

2 Turkish envoy applauds Kuwait's humanitarian efforts for Gazans

7 Deaths in India train collision rise to 13

13 Kabul unveils Dome of the Rock replica

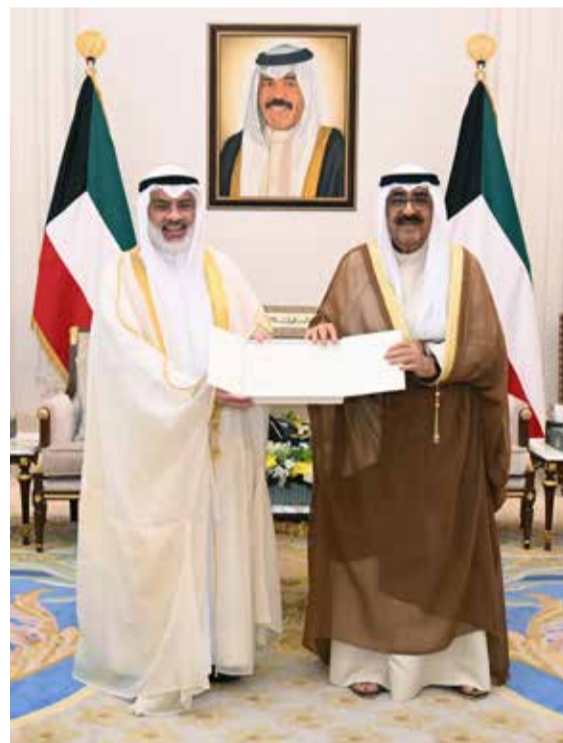
16 FIFA bans Rubiales for 3 years for forced kiss on Spain player



Crown Prince to open Assembly

Defense minister: Regional developments require readiness, vigilance

Crown Prince receives KDIPA, SAB reports



KUWAIT: (Left) HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives on Monday Minister of Finance and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Fahad Al-Jarallah, Deputy Chairperson Wafa Al-Qatami, Director General Sheikh Dr Mishal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and members of the board. During the reception, HH

the Crown Prince was handed the eighth annual KDIPA report for the financial year 2022-2023. (Right) HH the Crown Prince receives Acting Chairman of State Audit Bureau (SAB) Abdulaziz Al-Saraawi at Bayan Palace, where he presented him the bureau's report on concerned state agencies' audits and reviews of results and final accounts for the fiscal year 2022- 2023. — KUNA

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah will represent HH the Amir in opening the new term of the National Assembly on Tuesday amid increased signs of cooperation between the government and MPs. Sheikh Mishal will deliver a key speech that is expected to focus on regional tensions resulting from the Zionist aggression on Gaza, and a call to consolidate cooperation between the government and the Assembly.

Speaker Ahmad Al-Saadoun will also deliver a speech, as will HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf Al-Sabah, outlining his government's program for the next 12 months. A majority of lawmakers have informally approved a list of priority legislation that they plan to approve during the eight-month term, focusing on political reforms and improving the standard of living of Kuwaiti citizens, which requires the government to agree to budget increases.

The Assembly will also elect members of over a dozen permanent and temporary panels, including the financial and economic affairs panel, the budgets committee, the interior and defense committee and others. The Assembly is scheduled to hold a special session on Wednesday to debate the situation in Palestine in order to declare total support for Palestinians, but MPs are not expected to debate a draft law that bans any dealings with the Zionist entity because the foreign relations panel did not finish it.

Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Ahmad

Al-Fahad Al-Sabah said on Monday the extraordinary developments in the region require the Kuwaiti military to be ready and vigilant in case of any threat to the security of the country. In a press statement following a meeting of the military defense council, Sheikh Ahmad said the ministry is keen on following the directives of the country's leadership, affirming that the army is ready and able to fend off any threat or attack directed at Kuwait.

He stressed that continuous training and keeping up with the latest defense technology will safeguard Kuwait and develop the army's military strategies. He also highlighted the importance of bolstering cooperation amongst the army's units to serve the country and protect it against any harm.

Also, MP Marzouq Al-Ghanem sent a series of questions to Interior Minister Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled Al-Sabah inquiring about numbers of naturalized citizens since April 1991, following the liberation of Kuwait from seven months of Iraqi occupation. Ghanem asked the minister for the names of foreigners who were granted Kuwaiti citizenship for great services offered to the country since April 1, 1991, and what is the specific service given by each one.

He also asked for the number of children up to the age of 18 who were born outside Kuwait but were then added to their fathers' citizenship files since April 1, 1991. Ghanem asked the minister for the number of children of Kuwaitis who were granted citizenship after reaching 18 while they were not present in the country a year before reaching 18.

India vows to free ex-navy personnel on Qatar death row

NEW DELHI: India's foreign minister on Monday said the country would "make all efforts" to secure the release of eight ex-navy personnel sentenced to death by a court in Qatar, reportedly for spying for the Zionist entity. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar said he had met the families of the detained Indians and told them the government "attaches the highest importance" to their case.

Indian media report the eight — among them former high-ranking and decorated officers, including captains who once commanded warships — were arrested in Doha in Aug 2022. In a post on social media, Jaishankar said that he fully shared "the concerns and pain of the families", and that the "government will continue to make all efforts to secure their release". Qatar has not commented on the case and the charges have not been made public.

India's navy chief, Admiral R Hari Kumar, told reporters on Monday that "every effort" was being made by the government to "get relief for our personnel". The sentences were only revealed last week when India's foreign ministry said it was "shocked" at the case. The eight men were employees of Al Dahra, a Gulf-based

Continued on Page 6

Ground battles raging in Gaza

GAZA: Zionist ground forces fought deadly battles with Hamas militants inside Gaza on Monday and sent tanks to the outskirts of the biggest city while air strikes kept raining down on the besieged Palestinian territory. The intensifying military campaign since the Oct 7 Hamas attacks has sharply heightened fears for the 2.4 million civilians trapped inside Gaza, where the health ministry says more than 8,300 have died.

Concern has surged about the widening humanitarian crisis and the fate of hospitals in the war zone where, the World Health Organization warns, many patients cannot be safely moved despite the Zionist entity's evacuation order. Columns of Zionist tanks and armored bulldozers were seen churning through the sand, and Zionist snipers took positions inside emptied residential buildings, in footage released by the army. Dozens of Zionist tanks advanced for more than an hour into the southern fringes of Gaza City

Continued on Page 6

Moscow blames outside forces for Dagestan riot

MAKHACHKALA, Russia: Russia on Monday blamed "external interference" and singled out Ukraine for a riot in Muslim-majority Dagestan, which saw crowds of angry men overrunning an airport as they looked for Zionist and Jewish passengers. The mob descended onto Makhachkala airport Sunday evening, barging through barriers and taking over the runway, in an attempt to encircle a plane that had flown in from the Zionist entity.

Authorities said 60 people had been arrested, suspected of violently storming the airport and



GAZA: Palestinians pray by bodies of members of the Al-Sarsak family killed following Zionist bombardment in front of Al Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir Al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip on Oct 30, 2023. — AFP

seeking to attack Jews. The airport reopened Monday, but authorities reported some damage and an airline said its flights to the Zionist entity in the coming days were cancelled. The Kremlin announced President Vladimir Putin will gather top advisers and spy chiefs to discuss the "West's attempts to use the events in the Middle East to split Russian society".

Moscow also accused Ukraine — which it has been fighting for more than 20 months — of orchestrating the riot. Russia regularly blames domestic unrest on external — usually Western — forces. "Yesterday's events at Makhachkala airport are, to a large extent, the result of external interference," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters. "Against the backdrop of TV footage showing the horrors of what is happening in the Gaza Strip — the deaths of people, children, old people, it is very easy for enemies to take advantage of and provoke the situation," Peskov told reporters on Monday.

Continued on Page 6



MAKHACHKALA, Russia: This frame grab taken from video footage posted on Telegram on Oct 29, 2023 shows protestors on the apron area of an airport in the Dagestani capital. — AFP

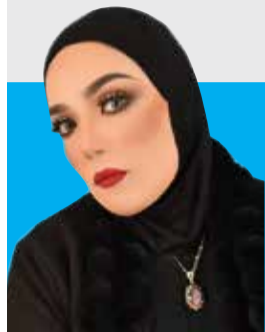


Turkish envoy applauds Kuwait's humanitarian efforts for Gazans

Embassy marks 100th anniversary of the Republic of Turkey

In my view

The plight of children



Azzah Al-Ghamdi

Local@kuwaittimes.com

Children are like angels walking on Earth, innocent and free from sin, yet they sometimes face undeserved accusations and damage to their reputation due to their tender age. Some fortunate children belong to loving and responsible families who provide them with all the care, attention, and affection they need. However, the unfortunate reality is that some children have to endure criminal parents who commit heinous acts against them.

It's disheartening to hear about children whose parents deprive them of even simple pleasures like visiting parks or beaches, even when such places are free. There is no excuse for this neglect, as these parents are not driven by poverty but rather by their disregard for their children's well-being.

In some cases, even when a divorce occurs, one parent may seek revenge against the other by mistreating their own children. Fathers, in particular, may neglect their children's needs, leaving them in a state of neglect and abandonment.

These crimes are not confined to any specific country but have been reported worldwide. In Europe and America, governments often intervene to protect children from abusive parents. Unfortunately, this is lacking in many Arab and Islamic countries due to misconceptions about sharia law, which is not necessarily opposed to such interventions.

Turkey, as an Islamic country, sets an example by protecting children from abusive parents. We, therefore, call upon Arab governments to take action and ensure children's welfare, consistent with the principles of Islamic law. Every Muslim parent should be aware of their responsibilities, and both fathers and mothers commit grave crimes against their own children. These crimes can be so severe that they might warrant the death penalty under Islamic law.

It's important to note that these individuals who commit such horrific crimes cannot be considered true Muslims or followers of any divine religion. Such actions go against the fundamental values of humanity and the teachings of Islam and other heavenly religions.

In light of these challenges, we urge the ministry of education to present a memorandum to the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States to promote coeducational schooling throughout the Arab world. This approach can offer a nurturing environment to those children who have been abandoned by their parents, providing an alternative support system.

Friendship between men and women need not always be driven by sexual desires. Some men treat women as daughters or sisters and offer support without any ulterior motives. Similarly, some women lack family support and find male friends who become their pillars of strength. The belief that coeducation leads to inappropriate relationships is unfounded, especially considering the presence of security cameras in schools that can deter misconduct.

We aim to create a psychologically healthy society that respects women and doesn't question their morals. Cultures must come together to create environments that eliminate criminal tendencies and reduce the sources of terrorism. Moreover, coeducation can help reduce divorce rates, as both genders will have a better understanding of each other, enabling them to make informed decisions about life partners based on shared values and beliefs.

The misguided beliefs that have no basis in Islam must be challenged and corrected, and this responsibility lies with the ministry of education. There is no Quranic verse prohibiting mingling between genders or condoning the crimes committed against children.

Media plays a vital role in monitoring and improving society by bringing issues to public attention, ultimately reducing crime and violence. Children suffering from these crimes may carry emotional scars that can lead to serious consequences, including murder or suicide. It is essential that the law holds those who commit such crimes accountable.

Not all criminals are behind bars; some roam freely, enjoying life despite their heinous acts. These individuals must not escape justice, and the ministry of interior should take seriously all reports from schools and individuals. There are individuals who start their criminal activities as children and continue into adulthood, posing a significant threat to society.

In conclusion, we call on the ministry of interior and the ministry of education to present the issue of child protection to the League of Arab States to restore the state's role in safeguarding children. Providing proper care and protection for these children is not only a moral duty but also essential for safeguarding national security from potential threats posed by those who have suffered abuse in their past.



Turkish Ambassador and Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Fahle Al-Rquba cutting the cake to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Proclamation of the Republic of Turkey.



Ambassadors and officials at the reception. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the proclamation of the Republic of Turkey, the Turkish Embassy held a reception on Sunday at Regency Hotel. Turkish Ambassador Tuba Nur Sonmez praised Kuwait's efforts and humanitarian activism to ease the suffering of the Palestinian people. "In this respect, as responsible regional actors, Türkiye and Kuwait have been tirelessly engaging in diplomatic efforts to put an end to this suffering," she said.

"As our President Erdogan pointed out, Gaza is not only an issue for those struggling to survive there, but for all of us. Unless we put out this fire immediately, it will take us to a new spiral of violence that threatens the stability of the entire region," she added. The ambassador affirmed that the onus is on the shoulders of the international community to address the root causes of the conflict, including ending the occupation of Palestinian territories and allowing the Palestinians to establish their fully independent state.

"This evening is supposed to be the most jubilant time of the year for us as we revel in the joy of the celebration of our National Day. However, we find ourselves touched by the somberness of a humanitarian disaster unfolding in Gaza. Although our hearts are filled with excitement, they also carry the weight of sorrow," she stated.

Sonmez highlighted the 60th anniversary of relations between the two countries will be marked in 2024. "Although we have a much older historical friendship, diplomatic relations between Türkiye and Kuwait will mark their 60th anniversary in 2024. So, next year we will be celebrating 60 years of friendship with joyful activities."

She described the level of relations with Kuwait as "outstanding" and based on robust foundations. "The foundation of the strong bonds of friendship between our nations is marked by mutual trust, sympathy, and cultural similarity. Our nations have a tradition of mutual understanding and affection. And under the guidance of His Excellency President Erdogan and His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, our relations have reached an exemplary level and continue to grow stronger," she said.

Sonmez said the friendship between both leaders has had a huge impact on bilateral relations, paving the way for fostering cooperation in various fields, noting bilateral trade between Turkey and Kuwait is growing, where in 2022, trade volume amounted to \$955 million, which is an all-time record. Regarding defense, she revealed that this year, the Kuwaiti government signed a contract to purchase Turkish Bayraktar TB2 combat drones, which are arguably the most popular drones in the world.

"Apart from these interactions, tourism, education



Ambassador of Turkey to Kuwait Tuba Nur Sonmez speaks at the reception.

and health also boost friendship between our countries. Türkiye remains the top destination for Kuwaitis, and we are working on new projects to boost people-to-people interaction between our countries. Therefore, as the Turkish ambassador, I will be working diligently to deepen our relations with Kuwait in every field, as I believe this collaboration will benefit not just our countries, but the entire region," Sonmez concluded.

Volunteer initiative boosts work value: Kuwait youth body

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Public Authority for Youth (PAY) announced that a national volunteer initiative to protect marine environment which will be launched on Tuesday in cooperation with the Kuwaiti diving team. This initiative aims to protect Kuwaiti coasts and boost the value of volunteering among Kuwaiti youth. In a press conference held on Monday at the Voluntary Work Academy at Al-Shamiya Youth Center, Director of the Voluntary Work Department at the Authority Walid Al-Ansari said that the initiative, which will focus on cleaning the coasts, is witnessing a large turnout from the Ministry of Education's schools to participate in the campaign.

Al-Ansari added that they want to involve the Arab and foreign communities in the campaign based on their desire, stressing that the Authority will spare no effort in supporting all initiatives that aim to serve the community, especially preserving the country's environment. In a similar speech, Head of the Kuwaiti diving team Waleed Al-Fadhel said that the initiative includes holding specialized cleaning campaigns in cooperation with the competent authorities and volunteers to re-



KUWAIT: Walid Al-Ansari addresses the press conference accompanied by Waleed Al-Khashti, Waleed Al-Fadhel and other officials. — KUNA

move any waste on the coasts, adding that the initiative aims to raise awareness about the importance of Kuwait's coastal environment and the necessity of preserving it.

He expected that these campaigns, which will last several months, will witness the participation of about 2,000 students and will focus on removing waste from the coasts, saying that the campaign is an opportunity to highlight the role of Kuwaiti youth in volunteer work. He explained that the campaigns will include cleaning Kuwait's most important coasts including Shuwaikh, Doha, Asheraj, Sulaibkhat, Al-Bedaa Al-Bahri, Fahaheel, Al-Zour, Al-Khiran, Fintas, Jadeliat, the Hospital Coast, and Souq Sharq, and re-

habilitating the coast of the Jahra Reserve, noting the efforts of the Authority and the national companies supporting the initiative.

CEO of Relations and Corporate Affairs at Zain Kuwait Waleed Al-Khashti said that their contribution to this national volunteer initiative comes from the positive impact it has on society, especially among children and youth, as it introduces them to sustainable concepts of volunteering to best serve the country. Al-Khashti pointed to the cooperation of the public and private sectors, civil society institutions and volunteer teams to make this initiative a success, which is a distinguished model for achieving the most important goal, which is serving Kuwait and its environment. — KUNA



KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait during its participation as the platinum sponsor of the cybersecurity hackathon for 50 women in Kuwait.

NBK platinum sponsor of '50 Women in Cybersecurity' initiative

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) strives to invest in top-notch talent and cultivate in the local digital community by hosting and sponsoring digital events. To that end, NBK served as a proud platinum sponsor for the "50 Women in Cybersecurity" hackathon, organized by ESK Holdings and Mercedes Vazquez with the local support of Kuwait's National Center for Cybersecurity.

The hackathon was held on Oct 27 and 28 at the American University of Kuwait (AUK), and saw 50 women participate in teams to solve the NBK Cybersecurity Challenge; and then present their strategies to a panel of judges to choose the winner.

The participants employed tools like real-time monitoring, incident reporting modules and communications platforms to solve their problem. Entries were judged based on creativity, problem-solving prowess, innovation, holistic thinking, and the effectiveness of teamwork. This first-of-its-kind skilling initiative aims to address the role of women in bridging a digital divide in a field that is

ever-growing for a resilient and thriving digital knowledge-based economy.

Commenting on this, Mohammad Y Al-Kharafi, COO – Head of Group Operations and Information Technology at National Bank of Kuwait said, "We are pleased to participate in this event as cybersecurity is one of the crucial pillars in our transformation journey. In addition, NBK has a proactive strategy to address the ever-changing cyber threats, within an inclusive data governance and privacy framework." "In addition to introducing new features and the best user experience possible to the customer-facing channels as part of our digital strategy, other crucial pillars in our transformation journey include improving internal processes and creating a strong digital culture throughout the bank. We feel that our customers' security is of utmost importance in this ever-changing environment," he noted.

"It is also important to recognize that digital transformation is not only about technology. It is about the people, culture,



Mohammad Al-Kharafi receives a memorial shield on the sidelines of the hackathon.

and values that enact the transformation. It is inspiring to observe the expertise and commitment of the women in this field as displayed by the hackathon participants," he mentioned. On her part, Vazquez, General Manager at ESK Holding & Creator of the "50 Women in Cybersecurity" initiative in Kuwait, commented, "I am delighted to collaborate with National Bank of Kuwait as platinum sponsor of the hackathon part

of the "50 Women in Cybersecurity" skilling initiative in Kuwait. NBK has a very solid commitment as a leading banking institution with a profound impact in development that goes beyond that, to advance the role of women in the workplace, while prioritizing technology innovation & world-class education, upskilling and reskilling in a digital competitive economy, which is a perfect alignment to this pioneering initiative."

Zain Group releases its 2023 Thought Leadership Report

Al-Kharafi: Report charts key milestones and achievements of Zain's 40 years of journey

● Bader Al-Kharafi: Zain has operated determinedly to provide meaningful connectivity that drives equitable systemic change, empowering the communities we serve

● Launched at GITEX Global, the report recaps the profound impact of connectivity on society that Zain has provided over four decades

KUWAIT: Zain Group a leading provider of innovative technologies and digital lifestyle communications operating in seven markets across the Middle East and Africa, announces the publication of its latest annual Thought Leadership Report entitled, 'Building Inclusive Societies Through Connectivity'. The report was launched during GITEX Global 2023 in Dubai, UAE and highlights the various phases of connectivity that Zain has operated over four decades, and the profound impact this connectivity has had on society.

Through acquisitions of operating companies across the Middle East and Africa since its establishment in 1983, Zain underwent rapid and significant transformation and growth, expanding from a national public sector monopoly to a regional private sector telecom leader, showcasing forward thinking, visionary strategy, and a strong focus on ensuring community and societal transformation.

In many respects, Zain's story shows how the region has adapted and evolved through the adoption of advanced technologies. Also, by the company focusing on ensuring it provides inclusive services to all segments of society including the most vulnerable, leads to further growth and developments in the communities it operates in.

Bader Al-Kharafi, Zain Vice-Chairman and Group CEO commented, "Our 2023 Thought Leadership Report is inspiring by the story it tells of Zain's journey over its 40 years of dedication, commitment, and forging the road ahead on a path to providing state-of-the-art communications services across Zain markets ensuring that its products and services are inclusive, scalable and address the connectivity needs and expectations of our stakeholders."

Al-Kharafi continued, "We take pride in the

knowledge that the company enabled economic growth and development, embraced technology, overcome adversity, and worked determinedly to uphold human rights and promote dignity, fairness and equality through providing meaningful connectivity leading to equitable systemic change to millions. We pledge to continue to be a force for good."

