

Established 1961

ISSUE NO: 18845
16 PAGES, 150 FILLS

The First English Daily in the Arabian Gulf

SAFAR 30, 1444 AH,
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2022

5 Super Typhoon Noru slams into Philippines



8 EVs at Detroit Auto Show? Consumers have questions



13 German bakeries fighting for survival as costs spiral



15 Kipchoge smashes world record at Berlin Marathon



Heavy traffic jams return as schools, universities reopen

204,000 students go back to school, 42,000 to KU • Govt eyes driving license curbs

Crown Prince meets Sultan Al-Bohra



KUWAIT: HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives the visiting Sultan Al-Bohra Dr Mufaddal Saifuddin at Bayan Palace on Sunday. — KUNA

KUWAIT: Roads across Kuwait came to a standstill on Sunday as motorists got stuck in heavy traffic jams for extended periods of time, as students of public schools, Arab private schools and universities began the new academic year. The General Traffic Department had urged people dropping children to school to leave home early in the morning and use GPS to find alternative routes to avoid being stuck in traffic jams.

More than 42,000 students started the new academic year at Kuwait University, while around 204,000 students started the new academic year at public and Arab private schools on Sunday, including an estimated 43,346 kindergarten students and 160,745 elementary school students. Around 129,832 middle school students and 91,578 high school students start classes on Oct 2. Kindergartens also witnessed the return of school meals after they were suspended during the coronavirus pandemic. School buses have returned only for private schools and religious institutions this semester, and will extend to all schools from the second semester onwards.

As traffic jams return, the Cabinet has received a report on new regulations to issue driving licenses from next year, which the new government will submit after the National Assembly elections.

Continued on Page 6



KUWAIT: Traffic jams returned to Kuwait's streets as public schools and universities reopened. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Top court rules controversial law is constitutional

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The constitutional court ruled on Sunday that a highly controversial law that bars people from running in elections over political convictions is in line with the country's constitution. In its explanation, the court said legislators are permitted to lay down conditions for people planning to run for public office, and accordingly, they can issue legislation that regulate the process of registration for contesting the polls.

It added that it is inappropriate to allow people to vote and run in polls after they had been convicted by court of insulting the Almighty, prophets and HH the Amir. The petition against the law was filed by four candidates who were barred from contesting the elections because they were convicted of making remarks deemed offensive to HH the Amir. The ruling means that all people convicted of crimes of insulting HH the Amir will be barred from life from voting or contesting the polls. As a result, the four candidates who challenged the law will be disqualified from running in the elections.

The court of cassation upheld on Sunday the barring of two more candidates from running in the polls. Last week, the court also barred three other candidates from the polls because they had been convicted in criminal cases. This will cut the number of candidates who will fight for the 50 seats to 304 hopefuls.

Meanwhile, the public prosecution on Sunday issued a warrant to arrest a candidate in the third constituency on allegations of buying votes. The prosecution detained four women working for the candidate. This is the second case of vote-buying busted by the police. It is being handled by the public prosecution.

PAHW readies 9,800 houses for bedoons

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Housing Welfare announced the completion of infrastructure of a low-cost residential project that can accommodate 9,800 houses. "The project started in December 2018. Each plot will be of an area of 200 sq m. The project has a water tank with a capacity of 250,000 gallons with a

well for underground water to replenish it, as well as power stations and transformers. The low-cost housing project, located 16 km from Jahra, will replace makeshift houses in Taima and Sulabiya," the authority said in a press release.

The project includes an investment residential area and public buildings, as well as an area for warehouses and services. Three tenders will be issued for houses and buildings, including three kindergartens, 10 primary schools, six secondary schools, eight intermediate schools, 14 mosques, two main mosques, eight main power

Continued on Page 6



KUWAIT: The infrastructure of a low-cost residential area to house bedoons has been completed.

UAE agrees to supply Germany with gas, diesel

ABU DHABI: The United Arab Emirates agreed Sunday an "energy security" deal with Germany to supply liquefied natural gas and diesel as Berlin searches for new power sources to replace Russian supplies. Emirati industry minister Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber called it a "landmark new agreement" that "reinforces the rapidly growing energy partnership

between the UAE and Germany", at a signing attended by German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, the UAE's state news agency WAM reported.

Scholz was on a visit to the UAE as part of a Gulf tour that also includes stops in Saudi Arabia and Qatar. He met with Emirati President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, who said on Twitter afterwards they had discussed "further opportunities for cooperation in areas including energy security, emissions reduction and climate action". The German leader said he "welcomed" the "energy security" agreement, WAM said.

Continued on Page 6



ABU DHABI: UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz witness the signing of a New Energy Security and Industry Accelerator agreement at Al-Shati Palace on Sept 25, 2022. — AFP

Iran vows 'no leniency' against wave of protests

PARIS: Iran's judiciary chief vowed no leniency Sunday against the wave of unrest that has rocked the country since the death of young Kurdish woman Mahsa Amini in the custody of

the morality police. The warning by the head of the Judiciary, Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei, came after nine nights of protests and street clashes and echoed earlier comments

by ultra-conservative President Ebrahim Raisi.

At least 41 people have died so far, mostly protesters but including members of the Islamic republic's security forces, according to an official toll, although human rights groups say the real figure is higher. The judiciary chief "emphasized the need for decisive action without leniency" against the core instigators of the "riots", the

judiciary's Mizan Online website said.

Hundreds of demonstrators, reformist activists and journalists have been arrested amid the mostly nighttime demonstrations that have spread to scores of cities since unrest first broke out after Amini's death on Sept 16. Security forces have fired live rounds and bird shot, rights groups charge, while protesters have hurled

Continued on Page 6

Local

Divers on a mission



KUWAIT: Members of the dive team monitor the health of the coral reefs.

By Jethu Abraham

KUWAIT: With an increasing global focus on climate change and its widespread impact on our environment, the initiatives spearheaded by voluntary organisations across countries need a special mention. Started in 1986, the Kuwait Dive Team has been working tirelessly to rescue and rehabilitate marine life in the country. Kuwait Times spoke to Dr Dari Alhuwail, International Relations Officer and Volunteer Diver at the Kuwait Dive Team-Environment Voluntary Foundation, to understand the impact of marine pollution in Kuwait and the efforts done to protect the seas.



Dr Dari Alhuwail

Kuwait Times: Can you elaborate on some of the activities carried out by the Kuwait Dive Team to protect the marine environment in Kuwait?

Dr Dari Alhuwail: The dive team carries out many operations which can be categorized under three broad pillars - rescue, rehabilitation and protection of the marine environment. We also have collaborations with the University of Queensland and the Coral Watch program, where we monitor the coral reefs in and around Kuwait and report the data back to the University of Queensland. The data is then published and made available for scientists and researchers around the globe, if anyone wishes to monitor the reef's health. Along with this, we also cooperate with the EPA as well as with our generous supporters and donors in the country and funding and grants received from international agencies. We also have seventy plus mooring buoys around the coral reefs in Kuwait to protect them from destruction and damage.

KT: What are some of the rescue efforts carried out across the marine environment in Kuwait?

Alhuwail: Unfortunately, a lot of our rescue efforts are aimed at picking up deadly ghost nets - fishing nets that have been lost or abandoned in protected areas where people are not supposed to be fishing. These ghost nets then become a graveyard of sorts for all kinds of marine life that gets caught in them. Last week, we picked up underwater ghost nets that were approximately 250 to 300 metres long from Garooh Island. We also pick up ghost nets from Kobar Island and on a weekly basis, we lift a tonne or more of ghost nets from Kuwait Bay, also known as Jon Al Kuwait.

KT: How do ghost nets end up being underwater?

Alhuwail: Usually it is one of two things - One possibility is that when people carry out fishing in prohibited areas, they may suddenly be spotted by authorities, so they abandon their nets and run or the other possibility is that they may not be caught, but their fishing nets get caught or stuck on reef or rocks and because they are quite heavy, they cannot be lifted out easily. So, people abandon them instead. We work closely with the coastal authorities and the general public, so we do get notified about such nets and depending on the location, weather and the marine forecast, we go and pick them up as soon as possible.

KT: How dangerous are these ghost nets?

Alhuwail: They are extremely dangerous and hence, the term ghost nets - an international terminology that is used quite often to define these nets as they literally collect 'ghosts' or bodies of fish and marine creatures that gets stuck in these nets. Previously, we

have lifted ghost nets that had turtles, sharks and all types of fishes caught in them and they don't distinguish between any creatures - it kills anything that gets stuck in them.

Ghost nets are quite dangerous for human beings as well, whether you are above the water or beneath it. If you are in a boat and cruising by, for example, these ghost nets, depending on their size and strength can get tangled in the motor and make it dangerous for the people travelling in the boat. If you are a diver and underwater, you need to surface occasionally, especially if you are doing a free dive. So, while diving, if the diver gets caught in these nets, then the diver would not be able to surface and would end up in the net, just like the turtles and other marine creatures. We once caught a net that looked like it was quite old and must have fallen off a boat, maybe an accident, but there were more than eight birds caught in these nets. These birds are traditionally referred to as 'Loha' in Kuwait and are the kinds that dive in the water to catch fish and then surface. It is likely that these birds dove to catch fish but got caught in these nets instead.

Sometimes people do not act responsibly towards the environment. It is very hard for people to imagine how a bottle which falls out from their car ends up harming the environment. For example, it takes you forty-five minutes to reach Garooh Island, so it is hard for people to understand how a 200 or 300 metres long ghost net floats along underwater and ends up there. The positive side to the whole thing is that we do have some strong laws in place but the problem is in enforcing these laws and in penalising the violators.

KT: Do you think the work you do could also help bring in a stronger enforcement of these laws?

Alhuwail: So, the efforts that we do are primarily aimed at bringing people to the table to be aware of the issue. The role of the dive team is not to enforce laws - we are not the water police. But a lot of the messages that we put up on our social media sites and the live videos, shed light on the issues faced by the marine environment in Kuwait. These do gain the attention of not just the authorities but is also seen by members of the general public. Also, there has been stronger enforcement of laws since sometime but if you ask me whether, is that enough? Probably not. We need to do more. Then again, if we try to monitor the activities that happen across air, land and water all the time, we will fail. I am not suggesting that we should not monitor the situation or not enforce laws, but if we focus on raising awareness and change the



KUWAIT: A picture of a ghost net underwater.



KUWAIT: Members of the dive team pull in a ghost net.

mindset of people, then we don't have to spend our resources on trying to enforce these laws.

KT: So, what does it take to change the mindset of people?

Alhuwail: I think a change of the current mindset needs to be an inherent part of our culture. One thing we try, on a personal level and in the dive team - we encourage this mindset in young minds.

For example, we collaborated with KFAS recently and were part of an initiative called, 'Chief Science Officers,' where we interacted with young students who were interested in the sciences and environment issues and it was interesting to hear about ways they could help. We also initiate mobile beach clean-up units during the cooler months. This is a great way to teach youngsters the significance of such issues rather than speak to them in a classroom where they would just find it boring to listen to. Even on site, at the beach, we limit the number of instructions we give them and instead explain it through games and in ten minutes, we are off to the beach to do the clean-up. We teach them about separating the waste items, identify the items in the waste bins and so on - all done under adult supervision. We have worked with around 20,000 students so far, with parents and supervisors coming back to us and letting us know that it was an unforgettable experience.

KT: Coming back to the work done by your team, we spoke about ghost nets and marine pollution in general, what are the other problems that you have observed in Kuwait seas?

Alhuwail: Well, if we look at the coral reefs, for example, we do find that a lot of dirt causes damage to the reefs. People are also not supposed to be fishing or spearfishing there as these cause damage to the reefs either by their boat anchors or from the divers' fins. These corals are quite sensitive and they grow just a couple of centimetres long every 3-5 years. It takes just an accidental stroke from an inexperienced diver to ruin a decade's worth of corals. Also, there is indirect destruction because of the kind of human activities that we do in the ocean - water salinity and temperature get affected and in such an unstable environment, the corals tend to bleach and die.

It is also interesting to note that during the lockdown when the marine environment remained untouched, marine life started to flourish again. For example, we have a popular kind of fish called Mayth in Kuwait, mostly found in the Kuwait Bay area.

Fishing was not allowed at the bay during that time and we did see a spike in the Mayth population in the waters.

KT: We did have an impactful bleaching that took place on the reefs in 2010 and reports were sent to the University of Queensland then. How is the situation now?

Alhuwail: I would say the situation is fairly stable now. We do see batches of coral bleaching every now and then. But corals of the gulf are quite resilient and can withstand extreme water temperatures - just that they can do it only for so long. In human beings, a 1 degree change in temperature is not a lot for a normal person but in the water, that kind of change can cause an impact. The reef can withstand the impact for a couple of days but if it continues, then it is abandoned and permanent bleaching happens and then it dies.

KT: How would you describe your experience with the Kuwait Dive Team?

Alhuwail: My experience has been nothing but a pleasant one. It has been a joy to be part of this great initiative and on a really minute level, I really feel happy that I am helping in some way. Last week, we rescued several crabs from a ghost net as they had got stuck in it. Nobody cares about this, but those crabs would have died had they not been rescued. It comes from our upbringing as a Kuwaiti and what our religion teaches us makes a difference - how we need to be respectful about life, how we should understand their suffering and so on.

We often dive in harsh environments with extremely low visibility and quite dangerous as well with regards to pulling out ghost nets. But we do it with a lot of joy. We don't have a party after a rescue mission. We finish, jump back on the boats and go home. Thankfully, we have a good network - the fire department, the EPA, coast guards, scientific centre - everybody knows about the work we do; we can be notified quite quickly and we are there to help. A special mention also goes for our families who are quite supportive of the work we do because I am taking from them, the time I have to spend with my family and my children. I would also like to thank my workplace, Kuwait University, which is quite supportive of community service. This does not mean that I am ignoring my teaching duties, it is just that in my free time, it is a great thing that I am able to do this with all the support I get.

Local

Only 19 out of 143 expats get official approval to own properties since 2000

Only Arab residents can apply to own real estate in Kuwait

By Majd Othman

KUWAIT: Exclusive statistics obtained by Kuwait Times show the number of expatriates who applied to own real estate in Kuwait reached 143 applicants since 2000, but only 19 requests were approved by the Cabinet, according to the registration and authentication department at the ministry of justice. The statistics showed the nationalities who obtained documents for owning real estate in Kuwait since 2000 include six Jordanians, four Syrians, three Yemenis, two Egyptians, two Lebanese, one Tunisian and one Palestinian.



Asem Al-Osaimi

Accordingly, 115 requests submitted to the Cabinet were rejected, including from 34 Jordanians, 12 Yemenis, 35 Syrians, 23 Lebanese, 11 Palestinians, 12 Egyptians, eight Iraqis, one Sudanese, one Tunisian and one Moroccan. Meanwhile, applications from non-Arab nationalities who were rejected include two British, one French, one Australian and one Canadian.

Asem Al-Osaimi, head of legal affairs at the real estate registration and authentication department at the ministry of justice, in an interview with Kuwait Times, explained the processes and conditions residents need to follow to apply to own properties in Kuwait from a legal angle, stressing that final

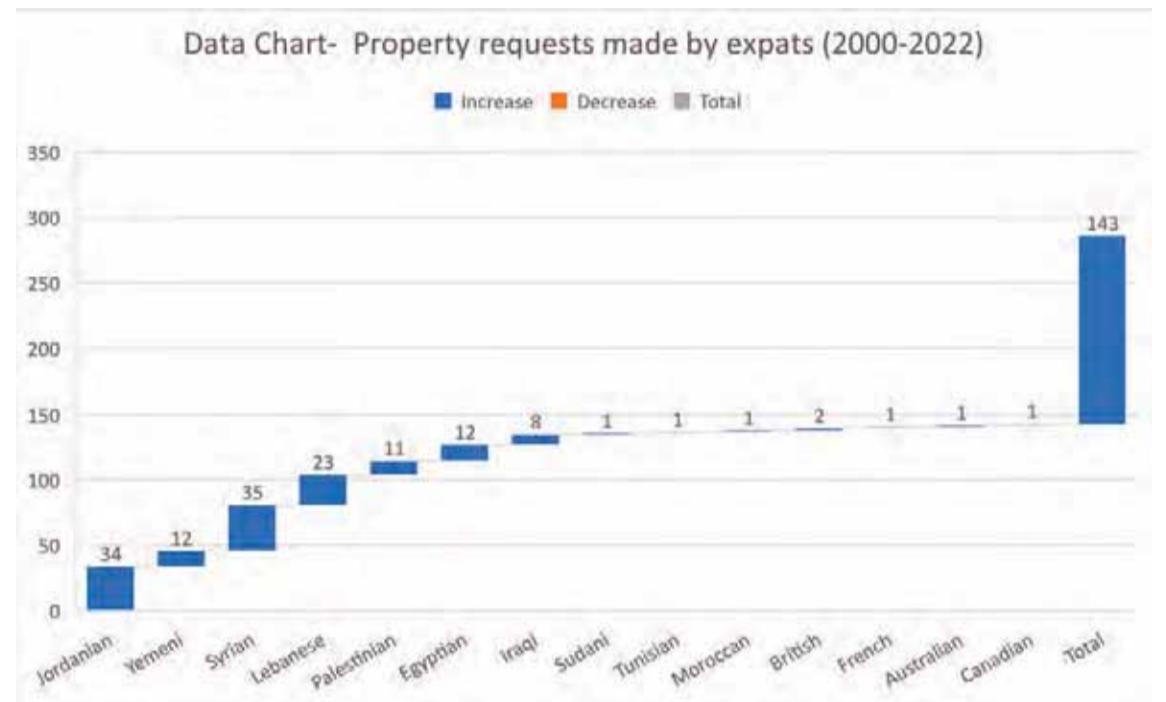
approval has to come from the Council of Ministers' General Secretariat.

"The original law at the real estate registration department at the ministry of justice says only citizens can own real estate in the country, but law no. 74 of 1979 allowed residents of Arab nationalities to own real estate in Kuwait. Embassies and diplomatic missions can also own properties in Kuwait, according to the amendment of article 2 of law no. 119 of 1986," Osaimi said. He pointed out Kuwaiti law does not allow non-Arab residents to own real estate as personal property in the country.

"When the legislators set the law of owning property in Kuwait, they explained in the beginning that Kuwait is not a large country, and priority of ownership should be given to citizens. But the law later added Arab nationals as well, which will cause a problem related to areas and demographics," he explained.

Regarding the conditions for expats to own real estate in Kuwait, Osaimi said: "Applicants who want to own property in Kuwait have to submit their applications with the required papers to the real estate registration department at the ministry of justice. The main conditions set by the Cabinet include residing in Kuwait for at least 10 years before the date of submitting the request, and financial solvency that allows them to buy property."

