

## Kuwait opens Gaza air bridge

First Kuwaiti relief plane arrives in Egypt • Panel debates law banning dealing with Zionist entity



Kuwait dispatched the first relief plane carrying aid for Palestinians in Gaza on Oct 23, 2023. — KUNA

By B Izzak & Agencies

**KUWAIT:** The first relief plane took off from Kuwait's Abdullah Al-Mubarak airbase and arrived at Egypt's Al-Arish Airport on Monday carrying humanitarian and medical aid for Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. Ministry of Social Affairs Spokesperson Ahmad Al-Enezi stated that these efforts are as per directions of political leadership and in cooperation with various state bodies and charitable organizations. Enezi stated that these plane loads would continue to deliver provisions to the Palestinian people in an affirmation of Kuwait's stance in providing aid to people all over the globe.

Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) envoy Khaled Al-Zaid told KUNA the airplane is carrying various medical supplies, ambulances and essential needs required in these conditions. Zaid said the aircraft is loaded

with 40 tons of aid from KRCS and Kuwait Society for Relief as per directions of Kuwait's political leadership in response to the call of the Palestinian people in cooperation with the ministries of defense and foreign affairs.

Zaid mentioned there is direct coordination between the Egyptian and Palestinian Red Crescent Societies to facilitate the entrance of those supplies into the country. He added KRCS is the first to provide aid inside Gaza by distributing meals in shelters and by providing diesel from the local market to a number of hospitals. Zaid expressed his appreciation to donors in Kuwait, including citizens, residents, institutions and banks from the private sector, for their support towards KRCS' efforts to relieve the Palestinian people who are being subjected to crimes against humanity committed by the Zionist occupation forces.

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### NEWS IN BRIEF



HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

#### Crown Prince heads to UK

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah will be heading to the UK on Tuesday on an official invitation from King of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland Charles III. — KUNA

#### Qatar Airways chief to step down

**DOHA:** Qatar Airways' longstanding chief executive Akbar Al-Baker is to step down from his role, the state-owned airline announced on Monday. Qatar Airways confirmed Baker, who served the airline for 27 years, "will be stepping down from his current position as group chief executive officer effective November 5th, 2023". — AFP (See Page 8)

#### PM: 'License to kill' in Gaza

**RAMALLAH:** Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammed Shtayyeh on Monday accused Western nations of giving the Zionist entity a "license to kill" in its war against the Gaza Strip's Islamist rulers Hamas. "What we hear from the mouth of the occupation leaders on preparations for a land invasion means more crimes, atrocities and forced displacement," Shtayyeh said. — AFP

## More than 5,000 Gazans killed in Zionist strikes

**GAZA:** Gaza's Hamas-run health ministry said Monday that more than 5,000 people have been killed in the besieged Palestinian enclave since the Zionist entity launched its withering bombing campaign more than two weeks ago. Alarm has surged about the spiraling humanitarian crisis in Gaza amid the war sparked by the Oct 7 Hamas attack that, Zionist officials say, killed more than 1,400 people. Hamas also took more than 200 captives.

On a day when the Zionist entity's army reported more than 300 new strikes within 24 hours, Gaza's health ministry said the death toll had surged above 5,000, more than 2,000 of them children. Thousands of buildings have been destroyed and more than one

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GAZA: Children of Al-Zanati family killed following a Zionist strike are taken to a waiting vehicle to be driven to a cemetery for burial in Khan Yunis on Oct 23, 2023. — AFP

## Kuwait-Manila labor talks to begin in Nov

**KUWAIT:** Official meetings between Kuwait and the Philippines are scheduled to begin at the start of next month on facilitating the return of Filipino workers to Kuwait, in line with discussions held between HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Philippine President Ferdinand Mar-

cos during the recent Gulf Cooperation Council and ASEAN summit in Riyadh.

Sources revealed the Philippines, which had imposed a ban on sending Filipino workers to Kuwait, saw in response Kuwait taking stringent measures to prevent the entry of Filipino workers, even those who had already obtained work visas before arriving in Kuwait. This situation adversely affected both countries, and now they are eager to resolve the issue.

Kuwait, in particular, is in need of Filipino domestic workers due to a shortage in the domestic labor market, resulting in increased recruitment costs

for families. This is exacerbated by Kuwait's inability to secure new labor agreements with other countries.

The sources further noted that the Filipino labor market was negatively impacted by the halt in recruiting their workers in Kuwait. It affected remittances from Filipino workers in Kuwait, while there is a significant number of Filipinos who wish to work in Kuwait and oppose the ban on their departure to the country.

The meetings between Kuwait and the Philippines are set to begin next month, with the Kuwaiti Embassy in the Philippines engaging with relevant authorities in the Philippines to estab-

lish the procedures for resuming Filipino labor recruitment.

Additionally, the two countries aim to implement recommendations that emerged from a prior informal meeting between labor recruitment agencies in the Philippines and Kuwait Union of Domestic Labor Offices. These recommendations include a review of the labor agreement between the two nations to safeguard the rights of both employers and workers. It was emphasized that the Philippine embassy is committed to complying with Kuwaiti laws, especially in relation to issues like providing shelter to runaway workers.

## Saudi to organize eSports World Cup

**RIYADH:** Saudi Arabia said on Monday it would organize an eSports World Cup starting next year, the latest boost to a sector Riyadh hopes will create tens of thousands of local jobs. "The eSports World Cup is the natural next step in Saudi Arabia's journey to become the premier global hub for gaming and eSports," Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman said in a statement.

Saudi Arabia has invested heavily in the sector. Last year, the crown prince announced a \$38 billion investment strategy for the kingdom's Sovereign Games Group, owned by the deep-pocketed sovereign wealth fund. The goal is to create 39,000 eSports-related jobs by 2030. Officials also want to

make Saudi Arabia "an Eden for game developers" that can produce new titles "promoting Saudi and Arabic culture", according to the national eSports strategy, targeting 30 globally competitive games produced in domestic studios by 2030.

The first edition of the eSports World Cup is expected next summer, taking the place of the eight-week Gamers8 festival of eSports tournaments, which this year featured a prize pool totaling \$45 million. "You can look at Gamers8 as a dry run for the eSports World Cup," said Ralf Reichert, CEO of the newly formed eSports World Cup Foundation.

Tourism falls off considerably during the summer in Saudi Arabia when temperatures in the capital Riyadh clear 40 degrees Celsius on a daily basis. But the eSports World Cup "will be complemented with a diversified set of activities and events that will draw visitors and tourists to the capital, transforming it into a gaming capital", Monday's statement said.

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RIYADH: Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is welcomed by FIFA President Gianni Infantino and Al-Nassr's Portuguese forward Cristiano Ronaldo at the launch of the Esports World Cup. — AFP





## Local

# Kuwait University organizes rally to support Palestinians

## Arab envoys, EU officials meet on Gaza



A group photo of Kuwait University officials and professors. — KUNA photos



A mass rally by Kuwait University to show solidarity with Palestinians.



Women partaking in pro-Palestinian rally.

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait University (KU) organized a rally on Monday in collaboration with the KU Faculty Association and the National Union of Kuwaiti Students (NUKS) in support of Palestinians in Gaza. Acting Director of KU Dr. Fayiz Al-Dhafeeri and large crowds of students, faculty members, and university workers joined together to denounce the Zionist occupation's aggression against Palestine and Gaza, which led to thousands of deaths and countless injuries, especially during the recent bombing of Al-Ahli Arab Hospital.

In order to demonstrate Kuwait's stances in its various entities and institutions, Head of the KU Faculty Association Dr. Ali Al-Kandari told KUNA that the institutions are sending a message to the global academic community to establish human rights in Palestine, stop unjustified attacks, and adhere to the laws.

### Envoys, EU officials meet

In another development, a delegation of Arab ambassadors held intensive meetings with officials from European Union institutions in Brussels during the past couple of days to discuss the dangerous escalation in the Gaza Strip. In a statement on Monday, the ambassadors noted that some European statements and positions send "wrong messages to Zionist forces, the occupying power, who may feel encouraged to increase their attacks, their killing of civilians, and their targeting of public and private facilities and infrastructure in the Gaza Strip."

They pointed out the harm resulting from the adoption by "certain European officials and political institutions of an unbalanced and unacceptable approach of double standards when speaking about and describing the reality of what is happening in Gaza and the real reasons that

led to the deterioration of the situation."

They stressed the necessity of looking at the real reasons behind the current outbreak, including the absence of a political horizon and failing to address the root causes of the conflict, highlighting the importance of pressuring Zionists to stop the cycle of violence, put in place a ceasefire, bring urgent humanitarian aid into Gaza, and prevent the internal or forcible displacement of Palestinians in or out of the Gaza Strip.

In their meetings, the Arab ambassadors stated that there can be no peace nor stability in the region without the implementation of the relevant UN resolutions of international legitimacy, the withdrawal of Zionist occupation from all occupied Arab territories, and the establishment of a sovereign independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital, in line with relevant international

resolutions, international legitimacy, and the Arab Peace Initiative.

They also stressed the need to stop targeting Rafah border crossing from the Palestinian side and for humanitarian aid to enter safely, while expressing absolute rejection of any Zionist plan to internally or forcibly displace or transfer the residents of the Gaza Strip, as this constitutes ethnic cleansing and is contrary to Zionists' legal obligations as the occupying power in accordance with the four Geneva Conventions and international humanitarian law.

The delegation condemned occupation army's continuous incursions into the West Bank, unacceptable settler violence against defenseless civilians, and violating holy Muslim and Christian sites including East Jerusalem, warning of widening the scope of the conflict and of the dire consequences it will have on the en-

tire region. The ambassadors conveyed the Arab position as reflected in the resolution issued by the Extraordinary Session of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Arab League, held in Cairo on October 11, condemning the targeting of civilians and highlighting the urgent need to stop the current aggression on the Gaza Strip.

The group met officials from the European Council, the European Commission, and the European Parliament, as well as the European External and Action Service (EEAS), as well as officials from Belgium, Luxembourg, and NATO. Mandated by the Council of Arab Ambassadors in Brussels, a delegation of Arab ambassadors, including from Palestine, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Lebanon, and the Arab League, held intensive meetings over the past few days with officials of the European Union institutions. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Salman Al-Dabbous Heart Center organizes a seminar on atrial fibrillation.



## 'Regulate Your Pulse, Protect Your Heart'

By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** Salman Al-Dabbous Heart Center at Adan Hospital organized a seminar on atrial fibrillation with the theme "Regulate Your Pulse, Protect Your Heart". The seminar aimed to provide information about the symptoms of atrial fibrillation, potential treatments and how to manage the condition. Samah Al-Kharji, Head of Heart Diseases at Al-Dabbous Heart Center and a member of the Kuwait Heart Foundation, said the prevalence of atrial fibrillation in Kuwait is approximately 4.2 percent. In the broader Middle East region, this figure stands at around 8 percent, while among patients who have experienced acute heart attacks, it's nearly 2.4 percent.

Kharji explained that a preliminary study involving approximately 500 patients under treatment at the center revealed that the average age of these patients is 65 years, with an average BMI of 31.7, indicating second-degree obesity. Among these patients, 41 percent are experiencing myocardial failure, 50 percent have diabetes, and only about 60 percent regularly seek medical attention. She further noted that atrial fibrillation (AF) is the most common electrical heart defect, affecting around 43 million individuals worldwide.

Approximately one out of three people aged 55 and older develop AF. AF is a heart rhythm disorder that may initially occur sporadically, and in some cases, progress to become a permanent condition. Kharji added that the symptoms of AF may not be apparent to the patient, who could experience unexplained fatigue, extreme tiredness, difficulty breathing, dizziness or even loss of consciousness. She emphasized that AF increases the risk of strokes by five times compared to individuals who do not have AF.

## Burgan Bank sponsors 2023 Farwah Expo

**KUWAIT:** In its continuous effort to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and help bolster Kuwait's domestic economy, Burgan Bank participated in the 2023 Farwah Expo as an official sponsor. The three-day expo, which took place at Murouj, welcomed a lot of visitors who enjoyed Kuwait's most notable homegrown small and medium businesses, which serve various markets from F&B to clothing and accessories, home ware, perfumes, and more.

This sponsorship comes as an extension of Burgan's unwavering support of local businesses and promising young talents and its continued efforts to create a business environment that allows for their growth and sustainability. "Entrepreneurship plays such an important role in the sustainability, growth, and overall health of Kuwait's domestic economy; and as a proactive corporate citizen and forward-looking financial institution, it is very important that we continue to support ambitious local entrepreneurs and SME business

owners," said Abdullah Al Maqseed, Executive Manager - Merchant Acquiring at Burgan Bank.

"By embracing and feeding the power of the SME community, we are actually calling for more business visionaries to propose creative solutions that answer to the market's growing needs and novel interests." Al Maqseed further highlighted that this sponsorship stems from the Bank's commitment to social responsibility, ensuring sustainable mutual benefit for Burgan, its community, and the economy.

To ensure maximum benefit for the expo attendees and entrepreneurs, Burgan Bank's representatives were present on the ground to share valuable knowledge with the audience about the Bank's suite of products and services that are tailored to add ease and convenience to their personal and business transactions. For the entrepreneurs, Burgan's representatives focused on the Bank's business-specific flagship product Tjarati, in addition to the point-of-sale (POS), and payment gateway (PG). Furthermore, the Bank organized competitions with cash prizes and handed out special giveaways.

"When we build new products and services, we strive to offer our customers a practical solution to their everyday needs, but also a rewarding one that reassures them that their trust in Burgan is well-placed," added Al



Entrepreneurs and SME community

Maqseed. "On the practical front, you can find services like Tjarati, which enables merchants to get a live overview of their businesses and transactions through the platform's detailed, easy-to-navigate dashboard.

Then we introduced an extra layer of convenience with Tjarati Pay, a payment solution that enables Tjarati users to initiate and collect payments instantly through the platform at the best rates in the market. Subsequently, there is the Merchant Rewards, through which we constantly thank our

customers for choosing Burgan. With this rewards program, transactions made through Tjarati Pay grant the merchant points that can be redeemed for a range of exclusive benefits."

It serves to note that Burgan Bank continues to dedicate its resources to the development of new products and services that echo the Bank's philosophy "Driven by You", with the aim of presenting its customers and community with banking solutions that enable them to lead the lives that they aspire to.

## CAP organizes art exhibition to raise aid for Palestinians

By Khaled Al-Abdulhadi

**KUWAIT:** The Contemporary Art Platform (CAP) hosted an art exhibition on Sunday featuring Palestinian, Kuwaiti and international artists in support of the Palestinian resistance. The event also included an auction aimed at raising funds to aid the people of Gaza. "This exhibition was created in just one week, and it is remarkable how it was executed with such beauty and intensity in such a short period.

The exhibition showcases the works of international and local artists who share a common mission: Advocating for the right of the Palestinian people to life and security," said Dr Sulaiman Al-Askari, former Secretary-General of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters and current editor-in-chief of Al-Arabi magazine. "In Palestine, we see houses and camps without suitable living conditions, and they have not been spared from the rockets of the Zionist entity. While it is a war, it is an unequal one," he added, pointing out that the population of Gaza is fighting alone against the Zionist entity's use of modern and advanced missiles, which have not been seen in many previous



conflicts between more evenly matched forces.

Dr Askari emphasized that this exhibition is a Kuwaiti initiative, with substantial effort invested in its organization, bringing together international artists, some of whom were present at the event, and others who have passed away. "In light of recent events, we must understand that people cannot live in peace when isolated. The more isolation grows, the more hatred is fostered, especially when it is imposed by oppressors who have taken land," he pointed out.

Dr Askari said that one of the artworks in the exhibition is a drawing of the Dome of the Rock, inspired by passages from Fairuz's song "I am Al-Quds", and it will be auctioned to benefit the people of Gaza through the Kuwait Red Crescent Society. Ibrahim Farghali, Cultural Program Officer at CAP, said: "The



Palestinian art exhibition and the culture of resistance show support for recent events in Gaza, emphasizing the role of culture in art and resistance, while highlighting Palestinian heritage and identity.

The exhibition primarily features works by various Palestinian and international artists, along with contributions from Kuwaiti artists, including sculptors Saad Hamdan and Abdulwahab Al-Awadhi. The works encompass a range of mediums, including painting, photography, sculpture and composite pieces." Farghali said symbolic works, such as stones from the First Intifada in Palestine are on display. "Pieces like the one depicting life in the camp between Ramallah and Jerusalem aim to convey the daily struggles and suffering of Palestinians," he added.



Ibrahim Farghali



Dr Sulaiman Al-Askari



— Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



Local

# Zain showcases its leadership in cloud computing and digital transformation

## Company sponsors tenth edition of eGovernment Forum



Al Hussein, Al Salman, and Mahdi honor Al Khashti in recognition of Zain's support.



Al Hussein and guests with Zain's team.

**KUWAIT:** For the sixth time running, Zain announced its sponsorship of the eGovernment Forum, which came this year in its tenth edition under the title "Future of the Cloud in Kuwait". The event was organized by the Kuwait Federation of Engineering Offices and Consultant Houses in collaboration with the Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT), and came under the patronage of H.E. Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Communications Affairs Fahad Al Shula.

Zain joined the event's opening ceremony at Crowne Plaza Hotel, attended by the representative of the event's patron, CAIT Acting GM Dr Ammar Al Hussein, along with Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development Dr Khalid Mahdi, Zain Kuwait Chief Corporate Affairs and Relations Officer Waleed Al Khashti, Director of the Kuwait Federation of Engineering Offices

and Consultant Houses Bader Al Salman, and many prominent executives and leaders from the local public and private sectors.

During his opening speech, Waleed Al Khashti said: "Today we celebrate 10 years of this unique gathering as one of the most insightful platforms that have effectively contributed to growing e-government services in our nation." "We're proud to continue supporting this event, where we seek to showcase our leadership as Kuwait's top digital service provider. Zain continues to play a pivotal role by being the nation's strategic partner to contribute to achieving the New Kuwait vision and building a solid digital infrastructure," he added.

Al Khashti further noted: "The cloud market is still emerging and rapidly developing, and that's why such platforms are necessary to bring together decision makers and experts to exchange information, share

expertise, set up priorities, learn the market's needs, and explore opportunities to bring the best out of this revolutionary technology."

He concluded by saying: "It will always be a top priority for us to contribute to preparing and upskilling local talents, paving the way for them to play their part in supporting the nation's cybersecurity ecosystem. The creation of specialized teams and setting up procedures for cybersecurity readiness are essential factors for the success of cloud computing and digital transformation."

EGOV10 reflected a pivotal stage in the future of cloud computing in Kuwait. The event ran for two days, and was joined by the biggest cloud computing, telecom, digital, and ICT service providers from the nation and the world. The forum was attended by over 500 guests, over 30 experts, 10 government partners, and witnessed tens of informative panels and sessions.



Al Khashti delivering his opening speech.



Zain team in a group picture with Dr Amar Al Hussein.



Participants are pictured during the event.

## Forum discusses the future of Cloud Computing in Kuwait

By Ghadeer Ghloum

**KUWAIT:** Under the patronage of Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Communications Fahad Al Shula, the 10th eGovernment Forum on "The Future of Cloud Computing in Kuwait" was organized on Oct 22, 2023, under the sponsorship of Zain and the management of the Kuwaiti Federation of Engineering Offices and Consultant Houses.

During the opening ceremony, Director General of the Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT) Dr Ammar Hassan Al Hussein spoke on behalf of Shula. He started by greeting all the attendees, especially guests from outside Kuwait, wishing success for everyone in their endeavors. He also emphasized that the Kuwaiti government prioritizes the development of smart electronic services through its digital transformation strategy, adding information and communication technology occupy an important space in the Kuwaiti government program for the years 2023 to 2027.

The program includes several initiatives, such as launching the compre-

hensive national digital transformation project, establishing a company to manage fixed communication networks, issuing a comprehensive directory for all services provided by government entities, gradually digitizing 90 percent of government services, launching a central project to collect government data in unified templates, issuing a unified general framework for electronic government services and offering them on integrated platforms to provide comprehensive service, and establishing a technical unit dedicated to digital transformation in the government.

Moreover, Hussein said their ambition is great in advancing Kuwait towards an advanced stage of digital transformation that aligns with their aspirations for sustainable growth and an advanced society that benefits from the capabilities and technologies of cloud computing, as well as modern technologies such as artificial intelligence and virtual and augmented reality. It can be employed in all sectors including education, health, finance, business, commerce, communication and transportation.

