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Kuwait slams Zionist massacres

Blinken on Middle East crisis tour as bloody war roils Gaza



RAMALLAH: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken shakes hands with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas at the Muqataa Presidential Compound on Nov 5, 2023. — AFP

KUWAIT/GAZA: Kuwait's ministry of foreign affairs expressed Saturday Kuwait's condemnation of the continued barbaric aggression by the Zionist occupation forces against civilians in the Gaza Strip. The ministry renewed Kuwait's condemnation of the horrific massacres that recently targeted some schools and universities, including of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), as well as the Nasr Pediatrics Hospital and a drinking water tank.

In addition, the ministry expressed again Kuwait's denunciation and condemnation of the occupation forces' continued targeting of Palestinian civilians in a new violation of all international laws and conventions. It reaffirmed Kuwait's calling for immediate halt to these massacres through implementing a ceasefire to help deliver aid and relief supplies to the affected civilians. The ministry further repeated Kuwait's call

for the international community to protect the Palestinian people and not to deal with double standards with their sufferings due to the Zionist occupation's aggression.

Meanwhile, US top diplomat Antony Blinken visited the occupied West Bank on Sunday, part of a whirlwind Middle East tour as the Zionist entity pursues its deadliest campaign yet in besieged Gaza to destroy Hamas. Blinken met Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas who denounced what he labelled a "genocide" in Gaza, where the health ministry said at least 9,770 people had been killed in more than four weeks of war.

Washington has rebuffed calls for a ceasefire and backed the Zionist entity's goal of crushing Hamas who staged the deadliest attack in the country's history on Oct 7, killing more than 1,400 people and taking over 240 captives, according to Zionist officials. Global concern has soared

over the spiraling Gaza death toll.

Ground battles raged again in northern Gaza, where Zionist troops tightened their encirclement of Gaza City. Soldiers were seen engaged in house-to-house combat as tanks and armored bulldozers churned through the sand in footage released by the army. "This strike is like an earthquake," Gaza City resident Alaa Abu Hasera said while surveying damaged buildings in the devastated area where entire blocks have been reduced to rubble.

Blinken, in his sit-down talks with Abbas, said Palestinians in Gaza "must not be forcibly displaced", a US State Department spokesman said, after Blinken earlier urged "humanitarian pauses" to the fighting. The Zionist entity has repeatedly urged Palestinian civilians in northern Gaza to head south, in leaflets and text messages, but a US official said Saturday

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MP says govt has lost support, lawmaker to grill justice minister

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Clouds of disagreement between MPs and the government appeared on Sunday as MP Abdulwahab Al-Essa claimed the government has lost the leadership's support and MP Metab Al-Enezi said he will grill the justice minister for undermining national unity. The level of cooperation between the National Assembly and the government looked well set as the two bodies discussed priority issues and legislation ahead of opening the new legislative term last Tuesday.

But MP Essa said that the speech of HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, read on behalf of HH the Amir, "has withdrawn confidence of the leadership from the government and erased political and legitimate cover" normally granted to the government. In the speech he opened with the new term, HH Sheikh Mishal criticized the government, saying its performance is still below the expectations and aspirations of the Kuwaiti people, adding that despite total support by the leadership, it remains hesitant in taking decisions and very slow in implementing them.

"The moral and political consequences of the speech mean that the government has lost its political trust," Essa said in a statement. The lawmaker said this form of relations between the leadership and the government has serious implications on the country, especially when the Middle East is witnessing a war, compounded with regional challenges.

He said Kuwait is facing security challenges in the Khor Abdullah waterway shared with Iraq and also in the Durra gas field, in which Iran claims a share. Essa charged that as a result of the government's inaction, there is total paralysis in the country. The lawmaker announced he will not cooperate with the government and will support all no-confidence motions against ministers.

Meanwhile, MP Enezi said on Sunday that he will grill Justice Minister and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Faleh Al-Ruqabah for allegedly threatening national unity regarding the appointment of new deputy prosecutors. "The appointment of the deputy prosecutors is a serious issue that cannot be tolerated," said Enezi, adding that "the appointments represent ugly discrimination among citizens" and clearly undermine national unity.

Outrage over Zionist minister's call to nuke Gaza

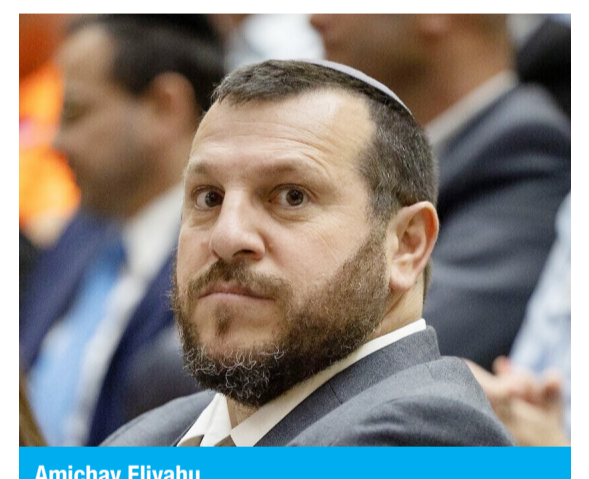
JERUSALEM: The Zionist entity's government on Sunday reprimanded an ultranationalist minister who advocated in an interview dropping a nuclear bomb on war-torn Gaza, labelling his comments "disconnected from reality". Heritage Minister Amichay Eliyahu was also suspended from government meetings "until further notice", Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said, stressing that the Zionist entity was seeking to spare "non-combatants".

Despite the immediate reprimand, the junior min-

ister's inflammatory comments drew wide condemnation from within the Zionist entity and across the Middle East. The Zionist entity has vowed to destroy Hamas, heavily bombed Gaza and launched a ground invasion on the north of the besieged territory. Gaza's health ministry says 9,770 people have been killed, mostly civilians.

Eliyahu told the Zionist entity's Kol Barama radio he was not entirely satisfied with the scale of the Zionist entity's retaliation. When the interviewer asked whether he advocated dropping "some kind of atomic bomb" on Gaza "to kill everyone", Eliyahu replied: "That's one option." In a follow-up question about the hostages held in Gaza, Eliyahu said that "in war we pay a price". "Why are the lives of the hostages... more important than the lives of the soldiers?" he said.

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Amichay Eliyahu

Protesters slam Biden at march for Palestine

WASHINGTON: Thousands of protesters in the US capital on Saturday called for a ceasefire in Gaza amid the Zionist entity's relentless bombing campaign, with some slamming President Joe Biden's support for Washington's top ally in the Middle East. The rally, at which demonstrators waved Palestinian flags and wore the traditional keffiyeh scarf, was the largest protest in Washington since the beginning of the Zionist-Hamas conflict on Oct 7.

"Free, free Palestine" and "End the siege on Gaza now", the protesters shouted. Other slogans targeted the US president: "Biden, Biden you can't hide, you signed off on genocide" and "We say no, Genocide Joe." "It is unacceptable to allow for the loss of so many innocent lives and we cannot consider this a proportional conflict," said 24-year-old Amanda Eisenhour of Virginia. "This is a massacre, a genocide... a stain on our history, and I cannot accept as a citizen that my taxes are funding this."

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WASHINGTON: Demonstrators gather in Freedom Plaza during a rally in support of Palestinians on Nov 4, 2023. — AFP

Musk teases AI chatbot 'Grok' with access to X

SAN FRANCISCO: Elon Musk on Saturday unveiled details of his new AI tool called "Grok", which can access X in real time and will be initially available to the social media platform's top tier of subscribers. Musk, the tycoon behind Tesla and SpaceX, said the link-up with X, formerly known as Twitter, is "a massive advantage over other models" of generative AI.

Grok "loves sarcasm. I have no idea who could have guided it this way," Musk quipped, adding a laughing emoji to his post. "Grok" comes from

"Stranger in a Strange Land", a 1961 science fiction novel by Robert Heinlein, and means to understand something thoroughly and intuitively. "As soon as it's out of early beta, xAI's Grok system will be available to all X Premium+ subscribers," Musk said.

The social network that Musk bought a year ago launched the Premium+ plan last week for \$16 per month, with benefits like no ads. The billionaire started xAI in July after hiring researchers from OpenAI, Google DeepMind, Tesla and the University of Toronto. Since OpenAI's generative AI tool ChatGPT exploded on the scene a year ago, the technology has been an area of fierce competition between tech giants Microsoft and Google, as well as Meta and start-ups like Anthropic and Stability AI.

Musk is one of the world's few investors with deep enough pockets to compete with

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Speaker arrives in Doha to attend GCC parliamentary council meeting

17th parliamentary council to start deliberations on Tuesday

In my view

My endless love

By Azzah Al-Ghamdi



For years, I have longed to visit the cinema. Personally, I am not inclined to leave my house as I prefer to stay at home. However, there are times when I wish I could go to the cinema to watch an American movie. Fortunately, I have a collection of Hollywood films, and while they no longer produce such movies, I still have access to them.

I have a strong dislike for films that revolve around violence, horror and murder. These movies perpetuate a culture of violence worldwide, and I sincerely wish that such films were not produced. Unfortunately, the challenge lies in the fact that a significant portion of the general public enjoys watching action and horror films.

Another issue I've noticed in Hollywood is the lack of exceptionally beautiful faces on the screen, both male and female. To illustrate this point, let's take the example of the actress Brooke Shields. She has a fascinating story. I wish the truth about Shields' beauty was widely recognized. Even in the present era, there is no one who resembles Brooke Shields, and some women in the Arab world make exaggerated claims about their resemblance to her, which is quite laughable.

Anyone who sees their pictures can easily discern that they are not even remotely similar to Shields. Her unique beauty is unmatched, and it has European roots, despite her association with American cinema. It's worth noting that many Americans are originally of European descent and played a significant role in the founding of the United States of America.

Regrettably, Brooke Shields did not achieve much success in Hollywood. It remains unclear whether she faced personal or professional challenges that she couldn't overcome. I recollect one of Shields' movies from the 1980s, although I cannot remember the entire film as I did not watch it in its entirety. What remains vivid in my memory is the ending of the movie, with Shields shedding tears for her beloved, whom she deemed irreplaceable.

This leads me to a profound observation about the plight of beautiful women. Beautiful women naturally attract many admirers and are accustomed to such attention. They understand that if they lose a lover or go through a divorce, they can easily find another partner. However, the tears shed by Shields in that movie shed light on a deeper truth – that men are often intimidated by the idea of being in a relationship with a beautiful woman.

A beautiful woman is just as capable of loving sincerely as any other woman. If a woman, regardless of her looks, finds a man who genuinely admires her, she often regards him as irreplaceable, accepting all kinds of mistreatment and humiliation. She may not even love him, but he is the only one in her life.

Conversely, a beautiful woman who truly understands love has the capacity to let go. She values her dignity and is proud of it. This woman is a rare breed – a woman who doesn't compromise her values for money or weakness. May God bless her with a man who is equally honest and loves her as she deserves.

True love isn't solely about physical attraction or fleeting encounters. Love that truly ignites the heart is not found in chance meetings or online forums. Brooke Shields' tears in the movie reflect her belief that her departed lover is irreplaceable.

Every day, beautiful women endure unwanted attention and harassment. Most men mistakenly believe that a woman who tolerates betrayal and humiliation is somehow better than a woman who values her dignity. However, God honors those who maintain their self-respect and compensates them with the best. Those who remain silent about infidelity and accept humiliation are often subjected to further humiliation.

Some men may delude themselves into thinking that a woman who tolerates such mistreatment does so because she loves him. In reality, she is silent because she knows that she is a true lover who cannot love anyone else after her departed lover. She makes the difficult choice to leave and close the door, showing her commitment to the one she considers irreplaceable. This is the secret behind Brooke Shields' tears in the movie.

In conclusion, I would like to appeal to Hollywood to search for and showcase beautiful faces with moral stories that promote peace, love and understanding among people worldwide. I sincerely wish to visit the cinema, but there are hurdles to overcome.

DOHA: Speaker of the National Assembly and head of the Parliamentary Division Ahmad Al-Saadoun arrived on Sunday in the Qatari capital Doha to participate in the 17th meeting of the heads of the Shura Councils and Parliamentary Councils in the GCC.

Al-Saadoun and the delegation of the Parliamentary Division were received by the Speaker of the Qatari Shura Council, Hassan Al-Ghanim, the head of the honorary mission, member Abdullah Al-Subaie, a number of members of the Shura Council, and the Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to the State of Qatar, Khaled Al-Mutairi.

The accompanying delegation includes the representative of the Parliamentary Division, Dr Hamad Al-Matar, and Secretary Dr Muhammad Al-Mahan, Treasurer Hamad Al-Obaid, members of the Executive Committee, Fahd bin Jamea, Shuaib Shaaban, and Daoud Marafi, in addition to the Secretary-General of the National Assembly, Khaled Bu Salib, and the Assistant Secretary-General of the Organizations Sector, by designation, Mishal Al-Anazi.

It is noteworthy that the 17th meeting of the



KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker heads to Qatar for GCC Parliamentary Council meeting. — KUNA

heads of the Shura, Representatives, National and Ummah Councils in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries will begin its work on Tuesday. Al-Saadoun and the Parliamentary Council delega-

tion were seen off by Deputy Speaker Mohammad Al-Mutair and Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of National Assembly Affairs and Cabinet Affairs Essa Al-Kandari. — KUNA

The art of personal branding

By Ghadeer Ghloom

KUWAIT: In a world where countless brands vie for attention, the key to success lies in standing out. In this interview, Husaina Shabbir, a copywriter who specializes in helping high net-worth founders and professionals elevate their personal brands, and who has been recognized by GCPIT with the Global Women in Business & Leadership Awards 2023, shares valuable strategies and innovative approaches with Kuwait Times. These insights empower readers to establish a prominent presence in the competitive business landscape.

Kuwait Times: What is the significance of having a strong team and culture in startups?

Husaina Shabbir: It may come as a surprise, but team-related issues are among the top three causes of startup failures worldwide. A founder may have the best product or the most ambitious vision, but none of it guarantees success without a solid team. Whether a startup can afford to hire top talent or is building a team from scratch, the key to success is retention. This is only possible if there's a strong, fair and inclusive organizational culture in place. When you have a team that is united, passionate and guided by a shared culture, you are not merely building a business; you are shaping a legacy.

Kuwait Times: What role does personal branding play in attracting and retaining top talent?

Shabbir: Personal branding is like a magnet, a powerful force that draws top talent toward you. Consider this: in a sea of startups, how do you differentiate yourself? It's your personal brand that tells your unique story, conveys your values and sets the tone for what it's like to work with you. When top talents see a founder or leader who aligns with their values and aspirations, they are not just joining a company; they are joining a vision.

Kuwait Times: What strategies can startups employ to effectively communicate their vision to po-

tential employees?

Shabbir: Effective communication, especially when sharing your vision, is an art. Here's a valuable tip: Don't just showcase your achievements; delve into the journey behind them. Share stories about your late nights, your toughest challenges and the obstacles you overcame. Use platforms like LinkedIn to share the raw, unfiltered moments that led to your achievements. It's in these narratives that people connect with you and trust the real you. Your authenticity and authority inspire potential employees to become part of your journey. Make them a part of your story, and they will want to be part of your dream.

Kuwait Times: How does personal branding help startups foster a positive team culture?

Shabbir: Personal branding serves as a guiding light for the culture within a startup. When leaders have strong personal brands, they set the tone for the values, behaviors and aspirations of the entire team. It's like establishing a standard of excellence. When team members witness leaders walking the talk and living their brand, it motivates them to do the same. This fosters a culture of pride, ambition and unity. The key is to set expectations and lead by example. Become the kind of leader your team proudly talks about throughout their careers!

Kuwait Times: Can you provide examples of successful startups that have effectively used personal branding to attract and retain top talent?

Shabbir: There is no shortage of examples. Consider Tesla with Elon Musk or Virgin with Richard Branson. Their personal brands are inseparable from their company brands, benefiting each other. Closer to home, many startups in the Middle East have founders who actively engage on platforms like LinkedIn, sharing their journeys, challenges and successes. Their personal brands become synonymous with their startups, making them attractive hubs for top talent.

Kuwait Times: How can startups continuous-



Husaina Shabbir



Guide prepared by Husaina Shabbir

ly nurture and strengthen their team and culture once they have attracted top talent through personal branding?

Shabbir: Attracting talent is just the first step. The real magic happens when you nurture and grow with them. Maintain open dialogues, celebrate small victories and learn from setbacks together. Encourage personal growth and provide opportunities for team members to shine. Above all, lead by example. Your personal brand should be a living, breathing entity within the startup, inspiring and guiding every step of the way.

Sharjah book fair, a cultural bridge

SHARJAH: The 42nd edition of Sharjah International Book Fair creates connections between world countries and bridges cultural gap as it is also an opportunity introduce Kuwait to widely diverse audience, stated participating Information Ministry officials.

Ministry representative Faisal Al-Shammari underlined to KUNA the significance of such an event describing it as a platform for the exchange of ideas and a display of latest developments in the field. He explained that attending are media personnel, writers as well as renowned media establish-



Abdallah Al-Rafadi

ments from all over the world.

Abdallah Al-Rafadi, Ministry official, spoke about the ministry's pavilion saying that it sought to highlight Kuwait as a beacon of culture, humanity and as a cultural economic hub. The pavilion also shed light on local talents and narratives of Kuwaiti history and culture. This year's edition of the book fair encompasses various activities and keynote speakers as part of a comprehensive cultural program. —KUNA



Kuwait's annual AIDS conference starts Monday

KUWAIT: Head of the Infectious Diseases Department at Jahra Hospital (Communicable Diseases), Dr Osama Al-Baqsmi, said that the Kuwait Annual Conference on AIDS and Venereal Diseases will begin Monday. The conference will shed light on the latest methods of diagnosis and treatment. The conference lasts for two days.

Al-Baqsmi said that the conference, which is being held under the patronage of the Minister of Health, Dr Ahmad Al-Awadhi, features 12 scientific lectures presented by four visiting consultant doctors from outside Kuwait, in addition to local contributions that highlight AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases, and the latest methods of diagnosis, treatment, and special vaccinations.

He explained that the conference aims to limit the transmission of AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases, reveal the latest diagnostic methods, educate



Osamah Al-Baqsmi

doctors about the nature of these diseases, educate the medical staff about the latest treatment methods and how to deal with them, and introduce them to the means of reducing their transmission.

He added that the conference's message is to educate the medical staff about the nature of the disease. He pointed out that there are 39 million people infected with AIDS in the world, 21 million of whom are undergoing treatment, while the number of infected people in the Middle East region is 190,000, pointing out that the United Nations Joint Commission on AIDS publishes an annual report on countries' performance in several indicators.

He stressed that Kuwait provides treatment according to the latest medical protocols and conducts AIDS screening at multiple stages and points, including examining all blood donors to the blood bank and a mandatory medical examination before marriage

and in pregnant women's clinics and transmitted disease clinics. He said that one of the achievements achieved by Kuwait is that it has become possible for a woman infected with the AIDS virus, who is committed to treatment, to become pregnant naturally after six months of taking treatment, and then give birth to healthy, uninfected children without the need for a cesarean section.

He explained that one of the medical achievements in this field is that after six months have passed since the infected man has committed to treatment, he can lead a normal marital life with his uninfected wife without exposing her to the risk of infection. She can become pregnant naturally and give birth to healthy children, he said.

The age of the patient who is committed to treatment is very close to the average lifespan in society, and he is expected to live in health and well-being for many decades, provided that he adheres to treatment.

