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3 Diabetes research has made significant strides in Kuwait



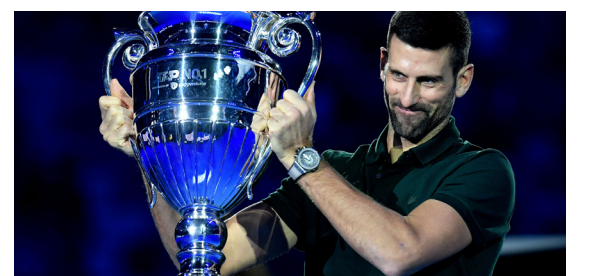
11 National Investments Company officially launches Shift program



12 Endangered sea turtles get second life at Tunisian center



15 Djokovic top of the world after sinking Rune at ATP Finals



FM denies Zionists visited Kuwait

Assembly to debate grilling • MoE suspends enrolment in Egypt, Jordan med schools



Crown Prince receives Speaker, Assembly office members

KUWAIT: HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Monday at Bayan Palace National Assembly Speaker Ahmad Al-Saadoun. HH the Crown Prince also met Deputy Speaker Muhammad Al-Mutair, Secretary Osama Al-Shaheen and Observer Falah Al-Hajri. Head of the parliamentary legislative committee Muhannad Al-Sayer, head of the financial committee Shuaib Al-Muwaiziri, head of the priorities committee Abdullah Al-Enezi and Assembly Secretary General Khaled Abu Sulaib were also in attendance on the occasion of the Assembly office's formation. — KUNA

By B Izzak & Agencies

KUWAIT: Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah denied on Monday that a Zionist delegation arrived at Kuwait airport on Oct 3. In response to a parliamentary question claiming that the delegation arrived at the VIP lounge at Kuwait airport, the foreign minister said the arrival and departure records at the lounge clearly show no Zionist delegation arrived. He reiterated Kuwait's total support for the Palestinians' legitimate rights, including the right to confront the Zionist occupation and a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian cause.

Hospitals in northern Gaza have been forced out of service amid fuel shortages and intense combat, with the death toll inside the territory's largest facility rising, the health ministry said Monday. UN agencies and doctors in the Al-Shifa hospital complex warned

a lack of generator fuel was claiming lives, including infants.

Witnesses reported intense overnight air strikes, with tanks and armored vehicles just meters from the gate of the sprawling Al-Shifa compound at the heart of the Gaza City, now an urban war zone. The Hamas government's deputy health minister Youssef Abu Rish said the death toll inside Al-Shifa rose to 27 adult intensive care patients and seven babies since the weekend as the facility suffered fuel shortages.

Gaza has been reliant on generators for over a month after the Zionist entity cut off power supplies and the besieged territory's only power plant ran out of fuel. Abu Rish said all hospitals in the north of the embattled territory were "out of service". The World Health Organization in the Palestinian Territories said early Monday that

Continued on Page 6

NEWS IN BRIEF

Zour refinery production affected

KUWAIT: Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Company (KIPIIC) announced Sunday that a sudden interruption of fuel gas supplies to the Zour Refinery due to a technical problem in one of the main valves of the Kuwait Oil Company led to an almost total halt of production operations at the refinery. KIPIC pointed out that technical teams at the refinery are working to restart operation of the production units gradually. It will take approximately 10 days to return to previous production levels. KIPIC affirmed it is taking all necessary measures to ensure supplies of low-sulfur fuel to power stations and water desalination plants, adding exports of refined products will not be affected. — KUNA

Lebanon seizes 800 kg of drugs

BEIRUT: Lebanon has seized more than half a ton of drugs destined for Kuwait, authorities said Sunday, as Beirut seeks to combat narcotics trafficking, particularly to Gulf countries. Authorities "seized around 800 kilograms of drugs" bound for Kuwait via the Netherlands, the office of Interior Minister Bassam Mawlawi said in a statement. The drugs were "professionally" concealed in wooden figures inside a bulletproof box, the statement said, without specifying the type of narcotics seized. An individual allegedly involved in the trafficking operation was arrested, it added. — AFP

AI white faces now 'hyper-real'

PARIS: Images of faces generated by artificial intelligence (AI) can now appear more real than pictures of real people — as long as they are white, a study said on Monday. AI is now so good at depicting white people that the images are "hyper-real", said the report in the journal Psychological Science. But AI tends to depict people of other ethnicities with white features because the data used to train the algorithms is biased, said lead author Amy Dawel from the Australian National University (ANU). — AFP

Zain 9M 2023 income up 13% to \$561m, revenues up 11% to reach \$4.6bn

KUWAIT: Zain Group, a leading provider of innovative technologies and digital lifestyle communications operating in eight markets across the Middle East and Africa, announced its consolidated financial results for the nine-month (9M) and third quarter (Q3) periods ended Sept 30, 2023, serving 52 million customers.

For 9M 2023, Zain generated consolidated revenue of KD 1.4 billion (\$4.6 billion), up 11 percent year-on-year (YoY), while consolidated EBITDA for the period reached KD 530 million (\$1.7 billion), up 8 percent YoY, reflecting an EBITDA margin of 37 percent. Consolidated net income increased 13 percent YoY, amounting to KD 172 million (\$561 million). Earnings per share amounted to 40 fils (\$0.13) for the nine-month period.

Chairman of the Board of Directors of Zain Group Osamah Al-Furaih said: "Our operations have shown great resilience in overcoming many headwinds as the



Zain Group Chairman Osamah Al-Furaih

board continues to work closely with management on all facets of the business, including the development of new business verticals in the digital space and vast network upgrades. In parallel, our focus on implementing comprehensive ESG practices is complementing our mission to enhance sustainable shareholder value."

Zain Vice-Chairman and Group CEO Bader Al-Kharafi commented: "Despite the many socio-economic and competitive challenges across our



Zain Vice-Chairman and Group CEO Bader Al-Kharafi

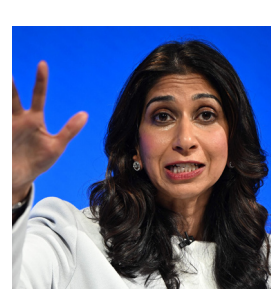
markets, the impressive 9M financial performance reflects the implementation of our value-creative '4Sight' strategy in propelling efficiencies, digital transformation and revenue growth. The remarkable operational performance of all our key markets is very gratifying and testament to the coherence between the Group and local management teams in driving synergies and growing the business through multiple initiatives." (See Page 9)

Cameron makes shock return after Braverman sacked

LONDON: Former UK leader David Cameron sensationally returned to the British government as foreign secretary on Monday, as Prime Minister Rishi Sunak shook up his top team with a general election looming next year. Cameron's comeback from the political wilderness came as Sunak sacked rightwing firebrand Suella Braverman as interior minister to assert his authority over the Conservative party, which trail the Labour opposition in polls.

James Cleverly moved from the foreign ministry to succeed Braverman after critics accused her of heightening tensions during weeks of contentious pro-Palestinian demonstrations and counter-protests. Cameron quit as prime minister in 2016 after losing the Brexit referendum, standing down as an MP that year, before later becoming mired in a lobbying scandal that was seen as tarnishing his reputation.

The former leader, whose foreign policy record as prime minister is viewed as chequered at best, said he "gladly accepted" his new role as Britain faced "a daunting set of international challenges". "While I have been out of front-line politics for the last seven years, I hope that my experience — as Conservative leader for 11 years and prime minister for six — will assist me in helping the prime minister to meet these



Suella Braverman



David Cameron

vital challenges," Cameron added, citing the Zionist-Hamas war and Russia's conflict in Ukraine. Cameron will be made a life peer in the House

Continued on Page 6

EU shifting to digital visas for Schengen area

BRUSSELS: People applying for visas to visit Europe's Schengen area will soon do so via an online platform, under a change adopted by EU foreign ministers on Monday. The shift towards digitalization of the visa process will also do away with the need for applicants to get a sticker in their passport, meaning no more appointments at consulates or service providers' offices.

The change, unveiled after a long legislative process, will take effect after technical work on the visa platform, expected to take months, then publication in the EU's administrative gazette. The Schengen area comprises 23 of the 27 EU member countries plus associated neighbors Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein.

The online visa system "will simplify the application process for travelers," said Spain's Interior Minister Fernando Grande-Marlaska, whose country currently holds the EU presidency. Once it is in place, people applying for short stays in the Schengen area will upload documents, data and electronic copies of their travel documents with biometric information, and pay fees, all through an online platform.