The power of meaningful connectivity served as a great transformative tool for both the business and society leading to greater and more inclusive access to education, health services, employment, skill development, financial services, and economic upliftment.

Zain has been at the forefront of these developments since wireless connectivity was first introduced in the region, and recapping the company's trajectory over the decades in this report is important as it provides inspirational insights to the achievements made to date and offers additional impetus for further inroads into providing meaningful connectivity for even greater number of people.

More on the report

Zain's 'Building Inclusive Societies Through Connectivity' report charts the key milestones and achievements along Zain's long journey to providing meaningful connectivity to a growing number of communities, and categorizes the developments under seven main areas:

Company's Growth and Impact: From being a telecom operator in a single market, to expanding to various countries around the Middle East and North Africa region, the company was exposed to different cultures, innovative solutions, and market insights.

Market Expansion: Zain began life in Kuwait as a telecom operator in a single market but expanded to various countries in the Middle East and North Africa. This expansion exposed the company to diverse cultures, innovative solutions, and market insights. Zain implemented its ambitious 3x3x3 strategy, growing to having operations in 23 countries across the Middle East and Africa. In 2007, the company rebranded under the single Zain brand, solidifying its presence and emphasizing its freshness and boldness.

Technology Transformation: From using 1G analog cellular technology in 1983 to deploying 5G technologies in 2019, Zain played a transformative role in people's daily lives through the provision of meaningful connectivity.

Impact on other Industries: Zain's comprehensive range of services have opened opportunities for individuals, industry and government, contributing to societal upliftment.

Commitment to Human Rights: Zain is committed to promoting a fair and inclusive work culture guided by human rights principles. It addresses human rights issues in its business operations and supply chain, aligning with local, national, and international standards. Zain actively engages with local communities in new markets, focusing on upholding human rights and addressing social challenges promoting dignity, fairness and equality.

Compliance and Transparency: The company places great importance on compliance with human rights and corporate governance standards, in-



volving internal stakeholders in assessing, tracking, and reporting progress on these issues. Zain works tirelessly to provide a safe and equitable working environment, support communities, and adheres to relevant laws and regulations.

Continuous Improvement: Zain is determined to operate transparently and adapt to changing circumstances over time. The company works closely with stakeholders to identify and address human rights issues across its operations and supply chain.

To reduce negative environmental impact, "Building Inclusive Societies Through Connectivity" report is not printed physically, and may be viewed online.

Kuwait Airways launches direct flights to Barcelona

KUWAIT: State-owned carrier Kuwait Airways has launched direct routes connecting Kuwait with Spain's northeastern metropolis of Barcelona with three scheduled flights per week, the airline said on Monday. The bustling city has long been a magnet for tourists from all over the world, Kuwait Airways chief executive Ahmad Al-Kerabani said in a statement, citing the launch of direct flights to Barcelona as part of the national carrier's ever-expanding itinerary.

Hailing the launch as beneficial towards bilateral ties, Spain's ambassador to Kuwait Miguel Maro Aguilar said direct flights to Barcelona would open the city's doors to an influx of Kuwaiti tourists. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwait Airways chief executive Ahmad Al-Kerabani, Spain's Ambassador to Kuwait Miguel Maro Aguilar and other officials during the launch of direct flights to Barcelona on Monday. — KUNA

CAN conducts special courses for medical staff

KUWAIT: Chairman of the Board of the National Cancer Awareness Campaign (CAN) Dr Khalid Al-Saleh announced the launch of new specialized courses for primary care doctors, dentists and nurses starting mid-October until mid-November in cooperation with the Ministry of Health. Dr Al-Saleh said the courses are aimed at training primary care doctors, dentists and nurses on communication skills while dealing with patients and their families, particularly cancer patients.

He said that 1,343 dentists were trained on early detection of oral cancer, in addition to 1,439 primary care doctors and 2,551 nurses. He added that the training courses are with the continued efforts of CAN to achieve its goal to spread awareness about cancer, which has in part spe-

cialized courses for dentists on visual detection of oral tumors. He said CAN trains nurses on communications skills with patients and their families, especially cancer patients, in addition to having prepared an integrated program presented by oncologists.

He said the interest in training nurses is due to their proximity to the patient and his family, and the same for doctors, as training them on correct information about cancer diseases, and all that enable them to answer any question in a correct scientific way. Dr Al-Saleh said nurses are the ones who implement and serve prescribed medicines by doctors. They are the pillars in presenting the treatment so it is important to care for their health knowledge in regards to cancer diseases.



KUWAIT: CAN holds specialized courses for primary care doctors, dentists and nurses.

He said those courses must continue about recognizing the first signs of tumors as an important aspect of early diagnoses of tumors at their early stages which helps in raising the recovery rate. Dr Khalid

Al-Saleh thanked the Health Ministry for its interest in training its employees to refresh their information and give them skills and experiences that will help them in carrying out their job at their best.

Dasman Diabetes Institute hosts a school visit

KUWAIT: Dasman Diabetes Institute (DDI), founded by Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, recently received a group of students from Al-Asmaa Bint Al-Harith Girls High School. The students were provided with diabetes prevention lectures by the diabetes educators and nutritionists as well as physical activity training by the medical fitness team at the institute to raise the students' awareness. In addition, the students were taken on a general tour of the institute to brief them about the ongoing activities and projects at DDI.

Holding such events and activities stems from DDI's mission statement, where health promotion and awareness are a priority for the Institute. Since its establishment in 2006, the Institute has been organizing and taking part in many events and campaigns to shed light on diabetes and its related conditions. This is in accordance with the Institute's belief that, Prevention is better than cure.



KUWAIT: Dasman Diabetes Institute (DDI), founded by Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, recently received a group of students from Al-Asmaa Bint Al-Harith Girls High School.

In my view

Palestinian state today, not tomorrow

Dr Khalid A Al-Saleh

Local@kuwaittimes.com

I do not recommend the publication of pictures depicting the bodies of our Palestinian brothers and sisters, particularly children and women. Wars result in victims, and if these victims are martyrs, they are now in the presence of their Lord, well cared for. It is not right to expose their bodies and intimate parts to the public, as they never consented to such exposure. I believe that the majority of them would not approve of their remains being displayed in front of others after their passing.

Those who believe that sharing these pictures will galvanize the nation to support our Palestinian brothers and sisters are mistaken. The entire Arab nation stands with them, and they do not require additional motivation. The scale of this aggression, driven by forces larger than the entire nation, is beyond our control. Regrettably, the unarmed and civilian population pays the price when such attacks occur, and it is these individuals whose remains are often recognized after they have become martyrs.

Our Palestinian brothers and sisters have endured much hardship. They have lost their land and suffered for many decades under occupation, facing the formidable might of the United States of America, an enduring supporter of the Zionist entity. In their quest for peace, they often find themselves back at square one, as their cause oscillates between domestic and foreign powers. Each effort bears its results, but the weight of these efforts falls squarely on the shoulders of Palestinians. Despite their suffering and patience over time, unity remains elusive among them. Instead, they have become fragmented, and once again, innocent Palestinians pay the price for these divisions.

The only casualties in this tragic narrative are the innocent and vulnerable members of this strong nation. Meanwhile, those who cannot agree among themselves continue to engage with foreign entities, seeking slogans that benefit other parties and individuals, but not the Palestinian people.

The Arab people can no longer endure this cycle and are no longer able to patiently witness the tragedies their Palestinian brothers and sisters endure. They implore the Palestinian people to unite in the pursuit of peace and to distance themselves from the slogans that have led to so much loss. Making up half the population of historical Palestine, they stand a better chance with peace and the establishment of their homeland. Time will be on their side. They can triumph peacefully over the occupiers, and Palestinian children can dream of a prosperous future, whether in their own country or in the Zionist entity. They have the right to develop their land and collaborate with major powers to transform Palestine into a developed nation.

These are not mere dreams; this is the reality that wise Arabs envision and work towards. Those who fear this prospect are the Zionists, warlords, countries and powers that only seek the destruction of Arabs, perpetuating the loss of lives and resources under deceptive slogans. Those who are true advocates for Palestine and love the Palestinian people should work tirelessly toward the establishment of their state. This is the true measure of support.

Govt weighs two options on Jleeb

KUWAIT: The government is currently considering two options to address issues in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh. The first option involves its revitalization, while the second option entails developing the area and improving its infrastructure for Kuwaiti citizens, leading to the removal of non-Kuwaiti "bachelors" from the area after the construction of labor cities. Informed sources explained that both of these solutions have their advantages and disadvantages. It should be noted that revitalizing the area would require a significant financial budget.

Until the final decision regarding Jleeb is made, the government will continue to enforce strict security measures, which may include the establishment of fixed security checkpoints to monitor and control expatriates who violate residency rules. Additionally, security campaigns will continue to prevent the formation of slums in the area, such as informal markets and other activities that pose a security threat. It's worth mentioning that during the current year, the ministry of interior apprehended thousands of violators in Jleeb through its stringent campaigns.

Officially, the area is reported to have around 200,000 residents, but the actual number is believed to be higher due to the presence of unregistered workers, individuals without valid residency, or those who aren't under official monitoring. Consequently, the actual number might exceed the reported figure.

The municipality's report addressing the conditions in the Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh has been forwarded to the ministerial services committee. This committee has requested information from relevant authorities, including the ministry of public works, about the status of contracts for maintaining the streets and infrastructure in the area.

The ministerial services committee has also requested the expropriation department to prepare a comprehensive proposal for the valuation committee to determine the appropriate price per square meter in the area if it is decided to redevelop it entirely for investment and commercial purposes, leading to the evacuation of its current residents. According to estimates from 2023, the cost of expropriating land in the region is approximately KD 1.43 billion, with KD 1.23 billion allocated for 1,409 private housing plots and around KD 200 million for 136 investment housing plots.



KUWAIT: Speakers at Kuwait University's Center for Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Studies's seminar titled "The Arab and Western Position on the (Zionist) War of Genocide in Gaza".



KU seminar laments lack of unified Arab stance on Gaza

'Zionist War of Genocide in Gaza' shook global conscience: Experts

KUWAIT: Kuwait University's Center for Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Studies organized a seminar titled "The Arab and Western Position on the (Zionist) War of Genocide in Gaza". The event took place on Sunday at Kuwait Airways Hall within the College of Social Sciences at the Shuwaikh campus. Notable attendees included Dr Yaqoub Al-Kandari, Acting Director of the Center for Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Studies, Dr Abdullah Al-Shayji, Professor of Political Science at Kuwait University, and Dr Ali Al-Sanad, Professor of Islamic Studies at the College of Basic Education at PAAET. The discussion was moderated by Dr Ali Al-Kandari, who serves as the President of the Faculty Members Association at Kuwait University.

Dr Ali Al-Kandari extended a warm welcome to the guests and participants, underscoring that this academic gathering was organized by the Center for Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Studies at Kuwait University as a demonstration of support for Palestine and a stance in solidarity with their rights — a stance rooted in both popular sentiment and academic rigor.

Dr Shayji highlighted the global impact of the events in Gaza, which shook the conscience of the entire world and exposed double standards and the perpetuation of a false narrative. He expressed concern that during the Gaza bombings, there was a conspicuous absence of condemnation of the word "occupation" or calls for a ceasefire from American and European leaders, despite these being pivotal issues.

Dr Shayji stressed that the Zionist entity's actions constituted continuous war crimes. He also empha-



sized that international law and all legal frameworks grant the right to resist occupiers, asserting that Gaza was merely defending its territory. He considered the ongoing situation a grave crime with significant regional and global implications, marking the sixth war initiated by the Zionist entity against Gaza.

Dr Shayji further discussed three discernible positions arising from this conflict: The frail state of the Arab world, the commendable roles played by non-Arab nations such as Iran and Turkey, and the positions of major countries and their affiliations. He likened the Western response to that seen in the context of the Ukraine situation and raised questions about the US president's skepticism regarding the number of casualties.

Dr Sanad observed that the Arab position was currently at its weakest concerning the Arab-Zionist conflict. He noted that due to historical differences among Arab nations, there was a notable absence of a unified position. He referenced a peace summit, where calls were vague, lacking specific details. He pointed out that the Western position affirmed the Zionist entity's right to self-defense, in contrast to the Arab position, which primarily emphasized humanitarian aid, with little mention of other critical aspects. This divergence led him to conclude that the statement could not be considered a genuinely Arab statement, and he lamented the absence by Arab nations of any mention of the Palestinians' right to resist occupation.

Japan ambassador praises Kuwait's humanitarian role

KUWAIT: Japanese Ambassador to Kuwait Morino Yasunari on Monday lauded Kuwait's global humanitarian role in aiding those affected by natural or man-made disasters. Speaking to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) after meeting Kuwait Red Crescent Society's (KRCS) Chairman Dr Hilal Al-Sayer, Am-

bassador Yasunari learned about the scope of KRCS local and international humanitarian programs, and its role in aiding and supporting affected and needy families in other countries, and expressed his appreciation for all of its efforts.

He added that Japan will donate \$10 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the International Red Cross in response to the dire and deteriorating situation in Gaza.

On his part, Dr Al-Sayer expressed his delight at Ambassador Yasunari's visit to KRCS's headquarter to learn about its local and global activities

and accomplishments. He said that their meeting discussed KRCS aid in assisting the people of Gaza via Kuwait's humanitarian air bridge, adding that KRCS is always eager to help needy families in Kuwait by providing them with food, education and medical treatment through charitable projects. — KUNA



Morino Yasunari

Sheikh Mubarak hails strong Kuwait-Austria trade relations

KUWAIT: The Chairman of the Kuwait-Austria Friendship Business Association, Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, stressed the importance of the bilateral relations between the two friendly countries, emphasizing the strength of the relations that have been reinforced in several areas, and via various forms of trade exchange, which the association seeks to promote and push further in a manner that reflects the ambition of both sides, and that benefits the business sector, and revitalizes commerce between the two countries to fulfill the aspirations of the workforce.

Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah extended his congratulations to Karl Nehammer, Federal Chancellor of the Republic of Austria, on the occasion of his country's National Day, during his participation in the ceremony of the Austrian embassy held in Kuwait on this occasion. Moreover, Sheikh Mubarak also offered congratulations to the Austrian Ambassador to Kuwait, Marian Wrba, and the embassy staff, who in turn stressed the importance of the business sector and its contribution to strengthening bilateral relations between the two friendly countries, praising all the efforts to achieve the two countries' awareness of further cooperation in the commercial area, to reflect the strength of the friendly relations between the two governments and its citizens.

Sheikh Mubarak said during attending the ceremony that Kuwaiti investment and capital is looking for an



KUWAIT: Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah (left) with Austrian Ambassador Marian Al-exander WRBA (center) during the Austrian National Day celebrations.

attractive environment in which development opportunities and security are available simultaneously, and this is what we see evident in the Republic of Austria, which extends its hand in this field. Sheikh Mubarak also thanked the political leadership of the Republic of Austria for its continued honorable stances with Kuwait.

It is worth noting that the celebration of the Austrian National Day returned this year to its previous state, after two years of restrictions, and the war in Ukraine cast a shadow on the celebration, which has been held annually since 1965 on October 26, the day on which in 1955 the law declaring Austrian neutrality was decided, the Flag Day is replaced as a National Day.

MoH opens new emergency dept at Farwaniya hospital

KUWAIT: Kuwait Health Ministry on Monday inaugurated an emergency department at the new Farwaniya Hospital as part of fourth operational plan. The department has a capacity of 1,800 patients per day, includes 84 beds and 71 clinics. Department Head, Dr Hanan Rizzouqi spoke to the press saying that the inauguration is in line with Kuwait Vision 2035 as developed infrastructure and high quality health care are focal points. Dr Rizzouqi mentioned that work at the ER had already commenced, explaining that it houses several medical departments including internal medicine, ophthalmology, general surgery and more. The department has been equipped with highest-grade medi-



cal tech to provide best care possible to patients, affirmed the doctor adding, that it is also prepared with triage rooms that could significantly help with crowds. The New Farwaniya hospital, expanding over an area of 423,000 square meters, is comprised of five main buildings, making one of the country's largest medical facilities. As the hospital is keen on providing care and comfort to its patients, around 70 percent of its rooms are private. — KUNA



Scan & Subscribe
KD 20 a year

For Individuals Only



Scan Now

Kuwait Times
Established 1961
The First English Daily in the Arabian Gulf



Tel: 24833199 Ext: 220



Election-related violence leaves 4 dead in Philippines

Bangladesh charges opposition party leadership with murder

Page 6

Page 7



RAFAH: Youngsters carry bags of bread as they ride a bicycle, while others queue in front of a bakery in the southern Gaza Strip on Oct 28, 2023. — AFP

Bread not a guarantee in Gaza

Bombardment, lack of fuel put bakeries out of action

RAFAH: Etidal al-Masri got up before dawn to reach the bakery in Rafah in the hopes of getting enough bread to feed her relatives who were bombed out of their home. She waited in line for ages, but by the time it was her turn, the bread had run out.

Masri fled her home in the northern Beit Hanun area to seek shelter at a school run by the United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) in this southern Gaza town but has been finding it hard to get basic supplies. "Because of the chaos, my turn didn't come," she told AFP outside the bakery where huge crowds people come to seek bread as war-torn Gaza struggles with dire shortages of food, water and fuel.

More than half of Gaza's population — some 1.4 million people — have fled their homes since Oct 7, with the Zionist occupation relentlessly bombarding

the territory after Hamas fighters infiltrated the Gaza-Zionist border, killing 1,400 people. The Zionist airstrikes have killed more than 8,000 people and damaged or destroyed tens of thousands of buildings, among them some 40 bakeries.

Outside Al-Quds bakery in Rafah, an AFP journalist saw hundreds of people waiting. Mohammed Qaranawi, who is hosting 25 people in his home, said in addition to the bombardments, the bakeries were also struggling with a dire lack of fuel. "You can wait in line for hours and in the end you don't get a turn to get bread," he said.

Abdul Nasser al-Ajrmi, head of Gaza's bakery association, said 60 percent of businesses were out of action. "We're struggling to provide flour, gas and electricity," he said. "A lot of workers can't reach bakeries because of the strikes and the risk of death," he added.

Queuing from 5:00 am

Bakery owner Suleiman al-Huli said he had witnessed some of the "most extreme" scenes since the Nakba of 1948 — when 760,000 Palestinians were expelled or forced to flee from their homes. "I feel upset, I can't give everyone bread. The bakery is hand-operated and produces 30 bundles (of pitta) an hour ... this is much less than people need," he said.

One resident told AFP she had gone to three bakeries since dawn in search of bread. The UN's World Food Programme (WFP) has described the conditions as "unimaginably desperate" after the Zionist entity cut normal supplies of food, water and power to Gaza, notably blocking fuel on grounds it could be exploited by Hamas for weapons and explosives. "WFP was relying on 23 bakeries to feed 220,000

people a day ... only two are functional," spokeswoman Shaza Moghraby told journalists.

While limited aid convoys have reached Gaza — deemed woefully inadequate by the UN — no fuel has been brought in from neighboring Egypt. Bakery worker Sami Salman al-Huli said thousands of people tended to gather outside the bakery from as early as 5:00 am (0300 GMT) in order to get bread. "We can only cover 300 people and the numbers are several times greater ... I try to give people one bundle of bread (to share)," said the 30-year-old. Not only does Huli have to worry about the vast needs, she also has to contend with the relentless strikes. "I'm afraid the bakery will be bombed, like bakeries were bombed in Gaza City and elsewhere," he said. — AFP

Probe finds deadly strike on journalists in Lebanon 'targeted'

PARIS: A Reuters journalist killed in southern Lebanon two weeks ago and others wounded in the same incident were deliberately targeted, a Reporters Without Borders investigation released on Sunday said. Video journalist Issam Abdallah died and six other journalists were wounded — including two from AFP, one of them seriously — in strikes the village of Alma al-Shaab in southern Lebanon on October 13.

"The initial findings of the investigation show that the reporters were not collateral victims of the shooting," the media watchdog Reporters Without Borders (RSF) said. "One of their vehicles, marked 'press', was targeted, and it was also clear that the group stationed next to it was journalists." The journalists believe they were hit by fire coming from the Zionist side of the border.

The RSF initial findings did not explicitly blame Zionist forces, but said that according to ballistic analysis, the shots came from the east, the direction of the Zionist border. The RSF probe established that two strikes 37 to 38 seconds apart hit a spot where a group of seven journalists had been for more than an hour.

The first strike killed Abdallah, the second, more powerful, ignited the vehicle used by Al-Jazeera, and injured several journalists. "Two strikes in the same place in such a short space of time (just over 30 seconds), from the same direction, clearly indicate precise targeting," the report said.

"It is unlikely that the journalists were mistaken for combatants, especially as they were not hiding: in order to have a clear field of vision, they had been in the open for more than an hour, on the top of a hill." The journalists' bullet-proof vests and the nearby vehicle were marked 'press'.

