Milaje warriors. More recently, Benin's President Patrice Talon unveiled a giant 30-metre high bronze statue representing an Amazon in central Cotonou. The government said it chose the figure as a symbol of national identity and key part of its history to showcase in a bid to attract tourists.

**Tourism**  
Made by Chinese artist Li Xiangqun, "the statue will be, for us and those who

A giant 30-metre high bronze statue representing an Amazon is seen in central Cotonou as a symbol of national identity and key part of its rich history to showcase in a bid to attract tourists to the country. —AFP photos



Dwandalyn Reece, Gina Prince-Bythewood, Viola Davis, Shiela Amit, Cathy Shulman and Julius Tennon speak onstage during THE WOMAN KING Special Screening at the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, DC.

visit, a symbol of the Beninese woman of yesterday, today and tomorrow", the president said of the display in July. "What is important is that in Benin, the words courage, bravery, strength, combativeness and honor are not exclusively associated with men," said the president. For those working in the nation's budding tourism industry like Achille Remy Yelouassi who was at the premiere, the hope is also that films like *The Woman King* "help put Benin on the map".

Some though said the next film should be made in Benin and not Hollywood since it concerns the country's history. In the United States, some have criticized the movie for not addressing the role Dahomey Kingdom played in the slave trade. #Boycottwomanking has been trending on Twitter. But for some Beninese women, the film can also help tackle issues around women's rights according to Senami Totin, a lawyer and activist in the country.

"In a patriarchal society like we have in

Benin, you need a lot of courage and determination to defend women's rights," she said, listing challenges from impunity for rape, forced marriages, exclusion of women from inheritance rights, and a lack of representation in politics. "We no longer have to fight wars against enemy armies but the fight for women's emancipation is a daily one, and for that, we have to have an Amazon spirit," she added.

In addition to celebrating the Beninese woman, actress Viola Davis said she hopes the film also inspires young girls around the world. "It's for my six-year old self... the little girl who was traumatized, the little girl who was called ugly, the little girl who wasn't seen, who was left invisible," she told reporters before the Toronto premiere earlier this month. "I see you Viola. I see every chocolate girl who is like you. I'm telling you to stop running. This is my gift to you." — AFP



Lifestyle | Features



Chefs cook during a record attempt of the World's largest rosti (a Swiss dish consisting mainly of sauteed or shallow-fried potatoes) frying in a pan in the shape of a Swiss cross, during an event marking the 125th anniversary of the Swiss Farmers' Union (SBV) in Swiss capital Bern. — AFP photos



Chefs cook during a record attempt of the World's largest rosti.



Chefs cook during a record attempt of the World's largest rosti.

# Swiss farmers cook up world's biggest rosti

The world's largest rosti—the traditional Swiss potato fritter—was fried up in Bern Monday, shattering the previous record, the Swiss farmer's union (USP) said. USP president Markus Ritter announced the new rosti record of 13.7 square meters, which easily beat the one set in 1994 in Thun in central Switzerland, when a three-square-meter fritter was made.

The union, which is celebrating its 125th

anniversary, had the pan made on the federal square, in front of the Swiss government and parliament buildings, in the shape of a massive cross placed on a vast red mat to look like the Swiss flag. Once cooked, portions of the giant fritter were served to the large crowd gathered to witness the feat.

While emblematic of the cuisine in the German-speaking part of Switzerland, the rosti has evolved to be considered a nation-

al dish. It has even given its name to the deep cultural chasm that seems to divide Switzerland's German and French-speaking regions—the "Rostigraben"—which tends to appear when the Swiss head to the polls. In a symbolic effort to overcome this divide, the potatoes cooked Monday were harvested from every region of Switzerland, USP said. —AFP



Officials measure the giant frying pan during a record attempt of the World's largest rosti.



The Ceremonial Procession of the coffin of Queen Elizabeth II travels down the Long Walk as it arrives at Windsor Castle for the Committal Service at St George's Chapel. —AFP

## 250,000 viewed queen's coffin at lying-in-state

Around a quarter of a million people queued round the clock to view the coffin of Queen Elizabeth II as it lay in state, the UK government said Tuesday, a day after her elaborate state funeral. Following a public holiday for the funeral, political and business life was resuming and workers were busy clearing up the debris left by an estimated million-plus people who lined the streets of London. But King Charles III and the royal family will remain in mourning for another seven days, meaning no official engagements after the new sovereign spent an exhausting week presiding over the funeral build-up.

The queen's coffin was on display from Wednesday to early Monday inside parliament's cavernous Westminster Hall, and

the waiting time for public mourners at one point reached 25 hours. Culture Secretary Michelle Donelan said her government department was still "crunching the numbers", but believed that around 250,000 people had passed through the hall in total. "It was a great sense of the community coming together," she told Sky News.