He pointed out that it is easy to take one pill a day, and its complications are almost negligible. The majority of patients do not have any side complications. He stressed that the patient who does not adhere to treatment is vulnerable to severe immune deficiency and recurrent infections that may threaten his life. So it is very important to know that adherence to treatment is extremely important, he pointed out. —KUNA

Local

KRCS to intensify efforts to provide more aid to Gaza

Kuwait's 13th relief plane leaves for Al-Arish



KUWAIT: The 13th relief plane as part of the Kuwaiti Air Bridge for Gaza Strip being loaded on Sunday. — KUNA



KUWAIT: The 13th relief plane took off from the Kuwaiti Air Bridge to help the brothers in the Gaza Strip, heading to the Egyptian city of Al-Arish. The plane carries 40 tons of food and medical supplies. In his remarks to KUNA, Deputy Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society, Anwar Al-Hasawi reaffirmed Kuwait's solidarity with the brothers in the Gaza Strip and its determination to continue providing the urgent aid necessary to save the victims of Zionist attacks and meet the necessary life requirements.



Anwar Al-Hasawi

He said that Kuwait is one of the first countries to provide humanitarian support to them to alleviate their suffering from the heinous attacks of the occupation forces that destroyed all aspects of life and left thousands dead and wounded.

Al-Hasawi stressed that the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) will intensify its efforts in providing assistance to those affected in coordination with the Palestinian Red Crescent, expressing his thanks to the foreign ministries and the Defense Department, due to their keenness to maintain constant communication and facilitate the transfer of aid to the brothers in Gaza.

Director of the Public Relations and Media



Department of the Society, Khaled Al-Zaid, said in a similar statement to KUNA that the Society is keen on the validity of the medical and food supplies sent, stressing that their validity ranges from long-term to short-term for the next six months. He pointed out that the association works through coordination with the Palestinian Red Crescent by providing daily information on all medical and food required to be provided on Kuwaiti relief air bridge planes, in addition to coordinating with the Embassy of the State of Kuwait in Egypt to bring aid urgently.

Al-Zaid expressed his thanks to the donors of the

"Help Palestine" campaign through their website, stressing that the association is keen to interact urgently with all humanitarian crises and natural disasters and in coordination to deliver aid to the affected areas around the world. Meanwhile, the third and fourth batches of KRCS's relief aid supplies arrived in the Gaza Strip, said an official on Sunday. Speaking to KUNA, head of the Palestinian voluntary teams operating in Gaza affiliated with KRCS Ahmad Abu Diyeh said that the society's batches of necessary supplies were part of the Kuwait humanitarian air bridge, which carried tons of medical supplies.

The supplies would be distributed to hospitals in southern Gaza within the following hours, he revealed, noting that there were difficulties in sending material to medical facilities in northern Gaza Strip due to the brutal Zionist aggression's bombardment of the area. On his part, head of the Gaza Health authority's storage department Dr Mohammad Hamad commended the Kuwaiti swift response to the health needs in the heavily bombarded Gaza Strip. The Kuwait humanitarian air bridge continues for over ten days to deliver relief aid, transporting 170 tons of medical supplies, food and ambulances to the Gaza Strip. — KUNA



How young girls are enduring the trauma of blackmail, harassment

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: Blackmail and harassment are distressing issues that young female students often have to confront, and such experiences can have profound emotional and psychological impacts on them. Eighteen-year-old Indian student Mahammad Sami Shaik, currently in the 10th grade, has chosen to be the voice of his female peers, sharing their stories in his own unique way.

In his book, Shaik delves into the poignant topic of the suffering endured by young girls subjected to the distressing issues of blackmail and harassment. He sheds light on the challenges these girls face, gives a voice to their experiences and advocates for awareness and change in response to these pressing concerns. Kuwait Times spoke with him to learn more about his book "Heartbeat Sana", which is officially certified by the National Library of Kuwait.

Kuwait Times: Could you provide insights into the main characters and events that drive the narrative in "Heartbeat Sana" and how they are connected to the issues of blackmail and harassment?

Shaik: "Heartbeat Sana" begins as a love story filled with emotions and destiny. The main characters in this story are Sonu Sana and Tyson. Initially, Sonu believes Tyson is a nice person. However, as the story unfolds, Sonu discovers Tyson's true character, which involves manipulating, harassing and blackmailing girls. The narrative involves over 20 characters, offering a unique perspective. The book also incorporates real dates and times for added authenticity.

Tyson is not the only one involved in blackmailing and harassment; there are many individuals from different countries trapping girls aged between 14 and 18, and each of these cases is mentioned in the book.

KT: What inspired you to write this book, and what personal experiences or observations led you to address the alarming issue of young girls falling victim to blackmail and harassment?

Shaik: I have a habit of helping everyone. One day, a friend of mine was being blackmailed by someone. She couldn't speak out due to fear, stress and depression caused by the blackmailer. With knowledge of ethical hacking, I used my skills to intervene, which proved effective, and he stopped blackmailing her.

Later, I created an Instagram page to assist people using my skills, primarily focusing on psychological tactics. I started receiving numerous cases of blackmail and harassment, with many girls falling into traps. I assisted each one of them, and through these experiences, I realized that the common thread was the girls' fear of speaking out about their situations.



Student Mahammad Sami Shaik



The book's cover.

Within a month, I received so many cases that I began to wonder how many more girls were going through similar situations. This prompted me to write a book based on my research to raise awareness.

KT: Could you describe some of the challenges and emotional turmoil that the victims in your book go through, and how they navigate these difficult circumstances?

Shaik: Based on my research, the victims commonly experience fear and intimidation by the blackmailer, who exploits their vulnerability. The harassment causes extreme stress in victims, leading to suicidal thoughts and self-harm because they cannot openly discuss their predicaments. Some blackmailers edit girls' pictures inappropriately and then use these altered images to blackmail the girls, coercing them into various actions by threatening to release those pictures on social media.

KT: In what ways does the book explore the role of technology in both facilitating and combatting issues like blackmail and harassment, and what messages or lessons do you hope readers will take away from this aspect of the story?

Shaik: Nowadays, blackmailers are using technology, including AI and editing apps, to edit innocent girls' pictures and mentally harass them. Readers will glean various lessons from this book, as it contains numerous elements that reflect real-world occurrences, especially concerning how innocent girls are harassed and blackmailed in various ways. The book exposes the dark sides of the world.

The book empowers every young girl, encouraging them to speak out about their situations. For male readers, it imparts the value of emotions and teaches them never to contemplate harassing or blackmailing girls.

KT: How do you believe this book will benefit young individuals?

Shaik: This book exposes the strategies used by villains to trap and manipulate young individuals. It will help them become aware of these criminal tactics. The book provides hope and valuable lessons to young individuals who may be experiencing harassment and blackmail. At the end of the book, there is a message for young individuals that is the result of extensive research, which will help keep them informed and aware.

26th Quran recital competition inaugurated

KUWAIT: Under the patronage of HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the 26th Kuwait Grand Competition for Memorizing and Reciting the Holy Quran was inaugurated under the slogan "Maknoon". Kuwait University, through the Deanship of Student Affairs, participated by sending 23 students, both male and female, from various faculties, with varying degrees of Quranic memorization and intonation skills.

Kholoud Al-Yaqoub, Acting Controller of the Department of Cultural and Artistic Activities at the Deanship of Student Affairs, emphasized that the primary goal of these competitions is to inspire Kuwait University students to engage in Quranic recitation, memorization and fostering a deep appreciation for the Holy Quran in their hearts. Additionally, the competition aims to encourage students to invest their free time in a meaningful and beneficial manner.

The competition, organized by the General Secretariat of Awqaf, is open to all Kuwaiti citizens and is divided into various categories to assess Quranic memorization skills.

Kuwait's drug control dept wins accolade

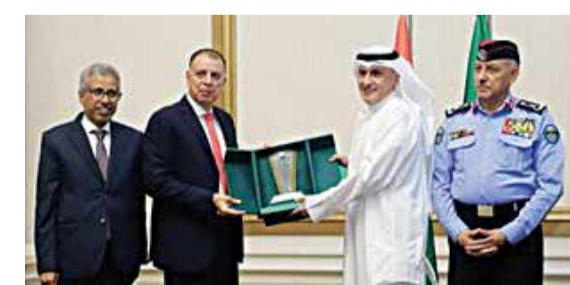
KUWAIT: The General Directorate for Drug Control has been awarded "best operational information field cooperation" at the Arab, regional and international levels. The criminal security affairs sector at the ministry of interior in Kuwait, represented by the General Directorate for Drug Control, emerged victorious in the competition for the most exceptional field cooperation and operational information at the Arab, regional and international levels.

This recognition celebrates the outstanding role played by the General Directorate for Drug Control in disrupting drug trafficking networks. The accolade was bestowed during the 37th Arab Conference of Heads of Drug Control Agencies, which took place in Amman from Oct 31 to Nov 1, 2023.

The event witnessed the participation of representatives from the ministries of interior in Arab countries, the League of Arab States, Naif Arab University for Security Sciences, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Interpol, Gulf Cooperation Council and Himaya



Kuwait Grand Competition for Memorizing and Reciting the Holy Quran was inaugurated under the slogan "Maknoon".



International Training Center. Jordanian Interior Minister Mazen Al-Fariyah presented a shield and a certificate of appreciation to Brig Gen Mohammad Qabazard, Director General of the General Directorate for Drug Control. This recognition took place in the presence of the Secretary General of the Council of Arab Interior Ministers Mohammad bin Ali Koman and Director of the Jordanian Public Security Maj Gen Ubaidullah Al-Ma'aytah. Participants at the conference extended their congratulations to Kuwait's interior ministry for its remarkable achievement. They also expressed their appreciation for the General Directorate for Drug Control's effective cooperation in dismantling organized criminal groups involved in drug-related crimes, monitoring their activities and apprehending those responsible for them.

Info minister, KFA chief discuss means to boost tourism

KUWAIT: Minister of Information, and Minister of Endowments and Islamic Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi met head of the Kuwaiti Festivals Association Tariq Al-Obaid and members of the association's supreme committee. During the meeting, the minister was briefed on the association's efforts aimed at contributing to promoting tourism and entertainment.

In a news statement, the committee appreciated efforts made by the minister to develop the country's tourism sector and harness potential required to make success of relevant actions. Al-Obaid said that the meeting with the minister came within the efforts made to achieve a successful community partnership between state agencies and civil society institutions, mainly in developing and marketing artistic, cultural and tourism programs, according to the statement.

He underlined the importance of cooperating with the Ministry of Information with its sectors, and the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters in marketing tourism on cultural and artistic levels, it noted. The association is keen on highlighting Kuwait's tourist image and contributing to pushing development, it pointed out. Last December, the two sides signed a deal to launch the electronic platform project to offer activities, and sports and cultural tourist activities to shed light on official and non-official activities and events in all fields. Last May, the association launched a national campaign to stimulate tourism in promoting and highlighting domestic tourist destinations in cooperation with a number of relevant government agencies. — KUNA

Cybersecurity awareness drive

KUWAIT: Acting General Technical Mentor of Computer Curriculum Muna Salem Awadh said 450,000 learners benefited from the awareness campaign 'Be Aware' in the field of cybersecurity which was launched recently at the education ministry schools. She said that 120 mentors oversaw the campaign in addition to heads of departments and computer teachers numbering over 300. She said the targeted group consisted of students from 4th to 12th grades.

Molecular imaging is a critical tool for diagnosis, says expert

Nuclear Medicine Association holds annual conference



Dr Fahd Marafi

KUWAIT: The President of the Kuwaiti Association for Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging, Dr Fahd Marafi, stressed the importance of molecular imaging as an extremely important method in diagnosis and obtaining information that other radiological imaging techniques do not provide and avoid medical procedures such as biopsies and surgeries.

Marafi said in a press statement on Sunday after the opening of the association's annual conference that nuclear medicine and molecular imaging help doctors detect diseases in their early stages, even before symptoms appear. He explained that the conference organized by the Association discusses the latest developments locally and globally and is one of the most prominent scientific event of its kind in the region that brings together experts and researchers from across the world.

He said that the topics of the conference include diagnosis, treatment, nuclear applications, advanced clinical research, and the latest findings of nuclear medicine in artificial intelligence, in ad-



Delegates pose for a group photo during the annual conference of the Kuwaiti Association for Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging.

dition to presentations, workshops, and discussion sessions to exchange knowledge and build networks of professional relationships with the aim of raising the level of healthcare.

He explained that molecular medicine is involved in the diagnosis of all diseases and is an essential factor in determining the percentage of cancerous tumors and has a major role in treating some cancerous and non-cancerous conditions in the thyroid gland or prostate.

Chairman of the Council of Nuclear Medicine Departments and the Head of the Nuclear Medicine Department at the Kuwait Center Dr. Abdul Redha Abbas said the center is keen to keep up with the latest diagnostic and therapeutic methods for cancer patients and ensure that they comply with scientific recommendations and quality and safety standards.

He explained that nuclear medicine is a constantly developing field, "which impacts our understanding of diagnosis, treatment, and patient care," considering that the conference is "an opportunity



Dr Abdul Redha Abbas and Dr Fahd Marafi

to enrich our knowledge and enhance innovation." The collective commitment to pushing the boundaries of nuclear medicine will lead to directing healthcare for the better. — KUNA

Breastfeeding is the best for children: Expert

KUWAIT: The Food and Nutrition Public Authority announced the launch of its celebration of World Breastfeeding Week on Sunday under the slogan 'Empowering breastfeeding: Making a difference for working parents'. The week's activities will continue until Nov 9. The coordinator of the program at the Authority Dr Mona Al-Sumaie said in a press statement that the celebration focuses on the importance of breastfeeding and seeks to promote maternal and infant nutrition. She explained that the program aims to demonstrate the impact of paid maternity leave, support the workplace and provide a breastfeeding-friendly environment and laws.

She added that the program also aims to demonstrate the impact of ministerial decisions regarding the protection of breastfeeding and the implementation of the Kuwaiti code to regulate the marketing of breast-milk substitutes.

Al-Sumaie said that the program seeks to encourage, support and protect breastfeeding by empowering mothers and their families, from starting breastfeeding immediately after birth and continuing with exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of the newborn's life. The results of the nutritional surveillance program in the State of Kuwait for the year 2021 show an increase in Kuwaiti mothers' demand for breastfeeding as the breastfeeding rate reached 93 percent.

She stated that the rate of breastfeeding practiced exclusively with mother's milk in the first six months of the newborn's life reached 13 percent among Kuwaiti women, an increase of



KUWAIT: The Food and Nutrition Public Authority officials during the launch of World Breastfeeding Week on Sunday. — KUNA

up to three percent compared to what it was in 2020. She said that the Authority is linking this program with the project to combat childhood obesity, because breastfeeding has a major role to prevent child obesity as proven by studies and research in the field of

obesity prevention. She stressed that breastfeeding is considered one of the best investments in the health of children and mothers, and that the cost of not breastfeeding has major health and material impacts on the individual, family and societal levels. — KUNA



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Zeyad Al-Omar



Mohammed Al-Musalam



Tareq Al-Ajeel



Yousef Abdullah Al-Ruwaieh

KFH concludes its participation in NLI conference

KUWAIT: Following its successful strategic partnership with the National Leadership Institute (NLI), Kuwait Finance House (KFH) concluded its effective participation in the (Breaking Barriers) conference.

The conference brought together participants from different sectors, notable financial institutions, and field experts who discussed key aspects of digital transformation, women's empowerment, diversity, and inclusion, as well as emerging technologies.

KFH Group Chief Human Resources and Transformation Officer, Zeyad Abdullah Al-Omar affirmed that KFH's participation in the conference was highly successful, attaining its desired objectives with substantial input from the Bank's executive leadership through diverse discussions and workshops, thereby delivering real value to the participants and audience.

In his statement, Al-Omar added that KFH's contribution to the conference stems from its keenness to develop and empower the national leadership capabilities, in addition to its interest in enhancing the education system in Kuwait by participating in all the relevant initiatives and events, which constitute a valuable opportunity to address challenges and explore new avenues that contribute to accelerating knowledge transfer, empowering the next generation of national talents, focusing on innovation and forming purposeful partnerships for rising leaders amid a rapidly developing global scene.

KFH Deputy General Manager Public Relations and Media, Yousef Abdullah Al-Ruwaieh said that KFH's participation affirms its prominent role in the community, noting that the Bank's active engagement during the conference has played a significant role in fostering positive community interaction. This further underlines KFH's dedication to supporting events that reinforce the abilities of both the youth and the broader community.

He went on to say that KFH's interest in taking part in such events stems from the substantial positive influence they have on improving the skills and knowledge of youth across a range of sustainability-related subjects, which, in turn, aids in boosting the community's educational aspects and empowering its youth.



Nehal Al-Mosalem

He explained that the conference encompassed a number of discussion panels and workshops for exchanging ideas and experiences among different segments of society, adding that these sessions are an opportunity to address key topics that are of importance to the community and work environment. The sessions also raise awareness on the significance of knowledge, entrepreneurship as well as supporting Kuwaiti youth in implementing value-adding projects for the community.

Al-Ruwaieh also emphasized that KFH highly values knowledge and youth, endorsing initiatives that foster the growth of leadership abilities, enhance efficiency, and align with worldwide advancement in business and human development, all while adhering to social responsibility principles. KFH Executive Manager Digital Transformation, Eng Tareq Al-Ajeel participated in the first discussion panel held during the Breaking Barriers conference which focused on the role and significance of digital transformation.

Al-Ajeel stated that KFH's online application has achieved massive success and was ranked first on Apple store, primarily for its efficiency, ease of use and innovative banking and financial solutions. During the second discussion panel, KFH Group Deputy General Manager - Products, Nehal Al-Mosalem shared her leadership journey at KFH, saying that the conference, in partnership with NLI, is an opportunity to shed light on empowering women leadership, one of the most important pillars of sustainable development.

KFH Executive Manager Talent Management, Mohammed Al-Musalam said that KFH's involvement in the conference has yielded notable achievements in bolstering the Bank's human talents through their participation in training programs, discussions, workshops and seminars led by a diverse array of international speakers and industry experts such as Quest Nutrition Co-Founder Tom Bilyeu, Joanne Lesley Malone (Jo Malone) who transformed her small business into a global brand, AI and emerging technologies experts Calum Chace and Daniel Hulme, the first Arab woman astronaut Sara Sabry and Graeme Codrington who is an expert on the future of work and the disruptive forces.



Survivors mourn as Nepal quake rescue efforts end

Thousands of Afghans forcibly returned from Pakistan: Kabul

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KHAN YUNIS: Fourteen-year-old amputee Lama al-Agha lies in a hospital bed at the Nasser hospital on Oct 31, 2023. — AFP photos

‘I want my legs back’: The child amputees of Gaza

Dwindling resources leave medics with no choice but amputation to save lives

KHAN YUNIS: Layan al-Baz cries in agony when the effect fades of the painkillers she receives after her legs were amputated — the result of a Zionist strike on Gaza. “I don’t want a false leg,” the 13-year-old Palestinian tells AFP in Khan Yunis’s Nasser hospital, in the southern Gaza Strip, where getting artificial limbs was nearly impossible anyway.

The impoverished Palestinian territory, under a crippling Zionist-led blockade for years and besieged since Oct 7, suffers severe shortages of food, water and fuel, and medical supplies are scarce. “I want them to put my legs back, they can do it,” Baz says in desperation from her bed at Nasser’s pediatric ward.

Every time she opens her eyes as the painkillers wear off, she sees her bandaged stumps. Her mother, Lamia al-Baz, 47, says Layan was wounded last week in a Zionist strike on Al-Qarara district of Khan Yunis. The strike is part of the Zionist occupation’s unrelenting military campaign on Gaza, which aims to destroy Hamas after the armed group entered the Zionist entity on Oct 7, attacking army bases and border settler communities. Zionist officials say more than 1,400 people have died in the assault, most of them civilians.