Meanwhile, Osaimi pointed out several rules for expats owning real estate in the country. "The law does not allow the expat to gift the property to someone else - the property must be sold or bought. The property should only be for residential purposes. If the authorities find out the owner violates this con-



dition, the property could be withdrawn," he said, adding, "the property area should not exceed 1,000 meters and cannot combine properties that exceed this area. In this case, the law will obligate him to dispose one of the two properties within a year."

Osaimi added Kuwaitis should be treated similarly in the country of the expat applicant, meaning they should be allowed to own property in that

country, in addition to the fact that a foreigner cannot share ownership of the property with a Kuwaiti. Regarding the minimum amount that has to be in the expat's bank account in order to approve his request to own property in Kuwait, he said: "The law does not specify a minimum amount the applicant should have in their bank account. They should only have financial solvency."

Kuwait Transparency Society to monitor national elections

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Transparency Society said that around 91 observers are expected to monitor the 2022 National Assembly Elections scheduled to be held on Sept 29. Asrar Hayat, Secretary for the Transparency Society said that these observers would ensure that the voting process would function in accordance to the rules and regulations set by the authorities, such as whether voters would be able to participate in the voting process without being unduly influenced.

Hayat said that while the observers would not interfere in the administrative aspect of the voting process, the Society would inform the authorities if they noticed any violations of the regulations in place. "We would issue a report of the electoral process, after the elections, where the positives and negatives of the elections would be highlighted," she said, adding that the document would also be submitted to the legislative and executive authorities



Asrar Hayat

as well, in addition to it being published in a press conference later on.

Hayat said that such reports were significant as they reflected Kuwait's attempts to address transparency in the national affairs of the country and could be useful in improving the country's global transparency rankings. The Kuwait Transparency Society has been involved in monitoring elections since 2008 and has also hosted several international delegations during such occasions, she added.

"The observers for the upcoming elections have been adequately trained for the task. The society has been previously involved in monitoring elections abroad in addition to formulating several draft laws such as the establishment of an anti-corruption - an initiative carried out in cooperation with the legislative and executive authorities."

Legalese

Domestic Workers' Rights

By Fajer Ahmed

fajer@kuwaittimes.net

A 'domestic worker' is a term used to describe any employee who works inside a house or a residence; for example, a nanny, cook or driver. According to Kuwait's Public Authority of Civil Information, in the year 2021, there is an estimate of 732,000 domestic workers in the country, comprising nearly a quarter of the population of Kuwait. This is a large segment of society that is often not seen.

Here are a few rights and obligations of domestic workers according to the Domestic Worker Law:

Article (7) - Payment at the end of every month:
The employer is obligated to pay the agreed wages to the domestic worker who works for the employer at the end of every month.

Article (10) - Safe and dignified work:
It is not permissible to assign to the domestic worker any dangerous work that could affect the worker's health or humiliate the worker's dignity. The Department of Domestic Labor has the jurisdiction to handle any claims that arise from such behavior.

Article (12) - Documentation and Passports:
The employer is not allowed to keep in his possession any of the domestic worker's personal identity documents, such as passport or civil status card, unless the domestic worker has agreed thereof.

Article (15) - Obligation of Domestic Workers:
The domestic worker must protect the employer's wealth and property and not reveal the employer's secrets.

Article (23) - End of service remuneration:
The end of service remuneration for the domestic worker is to be allocated for payment after completion of the contract duration. The amount is set at one month's wage for every year.

Children commence school year with spirited determination



KUWAIT: Kindergarten and elementary school students commence their educational journey on Sunday with spirited determination. The students appeared joyous as they approached the first school year free of any post pandemic restrictions. — KUNA

Kuwait University receives 42,000 students for new academic year

KUWAIT: More than 42,000 students have started their academic year at Kuwait University on Sunday - an increase of around 8,100 students from the previous academic year.

The university has said that 42,136 students are currently studying at the university, while 8,134 freshman students are admitted this year and studying across 15 colleges.

The head of student affairs at the university, Dr Sami Al-Durai'i has congratulated all new students as well as continuing students along with the teaching and academic committees on the start of the new year.

"The students affairs team is ready to receive students through different planned activities and

student services, on the development of their creative and mental skills and in preparation of a suitable climate for a college student and to increase the culture of communication, learning and competition through the encouragement of team spirit in different cultural, artistic, volunteer and sporting activities," Al-Durai'i said.

"The management has a complete list of activities and events arranged for the start of the academic year, with the first activity being a guide lecture for new students which was held in the college of management. Moreover, a supervising panel has been formed to overlook the election process at the university," he clarified.



News in brief

KFF douses hotel
fire in Riggae

KUWAIT: The public relation department at the Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) has announced that its squads were able to control a fire that has erupted in an illegally-run hotel in Riggae on Saturday. "The central command received a call about a fire in a hotel after which they sent five squads from Shuwaikh industrial, Ardiya, Bidaa for rescue operations. The fire, which was started in the basement, spread on to the ground floor as well, the PR department said.

Gulf competition raffle
to be held on Oct 25

BASRA: The Iraqi Football Association has announced that the raffle for the 25th Gulf Football competition will be held on Oct 25 in Basra, with the actual competition to be held from Jan 6 till Jan 19. The competition is held every two years since 1970, with the first game held in Bahrain and Qatar hosting the last competition in 2019. Kuwait has won majority of the games with 10 titles while KSA, Qatar and Iraq have come second with three victories and UAE and Oman gaining two trophies.

Ahmadi governor congratulates
start of the new academic year

KUWAIT: Ahmadi governor, Fawwaz Al-Sabab, has said that he is quite hopeful of the new academic year after the pandemic, where faculty and students have returned to a normal working phase, as it used to be before the pandemic. "Congratulations to all leaders and the people of the Ahmadi governorate as well as the education ministry and the volunteers for their hard effort and measures undertaken ahead of the new academic year," he said hoping that these efforts are met with success.

CMA announces
changes to regulations

KUWAIT: The Capital Market Authority (CMA) has issued changes to regulations such as - the creation of an outside panel which would handle capital procedures, changes in the investment representatives, the independence of the operation officer from the executives, changes in academic degrees and experience requirements and changing procedures regarding authorizations, in case executives are absent. These changes come as part of the authority's initiative to improve its regulations and be up to date with the latest developments in the capital markets.

CSC to quicken procedures
regarding citizens' enquiries

KUWAIT: The head of the Civil Service Commission, Dr Isam Al-Rubayyan, has received many inquiries such as combining studies with work, combining work in the private and government sectors, annual leave cashbacks, allowances and changing job titles. "I have looked over many legal memos which explain suspension decisions and some financial awards, which need approval from either the civil service commission council, financial ministry or other departments," Al-Rubayyan said. "We are also looking for legal solutions to speed up procedures to facilitate the process for citizens in a way that does not affect the public interest badly," he added. "Some of these problems need edits on regulations in coordination with government departments or new solutions for financial needs, which will be discussed on a case-to-case basis."

KFF puts out
fire in Hasawi

KUWAIT: Firemen put out a blaze in a house in Hasawi area. The house is made of three floors with the fire spreading from the ground floor to the upper ones. Jleeb, Ardiya and Mishref fire stations responded for the rescue operations and no injuries were reported.

أول صحيفة تصدر باللغة الإنجليزية على مستوى دول الخليج تنشر عدداً خاصاً بمناسبة مرور 61 عاماً على إصدارها

«كويت تايمز».. 61 عاماً من الريادة الإعلامية محلياً وإقليمياً

باعتبارها همزة الوصل مع وسائل الإعلام ووكالات الأنباء العالمية والقراء المهتمين بأخبار الكويت حول العالم.

وتعد الصحيفة جسر التواصل مع المقيمين على أرض الكويت من غير الناطقين باللغة العربية والبعثات الدبلوماسية والسفارات في البلاد إذ تتواصل وتتفاعل معهم ومع أخبارهم وقضاياهم.

وقد حققت انتشاراً إعلامياً واسعاً داخل البلاد وخارجها على مدى هذه السنوات واكتسبت قاعدة جماهيرية ضخمة من المقيمين على أرض الكويت ورفدت السوق بخبرات صحافية مميزة.

تطور مستمر

وقد عملت الصحيفة خلال السنوات الأخيرة على تعزيز حضورها في وسائل التواصل الاجتماعي لتتواجد أينما يتواجد قراؤها وتمدهم بالأخبار وآخر المستجدات وكان لها دور رائد في التواصل مع غير الناطقين بالعربية خلال جائحة كورونا مصدراً أساسياً للأخبار باللغة الإنجليزية للمقيمين. كما تعمل «كويت تايمز» من خلال خطة واضحة المعالم على تطوير محتواها الإلكتروني والورقي وإثراء المحتوى الإنجليزي المرتبط بالكويت وأخبارها وأحداثها اليومية والتاريخية ومواصلة دورها الرائد الذي بدأتته قبل 61 عاماً.



.. والعدد الأول الصادر في 24 سبتمبر 1961



عدد أسبوعياً من «كويت تايمز» لاحتفالاً بمناسبة مرور 61 عاماً على إصدارها

والتحديات المفصلة في فترة التسعينيات، كما استمرت في الصدور ومواكبة الأحداث حتى يومنا هذا لتصل إلى عامها الـ 61 من الصدور المستمر المنتظم دون توقف.

إنجازات مشهودة

وتفتخر «كويت تايمز» بعد 61 عاماً من العمل الصحافي بإنجازاتها المهنية ودورها في تمثيل الكويت في الخارج والدفاع عن قضاياها

ومطار الكويت الدولي والمشاريع النفطية وشهدت تطوير البنية التحتية والصحية والتعليمية في السبعينيات وإنشاء المدارس والمستشفيات وبناء المدن الإسكانية.

كذلك كانت «كويت تايمز» شاهدة عياناً على العصر الذهبي للرياضة الكويتية في الثمانينيات وتأسيس مجلس التعاون الخليجي والغزو العراقي الغاشم على الكويت والتحرير وإعادة الإعمار

وعلى صفحتها الأولى جاءت رسالة تهنئة من رئيس دائرة المطبوعات والنشر آنذاك سمو الأمير الراحل الشيخ صباح الأحمد، طيب الله ثراه، وهي الدائرة التي حصل منها المؤسسة العليان على ترخيص الصحيفة.

مرحلة النهضة

كما واكبت الصحيفة تأسيس الوزارات والمؤسسات والشركات والقضاء واقتتاح جامعة الكويت

احتفلت الزميلة «كويت تايمز» بالذكرى الـ 61 لتأسيسها وصدورها عدداً خاصاً بهذه المناسبة في الوقت الذي تواصل دورها الريادي والتنويري في تناولها لمختلف القضايا المحلية والإقليمية والدولية بمختلف تنوعها سياسياً واقتصادياً ورياضياً وثقافياً.

وتحمل صحيفة «كويت تايمز» سجلاً ناصعاً من الريادة في تاريخ الصحافة الكويتية والخليجية والعربية، فهي أول صحيفة تصدر باللغة الإنجليزية على مستوى منطقة الخليج العربي.

تاريخ عريق

تم تأسيس «كويت تايمز» على يد رئيس جمعية الصحفيين الكويتية الأسبق الراحل يوسف العليان، حيث صدر عددها الأول في 24 سبتمبر 1961 بعد استقلال الكويت لتواكب نهضتها التنموية التي صاحبها حراك اجتماعي وتنوع ثقافي مع احتضان البلاد لجنسيات عربية وأجنبية شتى. وأصبحت «كويت تايمز» الصحيفة الأولى لغير الناطقين باللغة العربية من المقيمين، حيث تنقل أخبارهم وتزودهم بأخبار العالم وتنقل للعالم أخبار الكويت وتمثل الدولة في الخارج أمام المجتمع الدولي.

طبع العدد الأول من صحيفة «كويت تايمز» مكوناً من 4 صفحات في مطبعة «المقهوي».

Kuwait Times thanks Al-Anbaa

KUWAIT: Kuwait Times thanks Editor-in-Chief of Al-Anbaa daily Yousef Khaled Al-Marzouq and Managing Editor Mohammad Al-Husseini for congratulating Kuwait Times on its 61st anniversary. Kuwait Times, the first English daily in the Arabian Gulf founded by Youssef Saleh Al-Alyan, celebrated its 61st anniversary with a special edition on Sunday in the same dimensions and color of its inaugural issue published on September 24, 1961.



Yousef Khaled Al-Marzouq



Mohammad Al-Husseini

Congratulations!

On this special occasion of the 61st anniversary of the first English newspaper in this region, we send our sincere congratulations. Over the years, Kuwait Times has been winning an outstanding place in the media world.

Wish KT more success and steady progress for the years ahead.

Brigadier General Xue Chuanlai
Chinese Defence Attache



Xue Chuanlai



KUWAIT: From left - Omar Rahbani, Cluster Director of Sales, St. Regis Hotel, Kuwait; Taleb Kanjo, Advertising Manager, Kuwait Times and Peter Boghdady Cluster Sales Manager, St. Regis Hotel, Kuwait stand before a cake presented to Kuwait Times by St. Regis Hotel, on their visit to the office, congratulating the newspaper for completing six decades in the region.

The Office of Public Relations and Marketing at the American University of Kuwait (AUK) congratulates Kuwait Times on its 61st Anniversary.
Wishing you a prosperous future!

Tomoooh Sports Club and Kuwait Society's Parents of the Disabled launches awareness campaign

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Tomoooh Sports Club and Kuwait Society's Parents of the Disabled launched an awareness campaign with the theme 'our vote makes a difference', to make disabled people aware of their political rights, as guaranteed by the constitution and law 8/2010, with regards to the rights of the disabled and in accordance with the international treaty on the disabled rights - how they can exercise their political rights in the parliamentary elections. The campaign was launched during an educational gathering for club and society members at the club premises in Rawdha area.

The launch included a short video, a guide book and field visits to the candidates' election headquarters, without endorsements of any candidate. Rihab Buresli, Chairwoman of the club and society, said the campaign was initiated from a societal responsibility towards disabled children and highlighted their participation as a means to achieve the 17 goals of sustainable development that were issued by the United Nations in 2015. "It is also a confirmation of the disabled rights which they should enjoy in full, without discrimination and include their causes as an indivisible part of the sustainable development strategies," she added.





N Korea fires ballistic missile: Seoul

Russia vows to fix mistakes after old, sick people mobilized



QUEZON CITY, Philippines: Village officers operate a siren to warn residents near a creek in Quezon city suburban Manila on September 25, 2022, as Super Typhoon Noru slammed into the Philippines. — AFP

Typhoon Noru slams into Philippines

Dozens of flights in and out of Manila cancelled

MANILA: Super Typhoon Noru slammed into the Philippines Sunday, battering the heavily populated main island of Luzon with strong winds and heavy rain that have forced hundreds of people to flee their homes.

The storm was packing maximum sustained winds of 195 kilometres (121 miles) an hour as it charged towards the archipelago nation after an unprecedented "explosive intensification", the state weather forecaster said.

Noru, the strongest storm to hit the Philippines this year, made landfall in Burdeos municipality on the Polillo islands, part of Quezon province, at 5:30 pm (0930 GMT). "We ask residents living in danger zones to adhere to calls for evacuation whenever necessary," Philippine National Police chief General Rodolfo Azurin said.

The Philippines is regularly ravaged by storms, with scientists warning they are becoming more powerful as the world gets warmer because of climate change. "The winds were fierce this morning," said Ernesto Portillo, 30, who works as a cook in the coastal municipality of Infanta in Quezon.

"We're a bit worried... We secured our belongings and bought a few groceries so we have food just in case." Videos posted on social media and

verified by AFP showed trees being buffeted by strong winds in Infanta and on the Polillo islands.

The meteorology agency said the storm's wind speeds had increased by 90 kilometres per hour in 24 hours. "Typhoons are like engines—you need a fuel and an exhaust to function," said weather forecaster Robb Gile.



"Typhoons are like engines"

"In the case of Karding, it has a good fuel because it has plenty of warm waters along its track and then there is a good exhaust in the upper level of the atmosphere—so it's a good recipe for explosive intensification," he added, using the local name for the storm.

The storm hit about 100 kilometres northeast of

Manila. Emergency personnel braced for the possibility of strong winds and heavy rain battering the capital, home to more than 13 million people. Forced evacuations have started in some "high risk" areas of the metropolis, officials said.

"NCR is prepared. We are just waiting and hoping it will not hit us," said Romulo Cabantac, regional director for the civil defence office, referring to the National Capital Region.

Calm before the storm

Noru comes nine months after another super typhoon devastated swathes of the country, killing more than 400 people and leaving hundreds of thousands homeless. Ahead of the latest storm, residents in several municipalities in Quezon were evacuated from their homes, according to the provincial disaster office. In the neighbouring province of Aurora, residents of Dingalan municipality were forced to seek shelter.

"People living near the coast have been told to evacuate. We live away from the coast so we're staying put so far. We're more worried about the water from the mountains," said Rhea Tan, 54, a restaurant manager in Dingalan.

Tan said residents were securing the roofs of

their houses and boats were being taken to higher ground while the weather was still calm. "We're even more anxious if the weather is very calm, because that's the usual indicator of a strong typhoon before it hits land," Tan added.

Noru is expected to weaken to a typhoon as it sweeps across central Luzon, before entering the South China Sea on Monday and heading towards Vietnam. The weather bureau has warned of dangerous storm surges more than three metres high along the coast of Aurora and Quezon, including the Polillo islands, along with widespread flooding and landslides as the storm dumps heavy rain.

It could topple coconut and mango trees, and cause "severe losses" to rice and corn crops in the heavily agricultural region, while inundating villages. The coast guard reported more than 2,500 people had been left stranded by ferry cancellations as vessels took shelter ahead of the storm.

Dozens of flights in and out of Manila were also cancelled. School classes and non-essential government services have been suspended for Monday. The Philippines-ranked among the most vulnerable nations to the impacts of climate change—is hit by an average of 20 storms every year. — AFP

Eastern Canada looks to clean up as Fiona calms

MONTREAL: Parts of eastern Canada were waking up to damage from powerful storm Fiona on Sunday, as meteorologists said the worst weather had passed. The storm tore into Nova Scotia and Newfoundland on Saturday, cutting power to thousands and washing houses into the sea as it brought fierce winds and rains "like nothing we've ever seen," police said.

Two women were swept into the ocean in Newfoundland, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police said. One was rescued, and investigators were looking into the second case. Mayor Brian Buttton of Channel-Port aux Basques, on the southwestern tip of Newfoundland, said in a Facebook video Saturday night that at least 20 homes had been destroyed and the community looked like a "total warzone."