According to two journalists interviewed by the watchdog, a Zionist helicopter had flown over the scene a few seconds before the strikes. RSF said it was continuing its investigation. Lebanese authorities have accused the Zionist occupation of being behind the strikes. — AFP

Lebanon PM says working to avoid 'war' with Zionists



BEIRUT: Lebanon's caretaker prime minister Najib Mikati speaks on the phone ahead of an interview with AFP at his office on Oct 30, 2023. — AFP photos

BEIRUT: Lebanon's caretaker prime minister said Monday he was working to ensure his country does not enter the current deadly escalation of the decades-long Zionist occupation of Palestine, even as Hezbollah and the Zionist entity have been exchanging cross-border fire.

Najib Mikati said he feared an escalation, with the border skirmishes stoking concerns that Lebanon's powerful Iran-backed Hezbollah movement, a Hamas ally, could open a new front with the Zionist entity. "I am doing my duty to prevent Lebanon from entering the war" raging further south, Mikati told AFP in an interview.

Cash-strapped Lebanon is facing the possibility of war essentially leaderless, as political divisions have left the country without a president for a year, while Mikati has headed a caretaker cabinet for about a year and a half. "Lebanon is in the eye of the storm," he added. Mikati, who is on good terms with Hezbollah, said he has no "clear answer" about whether war loomed ahead, adding that "it depends on regional developments".

In 2006, the Zionist entity and Hezbollah fought a bloody conflict that left more than 1,200 people dead in Lebanon, mostly civilians, and 160 in Israel, mostly soldiers. "For now Hezbollah has managed the situation rationally and wisely, and the rules of the game have remained constrained to certain limits,"



ALMA AL-SHAAB: A man inspects the damage to a house in the village of Alma al-Shaab, close to the southern Lebanese border with the Zionist entity on Oct 30, 2023.

Mikati said. "But at the same time I feel like I cannot reassure Lebanese" because the situation is still developing, he added.

'Chaos'

Hezbollah, which has a more powerful arsenal than Lebanon's own army, has so far restricted itself to targeting the Zionist entity's northern border region, with the Zionist forces striking back. The Shiite Muslim movement's leader Hassan Nasrallah is set to make a televised speech on Friday, Hezbollah has said, his first such address since Hamas's October 7 assault on the Zionist entity.

Skirmishes on the Lebanon-Israel border have killed at least 62 people in Lebanon, according to an AFP tally, mostly Hezbollah combatants but also four civilians including Reuters journalist Issam Abdallah. Zionist officials have reported four deaths, including one civilian. Mikati said any escalation could extend beyond Lebanon. "I cannot rule out an escalation because there is a race to reach a ceasefire before escalation spreads in the entire region," Mikati said. "I fear that ... chaos could engulf the entire Middle East," he also said.

Hezbollah and allied Palestinian factions in Lebanon have exchanged fire with the Zionist entity almost daily over the past three weeks. Iran-backed or

affiliated groups have also launched attacks on the Zionist entity from Syria, and targeted US forces stationed in Iraq and Syria.

Lebanon witnessed a flurry of diplomatic activity at the start of the escalation, with high officials visiting the country and Mikati going on an official trip Sunday to Qatar — which is mediating peace efforts. Qatar was playing "an important mediation role," Mikati told AFP. "Mediation almost succeeded last Friday but was disrupted when the Zionists began ground operations in Gaza," he said.

Lebanese tired of wars

Mikati, who heads a caretaker cabinet with limited powers, urged Lebanese lawmakers to "elect a president as soon as possible". Divided members of parliament have failed 12 times to elect a president during the past year. Lebanese were weary of conflict, Mikati said, in a country that was battered by a 1975-1990 civil war, 22 years of Zionist occupation and the 2006 war with the Zionist entity.

Despite relative calm in recent years, in late 2019 the country plunged into an unprecedented economic crisis, pushing most of the population into poverty. "Lebanese have had enough of wars," Mikati said. "Lebanese ... do not want to enter any war and want stability." — AFP

International

Bangladesh charges opposition party leadership with murder

At least 164 members accused of killing police officer during Sunday's protest

DHAKA: Bangladesh's main opposition leader and more than 100 other top party members were charged on Sunday with the murder of a policeman killed in mass demonstrations ahead of upcoming elections. Those charged make up the bulk of the opposition leadership — potentially facing the death penalty if found guilty — and could threaten to derail general elections due within three months.

"At least 164 Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) including Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir were accused of murdering the police officer," police official Salahuddin Mia said, adding that charges had been filed against them. Alamgir, 75, the BNP's secretary-general, has led the party since BNP chairwoman and two-time former premier Khaleda Zia was arrested and jailed, and her son went into exile in Britain.

The resurgent opposition has been mounting protests against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for months, despite ailing leader Zia being effectively under house arrest since her release from prison after a conviction on corruption charges. Saturday's protests by BNP and the largest Islamist party, Jamaat-e-Islami, were among the biggest this year, with more than 100,000 supporters of the two major opposition parties demanding Hasina step down to allow a free and fair vote under a neutral government.

Dhaka police commissioner Habibur Rahman had earlier said Alamgir had been "detained for interrogation" for Saturday's violence in which a police officer and a protester were killed. Po-

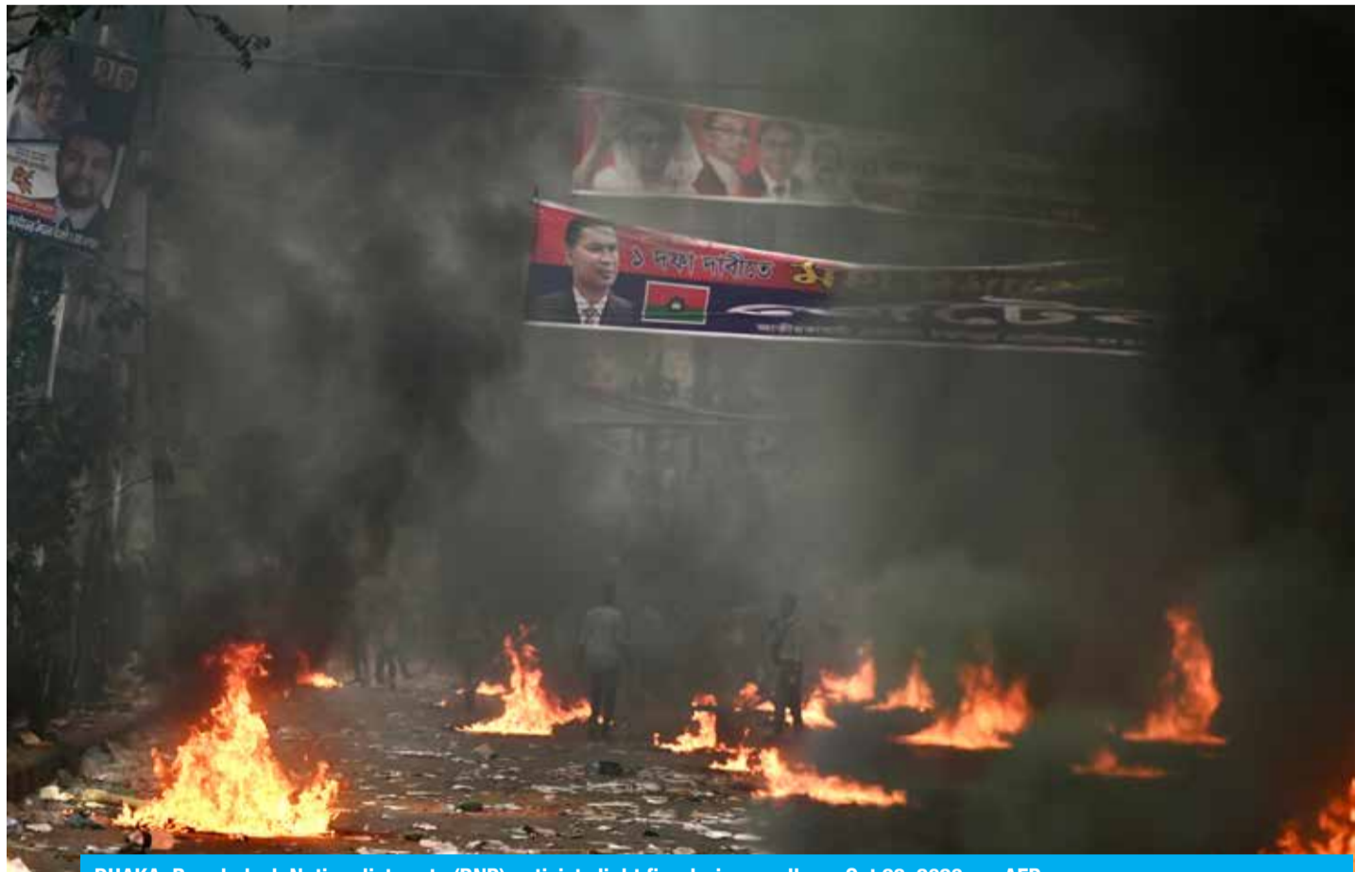
lice on Saturday said the officer had been hacked to death and accused BNP activists of the killing. Protesters and police clashed again on Sunday in multiple locations.

Violence has sparked international concern, with the United States on Saturday calling for "calm and restraint on all sides". The European Union on Sunday said it was "vital that a peaceful way forward for participatory and peaceful elections is found" in Bangladesh, the world's eighth most populous country with a population of around 170 million.

Hasina — the daughter of the country's founding leader — has been in power for 15 years and has overseen rapid economic growth in the Muslim-majority nation. Bangladesh has overtaken neighboring India in GDP per capita, but its inflation has risen and Hasina's government is accused of corruption and human rights abuses.

BNP party spokesman Zahir Uddin Swapan said that nearly 3,000 party activists and supporters had been detained in the past week, while Dhaka Metropolitan Police said at least 1,480 opposition activists had been arrested and charged with violence since October 21. They include nearly 700 people arrested during Saturday's protests.

Security on Sunday was tight in the capital with thousands of members of security forces patrolling the streets. But police in the northern district of Lalmonirhat said a youth leader in the ruling party was killed and several others injured during violent clashes between hundreds of opposition



DHAKA: Bangladesh Nationalist party (BNP) activists light fire during a rally on Oct 28, 2023. — AFP

and ruling party supporters. Opposition activists and police clashed in several rural districts as well as the industrial city of Narayanganj, police said. Officers fired rubber bullets and tear gas at the protesters after they burned tires on a road and

tried to vandalize vehicles, district police chief Golan Mostofa Russell told AFP. One officer was injured, police said, while local media reported two BNP protesters were also injured. Hasina's ruling Awami League dominates the legislature in Bangladesh

and runs it virtually as a rubber stamp. Her security forces are accused of detaining tens of thousands of opposition activists, killing hundreds in extrajudicial encounters and disappearing hundreds of leaders and supporters. — AFP

Macron says no need for gender neutral writing

VILLERS-COTTERETS: French President Emmanuel Macron waded into a culture war debate on Monday, saying France should "not give in to fashionable trends" as he appeared to back a bill to ban "inclusive language".

Hong Kong's main pro-democracy party shut out of elections

HONG KONG: No candidates from Hong Kong's main pro-democracy party will be allowed to contest upcoming local elections, the party said, after a new, Beijing-backed nomination process closed on Monday. Pro-democracy parties won the last district council elections in 2019 in a landslide, with the polls held at the peak of massive and at times violent protests calling for greater political freedoms.

Since then, Beijing has moved to quell dissent in the city, imposing a national security law and overhauling the electoral process in a way that allows it to weed out those considered disloyal to the Chinese government. The revamp, announced in May, slashed the number of directly elected seats in the district council from 452 to 88, with the government saying the move was meant to "exclude anti-China and

French is tricky for those trying to be strictly gender neutral since most nouns come in masculine and feminine forms. In the past, the masculine was used as the default, but increasingly people have started offering both versions, separated by dots or dashes, to be more inclusive — for example: "cher.e.s francais.e.s" (dear French).

The Senate was set to debate a proposed ban on this inclusive writing on Monday, put forward by right-wing lawmakers. Macron, who happened to be opening a museum to the French language on the same day, appeared to agree with them. "We must allow our language to live, but also keep its found-

destabilizing forces". The remaining seats are controlled by the city's leader, government loyalists and rural landlords. To stand for the 88 directly elected seats, candidates must undergo a strict two-week nomination process and receive the approval of at least nine members of three government-appointed committees within their constituency.

Critics, including the United States and European Union, see the revamp as further consolidating Beijing's authoritarian grip on the city. By Monday evening, the Democratic Party — the oldest and largest group in the pro-democracy camp — said all six of their candidates had "failed to secure sufficient nominations".

"Although some candidates received nominations from some of the three committees' members, they couldn't meet the requirement," said chairperson Lo Kin-hei. Of the 172 candidates who have applied to take part in December's elections, more than 70 percent were themselves members of the three committees, according to a tally kept by AFP.

More than a quarter of the candidates who successfully entered to stand in December's direct elections were from DAB, Hong Kong's largest pro-Beijing party, which declined to disclose how many of its

dations ... and not give in to fashionable trends," he said as he inaugurated the Cite Internationale de la Langue Francaise in northeastern France.

"In this language, the neutral form is provided by the masculine. We don't need to add dots in the middle of words to make it better understood," Macron added. The proposed law, whose title claims it will protect French against "the abuses of inclusive language", has been described as "retrograde" by left-wing politicians.

It aims to ban the use of such phrasing in education, and in all official texts ranging from work contracts to court documents to instruction manuals. It takes particular aim at the use of "iel" — a combina-

tion of "il" and "elle" (he and she) which has become popular to refer to people who are non-binary or whose gender is unknown.

Its backers argue a ban is actually more inclusive. Cedric Vial, of the right-wing Republicans, told AFP that disabled, illiterate and dyslexic people faced "additional difficulties" from the complex new rules of inclusive language. "To be inclusive, we actually need to simplify the language," he said. Socialist senator Yan Chantrel, by contrast, said it was "an unconstitutional, retrograde and reactionary bill, part of a long-standing conservative trend of fighting against the increased visibility of women." — AFP

party members were in the committees. Some centrist and pro-government groups, however, said they also faced difficulty getting their candidates past the committees. The Third Side, a small centrist group founded by serving legislator Tik Chi-yuen, withdrew from the process last Friday, saying it was impossible for its two candidates to secure nominations. Pro-government groups Path of Democracy and RoundTable both saw only one of their candidates pass muster at the nomination stage. RoundTable founder Michael Tien criticized nomination committee members, saying some "refused to even listen to us".

Path of Democracy leader Ronny Tong questioned whether the committees had been given too large a task. "I believe it's also very difficult for the three committees' members ... especially when this is the first election (after the overhaul)," Tong told AFP.

Kwok Wai-shing, a candidate with small pro-democracy party ADPL, said he has not been able to get any nominators to support him. "The system is asking me to get nominations from my rivals, would they do that?" he said. "The scale is tilted and people can see that clearly." City leader John Lee last week defended the election's "openness and fairness".



HONG KONG: Kwok Wai-shing canvasses for votes to compete for a seat in the coming district council poll in Hong Kong. — AFP

"The candidates (who haven't got any nominations) should study themselves and find out their problems," Lee said, adding that nominators had to consider if a candidate is "someone who loves China and Hong Kong". In 2021, more than 300 directly elected district council members resigned or were unseated by the government after the authorities demanded that they pledge loyalty to Beijing. — AFP

India vows to free ex-navy personnel...

Continued from Page 1

company that offers "complete support solutions" to the aerospace, security and defense sectors, according to its website.

The Hindu newspaper reported the men were spying for a "third country", while the Times of India has said that "various reports claimed they were accused of spying for (the Zionist entity)". The Zionist entity's government has not commented on the case. Meetu Bhargava, the sister of one of the men, dismissed the allegations. "My brother is 63 years old... Why would he spy for (the Zionist entity)? Why would he do anything like this at his age?" Bhargava was quoted as saying by the Indian Express daily.

Moscow blames outside forces...

Continued from Page 1

Russia's foreign ministry later singled out Kyiv. "The criminal Kyiv regime played a direct and key role in carrying out the latest destructive act," Russia's foreign affairs spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said. There was no immediate reaction from Kyiv to the allegations and Ukraine's foreign ministry did not immediately respond to an AFP request to comment.

Russia's Orthodox leader Patriarch Kirill also saw outside interference, condemning the violence as a bid to "sow discord" between Russia's Jews and Muslims. "I have no doubt that forces who provoked this incident will stop

She said she would seek the "personal intervention" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Last week, the Indian foreign ministry had said it would take up the verdict with Qatari authorities and would continue to "extend all consular and legal assistance" to the prisoners. Qatar rarely carries out executions, and the Gulf state has previously said a death sentence is equivalent to a life sentence. According to Amnesty International, the country executed one condemned Nepali migrant worker in 2020, after a 20-year hiatus.

New Delhi shares historically friendly ties with Doha, a key supplier of natural gas to India. More than two-thirds of Qatar's 2.8 million population are migrant workers, and many of them are Indian citizens. Qatar, which hosts a political bureau for Hamas and has provided financial aid to Gaza, has been linked to mediation efforts for a prisoner exchange between the Palestinian armed group and the Zionist entity. — AFP

at nothing to cause disorder in our country," the powerful cleric and Kremlin ally said. The same day of the airport riot, Russian state media reported that a Jewish center in another North Caucasus region — Kabardino-Balkaria — was set on fire. The mountainous North Caucasus has had a Jewish community for centuries. The day after the riot, AFP saw a police car with several officers outside Makhachkala's synagogue.

The violence also prompted the Zionist entity to call on Russia to protect its citizens and Jews. Outside a Moscow synagogue, people were shaken but unsurprised by the events, given rising global tensions over the conflict between the Zionist entity and Hamas. "Political events should not set fire to our common home," Ariel Razbegayev, the 37-year-old director of the Moscow Choral Synagogue, told AFP. Prominent figures in Dagestan have spoken in support of Palestine and against the Zionist entity since the Oct 7 Hamas attacks on the Zionist entity. — AFP

Ground battles raging in Gaza...

Continued from Page 1

and blocked the main north-south highway, "firing at any vehicle that tries to go along it", an eyewitness told AFP by phone. Air strikes also cratered the road and brought down buildings, residents said, before the tanks pulled back from the area.

The Zionist land forces were supported by heavy fire from fighter jets, drones and artillery that the army said had struck more than 600 targets within 24 hours, up sharply from 450 a day earlier. Hamas said it had fired anti-tank missiles at two Zionist armored vehicles. It also charged the Zionist entity was trying to present a "false image that its soldiers are present in the Gaza Strip interior, even though blows delivered by the resistance have prevented them".

Hamas also released a video of what it said were three women hostages, seated against a tile wall, although the time and place of the recording could not be verified. One woman was heard calling in an agitated tone for Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to agree to Hamas' proposed exchange of the hostages for Palestinian prisoners.

The more than 230 hostages are believed to be held in a giant network of underground tunnels where Hamas has hid its military infrastructure from Zionist surveillance and air attacks. The Zionist entity's foreign ministry confirmed the death of one of those missing — German-Zionist Shani Louk, 23, who was captured by Hamas fighters when they stormed a music festival in the desert.

Fear and desperation have spiraled in Gaza, un-

der weeks of siege that have cut off water, food, fuel and other essentials to the long-blockaded territory. The United Nations reported Sunday that civil order was starting to break down after "thousands of people" ransacked its warehouses looking for tinned food, flour, oil and hygiene supplies. Donkey carts were lining up to load water, as safe drinking water has become scarce, in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip.

According to the UN, all 10 hospitals in northern Gaza have received evacuation orders — despite sheltering thousands of patients and about 117,000 of the displaced. Among those being treated are intensive care patients, infants and elderly people on life support systems. The head of the World Health Organization said calls to evacuate Al-Quds hospital in Gaza City were "deeply concerning".

"We reiterate — it's impossible to evacuate hospitals full of patients without endangering their lives," Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus wrote on X. Mohamed Al-Talmas, who has taken shelter in Gaza's biggest hospital Al-Shifa, said "the ground shook" there with intense Zionist raids.

UN chief Antonio Guterres has warned the situation in Gaza is getting "more desperate by the hour" and warned against the "collective punishment" of Palestinians. US President Joe Biden stressed to Netanyahu that, while the Zionist entity has the right to defend itself, it must do so "in a manner consistent with international humanitarian law that prioritizes the protection of civilians".

Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and French President Emmanuel Macron earlier "stressed the importance of getting urgent humanitarian support" into Gaza. Limited aid has entered Gaza from Egypt under a US-brokered deal, but its volume, 117 trucks so far, has fallen far short of the hundreds of trucks a day aid agencies say are needed. — AFP

International

Election-related violence leaves 4 dead in Philippines

Police reports 30 confirmed incidents of violence linked to village polls

MANILA: At least four people were killed in the restive southern Philippines on Monday as millions turned out to vote for village leaders following months of deadly poll-related violence. Security forces were on high alert across the country for the long-delayed nationwide vote for more than 336,000 council positions.