The Zionist bombardment has killed more than 9,500 people in Gaza since Oct 7, including at least 3,900 children. Four of them were Baz’s relatives,

killed in the strike that cost the 13-year-old’s legs, her mother says. Lamia says two of her daughters, Ikhlal and Khitam, and two grandchildren including a newborn baby were killed when the Zionist strike hit Ikhlal’s home. The family were there to support Ikhlal who had just given birth. “Their bodies were in shreds,” says Lamia, who had to identify her daughters’ bodies at a morgue. “I identified Khitam by her earrings and Ikhlal by her toes.”

Layan, her face and arms dotted with injuries, asks: “How will I return to school when my friends walk and I can’t?” Lamia tries to reassure her: “I will be by your side. It will all be fine. You still have a future ahead of you.”

‘I’m still alive’

At the hospital’s burns unit, 14-year-old Lama al-Agha and her sister Sara, 15, lie in adjacent beds. They are treated after an Oct 12 strike that killed Sara’s twin Sama and brother Yahya, 12, says their mother, sitting between the two hospital beds and struggling to hold back tears.

Stitches and burn scars are visible on Lama’s half-shaved head and her forehead. “When they transferred me here, I asked the nurses to help me sit up and I discovered that my leg was amputated,” the 14-year-old recalls. “I’ve been through a lot of pain but I thank God that I’m still alive.”



Thirteen-year-old amputee Layan al-Baz receives treatment at the Nasser hospital.

Lama is determined not to let her injury decide her future. “I’ll get an artificial leg and continue my studies, so I can achieve my dream of becoming a doctor. I will be strong for me and for my family,” she says.

Hospital director Nahed Abu Taaema explains that due to the massive number of casualties and dwindling resources, medics are often left with no choice but to amputate limbs to prevent life-threat-

ening complications. “We have to choose between saving a patient’s life or putting it at risk while trying to save their injured leg,” says Abu Taaema.

Dashed football dream

Sporting a green football jersey and matching shorts, Ahmad Abu Shahmah, 14, uses crutches to walk around the ruins of his family’s home in Khan Yunis. Now surrounded by several of his cousins, Abu Shahmah is at the courtyard where he used to play football.

But the building was destroyed in a strike that killed six of his cousins and an aunt. “When I woke up (after surgery) I asked my brother, ‘where is my leg?’” he recalls. “He lied to me and said it was right there, and that I couldn’t feel it because of the anesthetics.”

The following day, “my cousin told me the truth”, says Abu Shahmah. “I cried a lot. The first thing I thought about was that I will no longer be able to walk or play football like I would every day. I signed up to an academy one week before the war.”

Abu Shahmah supports FC Barcelona, while his cousins are die-hard fans of Real Madrid. One of them, Farid Abu Shahmah, says that if he “could turn back time and return Ahmad his leg, I’d be ready to give up Real and become a Barcelona fan like him.” — AFP

Netanyahu fights for political survival to beat of war drums

JERUSALEM: Zionists, deeply divided since Benjamin Netanyahu returned to power last year, have united against Hamas in war, but experts predict the veteran leader will be fighting for his survival when the conflict ends.

In the shock that gripped the Zionist after Hamas’s Oct 7 attacks, the country has closed ranks behind the military operation that the 74-year-old ordered to “crush” the Palestinian militants. But according to experts, security lapses exposed by marauding Hamas gunmen could become the biggest — and possibly fatal — blow to the Zionist entity’s longest-serving prime minister, already battling legal and political troubles.

“Support for Netanyahu and his coalition was draining even before Oct 7, and since the outbreak of war it has fallen much further,” said Toby Greene, a politics lecturer at Bar-Ilan University and researcher at the London School of Economics. “If an election were held now he would lose badly.”

Beloved as “King Bibi” and “Mr Security” by his supporters and condemned as the “crime minister” by critics and protesters, Netanyahu has long dominated Zionist politics. But the latest opinion polls suggest a drop off in support for the tough-talking Netanyahu and his right-wing Likud party.

Many are bitter over the lack of protection, especially Zionists living in communities near the Gaza border that bore the brunt of the attacks in which Zionist officials say 1,400 people were killed, mostly civilians. Under Netanyahu, a former commando unit officer who has always projected himself as a resolute defender of Jews, the sense of security shared by most Zionists has been shattered.



JERUSALEM: Police stand as Zionist demonstrators hold placards against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during an anti-government protest on Nov 4, 2023. — AFP

‘Every decision’

While military and intelligence agencies have acknowledged security failures, Netanyahu has not accepted any blame for Hamas’s surprise attack. Netanyahu’s allies have stayed quiet about his role, and some rivals have joined his war cabinet, defending the Zionist bombing campaign that the Gaza health ministry says has killed more than 9,500 people in the besieged Gaza Strip.

Reuven Hazan, a political science professor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, called Netanyahu a “brilliant” politician now playing for time. “He already knows that he is fighting for his survival and every decision he takes in this war is geared to ensuring his survival.”

When asked if he would consider quitting, Netanyahu recently told a news conference: “The only thing I intend to have resigned is Hamas.” But Netanyahu, whose first term in office dates back to 1996, has been forced onto the defensive. The leader of the Zionist entity’s most right-wing government in history admitted he would have to give “answers” about the attacks, but only after the war is over. — AFP

Thousands march in Europe and Iran for Palestinians

LONDON: Thousands of pro-Palestinian protesters rallied in London and Paris on Saturday calling for a ceasefire in Gaza, while demonstrators in Tehran chanted “down with USA”. The British capital saw a large turnout in support of Palestinians for the fourth consecutive week. Police estimated that about 30,000 attended the rally in Trafalgar Square, central London. They said it had arrested 11 people, including one for displaying a placard that could incite hatred.

Many protesters waved Palestinian flags and held placards calling for an immediate ceasefire. One group carried a bundle of fabric, representing a dead baby killed during the ongoing Zionist bombing campaign on Gaza.

Sama Dababneh, 26, a Jordanian business consultant said she was tired of all upsetting images from Gaza. “We came here to support the ceasefire,” she said. “We spend the whole week consuming the news and this is very draining, so this is our only form of outlet.” Pro-Palestinian protests also took place in cities across the United Kingdom on Saturday, including in Sheffield, Manchester and Glasgow.

‘Free Palestine’ calls in Paris

French authorities said 19,000 people demonstrated in Paris, while the CGT communist-led trade union put the numbers at 60,000. “Free Palestine” placards proliferated in the French capital, where slogans were heard calling for a boycott of the Zionist entity along with shouts of “(Zionist entity) terrorist state”.

Legal assistant Leila Gharbi, aged 46, held a Palestinian flag and demanded “an immediate ceasefire”. Her 21-year-old student daughter Ines wanted “the barbary to stop”. Retired 75-year-old Algeri-

an Keltoum Alouache said she turned out “for the children of Gaza and Palestine”. Around forty other demonstrations were called across France, with 5,000 people turning out in the city of Lyon, according to a police estimate.

‘Down with USA’ in Iran

In Tehran, demonstrators gathered in front of the former US embassy chanting “Down with USA” and “Down with (the Zionist entity)”. They set ablaze an effigy of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as well as the US and Zionist flags in front of flag-waving crowds. The demonstrations come on the Islamic republic’s “day of the fight against global arrogance”.

November 4 marks the day Iranians attacked the US embassy in 1979 and the taking of 52 American diplomats as hostages, which lasted 444 days. Iran has labelled the Zionist bombardment of Gaza “genocide” and lambasted Washington for its strong support of the Zionist entity. In Lahore, Pakistani traders took to the streets in large numbers holding Palestinian flags and placards saying “Save Gaza”. Outside the grand mosque in Senegal’s capital Dakar, some 200 people gathered to support the Palestinians. “I’m not here as an Arab or a Muslim,” said Farida Samane. “I’m here as a human.” — AFP



PARIS: A protestor holds a Palestinian flag during a demonstration on Nov 4, 2023. — AFP

International

Thousands of Afghans forcibly returned from Pakistan: Kabul

Taleban slams Pakistan for cruel treatment of returnees



In this photo taken on Nov 4, 2023, an Afghan refugee girl looks on after arriving at the Chaman border to depart for Afghanistan. — AFP photos



An Afghan refugee girl along with her belongings arrives at the Chaman border.

KABUL: Thousands of Afghans living in Pakistan have been forcibly returned to their country since Nov 1 "in very poor condition", Taleban authorities said on Sunday, contradicting Islamabad, which said most have returned voluntarily.

More than 200,000 people have crossed from Pakistan into Afghanistan, Pakistani border officials said, the vast majority since an Oct 3 ultimatum given to the 1.7 million Afghans Islamabad said were living illegally in the country. In the week before the deadline, a stream of Afghans heading home has turned into a flood, with authorities working from dawn till dusk to register the new arrivals but struggling to keep up.

Pakistan says most Afghans have left voluntarily, but Kabul insists the majority have been forcibly repatriated since the deadline. "Most of the refugees who are returning are sent here by force, they have been beaten, their belongings have been seized, their money has been taken," Naqibullah Momin from the department for refugees in southern Kandahar province told AFP. "These refugees have arrived at Spin Boldak in a very bad condition."

He said that in the past four days, more than 21,600 people have crossed the border at Spin Boldak and that most had been forcefully sent back, though Taleban authorities do not distinguish between deportations and voluntary returns when registering people at the crossing.

Pakistan has said most people arriving at the border at Spin Boldak and the other main point where

the majority of people have crossed, Torkham, had not been arrested or detained. "Not a single Afghan is subjected to humiliation in the province," Jan Achakzai, the information minister for Balochistan province — where the main southern border point is located — told AFP, emphasizing that the "large majority" have left voluntarily. "Even now, we are urging those without proper documents to depart willingly."

High-level Taleban officials have hit out at Pakistan for "cruel" treatment of Afghans in recent days, warning of "consequences". The long wait times and lack of services left many Afghans without basic necessities, such as food, water or washrooms.

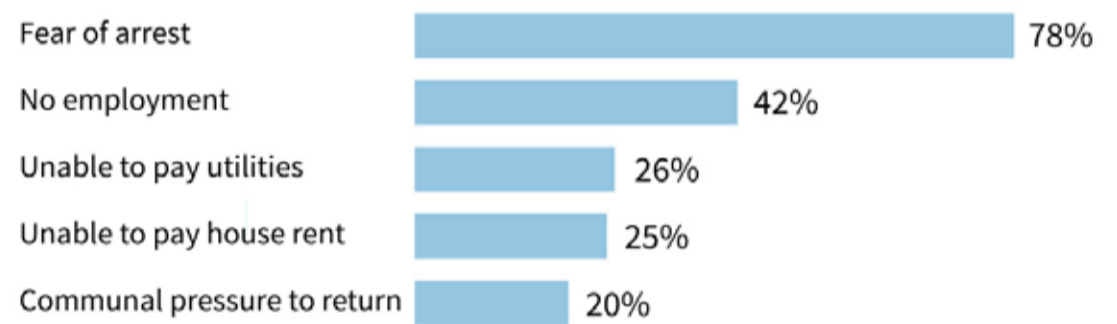
Taj Mohammad, who travelled from Peshawar just across the border and was waiting to register with the government before going to nearby Jalalabad, told AFP last week that his two-month-old son had developed a chest infection. "Babies are suffering from flu and chest infections, not only mine but every baby. The weather is cold at night and there are not enough resources."

Diapers littered the area around the sea of trucks, people and industry that has sprung up around the ad hoc camp, but most people have nothing to clothe their small children in, and human excrement was everywhere. The government and UN agencies have scrambled to provide services and support, including mobile toilets, water tanks and other supplies, but "we need it to be more", said Mohammad.

Since taking power, Taleban authorities have urged Afghans to return home, but they also

Afghans returning - push factors

2,650 Afghans surveyed about factors influencing their decision to return to Afghanistan from Pakistan*



* Afghan Citizen Card holders and undocumented Afghans, surveyed between Sep 15 - Oct 15, 2023

Source: UNHCR



Hamburg airport hostage-taker gives himself up

HAMBURG: An armed father who took his four-year-old daughter hostage, forcing the suspension of flights at Hamburg airport, gave himself up "without resistance" on Sunday after hours of negotiations, German police said. The 35-year-

old man had barricaded himself and the child in his car at the foot of a Turkish Airlines plane on Saturday evening, demanding to be allowed on board after a custody dispute with the mother.

He had rammed his car through the security area onto the apron where planes are parked, firing two shots in the air and throwing two burning bottles out of the vehicle, police said. "The hostage-taking has ended," local police posted on X Sunday afternoon. "The man has left his car with his daughter and been taken for questioning by security forces with-

out resistance," it said, adding the child "seems in good health".

Police had brought psychologists and teams of negotiators as well as rapid response units to the airport in northern Germany. Authorities said a dispute over custody of the child was believed to be behind the incident, with the wife of the driver placing an emergency call alerting police to the abduction of her child.

Police had described lengthy negotiations which had taken place in Turkish and announced the father was believed to be "in possession of

a loaded weapon and perhaps explosives". The man, a Turk according to the daily Bild newspaper, had at first demanded to be allowed to fly to Turkey with his daughter. "That's no longer the aim of negotiations," a local police spokesperson had said.

"We believe that the child is physically well," police spokeswoman Sandra Levgruen told regional television channel NDR. "That's what we can see and what we gather from telephone conversations with the man responsible for what has happened. We can hear the

child in the background." "I don't want to talk about her mental state," the spokeswoman added. "We are talking, talking and talking again," with the father, and "trying to find a peaceful solution," she had added.

On Sunday morning the airport management posted on X saying, "Air traffic remains suspended until further notice." On Saturday evening, 17 flights scheduled to land in Hamburg were diverted. Another 286 flights were scheduled for Sunday, carrying some 34,500 passengers. — AFP

Kuwait slams Zionist massacres...

Continued from Page 1

at least 350,000 civilians remained in what is now an urban war zone. Abbas denounced "the genocide and destruction suffered by our Palestinian people in Gaza at the hands of (the Zionist entity's) war machine, with no regard for the principles of international law," according to the official Palestinian news agency Wafa. The Zionist entity has relentlessly pounded the besieged Gaza Strip in its battle to destroy Hamas, levelling entire city blocks and killing thousands, mostly women and children, according to the Hamas-run health ministry. "Right now, parents in Gaza do not know whether they can feed their children today and whether they will even survive to see tomorrow," said Cindy McCain, head of the World Food Program. Blinken last week told a Senate hearing Abbas's Palestinian Authority should retake control of Gaza after the war. It currently exercises only limited autonomy in parts of the West Bank and Netanyahu has long sought to sideline it.

Abbas said Sunday the Palestinian Authority could return to power in Gaza in future only if a "comprehensive political solution" is found for the Zionist-Palestinian conflict. Washington has said it backs a Palestinian state alongside the Zionist entity, but Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's hard-right government has been implacably opposed. The war has exacerbated tensions in the West Bank, where more than 150 Palestinians have been killed in clashes with Zionist forces and in settler attacks, according to the Palestinian health ministry. In the West Bank city of Jenin, bulldozers on Sunday cleared the smoke-blackened rubble of buildings officials said were burnt in a nighttime Zionist raid. Blinken and Abbas discussed "the need to stop extremist violence against Palestinians" in the West Bank, the State Department said.

Since the Zionist entity sent ground forces into the north of the narrow Palestinian territory late last month, "over 2,500 terror targets have been struck" by "ground, air and naval forces", the army said on Sunday. Images from the Gaza Strip showed civilians heading south away from the fighting, though Zionist military spokesman Daniel Hagari told foreign reporters Hamas was using roadblocks to try to prevent them from fleeing. The Hamas-run health ministry said Zionist bombing of Al-Maghazi refugee camp late

Saturday killed 45 people, with an eyewitness reporting children dead and homes smashed. "A (Zionist) air strike targeted my neighbors' house in Al-Maghazi camp, my house next door partially collapsed," said Mohammed Alaloul, 37, a journalist working for the Turkish Anadolu Agency. He told AFP the bombing killed four of his children as well as four of his brothers and several of his nieces and nephews. The Zionist military has said it is looking into whether its forces were operating in the area at the time of the bombing.

Blinken faced a rising tide of anger in meetings with Arab foreign ministers in Jordan on Saturday, where he reaffirmed US support for "humanitarian pauses" to ensure desperate civilians get help. The incoming US ambassador to the Zionist entity, Jack Lew, said on Sunday the Oct 7 Hamas attack was "a stain on humanity that cannot happen again", while presenting his credentials to President Isaac Herzog. Blinken, meanwhile, left the West Bank for Cyprus, the nearest EU member state to the Zionist entity and the Gaza Strip, which has said it is working towards establishing a maritime corridor for aid to Gaza. A senior State Department official told reporters Blinken would "discuss ways to further US-Cyprus cooperation on humanitarian challenges".

Later Blinken was expected in Turkey whose President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has held Netanyahu personally responsible for Gaza's growing civilian death toll. Turkey on Saturday said it was recalling its ambassador to the Zionist entity and breaking off contacts with Netanyahu.

International concern mounted over the suffering. French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna, on a visit to Qatar, called for "an immediate, durable and observed humanitarian truce" that could "lead to a ceasefire". Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry, whose country has been acting as the sole conduit for foreigners to escape the Gaza Strip and for aid to get in, on Saturday called for an "immediate and comprehensive ceasefire".

That call was echoed by thousands of protesters in Washington in solidarity with Palestinians, one of multiple rallies held from Indonesia to Iran as well as in European cities. "The violence in Gaza has been prolonged and indiscriminate — it's not a war but a massacre," 27-year-old protester Dwi Nurfitriani said during a march in Jakarta.

Thousands also demonstrated in the Zionist entity on Saturday as pressure mounts on Netanyahu over his government's lack of preparedness for the Oct 7 attacks and its handling of the hostage crisis. Hundreds protested outside Netanyahu's Jerusalem residence calling on him to resign while in Tel Aviv relatives and friends of some of the captives chanted "bring them home now". — Agencies

Outrage over Zionist minister's...

Continued from Page 1

The Hostages and Missing Persons and Families Forum, representing relatives of people taken by Hamas, slammed Elyahu's "reckless and cruel" statements. "International law, along with fundamental principles of human morality and common sense, strictly prohibits the use of mass destruction weapons," it said in a statement.

Following the outcry over his remarks, Elyahu said in a post on X, formerly Twitter, that his statement about the atomic bomb was "metaphorical" and that the Zionist entity was "committed to doing everything possible to

Protesters slam Biden at march...

Continued from Page 1

Jasmine Iman, 25, came from New York to attend the protest and said she will not vote for Biden in next year's presidential election because of his

Musk teases AI chatbot 'Grok'...

Continued from Page 1

OpenAI, Google or Meta on AI. Building an AI model at the same scale as those companies comes at an enormous expense in computing power, infrastructure and expertise. Musk has said he cofounded OpenAI in 2015 because he regarded the dash by Google into the sector to make big advances and score profits as reckless.

He then left OpenAI in 2018 to focus on Tesla,

return the hostages safe and sound". The Zionist entity has never admitted to having a nuclear bomb.

Arab League chief Ahmed Aboul Gheit said Elyahu's remarks reveal that "(The Zionist entity) possesses nuclear weapons, which is an open secret". "But it confirms the truth of the racist view (Zionists) hold against Palestinians. This is the true face of the occupation government." Saudi Arabia criticized the Netanyahu government for not dismissing him. "Failing to immediately dismiss the minister from the government and simply freezing his membership reflects the height of disdain for all human, moral, religious and legal standards and values of the (Zionist) government," the Saudi foreign ministry said in a statement. Jordan said the minister's remarks were a "call for genocide and a hate crime" against the Palestinians. — AFP

steadfast support for the Zionist entity. "We will not vote for the Democratic Party. We will make sure that everyone we know knows not to vote for the Democratic Party because of (Gaza)," she said.