"We've got destruction everywhere." A boil water order was in effect, Buttton said, encouraging residents in need to take shelter at a local elementary school. As of late Saturday afternoon, nearly 500,000 homes were without power across the region as the storm hammered a wide area, felling countless trees and ripping roofs from buildings.

"The power lines are down everywhere," Erica Fleck, assistant chief of Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency, told CBC. "It's not safe to be on the roads." Although downgraded to a post-tropical cyclone, Fiona still packed hurricane-force winds of 80 miles (130 kilometers) per hour as it first barreled into Canada after earlier battering the Caribbean, according to meteorologists.

By early Sunday, the storm's maximum sustained winds had slowed to 50 mph, according to the Canadian Hurricane Centre (CHC), with the government forecasting "strong winds" over northern Newfoundland, southeastern Labrador and southeastern Quebec. "These winds will diminish later today," the CHC said.

Nova Scotia hard hit

The storm first made landfall in Nova Scotia province around 3 am (0600 GMT), according to



IN SPACE, Undefined: This National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) satellite handout image shows post-tropical storm Fiona over eastern Canada. — AFP

the CHC. By Saturday night, 294,000 households were still without electricity in the province, Nova Scotia Power reported, though repairs had started on some lines.

The utility's president said outages could last for days. In New Brunswick, more than 25,000 were still without power while 82,000 customers were without electricity on Prince Edward Island.

"Trees have come down on homes, trees have come down on cars, there's buildings that have collapsed," Fire Chief Lloyd MacIntosh in the Nova Scotia town of North Sydney told CBC. Police in Charlottetown, the capital of Prince Edward Island, posted images of tangles of downed power lines and roofs punctured by felled trees.

"It's incredible," said Charlottetown mayor Philip Brown on Radio-Canada TV. "It's stronger than Hurricane Juan in 2003." Nova Scotia Premier Tim Houston said in a statement that "it will take time for Nova Scotia to recover. I just ask everyone for their patience."

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who canceled his trip to Japan for former prime minister Shinzo Abe's funeral so that he can travel to the affected regions, told Canadians that the "government is standing ready to support provinces with any necessary resources." — AFP

Far right eyes historic victory as Italy votes

ROME: Italians voted Sunday on whether to usher in the country's first government led by the far right since World War II, bringing eurosceptic populists to the heart of Europe. The Brothers of Italy party, headed by one-time Mussolini supporter Giorgia Meloni, has led opinion polls and looks set to take office in a coalition with the far-right League and Silvio Berlusconi's Forza Italia parties.

Meloni, 45, who campaigned on a motto of "God, country and family", hopes to become Italy's first female prime minister. Turnout was around 19 percent by 1000 GMT, according to the interior ministry, in line with the last elections in 2018, as large queues formed outside voting stations.

"I'm playing to win, not just to take part," Matteo Salvini, head of the far-right League, told reporters as he went to cast his ballot. "I can't wait to come back from tomorrow as part of the government of this extraordinary country," he added.

President Sergio Mattarella and Enrico Letta, leader of the centre-left Democratic Party, also voted early Sunday. Polls close at 2100 GMT. Many voters are expected to pick Meloni, "the novelty, the only leader the Italians have not yet tried", Wolfgang Piccoli of the Teneo consultancy told AFP.

Brussels and the markets are watching closely, amid concern that Italy—a founding member of the European Union—may be the latest country to veer hard right, less than two weeks after the far right outperformed in elections in Sweden.

If she wins, Meloni will face challenges from rampant inflation to an energy crisis as winter approaches, linked to the conflict in Ukraine. The Italian economy, the third largest in the eurozone, rebounded after the pandemic but is saddled with a debt worth 150 percent of gross domestic product.

'Limited room for manoeuvre'

Meloni has dedicated her campaign to trying to prove she is ready despite her party never before being in power. Brothers of Italy, which has roots in the post-fascist movement founded by supporters



MILAN, Italy: Italian news agency Ansa shows former Italian Prime Minister and leader of the Italian right-wing party "Forza Italia" (FI), Silvio Berlusconi, wave as he leaves after casting his vote on September 25, 2022 at a polling station in Milan. — AFP

of dictator Benito Mussolini, pocketed just four percent of the vote in 2018.

Meloni has moderated her views over the years, notably abandoning her calls for Italy to leave the EU's single currency. However, she insists her country must stand up for its national interests, backing Hungary in its rule of law battles with Brussels.

Her coalition wants to renegotiate the EU's post-pandemic recovery fund, arguing that the almost 200 billion euros Italy is set to receive should take into account the energy crisis aggravated by the Ukraine war.

But "Italy cannot afford to be deprived of these sums", political sociologist Marc Lazar told AFP, which means Meloni actually has "very limited room for manoeuvre".

The funds are tied to a series of reforms only just begun by outgoing Prime Minister Mario Draghi, who called snap elections in July after his national unity coalition collapsed. Despite her euroscepticism, Meloni strongly supports the EU's sanctions against Russia over Ukraine, although her allies are another matter. Berlusconi, the billionaire former premier who has long been friends with Vladimir Putin, faced an outcry this week after suggesting the Russian president was "pushed" into war by his entourage. — AFP

International

Russia vows to fix mistakes after old, sick people mobilized

'Incorrect cases of mobilization... are provoking fierce reactions in society'

MOSCOW: Russian authorities on Sunday promised to fix the mistakes in their troop call-up for Ukraine, after some public outrage over students, older or sick people being mistakenly ordered to report for duty. When Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a partial mobilization on Wednesday, he said only people with "relevant" skills or military experience would be concerned.

But many expressed outrage after seeing-sometimes absurd-cases of authorities summoning people unfit for service. Authorities in the southwestern Russian region of Volgograd sent a 63-year-old diabetic ex-military staffer to training camp, despite poor health and cerebral issues.

The 63-year-old came back home Friday night, according to Russian state agency RIA Novosti. In the same region, 58-year-old school director Alexander Falin received a call-up order despite having no military experience. His daughter posted a video on social media that became viral. He was allowed home after his documents were reviewed, according to RIA.

A rare admission Upper house speaker Valentina Matviyenko called on all governors-who oversee the mobilization campaigns-to avoid mistakes, in a rare admission on Sunday. "Incorrect cases of mobilization... are provoking fierce reactions in society, and rightly so," Matviyenko said in a statement on Telegram.

"Some are assuming that handing in their report (to their superiors) quickly is more important than correctly fulfilling this important mission," she added.

"This is unacceptable... Make sure that partial mobilization is carried out in full and complete compliance with the criteria. And without a single mistake!" she ordered.

The governor of the northwestern Leningrad region, Alexander Drozdenko told local districts heads to "take the residents' appeals under your personal control and deal with each single case," according to a statement on his administration's website Sunday.

The Vladimir region governor Vladimir Avdeev already said Saturday that "anyone mobilized by mistake will return home." The errors are painted as isolated cases. But the very fact that Russian authorities are talking about them point to concerns about the level of indignation coming from some of the population.

Errors are painted as isolated cases

'Undermining confidence'

This new example is Russia's latest logistical issue revealed since the beginning of the Ukraine

offensive in February. Russia announced on Saturday the replacement of its highest ranking general in charge of logistics amid this mobilization drive.

On Saturday Valeriy Fadeev, chairman of the human rights council to the Kremlin, had urged defence minister Sergei Shoigu to "urgently resolve issues" to avoid "undermining the confidence of the people."

He mentioned several aberrations including the recruitments of 70 fathers of large families in the far eastern region of Buryatia, and of nurses and midwives without any military skills. Fadeev said these

Black Lives Matter anti-racism protests, which saw calls for statues of historical figures linked to slavery to be torn down.

During the national mourning period which ended with the queen's funeral on September 19, protests were held about the death of Chris Kaba, an unarmed black man who was shot dead by police in London.

The monarchy itself had previously been drawn into the debate when Charles's youngest son, Prince Harry, and his mixed-race wife, Meghan, accused the royal family of racism. That claim saw the queen promise to investigate but prompted an outright rejection from Harry's brother William. "We are very much not a racist family," he told reporters.

Harry and Meghan quit royal life in early 2020 and moved to California, winning many fans among younger people and in the black community for taking on the British establishment.

'Mass awakening'

Unresolved questions about race and colonialism are all the more significant as Charles stands to succeed his mother as head of the 56-nation Commonwealth group of nations. Many members are former British colonies, while most of the body's 2.6 billion people are not white and most are aged under 30.

David Olusoga, author of "Black and British: A Forgotten History", said there had been a "mass awakening to the realities and legacies of imperialism and slavery" in the Commonwealth.

But the British historian wrote in The Guardian that Buckingham Palace had failed to recognise or understand the "shift of consciousness". He highlighted William and his wife Catherine's Caribbean tour earlier this year, which was widely criticised as smacking of colonialism.

William also faced calls to apologise for slavery and

two-thirds of Kuwait's population).

Sources said the report asks the interior ministry to revisit driving license issuance, as many expats obtained their licenses without meeting the required conditions, such as the minimum salary and professional requirements, calling on the interior ministry to suspend the licenses of all violators. Also, some expats received their licenses when their salaries were over KD 600, but later moved to a lower-paying job, so their licenses will be suspended. Sources said the report requests not allowing vehicles older than 15 years to be driven on the streets due to their negative impact on the environment, as they choke traffic and consume excess gasoline.

memorization house, two police stations, two gas branches, four branches of local banks and an elderly care center and office.

The area will also include a specialized health center, a public clinic, a telephone exchange, a main central market, wedding halls for men and women, a community development center, a social center, a government complex, a Zakat House, a garage, a water purification plant, a sewage station, freshwater towers and a green belt of an area of 138,500 sq m to prevent sand encroachment.

ery to Germany earlier this month, and will "supply up to 250,000 tons of diesel per month in 2023", it said. "ADNOC has reserved a number of further LNG cargos exclusively for German customers in 2023," it said.

Sunday was the second and final day of Scholz's Gulf tour, which he hoped would seal new energy deals to replace Russian supplies and mitigate the energy crisis resulting from Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. On Saturday, he met in Jeddah with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, and on Sunday afternoon he arrived in gas-rich Qatar to hold talks with Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani. — AFP



ALTANBULAG, Mongolia: People arriving from Russia wait at the Mongolian border checkpoint of Altanbulag on September 25, 2022, after the Kremlin announced a partial mobilization for the war in Ukraine. —AFP

recruits were called up "under threat of criminal prosecution."

Fadeev also criticized those "handing out summons at 2 am as if they all thought we were draft evaders." Several students told AFP they were given call-up papers, despite Russian authorities promising they would be left out of the recruitment drive.

On Saturday, Putin signed a decree confirming

students in secondary vocational and higher education institutions would be exempted from mobilization.

Detained anti-mobilization protesters said police gave them call-up papers in custody-ordering them to enlist in the very effort they were denouncing. But the Kremlin defended the procedure on Thursday, saying "it isn't against the law". —AFP

King Charles faces battle to win over UK black community

LONDON: Queen Elizabeth II's death earlier this month prompted a flood of tributes-but not from everyone. In Britain's black community, many asked: what had she ever done for us? The question gave her eldest son and successor, Charles III, an early taste of what he will have to confront as king, with feelings still running high about the toxic legacy of Britain's colonial past.

At her death, the queen was head of state of 14 countries outside Britain, including nations in the Caribbean exploited by the slave trade. Charles immediately succeeded his mother as their distant head of state but the question of for how long is increasingly being discussed as republican movements gather pace.

Kehinde Andrews, professor of black studies at the University of Birmingham, wrote the day after the queen's death on September 8 that he did not share the country's loss. "For the children of the British empire, those of us who were born here and those of us who were born in the 15 nations of the 'commonwealth', the Queen is the number one symbol of white supremacy.

"She may have been seen as an institution but for us, she was the manifestation of the institutional racism that we have to encounter on a daily basis," he wrote on the Politico website.

Royals accused

Many black Britons no longer want to stay silent about the racism that they see as rooted at the heart of many British institutions. The subject came to fore in



LONDON: File photo shows Britain's Prince Charles, Prince of Wales (R) shakes hands and poses for selfie photographs with members of the public in Walworth in south London during a visit to The Prince's Trust Kickstart supported young people at JD Sports. —AFP

for the monarchy to pay reparations. "Historians might well look back at that tour as the first portent of the age in which we now find ourselves: the post-Elizabethan age," Olusoga said.

Since then, William has praised the "immense contribution" of the "Windrush" generation of Caribbean migrants, who came to Britain after World War II to help the country rebuild. Despite arriving legally, many found themselves later wrongly detained and even deported under the government's hardline immigration policies.

Race equality

Ashok Viswanathan, deputy director of Operation Black Vote, said Charles's record, via his Prince's Trust charity, of working with disadvantaged young people and the black community "speaks for itself".

But he said that to convince black Britons and especially the young, "he will have to foster that relationship in his new role". Charles is said to have been working behind the scenes to counter discrimination. —AFP

Heavy traffic jams return as schools...

Continued from Page 1

"The report affirmed that the number of licenses in Kuwait is large and there are violations that shouldn't continue due to their security dangers, which also cause traffic jams on the streets," sources told Kuwait Times, adding licenses issued to expats exceed those issued to Kuwaitis (expats make up

PAHW readies 9,800 houses...

Continued from Page 1

stations, fire and ambulance stations, a center for girls, a youth center, three public parks, two private schools, three Quranic institutes, a Holy Quran

UAE agrees to supply Germany...

Continued from Page 1

As part of the deal, the UAE will provide "an LNG cargo for delivery in late 2022, to be used in the commissioning of Germany's floating LNG import terminal at Brunsbuetel", a North Sea port, the WAM report added. UAE state oil company ADNOC completed its first ever direct diesel deliv-

Iran vows 'no leniency' against...

Continued from Page 1

rocks, torched police cars, set ablaze state buildings, and shouted "death to the dictator".

Iran's largest protests in almost three years have been led by women and triggered not by classic political or economic grievances but by anger over the Islamic republic's strictly enforced gender-based dress code. Amini, whose Kurdish first name was Jhina, was arrested on Sept 13 for allegedly breaching the rules that mandate tightly-fitted hijab head coverings and which ban, among other things, ripped jeans and brightly colored clothes.

Some Iranian women protesters have since taken off and burnt their hijabs in the rallies and cut off their hair, some dancing near large bonfires to the applause of crowds that have chanted "zan, zendegi, azadi" or "woman, life, freedom".

Iranian Academy Award-winning filmmaker Asghar Farhadi was the latest to add his voice of support for Iran's "progressive and courageous women leading protests for their human rights alongside men". "I saw outrage and hope in their faces and in the way they marched in the streets," he said in a video message on Instagram. "I deeply respect their struggle for freedom and the right to choose their own destiny despite all the brutality they are subjected to."

The world has learnt of much of the turmoil and violence through shaky mobile phone footage posted and spread on social media, even as authorities have throttled Internet access. WhatsApp, Instagram and Skype have been blocked and internet access restricted according to web monitor NetBlocks, following older bans on Facebook,

Twitter, TikTok and Telegram.

London-based rights group Amnesty International has warned of "the risk of further bloodshed amid a deliberately imposed internet blackout". Protests abroad have been held in solidarity with Iranian women in Athens, Berlin, Brussels, Istanbul, Madrid, New York, Paris, Santiago, Stockholm, The Hague, Toronto and Washington, among other cities.

Iran - which is ruled by supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, 83, and which has been hit with tough economic sanctions over its nuclear program - has blamed "foreign plots" for the unrest. The foreign ministry said Sunday it had summoned Britain's ambassador over what it described as an "invitation to riots" by Farsi-speaking media based in London, and Norway's envoy over "unconstructive comments" made by the parliament speaker.

Iran has also organized large rallies in defense of the hijab and conservative values, and another pro-government rally was set to be held Sunday in Enghelab (Revolution) Square in central Tehran. The main reformist group inside Iran, the Union of Islamic Iran People's Party, has called for the repeal of the mandatory dress code and the winding down of the morality police. The party - led by former aides to ex-president Mohammad Khatami, who oversaw a 1997-2005 thaw with the West - also called on the government to "authorize peaceful demonstrations" and release those arrested.

Human rights groups based abroad have sought to shine light on the turmoil rocking Iran, citing their own sources in the country. Oslo-based group Iran Human Rights has put the death toll at 54, excluding security personnel. Iranian authorities have yet to state the cause of death of Amini, who activists said died as a result of a blow to the head. Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi has said Amini was not beaten and that "we must wait for the final opinion of the medical examiner, which takes time". — AFP

International

China, India call at United Nations for negotiated end to Ukraine war

Beijing supports all efforts conducive to peaceful resolution of Ukraine crisis

UNITED NATIONS: China and India on Saturday called at the United Nations for a negotiated end to the Ukraine war, stopping short of robust support for traditional ally Russia.

After a week of pressure at the United Nations General Assembly, Russia's foreign minister took the General Assembly rostrum to deliver a fiery rebuke to Western nations for what he termed a "grotesque" campaign against Russians.

But no major nation has rallied behind Russia, including China, which just days before the February invasion of Ukraine had vowed an "unbreakable" bond with President Vladimir Putin. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi called on both Russia and Ukraine to "keep the crisis from spilling over" and from affecting developing countries.

"China supports all efforts conducive to the peaceful resolution of the Ukraine crisis. The pressing priority is to facilitate talks for peace," Wang said. "The fundamental solution is to address the legitimate security concerns of all parties and build a balanced, effective and sustainable security architecture."

During his visit to the United Nations, Wang met with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, in their first

talks since the war began.

Earlier this month Putin acknowledged Chinese "concerns" about Ukraine during a meeting with his counterpart Xi Jinping.

Limiting material support

US officials have been heartened by what they see as China's lack of concrete backing for the war and say that Beijing has declined requests to send



"India is on the side of peace"

military equipment, forcing Russia to rely on North Korea and Iran as its own supplies dwindle. China's reaction to Russia is being closely watched for clues on its approach to Taiwan, a self-governing democracy that Beijing claims as its territory.

Wang held firm that China would take "forceful steps" against any interference,

insisting that efforts to prevent "reunification" with Taiwan would be "crushed by the wheels of history." India, unlike China, has a warm relationship with the United States but it has historic ties with Russia, its traditional defense supplier.

"As the Ukraine conflict continues to rage, we are often asked whose side we are on," said India's foreign minister, Subrahmanyam Jaishankar.

"Our answer, each time, is straight and honest — India is on the side of peace and will remain firmly there," he said. "We are on the side that calls for dialogue and diplomacy as the only way out."

Russia on offensive

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov at a news conference declined to answer whether there has been any pressure from China. In his speech, he sought to cast blame squarely on the West. "The official Russophobia in the West is unprecedented. Now the scope is grotesque," Lavrov told the General Assembly.