While villages are the lowest-level government unit, the council posts are hotly contested because they are used by political parties to cultivate grassroots networks and build a support base for local and general elections. More than 300,000 police officers and soldiers were deployed to secure polling stations in over 42,000 villages.

In the capital Manila, voters waited in long lines to cast their ballots at schools being used as polling venues. "This is important for the people... we need to be able to consult someone over our problems," said Rosemarie Garcia in the hardscrabble neighborhood of Tondo. "We need somebody who is easily approachable to his or her constituents." Elections are a traditionally volatile time in the Philippines, which has lax gun laws and a violent political culture. Commission on Elections chairman George Garcia said voting had been "generally peaceful" except for several incidents on the southern island of Mindanao.

Two people were killed and five others were wounded outside a polling station in Maguindanao del Norte province, police said. The shootout happened during a confrontation between supporters of rival candidates for village captain, said Datu Odin Sinsuat municipality police chief Lieutenant-Colonel Esmail Madin.

In another incident on Mindanao, a woman was killed when a gunfight broke out after a van carry-

ing a village captain and her supporters was stopped on a road by people backing her rival in Lanao del Norte province, the army said. The husband of a village captain in Lanao del Sur province died after he was shot in the chest during a confrontation with his wife's rival, police said.

In 2009, before it was divided into two provinces, Maguindanao was the scene of the country's deadliest single incident of political violence on record. Fifty-eight people were massacred as gunmen allegedly working for a local warlord attacked a group of people to stop a rival from filing his election candidacy.

'Very important' result

In the run-up to Monday's vote, there were 30 confirmed incidents of election-related violence, compared with 35 in 2018, the Philippine National Police said Sunday, without providing an updated breakdown for the number of dead and injured.

About one-third of the incidents happened in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. Previous police data showed eight people were killed and seven injured in poll-related violence between August 28 and October 25.

More than 67 million people were registered to vote in the elections, which President Ferdinand Marcos described Monday as "very important" for higher-level politicians. "What happens here in the barangay (village)... are going to have an effect on the results of the mid-term elections and subsequently at the national elections," Marcos said after casting his vote in his family's stronghold of Batac City in the northern province of Ilocos Norte.



MANILA: People fill their ballot papers before casting their votes at a polling station during the nationwide village and youth representative elections on Oct 30, 2023. — AFP

"If other barangays tell you 'I will deliver 350 votes for you in my barangay', rest assured, you will get 350. That's why the result is very important." Polling stations were due to close at 3:00 pm (0700 GMT), but voting was extended in some places.

Vote counting was underway and results would be announced late Monday, said Garcia. Voters chose a village captain and seven councilors responsible for implementing national policies, resolving neighbor-

hood disputes and providing basic public services. Village councils also enable politicians to "disseminate funds and other favors to secure votes", said Maria Ela Atienza, a political science professor at the University of the Philippines. Village elections are supposed to be held every three years, but the last vote was in 2018. They were postponed by former president Rodrigo Duterte and then his successor Marcos on the grounds the government could not afford them. — AFP



BAMOBO: Residents of Bambo, 60 kilometers north of Goma, the capital of North Kivu, eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, flee as the M23 attacked the town on Oct 26, 2023. — AFP

Record 6.9 million internally displaced in DR Congo: UN

GENEVA: Escalating violence has pushed the number of people internally displaced within the Democratic Republic of Congo to a record 6.9 million, the United Nations said Monday.

The conflict between M23 rebels and militias loyal to the DRC's government has intensified in the eastern province of North Kivu since early October, particularly north of the provincial capital Goma. The UN's International Organization for Migration said many people who have fled their homes but stayed within the DRC's borders desperately needed help to meet their basic needs. "The IOM is intensifying its efforts to address the complex and persistent crisis in the DRC as the number of internally displaced people (IDPs) climbs to 6.9 million people across the country — the highest number recorded yet," it said in a statement. "With ongoing conflict and escalating violence, the DRC is facing one of the largest internal displacement and humanitarian crises in the world."

The M23, which has captured swathes of territory in the east since 2021, is one of several militias holding sway over much of the region despite the presence of international peacekeepers. The IOM said that as of October 2023, about 5.6 million internally displaced people were living in the eastern provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri, and Tanganyika. "Conflict has been reported as the primary reason for displacement," it said.

In North Kivu up to one million people have been displaced due to the ongoing conflict with the M23. Independent UN experts, the Kinshasa government and several Western nations including the United States and France accuse Rwanda of backing the Tutsi-led M23, which Kigali denies.

'Storm of crises'

"As the security situation, particularly in North Kivu and Ituri, continues to deteriorate, movements become more frequent and humanitarian needs soar," the IOM said. The UN's humanitarian agency OCHA says almost 200,000 people have fled their homes because of the fighting since October 1 in Rutshuru and Masisi territory, north of Goma, exacerbating the humanitarian crisis in eastern DRC.

"For decades, the Congolese people have been living through a storm of crises," said Fabien Sambussy, the IOM's DRC mission chief. "The most recent escalation of the conflict has uprooted more people in less time like rarely seen before. We urgently need to deliver help to those most in need." The IOM said that on top of the large-scale humanitarian crisis in the east, other regions have experienced conflict, insecurity, and disasters such as floods and landslides. More than two-thirds of the DRC's internally displaced people live with host families.

The IOM is involved in managing 78 displacement sites hosting more than 280,000 people and is enhancing mental health services for residents facing psychological distress. "But many more people desperately require assistance to meet their basic needs," it said. Only \$37 million has been received of the \$100 million sought by the IOM for its DRC operations. The organization wants "increased resources to meet the most pressing needs of communities affected by protracted and repeated internal displacement". — AFP

At least 13 dead in India train crash

NEW DELHI: At least 13 people were killed and around 50 injured when two trains collided in southeast India, officials said on Monday, updating an earlier toll of eight. The accident occurred late Sunday after one of the passenger trains overshot a signal between the towns of Alamanda and Kantakapalle in Andhra Pradesh state. A preliminary investigation found that "human error" had led to the collision, the railway ministry said in a statement. "Thirteen passengers have been killed and 50 others are injured. Rescue operations are going on," top local government official Nagalakshmi S. told reporters. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he had spoken with the country's railway minister about the "unfortunate" derailment. "Authorities are providing all possible assistance to those affected," Modi wrote on social media. India has one of the world's largest rail networks and has seen several disasters over the years, the worst in 1981 when a train derailed while crossing a bridge in Bihar state, killing an estimated 800 people. In June, a three-train collision killed nearly 300 people in Odisha state. — AFP



VIZIANAGARAM: Members of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) conduct rescue operation at the site of the train crash. — AFP

Italy plays up 'good colonizer' myth as it turns to Africa

ROME: Italy's government is eyeing Africa in pursuit of energy security, even as some officials defend Rome's often-bloody colonial past on the continent — giving short shrift to historical accuracy. Historians agree that hundreds of thousands of civilians were killed under Italian colonial rule in Libya, Ethiopia, Eritrea and what is now Somalia from the late 19th century to the first half of the 20th.

Yet Italy's deputy foreign minister, Edmondo Cirielli, said in June that the country's presence on the continent was "civilizing", without bloodshed or repression. "Whether before or during Fascism ... (Italy) in Africa built and created a civilizing culture" in its colonies, said Cirielli, a member of Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's post-Fascist Brothers of Italy party, borrowing the "good colonizers" myth popular on the far right.

"Our ancient and thousand-year-old culture does not make us a people of pirates who go around plundering the world," Cirielli said, in comments that raised eyebrows among historians and the left-wing opposition. Unlike Germany reconciling with its Nazi past or France with its occupation of Algeria, Italy has been slow to embark on public soul-searching about its colonial history. But opposition lawmakers have now drafted a bill to establish a "Day of Remembrance for the victims of Italian colonialism" in the four African countries. The suggested date is February 19, which marks the start of a massacre of Ethiopian civilians by Italian troops in Addis Ababa in 1937.

"Other countries such as Belgium and Germany have apologized for the crimes of colonialism," said Laura Boldrini, an MP for the center-left Democratic Party who co-authored the bill. "In Italy, we tend to deny and tell ourselves that 'Italy, good people' built roads, hospitals and schools," she said.

Boldrini, a former head of the lower house of parliament, said right-wing newspapers had written disparaging articles about the text, "and this government does not take colonial crimes seriously". The bill has little chance of being adopted given the opposition of Meloni's coalition, which has a parliamentary majority.

Alessandro Pes, a professor of contemporary history at the University of Cagliari, said the "stereotype of the 'good colonizer' has no significant historical foundation". Rather, that rhetoric "hid a desire for colonial expansion carried out through the use of violence and the forced subordination of colonized populations", said Pes. — AFP



ISLAMABAD: Afghan refugee children attend a class at Estiqlal Lycee High School in Islamabad on Oct 30, 2023. — AFP

Pakistani schools for Afghans close as deportations loom

ISLAMABAD: Schools teaching Afghan children in Pakistan began to close on Monday as families went into hiding ahead of a deportation deadline. Islamabad has launched an unprecedented crackdown on the 1.7 million Afghans it says live illegally in Pakistan, giving a Wednesday deadline before mass arrests begin. For some Afghan girls in Pakistan, the school closures could mean the end of lessons for the foreseeable future, as they face being forced to return to a country where they are barred from a secondary education under the Taliban government. "We came here to be educated, to have a good life," said 16-year-old Nargis Rezaei, who arrived in Pakistan with her family after the Taliban surged back to power in August 2021. "Every Afghan doesn't want to go back to Afghanistan," she said. "(Girls) don't have freedom at all." Five schools in the capital Islamabad and adjacent city Rawalpindi that taught Afghan children in their national language were set to temporarily shut after Monday's lessons ended, a senior teacher told AFP on condition of anonymity. The schools had catered to around 2,000 students.

Teachers said a police roundup was targeting undocumented Afghans, as well as affecting legally resident migrants, making students afraid to leave their homes and meaning attendance had dropped by two-thirds, forcing closures. "We teach here in an atmosphere of fear and tension, that the police may come and take us away," said female mathematics educator Gity Wakilzda. "We are scared and living a very hard life," said the 35-year-old from Kabul.

'Schools closing here too'

The United Nations (UN) says at least 600,000 Afghan migrants have arrived in Pakistan since the Taliban takeover. Since then, Pakistan's security has deteriorated with an increase in attacks it blames on militants operating from Afghanistan, a situation it accuses Kabul of failing to stymie.

From Wednesday, authorities will arrest undocumented Afghans and take them to processing centers set up around the country, from where they will be sent to the border to be deported. The Taliban government has called the eviction of Afghan refugees "unfair and unjust". Thousands of Afghans — some of whom have lived for decades in Pakistan or were born in the country — have begun to return voluntarily. But the UN this weekend warned forcible returns could be "a human rights catastrophe", with women and girls at particular risk.

Since seizing power, Afghanistan's Taliban government has imposed a strict interpretation of Islamic law which largely excludes women from public life. Teenage girls and women are barred from schools, parks and gyms, and thousands have lost their government jobs. "I am heartbroken," said 24-year-old Medina Ibrahim, whose nephews attended one of the schools that will close from Tuesday. "We moved here to Pakistan so that our children can get an education but schools are closing here too." — AFP

Business

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2023

Drought and shrinking herds push US beef prices through the roof

Herds have dwindled by 10% over the last five years

NEW YORK: A prolonged drought is shrinking live-stock herds and driving beef prices to record highs in the US, even as consumption is growing stronger. These days, Mary Skinner is finding it harder to get her daily meat intake.

"I have extreme need for protein and I need to eat meat that my doctor ordered," said the 69-year-old shopper outside Grand Central Market, in New York. "I used to be able to sometimes buy ribeye steak but... I'm now eating a lot more ground beef." The headline rate of inflation has slowed in recent months, with a 3.7 percent reading in September, year over year. But steak is still riding high, up 9.7 percent, according to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The average price for this American staple has risen 27 percent over the last three years. "It's gotten to a point where I've started buying more things that can be slow-cooked, because from a price perspective, you're getting more affordable stuff," said another patron, who declined to share his name.

While inflation has been a dominant theme over the last couple years, beef is on a trajectory of its own. Though America is often seen as home to giant herds and sprawling ranches, it is short of cattle. "We're at the lowest beef cattle numbers since the 1960s," said Scott Brown, a specialist in farm and livestock issues at the University of Missouri. Herds have dwindled by 10 percent over the last five years, according to the US Department of Agriculture (USDA). "The primary driver has really been drought in many parts of cattle country. That's been a multi-year event," said Brown.

He dates the decline back to the autumn of 2020. Pastures have decreased in size due to the lack of rainfall. Faced with less grazing land and skyrocketing hay prices, ranchers have dramatically reduced their herds. "You look at 2022, that was the highest beef cow slaughter that we've seen since the early 1980s," said Ross Baldwin, a hedge strategist at AgMarket.Net.

The contraction since then was amplified when hundreds of cattle succumbed to brutally hot and humid weather in August. Genetic selection has helped make up for some of the loss by improving output. "We're more productive today. We don't need as many beef cows today as we needed 10 years ago to generate a given level of production," Scott Brown said.



COLD SPRINGS, US: Cattle are seen at the ranch belonging to Dave Stix in Fernley, Nevada, on June 30, 2023. A prolonged drought is shrinking livestock herds and driving beef prices to record highs in the US, even as consumption is growing stronger. — AFP

But meantime, demand for red meat has increased.

In 2022, Americans ate, on average, 59.1 pounds or 26.8 kilograms of beef, slightly up from 2021. Beef consumption has increased by nearly 10 percent since 2015, per USDA's numbers. In this tight market, cattle prices have more than doubled since March 2020 (up 133 percent). Incentivized by record prices, many breeders are parting with their heifers earlier, which prevents the herd from growing, according to Baldwin.

"We are a year out from starting to see meaningful

heifer retention," he said. "And when you start retaining heifers, those heifers are still three years out from when the herd starts really increasing in size across the country." On top of it, holding on to female calves for breeding "means even less beef production and even higher price short-term, because those cattle aren't entering the beef production stream," said David Anderson, a livestock-market specialist at Texas A&M University. Another challenge is finding pastures to accommodate growing herds.

"The Southeast part of the US has seen some dry weather, but not as dry as the rest of the country," said Brown. "Could beef cows move there as another way to generate a bigger national herd? Those kinds of shifts could try to happen." The USDA forecasts a further decrease in beef production for 2024. From then on, Baldwin warned, "you will see retail prices be extremely firm. And ultimately it'll force the consumer to choose if they want to continue paying those high prices." — AFP



LONDON: The UK government will welcome foreign political leaders, tech industry figures, academics and others this week for a two-day summit billed as the first of its kind on artificial intelligence (AI).

Biden to unveil 'sweeping' action to reduce AI risks

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden will unveil "sweeping" action on Monday aimed at regulating the use of artificial intelligence, the White House said, in an effort to reduce risks associated with the emerging technology. The White House said Biden would sign an executive order setting new safety standards for AI systems and requiring developers to share results of safety tests with the US government.

The order will also seek to protect against the risk of AI being used to develop dangerous biological materials, and stop it from being used to defraud con-

sumers. The order marks "the most sweeping actions ever taken to protect Americans from the potential risks of AI systems," the White House said in a statement. Vice President Kamala Harris is set to travel to the UK this week for a global leaders' gathering on AI, alongside other foreign politicians, tech industry figures and academics.

The gathering—which will focus on growing fears about the implications of so-called frontier AI—will also be attended by UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, EU chief Ursula von der Leyen and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. Frontier AI, the most advanced generation of AI models so far, has prompted concerns around everything from job losses and cyber attacks to humankind losing control of the very systems it created. Sunak and other leaders have increasingly joined the industry itself in arguing that current knowledge and regulation of frontier AI is likely insufficient for the challenges it will pose. — AFP

Britain prepares to host global gathering on AI

LONDON: The UK government will welcome foreign political leaders, tech industry figures, academics and others this week for a two-day summit billed as the first of its kind on artificial intelligence (AI). The gathering, set to be attended by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, US Vice President Kamala Harris, EU chief Ursula von der Leyen and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, will focus on growing fears about the implications of so-called frontier AI. The most advanced generation of AI models, they have prompted concerns around everything from job losses and cyber attacks to humans losing control of the systems they have designed.

Sunak and other leaders have increasingly joined the industry itself in arguing current knowledge and regulation of frontier AI is likely insufficient for the challenges it will pose. "My vision, and our ultimate goal, should be to work towards a more international approach to safety where we collaborate with partners to ensure AI systems are safe before they are released," the British leader said in a speech earlier this week. "We will push hard to agree the first ever international statement about the nature of these risks," he added, proposing the creation of an international expert panel similar to one formed for climate change.

London, which initiated the gathering, has insisted it is taking the lead on AI at the behest of US President Joe Biden, and because the two countries have some of the leading companies in the sector. But it has reportedly been forced to scale back its ambitions around certain ideas, such as launching a new regulatory body, amid a perceived lack of enthusiasm.

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni is one of

the only world leaders flying in for the conference, which starts on Wednesday. Sunak's spokesman told reporters this week that "getting all the right people around the table to discuss this important issue" represented "an enormous achievement in itself". The summit will be held at a deliberately symbolic location: Bletchley Park, where top British code-breakers cracked Nazi Germany's "Enigma" code, helping to hasten the end of World War II. From smartphones to airports, AI is already ubiquitous in everyday life, but its progress has accelerated in recent years with the development of technologies such as the ChatGPT conversational robot.

"It's clear to me that what's going to happen in this year, in these next two, three years, in 200 years, (is that) historians will have a name for this period," Aldo Faisal, an AI and neuroscience professor, said at a briefing this month. While the potential of AI raises many hopes, particularly for medicine, its development is seen as largely unchecked.

In his speech, Sunak warned AI did have the potential to destroy thousands of jobs in various sectors, including the arts and media, alongside cyber, disinformation and fraud threats. He stressed the need for countries to develop "a shared understanding of the risks that we face", which is currently lacking. However, the lack of world leaders, particularly from G7 countries, has dominated discussion of the summit in Britain. Sunak's spokesman insisted "the right group of countries, the right businesses" would be present. China will be present, but it is unclear at what level. News website Politico reported London invited President Xi Jinping, to signify its eagerness for a senior representative. Beijing's invitation has raised eyebrows amid heightened tensions with Western nations and accusations of technological espionage. Sunak has said a "serious strategy" requires "all of the world's leading AI powers" being engaged. Although the UK sees itself as the driving force behind international cooperation on AI, its emphasis on potential disasters has dismayed some players in the sector. — AFP

UK to hasten North Sea oil exploration

LONDON: Britain on Monday awarded 27 new licenses for oil and gas exploration in the North Sea as it seeks to quickly boost energy security, but the announcement angered environmentalists.

The Conservative government has argued that drilling for new oil and gas is necessary to bolster Britain's energy security after Ukraine's invasion by Russia—a key producer of fossil fuels—sent energy prices soaring on tightened supplies. Monday's news meanwhile comes after Prime Minister Rishi Sunak recently softened policies aimed at the UK achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050, specifically delaying a ban on the sale of petrol and diesel cars by five years to 2035.

The North Sea Transition Authority (NSTA), a UK regulator, said the 27 new licences were in priority areas, seen as having the potential to go into production more quickly than others.

"It's common sense to reduce our reliance on foreign imports and use our own supply—it's better for our economy, the environment and our energy security," Energy Security Secretary Claire Coutinho said in a statement revealing the new licenses. Philip Evans, climate campaigner for Greenpeace UK, said it planned legal action against the awards. "Greenpeace plans to fight these licenses in the courtroom," he said in a separate statement. Allowing the exploration would allow energy companies to "profit while we get colder and poorer, and the UK turns into a nation that's fuelling the climate crisis rather than helping to fix it", he added. — AFP

Oil sinks on easing fears of Mideast war

LONDON: World oil prices sank Monday as traders hoped a region-wide conflict could still be avoided. European equities rose as the sliding oil market lifted hopes that the US Federal Reserve and the Bank of England will opt for no-change when they announce their latest interest-rate decisions on Wednesday and Thursday respectively. Crude futures pared Friday's near three percent gains as Zionist entity's military continued air and ground operations in Gaza.

"Oil prices are coming under pressure... despite an intensification of the Zionist entity-Hamas war," said Tickmill analyst James Harte. Despite Zionist entity stepping up its advances into Gaza, "for now markets appear to be looking beyond the reports on the view that the conflict looks likely to remain contained. "Although this view is keeping oil prices lower for now, the situation remains highly volatile and any sign of the conflict spilling over into a wider Middle East conflict should see oil prices firmly bid," said Harte.

