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Kuwait posts first surplus since 2015

Decree allows local and foreign private firms to build power plants

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Rapporteur of the National Assembly budgets committee MP Osama Al-Zaid said on Sunday that the state budget for the fiscal year 2022/2023, which ended on March 31, posted a surplus of KD 6.5 billion, the first windfall since the 2014/2015 fiscal year. The lawmaker said the final accounts of the fiscal year show revenues were KD 28.8 billion, while spending was at KD 22.3 billion. Most of the revenues came from oil income, as oil prices averaged \$97 a barrel throughout the fiscal year.

Non-oil revenues stood at KD 2.1 billion, just 7.3

percent of total public revenues, while oil income was KD 26.7 billion or 92.7 percent of revenues. The outcome shows Kuwait needs more efforts to diversify its sources of income away from oil. Kuwait had last posted a surplus of KD 2.7 billion in the 2014/2015 fiscal year, after which oil prices crashed. MP Zaid said wages accounted for KD 12.9 billion of spending, while subsidies were KD 4.9 billion.

Meanwhile, MP Abdulwahab Al-Essa said on Sunday that an Amiri decree was published in the official gazette allowing local and foreign private firms to build power plants for the first time. All existing power plants in Kuwait were built at

the expense of the government through multibillion-dollar contracts with foreign firms. Based on the decree, the government will purchase the produced electricity for use by consumers.

Essa said that he had drawn the attention of the government four months ago that it was difficult for the government to build power plants to meet rising demand and the only solution was to allow private firms to build the plants. Essa recalled that based on official statistics, power shortage in Kuwait is expected to reach 1,600 MW by 2025. The country is already experiencing a shortage and is compensating it through the Gulf power grid.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Finland buys Zionist arms

JERUSALEM: The Zionist entity's defense ministry on Sunday announced a €317 million (\$340 million) deal for the sale of its David's Sling air defense system to new NATO member Finland. Calling it a "historic agreement", the ministry said the system jointly developed by Zionist and US companies can intercept ballistic and cruise missiles, aircraft and drones. The Zionist entity in September signed a \$3.5-billion deal to sell its Arrow 3 hypersonic missile system to Germany. — AFP

Circus lion escapes in Italy

ROME: A lion prowled the streets of an Italian seaside town for several hours Saturday after escaping from a local circus, before being sedated and captured. Alessandro Grando, mayor of Ladispoli, near Rome, had warned residents to stay at home while police and circus staff sought to catch the animal. Videos later published by Italian media, apparently taken by locals, showed the adult lion walking through dark and deserted streets. As campaigners called for Italy to ban wild animals in entertainment, Rony Vassallo, who is responsible for the animals in the Rony Roller Circus, said while the thought of confronting a lion would make most people fearful, eight-year-old Kimba posed little danger. — AFP

700kg of cocaine seized in Belgium

BRUSSELS: Belgian police discovered nearly 700 kg of cocaine in the back of a truck stopped in a freeway rest area near the port city of Antwerp, prosecutors said Sunday. The 46-year-old Bulgarian driver of the truck was arrested and is in custody following the seizure made late Friday. Police found the 698 kg of cocaine stuffed inside sports bags in the truck's container, according to a statement from the Antwerp prosecutors' office. — AFP

5 GIs killed in plane crash

WASHINGTON: Five American service members were killed when a military aircraft crashed into the Mediterranean during a training exercise, the US European Command (EUCOM) said Sunday. "During a routine air refueling mission as part of military training, a US military aircraft carrying five service members suffered a mishap and crashed into the Mediterranean Sea. All five of the service members onboard the aircraft were killed," EUCOM said in a statement on the Nov 10 accident. — AFP

Life support removed for UK girl

LONDON: Terminally-ill British girl Indi Gregory had her life support removed on Sunday after the 8-month-old's parents lost their legal battle to have her moved to Italy for treatment, according to charity Christian Concern. Baby Indi was born on Feb 24 and diagnosed with mitochondrial disease, a genetic condition that prevents cells in the body producing energy. Indi was transferred from hospital to an ambulance with a security escort late Saturday before being taken to a hospice. — AFP

PAM outlines iqama transfer rules for domestic helpers

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Manpower has outlined seven circumstances under which a domestic helper can transfer from one employer to another, emphasizing that such transfers are in the public interest.

These include the death of the employer; the domestic helper's request for transfer to a spouse in the

event of divorce; permanent departure of the employer from Kuwait; marriage of the domestic helper to a spouse in the country; the domestic helper's request to transfer to her husband's residency; loss of qualification or imprisonment of the employer; and proven instances of verbal or physical abuse, or sexual abuse by the employer or those residing with him towards the helper, affecting the helper's body or honor, including through modern technological means. This should not infringe on the helper's right to recourse to items 798 and 199 of the penal law.

The authority has the discretion to impose a three-year ban on the domestic helper working in Kuwait if it is proven that they violated the law and

Gaza hospitals out of fuel amid Zionist offensive

GAZA: Zionist troops waged fierce battles against Hamas on Sunday near Gaza's biggest hospital, where thousands were trapped and a lack of fuel forced a nearby major medical center out of service. Gaza City's Al-Shifa hospital is caught in the Zionist entity's ground offensive aimed at destroying Hamas, and the compound has been repeatedly hit by strikes, one of which health officials said destroyed the cardiac ward on Sunday.

Fears intensified for Palestinians seeking shelter and patients needing treatment after Gaza City's Al-Quds hospital went out of service due to lack of generator fuel, the Palestinian Red Crescent said. "The hospital has been left to fend for itself under ongoing (Zionist) bombardment, posing severe risks to the medical staff, patients and displaced civilians," it added. The bloodiest ever Gaza war broke out after Hamas fighters smashed through

Continued on Page 6



GAZA: Civilians and rescuers look for survivors amid the rubble of a destroyed building following Zionist bombardment in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip on Nov 12, 2023. — AFP

Erdogan calls to pressure US to stop Zionists

ISTANBUL: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Sunday called for pressure on the United States to stop the Zionist entity's offensive in Gaza, but said there would be no agreement unless Washington accepted the enclave as Palestinian land. Erdogan returned from a summit on Saturday of Arab and Muslim leaders in the Saudi capital Riyadh, which condemned Zionist forces' "barbaric actions" in Gaza without approving concrete punitive measures.

He is due to visit Germany on Friday and plans to travel to Egypt and host

Iran's president in the coming weeks. "We should hold talks with Egypt and the Gulf countries, and pressure the United States," Erdogan told Turkish reporters on board his return flight from Riyadh. "The US should increase its pressure on (the Zionist entity). The West should increase pressure on (the Zionist entity)... It's vital for us to secure a ceasefire," he said.

Erdogan, who was on a trip to a northeastern Turkish village when US Secretary of State Antony Blinken was in Ankara on Nov 5, did not rule out a meeting with President Joe Biden. "The most important country that needs to be involved is the United States, which has influence on (the Zionist entity)," Erdogan said. But he said he would not call Biden. "has just been here (in Turkey). I guess Biden will host us from now on.

Continued on Page 6



SYDNEY: A member of the Australian Palestinian community holds a baby doll next to a placard depicting Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during a rally on Nov 12, 2023. — AFP



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Sheikha Hessa: Women need economic power to achieve sustainable growth

ABC chairperson sees hurdles in path to gender equality

KUWAIT: Chairperson of the Arab Businesswomen Council (ABC) and Ambassador of the Arab Region for the International Federation of Businesswomen Sheikha Hessa Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah underlined the importance of empowering women economically to improve their opportunities to participate in the labor market, and spread the culture of entrepreneurship among women.

In a press statement on Sunday, Sheikha Hessa commended the active participation of the delegation from the Kuwaiti Federation of Professionals and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the regional conference for Asia-Pacific countries that was recently held in Bahrain entitled "Economic Empowerment of Women and Young Entrepreneurs," in collaboration with the International Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW International).

"Women around the world still face obstacles that prevent them from succeeding as entrepreneurs. However, there are growing positive changes in the Middle East and North Africa region, represented by some reforms aimed at accelerating the pace to achieve gender equality. This is what we are working on", Sheikha Hessa said.

Kuwait and the world need women to work with men as equal partners to overcome the challenges the future holds by enhancing the economic empowerment of women and increasing the opportunities available to them as an incentive towards the establishment of a more sustainable society in which economic growth benefits everyone, she explained. The conference was a good opportunity to exchange expertise and experiences, which included about 180 participants from BPW International, SMEs, young entrepreneurs, and those interested

in the economic empowerment of women and youth from all countries of the world affiliated with BPW International, she mentioned.

Sheikha Hessa appreciated the efforts of those who organized the conference, which is the first of its kind in the Middle East, and which presented, through its various sessions, a series of local, regional and international success stories, which contributes to strengthening women's access to work and developing their skills in various sectors.

She pointed out the importance of women and entrepreneurs joining forces and working together to achieve equality in work between men and women, given the knowledge, culture, economic intelligence, and clear role women possess in society. She noted it is the responsibility of all women to achieve the sustainable development goals set by the United Nations for 2023. — KUNA



Chairperson of the Arab Businesswomen Council (ABC) Sheikha Hessa Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah



KUWAIT: Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, chaired on Sunday the Border Committee meeting, and discussed the developments related to the committee's work. — KUNA photos



KUWAIT: Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah met on Sunday with ambassador of Italy to Kuwait Carlo Baldoacci on the occasion of the end of his tenure as representative of his country to the State of Kuwait.



KUWAIT: Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah also met on Sunday with ambassador of Kenya to Kuwait Haleema Mahmoud and discussed bilateral relations between the two friendly countries, and ways to boost them in various fields.

EPA plants mangroves in Jahra

KUWAIT: The Environment Public Authority completed the planting of 1,000 mangrove seedlings on Sunday along the coasts of the Jahra Reserve, in collaboration with the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates and several members of the diplomatic corps, as part of a five-year project.

Acting EPA Director-General Samira Al-Kandari emphasized Kuwait's commitment to environmental initiatives and alliances supporting the climate change strategy. She highlighted Kuwait's forthcoming low-carbon strategy, focusing on leveraging nature to reduce carbon emissions.

Kandari explained that mangrove plants play a crucial role in absorbing large quantities of carbon dioxide. Kuwait initiated mangrove cultivation in 2018 and aims to cultivate 18,000 seedlings by 2035. With the upcoming Conference of the Parties to Climate Change (COP28) in the UAE next month, the authority is actively preparing to present a comprehensive low-carbon strategy, emphasizing projects and future plans aligned with Kuwait's commitments in the climate change agreement.

Kuwait has submitted national reports, including the first and second national communication,



Acting EPA Director-General Samira Al-Kandari leads the plantation campaign.

and is currently working on the third. The country is committed to presenting the national adaptation plan and emission reduction projects, such as transitioning to natural gas from fossil fuels and implementing energy efficiency adjustments in collaboration with the ministry of electricity and water. The target for carbon emissions reduction, as set in the 27th climate summit in Sharm el-Sheikh, is 7.4 percent. Kuwait's strategy aims to achieve zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Dr Abdullah Al-Zaid, Deputy Director-General for Technical Affairs at EPA, highlighted the event's significance, initiated by the UAE Ambassador to Kuwait Mattar Al-Neyadi, in anticipation of COP28. Zaid commended the authority's success in mangrove cultivation since 2018,

with contributions from Oman, Bahrain and the UAE. These countries provided Kuwait with mangrove seedlings for re-cultivation and rehabilitation after previous extinction due to incorrect human practices.

Zaid noted that Kuwait has become the first to cultivate and re-cultivate mangrove seeds as a distinct Kuwaiti mangrove. The first generation in the Jahra Reserve is a Gulf generation, while the second generation, cultivated recently, is uniquely Kuwaiti, adapted to local temperatures and environmental conditions. The revival of these plants aligns with international agreements ratified by Kuwait, including the Convention on Climate Change, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, and Convention on Biological Diversity.

Draft law for Kuwait Post Company ready

KUWAIT: Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Transportation Dr Ahmed Al-Mejren revealed the ministry has finalized the draft law for the establishment of Kuwait Post Company. "The Council of Ministers has given its approval to the draft law, which was prepared by the ministry in collaboration with the Fatwa and Legislation Department. The latter provided feedback on the initial version, leading to its refinement into the final form," Mejren said.

Mejren outlined that Kuwait Post Company will operate as a Kuwaiti public shareholding company, entirely owned by the state, with a capital of KD 50 million. It will possess an independent legal identity, conduct its activities and fulfill its objectives in accordance with the stipulations of the law and its articles of association. The company will be managed on a commercial and investment basis, subject to oversight by the competent minister.

"The company's primary objective is to handle all matters related to postal services, both domestically and internationally, as well as oversee facilities and related operations. The law has meticulously defined the company's capital components, including the number and value of shares, in alignment with the details outlined in the company's articles of association," Mejren added.

He clarified that the company is slated to assume the responsibilities of the postal sector within the ministry of communications within six months from the issuance of its articles of association. This transition encompasses all rights associated with the postal sector, such as rent, existing contracts and agreements with third parties. The company will bear all sector obligations, taking full responsibility for them. The approval of the Cabinet will be sought to evaluate real estate assets as part of this process.

Emphasizing the project's purpose, Mejren underscored the aim to enhance postal services comprehensively. This includes the organization of companies operating in the mail sector through the issuance of licenses to local entities, enabling them to engage in various aspects of mail-related activities. "Adopting this law will contribute to facilitating future oversight of companies in the postal sector, ensuring adherence to regulations, and assessing service quality in line with laws and regulations set forth by the competent minister, thereby implementing the overarching policy effectively," he noted.

Green Line Group holds first season to raise awareness

KUWAIT: The Green Line Environmental Group launched its first environmental season on Sunday at Kuwait University in cooperation with the Department of Environmental Sciences at the College of Life Sciences with the aim of spreading environmental awareness among students of Kuwait University. The activities will continue for a month.

In a speech during the opening ceremony, the Acting Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, Graduate Studies and Academic Research of the College of Life Sciences, Dr Bader Al-Enezi, stressed the importance of cooperation with environmental civil society institutions, especially the Green Line Group, which contributes to raising the level of environmental awareness among students.

Al-Enezi praised the role played by the college and the efforts of faculty members and administrators in providing the appropriate academic atmosphere, adding "one of the responsibilities of Kuwait University is to qualify specialized scientific cadres capable of achieving the country's sustainable development goals."

In turn, the head of the Green Line, Khalid Al-Hajri, said: "the environmental season will be an important scientific tributary with the lectures and scientific events that experts will present." He stressed the keenness to diversify the role of its participants from local and international bodies by incorporating different scientific specializations.

Al-Hajri said: "the partnership with the Department of Environment at the College of Life Sciences extends for many years," adding that the main pillar on which the activity of the Green Line group has been built since its establishment is based on spreading environmental awareness among members of society and promoting sustainable development in all state projects, goals that can only be achieved in constructive cooperation with scientific and academic institutions.

Regarding the activities of the season, Al-Hajri said: "it will witness a diversity of lectures and various environmental activities, as well as a science book exhibition. Another exhibition of environmental monitoring devices will be held to introduce students to the nature of environmental devices, how to use them and their importance in assessing the situation," he said.

For his part, the Acting Head of the Depart-



KUWAIT: The Green Line Environmental Group launched its first environmental season on Sunday at Kuwait University.



Bader Al-Enezi



Khalid Al-Hajri



Muhammad Al-Shawwaf

ment, Dr Muhammad Al-Shawwaf, explained that the academic mission of the faculty members in the department is based on raising the level of environmental awareness among students and qualifying them scientifically and culturally. This is a starting point for cooperation with the Green Line to establish the first environmental season, which we will be keen to continue in the coming academic years, he added.

The activities of the first day witnessed a

scientific lecture entitled "Explanation of the environmental map of the State of Kuwait" presented by Al-Hajri and another entitled "Crisis and disaster management and support for decision-makers" by crisis and disaster management expert, Dr Abdullah Al-Enezi. The event also launched the first campaign of the season "Water is the source of life", which is characterized by an informational nature about the water situation and its scarcity around the world.

Local

Zain Kuwait shares innovation and leadership insights with KNPC staff

Company showcases its tech innovation use cases for oil & gas industry



Zain showcases solutions for oil & gas sector.



From the workshop.

KUWAIT: Under the umbrella of its Innovation Nation initiative to empower creativity in the community and upskill national talents, Zain has hosted a workshop for employees from the Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) – a subsidiary of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC). During the workshop, Zain shared its insights and expertise in corporate innovation and leadership success, while also showcasing its use cases for tech innovation in drones and digitization solutions for the oil, gas, and energy industries.

This workshop came as part of the 4th cycle of the KNPC Talent Management Program, through which employees visit some of the biggest private and public sector organizations to upskill and prepare them for future leadership roles. Zain was keen on being among the first destinations of this program, given that it enjoys the leadership position in the local ICT sector. The Talent Management Program is one of the strategic pillars of KNPC's 2040 human resources vision, where opportunities are presented for top-performing employees to grow and excel.

The workshop was hosted at the Zain Innovation Campus (ZINC), where the company shared insights, notable success stories, and rich experiences from implementing a solid and inclusive corporate

innovation strategy. Zain's innovation umbrella focuses on utilizing advanced tech tools to redesign traditional workflows, investing early in digital infrastructures, maintaining open partnerships, outlining long-term goals for sustainable growth, and more. Zain also stressed on the importance of innovation as a driving force for success in today's highly competitive, fast-paced markets.

Zain also took this opportunity to showcase some of its top digital tools, drone solutions, and cloud applications offered to oil, gas, and energy companies. The company highlighted how it uses tech innovation to serve the unique needs of oil companies, paving the way for them to embrace digitization, while also stressing on the importance of upskilling human resources in tech and digital skills to make the most out of these solutions. This step came as part of Zain's Innovation Nation initiative, under which all of Zain's innovation and entrepreneurship programs fall, especially within science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) areas. The initiative mainly targets the youth, and centers around a number of pillars, including upskilling digital capabilities, entrepreneurship, investment, startup acceleration, supporting inventors, fostering innovation, and more.

Zain offers a plethora of digital



KNPC staff at the Zain Innovation Campus.

tools to oil & gas companies, including migrating infrastructures to more agile ones on the cloud; where 5G technologies

play a big role, as well as a wide range of reliable, secure, and efficient datacenter, cloud, and connectivity solutions. The

company also covers an extensive range of cybersecurity solutions and rig connectivity tools through its drones division.



Kuwait's 18th humanitarian aircraft is being loaded. — KUNA

Kuwait's 18th relief plane departs to Gaza

KUWAIT: Kuwait's 18th humanitarian relief aircraft departed on Sunday on its way to Gaza through Al-Arish airport. The plane is carrying some 40 tons of foodstuff and medical equipment on board. This was organized by Al-Salam Charity Society in cooperation with International Islamic Charity Organization (IICO) in coordination with ministries of defense and foreign affairs. Chief of the Islamic Organization Dr Abdullah Al-Maatouq told KUNA that as of this day the organization had allocated more than \$3 million worth for humanitarian projects in Gaza, saying that they have been receiving draft projects from partners within Palestine to be considered and implemented.

As for Al-Salam Charity Chief of board of directors, Dr Nabeel Al-Aoun affirmed readiness of both charities to organize more relief loads with a capacity of 200 tons to be sent in upcoming trips to Gaza. He stated that since establishment of humanitarian air bridge they have worked with Palestinian Red Crescent Society to coordinate priorities.

In addition to foodstuffs, the payload consists of six diesel machines, all designed to power hospitals as well as 30 solar power refrigerators, more than 800 first aid kits, 10,000 medical grade masks and sanitization machines.

This is the 18th relief payload organized by Al-Salam and IICO taking a total of aid to 170 tons, explained Al-Aoun, and urged for furthering such humanitarian efforts as the situation in Gaza requires urgent and immediate intervention. — KUNA



KUNA, CGC discuss ways to bolster media cooperation

KUWAIT: Director General of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Dr Fatma Al-Salem and head of the Local Affairs Sector and official spokesman at the Center for Government Communication (CGC) Amer Al-Ajmi met on Sunday. During their talks, they discussed ways to boost cooperation and enhance Kuwaiti media presence.