Donelan said she did not know the final cost of the state funeral at Westminster Abbey, which entailed a vast security operation for hundreds of foreign dignitaries. But she said the British public would agree "that was money well spent". "You saw so many thousands out there and I don't think anybody can suggest that our late monarch didn't deserve that send-off, given the duty and the selfless service that she committed to over 70 years." Britain's new Prime Minister Liz Truss flew to the UN General Assembly hours after delivering a biblical reading at the state funeral. En route to New York, Truss praised the "huge outpouring of love and affection" shown towards the late monarch, as well as the "huge amount of warmth towards" Charles. — AFP

## Kate and Meghan wear pearls for the queen

Catherine, the Princess of Wales, and Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, on Monday each opted for pearls to mourn Queen Elizabeth II at her state funeral at Westminster Abbey. Pearls are often referred to as mourning jewelry—a tradition said to date back to Queen Victoria's era in the 19th century. Camilla, the Queen Consort of the new King Charles III, meanwhile wore Queen Victoria's Hesse Diamond Jubilee Brooch—diamonds in the shape of an open heart, with two sapphire pendants. This was accompanied by a pair of oval stud earrings featuring a sapphire stone encircled with diamonds and a gold pendant necklace. Catherine, the wife of heir to the throne Prince William, chose the same striking necklace and earring combination which she wore just over a year ago for the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II's husband Philip.

Her Japanese choker with four rows of pearls and a curved central diamond clasp

was accompanied with a pair of Bahrain drop pearl earrings, both from the queen's personal jewelry collection. The Princess of Wales also chose the same jewelry for the

state visit from Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands in 1982, while the queen was pictured wearing the set during an engagement in Bangladesh the following year.



Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh's 70th wedding anniversary dinner in 2017.

It is believed the necklace was commissioned by the queen using pearls gifted to her by the Japanese government after her first state visit to the nation in 1975. The earrings were made using two from a collection of pearls given to the queen as a wedding gift from the Hakim of Bahrain in 1947. Both were previously worn by William's mother Princess Diana during a

### Precious heirlooms

Meghan chose pared back jewelry with a pair of pearl and diamond stud earrings gifted to her by the queen and which she wore on her first joint engagement alongside the monarch in June 2018. In a nod to the queen's lifelong love of horses, Princess Charlotte, the seven-year-old daughter of William and Catherine, wore a small diamond horseshoe brooch which was a gift from her late great-grandmother. The queen's personal jewelry collection, from which many of the pieces worn at Monday's funeral were drawn, is steeped in royal history and contains over 300 items including brooches, necklaces, bracelets, earrings, rings, watches and pendants.

The Princess of Wales was also seen wearing the queen's diamond leaf brooch featuring a trio of pearls for the procession to the lying in state on Wednesday. Although the late queen's will is private, it is expected that the jewelry will be passed on to members of the royal family including the monarch's four children and their spouses. — AFP



## Elton John to perform at the White House



Elton John

Elton John is to perform at the White House this week in a commemoration of his record-breaking career as the British superstar continues his marathon global farewell tour. President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden will host the "Rocket Man" singer for "A Night When Hope and History Rhyme" on the South Lawn on Friday, the White House

announced. The administration said the evening would celebrate the "unifying and healing power of music, commend the life and work of Sir Elton John, and honor the everyday history-makers in the audience."

Both Bidens will offer remarks at the event, the White House said. The gig—which follows a performance last week by James Taylor—is part of a return of public

events at the White House following the easing of Covid-19 curbs. It comes after Biden stirred controversy last week in an interview in which he declared the pandemic over. Guests will nevertheless be required to get tested before attending, US media reported.

John, 75, was ranked the ranked the top solo artist in US chart history in Billboard's

2019 list of the "Greatest Artists of All Time" and third overall behind The Beatles and The Rolling Stones. His "Farewell Yellow Brick Road" tour began in Allentown, Pennsylvania, in September 2018 and will have featured more than 300 gigs across the world before it wraps in Sweden in July next year. —AFP



## Sports

# USA target 11th women's basketball WCup crown

## Basketball powerhouse the strong favorites

**SYDNEY:** Olympic champions USA tip off at the women's World Cup on Thursday with a new-look team missing some of their biggest stars, but even without Brittney Griner and Sue Bird the basketball powerhouse are strong favorites for a fourth straight title. Griner, a standout of their Tokyo Olympic winning team, continues to languish in a Russian prison while Bird and fellow long-time stalwart Diana Taurasi have retired.

Breanna Stewart, Jewell Loyd, Kahleah Copper and Ariel Atkins are among the Tokyo Olympians back in the red, white and blue for the 12-team tournament in Sydney. With a deep pool of talent, several promising youngsters are knocking on the door, including college player of the year Aliyah Boston and WNBA rookie of the year Rhyne Howard. "It just shows women's basketball is in good hands," said Indiana Fever's NaLyssa Smith, another of the youthful cohort. "The future is strong for us. We are going to learn."

Washington Mystics shooting guard Atkins added: "We definitely are younger, but the way we want to play, we want to push the pace and respect the coach and USA Basketball by playing the game the right way." The USA, on a 22-game win streak in the competition, are pitted alongside Belgium and China in group play, avoiding world number three and hosts Australia.