Instead of a broad offensive, officials have currently opted for targeted attacks on a day-to-day basis, tempering worries of an all-out war that could drag in Iran and even the United States. In Asian stock market trade, Tokyo fell one percent, while Sydney, Jakarta and Wellington were also in the red.

On the upside, Shanghai, Seoul, Mumbai, Singapore, Taipei and Bangkok rose while Hong Kong was marginally higher. "It's a big week for interest rate decisions," said AJ Bell investment director Russ Mould. Both the Fed and the BoE "are expected to keep rates unchanged, which should provide some relief to investors, although much of the focus will be on commentary about the path for rates going into



Business

Free trade deal between EU and Australia collapses

Row over market access for Australian beef and lamb

BRUSSELS: Trade deal negotiations between European Union and Australia have collapsed despite earlier optimism, with the two sides exchanging blame on Monday for their failure. Since 2018, the painstaking discussions have picked through everything from chemicals to cosmetics, but have repeatedly come unstuck over market access for Australian farm products such as beef and lamb.

In July, the two parties failed to reach a deal during talks in Brussels, with Australia saying it had not been guaranteed "significant" access to the European market for its agricultural products.

The talks' collapse will be a major disappointment to the EU, which is seeking to push through ambitious free trade agreements with major world markets, including India and the Latin American nations in the Mercosur bloc. Australia's agriculture minister Murray Watt said on Monday that EU negotiators had refused to budge during the latest round of talks, held on the sidelines of a Group of Seven meeting in Japan.

"Unfortunately we just didn't get the movement on the EU side that was required," he told national broadcaster ABC. Watt said it was unlikely talks would resume during "this current term of parliament" — indicating the Australian government may not return to the negotiating table until after the 2025 general election.

"I think it will be quite some time before any Australian government or any EU leadership is able to negotiate a deal. And that's a bit of a shame," Watt added. The EU's trade commissioner, Valdis Dombrovskis, in turn appeared to blame Australia, suggesting Canberra backtracked on previous

commitments. "Unfortunately, our Australian partners were not able to engage on the basis of previously identified landing zones," he said.

Dombrovskis insisted Brussels had presented "a commercially-meaningful agricultural market access offer" to Canberra. "The European Commission remains open to continue negotiations," he added.

A European Commission spokesperson said Australia had "re-tabled agricultural demands that did not reflect recent negotiations".

Beef over meat

"To move forward, we need more realistic expectations and a balanced approach that fully respects the viability of our farmers and the sustainability of our food system," the EU's agriculture commissioner Janusz Wojciechowski said on social media. Last week, French trade minister Olivier Becht flagged a "number of very positive advances", raising hopes that an agreement would be reached. The two sides have tussled over how far Europe should prise open its markets to Australia's lamb, beef and sugar exports.

Another issue for Australia was over EU geographic indicators on products like feta, parmesan and Prosecco, but EU officials said there had been compromises offered so that Australian producers could continue using the terms under certain conditions.

At the same time, Europe wants better access to Australia's rich deposits of "critical minerals", easing its reliance on Russia and China for the key ingredients in clean-energy products such as



In this photo taken on October 18, 2023, a container ship sails out of Port Botany located in Sydney, Australia. — AFP

wind turbines and electric car batteries. A deal would have offered trade diversification opportunities to both sides.

Australia is keen to open up export markets for

its farm and mining products to reduce reliance on China. The EU is Australia's third-biggest trading partner after China and Japan. Australia is the EU's 18th-biggest trading partner. — AFP

Gulf Bank attracts young talents at Watheefti exhibition

KUWAIT: As part of its unwavering dedication to nurturing young talents and attracting the best Kuwaiti candidates, Gulf Bank successfully concluded its sponsorship and active participation in the second edition of the "Watheefti" exhibition. The event was held under the patronage of the Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Dr. Adel Al-Mane, over a period of three days, at the Arena in 360 Mall.

Representatives from Gulf Bank illuminated the core principles of banking, offering comprehensive insights to attendees actively seeking employment. They provided detailed explanations about the banking sector, shedding light on the career development opportunities extended to Gulf Bank's workforce. Gulf Bank's pavilion at the exhibition witnessed a significant turnout from individuals keen on understanding the bank's diverse departments and the dynamic banking environment it fosters. Many attendees took the opportunity to submit their job applications to Gulf

Bank, drawn by the bank's outstanding reputation as one of Kuwait's foremost employers, particularly appealing to the country's young workforce.

Salma Al-Hajjaj, the General Manager of Human Resources at Gulf Bank, emphasized the bank's unwavering commitment to attracting young talents from diverse fields. She acknowledged the younger generation's exceptional capacity to adapt to modern trends, innovations, and rapid technological advancements in the banking sector, both on a local and global scale. Al-Hajjaj highlighted Gulf Bank's dedication to solidifying its position as a forward-thinking financial institution, a commitment that is in alignment with their strategic vision for 2025.

Participating in career fairs, she stated, provides genuine opportunities for companies to engage with promising talents, aiding them in making pivotal decisions related to their career trajectories and future endeavors. Al-Hajjaj also highlighted Gulf Bank's support for Kuwait's vision, particularly its focus on increasing private sector employment and nurturing the development of Kuwaiti youth. This dedication is reflected in Gulf Bank's impressive track record, with national employment rates reach-

ing 78 percent in 2022. According to Al-Hajjaj, Gulf Bank recognizes that its employees are the foundation of its success and the key to its excellence. Consequently, the bank continuously refines its work methods and systems, empowering its workforce to excel and elevate their professional journeys. Gulf Bank remains a preferred employer for both existing staff and potential candidates.

Emphasizing the bank's commitment to nurturing future leaders, Al-Hajjaj shared Gulf Bank's pride in being one of the leading institutions that generously invests in human capital. The bank offers extensive training and professional certifications in partnership with globally renowned organizations, ensuring young talents acquire the necessary skills and expertise vital for navigating the profound changes in the banking industry. Gulf Bank's vision is to be the leading Kuwaiti Bank of the Future. The Bank is constantly engaging and empowering its employees as part of an inclusive and diversified workplace in recognition of every employee's role in delivering customer excellence and serving the community at large. With its extensive network of branches and innovative digital services, Gulf Bank is able to give its customers the choice of



Gulf Bank successfully concludes its sponsorship and active participation in the second edition of the "Watheefti" exhibition.

how and where to conduct their banking transactions, all while ensuring a simple and seamless banking experience.

Gulf Bank is committed to maintaining robust developments in sustainability at environmental, social and governance

levels through diverse sustainability initiatives, strategically selected to benefit the Bank both internally and externally. Gulf Bank supports Kuwait Vision 2035 "New Kuwait" and works with various parties to achieve it.



Germany's gross domestic product (GDP) adjusted for price, season and calendar decreased 0.1 percent in the third quarter of 2023 in comparison to the previous three-month period, the country's Federal Statistical Office Destatis said in a preliminary report released on Monday.

German economy shrinks slightly in third quarter

FRANKFURT: German output shrank slightly in the third quarter, official data published Monday showed, as high interest rates, elevated energy costs and a manufacturing slowdown continued to batter Europe's largest economy.

The economy contracted by 0.1 percent quarter-on-quarter, federal statistics agency Destatis said in preliminary figures, dragged down by lower household spending. Analysts surveyed by FactSet had predicted a sharper contraction of 0.2 percent. More surprisingly, Destatis said revised data showed the economy stagnated in the first quarter and did not shrink as previously thought, meaning Germany dodged a technical recession of two consecutive quarters of contraction around the turn of the year.

The agency also updated its second-quarter figure, saying output

grew by 0.1 percent instead of showing zero growth as earlier data had suggested.

Germany's performance so far this year has been "a little better than we had feared", said LBBW economic Jens-Oliver Niklasch. But it does not "change the overall picture", he said. "Germany's economy is more or less treading water."

The German economy has faced severe headwinds since Russia's invasion of Ukraine last year sent inflation, particularly the cost of energy, soaring. The resulting slowdown in the energy-hungry manufacturing sector has been compounded by weakness in key trading partner China and aggressive eurozone rate hikes aimed at taming runaway consumer prices.

The third-quarter contraction keeps Germany on track to end the year in recession, with many analysts expecting another drop in gross domestic product over the final three months of 2023. Following a slew of underwhelming data since the start of October, "it seems likely that GDP will decline again in the fourth quarter", said Capital Economics economist Andrew Kenningham. — AFP



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

Invitation to subscribe to the share capital increase of

GULF BANK K.S.C.P.

Gulf Bank K.S.C.P. would like to remind Eligible Shareholders and Pre-emption Right Holders to subscribe to the increase of the Bank's share capital.

Offering Shares	260,869,565 ordinary shares
Offering Price	230 fils per share (nominal value of 100 fils and issuance premium of 130 fils)
Total Value of the Offering	KD 60,000,000
Subscription Period	Commences on Sunday 29 October 2023 (inclusive) and ends on Sunday 12 November 2023 at 1:00pm
Pre-emptive Rights Trading Period	Commences on Sunday 29 October 2023 (inclusive) and ends on Sunday 5 November 2023 (inclusive)
Eligible Subscribers	Shareholders who are recorded in the shareholder register of the Issuer as at close of Record Date (26 October 2023) and the holders of the Pre-emption Rights who have obtained such rights before the end of Pre-emption Right trading period
Entitled Shares	Eligible Shareholders will be entitled to 776 Issue Shares for every 10,000 existing shares held.
To Subscribe	www.ipo.com.kw
For More Information	<p>Kamco Invest Email: gbcik@kamcoinvest.com Tel.: (965) 2233 6983 / 2233 6976</p> <p>Gulf Bank Email: gbcik@gulfbank.com.kw Tel.: (965) 2208 2588 / 2208 2565</p>

Joint Lead Manager and Subscription Agent

Joint Lead Manager and Subscription Agent

KAMCO INVEST



To access the prospectus and other related documents



This is for promotional purpose and does not omit any essential information related to the investment in the subject financial security. For further details on any such risk factors, please refer to the downloadable/printable version of the Prospectus relating to the offering on the Issuer and Joint Lead Manager and Subscription Agent's website (www.gulfbank.com), or Joint Lead Manager and Subscription Agent's website (www.kamcoinvest.com), or Boursa Kuwait's website (www.boursakuwait.com.kw). The terms and conditions in the Prospectus and the Subscription Application Form shall apply. You are hereby advised to read and understand the contents of the Prospectus or to seek the advice of an advisor licensed by law and which specializes in advising on the subscription and the risks thereto prior to making a decision to subscribe. The Kuwait Capital Markets Authority or any regulatory organization in the State of Kuwait shall not bear any liability for the contents of this announcement or its accuracy, nor did they approve its contents or verify the validity and accuracy of any of the information contained herein, and will not be liable for any loss arising from reliance on any part of this announcement. It is recommended to consult an investment advisor.

Business

NBK ECONOMIC REPORT

Kuwait population hits 4.82 million

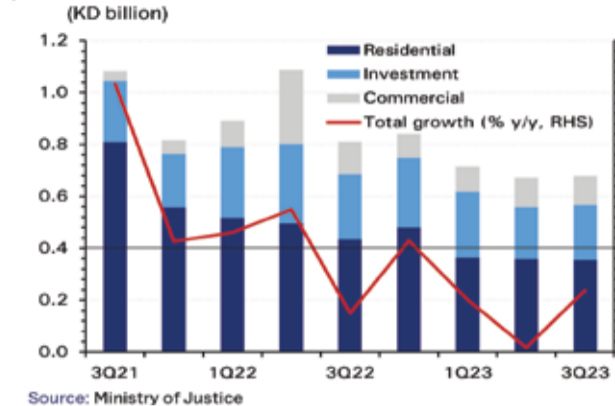
Project awards gather momentum • Oil prices gain in Q3

Table 1: Population (period-end)

	Population (period-end, '000)			% y/y		
	Kuwaiti	Non-Kuwaiti	Total	Kuwaiti	Non-Kuwaiti	Total
Dec-19	1,432	3,344	4,776	2.1	3.9	3.3
Dec-20	1,460	3,211	4,671	2.0	-4.0	-2.2
Jun-21	1,473	3,154	4,628	1.8	-3.5	-1.8
Dec-21	1,489	2,897	4,386	2.0	-9.8	-6.1
Jun-22	1,502	2,962	4,464	2.0	-6.1	-3.5
Dec-22	1,518	3,219	4,737	1.9	11.1	8.0
Jun-23	1,531	3,293	4,824	1.9	11.1	8.0

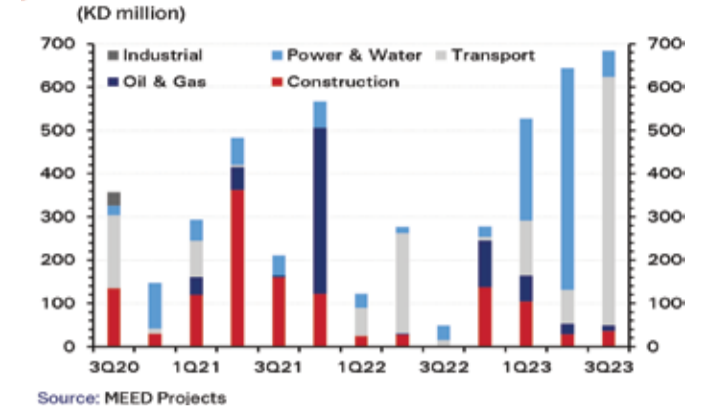
Source: PACI

Chart 3: Real estate sales



Source: Ministry of Justice

Chart 4: Project awards



Source: MEED Projects

KUWAIT: Kuwait's total population reached 4.82 million in H1 2023 (+8 percent y/y), finally topping its pre-pandemic level, on a steady but slowing rise in the number of Kuwaitis (+1.9 percent to 1.53 million) and a more marked gain in the number of expatriates (+11 percent y/y to 3.3 million), according to test demographic data from the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI).

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti employment increased 2.9 percent y/y in H1 to 462K, with the public sector adding 8.2K (net) employees and the private sector shedding 1.3K (net) positions to 73K. The number of expat workers (excluding domestic workers) grew by a substantial 13 percent y/y in H1, in line with the post-pandemic improvement in the economy. This has helped resolve some of the labor shortages witnessed in the aftermath of the pandemic. The number of domestic workers, however, rose at an even faster 16 percent y/y.

Kuwait's non-oil economic activity has continued to moderate in recent months, according to various sector-level indicators. Growth in consumer spending and domestic credit has slowed following strong performances last year, while the stock market dropped in Q3 as investors worldwide worried about the impact of 'higher for longer' interest rates. On a more positive note, project awards continued to trend higher in Q3 – boding for stronger investment spending next year – and there are signs that real estate activity is stabilizing after previous falls. Meanwhile, higher oil prices will boost the fiscal position and provide more space for infrastructure investment.

Oil prices were lifted in Q3 by tighter market fundamentals and, in October, by the return of the geopolitical risk premium as the world focused on the unfolding crisis in Gaza and potential regional escalation. On the domestic political front, ahead of the start of the new parliamentary session at the end of October, the government submitted a plan of its legislative priorities. In accordance with the government's 4-year economic framework outlined in July, the priorities include: development of the northern region; the corporate tax law; the residency law; amendments to tender laws; and the real estate financing and mortgage laws. Parliament, for its part, is expected to prioritize bills to reform the strategic alternative (i.e. public wages structure), pensions and real estate financing laws. The extent to which the

two branches of the political system find common ground on these and other reforms will determine the degree of progress on key economic diversification and fiscal sustainability objectives.

Oil surges in Q3

Oil prices surged in Q3, boosted by OPEC+'s extensive production cuts and better-than-expected global oil consumption data. Kuwait Export Crude stood at \$98/bbl at the end of the quarter, up 26 percent from end June. Prices suffered a sharp 11 percent pullback in the first week of October on profit-taking and renewed global recession worries, before the conflict in Gaza pushed prices back up as the risk premium resurfaced. KEC stood at \$94/bbl at mid-month.

Global oil supplies are expected to remain tight in Q4 2023 while Saudi and Russia continue to drive OPEC+ cuts. For Kuwait, crude production has hovered at around 2.55mb/d during May-August, largely in line with its reduced OPEC+ quota versus 2.68 mb/d pre-May. However, the lower target has been challenging for Kuwait, as the country looks to maximize use of the steadily ramping-up 650 kb/d Al-Zour refinery in order to supply low-sulphur diesel/gasoline and fuel oil to international markets and for which it needs additional crude. That has had to come by redirecting crude otherwise meant for export.

Consumer spending

Kuwait's consumer spending growth has continued to trend softer following its exceptional post-pandemic surge. Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) data showed growth in credit and debit card transactions easing to 7.8 percent y/y in Q2 2023, down from 13 percent in Q1. The slowdown takes place against a background of higher borrowing costs and an uncertain global macroeconomic backdrop. While there could be more moderation ahead, the consumer outlook for 2024 should be supported by expectations of steady (or even slightly falling) interest rates next year as well as expansionary government spending.

Real estate sales stood at KD 678 million in Q3 2023, down 16 percent y/y but slightly up on the quarter. Residential sector sales (KD 355 million) fell again, but at 18 percent y/y recorded the slowest decline since Q4 2022. Investment sector sales

(apartments and apartment blocks) rose 6 percent q/q to KD 212 million, while commercial sales, at KD 111 million, fell 2 percent q/q. The Q3 data has taken overall point to a more stable market following the declines seen in previous quarters. This is particularly so given what could have been usual seasonal weakness in sales through the summer period. Sales have previously been pressured by high property valuations (affecting residential demand), higher borrowing costs and by investors taking a 'wait and see' approach on near-term economic conditions.

Our calculations based on Ministry of Justice data show price increases in the residential sector remaining generally flat (0.2 percent y/y) in Q3 2023, while prices in the investment segment continue to fall slightly (-3.1 percent y/y).

Project awards

Encouragingly, project awards continued to gather momentum in Q3, with the value of contracts awarded rising 6 percent q/q to KD 683 million. This was the largest quarterly figure since Q3 2018. Admittedly, 83 percent of this was related to just two transport sector projects. But with KD 1.86 billion worth of contracts signed in Q1-Q3, 2023 is shaping up to be the best year since 2017. While the Al-Zour Petrochemicals project and government capex spending is uncertain – the budget called for a 15 percent cut in outlays – the outlook for awards remains positive, especially with oil prices (and thus fiscal spending) expected to remain elevated. The resumption of expatriate inflows in 2023 post-pandemic can also be interpreted as a sign of improving projects activity. MEED Projects expects KD 3 billion in contract awards in the next two quarters, mostly concentrated in the power and water sectors.

Inflation moderate, but stable

Consumer price inflation has been broadly steady in recent months, standing at 3.7 percent y/y in September, albeit up from 3.3 percent at the start of the year. Core inflation (ie excluding food and housing) has also edged up but is lower than the headline rate at 3.4 percent.

While year-on-year inflation has remained steady at around this level since March, price growth at the quarterly level eased in Q3, to 0.5

percent q/q from 0.9 percent in Q2 and 1.1 percent in Q1. Prices in the housing services (mostly rents) category, the largest component by weight, rose by 3.1 percent y/y in September, while price growth in the food & beverages category softened to a three-year low (+5.7 percent y/y), in line with easing global food price inflation. A combination of base effects, softer credit growth and normalizing consumer spending growth should see the headline rate slow further towards 3.0 percent by year-end.

Credit growth still slowing

2023 has been a weak year for domestic credit growth, barely expanding in the year-to-August (+0.4 percent ytd) and slowing to 2.2 percent y/y, a multi-year low. Business credit inched up by just 0.2 percent ytd (+0.3 percent y/y) and household credit by 0.9 percent through August (+3.0 percent y/y). The latter, after a very slow start to the year, has picked up, posting in August its third decent month in four. Higher interest rates, less bank price competition and normalizing growth following a very strong 2022 are some of the factors behind the weak performance so far this year. Lending growth is unlikely to improve in H2 2023 as, historically, H2 tends to be weaker than H1.

Meanwhile, after a decent start to the year, resident deposit growth has weakened, declining in the three months to August and pushing down the year-to-August increase to only 1.4 percent (+0.8 percent y/y). The decline has been driven by weakening private-sector (+1.7 percent ytd; +3.9 percent y/y) and public-institution deposit growth (-14.9 percent ytd; -21 percent y/y), while government deposit growth has been positive (+30 percent ytd; +12.2 percent y/y). Within private-sector KD deposits, the outflow from current and savings accounts (CASA) continues unabated, with the ytd decrease widening to 9 percent while time deposits remain on an uptrend, increasing by 12 percent ytd. The Central Bank of Kuwait hiked the discount rate by a cumulative 2.75 percent since March 2022, nearly half of the US Fed's cumulative 5.25 percent over the same period. The Fed appears to be close to ending its hiking cycle, with its dot-plot projections suggesting one final hike before year-end while the futures market signals no more hikes.