In a statement released by KUNA, Dr Al-Salem lauded the efforts of the CGC in displaying the government's achievements in various sectors including media and news. She stressed the importance of coordination amongst Kuwaiti media outlets to cover the government's programs and achievements in several domains in line with the Kuwait Vision 2035 and to meet the aspiration of the Kuwaiti and global public opinion.

Al-Ajmi commended the role and efforts of KUNA, which traversed all challenges and maintained credibility and accuracy of Kuwaiti media outlets. After the meeting, KUNA's chief and the CGC official toured the various facilities of the agency including the newly-minted Kuna Smart Oasis. — KUNA

PAHW reports progress in key housing projects

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Housing Welfare has reported progress in the completion of its investment projects, bids and contracts, achieved through collaboration with the private sector and relevant government agencies. Anwar Al-Hulaila, Acting Deputy Director-General for Investment and Private Sector Projects at PAHW, said on Sunday that the authority is working on offering additional investment projects in accordance with an

organized methodology, adhering to investment regulations and auctions tailored to the private sector's operational nature.

He highlighted that the investment sector has finalized preparations for signing the investment opportunity contract in Mutlaa with the winning investor. Simultaneously, procedures are underway to conclude the investment opportunity contract with the successful bidder for the development of a commercial complex in South Khaitan.

"Progress is being made in finalizing award procedures following negotiations with the winning investor for the establishment of a private school in Jaber Al-Ahmad residential city, covering an area exceeding 8,000 square meters. Additionally, a private

school in Sabah Al-Ahmad residential city, spanning 9,000 square meters, is in progress after bids were opened in October," Hulaila said.

He noted PAHW is collaborating with Kuwait National Petroleum Company to establish a main fuel station on Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah Road, adjacent to Mutlaa residential city. The 60,000-square-meter site will include commercial facilities, restaurants, parking, rest services for trucks and green spaces.

Hulaila reported the conclusion of seven contracts for land use, enabling the establishment of bank branches in its projects, generating a total annual revenue of KD 291,000 (\$960,000). Four additional sites in the residential city of Wafra, northwest Sulaibikhat and West

Abdullah Al-Mubarak are currently in the process of being offered.

The authority is in the final stages of concluding usufruct contracts for three sites dedicated to establishing car repair and maintenance centers. These sites, located in Saad Al-Abdullah City, West Abdullah Al-Mubarak and Jaber Al-Ahmad residential city, each cover an area of 180 square meters, with annual revenues totaling KD 441,000 (about \$1.4 million).

Hulaila highlighted that the total capital costs of awarded projects, with concluded contracts for financing by investors, amount to KD 424 million (\$1.3 billion). The overall revenues throughout the contracted investment periods are projected to exceed KD 281 million (\$927 million).

GCC-Turkish Forum explores means to boost partnership

ISTANBUL: The Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Jassem Al-Budaiwi, stressed that the economic and investment aspect is very important in strengthening relations between Turkey and the Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

This came in a statement by Al-Budaiwi to KUNA on the sidelines of the launch of the GCC-Turkish Economic Forum at the ministerial level in Istanbul with the participation of a number of officials and businessmen from various countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Al-Budaiwi added that the economic and investment aspect is important to strengthen the economic relations between the two countries. He presented to them the numbers and statistics that prove that this relationship needs to provide all the elements to complete its success and strengthen it.

He said that there are two important elements

for that to be achieved, firstly; Resuming talks between Turkey and the GCC countries regarding the free trade agreement. "Secondly, the sixth meeting of the strategic discussion between Turkey and the GCC countries, the last of which was held in 2016, and there is an initial agreement to hold the meeting in Istanbul in the first quarter of next year," he added.

He noted that the first GCC-Turkish Economic Forum is an important forum that serves the relations between the GCC countries and Turkey at all levels, and there is regional coordination between the two sides on several matters.



CGC official tours the various facilities of KUNA.

DDI Kuwait to host World Diabetes Day on Tuesday

KUWAIT: Dasman Diabetes Institute (DDI), one of the centers of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), announced the organization of the World Diabetes Day event next Tuesday at the Al-Hamra Mall and Tower in Kuwait City.

The director of public relations and media at the institute, Tarek Aleryan said on Sunday that the event includes awareness and recreational activities, examinations and medical consultations in an open day starting from 11 am to 8 pm. "The celebration includes conducting sugar tests and checking vital signs, in addition to providing medical instructions on healthy lifestyles and proper nutrition habits. The event will have programs for children also," he added.

He explained that under the slogan "Empowering Global Health" for this year, which was announced by the International Diabetes Federation, Dasman Diabetes Institute continues its efforts to reduce the increasing prevalence of the disease in the country. The Institute is working hard to achieve this through research, prevention programs, training and education. Aleryan called on the community of all categories to attend the event to provide necessary personal health information that would provide important means of prevention of the type two of the disease.

A team of doctors and specialists will be present at the venue to answer medical questions. He pointed out that the institute is keen to organize this event annually to shed light on diabetes, deliver an awareness message to the public, spread ways and skills of healthy lifestyle and reveal ways to prevent it.—KUNA



Tarek Aleryan

Photo of the day



KUWAIT: The silhouette of an aircraft is seen against the resplendent orange hues of the setting sun on November 12, 2023. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Maternity leave puzzle: Insider tips for mothers

Navigating career advancement post-maternity leave

By Ghadeer Ghloom

KUWAIT: While maternity leaves are essential for mothers to recover from giving birth and take care of their newborn, an extended absence from the workforce can present challenges for women in terms of career development and professional growth, which may negatively affect women's role in society as a whole. This may be bothersome to many women, as the need to find a balance between their natural responsibility of giving birth while also meeting societal expectations and demands of the job market can be seriously overwhelming and perplexing.

To address this issue, Kuwait Times spoke to working mother Mariam Dashti and management consul-



Ahmad Ndoom

tant and trainer Ahmad Ndoom to provide valuable tips for women returning from maternity leave, aiming to help them successfully maintain their position in their careers.

Dashti said after giving birth, women often experience fatigue due to the physical strain of labor and delivery, hormonal changes, excessive blood loss, nutrient depletion, muscle exertion and the demanding responsibilities of caring for a newborn, which makes it crucial for a woman to prioritize her self-care and rest during this time, while having support from her husband and family, as ignoring fatigue can lead to worsened physical and mental well-being.

However, Dashti complained that prioritizing self-care and rest can sometimes come at the expense of career advancement. Returning to work after maternity leave may reveal a sense of being out of touch with the changes that occurred during a woman's absence. For many women, their career is an integral part of their identity and self-presentation, which intensifies their worry and desire to catch up and progress. Not to mention that this is one of the reasons many biased organizations and companies prefer to recruit men rather than women, fully disregarding the noble human thing that a woman does by giving birth.

Ndoom shared a set of tips with women to help them overcome their struggle with their career advancement, which may also encourage companies that do not prefer to hire women to overcome their concerns, as maternity leaves do



not necessarily decline a woman's performance.

"While on maternity leave, if you can find the time, stay up to date on your industry and read news related to your industry once a week, so you are aware where the industry is heading and what are the biggest changes that occurred while you were away. Once you are back, your first task is to catch up with what happened in the company, what happened to old projects, and what new projects were embarked on. After that, communicate with your team. You want to make sure everybody knows you are back, and that they can send your tasks to you, rather than continuing to send it to your substitute. And with that, you will know what you missed and be up to date. You will also be up to date with your colleagues and have them learn of your return," Ndoom advised.



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CAIRO: Kuwaiti artist Ghadah Al-Kandari poses against her artworks at Cairo's Access Art Space.



Ghadah Al-Kandari's artworks on display.

Al-Kandari displays artworks in Cairo to support Palestine

CAIRO: Cairo's Access Art Space hosted an exhibition by Kuwaiti artist Ghadah Al-Kandari titled 'metro 23 - half tales from a moving train', which included artworks that she says depict "a collection of moments picked up over my past six months living in Cairo."

"In transience, we hear snippets of stories. We meet people we have a fleeting relationship with. We learn bits and pieces about them and the rest we make up," she commented on her works. The artist dedicated her exhibition to the people of Palestine. The show will continue for a month and art lovers who visit Cairo during the period may visit the gallery to check it out.



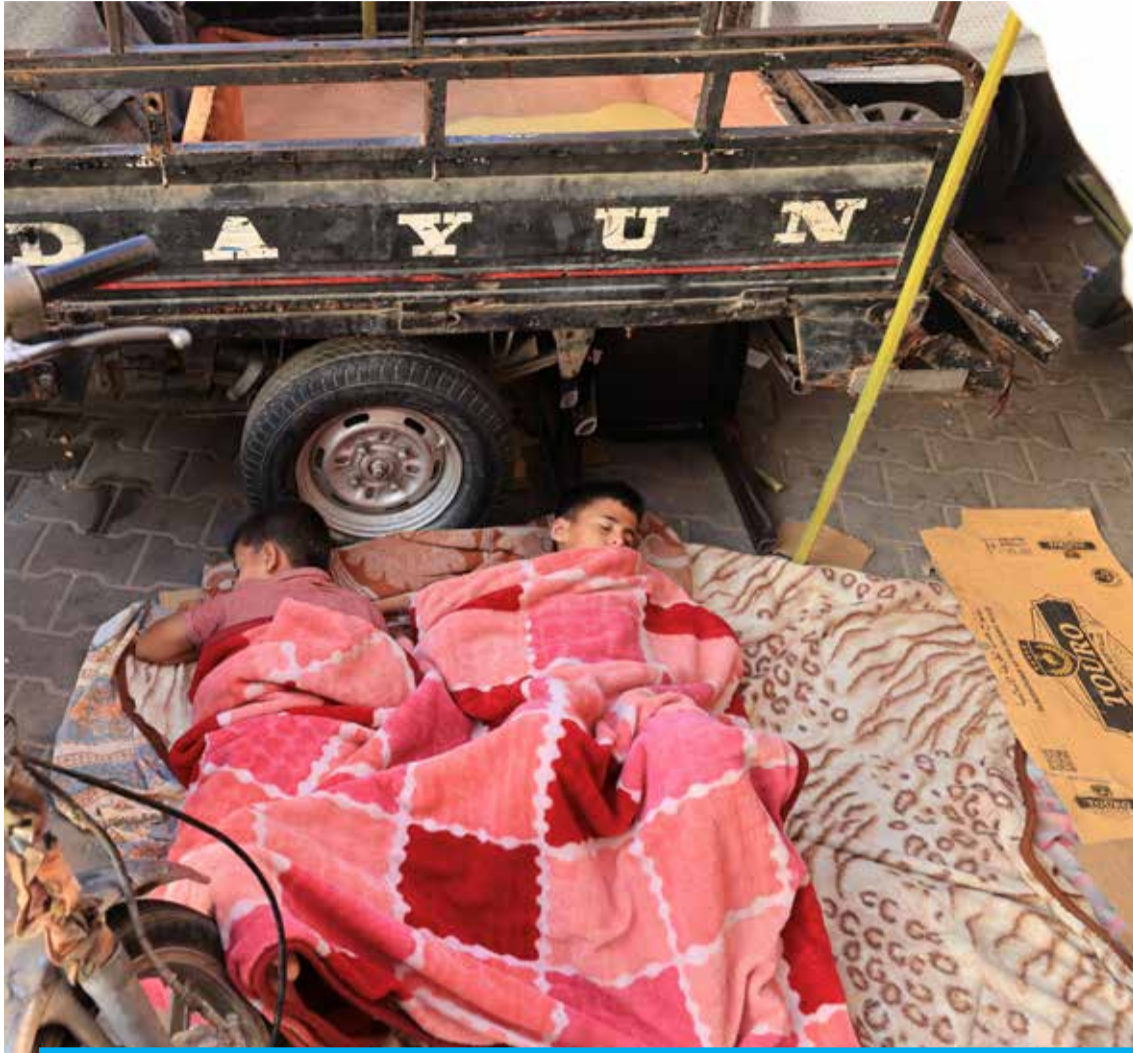


Gaza workers stuck in West Bank desperate to return

Ukrainian officer coordinated Nord Stream attack: Report

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KHAN YUNIS: Internally displaced Palestinian children sleep on the ground as they and others are camped in the grounds of Al-Nasser hospital in the southern Gaza Strip on Nov 9, 2023. — AFP photos



Large pots simmer over open fires as food is prepared for internally displaced Palestinians who fled their homes on Nov 10, 2023.

Displaced Gazans live in dust and fear

'I don't have a single shekel to buy something for my kids to eat'

KHAN YUNIS: At first Youssef Mehna thought the war would quickly be over. Then he was wounded, his house was destroyed, and he was forced to survive "25 days without anything". So like thousands of others, Mehna finally fled north Gaza for the south.

Perched on trucks, crammed into cars, pulled by donkeys on carts, and on foot, tens of thousands of Palestinians are fleeing Zionist strikes on the Palestinian territory squeezed between the Zionist entity, Egypt and the Mediterranean. At the Bani Suheila crossroads in Khan Yunis, on the immense Salah Al-Din road that threads Gaza top to bottom, the processions are growing still.

People fleeing Gaza City are joined by those leaving Khan Yunis heading further south, towards Rafah, the last city before Egypt. Mehna left the Jabalia refugee camp at seven in the morning, in the north of Gaza City, also hoping to reach Rafah. But his journey finished in Khan Yunis, after eight hours of travel covering only 25 kilometers (15 miles). "I already paid 500 shekels (\$130) to come from Jabalia and so I have nothing more to carry on to Rafah," he said with a drawn face, surrounded by his six children.

'Not even a morsel of bread'

Because his sick wife is in a wheelchair, he had to rent "carts pulled by donkeys, trucks, cars" to transport her. Each trip was short, as fuel shortages prevent drivers from accepting long-distance fares. Sometimes, between car rides, they were forced to go on foot. "So, it was me who pushed my wife's chair," he told AFP. Around him, hundreds of families were waiting.

Children sleep on the floor beside parents wondering how they will live in a territory where more than 1.5 million people are displaced and nearly one house in two has been destroyed, according to the United Nations. In southern Gaza, overflowing with displaced from the north, rents of \$150 a month are now up to \$500 to \$1000. "I don't even have a morsel of bread to feed my kids," said Umm Yaaqub. "Since six in the morning I have been looking everywhere."

"I can't give them anything to eat," added the 42-year-old, who arrived in Khan Yunis three days ago with her husband and seven children from Gaza City. The UN has said access to bread in the south

is "challenging" because "the only operative mill in Gaza remains unable to grind wheat due to a lack of electricity and fuel".

On Oct 7 Hamas launched an attack on the Zionist entity, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians and taking 239 hostages, according to Zionist officials. Since then, the Zionist entity has been bombing the Gaza Strip and has killed more than 11,000 people, also mostly civilians, according to the Gaza health ministry.

Before the war, a little over 80 per cent of Gazans lived in poverty and almost two-thirds were dependent on international aid, especially for food, according to the UN. Now, 50-kilo sacks of flour have increased in price from 40 shekels to 150 shekels, so it's worse still.

'Not a single shekel'

But hunger is not the only worry for Umm Yaaqub. "My husband has heart problems," she says. And her 20-year-old daughter Rim "is normally in a medical bed". "But we all sleep on the ground, in the dust, and we don't have a single blanket even though the nights are very cold."

Her husband Atef Abu Jarad, 47, remains in a classroom on the first floor of a school where the family camps now, next to dozens of other displaced. "I'm the head of the family, but I don't have a single shekel to buy something for my kids to eat," he laments.

Shops across southern Gaza are running out of everything. Bottled water, milk for children, nappies, pasta and juices are now nearly impossible to find. A little food aid is trickling through to the displaced according to Abu Jarad: "a portion of rice to share between seven" members of his family. "So I take a small spoon of rice and I tell them I'm full so they can eat," he says.

Water flows from a tap where long crowds of displaced people queue. "People push and I don't have the strength to resist," he says. His daughter Rim had to give up the painkillers she has taken since birth, because she suffers spinal and shoulder malformations. "The pain prevents me from sleeping but we can't buy medicines," she says. She too forgoes meals because her brothers and sisters "have more need to eat". — AFP

Hate crimes surge against Palestinian citizens of Zionist entity

JERUSALEM: "Death to Arabs!" chanted the angry mob as they encircled the university dormitories of Arab students in central Zionist entity and tried to break down the doors. "I am still shocked and afraid," said one of the dozens of terrified Zionists who barricaded themselves inside the Netanya Academic College dorm late last month, speaking to AFP on condition of anonymity.

As the Zionist war on Gaza enters its second month, Palestinian citizens of the Zionist entity — roughly 20 percent of the Zionist entity's population — say they have been living in fear because of increasing hate crimes and attacks against them since Oct 7. The student said that shortly before the dorm attack, Zionist police came to question them for allegedly throwing eggs at religious Jewish people in the Zionist entity.

"We denied it and told them 'The cameras are

there. You can check them'," the student told AFP. "After that, a group gathered and tried to break down the door and attack us. They cursed us and demanded our expulsion." Police escorted the students to the roof for their protection while others stood at the door to prevent the protesters from entering, the student said.

Social media posts

The police told AFP the incident took place after the "circulation of an old publication inciting terrorism, being presented as new", and that they were working to combat "false publications that sow panic among the public". "Instigators will be punished," the police said.

Jafar Farah, director of the Mossawa Centre which documents human rights violations against Palestinian citizens of Zionist entity, said far-right football fan club "La Familia", which has ties to National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, organized the protest. He blamed the university, police and Netanya municipality for failing to prevent the attack.

Miriam Feirberg, the city's mayor, said the rioters should be prosecuted and students currently in the accommodation replaced by Zionists displaced from the south by the Hamas attack.

responsibility and said it had fired on a Zionist team installing "eavesdropping and spying devices" near the border. Since the Oct 7 Hamas attacks, the Zionist entity has traded fire with militant groups in southern Lebanon on a near-daily basis.

In addition to Hezbollah, Hamas's Lebanese branch has launched attacks into the southern Zionist entity in recent weeks. The Zionist army also said it had struck "a terrorist cell embedded in a civilian area in Lebanon that intended to open fire toward (Zionist) territory".

Overnight, a drone also hit another group in Lebanon that the army said was attempting to launch an anti-tank missile towards the Zionist entity. The Zionist entity has evacuated tens of thousands of residents from communities in the north since the Oct 7 attacks. Cross-border militant attacks from Lebanon have killed at least six Zionist soldiers and two civilians, according to the army and paramedics. Zionist leaders have warned Hezbollah against launching a full-scale attack on the Zionist entity, saying it could suffer a similar fate to besieged Gaza if it enters the war. — AFP

Zionist jets strike Lebanon after Hezbollah attack

JERUSALEM: Zionist fighter jets pounded targets in southern Lebanon with air strikes on Sunday, after an incoming anti-tank missile wounded Zionist civilians near the border, the army said. The Zionist army said "a number of civilians were wounded" in the anti-tank missile strike near the village of Dovev, just half a mile (800 meters) from the frontier with Lebanon.

In response, "fighter jets struck a number of Hezbollah terror targets" including "military infrastructure used by Hezbollah to direct its terrorist activity", the army said. The entity's electricity corporation said that the missile from Lebanon had "hit employees" who were in Dovev to repair power lines downed by earlier strikes.

Iran-backed militant group Hezbollah claimed re-

Rights groups have long highlighted regular discrimination faced by Palestinian citizens of the Zionist entity, despite them holding Zionist citizenship. "We left all our belongings in the dormitory," the student said. "As Arabs, we are afraid to return to college, and some are afraid to return to their rented accommodation."

Nadim al-Nashif, director of 7amleh, a non-profit group aimed at increasing social media literacy, said they have identified "590,000 violent conversations in Hebrew on platforms like Facebook" and Telegram. Among the posts were calls for a "second Nakba", referring to the mass exodus of 750,000 Palestinians in 1948 during the war to make way for the establishment of the Zionist entity, as well incitements to kill and expel Palestinians.

Drivers attacked

Nashif said his organization had reported many of the posts to the relevant platforms, leading to the removal of some. Politician Ahmad Tibi said abuse was not unusual. "There is no Arab Knesset (parliament) member who has not received threatening messages," he said, including death threats. "Why don't the police take any action despite repeated complaints?"