He also emphasized that they look



Dr. Amar Al Hussein



Waleed Al Khashti

forward to the efforts and projects of transformation towards cloud computing in Kuwait, led by the Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority in collaboration with information centers in other government entities in achieving those aspirations. Hussein thanked the organizers of the forum for supporting the plans and efforts for digital transformation, sustainable growth and achieving the prosperity of Kuwait under the leadership of HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf Al-Sabah.

Additionally, Zain Kuwait's Chief Corporate Communications and Relations Officer Waleed Al Khashti said:

"Kuwait has rapidly entered the era of cloud computing, and the government of Kuwait has been at the forefront in realizing its benefits and investing in cloud infrastructure. The cloud market is still considered advanced, so we need platforms and initiatives like this to exchange experiences, understand market needs and learn how to leverage the opportunities presented by these modern technologies.

We are keen to contribute to the training and qualification of national competencies capable of enhancing the efficiency of the country's digital security system, preparing for cyberthreats, forming teams, and implementing measures to protect the digital system for the success of this digital transformation. This is what we strive to achieve in our society."

Al-Kandari confirmed the importance of these "fruitful" visits in intensifying areas of cooperation and benefiting from the experiences in the Gulf countries, which are continuously trying to keep up with technical updates witnessed worldwide. He praised the "successful" Bahraini experience in the judicial field and the implemented procedures that were developed to save time and effort, including activating a new mechanism to get rid of the backlog of discrimination appeals, as it "developed the beginning of advocacy."

The Kuwaiti delegation was briefed on Bahrain's experience in the "privatization of implementation" system by implementing commercial and civil cases through private enforcers supervised by the judiciary, he added. He expressed his thanks and appreciation to the officials in the Bahraini Ministry of Justice, led by the Minister of Islamic Affairs and Endowments, Nawaf Al-Muawadah, the Head of the Judicial Inspection, Counselor Abdul Rahman Al-Mualla, and Judge Dr. Jawaher Al-Abdul Rahman, for their cooperation and keenness to exchange information. — AFP

## AU hosts breast cancer awareness campaign

**KUWAIT:** In alignment with Global Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Australian University (AU) proudly presented its Annual "AUGOESPINK" Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign on campus, in collaboration with "ARGAN Riaya." Breast Cancer Awareness Month, observed internationally throughout October, serves as a dedicated time for individuals, organizations, and communities to unite in raising awareness about breast cancer.



May Al-Musallam

It provides a crucial platform for educating the public on the significance of early detection, support, and treatment for this prevalent and life-changing disease, which affects millions of individuals and families worldwide. AU is committed to making a positive impact by spotlighting this vital cause within its community. This year's annual drive encompassed a variety of impactful activities and functions designed to raise awareness and emphasized the importance of early detection and support for those battling this disease.

From their end, Argan Riaya made a significant contribution to this year's drive, deploying their expert medical team on campus to engage with the AU community and highlight the importance of maintaining healthy lifestyle to reduce the risk of breast cancer, while also encouraging both staff and students to consider mammography exams. May Al-Musallam, Senior Manager of Public Relations and Marketing at AU, stressed the value of teamwork in achieving goals and emphasized the need of collective efforts to educate the community, in alignment with AU's Corporate Social Responsibility strategy.

Al-Musallam also emphasized the campaign's importance, as it has a significant impact on the wellbeing of community members. She further added: "Breast Cancer affects many people, and it is important to provide our students with accurate information from reliable resources, educating them about the facts and dispelling myths about this disease. In addition to always encourage them to adopt healthy habits".

## GCC officials to expand judicial cooperation

**MANAMA:** The Undersecretary of the Kuwait Court of Cassation, Ishaq Al-Kandari, stressed on Monday the importance of exchanging visits, experiences, and information between judicial sector employees in the region, which positively contributes to expanding the horizons of joint cooperation. This came in a statement by Al-Kandari to KUNA on the sidelines of his and the accompanying delegation's visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain within the framework of the program of bilateral visits to the Supreme Courts and Courts of Cassation in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries.



Kuwait judicial delegation with Bahraini judicial officials. — KUNA



# GCC regrets UNSC's failure to adopt Gaza resolution

## A broad Arab response to assist Palestinians

RIYADH: Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) foreign ministers regretted the failure of the UN Security Council (UNSC) to adopt a resolution aiming at ending the Zionist occupation aggression on Gaza. This came in a letter sent by Omani Foreign Minister and President of the Current Session of the GCC Ministerial Council Bader Al-Busaidi to Brazil's Permanent Representative at the UN, Sergio Danese, whose country holds the current rotating presidency of the UNSC.

GCC Secretary-General Jassem Al-Budaiwi said the letter covered a recently announced GCC pledge worth \$100 million to offer relief aid to the Gaza Strip. He voiced the council's willingness to continue working with the UNSC to adopt a resolution that would put an end to international resolutions, treaties, and laws, including UNSC Resolution 242/338, which reflects international consensus on the bi-state solution.

He quoted the GCC foreign ministers as having expressed readiness to meet with Brazil's permanent representative and UNSC members in New York in this regard. He also quoted him as having underlined the necessity of ceasing hostilities, observing international law and international humanitarian law, and immediately releasing hostages and detainees.

Meanwhile, the Arab League, the Arab Crescent Organization, and the Red Cross revealed on Sunday a broad Arab response to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of the Gaza Strip, praising the efforts of Arab countries in this framework to help Palestinians. This came at a joint press conference held by the assistant secretary general for social affairs at the university, Dr. Haifa Abu Ghazaleh, with the secretary general of the Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross organization, Saleh Al-Tuwaijri, to discuss how to provide humanitarian assistance to the Gaza Strip.

Abu Ghazaleh said that the Arab League is in contact with international organizations to try to find a way out and an outlet to deliver aid to the Gaza Strip, expressing appreciation for the efforts of Arab countries and Egypt. Abu Ghazaleh called on all Arabs to respond to the donation campaigns launched by the Red Crescent and Red Cross societies in the member states to support Palestinians.

that this has been facilitated by the Foreign Ministry and the Social Affairs Ministry.

As for Najat Charity's Abdullah Al-Shehab, he told KUNA that over 34,000 people benefited from the urgent aid sent by the charity as part of the "For Palestine" campaign launched towards the beginning of escalation. Al-Shehab mentioned that they are preparing to send new batches of assistance, as they have also launched another campaign for the sponsorship of 1,000 orphans. Tanmeia Charity official Musab Al-Otaibi told KUNA that the Gaza Strip is in dire need of necessary provisions as the people are suffering from severe shortages and the collapse of the health system.

He affirmed that despite tough conditions and obstacles in delivering aid, Tanmeia Charity would continue to send support to Palestinians. Kuwaiti Relief Air Bridge launched on Monday with its first planeload and will continue to do so on a daily basis this current week. The planeloads, consisting of urgent supplies and medical necessities, are heading to the Gaza Strip through the Al-Arish area in the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt.

### 15 trucks head to Gaza

Meanwhile, the Egyptian Red Crescent announced on Sunday that a second batch of aid convoys, including 15 trucks carrying quantities of medical supplies and humanitarian and food aid, were heading to the Gaza Strip. In a statement, the head of the Egyptian



KUWAIT: A handout photo released by Kuwaiti Defense Ministry on October 23, 2023, shows humanitarian aid bound for Egypt and then onto the Palestinian Gaza Strip, as it is loaded into a Kuwaiti military plane, at Kuwait's International Airport in Kuwait City, amid the ongoing battles between Zionists and the Palestinian group Hamas. — AFP

She pointed to the efforts made by the league to disseminate the needs of Palestine to the member states, pointing to moves with the Egyptian Ministry of Health to provide the support previously announced by the Council of Arab Health Ministers, which is estimated at half a million dollars of medicines. She expressed hope that this aid will enter the Gaza Strip through the Rafah border crossing, noting that the entry of relief materials was stopped after the Zionist occupation allowed the entry of 20 aid trucks.

The estimated number of Palestinians displaced as a result of shelling and supply cuts in Gaza is one million, in addition to the 513,000 who took refuge in the facilities

of the United Nations Relief and Works Organization for Palestine refugees (UNRWA). The shelling of the occupation forces has killed about 4,733 martyrs, in addition to other martyrs under the rubble, 600 missing children, and more than 15,000 injured.

According to UN statistics, about 70 percent of the number of martyrs in the Gaza Strip are children, women, and the elderly. The Gaza Strip is suffering for the 16th consecutive day of an unprecedented humanitarian disaster as a result of the escalation and the blockade imposed by the unjust and inhumane Zionist occupation, cutting off electricity, water, and fuel and preventing relief and humanitarian supplies to civilians. — KUNA



GAZA: Medics carry a distressed woman outside the Kuwait hospital, following a Zionist airstrike in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip amid the ongoing battles between Zionist and the Palestinian group. — AFP

## Kuwait charity societies send urgent aid to Gaza

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti charity societies continue to rally up efforts to address the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Gaza as the Zionist occupation aggression left thousands of casualties and a large number of families with no homes or provisions. The latest data showed that Zionist occupation airstrikes, since October 7, have killed more than 4,600 people and injured over 14,000, while residential areas and infrastructure were left in rubble.

Al-Salam Charity Chief, Dhari Al-Beijan, told KUNA that since its establishment, the charity has focused its work on central Asia, but due to the continuing tragic events in Gaza, Al-Salam Charity has redirected its efforts. The charity, affirmed Al-Beijan, is in contact with official organizations in Palestine approved by the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs to deliver urgent aid to the people of Gaza. In the first phase, the charity had allocated \$100,000 for food, medical necessities, and provisions for refugee centers, stated Al-Beijan, saying

that this has been facilitated by the Foreign Ministry and the Social Affairs Ministry.

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Meanwhile, the Egyptian Red Crescent announced on Sunday that a second batch of aid convoys, including 15 trucks carrying quantities of medical supplies and humanitarian and food aid, were heading to the Gaza Strip. In a statement, the head of the Egyptian



Photo shows one of the ambulances to be carried by the first Kuwaiti relief plane to Gaza Strip. — KUNA

Red Crescent in the North Sinai, Dr. Khaled Zayid, said that the Red Crescent delivered to its Palestinian counterpart the first aid convoys, which included 20 trucks containing medical supplies, medicines, and food. Zayid added that all aid received by the Rafah crossing is delivered to the Palestinian Red Crescent crews and, in turn, to the people of the Gaza Strip

and is distributed according to the lists determined by the Emergency Committee in the Strip. In a related development, the Egyptian Red Crescent announced the arrival of a humanitarian aid plane from India to the Egyptian Rafah crossing, carrying medical and food supplies to be provided to civilians in Gaza. — KUNA



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## KALD raises awareness on learning difficulties

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti Society for Learning Differences (KALD) launched its annual campaign entitled (You are not alone) at the Avenues Complex to educate and spread awareness about learning difficulties and symptoms of attention

deficit hyperactivity disorder, especially in young children.

The campaign will continue until the end of this week to encourage parents and children to answer their inquiries and provide free consultations to seek early diagnosis of these disorders, which have serious disadvantages in academic achievement and school and social attendance. The campaign coincides with the month of October, in which organizations highlight distracting disorders around the world. — KUNA





## International

## Aid entering Gaza not enough

'Humanitarian pause' needed to allow support to reach those in need: Borrell



RAFAH: Palestinians wait to receive food aid outside a supermarket in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip on Oct 21, 2023. — AFP photos

**EL-ARISH:** Under the roar of military aircraft, workers were rushing to offload supplies at Egypt's El-Arish airport as aid trickles into the stricken Gaza Strip after more than two weeks since the Zionist occupation declared war on Hamas. Officials barked orders and forklift trucks revved their engines, swerving at speed on the tarmac as they carried items including vital food and medicine for the Palestinian enclave.

Planeloads of aid have been landing for days at El-Arish, about 45 kilometers from the Rafah border crossing, the only route into Gaza that's not controlled by the Zionist occupation. But it was only over the weekend that the first supplies were allowed to reach Gaza, where 2.4 million people have been under blockade for years and complete siege by the Zionists for two weeks.

The Zionist occupation has been relentlessly bombing Gaza since October 7, killing more than 5,087 Palestinians, mainly civilians. The escalated attacks came following the infiltration of hundreds of Hamas fighters into occupied areas near the Gaza border which left 1,400 people dead.

Three convoys of aid totaling about 50 trucks have cleared the Rafah crossing since Saturday. The United Nations estimates Gaza requires about 100 trucks a day to meet the needs of residents, almost half of whom are believed to have been displaced by the Zionist bombing campaign. WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus issued a new appeal on

Monday for "sustained safe passage" for medical essentials and fuel to keep health facilities open. "Lives depend on these decisions," he said on social platform X. Mohammad Maher, 40, who has fled to the south from Gaza City in the north, told Reuters: "We don't want food or money. We want this war to end. We want death to stop and we want this blind bombing of civilians to stop." He described the amount of food aid that had arrived as "pathetic" and accused the Zionist occupation and the United States of seeking the starvation of Palestinians. "Shame on the world," he said.

## 'Pause' needed

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell on Monday urged faster aid deliveries to Gaza, and said the bloc was debating calling for a "humanitarian pause" in the Zionist bombing on Gaza. Borrell said that the few dozen trucks of humanitarian aid that had been allowed into Gaza from Egypt was "not enough" and said fuel to produce power and drinking water was particularly needed.

He said ministers would discuss calls from United Nations' secretary-general Antonio Guterres for a "humanitarian ceasefire" and the issue would be on the table at an EU leaders summit on Thursday. "Personally, I think that a humanitarian pause is needed in order to allow the humanitarian support to come in and be distributed, seeing that half of the population of Gaza has been moving from their houses," Borrell

said. He said "the attacks of missiles, rockets from Hamas, from Gaza, has to stop and the hostages, people who have been kidnapped, have to be released." "It is part of any step towards de-escalation."

Borrell said a pause would be a less ambitious objective than the "humanitarian ceasefire" called for by United Nations secretary-general Antonio Guterres. Despite Borrell's assessment, a European official, who asked to stay anonymous, warned there was not yet a clear agreement among the 27 EU nations on issuing a call for a pause in the fighting.

## No fuel

On Sunday, the UN said the lives of at least 120 newborn babies in incubators in Gaza's hospitals are at risk as fuel runs out in the Palestinian enclave under renewed Zionist blockade in the wake of the October 7 Hamas attack. The first batch of 20 trucks carrying humanitarian aid entered Gaza via Rafah crossing with Egypt on Saturday, but the occupation continues to block fuel and electricity supplies critical to running hospitals and support several other essential services, such as bakeries.

Leaflets dropped by air and marked with the Zionist military logo automated phone messages sent to people across Gaza on Sunday delivered one message. "Whoever chooses not to leave north Gaza to the south of Wadi Gaza might be identified as an accomplice in a terrorist organization," the leaflets said. Although the occupation has previously warned

Palestinians to move south, it had not previously told them they could be identified as "terrorist" sympathizers if they did not. World Health Organization Director-General said on X that "It is impossible for these overcrowded hospitals to safely evacuate patients." "They must be allowed to perform their life-saving functions. They must be protected," he added.

## Tons of aid waiting

In less than an hour on Sunday, two Qatari planes and one Indian aircraft, all carrying aid, touched down at El-Arish, with scores of Egyptian Red Crescent workers scrambling to unload them. Youssef al-Mulla, a humanitarian aid worker with the Qatar Development Fund, said the Gulf emirate had supplied over 100 tons of aid destined for Gaza since the start of the crisis. "This is the fourth flight that we have sent to El-Arish," he told AFP at the airport, explaining the first delivery had been "37 tons in two flights and these two flights have around 86 tons of aid".

While Mulla, who accompanied one of the flights from Qatar, was hopeful all the supplies would reach Gaza, he said only two trucks of aid from Qatar had crossed at Rafah as of Sunday. The delays meant further aid earmarked for Gaza had remained in Doha, he said. "It's ready to be sent at any time," he said. As the first Qatari aircraft departed El-Arish on Sunday to return to Doha, the aid it brought stood carefully stacked and waiting on the runway's apron. — Agencies

## More than 19,000 flee in Lebanon as tensions escalate

**BEIRUT:** More than 19,000 people have been displaced in Lebanon amid an uptick in tensions between the Zionist occupation and Hezbollah at the country's southern border, figures released Monday by a United Nations agency showed. "An increase in cross-border incidents" has resulted in the displacement of 19,646 people in Lebanon, "both within the south and elsewhere within the country", said the International Organization for Migration.

"We expect the numbers to rise as the cross-border tensions continue" or if there is an escalation in violence, IOM spokesperson Mohammedali Abunajela told AFP in a statement. The Zionist occupation has been relentlessly bombing Gaza since October 7, killing more than 5,087 Palestinians, mainly civilians. The escalated attacks came following the infiltration of hundreds of Hamas fighters into occupied areas near the Gaza border which left 1,400 people dead.

Hezbollah has launched escalating attacks on the

Zionist entity, raising fears the group intends to open a front from Lebanon in support of ally Hamas. The Zionist entity has carried out cross-border strikes and bombardments on Lebanon, while Palestinian groups have also launched limited infiltration attempts into occupied Palestine.

Dozens of communities have been told to evacuate in occupied Palestine, while thousands of civilians in Lebanon have fled, many heading to other parts of the south or areas in or outside the capital Beirut. Lebanon, grappling with political paralysis and a four-year-long economic crisis, has not implemented an evacuation plan, but Prime Minister Najib Mikati has said the country was developing an emergency response "as a precaution".

The IOM's Abunajela said that "amidst a deteriorating economic situation and the significant rise in poverty across all populations in Lebanon, internal displacements may add additional stress to the resources of host communities". Most of the displaced are currently "sheltered in host and family settings, while there are three designated schools, managed by local authorities that are also used as shelters", Abunajela said.

An AFP correspondent last week saw families taking refuge in public schools converted into shelters in the southern city of Tyre, where authorities said they were looking for a place to open a fourth center. At

week, willing themselves to focus on a test — and not their families suffering barely a five-hour drive away.

When her mother last spoke to her from Shifa hospital in northern Gaza, she said she was afraid that "if the air strikes don't kill them, the children will die of fright". Samy doesn't sleep, thinking of her six-year-old sister lying awake on the ground in the hospital courtyard, shivering in the cold. Every time she sees news of a bombed-out hospital, her heart stops.

## Panicked group chats

Like Samy, 21-year-old Ghaidaa Jaber stares endlessly at her phone screen, begging for her messages to go through. The last message from her mother on October 12 said she was leaving their home in northern Gaza to head south with Jaber's four sisters and three brothers in a desperate attempt to flee the relentless bombardment. "I haven't heard anything since," she told AFP.

In panicked group chats, Jaber and other students try to triangulate information. "We're trying to see on social media where they've bombed, what's nearby,



TYRE: A boy walks in the yard of a school where displaced Lebanese families from villages near the southern border took refuge on Oct 19, 2023. — AFP

least 40 people have been killed on the Lebanese side of the border, according to an AFP tally — mostly combatants but also including at least four civilians, one of them Reuters journalist Issam Abdallah. Lebanon's crisis has crippled basic services, from electricity to health care and education. "The country's

what roads our families could be on, going through lists of martyrs and families that have been killed." "All you can do is pray" and hope you don't come across your own surname, she said.

Haya Shehab, 21, learned from an Instagram post that her extended family's home had been bombed, killing 45 people — dozens of them cousins. "Just like that, 45 of us gone," said Shehab, who studies at a private university in Cairo.

Jaber was six when she first felt her home tremble under the force of Zionist air strikes, and remembers clutching onto her family for dear life as bombs rained down from above. "I know what it's like, but this time is so much worse," she said.

The formative memory of Jaber, Samy, and countless others' childhoods was the war on Gaza in 2014, when Zionist occupation forces killed around 2,250 Palestinians. "That was 50 days. There were as many martyred now in the first week of the war," Jaber said.

For years, Samy's father insisted the family stay put despite the violence, reminding them "our home is all we have". But on October 7, as Zionist Prime Minister

health system is facing severe resource shortages, including medicines" and medical personnel, Abunajela said. "In this context, responding to large-scale displacement and health casualties that might occur ... may overwhelm the already fragile health system," he warned. — AFP

## Gaza students in Egypt fear worst for families

**CAIRO:** The last time Saja Samy heard from her family in Gaza, they were sheltering, along with thousands of others, at a hospital compound under threat of Zionist air strikes. In her dorm room in Egypt, the 20-year-old medical student clutches her phone, desperately scrolling for any clue as to whether her family is still alive.