The Americans, who swept past Japan to win a seventh straight Olympic crown last year, also face Jonquel Jones's Bosnia and Herzegovina, a South Korean side missing marquee star Park Ji-su and minnows Puerto Rico. Beaten finalists in 2018, Australia are one of only two teams other than USA or the former Soviet Union to win the World

Cup, and they have a much tougher task in Group B. They were drawn with Asian champions Japan, Tokyo Olympic bronze medalists France, sixth-ranked Canada, Serbia and Mali.

### Jackson back at 41

World number two Spain failed to qualify. The top four teams from each group progress to the quarter-finals before the 10-day tournament culminates on October 1, with the winner earning a coveted spot at the Paris 2024 Olympics. The Americans open against Belgium with the plight of Griner, who was arrested at a Moscow airport in February for possessing vape cartridges with a small amount of cannabis oil, casting a shadow over the tournament. The 31-year-old, who was in Russia to play for the professional Yekaterinburg team during her off-season from the Phoenix Mercury, was charged with smuggling narcotics and sentenced to nine years in a penal colony. Russia do not have a team in Sydney after being axed from the tournament following the invasion of Ukraine.

Australia's "Opals" also begin their campaign on Thursday, against European juggernauts France, with Lauren Jackson back on their 12-strong roster after she remarkably came back from years of retirement to be selected aged 41. "It's been a very big ride, an intense one," said Jackson, a four-time Olympic medalist and seven-time WNBA all-star who first played for the Opals 25 years ago. "The girls are feeling pretty good and it's a really exciting time, but a nervous time for me."

Now a mother, Australia's greatest women's player retired in 2016 with a persistent knee injury before launching a return in April to make her fifth



SEATTLE: Breanna Stewart #30 of the Seattle Storm shoots against Kiah Stokes #41 of the Las Vegas Aces during the fourth quarter in Game Four of the 2022 WNBA Playoffs semifinals in this file photo. —AFP

World Cup. Ramu Tokashiki, Stephanie Mawuli and Maki Takada hold the key to Japan challenging for another podium spot off the back of their Olympic silver medal while Chicago Sky star Emma Meesseman will be crucial for Belgium. She

predicted Belgium would play a "beautiful" brand of basketball as they look to better their fourth place in 2018. "I know the team has had a good preparation, and they're ready mentally and physically," she said. —AFP

## Kuwait to host AFC Futsal Asian Cup

**KUWAIT:** President of the Kuwait Football Association Abdullah Al-Shaheen confirmed that the stage was set for hosting the 2022 Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Futsal Asian Cup from September 27 to October 8, with 16 teams partaking. In a press statement Monday, Al-Shaheen said that the Kuwait national football team is fully prepared to compete in this tournament, which will be held in the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Indoor Sports Hall.

He showed confidence in the ability of the Kuwaiti players to be remarkable in the tournament and achieve the best results. He underlined how crucial it is for Kuwait to host this tournament that is sponsored by AFC. In addition to Kuwait, the teams of Iraq, Thailand and Oman will participate in Group A, and the teams of Uzbekistan, Bahrain, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan in Group B.

Group C includes Iran, Lebanon, China, Taipei and Indonesia, while Japan plays in Group D with Saudi Arabia, Vietnam and South Korea. The Kuwait national team begins its journey in the first round of the tournament against its Omani counterpart on the opening day, then meets Thailand on September 29, while concluding its matches in this round with its Iraqi counterpart on the first of next October. —AFP

## Worcester boss fears for crisis rugby club's future

**LONDON:** Worcester director of rugby Steve Diamond said the cash-strapped rugby union club still faced an uncertain future after a gutsy 36-21 loss at home to Exeter in the English Premiership on Sunday. Worcester's debts have soared to a reported £25 million (\$28 million) and this weekend's game only got the go-ahead on Friday after the Warriors just met a deadline to provide a safety certificate for matches at their Sixways Stadium.

Many Worcester players and staff have received just 65 percent of their salaries for August, a point recognized by several members of the backroom team forming a guard of honor for the Warriors side that took the field in front of a limited crowd of 5,000. Worcester co-owner Jason Whittingham released another statement Sunday saying he believes the club will have new owners - and investment - within the next 48 hours. But Diamond, speaking after Sunday's match, said: "I don't know how long we can keep going with this as I've been informed that negotiations are taking place behind the scenes but I'm not party to them." "Don't know how long we can keep going" - Diamond added: "There are limits to how many times players or staff can turn out on goodwill without being paid and it's impossible for anyone to work without any internet and heating with winter around the corner."