Smoke billows from hills in Ramim Ridge in the Upper Galilee after an exchange of fire between the Zionist entity and Hezbollah on Lebanon's border with the entity on Nov 11, 2023. —AFP

International

Ukrainian officer coordinated Nord Stream attack: Report

Zelensky denied Ukraine's involvement in sabotage of key gas pipeline

FRANKFURT: A senior Ukrainian military official played a key role in the sabotage of the Nord Stream gas pipelines in the Baltic Sea last year, according to a joint investigation by the Washington Post and Der Spiegel published Saturday.

Roman Chervinsky, a colonel in Ukraine's Special Operations Forces, was the "coordinator" of the Nord Stream operation, people familiar with his role told the US and German newspapers. They quoted officials in Ukraine and elsewhere in Europe, as well as others with knowledge of the operation, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Chervinsky oversaw the logistics and supervised a team of six people who rented a sailboat under false identities and used diving equipment to place explosive charges on the pipelines, the American newspaper detailed. He neither planned the operation nor acted alone, taking his orders from Ukrainian officials, the Washington Post added.

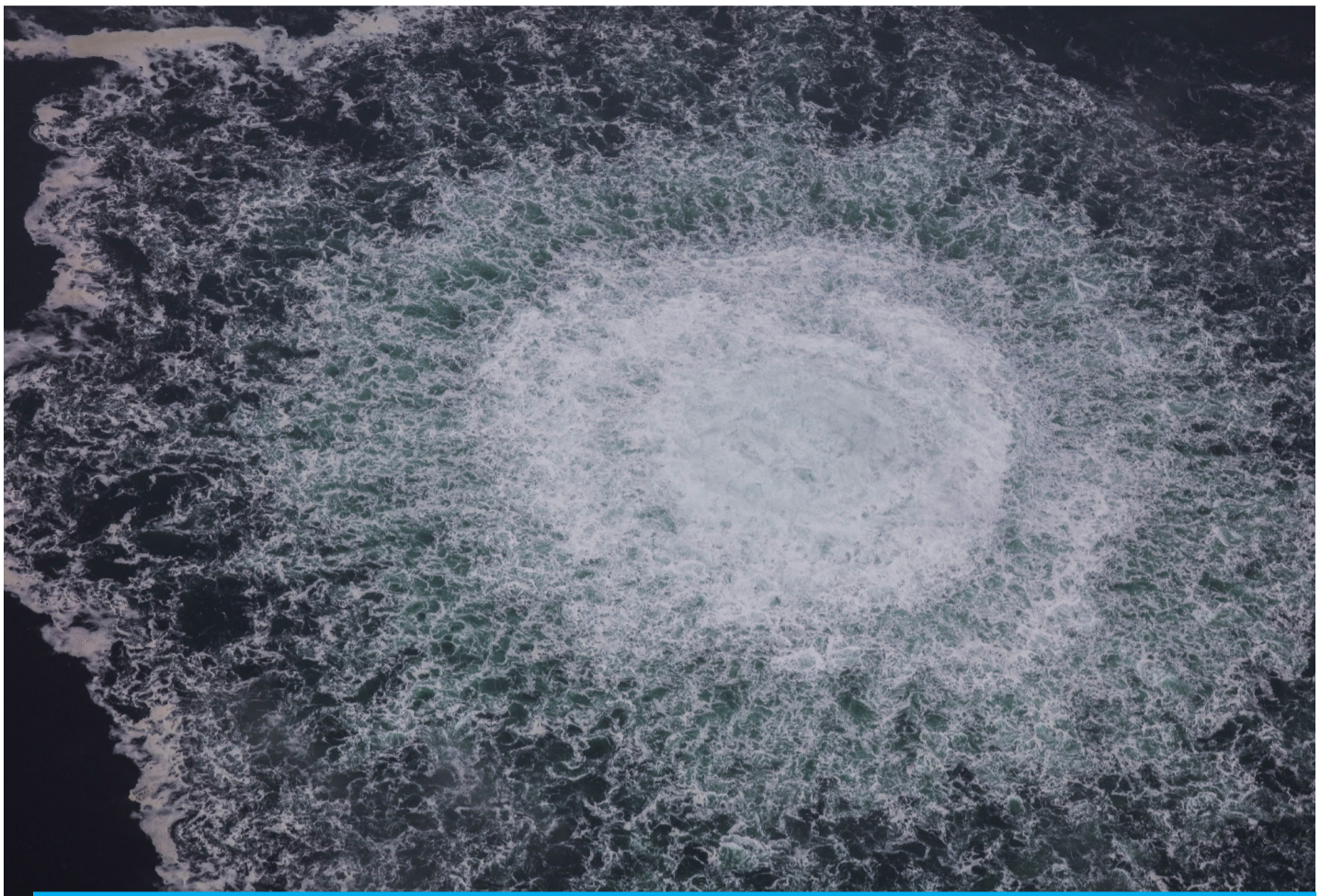
Four large gas leaks were discovered on Nord Stream's two pipelines off the Danish island of Bornholm at the end of September 2022, with seismic institutes recording two underwater explosions just prior to that. The pipelines had been at the center of geopolitical tensions as Russia cut gas supplies to Europe in suspected

retaliation to Western sanctions over Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

Depending on the source, responsibility for the explosions was attributed to Ukraine, Russia or the United States, but all have denied it. Through his attorney, Chervinsky denied any role in the sabotage of the pipelines. "All speculations about my involvement in the attack on Nord Stream are being spread by Russian propaganda without any basis," Chervinsky said in a written statement to The Washington Post and Der Spiegel.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has repeatedly denied that his country was involved in the pipeline explosions. "I would never do that," he told the German daily Bild last June, adding that he would "like to see proof". According to The Washington Post, the sabotage operation was conceived while keeping Zelensky in the dark.

The Washington Post and Der Spiegel said they had contacted the Ukrainian government for a reaction to their joint investigation but had received no response. Chervinsky is currently on trial in Kyiv, accused of abusing his power in an attempt to get a Russian pilot to defect. He claims that the prosecution is political retaliation for his criticism of Zelensky, according to media reports. — AFP



This file photo taken on September 28, 2022 shows the release of gas emanating from a leak on the Nord Stream 1 gas pipeline. — AFP

EU 'appalled' by reports of 1,000 killed in Darfur

BRUSSELS: The EU said Sunday it was "appalled" by reports of more than 1,000 people killed this month in Sudan's West Darfur in an apparent "ethnic cleansing campaign" by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

"These latest atrocities are seemingly part of a wider ethnic cleansing campaign conducted by the

RSF with the aim to eradicate the non-Arab Masalit community from West Darfur and comes on top of the first wave of large violence in June," EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said in a statement.

Since April, forces loyal to army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan — Sudan's de facto head of state — have been at war with the RSF commanded by his former deputy, Mohamed Hamdan Daglo. The European Union statement said there were "credible eyewitness reports (that) more than a thousand members of the Masalit community were killed in Ardama, West Darfur, in just over two days, during major attacks carried out by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and its affiliated militias".

The toll was higher than a previous one of 800 giv-

en by the UN refugee agency (UNHCR), which said 100 shelters in a displaced persons' camp in Ardama had been razed. "What is happening is verging on pure evil," the UN humanitarian coordinator for Sudan, Clementine Nkweta-Salami, said Friday, citing reports of young girls being raped in front of their mothers.

She voiced fears of a repeat of the genocide campaign that gripped Darfur in the early 2000s. The EU stressed that Sudan's warring sides "have a duty to protect citizens". It said it was working with the International Criminal Court to document violations "to ensure accountability". "The international community cannot turn a blind eye on what is happening in Darfur and allow another genocide to happen in this region," it said.

Nkweta-Salami added that some 25 million people need humanitarian help and more than 70 percent of health facilities in the conflict areas were now out of service, resulting in outbreaks of cholera, dengue, malaria and measles, and high levels of malnutrition among children. The UN is targeting about 12 million people for aid and has appealed for another \$2.6 billion.

More than 10,000 people have been killed in the Sudan conflict so far, according to a conservative estimate by the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data project. The war has displaced more than 4.8 million people within Sudan and has forced a further 1.2 million to flee into neighboring countries, according to UN figures. — Agencies

Turkey's 'Saturday Mothers' hold vigil after five-year ban

ISTANBUL: Members of a group remembering the disappearance of relatives in the 1980s and 1990s held a vigil in Istanbul on Saturday without police interference for the first time in five years.

Known as the "Saturday Mothers" ("Cumartesi Anneleri" in Turkish), they have met on Saturdays since May 27, 1995 in the heart of Istanbul, remembering relatives who went missing allegedly at the hands of the state in one of modern Turkey's most turbulent periods.

In 2018, police violently cracked down on their demo following an announcement by local authorities that it would be banned because calls for the rally had been made on social media accounts linked to outlawed Kurdish militants listed as a terror group by Ankara and its Western allies.

Ten protesters held their vigil on Saturday without any police interference. It was their 972nd such vigil, the group said in a statement on X. It

comes after Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya said in a parliamentary committee this week that a solution would be found as soon as possible. "We will not stop searching for all our missing people and demanding that the perpetrators be tried and punished," the "Saturday Mothers" group said on X.

The disappearances happened at the peak of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) insurgency demanding self-rule in the Kurdish-dominated southeast. The country was also wracked by political instability and violence following the 1980 military coup, with many detained for political activism.

The activists have said their relatives went missing after reported abductions, in police detention, or in extrajudicial killings. International rights groups have called for a probe into the allegations. The group says the government has never properly investigated the fate of those who disappeared after being detained by the authorities. The Saturday Mothers group was unable to hold its protests for a decade from 1999 to 2009 due to repeated police interventions, but they then resumed them even though police maintained a watchful presence at the protests. In February, the Constitutional Court ruled that the right to organize demonstrations of some members of the group had been violated. — Agencies



ISTANBUL: Members of the "Saturday Mothers" group hold a vigil on Saturday for the first time since 2018 to demand justice for relatives who disappeared after police crackdowns in the 80s and 90s. — MLSA Turkey

Gaza hospitals out of fuel amid...

Continued from Page 1

the militarized border with the Zionist entity on Oct 7, killing around 1,200 people and taking about 240 people captive, according to Zionist figures. The Zionist entity's relentless campaign in response has killed more than 11,000 people, also mostly civilians and including thousands of children, according to the health ministry in Gaza.

Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told NBC News on Sunday a deal could be afoot to free some of the hostages but declined to provide details. "We heard that there was an impending deal of this kind or of that kind and then we learned that it was all hokum. But the minute we started the ground operation, that began to change," Netanyahu said. Asked whether there is a potential deal to free more of the hostages, he replied only that "there could be".

Inside embattled Gaza, witnesses at the Al-Shifa hospital told AFP by phone on Sunday that "violent fighting" had raged around the hospital the whole night. Inside Al-Shifa hospital, doctors said Saturday that two babies had died in the neonatal unit after power to their incubators was cut off, and a man had also died when his ventilator shut down.

The Zionist military has pledged to aid the evacuation of babies from the hospital, noting that "staff of the Al-Shifa hospital has requested that tomorrow". Military spokesman Daniel Hagari said that "we will help the babies in the pediatric department to get to a safer hospital. We will provide the assistance needed." A "safe passage" was to be opened from Al-Shifa to allow people to flee toward the south, the Zionist military said Sunday. Mohammad Zaqut, head of all hospitals in Gaza Strip, told AFP: "The situa-

tion in Al-Shifa is catastrophic." "No one can enter or leave" the hospital, he added.

Twenty of Gaza's 36 hospitals are "no longer functioning", according to the UN's humanitarian agency. Very little aid has made it into Gaza in the five weeks of war, with the densely populated coastal territory effectively sealed off by a total blockade that the Zionist entity has vowed to maintain until the hostages are freed. The Zionist military confirmed that a Jordanian plane dropped medical equipment and food to the Jordanian Hospital in the Gaza Strip. The army declined to elaborate further, and the Zionist entity's foreign ministry made no comment.

But as fighting raged, around 800 foreigners and dual nationals, as well as several wounded Palestinians, were evacuated from the besieged Gaza Strip to Egypt on Sunday, a Gaza border official said. AlQahera News, an outlet close to the Egyptian intelligence services, reported the crossing of an additional "seven wounded Palestinians" through the terminal. Rafah is the only crossing out of Gaza not controlled by the Zionist entity, and had been closed on Friday and Saturday.

Since November 1, dozens of wounded Palestinians have been evacuated to Egyptian hospitals, with hundreds of dual nationals and foreigners, including Americans, French, Russians and Poles, also leaving through Rafah. Perched on trucks, crammed in cars, pulled by donkeys on carts and on foot, many thousands of Palestinians have fled Zionist army strikes on the territory squeezed between the Zionist entity, Egypt and the Mediterranean.

Youssef Mehna, one of many who moved south, said his sick wife is in a wheelchair so he had to rent "carts pulled by donkeys, trucks, cars" to transport her. Sometimes, between rides, they were forced to go on foot. "So it was me who pushed my wife's chair," he told AFP. Almost 1.6 million people have been internally displaced since Oct 7, according to the UN agency for Palestinian refugees UNRWA. — AFP

Erdogan calls to pressure US to...

Continued from Page 1

It would not be suitable for me to call Biden," he said. Erdogan said the US must accept Gaza as Palestinian land. "We cannot agree with Biden if he approaches (the conflict) by seeing Gaza as the land of occupying settlers or (the Zionist entity), rather than the land of the Palestinian people," he said. Turkey has been an increasingly vocal critic of the Zionist entity's offensive in Gaza.

In another speech in Istanbul on Sunday, Erdogan vented fury at Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in comments broadcast live on Turkish television. "Hey Netanyahu, these are your good days, more different days are awaiting you... Netanyahu you should know that you're leaving," Erdogan said, after previously labelling the Zionist leader "no longer someone we can talk to". Erdogan will meet German Chancellor Olaf Scholz next week. Turkey is technically a candidate for eventual EU membership and, even if this seems a distant prospect, Erdogan's portrayal of Hamas militants as "liberators" — which differs sharply from the bloc's — has caused unease. It also stands in stark contrast to the position taken by Berlin, the EU's most populous member.

In its annual report on candidate countries' progress published this week, the EU said Turkey's "rhetoric in support of terrorist group Hamas following its attacks against (the Zionist entity)... is in complete disagreement with the EU approach." "The European Union thinks exactly the same as (the Zionist entity) regarding Hamas," Erdogan said on the plane. "I see Hamas as a political party that won the elections in Palestine. I



RAFAH: Relatives mourn as the bodies of people killed during overnight strikes on Rafah by the Zionist forces in the southern Gaza Strip are prepared for burial at Al-Najjar hospital on November 12, 2023. — AFP

don't look at it the same way they do," he added. Erdogan repeated his call for an international conference to resolve the conflict. "Nothing can serve peace more than a meeting of all regional actors including warring sides," he said. — AFP

International



JERICHO: A Palestinian worker from the Gaza Strip who had his Zionist work permit revoked, walks around the campus of a university in the West Bank on Nov 8, 2023. — AFP photos



A Palestinian worker from the Gaza Strip stands by a window in the campus of a university where workers whose permits were revoked are temporarily taking shelter.

Gaza workers stuck in West Bank desperate to return

‘We don’t care if we die there. We want to be with our kids.’

JERICHO: It seems an incongruous question in the middle of the Zionist entity’s war on Hamas, but asked who wanted to return home, these Gazans stuck in the occupied West Bank responded as one: “Me, to be with my family.” “My wife is alone in Gaza City, under the bombs, with our four children. They are scared. They have nothing, no water, no food. I must go back to try to help them,” said a desperate Abdelazim al-Arifi, whose children are aged between seven months and nine years old.

Arifi, 29, had been working at a factory in the north of the Zionist entity for nine months when Hamas attacked the Zionist entity on Oct 7. Only a few days later, Zionist authorities annulled the 18,500 work permits given to Palestinians from the Gaza Strip, where unemployment sits at 50 percent.

Arifi, suddenly in the entity illegally, went to the West Bank, occupied Palestinian territory. Around 1,500 Gazan workers have found themselves stranded in Jericho, in the south of the West Bank, according to

the city’s deputy governor Yusra al-Sweity. The majority want to return to Gaza, she said. That’s despite the Zionist entity, which has pledged to destroy Hamas, continuing to bomb the coastal territory and sending in ground forces. The Zionist entity has also cut off water, electricity and food, with only a trickle of aid trucks entering each day. Zionist bombardment has killed more than 11,100 people in Gaza, the territory’s health ministry says, mostly civilians and including more than 4,400 children. The relentless strikes, which have targeted hospitals, mosques, churches and schools, were launched in retaliation for Hamas’s attack, which Zionist officials say killed 1,200 people.

Fear of bad news

“I don’t know when they are going to leave,” said Sweity. “If they go to the checkpoint (to exit Jericho), the (Zionists) will arrest them. So a transfer has to be coordinated with the Zionist entity,” she added. The Zionist military administration in charge

of the Palestinian territories did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Gaza and the West Bank are separated from each other by territory occupied by the Zionist entity and sealed off by the Zionist army. In Jericho, around 350 workers have been housed at Al-Istiqlal university.

During the day, they wander around aimlessly, smoke, sleep and follow the bombings on their phones. “Every time the phone rings, we are afraid of bad news,” said one. Asked if it wasn’t better to be in the West Bank than under the bombs, there was a sudden wave of answers. “We don’t care if we die there. We want to be with our kids. So if something happens, we’ll be together,” said one. “We don’t sleep. All we do is think about our families,” added another. With photos to prove it, some of the workers said their families had already been killed by the bombardment.

A dangerous route

Wissam Mqout, 36, is in Jericho with his father Is-

mail, 55. The pair worked in construction in the Zionist entity before the war. “We managed to get a permit (to leave Gaza), after an investigation by the Zionist authorities. This shows that we have nothing to do with Hamas,” said Wissam. When he managed to speak to his wife on the phone, he could hear bombing. “I’m expecting to die every minute,” she told him recently. His 12-year-old son asked them if they thought they would ever see each other again.

Some workers have already been returned to the Gaza Strip. In early November, the Zionist entity sent thousands of Palestinian workers back to the territory, several of whom told AFP they had been imprisoned after their work permits were cancelled. The deputy governor of Jericho said the men in his city “can stay if they want, nobody will force them to leave.” Mohamed Rif, 32, was one of those staying put. “I no longer have a home in Gaza. My family has evacuated to the south where they are staying in a school... I won’t leave until there’s a ceasefire,” he said. — AFP

Venezuela prison cleanup likely political ‘show’

CARACAS: Since September, Venezuela has deployed thousands of security force members to wrest control of seven prisons from the hands of powerful gangs — finding caches of guns, drugs, swimming pools and restaurants — even a zoo. The facilities — which sometimes resembled luxury retreats for gang bosses rather than places of detention — were shuttered and their 9,000-odd inmates moved to other, already overcrowded prisons.

While Justice Minister Remigio Ceballos has triumphantly declared a death blow to gangs that have for years run the prisons with impunity, observers denounce a smoke and mirrors tactic to distract from human rights and other concerns in a country under international scrutiny. It is all “a show,” said Humberto Prado of the Venezuelan Prison Observatory (OVP), an NGO, pointing out that the first, highly-publicized raid of the infamous Tocoron prison came in the same week the UN released a report on human rights violations in the economically and politically troubled South American nation. The OVP claims to have evidence that top gang leaders were tipped off by authorities and left the country before some of the raids. For Prado, the entire operation had been carefully designed to “divert attention” as Venezuela moves toward holding presidential elections next year seeking to shed some of its pariah status, and sanctions.

Caracas is under investigation by the International Criminal Court in The Hague for alleged crimes against humanity over its response to protests in 2017 against President Nicolas Maduro. Over 100 people died in a crackdown and hundreds more have been arrested since then who are among dozens of inmates described by rights activists as political prisoners.

‘A total success’

In the first of the raids, on Sept 20, authorities found restaurants, a pool, a nightclub and a zoo at Tocoron prison. They also seized Bitcoin mining machines, rocket launchers and machine guns with thousands of belts of ammunition.



TOCORON: Members of the Bolivarian National Police patrol on a quad bike at the Tocoron prison in this file photo. — AFP

One soldier was killed in the operation at the prison ruled by the Tren de Aragua gang, which had been using it as a base for its international criminal operations. Six more raids followed, including La Pica penitentiary where officials said gangs had been running an “extortion center” from where threatening calls were made and ransom money extracted.