"I can't think straight. I don't know where my family is. I don't know if they're okay," she told AFP. "Every time I talk to my mom, she tells me that she doesn't know if they'll survive this and how I have to take care of myself. But what am I supposed to do on my own?"

Like 6,000 other Palestinians studying in Egyptian universities, Samy has been forced to watch the war in Gaza from afar. Dozens of them sat in an exam hall last

Benjamin Netanyahu declared "a long and difficult war", the family packed up and left their home which within days was reduced to a smoldering pile of rubble. "We always used to say they don't bomb western Gaza, but this war proved to me that nowhere is safe," Samy said. Shehab also thought her family's home in the southern district of Khan Yunis was relatively safe, where "bombings were limited". "But not this time." The occupation's assault has hit residential buildings, roads they had designated as safe escape routes and southern Gaza, where more than a million Palestinians have fled after the Zionist authorities ordered them out of the north.

And for the terrified students who are unable to go about their lives, there is also the overwhelming sense of guilt. "How dare I be so far away? How can I eat when they're hungry? How can I sleep?" wonders Jaber who has been locked in her room for two weeks. Samy has also been blaming herself. "I hate this feeling, knowing I'm safe and they're not. I wish I was with them, I would rather be with them and die with them than feel like this." — AFP



## International

# Pakistan ex-PM Khan indicted in leaked documents case

## More than 100 rioters to be prosecuted in civilian courts: Supreme court verdict

**RAWALPINDI:** Jailed former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan was indicted on Monday for allegedly leaking classified documents, a charge set to keep him in custody in the countdown to national elections due early next year. Since being ousted in 2022, Khan has been tangled in a slew of legal cases he says are designed to stop him from contesting polls in January, while his party has faced a massive crackdown.

A spokesman for Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party said he was charged under the colonial-era Official Secrets Act in a trial "conducted within the court premises with no access to public or media". The case relates to a diplomatic cable the 71-year-old allegedly touted as proof of a "conspiracy" behind the no-confidence vote which turfed him out of office last April. "We are going to challenge it," Khan's lawyer Umar Khan Niazi told reporters outside the jail where the special court was convened. Khan's lawyers say the crime he has been charged with carries a possible 14-year prison term, and in the most extreme circumstances, the death penalty.

### Army courts stood down

Pakistan's supreme court gave rare re-

spite to PTI on Monday by ordering that more than 100 supporters accused of rioting in May should not be prosecuted in military tribunals as planned. "Under the Supreme Court verdict all the cases, which were being tried in the military courts, cannot be proceeded. They could only be held in the civilian courts," PTI lawyer Aitzaz Ahsan told reporters. "Today's verdict is highly significant and it will help strengthen the constitution, law, and the civilian institutions of the country." The violence erupted after Khan was briefly arrested, with unprecedented anger aimed at the military. He was later convicted of graft in August and sentenced to three years in prison. That sentence was overturned but he was kept in custody on the far more serious charge of sharing state documents he alleged proved how the army conspired with US diplomats to end his premiership.

The United States and Pakistan's military have denied the claim. "PTI has been bled to death. The current army chief doesn't want it around, if it is around, it's minus Imran Khan," political analyst Ayesha Siddiqua told AFP. "There is an entire movement out there by the establishment to eliminate him politically, at least for now," she said. The vice-chair-

man of Khan's PTI party, Shah Mahmood Qureshi, a former foreign minister, was also indicted over the same case.

### Khan tangled up

Former cricketing superstar Khan enjoys enormous support in Pakistan but his street power has been squashed by the crackdown, which has seen thousands detained. Almost the entire senior party leadership were forced underground, with many abandoning PTI. On Sunday, PTI said about 80 members were rounded up at a convention in Lahore that they reportedly did not have permission for. Pakistan's military has directly ruled the country for roughly half of its 76-year history and continues to exercise enormous power.

The nation is currently led by an interim government, with polls already pushed back several months. Khan's primary opponent, three-time prime minister Nawaz Sharif, returned to Pakistan on Saturday, ending four years of self-imposed exile. Sharif was jailed for graft and barred from contesting the 2018 elections — in which Khan swept to power — but he left midway through his sentence to receive medical care in the United Kingdom, ignoring court orders to return.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan (center) leaves after appearing in the Supreme Court in Islamabad on July 26, 2023. — AFP

Prior to his comeback, a court granted Sharif protective bail in what analysts said was likely a backroom deal arranged by the army establishment. The fortunes of Pakistan's leaders rise

and fall on their relationship with the military and Pakistan's courts are often used to tie up lawmakers in lengthy proceedings that rights monitors criticize for stifling dissent. — AFP

## Antisemitism not behind synagogue leader's death: Police

**DETROIT:** Police probing the stabbing death of the president of a US synagogue said Sunday that no evidence has emerged of anti-Semitism as a motive. Detroit police chief James White said in a brief statement that his force is interviewing "individuals with information that may further the investigation" into the death Saturday of Samantha Woll. He gave no details.

"No evidence has surfaced suggesting that this crime was motivated by anti-Semitism," White said. He said the FBI is assisting Detroit police and he asked for patience as the probe proceeds. "Everything that can be done to bring this matter to closure is being called into service," White said.

Woll presided over the Isaac Agree Downtown Synagogue, which serves metropolitan Detroit. The murder came amid escalating tensions in Jewish and Muslim communities across the United States over the Zionist-Hamas war, which has taken thousands of lives this month. Emergency personnel found Woll dead outside her home with multiple stab wounds, police said in a statement Saturday. A trail of blood led officers to Woll's home, "which is where the crime is believed to have occurred." — AFP

## Fake Ozempic pens circulating in Europe, watchdogs warn

**PARIS:** Fake injection pens of Ozempic, a hugely popular diabetes drug that went viral on social media as a way to lose weight, are circulating in Europe, drug authorities have warned. Ozempic, which involves a once-weekly injection from a pre-filled pen, was originally developed to treat type 2 diabetes.

However, since it became clear the drug was effective for weight loss, massive demand driven partly by "off label" use of the drug has led to stock short-

ages. Now pre-filled pens falsely labelled as Ozempic have been identified at some wholesalers in the EU and UK, according to the European Medicines Agency (EMA).

On Sunday, France's ANSM medicines authority said that "as a precaution, we call on all players in the supply chain to be vigilant" about the fakes. The counterfeit pens have labels in German and originated from wholesalers in Austria and Germany, the EMA said in a statement last week. "There is no evidence that any falsified pens have been dispensed to patients from legal pharmacies and there are no reports of harm to patients in relation to the falsified medicine," the EMA said.

Police and European Union drug regulators are investigating the issue, it added. Germany's drug regulator BfArM released a picture of the fake pens,

showing that they look quite different to the official version. The counterfeits were first noticed due to inactive serial numbers.

The active ingredient in Ozempic, semaglutide, has been approved in the EU and UK to be prescribed specifically for weight loss under the brand name Wegovy. Both products are made by the Danish pharmaceutical group Novo Nordisk, which has seen profits soar due to demand for the drug.

Earlier this month, researchers warned that this class of drugs called GLP-1 agonists — which also includes liraglutide drugs Rybelsus and Saxenda — was linked to a heightened risk of certain severe gastrointestinal problems including stomach paralysis. Although rare, the side effects show how important it is that the drugs are only taken when prescribed by doctors, the researchers emphasized. — AFP

## 17 dead, over 100 injured in train crash in Bangladesh

**DHAKA:** At least 17 people have been killed and 100 others injured in Bangladesh after two trains collided on Monday, with officials saying they fear the death toll will rise. The crash in the eastern city of Bhairab saw a freight train smash into a passenger train travelling in the opposite direction, derailing two passenger carriages, officials said.

"We have recovered 17 bodies. More than 100 people were injured," Sadiqur Rahman, a government administrator in Bhairab told AFP, which lies around 60 kilometers (38 miles) northeast of the capital Dhaka. "The death toll will rise," Rahman said, with rescuers reporting they could still see bodies crushed and

trapped under overturned coaches. "A rescue train carrying cranes is on its way," he said.

Local residents and volunteers rushed to the scene after the accident took place at around 4:00 pm (1000 GMT). The crash occurred after one train entered the same line as the other, Rahman said. Video footage broadcast by the private Channel 24 showed hundreds of people crowding the accident site with many in tears as they searched for relatives. "We have rescued at least two people alive from the overturned coaches," Nazmul Haque, a Red Crescent volunteer, told reporters.

Officials said fire service, police and the elite Rapid Action Battalion security force were at the crash site. Bangladesh authorities have ordered two investigations into the accident, and appeals have been made for volunteers to donate blood. Nazmul Islam, a general manager of the state-run Bangladesh Railway, which owns the train, told local media the freight train overshot its signal. Train accidents are common in Bangladesh and are often caused by poor signaling, negligence, old tracks or other rundown infrastructure. — AFP



## Kuwait opens Gaza air...

### Continued from Page 1

On Sunday, Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Sabah announced the launch of relief operations through an air bridge in response to the call of the Palestinian people and as per directions of HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf Al-Sabah.

The humanitarian air bridge launched by Kuwait to bring some 40 tons of aid to Palestinians in the Gaza Strip will last for five days, the country's ambassador to Egypt Ghanim Al-Ghanim said on Monday. The initiative aims to "mitigate the misery" of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, who have been the victims of "(Zionist) transgressions", the envoy said, as he is overseeing the arrival of Kuwaiti aid at Arish airport.

The aid runs the gamut from essential food supplies to healthcare assistance, added the Kuwaiti diplomat, saying it was a testament to Kuwait's "unflinching support" for the Palestinians. It is "incumbent" upon the international community to stand alongside the Palestinians at a time when the Zionist entity has stepped up its vicious attacks against them, he underlined.

Sheikh Salem said Monday official and civilian

agencies are working together for the air bridge to deliver humanitarian aid to Gaza. The foreign minister made the remark while briefing a Cabinet meeting on Kuwait's humanitarian initiative to help Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. During the meeting, he reiterated the initiative, which reflected Kuwait's principled and relentless stance on the Palestinian cause, was directed by HH the Amir, HH the Crown Prince and HH the Prime Minister. He added that the Kuwaiti air bridge would be overseen by the ministries of foreign affairs, defense and health and the air force, in collaboration with KRCS, Kuwait Relief Society and other humanitarian charities.

Meanwhile, the National Assembly's foreign relations committee has debated over two days a draft law that would ban any dealing or normalization of ties with the Zionist entity. The draft law for banning normalization of ties with the Zionist entity also bans dealing with Western and international companies that have links with the Zionist entity. In addition, the draft law also bans residents of Kuwait from sympathizing with the Zionist entity.

Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem attended deliberations of the committee on Sunday and Monday. A final decision of the panel was expected late Monday after it gave its green light the previous day. The National Assembly, which opens its new term on Oct 31, is scheduled to hold a special session the following day to debate Zionist attacks on Palestinians and is expected to approve the draft law banning ties with the Zionist entity.

## More than 5,000 Gazans killed in...

### Continued from Page 1

million people displaced in the territory that has been under siege and largely deprived of water, food and other basic supplies.

About a dozen trucks carrying desperately needed aid — the third convoy in three days — arrived inside Gaza from Egypt on Monday through Rafah, Gaza's only crossing not controlled by the Zionist entity. The United States, which has brokered the entry of the aid convoys, has vowed a "continued flow" of relief goods into Gaza, even as UN aid agencies have said far more is needed.

Gaza's Hamas-controlled government media office said that "more than 60 were martyred in the raids" during the night — including 17 in a single strike that hit a house in Gaza's north — and at least 10 others were killed in new strikes early Monday. The Zionist military said it had hit "over 320 military targets in the Gaza Strip" in the past 24 hours.

Rafah resident Mohammed Abu Sabalah said he had returned home from the local mosque after dawn prayers Monday and that "a quarter of an hour later there was a bombing". "We couldn't see anything because of the thick smoke," he said, adding that "we thank God that we've emerged safe and sound" with "only a few windows and doors destroyed".

Zionist forces are massed near the Gaza border, and smaller units have already carried out limited incursions, targeting Hamas and hoping to rescue captives, whose number the Zionist entity now puts at 222. In one such operation, a 19-year-old Zionist soldier was killed and three others wounded, the army said, adding that the tank operation had aimed "to dismantle terror infrastructure... and locate missing

persons and bodies".

Tensions have been inflamed in the occupied West Bank, where 95 Palestinians have been killed in clashes involving Zionist security forces or settlers since fighting began in Gaza, according to the Ramallah-based health ministry. In Gaza, where thousands have been wounded, the health ministry issued a statement saying "citizens are called upon to immediately go to hospitals and blood bank branches to donate blood".

Alarm has grown about the dire needs of the 2.4 million civilians trapped inside the 40-km long coastal strip that was already blockaded and impoverished before the war. Children killed in a Zionist air strike in the southern city of Khan Yunis were Monday laid to rest in a makeshift grave, while in Rafah men were filling plastic jerrycans from containers with now scarce safe drinking water.

US President Joe Biden brokered the passage of aid convoys with Egyptian and Zionist leaders in talks last week — but the United Nations estimates Gaza needs about 100 trucks of relief goods every day. UN aid chief Martin Griffiths said Sunday's delivery of food, water and medical supplies was "another small glimmer of hope for the millions of people in dire need of humanitarian aid". "But they need more, much more."

The Zionist entity has rejected the entry of fuel into Gaza, fearing Hamas could use it for weapons and explosives. This has sparked warnings that soon Gaza's ambulances, hospital incubators for infants and water desalination plants will soon stop functioning. Around the world the Zionist entity's friends and foes alike have warned against the Gaza war spilling over into a full-scale regional conflagration. The Zionist entity's archenemy Iran has repeatedly warned of an escalation, as have its allied armed groups, including Lebanon's Hezbollah, which has traded cross-border fire with the Zionist entity. — AFP



GAZA: Palestinian children who fled their homes due to Zionist strikes play games organized by humanitarian workers as they shelter at a UN school in Khan Yunis on Oct 23, 2023. — AFP

## Saudi to organize eSports World...

### Continued from Page 1

"As they come to Riyadh maybe it might be quiet in Riyadh relatively, but the destination is very busy,"

said Saudi Tourism Authority CEO Fahd Hamidaddin, highlighting attractions in the cooler southern highlands and on the coast. Officials have not specified which games will be included in the eSports World Cup, saying only that details will be made public early next year. "The tournament will include the most popular games in the world across all genres and have the largest prize pool in esports history," the statement said. — AFP



## Business

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2023

## stc reports KD 259.8m revenues for first 9M of 2023 with KD 24.4m net profit

Revenue up by 4.2% to reach KD 259.8m • EBITDA increased by 3.9% to reach KD 63m

- Net profit increased by 0.5% to reach KD 24.4 million
- stc's customer base increased by 7% to reach 2.4 million

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Telecommunications Company (stc), a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers and enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, announced its financial results for the nine months period ended Sept 30, 2023, highlighting the most significant achievements, financial and operational performance in addition to the social initiatives made by the company during the first nine months of 2023.



Eng Maziad Al-Harbi

In this regard, Eng Maziad Al-Harbi, stc's Chief Executive Officer, has stated that: "Kuwait Telecommunications Company (stc) continues to reap its achievements of implementing its corporate strategy and the strategic expansion of its operations throughout the past years. Whereby, stc achieved robust financial and operational results during the first nine months of 2023 demonstrating the company's commitment to enhance its internal capabilities and expanding its operations to deliver unique services in terms of design and efficiency besides driving the digital transformation process."

In this regard, stc leverages its well-established sophisticated network to provide a wide range of services that meet the different needs of the individual and enterprise sectors. Not to mention the in-depth expertise of its subsidiaries specializing in delivering fixed communication and ICT services, to provide high-quality, innovative, and comprehensive solutions to the enterprise sector.

Driven by stc's unwavering dedication to expand, innovate and provide services devoted to enhance the custom-

er experience, stc has successfully retained its competitive position in the ICT market in Kuwait through implementing its future corporate strategy. Accordingly, stc is keen to constantly update its corporate strategy in line with the latest developments in the sector in order to enable the Company to capture all the available opportunities in the ICT market in Kuwait.

stc is always keen on enhancing its digital services to improve and upgrade its integrated services that enables the Company to maintain its market share by enhancing its services and providing its customers with an unparalleled experience through strengthening its digital channels as well as leveraging its solid infrastructure to reach a new level of exceptional speeds and better coverage in line with the intense competition in the ICT sector in the State of Kuwait."

Commenting on the announcement of company's financial results for the nine months period ended September 30, 2023, Eng Maziad Al-Harbi added: "stc has achieved strong financial results by leveraging its technical and human capabilities in accordance with the aspirations and expectations of both its customers and shareholders. Whereby, stc's total revenue reached KD 259.8 million in the first nine months of 2023 with a growth rate of 4.2 percent compared to the KD 249.4 million in the same period the previous year. This growth is attributed to the expansion of the company's operations through its focus on providing digital services to the enterprise sector as well as offering integrated technical solutions to companies across various sectors. It is worth noting that in addition to stc's focus on driving its operations towards new areas of sustainable growth through a series of innovative initiatives aimed at optimizing operations and delivering high-quality services and products that cater to the needs of its customers' requirements, the Company has successfully enhanced its operations through its well-developed

evolving infrastructure."

Al-Harbi added: "These outcomes resulted in a growth of EBITDA by 3.9 percent to reach KD 63 million in the first nine months of 2023 compared to KD 60.6 million in the same period of 2022 supported by the increase in the company's revenue. As a result, the company's net profit during the nine months period ended Sept 30, 2023 reached KD 24.4 million with a growth of 0.5 percent compared to KD 24.3 million during the same period in 2022. stc's customer base reached approximately 2.4 million customers at the end of September 2023."

Commenting on stc's financial position as of September 30, 2023, Al-Harbi said: "stc's total assets reached KD 432.0 million by the end of September 2023, while the total shareholders' equity increased by 2 percent reaching KD 235.9 million by the end of September 2023 compared to KD 231.6 million during the same period in 2022. Whereby, stc has a strong solvency position amongst its peers in the Middle East."

Al-Harbi noted: "stc is committed to continuously review and update its financial and operational strategies with the aim of enhancing the Company's capabilities with exceptional effectiveness. By keeping abreast of the latest developments in the telecom industry, stc is determined to channel its resources into delivering a comprehensive range of services including voice, digital and data solutions to enhance profitability, achieve the desired financial and operational outcomes and ensure its sustained cash flow."

Regarding stc's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Al-Harbi stated: "The company has continued to enhance its comprehensive and sustainable CSR activities through



launching numerous community-based campaigns and initiatives that added value to the local community, while spreading a positive and lasting impact. stc's CSR program primarily focused on activities and initiatives that empower the youth in collaboration with governmental entities, non-profit organizations, and institutions within the private sector. The activities were carried out under the umbrella of the "Weyak" initiative, which was designed to support small and medium-sized Kuwaiti companies, start-ups, as well as the "upgrade" educational initiative.

In terms of sustainability, Al-Harbi emphasized stc's role in enhancing its sustainability standards, while maintaining its ongoing efforts to integrate sustainable practices into the Company's corporate strategy. As part of its comprehensive CSR framework, stc will continue to form collaborative partnerships with both the public and private sectors, enhance communication with the local community, and increase public awareness of the concept of social responsibility."



DOHA: Qatar has agreed to supply Italian firm Eni with natural gas for 27 years.

## Qatar announces 27-year gas deal with Italy's Eni

**DOHA:** Qatar has agreed to supply Italian firm Eni with natural gas for 27 years, the Gulf emirate's state-owned energy company announced on Monday, the latest in a series of major deals. Doha will supply one million tons of gas a year under the deal, QatarEnergy said, following an agreement with Eni for a share of Qatar's huge North Field gas expansion project.

In the wake of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine last year, European nations have rushed to replace lost deliveries of natural gas from Russia. "Today, we are taking another important step in strengthening our partnership with Eni that will foster our mutual cooperation for many years to come," Qatari Energy Minister Saad Al-Kaabi said. "Together, we will continue to demonstrate commitment to the European markets in general, and to the Italian market in particular," he added.

In June last year Eni agreed a deal with QatarEnergy for a 3.1 percent share in Qatar's North Field East project, the first phase of the Gulf emirate's expansion

into the largest gas field on the planet, which extends into Iranian territory. Deliveries of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to Italy's Tuscany region are expected to begin in 2026. In a statement, Rome-headquartered Eni said the deal "strengthens" its partnership with QatarEnergy, adding involvement in North Field East was "in line with Eni's transition strategy, which aims to progressively increase the role of gas".