If approved after database crosschecks, they will receive a cryptographically signed barcode to print off

or store in a device. But some first-time applicants or those with a new passport or changed biometric data may still need to attend an in-person appointment. Some countries, such as Australia, already have similar systems in place, where the online visa is linked to a person's passport without the need for a sticker in it.

In most cases, citizens from more than 60 countries around the world, including Australia, Britain, Canada, New Zealand and the United States, do not need to apply for Schengen visas for short visits. But they will still be required to apply online for pre-screened entry under a much-delayed European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS), similar to the ESTA system employed by the United States. ETIAS is now expected to be up and running in mid-2025. — AFP



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Kuwait Cabinet reviews results of extraordinary Arab Summit

Govt reiterates unwavering support to Palestinian people

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti Cabinet on Monday reviewed the extraordinary Arab-Islamic Summit, recently concluded in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, expressing utmost support for its outcomes, especially the unequivocal stance in support of the Palestinian people.

During its weekly meeting chaired by His Highness Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the Cabinet also reviewed speech of His Highness the Amir's Representative to the Summit, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who branded "indescribable" crimes committed against the Palestinian people in Gaza as the Zionist entity is leading an unjustified collective punishment that goes to all relevant international and humanitarian resolutions.

While addressing Arab and Muslim leaders, HH Sheikh Mishal called on the international community, especially the UN Security Council, to shoulder its responsibility facilitating

an immediate halt of the bloodshed and provide international protection for the Palestinian people. He welcomed at the same time the UN General Assembly's decision to call for a humanitarian truce, reflective of the magnitude of the crisis in Gaza.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah briefed the Cabinet with the Summit's final communique, which stressed the importance of implementing resolutions issued by the OIC and the League in that regard while emphasizing the rights of the Palestinian people to freedom and independence based on the June 4, 1967 border and East Jerusalem as the capital of a Palestinian state.

National Assembly upcoming sessions and the State Audit Bureau 2022-2023 report were also of the key topics discussed during the meeting, according to Deputy Premier, Minister of State for Cabinet and National Assembly Affairs Essa Al-Kandari. —KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chairs the weekly Cabinet meeting on Monday. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Al-Humaidi Mohammad Al-Mutairi and other officials attend the conference.



The exhibition titled "Integration of Persons with Disabilities in the Goals of Sustainable Development - Media - Entertainment - Health".

Disability authority holds conference

KUWAIT: Al-Humaidi Mohammad Al-Mutairi, Acting Director General of the Public Authority for People with Disabilities, attended a conference and exhibition titled "Integration of Persons with Disabilities in the Goals of Sustainable Development - Media - Entertainment - Health" as part of the New Kuwait 2035 vision. The event took place at Kuwait University's conference center in Sabah Al-Salem University City from Nov 13 to 15, 2023.

Mutairi highlighted the significance of conferences and exhibitions organized by the Global Training Portal for people with disabilities, emphasizing their alignment with the vision and goals of Kuwait's 2035 vision. These initiatives demonstrate a commitment to involving individuals with disabilities in society and prioritizing their rights and essential needs.

Emphasizing the importance of integrating people with disabilities into various aspects of society, including social, cultural and recreational domains, Mutairi underscored the need for a comprehensive approach to ensure inclusivity. In conclusion, Mutairi commended the efforts of the Global Training Portal and the organizers of the conference for their success in advocating for the issues faced by persons with disabilities. He noted that these initiatives contribute significantly to improving the lives of individuals with disabilities and their families through the exploration of crucial topics addressed during the conference.



Conditions for sponsorship change explained

KUWAIT: The interior ministry and the Public Authority of Manpower have emphasized certain measures that expatriates must adhere to before being allowed to transfer their residency and change sponsorship. These measures include fulfilling the specified conditions for sponsorship transfer as outlined in administrative decision no. 842 of 2015 in case of a change of sponsor. The expat's residence in Kuwait should not be less than one consecutive year when transferring from family residency to work residency in the private sector.

The interior ministry and PAM highlighted that the administrative decision concerning the conditions for transferring workers from one employer to another in Kuwait states that workers brought in under a work permit can be transferred to work in the private sector after one year from the date of the work permit issuance and with the approval of the current employer for the sponsorship transfer.

They specified that workers brought in with permits for employment in the private sector can be transferred to government contracts and projects after the completion of the government contract under which the worker was originally brought in. The transfer, whether to another government contract with the same employer or to a government contract with a different employer, is limited to highly skilled technical workers as defined by the

government entity overseeing the project.

The ministry and PAM emphasized the need for the employer to cancel work permits of employees registered under the government contract that cannot be transferred for departure at the end of the contract.

Regarding residency transfer conditions in Kuwait without the sponsor's approval, the ministry and PAM stipulated that at least three years should have passed since the issuance of the work permit. The sponsor must be notified of the worker's intention to transfer sponsorship within the specified duration according to the labor law. Verification of the worker's notification to the sponsor, submitted to the labor department upon the transfer request, is essential.

The transfer of sponsorship to another sponsor must meet the sponsorship conditions. Both the ministry and PAM urged the preparation of all required documents for residency transfer without sponsor's approval, along with the payment of all associated fees.

Online services, provided by the ministry of interior, cover various residency transfer scenarios, including transferring sponsorship from government residency (article 17) to private sector residency (article 18), transferring government residency (article 17) to family residency (article 22), transferring residency from one government entity (article 17) to another government entity (article 17), transferring sponsorship from the private sector (article 18) to the government sector (article 17), transferring sponsorship from the private sector (article 18) to family residency (article 22), and transferring the residency of domestic workers (article 20) to another sponsor.

Agriculture sector in Gulf remains 'least developed'

KUWAIT: President of the Kuwait Society of Agricultural Engineers Ali Al-Ghaith emphasized the significance of developing the agricultural sector in the Arab world. He highlighted that despite being a crucial semi-sufficient sector, it remains one of the least developed in many Arab countries. Ghaith stressed the need for technical modernization, enhanced support services, and updated legislation to transform it from a semi-sufficient sector into a globally open commercial sector. He stated that agriculture serves as a fundamental pillar of comprehensive development, contributing to economic, social, and environmental dimensions.

During the launch of the 90th meeting of the Executive Office of the Union of Arab Agricultural Engineers, Ghaith noted that developing countries, including Arab nations, heavily rely on agriculture. It serves as the foundation for integrated rural development by leveraging natural resources, creating job opportunities in rural areas, supplying raw materials for agricultural industrialization, and fostering economic ties with other sectors.

To address the challenges facing the sector, Ghaith stressed the importance of Arab countries working on joint programs in economic

and commercial activities. He emphasized the need for coordinated policies to achieve economic integration and capitalize on its benefits in the face of global trade globalization. Ghaith also underscored the crucial role of the Union of Arab Agricultural Engineers and other related organizations in building capacities and institutions to keep pace with global innovations in agriculture.

Secretary-General of the Union of Arab Agricultural Engineers Dr Muhammad Makki echoed the call for the union's development and collaboration with responsible authorities in the Arab agricultural sector. He emphasized the need for the union to remain effective in its impact and present in its proposals and recommendations to serve Arab economic and social development.

Additionally, Makki condemned the crimes and siege carried out by the Zionist occupation on the Gaza Strip and other Palestinian territories, highlighting the destruction and oppression faced by civilians. He called on the international community to intervene quickly to stop this aggression and allow humanitarian aid. Makki expressed hope for a day when Arab countries can declare commitment to international agreements, resolving conflicts between them and avoiding foreign interference for a peaceful coexistence.

The 90th session of the Executive Office honored Dr Yahya Bakour, its former secretary, for his leadership in the union for several decades, recognizing his numerous successes and contributions to supporting the agricultural sector in the Arab world.



FM receives copies of credentials from Greece, Albanian envoys

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Monday a copy of the credentials of Greece's new ambassador to Kuwait (above). The Foreign Minister wished the new ambassador good luck in his diplomatic work and further cooperation between the two friendly countries. During the meeting, they discussed the latest regional

and international developments.

Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah also received a copy of the credentials of Albania's new Ambassador to Kuwait (above). The Foreign Minister wished the new ambassador good luck in his diplomatic work and further cooperation between the two friendly countries. During the meeting, they discussed the latest regional and international developments. —KUNA

Kuwait's diabetes research has made significant strides: Experts

Healthy lifestyle could lower risk of diabetes



KUWAIT: Dasman Diabetes Institute marks World Diabetes Day. - KUNA



In my view

National security in rescuing Gaza



Dr Khalid Al-Saleh

Local@kuwaittimes.com

United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken recently visited Iraq and met Prime Minister Mohammad Al-Sudani. One day later, Sudani went to Iran and met with its leadership. The media office of Iraq's prime minister said Sudani began an official visit to Iran to start talks on bilateral relations and discuss the most urgent regional issues, most notably the Palestinian cause. The office concluded its statement by saying that this visit was the start of a tour by the prime minister, but did not mention the countries he would visit after Iran.

This media statement is likely a political camouflage of what is clear: The US secretary of state asked Iraq's prime minister to deliver an urgent message to Iran. This is an important message, as the United States and Iran have similar pragmatic politics. America is concerned about the Zionist entity and the Democratic party is keen to go through this war with the least losses in the upcoming elections. On the other hand, Iran has a close relationship with some leaders of Hamas and controls Lebanon's Hezbollah.

Based on all of the above, it is possible to predict the message Sudani delivered to the Iranian leadership. It is a message that Iraq's Prime Minister delivered quickly and enthusiastically. He will not deliver a warning message to Iran from America not to broaden the war, as such messages are expected to be ignored. The speed of Sudani's visit to the Iranian leadership following the visit of the American secretary of state suggests that there is a deal that America is presenting to Iran.

Iran is interested in two main issues: Manufacturing the nuclear bomb and maintaining its influence in Syria and Lebanon. It seems that America has promised Iran to reduce restrictions on its nuclear program if it keeps its followers from strongly participating in the war. Strong fighting, not just skirmishes that aim at providing the resistance front with what is needed to defend Hezbollah and Iran, would explain the strong reaction of Saudi Arabia towards the statements of the Zionist minister Amichai Eliyahu about dropping a nuclear bomb on the Gaza Strip.

Saudi Arabia fully understands the American and Iranian mentality and expects what will follow in the form of deals at the expense of the blood of our people in Gaza. Saudi Arabia also knows that Iran's leaders will not come out of this war empty-handed, and that is why Saudi Arabia has demanded that the region be nuclear-free. The first step is a strong condemnation, which will be followed by a strong move to neutralize the Zionist nuclear weapons and keep it from Iran.

The blood of our people has become a game of balance between the US and Iran, as usual. Today, Iran is attempting to benefit from the results of this war, while the Zionist entity aims at getting rid of Hamas. Iran will not come out empty-handed, as it has lost a lot by supporting Hezbollah and Hamas with weapons for such moments as these.

All GCC countries, without exception, must side with Saudi Arabia's stands and exert all efforts to stop this unjust war against our people in Gaza. They must also attempt to distance Hamas from Iran's politics, which the current war has revealed the truth behind.

It is necessary to have strong joint action to keep nuclear arms away from this region and neutralize the Zionist nuclear weapon. The statements of that reckless minister can be used as evidence on the possibility of the Zionist entity's use of nuclear weapons. Coordination with Egypt is highly necessary in this regard, as the Gulf and Egypt have a lot to defend Palestine and pan-Arab security.

KUWAIT: Following a healthy lifestyle based on research, medical protocols, and a balanced exercise-nutrition regimen lowers the risk of diabetes, said health experts on Monday. Speaking to KUNA a day ahead of the World Diabetes Day on November 14, Dasman Diabetes Institute Director Dr Qais Al-Duwairi indicated that diabetes research in Kuwait had reached a point where numerous medical disciplines were put together to better counter diabetes providing hope for many who suffer from this illness.

New research, which began in 2022, focused on the chemical, immune, and genetic factors causing diabetes, said Al-Duwairi, noting that finding early signs of the illness helped individuals to better assess the situation and implement viable countermeasures. Those who suffered from diabetes unknowingly could also benefit from the Dasman Institute's research, he indicated, adding that studies on the matter were published in 93 scientific articles.

Dr Al-Duwairi commended the cooperation with other institutes in formulating diabetes research and countermeasures in Kuwait including Kuwait University (KU), the Ministry of Health, and others. The Dasman Institute is the only organization in the Middle East that provided the DAFNE (DDI) program, a mechanism geared towards the nutritious and insulin needs of those suffering from type-1 diabetes, he noted. The official touched on the impact of education in the battle against diabetes, revealing that in 2022,

Thyroid cancer ranks second in women: Expert

KUWAIT: Secretary-General of the Gulf Federation for Cancer Control Dr Khalid Al-Saleh highlighted various factors influencing cancer rates, with environmental pollutants being one of them. A workshop organized by the GFFCC secretariat general focused on "Thyroid Gland Cancer and its Relation to Environmental Pollutants", shedding light on a cancer with a high recovery rate of up to 90 percent and a 99.5 percent survival rate with early detection.

Kuwait's iconic symbols reflect its rich heritage

By Passant Hisham

KUWAIT: A country is more than just a geographical area — it's a unique blend of identity elements that reflect its rich heritage. In Kuwait, these defining elements are readily apparent in the city's culture, customs, traditions and architecture, which have evolved into symbols that distinguish it from other nations. Some of the most notable icons of Kuwait are as follows:

Kuwait national flag

A seemingly simple piece of fabric adorned with colors can convey profound meaning about a nation. The Kuwaiti flag, characterized by horizontal stripes of green, white and red, with a black trapezium at the side, is a vibrant representation of Arab identity. According to Britannica, the flag's colors draw inspiration from a poem by Arab poet Safi Al-Din Al-Hilli in the 13th century. In this poetic depiction, green symbolizes the fields of Arabs, black represents the challenges they face in battles, white signifies the purity of their deeds, and red embodies the blood on their swords.

Kuwait Towers

The Kuwait Towers not only stand as an iconic aesthetic landmark, but also narrate a significant sto-

Diabetes cases alarmingly high in GCC countries

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Diabetes Association, in cooperation with the Endocrinology Unit at Farwaniya Hospital, held an event on World Diabetes Day to promote awareness of diabetes, the impact of its complications and ways to prevent it.

A consultant said Endocrinology and Diabetes, Chairman of the Kuwait Diabetes Association, Dr Walid Al-Dhahi, said in a press statement during the event on Monday that the Gulf countries witness the highest global rates of type 2 diabetes and are second only to European countries in type 1 incidence. He stressed that Kuwait needs a large national program that supports a package of laws adopted by the Na-



Dr Qais Al-Duwairi



Dr. Adel Redha



Dr Zaidan Al-Mazidi

there was a decrease by 60 percent in type-1 diabetic cases as well as a reduction by eight percent in accumulative sugar levels for those suffering from this type. He affirmed that 50 percent of patients following the 2022 Dasman Institute diabetes protocol managed to decrease dependency on medication by 50 percent. Dr. Al-Duwairi also pointed out that the percentage of diabetic patients in Kuwait had reached 25.5 percent according to recent statistics. On his part, an endocrinology consultant at Sabah Hospital Dr Zaidan Al-Mazidi said that diabetes amongst children was on the rise, indicating that 41 out of 100,000 cases annually were diagnosed with diabetes, especially amongst children under 14. Type-1 diabetes, which is dependent on insulin, is rampant among children and unfortunately, there are high numbers of children

This disease primarily affects women, originating in the butterfly-shaped thyroid gland located at the base of the neck, responsible for regulating vital functions like heart rate, blood pressure, body temperature and weight. While thyroid gland cancer may initially exhibit no symptoms, it can later cause pain and swelling in the neck, prompting the importance of seeking medical attention.

According to statistics from the Kuwait Center for Cancer Control, thyroid gland cancer ranks second in women after breast cancer. From 2014-2019, Kuwait recorded 587 cases in Kuwaiti women and 455 cases in non-Kuwaiti women. For men, the figures were 115 and 158 for Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti individuals respectively. The prevalence of thyroid cancer in the Arab world is 6.2 per 100,000 people for men and 13.2 for women, slightly lower than the global rates of 6.5



Kuwait national flag

ry about the country's history. Before the establishment of Kuwait's desalination system, the nation faced a shortage of fresh water, relying heavily on water imports from neighboring countries. The construction of the towers emerged as a solution, serving as a source of water supply and reservoir project. The towers have two structures with a total of three spheres, with two spheres functioning as water reservoirs. This initiative helped Kuwait achieve self-sufficiency in freshwater for a long time.