One of the prisons featured a studio where inmates filmed reggaeton music videos and uploaded them to YouTube. The seventh and final prison in gang hands was retaken Friday in the northern Yaracuy state, authorities said. According to experts, gang leaders could live the high life due to a lack of resources or political will to change a corrupt system. They freely extorted monthly “fees” of \$5 to \$10 from inmates — even charging them for vaccines as guards, many on the criminals’ payroll, did nothing.

Gang bosses used part of the money so raised to expand their drug and weapons smuggling empires in the outside world. Maduro has hailed the raids as “a total success.” Ronna Riskey, a Venezuelan journalist who investigated prison conditions and wrote a book about the Aragua gang, agreed the actions had dealt a blow by depriving criminal groups of operational bases such as Tocoron, and of freely-available inmate “manpower.”

From Tocoron alone, the Tren de Aragua gang would lose about \$3.5 million per year in extortion money, she estimated. “But that does not mean the organization is finished because the organization is the people and the people are still around; now we don’t even know where,” Riskey told AFP.

There are officially about 54,000 inmates in Venezuela’s 80 prisons, including the 9,000 from the now-shuttered facilities. Some 70 percent have not been convicted of a crime. Prado expressed concern that the prison closures would worsen already dire conditions in facilities that have had to take in the ousted inmates. “You cannot solve one problem to create another,” he said. “With the closing of these prisons, overcrowding will explode.”

Venezuela has been in political crisis since Maduro’s widely-unrecognized re-election in 2018. Last month, the government and opposition agreed to hold elections next year and allow observers, prompting the United States to ease some oil and gas sanctions. But since then, Caracas has rejected the outcome of an opposition primary to choose Maduro’s rival, prompting international criticism and raising doubts about the likelihood of a free and fair poll. — AFP

At least 40 Indian workers trapped in tunnel collapse

DEHRADUN: At least 40 construction workers were trapped Sunday after the road tunnel they were building collapsed in northern India, with rescuers scrambling to reach them beneath piles of debris. The collapse occurred early Sunday morning in the Himalayan state of Uttarakhand when a group of workers were moving out and replacement workers were going in.

“About 200 meters (218 yards) of the tunnel have collapsed,” Durgesh Rathodi, a state disaster response official, told AFP from the site. “About 40 to 41 workers are trapped inside. Oxygen is being supplied through the debris, but more rubble is coming down as rescuers try to remove the obstruction.” The 4.5-kilometre (2.7-mile) tunnel is being constructed between Silkyara and Dandalgaoon to connect two of the holiest Hindu shrines of Uttarakhand and Yamnotri.

‘Pray to god’

Photographs released by the government rescue teams showed huge piles of concrete blocking the wide tunnel, with twisted metal bars on its broken roof poking down in front of the rubble. “Pray to god that those workers trapped inside the tunnel are brought out safely,” Uttarakhand chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhama wrote on social media platform X.

Rathodi, the disaster response official, said a message was sent to the trapped workers through a tube that is pumping oxygen into the blocked portion of the tunnel, assuring them “all efforts are being made for your safety”. “No response to the message has come from inside yet,” he told AFP, adding that more rubble was coming down from above as machines constantly removed the debris.

A local police officer told the Press Trust of India news agency they were “very optimistic” the men would be rescued safely, but added it was “difficult to say how long it will take”. The tunnel is part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Char Dham Road Project, which is meant to improve connectivity for some of the most popular Hindu shrines in the country, as well as areas bordering China. — AFP



Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg (center) joins demonstrators during a rally for climate and justice, in Amsterdam, on Nov 12, 2023. — AFP

70,000 march in ‘biggest ever’ climate demo in Amsterdam

AMSTERDAM: Environmental activist Greta Thunberg joined tens of thousands in the “biggest ever” climate march through Amsterdam Sunday, aimed at pushing the climate crisis up the political agenda 10 days ahead of crunch national elections. Carrying placards reading: “Our house is on fire”, “In 2050: ‘Daddy, what are trees?’”, and “Climate Justice Now”, demonstrators packed into Amsterdam’s central square and set off through the streets.

Around 70,000 people took part, smashing previous records for such a march, said organizers, a coalition of pressure groups, including Extinction Rebellion, Fridays for Future, Oxfam and Greenpeace. “We are not standing on the brink of a catastrophe, we are living in it,” Thunberg told the crowd. “People on the front lines of the climate crisis have been experiencing the first-hand consequences of it for decades now and they have been sounding the alarm, but we have not been listening,” she added.

Her speech was briefly interrupted by a protester, who said the demonstration was focusing too much on politics rather than the climate. “The atmosphere is amazing. I can feel the energy of a lot of young people who want to change the world,” 19-year-old political science student Tijn Veenhoven told AFP. “I’m just angry because the world is angry and no one is doing anything about it,” said physics student Ieke Snel, 18.

Polls show the Netherlands election is currently a dead heat between the center-right VVD of outgoing Prime Minister Mark Rutte and a new party, the NSC, led by anti-corruption champion Pieter Omtzigt. A coalition of the Greens and the leftist PvdA is sitting in third place, according to the polls. This party is led by former European Commission heavyweight Frans Timmermans, the architect of the EU’s Green Deal agenda.

Surveys show the key issues of the election campaign have been the ongoing housing crisis in the Netherlands, living standards, and immigration. According to the most recent poll by I&O research, climate change came in fifth of the issues on voters’ minds, behind housing, healthcare, immigration, and poverty. Climate change is now considered less of a key topic than was the case at the last election in 2021, according to the I&O research poll. — AFP

Business

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2023

Dubai Airshow takes off Monday

Over 1,400 exhibitors from 95 countries to attend the biggest aviation event

DUBAI: The biggest edition of the Dubai Airshow, the world's leading event for the aerospace, space and defense industries, takes off on Monday at Dubai World Central (DWC).

Set to take place between Nov 13-17, this year's Dubai Airshow 2023 is on track to be the biggest ever, according to the organizers as commercial air travel rebounds from the COVID pandemic threat. Over 100,000 visitors are set to attend, likely surpassing the 104,000 from 2021. The show is set to feature 180+ aircraft on display, as well as 20 country pavilions and a week-long conference and industry forum with some 300+ speakers. The event is organized under the patronage of Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, under the theme "The Future of the Aerospace Industry". The 18th edition of the event will see industry trailblazers and innovators gather to identify future trends and further opportunities in the aviation, space and defense industries.

More than 1,400 exhibitors from 95 countries and more than 300 international speakers will gather to drive collaboration and technological advancement, explore the latest trends and push the boundaries of sustainable innovation for the future.

As one of the most important meeting points for the global ecosystem, the 18th edition will see the return of the highly anticipated flying and static displays. Maintaining their status as one of the most impressive ways for manufacturers to demonstrate their aircraft abilities to the global aviation, aerospace, space and defense sectors, this year's static display will set a new benchmark, showcasing more than 180 commercial aircraft.

Included in the line-up will be a series of Airbus aircraft, including A320P2F, A321neo, A330neo, Airbus A400M Atlas CMk1, H225 (Helicopter) and C295, among others. Embraer's latest E195-E2 will make its public debut with a new livery, the Tech Eagle and Boeing will provide a flying demonstration of its highly anticipated 777-9.

Dubai Airshow 2023 is also set to welcome leading and new airlines from across the globe, ready to showcase new concepts to the industry. Saudi will bring two state-of-the-art aircraft, a Saudia Boeing 787-10, featuring the new brand livery, and a flyadeal Airbus 320neo. Meanwhile Beond, the world's first premium leisure airline, will bring its pioneering vision to life as its state-of-the-art Airbus A319 makes a grand ap-



DUBAI: Set to take place between Nov 13-17, this year's Dubai Airshow is on track to be the biggest ever aviation event.

pearance on static display, among many other industry-leading aircraft.

At the brand new Advanced Aerial Mobility pavilion, attendees will have the opportunity to step into the future of aerospace. Featuring the line-up of the latest eVTOLs, drones and UAVs, Dubai Airshow will be the platform to experience the transportation methods that are revolutionizing air travel.

Archer Aviation Inc, an electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircraft company, has an-

nounced its Midnight aircraft will make its Middle Eastern debut, meanwhile ArcosJet DMCC and Lilium N.V. (NASDAQ: LILM) will showcase a full size mock-up of the all-electric vertical take-off and landing Lilium Jet, among other leading industry concepts from exhibitors.

Aligned with the global interest in space exploration, this will be an increased focus area for the 2023 edition of Dubai Airshow, in partnership with the UAE Space Agency. The mega-event will feature

an expanded Space pavilion and host a dedicated two-day conference program, gathering high profile leaders, government officials and change-makers who will bring a wealth of knowledge, expertise and visionary insights to push the boundaries of possibilities in space. The UAE Space Agency will also utilize the Airshow as an opportunity to showcase its latest initiatives and projects, including the Emirates Mission to the Asteroid Belt, its Planet X Challenge and Space Economic Zones program. — Agencies



Newly-elected US House Speaker Mike Johnson speaks during a press conference after his election at the US Capitol in Washington, DC. — AFP

US Speaker unveils stopgap bid to avoid shutdown

WASHINGTON: The Republican party on Saturday revealed an unconventional temporary plan to fund the US government, with little room to maneuver it through a deeply divided Congress just days ahead of a potential shutdown. Mike Johnson, the new Speaker of the House of Representatives, said the two-part move was "a necessary bill to place House Republicans in the best position to fight for conservative victories."

US media reported that unusual play would see some bills needed to keep the government open passed via a short-term bill until January 19, while the rest would be rolled over until February 2.

It is aimed at buying Congress time to pass individual spending bills — and does not provide funding for the Zionist entity, Ukraine and border security, according to the reports. But with some Republicans already complaining that the plan does not make the funding cuts they seek it was unclear if the party, which has only a narrow majority in the House, would be able to pass it, much less the Democrat-controlled Senate. "The bill will stop the absurd holiday-season omnibus tradition of massive, loaded-up spending bills introduced right before the Christmas recess," Johnson posted on X, formerly Twitter, without offering details.

"Separating out the CR from the supplemental funding debates places our conference in the best position to fight for fiscal responsibility, oversight over Ukraine aid, and meaningful policy changes at our Southern border," he continued. Fellow Republican Chip Roy, of Texas, was among those quickly voicing dissent from the party's right, posting on X that his opposition to the plan "cannot be overstated" and complaining that it does not cut spending enough.

The White House slammed the proposal as "a recipe for more Republican chaos and more shutdowns." "House Republicans are wasting precious time with an unserious proposal that has been panned by members of both parties," Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said in the statement. — AFP

Australia ports firm DP World fights to restore operations

SYDNEY: Ports operator DP World said Sunday it had made "significant strides" towards resuming normal freight trade at major gateways into Australia, which have been crippled for two days by a cyber incident. Government agencies held crisis talks over the weekend in response to what Home Affairs and Cyber Security Minister Clare O'Neil described as a "serious and ongoing" breach that has disrupted operations at key ports. "DP World manages almost 40 percent of the goods flowing in and out of our country," she added in a post on X.

The port operator halted Internet connectivity at its terminals in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Fremantle on Friday to prevent "any ongoing unauthorized access" to its network, a company spokesperson said. The disruption has not prevented containers from being taken off vessels but trucks needed to transport them have not been able to drive in or out of the terminals, DP World senior director Blake Tierney said.

In a statement, Tierney said the company had made "significant strides" working with cybersecurity experts and was testing key systems "crucial for the resumption of regular freight movement".

The company was seeking to restore normal operations "as quickly and safely as possible", he said, and was investigating "the nature of data access and data theft". "DP World Australia is working hard to assess whether any personal information has been impacted," Tierney added.

Australian Federal Police have said they are investigating the incident. National Cyber Security Coordinator Darren Goldie said on X on Sunday

that the company has told the government any disruption to port operations is "likely to be a number of days, rather than weeks". "DP World's IT system remains disconnected from the Internet, significantly impacting their operations," he added. Despite the disruption, the port operator is able to "access sensitive freight if necessary — for example, in a medical emergency," Goldie also said.

After emergency meetings on Saturday, Goldie again convened the National Coordination Mechanism on Sunday with representatives from government, maritime and logistics sectors to manage the government's response. Australia's National Emergency Management Agency also attended the talks.

Goldie, an air marshal in the Royal Australian Air Force, was appointed the inaugural national coordinator last July in response to several cyber attacks. Cybersecurity experts have said inadequate safeguards and the stockpiling of sensitive customer information have made Australia a lucrative target for hackers. Medibank, Australia's largest private health insurer, said in November 2022 that hackers had accessed the data of 9.7 million current and former customers, including medical records related to drug abuse and pregnancy terminations.

Just two months earlier, telecom company Optus fell prey to a data breach of similar scale in which the personal details of up to 9.8 million people were accessed.

Those two incidents were among the largest data breaches in Australian history. Optus, Australia's second-largest phone provider, apologized to its more than 10 million customers last week over a "technical network outage" that crashed electronic payments, disrupted phone lines used by emergency services and stopped people accessing government services.

The Australian government has launched an investigation into that unexplained glitch, although it has not been described as a cyber attack. There were 76,000 cybercrimes reported to the Australian Cyber Security Centre last year, although experts warn many more go unreported. — AFP



SYDNEY: Ports operator DP World said Sunday it had made "significant strides" towards resuming normal freight trade at major gateways into Australia, which have been crippled for two days by a cyber incident.

News in Brief

WB to help Sri Lanka's banks

COLOMBO: The World Bank on Friday provided Sri Lanka \$150 million to underwrite savings of millions of depositors in a move that highlights the bankrupt country's financial fragility as it recovers from a crisis last year. The country's rupee currency plunged almost 50 percent last year after the government declared bankruptcy and defaulted on its \$46 billion foreign debt. Acute shortages of food, fuel and medicines led to months of violent protests that forced then-president Gotabaya Rajapaksa to step down and flee the country. "Sri Lanka's economic crisis highlights the need for strong safety nets to support the financial sector," the World Bank's country director Faris Hadad-Zervos said. The money will go towards a deposit insurance scheme to protect small savers with less than 1.1 million rupees (\$3,400), who account for 90 percent of deposits. — AFP

Brazil inflation falls below 5%

RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazil's inflation rate fell below five percent in October, officials said Friday, its first decline after three straight jumps, adding to the case for the central bank to continue growth-boosting interest-rate cuts. The annual inflation rate slowed to 4.82 percent last month, down from 5.19 percent in September, said the IBGE national statistics institute. The rate came in below analyst forecasts, but was still above the central bank's target ceiling of 4.75 percent. However, analysts said the dip meant the central bank would likely keep slashing its benchmark interest rate, which left-wing President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva argues is needed to kickstart Latin America's biggest economy. The central bank, which aggressively raised the interest rate to fight inflation unleashed by the Covid-19 pandemic and then the war in Ukraine, has cut it by half a percentage point at each of its past three meetings. — AFP

Mexico holds key rate steady

MEXICO CITY: Mexico's central bank said Thursday that it had left its benchmark interest rate unchanged at a record high of 11.25 percent for a fifth consecutive time after inflation cooled further. With the inflation outlook "still challenging," however, the official lending rate is expected to be maintained at its current level "for some time," the Bank of Mexico said. Inflation had continued decreasing, reaching 4.26 percent in October, thanks to an easing of shocks related to the COVID pandemic and Ukraine war, the central bank said. That is well below two-decade highs above eight percent seen last year. The central bank expects inflation to fall to near the official 3.0 percent target in the second quarter of 2025. — AFP

Business

Myanmar fighting blocks trade routes with China

Fighting denying junta taxes and foreign exchange

YANGON, Myanmar: A surprise offensive by Myanmar ethnic armed groups has blocked two strategically vital roads to the country's biggest trading partner China, choking cross-border commerce and denying the cash-strapped junta taxes and foreign exchange. Fighting has raged across northern Shan state for two weeks, displacing almost 50,000 people, according to the United Nations, and posing the most serious military challenge to the generals since they seized power in 2021.



NAMHKAM, Myanmar: This photo taken on November 10, 2023 shows fighters of the ethnic rebel group Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) walking down a street market in the town of Namhkam in northern Shan state. — AFP

The blockade to key transport arteries is already leading to higher prices in markets and hampering the junta's ability to send reinforcements to tackle the offensive. "We haven't seen any (goods) trucks since the fighting started" on October 27, a resident of Muse town on the border with China told AFP.

"There is no trade crossing," they said, requesting anonymity for security reasons, adding that artillery and gunfire were heard regularly from the town. Hundreds of trucks a day normally pass through, taking fruit and vegetables into China or bringing back electronic equipment, medicine and consumer goods. In the town of Lashio, about 160 kilometers (100 miles) away by road, residents said they were feeling the impact of the fighting. "One bag of rice was 160,000 kyat (\$76) before fighting," one resident told AFP, also requesting anonymity for security reasons.

"The current price is 190,000 kyat... if there is going to be long fighting, we will have a hard time to survive." Goods traffic from Muse has all but halted since fighters from the Arakan Army (AA), Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) and Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) launched their offensive on October 27.

Chinshweh, another hub on the border with China's Yunnan province, is also currently closed for business. Last week, the MNDAA posted footage of its fighters raising their flag at the border gate. The junta later admitted it had lost control of the town.

The Chinshweh and Muse crossings carried more than a third of the \$5.32 billion in border trade with Myanmar's neighbors from April to the start of November this year, according to commerce ministry figures. Analysts say around a billion dollars of that trade comes from natural gas piped into China through Muse. More trade likely crosses the border through the black market and is not included in official figures. Beijing "understood" that infrastructure had not been affected by the clashes, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesman said Friday. The shutdown of the main overland trade routes to China—a major ally and arms supplier—is an "embarrassing affront" to the military, said Richard Horsey of the International Crisis Group. Since the coup, the junta has tried to orient the struggling economy away from Western countries that have slapped sanctions on the generals and their businesses and deepen ties with its giant northern neighbor.

Earlier this month, its central bank chief announced that a cross-border inter-bank payment service had been launched that would "increase bilateral trade and investment" with China, according to state media. But by then, fighting had already erupted along

the border, sending residents near the frontier fleeing into China and straggling local transport.

A longer border closure would "negatively impact Myanmar balance of trade, current account and availability of foreign exchange," Horsey said. The cash-strapped junta is desperate for foreign exchange to pay for imports, and, rights groups say, the weapons it needs to battle armed resistance to its rule that has taken root across swathes of the country. Losing control of the border crossings will be "a bit of a hit to revenues, but not a crippling one", Horsey said. Of more immediate strategic importance is the military's loss of control of the roads along which it sends troops, analysts say.

"Deploying troops into northern Shan has become increasingly difficult, and the military is now relying on helicopters to send reinforcements into the border area," Jason Tower of the United States Institute of Peace told AFP. The military would find it "difficult" to take back border infrastructure lost in the previous two weeks, he said. "While it could launch air strikes to take back positions, it would risk infuriating China by destroying critical infrastructure," he said. — AFP

Aleid Foods launches subscriptions for capital increase until Dec 3

KUWAIT: Aleid Foods Company announced the launch of subscriptions for an increase in the issued and paid-up capital amounting to KD 30.33 million during the period from Nov 19 until Dec 3, 2023.

Aleid Foods Company had obtained the approval of the Capital Markets Authority regarding increasing the company's authorized, issued and paid-up Capital from KD 18,617,287,200 to KD 30,331,572,900 through issuing and allocating 117,142,857 ordinary shares at an offering price of 175 fils (one hundred and seventy-five Kuwaiti fils) per share and in accordance with the decision of the Capital Markets Authority of the State of Kuwait issued on 07/09/2023 approving the issuance of shares, and its approval of the subscription prospectus dated Oct 22, 2023.

The subscription will be available to shareholders registered in the company's shareholder registry on the due date of Thursday, Nov 16. Non-shareholders wishing to subscribe to the capital increase, as well as shareholders wishing to increase the number of shares allocated to them, can participate in the increase by purchasing priority rights during the priority rights trading period, which begins on Sunday, Nov 19 and ends on Nov 26.