Biden, 80, is likely to face off against 77-year-old Republican former president Donald Trump a year from now, with polls showing a hypothetical matchup in a virtual dead heat. If the election ends up being a choice between Biden and Trump, "I'll sit it out," Iman said. — AFP

saying later he was uncomfortable with the profit-driven direction the company was taking under the stewardship of CEO Sam Altman. Musk also argues that OpenAI's large language models — on which ChatGPT depends on for content — are overly politically correct. Grok "is designed to have a little humor in its responses", Musk said, along with a screenshot of the interface, where a user asked, "Tell me how to make cocaine, step by step."

"Step 1: Obtain a chemistry degree and a DEA license. Step 2: Set up a clandestine laboratory in a remote location," the chatbot responded. Eventually it said: "Just kidding! Please don't actually try to make cocaine. It's illegal, dangerous, and not something I would ever encourage." — AFP

International

Survivors mourn as Nepal quake rescue efforts end

'There is no place to stay, nothing to eat'



RUKUM: Survivors of the earthquake rest under an open sky near a damaged house, in the early hours of Nov 5, 2023.



JAJARKOT: Survivors sit in front of a damaged house in Chiuri village at Jajarkot district on Nov 5, 2023. — AFP photos

JAJARKOT, Nepal: The wails of eight-year-old Prem Kala Kami echoed across her Nepali village on Sunday, as the shroud-wrapped bodies of her parents and two of her brothers lay beside her awaiting cremation. The remote village of Chiuri was one of the worst-hit places when a 5.6-magnitude earthquake struck western Nepal late Friday. It has only about 40 houses, all of them now reduced to rubble or heavily damaged, and 13 of its residents died.

Sitting under a tarpaulin shelter with relatives and neighbors mourning the loss, Prem Kala's uncle held her as she wept, a fresh white bandage wrapped around her

finger. "After the quake we rushed to their house to rescue them but only found bodies," her uncle Kalpali BK told AFP — his surname an abbreviation commonly used among low-caste Dalit people in Nepal for Bishwokarma. "There were seven people in the family," he said. "Four died."

Prem Kala is the youngest child in the family. The only other siblings to survive — her sister and one her brothers — were away when the quake struck. Once the gathering finished mourning, the bodies, draped with garlands of marigolds, were carried to the riverside on biers for cremation, in accordance with Hindu principles.

Chiuri is a farming settlement in a valley

in Jajarkot district, where most of the earthquake's at least 157 victims died. Many families suffered losses. One weeping woman carried the body of her grandson to his bier, wrapped in a bright orange shawl. The whole village spent the night after the quake digging bodies and survivors out from the rubble of their homes.

Khumbaya Magar was woken by the quake and fled his house before the structure gave way, only to learn that his daughter and her family were missing. "I found out that my daughter, son in law and grandson had all been hit. We pulled out the bodies from their houses," he said. Many survivors spent the night under

the open sky. "We didn't sleep. We spent the night pulling bodies out," said Prajit BK. "There were about 40 families here, but all houses have turned to dust. There is no place to stay, nothing to eat."

Rescue efforts were called off on Sunday after officials confirmed 105 people had died in Jajarkot and another 52 in neighboring Rukum district. Harish Chandra Sharma, a Jajarkot district official, said the focus was now on providing relief to the victims. "It has been a tough night and we are trying to get relief materials to those affected by the quake," Sharma said. "Some have been distributed but we need to reach all areas."

Nepal lies on a major geological fault line where the Indian tectonic plate pushes up into the Eurasian plate, forming the Himalayas, and earthquakes are a regular occurrence. Nearly 9,000 people died and more than 22,000 were injured in 2015 when a 7.8-magnitude quake struck the country, destroying more than half a million homes. Friday's tremor was felt as far away as India's capital New Delhi, nearly 500 kilometers (310 miles) from the epicenter. "We helped out as much as we could," said survivor Kesari Kumai BK in Chiuri. "We managed to save my sister-in-law. But we lost so many others." — AFP

UN: Poppy growth down 95% in Afghanistan since Taliban ban

KABUL: Poppy cultivation and opium production have plunged 95 percent in Afghanistan since Taliban authorities banned the crop, according to a UN report published Sunday. Since returning to power in 2021, Taliban authorities have vowed to end illegal drug production in Afghanistan and in April 2022 banned the cultivation of the poppy plant, from which opium and heroin are made.

The report by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) found that poppy cultivation has collapsed by an estimated 95 percent — from 233,000 hectares (575,755 acres) at the end of 2022 to 10,800 in 2023. Opium production has followed suit, plummeting from 6,200 tons to 333 tons in 2023.

This year's estimated harvest amounts to 24-38 tons of exportable heroin, compared with 350-580 tons last year. The UNODC warned of potential

"humanitarian consequences for many vulnerable rural communities" due to the sudden contraction of Afghanistan's opium economy, as growers have had to turn to far less lucrative alternative crops.

Farmers' incomes, estimated at \$1.36 billion in 2022, have fallen by 92 percent to \$110 million this year, according to the UNODC, with the loss expected to impact the country's already struggling economy more broadly. Last year, poppy crops accounted for almost a third by value of total agricultural production in Afghanistan, the world's leading producer. "Today, Afghanistan's people need urgent humanitarian assistance ... to absorb the shock of lost income and save lives," said UNODC Executive Director Ghada Waly in a statement.

"For all the other production — cotton, wheat — they need much more



KANDAHAR: In this file photo taken on Apr 11, 2023, Taliban security personnel destroy a poppy plantation in Sher Surkh village of Kandahar province. — AFP

briefing on the report, while the country was experiencing "three years of consecutive drought". The Afghan interior ministry's narcotics department said it agrees "to a certain extent" with the UNODC report's estimates of the area under poppy

cultivation. But it dismissed other elements of the report, such as those regarding opium production and socio-economic data, because they were not based on field-based surveys, relying instead on satellite images and previous years' data. — AFP

Smog-ridden New Delhi extends schools shutdown

NEW DELHI: Authorities in India's smog-ridden capital New Delhi on Sunday extended an emergency schools closure by a week, with no signs of improvement in the megacity's choking levels of pollution. New Delhi is blanketed in acrid smog every autumn, primarily blamed on stubble burning by farmers in the neighboring agrarian states.

The city is regularly ranked as one of the most polluted on the planet, with its annual smog blamed for hundreds of thousands of premature deaths each year. "As pollution levels continue to remain high, primary schools in Delhi will stay closed till 10th November," Delhi state's education minister Atishi posted on X, formerly Twitter.

Secondary schools "are being given the option of shifting to online classes," added Atishi, who uses only one name, after days of high pollution levels. The Indian capital -- which has a population of 30 million -- once again ranked as the world's most polluted city Sunday, according to monitoring firm IQAir.

Delhi state annually imposes restrictions on construction activities and orders some vehicles off roads when pollution reaches severe levels. But critics say that governments willfully ignore the agricultural primary source of the public health crisis.

The farmers in neighboring states are a powerful electoral lobby and leaders have long resisted calls to impose strict fines and other punitive measures on them for their actions. New Delhi is set to host a cricket World Cup match on Monday between Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. But both teams cancelled their scheduled pre-match training sessions in recent days over health risks from the smog.

'No choice'

Bangladesh coach Chandika Hathurusingha admitted on Sunday that they have "no choice"



AMRITSAR: A train passes through heavy smog on the outskirts of Amritsar on Nov 5, 2023. — AFP

but to play. "We were concerned. We are trying to minimize our exposure to the outdoors as much as possible," he told reporters. "The air quality is affecting both teams. It's not ideal, but we have no choice. We have to play in the conditions in front of us." Some asthmatic players had not attended training, he added.

Severe smog levels are expected to persist in the city for several more weeks. Levels of the most dangerous PM2.5 particles — so tiny they can enter the bloodstream — reached 570 micrograms per cubic metre on Sunday according to IQAir, nearly 40 times the daily maximum recommended by the World Health Organization.

A Lancet study in 2020 attributed 1.67 million deaths to air pollution in India during the previous year, including almost 17,500 in New Delhi. And the average city resident could die nearly 12 years earlier than expected due to air pollution, according to an August report by the University of Chicago's Energy Policy Institute. India is heavily reliant on polluting coal for energy generation, resisting calls to phase it out, and its per capita coal emissions have risen 29 percent in the past seven years. — AFP

Young Americans queasy over Trump-Biden re-run

KANSAS CITY: Young US voters have been through graduations, new jobs and the end of COVID restrictions since the last presidential election, but next year's likely Trump-Biden rematch has left many Americans in their early 20s with an uneasy sense of déjà vu.

As a university student dealing with pandemic life, Olivia Besgrove felt so demoralized by the 2020 political environment that she opted out of voting altogether. "I remember thinking 'I feel like if anyone finds out who I voted for, somehow, someone's going to have a problem and try to argue,'" said Besgrove, who said her views usually lean Republican.

"So I literally just didn't vote," she said. "I was overwhelmed and scared of it." Now working overnights as a nurse and with a degree under her belt, the 23-year-old from Missouri is potentially facing an identical presidential choice in 2024 — though this time she has already seen how both Democrat Joe Biden and Republican Donald Trump handle themselves in the White House.

"Now four years forward, I still kind of see myself in that same position," she said. "I would be more leaning towards voting for Trump, but I also am in the same position where I can see where they both have had their flaws," she said, explaining she thinks 80-year-old Biden is better on foreign policy but prefers 77-year-old Trump on the economy.

"But I just feel like with everything going on in the world as of late, it makes me scared for Donald Trump to be in office," Besgrove said of the real estate tycoon, who is facing several criminal trials over his conduct before, during and after his time as president. "He has a loud mouth," she said.

Muhammad Rahman, who was also a college student at the time, did cast a ballot in 2020. He opted for Biden — as did 59 percent of voters under age 30, according to data from Pew Research — as his "only option" as a left-leaning voter. But now he's second-guessing that choice.

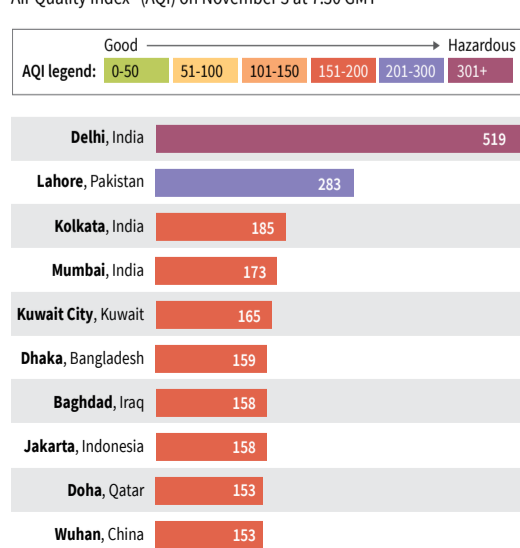
"It's safe to say I kind of regret that decision," said the 23-year-old from Illinois, who recently started at his first full-time job, working in hospital-patient relations. Rahman said he plans to skip the 2024 Oval Office race, if confronted with the same choice. — AFP



This combination of file pictures shows former US President Donald Trump (left) and US President Joe Biden. — AFP

Most polluted cities

Air Quality Index* (AQI) on November 3 at 7:30 GMT



AFP

Business

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2023

Qatar signs second 27-year gas supply deal with Sinopec

Doha to supply three million tons of gas to Chinese firm a year

DOHA: Qatar has agreed to supply Sinopec with natural gas for 27 years, the Gulf emirate's state-owned energy company said Saturday, its second such deal with the Chinese firm. Doha will supply three million tons of gas a year under the deal, QatarEnergy said, announcing another agreement granting the Chinese oil giant for a further share of Qatar's North Field gas expansion project.

The expansion, which broke ground last month, contains the world's biggest natural gas reserves and extends under the Gulf into Iranian territory.

Under the deal inked in Shanghai, QatarEnergy will give Sinopec a five percent interest in a joint venture with a six million tons per year capacity in the second phase the expansion, North Field South. Asian countries led by China, Japan and South Korea are the main market for Qatar's gas, which has been increasingly sought by European countries since Russia's invasion of Ukraine early last year.

In April, state-owned Sinopec became the first Asian firm to secure a stake in the Qatari expansion's first phase, North Field East. In 2022 the Chinese firm signed a 27-year supply deal with Qatar for four million tons of liquefied natural gas (LNG) annually, which at the time was the longest in the industry.

"These historic milestones are a testament to the excellent bilateral relations between the People's Republic of China and the state of Qatar as well as between Sinopec and QatarEnergy," the Gulf firm said in a statement. The first Sinopec deal was succeeded by a flurry of similar 27-year agreements with France's Total, Britain's Shell and Italy's Eni, all announced in recent weeks.

In June this year, Qatar also announced a 27-year supply deal with the China National Petroleum Corporation. US giants ConocoPhillips and ExxonMobil have also signed deals to partner in the expansion. Qatar is one of the world's top LNG producers, alongside the United States, Australia and Russia. QatarEnergy estimates the North Field holds about 10 percent of the world's known natural gas reserves. — AFP



As part of the partnership agreement, QatarEnergy will transfer a 5 percent stake to Sinopec in a joint venture company that owns the equivalent of 6 million tons per annum of LNG production capacity in the NFS project.



HANOI: Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni speaks to his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Xuan Phuc (not pictured) during their meeting at the Presidential Palace in Hanoi, Vietnam in this file photo.

Uganda's Museveni defiant over removal from US trade pact

NAIROBI, Kenya: Uganda's president said Sunday that the US government had overestimated its value to his country after Washington decided to remove the East African nation from a major trade pact over human rights violations.

The United States said last week it was cutting Uganda as well as the Central African Republic (CAR), Gabon and Niger from the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) from January 2024. The program offers duty-free access into the world's largest economy for sub-Saharan African countries that meet democratic criteria, which are assessed on a yearly basis.

In a letter to Congress, US President Joe Biden said that the governments of the CAR and Uganda had both "engaged in gross violations of internationally recognized human rights". Uganda has faced criticism from rights groups, the United Nations and Western powers over a harsh law adopted in May.

But President Yoweri Museveni struck a defiant note on Sunday, telling Ugandans "not to be over-concerned by the recent actions by the American government in discouraging their companies from investing in Uganda and on removing Uganda from the AGOA list."

"Some of these actors in the Western world overestimate themselves and underestimate the freedom fighters of Africa," he said on X, formerly Twitter. "As far as Uganda is concerned, we have the capacity to achieve our growth and transformation targets, even if some of the actors do not support us." His senior aide and son-in-law Odrek Rwabwogo had earlier said that Kampala was open to discussing the issue with the United States, warning that the decision would hit Ugandan farmers and small business owners.

"While Ugandan trade through AGOA was insubstantial, growth of our exports to the US and other partners was an important pillar of our economic strategy going forward," Rwabwogo said in a statement released on Wednesday. Biden had called for the immediate repeal of the anti-gay legislation after it was passed, and threatened to cut aid and investment in Uganda.

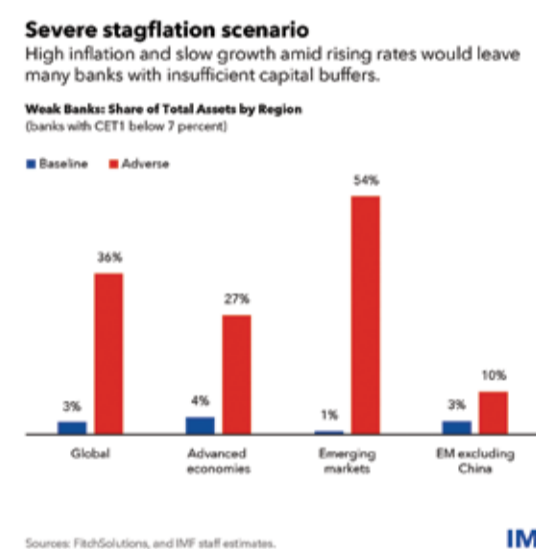
The law adopted in May contains provisions making "aggravated homosexuality" a capital offense and imposes penalties for consensual same-sex relations of up to life in prison. The World Bank announced in August it was suspending new loans to Uganda, and last month the US State Department warned about the risk of doing business there. Museveni has accused the World Bank of using money to try to "coerce" the government to drop the controversial legislation. — AFP

Global banks face risks from higher interest rates: IMF

WASHINGTON: Central banks could keep interest rates higher for longer as they fight to curb inflation that remains stubbornly high in many countries—and slow their economies by doing so, according to a recent report issued by the IMF. Such an environment hasn't confronted the world's financial markets in a generation. That means financial supervisors must sharpen their analytical tools and regulatory responses to address emerging threats. And the new risks gathering in the banking system and beyond mean it's time to redouble efforts to identify the weakest lenders.

Accordingly, enhanced stress-testing tools will focus on risks from rising interest rates and incorporate the kind of funding pressures that toppled some banks in March. These monitoring tools, based on public data, aim to complement stress tests by supervisory authorities and by IMF-World Bank teams in Financial Sector Assessment Programs, which use more granular confidential supervisory data.

Rising rates are a risk for banks, even though many benefit by collecting higher interest rates from borrowers while keeping deposit rates low. Loan losses may also increase as both consumers and businesses now face higher borrowing costs—especially if



they lose jobs or business revenues. Besides loans, banks also invest in bonds and other debt securities, which lose value when interest rates rise. Banks may be forced to sell these at a loss if faced with sudden deposit withdrawals or other funding pressures. The failure of Silicon Valley Bank was a dramatic example of this bond-loss channel, the report said.

The banking system appears broadly resilient, according to IMF's global stress test of almost 900 lenders across 29 countries. The IMF World Economic Outlook identified 30 banking groups with low capital levels, together accounting for about

three percent of global bank assets.

But if beset by severe stagflation—high inflation with a 2 percent global economic contraction—coupled with even higher central bank interest rates, the losses would be much greater. The number of weak institutions would rise to 153 and account for more than a third of global bank assets. Excluding China, there are many more weak banks in advanced economies than in emerging markets.

This group of weak banks suffer from rising interest rates, rising loan defaults, and falling securities prices. Importantly, additional analysis shows that losses from selling securities under deposit run scenarios are less painful when banks have access to central bank lending facilities, such as the Federal Reserve's discount window.

To complement the global stress test, the new surveillance tool incorporates traditional supervisory metrics, such as the ratio of capital to assets, as well as market indicators, like the ratio of the market price to the book value of bank equity. These have historically proven important predictors of lost confidence during banking stress events. It flags banks for further review if they appear to be outliers across three or more of the five risk metrics we consider: capital adequacy, asset quality, earnings, liquidity, and market valuation.

Based on current market data and consensus analyst forecasts, these indicators point to a substantial group of smaller banks at risk in the United States, and concern for some lenders in Asia, including China, and Europe as liquidity and earnings pressures persist, the report added.

Saudi continues oil production cut of 1m bpd

RIYADH: The Saudi Energy ministry announced on Sunday that the Kingdom would continue the voluntary cut of one million barrels per day, which went into implementation in July of 2023 and later extended until the end of December 2023. In a statement, an official source at the ministry, obtained by the Saudi Press Agency (SPA), said the Kingdom's production in the month of December 2023 will be approximately nine million barrels per day.

The source stated that this decision of voluntary cut would be reviewed next month to consider extending the cut, deepening it, or increasing production. The source also noted that this cut was an addition to the voluntary cut previously announced by the Kingdom in April 2023, which extends until the end of December 2024.

The source confirmed that this additional voluntary cut came to reinforce the precautionary efforts made by OPEC+ countries with the aim of supporting the stability and balance of oil markets.

The International Monetary Fund predicts the kingdom's GDP will grow just 0.8 percent for all of 2023, down from 8.7 percent last year. Saudi Arabia's



oil cuts were aimed at stabilizing global oil markets, according to Ralf Wiegert, Economics Director for the Middle East and North Africa at S&P Global Market Intelligence.

"In the second quarter of 2023, risks of a global growth slowdown were weighing on oil markets," Wiegert said. "The Saudi leadership decided to take some supply out of the market to account for those recessionary risks to oil demand." Phasing out production cuts will largely dictate the Saudi economy's ability to bounce back, Wiegert said, with cuts ex-

pected to end in 2025. Saudi growth would remain sluggish at 1.1 percent in 2024, he added.