The deal with Eni follows a quick succession of historically long agreements with European firms for gas supply from Qatar. Last week, Qatar announced a deal for 27 years with Britain's Shell and earlier in the month, France's Total announced another deal of equal length.

Under its North Field expansion, Qatar is set to raise its LNG output by 60 percent or more to 126 million tons a year by 2027. The main market for Qatari gas has traditionally been Asia, led by countries like China, Japan and South Korea. The deals with Eni, Shell and Total are the same length as those agreed by the China National Petroleum Corporation in June and China's Sinopec in 2022. All have set a benchmark as the longest in the LNG industry. US giants ConocoPhillips and ExxonMobil have also signed deals to partner in the expansion. Qatar is one of the world's top LNG producers, alongside the United States, Australia and Russia. QatarEnergy estimates the North Field holds about 10 percent of the world's known natural gas reserves. — AFP

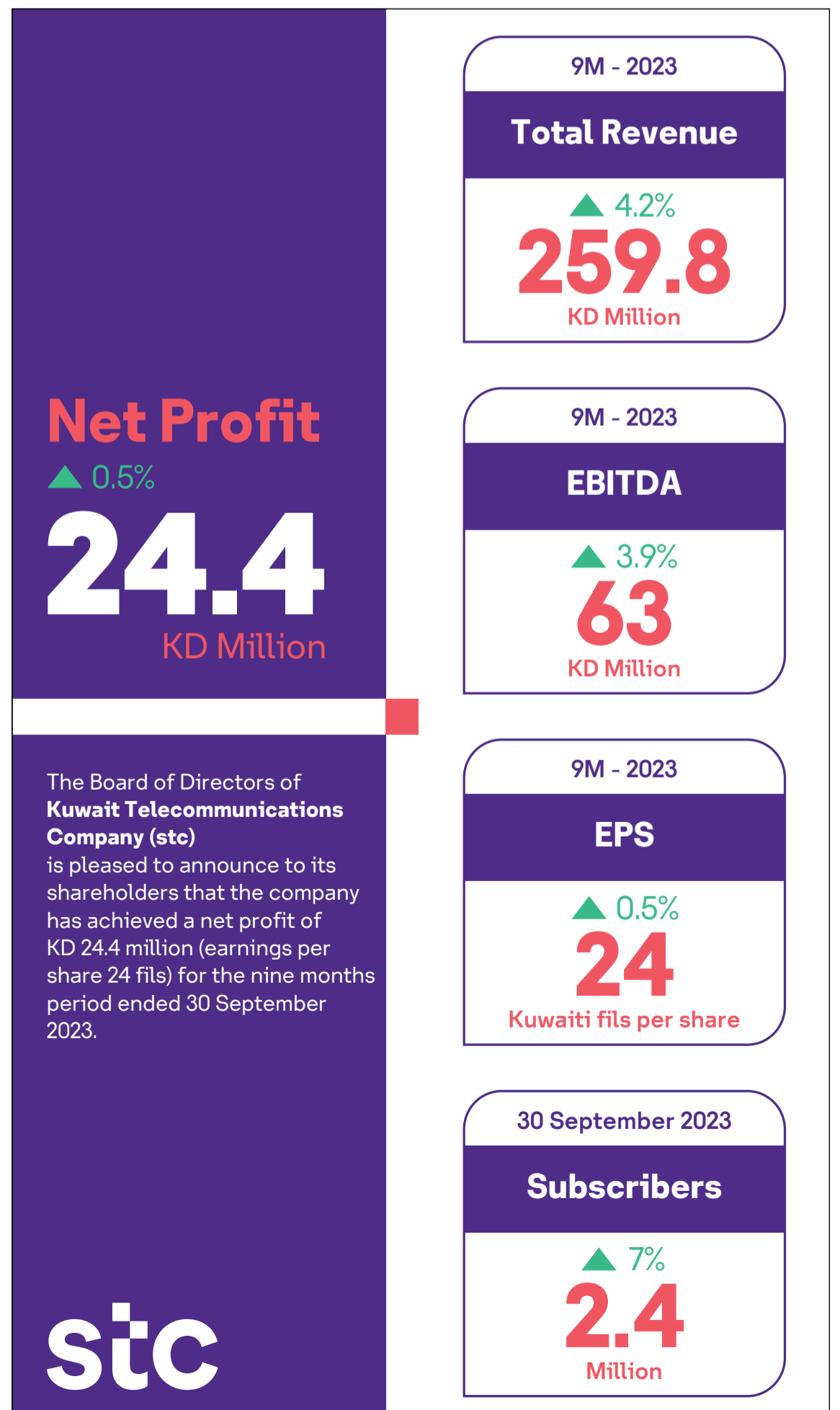
passed last year that freed up \$52 billion in subsidies to stimulate US semiconductor production in America.

These components that are essential in many industries including automobiles, electronics and defense are made mainly in Asia. And the Biden administration has made the building of US chip factories one of its priorities. Several tech hubs will focus on semiconductors, such as one called the Texoma Semiconductor Tech Hub, in Texas and Oklahoma. "Entrepreneurs will be able to try new semiconductor designs, while ensuring workers from diverse backgrounds have access to get those jobs," Raimondo said. "We've lost our edge in semiconductor manufacturing, and investments in earlier stage R&D like this in Texas and Oklahoma will allow us to regain our edge (and) continue to lead," she added. Located across 32 states and Puerto Rico, these tech hubs will specialize in such fields as the transition to clean energy, biotechnology and quantum computing. —AFP

## US unveils tech hubs to push innovation

**SAN FRANCISCO:** The United States unveiled Monday a list of 31 tech hubs that it will create as part of the vast investment scheme that President Joe Biden hopes will help him win reelection. Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo said these centers will create jobs and boost both national security and the economy. These investments, she said, "further underpin our ability to compete, and frankly, out-compete the rest of the world."

The hubs were chosen from among 400 candidates and will now compete for grants of as much as \$75 million. They were created under the Chips and Science Act, a law





## Business

# ECB poised to hold rates as inflation drifts downwards

## Mideast conflict could 'further dampen eurozone growth prospects'

**BERLIN:** For the first time in over a year, European Central Bank policymakers are expected to decide against raising interest rates again when they gather in Athens on Thursday. Once red-hot, inflation, driven by Russia's invasion of Ukraine in early 2022, has started to ease, while the outlook for the economy has worsened. Consumer prices in the 20-nation currency bloc rose at an annual rate of 4.3 percent in September, its lowest rate in almost two years.

The figure remains clearly above the ECB's two-percent target, but the pain of rising interest rates has been increasingly felt across the bloc. The outbreak of the Zionist-Gaza war has added to the potential troubles faced by the eurozone economy, already weathering the impact of the conflict in Ukraine.

The central bank, which holds one meeting outside its Frankfurt headquarters every year, looks set to follow in the footsteps of the US Federal Reserve and pause interest rate hikes for the time being.

All indications since the last meeting in September were that the ECB's current tightening cycle was "over", said Jack Allen-Reynolds of Capital Economics. Currently, the ECB's key deposit rate sits at four percent, its highest mark in the history of the central bank. But after deciding to hike at each of its last 10 meetings, raising rates at their fastest pace ever, "the ECB won't be in any rush to take further action", said ING bank analyst Carsten Brzeski.

The conflict in the Middle East would "further dampen eurozone growth prospects" and, along

with rising oil prices, left the ECB in a more "complicated" position, Brzeski said. "With all the new uncertainties, there hasn't been a better moment in the last 16 months for the ECB to take a pause than now," he added. Some eurozone governments, such as Italy and Portugal, have voiced criticism of hard-to-swallow ECB rate increases, while the enthusiasm for more hikes has tempered among the 26 members of the ECB's governing council. The slowing of eurozone inflation had shown that "our current benchmark rates are appropriate", French central bank governor Francois Villeroy de Galhau said. Meanwhile, ECB President Christine Lagarde has acknowledged the "pain" felt by households as a result of aggressive rate hikes, but has cautioned against relenting too soon. Her emphasis would more likely be on monetary policy staying tight for an "extended period", when the ECB shares its decision, Allen-Reynolds said.

Lagarde's colleague on the ECB's board, Luis de Guindos, has warned that work to tame inflation will take time, with the indicator "still expected to remain too high for too long". Under the bank's current set of projections, published in September, inflation is not set to return to the ECB's target of two percent before 2025. The governing council would revisit the question of hikes at its last meeting of the year in December, when they will have a new set of forecasts at their disposal.

There was every possibility that the eurozone could see a "further worsening of the economic outlook" before then, Brzeski said. Economic indicators



European Central Bank policymakers are expected to decide against raising interest rates again when they gather in Athens on Thursday.

have largely trended downwards of late, with Germany sinking further into recession. The International Monetary Fund revised its forecast for Germany down earlier this month, predicting Europe's biggest economy would shrink by 0.5 percent in 2023, while the eurozone as a whole would limp to 0.7-percent growth. In the meantime, the ECB would want to

sound determined, while "keeping the door open to yet another rate hike in December", Brzeski said.

A decision to hold rates at their current levels this week could be presented as a temporary "pause" by the ECB, but could easily "turn into a plateau" for a longer period, Allen-Reynolds said. Interest rate cuts by contrast remain a "long way off", he said. —AFP



## Qatar Airways chief Al-Baker to step down

**DOHA:** Qatar Airways' long-standing chief executive Akbar Al-Baker is to step down from his role at the state-owned airline, Qatari local media reported on Monday. According to the reports which cited a memo to staff, Baker, who led the firm for over 25 years, is due to step down from November 5. Aviation analyst Alex Macheras wrote on the social media platform X, formerly Twitter, that the outgoing Qatar Airways chief told staff "it has been an incredible privilege to lead such an exceptional global team, and the honor of a lifetime to serve my country".

Qatar Airways did not immediately respond to requests for comment from AFP. Baker has been widely credited with transforming the fortunes of the fledgling airline he took control of in 1997, building it into an internationally recognized carrier. On Sunday it was announced by Qatari authorities that Baker had been removed from another role he also held as chairman of the gas-rich emirate's tourism body. No reason was given for the decision. The circular also confirmed that Badr Al-Meer will be the company's new CEO.

Al-Meer is currently the chief operating officer of Doha's Hamad international airport, according to the airport's website. It was not immediately clear why Al-Baker, who helmed the state-owned carrier for over two decades, is retiring. He was appointed CEO in 1997, three years after the airline launched. Qatar Airways representatives could not immediately be reached for comment. It was announced on Sunday that Qatar's Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamid Al-Thani had replaced Al-Baker as the country's top tourism official. No reason was given for the decision.—Agencies

## Taiwan defends Foxconn over China tax probe

**TAIPEI:** Taiwan defended tech giant Foxconn on Monday after China launched an investigation into several of the firm's sites, saying that Taiwanese businesses should not be subjected to "political interference". Chinese authorities are inspecting Foxconn's sites in southern Guangdong province and Jiangsu in the east, as well as carrying out on-site investigations into the company's land use in central Hunan and Hubei provinces, China's state-run Global Times reported Sunday.

It did not specify what authorities are looking into, nor any offences that Foxconn may have committed. Taiwan-based Foxconn is one of the world's largest contract producers of electronics, and a key supplier for Apple's iPhones. The investigation comes as self-ruled Taiwan—which Beijing claims as its territory and has vowed to seize one day—prepares for presidential elections in January. Taiwan's Deputy Premier Cheng Wen-tsan said on Monday that Beijing's aim is to "distort Taiwan's democracy".

"In a democratic country, choosing leaders and presidents should be done in an environment that is free from threats, incentives, interference, and distortion to freely express one's will," he said. "We do not want Chinese factors to influence the elections." He also voiced support for Foxconn, telling reporters: "We believe that all Taiwanese businesses' investments in China are in compliance with the law." "They should not be subject to political scrutiny or political interference."

Premier Chen Chien-jen adding that in the run-up to Taiwan's upcoming elections, "the government will continue to pay attention to the needs of Taiwanese businessmen and continue to support them".

Foxconn, also known by its official name Hon Hai Precision Industry, is China's largest private-sector employer, with more than a million workers nationwide. The company said on Sunday that it will cooperate with relevant authorities "for the operations concerned", without providing further details.—AFP

## Huawei Watch GT4 sets new standard for smartwatches

**KUWAIT:** Are you looking to buy a new smartwatch this year? If so, you should pay attention to some key features that will make your purchase worthwhile. The design is the first thing to look for in a watch because a watch is, first and foremost, a part of your outfit. The battery life and charging speed are also essential, because you don't want your smartwatch to run out of juice and miss any notifications or calls. Then, of course, the health and fitness tracking features, which help you monitor your well-being and stay in shape.

Huawei promises all of these and more in its latest smartwatch, the Huawei Watch GT 4. It is, in fact, a fashion accessory that can complement any outfit and personality while also being a smart companion that helps you stay healthy and productive. So, if you are looking for a smartwatch this season, look no further than the Huawei Watch GT 4.

The Huawei Watch GT 4 serves as a testament to Huawei's design philosophy of seamlessly blending fashion and innovation. This flagship smartwatch will take your breath away with its meticulously crafted design and offer endless possibilities to personalize your style.

It comes in two sizes: 46mm and 41mm. The 46mm version boasts a unique octagon-shaped watch body, which is a tribute to the classic style of luxury watches but with a modern twist. The Huawei Watch GT 4 marks the first time such a design is adopted by a smartwatch. The 41mm version, on the other hand, is all about grace and sophistication. It will be the perfect accessory for any occasion and the centerpiece of every conversation with its pendant-like design. It's fashionable, slim, and well-balanced, from the beautiful lugs that enhance the crown, to the metal outer edge that adds a touch of refinement.

The watch also offers you a variety of colors and watchbands to choose from so that you can match your mood and outfit. The 46mm version comes in Black, Brown, and Green, and the 41mm version comes in black, white, and light gold.



## Kenyan shilling hits record low of 150 to dollar

**NAIROBI:** The Kenyan shilling sank to a new all-time low of 150 to the dollar on Monday, adding to the woes of people already battered by high inflation and a raft of new taxes. The shilling has been in decline for several years and plunged by almost 24 percent over the past year, under pressure from high debt levels and depleted government revenues.

According to Central Bank of Kenya data, the dollar was selling at just over 150 shillings, although some commercial banks and foreign exchange bu-

### Up to 14-day battery life

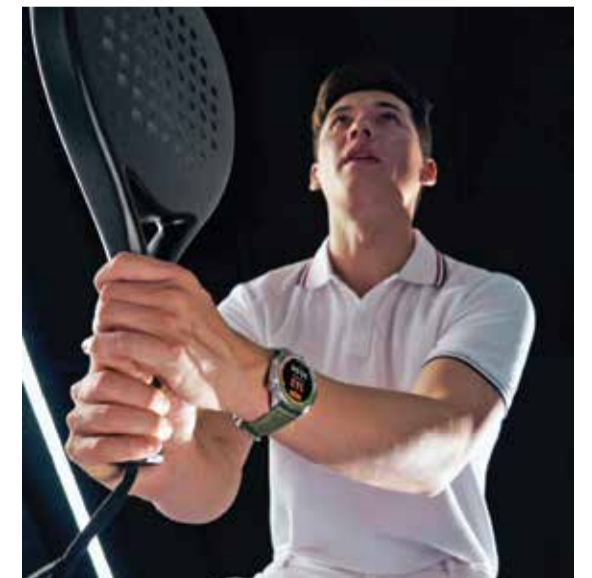
The Watch GT 4 has exceptional battery life, with up to 14 days of usage on the 46mm and up to 7 days on the 41mm. This extended battery life ensures that you can rely on your watch for continuous usage without frequent recharging. The watch supports wireless charging and features reverse charging capabilities. The Huawei Watch GT 4 comes equipped with a newly upgraded TruSeen 5.5+ heart rate monitoring technology, which brings precision and efficiency for analyzing workout performance and daily health in the most scientific and intelligent way. Leveraging the power of AI algorithms, TruSeen 5.5+ ensures the most accurate heart rate readings possible, even in the most challenging situations. The watch also introduces the Sleep Breathing Awareness feature, which detects interruptions in your breathing while asleep. Frequent interruptions to sleep can cause you to wake up a lot during the night, make you feel tired during the day, and affect your memory. Thanks to the TruSeen 5.5+ and TruSleep™ 3.0, the watch can detect sleep interruptions and detect changes in blood oxygen levels and heart rate throughout the night. When you wake up, you can see how well you slept on the Huawei Health App. You can use this information to work on improving your sleep.

### Smart workout coach

The Watch GT 4 introduces the innovative Stay Fit app, which helps you control your calories and manage weight. It counts your calories, shows you how much you need to burn, and gives you weight control plans to achieve your health goals. It includes a calorie alert to keep you on track with your calorie targets. If you are a Padel fan, here is some good news for you: the Huawei Watch GT 4 supports padel in its sports modes. In addition to padel, you can choose from over 100 different sports modes and workout types, such as indoor and outdoor walking, running, cycling, swimming, soccer, basketball, and esports. Meanwhile, the brand-new intelligent GNSS solution on the Huawei Watch GT 4 46mm can track your workouts more accurately.

The Watch GT 4 features an Enhanced Bluetooth Calling feature that improves the Bluetooth calling distance of up to an impressive 100 meters from the paired smartphone. That means you can answer calls and view messages without taking out the phone.

The Huawei Watch GT 4 works seamlessly across smartphones, enabling everyone to enjoy the innovative features and chic design of the watch regardless of what phone they use. It is the fashion on your wrist.



reaux have been trading it at that level or higher in recent weeks. Ken Gichinga, chief economist at Mentor Economics, told AFP the exchange rate reflected the strengthening of the dollar during the Middle East crisis "which is pushing investors to safe-haven assets", as well as high US treasury yields.

Kenya had accumulated more than 10.1 trillion shillings (\$67 billion) in debt by the end of June, according to Treasury figures, equivalent to around two-thirds of gross domestic product. The cost of servicing the debt, mainly to China, has soared as Kenya's currency has slumped, and the government also has a \$2 billion eurobond falling due in June next year. President William Ruto earlier this year introduced a range of new and increased taxes to help replenish government coffers, despite pledging during last year's election campaign to help ease the financial hardship of ordinary Kenyans.—AFP

## French IT group Atos slides on nationalization call

**PARIS:** Shares in French IT consultancy group Atos slumped more than 10 percent on Monday after some lawmakers proposed temporarily nationalizing the firm in whole or in part on national security grounds.

A week after Bertrand Meunier stepped down as chairman amid growing opposition to splitting up the firm and sale of part to Czech billionaire Daniel Kretinsky, Atos shares tumbled 13 percent to fall to an historic low of 3.97 euros. The stock recovered slightly, but remained almost 50 percent off its year high. Small shareholders and some politicians have criticized the planned restructuring and sale, including Kretinsky taking a stake in the Evden unit that includes cybersecurity, supercomputers and cloud services operations.

Two amendments concerning Atos have been submitted to parliament, including one by Socialist lawmaker Philippe Brun, who called the firm crucial to France's national security.

The planned restructuring of the group "runs the risk of a loss of sovereignty on activities such as supercomputers, security systems integration and cybersecurity," Brun was quoted as saying by the Le Parisien daily. In August, 82 Republican lawmakers urged that Atos be kept under French stewardship, seeing its supercomputer operations as essential for nuclear test simulations and deterrence.

Last week Atos insisted the splitting of the firm into two groups was "the best available solution" but added the planned sale to Kretinsky had been postponed until the "second quarter of 2024."—AFP





This announcement is prepared for promotional purposes and does not omit any essential information related to the investment in the financial security subject of this announcement.

## Invitation to Participate in the Increase of the Share Capital of **GULF BANK K.S.C.P.**

The Board of Directors of Gulf Bank K.S.C.P. (the "Issuer" or the "Bank") would like to invite the shareholders who are registered on the share register of the Issuer at the end of trading on 26 October 2023 ("Record Date") and the holders of the pre-emption rights who received the pre-emption rights ("Pre-emption Rights") during the Pre-emption Rights Trading Period to subscribe in the increase of the Issuer's share capital by 260,869,565 new ordinary shares (the "Issue Shares") with a nominal value of KWD 26,086,956.500 and an Offer Price of 230 Kuwaiti fils per Issue Share (including the nominal value of 100 Kuwaiti fils and the issuance premium of 130 Kuwaiti fils) during the Subscription Period commencing on 29 October 2023 (inclusive) and closing on 12 November 2023 at 1:00pm.