The company's capital increase aims to strengthen its position in the local market and enable it to acquire Al-Ashraf Foods Company in line with the company's regional expansion strategy, Goals 25, and to support the company's competitive position in the food sector, especial-

ly the category of frozen foods, in addition to expanding the operational lines to include food services sector.

The subscription form and more information related to the offering and subscription process are available on the company's and subscription agents' websites aleid-foods.com and nic.com.kw, whilst the subscription applications are received through the Kuwait Clearing Company's subscription platform www.ipo.com.kw via the Internet during subscription period. It is noteworthy to mention that Aleid Foods Company appointed the National Investments Company as the Joint Issue Manager and Subscription Agent.

Aleid Foods Company was established in 1994, with a paid-up capital of KD 18 million and was listed on the Kuwait Stock Exchange (Boursa Kuwait) in 2008 under the consumer services sector. Today, it is a leading company in importing, marketing, and distributing food products in the State of Kuwait. Aleid Foods Company has diverse operational lines, a group of partner brands, branches and subsidiaries specializing in food, and its network of distribution channels, supported by advanced logistical capabilities, serves more than 1,000 commercial customers and huge operations for direct delivery to the store. Aleid Foods Company believes in the modernizing and digitalizing of business and is keen to keep pace with and adopt the latest digital technology techniques and methods in marketing and distributing food products.



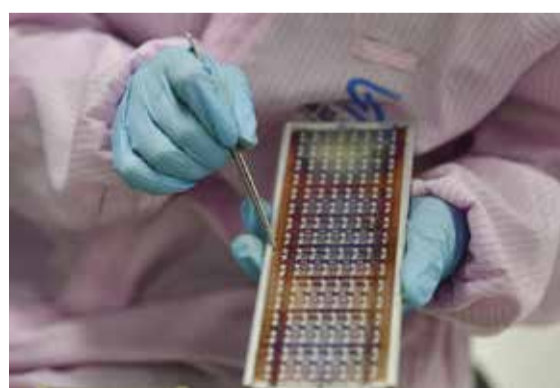
Aleid Foods CEO Eng. Mohammad Al-Mutairi

Japan to spend \$13bn to boost chip production

TOKYO: Japan's government said on Friday that it plans to spend 2 trillion yen (\$13 billion) to boost domestic production of strategically important semiconductors and generative AI technology. The planned outlays will include 700 billion yen (\$4.6 billion) to support the construction of a Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC) plant in Kumamoto, the firm's second plant in the southern Japanese region, trade ministry official Motoki Kurita told AFP.

TSMC controls more than half of the world's output of microchips, which are used in everything from smartphones to cars and missiles. Kurita said the government will also spend 650 billion yen (\$4.3 billion) to support Japanese startup Rapidus, which aims to develop next-generation microchips.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's cabinet approved the draft supplementary budget for the chip- and AI-related subsidies on Friday as part of a more than \$100 billion stimulus package he announced last week. The extra budget plan for this fiscal year will



This photo taken on February 28, 2023 shows a worker producing semiconductor chips at a workshop in Suqian, in China's eastern Jiangsu province. — AFP

now be submitted to parliament for approval.

The move comes as pandemic disruptions and tensions with China have raised concerns globally about the risks to existing chip supply chains. France, Zionist entity and the United States have also looked to incentivize chip-making at home or to take greater control of production. Japan's competitiveness as a producer of cutting-edge semiconductors and related products has waned in recent years, and Kishida's government has sought to boost production of the vital technologies. — AFP

Invitation to subscribe to the Capital Increase Shares of AI Eid Food Co. K.S.C.P (Commercial Register 55561)



Based on the extraordinary general assembly resolution of AI Eid Food Co. K.S.C.P. (the "Issuer" or "AI Eid" or "the Company") dated 06/08/2023, the Company's authorized and issued capital has been increased from 18,617,287.200 KD to 30,331,572.900 KD through the issuance and allocation of 117,142,857 ordinary shares at an offering price of 175 Fils (one hundred and seventy-five Kuwaiti Fils) per share, in accordance with the decision of the Capital Markets Authority of the State of Kuwait dated July 9, 2023 approving the issuance of the shares and its approval of the subscription prospectus on October 22, 2023.

The Board of Directors of AI Eid Food Co. K.S.C.P. is pleased to invite the esteemed shareholders of the company, who are registered in the shareholders' records as of November 16, 2023 ("the Record Date"), and those who wish to subscribe to the additional shares, according to the following terms and conditions:

Subscription Period:	Effective from Sunday November 19 ,2023 (inclusive of this date) and ending on Sunday December 3 2023 (inclusive of this date).
Offering Price:	175 Kuwaiti Fils (one hundred and seventy-five Kuwaiti Fils) per share (Including the nominal value of 100 fils per share, plus 75 fils premium).
Preemption Rights / Eligible Shareholders:	Preemption Rights will be granted to shareholders whose names are registered in the share register of the issuing company at the Kuwait Clearing Company K.S.C. at the end of trading on Boursa Kuwait on the due date, which falls on Thursday, November 16 ,2023, or those who have acquired Preemption rights, whether during the Preemption Rights trading period or through transfer ("Eligible shareholders").
Subscription in Additional Issue Shares:	Eligible subscribers have the right to subscribe to the excess subscription shares in addition to the right.
Timeline for Trading of Preemption Rights and ISIN:	Trading or transfer of Preemption rights without consideration is permitted without restrictions, in accordance with the rules applicable at both Boursa Kuwait and the Kuwait Clearing Company, starting from Sunday, November 19 ,2023 (inclusive of this date) and ending on Thursday, November 26 ,2023 (inclusive of this date). ISIN: KW0000160141
Lead Manager and Subscription Agent:	National Investments Company (K.S.C.P). Alsharq – Al Khaleejya Complex, 7th Floor, P.O Box: 25667 Al Safat 13117 Kuwait
Clearing and Depository Agent:	Kuwait Clearing Company K.S.C.(Closed), Arabian Gulf Street, Ahmad Tower, 5th Floor
Subscription Process:	Subscription amounts will not be accepted in cash. 1. Subscriptions with an amount of 10,000 KD or less. A) Access through the mobile application (Android / iOS) or the website using the following link: https://ipo.com.kw B) Selecting the subscription for the capital increase of AI Eid Foods Co K.S.C.P. C) Enter the following personal information: Civil ID (or Commercial Registration Number for legal entities), email, and mobile phone number. D) Register the number of shares you wish to subscribe to. E) Payment of the amount through the K-NET service. F) Receive the subscription receipt through email and mobile. 2. Subscriptions with an amount exceeding 10,000 KD. A) Access through the mobile application (Android / iOS) or the website using the following link: https://ipo.com.kw B) Selecting the subscription for the capital increase of AI Eid Foods Co K.S.C.P. C) Enter the following personal information: Civil ID (or Commercial Registration Number for legal entities), email, and mobile phone number. D) Register the number of shares you wish to subscribe to. E) Print Subscription Form. F) The subscriber goes to their own bank and submits a copy of the printed subscription application form and transfers the subscription amount in full via a bank transfer from the subscriber's own bank account (bank transfers from a bank account other than the subscriber's will not be accepted) as a net amount without fees to the following subscription account: Bank Name: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait – Head Office Branch Account Number: 0600069966008 Account Name: National Investment Company - ALEID IBAN: KW91ABKK000000000060069966008 Swift Code: ABKKKWXXX Reference: Trading Number + AI Eid Capital Increase G) The subscriber obtains an original deposit voucher for the amount transferred from their own bank. H) The subscriber visits the Kuwait Clearing Company located on Arabian Gulf Street, Ahmed Tower, 5th floor, to submit the subscription application form and the documents listed in the document section required when submitting the subscription application in this invitation, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM, on Sundays to Thursdays (excluding official holidays) throughout the subscription period. I) The Kuwait Clearing Company will provide the subscriber with a deposit receipt for the subscription. In the event that either of the subscribers fails to submit a complete and accurate subscription application, accompanied by all the required documents, at the clearing and deposit agent's office after paying the due subscription amount, the subscription application submitted by that subscriber will be considered void and as if it never existed. In addition to other reasons for rejection, the issuer, the clearing agent, and the deposit agent have the right to reject the subscription application if the required amount has not been paid and fully recorded in the subscription account at the time of subscription with the issuing manager.
Required Documents:	The subscription application shall be submitted with proof of payment of the subscription amounts and an appendix to the subscriber's IBAN number, in addition to the following documents, as the case may be. Individual Subscribers: • Original and copy of personal civil identification card of the Subscriber; • Original and copy of the Subscriber's passport for residents of GCC countries other than Kuwait; • Original and copy of special legal power of attorney (for proxy subscribers); • Original and copy of Certificate of Guardianship for minor/orphan Subscribers; • Original and copy of a Limitation of Succession Deed for heirs. • If the subscriber is not personally present, the original authorization issued by the subscriber to the authorized individual for administrative handling of the subscription application must be presented (with the signature on the authorization document being authenticated by the subscriber's bank). Legal Person Subscribers: • Original and copy of Commercial Registration Certificate (authorized activities in the Commercial Registration Certificate must include owning of Shares); • Original and copy of the Authorized Signatories Certificate or an Extract of the Commercial Register as relevant; • Original and copy of the civil identification card of the authorized signatory; • Original and copy of the specimen of signature for the authorized signatory issued by the Public Authority for Manpower or attested by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry; and • Letter issued by the authorized signatory on behalf of the entity authorizing the subscription. Non-Kuwaiti subscribers: Non-Kuwaiti subscribers, whether individuals or legal entities, must provide equivalent documents to those mentioned above issued by similar authorities in their own countries if they do not possess documents issued to them in Kuwait in this regard.
Risk Factors:	Investors must carefully assess the risk factors outlined in the subscription prospectus before making any investment decisions. These risk factors encompass various aspects, including risks related to the activities and operations of the issuing company, geopolitical and economic risks, health risks, fluctuations in the food sector's performance, increased competition, the correlation of the company's performance with other sectors, the risk of insufficient and high-cost liquidity, market risks, customer credit and credit risks, operational risks, information technology systems, increased costs of managing, operating, and maintaining industrial projects, risks associated with industrial investments and exit difficulties, the company's ability to execute its strategies, lawsuits and fines, compliance with corporate governance rules and regulatory authorities' requirements, amendments to laws, investment environment, business environment, legal and regulatory systems, application of Kuwaiti bankruptcy law, force majeure, risks associated with investing in securities in emerging and frontier markets, Preemption rights, risks related to the suitability of the investment, share liquidity, stock price changes, dividend distribution, tax risks, and the possibility of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries entering into a monetary union.
The Terms and Conditions of the Subscription:	The Terms and Conditions of the subscription set out in the Prospectus and Subscription Application Form shall apply.
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US warns of additional rate hikes

British economy failed to grow in July-to-Sept period

KUWAIT: Federal Reserve Governor Christopher Waller lamented the recent surge in treasury yields, describing it as an "earthquake." 10-year treasury yields have climbed over 100 bps since the end of July, breaking through the 5 percent level for the first time since 2007. Over the past week however, a rally in the bond market eased the 10-year yield to 4.58 percent, although still remaining elevated from previous levels. "Since the end of July, this thing has gone way up, almost a full percentage point. In central bank terms, in financial markets, that's an earthquake", Waller said. The rise in yields comes at a time when investors are evaluating the state of the US economy and government spending.

us a few head fakes," before adding that "If it becomes appropriate to tighten policy further, we will not hesitate to do so." However, it seems that financial markets are generally not buying Powell's claims.

ECB signals pause

European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde spoke on Friday regarding the current situation in the eurozone. Lagarde believes that maintaining rates where they currently are should be able to bring down inflation to the ECB's 2 percent target, and that has been aided by last month's fall in inflation to 2.9 percent. However, the ECB believes that the 2 percent target may not be seen until late 2025. Lagarde was

cent, as opposed to the expected 0 percent growth. On the contrary, the British economy failed to grow in the July-to-September period barely managing to avoid the beginning of a recession. The result of the vicious rate hike cycle has evidently taken its toll on the British economy, meaning that the Bank of England will have to wait further than anticipated in order to start cutting interest rates.

Australia's central bank resumed raising interest rates in a widely anticipated move, lifting its cash rate to a 12-year high of 4.35 percent. The central bank's decision ended a four-meeting pause following stronger than expected inflation data, suggesting there is more room to restrain prices. Currently, annual inflation rate is running at 7 percent, and the RBA still sees inflation topping its 2-3 percent target into 2025, keeping the door open to further tightening. The central bank has implemented a slower pace of hikes compared to the US as it attempts a soft landing, remaining mindful of the impact on Australia's borrowers who are mostly on floating rates (unlike the US's fixed mortgages). Expectations for a 25 bps hike in December are currently at 34 percent.

China CPI

China re-entered disinflationary territory in October according to data that revealed both consumer and producer inflationary figures contracted. The consumer price index came in at -0.2 percent in October, while it was expected to be at -0.1 percent. Meanwhile, the producer price index has now shrunk for the 13th consecutive month coming in at -2.6 percent, slightly better than expectations for a drop of -2.7 percent. The current weak inflation figures indicate that Beijing will likely have to do more to support local economic activity.

The Chinese Yuan weakened against the U.S Dollar, with the pair closing at 7.2891.

Crude oil

Oil prices fell to the lowest level since July, with Brent Crude last trading around \$81.43 per barrel. The fall comes amid worries about China's economy, after data showed that exports declined 6.4 percent y/y while imports only rose 3 percent y/y for the world's largest oil importer, in addition to the fact that China's CPI has dropped to disinflationary territory. Russia and Saudi Arabia reinforced that their cuts would remain until year-end, as markets worry more about demand destruction than a supply shortage.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti dinar USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30880.



Russia inflation accelerates to 6.7% in October

MOSCOW: Russia's annual inflation rate accelerated to 6.7 percent in October, the country's federal statistics agency said Friday, as a weak currency and surging military spending push prices higher across the economy. Rising prices have caused concern for the Kremlin and Russia's Central Bank, which has raised interest rates to 15 percent in a bid to battle inflation. Earlier this month, President Vladimir Putin urged his government to "reduce" inflation in a televised meeting. October's annual inflation rate of 6.7 percent was up from six percent in September and is the highest level since February.

Russia officially targets an inflation rate of four percent. Putin and Russian officials have hailed Russia's economic performance since it sent hundreds of thousands of troops into Ukraine last February.

Economy Minister Maxim Reshetnikov said Friday that Russia's GDP will expand by three percent this year. But independent economists say high inflation is just one symptom of deeper economic problems. Last month, Russia reimposed some currency controls after the ruble fell below the symbolic level of 100 against the US dollar over the summer.

It has since recovered to around 92. A huge increase in spending on the conflict in Ukraine, which looks set to drag into a third year, is also limiting Russia's ability to tame rising prices. Moscow will raise its defense spending by 70 percent next year to a post-Soviet record of six percent of GDP, according to an annual budget approved by lawmakers. — AFP

Rates - 12th November, 2023

Currencies	Previous Week Levels				This Week's Expected Range		3-Month Forward
	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	
EUR	1.0727	1.0654	1.0756	1.0681	1.0600	1.0850	1.0727
GBP	1.2366	1.2184	1.2428	1.2222	1.2100	1.2400	1.2230
JPY	149.35	149.23	151.60	151.50	150.00	152.00	149.25
CHF	0.8988	0.8952	0.9045	0.9027	0.8900	0.9100	0.8940

So far, the labor market and consumer spending remain resilient, adding to inflationary pressures following a 3rd quarter GDP blowout. Meanwhile, the US government keep issuing bonds and borrowing at high interest rates, adding to their deficit while their interest payments surge. Earlier this year, Fitch downgraded the US credit rating to AA+, as multiple credit rating agencies warn about the unsustainable path of spending, and political turmoil prior for decisions regarding the debt ceiling and budget. A month ago, Congress barely averted a government shutdown, approving a stopgap bill that would keep funding until November 17. Furious House Republicans then ousted Speaker Kevin McCarthy for approving the bill, indicating that political turmoil worries still remain as the deadline approaches.

Federal Reserve chair Jerome Powell spoke on Thursday, in what was meant to be a hawkish tone. Powell maintained that the current pause in interest rate hikes is merely a pause and is not the end. Powell stated that "We know that ongoing progress toward our 2 percent goal is not assured: Inflation has given

quoted saying that "We are at a level where we believe that, if kept long enough, - and this long enough is not trivial - will take us to the 2 percent medium-term target," signaling that even if inflation does pick up, there might not be a need to hike interest rates again, hinting that the rate hike cycle in the eurozone might have finally come to its end.

In Britain, the construction industry suffered a second month of shrinkage as house-builders suffered from higher borrowing costs. The UK construction Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) improved only marginally to 45.6 from September's 45.0, which had marked the lowest reading since Britain was under COVID lockdown in 2020. Meanwhile the all-sector PMI - which includes surveys for services and manufacturing, inched up to 48.4 from September's 48.2, its lowest reading since January 2021. The data clearly illustrates that the construction sector has suffered the hardest from the Bank of England's run of interest rate hikes.

The latest GDP news has come in from the UK. On a month-to-month basis, GDP grew by 0.2 per-



شركة الصفاة للاستثمار
AL SAFAT INVESTMENT COMPANY

KUWAIT BOURSA WEEKLY REPORT

WEEK ENDED ON 9 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	31,129	7,233.76	0.9%	1.3%	-10.9%	420,229,906	158,228,432	32,517	17.1	1.2	77.5%
Main Market	9,013	5,370.28	0.9%	-0.5%	-4.0%	316,298,089	39,348,782	16,470	12.7	0.7	22.5%
All Share	40,142	6,590.72	0.9%	0.9%	-9.6%	736,527,995	197,577,214	48,987	13.3	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	23,874	1,594.10	0.9%	1.1%	-11.1%	162,207,084	84,735,646	13,816	16.1	1.0	59.47%
Basic Materials	430	761.67	-1.4%	0.6%	-12.0%	3,517,728	2,158,441	815	9.2	2.2	1.07%
Consumer Discretionary	976	1,450.82	-3.1%	-3.5%	-2.4%	40,225,650	14,333,320	5,423	12.6	0.8	2.43%
Consumer Staples	178	584.64	-0.9%	-0.1%	21.8%	3,110,573	1,557,109	227	73.9	1.1	0.44%
Energy	194	930.28	-0.7%	3.2%	-18.3%	747,977	110,449	88	9.2	0.6	0.48%
Financial Services	4,308	1,174.01	0.8%	1.6%	-6.6%	222,863,272	34,716,004	9,788	18.6	0.8	10.73%
Health Care	232	467.32	-0.5%	-0.1%	1.2%	1,191	501.25	4	12.0	0.9	0.58%
Industrials	3,098	894.08	1.0%	0.8%	-17.1%	49,146,892	27,483,485	5,948	13.1	0.8	7.72%
Insurance	914	2,233.80	0.7%	-0.2%	44.0%	2,815,419	476,802	228	10.5	0.9	2.28%
Real Estate	2,497	1,165.10	2.7%	1.1%	-3.6%	238,102,644	25,385,219	9,363	15.0	0.6	6.22%
Technology	8	582.00	-1.2%	-3.6%	-16.4%	27,157	2,232.69	21	NM	0.7	0.02%
Telecommunications	3,241	1,060.48	0.6%	0.7%	-10.2%	12,895,425	6,465,536	3,093	9.9	1.4	8.07%
Utilities	193	460.53	-1.1%	0.6%	-6.9%	866,983	152,471	173	14.1	1.6	0.48%

Top Gainers

Stock	Last Close	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
IFAHR	315	14.96%	24,369,246	7,125,539	1,721
FTI	58	13.73%	17,201	912	9
TAHSSILAT	25	13.45%	174,700	3,743	48
COAST	79	13.04%	14,535,193	1,077,136	913
CLEANING	32	9.59%	239,280	7,473	62

Top Losers

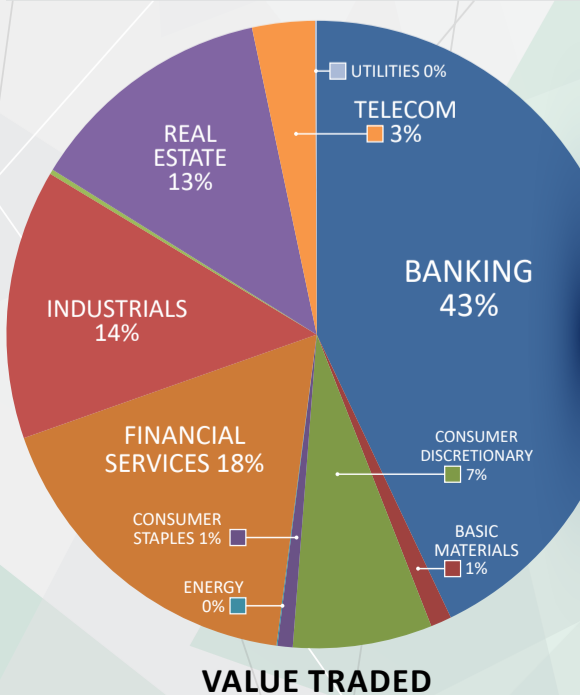
Stock	Last Close	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
JAZEERA	1,193	-17.67%	2,553,632	3,348,806	2,072
ALDEERA	179	-15.17%	103,984	19,689	73
QIC	92	-8.59%	82,134	7,432	6
EMIRATES	29	-8.06%	20,589	604	17
GFC	46	-8.00%	34,724	1,677	18

Top Volume

Stock	Last	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
SOKOUK	46	5.81%	83,672,711	3,885,744	2,020
KFH	694	0.58%	67,634,201	47,251,888	6,710
KRE	172	9.55%	61,925,484	10,370,377	2,492
AAYAN	166	3.75%	53,740,561	8,776,179	825
NIND	189.0	3.28%	27,988,159	5,292,218	725

Top Value

Stock	Last	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
KFH	694	0.58%	67,634,201	47,251,888	6,710
NBK	890	1.02%	20,906,523	18,605,599	2,481
KRE	172	9.55%	61,925,484	10,370,377	2,492
SHIP	825	6.31%	11,553,072	9,325,902	1,280
AAYAN	166	3.75%	53,740,561	8,776,179	825



Market Summary:

- Premier market volume and value dropped 16% and 18%, while Main market volume and value increased 43% and 48%, respectively.
- Premier and Main indexes showed stability at the end of the week. It is essential to continue and stay above support levels.
- Technically, the All Share index closed at 6590, with support levels at 6526 and 6487, while resistance at 6621. The Premier index closed at 7233, with support levels at 7195, 7094, and 6966, while resistance was at 7343. The Main index closed at 5370, with 5339, 5308, and 5247 support levels while resistance at 5393.