"They are not shying away from declaring the intent to inflict not only military defeat on our country but also to destroy and fracture Russia." The United States, he said, since the end of the Cold War has acted as if it is "an



NEW YORK: China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi addresses the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly at UN headquarters in New York City.— AFP

envoy of God on Earth, with the sacred right to act with impunity wherever and whenever they want," Lavrov said.

He also blasted the European Union as an "authoritarian, harsh, dictatorial entity" and said the bloc's leadership forced one member state's leader — Cyprus President Nicos Anastasiades — to cancel a planned meeting with him.

Lavrov criticized the West for not engaging with Russia, saying, "we have never stepped away from maintaining

contact."

Western powers are looking at further sanctions after Putin called up reservists and made a veiled threat to use nuclear weapons, and have vowed not to recognize results of referendums on Russian annexation being held in occupied territories. They have welcomed Lavrov's isolation, noting how he only showed up at a Security Council session on Thursday to deliver remarks and not to listen to others. — AFP

N Korea fires ballistic missile: Seoul

SEOUL: North Korea fired a ballistic missile Sunday, Seoul's military said, just days after a US aircraft carrier arrived for joint drills with the South in a show of force against Pyongyang. With talks long-stalled, nuclear-armed North Korea has doubled down on its banned weapons programmes, even revamping its laws earlier this month to declare itself an "irreversible" nuclear power.

The Sunday launch is the latest in a record-breaking blitz of weapons tests by Pyongyang so far this year, including firing an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile at full range for the first time since 2017.

South of the border, hawkish new President Yoon Suk-yeol, who vowed on the campaign trail to get tough with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, has ramped up South Korea's joint drills with key security ally the US.

Seoul's military "detected one short range missile fired by North Korea at 6:53 today around Taechon in North Pyongan province towards the East Sea," the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said. The missile flew around 600 kilometres (373 miles) at an altitude of around 60 kilometres, with maximum speed of around Mach 5, the JCS added in a statement.

"Our military maintains a full readiness posture and is closely cooperating with the US while strengthening surveillance and vigilance," it said. Japan's coast guard issued a warning for ships after the launch, and Tokyo's defence minister Yasukazu Hamada said the missile landed outside of Japan's Exclusive Economic Zone. "The repeated ballistic missile launches by North Korea are absolutely unforgivable and the remarkable improvement in its missile technology is something we cannot overlook," Hamada said.

Kamala Harris visit

South Korea's President Yoon, who took office in May, has vowed to beef up joint military exercises with the United States after years of failed diplomacy with North Korea under his predecessor. On



SEOUL: People watch a television screen showing a news broadcast with file footage of a North Korean missile test, at a railway station in Seoul on September 25, 2022. — AFP

Friday, the nuclear-powered USS Ronald Reagan and vessels from its strike group docked in the southern port city of Busan, part of a push by Seoul and Washington to have more US strategic assets operating in the region.

Yoon is also due to meet US Vice President Kamala Harris Thursday when she visits Seoul this week, following a trip by President Joe Biden in May, and US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi last month. "The timing of this latest test is sandwiched between the arrival of USS Ronald Reagan this week and VP Harris' visit to Seoul next week," Soo Kim, an analyst at the RAND Corporation, told AFP.

"It's North Korea's way of showing defiance of the alliance and injecting itself at an opportune time." The USS Reagan will take part in joint drills off South Korea's east coast this month. Washington is Seoul's key security ally and stations about 28,500 troops in South Korea to protect it from the North.

The two countries have long carried out joint exercises, which they insist are purely defensive but North Korea sees them as rehearsals for an invasion. "Pyongyang could be making a show of strength

while a US aircraft carrier is visiting South Korea for defence exercises," said Leif-Eric Easley, a professor at Ewha University in Seoul.

"But North Korea's major tests are, most of all, part of a long-term campaign for advancing offensive military capabilities."

Nuclear test next?

South Korean and US officials have been warning for months that Kim is preparing to conduct another nuclear test. Seoul had also detected signs the North was preparing to fire a Submarine Launched Ballistic Missile (SLBM), the president's office said Saturday, a weapon Pyongyang last tested in May.

The isolated regime has tested nuclear weapons six times since 2006. Its last and most powerful one in 2017 — which Pyongyang claimed was a hydrogen bomb — had an estimated yield of 250 kilotons. "North Korea might be delaying its seventh nuclear test out of respect for China's upcoming political conference that Xi Jinping is tightly scripting to extend his leadership," Easley said. "But there are limits to Pyongyang's self-restraint." — AFP

24 dead after boat sinks in Bangladesh

DHAKA: At least 24 people were killed and around the same number were missing on Sunday after an overcrowded boat carrying Hindu pilgrims capsized on a river in northern Bangladesh, police said. "Firefighters and divers are searching for more bodies," local police official Shafiqul Islam told AFP, confirming that 24 deaths had been confirmed so far, most of them women and children.

The boat was packed with up to 50 pilgrims, police said. They were travelling to a centuries-old temple when the vessel suddenly tipped over and sank in the middle of the Karotoa river near the town of Boda in northern Bangladesh. Another police officer said up to 25 people were still missing. Local media said at least 10 people had been rescued and sent to hospital. Mobile phone footage aired by TV station Channel 24 showed the overcrowded boat suddenly flip over, spilling the passengers into the muddy brown river.

Dozens of people watching from the shore around 20 metres (yards) away started shouting and screaming. The weather was calm at the time. Thousands of Hindus in Muslim-majority Bangladesh visit the Bodeshwari Temple every year. Sunday marked the start of Durga Puja, the biggest Hindu festival in Bangladesh—and also eastern India—drawing large crowds at the temple. The incident was the latest in a string of similar tragedies in the low-lying delta country which is criss-crossed by rivers. — AFP

Al-Shabaab suicide attack kills seven

MOGADISHU, Somalia: A suicide attack claimed by the Somali Islamist militant group Al-Shabaab killed at least seven people and injured nine others in Mogadishu on Sunday, the army and eyewitnesses told AFP. A "desperate terrorist" blew himself up on Sunday morning near a line of new recruits who were enrolling at the Nacnac military base in the south of the Somali capital, local military commander Abdullahi Adan told AFP.

"Seven people were killed and nine others injured," he said. "I was close to the site of the explosion, it was huge and I could see dead and injured people," eyewitness Ahme Gobe told AFP. Another eyewitness, Asha Omar, spoke of seeing at least 10 people taken away by ambulance. Al-Shabaab, an extremist Islamist group linked to Al-Qaeda that has been waging an insurgency against the Somali state for 15 years, claimed responsibility for the attack. Its fighters killed at least 19 civilians in central Somalia earlier this month.

The group carried out a major attack on a Mogadishu hotel in August, leaving 21 people dead and 117 injured following a 30-hour siege. Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud has faced a resurgent Al-Shabaab since his election in May and vowed to wage an "all-out war" against the insurgents.

Mohamud also has to grapple with a looming famine caused by the Horn of Africa nation's worst drought in 40 years. Al-Shabaab has been driven out of Somalia's urban centres, including Mogadishu in 2011, but remains entrenched in vast swathes of the countryside. The US army on Wednesday said it had killed 27 Al-Shabaab militiamen in an air strike in central Somalia in support of the country's regular forces. — AFP

Rwanda genocide financier trial to open in The Hague

THE HAGUE: Alleged Rwandan genocide financier Felicien Kabuga will go on trial in The Hague on Thursday, one of the last key suspects in the 1994 ethnic slaughter that devastated the small central African nation. Kabuga's trial will open at 0800 GMT before a UN tribunal, where he has been charged with genocide and crimes against humanity for his role in the massacres 28 years ago of some 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

Prosecutors and the defence are expected to make their opening statements on Thursday and Friday, with evidence in the case to start the following Wednesday. Kabuga's lawyers entered a not guilty plea to the charges at a first appearance in 2020.

Once one of Rwanda's richest men, prosecutors say the octogenarian allegedly helped set up hate media that urged ethnic Hutus to "kill Tutsi cockroaches" and funded militia groups in 1994. Now in his mid-80s, Kabuga was arrested in France in May 2020 after evading police in several countries for the last quarter of a century.

He was then transferred to the UN's International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals in The Hague, set up to complete the work of the now defunct Rwanda war crimes tribunal. Said to be in fragile health, Kabuga in August appeared before the

judges in a wheelchair — and it was not known whether he'll be in court on Thursday as judges are permitting him to attend the hearings via a video link.

Kabuga was originally scheduled to appear in court in Arusha, where the other arm of the IRMCT — also referred to as the MICT — resides, but judges had ruled he would remain in The Hague "until otherwise decided." In June, the judges denied a defence objection, ruling Kabuga was indeed fit to stand trial.

Swift trial wanted

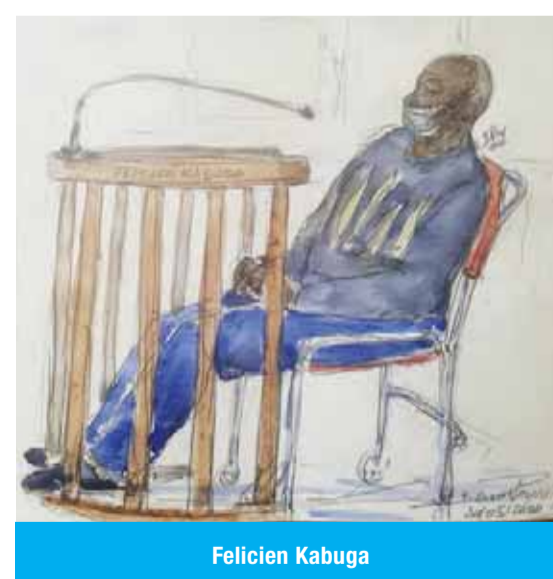
The UN says 800,000 people were murdered in Rwanda in 1994 in a 100-day rampage that shocked the world. An ally of Rwanda's then-ruling party, Kabuga allegedly helped create the Interahamwe Hutu militia group and the Radio-Television Libre des Mille Collines (RTLM), whose broadcasts incited people to murder.

The radio station also identified the hiding places of Tutsis where they were later killed, prosecutors said in the indictment. More than 50 witnesses are expected to appear for the prosecution, which said they needed about 40 hours to wrap up their case.

Prosecutors said Kabuga controlled and encouraged RTLM's content and defended the station when the minister of information criticised the broadcasts. Kabuga is also accused of "distributing machetes" to genocidal groups, and ordering them to kill Tutsis.

Later fleeing Rwanda, Kabuga spent years on the run using a succession of false passports. Investigators say he was helped by a network of former Rwandan allies to evade justice.

Following his arrest in a small apartment near



Felicien Kabuga

Business

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2022

Boursa Kuwait highlights key achievements at annual EFG Hermes Conference in UAE

20 international funds and investment firms show interest in Boursa Kuwait's developments

KUWAIT: Boursa Kuwait participated in the 16th Annual EFG Hermes One-on-One Conference, held in Dubai on 19 and 20 September, 2022, shedding light on the company's recent developments, milestones, financial information and business outlook to an audience of investors.

The exchange met with 20 international asset management funds and investment companies, who showed great interest in learning about the company's latest developments. Representatives from the company showcased its financial data and reviewed the company's plans to develop a transparent and solvent capital market through the implementation of a group of enhancements and regulatory projects as well as the technology to raise the capital market's profile locally and internationally.

The EFG Hermes One-on-One Conference is considered the world's largest conference in frontier emerging markets (FEM), connecting leaders of hundreds of companies from across the region with institutional investors and family offices managing hundreds of millions of dollars in assets.

Commenting on the company's participation, Boursa Kuwait's Chief Financial Officer, Naim Azad

Din said: "During this prestigious conference, we met with 20 international investment companies, shedding light on the company's milestones and financial information. Boursa Kuwait is committed to promoting the Kuwaiti capital market and raising its profile locally and internationally. The company hopes to continue to set an example for listed companies as we aim towards demonstrating our ongoing value and efficiency, proving that we are leading a progressive operation in line with dynamic world-class standards and best practices with ample room for growth and expansion."

Boursa Kuwait recorded net profits (attributable to equity holders of the Parent Company) of KD 10.7 million for the six-month period ended 30 June 2022, an increase of 36.8 percent compared to the same period in 2021, when the company recorded net profits of around KD 7.8 million. The Group's total assets came in at approximately KD 110.8 million, which is an almost 4 percent increase versus its 2021 total assets for the same period of KD 106.5 million, while equity (attributable to equity holders of the Parent Company) increased from KD 52.6 million on 30 June, 2021 to KD 58.3 million at 30



Naim Azad Din

June, 2022, an increase of 10.8 percent. Meanwhile, total operating revenue came in at KD 18.4 million, an increase of 21.8 percent over the same period in 2021, which stood at approximately KD 15.1 million.

"Boursa Kuwait continues to develop its infrastructure and operational framework to attract investments from international investors and highlight the unique investment opportunities that the company has to offer for all market participants. The company is also cognizant of the pivotal role it plays as a key driver of growth and development in the Kuwaiti capital market," Azad Din added.

Boursa Kuwait's participation in conferences organized by prominent international organizations comes within the framework of the company's goal

of strengthening its position as a leader in the financial markets sector. The company is committed to participating in these events and conferences to gain experience and knowledge.

Over the years, Boursa Kuwait has continuously worked towards marketing the exchange and its listed companies globally, organizing roadshows and corporate days to raise awareness among international investors of the latest developments in the Kuwait capital market as well as the development projects, opportunities and advantages offered by investing in Kuwait. The company is committed to attracting investment companies and asset management funds from around the world to the Kuwaiti market.

Since its inception, Boursa Kuwait has worked diligently to create a credible exchange built on efficiency and transparency, creating a liquid capital market, a progressive exchange platform and developing a comprehensive set of reforms and enhancements that has allowed it to compete on an international level. Over the past three years, the company has rolled out numerous market reforms and new initiatives as part of its comprehensive multi-phase market development (MID) plans.

EVs at Detroit Auto Show? Consumers have questions

DETROIT: The emerging fleet of electric vehicles (EV) provoked fascination at the Detroit Auto Show, but many consumers were not yet ready to take the plunge to own one themselves.

Some, like Justin Tata, wanted a first-hand look at new EV offerings, saying "it's embracing the change that's coming because I think the internal combustion engine (ICE) is on the way out." But Tata, who works in the packaging industry, still has questions about EV battery disposal. He came to the Detroit show, which concludes Sunday, to survey the state of play, but doesn't foresee buying an EV for another five to 10 years. Among other attendees, the less-EV enthused included Tim Stokes.

"I think eventually that's going to be the only option," said Stokes as he admired a new gasoline-powered Ford Mustang, adding that he wants to "prolong (driving ICE vehicles) as long as possible."

Friends in the auto industry have advised waiting three or four years for the industry to "work out the kinks" with EVs, said Stokes, who works in telecommunications.

Mainstream options

Long considered a niche sideshow in the auto world, the prominence of EVs at this year's Detroit gathering underscored their new mainstream status as big automakers respond to rising concerns about climate change and government policies promoting EVs. Chevrolet's showcase highlighted EV versions of three of the GM brand's top-selling products: the Silverado pickup, and the Blazer and Equinox, both SUVs. Chevy expects to begin deliveries on the vehicles in 2023.

Ford too has targeted its EV campaign towards



DETROIT: At the Detroit Auto Show earlier this month, General Motors showcased its new electric vehicles, including the Chevrolet Silverado. —AFP

its most popular vehicles, unveiling a battery-powered version of its best-selling F-150 pickup truck and launching the Mustang Mach-E, a new SUV that has also attracted strong interest from consumers. A 2022 Consumer Reports survey showed 14 percent of Americans saying they would "definitely" buy or lease an EV if they were searching for a vehicle, up from four percent in 2020.

While the vehicle launches have brought unprecedented attention to EVs, auto experts say that a meaningful transformation of the ICE-dominated US fleet is still years away.

Price remains a big problem, with the average price of an EV nearly \$67,000, according to Cox Automotive. Experts also cite the lack of EV charging stations as a concern. President Biden signed into law a bill to provide \$7.5 billion to build more stations, as his administration announced the first tranche of funding in parallel with a presidential address at the Detroit show.

Auto insiders also point to doubts about the availability of critical materials such as lithium and cobalt needed for batteries. These issues have come to the fore during the COVID-19 pandemic, when shortages of semiconductors and other supply chain woes forced automakers to restrict vehicle production and store tens of thousands of partially-built autos. Ford said on Monday that it expects to have some 40,000-45,000 mostly built vehicles in inventory at the end of the third quarter due to needed parts. On Friday, the Wall Street Journal reported that the company had delayed some vehicle deliveries due to a shortage of badges with the company's blue oval logo.

Don Lamos, who works for auto supplier, had placed an order on a Ford Lightning, but is backing off after Ford raised the price on that version to above the \$80,000 cap that would allow car buyers to qualify for a \$7,500 tax credit under new US legislation. —AFP

Swiss voters back pension reform

GENEVA: Swiss voters appeared set Sunday to narrowly accept the government's divisive pension reform plan, which would raise the retirement age for women, while snubbing a push to ban factory farming. Shortly after polling stations closed at noon (1000 GMT), the gfs.bern polling institute projected that Swiss had voted to reform their pension system for the first time in more than a quarter of a century.

Bern has long argued the need to "stabilize" the country's old-age security system, under pressure as life expectancy rises and the giant baby-boomer generation reaches retirement age.

The government has seen its attempts to introduce similar pension reform plans thwarted in the polls twice before, in 2004 and 2017, but gfs.bern projected that separate votes on different aspects of the reform had both passed. Early results indicated that 51 percent of voters had opted for the most controversial part of the reform, involving hiking women's retirement age by one year, gfs.bern said an hour after polls closed.

A separate vote on boosting funding for the reform through a sales tax hike was meanwhile on track to pass with 56-percent support, the pollster said. If those numbers are confirmed, women will need to work until the age of 65, the same age as the current retirement age for men, before receiving a full pension.

Gender pension gap

Parliament approved the key measures, which include a sales tax hike, last year, but left-leaning parties and unions decry the reform "on the backs of women" and pushed the issue to a referendum under Switzerland's direct democratic system. While backers of the reform argued that men and women retiring at the same age is not unreasonable, the plan sparked significant pushback, especially from women. This result "is painful for the left and the unions, but especially for the people it will affect," Socialist Party parliamentarian Samuel Bendahan told the RTS public broadcaster.

Opponents argued that women face significant discrimination and a broad gender pay-gap in Switzerland, meaning they receive far smaller pensions than men. They argued it was unfair to increase their retirement age without first addressing those issues. In 2020, women in Switzerland on average received pensions nearly 35 percent smaller than men, according to the Swiss economy ministry.