Note: Please refer to the Prospectus for the definition of all capitalized terms.

### Overview of the Offering

**Issuer:**  
Gulf Bank K.S.C.P.

**Commercial Registration No.:**  
8347

**Total Value of the Offering:**  
KWD 60,000,000

#### Offering Price:

230 Kuwaiti fils per share (including the nominal value of 100 Kuwaiti fils and the issuance premium of 130 Kuwaiti fils).

#### Eligible Shareholders and Owners of Transferred Pre-emption Rights ("Initial Eligible Subscribers"):

The initial eligible subscribers ("Initial Eligible Subscribers") are comprised of, a) those persons ("Eligible Shareholders") whose names are recorded in the shareholder register of the Bank (the "Bank's Shareholders Register") held with Kuwait Clearing Company ("Clearing & Depository Agent") as at 26 October 2023 ("Record Date"), and b) those persons to whom pre-emption rights were transferred during the trading period of pre-emption rights ("Owners of Transferred Pre-emption Rights"). For clarity, any trading made on the Bank's shares prior to the Record Date but for which the settlement process has not been completed at Boursa Kuwait on the Record Date (the "Ex-Date") and, accordingly, not recorded in the shareholder register of the Bank (the "Bank's Shareholders Register"), shall not be taken into account in defining the Eligible Shareholders recorded in the Bank's Shareholders Register on the Record Date.

In the case in which all Issue Shares have not been fully subscribed for by the Initial Eligible Subscribers during the Pre-emption Right Subscription Period, then the unsubscribed Issue Shares shall be open for public subscription ("Public Subscription" or "Public Offering") to any person eligible to subscribe for shares in Kuwait (the "Public Subscribers") including without limitation, the Initial Eligible Investors.

Initial Eligible Subscribers and Public Subscribers are collectively referred to as the "Subscribers".

#### Issue Shares Entitlement:

Approximately 7.76% of their total Existing Shares held as of the Record Date.

**Minimum Subscription:**  
One (1) Issue Share.

#### Maximum Subscription:

There is no maximum subscription amount. Subscribers may subscribe to any number of shares which can exceed the total number of Issue Shares.

#### Rights Issue Offering Period:

The subscription period for exercising Pre-emption Rights in the Issue Shares (and Additional Issue Shares, if available) will commence on 29 October 2023 and will end on 12 November 2023 ("Pre-emption Right Subscription Period"). In the case in which all Issue Shares have not been fully subscribed for by the Initial Eligible Subscribers during the Pre-emption Right Subscription Period, then the unsubscribed Issue Shares shall be open for public subscription ("Public Subscription" or "Public Offering") to any person eligible to subscribe for shares in Kuwait (the "Public Subscribers"), including without limitation, the Initial Eligible Subscribers. The Public Subscription shall commence from 19 November 2023 and will end on 3 December 2023 (the "Public Offering Subscription Period"). In the event where all of the shares offered for Public Subscription are subscribed for at or prior to the end of the Public Offering Subscription Period, then the subscription may be closed at that time. The board of directors of the Bank (the "Board of Directors") may extend the Public Offering Subscription Period in its sole and absolute discretion in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. In the event where the aggregate of the Pre-emption Right Subscription Period and the Public Offering Subscription Period is to extend beyond a period of three (3) months from the date of opening of the Pre-emption Right Subscription Period, then the approval of the Kuwait Capital Markets Authority (the "CMA") shall be obtained in order to do so.

#### Consequences of non-Subscription of Eligible Shareholders:

Eligible Shareholders who choose not to subscribe to the Issue Shares will be subject to a reduction in their percentage of ownership in the Issuer's capital in addition to what they may face from a change in the value of their Existing Shares.

#### Means of Disposal of Pre-emption Rights:

Pre-emption Rights may be disposed of, traded or assigned, without any charge, and without any restrictions and in accordance with the applicable rules of Boursa Kuwait and the Clearing and Depository Agent. Approval of the Prospectus constitutes approval of the listing and trading of Pre-emption Rights during the Subscription Period for the Issue Shares, and the listing shall be cancelled when the Bank discloses the results of the subscription to the capital increase.

#### Holders of Pre-emption Rights shall have the following options in respect of the Issue Shares:

- Exercise their Pre-emption Rights to subscribe for the Issue Shares wholly or partially;
- Exercise their Pre-emption Rights to subscribe for the Issue Shares and subscribe for Additional Issue Shares;
- Assigning their Pre-emption Right for subscription in the Issue Shares as per the approved mechanism at least five (5) business days before the Offering is closed in accordance with the relevant rules applied by Boursa Kuwait;
- Waiving, free of charge, their Pre-emption Right to subscribe to the Issue Shares (and to subscribe to additional Issue Shares, as the case may be, or part thereof) according to the approved mechanism for this during the Subscription Period, at least five (5) business days before close of subscription, in accordance with the relevant rules applied by Boursa Kuwait and the Clearing and Depository Agent; or,
- Refraining from resorting to any of the above options, whether by trading, waiving, or exercising the Pre-emption Right to subscribe to the Issue Shares and leaving the right to subscribe to the unsubscribed shares to the rest of the Subscribers.

#### Pre-emptive Rights Trading Period:

The period for disposal of Pre-emption Rights starts from the date of opening of subscription until at least five (5) business days prior to the end of the Subscription Period. 29 October 2023 has been set as the date for the start of trading and waiving Pre-emption Rights and 5 November 2023 as the last day of trading in Pre-emption Rights.

#### Subscription for Additional Issue Shares:

Subscribers have the right to subscribe for additional Issue Shares ("Additional Issue Shares") in addition to their entitlement to Issue Shares. Additional Issue Shares are those Issue Shares in respect to which Initial Eligible Subscribers elected not to exercise their Pre-emption Right to subscribe for or elected to only partially exercise such right.

Subscriber's failure to subscribe, sell or assign the Pre-emption Right to subscribe, is considered a waiver of such right to subscribe to the share capital increase shares in favour of other Subscribers who wish to subscribe to a number of shares exceeding the percentage allotted to each of them. The unsubscribed Issue Shares will be allocated to the Subscribers applying for Additional Issue Shares pro-rata to the subscription for the Additional Issue Shares.

**Pre-emption Rights ISIN Code:**  
KW0000160133

**Joint Lead Manager and Subscription Agent:**  
Kamco Investment Company K.S.C. (Public) - "Kamco Invest"  
Gulf Bank K.S.C. (Public) - "Gulf Bank"

**Clearing and Depository Agent:**  
Kuwait Clearing Company K.S.C.

### Subscription Instructions

#### Subscription Process

Subscriptions and all required documents must be submitted through the Subscription Website.

#### General subscription procedures:

The subscription site allows subscribers to pay through K-NET or bank transfer.

#### The Subscriber shall:

- Login to the Subscription Website via the link: <https://www.ipo.com.kw>
- For an individual Subscriber, register the Civil ID number. The system shall verify the Subscriber's eligibility and entitlement.
- For corporate Subscribers, enter the commercial registration number. The system shall verify the Subscriber's eligibility and entitlement.
- Record the number of shares to be subscribed for.
- The Subscriber must make the payment through either K-NET service or Bank wire transfer as follows:

Subscribers are advised to confirm with their bank that their payment limit on their K-NET card will enable them to pay for their subscription.

#### For Subscribers paying through K-NET service, the Subscriber shall:

- Pay from his/her/its own account (no other person may pay on behalf of the Subscriber except in the cases provided for under the law and the Subscriber shall bear all legal consequences in case of violation).

Or,

#### For Subscribers paying through Bank wire transfer, the Subscriber shall:

- Print the Subscription Application Form and submit a copy of the Subscription Application Form printed from the above link and transfer the amount required to the Subscription Bank Account (net amount without any charges by the transferring bank and the receiving Bank) stated below:

**Name of Bank:** Gulf Bank K.S.C.P.  
**Account number:** 38750089  
**IBAN:** KW89 GULB 0000 0000 0000 0038 7500 89  
**SWIFT:** GULBKWWK  
**Beneficiary:** Gulf Bank Capital Increase Subscription  
**Reference/Description:** Subscription Application Form number + subscriber civil identification (for residents and citizens)/ passport (for non-residents and non-citizens)/ commercial registration number (for corporates) + subscriber contact number

- The subscriber shall upload the copy of the original deposit voucher of the amount transferred from his/her own bank in addition to the documents listed below under "Documents required to be submitted with applications to subscribe" through the electronic link that will be sent from the Subscription Website to the subscriber via his/her e-mail and a text message on the registered phone.

The Clearing and Depository Agent shall send an email confirmation to the Subscriber in case of a successful Subscription. Failure of any Subscriber to submit a duly completed Subscription Application Form (together with all applicable supporting documentation thereto) to the Subscription Website, after the transfer or deposit of the Subscription Monies as required in the Prospectus, shall render the Subscription Application Form of a Subscriber null and void. Subscription Monies shall not be accepted in cash.

#### Documents required to be submitted with applications to subscribe

The Subscription Application Form must be submitted through the Subscription Website along with the following documentation, as applicable to the nature of and payment method chosen by the Subscriber:

##### a) Individual Subscribers

- Signed Subscription Application Form;
- Copy of personal civil identification card;
- Copy of passport to verify the signature;
- Copy of the bank transfer receipt;
- Copy of the IBAN number;
- Copy of special legal proxy for subscribing in shares (for proxy subscriber);
- Copy of Certificate of Guardianship for orphans;
- Copy of Certificate of Guardianship for minors; or
- Copy of a Limitation of Succession Deed for beneficiaries.
- Copy of Guardianship Judgement

##### b) Corporate Subscribers

- Signed Subscription Application Form;
- Copy of the bank transfer receipt;
- Copy of the IBAN number;
- Copy of the Authorized Signatories Certificate or the Extract of the Commercial Register; as the case requires; and
- Copy of the personal identification card of the authorized signatory;

##### c) Non-Residents of Kuwait Subscribers

- Non-resident subscribers (whether corporates or individuals, as the case may be) are required to provide the equivalent of the aforementioned documentation as issued by their jurisdictional authorities if they do not have Kuwait issued documentation as highlighted further above. Cash will not be accepted. The Subscription Monies must be paid in full upon submitting the Subscription Application Form on the Subscription Website by authorizing a debit of the appropriate amount from the subscriber's account with the Bank, or by bank transfer. Subscription amounts will be deposited in full in the Issuer's bank account designated by the Issuer (the "Subscription Bank Account"). The Subscriber must, in any event relating to the Issue Shares or the Additional Issue Shares, ensure that the bank debit or the bank transfer has been processed from their respective bank account and that the subscription account with the Issuer has been credited with the appropriate amount at the time of the submission of the Subscription Application Form to the Clearing and Depository Agent.

Without prejudice to the other grounds of rejection of the Subscription Application Forms, the Clearing and Depository Agent, the Bank, and the Subscription Agents shall have the right to reject the Subscription Application Form in the event the Subscription Monies are not received in the subscription account at the time of submission of the Subscription Application Form to the Subscription Agents and the Clearing and Depository Agent.

#### Risk Factors:

There are some risks related to investing in the Issue Shares, including commercial and legal risk factors such as:

**Risks Related to the Bank:** Risks relating to Market Risk - Credit Risk Migration - Credit Risk Governance - Interest Rate Risk - Concentration Risk - Credit Risk Management - Reputational Risk - Liquidity Risk - Impact of Regulatory Changes - Credit Ratings - Competitive Banking Industry in Kuwait - Operational Risk - Cybersecurity Risk - Internal Risk Management Effectiveness - Internal Compliance Effectiveness - Loss of Key Personnel - Strategic Plan Inadequacy - Unforeseen Future Events - Capital Adequacy Legal Risks: Risks relating to Kuwait and the Middle East and North Africa region - Kuwait and other GCC legal systems continue to evolve, and this may create an uncertain environment for investment and business activity - Risks related to Tax changes in Kuwait.

**Risks Related to the Issue Shares:** Suitability of investment, Liquidity and volatility in the Share price, Dividend payments, Dilution of existing shareholdings, Taxation risks on payments, Change in Law, Risks Associated with Transfer of Pre-emption Rights, Eligible Shareholders who do not Subscribe to the Issue Shares, and Owners of Transferred Pre-emption Rights in the case of Retraction of Capital Increase.

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## Business

# India eyes 'win-win partnership' with Kuwait in IT sector: Envoy

KCCI keen on boosting bilateral ties • CITRA official underlines 'cloud first policy'



A panel discussion during the technology conference.



Guest speakers and delegates of the conference with Ambassador Dr Swaika.

By Sajeev K Peter

**KUWAIT:** India is looking for a win-win partnership with Kuwait in the information technology sector, Indian Ambassador Dr Adarsh Swaika said on Monday. Delivering his opening remarks at the 'India-Kuwait Information Technology Conference', he said: "Through its 'Vision 2035' economic diversification plan and the new Government Plan 2040, Kuwait is keen to modernize and digitalize its economy and become a smart commercial hub in the region."

The presence of a large number of government and private sector entities at the conference, including CAIT, CITRA, KNET, Public Authority for Industry, KPC, etc speaks of the importance Kuwait attaches to its digital transformation objectives, he said. "The leadership of both India and Kuwait has also identified this area of cooperation as one of mutual interest. This is, therefore, a sector where we can consult, cooperate and collaborate for win-win partnerships," he pointed out.

'India-Kuwait Information Technology Conference', a collaborative event, was organized by the Indian Embassy in association with the Indian Business and Professional Council, Kuwait and the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM), India with the support of Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI).

"Information technology is a sector in which India and Indian companies are widely known globally and rightfully take pride in. It is in this context that the embassy thought of organizing this event to bring together stakehold-

ers from both countries face to face to explore greater collaborations between them," Swaika said.

Giving a snapshot of the exponential growth in India's IT sector, he said: "Revenue of India's technology industry is estimated to be \$245 billion in financial year 2023, with IT exports estimated at \$194 billion and expected to grow at 9.4 percent. It contributed to 53 percent in India's service exports in FY 2023."

India is the third largest and the fastest growing hub for technology startups. With 23 new unicorns, India became the 2nd highest country in terms of number of unicorns added in 2022. Indian industry is consistently strengthening its digital capabilities by adopting deep technologies and focusing on deploying emerging technology solutions such as AI, cybersecurity and IoT, he mentioned.

#### Bilateral trade

Addressing the conference, Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) Board Member Wafa Al-Qatami said India is one of the major trading partners of Kuwait, ranking as the top fourth exporter in 2021, with the value of commercial exchange amounting to \$2.362 billion in 2021. "We aspire to advance these relations further and exert more efforts to raise the bilateral trade volumes and reinforce the joint economic ties between Kuwait and India," she stated. She said KCCI is keen on extending all possible cooperation towards achieving the economic goals of Kuwait and India.

"Kuwait's business sector follows with admiration the great progress that India

has achieved in its ICT sector, value of which is estimated at \$245 billion," she said, emphasizing the significance of the sector. "Companies operating in banking, finance, insurance, telecommunication and many other sectors are keen to be aligned with advanced technologies in order to offer proper digital services. Therefore, in this conference, we are looking forward to learning more about India's IT and the software industry. We hope to see more bilateral partnerships between Kuwaiti and Indian companies," Qatami added.

#### Cloud first

"Although Kuwait has a very strong segment in food chain industry, probably one of the best in the region, we don't find a strong entrepreneur segment in the ICT market here," said Mohammad Altura, Chief, Market Regulation and Competition, at the Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority of Kuwait (CITRA).

Presenting his views on digital transformation during a panel discussion, Altura said: "We find that we are missing a lot of resources in Kuwait, especially the new trends such as AI, big data management, IoT, blockchain, etc. We must have an ecosystem for entrepreneurs and small businesses." Definitely with the help of India's ICT sector, we can develop the ecosystem in Kuwait and further build our economic relations, he said, adding that the country can build a bridge that could harmonize the entrepreneurial system in the ICT sector.

Talking about Kuwait's digital transformation strategy, Altura said: "As a



**KUWAIT:** Indian Ambassador Dr Adarsh Swaika delivers the opening speech at the 'India-Kuwait Information Technology Conference' on Monday.

regulator, we have to make sure that we facilitate easy regulation in order to encourage the government sector and the country on a national scale to go to the cloud. We have to come up with the 'cloud-first policy' so that we push people to go to the cloud."

Making people's life easier is the first pillar in the journey of digital transformation, particularly in the fields of education and healthcare, he said. The second pillar, he said, is to develop the economy by introducing simplified customs procedure, smart solutions and cloud automation. The third pillar of digital transformation, according to Altura, is to support inno-

vation. "Now with the cloud, we can create a virtual environment for innovators to come up with new ideas and apps to make people's lives easier and develop the economy," he pointed out.

Earlier, IBPC Chairman Gurvinder Lamba gave an overview of the conference's objectives. Around 20 prominent ITES sector companies from India arrived in Kuwait to attend the conference, which witnessed lively interactions through panel discussions, presentations and videos. A B2B session was also held in which Kuwaiti companies got an opportunity for a one-on-one session with the visiting Indian delegates.

## Equities drop, oil prices ease amid Mideast crisis

**PARIS:** Stock markets slid on Monday, extending last week's sell-off Monday on fears of a regional conflict in the Middle East and worries that US interest rates will remain elevated for longer than initially thought.

The concerns about US interest rates have also been affecting bond markets, with the yield on 10-year US government bonds rising above 5.0 percent for the first time since 2007 during the height of the subprime mortgage crisis. It stood at 5.02 percent in midday European trading according to Factsset data. "The trajectory of US Treasuries is not merely a question; it is the only question for financial markets," said Stephen Innes, managing partner at SPI Asset Management, in a note to clients.

"US government bonds are the critical benchmark reference point against which virtually all other global assets are ultimately priced off," he added. US Federal Reserve officials have indicated that interest rates may need to stay higher for longer than previously thought to push down persistent inflation as the US economy remains buoyant.

"The rise in long-term yields is due in part to the resilience of the US economy and the fact the Fed, even if it plays the prudence card, continues to emphasize the possible need of further tightening of monetary policy," said Sebastian Paris Horvitz, director of research at LBP Asset Management.

Innes said that investors have also been worrying about the substantial US federal deficit, the Fed's withdrawal from the government and corporate debt markets, as well as selling pressure from China and other large holders of US government debt. "Hence, the latest leg higher in yields has been driven by factors beyond improving growth expectations, making the carnage in the bond markets far more challenging for businesses to absorb," added Innes. —AFP

## British Steel planning to cut 2,000 jobs

**LONDON:** British Steel is preparing to axe up to 2,000 jobs as part of a cost-cutting program, according to a report, even as its Chinese owners seek large subsidies from the UK government. The potential staff cuts, reported by the Sunday Times, are said to be a key plank of plans to replace its coal-powered blast furnaces with electric arc furnace (EAF) technology producing "greener" steel.

The switch could unlock new funding for Chinese group Jingye, which has owned British Steel since 2020, including up to £300 million of taxpayer funding, according to the report.

A spokesman for British Steel said the firm was committed to "providing long-term, skilled and well-paid careers for thousands of employees and many more in our supply chains".

But he added it was "continuing to assess our options". "As part of our journey to net zero, it is prudent to evaluate different operational scenarios to help us achieve our ambitious goals," the spokesman added. The GMB union has said in response

that it does not accept that "mass job losses are the way to decarbonize the steel industry".

"There are a myriad of options available and a fair, just transition for workers must be at the centre of any plan," it added in a statement to AFP.

The Sunday Times story noted no final decision had been made over the 2,000 possible job losses. British Steel is battling losses believed to be running at £30 million (\$36 million) a month, according to the Guardian. The cuts would decimate its 4,500-strong workforce at its Scunthorpe plant and headquarters in northeast England, it noted.

The UK government said its "commitment to the UK steel sector is clear", noting a funding boost to facilitate greener steel production by Tata Steel at its Port Talbot site in south Wales. "We continue to work closely with industry, including British Steel, to secure a sustainable and competitive future for the UK steel industry," a spokesperson added. Jingye declined to comment. It announced in February plans to cut up to 260 jobs in Britain after being hit by soaring energy costs.

British Steel has also said it plans to shut the coke ovens at its Scunthorpe plant to help the group "build a green and sustainable future". The UK government revealed in September it would provide



**LONDON:** British Steel is preparing to axe up to 2,000 jobs as part of a cost-cutting program, according to a report.

£500 million (\$621 million) to fund a new electric arc furnace at Tata Steel's Port Talbot site. However, 3,000 layoffs still loom there. The Labour Party, widely tipped to win the next UK general election, said steel would play a key role in its plans for clean power in 2030.