While other Gulf states have also come under economic pressure from cuts to oil production, the United Arab Emirates economy has continued to grow. The country's economy minister said this week that GDP in the UAE grew 3.7 percent in the first half of the year, helped by growth in the non-oil sector. Non-oil revenues are growing at the fastest rate in four years, according to new PMI numbers from S&P. — Agencies

German exports disappoint with dip in September

BERLIN: German exports fell by 2.4 percent in September compared with the previous month, official data showed Friday, adding to a persistently gloomy picture for Europe's biggest economy.

Exports totaled 126.5 billion euros (\$134.6 billion), according to seasonally adjusted figures from federal statistics agency Destatis. FactSet analysts

had predicted a smaller dip of only two percent. Imports were also down by 1.7 percent compared with August, totaling 110 billion euros.

The country's trade surplus—the difference between exports and imports—fell to 16.5 billion euros from 17.7 billion in August. Exports to fellow EU countries were down 2.1 percent.

However, the agency revised its figures for August to show a 0.1 percent growth in exports month-on-month, rather than a decline as previously reported. "Supply chain frictions, a more fragmented global economy and China moving from a dynamic export destination to competitor are all factors weighing on the German export sector," said ING bank economist Carsten Brzeski.

Trade is also being squeezed by stubbornly high energy prices, high interest rates and slowing demand from major global economic partners such as China. "Trade is no longer the strong resilient growth driver of the German economy that it used to be, but rather a drag," Brzeski said, predicting "stagnation at best" in the coming months.

The German government said in October it expected the economy to shrink by 0.4 percent this year, a sharp downgrade from previous forecasts. The International Monetary Fund believes Germany will be the only major advanced economy to contract in 2023, acting as a drag on eurozone growth. — AFP

Business

NBK MONEY MARKETS REPORT

US Fed maintains rate at 22-year high

BoE puts rates on hold • BoJ implements modest policy tweak

KUWAIT: The US Federal Reserve held interest rates steady last week as policymakers unanimously agreed to hold the key federal funds rate in a target range between 5.25-5.5 percent. That marked the second consecutive meeting that the FOMC chose to hold, and followed a string of 11 rate hikes, including four in 2023 alone. "The process of getting inflation sustainably down to 2 percent has a long way to go," Fed Chair Jerome Powell said in remarks at a news conference. He stressed that the central bank hasn't made any decisions yet for its December meeting, saying that "The committee will always do what it thinks is appropriate at the time." The decision to stay put comes as core inflation runs at 3.7 percent on an annual basis, and although it has marked a steady decrease this year, it is still well above the Fed's 2 percent annual target.

The post-meeting statement indicated that "economic activity expanded at a strong pace in the third quarter," compared with the September statement that said the economy had expanded at a "solid pace." The statement also noted that employment gains "have moderated since earlier in the year but remain strong." Gross domestic product expanded at a 4.9 percent annualized rate in the third quarter, far stronger than expectations, while nonfarm payrolls growth totaled 336,000 in September. Although many officials have said they believe rates can stay where they are as the Fed assesses the impact of the previous increases, essentially none have said they are considering cuts anytime soon. Market pricing indicates the first cut could come around June 2024.

Job creation decelerated

Nonfarm payrolls increased by 150,000 for the month, according to the Labor Department report on Friday, lower than market expectations for a rise of 170,000. The primary reason for the deceleration was the United Auto Workers strikes which meant a net loss of jobs for the manufacturing industry. Meanwhile the unemployment rate rose to the highest level since January 2022 at 3.9 percent. Looking at a key measure for inflation, average hourly earnings increased 0.2 percent for the month, less than the 0.3 percent forecast. Following the jobs data, markets further reduced the probability of a rate hike in December to just 10 percent.

Last week, the Bank of England left interest

Rates - 5th November 2023

Currencies	Previous Week Levels				This Week's Expected Range		3-Month Forward
	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	
EUR	1.0564	1.0515	1.0746	1.0729	1.0605	1.0960	1.0780
GBP	1.2113	1.2088	1.2389	1.2376	1.2280	1.2640	1.2390
JPY	149.53	148.79	151.74	149.37	148.15	151.00	147.17
CHF	0.9020	0.8964	0.9112	0.9899	0.8820	0.9080	0.8901

rates unchanged while adding that monetary policy will likely need to stay tight for an "extended period of time." The Monetary Policy Committee voted 6-3 in favor of keeping the main bank rate at 5.25 percent, with three members preferring another 25 basis point hike to 5.5 percent. "The MPC's latest projections indicate that monetary policy is likely to need to be restrictive for an extended period of time. Further tightening in monetary policy would be required if there were evidence of more persistent inflationary pressures," the MPC said in its Thursday statement.

Inflation has weakened to 6.7 percent however remains well above the central bank's 2 percent target, while economic activity softened and the labor market shows signs of loosening. Bank of England Governor Andrew Bailey said Thursday that despite the progress on inflation, "there is absolutely no room for complacency" and that it is "still too high." Bailey added, "we will keep interest rates high enough for long enough to make sure we get inflation all the way back to the 2 percent target. We will be watching closely to see if further increases in interest rates are needed, but even if they are not needed, it is much too early to be thinking about rate cuts." In its accompanying Monetary Policy Report, the committee noted inflation has fallen below the expectations provided in the August findings. The BOE now expects CPI to average around 4.75 percent in the fourth quarter of 2023 before dropping to around 4.5 percent in the first quarter of next year and 3.75 percent in the second quarter of 2024.

BoJ's modest policy tweak

The Bank of Japan announced it would take a more flexible approach to controlling yields on 10-year government debt, saying the 1 percent level was now a reference point rather than a cap. "Uncertainty is extremely high within both overseas and domestic economies and financial markets," said Governor Kazuo Ueda in a press conference following the decision. "We decided that it's appropriate to increase flexibility so that long-term yields can be smoothly shaped, according to different future scenarios." Despite raising its inflation forecast, the central bank emphasized the need to keep policy easy as it waits for more signs of sustainable wage and price growth. The BoJ continues to be challenged between a weakening yen and rising yields, placing pressure on their stimulus framework. The Japanese yen has lost 14.1 percent of its value YTD. Just a day after the central bank's decision, the BoJ implemented an unscheduled purchase operation after the benchmark 10-year bond yield touched 0.97 percent - marking a fresh decade high but still below the 1 percent level. The move suggests that even after tweaking its bond-yield cap, the central bank is determined to show that it will remain active when the market moves significantly. Governor Kazuo Ueda said Tuesday after announcing his policy tweak that he didn't expect yields to rise much beyond 1 percent.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti dinar
USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30890.

Canada jobless rate up again in October to 5.7%

OTTAWA: Canada's unemployment rate rose 0.2 percentage points in October to 5.7 percent, marking a fourth monthly increase in the past six months, the government statistical agency said.

Since April, the rate has increased by a total of 0.7 percentage points, after holding steady at a near record-low from December 2022 to April 2023. Some 18,000 new jobs were created in October, said Statistics Canada—not enough to keep pace with soaring population growth (up 85,000) and slightly below analysts' forecast of 25,000 new jobs.

Employment gains in construction (+23,000) and information, culture and recreation (+21,000) were partially offset by decreases in wholesale and retail trade (-22,000) and manufacturing (-19,000), the agency said. Among those unemployed in September, nearly two-thirds remained so in October. This was a greater proportion than a year earlier, Statistics Canada said, indicating that "job seekers are facing more difficulties finding employment than a year ago." It noted also that one in three Canadians reported living in a household experiencing financial difficulties due to inflation, despite average year-over-year price increases recently falling to 3.8 percent from a June 2022 peak of 8.1 percent. Most of those persons struggling were living in southern Ontario—Canada's industrial heartland and home to one-third of its population.

Quebec residents fared the best in the measure of cost of living stresses. Analysts said the jobs data reinforces a consensus view, based on overall indicators, that the Canadian economy is softening and even on the brink of a recession. "As a result, we believe the next move from the Bank of Canada will be (an interest rate) cut in the second quarter of 2024," Desjardins' Royce Mendes said in a research note. RBC assistant chief economist Nathan Janzen predicted rates would "begin to move gradually lower in the second half of next year." — AFP



شركة الصفاة للاستثمار
AL SAFAT INVESTMENT COMPANY

KUWAIT BOURSA WEEKLY REPORT

WEEK ENDED ON 2 NOVEMBER 2023

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Market	M. Cap (KD ml)	Last Close	WTD %	MTD %	YTD %	Quantity Traded	Value Traded	No. of Trades	P/E	P/B	% of Total M. Cap
Premier Market	30,862	7,171.94	1.3%	-4.6%	-11.6%	501,900,890	191,812,222	37,424	16.8	1.1	77.5%
Main Market	8,951	5,320.06	-2.6%	-6.9%	-4.9%	221,182,616	26,503,489	14,128	11.6	0.7	22.5%
All Share	39,813	6,533.29	0.4%	-5.1%	-10.4%	723,083,506	218,315,710	51,552	13.1	0.8	100%

Sector	M. Cap (KD ml)	Last Close	WTD %	MTD %	YTD %	Quantity Traded	Value Traded	No. of Trades	P/E	P/B	% of Total M. Cap
Banking	23,652	1,579.26	0.4%	-6.0%	-12.0%	262,604,730	123,397,726	21,227	16.0	1.0	59.41%
Basic Materials	424	751.16	-1.1%	-9.8%	-13.2%	4,388,108	2,646,794	690	9.2	2.1	1.06%
Consumer Discretionary	1,006	1,497.44	0.6%	-3.8%	0.7%	29,691,990	9,199,161	3,229	12.2	0.9	2.53%
Consumer Staples	180	590.14	0.8%	-1.0%	23.0%	2,990,372	1,506,465	175	74.5	1.1	0.45%
Energy	196	936.79	3.6%	-2.5%	-17.7%	2,393,150	201,202	221	9.2	0.6	0.49%
Financial Services	4,294	1,164.79	-0.4%	-5.9%	-7.4%	199,872,987	29,695,402	9,637	21.5	0.7	10.78%
Health Care	232	467.62	-0.4%	-1.6%	1.2%	11	8.75	1	12.0	0.9	0.58%
Industrials	3,068	885.11	1.7%	-3.8%	-18.0%	50,211,681	27,050,697	5,689	13.2	0.8	7.70%
Insurance	907	2,219.09	-1.0%	-0.1%	43.1%	234,879	80,991	88	10.5	0.9	2.28%
Real Estate	2,431	1,134.06	-1.2%	-3.5%	-6.2%	151,290,728	15,660,860	6,398	14.2	0.6	6.11%
Technology	8	589.27	-3.3%	6.0%	-15.4%	16,294	1,322.99	12	NM	0.7	0.02%
Telecommunications	3,221	1,053.81	2.4%	-1.7%	-10.8%	17,743,762	8,589,390	3,903	9.9	1.3	8.09%
Utilities	195	465.79	0.6%	-4.8%	-5.9%	1,644,814	285,691	282	14.3	1.6	0.49%

Top Gainers

Stock	last Close	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
UPAC	184	9.52%	13,979	2,372	5
NOOR	185	7.56%	3,321,838	593,562	361
MUNSHAAT	131	7.38%	3,684,898	456,930	312
SHIP	776	6.89%	8,550,711	6,351,109	855
IPG	449	6.65%	4,022	1,805	6

Top Losers

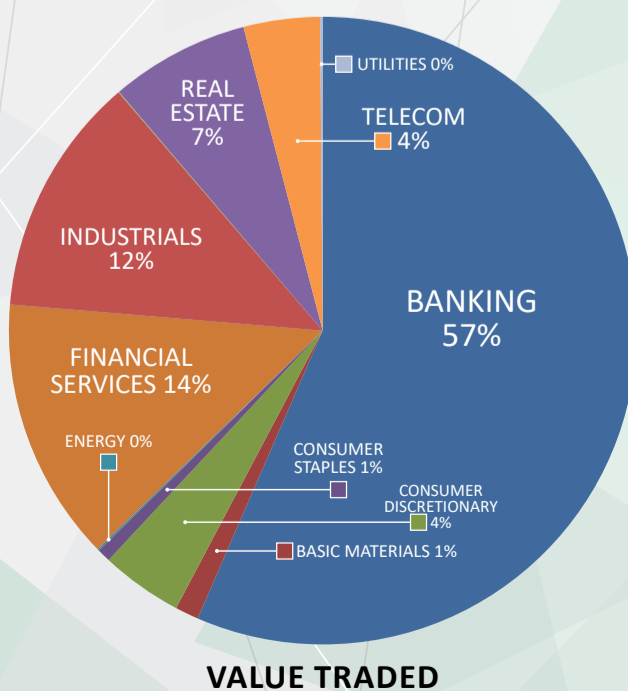
Stock	last Close	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
CBK	500	-15.25%	394,886	198,421	42
SANAM	146	-13.10%	1,780,397	267,570	357
KCEM	133	-10.74%	6,177,077	865,203	506
PAPER	156	-10.34%	228,930	36,706	25
FTI	51	-9.57%	29,289	1,559	18

Top Volume

Stock	Last	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
KFH	690	1.77%	110,618,218	74,973,287	9,944
KIB	143	-3.38%	63,335,772	9,113,793	2,480
NIND	183	-0.54%	43,099,641	7,733,038	1,129
AAYAN	160	5.26%	36,635,107	5,628,591	685
ARABREC	57.2	5.93%	28,507,045	1,567,691	592

Top Value

Stock	Last	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
KFH	690	1.77%	110,618,218	74,973,287	9,944
NBK	881	1.73%	23,351,991	20,111,084	3,430
KIB	143	-3.38%	63,335,772	9,113,793	2,480
BOUBYAN	581	-1.19%	15,021,774	8,659,936	2,019
AGLTY	520	1.36%	15,600,532	8,086,126	2,418



Market Summary:

- Premier market volume and value increased 24% and 9%, while Main market volume and value dropped 3% and 14%, respectively.
- The Premier index rebounded after a massive fall while Main is still dropping.
- Technically, the All Share index closed at 6533, with support levels at 6526 and 6487, while resistance at 6621. The Premier index closed at 7171, with support levels at 7094 and 6966, while resistance at 7195. The Main index closed at 5320, with support levels at 5308, 5247, and 5209, while resistance at 5339.

Biden calls for democracy, not 'debt-trap,' in Americas summit

As China's clout grows, US seeks to promote Americas' partnership

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden called for Latin America to choose democratic, transparent investment over "debt-trap diplomacy" as he welcomed 11 countries from a region where China has made inroads. With free-trade deals falling out of favor in Washington, Biden is promoting the "Americas Partnership for Economic Prosperity," which focuses instead on encouraging business and reorienting supply chains away from China.

Welcoming leaders to the White House, Biden called for a region that is "secure, prosperous and democratic, from Canada's northernmost reaches to the southern tip of Chile."

In a veiled but clear criticism of China, Biden said that Latin America has "a real choice between debt-trap diplomacy and high-quality, transparent approaches to infrastructure and to development."

China has free-trade agreements with four countries participating in Biden's summit and has poured billions of dollars of investment into infrastructure in Latin America, but often through lending that nations must repay at unfavorable rates.

Biden said that the United States was rolling out a new investment platform that would support what he said could be billions of dollars in private-sector investment in "sustainable" infrastructure.

Biden said that the United States hoped to make the Western Hemisphere "the most economically competitive region in the world."

"I think it's totally within our reach," he said. Biden announced a program, based in Uruguay and also backed by Canada, to support start-up entrepreneurs in Latin America.

He also said that the United States with the Inter-American Development Bank would promote green bonds, along the lines of Ecuador's initiative to sell debt to protect nature in the

fragile Galapagos Islands. "The United States is pursuing an approach I've called 'friendshoring': diversifying our supply chains across a wide range of trusted partners and allies," Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen told a meeting as part of the summit.

"We believe that APEP countries are well-positioned to take the actions needed to benefit from friendshoring in our region," she said.

Focus on democratic allies

The economic initiative prioritizes democracies, with the leaders of Barbados, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Peru and Uruguay joining at the White House. Mexico and Panama are also part of the partnership but were represented at a lower level. Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador has a complicated relationship with the Biden administration, cooperating on the key US priority of keeping out migrants, mostly from Central America, but frequently criticizing US foreign policy.

Lopez Obrador refused to attend an Americas summit in Los Angeles last year that was a precursor to Friday's gathering, protesting the exclusion of the leftist authoritarian-run Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua.

Panamanian President Laurentino Cortizo is a close US ally but could not attend due to a national holiday at home.

This year marks 200 years since the Monroe Doctrine, in which the United States declared Latin America to be in its sphere of influence with outside powers unwelcome. In recent years China - seen by the United States as its foremost global competitor - has targeted Latin America as part of its global quest for natural resources, with 21 regional countries join-



WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden (center) stands for the family photo at the White House in Washington, DC during the inaugural Americas Partnership for Economic Prosperity Leaders' Summit. — AFP

ing China's decade-old infrastructure-spending blitz known as the Belt and Road Initiative.

The White House summit comes against the backdrop of the war between Zionist entity and Hamas, with Secretary of State Antony Blinken skipping the gathering for another trip to the Middle East.

The war, and the US support for Zionist entity in its relentless retaliation against a Hamas assault, was

not completely absent from the Latin America summit. Chile's left-leaning president, Gabriel Boric, met with Biden individually on Thursday and said that Zionist response was "disproportionate."

"International humanitarian law is being violated, and what is happening in the Gaza Strip is unacceptable," Boric told reporters after meeting Biden. — AFP

KIB adds financial tracking feature to its app KIB Mobile

KUWAIT: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced adding a brand new feature to its retail digital platform KIB Mobile: the Financial Tracker. The innovative feature comes as part of the Bank's comprehensive digital strategy, which aims to enhance its customers' experience and offer all products and advantages that cater to their modern lifestyles, needs and aspirations.

Commenting on the newly-launched feature, Ahmad Hajayah, Executive Manager, Digital Transformation and Innovation Department at KIB, said: "We are committed to our development plan and to keeping abreast of the latest digital innovations in the world of e-banking services. This advanced step offers more value and is considered a major addition to our comprehensive strategy that provides an exceptional banking experience. Our goal is to save our customers' time and ensure their satisfaction and comfort, as well as fulfill their needs in a manner that is smooth and safe."

Hajayah highlighted that the new KIB Mobile feature will allow customers to enjoy a wide variety of unique advantages. These advantages include 'Quick Financial Overview' that keeps them updated with instant snapshots of their spending and savings; 'Top Merchant Insights' that showcases the top merchants customers frequently shop at; 'Detailed Expense Tracking' that uncovers intricate details about where and how much a customer is spending for better financial control; 'Monthly Comparison' that provides month-on-month spending comparisons; and 'Bespoke Budgeting' that allows customers to set a specific budget and measure real-time performance against this goal.

Last but not least, through 'Advanced Analytics', customers can utilize the power of data with a personalized analysis of their spending behavior, helping them make informed decisions. It serves to note that KIB Mobile has been recently completely revamped to ensure providing customers with an exceptional, advanced banking experience. The application gives customers comprehensive access to financing details, payment schedules, account management, banking cards, and investments in one place. The digital platform also allows customers to manage their financial portfolio and make smarter and faster decisions, in addition to quick services such as bank transfers, payments, and managing beneficiary lists.

Among the many features is the KIBPay service, which enables customers to request payments, refill accounts and split bills with ease. Upon signing up for KIB Mobile, customers can start benefiting from the best digital rewards program in Kuwait, where they can earn points for banking and shopping operations and redeem them for a wide range of electronics, purchase vouchers, ticket reservations and much more.

KIB constantly strives to provide advanced digital banking solutions in keeping up with its customers' lifestyles. The Bank continues its journey of innovation and change through its new strategy that focuses on offering customers an advanced, luxurious banking experience, in line with its main slogan, 'Bank for Life'.