And the former Sale supremo, while saying Midlands club Worcester hoped to fulfil their fixture against Gloucester on Wednesday, warned the Warriors were trying the patience of UK financial authorities. "Realistically I don't know how long we can keep going for with the winding-up application due in late September, a line has to be drawn somewhere," he said. Despite all the off-field struggles, Worcester were competitive against Exeter before the 2020 double winners eventually outscored the home team by five tries to three. —AFP

## Global golfers try to 'shock the world' at Presidents Cup

**CHARLOTTE:** An American squad with 11 of the world's 18 top-ranked players arrived Monday at the Presidents Cup as huge favorites for a ninth consecutive victory over a depleted Internationals lineup. Top-ranked Masters champion Scottie Scheffler, No 4 Patrick Cantlay, fifth-ranked Tokyo Olympic champion Xander Schauffele and multiple major winners Justin Thomas, Jordan Spieth and Collin Morikawa lead the 12-man US team into Quail Hollow. "I'm excited about this 12 and ready to get going," US captain Davis Love said. "It will be a great show once Thursday starts."

The Americans, who feature six rookies including Scheffler, own an 11-1-1 edge in the all-time rivalry, taking the past eight from the global squad. Their only loss came at Melbourne in 1998. They face an Internationals team with a record eight rookies, their youngest-ever lineup averaging 28.8 years after defections to the Saudi-backed LIV Golf Series denied them British Open winner Cam Smith of Australia and top-25 players Joaquin Niemann of Chile and Abraham Ancer of Mexico.

Still, a lineup with seven newcomers tested a Tiger Woods-led US team in 2019 at Melbourne before losing 16-14. "That fun vibe will continue with all the fresh blood in the team this time around," Internationals veteran Adam Scott of Australia said. "And if we can get the momentum going, we might just shock the world." It would be a huge upset if the decimated global team downed one of the most formidable American sides ever, a group to rival the one that ripped Europe 19-9 in last year's Ryder Cup. Love's lineup has 12 of the world's top 25 even without injured No. 8 Will Zalatoris and several LIV Golf defectors, including Dustin Johnson. The Internationals boast five of the top 30, led by 2021 Masters champion Hideki Matsuyama of Japan at 17th, but US talent and depth make them an overwhelming favorite despite the tight fight in their last meeting. "We came so close to getting the win in 2019," Matsuyama said. "It still frus-



ATLANTA: Scottie Scheffler of the United States and Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland walk during the final round of the TOUR Championship at East Lake Golf Club in Atlanta, Georgia. —AFP

trates me to think back at how close we came to getting it done. "But we've got a new team and hopefully this year will be a different story."

### Homa, Kim bring spark

Max Homa, among the US newcomers this week, captured his fifth PGA title Sunday at the Fortinet Championship, sinking a last-hole chip-in birdie. "This is definitely going in with some confidence, so that's nice," Homa said. Homa, who won his first PGA title at Quail Hollow in 2019, had something to prove after being a captain's pick. "I've had a lot of people tell me if the LIV guys wouldn't have left, I wouldn't have made the Presidents Cup team," he said. "So I had a little bit of a chip on my shoulder."

US assistant captain Webb Simpson sees Homa as a crucial team member. "He's such a likable guy. He's so easy to be around," Simpson said. "Most if not all the

guys would love to play with Max." The Internationals will get a jolt from 20-year-old Kim Joo-hyung, among a record four South Koreans on the roster. "I hope to just get the energy going," Kim said. "I'm a lot younger than all the guys on the team, so hopefully I can bring that energy. "We know it will be tough but as long as we come together as a team, we're going to have a chance."

World number 21 Kim will be the third-youngest player in Cup history after Japan's Ryo Ishikawa and Spieth. "He's got this enthusiasm that's palpable," Internationals captain Trevor Immelman said. "He's an incredibly mature, well-rounded guy for just being 20. He's the real deal. There's no doubt about it." Internationals assistant captain KJ Choi predicts big things from his countryman. "I think he will definitely be in top-10 in the near future," Choi said. "I hope he makes number one someday." —AFP

## South Africans attract highest prices at T20 tournament auction

**JOHANNESBURG:** South Africans attracted the highest prices while several leading international players went unsold at the SA20 Twenty20 tournament auction in Cape Town on Monday. Rising star Tristan Stubbs was bought by Sunrisers Eastern Cape, who paid 9.2 million rand (\$540,000) for the middle-order batter to play in the event next January and February. Sunrisers also paid the second-highest price of 6.9 million rand for batsman Rilee Rossouw.

SA20 commissioner and former South Africa star Graeme Smith said the aim was to make the new league the second most popular in the world behind the Indian Premier League (IPL). All six South African franchises are controlled by Indian owners of IPL teams, although no Indian players are available. Tall all-rounder Marco Jansen went to the Pretoria Capitals for 5.6 million rand. But Eoin Morgan, who recently quit international cricket after a stint as England's white-ball captain, did not attract any bids.

The highest price paid for an overseas player was 2.1 million rand for new England batsman Harry Brook and West Indies fast bowler Alzarri Joseph, who were both bought by Johannesburg Super Kings. Several leading players, including



Tristan Stubbs

England white-ball captain Jos Buttler, England all-rounder Liam Livingstone and Afghanistan spinner Rashid Khan had been signed before the auction along with South Africa stars Kagiso Rabada, David Miller, Faf du Plessis and Anrich Nortje.