Kuwaiti thobe

Clothing plays a crucial role in reflecting cultural identity, and for Kuwaitis, the "thobe" or "dishdasha" has long been the traditional attire for men. While contemporary attire is more common today, the dishdasha remains essential for significant occasions such as

Diabetes Day, emphasizing the community partnership in organizing an awareness campaign to combat the disease and reduce its complications. Diabetes specialist at Farwaniya Hospital Dr Fahd Al-Ajmi said that diabetes is a chronic disease and occurs when the pancreas is unable to produce insulin in sufficient quantity or when the body is unable to use it effectively. Al-Ajmi confirmed that following a healthy diet and practicing regular physical activity while maintaining a normal weight are factors that prevent or work to limit the incidence of type 2 diabetes.

He stated that the most prominent symptoms of diabetes are frequent urination, extreme thirst, hunger, fatigue, and weight loss. And slow healing of bruises, in addition to blurred vision, numbness and tingling in the hands and feet, are other symptoms of diabetes. He explained that World Diabetes Day is an opportunity to raise awareness as one of the global public health issues that must be done collectively or individually in order to improve prevention, diagnosis and therapeutic management of the disease. — KUNA

suffering from that in Kuwait, said Dr Al-Mazidi. He indicated that several factors led to type-1 diabetes amongst children including genetics and sometimes, certain viruses. He added that symptoms of the disease included extreme thirst, frequent need to urinate, hunger, severe weight loss and fatigue, behavioral shifts, and fruity-smelling breath, which are all indicators that parents should take their children and get them checked.

Diabetes could lead to cardiovascular disease, nerve damage, kidney failure, eye problems, immune deficiency, and Osteoporosis, he indicated. Dr Al-Mazidi's colleague and endocrinology consultant Dr Adel Redha spoke about gestational diabetes, which occurs during pregnancy. If left without supervision and medication, women could develop type-2 diabetes, he said, stressing that it was important to maintain a healthy lifestyle during and after pregnancy to avoid this ailment. According to WHO estimation and data, the number of diabetics increased from 108 million in 1980 to 422 million in 2014. Early deaths due to diabetes increased by three percent in 2000-19. The number of deaths in 2019 reached two million. — KUNA

for men and 14.2 for women. In Kuwait, the rates are even lower at 1.2 for men and 6.6 for women, the lowest in the Gulf region.

Dr Saleh noted a rising trend in thyroid cancer rates, attributing it to modern technology enabling the detection of small cancers in the thyroid gland. He identified risk factors, including being female, exposure to high levels of radiation and certain genetic disorders such as multi-endocrine gland tumors.

Regarding treatment, Dr Saleh emphasized that surgery is the preferred method, with surgical extraction posing minimal risks. Additionally, radioactive iodine treatment is available at all Kuwaiti hospitals. Dr Amani Al-Basmi, Head of the Epidemiology and Cancer Registry Unit, provided insights into thyroid cancers epidemiology in Kuwait, highlighting five types identified after the Iraqi invasion.



Kuwait Towers

weddings or official receptions. The Kuwaiti dishdasha is a lightweight, long-sleeved, floor-length garment. In summer, it is worn in white or cream to combat the sun's heat, while in winter, it comes in heavier materials and darker hues such as blue or gray.

The headdress, comprising the ghafiya, ghutra and egal, complements the dishdasha. The ghutra, a rectangular piece of cotton cloth folded over the head, once served a practical purpose, protecting the face and eyes from dust and sandstorms during desert travels on camels.

In essence, a flag, a building and a traditional garment transcend their superficial representations, carrying the rich history and original purpose of their creation. These symbols, shaped by decades of history, continue to be enduring characteristics that define the vibrant nation of Kuwait.

Youth Authority holds Creativity League program

KUWAIT: The Youth Public Authority said that the Youth Creativity League program organized by the authority for the fifth season aimed to support talented and creative Kuwaiti youth and develop them to reach the path of success and excellence.

Acting Director General of the Authority for the Youth Development sector, Dr Meshal Al-Janoubi, said in a press statement Monday on the occasion of the start of the activities of the program, that the areas included in this season are the Holy Quran recitation, robotics, the publication of scientific journal, scientific research, mathematics, and drawing, in addition to youth debates.

Al-Janoubi said that the preliminary qualifiers are in the field of mathematics. Training workshops for the field of debates have already begun, and competitions for the rest of the fields will continue to be held in succession at youth centers. He praised the distinguished participation of Kuwaiti youth in the project over the past years. He noted that there was huge demand from young people to register in the league this season in various fields as they were divided into three levels: beginner (from 7 - 10 years), intermediate (11-14 years) and advanced (15-18 years). Competitions are held among them in an attractive, competitive educational environment. He added that the project is one of the national programs within the country's development plan and focuses clearly on encouraging creativity and technological innovation for young people based on scientific foundations. He said cooperation between the authority and a number of state agencies, particularly the ministry of education contributed to the success of the activities.

Al-Janoubi said that the Creativity League turned out to be a great success, as evidenced by the Kuwaiti school debating team winning first place, based on its outputs in the Sixth International School Debate Championship in the Arabic language, which was held in Qatar last September.

Photo of the day



KUWAIT: A contestant participates in Kuwait's International Quran Recitation Competition on the fourth day on Monday. — KUNA

GCC Army chiefs discuss ways to strengthen joint cooperation

Kuwaiti official underlines significance of pan-Arab military gatherings



Chiefs of Staff of GCC Armed Forces discuss joint cooperation.

MUSCAT: Chiefs of Staff of Armed Forces of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries held their meeting on Monday in Muscat. An official statement to KUNA said that Acting Chief of the General Staff, Major General Engineer Dr Ghazi Shemmeri headed the Kuwaiti delegation. The top military officers discussed topics related to strengthening the cooperation process between the six GCC countries and topics on their agenda related to matters of mutual interest.

The meeting is part of efforts aimed at explor-

ing means of consolidating joint cooperation among GCC states in military fields. It was preceded by a meeting of the GCC Preparatory Committee of Assistant Chiefs of Staff for Operations and will be followed by the GCC Joint Defense Council comprising defense ministers of member states. The GCC consists of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Oman.

Meanwhile, a Kuwaiti military official on Sunday said that gatherings that bring together army-training chiefs from across the wider Arab region are crucial in boost-

ing cooperation, given the outbreak of armed conflict in large swathes of the world.

The talks involving training chiefs of Arab militaries in the Egyptian capital will yield a "comprehensive" study on the effects of existential military threats, said the Kuwaiti army's training chief Major General Fahad Al-Turajji. The talks, chaired by the United Arab Emirates, will comprise a number of studies aiming to ratchet up the military capabilities of armed forces around the Arab region, which entails holding frequent joint drills and training programs. — KUNA



The Kuwait Army's training chief Major General Fahad Al-Turajji.



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The workshop on eco-friendly mosques in Kuwait.



KU holds workshop on eco-friendly mosques in Kuwait

KUWAIT: The College of Architecture at Kuwait University held a workshop on "Environmentally Friendly Mosques" as a joint research program between the College of Architecture at Kuwait University and another team from Cardiff University. This was held with the support of the British Embassy and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), at the exhibition hall of the College of Architecture on the campus in Adaliya.

In this regard, the Associate Professor of Architecture at the College, Dr Omar Khattab, said that this research took one-and-a-half years to complete the samples of mosques located on the campuses of Kuwait University and Abdullah Al-Salem University. The research team consisted of faculty members at Kuwait University and Cardiff University in addition to master's and doctoral students at the two universities.

The research team will look at two case studies, namely Al-Othman Mosque in Al-Khalidiya Campus, which is currently affiliated with Abdullah Al-Salem University, and Al-Shadadiya Mosque, which is affiliated with Kuwait University," he added, explaining that public and private entities are participating in the project.

Dr Khattab said that the convergence of environmen-

tal work within the community will have a multiplier effect and help society as a whole to make the right choices regarding environmental policies. Moreover, the basic principle of building sustainability is to achieve harmony with the environment and not to have a negative impact on it.

Dr Khattab explained that the goal of establishing environmentally friendly (eco-friendly) mosques is to work for a contemporary environmental entrance that enhances energy efficiency and effective building maintenance.

At the same time, they provide comfort to users, noting "the construction of the mosque must take into account the possible weather condition, in addition to taking into account meeting people's need for religious activity, and reducing energy consumption."