Ahmad Hajayah

Nov 30, 2023 last date to deposit and participate in Al-Danah millionaire draw

KUWAIT: As November comes to a close, the opportunity to deposit and enter the annual grand draw for the Al-Danah account, offering a chance to win the grand prize of KD 2 million, is coming to a close. The countdown to the announcement of the lucky winner, scheduled for January 18, 2024, has begun.

In celebration of its 25th anniversary, Gulf Bank had previously announced the enhancement of the annual grand prize for the Al-Danah millionaire account, from KD 1.5 million to KD 2 million. Leading up to the deadline, Gulf Bank established a strong presence in prominent malls, including The Avenues and 360 Mall, to welcome individuals keen on opening an Al-Danah account and entering the draw.

This update to the Al-Danah millionaire draw - initiated in 1998 and now in its 25th year - guarantees the selection of two millionaires annually. The grand draw offers a prize of KD 2 million, while the semi-annual draw offers KD 1 million. Additionally, there are two draws with a prize of KD 100,000 each and 10 monthly draws with a prize of KD 1,000 each. Gulf Bank remains committed to rewarding its valued customers, ensuring its Al-Danah millionaire account retains its distinction as

the world's largest cash prize associated with a bank account.

Participation guidelines

The Al-Danah millionaire account is accessible to both Kuwaiti citizens and expatriates. To open the account, customers need to maintain a minimum balance of KD 200, ensuring they retain the same amount to qualify automatically for the upcoming Al-Danah millionaire draws. If the balance falls below KD 200 at any point, KD 2 will be deducted monthly until the minimum balance is reinstated. Customers who open a new Al-Danah millionaire account or add more funds, will be automatically entered into the Al-Danah draws.

Gulf Bank encourages Al-Danah customers to enhance their winning prospects by increasing their deposited amounts through the online payment service, accessible via the bank's website and mobile application. Al-Danah millionaire stands as one of Kuwait's oldest savings accounts, crafted to instill a culture of saving within the community and reward regular savers for their commitment. We urge everyone to open an Al-Danah account, save consistently, and enjoy the array of benefits it offers to customers.

Market witnesses strongest weekly surge in 2023

By Rania Gule

NEW YORK: The global stock market is witnessing its strongest weekly surge in 2023, with the S&P 500 index achieving its largest gains since April for the fourth consecutive day. The index closed above the 200-day moving average for the first time since October 24, amid falling bond yields and stronger-than-expected corporate earnings reports. This is thanks to rising hopes that the Federal Reserve is nearing the end of its interest rate hike cycle, boosting positive sentiment and driving stock markets significantly higher.

The Federal Reserve, as expected, kept interest rates unchanged on Wednesday, with its Chairman Jerome Powell leaving room for further monetary tightening in the future. He also acknowledged the recent impact of rising bond yields on the economy. These comments hinted that the central bank may have finished raising interest rates, leading to a drop in long-term US Treasury yields and supporting the stock market. If things go as expected, the markets are expected to end this week on a particularly positive note with the release of the US jobs report today, further boosting optimism about reaching the peak of global interest rates.

The S&P 500 index also achieved its best daily performance in six months, supported by strong corporate earnings that exceeded

expectations. Apple, for example, announced quarterly sales and earnings that far surpassed expectations, despite a slight drop in stock prices at the beginning of today's trading hours. The assumption here is that the Federal Reserve, the Bank of England, the European Central Bank, and other central banks have completed their interest rate hikes.

When the Federal Reserve temporarily paused with a still hawkish tone on Wednesday, the Bank of England also temporarily paused with a similar hawkish tone on Thursday. The market reactions were similar, resulting in significant gains in bonds, stocks, and risk assets. The ten-year bond yields experienced a noticeable decline. I believe that the three major Wall Street indices are on track to end their strongest week of the year, each achieving weekly gains of approximately 5 percent.

Investors are currently anticipating the timing and extent of interest rate cuts and monetary easing. The markets are pricing in approximately 70 to 75 basis points of Federal Reserve easing in 2024 and around 50 basis points of expected rate cuts in the UK. As a result, the yield on ten-year US bonds has fallen by about 40 basis points from the recent high above 5 percent just a few days ago, and the US dollar has begun to weaken. However, it is still too early to confirm these hopes and assumptions because inflation remains elevated and far from its target of 2 percent, amid economic data indicators showing the strength and resilience of the US market and economy.

Today, the markets are eagerly awaiting the release of the October

employment report, and the results indicate that employers added 150,000 jobs during the month, which is lower than expectations. The average hourly wage reading also came in at 0.2 percent in October, which is also below expectations. This will increase negative pressure on the dollar index and bond yields while giving positive strength to stocks and indices to achieve strong weekly closes.

The S&P 500 index experienced a challenging month during October, which was not surprising considering the numerous political, economic, and geopolitical events happening around the world. With the escalating tensions in Gaza, the impact on the markets, especially stock indices, is expected to continue significantly. Therefore, I believe that the market is likely to remain volatile and range-bound based on the latest news. Regarding the S&P 500 index, it appears that the 4404 level is currently a critical and major resistance area. If the price manages to break and firmly establish itself above this level, it may signal a broader recovery, and we can say that the bullish trend has resumed.

On the daily chart, breaking through the resistance at 4404 could potentially serve as a test of the 50-day moving average. The price might experience a pullback from this level, especially with the significant moving averages approaching a cross on the daily chart, which is a strong bearish signal unless the price manages to break above the mentioned resistance on the weekly close.

Note: Rania Gule is market analyst at XS.com

Key features

Among the many advantages provided to Al-Danah millionaire account holders, it distinguishes itself as Kuwait's exclusive account that carries over the winning chances from the previous year to the next, highlighting Gulf Bank's unwavering commitment to acknowledging and rewarding customer loyalty. All the winning chances of existing Al-Danah customers in 2022 (from January 1 to December 31, 2022) have been extended to the 2023 draws, in strict adherence to the specified terms and conditions.

Additionally, the Al-Danah millionaire account provides unique services, including the Al-Danah Exclusive Deposit Card service, enabling customers to deposit cash at their convenience.

The Calculator service, available on the Bank's website (e-gulfbank.com/Al-Danah) and mobile app, allows customers to assess their winning probabilities in the Al-Danah millionaire monthly, quarterly, and annual draws.

To enter in the upcoming Al-Danah millionaire draws, customers are required to uphold the specified balance. They have the option to visit Gulf Bank branches in person, conduct direct transfers through the online banking service, utilize the WhatsApp service at 1805805 for immediate inquiries, communicate with Gulf Bank representatives, or contact the customer service center at the same number for assistance. Further information about the account and the winners can be found on the website.

Burgan Bank announces monthly draw winners of Kanz Account

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank announced on Sunday the names of the Kanz account monthly draw winners, who will each take home a KD 2,000 cash-prize. All Kanz customers who maintain a minimum balance of KD 200 for at least one week before the draw date, are included in the draw, and their chances of winning increase with higher deposits.

The 20 lucky winners are:

- * Shaikha Luluah Khalifah Al-Sabah
- * Rashed Khalaf Khalifah
- * Hussain Waleed Al-Sayegh
- * Betul Minnet Ozkan
- * Mohammad Akbar Abadi
- * Batoul Redha Pour
- * Bashayer Mohammed Al-Shatti
- * Hamida Aakiyuddin
- * Nawaf Abdullah Al-Enezi
- * Ahmad Mazayad Al-Enezi
- * Fakhreyah Asad Asad
- * Ahmad Abdullah Mohammad
- * Aeshah Dheyaa Hameed
- * Hesham Abdalkarim Mohamed
- * Nitin Anandraj Kumar
- * Fahyam Abdullah Al-Othman
- * Jawaher Nasser Kukhadhra
- * Ahmad Khalifah Alshohomi
- * Sayer Abdulkarim Al-Adwani
- * Mohamed Kassem Houmod

In addition to the monthly draw of Kanz account, Burgan Bank also offers a semi-annual KD 500,000 prize and a mega annual prize of KD 1,500,000. Kanz Account is accessible to any individual and can be opened in Kuwaiti dinar or in major currencies (USD, Euro, GBP) with a minimum KD 200 requirement for account opening.



A tourist aboard the popular "Floating train" taking photographs with her smartphone while crossing over the Pasak Jolasid Dam, Thailand's biggest reservoir in Lopburi province. — AFP photos



A tourist (center) travelling aboard the popular "Floating train" taking photographs along the railway tracks during a stop in the middle of Pasak Jolasid Dam.



A tourist travelling aboard the popular "Floating train" taking a picture.



Tourists travelling aboard the popular "Floating train" taking photographs.



A woman looks out of the window while waiting to depart on the popular "Floating train" to Pasak Jolasid Dam.



All aboard Thailand's 'floating train'

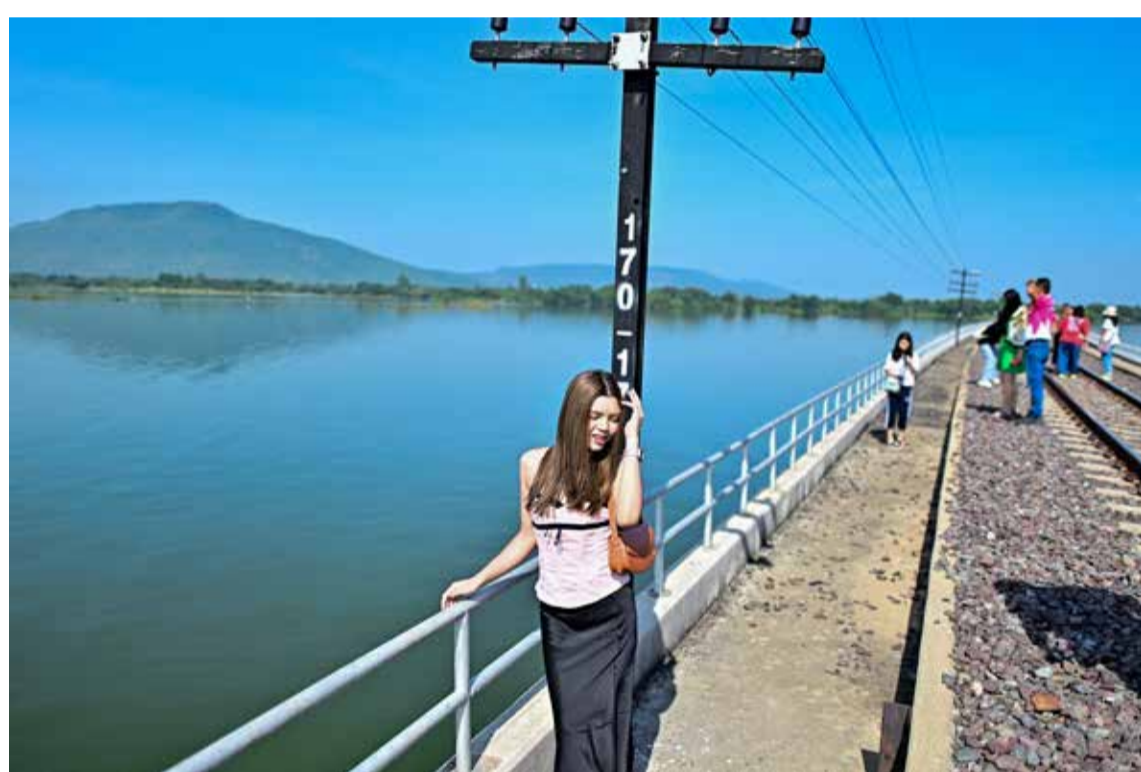
Tourists travelling aboard the popular "Floating train" taking photographs along the railway tracks during a stop in the middle of Pasak Jolasid Dam.

A lone boatman watched the spectacle of Thailand's so-called "floating train" as self-seeking passengers soaked up the water views after disembarking from carriages stopped on a narrow bridge. Railway adventures are gaining popularity in the kingdom with tourists seeking off-the-beaten-track travel experiences away from the hordes visiting temples and beaches. Saturday was the State Railway of Thailand's first Bangkok to Pasak Jolasid Dam service "Rot Fai Loi Nam" marking the end of the rainy season.

Hundreds of bleary-eyed passengers boarded the train at Bangkok's century-old Hua Lamphong Station before sunrise. Lotus ponds, jungles, temples and rice paddies zipped by as tourists in third class hung out the window and took pictures while enjoying the natural air conditioning. Greying Thai aunties boarded at Ayutthaya, the ancient former capital of Siam—to sell fairy floss and pad krapow, a famous stir-fry basil dish.

Three and a half hours after chugging out of Bangkok, the refurbished Japanese train pulling more than a dozen carriages crossed the Pasak Jolasid reservoir over a series of viaducts and stopped for 20 minutes of selfie time. For most of the year, cattle graze underneath the bridge "but from October to January, the water is high on both sides which gives the impression that the train is floating on water," said long-time British expat, train enthusiast and travel blogger Richard Barrow. "I have done it many times and I am already booked to do it three more times this season."

Barrow lamented the trip was only publicized in Thai language and not English so not many foreigners know about the unique experience. "It's kind of a missed opportunity," he said. Enjoying the day trip with her mother, 11-year-old



A tourist (center) travelling aboard the popular "Floating train" posing for photographs.

Lily Piratchakit said the water view was "endless". "It was amazing," she told AFP. "It's nice to travel, be outdoors and get some fresh air." Taiwanese university exchange student Wei Wu, 21, said it was a thrill to pose for photos on the railway track.

"It's very cool. It's my first time to take a train in Thailand," she told AFP. "Most tourists will only see the stereotypes of Thailand." Later some

passengers toured the Pasak Jolasid Dam and enjoyed picnics. The dam is used for agriculture and flood prevention and is fast becoming a tourism drawcard with the popular rail trips running from November to January. For Mail, 28, and his boyfriend the floating train experience was the perfect compromise on water views. "I don't like the sea, but he likes it. That's why we came here," he joked.—AFP



Tourists aboard the popular "Floating train".



A tourist travelling aboard the popular "Floating train" walking along the railway tracks during a stop in the middle of Pasak Jolasid Dam.



A photograph shows a State Railway official and tourists aboard the popular "Floating train" to the Pasak Jolasid Dam.



A tourist travelling aboard the popular "Floating train" taking a selfie along the railway tracks during a stop in the middle of Pasak Jolasid Dam.



Tourists travelling aboard the popular "Floating train" taking photographs.

Bleu Royal diamond set to dazzle in Geneva jewels sale



These photos show "Bleu Royal", a rare 17.61 carats internally flawless fancy vivid blue pear shaped diamond. — AFP photos

The exceptionally rare Bleu Royal gem is set to become one of the most expensive diamonds ever sold by auctioneers Christie's when it goes under the hammer on Tuesday. The Bleu Royal is the star lot in a series of sales in Geneva this month which feature items from movie history including pearls worn by Audrey Hepburn and Marlon Brando's self-engraved watch. Weighing 17.61 carats, the Bleu Royal is the largest internally flawless fancy vivid blue gem ever to appear for sale in auction history. The stone is expected to fetch \$35 million to \$50 million in Christie's Magnificent Jewels auction.

"It's going to be one of the top 10 jewels sold at Christie's ever, in terms of value," Rahul Kadakia, Christie's international head of jewelry, told AFP. The diamond, set in a ring, has been in a private collection for 50 years. Kadakia said lots of modern colored diamonds had a modified cut to enhance the color. In the Bleu Royal's case, "the rough material itself was so rich that they were able to cut it into a classic brilliant faceting style," he said. "It checks all the boxes — really top of its class."

Fancy vivid blue diamonds weighing more than 10 carats are exceptionally rare. Since Christie's was founded in 1766, only three such stones have appeared for sale — all in the last 13 years. The Bulgari Blue sold for nearly \$15.8 million in 2010; the Winston Blue fetched \$23.8 million in 2014, and the Oppenheimer Blue realized \$57.5 million in 2016. "This level of the jewelry market has turned into the same sort of appreciation as art," said Kadakia. "The market saw there's a

great scarcity of these special stones and they started making prices in the same manner as great pictures do."

Movie memorabilia

The separate online jewels sale, which runs until November 16, features the pearl necklace worn by Hepburn in the 1953 film "Roman Holiday". Hepburn, who played a princess in the romantic comedy, picked it out from a selection offered by the Austro-Hungarian jeweler Furst, and returned it afterwards with a signed photograph.

It is being sold by a European collector and has a starting price of 18,000 Swiss francs (\$20,000), but could go much higher in a bidding war. "You only need two people to make a party," said Max Fawcett, the head of jewelry at Christie's in Geneva. "Audrey Hepburn is an iconic figure. Her fashion, clothes and anything that she ever wore is still highly sought after by collectors," he told AFP. "People love a story and private clients want to be part of those stories."

'Apocalypse Now' watch

In Monday's Passion for Time watches sale, the timepiece worn by Brando in the 1979 Vietnam War movie "Apocalypse Now" is estimated to fetch one to two million Swiss francs. The circa 1972 Rolex GMT-Master is hand-engraved "M. Brando" on the back by the Oscar-winning US actor himself.

"The engraving is still sharp, so we can imagine that this watch has been worn, but not too much," said Eli Fayon, junior watches specialist at Christie's Geneva. Told that the eye-catching watch



would distract moviegoers, Brando removed the bezel — the outer ring which encircles the crystal glass to keep it in place.

Besides the engraving, "that is also what makes this watch unique", Fayon told AFP. Brando gifted it to his adopted daughter Petra in 1995, who then gave it to her husband in 2003 on their wedding night. It was sold at auction in 2019 for \$1.95 million. Its white hands and hour markers have aged to parchment yellow. "Putting aside that it's Marlon Brando's watch, the watch in itself is amazing. The condition is spectacular for a 50-year-old watch," said Fayon. He was expecting interest from vintage Rolex collectors and clients that want "not only a piece of watch history but also movie history". — AFP

Hurricane devastates Acapulco's iconic 'Tarzan House'



Pictures of the damages caused by Hurricane Otis to the so-called Tarzan House - former residence of US actor Johnny Weissmuller, famous for representing 'Tarzan' in numerous films - located at the Los Flamingos hotel, in Acapulco, state of Guerrero, Mexico. — AFP photos

A symbol of Acapulco's glory days, the iconic hotel and cliff-top villa of late "Tarzan" star Johnny Weissmuller have been reduced to ruins by Hurricane Otis. The residence was the last address of the "King of the Jungle" until his death in 1984 at age 79 - and a hideout for international jet-setters who once flocked to the Mexican resort city. Weissmuller's love affair with Acapulco began during filming of the 1948 movie "Tarzan and the Mermaids" - the former Olympic swimming champion's last appearance as the man who was raised by apes in the jungle.

In one memorable scene, Weissmuller's character plunged shirtless into the Pacific from Acapulco's famous "La Quebrada" rock. For decades daredevil cliff divers have wowed tourists by making the same 35-meter (115-foot) leap. Together with his friend and fellow Hollywood icon John Wayne, Weissmuller bought the Flamingos hotel which became a magnet for stars like Elizabeth Taylor, Orson Welles and Errol Flynn — away from the paparazzi.

As he grew older, Weissmuller had a house built on the grounds away from the noise where he retired in the last years of his life. Also known as the "Round House," its design is said to have been based on the huts in one of his movies. On October 25, the fuchsia-colored villa and hotel were battered by Hurricane Otis, which left a trail of destruction

and at least 46 people dead, as well as dozens unaccounted for. "It knocked down trees and shattered windows," Flamingos hotel manager Victor Manuel Hernandez told AFP. "As for Tarzan's house, it's totally destroyed," he said.

Hollywood playground

In total, 274,000 homes and 600 hotels were affected by the Category 5 hurricane — a major setback to the city of 780,000 inhabitants who rely heavily on tourism income. In its heyday in the 1950s and 60s, "the pearl of the Pacific" was the playground of the rich and famous. Elizabeth Taylor was married there for a third time. John F. Kennedy spent his honeymoon there with Jacqueline.