Overseas players who went unsold included New Zealand's Jimmy Neesham, West Indians

Odean Smith, Brandon King, Jayden Seales and Shai Hope, England's Tymal Mills and Ollie Robinson as well as Sri Lankans Pathum Nissanka, Kusal Mendis and Kusal Perera. South Africa T20 captain Temba Bavuma did not attract any bids, nor did Test skipper Dean Elgar. Unsold players could be bought in a second round of bidding. —AFP



Sports

# Nations League games offer last chance to prepare for World Cup

## Domestic competitions bear the brunt of upheaval to the calendar

PARIS: A hectic schedule of club football ahead of the World Cup is interrupted this week as national teams get a last chance to finetune their preparations before travelling to Qatar for the start of the tournament on November 20. Holding the World Cup in the middle of the European season is having major consequences for clubs but also for coaches of national teams.

While domestic competitions bear the brunt of the upheaval to the calendar as they are forced to halt a week before the opening game in Qatar, that also means there will be next to no time for squads to work together before beginning their World Cup campaigns. Extra importance is therefore placed on events over the next week, as European sides complete the UEFA Nations League group stage while other contenders play friendly matches, including back-to-back games for Brazil on French soil against Ghana and Tunisia.

### French concerns

Reigning world champions France are preparing to defend the crown they won in Russia in 2018 while simultaneously trying to avoid being relegated from the top tier of the Nations League. Les Bleus, who won the Nations League last year, host Austria on Thursday and visit Denmark on Sunday needing to win both games to be sure of remaining in League A. But France coach Didier Deschamps has numerous issues, not least injuries to key players including Paul Pogba—he is recovering from a knee operation which has left him facing a race against time to be fit for Qatar.

“He will do everything to try to be fit as quickly as possible, despite the lack of time,” Deschamps told broadcaster TF1 on Sunday. It is also too early to say if a dispute between Kylian Mbappe and the French Football Federation over image rights could impact squad morale, with the Paris Saint-Germain star refusing to take part in a photo shoot on Monday. France’s latest squad features several new faces who are hoping to seize their chance to impress before final lists must be submitted to FIFA by November 13.

### Toney gets England chance

England manager Gareth Southgate has handed an opportunity to Brentford forward Ivan Toney as the Euro 2020 runners-up play Italy and Germany in Nations League A3. Like France, England suffered a series of poor results in June and so realistically need to win both of these games to avoid relegation to League B.

But Southgate will run the rule over an expanded 28-man squad with Qatar in mind. “Part of the rationale is that we are very close to a World Cup and we feel, although our results were disappointing in the summer, we have picked on the basis of form and capability over a long period,” Southgate said last week. Spain and Cristiano Ronaldo’s Portugal will warm up for the World Cup by meeting in Braga on September 27 in a game that could decide which of the Iberian neighbors advances to the Nations League finals next June.

Meanwhile, fresh from signing a new four-year deal, Wales manager Robert Page has named Los



LUSAIL: A general view shows the Lusail Stadium, the 80,000-capacity venue which will host the FIFA World Cup final in December, on the outskirts of Qatar's capital Doha. —AFP

Angeles FC’s Gareth Bale in his squad for games against Belgium and Poland. Wales look set to be relegated from their Nations League group too, but that is not something that will concern them

too much before they return to the World Cup stage for the first time since 1958. Notable UEFA Nations League matches this week (kick-offs 1845 GMT). —AFP



## Joint program to promote triathlon sport in Kuwait

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Kuwait Triathlon Federation and Club officials met with Education Ministry Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Development and Activities Faisal Maqseed to discuss the launch of a joint program to promote the triathlon sport in the government schools. The Federation was represented

by Chairman Rashid Al-Kandary, Treasurer Saad Al-Ali and Director General Rabiah Al-Hajiri. Al-Kandary said the meeting was fruitful with new ideas and means to promote triathlon among students, particularly the young ones, who may become champions and represent Kuwait at the international level.

He said a protocol will be signed with the Ministry when the final approval is made. Coaches and referees will be sent to schools to introduce the Triathlon Sport to male and female students. Al-Kandary said there will be cooperation between the Triathlon Federation and school association to organize children’s championships. He said that the Ministry will designate a swimming pool to train athletes after official hours.

Leicester. Violent street clashes between members of the Hindu and Muslim communities broke out after India beat arch-rival Pakistan in an Asia Cup match in Dubai on August 28. The violence has made headlines in India and Pakistan as well as the UK, and dozens have been arrested. Videos posted on local media showed large groups of youths wearing masks and balaclavas fighting in the streets and chanting slogans.

Jonathan Ashworth, an opposition Labour MP in Leicester, condemned “shocking scenes of unacceptable incidents of violence”, in an interview with Times Radio. The politician tweeted on

## Recovering Barca predict €1.3 billion revenue

BARCELONA: Barcelona have forecast revenue of 1.255 billion euros (\$1.254 billion) for the 2022-23 season, with a predicted profit of 274 million euros. The Spanish side have been under great economic stress in recent years but gained financial leverage this summer with a string of operations which allowed them to strengthen the team.