Dr Khattab pointed out that the mosque can influence the advancement of the sustainable development process forward, based on its position in the hearts of Muslims, pointing out that it is the purest and most spiritual place.

"Muslims are associated with it on a daily basis. They depend on it to learn what benefits them," he explained, adding that sustainable development has become vital in the world at the levels of government and people.

"Achieving sustainable development through the mosque needs effective management and proper planning in order to generalize the idea of a green mosque and that the management and planning aspect is the first step to put the mosque on the path of sustainability," Dr Khattab added. He said that the project aims to achieve green building strategies and environmentally friendly building designs, hoping that this will become the existing system in the design and construction of buildings in Kuwait as a whole and not limited only to mosques. — KUNA



Macron meets top religious leaders to tackle anti-Semitism

Philippine human rights campaigner wins bail

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RAFAH: Amal al-Robayaa (center right), her husband Imed (center left) and her father Salman (left) drink tea amid the rubble of a building destroyed in Zionist bombing on November 7, 2023. — AFP photos

A daily fight to survive in Gaza

Family of 50 shares a 500-gram bag of pasta, a packet of sauce as resources run scarce

RAFAH: Every morning at 8:00 am, Amal al-Robayaa leaves the UN school where she has taken refuge with her extended family since war broke out in Gaza, on a mission to find food. "It's the first thing I think about when I wake up: how am I going to feed the children today?" she told AFP.

The mouths to feed include her husband, six children, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren. Under the constant threat of bombardment in Gaza since Oct 7, Robayaa's daily struggle to support her family has become a deadly assault course.

She picks through the rubble between the school and her home in Shabura neighborhood of Rafah in the south of Gaza, where she hopes to find neighbors with some flour to make bread. Her 24-year-old son Suleiman races to a nearby bakery first thing to grab a number in line, before hurrying to a water point. "I try to fill a canteen or two with water before getting back to the bakery before it opens," Suleiman told AFP.

The tiring task "takes two hours, when you're lucky, but more often four or five", he said. There is no guarantee of success at the end, either. "We take turns in the line. Two days ago, I waited in the line for four-and-a-half hours and when it was

my turn, they told me there was no bread left. I begged them to give me just a few pieces for the children but they refused," said his mother.

Scarce water

Robayaa says the apartment block she lived in was destroyed by Zionist bombardment on the first day of the war triggered by Hamas's attack on the Zionist entity, in which 1,200 people were killed, mostly civilians, according to Zionist authorities.

The Zionist entity's response has killed more than 11,000 people in Gaza, most of them civilians, according to the health ministry in the coastal territory. "Even the horse which pulled my son's cart, his livelihood, was killed," she said. The family spends the day in the rubble of what once was their home.

Later, Robayaa is joined by her sister-in-law Nesrin, 39, who turns up holding up a small sack of flour like a trophy. The pair put themselves to work immediately, mixing the flour with water. One worked the dough, while the other scavenged in the rubble for pieces of cardboard and wood to make a fire to bake the flatbread.

"Look at me! I'm helping, too!" said nine-year-old Bilal, laying out clothes to

dry on slabs of concrete. What little water there is has to be used carefully, a little for washing clothes and some for a shower. "In general, the children and I wash every four or five days. Sometimes there is no water and we have to wait longer," said Robayaa, gesturing to her bathroom, which still stood among the rubble. "It allows us to have a bit of privacy but we're always worried a piece of concrete will fall on our heads," she said. Her husband, Imed, tries to keep the children occupied, playing old Palestinian songs and some more modern tunes on the nay, the traditional Arab flute.

Children first

"My Oud was buried under the rubble but at least I have my flute to keep my spirits up and make the children smile," he told AFP. By the afternoon, the family had managed to secure 27 liters (seven gallons) of water, a 500-gram (18-ounce) bag of pasta and a packet of sauce — to be shared between some 50 people.

"We start by feeding the children," Imed said, as the younger members of the family lined up with their plates to get a few mouthfuls of food that quickly disappeared. After dinner, the parents poured themselves a cup of tea each. The little



Amal al-Robayaa makes bread with flour found by her sister-in-law Nesrine, amid the ruins of their family home.

powdered tea they have left needs to last. With the sound of drones growing and darkness approaching, the family headed back to the UN school, where they sleep alongside thousands of others. "We do not have winter clothes for the children and each night now, it's a

little colder than the night before," said Robayaa. "The children don't sleep much and if they manage to sleep, they wake up in the night screaming," added sister-in-law Nesrin. "So I spend the night waiting for the sunrise, so I can return close to home." — AFP



BEIRUT: An employee at the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for supporting Palestinians lowers the UN flag on Nov 13, 2023. — AFP

UN flags at half mast for 101 staff killed in Gaza

GENEVA: Flags flew at half-mast at UN compounds across the globe Monday, as staff observed a minute's silence for the more than 100 colleagues killed in Gaza during the Zionist bombardment of the territory.

The blue and white United Nations flag was first lowered at 9:30 am local time at offices in Bangkok, Tokyo and Beijing, and later, other UN offices followed suit. The UN agency for supporting Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) announced on Friday that 101 of its employees had died in the Gaza Strip since the war erupted just over a month ago.

And on Sunday, the UN reported "a significant number of deaths and injuries" in strikes on one of its facilities in Gaza. "UNRWA staff in Gaza appreciate the UN lowering the flag around the world," the

agency director in the Gaza Strip Tom White, said in a statement. "In Gaza however, we have to keep the UN flag flying high as a sign that we are still standing and serving the people of Gaza."

More than 11,000 people, most of them civilians and many of them children, have been killed in Gaza in strikes by the Zionist entity, according to the Gaza health ministry. In Geneva, the second-largest UN headquarters after New York, the UN flag on Monday flew at half-mast and none of the other flags of the 193 member countries were hoisted along the main alley of the compound.

Staff were also invited to hold a "private" minute of silence, spokesman Rolando Gomez said. "This is the highest number of aid workers killed in the history of our organization in such a short time," Tatiana Valovaya, Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva, told the dozens of staff members gathered for the ceremony.

Events were also held in Kathmandu and Kabul, where the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan Roza Otunbayeva led about 250 people in observing the minute's silence. — AFP

Thunberg under fire in Germany for supporting Palestine

BERLIN: Greta Thunberg came under fire on Monday over her pro-Palestinian stance in Germany, where the local chapter of climate movement Fridays for Future had distanced itself from her views on the Zionist war on Gaza. Thunberg, wearing the Palestinian black and white scarf, had urged "ceasefire now" at a climate protest on Sunday in Amsterdam.

She was interrupted by a man who sought to snatch the microphone from her, saying he had come for a climate protest, not for her other views. After he was removed by security officers, she began chanting, along with the crowd, "no climate justice on occupied land". "Greta Thunberg misused the absolutely necessary and correct concern on climate protection for a one-sided position on the (Zionist)-Palestinian conflict, in which she does not name the perpetrators, in which she does not condemn the absolute atrocities by Hamas," said Ricarda Lang, co-leader of the Greens, which is a junior partner of Chancellor Olaf Scholz's coalition.

"She has in fact discredited herself as the face of the climate movement through these statements," added Lang. The statements in Amsterdam marked "the end of Greta Thunberg as a climate activist," added Volker Becker, the president of the German-(Zionist) Society DIG, adding that "from now: (Zionist entity) hater is the main job" for the Swedish activist.

The Zionist embassy in Germany also wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter, that it was "sad that Greta Thunberg is again misusing the climate stage for her own purposes." Since October 7, when Hamas fighters infiltrated the Zionist entity's borders, Fri-



AMSTERDAM: Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg (center) marches with climate activists during a rally for climate and justice on Nov 12, 2023. — AFP

days for Future International has been putting up solidarity calls on social media with Gaza, which has come under relentless Zionist bombing over the Hamas attack.

Fridays for Future's international group has blasted the "genocide" in Gaza, and slammed "Western support and misinformation machines". Luisa Neubauer, who heads the German chapter of Fridays for Future, recently told Die Zeit weekly of her regret over what she called Thunberg's one-sided view of the conflict. "I'm disappointed that Greta Thunberg had nothing concrete to say about the Jewish victims of the massacre of October 7," she said.