Labour leader Keir Starmer said during a visit to Port Talbot on Monday that he had "productive" talks

with union leaders about the transition to "green steel". "If we are able to put in place our mission for clean power 2030, that will require more steel—and therefore we want the demand for steel to go up," he said.

"Of course, we need to transition to green steel. But we must do this transition very carefully, protecting the jobs and the skills and the history that we have here in South Wales." —AFP

## Japan PM promises focus on 'economy, economy, economy'

**TOKYO:** Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida promised on Monday tax cuts as part of a new economic program that he hopes will shore up his sagging popularity. Kishida has seen his ratings plummet to the lowest levels since he took office two years ago, and over the weekend his ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) lost a by-election.

In a legislative policy address to parliament, Kishida listed his economic achievements and pledged to continue fuel subsidies and steps to energize local economies in broad efforts to prop up the flagging Japanese economy. "Economy, economy, economy. Above all, the economy is my priority," he said.

His government has been working on a fresh stimulus package expected in the coming weeks which aims to ease pressure on Japanese households from rising prices. He said Monday the program would include tax cuts for households, encourage corporate investments, and wage growth.

"For the next two to three years, we will intensify support measures that will contribute to strengthening supply capacity including large investments

related to national security, such as semiconductors and decarbonization," Kishida said. Kishida, 66, can govern until 2025 but there is speculation that he might call a snap election ahead of a likely tough internal leadership vote in the LDP next year.

On diplomacy, he said he aimed to achieve stable, constructive relations with China. But he called on Beijing to stop its import ban on Japanese seafood, imposed after Japan started releasing waste-water from the crippled Fukushima nuclear reactors in August. Kishida also reiterated his willingness to meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un to work on emotional issues related to Japanese nationals kidnapped by Pyongyang agents during the Cold War. —AFP



Business

# Ooredoo Kuwait reports net profit of KD 81.2m for first 9 months of 2023

Earnings per share reached 162 fils • Customer base increased by 2% to 25.2m

KUWAIT: National Mobile Telecommunications Company K.S.C.P "Ooredoo" (Ticker: OOREDOO) announced Monday its financial results for the nine months ended Sept 30, 2023:

- Consolidated revenue increased by 5 percent to KD 486 million in the nine months ended Sept 30, 2023, compared to KD 465 million for the same period in 2022. Revenues benefited from efficient operations in Kuwait and a year-on-year improvement in Maldives and Algeria.
- Consolidated customer base increased by 2 percent to 25.2 million for the nine months ended Sept 30, 2023 compared to 24.7 million for the same period in 2022.
- EBITDA increased by 7 percent in the nine months ended September 2023 to reach KD 184 million compared to KD 173 million for the same period in 2022.
- Net profit attributable to NMTC increased to KD 81 million for the nine months ended Sept 30, 2023 from KD 33 million for the same period in 2022. Net profit growth came mainly from Ooredoo Kuwait after winning a final court ruling related to recovery of excess regulatory tariff paid amounted to KD 43.8 million in a case against Kuwait's Ministry of Communication "MoC" and Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority "CITRA".



Abdulaziz Yaqoub Al-Babtain

Sheikh Mohammad Bin Abdullah Al-Thani

services, customer care, continuous digital adaptation and integration, and the incorporation of innovative infrastructure technologies. Our unwavering commitment to excellence drives us to surpass customer expectations, delivering the best the industry has to offer."

He added: "The company's substantial investments in advancing our 5G network underscore our dedication to excellence. This commitment recently bore fruit when we proudly received the 'Outstanding 5G Industry Partnership' award, solidifying our position as industry leaders. Notably, these achievements have earned Ooredoo Group prestigious recognition at the 2023 International Business Awards, showcasing our commitment to innovation and excellence on a global scale."

Our progress extends beyond technology alone. We are deeply committed to tailoring our services to the diverse needs and lifestyles of our valued customers. As Al-Babtain emphasized, 'With a diverse customer base, we adapted our approaches to meet their needs,

### Ooredoo - Algeria

Ooredoo Algeria's customer base increased by 2 percent to reach 13.2 million in the nine months ended Sept 30, 2023. Revenue increased by 9 percent to KD 152.2 million in the nine months ended Sept 30, 2023 compared to KD 139.2 million for the same period in 2022. EBITDA increased by 18 percent to reach KD 61.7 million for the nine months ended Sept 30, 2023 compared to KD 52.5 million for the same period in 2022.

### Ooredoo - Palestine

Customer base in Palestine increased by 3 percent to 1.4 million customers in the nine months ended Sept 30, 2023. Revenue decreased to KD 25.7 million in the nine months ended Sept 30, 2023, compared to KD 26.7 million for the same period in 2022. EBITDA increased by 5 percent to KD 10.5 million in the nine months ended Sept 30, 2023 compared to KD 10.0 million for the same period in 2022. Post quarter end, there has been severe damage to the network in Gaza negatively impacting Ooredoo Palestine business.

### Ooredoo - Maldives

Customer base in Maldives increased by 4 percent to reach 391,000 customers in the nine months ended Sept 30, 2023. Ooredoo Maldives reported a 9 percent increase in revenues to KD 30.6 million in the nine months ended Sept 30, 2023, compared to KD 28.2 million for the same period in 2022. EBITDA expanded by 11 percent to reach KD 16.9 million in the nine months ended Sept 30, 2023, compared to KD 15.3 million for the same period in 2022.



- The consolidated earnings per share was 162 fils for the nine months ended 30 September 2023, compared to 65 fils earned for the same period in 2022. Sheikh Mohammad Bin Abdullah Al-Thani, Chairman of the Board of Directors commented: "NMTC has maintained its robust momentum and sustained growth into the third quarter, delivering a strong set of results for the first nine-months of 2023. Consolidated revenue was up by 5 percent to KD 486 million. This was supported by the good operational performances in Kuwait, Maldives, and Algeria.

Our steadfast dedication to delivering unparalleled service to our customers has led to our consolidated customer base increasing by 2 percent to reach 25 million customers. We delivered a net profit attributable to NMTC of KD 81 million compared to KD 33 million in the same period last year. This improvement was supported by a final favorable court ruling for Ooredoo Kuwait, resulting in the recovery of paid excess regulatory tariffs.

Additionally, our consolidated earnings per share reached 162 fils for the nine months of 2023, compared to 65 fils earned for the same period in 2022. The continued operational efficiencies in Kuwait, led to impressive results marking an increase in revenue and EBITDA of 5 percent and 13 percent year-on-year respectively, while the customer base expanded by 5 percent.

Ooredoo Algeria recorded a healthy performance, with revenue up by 9 percent coupled with a 2 percent increase in its customer base. Ooredoo Maldives increased its revenue by 9 percent while the customer base grew by 4 percent. Amidst the challenging operating conditions, Ooredoo Palestine delivered a 3 percent increase in its customer base. Ooredoo Tunisia marked a 1 percent increase in its customer base.

We remain steadfast in our commitment to maximize stakeholder value by continually improving operational efficiencies, fostering company-wide growth while providing exceptional customer service."

### Review of operations

The Group's operational performance can be summarized as follows:

Abdulaziz Yaqoub Al-Babtain, CEO of Ooredoo Kuwait commented: "These outstanding results are a testament to the power of collaboration and innovation, made possible by the dedicated efforts of our team. The journey we've embarked on wouldn't have been feasible without significant upgrades in our ser-

### Financial Highlights:

	Quarterly Analysis			Nine Months Analysis		
	Q3 2023	Q3 2022	% change	9M 2023	9M 2022	% change
Consolidated Revenue (KWD m)	167.8	158.7	6%	486.0	464.8	5%
EBITDA (KWD m)	68.2	60.4	13%	184.1	172.6	7%
EBITDA margin (%)	41%	38%	-	38%	37%	-
Net Profit attributable to NMTC (KWD m)	16.8	12.0	40%	81.2	32.8	148%
Consolidated Customers (m)	25.2	24.7	2%	25.2	24.7	2%

innovating multiple solutions and services to reach different segments of society, ultimately increasing customer satisfaction, and reinforcing their trust in us. We've digitally enhanced all aspects of our products, services, and promotional offerings, ensuring they receive the best market experience. This growth was made possible by the dedication and determination of every individual at Ooredoo Kuwait, surpassing customer expectations."

### Ooredoo - Kuwait

Ooredoo's customer base in Kuwait increased to 2.9 million in the nine months ended Sept 30, 2023, up by 5 percent compared to the same period in 2022. Ooredoo Kuwait reported a 5 percent increase in revenue to KD 185.0 million for the nine months ended Sept 30, 2023 compared to KD 176.6 million for the same period in 2022. EBITDA increased by 13 percent to KD 59.9 million in the nine months ended Sept 30, 2023 compared to KD 53.1 million for the same period in 2022, driven by operational efficiencies across the business.

### Ooredoo - Tunisia

Ooredoo's customer base in Tunisia grew by 1 percent to reach 7.3 million customers in the nine months ended Sept 30, 2023. Revenues decreased to KD 92.4 million in the nine months ended Sept 30, 2023 compared to KD 94.1 million for the same period in 2022. EBITDA decreased to KD 35.1 million in the nine months ended Sept 30, 2023 compared to KD 41.8 million for the same period in 2022.

### NATIONAL MOBILE TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY K.S.C.P

# FINANCIAL RESULTS 2023

## 9 Months of the year



### SUBSCRIBERS



25.2 Million customers

### REVENUE



KWD 486 Million

### EBITDA



KWD 184 Million



## Oil giant Chevron to buy rival Hess for \$53bn

NEW YORK: US energy giant Chevron will buy its rival Hess for \$53 billion in an all-stock deal, the companies announced in a joint statement on Monday. The mega-acquisition is the latest consolidation in the US energy sector, coming less than two weeks after the announcement that ExxonMobil would acquire Texas shale producer Pioneer for about \$60 billion. Chevron's deal values Hess's equity at \$53 billion, while the total enterprise value of the transaction, including debt, is \$60 billion, according to the statement.

The acquisition will further diversify Chevron's interests, with Hess's assets including an offshore exploration scheme in oil-rich Guyana and a major shale project in North Dakota, along with assets in the Gulf

of Mexico and Gulf of Thailand. The deal "positions Chevron to strengthen our long-term performance and further enhance our advantaged portfolio by adding world-class assets," Chevron chairman and CEO Mike Wirth said.

Hess CEO John Hess also welcomed the deal. "This strategic combination brings together two strong companies to create a premier integrated energy company," said Hess, who is expected to join Chevron's board of directors. "I am proud of our people and what we have achieved as a company, which has one of the industry's best growth portfolios including Guyana, the world's largest oil discovery in the last 10 years, and the Bakken shale, where we are a leading oil and gas producer," he added. With the deal, Chevron will acquire 30 percent ownership in more than 11 billion barrels of oil equivalent expected from the block in Guyana, along with holdings in the North Dakota Bakken shale field, according to the statement. The deal comes at a time when crude is trading above \$87 per barrel, a historically high level, which is boosting the profits of oil majors.—AFP



## Lifestyle



This photo shows Benoit Theveny (left), aka "Tev", a French YouTuber in Japan, during a meeting and interview with AFP at his home and studio facilities in Katsushika City, greater Tokyo.--AFP photos



This photo shows Benoit Theveny (left) and Ludovic Charles (second left) looking at items they found secondhand, at Theveny's home and studio facilities.



This photo shows game collector Ludovic Charles looking at various secondhand items at a small shop.

## French geeks plan world's biggest video game museum



This photo shows Benoit Theveny demonstrating how to use a rare Dreamcast "Divers 2000 CX-1" at his home and studio facilities.



This photo shows game collector Ludovic Charles from France standing next to a large model of Godzilla.

French gaming nerds are planning to open the world's biggest video game museum near Disneyland Paris. The Odyssey Project—named after the first ever console designed by Magnavox in 1972 -- will house one of the biggest collections of games ever assembled. The complex, which will also include a "Japanese village" dedicated to the country's popular culture and cuisine, is the brainchild of collector Ludovic Charles and YouTuber Benoit Theveny, better known to his million followers as Tev.

Charles, 49, has amassed a collection of 2,200 consoles over the last two decades, with every imaginable version of Nintendo, Sega, Sony, Microsoft and other game systems. "I do not want them to sit pointlessly on the shelves any longer," he told AFP at the warehouse where he stores them in southern France.

"Gathering them all was what interested me," he added, "but the goal was always a museum" with an exhaustive overview of the evolution of video games. The pair have already crowd funded more than one million euros to get the project off the ground. They put their heads together last year when Charles put the collection up for sale online for around one million euros.

### Real part of culture

Theveny, who lives in Tokyo and has been producing popular videos on Japanese and geek culture there, said



This photo shows Benoit Theveny (bottom) and Ludovic Charles (top) looking at second-hand video games in a shop during their hunt for rare and old gaming items in the centre of Akihabara in Tokyo.

the idea was to create an all-encompassing survey of video game history. "The philosophy is not to leave anyone out... from kids of three who play Minecraft to the oldies of 50 or 60 who were there at the beginning and started on the first Pongs," the early tennis-like computer game. He said that video games deserved to "have their own museum and be recognized as a part of our culture, and I think more and more people would agree with me

on that." The museum, called "Projet Odyssee" in French, is planned for an extensive greenfield site in the eastern Paris suburb of Bussy-Saint-Georges, not far from Disneyland Paris.

Previous attempts to cash in on video game culture have a chequered history in France. The Pixel Museum in a suburb of Strasbourg close to the German border closed in 2020 after three years and a museum of video games in La Defense, the Paris financial district,

only lasted 10 days. "We have learned from these attempts," insisted Theveny, saying they had the full support of the local mayor who was already working on an e-sports project which will also be accommodated in the complex. They hope construction will start in 2025 with the museum and entertainment village opening the following year.--AFP

## North Korean defectors meet world in 'Beyond Utopia'

Earning your subject's trust is never easy for a documentary filmmaker -- but it is even harder when they think you want to kill them.

That was the challenge faced by US director Madeleine Gavin, whose movie "Beyond Utopia" follows newly escaped North Korean defectors as they flee. These include the Roh family and their elderly grandmother, who Gavin met just weeks after they bolted from their deeply repressive, reclusive homeland, and lifetimes of being fed propaganda.

and suspicion" from the family. But despite the powerful brainwashing they had endured in North Korea, even the 80-year-old grandmother's attitude quickly began to shift as she saw the outside world with her own eyes. "She was having none of it... She'd always been told that relative to the rest of the world, North Koreans are the luckiest people on Earth," said Gavin.

"Then to be seeing a world where there are animals, and life, and toilets, even! We were a piece of that puzzle."

Korea to face punishment. Filming the mother's anguish "was really the most difficult thing," said Gavin. "What she has gone through and continues to go through is the worst thing that anyone can go through."

### 'Guilt'

The other part of the film follows the Roh family as they embark on their harrowing, 3,000-mile overland journey toward Thailand, and freedom. One slip-up could see them also repatriated to North Korea, lending the documentary a dramatic tension more associated with Hollywood thrillers.

But Gavin also set out to make something "experiential and present tense," which gives a "voice to actual North Koreans," whose country is mainly known to the rest of the world for its nuclear arsenal and terrifying politics. Even as they flee, the Rohs express a complex mixture of emotions, from wonder and excitement, to anger at what they have long been deprived of, to shame. Despite witnessing prosperity unthinkable back home, the grandmother "did not let up on the idea that Kim Jong Un was this incredible person, with the most difficult job before him," said Gavin. "She had enormous guilt for leaving, and that anyone who defects is basically abandoning him, and how heartbreaking it is for him."

Perhaps more powerful still is the family's homesickness for the friends, neighbors, traditions and land they left behind. The movie includes -- and ends with -- footage secretly shot inside North Korea and smuggled out by the pastor's network, showing everything from the country's barbaric gulags, to the bleakness of everyday life.

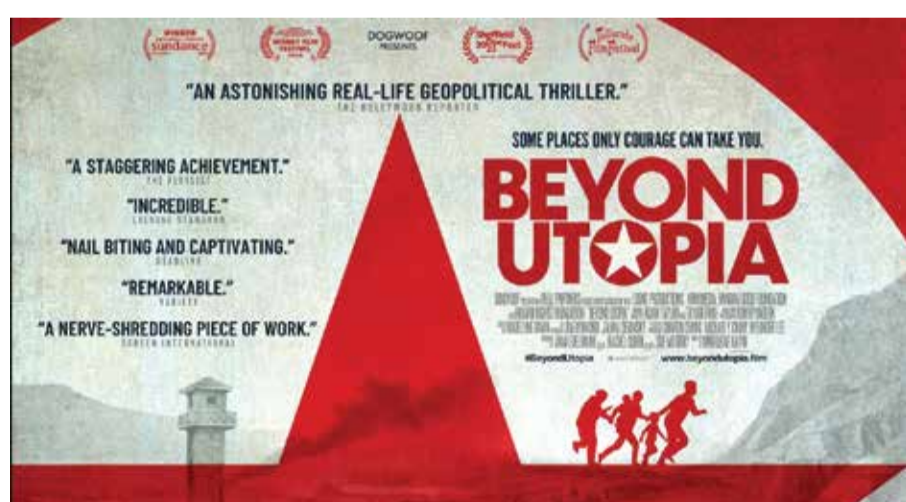
"As Grandma says at the end of the film, 'we're so lucky, but it keeps me up at night thinking about the people who are still there,'" said Gavin. "And so I wanted to leave the film remembering those people. Because those people are there, and they need us to help bring their voices forward."--AFP

### 'The worst thing'

When Gavin first set out to make her film -- in US theaters Monday -- it focused on North Koreans already living for many years in South Korea.

On arrival in the south, many defectors attend a "resettlement facility" where they are taught about the rest of the world, the lies of Kim Jong Un's brutal regime, and basic modern practices such as how to use an ATM.

But after meeting Pastor Kim Sung-eun, a prominent South Korean missionary involved in the underground network that brings escapees to the South, Gavin restructured the film to chronicle two families as they flee the north. The documentary follows Soyeon Lee, a mother who has long since escaped North Korea, but is now trying to smuggle out the son she had to leave behind. Tragedy strikes as he is captured in China, and sent back to North



"I'll never forget the way that she would look at me," Gavin told AFP. In their minds at the time, "Americans practically only exist to make North Koreans miserable and to kill and attack North Koreans. "We aren't even human beings... that's what they've been taught." Soon after the Rohs sneaked across the closely guarded border into China, a local farmer connected them to an "Underground Railroad" for defectors, run by a South Korean pastor whom Gavin happened to be filming.

The pastor arranged for the family to travel in secret through Communist-ruled China, Vietnam and Laos, braving police checkpoints and a treacherous jungle border crossing.

The movie uses footage shot in China by the pastor's "brokers," before Gavin was able to meet and film them face-to-face herself in south-east Asia.

At first, Gavin felt "a deep distrust



## Coin tosses are not 50/50: Researchers find a slight bias

Want to get a slight edge during a coin toss? Check out which side is facing upwards before the coin is flipped -- then call that same side. This tactic will win 50.8 percent of the time, according to researchers who conducted 350,757 coin flips.

For the preprint study, which was published on the arXiv database last week and has not yet been peer-reviewed, 48 people tossed coins of 46 different currencies. They were told to flip the coins with their thumb and catch it in their hand -- if the coins fell on a flat surface that could introduce other factors such as bouncing or spinning.

Frantisek Bartos, of the University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands, told AFP that the work was inspired by 2007 research led by Stanford University mathematician Persi Diaconis -- who is also a former magician.

Diaconis' model proposed that there was a "wobble" and a slight off-axis tilt that occurs when humans flip coins with their thumb, Bartos said. Because of this bias, they proposed it would land on the side facing upwards when it was flipped 51 percent of the time -- almost exactly the same figure borne out by Bartos' research.

While that may not seem like a significant advantage, Bartos said it was more of an edge that casinos have against "optimal" blackjack players. It does depend on the technique of the flipper. Some people had almost no bias while others had much more than 50.8 percent, Bartos said.

For people committed to choosing either heads or tails before every toss, there was no bias for either side, the researchers found. None of the many different coins showed any sign of bias

either. Happily, achieving a fair coin flip is simple: just make sure the person calling heads or tails cannot see which side is facing up before the toss.

### 'It's fun to do stupid stuff'

Bartos first heard of the bias theory while studying Bayesian statistics during his master's degree, and decided to test it on a massive scale. But there was a problem: he needed people willing to toss a lot of coins.