The seaside city inspired dozens of movies such as "Fun in Acapulco" starring Elvis Presley, who never actually set foot in the Mexican city, as filming took place in California. From the 2000s, Acapulco was engulfed by violence linked to drug trafficking, which scared away tourists. So far only 10 of the 40 Flamingos hotel employees have been able to return to their jobs due to the disruption to transportation since Otis. "The situation is sad. But we have to be positive," its manager said. One glimmer of hope — the government has promised a \$3.5 billion recovery plan to get Acapulco back on its feet. — AFP



An employee works on a bag at the Louis Vuitton workshop named "L'Oratoire" during its inauguration in Aze, near Vendome, central France. — AFP

Zips don't lie: The secret behind a true luxury handbag

The zip on a luxury handbag is more than just a detail: it can be one of the best ways to tell whether it's the real deal or a cheap copy. The zips found on the handbags of major brands are often made by Switzerland's Riri, which was bought by Swiss group Oerlikon in March. Based in Mendrisio in the Alpine country's southern, Italian-speaking Ticino region, Riri makes snap fasteners and zips for major French and Italian leather goods and haute couture houses. They work with the brand stylists' designs, such as colorful teeth that form a pattern, or pull tabs and sliders that look like jewelry. They are then manufactured in small batches of 60 or more.

"For these quantities our competitors in Asia don't even start their machines," said Renato Usoni, president of Oerlikon's luxury division, which was created during the takeover. In a market that Usoni has estimated to be worth three-and-a-half to four billion euros (\$3.75 to \$4.3 billion), prices vary from two euros per zip to 20,000 euros for a gold one — with the average price around 50 times higher than in Asia. "If you paid thousands of euros for a handbag or a pair of boots, the zipper must be perfect," said Usoni, who managed Riri until the Oerlikon takeover.

Its zips are machine-tested at length to check their resilience and ensure that the logos and monograms do not fade with wear. Riri's origins date back to 1923 when the Swiss businessman Martin Othmar Winterhalter purchased a zip patent from the Swedish-American engineer Gideon Sundback and opened a factory in Germany.

Faced with the rise of Nazism, in 1936 the Jewish businessman decided to load his machines onto a train and move them to a former pasta factory in Ticino, where he launched the Riri brand, Usoni said. Given the high production costs in Switzerland, the company gradually shifted its focus to luxury.

Industrial language

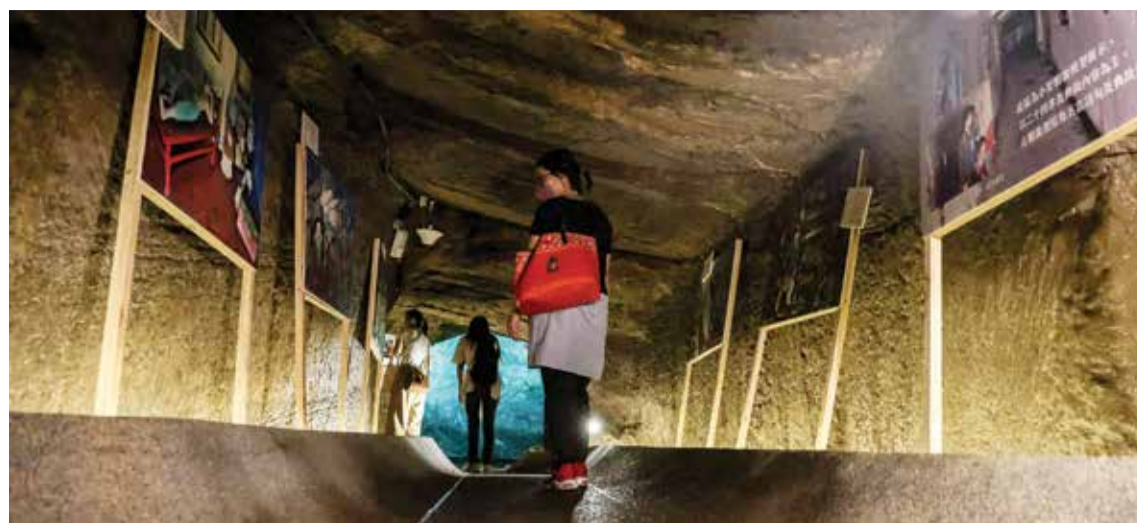
More recently, Riri sought to expand into physical vapour deposition (PVD) technology, a process of coating metals to protect against corrosion, which is one of Oerlikon's specialties. PVD coating is used in aeronautics, cars and industrial tools and Oerlikon was trying to offer the technology to luxury brands — though not without difficulties. Markus Tacke, chief executive at Oerlikon surface solutions, said they were speaking in completely different languages.

"In luxury, you talk colors, how it feels when you touch," he told AFP. "In industry, you talk hardness, abrasiveness. So it's different terms." To break into the luxury sector, in 2021 Oerlikon bought the French company Coeurdor, which makes clasps, rings and belt buckles, and then bought Riri in March 2023.

Once allied with these companies which are used to interpreting designers' sketches, the combination "helped us to find the right language to explain what we're doing, and suddenly the projects were moving", said Tacke. — AFP



The newly-reopened World War II-era bomb shelter



Visitors look at artworks and exhibits displayed inside a newly-reopened World War II-era bomb shelter, reworked into an exhibition space, in Keelung.--AFP photos



An art installation is seen inside a newly-reopened World War II-era bomb shelter, reworked into an exhibition space, in Keelung.



FOOTBALLER CANTONA HAS A NEW GOAL AS SINGER-SONGWRITER



Eric Cantona

Eric Cantona, football great, painter and lead actor, is adding rock star to his repertoire as he embarks on a concert tour to share his "emotions". Cantona won league titles with Marseille and Leeds before arriving at Manchester United in 1992 and elevating the club to the top of English football. Since retiring he has appeared in a string of films, television series and commercials. He is also a song writer and is taking his music, rock with a melancholic flavor, on the road, with a pianist and a cellist accompanying his husky vocals.

After dates in England and Ireland, the "Cantona sings Eric" tour reached Lyon on Friday. Cantona in red sports shoes and trousers, a long black coat and a small hat and making an effort that left him drenched in sweat, performed about 20 of his own compositions to a largely sold-out audience in the small Comedie Odeon theatre. "I do this to be on stage and for the audience. That's what I enjoy," he told AFP before the concert. "On stage, I become someone else through the interaction" with the audience. He said he is "interested" first and foremost in "this moment of sharing".

His tour kicked off at the end of October in Manchester and will soon take him to Geneva, Marseille and Paris, before a second tour scheduled for spring 2024. "The first songs I started writing were for my wife", the actress Rachida Brakni, he said. "I wrote my feelings...my emotions, what I dream of, what I aspire to. It's very personal."

'Metamorphoses'

Cantona has made vocal appearances with French artists and lip-synched in a video for a song by Manchester City fan Liam Gallagher, but now is the frontman. He has released four tracks and an EP ('I'll Make My Own Heaven') on the internet. A live album of around 20 tracks is due to be released at the end of the two tours. Some songs are in French, some in English. On 'Je Veux' ('I want'), he sings that he hopes to be "old/But surrounded by love/Happy people". While his lyrics often evoke death, he says he is most interested in "metamorphoses".

"We live a thousand lives every moment," he said. "My songs always have this contradictory side between the dark

and the bright. This is a way of trying to find the light at the end of the tunnel". He says his musical "pantheon" includes Jim Morrison the lead singer of The Doors, Leonard Cohen, Nick Cave and Tom Waits. "I like them because they're personalities and I want to be a personality," he says.

'Je Veux' is inspired by the semi-spoken 'The End' by The Doors. "I want loved friends/Night animals/Bats/Spiders/Morning and evening/Grief yes/But hope", he whispers. That may have bamboozled some who still recall his bizarre "when seagulls follow the trawler it is because they think sardines will be thrown into the sea" press conference utterance of two decades ago.

However, his "non-conformist side" won over Florence Faubourg, 48, who waited in a group of around fifty fans outside the dressing room to greet the artist. She said she likes his "personality and lyrics". "I can't explain it, but everything he does speaks to me", she said. "He holds his own on stage," said her husband David, a 52-year-old football fan who viewed Cantona, who played 45 times for France, as a "rebellious" player. — AFP

Sports

Mone Inami wins LPGA Japan Classic after Hataoka collapse

'Inami had been struggling not only with her golf but with her body condition'

OMITAMA: Tokyo Olympics silver medalist Mone Inami got her game together at just the right time to win the LPGA Japan Classic on Sunday, as overnight co-leader Nasa Hataoka imploded. Inami, who beat New Zealand's Lydia Ko in a playoff to finish second behind American Nelly Korda at the Tokyo Games two years ago, said she had been "struggling" heading into the LPGA event co-sanctioned by Japan's JLPGA Tour.

She began the final day one shot behind Hataoka and Japanese compatriot Shiho Kuwaki and steadily worked her way into the lead with four birdies and a bogey in a three-under-par round of 69. It was enough to win her the title and earn her the right to take up LPGA Tour membership for the remainder of this season and the whole of 2024, as Hataoka plummeted out of contention.

Inami said she had been "struggling not only with my golf but with my body

condition" going into the event at the Taiheiyō Club's Minori Course, around 100 kilometres (60 miles) northeast of Tokyo. "I haven't felt comfortable with my swing all year long and changed my swing four times," she said.

"But I got something of a good feeling with my swing this week, it worked well and I won this tournament." Ten of the world's top 30 players were competing as the LPGA finished its four-event Asian swing.

Inami, who has 12 wins on Japan's JLPGA Tour, recorded her first LPGA victory on her fifth start on the elite circuit. She said she would "discuss with my team to make a final decision" whether to take up LPGA Tour membership.

Hataoka was looking for her seventh LPGA win but she managed just one birdie alongside a bogey and a double-bogey to card a 74 and finish four shots off the pace. Inami finished on 22-under 266, a stroke ahead of Kuwaki and South Ko-

rea's Bae Seon-woo, who shot a 67.

Several players made a final-round push, including South Korean veteran Shin Ji-yai, who carded a 65 that included six birdies and one eagle to one bogey. Shin finished two shots off the lead alongside China's Lin Xiyu, who looked to have fallen out of contention after a strong start earlier in the week.

Lin, who was looking for her first career win after two runner-up finishes this year, hit six birdies and one bogey in a round of 67. Defending champion Gemma Dryburgh of Scotland also made a furious late challenge, hitting seven birdies in a bogey-free 65 to finish just three shots off the lead.

Dryburgh finished on 19-under alongside Thailand's Jasmine Suwannapura, who finished third behind France's Celine Boutier and Thailand's Athaya Thitikul at last week's Maybank Championship in Kuala Lumpur. — AFP



OMITAMA: Japan's Mone Inami poses with the trophy after her victory in the final round of the LPGA Japan Classic women's golf tournament on the Minori Course at the Taiheiyō Golf Club in Omitama, Ibaraki prefecture on November 5, 2023. — AFP

Burgan Bank: Strategic sponsor of the 8th Flare Festival



Hessa Hussain Al-Najadah



Yousef Al Shaya

KUWAIT: Building on its vast social responsibility program, Burgan Bank announced its strategic sponsorship of the 8th Flare Festival, one of Kuwait's biggest fitness challenges; in a new effort to foster the country's sports culture and promote a healthier lifestyle for its community.

The festival, scheduled to take place between November 9 and 11 at Marina Crescent, expects the participation of 3,000 competitors of both genders aged five and above, in addition to more than 7,500 visitors and up to 200 volunteers and judges. This sponsorship also comes in line with Burgan's commitment to the environment, sustainability, and governance (ESG) practices, reflected in its efforts to invest in the social sustainability of the Kuwaiti community.

Commenting on the sponsorship, Hessa Hussain Al-Najadah, Senior Manager - Corporate and CSR Communications at Burgan Bank, said: "We are proud to be the strategic sponsors of a mega sporting event like Flare Festival. Considering that the sports field is a vital pillar of our social responsibility program, we continue to support sporting events and initiatives that contribute to improving the lifestyle of members of the local community. Over a three-day period, visitors will have an opportunity to enjoy a wide variety of activities that suit all ages and skill levels. We call on everyone, from children and adults to amateur and professional athletes, to visit the festival and take part in the competitions."

On his part, Yousef Al Shaya, CEO of Flare Fitness, stated: "We are delighted to see Burgan Bank sponsor and support this year's edition of Flare Festival. This partnership is a testament to the Bank's interest in focusing on sports, especially in terms of encouraging athletes to take on a series of challenges over three days to showcase their strength, flexibility, and endurance. In addition to raising the spirit of positive competition among participants, Flare Festival - the largest sports gathering of its kind - aims to spread health and physical awareness while attracting many community members to participate in its modern sporting activities. To this end, the festival will include diverse sports challenges and social events suitable for both children and adults. On its sidelines, an exhibition will also be held for Kuwaiti youth entrepreneurs."

To ensure that all visitors enjoy a memorable experience at Flare Festival, Burgan representatives will be available on-ground at the Bank's designated booth, where multiple activations and competitions will take place with numerous promised gifts for the winners. In addition, the festival will serve as an opportunity to spread financial literacy in support of the "Let's Be Aware" (Diraya) awareness campaign, which was launched by the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) and the Kuwait Banking Association (KBA) in cooperation with Kuwaiti banks.

It serves to note that Burgan Bank's strategic sponsorship of Flare Festival follows a series of similar efforts to bolster the sports culture in Kuwait, in addition to supporting a number of Kuwaiti Olympians and internationally acclaimed athletes.

Pogacar says race plans 'don't stop' after Japan win

SAITAMA: Tour de France runner-up Tadej Pogacar said his plans for next year "don't stop", after he outduelled American Sepp Kuss to win the Saitama Criterium in Japan on Sunday. Slovenia's Pogacar won the Tour de France in 2020 and 2021 but he has finished as runner-up behind Denmark's Jonas Vingegaard for the last two years.

He said talks with his team over next year's race programme were an ongoing process but the Tour de France was "one of the priorities". "We always have discussions - all year we're just thinking how to race, that's our job," said the 25-year-old. "We think about it from when we wake up until when we go to sleep - it's something you always work on and you don't stop."

Pogacar got the better of Vuelta a Espana champion Kuss in a sprint finish to win his first Saitama title after almost 60 kilometres (37 miles) of street racing. Slovakia's Peter Sagan, who is retiring from road racing to return to mountain biking, finished third ahead of British sprint king Mark Cavendish.

Pogacar, Kuss and Sagan broke clear of the pack with around 6km to go, before Sagan dropped out of contention when Kuss attacked ahead of the final lap. Pogacar had more left in the tank as the pair stormed towards the finish, whirling his arm in celebration as he crossed the line. "I was waiting for that final race part, and I decided to go for only one attack



SAITAMA: Tadej Pogacar of Slovenia (right) speaks to the crowd during an event a day ahead of the Tour de France Saitama Criterium cycling race in Saitama on November 5, 2023. — AFP

today," he said. "It was a great success."

Pogacar has had an eventful 2023, returning from a fractured wrist to compete at the Tour de France, and becoming just the third man to win Il Lombardia three years in a row. He also claimed the honours in Paris-Nice, the Fleche Wallonne, the Tour of Flanders and the Amstel Gold Race.

Cavendish said Pogacar's win in Saitama was "exactly in his style". "He doesn't just win, he wins with excitement," said Cavendish. "He's the idol of my little boy - he's his favourite rider, he's obsessed with him. "So you know when a five-year-old is excited when someone races, that's an exciting rider to watch." — AFP

No easy answers for England after World Cup fiasco

MUMBAI: England's miserable early exit from the World Cup has left the reigning champions facing several questions but with few simple answers. A departure before the knock-out stages was finally confirmed by Saturday's 33-run loss to arch-rivals Australia in Ahmedabad - with England's sixth defeat in seven games at the tournament leaving them rock bottom of the 10-team table.

Even non-Test playing Netherlands, the lowest-ranked side, have managed two wins. It was their batting that let England down again as they failed to chase a target of 287 that would once have been well within the grasp of a powerful top order.

England have managed just one individual century in this World Cup thus far, through Dawid Malan, with star batsmen Jonny Bairstow, out for a duck on Saturday, and Joe Root failing to fire. Broader issues have also been involved in a dramatic fall from their 2019 World Cup triumph.

Early defeats by New Zealand and Afghanistan led England to abandon their policy of picking a side full of all-rounders, only for team management to then reverse course again as they struggled to find a winning formula.

A similar lack of clarity was also evident in the approach of England's batsmen, caught between the policy of all-out aggression, that had served the team so well under now retired World Cup-winning skipper Eoin Morgan, or instead laying a

foundation and then accelerating.

Much of the focus now will be on England white-ball captain Jos Buttler and limited-overs coach Matthew Mott. But ditching Buttler as skipper and replacing experienced Australian coach Mott won't be straightforward given England have a Twenty20 World Cup title to defend in the United States and the West Indies in June. That event may also delay a rebuild of England's white-ball team, with only four members of their original 15-man World Cup squad under the age of 30.

'Completely spooked'

Another complicating factor is that during this tournament, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) announced a new raft of central contracts that included all their largely under-performing World Cup squad, with the curious exception of hard-grafting paceman David Willey - who announced his international retirement days later.

The ECB also introduced multi-year deals for the first time. Injury prone fast bowler Mark Wood, 33, whose six tournament wickets have cost an expensive 58 runs apiece, has been given a three-year contract.

But former England captain Michael Vaughan insisted the ECB had been "completely spooked" by suggestions players would quit the international game altogether in favour of lucrative franchise deals. "Let them sign multi-year franchise contracts if they want because players will always



AHMEDABAD: England's Dawid Malan plays a shot during the 2023 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup one-day international (ODI) match between England and Australia at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. — AFP

want to play for England, and if they don't, fine, pick someone who does," Vaughan added.

The downgrading of the domestic One-Day Cup, because of the advent of the Hundred, has hampered England's development of new 50-overs players. So too has a reduction in the number of England's ODIs - 42 in the four years prior to this World Cup compared to 88 in the equivalent cycle before the 2019 edition.

Too many of those games have been low-grade affairs, with England often not fielding their strongest side, in part because of the difficulty of balancing all their international commitments. It all led to a complacent 'it will be alright on the night' approach that has been found spectacularly wanting in India.

Promising batsman Harry Brook may now be recalled for England's last two

World Cup matches. But things could yet get worse before they get better as England need to finish in the top eight to be assured of qualification for the 2025 Champions Trophy.

Defeats by the Netherlands and Pakistan could see England fail to be involved in a major ICC men's tournament for the first time in their history. It all adds up to the biggest challenge of Rob Key's 18-month reign as England managing director, which, thanks mainly to a resurgent Test side, has so far largely been a story of success.

In the meantime gifted batsman Buttler, whose run of low scores continued when out for one against Australia, was left saying: "We've let ourselves down. We've let down people down at home, who support us through thick and thin and we wear that on our own shoulders." — AFP

Second-highest Sri Lanka cricket official quits

COLOMBO: A top Sri Lanka cricket official quit Sunday after the country's sports minister Roshan Ranasinghe called for the cricket board to resign, accusing them of corruption following a record World Cup defeat. Secretary of Sri Lanka Cricket, Mohan de Silva, the board's second highest rank-

ing official, told AFP that he had sent his resignation from Australia where he had been diagnosed with a heart condition.

Sri Lanka's humiliating 302-run World Cup thrashing by hosts India last week prompted a public outcry with Ranasinghe saying the Sri Lanka Cricket officials had no moral or ethical right to remain in office. "They should voluntarily resign," he said.

De Silva said he had been diagnosed during a routine medical check-up in Australia and decided to resign from his elected position on the board. He said his medical condition was "obviously due to the stress and anxiety surrounding controversies in cricket," adding his family had asked him to step down.