Germany's climate activist branch had also distanced itself from the international group over its pro-Palestinian posts on Instagram. Neubauer said that Thunberg was "extraordinarily reflective and far-sighted" in the past but that the German climate branch will now have to examine "with whom we still have a basis to work based on common values". "It is obvious that for many global organizations, global realities diverge when it comes to (the Zionist entity) and Palestine. But that does not justify anti-Semitism or disinformation," warned Neubauer. — AFP

International

Philippine human rights campaigner wins bail

Fierce critic of Duterte's anti-drug war to 'work hard to redeem name'

MANILA: Philippine human rights campaigner Leila de Lima was "triumphant" on Monday when a judge granted her bail, putting her a step closer to freedom after nearly seven years behind bars. De Lima, one of the most outspoken critics of former president Rodrigo Duterte and his deadly anti-drug war, was jailed on narcotics-related charges she says were fabricated to silence her.

The former senator, justice minister and human rights commissioner waved to supporters as she exited the Manila court, surrounded by police officers and journalists. "This is a moment of triumphant joy and also thanksgiving," de Lima said before being taken back to prison briefly ahead of her release. "I've been praying so hard for this day to come. It's very painful to be jailed despite being innocent." De Lima, 64, is accused of taking money from inmates inside the largest prison in the Philippines to allow them to sell drugs while she was justice minister from 2010 to 2015. Multiple witnesses, including prison gang bosses, died or recanted their testimonies, resulting in the dismissal of two of the three charges against de Lima. She still faces life in prison if convicted on the remaining charge.

In a decision dated November 10, Judge Gener Gito allowed de Lima and her four surviving co-accused to post bail of 300,000 pesos (\$5,350) each. Hours after the bail announcement, de Lima left the national police headquarters where she had been held in a compound for high-profile detainees, rather than one of the country's overcrowded prisons. "Precious freedom, free at last," she shouted to reporters as she was driven away.

'Unjustly prosecuted and detained'

Since President Ferdinand Marcos came into office in June 2022 there have been renewed calls from human rights groups, foreign diplomats and politicians for de Lima's release. Justice Secretary Crispin Remulla said the court's ruling showed "democracy is alive and well in our country". Rights groups and foreign diplomats welcomed the bail decision.

"She never should have been unjustly prosecuted and detained by former President Rodrigo Duterte," Human Rights Watch deputy Asia director Bryony Lau said. Lau said Duterte's administration "concocted evidence and used the machinery of an abusive state to punish her for performing her duties as a senator and speaking out against the 'war on drugs'."

Amnesty International called for the last remaining drug charge to be "dismissed expeditiously" and those behind her detention to "be brought to justice". US ambassador to Manila MaryKay Carlson said: "We continue to follow her case closely and look forward to seeing the remaining charges against her resolved in accordance with Philippine law."



MUNTINLUPA: Former Philippine senator and human rights campaigner Leila de Lima (center) speaks to members of the media after attending a court hearing in Muntinlupa, suburban Manila, on Nov 13, 2023. — AFP

But Salvador Panelo, who was chief legal counsel for Duterte when he was president, insisted there was "strong evidence" that de Lima was guilty. "The government can appeal the erroneous grant of bail by the lower court to the higher courts," Panelo said.

Before her arrest on February 24, 2017, de Lima had spent a decade investigating "death squad" killings allegedly orchestrated by Duterte during his time as Davao City mayor and in the early days of his presidency. She conducted the probes while serving as the nation's human rights commissioner, and then from 2010

to 2015 as justice minister in the Aquino administration that preceded Duterte's rule.

De Lima became one of the few opposition voices after winning a Senate seat in the 2016 elections that also swept populist Duterte to power. Duterte then accused her of running a drug trafficking ring with criminals when she was justice secretary, forcing her from the Senate and into jail. De Lima lost her bid for re-election in May 2022 after campaigning from behind bars.

Duterte, who was constitutionally barred from seeking a second term as president, stepped down the fol-

lowing month. De Lima has suffered various health problems while in jail, including a pelvic organ prolapse that required surgery. She was also briefly taken hostage during an attempted breakout by three detained militants in October 2022.

Throughout the legal proceedings, de Lima has insisted the charges against her had been trumped up in retaliation for going after Duterte and his drug war that killed thousands of people. "Now that I'm free I'm going to work hard to redeem my name," de Lima told reporters. "Complete vindication is the key." — AFP

Myanmar ethnic armed group attack junta on new fronts

YANGON: A Myanmar ethnic armed group has launched attacks on security force outposts in the west of the country, local media reported Monday, as the junta struggles to beat back fighting in the north. Arakan Army (AA) fighters later seized border guard bases near Rathedaung in western Rakhine state, local media cited an AA spokesman as saying.

The AA has for years fought a war for the autonomy of the state's ethnic Rakhine population in their home near the Bangladesh border. A spokesman for the group did not respond to an AFP request for comment. Security forces had blocked all road and river traffic around Maungdaw, north of Rathedaung, a resident told AFP. Richard Horsey of the International Crisis Group said: "If combat persists, it will open a significant new front for the regime."

The AA is also fighting alongside two other ethnic armed groups in northern Shan state, bordering China, where the military has admitted to losing ground, including a border trade hub. The AA, the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) and the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) say they have captured dozens of military outposts in their joint offensive. Almost 50,000 people have been displaced in the fighting in Shan state, according to the United Nations.

Analysts say it is the most significant military challenge to the junta since it seized power in 2021. An MNDAA spokesman told AFP on Monday its forces had captured the town of Kunlong in Shan state on Sunday, where a strategic bridge crosses the Thanlwin river. Li Jiawen said he did not have information about casualties during that fighting. Junta spokesman Zaw Min Tun told state broadcaster MRTV that troops had left Kunlong but that it had been part of a "strategic retreat". Clashes between the AA and the military in 2019 displaced more than 200,000 people across Rakhine state, home to around one million people. — AFP

Myanmar ethnic armed groups



Source: Crisis Group Asia Report – Identity crisis: ethnicity and conflict in Myanmar

Nigeria's ruling party consolidates power with election wins

ABUJA: Nigeria's ruling party consolidated its power with two wins in weekend state governorship elections that were marred by violence and vote-rigging claims. State elections are fiercely contested in Nigeria, where governors are powerful figures and clashes, killings and voter intimidation are common. Despite a heavy security presence, there were several reports of deadly shootings, and an election official was abducted ahead of the vote. Saturday's polls were held in three states.

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) won a landslide victory in southeastern Imo state, where the current governor Hope Uzodinma secured a second term with 540,308 votes, according to official election tallies. The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) candidate came second with 71,503 votes.

The APC also retained power in central Kogi state, where Ahmed Usman Ododo was declared winner with 446,237 votes. The Social Democratic Party (SDP) candidate came second with 259,052. The incumbent PDP governor was leading in southern Bayelsa state, but the final results have been delayed.

The Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD), which observed the elections, said there was low turnout at several polling stations, with people "scared of coming out to vote due to fear of violence". Monitoring groups and Nigerian media reported several deadly shootings, including one in which military officials allegedly killed



LAGOS: In this file photo, a police officer tries to calm a situation at a polling station during local elections. — AFP

a man trying to run off with a ballot box in Anyigba, Kogi state. The army and police have not responded to requests for comment. — AFP

The CDD also described widespread vote-buying, with some people exchanging their ballots for handouts of rice. Observers were watching the electoral commission closely after the presidential vote earlier this year, when critics and the opposition said delays uploading results and technical problems created opportunities for rigging ballots.

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) said it had "done everything possible to guarantee that the weekend's election was free, fair, and credible." INEC said an official "abducted while waiting to board a boat" in Bayelsa ahead of the vote had since been released.

Another boat carrying election documents capsized, it said, affecting more than 5,000 voters in the state. Nigeria has a long history of electoral violence since the country emerged from military rule in 1999 and many vote results end up challenged in the courts. — AFP

FM denies Zionists visited...

Continued from Page 1

at least 2,300 people — patients, health workers and people fleeing fighting — were inside the crippled Al-Shifa.

The Zionist entity is facing intense international pressure amid its massive air and ground operation, which Gaza authorities say have killed 11,180 people, including 4,609 children. The Zionist entity said 44 of its troops have been killed in the Gaza offensive. International attention has focused on the plight of Palestinians, and protests have been held worldwide in solidarity with the 2.4 million under bombardment and siege for more than five weeks. A Turkish vessel carrying materials for field hospitals arrived Monday in Egypt's port of El Arish near the Rafah border crossing with Gaza.