Heavy industry turns to carbon capture to clean up its act

RETY, France: For decades heavy industry around Dunkirk in northern France has belched out millions of tons of climate-heating gases. Now the area close to the Belgium border — one of Europe's industrial powerhouses — wants to catch its pollution before it escapes. With factories turning out steel, cement and fertilisers, the Dunkirk area produces more carbon dioxide (CO₂) than any other industrial region in France.

In Rety, about an hour's drive from the port city, a never-ending stream of lorries brings limestone to a plant run by Belgian giant Lhoist, the world leader in quicklime production. The limestone is heated to more than 1,000 degrees Celsius (1,830 degrees Fahrenheit) for 24 hours in kilns 50 meters (165 feet) tall to produce the calcium oxide needed by the steel and paper pulp industries.

"We have the capacity to produce 700,000 tons of quicklime a year, so we emit about an equivalent amount of CO₂," said Yves Boracchino, the manager of the plant in Rety, where nearly every surface is coated in white dust from a nearby quarry.

Freezing the CO₂

Two-thirds of that CO₂ is belched out of the plant's chimneys during the limestone calcination process. The remainder comes from the fossil fuels used to fire up the kilns. In 2025, the site hopes to start equipping itself with a new mini-factory to capture the CO₂. Carbon capture and storage will be pushed hard by industry at the UN COP28 climate talks in November as a way to slow the rise in the planet's average temperature to around 1.5 degrees Celsius.

But there are still big questions over technologies that are in their infancy, and the world does not have much time. The International Energy Agency (IEA) says that even if it works, carbon capture would have to be scaled up 100,000-fold by 2050 to hit net-zero targets.

Lhoist has turned to industrial gas giant Air Liquide for help to capture carbon emissions from its Rety plant. They have developed a technology called CryoCap which will capture the gases and cool them down to -50C (-58F) when CO₂ turns to liquid, said Nicolas Droin of Air Liquide. — AFP

California startup to 'sponge' CO₂ from the atmosphere

BRISBANE, US: Scrubbing carbon dioxide from the air is imperative if humanity is to limit global warming, experts say, and a California startup says it can do just that, using limestone as a carbon-sucking sponge. San Francisco-based Heirloom Carbon has become a hot name in the nascent capture technology sector, even sealing a deal with Microsoft to help the Windows-maker meet its zero-carbon ambitions.

Governments are embracing similar innovations to meet their climate goals as CO₂ emissions remain too high to mitigate the greenhouse effect that causes the devastation of climate change.

Capturing CO₂ directly out of the atmosphere is the "time machine" that will take us back to cleaner air, according to Heirloom cofounder and CEO Shashank Samala. "If you actually want to reverse climate change and go back to where things were, carbon removal is the closest thing we have actually removing legacy emissions from the air," he said.

Carbon capture will be a central topic of discussions at the COP28 climate talks, which take place in Dubai from November 30 to December 12. Many see it as a necessity to get closer to a zero-emission world while others fear it is being hailed as an easy ticket to avoid making the sacrifices needed to slow climate change.

The UN Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which steers the COP meetings, considers the deployment of carbon capture and storage systems to be unavoidable if we are to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

Heirloom has set itself the goal of ridding the atmosphere of one billion tons of CO₂ per year by 2035 -- without incentivizing companies to keep

Canada auto union begins strike against Stellantis

DETROIT: Canadian auto workers union Unifor said late Sunday that its members had started striking at all plants operated by European auto giant Stellantis. The union represents approximately 8,200 workers at Stellantis plants in Windsor and Bram-

pton in Canada's industrial heartland in southern Ontario.

Workers are demanding a general wage increase and pension improvements. "Strike action will commence at 11:59 pm (0359 GMT on Monday) at all Stellantis facilities," read a joint statement by top union officials issued just before a deadline set by the union expired. The union said its negotiators were preparing to continue talks with company representatives. "We have made progress and we will continue

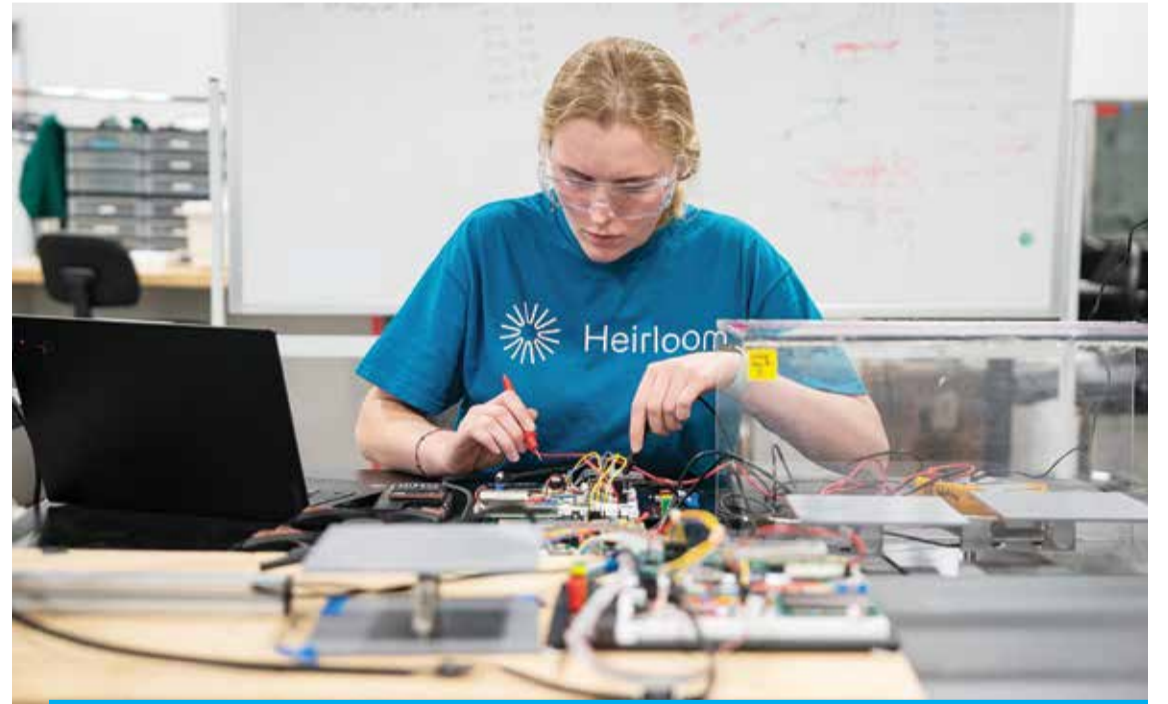
to negotiate through the night," the statement said.

LouAnn Gosselin, the head of communications for Stellantis in Canada, told Canadian broadcaster CBC the company was "extremely disappointed." "We will continue to bargain in good faith until an agreement is reached. We look forward to getting everyone back to work as soon as possible," Gosselin said in a statement. The union has been pressing Stellantis to follow the pattern that Unifor established during earlier ne-

gotiations in new contracts with Ford and General Motors.

The settlement at GM followed a 14-hour strike. That agreement included a base hourly wage increase of nearly 20 percent for production and 25 percent for skilled trades over the lifetime of the deal.

It also gave all full-time temporary workers permanent status. The work stoppage in Canada has no impact on the United Auto Workers strikes in the United States targeting Stellantis and Detroit giants Ford and GM. — AFP



BRISBANE: Research scientist Emily Hagood troubleshoots instrumentation for measuring carbon dioxide removal from the atmosphere inside the laboratory at Heirloom Carbon on September 21, 2023 in Brisbane, California. — AFP

Lifestyle



A "scaper" prepares a raclette during the first-ever Raclette World Championships featuring local and international raclette cheeses, in Morgins.--AFP photos



Members of the jury sample and grade raclettes during the first-ever Raclette World Championships featuring local and international raclette cheeses, in Morgins.



Raclette expert and jury member Eddy Baillifard (Far right) smells a raclette during the first-ever Raclette World Championships featuring local and international raclette cheeses, in Morgins.

CHEESES FACE THE HEAT AT RACLETTE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS



A waiter carries raclettes to customers during the first-ever Raclette World Championships featuring local and international raclette cheeses.



Raclette expert and jury member Eddy Baillifard tastes a raclette during the first-ever Raclette World Championships featuring local and international raclette cheeses.

Up in the Swiss Alps, the air hangs thick with the funk of hot cheese as the planet's best melt away the competition at the inaugural Raclette World Championships. The Swiss native dish dates back centuries to a time when mountain herdsmen would heat their cheese on an open fire and scrape off the melted part to keep them going. But never before have cheesemakers, experts and restaurateurs come together under one roof to determine which cheeses make the world's finest raclette.

Nearly 90 cheeses were put to the test in Morgins, a village in Wallis—the southwestern region considered the home of raclette. "All these guys are small-scale producers who go up into the mountain pastures with their cows at the start of summer," said the event's founder Henri-Pierre Galletti.

"It's a way of validating their work, which is a hard job but a truly beautiful one," he told AFP. Morgins—more than 1,300 metres up in a wooded valley before the Alpine pass reaches France—welcomed more than 10,000 raclette enthusiasts who joined in the festivities and sampled the wares. The three-day event culminated on Sunday with the winners crowned champion.

Smooth and creamy

In the village hall's kitchen, cheese half-wheels are grilled under electric raclette heaters. The grilling can take from



Member of the jury sample the raclettes during the first-ever Raclette World Championships featuring local and international raclette cheeses.

30 seconds upwards, depending on the cheese. The cooking is done by eye, with a feel for how each cheese melts. Once it bubbles up—but just before it starts to brown—the melted cheese is scraped onto the plate, then whisked out to jurors. "The taste is in the fat," said racleur Jean-Michel Dubosson as he scraped off another serving with the back of his knife. "It's important not to heat it too quickly." While the kitchen is bustling, the tasting hall is a place of reverent silence.

Judges, many wearing traditional black with a red neckerchief, twirl the cheese around the fork before tasting. The atmosphere is slow, relaxed. "We are looking for a raclette that is creamy, smooth, has a nice appearance, a nice color," said Eddy Baillifard, known as the "pope of raclette" and one of the supreme jury final round judges. "And in



terms of taste: a nice texture, no thread, no strings, no gum."

Judges sample a maximum of 15 cheeses in a sitting, after which the sense of taste will have peaked—plus, in a 40-gram serving, there's only so much cheese one can handle. Between raclettes, hot black tea or sliced red apples neutralize the palate. The judges rank each cheese from one to five on appearance, texture, taste and aroma, and overall impression.

Good company

Most of the cheeses were from Wallis, and if not then from the neighboring French Alps. However, cheeses from the rest of Switzerland, plus Belgium, Canada, Italy and Romania were also in contention. Producers from Britain, Japan, Norway, Sweden and Kyrgyzstan are in-

terested in coming next time. "To be here representing Romania, it's a big thing for us," said Narcis Pinteau, 34, who learned his craft in Switzerland before taking his skills back home.

The championships had three categories. Alpage de Tanay, from Wallis, won the most hotly-contested crown for raclette with raw Alpine milk, a category only open to cheeses made in Alpine pastures between June 15 and July 15. Fromagerie Le Pont, also from Wallis, won the title for best raw milk raclette. Fromagerie Seiler Selection by Wyssmuller Maitre Fromager, from the Obwalden region in central Switzerland, took the final crown for other raclette cheeses.

A giant Saint Bernard dog kept watch at the door, and in the festival tents outside, raclette lovers sampled numerous freshly-melted cheeses to the sound of a cowbell ringing team. More than 30,000 raclettes were served to the public, accompanied by four tonnes of boiled potatoes and six pallets of gherkins and onions. "A day without raclette is a day wasted," said Baillifard. "There are several ingredients that make raclette so enjoyable, but the main thing is the people you share it with. When you're in good company, the raclette is already 80 percent a success," he added.—AFP

Tech breathes new life into endangered Native American languages

Linguistics experts are turning to cutting-edge technologies to revitalize threatened Native American languages—and rejuvenate generations of Indigenous tradition—through new approaches such as children's books and smartphone apps. In one such endeavor, three Native American women rack their brains as they gather around a computer, trying to remember—and record—dozens of Apache language words related to everyday activities such as cooking and eating. They are creating an online English-Apache dictionary, just one of several projects working to preserve endangered Indigenous languages in the United States.

The women are working with Rapid Word Collection (RWC) software, which uses an algorithm to search Apache text and audio databases for so-called forgotten words. The words are then defined, translated into English, and their pronunciation recorded, so the dictionary's users will know how to say them properly. Teacher Joycelene Johnson and two of her colleagues validate the definition of the word Apache word "kupas," which means potato in English.

"The applications in the written language are good for (a) non-speaker—at least they'll have a museum of it where they can go to for reference," said Johnson, a 68-year-old who teaches Apache vocabulary and grammar. According to her, the bilingual school on her reservation has about a thousand students—but only one, an eleventh-grader, is fluent in Apache.

Johnson spoke at just one of several workshops at the International Conference on Indigenous Language Docu-



Attendees listen during the ICILDER 2023 conference.

mentation, Education and Revitalization (ICILDER) last weekend at the University of Indiana. Representatives from around 40 Indigenous groups from around the world gathered in the college town of Bloomington just days after the United States—which counts about 6.8 million Native American residents, or about two percent of the population—marked Indigenous People's Day.

4,500 languages at risk

Linguists, teachers, students, researchers and Indigenous leaders spent the weekend brainstorming how exactly to rescue these vulnerable languages from the brink. Of the more than 6,000 Indigenous languages recognized glob-

ally, nearly half of them are at risk of disappearing, with about 1,500 facing immediate extinction, according to a 2021 study from UNESCO. The RWC was developed by The Language Conservancy (TLC), an NGO dedicated to protecting around 50 Indigenous languages around the world, in order to churn out such dictionaries at super-speed.

TLC, which has a \$3 million budget, regularly teams up linguists with Native American language teachers to work on these dictionaries. The software has "increased the efficiency in the workflow," said Wilhelm Meya, the CEO of TLC and one of the ICILDER organizers—now, an Indigenous community can build a dictionary from scratch within a year, instead of 20. "That allows us to serve languages quickly and build that infrastructure that they need to be able to survive moving forward," the 51-year-old Austrian-American anthropologist explained.

'Crisis level'

That speed is vital, because time is of the essence: in the United States and Canada, the last generation of native speakers are dying. According to TLC, 143 out of 219 languages are in danger of extinction in the United States, while 75 of 94 are at similar risk in Canada. Those are still just a small fraction of the 400 to 500 Indigenous languages that were spoken in the two countries before the arrival of Europeans and their decimation of native populations some 500 years ago.

"The situation is really at a crisis level," Meya said. With the average age of Indigenous language speakers around 75, he added, there are only a few years

left to document these languages before they disappear forever.

"Once it's gone, it's gone. You really can't bring it back very easily," said Meya, whose organization distributes their learning materials for free throughout the United States and on Native American reservations. "When the language goes, so does the culture," he said. Jacob Chavez, a 26-year-old Cherokee language learner who called himself a "really big supporter" of the language technology, said he appreciates how it allows communities to "record things a lot quicker and hold onto things for a lot longer than we could before."

'Identity'

Paula Hawkins, who teaches the Tahltan language—which is spoken in parts of British Columbia—said she is "really excited" to see an online dictionary, just as her parents helped create the first Tahltan print dictionary in the 1980s. But her colleague, 51-year-old Danielle North King, from the Chemehuevi, or Nuwuvu nation, fears that such projects impose a "Western way of writing" onto "an Indigenous way of speaking"—the vast majority of human languages are solely oral, with no writing systems.

Indeed, Lakota Indigenous leaders denounced TLC last year, after the organization tried to copywrite teaching material that included recordings from the nation's elders. "We don't own the copyright or the IP (intellectual property) for any of the languages we work with," Meya clarified, adding that his goal is to protect Indigenous culture.—AFP



A children's book in the Lakota language is displayed during the ICILDER 2023 conference.



Merchandise promoting Language Conservancy is displayed at the Language Conservancy offices in Bloomington, Indiana.



Stickers are on display during the ICILDER 2023 conference.



Ashleigh Surma (right) assists Elva Case (left) and Linda Lupe in recording indigenous languages during the ICILDER 2023 conference.



Attendees listen during the ICILDER 2023 conference.



Singapore pilgrims seek divine help at century-old temple



Statues of turtle during the annual pilgrimage.



People walk by statues of oxen displayed outside a market at Little India district in Singapore.



Singaporean Lee Yeong Chee (right) taking pictures of his wife Sam Lim (center) and their son Triton (second left) throwing coins in the wishing well during the annual pilgrimage.

On Singapore's tiny Kusu islet, legend has it that a giant turtle turned itself into an island to save two sailors. A century after a Chinese temple was opened on its shores, pilgrims are still flowing in, seeking good fortunes. Tens of thousands of Taoist, Buddhist and Confucian devotees are making the annual pilgrimage to Da Bo Gong Temple until November 12 to mark its 100th year on the island, whose name translates to "turtle".

Founded in 1923, the green, red and white temple named after the God of Prosperity is believed to grant good fortune, serenity and protection. Guan Yin, the Goddess of Mercy, is one of the temple's main deities and is thought to answer the prayers of childless couples. Velmurugan Kolanjinathan, 39, an engineer from India working in Singapore, and his wife Selvarani, 35, made the half-hour ferry trip to the southern island to pray for a child after six years of marriage. "(Either) a boy or a girl is fine for us," Kolanjinathan told AFP. He said his friend, whose wife had a baby after praying at the temple, had advised him to try the same.

Prayed at the temple

Others prayed for good fortune for themselves and for the world at the



Shoppers walk under decorative ornaments displayed for sale in a market at Little India district in Singapore.

temple, which is built on the island's shore and elevated on stilts to protect it against rising tides. Triton Lee, 10, said a little prayer could help improve his grades in Singapore's pressure-laden school system. "When I enter the temple I'm going to pray for... higher scores," he told AFP after disembarking from the ferry. While he's not doing well in Chinese class, Lee believes he has a chance of getting better grades

in maths, English and science.

He prayed at the temple last year and was surprised by the maths results that came after. "I was astounded to get full marks. I couldn't even speak," the boy said. "I think both hard work and prayers (lead to good grades)." The boy's mother, Sam, told AFP that she would pray for world peace. "At home we pray for peace and happiness and, at a greater level,

hoping that the world will get to a more peaceful state," she said.

Waning tradition

For Lau Cheng Poh, 63, and two of his siblings, coming to Kusu on the ninth month of the Chinese lunar calendar is a tradition instilled by their father. Like most of the older generation in the city-state, which is largely ethnic Chinese, he had immigrated from China. "There was no ferry before. So we rode on small boats," said his brother Lau Cheng Eng, 60, adding that coming to Kusu was the equivalent of an overseas holiday for them at that time.

But the brothers said the younger generation is more reluctant to make the yearly pilgrimage. That's despite more than 31 percent of Singapore residents identifying themselves as Buddhist and 8.8 percent as Taoist, according to a 2020 census. "I don't want to force my children," said Lau Cheng Poh. "Young people are busy with their own lives." His son Ivan Lau said he will make the pilgrimage for as long as he can, but worries for its future. "I got a feeling that this tradition will be lost," said the 29-year-old engineer. "Like the Chinese dialects, I fear it will become extinct." —AFP



This photograph shows offerings placed on altar by devotees during the annual pilgrimage on the ninth month of the Lunar calendar at the Da Bo Gong Temple on Kusu island in Singapore. —AFP photos



Devotees touching statues of turtle for good luck during the annual pilgrimage.

Myanmar boat festival's return brings joy and sorrow

Thousands of Buddhists took to boats on Myanmar's famed Inle Lake to celebrate the return of one of the nation's biggest festivals, but the devotees' joy was laced with the sorrow of war. The seventeen-day Phaung Daw Oo pagoda festival sees four sacred Buddha images placed on a golden barge and rowed through villages that dot the shores of the tourist hotspot in eastern Shan state.

The coronavirus pandemic and then the military's 2021 coup cancelled the three previous editions of the festival, denying locals the chance to worship the images and gain merit. The golden barge zipped through the cool water, towed by sleek wooden long-boats crewed by men rowing in the local fashion -- a leg wrapped around their oar to gain more push. Dozens of boats filled with worshippers followed as the sun rose, the sounds of drums and cymbals accompanying the flotilla. "We are enjoying here but on the other side (outside of Inle Lake) the situation

is not good," student Phuu Pyae Thwe told AFP on the water.

"We feel sad because of their situation... We are also worrying what could happen on the way," the student added, such as possible armed clashes. "We want to apologize to you all. We haven't held [the festival] for three years already. We are sorry about the fighting in other places." As they drew alongside the golden barge decked out with Buddhist flags, devotees prayed to the four images inside. A fifth Buddha image remains in the Phaung Daw Oo pagoda during the festivities -- the legacy of an accident several decades ago when it was dropped into the lake from the boat carrying it.