Business

Building coal-fired power plants irresponsible: US climate envoy

'Greed' the biggest impediment to climate action

SINGAPORE: Building and funding coal power plants is "irresponsible," US climate envoy John Kerry said Friday, calling "greed" the biggest impediment to climate action. Kerry also hailed recent talks with China, while offering few details, and called upcoming climate talks in the UAE "absolutely critical".

Speaking in Singapore, the former US chief diplomat said it was now "irresponsible to be funding or building a coal-fired power plant anywhere in the world."

"There's no such thing as clean coal. It's not about to happen," Kerry told the Bloomberg New Economy Forum. "So we really have to move forward on the coal front," he said, criticizing a "business as usual" attitude in much of the world, including the United States.

"We've got to get serious here," he said. Two years ago at the COP26 meeting in Glasgow countries agreed to "phase-down unabated coal power". Abated generally means to capture emissions before they go into the atmosphere. And the future of fossil fuels, including coal, is set to be central to discussion at the COP28 meeting later this month.

China produces just over half the world's supply of coal, with domestic production reaching a new record last year, according to the UN. And current planned production increases in coal and other fossil fuels by the world's largest producers leave the world far off track to keep warming at 1.5C above pre-industrial levels. Kerry met this weekend

with his Chinese counterpart for talks that both sides have called productive, while offering few details.

The pair found "some agreement" on "reducing emissions and the direction we have to go and I'm hopeful about that," Kerry said Friday. The talks were seen as key to setting the stage for COP, which Kerry called "absolutely critical to open up the opportunity to keep 1.5 degrees alive."

"Oil and gas we hope will be at the table and that's critical because we can't win the battle without it," he added. Among the contentious subjects on the table at Dubai will be the details of a so-called loss and damage fund to compensate the poorest nations as they cope with the consequences of climate change, going beyond simple assistance for adaptation.

The United States and some other developed countries have been wary of the fund, avoiding setting targets for its size and keen to dodge any suggestion that historical emitters have an obligation to pay into it. Still, Kerry said Washington would contribute "several millions of dollars," and there was now a "sense of the way forward".

A much-debated draft proposal on the shape of the fund was agreed last week, despite extensive wrangling over whether it would be hosted by the World Bank. For now, the proposal suggests the Bank, whose largest contributor is the United States, as a temporary home. — AFP



SINGAPORE: This handout photo taken and released on November 10, 2023 by Singapore's Ministry of Communications and Information shows Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong (right) meeting with US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry at the Istana in Singapore. — AFP

Weekly Commodities Report

Crude oil risks overshooting the downside

By Ole Hansen

The commodities sector is heading for its worst weekly drop since March following a week that saw broad selling across all sectors except softs which was held up by cocoa and coffee strength amid a worsening supply outlook. The energy sector once again attracted most of the attention with wrong-footed long positions heading for the exit as the market focus increasingly turned from tight supply and geopolitical risks to softer demand following a week that saw manufacturers in the United States, Europe and China all report worse business conditions in October, undoing some of the gradual improvement between June and September. Crude oil at risk

The energy sector is heading for its worst weekly performance since March with losses being led by the notoriously volatile natural gas contract, down more than 10 percent on the week, driven by muted demand for heating as November stays warm and production nears an all-time high. Meanwhile, the sell-off in crude oil and fuel products accelerated this past week with Brent briefly falling below \$80 for the first time since July while WTI was hurled below \$75 before stabilising.

Prices have increasingly come under pressure as the market focus turned from tight supply supported by Saudi production cuts and a brief spike in the war premium following Hamas' October 7 attack on the Zionist entity, and subsequent response from the Zionist Defence Force in Gaza. However, while the death toll in Gaza from the Zionist counterattacks continues to rise to unimaginable levels, the prospect of the conflict spreading to the oil-rich part of the Middle East has increasingly been put at near zero.

Instead, the market focus has turned to a weakening demand outlook as the economic outlook weakens in Europe, the US and not least China, the world's

top importer. The turnaround in the outlook and prices has been exacerbated by selling pressures from speculators who bought more than 325 million barrels in the futures market between early July and the end of September on the prospect of Saudi cuts lifting the price. During this time, the gross short slumped to a 12-year low leaving no positions left to absorb a correction like the one we have seen during the past couple of weeks, hence the risk of crude prices falling to low levels that are not justified by current fundamentals.

Brent Crude oil support at around \$78.34 with no clear support below until around \$72, the May to June lows. Medium-term Brent is in a downtrend that would be further confirmed by a weekly close below \$81.94. Likewise, a close above may signal a short-term upside to \$84.78, the 0.382 retracement of the most recent sell-off from \$93.80.

On the macroeconomic front, the US dollar rose against most of its peers, led by AUD, JPY and GBP weakness while US bond yields rose after Federal Reserve chair Jerome Powell said the US central bank will continue to move carefully but won't hesitate to tighten policy further if needed to contain inflation. His comments at the IMF conference struck a hawkish tone as he attempted to dial back the dovish repricing seen following the FOMC meeting and NFP miss last week, which led to a 44 basis point slump in US 10-year yields below 4.5 percent, and a 25 basis point drop in the yield on policy-sensitive two-year notes, while supporting the best period for S&P 500 since 2021. Easing financial conditions at a time when inflation is not yet back to the desired level could not be tolerated, and while we believe the Fed is done hiking rates, the FOMC members will have to avoid sending such a message until it is absolutely necessary, in order to avoid markets running ahead of themselves.

The Bloomberg Commodity index which tracks 24 major commodity futures spread almost evenly across energy, metals and agricultural sectors, was heading for a weekly loss of 3 percent, its worst since March led by a 7 percent drop in energy and 2.4 percent in precious metals. The agriculture sector continues to see a growing divide between an ample supplied grains sector following a robust northern hemisphere

production season and a softs sector which is seeing a tightening supply of coffee, cocoa and sugar as El Niño-related weather developments continue to impact key production regions on the Southern hemisphere. As a result, the softs sector trades up by more than 30 percent year-to-date while the grains sector has lost more than 10 percent, the latter bringing some relief to consumers around the world.

Short-term cyclical weakness versus long-term structural upside

Despite the current price softness, driven by economic growth concerns in China, Europe and potentially also the US, Saxo holds the view that key commodities are at the beginning of a multi-year bull market driven by CapEx drought due to rising funding costs, lower investment appetite and lending restrictions. The green transformation is creating "greenflation" through rising demand for industrial



metals towards "new" energy at a time when miners are faced with rising costs, lower ore grades, growing social and environmental scrutiny, and in some cases resource nationalism.

Note: Ole Hansen is Head of Commodity Strategy, Saxo Bank

New Nomo Bank's property finance offer for customers

KUWAIT: Nomo Bank, the digital bank of the Bank of London and the Middle East (BLME), a subsidiary of Boubyan Bank Group, announced an exclusive limited-time offer that allows all applicants for Nomo Property Finance residing in Kuwait and the UAE to get a refund of their arrangement and bank legal fees when they apply for Nomo Property Finance till the end of December 2023.



Saleh Al-Mansour

"Continuing what we started at Nomo Bank," Saleh Al-Mansour, Deputy General Manager at Boubyan Group said "From a series of real estate financing solutions, today we have an exclusive offer to our clients to increase their real estate investments by owning or refinancing a property in the United Kingdom." He added, "This special offer includes current and new Nomo Bank customers from Kuwait and the UAE. Our property finance offering is in line with their investment aspirations and helps to realize their dreams of owning real estate in the United Kingdom, as it is considered one of the most attractive real estate markets." Regarding the benefits of the offer, he explained that it includes a refund of the value of the Bank's legal fees in addition to a full refund of the deal arrangement fees, stressing that this offer comes as a new addition to provide customers with a unique banking experience.



Property finance via the Nomo App
Al-Mansour pointed out that it is no longer difficult to obtain property finance, with Nomo Bank, as eligible applicants wishing to purchase a residential or investment property in the United Kingdom can open a UK bank account through the Nomo app. With the range of solutions and services available through the application, he can apply for property finance within minutes. He pointed out that Nomo Bank, since its launch, has witnessed continuous growth, whether in terms of the number of customers or in terms of the innovative digital banking services and products that it offers, which have received great demand, stressing that Nomo is a banking experience that suits the lifestyle of our customers, through which we have been able to provide a series of the best supported digital solutions. With the latest sharia-compliant innovations, it enables them to manage their savings and invest their wealth through several easy and simple procedures.

Invitation to Attend the Extraordinary General Assembly Meeting - November 2023

Kuwait Telecommunications Company (stc)

Kuwaiti Shareholding Company (Public)

The Board of Directors of Kuwait Telecommunications Company (stc) is pleased to invite you to attend the Extraordinary General Assembly Meeting, which will be held on Monday 27 November 2023 at 10:30 a.m., at the Company's Headquarters - Olympia Mall / West Office Towers, where Shareholders shall be able to attend by their physical presence or electronically through Kuwait Clearing Company's platforms specified for holding Annual General Assembly Meetings to discuss the agenda of the Extraordinary General Assembly Meeting.

Extraordinary General Assembly Meeting Agenda

Item: Approval to amend the text of Article No. (18) of the Article of Association:

Text before modification:
The company is managed by a board of directors consisting of 7 members (seven members). The term of membership of the board of directors is three years, subject to renewal.

The government, the Saudi Telecom Company, Kuwaiti shareholding companies, and every shareholder, whether a natural or legal person, may appoint representatives on the company's board of directors in proportion to the shares he owns therein. The number of board members chosen in this manner shall be deducted from the total board members who have been elected. Shareholders who have representatives on the Board of Directors may not participate with other shareholders in electing the remaining members of the Board of Directors, except to the extent that exceeds the percentage used in appointing their representatives to the Board of Directors. A group of shareholders may ally with each other to appoint one or more representatives on their behalf to the Board of Directors, in proportion to their combined ownership.

These representatives have the same rights and duties as the elected members, and the shareholder is responsible for the actions of his representatives towards the company, its creditors and shareholders.

Provided that there is at least one "independent member" among the members of the Board of Directors, and the number of independent members does not exceed half of the number of Board members. He is also elected by the ordinary general assembly of the company. The general assembly determines their remuneration, and it is not required that the independent member be among the company's shareholders.

In case it is not possible to elect a new board of directors on the specified date, the existing board will continue to manage the company's business until the reasons disappear and a new board of directors is elected.

Text after modification:
The company is managed by a board of directors consisting of 9 (nine members). The term of membership of the board of directors is of three years, subject to renewal.

The government, the Saudi Telecom Company, Kuwaiti shareholding companies, and every shareholder, whether a natural or legal person, may appoint representatives on the company's board of directors in proportion to the shares he owns therein. The number of board members chosen in this manner shall be deducted from the total board members who have been elected. Shareholders who have representatives on the Board of Directors may not participate with other shareholders in electing the remaining members of the Board of Directors, except to the extent that exceeds the percentage used in appointing their representatives to the Board of Directors. A group of shareholders may ally with each other to appoint one or more representatives on their behalf to the Board of Directors, in proportion to their combined ownership.

These representatives have the same rights and duties as the elected members, and the shareholder is responsible for the actions of his representatives towards the company, its creditors and shareholders.

Provided that there are at least two "independent members" among the members of the Board of Directors, and the number of independent members does not exceed half of the number of Board members. They are also elected by the company's ordinary general assembly, and the general assembly determines their remuneration. It is stipulated that the independent members are not among the company's shareholders.

In case it is not possible to elect a new board of directors on the specified date, the existing board will continue to manage the company's business until the reasons disappear and a new board of directors is elected.

Electronic Attendance: Shareholders wishing to attend the meeting electronically are required to register their names using the electronic voting service eAGM by filling up the intended form available on the website of the Kuwait Clearing Company (www.maqasa.com) in addition to providing the required documents in order to obtain the username and password which shall authorize them to attend and vote electronically on the Agenda items of the Extraordinary General Assembly. Participation and voting will be available from Monday 13 November 2023 until 08:00 a.m. of the day of the Extraordinary General Assembly Meeting scheduled on Monday 27 November 2023, as per the Policies and Procedures Guidelines published on Kuwait Clearing Company's website with regards to convening the general assemblies through the electronic systems.

Physical Attendance: Shareholders wishing to attend the meeting physically should visit the Investor Relations Department at the Company's Headquarters - Olympia Mall / West Office Towers. Shareholders shall bring with them their share certificates or the original transfer receipt in order to obtain the attendance invitations and the AGM agenda.

In the absence of a quorum for the Extraordinary General Assembly Meeting with the same agenda items and same place will be held on Monday, 11 December 2023, at 10:30 a.m. whereby, the attendance and voting shall be either physically or electronically.

Board of Directors





A visitor looks at an artwork by Azerbaijani photographer Elman Mansimov at the Louise Alexander Gallery stand during the Paris Photo fair.



A visitor looks at the photography series of "Strong Hair" taken by Ethiopian Art Collective Yatrede, a group of Ethiopian artists led by Kiya Tadele.



Florence Bourgeois, director of Paris Photo fair poses at a stand, two days before the opening of the fair at the Grand Palais Ephemere.



A woman walks past displayed photographs of German artist Michael Wesely (left and center) prior to the opening of the Paris Photo fair.

Founded in 1997, Paris Photo is the premier international art fair specifically dedicated to the medium of photography. This esteemed event, located in the heart of Paris at the Grand Palais Ephemere, reinvigorates the world of photography every November. Under the auspices of Reed Expositions France, the fair's organizer, Paris Photo serves as a unique platform to showcase the elevated art of photography, tracing its evolution from its inception to the present, while highlighting global trends and the diverse expressions of this medium.

The abbreviation "Paris Photo" embodies the fair's core identity – a global event that presents the finest in photography in the "City of Lights." Over the years, it has positioned itself as the central nexus connecting photography enthusiasts, collectors, galleries, and artists, making a significant contribution to the culture and heritage of both Paris and France.

The main themes of the fair are diverse, encompassing both historical and contemporary art, featuring works of modern masters as well as emerging talents. On offer are exclusive and rare book editions, photographs, curated exhibitions, and signature sessions with renowned artists. The fair's primary sectors are MAIN, CURIOSA, BOOK, and DIGITAL.

One of the fair's highlights includes the annual awards such as the "Carte



Peruvian photographer Roberto Huarcaya is helped to hang his photograms at a gallery stand, two days before the opening of Paris Photo fair.

Blanche Etudiants" recognition for young talents and the "Photobook" award for the most outstanding photobook and the best photo catalog of the year. The exhibitors represent industries closely associated with photography, including leading galleries and art book dealers. The primary audience comprises photography enthusiasts, collectors, gallery owners, and industry professionals.

In conclusion, the Grand Palais Ephemere is more than just a venue.

As an architectural gem on the Champ-de-Mars, it offers a breathtaking view of the Eiffel Tower. Thanks to its central location in Paris, it's easily accessible, epitomizing a blend of culture, history, and art. Paris Photo is not merely a fair; it encapsulates an experience that celebrates the essence of photography in one of the world's most magnificent cities. The Paris Photo took place on November 9 and ended on November 12.



Russian photographer Anastasia Samoylova poses next to her photograph displayed at the Dot Fiftyone Gallery stand.



A woman hangs pictures, made with a giant camera obscura installed by Argentinian photographer Vivian Galban at a stand.



A gallerist looks at photographs by US photographer Justin Aversano printed on papyrus paper, two days before the opening of Paris Photo fair.



Staff hang a picture belonging to the JPMorgan Chase Art Collection at a stand.



A visitor looks at a photograph of late US actress Marilyn Monroe taken in 1957 by late US photographer Richard Avedon during the Paris Photo fair.



German photographer Sebastian Riemer poses in front of his artwork at a gallery stand.



A gallerist cleans printed images created by the photographer Damjanski, with the help of artificial intelligence and a smartphone.



US photographer and photojournalist Steve McCurry poses during a photo session in Paris.

War reporting is dangerous but sacred duty: Steve McCurry

War reporting has become increasingly deadly for journalists but remains a "sacred duty", veteran photographer Steve McCurry told AFP. The man behind one of the most famous photographs of all time – the green-eyed Afghan girl from the cover of a 1984 National Geographic – was presenting a new collection alongside the Paris Photo exhibition this week. "The profession of photographer during a war has changed dramatically... it is much more dangerous," said the 73-year-old, who has worked all over Asia and beyond and was recently on assignment in Ukraine.

"In the past you were more respected, you were more protected," McCurry told AFP. "Now they might actually target you because they know they will get some kind of publicity for capturing or killing a journalist." Even earlier war reporting could take a personal toll, however. "You can be haunted by certain pictures for years," he said. "You have to be careful not to let that become debilitating and obsess on it because it's kind of a negative force."

"You have to remind yourself that this is the work you've chosen. And who else is going to tell us the story about what's

happening in our world? It's a sacred duty and it's not for everybody." Today's journalists face much more competition than when McCurry was starting out in the 1970s – from ordinary people with phones. "It's not just you reporting the news, it's you plus thousands of people doing films and videos," he said. But the ethical challenges remain the same. "You need to keep a distance, the same way you never want to carry a gun," he said.

"You have to be very careful to be neutral, we always have ideas about any subject but we need to keep our credibility, be an honest reporter and not get

involved in anything that could put your credibility in jeopardy." McCurry's latest book, "Devotion", offers a sort of antidote to the images of war.

"Having a greater purpose in life... whether it has to do with animal rights, community service, maybe a doctor – is something that I've always been in awe of," he said. "Even just people devoted to caring for a spouse – the selflessness and compassion is a beautiful thing," he said. — AFP

Lifestyle

'The Crown':

Six seasons of reality and fiction

"The Crown" has often been accused of taking liberties with historical truth, becoming increasingly controversial as it delves into more recent events of the British monarchy. Many of those featured in the most recent seasons are still alive, and have not held back on pointing out inaccuracies. Netflix agreed last year to add a warning message, explaining that the show is a fictional dramatization of real events.