Polls ahead of Sunday's vote revealed deep divisions between the sexes, one Tamedia poll showing 70 percent of men questioned in favor and 58 percent of women opposed. Early results Sunday were not broken down in terms of gender, but did show a divide between different regions, with the German-speaking part of the country clearly in favor of the reform and the French-speaking part opposed.

Initial results from Geneva for instance showed more than 62 percent of voters had voted against the plan, the RTS public broadcaster reported.

While the pension reform plans appeared set to pass, gfs.bern projected that another hotly debated issue on Sunday's ballot, a proposed ban on intensive livestock farming, would not pass. —AFP

Cypriot carob growers harvest their 'black gold'

NICOSIA: Christos Charalambous might be 79 but he is several meters up a carob tree, harvesting a fruit known as "black gold" on the island of Cyprus as his grandson works below. For some, carob has long been relegated to the status of a less appealing substitute for chocolate.

But in Cyprus, its thick brown pods are also eaten raw or ground up to make sweet syrups, spreads, toffees, drinks and as a sweetener, while its seeds have industrial uses. "It's one of the fruits that you use up entirely," Charalambous said from his field in Asgata.

Branches rustle and sway as he and his grandson, Theophanis Christou, 20, hit the pods loose with long sticks, sending carob raining to the ground. The pair have been working for about three weeks in the late summer heat, collecting about three tons of carob by early September. Christou, a shipping and finance student, is keen to join in his grandfather's labors. It's "hard to do", Christou said, but it's "work that can keep the family together".

'Extra income'

In the nearby coastal village Zygi, individual growers bring bulging sacks of pods into a carob mill. Zygi "started as a carob village" and its name refers to the weigh scale used for the fruit, said community representative Christos Konstantinou.

In Zygi and elsewhere across the eastern



CHOIROKOITIA, Cyprus: Anastasis Daniel, 65, demonstrates how he harvests carob in the village of Choroikoitia. — AFP

Mediterranean island where the carob tree is native, disused or repurposed carob facilities are reminders of the industry's heyday last century. "Carob has been known as the black gold of Cyprus because many farmers used to have carob... it was the main occupation of the villagers," said Stavros Glafkou Charalambous, from the Cooperative Carob Marketing Federation. The federation, which runs the Zygi mill and other facilities, said it works with around 1,500-2,000 small producers, most of them harvesting carob for "extra income".

George Pattichis, 75, from Vavla, said he has been coming to the Zygi mill for more than half a

century. The former forester said some of his carob trees were planted by his grandfather. "I am the last generation-my children have other jobs," said Pattichis.

In 2019, when the growers' price was around 35 euro cents (now 34 US cents) per kilogram, carob represented less than 1.5 percent of the Republic of Cyprus's crop production value, according to statistics provided by the agriculture ministry. This year, carob farmers told AFP the price was nearing one euro per kilogram (2.2 pounds). "I will sell to whoever offers me the best price," said Anastasis Daniel, 65, in Choroikoitia village. —AFP

Business

Council of Ministers of Labor in GCC States honors KFH for its excellence in manpower nationalization

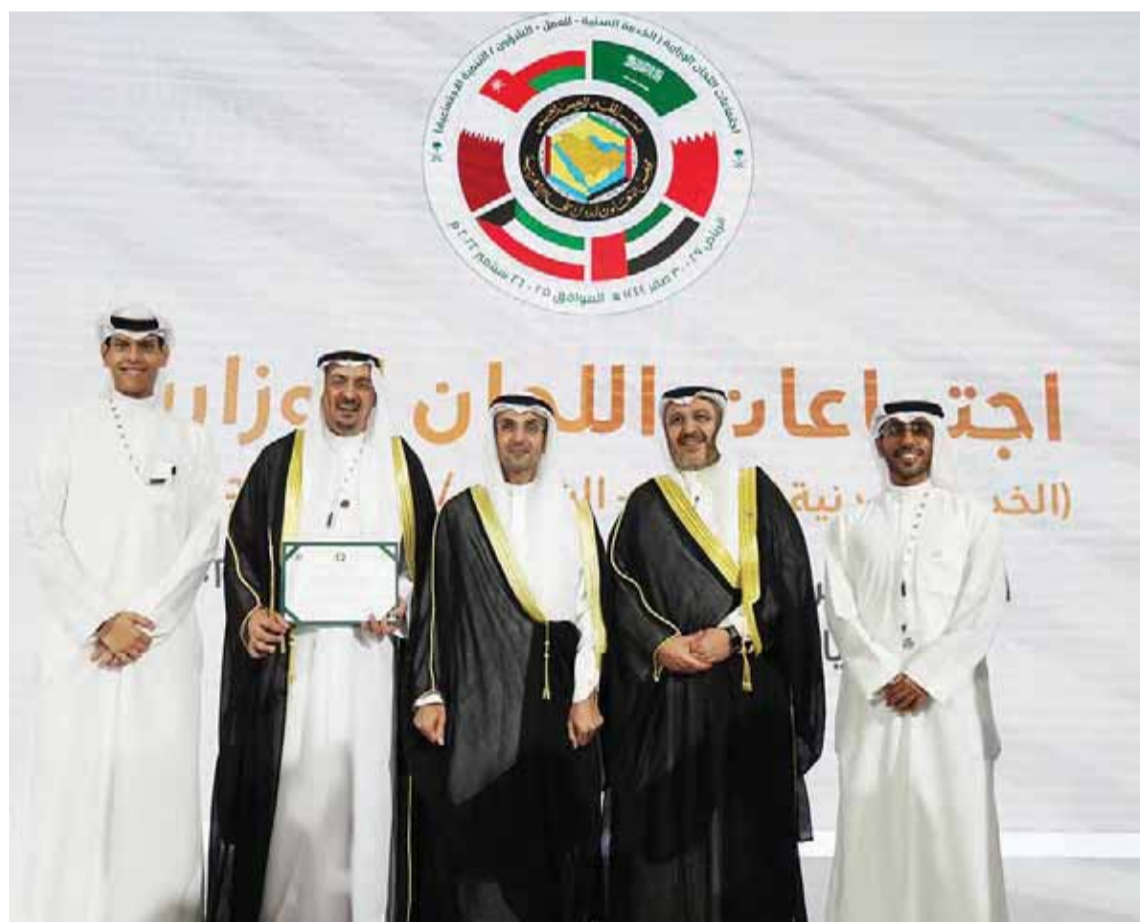
Al-Omar: KFH is top recruiter of Kuwaiti employees at the private sector level



The honoring ceremony.



Zeyad Al-Omar receiving the award.



Zeyad Al-Omar with Minister Fahad Al-Shuraian, Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf and the KFH team.

KUWAIT: The Council of Ministers of Labor and Social Affairs in GCC States honored Kuwait Finance House for its distinction and excellence in the execution of the manpower nationalization and qualification programs at the private sector level in Kuwait, at a special honoring ceremony held in the Saudi capital Riyadh under the patronage of the ministers of labor and social affairs in the GCC.

On the sidelines of receiving the honor shield, the Group Chief HR Officer at KFH Zeyad Abdullah Al-Omar expressed his delight and happiness with this honoring, which he considered as an official recognition of KFH's efforts in the field of labor qualification and nationalization, thus reiterating commitment to enhance the bank's role to cooperate with the concerned authorities to better serve labor Kuwaitization efforts, alleviate the manpower's educational and occupational level and refurbish their expertise as per global standards and calibers.

Al-Omar emphasized that selecting KFH as the best institution for the nationalization of labor at the private sector level in Kuwait was based on certain criteria and calibers through which KFH was able to achieve high scores on the Kuwaitization and training indicators according to the ratings and feedback issued by the concerned official authorities.

Al-Omar expressed his pride of KFH having the highest number of Kuwaiti employees at the Kuwaiti banks and private sector level. He highlighted that Kuwaiti hires during the last few years ranged between 98 percent to 100 percent, while the Kuwaitization ratio reached 78.2 percent as at the end of H1 2022.

Al-Omar affirmed that KFH shall continue its endeavor to raise the Kuwaitization levels as per regulatory requirements in this respect. He indicated that KFH is keen on continuing to have Kuwaitis holding posts at the middle and executive management levels, thus noting that the Kuwaiti top management leadership has reached 77 percent.

Additionally, Al-Omar indicated that KFH is



Zeyad Al-Omar poses with the award.

achieving remarkable progress in accomplishing sustainability goals at the HR level by applying transparency, development of professional policies at work, commitment to environmental standards, social values, governance and sustainability as a part of improving employees' education and strengthening the bank's principles.

He added that KFH continues to focus on the enhancement of women's representation in all departments and participates in providing the market with banking and finance expertise of



Kuwaiti women who enjoy high level of professionalism, thus achieving an added value to the national economy and Kuwaiti society.

He added that several KFH female employees hold executive management posts as they have proved their ability to shoulder significant and important roles. He mentioned that women's representation ratio in KFH branches approximated 35 percent, while the recruitment of women in the "Forsa" program approximated 53 percent as of 2022.

Honoring criteria

The honoring is based on certain criteria and calibers. Each GCC member country nominates private sector institutions which have achieved high and advanced ratios nationalization programs, recruitment of high ratios of national labor and providing appropriate qualification and training opportunities to national labor, taking into consideration the type of advantages and allowances applied at the nominated institution to achieve national labor stability.

Regarding selection procedures, a special committee is formed under the supervision of the ministry of labor and social affairs in cooperation with chambers of commerce and industry and other related entities to review and value the information of the candidate institution.

Awards and recognitions

KFH has a long record of awards winning for its pioneering role and distinction in the human resources field. KFH has won several remarkable and highly reputed awards including "Best Advance in Employee Engagement" award and "Best Advance in Business Automation" award for the year 2022 from Brandon Hall Group, a company specialized in the evaluation and performance assessment of banks, companies and institutions around the world, through studies, researches and insights of experts specialized in the fields of learning and development. KFH has also won the "Top Private Sector Recruiter for National Talents" from the Public Authority for Manpower, in appreciation of its exceptional efforts in the recruitment of national labor. KFH has also won the AUM Corporate Award 2022.

Ratios and Figures

- 98%-100% Kuwaiti hires
- 78.2% - Kuwaitization ratio
- 77% - Kuwaitis in top management leadership
- 35% - Women's representation at KFH branches
- 53% - Women's recruitment in "Forsa" program

Business

Ford's electric drive reinvents historic Michigan factory

Truck plant churns out a new pickup truck every 53 seconds

DEARBORN, US: Construction crews are back at Dearborn, remaking Ford's century-old industrial complex once again, this time for a post-petroleum era that is finally beginning to feel possible.

The manufacturing operation's prime mission in recent times has been to assemble the best-selling F-150, a gasoline-powered vehicle. The truck plant churns out a new pickup truck every 53 seconds in a well-oiled process that will continue for the foreseeable future.

But in September 2020, Ford broke ground on a smaller facility on neighboring land, tasking the new operation with building a battery electric cousin to the internal combustion engine (ICE) F-150.

The F-150 Lightning is part of a growing fleet of battery electric vehicles (BEVs) hitting the roadways from established automakers and startups. At the Detroit Auto Show last week, President Joe Biden proclaimed that "the great American Road Trip is going to be fully electrified."

After racking up some 200,000 reservations for the Lightning, Ford has announced expansions to quadruple output over the next year. Will there be a tipping point where the Lightning could overtake the ICE model? That is a question on the minds of officials at Ford and rival Detroit automakers that are investing billions of dollars in BEVs while still producing millions of ICE vehicles.

"The industry is changing so quickly, I don't think anybody has a good prediction of where it's going to be," Ford's Chris Skaggs told AFP. "But we are reacting and getting the right resources to build batteries and scaling so that we can meet demand whatever that is," said Skaggs, a veteran Ford operations manager who is leading the BEV plant expansion.

"I've been doing this for 29 years, and I thought I would be retired before we even got to this point."

Storied history

The Lightning marks the latest reinvention of the Dearborn Rouge industrial complex south of Detroit near the Rouge River. The Rouge factory was built between 1917 and 1928 and originally planned to comprise all the components in car production, including tire-making, vehicle assembly, steelmaking and engine building. Peak employment topped 100,000 in the 1930s, a decade that also saw visits by artist Diego Rivera for his famed murals of auto workers.

The complex was enlisted to build fighter jet engines for the Allies' World War II before assembling such iconic Ford vehicles as the Thunderbird and the Mustang, which was launched in the 1960s and is now assembled at a different Michigan factory.

The Rouge site-long emblematic of the moving assembly line that changed manufacturing history began to look like a white elephant as Ford streamlined later in the twentieth century and pollution rendered it a brownfield site. But William Clay Ford Jr., the great-grandson of Henry Ford, refused to shutter it, authorizing a \$2 billion upgrade soon after becoming chairman in 1999.

Dearborn Truck plant opened in 2004 following extensive environmental cleanup and the installation of a "living roof" to make heating and cooling more efficient.

'Flex' capacity

The younger Ford, who identified Rouge as "our heritage," faced pushback internally on the Dearborn investment, which coincided with a trying period financially. But it would be difficult to find fault with the staying power of the F-150, which has been the best-selling vehicle in the United States for four decades. Three shifts populate the 4,500-employee Dearborn truck assembly plant, working around the clock.

The vehicle assembly process starts when the aluminum coils are stamped into panels on-site. The



MICHIGAN: Ford Motor Co battery powered F-150 Lightning trucks under production at their Rouge Electric Vehicle Center in Dearborn, Michigan. —AFP

panels are assembled at the body shop and then painted before making their way to the assembly line.

The truck then proceeds through hundreds of work stations where the engine and other components are installed, and is then put through testing including wheels and headlamp alignment, camera-based inspections and electronic computer once-over before shipping to the customer.

Ford does not release daily output figures, but each vehicle is assembled in hours once it arrives at the factory, Skaggs said. In contrast to the ICE

truck factory, which clanks with activity, the BEV plant operates at a modest hum, a quality partly due to the company's focus on ergonomics.

The BEV assembly process is also organized around production lines, but there are fewer work stations in an operation that is still gearing up for bigger things. The Rouge Electric Vehicle Center currently employs about 500. The expansion will double the size of the BEV factory and add more workers and work stations, taking output to 150,000 annually by next fall, Skaggs said. —AFP

Why are climate activists calling for reparations?

NEW YORK: Pakistan's catastrophic floods have led to renewed calls for rich polluting nations, which grew their economies through heavy use of fossil fuels, to compensate developing countries for the devastating impacts caused by the climate crisis. The currently favored term for this concept is "loss and damage" payments, but some campaigners want to go further and frame the issue as "climate reparations," just as racial justice activists call for compensation for the descendants of enslaved people.

Beyond the tougher vocabulary, green groups also call for debt cancellation for cash-strapped nations that spend huge portions of their budgets servicing external loans, rather than devoting the funds to increasing resilience to a rapidly changing planet. "There's a historical precedent of not just the industrial revolution that led to increased emissions and carbon pollution, but also the history of colonialism and the history of extraction of resources, wealth and labor," Belgium-based climate activist Meera Ghani told AFP.

"The climate crisis is a manifestation of interlocking systems of oppression, and it's a form of colonialism," said Ghani, a former climate negotiator for Pakistan. Such ideas stretch back decades and were first pushed by small island nations susceptible to rising sea levels — but momentum is once more building on the back of this summer's catastrophic inundations in Pakistan, driven by unprecedented monsoon rains.

Nearly 1,600 were killed, several million displaced, and the cash-strapped government estimates losses in the region of \$30 billion.

Beyond mitigation and adaptation

Campaigners point to the fact that the most climate-vulnerable countries in the Global South are least responsible—Pakistan, for instance, produces less than one percent of global greenhouse emissions, as opposed to the G20 countries which account for 80 percent. The international climate response currently involves a two-pronged approach: "mitigation"—which means reducing heat-trapping greenhouse gases—and "adaptation," which means steps to alter systems and improve infrastructure for changes that are already locked in.

Calls for "loss and damage" payments go further than adaptation financing, and seek compensation for multiplying severe weather impacts that countries cannot withstand. At present, however, even the more modest goal of adaptation financing is languishing. Advanced economies agreed to channel \$100 billion to less developed countries by the year 2020 — a promise that was broken—even as much of the funding that was mobilized came in the form of loans.

"Our starting point is that the global North is largely responsible for the state of our planet today," said Maira Hayat, an assistant professor of environment and peace studies at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana. "Why should countries that have contributed little by way of GHG emissions be asking them for aid-loans are the predominant form—with onerous repayment conditions?" —AFP

Global Finance names Boubyan as world's best Islamic digital bank

KUWAIT: Global Finance has named Boubyan Bank the "World's Best Islamic Digital Bank" for the eighth consecutive year, owing to the bank's ongoing achievements in this area as well as the role Boubyan plays in offering the highest levels of digital services in Kuwait, and its acquisition of influential market shares.

During a grand ceremony in Dubai, Abdullah Al-Mejhem, Chief Private Banking and Consumer Banking, received the award on behalf of Boubyan Bank in addition to three other awards, namely, Best Islamic Digital Bank in Kuwait, Best Islamic Digital Bank in the Middle East, and Best Innovative Bank in the Middle East.

Al-Mejhem commented on this occasion by stating: "Here we meet again at one of the most important honorary ceremonies which represents an important milestone in the ongoing journey of Boubyan Bank's achievements and awards across all banking services and areas, especially the digital banking awards that have been swept by Boubyan Bank over the past years, not only across Kuwait and the Middle East but also worldwide."

"Global Finance's awards are particularly important owing to the international institution that awards them, which is renowned for its impartiality, strict and accurate selection criteria, coupled with the highly competitive category under which the bank competed and received the award," he added.

Al-Mejhem went on to add: "Our digital services' journey is very exceptional. It has seen us excel and climb to the top of the pyramid amid tough competition in the market for digital banking services which is growing rapidly." "Boubyan Bank always seeks to improve the level of digital banking services towards a more creative and flourishing future, where customer's convenience is our priority worldwide. This strategic investment that meets the various and changing demands of corporate and SMEs' customers will



Abdullah Al-Mejhem receiving the award

confirm the position of Boubyan Bank as a leading Islamic digital bank, locally, regionally, and internationally," he added.

He highlighted: "Over the past years, Boubyan Bank was already seeking digital transformation when the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of offering the bank's services and products through state-of-the-art digital channels. The bank was also keen on staying up-to-date with the development of technological and digital aspects of banking services and products offered to customers by adding various services which can be performed online through the bank's website www.bankboubyan.com or through Boubyan App."

He concluded: "The past years witnessed an unprecedented increase in the number of Boubyan Bank customers using digital banking



channels. This led to the great growth in the number of customers and number of banking operations performed using all channels."