Meanwhile, the National Assembly holds its first regular session of the new term on Tuesday and is likely to start the session by debating a grilling against Commerce and Industry Minister Mohammad Al-Aiban. The grilling was filed by MP Hamdan Al-Azmi over alleged irregularities, violations, squandering of public funds and others. The minister can demand to delay the debate for two weeks, and if he asks, it is expected that the Assembly will accept.

In his grilling, MP Azmi accused the minister of committing financial and administrative violations at a trading company that he chaired before his appointment as a minister. Azmi alleged that financial violations were committed by the minister and the company filed a lawsuit against him, but he utilized his post as a minister to refuse summons by the public prosecution. He also alleged that there are several cases of fraud at the public prosecution against the minister, who is using his post by not going to the public prosecution.

The Assembly is also expected to discuss a draft law calling to increase the minimum pension for retired Kuwaitis to KD 1,000 monthly and also to increase interest-free loans to retired people.

Separately, Education Minister Dr Adel Al-Mane announced suspending Kuwaiti students' enrollment in medical schools in Egypt and Jordan temporarily for further evaluation. According to the decision, Kuwaitis will not be able to register in universities in Egypt and Jordan to study medicine (medicine, dentistry, pharmacy and pharmacology) starting from next year.

As for freshmen who obtained approval to study medicine at their own expense in Egypt and Jordan universities for the 2023/2024 academic year, the minister announced that they can register in the ministry's scholarship program, provided they meet the required conditions. The ban will remain until comprehensive evaluation is done, taking into account maintaining educational quality in Kuwait.

Cameron makes shock return after...

Continued from Page 1

of Lords — Britain's unelected upper chamber of parliament — Downing Street announced, making him eligible to sit in government. The last lord as foreign secretary was Peter Carrington, who quit Margaret Thatcher's government after Argentina invaded the Falkland Islands in 1982. Cameron was instrumental in leading Western countries' intervention in Libya in 2011, which helped overthrow dictator Muammar Gaddafi but was seen as aiding the North African country's descent into political and economic collapse.

In 2013 he became the first prime minister in over 150 years to lose a parliamentary vote on military action when MPs failed to back his plan for strikes on Syria following a chemical attack by Damascus. Cameron became mired in scandal in 2021, after lobbying the UK government for finance group Greensill Capital, which later collapsed. He and Sunak have also clashed publicly on big issues. Last year, Sunak suggested that a "golden era" of warm relations between Britain and China during Cameron's 2010-2016 tenure had been "naive".

And Cameron recently slammed Sunak's decision to scrap a key part of a high-speed rail project. "Though I may have disagreed with some individual decisions, it is clear to me that Rishi Sunak is a strong and capable prime minister, who is showing exemplary leadership at a difficult time," Cameron said Monday.

His shock return surprised even political commentators, who noted it was at odds with Sunak's recent pitch at the Tory conference to end the "30-year status quo" in British politics. Tim Bale, politics professor at Queen Mary University of London, said Sunak was likely drawn to Cameron's "clout on the international stage" and hoped to appeal to increasingly dissatisfied moderate voters. "I'm very skeptical that it'll make much difference on that or any other score," he noted. "It looks desperate — because that is what it is!" he told AFP.

Polling in September suggested 45 percent of UK adults felt unfavorably towards Cameron, while only around a quarter held a favorable view. The idea that the appointment formed part of Sunak positioning himself to fight the next election, which must be held by Jan 2025, on more centrist ground was aided by his dismissal of outspoken right-winger Braverman. Her position became increasingly untenable after she last week wrote an explosive newspaper article, without Sunak's approval, accusing police of bias towards leftwing causes. — AFP

International

Macron meets top religious leaders to tackle anti-Semitism

Muslim leader says France has seen 'outburst' of anti-Muslim remarks

PARIS: President Emmanuel Macron on Monday hosted religious leaders for talks on combatting anti-Semitism in France, a day after a Paris march rallied tens of thousands to express anxiety over an upsurge in acts against Jews. There have been growing tensions in France, home to large Muslim and Jewish communities, as the Zionist entity wages a brutal war in the Gaza Strip in a bid to destroy Hamas.

Macron had urged the religious leaders to make an "educational effort to increase the number of measures addressed to young people," Catholic bishops' conference head Eric de Moulins-Beaufort told reporters after the meeting. "The president's aim, which of course we will help pass on, is to spread this message," said Elie Korchia, president of France's Central Zionist Consistory.

"Many young people no longer necessarily read the press, no longer watch TV, sometimes they're shut up in a language of their own, without reaching out to others," he added. Monday's talks were a "continuation of the appeal for national unity and brotherhood" Macron had made in a letter published on Saturday in daily Le Parisien, his Elysee Palace office said ahead of the meeting.

France has seen an upsurge in anti-Semitic acts since Hamas's Oct 7 attack on the Zionist entity, which left 1,200 people, mostly civilians, dead. The Zionist entity has since launched a military campaign on the besieged Palestinian territory, killing more than 11,000, mostly civilians and many of them children. Macron wrote that "a France where our Jewish fellow citizens are afraid is not France", calling on people to rally around the country's "values" and "universalism".

'No victimhood contest'

While the presidency did not release an exact guest list for Monday's gathering, France's chief rabbi Haim Korsia and rector of the Paris Grand Mosque Chems-Eddine Hafiz were also present alongside leaders representing the Orthodox church, Buddhism and Protestantism. Sunday's march "should have been made into a battle against racism, that was important," Hafiz said, arguing that as well as "a real increase in anti-Semitism," France has seen "an outburst of remarks made against Muslims".



PARIS: Grand Rabbi of France Haim Korsia (center), flanked by Archbishop of Reims and President of the Conference des Evêques de France Eric de Moulins-Beaufort (left), greets President of the French Council of the Muslim Faith Mohamed Moussaoui (right) after a meeting between France's President and France's religious representatives. — AFP

Nevertheless, "I don't want to get into a victimhood contest," he added. Over 180,000 people turned out across France on Sunday according to police figures, 105,000 of them in Paris, to join marches "for the republic and against anti-Semitism".

Macron himself has been criticized for staying away from the march. Jordan Bardella, head of the far-right National Rally (RN) — which controversially joined the column — told broadcaster RTL Monday that the president had "missed a rendez-vous with history".

Sylvain Maillard, leader of Macron's party in the National Assembly lower house, defended the president, telling Sud Radio that "a president's place isn't at a demonstration". Macron "will be judged on how effective state action against anti-Semitism is, rather than his presence at the head of a one-day demonstration," political commentator Guillaume Tabard wrote in conservative daily Le Figaro.

'Urge (Zionist entity) to stop'

Macron has also been rebuked by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu after criticizing the Zionist entity's extensive bombing campaign in Gaza in a weekend interview with the BBC. "Civilians are bombed ... these babies, these ladies, these old people are bombed and killed... there is no reason for that and no legitimacy. So we do urge (the Zionist entity) to stop," he said.

The French leader's office said late Sunday that he had spoken with Zionist President Isaac Herzog by phone in an apparent bid to calm the waters. Macron "again expressed his solidarity with (the Zionist entity) in the face of the horror of the terrorist attacks perpetrated by Hamas" and "reiterated (the entity's) right to defend itself and repeated France's solidarity with (the Zionist entity)," the Elysee said. — AFP

Nations negotiate terms of plastics treaty in Nairobi

NAIROBI: The latest negotiations towards a global treaty to combat plastic pollution opened in Nairobi on Monday, with tensions expected as nations tussle over what should be included in the pact. Some 175 countries agreed last year to conclude by 2024 a UN treaty to address the plastic blighting oceans, floating in the atmosphere, and infiltrating the bodies of animals and humans.

While there is broad consensus a treaty is needed, there are very different opinions about what should be in it. As the talks formally opened, Peru's Gustavo Meza-Cuadra Velasquez, chair of the forum's inter-governmental negotiating committee, warned that plastic pollution posed "a direct threat to our environment, human health, and the delicate balance of our planet." "We have the collective power to change this trajectory," he said.

Negotiators have met twice already but the November 13-19 talks are the first to consider a draft text of the treaty published in September and the policy options it contains. Around 60 so-called "high ambition" nations have called for binding rules to reduce the use and production of plastic, which is made from fossil fuels, a measure supported by many environment groups.

It is not a position shared by many plastic-producing economies, including the United States, which have long preferred to focus on recycling, innovation and better waste management. The draft presenting the various ways forward will form the basis for the high-stakes deliberations at the UN Environment Program (UNEP) headquarters in Nairobi.