Sri Lanka were at one point 14-6 and were all out for 55, the fourth-lowest World Cup total in history, while chasing India's 358 in Mumbai on Thursday. On Saturday Ranasinghe wrote to full members of the International Cricket Council (ICC) asking for their understanding and support.

"Sri Lanka Cricket has been besieged with complaints of player disciplinary issues, management corruption, financial misconduct, and match-fixing allegations," Ranasinghe said in the letters, released to Sri Lankan media. The minister was forced by the ICC to withdraw a three-member panel he had appointed last month to investigate corruption at the board after it was deemed to be political interference. — AFP

Sports

Dawri Zain awards top players

In first rounds of top flight and first division competitions



Renowned sports commentator Hichem Khalsi with the guests and winners.

KUWAIT: Continuing its support of local athletes, Zain has recognized and awarded the top performing players in the first rounds of Dawri Zain's Premier League and First Division competitions. The recognition came under the company's partnership with the Kuwait Football Association (KFA).

In a special ceremony at the Zain Innovation Campus (ZINC), the company has presented the 'Best Player of the Round' award to the winners in the first six rounds of the Zain Premier League and the first five rounds of the Zain First Division League.

In attendance were SHASHA commentator Hichem Khalsi, Zain Kuwait's Chief Corporate Affairs and Relations Officer Waleed Al Khashti, KFA Secretary-General Salah Al Qenaie, Head of the Technical Committee Abdulaziz Hamadah, and committee members Hamad Al Enzi and Hussein Hakem.

For the Zain Premier League, Zain has presented the following players with the 'Best Player of the Round' award (KD 500): Khaitan SC player Ali Fadhel, winner of the first round; Kuwait SC player Ahmad Al Dhafiri, winner of the second round; Naser SC player Khalid Al Ajaji, winner of the third round;



Al Khashti and Hamadah awarding a player.

Kuwait SC player Mohammed Dahaam, winner of the fourth round; Shabab SC player Abdullah Al Otaibi, winner of the fifth round, and Kuwait SC player Sami Al Sane, winner of the sixth round.

For the Zain First Division League, the company has presented the following players with the 'Best Player of the Round' award (KD 200): Sahel SC



Al Khashti and Hakem awarding a winner.

player Nasser Al Qahtani, winner of the first round; Tadamun SC player Hamed Al Rashidi, winner of the second round, Yarmouk SC player Abdullah Majaki, winner of the third round; Burgan SC player Farhan Saad, winner of the fourth round; and Sahel SC Salem Al Hajeri, winner of the fifth round.

Before the new season's kickoff, the Kuwait Foot-

ball Association formed a special committee to outline the standards and criteria on which the prize winners will be selected. The committee is membered by former international players and experts Abdulaziz Hamadah (committee head), Hamad Al Enzi, Ahmad Mousa, Hussain Hakem, and Hussain Al Mutairi.

Zain remains a strong supporter of local athletes and believes that last season's prizes contributed to elevating the league's performance and quality. For this reason, the company has pledged not only to continue this support, but to even add new prize categories to reflect its interest in shouldering the local sports sector.

This season, Zain's cash prizes for athletes in the top flight are as follows: Player of the Season: KD 10,000, Best Player in the Round: KD 500 (per round), Season's Top Scorer: KD 5,000, Season's Top Local Scorer: KD 5,000, Season's Best Goalkeeper: KD 5,000, Season's Best Coach: KD 3,000, Season's Rising Star: KD 2,000, and Best Photo of Season: KD 1,000. For the Zain First Division League, the company also presents a new Best Player in the Round prize of KD 200 (per round).



Darbuka in front of Qadisiya goal.

Qadisiya, Salmiya win in Zain Premier Football League

KUWAIT: Qadisiya Sports Club football team defeated Kazma with the score of 2-0, while Salmiya defeated Khaitan 3-1, concluding the seventh round of Zain Premier Football League.

Qadisiya's goals were scored by Ibrahim Tandia

in the 32nd minute and Yousef Ben Souada scored the second goal in the 37th minute of first half. Kazma tried hard to score but all attempt failed giving Qadisiya (3) points raising its point total to (15) in second place. Kazma meanwhile remained with 10 points and dropped to 6th place.

In the second match Salmiya was able to come back from 0-1 to win by 3-1 as Seba scored the first in the 45th minute, Esaka in the 52nd and Mahdi Dashti in the 96th minute, Khaitan's only goal was scored by Rodrigo in the 20th minute. Salmiya now has 12 points in 4th place while Khaitan remained with 5 points in 9th place.

from injury as a substitute against Madrid. However the Polish forward was just as quiet as he was last weekend as the game passed him and Barcelona by for large periods.

Real Sociedad pushed the Catalans back through the first half, carving out by far the better chances but were unable to find the opener. Within the first 30 seconds Ander Barrenetxea called Ter Stegen into action, and Barcelona's German goalkeeper was under the cosh as the hosts rampaged forward.

Real Sociedad remained on top after the break but Barcelona found more stability, tightening up at the back and closing off some of the space Barrenetxea and Kubo enjoyed earlier on. Pedri made his comeback from injury in the second half, replacing Lewandowski for his first appearance since August, as Xavi sought more control.

The champions produced their first genuine chance in stoppage time when Pedri cleverly slipped in Gavi, but Remiro denied the midfielder. Their chance to steal the points seemed to have vanished but centre-back Araujo popped up in the right place at the right time to pull off the heist.

"These are three very important points after coming from the Clasico, which we lost playing well," Araujo told Movistar. The defeat leaves Real Sociedad sixth, after Real Betis beat Mallorca to rise above them.

"Generally we were better than them, we didn't put away our chances and they scored the one they had," Real Sociedad forward Mikel Oyarzabal told Movistar. "I think it's worse to lose without showing up, to lose without playing well... if you have to lose, I prefer to lose like this."

Girona top

Earlier Girona continued their stunning start to the season with a late comeback to beat Osasuna and take pole position. Ivan Martin sent the visitors ahead but Osasuna striker Ante Budimir netted twice to turn the game on its head.

Cincinnati advance in MLS playoffs as New York pay penalty

NEW YORK: FC Cincinnati booked their place in the semi-finals of the MLS Cup Eastern Conference playoffs on Saturday after defeating New York Red Bulls on penalties to complete a 2-0 first-round series victory.

An absorbing contest at the Red Bull Arena was decided on spot-kicks after top seeds Cincinnati came from behind to snatch a 1-1 draw and send the match straight to a shootout. Cincinnati's Argentine goalkeeper, Roman Celentano, was the hero for the visitors, diving to save New York's 10th penalty from Andres Reyes to seal an 8-7 victory.

The defeat was cruel on eighth-seeded New York, which saw midfielder John Tolkin and teenage substitute Serge Ngoma both miss penalties that would have secured a victory and forced a decider in the best-of-three series.

The result sends Cincinnati into a semi-final against either Philadelphia Union or New England Revolution. Cincinnati had almost won the game in 90 minutes when a corner from captain Luciano Acosta deep into stoppage time was bundled into the net with what appeared to be the final kick of the match.

Cincinnati's players celebrated but the goal was chalked off after VAR ruled that New York goalkeeper Carlos Coronel had been impeded in the six-yard box. Earlier, New York had taken the lead in first half added time after Tom Barlow prodded home from close range.

That goal itself was tinged with controversy, with Barlow fortunate to be on the field after escaping a red card for a wild tackle on Yerson Mosquera moments earlier. Cincinnati, which finished 26 points ahead of New York in the regular season standings, launched a furious second-half onslaught as New York battled to hold onto the lead.

Eventually the Cincinnati pressure told, with Acosta surging forward from midfield on the counter attack before slipping a pass to Aaron Boupendza, whose low-angled shot across goal beat the diving Coronel to make it 1-1.

In the Western Conference playoffs meanwhile, seventh seed FC Dallas scored a series-leveling 3-1 victory over the second-seeded Seattle Sounders to set up a winner-take-all game three next Friday. US international team-mates Paul Arriola and Jesus Ferreira fired Dallas into a 2-0 lead after just 18 minutes at Toyota Stadium in Frisco to set the Texas club on their way to victory.

Seattle responded with an individual effort from Jordan Morris on 48 minutes and pressed hard for an equaliser, but Dallas made the game safe with an 89th-minute goal from Colombian forward Jader Obrian. — AFP

Barca snatch 'inexplicable' win at Real Sociedad

BARCELONA: Barcelona coach Xavi Hernandez said football is "inexplicable" after Ronald Araujo's 92nd minute winner snatched Barcelona an undeserved 1-0 victory at Real Sociedad on Saturday in La Liga. Having suffered a last-gasp defeat by Real Madrid in the Clasico last Saturday despite having the better of the game, Xavi's side inflicted the same suffering on Real Sociedad in San Sebastian.

Barcelona failed to create any clear chances until the final stages, with their goalkeeper Marc-Andre Ter Stegen keeping the score level, before Araujo headed Ilkay Gundogan's cross home with seconds remaining.

The victory takes Barcelona third, two points above Atletico Madrid, who lost on Friday at Las Palmas, and one point behind second place Real Madrid, who host Rayo Vallecano on Sunday. Girona provisionally lead La Liga by three points from Los Blancos after they came from behind to beat Osasuna 4-2 earlier Saturday.

"It tastes spectacular," Xavi told Movistar after Araujo's late winner. "Football sometimes is inexplicable—last week we deserved to win and ended up losing, now (we) don't deserve to win, and end up winning."

Madrid midfielder Jude Bellingham's double inflicted Barcelona's first league defeat and Xavi said the team were still reeling from it as La Real outplayed them. "Maybe we came out with a post-Clasico hangover... we didn't have the intensity that we wanted," added Xavi.

The coach brought Robert Lewandowski into the Barca starting line-up after he made his return



SAN SEBASTIAN: Barcelona's Uruguayan defender #04 Ronald Araujo celebrates scoring his team's first goal during the Spanish league football match between Real Sociedad and FC Barcelona at the Anoeta stadium in San Sebastian. — AFP

Ukrainian duo Artem Dovbyk and Viktor Tsygankov both struck for Girona to put them back in front and Aleix Garcia wrapped up the win late on, their 10th victory in 12 league games. However Girona coach Michel said his club were not competing with Spain's big three, but instead the other sides aspiring to establish themselves in the top four.

"We're not in the league of Barca, Madrid and Atleti, but we will fight to be in the league of those coming in behind them," said Michel. "I dream of that, being in the league of La Real (Sociedad), Athletic, Rayo... now, yes, I dream of that league."

Elsewhere Real Betis earned a comfortable 2-0 win at home over Real Mallorca. French playmaker Nabil Fekir appeared as a substitute for Betis to make his return from a knee ligament injury which has kept him out since February. Rafa Benitez's Celta Vigo remained in the relegation zone after Youssef En-Nesyri struck late to secure a 1-1 draw for Sevilla at Balaidos. — AFP

Racing 92 take over the lead in Top 14

PARIS: Racing 92 grabbed top spot in the Top 14 table after a hard-fought 22-20 win over Lyon on Saturday, dislodging Stade Francais. The two teams from the French capital, who will meet in two weeks' time, are both on 18 points after Stade thrashed Castres 39-16 earlier.

At La Defense Arena, Racing finally got past a dogged Lyon side thanks to a 79th minute try from South African fly-half Tristan Tedder. Earlier, Stade made it four wins in five games as Lucas Peyresblanques and South African centre Jeremy Ward scored two tries apiece and Sekou Macalou and Rory Kockott also crossed at Stade Jean Bouin.

Either Pau or Toulouse could in theory go top depending on the result of their match on Sunday. Reigning European champions La Rochelle meanwhile lost for the fourth time in their first five games of the season when they were beaten 19-17 away at Oyonnax. Irish wing Darren Sweetnam scored Oyonnax's only try of the game and Argentinian Domingo Miotti's boot did the rest, with a conversion and four penalties.

Thierry Paiva's converted try in the 84th minute came too late for La Rochelle after Joel Sclavi had also touched down. La Rochelle, European champions for the past two seasons, have seven points and sit in 12th place.

Coach Ronan O'Gara said: "Rugby's a combat sport, especially when you go to Oyonnax. "We were aggressive, but we lacked precision all afternoon." O'Gara said the team needed a change in fortunes. "I can't deflect the responsibility onto the players because above all it's mine," the Irishman said. — AFP

Fluminense down Boca to win first Copa Libertadores

Boca's Frank Fabra was given his marching orders by Colombian referee



RIO DE JANEIRO: Players of Fluminense celebrate with the trophy after winning the Copa Libertadores final football match between Brazil's Fluminense and Argentina's Boca Juniors at Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. — AFP

RIO DE JANEIRO: John Kennedy struck a spectacular extra-time winner as Fluminense ended their long wait for a first ever Copa Libertadores crown on Saturday with a 2-1 victory over Argentina's Boca Juniors. Substitute Kennedy volleyed home from the edge of the area in the 99th minute of an ill-tempered final at Rio's Maracana Stadium after the match finished 1-1 after 90 minutes.

Kennedy was promptly sent off for collecting a second yellow card for an over-exuberant celebration among Fluminense's delirious home fans following the goal. The 21-year-old Kennedy - named by his history-loving father after the 35th President of the United States - had been a decisive influence for Fluminense after being brought on as a substitute for playmaker Ganso 10 minutes from the end of normal time.

At that point, Boca looked to be getting on top after equalizing with a 72nd-minute shot from Peruvian international right back Luis Advincula which cancelled out Fluminense's 36th-minute opener from veteran forward German Cano.

But the arrival of Kennedy breathed fresh life into the Fluminense attack and in the first half of extra-time, the young forward made the breakthrough. A deft touch by Keno teed up the ball for Kennedy in space, who crashed a thunderous right-foot volley beyond the dive of Boca's former Manchester United and Argentina international goalkeeper Sergio Romero. Tempers flared near half-time of extra-time with an ugly multi-player melee after unsuccessful Boca appeals for a penalty.

Boca's Frank Fabra was given his marching orders by Colombian referee Wilmar Roldan after a VAR re-

view caught him aiming a slap at Fluminense defender Nino. With both teams down to 10 men, Fluminense could have wrapped up victory but Guga's effort after a sweeping counter-attack came back off the inside of the post and rolled across the face of goal.

Fluminense, the four-time champions of Brazil, were one of just two of the country's 12 biggest clubs never to have won the Libertadores prior to Saturday's victory. But Kennedy's extra-time thunderbolt handed Fluminense a victory that gives Brazilian clubs a fifth straight win in the tournament since the introduction of single-match format finals in 2019.

The game had gone to extra-time after a cagey 90 minutes finished level at 1-1. Fluminense had taken the lead with a well-worked opening goal from veteran striker Cano after 36 minutes. Keno was involved in that goal too, playing a neat 1-2 with Jhon

Arias before pulling back for Cano, who swept in an emphatic low finish. The final looked to be Fluminense's for the taking against a toothless Boca side who had just one shot in the first half. The second-half began in much the same way, but as Boca began to press for an equalizer, Fluminense dropped deeper and looked increasingly nervous.

They paid the price for that approach on 72 minutes when right back Advincula advanced on goal, cutting in from the flank and unleashing a superb effort into the far corner beyond the dive of Fluminense goalkeeper Fabio.

The goal silenced the Maracana as Fluminense's fans feared the worst against the Argentine giants. But Kennedy's arrival wrested momentum back in favor of the Rio club, setting up his extra-time winner. — AFP

Djokovic defeats Dimitrov for seventh Paris Masters title

PARIS: Novak Djokovic defeated Grigor Dimitrov 6-4, 6-3 in Sunday's final to win a record-extending seventh Paris Masters title and close in on securing the year-end number one ranking for an eighth time.

The 36-year-old Djokovic eclipsed his previous record set two years ago as the tournament's oldest champion, capturing his 40th Masters 1000 title and stretching his winning run to 18 matches. Djokovic collected his sixth title of the season to draw level with Carlos Alcaraz, adding to the Masters victory in Cincinnati that set him up for a landmark 24th Grand Slam singles crown at the US Open.

He will take a 1,490-point lead over Alcaraz into the season-ending ATP Finals in Turin later this month. Djokovic won the tournament for the sixth time last year after Alcaraz withdrew because of injury. Dimitrov, 32, was chasing his first title in Paris since winning the ATP Finals in 2017 but suffered a 10th straight loss to Djokovic in a meeting of the two oldest players in the top 20.

The pair held serve largely untroubled until Djokovic landed the first blow at 3-3 in the opening set, when Dimitrov gave his rival his first glimpse with a forehand that drifted long. Dimitrov produced a crunching serve that a scrambling Djokovic could only return shallow into the court, but the Bulgarian dumped his backhand into the net to concede the break.

Djokovic followed it up with an easy

hold and wrapped up the set in the 10th game on his second set point, after Dimitrov scrapped his way back to deuce before spearing a backhand wide. The second set went on serve before Djokovic's greater consistency told once more, Dimitrov coughing up another break point with a wild forehand and then effectively sealing his fate with an errant backhand.

Djokovic consolidated his cushion with another routine hold, and while Dimitrov saved a break point at 2-4, it only delayed the inevitable. Dimitrov clawed his way to 30-all on his opponent's serve in the eighth game but his brave resistance soon ended, Djokovic holding and then going on to break again in the ensuing game to seal his 97th career title. — AFP



PARIS: Serbia's Novak Djokovic celebrates after winning his men's singles final match against Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov in Paris on November 5, 2023. — AFP

Kohli equals Tendulkar's ODI ton record as India beat South Africa

KOLKATA: Virat Kohli equalled Sachin Tendulkar's record of 49 one-day international hundreds as India bowled out South Africa for just 83 in a 243-run World Cup rout on Sunday with the superstar batsman hailing his achievement as "the stuff of dreams".

Kohli, on his 35th birthday, got to the landmark in 119 balls, including 10 fours, at Kolkata's Eden Gardens. "It's a huge honour to equal my hero's record. He's perfection with the bat. It's an emotional moment," said Kohli.

It had taken him 277 innings to score 49 hundreds at this level compared to the 438 required by fellow India 2011 World Cup-winner Tendulkar. Kohli's 101 not out was the centrepiece of India's 326-5 before their powerful attack cleaned up as Rohit Sharma's men made it eight wins of eight at the tournament.

Together with Shreyas Iyer (77) he shared a third-wicket partnership of 134 after India captain Rohit had won the toss. India, fresh from dismissing Sri Lanka for just 55

during a 302-run rout of the 1996 champions, sparked another collapse as South Africa were dismissed for 83.

It was the Proteas' second-lowest ODI total, behind their 69 against Australia at Sydney in 1993 and lowest at a World Cup. Left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja did the bulk of the damage with 5-33, with India now assured of finishing the pool phase in top spot, while South Africa lower-order batsman Marco Jansen's 14 was the innings' top score. Like India, South Africa had also already made sure of their semi-final spot. This was South Africa's second pool defeat following a stunning loss to non-Test side Netherlands and the gap between the top two teams on Sunday was almost as much of a shock as that reverse.

Kohli, now averaging more than 108 in the World Cup, said during the innings break: "Every opportunity to play for India is a big one, to be able to ton up on my birthday is the stuff of dreams. It is something you dream about as a child."

Tendulkar led the tributes to Kohli, the retired India great writing on X, formerly Twitter: "Well played Virat. It took me 365 days to go from 49 to 50 (years old) earlier this year. I hope you go from 49 to 50 and break my record in the next few days. Congratulations."

India had South Africa's Quinton de Kock, the tournament's leading run-scorer, out for just five when he played onto Mohammed Siraj before Jadeja bowled Proteas captain Temba Bavuma. — AFP



KOLKATA: India's captain Rohit Sharma (R) celebrates with teammates after their win at the end of the 2023 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup one-day international (ODI) match against South Africa at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata on November 5, 2023. — AFP