At first he tried to persuade his friends to flip coins over the weekend while watching "Lord of the Rings". "But nobody was really down for that," he said. Eventually Bartos managed to convince some colleagues and students to flip coins whenever possible, during lunch breaks, even while on holiday. "It will be terrible," he told them. "But it's fun to do some stupid stuff from time to time." The flippers even held weekend-long events where they tossed coins from 9am to 9pm. A massage gun was deployed to soothe sore shoulders.

Countless decisions have been made by coin tosses throughout human history. While writing his paper, Bartos visited the British Museum and learned that the Wright brothers used one to determine who would attempt the first plane flight.

Coin tosses have also decided numerous political races, including a tied 2013 mayoral election in the Philippines. But they are probably most common in the field of sport. During the current Cricket World Cup, coin tosses decide which side gets to choose whether to bat or field first.--AFP



Lifestyle



A general view of Kemaliye, eastern Turkey.



Retired Turkish hotelier Haci Omer Yalcinkayalar stands on a cliff overlooking Kemaliye, eastern Turkey.



A portrait of founder of modern Turkey Mustafa Kemal Ataturk next to the national flag on the wall of a travel agency office in Kemaliye, eastern Turkey.



Turkish cafe owner Erdal Erdurk poses with a portrait of founder of modern Turkey Mustafa Kemal Ataturk at his cafe in Kemaliye.



People play the traditional "Okey" game at a cafe next to a Turkish national flag and a portrait of founder of modern Turkey Mustafa Kemal Ataturk in Kemaliye, eastern Turkey.



Turkish cafe owner Erdal Erdurk poses next to a portrait of founder of modern Turkey Mustafa Kemal Ataturk at his cafe in Kemaliye.



A portrait of founder of modern Turkey Mustafa Kemal Ataturk on the wall of a cafe in Kemaliye.

# Hats, rights and letters: From empire to Turkish republic

On October 29, Turkey marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of its modern republic. A century ago, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk proclaimed the country's status as a republic in the wake of the collapse of the 600-year Ottoman Empire—which at the height of its power ruled much of the Middle East, north Africa and eastern Europe. The empire had started to crumble in the early 20th century, when it became widely referred to as the "sick man of Europe". Ataturk was elected president in 1923, and served in that role until his death in 1938. Seen as a national hero, Ataturk—whose name means "father of the Turks"—led a modernization drive in the war-weary nation. His sweeping reforms included a drive to secularism, a new alphabet, and the abolition of the Ottoman fez hat in favor of Western-style clothing.

### Latin Alphabet

Ottoman Turkish script—a version based on Arabic script—was replaced in 1928 by the Latin alphabet. The use of a 29-letter Turkish alphabet helped improve literacy rates in the early years of the republic. Ataturk was heavily involved in the national campaign to teach the new alphabet, and criss-crossed the country to introduce it, town by town. A widely circulated black-and-white picture shows him standing next to a chalkboard, teaching new letters during one of his stopovers.

### Secularism

In 1928, Turkey amended its constitution, removing a provision that stipulated "the religion of the state is Islam". The new republic rejected the Ottoman Empire's allegiance to religion. The sultans who had expanded the Empire had done so in the name of Islam and held the title of caliph. After the caliphate was abolished on March 3, 1924, Ataturk forged a system of government based on a strict separation between mosque and state.

This reform, known as Kemalist secularism, was later used by the military as a pretext to remove governments deemed Islamist. The republican state created a religious affairs department instead, known as Diyanet—putting the Islamic clergy under government scrutiny. Modern Turkey is an officially secular and predominantly Muslim state.



A scenery of Kemaliye, eastern Turkey.--AFP photos

### Women's rights

The modern republic drastically transformed women's status in society. Turkish women were given the full right to vote and to stand in elections in 1934, earlier than in France or Switzerland. The reforms sought to break women's traditional role in society and pushed them to have access to education, to enter universities, and have professions including those dominated by men. Ataturk said women would "walk together with men in social life to support each other".

A hundred years on, Turkey remains a patriarchal society, but women are actively involved in public life. However they remain under-represented in politics and can face widespread discrimination. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has often urged women to have "at least three kids", and has said rejecting motherhood means giving up on humanity.

### Dress code

The republic introduced a new dress code in 1925 as part of the modernization drive, banning men from wearing the traditional fez hat and encouraging them to adopt Western-style clothing. Those who refused to comply were arrested and, in some of the most extreme cases, executed. About 100 people faced the death sentence for failing to comply with the new dress code. The reform was seen as an ostentatious break from Islam, and a visible sign to show those who were supporting Ataturk's social revolution. The republic's first president was often seen dressed in a Western-style suit.

### Ankara declared capital

Ankara, located in the Anatolian heartland, was in 1923 declared the official capital, replacing Istanbul after the fall of the Ottoman Empire. Ataturk based himself in Ankara through the war of independence against the Ottoman sultan and invading forces, and the city was seen as relatively safe and away from potential threats. Ankara, which had a population of around 35,000 population in 1924, is now home to 5.7 million people. Housing parliament and state institutions, it is home to many of the country's civil servants.—AFP

## Did a computer write this? Book industry grapples with AI

From low-quality computer-written books flooding the market to potential copyright violations, publishing is the latest industry to feel the threat from rapid developments in artificial intelligence. Since the launch last year of ChatGPT, an easy-to-use AI chatbot that can deliver an essay upon request within seconds, there have been growing worries about the impact of generative AI on a range of sectors.

Among book industry players there is "a deep sense of insecurity", said Juergen Boos, director of the Frankfurt Book Fair, the world's biggest, where the topic was in focus last week. They are asking "what happens to authors' intellectual property? Who does new content actually belong to? How do we bring this into value chains?" he said. The threat is plain to see—AI writing programs allow budding authors to produce in a matter of day novels that could in the past have taken months or years to write. A flood of titles that list ChatGPT as a co-author have been offered for sale through Amazon's e-book self-publishing unit.

Still, critics say the works are of low quality and sense little threat from AI for now. British author Salman Rushdie told a press conference at the fair that recently someone asked an AI writing tool to produce 300 words in his style. "And what came out was pure garbage," said the "Midnight's Children" writer, to laughter from the audience. "Anybody who has ever read 300 words of mine would immediately recognize that it could not possibly be by me." "So far I'm not that alarmed," he added, during a rare public

appearance since a near-fatal stabbing attack last year in the United States.

### 'Still not great'

Jennifer Becker, a German author and academic, echoed his sentiments, telling a panel discussion that the results when it comes to AI writing fiction "are still not that great". "There is a lot of potential to use it—to use it collaboratively. "But I still don't see the point where we really hand over the writing work to AI completely autonomously. That wouldn't make for an interesting book."



Industry players stress however that in some areas there is more openness to dealing with artificial intelligence. "It depends a bit on the genre," said Susanne Barwick, deputy legal adviser of the German Publishers and Booksellers Association, who has been in discussion about AI with publishers. "The field of science and specialist books is already further along and has already dealt with it more." These areas were "easier than the field of fiction, where I think at the moment people still tend to look a bit more at the

risks", she added. Artificial intelligence's relationship with publishing threatens to throw up a host of legal problems, with one major "grey area" being who owns copyright of AI-generated content, said fair director Boos. "Then you get into a real mess, and it is a huge theme. There is also really a lot of money involved," he said.

### Legal clashes

There are already AI-related legal clashes involving top writers. Last month, "Game of Thrones" author George RR Martin, John Grisham and Jodi Picoult were among several writers who filed a class-action lawsuit against ChatGPT creator OpenAI over alleged violation of copyrights. Along with the Authors Guild, an organization representing writers, they accused the California-based company of using their books "without permission" to train ChatGPT's "large language models", algorithms capable of producing human-sounding text responses based on simple queries, according to the lawsuit. Translation is another thorny area, with some industry players feeling artificial intelligence would miss the nuances and subtleties needed to render complex literature into other languages.

Efforts are being made to make it clearer when AI has been involved in producing a book. Amazon recently released new guidelines that require authors who want to sell books through its self-publishing unit to tell the company in advance if their work includes material generated using artificial intelligence.—AFP



This handout photograph shows some of the stolen Ukrainian ancient gold jewelry, valued at more than 60 million euros, seized by Spanish police prior to being sold illegally in

## Spain seizes ancient gold jewelry stolen from Ukraine

Spanish police said Monday they have seized centuries-old gold artefacts worth over 60 million euros (\$64 million) that were stolen and taken out of Ukraine illegally. The 11 pieces, including necklaces, bracelets and earrings, were displayed at a Kyiv museum between 2009 and 2013, and were smuggled out of Ukraine before 2016, police said in a statement. "The seized pieces—gold jewelry of great historic and economic value—had been stolen and exported illegally from Ukraine and were going to be sold in Madrid," the statement added, noting items dated from between the 8th and 4th centuries BC.

Three Spanish and two Ukrainian nationals—one of them an Orthodox Church priest—were arrested as part of the operation, which was carried out with

the help of the authorities in Ukraine as well as Albania, Bulgaria, Cyprus and North Macedonia. Police said the artefacts had forged documents in English, Ukrainian and Spanish to make it look as if they belonged to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. "These are pieces that cannot be sold through the usual legal channels, such as auction houses," said police spokeswoman Ana Ramon.

Police began their investigation in 2021 after one of the pieces—a gold belt with rams' heads—was sold to a businessman in a private sale in Madrid. This led investigators to the other 10 artefacts which police seized last month from the suspects. The pieces are being studied by Spain's National Archaeological Museum and the country's Cultural Heritage Institute.—AFP



## Sports

# Kohli hits 95 as unbeaten India down New Zealand at World Cup

## Virat misses equalling Sachin Tendulkar's record of 49 one-day international centuries

**DHARAMSALA:** Virat Kohli hit 95 to lead India to a four-wicket victory over New Zealand and a fifth win in five matches at the World Cup on Sunday although the superstar batsman just missed equalling Sachin Tendulkar's record of 49 one-day international centuries.

Fast bowler Mohammed Shami returned figures of 5-54 to help bowl out New Zealand for 273, a total India overhauled with 12 balls to spare in Dharamsala. The Kiwis, who rode on Daryl Mitchell's 130 to post 273, suffered their first loss in five matches and are second behind leaders India in the 10-team table.

India, who lost to New Zealand in the semi-final of the 2019 edition, ended a 20-year wait for a win against the Kiwis in an ICC event after they last beat them in the 2003 World Cup. An in-form Kohli, who hit 103 not out in the previous victory over Bangladesh, put on key partnerships including a 78-run stand with Ravindra Jadeja, who hit the winning four in his unbeaten 39.

"He (Kohli) has done this for us so many years. He backed himself to do the job," India captain Rohit Sharma said of his star batsman after the win. "Kohli and Jadeja pulled us back when we lost a few wickets in the middle."

Kohli fell to Matt Henry in an attempt for the glory shot which would have given him another century. He leads the tournament batting charts with 340 runs. Rohit (46) and Shubman Gill (26) provided a strong start in a stand of 71 before

fast bowler Lockie Ferguson struck in his first two overs to remove the openers.

Kohli and Shreyas Iyer, who made 33, attempted to rebuild and did a good job despite fog descending from over the Himalayas and halting play for about 10 minutes. Left-arm quick Trent Boult sent back Iyer in his second spell, coming around the wicket with a bouncer and having the batsman caught out in the deep. Kohli and KL Rahul, who made 27, then ploughed on before left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner broke through and had Rahul trapped lbw.

Suryakumar Yadav was run out for two in his maiden World Cup appearance after a mix up with Kohli and New Zealand sensed a turnaround. But Kohli kept his calm and along with the left-handed Jadeja saw the team home.

### Shami stars

Shami, who returned to the XI, set up victory with his second five-wicket haul in World Cups after he helped restrict New Zealand despite Mitchell's fifth ODI ton. "Got a lot of confidence after taking a wicket on the first ball," Shami said after being named man of the match. "It was important to pick those late wickets, you always want your team to be the top side. Very happy that I got those wickets and India is on top of the table." New Zealand lost their openers early after being invited to bat first but Mitchell and Rachin Ravindra (75) put on 159 to get the innings back on track.

Shami helped India pull things back in the final 10



**DHARAMSALA:** India's Virat Kohli plays a shot during the 2023 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup one-day international (ODI) match between India and New Zealand at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium in Dharamsala. — AFP

overs in his first appearance at the tournament as New Zealand lost their eight wickets for 95 runs. Fellow paceman Mohammed Siraj and Shami took down Devon Conway, for a duck, and Will Young, for 17, as New Zealand slipped to 19-2. Ravindra, who was dropped on 12 by Jadeja off Shami, made the most of the reprieve to reach his third fifty in his 17th ODI.

Both Ravindra and Mitchell tackled the Indian spinners with aplomb by using their feet to perfection and Jadeja went wicketless in his 10 overs. Mitchell, who survived dropped catches on 59 and 69, stood firm despite losing Ravindra and then skipper Tom Latham for five off Kuldeep Yadav, the left-arm wrist spinner who took two wickets. — AFP



**NEW DELHI:** In this file photo taken on April 4, 2003, former India's cricket captain and spinner Bishan Singh Bedi (L) speaks with fast bowler Ashish Nehra during a felicitation ceremony at the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) headquarters in New Delhi. — AFP

## Ex-India cricket captain Bedi dies aged 77

**NEW DELHI:** Indian cricketing hero and spin great Bishan Singh Bedi has died aged 77, sports minister Anurag Thakur said Monday, calling it a "huge loss" to the sport. "Former captain of the Indian Cricket team, a bowler who was always remembered by the nation, Bishan Singh Bedi, is no more," Thakur, former president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, told reporters.

"It's a deeply sad news and a huge loss for cricket. The whole of cricket world stands with his family in this hour of grief." Bishan, who was part of the famous spin quartet of Erapalli Prasanna, Srinivas Ven-

katraghavan and Bhagwath Chandrasekhar, claimed 266 wickets in 67 Tests in an illustrious international career between 1967 and 1979.

Bedi, a left-arm spinner, also played 10 one-day internationals for India between 1974-79. Bedi was often blunt in his criticism of peers, cricketers, and faltering administrators of the sport. With a big turban and a smiling face, he was a regular at cricket events in New Delhi, but his failing health over the past couple of years kept him away from an active social life.

Bedi is survived by two sons and two daughters, a pair each from his two marriages. His younger son Angad is married to Neha Dhupia, an actress and model crowned Miss India in 2002. Former Pakistan captain Intikhab Alam said he was "sad" at his death.

"I had a very cordial and friendly relationship with him, he was a great spinner and human being", Alam told AFP. "It's a great loss for cricket in general and Indo-Pak cricket in particular." — AFP

## Garcia grand slam sets up Houston, Texas MLB showdown

**WASHINGTON:** Adolis Garcia smashed a grand slam home run and the Texas Rangers beat defending champion Houston 9-2 on Sunday to force a winner-take-all showdown in the Major League Baseball playoffs.

The Rangers pulled level at 3-3 in the best-of-seven American League Championship Series and will try to reach their first World Series since 2011 by winning on the road again on Monday. "Going to be a tough game," Rangers manager Bruce Bochy said. "It's a big game for both sides. It's going to be exciting." The AL champion will open the World Series on Friday against the winner of the National League Championship Series, which Philadelphia leads 3-2 over Arizona with game six on Monday in Philadelphia.

The Astros will seek their third consecutive World Series and fifth in seven seasons, having taken the title in 2017 and last year in the dynasty run. "We've got to come in ready to go," winning pitcher Nathan Eovaldi said. "We don't worry about the World Series. We worry about winning that game."

"We knew they weren't going to roll over. We knew it was going to be a dogfight. Now we have to come out tomorrow and be ready." Garcia was ejected from game five on Friday and had to be restrained by teammates after becoming upset when he was hit by a pitch from Houston's Bryan Abreu, who was also ejected.

Garcia had struck out four times on Sunday, the last when Abreu retired him in the eighth inning without hitting him, but the 30-year-old Cuban outfielder returned to the plate in the ninth with the bases loaded and crushed a dramatic four-run blast to secure a Texas triumph.

"He certainly helped things out," Bochy said. "Garcia, that's him sometimes. He has got the ability to put those at-bats behind him, face a tough pitcher and hit the ball out of the ballpark. "It's about bouncing back, not dwelling on what happened."

That's a summation of the season for a Texas team that has been tested. "They are amazing," Bochy said of his players. "They just don't let adversity get to them. We've had injuries, tough streaks and they keep getting up. Got to bounce back and be resilient."

After tensions boiled over into a melee during game five, the Astros and Rangers faced more intense moments in game six. "We handled it really well," said Eovaldi. Abreu was in the Astros lineup after he appealed a two-game suspension issued by MLB for intentionally hitting Garcia to spark a benches-clearing melee. A hearing on Monday will decide his fate but he could be sidelined for game seven.

Jose Altuve, whose three-run homer in the ninth inning brought Houston a game-five triumph, opened the scoring in the first inning of game six when he singled, stole second and raced home on Yordan Alvarez's single.

### Garver sparks Texas

Mitch Garver's solo homer lifted the Rangers level and Garver's two-out single in the fourth set the stage for Jonah Heim's two-run homer to put Texas ahead 3-1. Houston pulled within 3-2 in the sixth when Alvarez singled, advanced on an Altuve single and a Kyle Tucker ground out then scored on Mauricio Dubon's sacrifice fly.

Texas added an insurance run in the eighth after Evan Carter singled, stole second and scored on Garver's double to left. Houston loaded the bases in the eighth but Texas closing relief pitcher Jose Leclerc got Dubon to fly out to shortstop Corey Seager and struck out pinch-hitter Jon Singleton to end the threat.

Texas loaded the bases in the ninth as Josh Jung walked, Leody Tavares reached base on an error and Marcus Semien singled. Astros reliever Ryne Stanek entered and hit Seager to force in a run, setting the stage for Garcia to create the final margin. — AFP

## India laud 'Ferrari' Shami after match winning WCup spell

**NEW DELHI:** India's Mohammed Shami was on Monday described as being "like a Ferrari" following his performance in the World Cup victory over New Zealand as a career which has witnessed a series of professional and private highs and lows took another twist. Shami claimed 5-54 as India made it five wins in five with a four-wicket victory over the Kiwis in Dharamsala to move closer to the semi-finals. The 33-year-old sat out the first four games of the tournament but seized his opportunity when all-rounder Hardik Pandya missed Sunday's match through injury. Shami remains India's most experienced quick in a fast bowling pack which includes Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj. "Mohammed Shami is like Ferrari. Whenever you take it out of the garage it will give you the same speed thrill and joy to ride every time," former India seamer Irfan Pathan wrote on X, formerly Twitter.



Mohammed Shami

On Sunday, Shami's first ball rattled the stumps of New Zealand opener Will Young who inside-edged the delivery onto his stumps. However, it was his bowling at the death that allowed India to restrict New Zealand to 273 all out after a strong start by Daryl Mitchell, who hit 130, and Rachin Ravindra, who made 75. Shami was so relentless that he was even on a hat-trick in the 48th over. Lockie Ferguson denied him that particular moment. Former India batsman Mohammad Kaif joined in the Shami salutes. "The legend of Mohammed Shami grows with every ball, every innings and every game. Shami you inspire. Congrats on fifer," wrote Kaif on social media. Shami now has 19 wickets in his last five World Cup games and said "everyone should enjoy each other's success" when asked about his feelings on sitting out of the first four matches. Since making his debut in 2013, he has taken 176 wickets in 95 ODI matches with a strike rate of 27.

### Hate messages

Shami's performance on Sunday came almost two years after the Indian hero faced vicious social media attacks. As a Muslim in Hindu-majority India, he was the prime target for blame when the team was defeated by arch-rivals Pakistan at the 2021 Twenty20 World Cup. Thousands of hate messages described Shami as a "traitor" and trolls made wild accusations of match-fixing.

Superstar teammate Virat Kohli, who was captain at the time, came out in support of Shami and launched a blistering attack on his team's critics, terming them as "spineless" and "pathetic". Shami is no stranger to controversy after a feud with his wife made national headlines following which the Board of Control for Cricket in India withheld his contract in 2018. His estranged wife has levelled allegations of domestic violence. Shami has denied any wrongdoing. Shami later admitted to battling depression and overcoming suicidal thoughts due to weight gain during an injury layoff. — AFP



**AUSTIN:** In this file photo Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton (L) speaks with Ferrari's Monegasque driver Charles Leclerc after the Sprint race at the Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas, on October 21, 2023 ahead of the United States Formula One Grand Prix. Mercedes star Lewis Hamilton and Ferrari's Charles Leclerc were both disqualified from Sunday's October 22 US Grand Prix after their cars failed post-race in-

## Hamilton, Leclerc disqualified from US Grand Prix: FIA

**AUSTIN:** Mercedes star Lewis Hamilton and Ferrari's Charles Leclerc were both disqualified from Sunday's US Grand Prix after their cars failed post-race inspections. Former world champion Hamilton had finished second behind Max Verstappen in Austin while Leclerc came in sixth.