Fishermen lament plunge in Scottish wild salmon catch

CHARLESTOWN OF ABERLOUR, UK: In the shimmering rapids of the River Spey that cuts through the Scottish Highlands, Ian Gordon casts his line with a languid swish and waits for a salmon to take the fly.

In the early 1970s, when Gordon first fished the Spey as a "wee nipper", it never took long to catch a bite. But things have changed. "I would say there are now 20 percent, maximum, of what there were in the mid-80s," Gordon told AFP on a stretch of the river near the town of Aberlour, where he runs a tourist fishing company.

Before the numbers started to fall in the 1980s and 90s, hundreds of thousands of young Atlantic salmon or smolts would migrate to sea from Scotland's rivers.

A quarter would return to their natal rivers to spawn. Today, only around four percent return, according to the Spey Fishery Board.

In Scotland, where anglers abide by a "catch and release" conservation code, the rod catch of 35,693 in 2021 was the lowest number since records began.

The Scottish government, in a report in June, said the numbers were "consistent with a general pattern

of decline in numbers of wild salmon returning to Scotland". Ecologists and fishermen say multiple factors are behind the decline, including the overfishing of herring and the effect of the warming climate on the salmon's life cycle. "Herring used to be abundant around the coastline of the UK," Gordon says.

"That was a species that all species relied on around the UK. Since the herring got fished out, so the salmon, which come into the ocean as little things, themselves become prey."

"It's that cycle that gets upset when one species is taken out of the ecosystem."

"That of course is affected by the climate, there's no doubt."

Trees and weirs

Further north, outside the town of Bonar Bridge, Andrew Graham-Stewart stands on a bridge surveying a stream. "We've got a real problem happening at sea," says Graham-Stewart, who is the director of the Wildfish Scotland charity and has fished the local waters since he was a boy.

"Climate change is obviously the primary factor, and there is very little we can do about that."

"But when fish go out to sea, they are clearly not finding all the food that they need to find."

One factor is the loss of trees around the headwaters of Scottish rivers. Scotland has lost "probably about 95 percent" of its tree cover over the last few centuries due to agriculture, industry and wars,



Anglers on the River Spey in the Scottish Highlands say salmon numbers are down compared to 50 years ago. —AFP

Graham-Stewart said. Trees, apart from providing shade for marine life, slow the release of water from the hills, which provides more constant flows through the year.

"With tree cover and reasonable flows, water remains relatively cool, and salmon need cool in order to survive and thrive," the charity director said.

Some fisheries boards have already taken action including on the River Dee, which runs along the royal family's Balmoral estate, where Queen Elizabeth II died on September 8. —AFP

Business

'You cannot survive': Inflation bites as Thai election looms

14-year-high inflation sends living costs soaring

BANGKOK: Sheltering from rain near Bangkok's Grand Palace, scores of unemployed Thais queue alongside homeless people waiting for free meals as 14-year-high inflation sends living costs soaring-causing a headache for the government ahead of a looming general election.

The leadership came to power eight years ago under Prayut Chan-O-Cha, promising to provide stability after long-running protests started to hit the kingdom's economy. However, it struggled to live up to its pledges and the damage wrought by the pandemic on the travel industry has been compounded by a global inflationary crisis that has sent prices rising beyond many people's reach.

And in a move seen as symbolic of the severity of the situation but likely to cause more pain for consumers, the government recently raised the price of instant noodles for the first time in more than a decade after manufacturers agitated for a rise.

For those waiting in the rain, the impact is already painfully clear. "A few years ago, I was able to afford buying my own food but now food is too expensive," said Somchai, who only gave one name, and who is unemployed. "I couldn't bear the prices so I have to come out and find food donation like this," said the 42-year-old after he had collected his meal. A general election must be called by March, giving the coalition government led by the military-friendly Palang Pracharat Party (PPRP) little time to turn things around.

Unkept promises

Adding to PPRP's woes, Prayut was suspended from office last month while the Constitutional Court decides whether he has reached his term limit as prime minister. In a bid to ease the pain for struggling Thais, the government has approved a proposal to raise the daily minimum wage to between 328 and 354 baht (\$8.83 and \$9.53) after earlier agreeing to extend a fuel tax break.

But political analyst Napisa Waitoolkiat at Naresuan University told AFP the measures were taken "for winning votes" but doubted they would turn many voters around.

"The damage is beyond repair," she said. The economy looks set to be a major factor in the election, and Napisa said voters would not forget the PPRP's vows to improve it.

"Yet, once they are in power, they cannot keep



BANGKOK: This photo taken on September 20, 2022 shows a customer paying a vendor at a food cart in a fresh market in Bangkok. — AFP

the promise," she said. And while the minimum wage hike goes some way, Thammasat University international business professor Pavida Pananond suggested more was needed. "What we now need to look at is more targeted policy measures that would help alleviate the difficulty from rising living costs among Thai lower-income households," she said.

Growth remains sluggish-just 2.5 per cent in the second quarter, dragged by high inflation despite the return of foreign visitors after the pandemic shutdowns. "You will see that even the GDP growth rate of Thailand is the slowest in the region," Pavida said.

'You cannot survive'

Pavida also warned that price rises, like those of instant noodles, could be a precursor to further hikes in foodstuff. "For lower-income people, whose majority of income is spent on food or energy, they would be even more impacted by this," she said.

Veerayuth Sae-ung, queuing to buy a noodle

lunch in central Bangkok, said his "way of eating has changed a lot". "I used to come down here and buy lunch like this daily, but lately I just couldn't afford to buy from stalls every day anymore," the 34-year-old said. Greg Lange, co-founder of Bangkok Community Help Foundation which distributes 500 meals a day, warned they were helping more and more people.

"Even in spite of the rain, there are some times that the line goes two or three blocks," he said.

"I think it was already very hard for the elderly to make ends meet," his co-founder Friso Poldervaart added. Poldervaart said many of the elderly people they helped had lost touch with their families and were unable to survive on the government support of between 600 and 1,000 baht a month. "You cannot survive on that. That's just the way it is," he said.

"So it was already hard, but of course with increasing prices it just gets harder for everyone to make ends meet." —AFP

Lebanon's banks to reopen after week-long closure

BEIRUT: Banks in Lebanon will reopen on Monday following a week-long closure that came after several lenders were stormed by customers trying to retrieve their trapped savings. Each bank will be in charge of its own security and not all branches will reopen, a banking sector source told The National.

The move was announced on Sunday by the Association of Banks in Lebanon. It came after the group held a meeting where it discussed the need to ensure the continuity of operations while addressing concerns about the safety of customers and employees. "Banks will open with restrictions to be applied as per each bank's internal procedures and ability to secure the safety of its clients and employees," the source said.

The initial shutdown came after at least seven banks were stormed by depositors in a week, including five on one day. An initial three-day bank strike that began last Monday was extended indefinitely on Wednesday. In justifying the shutdown extension, the ABL cited the continued risks that bank employees and customers faced. It also pointed to an "absence of any procedures or even assurances" from the government and security forces that would ensure a safe working environment.

In 2019, banks imposed informal capital controls, severely restricting access to hard currency and compounding the economic difficulties faced by people in Lebanon. A financial collapse that first became apparent in 2019, described by the World Bank as one of the worst in modern history, has plunged the majority of Lebanon into poverty and led to the local currency losing more than 90 per cent of its value. There are severe shortages of basic essentials including bread, electricity, medicine and water. — Agencies



شركة الصفاء للاستثمار
AL SAFAT INVESTMENT COMPANY

KUWAIT BOURSA WEEKLY REPORT

WEEK ENDED ON 22 SEP 2022

(965) 22 675 140
Al-Safat Tower, Hawalli, Beirut St.
alsafatinvest.com
research@alsafatinvest.com
alsafatinvestment
al-safat-investment-company

| Market | M. Cap (KD ml) | Last Close | WTD % | MTD % | YTD % | Quantity Traded | Value Traded | No. of Trades | P/E | P/B | % of Total M. Cap |
|----------------|----------------|------------|-------|-------|-------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|------|-----|-------------------|
| Premier Market | 35,046 | 8,327.99 | -1.8% | -3.1% | 9.0% | 303,222,587 | 170,396,382 | 31,264 | 29.6 | 2.6 | 77.8% |
| Main Market | 10,010 | 5,594.96 | -3.2% | -4.7% | -4.9% | 380,049,173 | 44,770,535 | 18,991 | 16.9 | 1.3 | 22.2% |
| All Share | 45,056 | 7,444.13 | -2.1% | -3.4% | 5.7% | 683,271,760 | 215,166,917 | 50,255 | 26.8 | 2.3 | 100% |

| Sector | M. Cap (KD ml) | Last Close | WTD % | MTD % | YTD % | Quantity Traded | Value Traded | No. of Trades | P/E | P/B | % of Total M. Cap |
|------------------------|----------------|------------|-------|-------|--------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|------|------|-------------------|
| BANKS | 27,129 | 1,817.03 | -1.1% | -2.3% | 12.0% | 142,812,285 | 97,477,301 | 13,176 | 26.3 | 2.5 | 60.21% |
| BASIC MATERIALS | 864 | 968.96 | -2.7% | -4.0% | -5.4% | 2,174,823 | 1,192,139 | 834 | 10.4 | 1.4 | 1.92% |
| CONSUMER DISCRETIONARY | 955 | 1,424.94 | -3.1% | -6.7% | 6.6% | 51,301,163 | 7,214,924 | 3,882 | 31.8 | 10.8 | 2.12% |
| CONSUMER STAPLES | 152 | 497.85 | -3.0% | -6.8% | -31.9% | 5,191,034 | 2,005,188 | 586 | 33.8 | 1.1 | 0.34% |
| ENERGY | 226 | 1,085.80 | -3.2% | -9.5% | -24.0% | 10,828,501 | 606,993 | 683 | 13.7 | 1.1 | 0.50% |
| FINANCIAL SERVICES | 4,369 | 1,352.82 | -4.6% | -5.2% | -5.0% | 242,825,207 | 34,619,753 | 11,474 | 42.8 | 2.0 | 9.70% |
| HEALTH CARE | 228 | 459.73 | 5.9% | 6.3% | -42.3% | 209 | 324,310 | 3 | 12.5 | 3.4 | 0.51% |
| INDUSTRIALS | 3,904 | 1,101.53 | -5.3% | -9.2% | -3.5% | 90,252,261 | 42,650,623 | 10,772 | 36.6 | 1.5 | 8.66% |
| INSURANCE | 651 | 1,561.25 | -0.9% | -0.9% | 1.8% | 2,757,116 | 367,158 | 191 | 9.3 | 1.0 | 1.44% |
| REAL ESTATE | 2,682 | 1,253.32 | -4.0% | -1.1% | -5.5% | 113,677,657 | 17,733,508 | 5,721 | 24.6 | 1.3 | 5.95% |
| TECHNOLOGY | 8 | 571.81 | -9.7% | -5.9% | -16.4% | 201,000 | 16,376 | 40 | 0.0 | 0.7 | 0.02% |
| TELECOMMUNICATIONS | 3,669 | 1,196.06 | -2.4% | -4.3% | 9.8% | 18,024,815 | 10,634,048 | 2,573 | 14.0 | 2.0 | 8.14% |
| UTILITIES | 220 | 526.32 | -2.0% | -0.5% | -12.3% | 3,225,689 | 648,797 | 320 | 15.3 | 2.3 | 0.49% |

Top Gainers

| Stock | last Close | Change % | Volume | Value | Trades |
|----------|------------|----------|---------|---------|--------|
| PAPCO | 76.6 | 0.60 | 1,279 | 94 | 7 |
| MIDAN | 569 | 0.10 | 209 | 108,313 | 3 |
| FCEM | 39.5 | 0.06 | 3,111 | 115 | 6 |
| MUNSHAAT | 68.5 | 0.05 | 102,210 | 6,728 | 11 |
| KINS | 497 | 0.05 | 309,960 | 149,995 | 17 |

Top Losers

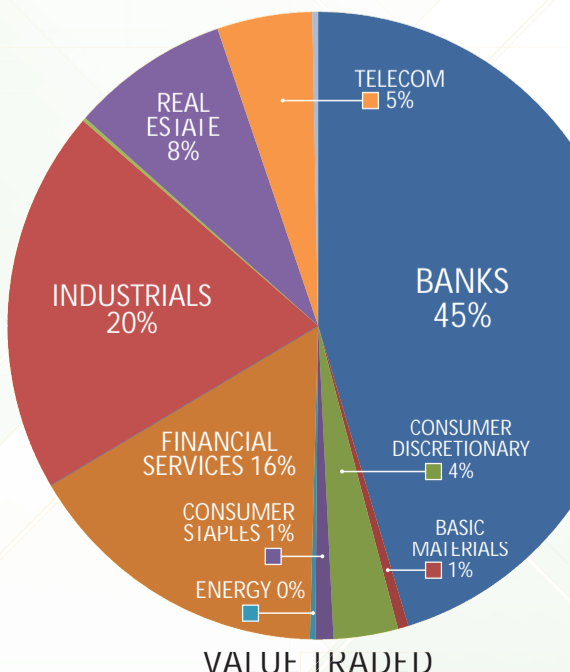
| Stock | last Close | Change % | Volume | Value | Trades |
|---------|------------|----------|------------|-----------|--------|
| IFAHR | 28.9 | -0.25 | 30,731,145 | 1,037,833 | 1,015 |
| ACICO | 100.1 | -0.21 | 29,324,022 | 3,237,263 | 1,292 |
| JIYAD | 27.5 | -0.19 | 11,236,737 | 333,709 | 863 |
| INOVEST | 91.1 | -0.16 | 6,122,368 | 601,763 | 442 |
| ENERGYH | 20.1 | -0.16 | 2,287,412 | 47,494 | 154 |

Top Volume

| Stock | Last | Change % | Volume | Value | Trades |
|-------|------|----------|------------|------------|--------|
| KFH | 897 | 0.00 | 70,900,483 | 63,575,866 | 6,030 |
| NCCI | 125 | -0.10 | 52,436,642 | 6,999,756 | 1,132 |
| AGLTY | 749 | -0.07 | 39,819,081 | 30,775,929 | 5,885 |
| IFAHR | 28.9 | -0.25 | 30,731,145 | 1,037,833 | 1,015 |
| KRE | 112 | -0.07 | 29,389,517 | 3,372,286 | 1,124 |

Top Value

| Stock | Last | Change % | Volume | Value | Trades |
|-------|-------|----------|------------|------------|--------|
| KFH | 897 | 0.00 | 70,900,483 | 63,575,866 | 6,030 |
| AGLTY | 749 | -0.07 | 39,819,081 | 30,775,929 | 5,885 |
| NBK | 1,023 | -0.01 | 15,792,384 | 16,298,540 | 2,066 |
| ZAIN | 580 | -0.02 | 16,871,722 | 9,865,064 | 1,977 |
| NCCI | 125 | -0.10 | 52,436,642 | 6,999,756 | 1,132 |



Market Summary:

- Premier Market weekly volume and value rose 16% and 6%, respectively. Main Market volume and value dropped 47% and 28%, respectively.
- Premier and Main indices are under tremendous pressure due to geopolitical tensions and inflation. Currently, the markets are declining.
- Technically, the All Share index closed at 7444, with support levels at 7417, 7329, 7318, and 7286, while resistance at 7461. Premier index closed at 8327, support levels at 8273, 8184, 8116, and 8007, while resistance at 8335. The Main index closed at 5594, support levels at 5555, 5516, 5495, and 5467 while resistance at 5636.

Lifestyle | Fashion

Kim Kardashian shows off D&G collaboration at Milan fashion week

A doring crowds gathered in Milan on Saturday to catch a glimpse of Kim Kardashian ahead of a showcase of her new collaboration with designer Dolce and Gabbana. The retro-heavy show during fashion week was announced with a flurry of publicity and social media interest. The backdrop was a black-and-white film of Kardashian, cur-

rently sporting a platinum blonde hair-style, enjoying a plate of pasta in a restaurant. Models moved to rhythmic beats, showcasing the "Ciao Kim" collection, pieces for which were chosen by the star from D&G's back catalogue. They include historical pieces including full-length jumpsuits and ultra-tight dresses, trans-

parent and lace-up corsets and lingerie, but also more casual streetwear, like low-cut jeans and crop tops. Kim's mother Kris Jenner, daughter North and one of her sisters were in the front row to applaud the social media queen, who joined Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana on the catwalk at the end of the show. —AFP



Milan Fashion Week



Models present creations for Ferrari's Women's and Men's Spring Summer 2023 fashion collection as part of the Fashion Week in Milan. —AFP photos

German bakeries fight for survival as costs spiral



Bread proofing baskets are seen on a trolley at the bakery of Tobias Exner in Beelitz, eastern Germany.



Baker Tobias Exner stands next to his oven at his bakery in Beelitz.



Bread rolls are on sale in a bakery in Beelitz, eastern Germany.



Loaves of bread are on sale in a bakery in Beelitz, eastern Germany.



Baker Tobias Exner prepares the work surface to knead bread dough at his bakery in Beelitz.



Baker Tobias Exner holds pastry at his bakery in Beelitz.

Faced with exploding energy and ingredient costs, German baker Tobias Exner has installed new energy-efficient ovens, shortened his opening hours and even considered baking at lower temperatures. But "it just doesn't taste the same without a good crust", he said, adding that in any case such efforts could do little to counter the existential crisis he and other bakers are facing. "If the conditions don't change, then sooner or later a large share of bakeries in Germany will simply no longer exist," Exner told AFP. Bakeries in Germany have been among the businesses hardest hit by the economic fallout from Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The war has sent energy prices spiraling across Europe, but especially in Germany, which was previously heavily dependent on Russian gas. "Bakeries all have ovens. Seventy percent of artisanal bakeries have gas ovens and gas prices are going through the roof," said Friedemann Berg, managing director of the German Bakers' Federation. And two of the main ingredients used by bakers—flour and oil—are among those that have been affected by blockades at Ukrainian ports. Exner's business is relatively large with 220 staff and 36 branches in Berlin and the surrounding area, leaving it better placed than many to survive the crisis—but even he is struggling. Wheat is now 2.5 times more expensive than before the crisis, he said, while the cost of a litre of oil has risen from around 82 cents to more than three euros (\$2.91).

Dough in the dark

Energy bills for the business, meanwhile, have almost quadrupled compared with 2020. "You can see that the calculations no longer work," Exner said to the hum of machines at the company's main production site in the town of Beelitz. But Exner is reluctant to pass the cost increases on to his cus-



Baker Tobias Exner kneads bread dough at his bakery in Beelitz, eastern Germany.

tomers, who he simply believes "would not pay those kinds of prices". In central Berlin, the mood on the ground appears to confirm his fears. "Even more? No way. It's getting extortionate," said unemployed Gloria Thomas, 56, when asked whether she would be prepared to pay more for her favourite loaf.