Barca signed Bayern Munich striker Robert Lewandowski, Sevilla defender Jules Kounde, Leeds United winger Raphinha and various other players on free transfers. They were able to do this after selling 25 percent of their television rights to investment firm Sixth Street for the next 25 years, raising over 500 million euros.

Barcelona also sold 24.5 percent of their Barca Studios production company to fan token firm

Socios.com and the same amount again to Orpheus Media, for around 100 million euros each. These deals, plus the return of supporters in droves after low attendances last season, mean their expected income for next season has risen from last year’s revenue of 1.017 billion euros and a profit of 98 million euros.

In the 2020-21 season Barcelona posted losses of 481 million euros and blamed them for not being able to renew their all-time record scorer Lionel Messi’s contract, leading him to sign for Paris Saint-Germain on a free transfer. The club spent heavily for several years, bringing in Brazilian midfielder Philippe Coutinho from Liverpool in a club record deal worth up to 160 million euros in 2018, before later selling him to Aston Villa for around 20 million euros, among other ill-fated operations.

Along with income being severely hit by the pandemic, it drove the team to the brink of crisis, with president Joan Laporta saying when he took over in March 2021 the team was “dead”. “We restructured the debt, we controlled the bills, we reduced the sporting salary a bit but not enough yet, we found new income and sponsors,” Laporta told club members in June. “We went from being dead to being in intensive care.” —AFP

## DC United’s Taxi Fountas denies using racist slur

WASHINGTON: DC United forward Taxi Fountas on Monday denied using a racist slur during his team’s loss to Inter Miami as Major League Soccer launched an investigation into the incident. Fountas was accused of using the N-word after tangling with Inter Miami defender Damian Lowe during the second half of Sunday’s clash at Audi Field. Greece international Fountas was substituted by United boss Wayne Rooney after Miami players said they would not continue to play if he remained on the field.

However on Monday Fountas strongly denied using the language which halted play for several minutes. “I did not use the word I am being accused of using,” Fountas said in a statement on Instagram. “That despicable racial slur is one I denounce and did not use. “We had a hot discussion on the field. But I have not racially abused anyone. I firmly reject racism in any

form. “It is despicable ... I always respect the culture, religion, and skin color of each person. I am therefore very upset by this accusation and saddened to be falsely accused.”

Major League Soccer has opened an investigation into the incident, warning it had “zero tolerance” for abusive language. “MLS has zero tolerance for abusive and offensive language and we take these allegations very seriously,” the league said. “An investigation into this matter will begin promptly. Further information will be provided upon completion of that investigation.” Inter Miami boss Phil Neville said after the game that Fountas had used the “worst word in the world.”

“We’re a club that is proud of our diversity and inclusion in our staff and supporters, and there is no place at all for racism on a football field or society,” Neville said. “A word was used that is unacceptable in society. It is the worst word in the world.” Miami’s US international defender DeAndre Yedlin said he expected MLS to take action, describing the incident as an “incredibly dark moment.” “We’ll see what MLS does about it,” Yedlin said. “My eyes will be on that a lot. It’s up to them to take action and make a stand and show that it not only has no place in the game but no place in society,” he added. —AFP

## Calls for calm after cricket match sparks unrest in English city

LONDON: Community leaders and local politicians appealed for calm on Tuesday after a cricket match between India and Pakistan prompted weeks of unrest in the multicultural English city of

Monday that all in the city “are united in calling for calm, peace and harmony”. Leaders of Hindu and Muslim communities gathered on Tuesday morning on the steps of a mosque. Pradip Gajjar, the president of the city’s Iskcon Leicester Hindu temple, read out a joint statement saying they were “saddened and heartbroken to see the eruption of tension and violence”.

“Physical attacks on innocent individuals and unwarranted damage to property are not part of a decent society and indeed not part of our faiths,” he added, according to a video posted by the local Leicester Mercury newspaper. The communities

called for an immediate end to “provocation and violence”. The Leicester Mercury stressed that “the issues behind the unrest... are far more complex than just a cricket match”.

Police said on Monday that 47 people had been arrested in relation to the unrest, which began the night of August 28 and continued this month. “The impact this disorder is having on our local communities is not acceptable,” Leicestershire Police said on Monday. “We will not tolerate violence, disorder or intimidation in Leicester and we continue to call for calm and dialogue. “Our police operations and investigations continue with rigour and at scale.” —AFP

# Classifieds

### Hospitals & Clinics

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

### Clinics

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

Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401

### CHANGE OF NAME

I, Michelle Henry Fernandes, holder of passport No. T5337449, do hereby change my name to Michelle Antonet D’Costa for all purposes. I will henceforth be known by the name of Michelle Antonet D’Costa and I also undertake to carry out this name change in all my documents. (C# 2405) — 20-09-2022

Yalla Venkatamma holder of Passport No. L1432096 do hereby change my name to Konka Parvathi given name Yalla Venkatamma surname all purposes I will henceforth be. (C# 2406) — 21-09-2022