Tourist no-go

Foreign travelers flocked to Inle's waters and brooding hills after the then-junta transitioned to semi-civilian rule in 2011 and opened up the Southeast Asian nation. But arrivals have dried up since the 2021 coup,



Devotees row the golden barge carrying the four sacred Buddha images during the festival of Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda.

which has battered the economy and put many areas of the country off-limits. One worker in the nearby town of Nyaungshwe told AFP his hotel had shed 80 percent of its staff.

"Many hotels are closed because there are no local or foreign guests," they said, asking for anonymity. Shan state has been spared the worst of the military's crackdown that a local moni-

toring group says has killed more than 4,100 people and seen tens of thousands arrested. But in March around 30 people sheltering from fighting at a monastery just hours from Inle were killed, with the junta and anti-coup fighters trading blame over the massacre.

The military says more than 6,000 people have been killed by anti-coup fighters. "We've been preparing since we heard the festival was going to happen," Than Nyunt, 75, told AFP. "We are also doing good deeds for those people in Myanmar who are suffering as well," she said. "We are praying for them. We are wishing for them to be happy and peaceful again quickly like here." On the shore, Htway Yi said she was "very happy" for the festival's return.

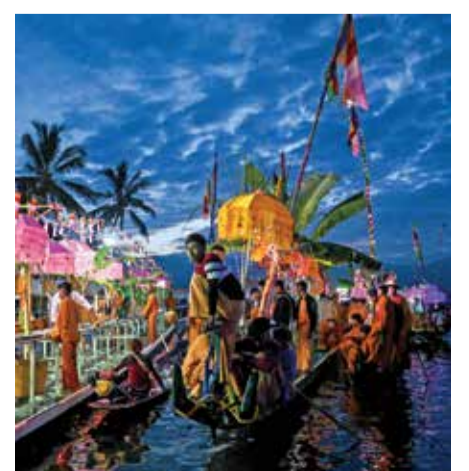
"We were sad as we hadn't seen (the Buddha statues) for three years," she told AFP. "We are happy now... I want the lake to be crowded like before." —AFP



Devotees arriving by boat to visit the temple of four sacred Buddha images during the festival.



Spectators watch leg-rowing boat races during the Phaung Daw Oo pagoda festival.



Devotees prepare to follow the four sacred Buddha images placed on a golden barge during the festival.

Lifestyle



Afghan visitors sit in front of a mosque resembling the 'Dome of the Rock' of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, at Wazir Akbar Khan hilltop.



'Here our prayers are heard': Kabul unveils Dome of the Rock replica

Sunset light glints off what looks like the bright gold Dome of the Rock—but the horizon is in Kabul, and the dome is a replica recently inaugurated in the Afghan capital. The dome tops a mosque modeled on the shrine in the Al-Aqsa mosque compound in the Zionist entity-annexed east Jerusalem that is believed to be where the Prophet Muhammed (PBUH) ascended to heaven on a winged horse.

The new Molla Omer mosque sits

on a hilltop in a park in central Kabul and was funded by the Istanbul-based IDDEF organization and inaugurated on Friday. "We feel happy because it looks the same, it's a holy place for all Muslims, and it should exist in every Islamic country," said 45-year-old NGO employee Mohammad Arif Farnuli, a visitor to the site on Sunday.

Several worshippers prayed in the 350-person capacity mosque, as the sun sank behind the mountains surrounding the Afghan capital. "When we

pray here, it feels like our prayers are heard. It's a very amazing thing, we really feel it in our hearts," said driver Zahidullah Dankshinar, 30. For 20-year-old Zakir Khan, the mosque brought to mind the original's setting and the Palestinian people.

"The love we have for Palestinians, it is a dear Muslim connection, we need to keep it alive," he said. The mosque's inauguration took place as conflict has exploded between Palestinian Hamas militants and Zionist forces. Hamas mil-

itants stormed across the Gaza border on October 7 in the deadliest attack in the Zionist entity's history, killing 1,400 people, mostly civilians, and kidnapping 230 others, according to Zionist entity officials.

The Hamas-run health ministry in Gaza says the retaliatory Zionist bombardment has killed more than 8,000 people, mainly civilians and half of them children. Khan said the situation in Gaza is "really rough".

"We are incredibly happy that the

Bayt Al-Maqdis replica is inaugurated here, and may God also have mercy there," he said, using another name for Al-Aqsa. Taleban officials and the ID-DEF head voiced support for Palestinians at the inauguration. "This mosque was built... to express the love of Muslims, especially Afghans, to Palestine and Al-Aqsa in the form of the Dome of the Rock," said Interior Minister Mohammad Khaled Hanafi, according to a statement.—AFP



People walk past a mosque resembling the 'Dome of the Rock' of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, at Wazir Akbar Khan hilltop, in Kabul. — AFP photos



People offer prayers inside a mosque resembling the 'Dome of the Rock' of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, at Wazir Akbar Khan hilltop.



Fugitive rapper returns to Spain after years on the run

A rapper who fled Spain after he was sentenced to jail for praising terrorism in his songs returned to the country on Sunday after spending years on the run. Jose Miguel Arenas Beltran—better known as Valtync—fled to Belgium in 2018 after a Spanish court handed him a three-and-a-half year jail term on charges of glorifying terror, insulting the king and making threats in his lyrics. His case sparked criticism from international organizations, such as Amnesty International, which argued his right to free speech was being violated, and Spain's efforts to have him extradited ran into obstacles in Belgium's courts.



Jose Miguel Arenas Beltran, better known as Valtync.

The 29-year-old was able to move back to Spain on Sunday because his sentence had expired due to the statute of limitations, his lawyer told Spanish media. Beltran was embraced by family members and other well-wishers when he arrived at the main airport on the island of Mallorca, where he is originally from, images on social media showed. At a welcome ceremony attended by about 200 people later on Sunday in the town of Sineu in the centre of the island, he thanked his supporters, saying he "did not feel alone for not even one day".—AFP

Matthew Perry was always their friend, too. That was the feeling among fans of the American actor, known for his iconic role as Chandler Bing on the hit sitcom "Friends," as they gathered Sunday outside the New York apartment building used in the show's filming. "I grew up watching him," said Taylor Lanthier, 26, who was among those making the pilgrimage, where many left flowers and handwritten letters in Perry's memory. The 54-year-old was found dead Saturday—too soon for many fans, in a testament to the staying power of "Friends," which aired from 1994-2004 and continues to live on for viewers across generations in reruns and on streaming services.

The light rain wasn't enough to keep visitors from paying their respects on the instantly recognizable street corner in the trendy West Village neighborhood where the six-storey building sits, adorned in classic New York style with a brick facade and metal fire escapes. "I'm sure you could find stories of people who move to New York because of the show 'Friends,'" said Chris Triebel, 39, who leads tours focusing on TV



People stand before flower tributes to actor Matthew Perry outside the apartment building which was used as the exterior shot in the TV show "Friends" in New York.

Fans flock to remember 'Friends' star Matthew Perry in New York



Floral tributes are left for actor Matthew Perry outside the apartment building.

shows and movies filmed in the city. And part of that would be due to Perry's Chandler, himself a sarcastic 20-something who long resisted growing up.

"He's had a very impactful role in my life and always has given me tons of laughs, and it's sad to hear about his passing," said Lanthier, who recently graduated law school in Vancouver. "Chandler is a funny guy. He's a loving guy. He's someone who's very dedicated to his friends," she added. "And that's what I think Matthew was as well." "I just wanted to pay my respects," she said, having come with a yellow rose that she placed next to a



Flowers and other objects are seen outside the house of actor Matthew Perry.

note left by another passerby. It read: "Thank you for all the laughs."

'Gone too soon'

Like much of American pop culture, the show had been reevaluated by some in recent years, criticized for its lack of diversity or the simple, sanitized reality it presented. It was also filmed in California, with the building at 90 Bedford Street used for establishing shots. Yet none of that stopped the West Village neighborhood from becoming a place of interest for fans across generations, who have been making the trek to the building for years—even if Central Perk, the



Floral tributes are left for actor Matthew Perry outside the apartment building.

New York coffee shop where the friends spent so much time, was also a figment of the screenwriters' imagination.

"It's just a lighthearted show," said Eva, a 16-year-old high school student who lives nearby. "It was something that I watched when I was sad or just if I wanted a nice laugh." Triebel, the tour guide, had already planned a stop outside the building before Perry's death, though the news had given the visit a somber air. "He's one who's definitely gone too soon," he said. "I think there was a lot more that he could have done."—AFP



People stand in line to pay tribute to actor Matthew Perry outside the apartment building. — AFP photos

Sports

Captain Buttler stumped by England World Cup misery

Beating England not that tough, says India's Kuldeep

LUCKNOW: Captain Jos Buttler pleaded for "answers on a postcard" to explain England's latest dismal day at the World Cup which saw the defending champions slump to a 100-run defeat to India. After restricting the hosts to 229, England were bowled out inside the 35th over to suffer a fifth defeat in six games.

Only an unlikely mathematical miracle will save England who are rock-bottom of the 10-nation tournament having won fewer games than even non-Test playing Netherlands. "Answers on a postcard. There's some top players in there who were a long way short of their best," said Buttler. "Very disappointing. At the halfway stage chasing 230 we fancied ourselves. But it's the same old story."

"The gut feeling was that we wanted to chase. It is as good as we have been with the ball throughout the tournament. We took some good wickets so we are very disappointed." The weary looking skipper added: "Whatever way you want to approach the game it is about being committed. For me it was soaking up pressure, building up partnerships and killing pressure."

"It is about executing your skills. Chasing 230 there wasn't scoreboard pressure, we are falling short." India skipper Rohit Sharma led the charge for his team with 87 as India posted 229-9, a to-

tal that looked below par but proved enough for a struggling England side on a sluggish pitch.

Fast bowler Mohammed Shami returned figures of 4-22 while fellow quick Jasprit Bumrah took three wickets to wrap up the match. England had a disastrous start and never recovered from being 52-5. "This was a game that showed a lot of character in our squad. When times were tough, our experienced players stood up at the right time and fought for us," said Rohit, his country's top run scorer in the tournament after Virat Kohli was out for nought.

"Defending 230 is not something you see every day. You know you have got to take early wickets and put the pressure on. With the experience that our seamers have, I can always rely on them to come good." Rohit added: "We have got a good balance in our attack. Good spinners and experienced seamers. If I look at my options as a captain, there is plenty for me to work with. "It is also important that our batsmen put scores on the board so that they can work their magic."

Meanwhile, India spinner Kuldeep Yadav on Sunday said beating a struggling England team at the World Cup "wasn't that tough" but a good victory nonetheless against the defending champions. The hosts extended their unbeaten run to

six games in the tournament with a 100-run win to all but book their place in the semi-finals.

India posted 229-9 before fast bowlers Mohammed Shami and Jasprit Bumrah combined to bowl out the opposition for 129 in 34.5 overs. "I mean to be very honest it was good to win - beating the defending champions," Kuldeep, who took two wickets including England skipper Jos Buttler bowled for 10, told reporters. "They don't have the great tournament so far. So it wasn't that tough — they restricted us for like 230."

The left-arm wrist spinner said: "We thought probably we have to pick early wickets to be in the game and certainly Jasprit and Shami did and after they were four down for 40 runs, we just trying to bowl in perfect areas and make them make mistakes."

Shami returned figures of 4-22 and Bumrah struck three times including being on hat-trick at the start to flatten the opposition batting. India lost to England in the 2019 World Cup which ended with England winning the trophy for the first time.

"I mean, I think conditions matter a lot. They have the best team," Kuldeep said when asked to compare England of 2019 and now. "They played some really good cricket over the years and they have the same players. So, nothing changes." — AFP



LUCKNOW: India's Kuldeep Yadav (L) celebrates with teammate KL Rahul after taking the wicket of England's Liam Livingstone during the 2023 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup one-day international (ODI) match between India and England. — AFP

Maidans still the nursery of Mumbai cricket

MUMBAI: It is not yet 7:00 am and the sun has still to rise above a hazy Mumbai sky. But there is already a steady stream of cricketers of various ages heading into the city's Oval Maidan, a large public park. Some are clad in traditional whites, with the children among them almost dwarfed by the large bags of cricket equipment on their backs as they hurry to attend net practice.

Others, simply wearing T-shirts and shorts, are here for just an impromptu game of tennis-ball cricket with their friends. All, however, are united by a passion for the sport and maybe somewhere here there is a future star all set to follow in the footsteps of Sunil Gavaskar, Sachin Tendulkar and Rohit Sharma, the captain of hosts India at the ongoing World Cup, all of whom once played on the Maidans themselves.

Set against the backdrop of Mumbai's High Court and Rajabai Clock Tower, in what is a United Nations World Heritage site, the scene of hundreds of cricketers gathering on the Oval Maidan has been a familiar part of the landscape for generations in a city that prides itself on being a hotbed of the game even in a country with a fanatical devotion to the sport.

But girls, as well as boys, are now part of the picture, with teenager Pranjal Chilwant taking her place in a net pitched on the rough and uneven grassland — in marked contrast to the smooth surface of Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium that is staging World Cup games — to play a series of textbook drives against her male contemporaries.

Watching on is her coach, Subodh Bhosle of the Steadfast Cricket Academy. "We are here every week (Saturday) from 6:45-9:00 am," Bhosle told AFP. "Maidan cricket is very important for India and the whole world," added the 38-year-old, in the year above Rohit when the pair were in the Mumbai youth set-up.

'Sweat and blood'

"Here you are not given those privileges where you get a good infrastructure — when you



MUMBAI: In this photo taken on Oct 27, 2023, young cricketers train at the Shivaji Park maidan. — AFP

field on a Maidan, the ground, is always up and down. "But then you are more keen on catching the ball...Here you get your sweat and blood and then you play the game." For Pravin Amre, the journey from Maidan cricket to India honors was a dream that became a reality.

Now a successful coach — two of his proteges Shreyas Iyer and Shardul Thakur are in India's 15-man World Cup squad — Amre, currently works with the Delhi Capitals and the Mumbai Indians in the Indian Premier League.

But that does not stop the 55-year-old former India batsman returning whenever he can to coach a new crop of young talents in Shivaji Park, at 28 acres the largest of Mumbai's maidans or grounds. "I am the product of Maidan cricket right now where you are in Shivaji Park," Amre tells AFP during an interview.

"This is where I started my journey when I was a 10-year-old kid. It's like my second home.

"I was very lucky to have as my coach and guru Ramakant Achrekar (who also guided a young Tendulkar)."

"But Maidan cricket, it's so tough. You can see, this is a public park. We learn about hard work from an early age, we know we have to make it count. "All the greats of Mumbai cricket started here (the Maidans). There are no sightcreens, you have to manage everything yourself," he added.

"Maybe that's why we produce so many great cricketers," explained Amre, who scored a hundred on Test debut against South Africa in Durban in 1992. Mumbai have won the Ranji Trophy, India's domestic first-class competition, a record 41 times, with Amre adamant the Maidans had a key role in that sustained success. "To get into the Mumbai team, it's so challenging," he said. "It's a lot of pain and 15 years of hard work for any boy to start his journey on the Maidan and then to go play at the Wankhede." — AFP

Hunting in pairs: 'High quality' bowling by India's Shami-Bumrah

LUCKNOW: Cricket-crazy Indian fans have long enjoyed opposition fast bowling attacks that hunt in pairs — Dennis Lillee and Jeff Thomson, Wasim Akram with Waqar Younis and most recently Stuart Broad and James Anderson.

But the cricketing powerhouse has now found its own deadly duo in Mohammed Shami and Jasprit Bumrah, the men who rattled England's batting at Lucknow's Ekana Stadium in the World Cup on Sunday.

The hosts extended their unbeaten run to six games in the tournament with a 100-run win over the defending champions to all but book their place in the semi-finals. Bumrah started the demolition job with wickets on successive deliveries in his third over to send back Dawid Malan, who inside edged a delivery on to his stumps, and Joe Root, out for lbw for a first-ball duck.

Shami soon joined forces as he bowled Ben Stokes for nought and then had Jonny Bairstow chop a length ball on to his wickets to also be on a hat-trick and raise the noise at a nearly-packed 50,000-seater stadium. "I am proud of the Indian team's performance. Shami and Bumrah were outstanding. No other bowling pair can come close to these two. They are the best at the mo-

ment," former India batsman Sanjay Manjrekar said on Star Sports.

"The four wickets taken by Shami and Bumrah in the first powerplay never allowed England to comeback into the game." Veteran commentator Harsha Bhogle said "it is high quality bowling from Bumrah and Shami", while former England captain Michael Vaughan lauded India's attack as "high class".

Shami kept up the charge in his comeback spell when he sent back Moeen Ali caught behind on a angled ball from around the wicket to 81-6 in their chase of 230.

Shami took one more and Bumrah completed the England rout with his trademark yorker that rattled the stumps of number 11 Mark Wood to trigger celebrations.

'Fabulous' spells

India bowling coach Paras Mambrey said the pair set the tone for other bowlers to make an impact on a ground where evening dew makes it tough for bowlers to grip a wet ball. "In a game where we were placed defending a small target, the conditions were not easy, the dew was out there, the wicket got flatter," Mambrey told reporters.

"Wickets especially in the pow-



LUCKNOW: India's Jasprit Bumrah (R) celebrates after taking the wicket of England's Joe Root during the 2023 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup one-day international (ODI) match between India and England. — AFP

erplay were important but simply the way they bowled and came back picked up those wickets laid the foundation for us. From there the other bowlers could build on. A fabulous spell from both of them."

Bumrah, a yorker specialist with an unorthodox slingshot action, was sidelined for almost a year with a back injury before he returned in August and has now bagged 14 wickets six World Cup matches. Shami was kept out for India's first four matches in a "horses for courses" policy but has come back with match-figures of 5-54 against New Zealand and 4-22 in two World Cup

outings after an injury to all-rounder Hardik Pandya gave him a route back into the starting eleven.

"I think the decision the management took was looking at the right combination on that wicket and earlier also Ash (Ravichandran Ashwin) missed out, Shami missed out," said Mambrey. "It is very difficult to take such a call but in the team's interest you have to take a call. That's the communication with the individual player has been, he knows that." The 33-year-old Shami, a veteran of 96 ODIs, now has 23 wickets in his last six World Cup games since the 2019 edition. — AFP

Pakistan players not affected by 'no pay for 5 months' claim

KOLKATA: Pakistan coach Grant Bradburn on Monday shrugged off claims his players haven't been paid for five months, insisting the squad was determined to rescue their faltering World Cup campaign. Pakistan are on the verge of a group stage exit at the tournament and need to defeat Bangladesh on Tuesday to preserve any slim hopes of making the semi-finals.

As well as four defeats in six games so far, Pakistan's campaign has been plagued by reports of no pay as well as delays in agreements over central contracts. "In terms of the noise around the team, look, playing for Pakistan and working within this team is a huge privilege," said Bradburn on Monday. — AFP

Five youngsters who could shine at the 2027 Rugby WCup

PARIS: The 2023 Rugby World Cup ended on Saturday as South Africa beat New Zealand by 12-11 for a record fourth title. AFP Sport looks at five of the youngsters who could shine in the next edition in Australia in 2027.

Sam Prendergast - Ireland

The 20-year-old fly-half generated positive buzz after he kicked a match-winning penalty over England under-20s in 2022. Since then the lanky playmaker has made his senior debut with Irish province Leinster and helped his country to the final of this year's World Rugby under-20s championship. With talismanic Ireland captain Johnny Sexton having retired from the sport, Prendergast joins Jack Crowley, Joey Carbery and Leinster teammate Ross Byrne as the candidates to fill the huge void left by him.

Posolo Tuilagi - France

The giant lock comes from a family of famous rugby players which includes former Samoa back-rower Henry Tuilagi, who is his father, and England centre Manu Tuilagi, his uncle. The Perpignan second-row shone during this year's World Rugby under-20s championship as he helped France to a third straight title. The 19-year-old, who moved from Samoa to France aged three, weighs a hefty 149 kg (328 pounds) and will put his hand up to partner Thibaud Flament or Cameron Woki in the World Cup in 2027.

Henry Arundell - England

The Racing 92 winger will turn 24 less than a week before the 2027 final and has already scored seven tries in just 10 Tests, five of them coming in the pool stage win over Chile in September. The fleet-footed former London Irish speedster announced himself to the rugby world by scoring a length-of-the-field try for the English club in Toulon in 2022 and will be a key part of Steve Borthwick's England squad over the coming campaigns.

Irakli Aptsiauri - Georgia

The tight-head prop made his international debut against Fiji during the World Cup in France just seven months after his 20th birthday. The solid-scrummager joins a long-list of Georgian front-rows to play in the French league system having joined second-tier Grenoble in 2021. According to reports he has signed for ambitious Top 14 outfit Lyon for next season and is a leading contender to replace veteran Georgia props Mikheil Nariashvili and Beka Gigashvili in the starting lineup by 2027.