Season 1: Margaret's unrequited love

Season 1, which focused on the young Princess Elizabeth's accession to the throne while in Kenya in 1952, is considered relatively faithful to history. The main disputed event was the relationship between the new queen's younger sister, Margaret, then 22, and the divorced Peter Townsend, 15 years her senior. According to the series, Elizabeth opposed their marriage, while some historians believe she merely wanted the princess to wait until she turned 25, when she would not need Elizabeth's permission to marry under the 1772 Royal Marriages Act.

Season 2: A wandering spouse

The show depicts Prince Philip, the queen's husband, heading off to sea for a month aboard the Royal Yacht Britannia and suggests he was unfaithful while on holiday. Elizabeth's suspicions are raised when she finds a photo of a Russian ballerina among Philip's belongings.

Although rumors of the prince's indiscretions have circulated for years, none has ever been confirmed. The marital tensions between the couple are presented as one of the reasons the queen never bestowed the Duke of Edinburgh with the title "king". Later in the show, in Season Five, it is implied that Philip, who died in 2021, may have had an affair with his confidante Penny Knatchbull.

Season 3: Conspiracy and dangerous liaisons

The series suggests a romance between the queen and her race horse trainer Henry Herbert, nicknamed "Porchey."

"Distasteful," Elizabeth II's former press secretary Dickie Arbiter fumed after the episode was aired. The intimate storyline intertwines with a supposed plot in 1968, involving Prince Charles's uncle and mentor Lord Louis Mountbatten, to overthrow the Labour prime minister Harold Wilson. While discussions did take place, they most likely did not go as far as depicted. Historians consider the queen's intervention in the matter, as portrayed on screen, as unlikely.

Season 4: Diana, the neglected wife

When the show arrived at the 1980s, it was the sensitive subject of Charles and Diana's marriage that came under fire from royal commentators for its biased view. "Lady Di" is portrayed as a lonely young bride, falling into bulimia due to being neglected by a cold and unfaithful husband, 12 years her senior and still in love with Camilla. Political journalists also noted inaccuracies in the way tensions between the palace and prime minister Margaret Thatcher—quite real—were portrayed.

Season 5: Abdication and infidelities

Released two months after Elizabeth II died in September 2022, the fifth season addresses a troubled period for the royal family. It was attacked for showing Charles suggesting his mother abdicate and discussing such a scenario with the prime minister, John Major. The real Major branded the scene "damaging and malicious fiction" and "a barrel-load of nonsense peddled for no other reason than to provide maximum—and entirely false—dramatic impact".

However, a 1991 poll where a majority of Britons were in favor of the queen's abdication and the main developments in the explosive marriage of Charles and Diana, are real. The season included highly intimate conversation between the prince and his then-mistress, the current Queen Camilla, which became public. Diana's devastating BBC interview about her troubled marriage to Charles was also depicted.

Season 6: Diana's ghost

The final part of the series focuses on the most explosive event of Elizabeth II's reign—the death of Diana in a car accident in Paris in 1997 after she was pursued by paparazzi. The "people's princess" remains an icon, and her death rocked the royal family. The Daily Telegraph newspaper said the princess appears as a ghost in the new season, sparking fresh accusations of disrespect. —AFP

'THE CROWN' SET FOR FINAL SEASON

Fans of "The Crown" are holding their breath for the final season of the hit Netflix drama about the life of Queen Elizabeth II, with the last episodes covering some of the most tumultuous times of the monarchy. The 10 episodes of the sixth and final season of the series is being released in two stages, with five episodes on Thursday, and the remainder on December 14. The series notably features the event that shook the British monarchy to its core—the death of Princess Diana on August 31, 1997.

The people's princess

A trailer for the new season, which will recount the last weeks of Diana's life after her tumultuous divorce from the current King Charles III up to her death, shows the princess (Elizabeth Debicki) overwhelmed by media attention. "You have finally managed to turn everything upside down in this house—it's nothing less than a revolution," the queen says to the princess, who replies that this was never her intention.



English actor Imelda Staunton poses on the red carpet upon arrival to attend the World Premiere of "The Crown (Season 5)" in London.

Chased by paparazzi, the BMW carrying Diana crashed into a pillar of the Alma Tunnel in Paris, killing the 36-year-old princess and her lover, the wealthy Egyptian heir Dodi Al-Fayed. A huge outpouring of public grief followed Diana's death, with the queen widely criticised for her delayed reaction to the loss of her daughter-in-law, whom prime minister Tony Blair dubbed "the people's princess".

Courted by celebrities and the media, Diana forged a global reputation for compassion with people with HIV/



AIDS and victims of landmines, and remains an almost sainted figure worldwide over 25 years later. Memories of her persist in part because she hated "other woman" in her marriage—Camilla—is now Charles's queen.

Controversies

The royal family has never publicly commented on the series, but revelations that Diana appears as a ghost in Season Six have already caused patriotic Brits to splutter indignantly into their teacups. But series creator Peter Morgan denied Diana was a "ghost in the traditional sense". "It was her continuing to live vividly in the minds of those she has left behind," he told Variety.

"Diana was unique, and I suppose that's what inspired me to find a unique way of representing her. She deserved special treatment narratively." It is not the first time that "The Crown" has found itself under fire from critics. Apart from Diana's demise, Season Six, which spans the years 1997 to 2005, is expected to portray the tenure of Tony Blair as prime minister, Prince Edward and Sophie Rhys-Jones's wedding, the blossoming romance of Prince William and Kate Middleton, and the marriage of Prince Charles and Camilla Parker Bowles.

Over the seasons, the show has attracted controversy for suggesting infidelities by the queen and her husband Philip, of portraying the current king as a cheating husband who neglected young Diana, and suggesting Charles wanted his mother to abdicate in the 1990s. Last year, Netflix said it would add a warning stating that show was a work of fiction. Photographer Arthur Edwards, who has covered the royal family for 40 years, told The Sun tabloid that he had to stop watching the series after two seasons as he was too annoyed by the fabrications.

"What really annoys me is the terrible way the program treats Prince Charles, now our king," he said. For Laura Clancy, a media specialist at Lancaster University, "The Crown" is challenging for the monarchy because it is popular but that is not necessarily a negative. "The Crown" is certainly a key cultural text that audiences are turning to make sense of the British monarchy today," she told AFP. The show, she said, had done a lot of positive things for the monarchy as well, including making it relevant to new audiences. —AFP



This handout picture recently released by the National Museum of Bargello in Florence shows sketches in the so called 'secret room' of Michelangelo that will open to the public.

Michelangelo's 'secret' sketches open to public

Sketches drawn on the walls of a small room in Florence by Renaissance artist Michelangelo as he hid from an angry pope are going on show for the first time. Charcoal figures run along the sides of the room, a former coal cellar in the depths of the Museum of the Medici Chapels which will open to the public from November 15. Known as Michelangelo's "secret room", the space—which measures 10 meters by three meters (33

feet by 10 feet) -- was used to store coal until 1955.

It was then "unused, sealed and forgotten for decades below a trapdoor covered by wardrobes, furniture and stacked furnishings" before being discovered again in 1975, the museum said in a statement. The director at the time, Paolo Dal Poggetto, attributed many of the sketches uncovered to Michelangelo Buonarroti, best known for his statue

of David and the frescos in the Vatican's Sistine Chapel.

Dal Poggetto believed Michelangelo had hidden from Pope Clement VII in the room for two months in 1530 because the pontiff, a member of the Medici family, was "infuriated" with him. The artist had served as a supervisor of the city's fortifications during the short-lived republican government (1527 to 1530), when the Medici were driven out of the city.

"The drawings, still being studied by critics, were produced during the artist's 'self-confinement' period, using the walls of the small room to 'sketch out' some of his projects," the museum said. Curator Francesca de Luca said the space was "truly unique for its exceptional evocative potential".

"Its walls appear to be teeming with numerous sketches of figures, largely of monumental size," she said in the state-

ment. "These are accompanied by studies, varying between in-depth and superficial analyses, capturing details of the body, facial features and unusual poses." From November 15, small groups of a maximum of four people per visit will be allowed in at a time, with pauses in between each visit to limit the time the sketches are exposed to LED light. —AFP



This handout pictures recently released by the National Museum of Bargello in Florence show sketches in the so called 'secret room' of Michelangelo that will open to the public. — AFP photos

Sports

Bagnaia extends title lead as Bastianini wins Malaysian MotoGP

'After a long time without a podium, today is a victory'

SELANGOR: Ducati's Enea Bastianini won the Malaysian MotoGP on Sunday as Francesco Bagnaia came third ahead of title rival Jorge Martin to extend his narrow world championship lead with two races left.

The Italian Bastianini cruised home at Sepang more than 1.5 seconds ahead of Alex Marquez in second, with Bagnaia third and Martin a distant fourth. Reigning world title-holder Bagnaia of Italy now has a 14-point lead on Spain's Martin heading into the race in Qatar next weekend.

The factory Ducati rider Bagnaia is favourite to retain his crown but the championship looks set to go right down to the final race of the season in Valencia at the end of the month. "I tried to close the gap to Alex and Bastia but I was struggling a lot on the braking," said the 26-year-old Bagnaia.

"But I'm happy we managed to open a bit of a gap in the championship." He said that an advantage of 14 points was "not too much" but still "better than nothing". "If it was a normal season with one race it's a good gap to manage, but 37 points each weekend (including sprint races) means there's (only) a small gap," he cautioned.

'The Beast' roars

Bagnaia made a sluggish start from pole and was swallowed up right away by rival Martin, who had begun second on the grid on his Ducati, and Bagnaia's team-mate Bastianini. But Pramac's Martin immediately ran wide and Bastianini, who started third on the

grid, emerged at the front.

Bastianini led Malaysian MotoGP sprint winner Marquez through a third of the 20 laps, with Martin and Bagnaia squabbling over third. Bagnaia won that tussle, to cheers from the Sepang crowd. In fierce heat, the race settled into a groove from there as Bastianini pulled out into a clear lead on Gresini Racing's Marquez, with Bagnaia third and Martin struggling for pace in fourth. It was to remain that way to the end.

Bastianini has suffered an injury-hampered campaign but the Italian nicknamed "The Beast" held his nerve at the front to cruise home for an ultimately comfortable victory, his first of the season. "I'm tired and I have given 100 percent today," said the 25-year-old.

"After a long time without a podium, today is a victory. "Only me, my friends, my girlfriend and family knows what I needed to do to arrive here." Marco Bezzecchi came into Sepang in third place in the championship and is still mathematically in contention for the world title.

But his unlikely hopes of winning the title evaporated as he rode home in sixth, behind France's former world champion Fabio Quartararo. The six-time world champion Marc Marquez, older brother of Alex, was 13th on his Honda after starting a lowly 20th on the grid.

Earlier, MotoGP-bound Pedro Acosta was crowned the Moto2 world champion after the Spaniard finished the race in Sepang second behind compatriot Fermin Aldeguer. — AFP



SELANGOR: Third-placed Ducati Lenovo Team's Italian rider Francesco Bagnaia celebrates on the podium after the MotoGP Malaysian Grand Prix at the Sepang International Circuit in Sepang on November 12, 2023. — AFP

'Not crime to make mistakes': Pakistan's Azam under pressure

KOLKATA: Pakistan captain Babar Azam was described as "depressed" and under pressure to save his job Sunday after the team crashed out of the Cricket World Cup, failing to make the semi-finals for a second successive tournament.

A 93-run loss to England sealed Pakistan's fate, ending the 1992 champions' already slim hopes of squeezing into the last four. Former Pakistan captain and ex-chairman of the country's cricket board Ramiz Raja said that 29-year-old Azam was "depressed" over the reaction at home.

Fans' anger would have been made more acute by seeing arch-rivals India sweeping to eight wins out of eight, becoming the first team to reach the semi-finals. Azam's team lost five of their nine games including a seven-wicket mauling by India in front of more than 100,000 fans in Ahmedabad.

That was India's eighth victory in eight World Cup games against their neighbours. Pakistan also lost to Afghanistan for the first time. Azam made 320 runs at the World Cup with four fifties at an average of 40 and remains the world's second highest-ranked batsman. He has almost 13,000 runs in all international cricket.

Campbell trumps Cameron Smith to win HK Open

HONG KONG: The 635th-ranked New Zealander Ben Campbell beat "frustrated" major winner Cameron Smith by one stroke for a stunning triumph at the \$2 million Hong Kong Open on Sunday. Campbell roared to his first title on the Asian Tour with back-to-back birdies on the last two holes to card a final-round four-under-par 66 at a sunny Fanling.

The unheralded Kiwi finished on 19-under overall to snatch a famous victory in the LIV-supported International Series event. "I was battling all day," said Campbell, whose career has been stymied by injuries. "I've had quite a few injuries and bulged discs in the back and things like that, so I had to change the swing quite a bit, especially in the last two or three years.

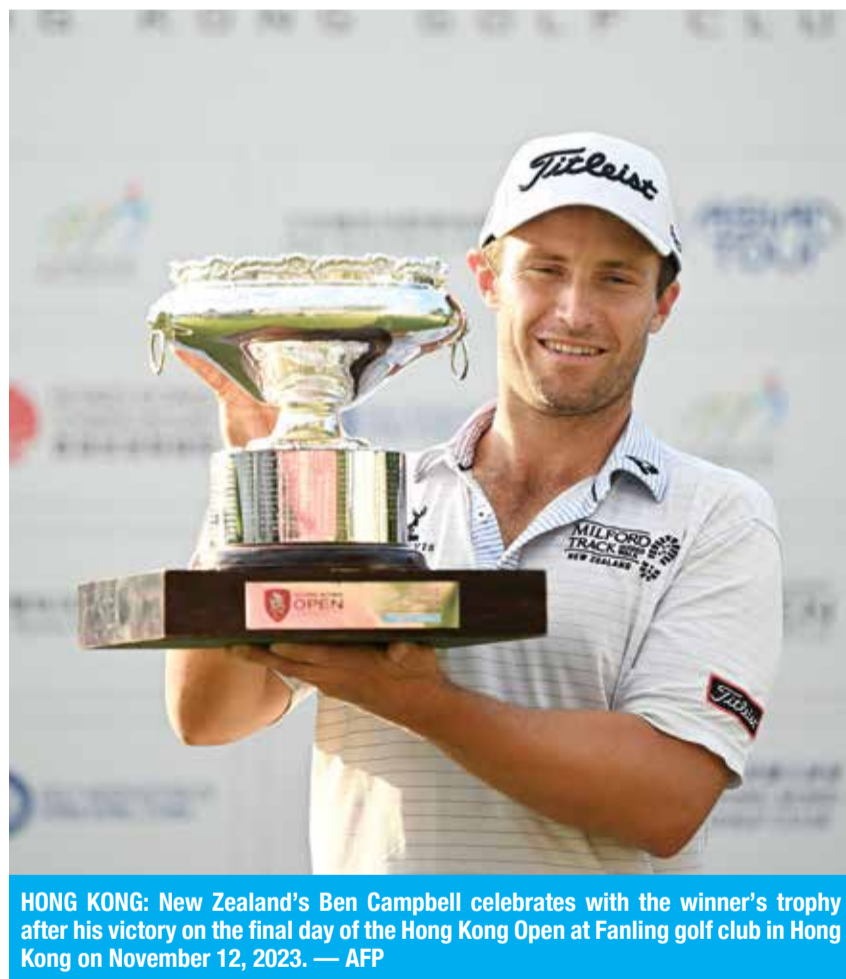
"Throughout the year I've had chances (to win) but not been able to finish it off, so great to put that behind me now. "Monkey's off the back now." It was a disappointing ending for the 2022 British

Open champion Smith, who was in an overnight share of the lead and hoping to become the latest Australian to win Asia's oldest professional golf tournament.

The 30-year-old, one of the big-gest names to make the move to the lucrative Saudi-backed LIV Golf tour, shot a final-round two-under-par 68 to finish at 18-under. "Pretty poor over the weekend," said Smith, who shot a 65 on Saturday.

"But I hung in there good, so lots of positives to take from that, but definitely wasn't the nicest golf to be played over the last couple of days. "It didn't feel great, but it was still ok. "Plenty of positives to take away from it, it was just a frustrating weekend."

Canada's hard-charging Richard T. Lee and Phachara Khongwatmai of Thailand were joint third, two shots off the triumphant Campbell. South Korea's Jang Yu-bin was fifth, with major winners Graeme McDowell and Patrick Reed 12th and 15th respectively. — AFP



HONG KONG: New Zealand's Ben Campbell celebrates with the winner's trophy after his victory on the final day of the Hong Kong Open at Fanling golf club in Hong Kong on November 12, 2023. — AFP

England ditch familiar names for West Indies after World Cup woe

KOLKATA: England announced Sunday a squad for next month's one-day international series in the Caribbean featuring just six survivors from their woeful World Cup defence in India. Jos Buttler men's won just three games and failed to reach the semi-finals.

Nevertheless Buttler remains captain for the tour which sees three ODIs and five Twenty20s. Promising batsman Harry Brook, all-rounder Liam Livingstone as well as pacemen Gus Atkinson, Brydon Carse and Sam Curran are the other World Cup survivors.

Multi-format regulars Jonny Bairstow, Joe Root and Mark Wood have been rested ahead

of January's Test series in India, with red-ball captain Ben Stokes heading straight for surgery on a longstanding knee injury. But the decision to leave out batsman Dawid Malan, all-rounder Moeen Ali and seamer Chris Woakes could signal the end of the trio's ODI careers.

Meanwhile, England cricket director Rob Key on Sunday surveyed the wreckage of the World Cup and admitted: "I look at what I've not done rather than blaming everyone else." Key attempted to take the pressure off under-fire Australian white-ball coach Matthew Mott by explaining the Test side had been the priority during his 18 months in charge.

"Every single time a decision has been made around whether or not we focus on 50-over cricket, Test cricket or T20, I've always chosen Test cricket," Key told travelling English media in Kolkata. He added it was his fault the coaching staff lacked knowledge of Indian conditions, as he reflected on Buttler's decision to field first in the energy-sapping heat and humidity of Mumbai only for South Africa to pile up 399.

However, it was his captaincy in India which was questioned when he faced accusations of lacking aggression in field settings. Pakistan media consistently accused him of favouring his friends in selection.

"I get behind Babar. Babar is very, very close to me. He's a young guy that needs to be taken on the journey, he needs to be shown the ropes," said Pakistan's director of cricket Mickey Arthur.

'Time to grow'

Azam has been captain of the Test and ODI teams since 2020. "He's still learning all the time. We know he's a very, very fine batsman. He learns every day with his captaincy," added Arthur. "We have to allow him the time to grow. And in order to do that, you make mistakes. It's not a crime to make mistakes as long as you learn from those mistakes."

Despite the despondency of fans at home, Azam and his team found sympathy in India. Only a smattering of Pakistan fans — mostly expatriates — were at the venues as visa complications effectively meant a ban on those wishing to cross the border.

As a Pakistan squad playing in India for the first time in seven years, they were virtually confined to hotel rooms once playing and training commitments were completed. Security details would accompany players and squad members if they wanted to venture outside their hotel.

Arthur compared the situation to touring "in



KOLKATA: Pakistan's captain Babar Azam plays a shot during the 2023 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup one-day international (ODI) match between England and Pakistan at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata on November 11, 2023. — AFP

COVID times". Raja believes that Azam may become the first victim of bloodletting in a Pakistan cricketing environment often plagued by infighting. "There's so much pressure on him that he may leave the job," Raja told the BBC's Test Match Special.

"Back home there has obviously been a massive backlash, as expected. The Pakistan media have targeted certain players, and especially Babar Azam. "It's just a World Cup so you have to take the heat somehow. The problem with this team is it has the potential to play modern-day cricket but they have been a bit shy and timid with their approach." — AFP



COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's sports minister Roshan Ranasinghe speaks during a press conference in Colombo on November 11, 2023. Sri Lanka's sports minister said he would appeal the country's suspension from the International Cricket Council (ICC) over alleged political interference in the local board. — AFP

S Lanka skipper pleads for ICC suspension to end

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka skipper Kusal Mendis appealed Sunday for the governing International Cricket Council to lift its suspension of the country over alleged political interference in the local board. "This is our profession and we can't be staying at home doing nothing," Mendis told reporters in the capital Colombo.