EMERGENCY ☎ 112



## Bills maintain unbeaten start, thrash Titans 41-7

Allen, Diggs spark Bills in Titans rout



ORCHARD PARK: Zack Moss #20 of the Buffalo Bills runs the ball against the Tennessee Titans during the third quarter of the game at Highmark Stadium on September 19, 2022 in Orchard Park, New York. — AFP

**NEW YORK:** Josh Allen threw four touchdowns as the Buffalo Bills maintained their unbeaten start to the season with a 41-7 rout of the Tennessee Titans on Monday. Bills quarterback Allen was at his swaggering best in an emphatic win for Buffalo, finishing with 317 passing yards from 26-of-38 completions. Three of Allen's touchdown passes were snaffled by receiver Stefon Diggs. "We know he is one of the greatest, if not the greatest receiver in the game right now," Allen said of Diggs after the victory.

The win made it two wins out of two for Buffalo, who opened the season with a 31-10 drubbing of the reigning Super Bowl champion Los Angeles

Rams earlier this month. But Monday's victory was tinged with concern after a first-half injury to cornerback Dane Jackson, who was carted off the field before being taken to hospital with a neck injury. Jackson was involved in a sickening accidental collision with teammate Tremaine Edmunds just before half-time.

Jackson's head was snapped back violently in the clash. The Bills later revealed Jackson was being evaluated in hospital but reported that the defensive back had full movement in his extremities. Earlier, the Bills took the lead with the opening drive of the game, Allen finding fullback Reggie Gilliam with a

short pass to cap a 14-play 75-yard scoring drive. The Titans responded with a touchdown of their own when running back Derrick Henry blasted over from close range at the end of the first quarter.

But the Bills took over thereafter, going 10-7 up with a 49-yard Tyler Bass field goal before Allen then connected with Diggs for a four-yard touchdown reception to make it 17-7 after the extra point. The Allen-Diggs axis yielded another touchdown early in the third quarter, with Allen launching a 46-yard strike to find the Bills receiver for his second touchdown of the night. A further Bass field goal stretched Buffalo's lead to 27-7 midway

through the third quarter before Allen and Diggs combined once again for their third touchdown to make it 34-7.

Linebacker Matt Milano picked off Titans quarterback Ryan Tannehill for a 43-yard pick six to complete the scoring. In Monday's other NFL game, Jalen Hurts rushed for two touchdowns and passed for 333 yards as the Philadelphia Eagles maintained their unbeaten start to the campaign with a 24-7 victory over the Minnesota Vikings. Vikings quarterback Kirk Cousins was intercepted three times and was sacked twice as Minnesota fell to 1-1. — AFP

### Sport leaders eye Africa for talents and investments

**NEW YORK:** Africa offers a vast underdeveloped market for global sports, with thousands of athletes ready to join international ranks if only there were major investment, industry leaders and stars say. But more government and private-sector partnerships are needed to turbo-charge African sports and bring young players into top-tier leagues of football, basketball and even American football, participants at a business forum said Monday.

In the event on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, NBA commissioner Adam Silver hailed Africa as bursting with sporting potential, noting that more than 10 percent of players in the world's premier basketball league were born in African countries or have African parents.

"Invariably more NBA, WNBA players will be discovered, will be nurtured, will be developed and then be able to play at the highest level," he said of the region's younger generations and the benefits of expanding youth training programs there. Silver also stressed that in order to attract the "literally billions in investments that are needed," sport in Africa must be seen as economically viable.

American football too has beefed up its presence. More than 100 current NFL players are African, according to Osi Umenyiora, a Super Bowl champion who leads an NFL initiative to expand the pipeline of new talent from places such as Ghana and Nigeria. "From a business standpoint it would actually make sense to me to start making business in Africa now," Umenyiora told the audience, adding the NFL has recently opened new player camps in Africa.

The discussion comes along the launch of the new African Super League, which is dangling major prize money for the 24 football clubs that qualify for the first edition next year. Confederation of African Football president Patrice Motsepe said that while Africa's link to European and American leagues is "important," the Super League "will attract billions of dollars in football in Africa to pay the smartest and most talented young Africans and keep them on the continent." Recent 100-meter hurdles gold medalist Tobi Amusan, who in July became Nigeria's first world champion in a track and field event, warned that Africa's lack of infrastructure including training facilities could fuel a migration of athletes.