Many bakeries in Germany have already gone under as a result of recent cost increases, with others staging protests to demand urgent help from the government. And there is more at stake than just bread rolls, according to Exner. "These businesses are often the most important institution in the village—they are at once grocery store, social centre,

post office, etc." In early September, around 800 German bakeries served customers in the dark for a day to draw attention to their plight.

Insolvency blunder

Germany's centre-left government has announced relief measures worth almost 100 billion euros to tackle inflation, but small businesses have so far been largely excluded from the help. Worse still, they were left feeling insulted by controversial comments by Economy Minister Robert Habeck earlier this month. Asked on a TV panel show whether he thought Germany was heading for a wave of insolvencies, Habeck replied: "I can imagine

that certain industries will simply stop producing for a while." The comments provoked anger from bakers in particular, who accused Habeck of having no understanding of their industry.

"Habeck is probably not a stupid person, but the question is, is he qualified for the job he has right now? And I would say no," said Exner. The Bakers' Confederation is calling for "quick and unbureaucratic" financial aid. Bakeries can shave off costs here and there but they "can only do so much", according to Berg. If government help does not arrive soon "the future looks bleak," he said. "It could be that many businesses have to give up their operations or simply file for bankruptcy." —AFP



Bread rolls are on sale in a bakery in Beelitz, eastern Germany. —AFP photos

Pharoah Sanders, cosmic jazz saxophonist, dies at 81

Pharoah Sanders, one of the most wildly inventive figures in jazz who wrestled his saxophone to its limits and felt equally at home in Indian and African music, died Saturday. He was 81. His record label, Luaka Bop, said he died peacefully around friends and family in Los Angeles. "Always and forever the most beautiful human being, may he rest in peace," a label statement said.

Taking the open-mindedness of the free jazz movement to new heights, Sanders would virtually attack his saxophone by heavily overblowing on the mouthpiece—of which he collected hundreds—as well as biting the reed and even shouting into the bell of the instrument. Sanders, a disciple of John Coltrane, who played aggressive solos on the jazz master's classic late-career "Live in Japan" album, was often seen as a sort of successor to the global-minded legend after Coltrane's sudden death in 1967. Ornette Coleman—arguably the most important pioneer of free jazz—called Sanders "probably the best tenor player in the world."

But Sanders, who to a lesser extent played soprano and alto sax as well, also divided audiences and never reached quite the same commercial success as Coltrane, Coleman or other historic jazz innovators. With solos that built from screeching and squawking to silky and melodic, Sanders was described as a god-

father of spiritual or even cosmic jazz, although the reticent musician brushed aside labels. His best-known works included "The Creator Has a Master Plan," a nearly 33-minute track off his "Karma" album on which Sanders sounds as if he is exorcising demons, before reaching back to a heavenly state.



Leon Thomas sings on the track, released in 1969 at the apex of counter-culture, with the lines, "The creator has a master plan / Peace and happiness for every man." "Upper Egypt and Lower Egypt," off Sanders' influential 1967 "Tahid" album, builds off guitar twangs and a gentle xylophone paying tribute to

African tradition as Sanders storms in with a saxophone that sounds like tortured howls.

Seeing saxophone as self

"I don't really see the horn anymore. I'm trying to see myself," he said in the liner notes to "Tahid," his first album on the Impulse! label that put out Coltrane. "And similarly, as to the sounds I get, it's not that I'm trying to scream on my horn, I'm just trying to put all my feelings into the horn," he said. Farrel Sanders—he changed his first name's spelling at the encouragement of futuristic jazz composer Sun Ra—was born and raised in segregated Little Rock, Arkansas, where he played clarinet in a school band and explored jazz from touring artists.

He moved after high school to Oakland, California, where for the first time he enjoyed the freedom to attend racially mixed clubs and had a fateful first meeting with Coltrane as they shopped for mouthpieces. He later headed to New York where he at times fell into homelessness, working as a cook and even selling his blood to survive.

He met Sun Ra while cooking at a Greenwich Village club. Discovering his musical talent, Sun Ra and Coltrane enlisted Sanders as a band member, with Sanders coming into his own as a band leader after Coltrane's death. Describing

his style in a 1996 interview with the San Francisco Chronicle, Sanders said: "I have a dark sound: a lot of the younger guys have a bright sound, but I like a dark sound with more roundness, more depth and feeling in it," he said. "I want my sound to be like a fragrance that people will like—something fresh, like the smell of



your grandmother's cake cooking," he said.

Spiritual explorations

Sanders—distinctive in his later years for his long white beard and fez cap—dabbled in pop music, starting with 1971's "Thembi," named after his wife. But his

mainstream direction was brief and he often found more musical kinship outside the United States. On 1969's "Jewels of Thought," Sanders explored mysticism from across Africa, opening with a Sufi meditation for peace. Decades later on "The Trance of Seven Colors," Sanders collaborated with Mahmoud Guinia, the Moroccan master of the spiritual gnawa music and of the gumbri lute.

Sanders' 1996 album "Message from Home" delved into the influences of sub-Saharan Africa including highlife, the pop mix of Western and traditional music that originated in Ghana. He also explored Indian form with his collaborations with Alice Coltrane, the jazz master's second wife, who became a yogi. Sanders voiced the most admiration for Indian musicians, including Bismillah Khan, who brought a wider audience to the shehnai, a type of oboe played frequently at processions on the subcontinent, and Ravi Shankar, who made the sitar international.

Sanders, accustomed to the sharing of energy within jazz bands, described Indian musicians as achieving "pure music." "Nobody is trying to cut each other's throat. There's no ego," he told the San Francisco Chronicle. Describing his own music, he said: "I want to take the audience on a spiritual journey; I want to stir them up, excite them. Then I bring them back with a calming feeling." —AFP

Sports

Medinah memories won't haunt USA as Presidents Cup tightens

Underdog Internationals unleash major fightback

News in brief

Egypt eyes 2036 Olympics

CAIRO: Egypt is planning to apply to host the 2036 Olympic Games, sports minister Ashraf Sobhi said on Saturday during a reception for IOC president Thomas Bach in Cairo. "President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi has given his permission for Egypt to put itself forward as host for the 2036 Olympics," Sobhi said. If successful with its bid, Egypt would become the first African or Arab nation to host the Olympics. "Egypt has solid sporting infrastructures and if it can host the Olympic Games, it will be historic," Bach said during a joint press conference with Sobhi. An Egyptian official announced earlier in the month that Egypt, Greece and Saudi Arabia were in talks to jointly host the 2030 World Cup. Egypt staged the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations, as well as last year's handball world championship during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Mexico beat Peru 1-0

PASADENA: Hirving Lozano's late strike lifted Mexico to a 1-0 victory over Peru at California's Rose Bowl on Saturday in a friendly international football match that is part of Mexico's World Cup build-up. Napoli forward Lozano sent the pro-Mexico crowd of 62,729 at the 1994 World Cup final venue into a frenzy with his 85th-minute strike. From a corner kick taken by Andres Guardado, a high ball flew Lozano's way and at full stretch he was able to loft it into the roof of the net. The winner ended Mexico's goal drought that stretched through their past three friendlies, although coach Gerardo "Tata" Martino must still be concerned at the dearth of quality scoring chances in the contest. It also dealt a defeat to coach Juan Reynoso in his debut at the helm of Peru. Longtime coach Ricardo Gareca was replaced after the side fell to Australia in a penalty shootout in a playoff for a Qatar World Cup berth in June.

Arsenal hammer Tottenham

LONDON: Arsenal moved top of the Women's Super League with a 4-0 thrashing of north London rivals Tottenham in front of a record-breaking crowd for the women's top flight in England of 47,367 at the Emirates. The popularity of the women's game in England received a huge boost with the Lionesses' victory at Euro 2022 on home soil. One of England's heroes Beth Mead opened the scoring before the prolific Vivianne Miedema struck twice either side of Rafaelle Souza's goal. The crowd topped the previous record of 38,262, set in November 2019 in the reverse fixture at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium. However, in contrast to that match and some other record-breaking crowds for women's matches in other European leagues and the Champions League, tickets at the Emirates were not given away for free. "I don't want to sound arrogant, but I don't think we should compare attendance figures with giveaway tickets and sold tickets," said Arsenal manager Jonas Eidevall.

France beat Mali 74-59

SYDNEY: Gabby Williams produced a stellar all-round performance Sunday as France moved closer to a quarter-final berth at the women's basketball World Cup with a 74-59 victory over Mali in Sydney. France began as strong favorites, but started slowly and were rattled by an aggressive Mali. WNBA player Williams scored 14 points, with seven rebounds and six assists and help from Alexia Chartereau's 12 points as France took their win-loss record to 2-1 in the tough Pool B. France failed to recapture the form shown in their stunning day one upset over hosts Australia, but regrouped after crashing to Canada on Friday. "It was a difficult game. Our rebounding was really, really weak," said France coach Jean-Aime Toupane.

St Helens see off Leeds

LONDON: St Helens sealed a fresh place in rugby league history with a fourth consecutive Super League Grand Final victory as they defeated Leeds 24-12 at Old Trafford on Saturday. The Saints have now won a record nine Grand Finals and are the first club to enjoy four successive victories in the showpiece match. They will now set their sights on surpassing the pre-Super League record of Wigan, their arch-rivals from the rugby league heartland of England's northwest, who won seven successive titles before the advent of the Super League from 1990-96. Saints went ahead early on through Matty Lees, with Jon Bennison extending their advantage. Kruise Leeming reduced the deficit on the stroke of half-time but St Helens' Konrad Hurrell powered over soon after the interval. Mark Percival increased Saints' lead to 18 points before Rhyse Martin crossed for Leeds late on.

Athaya grabs LPGA lead

LOS ANGELES: Thai rookie Athaya Thitikul fired an eagle and eight birdies in a 10-under par 61 on Saturday to seize the lead in the LPGA NW Arkansas Championship. The 19-year-old chasing a second LPGA victory, had a 13-under par total of 128 and a one-stroke lead over Japan's Yuka Saso, who carded a six-under par 65 at Pinnacle Country Club in Rogers. Former amateur number one Lilia Vu carded her second straight 65 for solo third on 130 heading into the final round of the 54-hole event. Athaya teed off on 10 and picked up three strokes in her first nine holes. After birdies at the first, third and fifth she picked up four shots in her last three holes. She eagled the seventh, where her four-iron approach from 210 yards out left her two feet from the pin, and birdied the eighth and ninth. "I think my mind was blank and just nothing there," she said of her mindset as she picked up steam coming in. "Just hit a shot, just tap it in, putt it in, just like totally blank."

CHARLOTTE: Ten years after losing the "Miracle at Medinah" Ryder Cup to Europe, another United States team captained by Davis Love is in danger of another humbling defeat at the Presidents Cup. The Internationals pulled within 11-7 of the Americans on Saturday, the same four-point deficit Europe faced when it made an epic last-day fightback to win the 2012 Ryder Cup. The US team, which leads the all-time Presidents Cup rivalry 11-1-1, needs to take 4.5 points from Sunday's 12 singles matches at Quail Hollow to win the trophy for a ninth consecutive time.

The Americans, with 10 of the world's 16 top-ranked players, were heavy favorites over a global squad which lost several top stars who jumped from the PGA Tour to the Saudi-backed LIV Golf Series and became ineligible. An upset US loss would be an epic golf shocker. But the Americans still have a four-point margin. "Four points is four points. It has been a big number," Love said. "I've been four behind before too, you know. We've been four ahead, four behind. So it's a magical number."

Australian Cam Davis and South Korean Kim Joo-hyung came up with putts that delivered 1-up wins in matches that US duos had led with three holes remaining. But the Americans aren't feeling any tightness over historical ties to the 2012 upset loss as much as they are "pissed off" and determined to avoid such a fate this time. "I couldn't tell you what the score was and what it ended up being, and I don't really care," US unbeaten Jordan Spieth said. "Nobody on that team is on this team."

Another 4-0 American, Justin Thomas, noted, "I was in Turkey for the World Amateur. It's pretty tough to watch that one on TV." Tokyo Olympic champion Xander Schauffele says he wasn't watching in 2012 either. "Just got to San Diego State, my sophomore year, so wasn't really watching golf when I was in school there," he said. "Much better things to do." The only history lesson the US team was interested in was the scoring on Saturday, which left the Americans in a grumpy mood.

"They were pretty mad. We wanted to win every



CHARLOTTE: Cam Davis of Australia and the International Team celebrates his hole-winning putt on the 17th green to win 1 Up with teammate Adam Scott of Australia against Billy Horschel and Sam Burns of the United States Team during four-ball matches on day three of the 2022 Presidents Cup on September 24, 2022. —AFP

session, and we tied one and lost one today. So that wasn't part of our plan," Love said. "(Singles) is one of our best formats, and they're going to come out mad tomorrow. So I hope they're mad. I'm confident that they will channel that into playing tomorrow." Thomas said Saturday's setbacks will become Sunday motivation. "We're going to be playing a little pissed off and try to go win 12 points and see what we can do," Thomas said.

Need to refocus

Spieth made it clear he likes his team's higher-ranked talent in any man-to-man showdown.

"We've got to refocus and we've got a lot of pissed off guys that want to come out really strong," Spieth said. "I wouldn't pick any of their players to play against any of our players and take them by any means. You put any of our guys against any one of theirs, I'd still tell you I think our guys going to win." Schauffele called himself "one of those pissed off guys," adding, "Wasn't very pleased with myself. So we're definitely looking forward to tomorrow." He's planning on cooling his anger, however. "I don't play very well pissed off. I play like a toddler," Schauffele said. "I play my best when I'm focused and very present." —AFP

Mayweather knocks out mixed martial arts fighter Asakura

TOKYO: Floyd Mayweather knocked out mixed martial arts fighter Mikuru Asakura in the second round on Sunday in Japan in the latest of the boxing great's post-retirement exhibitions. The 45-year-old Mayweather floored his opponent with a right hand as his former welterweight foe Manny Pacquiao watched ringside in Saitama. The American Mayweather, who retired in 2017 with an unbeaten 50-0 record, afterwards dismissed any prospect of a fight with the similarly retired Pacquiao. Mayweather arrived at Saitama Super Arena, north of Tokyo, just an hour before the fight.

He was shown on TV relaxing in a dressing room full of takeaway fast food, prior to making his ring-walk. On another easy payday for the self-styled "Money" Mayweather, the bell to end the second round sounded as Asakura hit the canvas, but it failed to save the Japanese fighter and he was unable to beat the count. "It was another block-buster turnout... boxing for me is like breathing," Mayweather said, adding he is looking to fight more "YouTubers and MMA guys".

Philippine great Pacquiao is not on his radar. "I retired for a reason," said Mayweather. "I'm here to have fun and enjoy myself... but I'm not going to take no punishment to the point to where I can barely walk and barely talk. "People will always pay to get a glimpse of Floyd Mayweather," he said, before asking, "so why would I go out there and... fight a top fighter when I can get the same amount of money for three rounds with whoever?"

Asakura, an MMA star and popular YouTuber in Japan, gave Mayweather more of a workout than the last time the American fought an exhibition in Japan, against kickboxing prodigy Tenshin Nasukawa in December 2018. "I'm glad he threw a few shots, got the crowd excited. That's what it's



SAITAMA: Japanese mixed martial artist Mikuru Asakura (right) is knocked down by US boxer Floyd Mayweather during their exhibition boxing match at the Saitama Super Arena in Saitama on September 25, 2022. —AFP

about," Mayweather said. "I'm proud of him. I'm proud he came out here. He helped me entertain people. He did what he was supposed to do... We both had fun." Mayweather is reportedly close to agreeing a rematch in 2023 with UFC star Conor McGregor.

Mayweather beat McGregor in his final fight before retirement. The Mayweather-Asakura bout had no judges, meaning the result would not count

as a "Mankad" after India's Vinoo Mankad, who ran out Australia batsman Bill Brown backing up in a 1948 Test in Sydney, was completely legitimate. This was both teams' first match at Lord's since England beat India in the 2017 Women's World Cup final.

And while some boos were heard following Dean's dismissal, Kaur was adamant Sharma had done nothing to overshadow either the victory or India pace great Jhulan Goswami's last match before international retirement. "Today whatever we have done I don't think it was any crime, it is part of the game and it is an ICC rule and I think we just need to back our player," Kaur said. "I don't think (Sharma) has done something wrong and we just need to back her."

England seamer Kate Cross said she would never take a wicket in this way but added: "I think it's a dismissal that's always going to divide opinion. That's all that's ever going to get said about it: some people are going to like it, some people aren't. "Deepti chose to dismiss Charlie Dean that way. I'm more disappointed for Charlie Dean that she couldn't get a fifty at Lord's today because she looked set to do that. "If we're looking at the real positives, then maybe that's the only way they could have got Deano out today." —AFP



India's Harmanpreet Kaur

Sports

Djokovic makes a stylish return at Laver Cup as Federer watches on

Berrettini overpowers Auger-Aliassime

LONDON: Novak Djokovic made an impressive return after two months out of action as the Team Europe star thrashed Frances Tiafoe 6-1, 6-3 with Roger Federer cheering him on at the Laver Cup on Saturday. Djokovic showed no signs of rust in his first appearance since winning the seventh Wimbledon crown of his remarkable career in July.

The 35-year-old followed his dominant victory over Tiafoe at London's O2 Arena with another win just hours later alongside Matteo Berrettini in the doubles. Djokovic and Berrettini beat Jack Sock and Alex de Minaur 7-5, 6-2 to put Team Europe 8-4 up heading in the final round of matches on Sunday. Djokovic, a 21-time Grand Slam champion, missed the US Open in September due to his unvaccinated status, leaving him to take an enforced break from competitive action.

But he was quickly back in the old routine against Tiafoe as he broke in the fourth game and again in the sixth to take the opening set in just 23 minutes. Djokovic cruised through the second set, with Federer and the rest of the Team Europe squad gathering at courtside to congratulate him. "I haven't played for two months so I'm really glad to have won. It was a pretty decent match from my side," Djokovic said.

Federer said a tearful goodbye to tennis late on Friday night when the 20-time Grand Slam champion and doubles partner Rafael Nadal were beaten by Tiafoe and Sock. The 41-year-old announced earlier this month that he would retire after the Laver Cup due to the knee problems that had kept him on the sidelines since Wimbledon in 2021. "We knew it would be an emotional farewell for Roger

but we were all taken away by the moment. I think we would all agree this was one of the most beautiful moments anyone has experienced on a tennis court," Djokovic said.