McKay 'Macca' Springer - New Zealand

The full-back who can also play on the wing was the top try-scorer at this year's World Rugby under-20s championships with five a matter of months after making his Crusaders debut in Super Rugby. The low-socked hot-stepper is considered one of the most promising youngsters in the rugby-mad country and will still just be 24 by the time the tournament across the Tasman Sea begins. With Beauden Barrett turning 37 a few months before the World Cup in Australia, there is a vacancy at full-back. — AFP

Sports

Match postponed after Lyon team bus stoned in Marseille, Grosso injured

Mbappe strikes late to earn PSG win at Brest, Monaco lose top spot

MARSEILLE: Sunday's Ligue 1 match between Marseille and Lyon was postponed after the visitors' bus was stoned on its way to the ground, while Kylian Mbappe drew the ire of Brest after scoring twice in Paris Saint-Germain's 3-2 victory.

Lyon coach Fabio Grosso's face was left bloodied and his assistant was also injured as the team bus was pelted with stones en route to the Velodrome, shattering several windows. A club source said Grosso had also been experiencing dizzy spells.

A crisis unit was set up to decide the fate of the match, with Lyon making clear their reluctance for the game to go ahead given the circumstances. "Based on Lyon's wishes... the decision was taken not to start the match," said referee Francois Letexier, adding that reports "have been forwarded to the relevant authorities who will decide what action to take".

Prime Video footage showed Grosso with a bandage on his head as he came out of the stadium's medical room. A photo circulating on X (formerly Twitter) appeared to show Grosso lying on a stretcher with a cut above his left eye. "These are completely unacceptable circumstances," said Marseille club president Pablo Longoria.

"My first thought is for Fabio Grosso, someone I respect and have known for a long time. I went to see him as soon as I arrived at the stadium, I saw how he was." A second bus containing Lyon supporters was also attacked with stones and the windows damaged, a local police source told AFP.

"These images are revolting. Seeing the stoned bus like that, the bloody face of Fabio Grosso...

These are unacceptable acts which go against the very values of football and sport," French sports minister Amelie Oudea-Castera told AFP. "I hope that the investigation will be carried out quickly, that the perpetrators are found and they are severely punished."

Mbappe silences Brest

Earlier on Sunday, Mbappe struck a late winner at Brest and then riled the opposition and home supporters as he celebrated the goal, pressing his finger to his lips and gesturing to the crowd. The France captain was booked over the incident and said on social media his actions were due to insults aimed by the crowd at one of his teammates, later confirmed to AFP to be Achraf Hakimi.

Morocco international Hakimi was given preliminary charges of rape in March, accusations the player strongly denies. "Well of course and I should have even sang with them when they insulted my teammate," Mbappe wrote in a sarcastic response to a tweet critical of his behaviour.

"Some have really never set foot on a football field no matter the level." PSG midfielder Danilo Pereira said the treatment of Hakimi by home fans had made Mbappe "angry", but Brest coach Eric Roy said he was "a bit surprised" by the reaction from the striker. "It's a pretty healthy atmosphere. So of course you can always be jeered. When you have the match you've had, you've scored two goals, it's a bit ridiculous. You should be above all that," said Roy. "It's a shame that tarnished the end of the match."



MARSEILLE: Marseille's Spanish President Pablo Longoria (R) addresses media after the Lyon's travelling team bus was attacked with stones ahead of the French L1 football match between Olympique Marseille (OM) and Olympique Lyonnais (OL) at Stade Velodrome in Marseille. - AFP

PSG saw off early season surprise package Brest thanks to a brace from Mbappe either side of half-time and a Warren Zaire-Emery rocket. Luis Enrique's side led 2-0 before Steve Mounie pulled a goal back before half-time.

Energized by the goal before half-time, Brest got back on terms thanks to a Jeremy Le Douaron header in the 52nd minute, which appeared to be enough

to ensure the points would be shared evenly. However, a recently revitalized Mbappe stepped up in the 88th minute to claim all three points for PSG, converting after his penalty was saved.

PSG are a point behind leaders Nice, who won 1-0 on Friday at Clermont. Monaco, in third, missed a chance to retake top spot after losing 2-0 at fourth-placed Lille. - AFP

Embiid scores 35 in dominant effort as 76ers rout Portland

LOS ANGELES: Joel Embiid unleashed a dominant performance with 35 points, 15 rebounds, seven assists, six blocked shots and two steals on Sunday in Philadelphia's 126-98 NBA rout of Portland. The reigning NBA Most Valuable Player delivered what 76ers coach Nick Nurse called a "super dominant" showing, lifting the Sixers to victory in their season home opener. "He's always exceptional," 76ers guard De'Anthony Melton said. "He's always amazing for us. When he's playing like that, he's the best player in the league every night." The 29-year-old Cameroonian big man made 12-of-22 shots from the floor, including 2-of-4 from 3-point range, and sank 9-of-11 from the free throw line in 29 minutes.

"That's my job, try to get better every single day," Embiid said. "It starts on defense, having that mentality to play it, lock down everything and block everything and offensively just trying to make the right plays. It's all about taking care of business. We got the win. I'm excited about that. We've still got a long way to go."

The haunting thing for 76ers' rivals is Embiid insists he must improve. "I've still got to get better," he said. "I had a bad turnover toward the end. I had three of them. That I can correct. I missed some passes and defensively I could have done a better job. But I'm happy." Tyrese Maxey added 26 points and 10 rebounds while Tobias Harris scored 24 to spark the Sixers, who expect to have unhappy guard James Harden back at practice on Tuesday. Harden, a former MVP and three-time scoring champion who led the NBA in assists last season, hasn't played this season. The 34-year-old guard has tried to get into shape and took part in a pre-game walk-

through on Sunday, with Nurse saying Harden has done well in conditioning. Harden sought a trade in vain in the off-season and said his relationship with club officials can't be repaired. Defending champion Denver improved to 3-0 as two-time NBA MVP Nikola Jokic had game highs of 28 points and 14 rebounds to lead a 128-95 blowout at Oklahoma City. Michael Porter Jr. added 20 points and Jamal Murray had 19 for the Nuggets.

Stephen Curry scored 24 points, going 6-of-14 from 3-point range, and Klay Thompson added 19 points, going 5-of-10 from beyond the arc, in Golden State's 106-95 triumph at Houston. Golden State guard Chris Paul came off the bench for the first time in his 19-year career after 1,365 consecutive starts.

Bucks, Lakers fall

Damian Lillard struggled in his second game with Milwaukee, scoring only six points in a 127-110 home loss to Atlanta. Trae Young scored 20 points and added 11 assists to spark eight Hawks scorers in double figures, including Clint Capela, who scored 12 points and grabbed 12 rebounds. Giannis Antetokounmpo had 26 points and 11 rebounds for the Bucks, but All-Star teammate Lillard, obtained in a trade from Portland last month, went 2-of-12 from the floor; 2-of-8 from 3-point range, and had six turnovers. "It was a tough night," Bucks coach Adrian Griffin said. "We didn't deserve to win. They did."

Sacramento's De'Aaron Fox scored 37 points and the host Kings beat the Los Angeles Lakers 132-127 in overtime, with reserve Malik Monk scoring half his 22 points in overtime. Anthony Davis led the Lakers with 30 points and 16 rebounds while LeBron James contributed 27 points, 15 rebounds and eight assists.

Kawhi Leonard scored 21 points while Russell Westbrook and Paul George each contributed 19 to spark the Los Angeles Clippers over San Antonio 123-83. Top NBA Draft pick Victor Wembanyama lost in his first NBA road game. - AFP



PHILADELPHIA: Joel Embiid of the Philadelphia 76ers shoots a layup past Robert Williams III of the Portland Trail Blazers during the first quarter at Wells Fargo Center on Oct 29, 2023. - AFP



KUWAIT: Qadisiya player no 10 (yellow shirt) kicking the ball away from Kuwait's forward.

Kazma SC blank Khaitan Club 3-0

KUWAIT: Kazma Sports Club football team hit hard at their opponents from Khaitan Club during their 3-0 victory in Zain Premier Football League 6th round match. Kazma's goals were scored by Douglas Valle Lima in the 65th minute, Ahmad Al-Ersan scored from the penalty spot in the 78th minute, while Aqeel Hazzem scored the third and final goal in the 84th minute. Kazma now has 10 points in 4th place while Khaitan remained with (5) in seventh place.

Meanwhile, the final match of the Zain Premier Football League took place for the top place between Kuwait and Qadisiya. It took Qadisiya 22 minutes to score their only goal by Mohamed Soula then Kuwait equalized by Mohamed Marbood in the 43th minute as he headed the ball into the net.

Kuwait now has 14 points in first on goal difference with Al-Arabi, while Qadisiya has 12 points in third. As the match was hot and full of enthusiasm, officials from both clubs had heated exchange, and the league officials said they will investigate the incident to decide their course of action.

Standings					
Rank	P	W	D	L	PTS
Kuwait	6	4	2	0	14
Arabi	6	4	2	0	14
Qadisiya	6	3	3	0	12
Kazma	6	3	1	2	10
Salmiya	6	3	0	3	9
Nasr	6	2	1	3	7
Fahaheel	6	1	2	3	5
Khaitan	6	1	2	3	5
Shabab	6	1	2	3	5
Jahra	6	0	1	5	1

Atletico overtake Barca with easy Alaves win

BARCELONA: Atletico Madrid eased to a 2-1 win over Alaves on Sunday to rise above champions Barcelona to third in La Liga. After league leaders Real Madrid beat the Catalans 2-1 in Saturday's Clasico, Diego Simeone's Atletico took full advantage to move a point ahead of Xavi Hernandez's side. Atletico trail Los Blancos and second-place Girona by three points, having played a game less.

Alvaro Morata scored and set up Rodrigo Riquelme's opener as Atletico cruised to victory over Alaves, 17th, at the Metropolitan stadium. Ander Guevara pulled one back at the death for Alaves but it was too little, too late. Atletico have now won 14 consecutive league matches at home, equalling the club's all-time record set in 2013 at their former stadium, the Vicente Calderon. "The record is not by chance, at home with our fans we feel more comfortable, they make us feel stronger, this win is very important for us," Riquelme told Movistar. "We're on the right path, going game by game and we aren't thinking about the league table."

Riquelme sent Atletico ahead after 26 minutes when Antoine Griezmann slipped in Morata, who crossed to the back post. The Spanish midfielder cleverly opened up some space and flashed a shot into the near top corner. Morata doubled Atletico's advantage just before half-time when he gathered Koke's long ball, cut inside from the right and swept home.

Griezmann had a goal disallowed in the second half for a foul by Marcos Llorente in the build-up as Atletico largely cruised. Alaves pulled one back deep in stoppage time when Guevara struck from the edge of the box, with goalkeeper Jan Oblak partly to blame as he should have kept the shot out. - AFP



MADRID: Alaves' Spanish defender #03 Ruben Duarte (L) falls after being hit in the face by Atletico Madrid's Spanish midfielder #14 Marcos Llorente during the Spanish league football match between Club Atletico de Madrid and Deportivo Alaves at the Metropolitan stadium in Madrid. - AFP

Classifieds

Hospitals & Clinics

Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010

Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
---------------	----------

Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764

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

Change of Name

I, **FATEMA**, holder of Passport No. M0230843 do hereby change my name to Fatema (as given name) Bazarwala (as surname) for all purposes. I will hence forth be known in the name Fatema Bazarwala and I also undertake to carry out this name change in all my documents. #4553 - 30-10-2023

Thuram gives leaders Inter revenge on Lukaku as Napoli draw with Milan

Lukaku was given the promised hostile welcome from over 70,000 fans



MILAN: Inter Milan's Argentine forward #10 Lautaro Martinez (C) misses a shot during the Italian Serie A football match between Inter Milan and AS Roma at San Siro Stadium, in Milan. — AFP

MILAN: Marcus Thuram earned revenge on Romelu Lukaku for Serie A's top dogs Inter Milan with the decisive goal in Sunday's 1-0 win over Roma, as Napoli came back from two goals down to draw 2-2 with AC Milan. Inter lead Juventus by two points after Thuram guided home Federico Dimarco's low cross with nine minutes remaining at a pulsating, shrieking San Siro where his World Cup-winning father Lilian was watching on.

France forward Thuram was charged with filling the shoes of Lukaku who enraged fans, his old teammates and the club hierarchy by the way he eyed moves away to Milan and third-placed Juve, whilst Inter tried to secure a permanent deal from Chelsea in the summer. The 26-year-old is repaying the faith Simone Inzaghi has shown in him with five goals and as many assists in all competitions alongside Lukaku's former strike partner Lautaro Martinez.

"We wanted to take three points and we did. I scored and I helped the team win," said Thuram. "I'm

happy about that and I'm not interested in anything else." Lukaku was given the promised hostile welcome from over 70,000 fans who consider him a traitor, with thousands of whistles making their way into the stadium despite police banning their distribution by Inter's hardcore supporters.

Even one-time friend Martinez barely looked at him as the two teams shook hands pre-match and ferocious chants calling Lukaku a "shit of a man" were frequently belted out. Missing a host of starters and suspended coach Jose Mourinho, Roma tried but failed to hold off Inter and sit eighth on 14 points after creating just one chance all evening, Bryan Cristante forcing a fine save from Yann Sommer in the 64th minute.

Inter meanwhile hit the woodwork at either end of the match through Hakan Calhanoglu and Carlos Augusto and should have been ahead by the time Dimarco finally found Thuram, who made no mistake and set off a wave of noise which reverberated around the San Siro.

And soon afterwards the whistles aimed at Lukaku gave way to the celebrations between players and joyous fans who hailed a team that look clear favourites to beat Milan to a 20th league title.

Inter's lead at the summit was extended to two points thanks to champions Napoli's comeback in Naples, Matteo Politano and Giacomo Raspadori earning the hosts a point after they trailed Milan by two at half-time.

Napoli are seven points behind Inter in fourth while third-placed Milan were left three behind their local rivals and wondering what could have been after two classic Olivier Giroud headed goals had the away side deservedly in front at the break.

"We could have been, should have been further ahead at half-time... I'm really disappointed because we threw away two points today," said Giroud, who was outraged when he was substituted with 10 minutes remaining.

"I'm a man, not a robot. I thought I could still help the team. That was his choice and I respect

the coach... But I didn't want to leave the field." Napoli's title defence has been unconvincing and Rudi Garcia's team were loudly booed off the field at the interval, with Politano calling their first-half display "embarrassing".

But they came flying out of the traps at the start of the second half and Politano made up for a horrendous miss in the opening period when in the 50th minute he skipped around debutant Marco Pellegrino and Theo Hernandez before smashing past Mike Maignan.

And after piling pressure on the Milan goal Raspadori brought the hosts level just after the hour mark with a superb free-kick which took full advantage of a poorly placed Milan wall. The two teams both went for the win and after Napoli defender Natan was sent off late on Davide Calabria headed wide a great chance to snatch the win before Khvicha Kvaratskhelia forced a fine save from Maignan moments before the warm applause which greeted the final whistle. — AFP

Verstappen grabs record 16th F1 victory of season

MEXICO CITY: World champion Max Verstappen drew level with Alain Prost on 51 Formula One victories on Sunday when he claimed his record 16th triumph of the season at the Mexican Grand Prix. Starting from third on the grid, the Red Bull driver stole the lead at the start and then dominated the race, which was punctuated by a lengthy red flag stoppage when Kevin Magnussen crashed heavily in his Haas.

The 26-year-old Dutchman came home 13.875 seconds ahead of a revitalized Lewis Hamilton, who started sixth, with pole-sitter Charles Leclerc taking third place ahead of his Ferrari team-mate Carlos Sainz. Lando Norris finished a glorious fifth for McLaren after an enthralling drive through the field from 17th on the grid, ahead of George Russell in the second Mercedes.

It was Verstappen's fifth win in Mexico and his record-equalling 18th podium finish this year while the luckless Leclerc, who collided with Sergio Perez's Red Bull at the first corner, endured his 11th successive fail-

ure to convert pole into a victory. Perez spun off, recovered and retired, much to the disappointment of his home Mexican fans in a big crowd at the high-altitude Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez. "It is just incredible," said Verstappen. "To win from P3, is just amazing. I started P3 and the car was really great. It was a very strong race and now I don't know—more wins, maybe 17 or 18!"

Hamilton, who was disqualified after finishing second in the United States a week earlier, said: "I feel fresh. I was pushing, but not crazy hard. It is a great result, considering we started sixth. This is a great result for us in a difficult few weeks." Leclerc noticed "a lot of booing" from the crowd and explained his part in Perez's exit.

"I had nowhere to go. I was between the two Red Bulls. Checo damaged my car and it ended his race. It was not on purpose." Daniel Ricciardo finished a creditable seventh for Alpha Tauri ahead of Oscar Piastri in the second McLaren, Williams' Alex Albon and Esteban Ocon of Alpine.

Verstappen made a sensational start, powering between the Ferraris to take the inside line after the 800-metre rush from Turn One. Sensing a chance, Perez went three abreast with Verstappen and Leclerc, but clipped the Ferrari's front wing and bounced off.

To loud groans, he rejoined, limped to the pits and retired, beating his steering wheel in frustration while Leclerc

continued with a flapping front wing which soon fell off. The stewards noted he was driving in an "unsafe condition" and decided to investigate after the race.

"I went for it," said Perez, accepting the blame. "There wasn't room for three cars. In hindsight, I should have backed off, but it's my home race." By lap 20, Verstappen led by 4.6 seconds before pitting for hards, handing the lead to Leclerc.

He rejoined seventh behind Russell and swiftly rose to fifth as his rivals pitted before Kevin Magnussen crashed heavily at Turn Nine to prompt a safety car. The Dane escaped, apparently unhurt, but his blazing Haas was wrecked, as Verstappen led a charge for cheap pit-stops and retained his lead before the race was red-flagged.

After a 20-minute interlude to clear the debris, the race resumed with a standing start, which Verstappen, on hards, nailed ahead of Leclerc as Hamilton on mediums looked for a gap. It appeared on lap 40, when he dived inside the Monegasque at Turn One in vintage style to take second.

"It's going to be a tough stint," said Hamilton, assessing his chances as Verstappen pulled four seconds clear

and built a luxurious cushion. Behind them, several entertaining scraps and a dazzling drive by Norris thrilled the crowd, the McLaren driver charging through the field. — AFP



Max Verstappen

FIFA bans Rubiales for 3 years for forced kiss on Spain player

GENEVA: FIFA on Monday imposed a three-year ban on former Spanish football chief Luis Rubiales after his forced kiss on the lips of World Cup winner Jenni Hermoso shocked the world of football. World football's governing body provisionally suspended Rubiales for 90 days following his unsolicited kiss during the medal ceremony after Spain won the Women's World Cup in Sydney on August 20.

FIFA said Rubiales had broken its code of conduct and would now be banned from all football activities for three years. Hermoso said the incident left her feeling "vulnerable and like the victim of an assault" and described it as "an impulsive, macho act, out of place and with no type of consent on my part".

Rubiales, who repeatedly insisted the kiss was consensual, resigned as head of the Spanish football federation in September. "The FIFA disciplinary committee has banned Luis Rubiales, the former president of the Spanish Football Association (RFEF), from all football-related activities at national and international levels for three years," the Zurich-based organization said in a statement.

FIFA said Rubiales had been notified of the decision on Monday and had 10 days to request a so-called motivated decision, which if requested, would be published on FIFA's legal website. "The decision remains subject to a possible appeal before the FIFA Appeal Committee," the statement said. "FIFA reiterates its absolute commitment to respecting and protecting the integrity of all people and ensuring that the basic rules of decent conduct are upheld."

The case of the kiss has had widespread ramifications in Spain, leading to a shakeup of the management of the women's team and sparking demonstrations by feminist and student groups. After Spain beat England 1-0 in the World Cup final, the RFEF initially put out a statement

quoting Hermoso as saying the kiss was "a natural gesture of affection and gratitude".

Rubiales offered a cursory apology but later toughened his stance in his defiant speech to a meeting of the federation on August 25, prompting Hermoso to issue her own statement denying that the kiss was consensual and saying it had left her feeling "vulnerable" and like "the victim of an assault". A day later, the federation accused her of "lies" over the incident, threatening legal action against her.

The coach of the World Cup-winning team, Jorge Vilda, who had enjoyed the full support of Rubiales when his authoritarian methods were questioned last year, was fired and replaced by a woman, Montse Tome. Reports in Spain said Vilda had demanded to check players' shopping bags and made the squad leave their bedroom doors open during team training camps to ensure the players were still there in the evenings.

Despite the removal of Rubiales and Vilda, the players of Spain's national women's team expressed their concerns that the management methods were not changing fast enough by threatening to strike.



Luis Rubiales

Hermoso returned to action for the national team on Friday and scored the winner in the 1-0 Nations League victory against Italy.

Afterwards she said: "I can tell you (I thought about) many things, but life sometimes gives you little gifts, and today I thought about a lot of people behind me this time. "I am happy because, thanks to them, today I enjoyed football once again." — AFP