"I'm not saying don't go to other places," Amusan, who herself is based in Texas, told AFP. "But if the government and private sector have stuff like this implemented in Africa, we keep our own grounded in our countries and not just have them wander away to other countries." The head of the region's new top-flight basketball league also spoke of the delicate balance between international player recruitment and sports development on the ground. — AFP

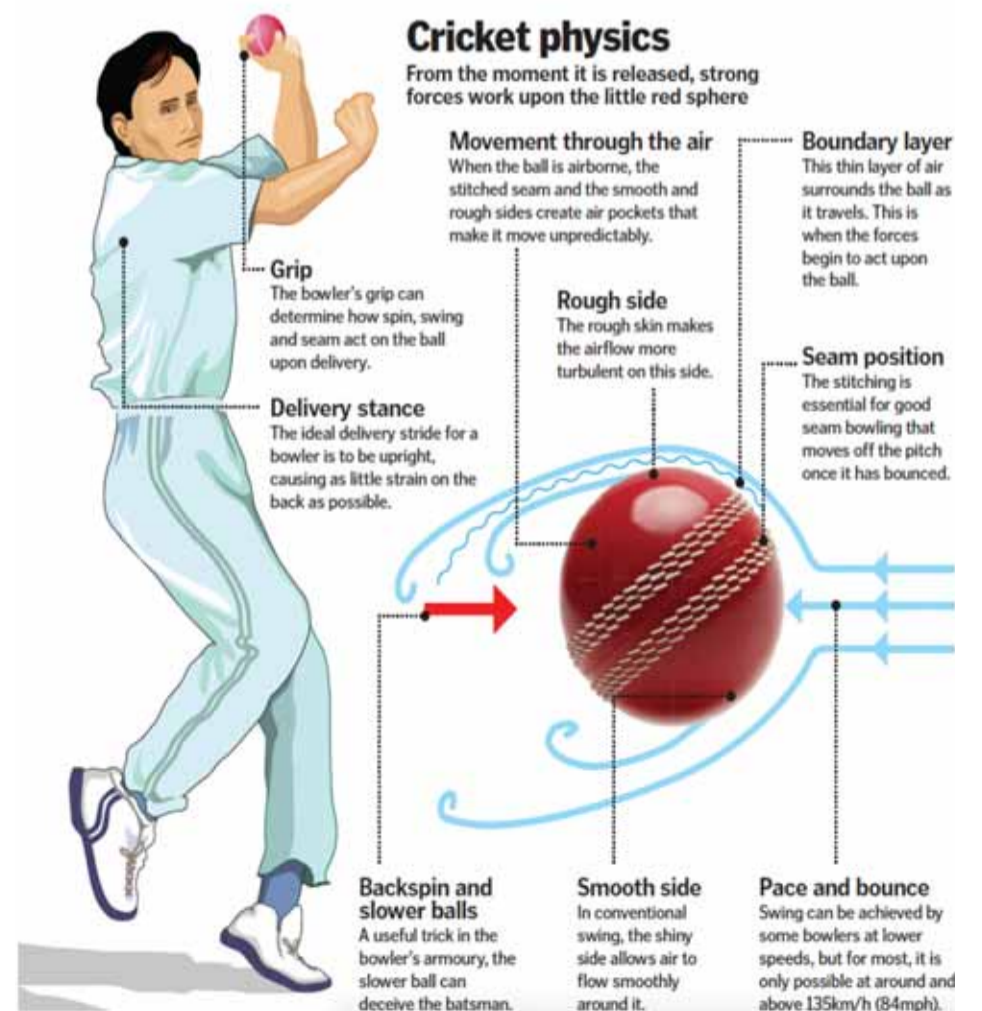
### 'Ban on saliva' to shine cricket balls made permanent

**DUBAI:** A temporary ban on using saliva to shine cricket balls was on Tuesday made permanent by the International Cricket Council. And the running out of the non-striker will no longer be classed under "unfair play" after a raft of rule changes from October 1 were endorsed by a meeting of the ICC chief executives' committee.

Next month's T20 World Cup in Australia will be the first major tournament to be played under the new playing conditions. The ICC said the ban on saliva to shine one side of the ball to help it swing through the air, brought in May 2020 as a temporary measure to prevent coronavirus transmission, would stay. "The ban on saliva use has been in place for over two years in international cricket as a Covid-related temporary measure and it is considered appropriate for the ban to be made permanent," an ICC statement said.

The controversial running out of a non-striker encroaching out of his crease by the bowler is now legitimized after being moved from the "Unfair Play" section of the rules to the "Run Out" section. "Running out a non-striker for backing up too much will now be considered as a regular run out," the ICC said. The dismissal was famously dubbed a "Mankad" named after India bowler who ran out Australia batsman Bill Brown in the 1948 Sydney Test.

But bowlers will no longer be allowed to attempt to run out the striker by advancing down the wicket before entering their delivery stride and throwing at the stumps. If they make such an attempt, it will be called a dead ball. Other rule changes see the new batter having to face the next ball at the striker's end. "Previously, in case the



The Science behind movement of ball (Image Credits: How It Works Magazine)

batters crossed before a catch was taken, the new batter would be at the non-striker's end," ICC said.

The time taken by an incoming batter to take strike in Tests and one-day internationals is now reduced from three minutes to two while in T20 internationals it remains at 90 seconds. One of the other new rules says if fielders make any unfair

and deliberate movements while the bowler is running in to bowl, the batting side can be awarded five penalty runs. Another change allows the use of hybrid pitches at all men's and women's one-day and Twenty20 internationals. Hybrid pitches, a blend of natural grass with artificial turf, have only been previously used in women's T20 internationals. — AFP