"We want to start practising as there are a few tours to happen next year." The ICC said on Friday that Sri Lanka Cricket was "in serious breach" of its obligations as a member, highlighting "the requirement to manage its affairs autonomously and to ensure that there is no government interference". The suspension came a day after Sri Lanka's parliament asked the board to resign over allegations by sports minister Roshan Ranasinghe that it had syphoned off millions of dollars.

"As players we had no control over that," Mendis said. "As the captain I only hope for its (the ban's) removal so that we can resume our game." It was not immediately clear if the indefinite suspension would affect Sri Lanka hosting the Under-19 World Cup in January.

The crisis involving the cricket board — the richest sporting organization in the bankrupt island country — came to a head after Sri Lanka's humiliating World Cup defeat by India earlier this month.

Team manager Mahinda Halangoda said Sri Lanka's players had been told to try and carry on as normal. "The team management had a discussion with the players and asked them to focus on cricket," he said. — AFP

Healy puts hand up for Australian cricket captaincy

SYDNEY: Alyssa Healy is keen to take over from Meg Lanning as Australian cricket captain, with the star wicketkeeper-batter saying she would "100 percent" put her hand up for the job. Lanning retired from the international game last week after almost a decade in charge, leading Australia to four Twenty20 World Cup titles, one 50-over World Cup triumph and a Commonwealth Games gold.

Healy, 33, is considered the frontrunner to take the reins, having filled in over the past 12 months while Lanning took time away from the game. "I've had a nice little taste of it. And yes, 100 percent I would put my name up to do it again if called upon," Healy, who is recovering from finger surgery after a dog bite, told reporters late Saturday.

"I feel like I've learned a lot about myself, but also probably learned a lot about our group and potentially what we need to do to continue to evolve. "But that's for somebody else to decide (who captains) and if it is somebody else, I'll happily support them in the role as best as I can for the rest of my career," she said. — AFP

of January's Test series in India, with red-ball captain Ben Stokes heading straight for surgery on a longstanding knee injury. But the decision to leave out batsman Dawid Malan, all-rounder Moeen Ali and seamer Chris Woakes could signal the end of the trio's ODI careers.

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"Every single time a decision has been made around whether or not we focus on 50-over cricket, Test cricket or T20, I've always chosen Test cricket," Key told travelling English media in Kolkata. He added it was his fault the coaching staff lacked knowledge of Indian conditions, as he reflected on Buttler's decision to field first in the energy-sapping heat and humidity of Mumbai only for South Africa to pile up 399.

"I set up a coaching team that had no local experience really," he said. "When you get to somewhere like Mumbai — and it all seems so simple now — you're worried about dew and all of this other stuff. "But someone who knows these conditions really well would say 'it's hotter than the sun out there; make sure you have a bat'...We should have known this but we didn't going into the competition."

England ODI squad for West Indies tour:

Jos Buttler (capt/wkt), Rehan Ahmed, Gus Atkinson, Harry Brook, Brydon Carse, Zak Crawley, Sam Curran, Ben Duckett, Tom Hartley, Will Jacks, Liam Livingstone, Ollie Pope, Phil Salt, Josh Tongue, John Turner

T20 squad

Buttler (capt/wkt), Ahmed, Moeen Ali, Atkinson, Brook, Curran, Duckett, Jacks, Livingstone, Tymal Mills, Adil Rashid, Salt, Tongue, Reece Topley, Turner, Chris Woakes. — AFP

Sports

Vinicius and Rodrygo keep Real Madrid on leaders Girona's tail

Carlo Ancelotti: It was his team's finest performance of the campaign to date

BARCELONA: Vinicius Junior and Rodrygo Goes struck twice each as Real Madrid thrashed Valencia 5-1 on Saturday to stay hot on the heels of shock La Liga leaders Girona. Dani Carvajal opened the scoring for Los Blancos before the Brazilian duo took the reins as they romped to victory, to trail Girona by two points after they won 2-1 at Rayo Vallecano.

Madrid were without key player Jude Bellingham, watching on from a box at the Santiago Bernabeu alongside his mother after he suffered a shoulder injury last weekend from which he has not fully recovered. Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said it was his team's finest performance of the campaign to date.

"It was the best game, Valencia were not able to show their best level because we played very well," Ancelotti told reporters. "In the last two matches we've been a complete team, playing good football, with quality, sacrifice, commitment, we've done well."

Vinicius, who toyed with Valencia's defence, was facing them for the first time since he was racially abused in the east coast club's stadium in May, sparking worldwide outrage. Rodrygo set up his Brazilian compatriot's goals before scoring two himself on a superb night for a duo who had struggled for form until this week.

"Now we are in our best moment (of the season)," Rodrygo told Real Madrid TV. "We are back to being the Rodry and Vini that the fans want to see... if they are happy then I am happy too." Spain's top scorer with 10 league goals, Bellingham's absence increased worries about Madrid's attacking prowess, but they were rapidly quelled.

Carvajal dispelled doubts with a superb left-foot strike from outside the area in the third minute. Andriy Lunin, starting in goal again for Madrid after Kepa Arrizabalaga joined Thibaut Courtois on the sidelines, denied Valencia forward Hugo Duro twice in the early

stages with fine stops at the other end. Then Vinicius and Rodrygo lit up the Bernabeu.

Brazilian braces

Vinicius extended Real Madrid's lead with a unique strike, diving to chest the ball home after Rodrygo fizzed a low cross into the box for him. He grabbed his second soon after the break, beating Giorgi Mamardashvili at the near post from outside the box.

The Valencia goalkeeper erred badly almost immediately after to hand Madrid their fourth on a plate, passing the ball straight to Rodrygo, who stroked home. Rodrygo and Vinicius stepped up again in Bellingham's absence, as they did in midweek when he was benched against Braga.

Rodrygo jinked into the area and finished well for Madrid's fifth, before Duro grabbed a consolation at the third time of asking for Valencia. Madrid's win stopped Girona from escaping the chasing pack.

"Girona are doing very well, better than the other teams," added Ancelotti. "They don't have any European competition, obviously they are an opponent who can fight for the title. I have no doubt about that."

Still top

Girona came from behind to beat Rayo and keep the pressure on Spain's traditional giants. Artem Dovbyk and Savinho fired the Catalan minnows to an impressive victory in the capital which leaves them seven points above Barcelona, third, who host Alaves Sunday.

Girona, only in the top flight for the fourth season in their history, have played the best football in La Liga this season and gave another example of it against Rayo. "The team does not give up, when we're behind on the scoreboard we play even better. I'm happy to keep going, up there at the top," Girona captain and playmaker Aleix Garcia told Movistar.

The 38-year-old American had vowed the match was "really the last one," in a career that included World Cup titles in 2015 and 2019 and gold at the 2012 London Olympics. Despite her many achievements, Saturday's defeat means Rapinoe retires from the game without an NWSL championship title.

"It was a tough one. Definitely not how I envisioned this last one going," a tearful Rapinoe said after the game. "I am pretty sure I tore my Achilles." "Just thank you to everyone who's been on the journey for all this time. It's been amazing, maybe besides this, I couldn't have written it any different," she added.

Celebrated for her off-field activism as well as her success on the pitch, Rapinoe announced earlier this year it would be her final season. The 2019 FIFA Women's Player of the Year ended her epic national team career with 63 goals, earning 203 caps over more than 17 years and played her final international game in September. Rapinoe's club career did include one title, winning the French league with Lyon in 2013 and with Reign she also won three NWSL Shields, awarded to the team with the best regular season record.

'So thankful'

"I am just super proud of my whole career and really thankful for all that it's given me and for how long I've been able to play," she said. "So even though it was a tough night, it was still amazing and so thankful to be here and again, so proud of our group."

Rapinoe's World Cup career also ended with bitter disappointment as she missed a penalty in the round of 16 exit defeat to Sweden in New Zealand in August - and she reflected upon those moments. "I mean, I don't deserve this, I'll tell you that much. I am a better person than this...I thought about that a little in the last two hours. This one feels different from missing the pen in New Zealand but that's life, its' part of the game," she said.

"I know you don't always get to have the perfect ending. I've had so many perfect endings," she said citing the 2019 World Cup win amidst the successful battle with US Soccer for equal pay. Rapinoe said she intended to remain involved in women's football, possibly in a role with the Reign. "I'm retiring on the field but you'll definitely be seeing a lot of me off the field," she said. — AFP



MADRID: Real Madrid's Spanish forward #21 Brahim Diaz (2R) vies with Valencia's Spanish forward #16 Diego Lopez (3R) during the Spanish league football match between Real Madrid CF and Valencia CF at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid. — AFP

The hosts took the lead after five minutes when a Girona clearance struck Rayo's Isi Palazon and fell into Alvaro Garcia's path in the area, and he fired into the far corner. However Michel's side dominated the coach's former team and it was no surprise when Dovbyk levelled with his seventh league goal of the season. Girona winger Savinho sent the visitors ahead in the 65th minute, netting the rebound after Rayo goalkeeper Stole Dimitrievski brilliantly blocked

Dovbyk's effort. The Catalan team started the season with the objective of staying up, but have raised their ambitions after 11 wins from 13 games.

"We have to be realistic, we're not only thinking about survival now, I think the team can do a lot more," added Garcia. "We want to keep dreaming... what will come, will come." Elsewhere Real Sociedad earned a 3-1 win at winless, bottom-of-the-table Almeria to move sixth. — AFP

US star Rapinoe departs football with injury and defeat in NWSL final

SAN DIEGO: US women's football icon Megan Rapinoe limped out of the final game of her storied career Saturday, suffering a suspected torn Achilles tendon less than three minutes into the National Women's Soccer League Final which her OL Reign team lost to NJ/NY Gotham FC.

No other players were near Rapinoe when she went down on the pitch, a stunned crowd at Snapdragon Stadium holding their breath as medical staff attended her. After several minutes, the dejected OL Reign star limped off the field, fans giving her a massive ovation as she was replaced by Bethany Balcer.



SAN DIEGO: OL Reign's US midfielder #15 Megan Rapinoe is helped off the pitch after an injury in the early minutes of the first half of the National Women's Soccer League final match between OL Reign and Gotham FC at Snapdragon Stadium in San Diego, California, on November 11, 2023. — AFP

Kuwait win medals at Asia Triathlon Championship

KUWAIT: Kuwait National Triathlon team won one gold, two silver and three bronze medals in the age group competitions of the Asia Triathlon Championship that was held in Al-Khubar City, Saudi Arabia.



The victorious Kuwait team on the podium.

Ali Dasthi won the gold while Fai Al-Mulla and Fatima Al-Ghanim won the silver while Jassim Al-Rujaib, Mubarak Jumaa and Noura Al-Barak won the bronze. Meanwhile Chairman of the Board of Triathlon Club and Federation Rashid Al-Kandari lauded this achievement by Kuwait champions in major Asian arenas.

He said "I congratulate the champions for this achievement, as they hoisted Kuwait flag high. This is not strange for Kuwaitis to do this and we will continue working towards winning more titles in the name of Kuwait."

Canada beat Czechs to set up Italy BJK Cup final clash

SEVILLE: Canada reached the Billie Jean King Cup final for the first time in their history with a thrilling 2-1 win over the Czech Republic on Saturday, setting up a championship match against Italy. Four-time champions Italy beat Slovenia 2-0 earlier on in Seville in the first semi-final, winning both singles rubbers. Canada, who were competing in the semi-finals for the first time in 35 years, knocked out the fancied

Czechs, who have won the competition 11 times—behind only record 18-time winners the United States.

Canada's Leylah Fernandez beat Marketa Vondrousova 6-2, 2-6, 6-3 to level the tie at 1-1 after Barbora Krejcikova defeated Marina Stakusic 6-2, 6-1. Then Fernandez and Gabriela Dabrowski defeated Krejcikova and Katerina Siniakova 7-5, 7-6 (7/3) in the deciding doubles. "It's been a great day for us, for Team Canada," said Fernandez. "Gaby was always there to attack and take it to them... I'm just happy I have a great partner out there (Dabrowski) who can show me how to do it." Rookie Stakusic, 18, who recorded career-highlight wins over Spain's Rebeka Masarova and Poland's Magdalena Frech in the group, was swept aside in straight sets by world number 10 Krejcikova in the opening singles rubber.—AFP

Classifieds

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Clinics & Hospitals

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khalidiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752

Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401

Hospitals

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

Change of Name

I, ALI ASGHAR holder of Indian Passport No. - Z4826769, having permanent address-14, Street G, Kharol Colony, Dewali (Rural), Udaipur, Rajasthan, India-313001, residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as **ALI ASGHAR** (Given Name) and **HITA** (Surname). #4554 - 10-11-2023

I, ABIDAH RAJU holder of Indian Passport No. V3747806 having permanent address Atchanta Peddapet, West Godavari, Pin: 534123, Andhra Pradesh, India residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as (given name) **ABIDAH RAJU** and (surname) **PA-THAGOLUSU**.



Government of India
NOTICE
November 7, 2023




Mr. Nisanth Krishnankutty Melezhthz, son of Mr. Krishnankutty, resident of Melezhthathu, Budhanoor P.O., Thayyoor, Alappuzha, Pin: 689510, Kerala and Ms. Sruthimol Kizhakkuttikkadu Rajan, daughter of Mr. Rajan Thadathil Raghavan, resident of Sreeragam, Kumarakom PO, Kottayam, Pin: 686563, Kerala both Indian nationals presently residing in Kuwait, have given notice of intended marriage between them under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969. If anyone has any objection to the proposed marriage, he/she may file the same with the undersigned according to the procedure laid down under the Act/Rule within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice. Communications in this regard can be made by Email (cw2.kuwait@mea.gov.in) / letters / telephonic calls (00965 - 22550171, 00965 - 22533125).



(Harti Shelat)
Second Secretary (Community Affairs)
and Marriage Officer,
Embassy of India, Kuwait,
Email: cw2.kuwait@mea.gov.in

Salah extends scoring streak to send Liverpool joint top of Premier League

Nine of Salah's goals have come from Darwin Nunez assists



BIRMINGHAM: Fulham's English-born US defender #33 Antonee Robinson (C) scores an own-goal during the English Premier League football match between Aston Villa and Fulham at Villa Park in Birmingham, central England on November 12, 2023. — AFP

LIVERPOOL: Liverpool moved level on points with Manchester City and Arsenal at the top of the Premier League as Mohamed Salah extended his scoring streak at Anfield with a double in a 3-0 win over Brentford on Sunday. The Egyptian took his tally for the season to 12, nine of which have come at Anfield, as Liverpool continued their perfect record at home this season.

Nine of Salah's goals have come from Darwin Nunez assists and the Uruguayan played provider to break the deadlock after being frustrated in front of goal earlier in the first half. Twice Nunez had the ball in the net only to be ruled offside.

But his clever pass into Salah was met with a calm finish into the far corner to open the floodgates on 39 minutes. Salah is the first player ever to score in

each of Liverpool's first six home league games of a season. Brentford had their chances as Alisson Becker was needed to make great saves to deny Ethan Pinnock and Bryan Mbeumo.

However, there was no way back for the Bees once Salah was left unmarked to head in Kostas Tsimikas' cross to the back post on the hour mark. Diogo Jota then fired in the third 16 minutes from time as Liverpool made it nine wins and 27 goals from nine games at Anfield in all competitions this season. City can restore their three-point lead at the top of the table when the champions travel to Chelsea later on Sunday.

Fortress Villa Park

Aston Villa made it 13 consecutive home wins in the Premier League as Unai Emery's side eased

past Fulham 3-1. Antonee Robinson's own goal and a sweet strike from outside the box by Villa captain John McGinn put the hosts in command by half-time.

A superb counter-attack, rounded off by Ollie Watkins, secured the points midway through the second half, before Raul Jimenez pulled a goal back for Fulham. Victory lifts Villa up to fifth and within a point of the top four.

West Ham snapped their streak of three consecutive Premier League defeats with a thrilling 3-2 victory over Nottingham Forest. Lucas Paqueta's fine strike had given the Hammers a perfect start after three minutes, but they needed to rely on their threat from set-pieces to turn the game around in the second half.

Goals either side of the break from Taiwo Awoniyi

and Anthony Elanga had put Forest 2-1 up. However, two James Ward-Prowse corners were headed in by Jarrod Bowen and Tomas Soucek to ease any rising pressure on David Moyes.

Brighton may have enjoyed famous back-to-back victories over Ajax in the Europa League, but the Seagulls struggles domestically go on after Sheffield United snatched a 1-1 draw from the Amex. Roberto De Zerbi's men were in complete control as Simon Aningra opened the scoring.

But Brighton were forced to see out the final 20 minutes with 10 men when Mahmoud Dahoud was sent-off and the Blades took advantage to level through Adam Webster's own goal. A point edges Sheffield United off the bottom of the table and within four points of safety. — AFP

Lebron, Galan win WTP Malmo Padel Open title



MALMO: Juan Lebron and Alejandro Galan were crowned champions in Malmo after defeating Franco Stupaczuk and Martin Di Nenno. The pair secured their fourth WPT title of the year. BNK Holding is the official sponsor of Spanish padel player Juan Lebron. Since August, the pair have been at the top of the game and have been challenging for titles. On Sunday, the pair secured another title,

meaning Galan/Lebron have won four out of six titles since the summer break.

Not only did the pair win the title, they also showed their dominance on the court during the tournament. In the semifinal, Galan/Lebron clearly beat Agustín Tapia and Arturo Coello 6-2, 6-1. In the final, the duo beat Di Nenno/Stupaczuk 6-3, 6-4.

Galan/Lebron started the final very

well and won a break. The pair kept the lead throughout the set and could then secure the first part of the match. In the second set, both pairs won their serve games in the beginning. At 4-3 lead for Di Nenno/Stupaczuk, the pair had four break points and had the chance to take control of the set. But Galan/Lebron managed to save the points and then took the lead themselves, resulting in victory.

Iyer, Rahul tons keep India perfect as Kohli, Rohit take WCup wickets

BENGALURU: Centuries from Shreyas Iyer and KL Rahul powered India to a 160-run World Cup win over the Netherlands on Sunday as they completed the group stage with a perfect nine wins in nine games.

Iyer (128 not out) and Rahul (102) put on 208 runs to guide India to 410-4. India then employed nine bowlers, including part-timers Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, to dismiss the Dutch for 250 in the tournament's concluding league match in Bengaluru. The hosts will face New Zealand in the first semi-final in Mumbai on Wednesday followed by the second last-four clash between Australia and South Africa the next day in Kolkata.

Iyer smashed his first World Cup ton in a match where all the top-five Indian batsmen went past the fifty mark on a batting-friendly pitch. He reached his hundred — his fourth in ODI cricket — off 84 balls. He ended with 10 fours and five sixes.

Bengaluru-born Rahul raced to his ton with two sixes for the fastest Indian hundred in World Cups off 62 balls. He departed four balls later as India fell short of their highest ever World Cup total of 413-5 v Bermuda in 2007.

Kohli reached his half century

but fell for 51, silencing the crowd who had been anticipating the star batsman's 50th ODI ton after he equalled Sachin Tendulkar's record of 49 in the team's previous win over South Africa. Skipper Rohit, who hit 61, and Shubman Gill laid the foundations for the total in an opening stand of 100 with the pair hitting regular boundaries.

Gill fell for 51 off Paul van Meekeren and fellow quick Bas de Leede dismissed Rohit after the captain reached his fourth 50-plus score including a ton in the tournament. Bas overtook his father Tim de Leede, who took 14 wicket for the Dutch in the World Cup, and claimed one more to finish as the highest World Cup wicket-taker for his nation with 16 scalps.

The in-form Kohli reached the 71st ODI fifty of his career only to be bowled four balls later by Roelof van der Merwe's left-arm spin.

Kohli surpassed South Africa's Quinton de Kock (591) as the leading batsman of the 2023 tournament with 594 runs. Iyer kept up his blazing form to register his fourth successive score of 50 and above in the tournament and received support from the other end with Rahul joining the charge. — AFP