Both drivers saw those results scratched, however, after a technical team found excessive wear of their cars floor planks. The disqualification came following a hearing that took place approximately four hours af-

ter Verstappen, who has already clinched the driver's championship, powered to victory in Sunday's race.

A statement by motorsport's governing body, the FIA, said both teams had acknowledged the findings of the inspection report, stating that the irregularities were likely caused by the bumpy track and the tight turnaround for Sunday's race after Saturday's sprint.

"The Stewards note that the onus is on the competitor to ensure that the car is in compliance with the regulations at all times during an event... therefore the standard penalty for a breach of the technical regulations is imposed," the statement said.

Hamilton's disqualification means McLaren's Lando Norris was promoted to second, with Leclerc's Ferrari teammate Carlos Sainz, who finished fourth, bumped to third. Mercedes driver George Russell moved up to fifth from seventh following Leclerc's disqualification. — AFP



Sports

# Aston Villa thrash West Ham to close on Premier League top four

**'We need to play really well to keep it up with the top six teams'**

**BIRMINGHAM:** Unai Emery urged Aston Villa to chase their dreams this season after thrashing West Ham 4-1 on Sunday to close within two points of the top of the Premier League. Douglas Luiz scored twice, while Ollie Watkins and Leon Bailey were also on target as Villa recorded an 11th consecutive home Premier League win.

Villa have been transformed in just over a year since Emery took charge, with only Manchester City and Arsenal having won more Premier League points in 2023. Victory takes Villa up to fifth in the table, but within striking distance of leaders City.

Captain John McGinn has spoken of harboring ambitions to qualify for the Champions League and Emery is focused on at least securing European football for a second consecutive season. "One of our dreams is to be with the top seven teams and to do something in Europe," said Emery, whose side are in the Europa Conference League this season.

"To get European football is very important and that is the work we need to try to do. We need to be consistent in what we are doing." Luiz is just one of a number of players that are performing at a different level under the Spaniard and continued his scoring streak at Villa Park.

The Brazilian became the first Villa player to score in six consecutive home Premier League games when his strike from the edge of the box

had too much power for Alphonse Areola in the West Ham goal on 30 minutes. Luiz then took the chance to double his side's advantage from the penalty spot early in the second period after Edson Alvarez tripped Ezri Konsa.

Jarrod Bowen reduced West Ham's arrears just five minutes later when his shot spun off Pau Torres into the far corner for his 100th career goal. However, any hope of a Hammers' fightback was snuffed out by the in-form Watkins on an afternoon that proved a reality check for David Moyes' men.

"I see the players every day and know the levels. We need to play really well to keep it up with the top six teams," said Moyes. "The players are good players but as you can see, if this is the level we need to reach, then we need to improve greatly."

Fresh from scoring the winner against Australia for England in a rare run out at international level as Harry Kane's understudy, Watkins blasted in his eighth goal of the season from a narrow angle. Bailey then exemplified the impressive attacking arsenal that Villa have amassed in recent transfer windows.

The Jamaican was left on the bench as Nicolo Zaniolo started despite being the subject of an investigation from Italian prosecutors over a betting scandal. But Bailey made the most of his 15 minutes on the field as he cut inside Nayef Aguerd with a stepover and fired into the top corner. — AFP



**BIRMINGHAM:** Aston Villa's Brazilian midfielder #06 Douglas Luiz (L) shoots past West Ham United's Mexican midfielder #19 Edson Alvarez (R) but has it saved during the English Premier League football match between Aston Villa and West Ham United at Villa Park in Birmingham, central England. — AFP

## Dynamic duo Martinez, Thuram leading Inter's Champions League charge

**MILAN:** Lautaro Martinez and Marcus Thuram have rapidly struck up a formidable attacking partnership which will lead Inter Milan into Tuesday's Champions League Group D clash with Salzburg. With 16 goals already scored between them so far this season, Inter's dynamic striking duo have made fans forget former idol and Martinez's one-time strike partner Romelu Lukaku.

The pair have also made last season's losing finalists one of the Serie A title favourites after an uncertain summer in which they were forced to let go key players in attack and defence. Both were on target in Saturday's 3-0 stroll at Torino which gave Inter the temporary lead in Italy's top flight and took Martinez's all-competitions tally to 12 in 11 matches.

Since the departures of Edin Dzeko and Lukaku in the summer Martinez has taken on the mantle of attacking focal point for Inter who are also the highest scorers in Serie A with 24 goals. Argentina striker Martinez is already five goals ahead of Victor Osimhen, his nearest rival at the top of Italy's scoring charts, and at his current rate of 11 strikes in nine league matches he would smash the record single-season haul of 36 set by Gonzalo Higuain in 2016.

"He's a great player, one of the best strikers in the world. Playing with him makes everything easier," said Thuram after last month's 5-1 hammering of AC Milan, in which the France forward scored with a sumptuous strike. Martinez stepping up in such a decisive fashion has made Thuram's return to the country of his birth from Borussia Moenchengladbach that much simpler.

The 26-year-old is the son of French World Cup-winning icon Lilian Thuram but he was born in Parma and has a clear affinity for Italy, comfortable speaking the language despite leaving the country while still a child to begin his youth career in France.

It was at Parma where his father played for five seasons, winning the UEFA Cup and Italian Cup in 1999 as part of a star-studded outfit which also featured Azzurri icons Fabio Cannavaro and Gianluigi Buffon. Cannavaro said on Wednesday that Thuram reminded him of Zlatan Ibrahimovic in his early days at Juventus and after picking Inter over AC Milan he has made an instant impact.

Thuram has only scored four times in all competitions in his first season as an out-and-out striker but five assists — including three for Martinez — have made him a key part of Serie A's top-scoring team. "When he first came here I thought he might need some time to get used to things, but pretty much from the first training session I could tell he was going to come along quickly," said Inzaghi on Saturday. — AFP

## Kuwait Special Olympics participate in workshop for healthy societies

By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Special Olympics participated in the regional workshop for healthy societies that was hosted by Cairo with 10 Arab countries participating. Kuwait was represented by the National Director of Kuwait Special Olympics, and Sports and Training official at the Special Olympics.

The workshop discussed and evaluated the work of the health program for 2023 and the program's future plan. Rihab Buresli said Kuwait Special Olympics presented its achievements in implementing the health program for the Special Olympics athletes, also its vision and future plans to complete the march of health programs in order to improve the quality of athlete's life and educate parents on various fields that is to interest to their lives and safety, also to expand the field of training to serve the handicapped and increase chances of participating in social sports, programs and physical fitness activities to reach all mentally challenged persons and knowing the health problems they suffer from.

She said Kuwait went far in implementing the health care aspects presented by the Special Olympics through programs of medical checks on athletes



in all specialties and present medical services in the fields of physical fitness, healthy nutrition, psychological health and implement programs that help promote health culture for this group.

Meanwhile, Buresli said Kuwait Special Olympics will start activities of the health program for the 2023-2024 programs by organizing the Fam-

ilies Health Forum on October 30th at Nisf Essa Al-Asfour library in the presence of Physiotherapist Dr Musaed Faraj Al-Saeed and Head of the Respiratory System at Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital. The forum will deal with pain resulting from repeated wrong moves, as well as the respiratory system health for the handicapped.

## Verstappen hails 'incredible' 50th career win in Texas

**AUSTIN:** Freshly minted triple world champion Max Verstappen completed a hat trick of Texan victories on Sunday when he claimed the 50th win of his career in a tense and strategic United States Grand Prix. The 26-year-old Dutchman, who started sixth on the grid in his Red Bull car, worked his way through the field to take control before he came home 2.225 seconds ahead of resurgent seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton, who was disqualified hours after the race when his Mercedes car failed a technical inspection.

Verstappen, who won his third straight title last time out in the sprint at Qatar, said: "Starting from sixth position made things a little more difficult. "Fifty wins is incredible and to do it here I am very proud. Now we keep on pushing for more." Lando Norris, in his 100th Grand Prix, was promoted to second after Hamilton's disqualification following a thrilling race in which he had out-started pole-sitter Charles Leclerc, who like Hamilton was disqualified for failing a technical inspection following the race.

It was Verstappen's third consecutive victory at the Circuit of the Americas and brought him level with last season's record tally of 15 wins. His runaway lead in the drivers' championship now stands at 228 points ahead of Sergio Perez.

"I think the whole race I was struggling with the brakes," added Verstappen, who was booed by sections of the crowd. Norris commented: "Leading the race, we controlled it a lot, but just not enough today. I just couldn't hold on." George Russell, also in his 100th race, finished seventh but was promoted to fifth following the disqualification of Hamilton and Leclerc. The race began with 16 cars on the grid and four in the pitlane, Aston Martin and Haas having made overnight set-up changes. The temperature was 29 degrees Celsius with the track at 40: tough for tyres.

Norris, with a perfect start, took the lead from pole-man Leclerc in Turn One and a near-frantic opening lap saw Carlos Sainz pass Hamilton for third and Verstappen rise to fifth from sixth. Norris was two seconds clear by lap three as Russell, after falling from fifth to eighth, regained seventh from Perez before Hamilton passed Sainz on the back straight to regain third at Turn 12.

He repeated the move to pass Leclerc for second on lap six and began pursuit of Norris, who led by 3.2 seconds as Verstappen, pacing himself conservatively, overtook Sainz for fourth. On lap 11, Ver-



**AUSTIN:** Red Bull Racing's Dutch driver Max Verstappen celebrates on the podium after winning the 2023 United States Formula One Grand Prix at the Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas. — AFP

stappen forced his way inside Leclerc at Turn 12. Verstappen was first to pit after 16 laps, taking mediums to re-join ninth. Norris reacted by pitting for hards, handing the lead to Hamilton as a strategic battle unfolded. Norris re-joined fourth. Hamilton pitted on lap 21 for hards and re-joined fifth behind Verstappen — a clear signal that Mercedes were risking ceding the initiative by off-setting their stops. — AFP

# Classifieds

### Clinics & Hospitals

#### Clinics

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

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

#### Hospitals

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

### Change of Name

**I, SAHHUL HAMEED SULAIMAAN GANI** holder of Passport No. R2316512 do hereby change my name to Sahhul Hameed (as given name) Sulaiman Batcha (as surname) for all purposes. I will henceforth be known in the name Sahhul Hameed Sulaiman Batcha and I also undertake to carry out this name change in all my documents. 24-10-2023

my name will be read as (given name) OSMAN BIN SALAM and (surname) BIN MAHFOOZ. #4249 – 23-10-2023

**I, OSMAN BIN SALAM**, holder of Indian Passport No. M9886038 having permanent address 23-1-915 Moghalpura inside Dowdi Kalyani Hyderabad, Pin 500002, Telangana, India, residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare that henceforth

**I, CYCLEWALA SAIFUDDIN FAKHARUDDIN**, holder of Indian Passport No. M2288188, having permanent address 786/03, Al-Husen Apartment, near Chunawala compound, Thakkar Faliya, Dahod, Gujarat-389151, residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as (surname) CYCLEWALA and (given name) SAIFUDDIN FAKHARUDDIN. #4250 – 23-10-2023

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## Teen striker Marc Guiu snatches Barca win over Athletic Bilbao

Catalans host Shakhtar Donetsk in Champions League on Wednesday



BARCELONA: Barcelona's Spanish forward #38 Marc Guiu celebrates after scoring his team's first goal during the Spanish league football match between FC Barcelona and Athletic Club Bilbao at the Estadi Olímpic Lluís Companys in Barcelona on October 22, 2023. — AFP

**BARCELONA:** Teenage debutant Marc Guiu snatched champions Barcelona a 1-0 win over Athletic Bilbao just seconds after coming on from the bench on Sunday in La Liga, taking the Catalans up to third. Xavi's Barca will face leaders Real Madrid next Saturday in the Clásico just one point behind their bitter rivals, and second-placed Girona, who beat Almeria 5-2 earlier on.

For a long time it seemed like Barcelona would not find the breakthrough against their Basque visitors but striker Guiu, 17, netted under a minute after being thrown on by Xavi. The forward was slipped in by the silky Joao Felix and slotted past Unai Simon, who got a hand to his shot but could not keep it out.

Guiu became the latest on a conveyor belt of youths to make their debuts for Barca as their La Ma-

sia academy continues to produce gems. "He's been training with us for the whole season, it's important that everyone who comes brings something," Barcelona defender Inigo Martinez told DAZN. "We're happy for him, for the goal, and above all, for winning."

Xavi started Martinez against his former club and 20-year-old Fermin Lopez on the left of the attack, another academy product, with Barcelona down to the bare bones. Several regular starters, including key striker Robert Lewandowski, are out injured.

Felix clipped the top of the crossbar with a shot from Ferran Torres' cut-back as Barcelona looked to get started quickly ahead of a tricky week. The Catalans host Shakhtar Donetsk in the Champions League on Wednesday before welcoming rivals Madrid to Montjuic.

However the hosts were negated by former Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde's Athletic, who took the sting out of the game and occasionally sprang forward with both Williams brothers threatening from the flanks. Marc-Andre ter Stegen tipped over an Inaki Williams effort and then parried a strike from the Ghana international, with Martinez producing a sublime block to deny his sibling Nico from the rebound. Approaching the hour mark Barcelona carved out their best chance, when Simon brilliantly denied Lopez from close range, after initially saving from Felix's low strike.

Another followed when Felix fed substitute Lamine Yamal in the area but the 16-year-old starlet dragged his shot wide of the near post.

The teenager's arrival helped Barcelona gain the upper hand and Joao Cancelo was the next to draw a save from the watchful Simon.

Xavi brought on Guiu in the 79th minute and with his very first touch he broke into the area and then with another confidently fired past Simon. Full of energy, the striker was soon booked for an attempted slide tackle which caught the goalkeeper as he tried to stop him clearing his lines, as he was roared on by the jubilant home fans.

Barcelona's victory takes them above Atletico Madrid, fourth, while Valverde's Athletic are sixth. "I'm annoyed because it went just past me and maybe I could have done a bit more," Simon told DAZN. "We really wanted to get three points to make a big gap above seventh place." — AFP

## Tearful Locatelli sinks 10-man Milan as Juve close in on Inter

**MILAN:** An emotional Manuel Locatelli fired Juventus to within two points of Serie A leaders Inter Milan with the only goal in Sunday's 1-0 win at 10-man AC Milan, the Italy midfielder's boyhood club. Massimiliano Allegri's side prevailed at a packed San Siro thanks to Manuel Locatelli's long-range strike in the 62nd minute, seven years to the day after scoring the winning goal for Milan against Juve.

Juve, who like Milan were missing a clutch of first-choice players from their starting XI, stay third but are closing in on Inter and a point behind Milan who have surrendered top spot to their local rivals.

Milan youth product Locatelli broke down in tears at the final whistle but his shot wouldn't have got past third-choice goalkeeper Antonio Mirante had it not been for a massive deflection off substitute Rade Krunic.

"It's always special playing here," said Locatelli to DAZN. "Life took me on another path and I'm playing for the team I should be. But it's amazing that it was my goal which won it. It was emotional." Mirante, starting his first match in over two years, hadn't had a single save to make up to that point, even after Malick Thiaw was sent off five minutes before the break for rugby tackling Moise Kean.

Italy forward Kean then missed a golden opportunity to put Juve ahead on the stroke of half-time when he pushed Adrien Rabiot's deep cross wide from inches out. Milan started the second half stronger but Locatelli's goal deflated the hosts and led to the rest of the match being almost a non-event, as Juve were content to simply control the match rather than press home their advantage.

Mirante did make his presence felt late on, neatly tipping over substitute Dusan Vlahovic's drive with five min-

utes remaining and pulling off a brilliant double save from Andrea Cambiaso and Vlahovic. Milan now have to travel to PSG on Wednesday before facing champions Napoli in Naples next weekend after an unfortunate defeat.

"We played well with 11 men, we played well with 10 men, if we'd been a bit more alert then we could have got a result because we weren't the worse team even when we were a man down," said Milan coach Stefano Pioli.

Stephan El Shaarawy pushed Roma to within touching distance of the Champions League places when he lashed the only goal of a 1-0 win over Monza at the Stadio Olimpico in Rome. Roma, who also struck the woodwork late on through Romelu Lukaku and Sardar Azmoun, are seventh following their third straight league win and three points behind Napoli and fourth-placed Fiorentina who face Empoli on Monday.

El Shaarawy's first goal of the season came in the final minute of a tough match against 11th-placed Monza who had to play the entire second half with 10 men following Danilo D'Ambrosio's harsh sending off for two bookable offences four minutes before half-time.

"When I saw Azmoun's shot, more than Lukaku's, hit the post I thought, 'Bah, if that doesn't go in'... but Stephan has a feeling for goals and scoring late so he won the match for us," said Mourinho to Sky Sport.

Mourinho was sent off in stoppage time as tensions flared between the two dugouts after El Shaarawy struck, the Portuguese making a crying motion at the Monza staff. Defeat for Monza was harsh as the away side put up a brave fight despite being a man down for half the match, El Shaarawy's winner the first goal they have conceded from open play since being thumped by Atalanta at the start of September.

Roma were briefly sixth but were bumped down a place by Atalanta who squeezed to a 2-0 win over promoted Genoa which took them up to 16 points, two ahead of Mourinho's team. Bologna are nestled behind Roma on goal difference after beating promoted Frosinone 2-1 while Filippo Inzaghi's new team Salernitana and Cagliari drew 2-2 in a frantic match between two struggling sides. — AFP

## Man Utd cannot afford brotherly love from Hojlund in Copenhagen

**MANCHESTER:** Manchester United have no time for sentimentality from Rasmus Hojlund as he faces his younger twin brothers and former club on Tuesday when FC Copenhagen visit Old Trafford. The Red Devils desperately need a win to keep their Champions League campaign alive on what is sure to be an emotional evening in the wake of Bobby Charlton's death. Arguably the club's greatest ever player, Charlton passed away at the age of 86 on Saturday, with tributes planned to the man who scored 249 goals in 758 games for United.

Erik ten Hag's men need the highly-charged atmosphere to inspire them after losing their first two games of a Champions League group stage for the first time in the club's history. Hojlund has been the one beacon of hope from defeats by Bayern Munich and Galatasaray as the Dane has scored three times in his first two Champions League appearances.

A £64 million (\$78 million) move to United from Atalanta in August capped a meteoric rise for the 20-year-old, who Copenhagen sold for just £1.7 million to Sturm Graz in January last year. His father criticized the lack of game time he was afforded by the Danish champions before leaving his homeland.

"He wasn't really given a chance," Anders Hojlund, himself a former professional player, told Danish media outlet Frihedsbrevet. "He only spent six months in the first team... where he mainly had 10, 12 or 15 minutes where he was asked to run everywhere."

But there are still two members of the Hojlund family at Copenhagen as 18-year-old twins Emil and Oscar look to follow in their big brother's footsteps. Midfielder Oscar is expected to be included in the visitors' squad



CARRINGTON: Manchester United's Portuguese defender #20 Diogo Dalot (L) and Manchester United's Dutch manager Erik ten Hag attend a press conference at Carrington Training Complex in Manchester, north-west England. — AFP

at Old Trafford having already made his bow in the Champions League against Galatasaray.

Emil is more akin to his older sibling as a physical forward, but might have to wait for his opportunity to face Rasmus after featuring more regularly for the under-19s. Despite arriving in Manchester as a precocious talent with "still a lot to learn" in his own words, United are reliant on Hojlund to help turn a troubled season around.

Only holding midfielder Casemiro has scored more than Hojlund's three goals this season as the rest of Ten Hag's forward line has misfired. Marcus Rashford has netted just once and looks a shadow of the player that scored 30 times last season, putting more pressure on his new teammate.

Hojlund is also yet to score a Premier League goal, but has shown flashes of the combination of strength and speed that lured United into splashing out on him rather than target a move for Harry Kane as their new number nine. "What I see in Rasmus is completely unique," said Peter Moller, head of the Danish Football Federation. — AFP