"It's mixed emotions. Sadness because one of the greatest athletes of all time is leaving the sport, but on the other hand seeing him happy with the way it all played out. "I was just very grateful and privileged to witness that." Federer's fitness issues meant he could only play one doubles match, so Berrettini was called into the Team Europe squad to replace the Swiss legend after the last act of his incredible career.

Relaxed Federer

Berrettini proved a capable deputy as he defeated Felix Auger-Aliassime 7-6 (13/11), 4-6, 10/7 in Saturday's first match. The 26-year-old Italian, who finished as the 2021 Wimbledon runner-up, had to dig deep to hold off a spirited challenge from Auger-Aliassime, a 22-year-old Canadian rising star. On the first day of his life after tennis, Federer could have been forgiven for following Nadal's example and heading off for a well-earned rest. But Federer showed his passion for tennis is unlikely to fade anytime soon as he sat courtside to support Berrettini despite the post-midnight finish to his emotional finale.

Federer, who was involved in setting up the Ryder Cup-style Laver tournament, looked relaxed and refreshed as he mimicked Berrettini's clenched-fist celebration during the Italian's victory. "I'm really happy for the win, but this weekend we're celebrating something bigger than Laver Cup. It's just



LONDON: Serbia's Novak Djokovic of Team Europe returns the ball to Canada's Felix Auger-Aliassime of Team World during their 2022 Laver Cup men's singles tennis match at the O2 Arena in London on September 25, 2022. — AFP

about him (Federer)," Berrettini said. "Having the chance to live what we lived yesterday is something that will be stuck in my heart and my brain forever."

In the day's second singles match, Team World's Taylor Fritz beat British world number eight Cameron Norrie 6-1, 4-6, 10/8. Norrie was only

playing because Nadal had opted to pull out of the rest of the tournament after the Federer doubles match for what organizers said were "personal reasons". The Spanish world number three has been struggling with an abdominal injury while his wife is heavily pregnant. — AFP

Kipchoge beats his own world record

BERLIN: Kenyan great Eliud Kipchoge has beaten his own world marathon record by 30 seconds, running 2hr 01min 9sec in Berlin on Sunday. At the halfway point the back-to-back Olympic champion in Rio and Tokyo looked set to become the first to officially run under the elusive two-hour mark. But despite slowing slightly the 37-year-old held on to best his own record from Berlin in 2018.

After the race, he credited his team for the result. "I was so happy with my preparation," Kipchoge told German television. "The world record is because of real teamwork." Asked if he was already coming back to Berlin to take on the two-hour mark, Kipchoge said he was focused on celebrating his achievement. "Let us plan it for another day. I need to celebrate this record."

Kenyan Mark Korir finished second behind his countryman with a time of 2:05:58, while Ethiopian Tadru Abate came third with 2:06:28. Ethiopian Andamlak Belihu, who kept up with Kipchoge for around two thirds of the race, held on for fourth. In the women's field, Ethiopian Tigist Assefa ran the third fastest time in history, setting a course record of 2:15:37. Assefa was not among the pre-race favorites and sensationally beat her previous best by 18 minutes.

Kipchoge, who on Friday said his only goal was "to run a good race", burst out of the blocks, clearly aiming not only for a world record but to beat the



BERLIN: Kenya's Eliud Kipchoge poses next to a board displaying his new world record time after winning the Berlin Marathon race on September 25, 2022 in Berlin. — AFP

two-hour mark. A pod of around seven runners kept up with Kipchoge for the first 10 kilometers, before 2021 winner Guye Adola and Belihu pulled away after 15 kilometers. Adola was unable to maintain the pace and began to fall back after 18 kilometres, with both Kipchoge and Belihu reaching the half marathon mark in less than an hour.

Kipchoge emerged on his own after 25 kilometres and was still on pace for the sub-two-hour mark, but began to slow slightly despite still keeping the world record in his sights. Kipchoge became just the second man to win four Berlin Marathons, joining Ethiopian Haile Gebrselassie who owned the event from 2006 to 2009. He boasts an unmatched record over the marathon, having now won 15 of his

17 career outings over the event, including not only his two Olympic triumphs but also 10 World Marathon Majors victories.

The women's field was also one of the fastest in marathon history, with four women beating the two hour and 20 minute mark. Only one of the women taking part in Berlin, American Kiera D'Amato, had previously run under the landmark time. Kenyan Rosemary Wanjiru came second with a time of 2:18:00 in her first ever marathon, making it the second fastest debut time ever recorded by a woman. Ethiopian Tigist Abayechew came third in 2:18:03, while countrywoman Workenesh Edesa also ran under the 2:20:00 mark. D'Amato came sixth with a time of 2:21:48. — AFP

Evenepoel goes solo to win road race world title

WOLLONGONG: Belgium ace Remco Evenepoel backed up victory at the Vuelta a Espana by storming to the world road race title on Sunday with a spectacular solo ride to claim a first rainbow jersey, vowing "a big party" to celebrate. The 22-year-old finished 2min 21sec ahead of Frenchman Christophe Laporte after an epic 266.9-kilometre slog around the coastal city of Wollongong south of Sydney.

Australia's Michael Matthews was third after a last-gasp sprint ahead of Belgium pre-race favourite Wout van Aert. Another favorite, Dutch star Mathieu van der Poel, abandoned the race early after he was charged with common assault late Saturday following an alleged altercation with two teenage girls.

French two-time defending champion Julian Alaphilippe, who had a chaotic build-up, missing



WOLLONGONG: Belgium's Remco Evenepoel heads to the gold medal in the men's road race cycling event at the UCI 2022 Road World Championship in Wollongong on September 25, 2022. — AFP

much of the year with injuries, was 51st while Slovenian two-time Tour de France winner Tadej Pogacar came 19th. "After a long season it's amazing to finish like this," said Evenepoel, who pumped his fists and put his head in his hands in disbelief after the 6hrs 16min endurance test. "I'm super happy I had the legs today, it's something I've been dreaming of."

Evenepoel launched a massive attack with 35 kilometers left and only Alexey Lutsenko stayed with him, then he went off again on a climb nine kilometers later to leave the Kazakh in his wake. He entered the final 17.2-kilometre lap with a 1min 10secs lead and put his head down for the solo ride to the finish, becoming the first Belgium winner since Philippe Gilbert in 2012. Already the winner of the Vuelta a Espana World Tour event in September, and Liege-Bastogne-Liege earlier in the year, victory capped a massively successful season for Evenepoel.

"After a big classic grand tour, and a world championship, I think I won everything I could have won this year," he said. "I think I will never have another season like this. "It will be a big party, I'm not going to see my bed I guess." The pack headed south with a sweeping coastal traverse from the start at Helensburgh towards the heart of the championships in Wollongong. Once there, they tackled a steep climbing circuit over Mount Keira, peaking at a 473-metre elevation, before heading back to a technical Wollongong city route which they lapped 12 times. — AFP

Canada storm into basketball World Cup quarters

SYDNEY: Canada stormed into the women's basketball World Cup quarter-finals with a comfortable 70-56 victory over Japan on Sunday, as France and Australia moved closer to the knockout stage. Gaining a stranglehold of the tough Pool B, Canada joined holders the United States as the only undefeated teams so far. Hosts Australia defeated Serbia 69-54 and France overcame Mali 74-59 to keep pace with their second wins of the 10-day competition in Sydney. Impressing under new coach Victor Lapena, Canada have cemented their title credentials after blunting Asian champions and last year's Olympic silver medalists Japan.

They led 41-25 at half-time before cruising to victory and restricted the normally smooth-shooting Japan to just 17 percent from three. Bridget Carleton starred for Canada with 19 points, while captain Maki Takada was Japan's only player in double figures with 11 points. "It was a masterclass from our team in controlling the game and pace," Lapena said. "We are growing up as a team."

After their second straight defeat, Japan face an uphill battle to make the quarter-finals with games ahead against France and Australia. The top four teams from each of the two groups progress. "Canada pressured well and we need to fix our offence because teams have analysed us well," said Japan coach Toru Onzuka. France began as strong favourites, but started slowly and were rattled by an aggressive Mali. They steadied through WNBA player Gabby Williams, who scored 14 points, with seven rebounds and six assists, and she had help from Alexia Charterreau (12 points). — AFP

Miller romps to MotoGP win; title contenders suffer

MOTEGI: Australia's Jack Miller powered to an emphatic victory at Motegi on Sunday in the first Japanese MotoGP since 2019 on a day to forget for the title contenders. The Ducati rider stormed from seventh on the grid to clinch his fourth MotoGP victory, taking the chequered flag by more than three seconds from South Africa's Brad Binder. Spain's Jorge Martin was third. Reigning world champion and current leader Fabio Quartararo on a Yamaha was best-placed of the trio of title hopefuls when he came eighth, extending his lead to 18 points with four races to go.

But his chief rival Francesco Bagnaia had a nightmare, crashing on the last lap as he attempted to overtake the Frenchman. Alex Espargaro also fell further behind in the title chase after suffering a mechanical problem before the race started. "I can ride a bike sometimes," Miller, who is fifth in the standings but not in title contention, joked afterwards.

"Feels so awesome to be racing on this side of the world again and the Japanese fans have been incredible all weekend, sitting there all through the miserable rain yesterday. "Thank you to them and the team, what an amazing day, it's awesome. We've got a home grand prix coming up shortly, wedding coming up in a couple of weeks, it's amazing for me."

After heavy rain and storms on Saturday, the first Japanese MotoGP in three years because of the pandemic unfolded under hot and sunny skies. Spain's Espargaro, who qualified sixth on the grid, frantically dumped his Aprilia in the pit lane and jumped on his spare bike after a problem right at the start of the warm-up lap. He had his head in his hands and found himself fighting from last place after coming out of the pits well adrift of the field.

He finished 16th in a blow to his title chances, while Bagnaia was left to rue a costly mistake on his Ducati. "I may have been a little too ambitious on the last lap," Bagnaia, who is still second behind Quartararo in

the standings, told Sky Sport Italia of his attempts to overtake his rival. "It's in these situations that I realize that I still have room for improvement. "I have to figure out how to keep a cool head in these situations," added the 25-year-old. "The only good thing is that I didn't touch Fabio, it would have been unfair."

Six-time MotoGP world champion Marc Marquez had taken advantage of the wet conditions on Saturday to take pole position on his Honda for the first time in three years but he was quickly swallowed up at the start and finished fourth. Binder, also on the front row, flew past the Spaniard to grab the lead on the first corner before Martin took over at the front. He was soon reeled in by Miller, who surged through the field and into the lead on lap three. The 27-year-old Miller then set a succession of fastest laps as he opened an unassailable gap at the front. — AFP



TOCHIGI PREFECTURE: Ducati Lenovo team rider Jack Miller of Australia receives the checkered flag to win the MotoGP class race of the Japanese Grand Prix in Motegi, Tochigi prefecture on September 25, 2022. — AFP



ZARAGOZA: Spain's midfielder Jordi Alba (left) scores his team's first goal during the UEFA Nations League, League A, Group 2 football match between Spain and Switzerland on September 24, 2022. —AFP

Nations League upset: Swiss find holes in Spain's defense

Portugal cruise past Czechs as Dalot bags brace

ZARAGOZA: Switzerland earned a 2-1 win over Spain in the Nations League on Saturday in Zaragoza to drag Luis Enrique's side off top spot in the group. Portugal thrashed the Czech Republic 4-0 in the other League A Group 2 clash to move two points clear of Spain, whom they host on Tuesday in the final group match. It was Spain's first defeat in the group in five games, and one which exposed their defensive frailty from set-pieces.

Manuel Akanji and Brel Embolo both scored from Switzerland corners, either side of Jordi Alba's strike. "In two set-piece situations, which will be important at the World Cup, their goals arrived," said Villarreal defender Pau Torres. "We have to improve on that." Spain never looked comfortable in the game, a far cry from the team which reached the Euro 2020 semi-finals and were defeated on penalties by Italy.

As a result, they stumbled to their first loss on home soil since 2018, after 22 matches unbeaten. Luis Enrique selected six Barcelona players in his starting line-up, including the regular midfield trio Xavi Hernandez utilises at Camp Nou, in Pedri, Gavi and Sergio Busquets. Ferran Torres was another of the Barca clan, part of a three-pronged attack alongside Real Madrid's Marco Asensio and Paris Saint-Germain's Pablo Sarabia.

None of the three have enjoyed regular football with their clubs this season but were given Luis

Enrique's trust. They did not repay it in the first half, with Spain anaemic in attack and asleep at the back when it mattered most. "We were sluggish, no, worse than sluggish," said Luis Enrique. "We had the most imprecise first half of my reign as coach. "(However) this defeat does not condition anything ahead of the World Cup, at all. It's always good to arrive in form to a World Cup, but I have total faith in the team."

Set piece woes

Switzerland took the lead when Manchester City summer signing Akanji got the better of Cesar Azpilicueta in the air at a corner and nodded past Unai Simon in the 21st minute. Spain struggled to create at the other end and Switzerland almost doubled their lead when veteran midfielder Xherdan Shaqiri cut through the defense and forced Simon into a smart save shortly before the interval. The crowd grumbled, unimpressed at a drenched La Romareda stadium, in a city where Spain had not played since 2003.

Asensio had them out of their seats early in the second half when he created the Spain equaliser with an electric burst forward, before playing in Alba to finish clinically. However, three minutes later Spain defended another corner poorly and Akanji's flick-on was nudged over the line by Embolo to restore the Swiss lead. Defending set-plays was a

serious issue for La Roja at Euro 2020 and it clearly remains one as the World Cup approaches.

Luis Enrique replaced his entire forward line, with debutant Borja Iglesias drawing huge applause at his former hunting ground, while Nico Williams also earned his first cap, a day after his older brother Inaki Williams made his debut for Ghana. Athletic Bilbao forward Williams almost forced the equalizer when his cross was turned towards his own goal by Silvan Widmer, but Yann Sommer reacted quickly to keep the ball out. The goalkeeper produced another solid save, punching away substitute Marcos Llorente's fierce drive as Spain began to threaten more.

Villarreal winger Jeremy Pino was bright on the right flank but even his spark fizzled out in the rain, and Sommer stayed alert until the end to deny Carlos Soler. Luis Enrique's side, the 2021 Nations League runners-up, must now overcome Portugal in Braga to reach next year's finals. "We have to beat Portugal now and make it to the final four," said Spain's goalscorer Alba, who has dropped behind Alejandro Balde and Marcos Alonso in the pecking order at Barcelona. "I am grateful to the coach for keeping his confidence in me, and I just have to show that on the pitch."

Dalot bags brace

Meanwhile, defender Diogo Dalot scored twice

as Portugal eased past the Czech Republic 4-0 in Prague on Saturday to get within a point of reaching the UEFA Nations League play-offs. Portugal, who won the first edition of the Nations League in 2019, lead Group 2 on 10 points, two ahead of Spain who were stunned by Switzerland 2-1 at home. Portugal host Spain next Tuesday in their final group game.

Dalot opened the scoring on 33 minutes as he nutmegged Czech goalkeeper Tomas Vaclik from a cutback provided by Rafael Leao. Dalot sprinted down the pitch, passed the ball to his right and dashed into the box to pick up Leao's pass from the left following a cross narrowly missed by Cristiano Ronaldo. Bruno Fernandes made it 2-0 in first-half stoppage time as Mario Rui found him facing Vaclik with a low cross from the left.

A minute later, the hosts squandered a penalty kick as Patrik Schick fired over the crossbar after VAR spotted Ronaldo handling the ball inside the box. "The first half was brilliant, it had an excellent quality," said Portugal coach Fernando Santos. "We were perfectly ready for them and didn't really let them show much." "When we scored the second, the Czechs failed to convert the penalty kick and grew even more nervous, while we stayed focused and were at ease." Dalot added a second as he stunned Vaclik with a low left-foot shot from outside the area on 52 minutes. —AFP

Kuwait's first Muai Thai and boxing Championship

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Muhannad Al-Mughrabi from Lebanon won the main event of the 65 KG Category in Kuwait's first International Muai Thai Championship by defeating Jordan's Omar Mansour on Saturday. The matches were attended by Vice President of Kuwait Olympic Committee Mohammad Jaafar, Vice President of Spanish Olympic Committee professor Eduardo Blanco Pereira, member of KOC Board and Chairman of Sports Committees Committee Sheikh Duaij Jaber Al-Ali, Chairman of Kuwait Boxing Federation Mohammad Mansi, Representative of World Boxing Council (WBC) Chano Planas, President Middle East and Africa Muay Thai Hadji Batahar, President of Boxing Federation Galicia North of Spain Manolo Planas, Spanish Ambassador to Kuwait Miguel Moro Aguilar, Pakistan's Ambassador Malik Muhammad Farooq, USA Charge d'Affaires James Holtsnider, Thai Ambassador and WBC representative in Kuwait Meshal Al-Fajji.

Sheikh Mubarak Faisal Al-Nawaf said the



championship was an outstanding success. Sheikh Mubarak said Kuwait Olympic committee supports all youth efforts to ensure that Kuwait flags remain in prominence at regional and international events. On his part, Mohammad Mansi said Kuwait Boxing Federation is keen on supporting Kuwait youth in all sporting events. He said the hosting of the championship at the Federation's hall was part of the youth support, and in cooperation with the private sector which is an important source for Kuwait sport - as they hope to host more professional championships and Muai Thai.

WBC representative in Kuwait Meshal Al-Fajji was proud of the major success the championship



achieved, adding that the success was due to the cooperation and support with KOC and KBF. The matches were generally competitive. The first match was between Kuwait's Rakan Malallah and Saif Malallah, with Rakan winning the bout.

In the Women's Under 51 kg, Rana Al-Saqubi defeated Haneen Bushehri. The third Muai Thai match saw Othman Al-Mutawa defeating Aws Nasraldeen (from Yemen) in the 48 Kg Category. In the under 81 KG Category, Majd Fakehani from Syria defeated Ali Akbar in a highly competitive and exciting match. The match was decided on point basis.

In the 71 KG, Mudhar Al-Nabulsi defeated

Mubarak Juma while, in the Women's 51 KG, Haneen Naseem came out as the winner against Asmaa Al-Qabandi. Abdallah Saleem defeated Khalid Al-Nabulsi in the 77 KG. In the 91+ KG, Falah Al-Mutairi lost the bout in the first round to Egypt's Ibrahim Alnahat due to injury.

The boxing matches were very exciting. Meshal Al-Enezi defeated Hussein Mubarak in the Under 56 KG, while Fadi Al-Wakeel (from Syria) beat Meshal Al-Kandari in the 77 kg. The third boxing match Under 74 KG was highly exciting and was decided by points in favor of Adnan Al-Qazwini against Abdulrahman Al-Sanad.