With more than 2,000 delegates registered, and advocates from environmental and plastic groups also in the room, the negotiations are expected to get heated as the details are hammered out. Hundreds of climate campaigners, waving placards reading "Plastic crisis = climate crisis", on Saturday marched in Nairobi calling for the talks to focus on cutting the amount of plastic produced.

Kenyan President William Ruto described plastic pollution as "an existential threat to life, to humanity and everything in between." "To deal with plastic pollution, humanity must change. We must change the way we consume, the way we produce, and how we dispose (of) our waste." — AFP



ATHI RIVER: A mound of plastic waste scavenged from various environments including river channels and dump sites sit in the yard at a recycling factory on Nov 13, 2023. — AFP

Settlers 'opening another front' in Zionist war: Rabbi

TAYBEH: Stooping under the weight of his body armor but uncowed by the threat of violence, Rabbi Arik Ascherman guards an olive grove in the occupied West Bank, protecting Palestinian farmers from rising Zionist settler violence. "There is no excuse, there is no explanation, no justification for what Hamas did" in its Oct 7 attacks on the Zionist entity, said the 64-year-old, a veteran activist with the Rabbis for Human Rights group. "But the average (citizen of the Zionist entity) today is not prepared or willing to distinguish between Palestinian terrorists and terrorized Palestinians," he added, alluding to reports of a rise in settler attacks since Oct 7.

"It's an all-out war between two peoples," said Ascherman outside the village of Taybeh, as farmers whacked olives weeping with oil onto pinstripe tarpaulins skirting the tree trunks. "Nobody at this point is willing to help Palestinians, out of our pain and our anger." Nearby his comrades — even if they are only a handful — prove him wrong. They are posted as lookouts, prepared to face off with settlers who may descend at any moment to harass and fight the farmers. "Over the 28 years I've been doing this, I generally did not see myself as marginalized," said Ascherman, who has long campaigned against settler violence in the West Bank.

"There were always a significant number of (Zionists) who at least passively supported and agreed with what we were doing," he said. "Today that's evaporated. There's almost no support."



TAYBEH: Rabbi Arik Ascherman helps Palestinians during the olive harvest at a grove outside Ramallah in the occupied West Bank on Nov 9, 2023. — AFP

'Our fear has doubled'

Since Oct 7, there has been a dramatic rise in assaults by Zionist settlers on Palestinians living in the West Bank, occupied by the Zionist entity since 1967. Before Oct 7 there were an average of three incidents of settler violence per day, according to the UN, but since the outbreak of the war it has risen to seven. In late October, a farmer 14 kilometers (nine miles) north of Taybeh was killed by settlers whilst tending his olive trees, according to human rights group B'Tselem. "Since the war has begun there has been a growing number of incidents in which violent settlers have been documented attacking nearby Palestinian communities while wearing military uniform and using government-issued weapons," B'Tselem said.

The Zionist military said it appeared "an off-duty IDF (army) soldier participated in the event", adding it had launched an inquiry. "Our fear over the settlers has doubled since (Oct 7)," said 63-year-old Palestinian Sameer Abedalkareem, his family working on trees in the nearby village of Dura al-Karia. "We haven't been able to go to our land, because settlers and the Zionist army shoot towards us."

The sprawling vistas of gnarled olive trees planted in the ochre earth of the West Bank have been the site of clashes between farmers and encroaching settlers for decades, with the disputes hinging on access to land. For Palestinians, the hardy olive, which thrives in tough conditions and can live for hundreds of years, is a symbol of their rootedness in the territory, where an estimated 10 million trees grow. But this year's harvest coincided with the Zionist bombardment in Gaza. "Before, the olive-picking month was like a festival, but today it's nothing like that," said Abedalkareem's wife, 60-year-old Suad Mahmoud. "Olives are very important to us, and without them we couldn't live," she said. "It's the most basic thing in our lives."

'Another front'

In response to the Hamas attacks, the Zionist entity has launched a land, sea and air assault on the Gaza Strip, killing upwards of 11,000 people in the narrow Palestinian territory according to its health ministry. In the West Bank, more than 180 Palestinians have been killed in settler attacks or increasing army raids, according to the Ramallah-based Palestinian health ministry. The figure includes some militants. The UN says in almost half of settler incidents since Oct 7 "Zionist" forces accompanied or actively supported the attackers. "From our perspective, it's like the settlers are trying to open another front," said Dani Brodsky, Rabbis for Human Rights' director for the occupied Palestinian territories. "We pray for peace and we hope things will get better and we're willing to put the work in," he said, wearing a padded lacrosse glove to soften blows he may take if settlers show up. — AFP



UTTARKASHI: In this photograph taken on Nov 12, 2023, rescue workers gather at the site after a tunnel collapsed in the Uttarkashi district of India's Uttarakhand state. — AFP

Indian rescuers battle to save 40 trapped workers

DEHRADUN: Rescuers in northern India battled for a second day Monday to save 40 workers trapped underground after the road tunnel they were building collapsed, bringing down tons of debris. Teams using heavy excavators have been working nonstop since the collapse early Sunday morning to clear piles of concrete and earth, but with more debris falling as workers tried to clear a passage, a giant steel pipe was being prepared as an escape route.

"All the 40 workers trapped inside the tunnel are safe," Karamveer Singh Bhandari, a senior commander in the National Disaster Response Force, told AFP from the site in the Himalayan state of Uttarakhand, adding that water and food had been sent. Oxygen was being pumped into the blocked portion of the tunnel, with food sent through a water pipe.

Rathodi said excavators had removed about 20 meters (65 feet) of heavy debris, but the men were 40 meters beyond that point. "Due to excess debris in the tunnel, we are facing some difficulty in the rescue, but our team is leaving no stone unturned," Bhandari added.

Teams plan to use a heavy machine to drive a steel pipe with a width of 90 centimeters (nearly three feet), wide enough for the trapped men to squeeze through, the government's highway and infrastructure company said. "Water, food, oxygen, electricity all are available with the work force trapped inside the tunnel ... All the stranded workers are safe as communicated by them," the statement added.

Initial contact was made via a note on a scrap of paper, but later rescuers managed to connect

using radio handsets. "Some small food packets were sent in through a pipe which is also taking oxygen inside," rescue official Durgesh Rathodi told AFP from the site.

'Bring them out safely'

Uttarakhand chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, who on Monday flew to the site of the accident, said on X, formerly Twitter, that the work to remove the tumbled concrete debris was "being made continuously to bring them out safely". "Contact has been made with the workers trapped in the tunnel through a walkie-talkie," he said. "Efforts are being made to get them out safely soon."

One rescue worker, quoted by the Press Trust of India news agency, said the men were contacted shortly after midnight on Monday. Disaster response official Devendra Patwal said that while the men were trapped, they had space in the tunnel area where they were.

"The good thing is that the laborers are not crammed in, and have a buffer of around 400 meters to walk and breathe," Patwal told the Indian Express newspaper. The 4.5-kilometre (2.7-mile) tunnel is being constructed between Silkyara and Dandalgaon to connect two of the holiest Hindu shrines of Uttarakashi and Yamunotri.

Photographs released by the government rescue teams showed huge piles of rubble blocking the wide tunnel, with twisted metal bars on its broken roof poking down in front of the rubble. The tunnel is part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's road project aimed to improve connectivity for some of the most popular Hindu shrines in the country, as well as areas bordering China.

Accidents on large infrastructure construction sites are common in India. In January, at least 200 people were killed in flash floods in ecologically fragile Uttarakhand in a disaster that experts partly blamed on excessive development. — AFP

Business

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2023

Emirates, flydubai lay big orders at Dubai Airshow

Turkey starts talks with Airbus to buy 355 jets

DUBAI: Emirates announced a bumper order of 95 planes and flydubai snapped up 30 wide-bodied aircraft as home-grown airlines unveiled big orders on day one of the Dubai Airshow on Monday. Dubai-based Emirates, the Middle East's biggest airline, made the biggest purchase so far with its \$52 billion order for 55 Boeing 777-9s, 35 777-8s and five 787 Dreamliners.

"This order represents a significant investment that demonstrates Dubai's commitment to the future of aviation," Emirates' chief executive Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al-Maktoum told a press conference.

The 777-9s are expected for delivery in 2025 and the 777-8s scheduled for 2030. The Emirates order was chief among a number of purchases that underlined the industry's post-pandemic recovery.

Earlier, Turkish-German budget carrier SunExpress signed a firm order for 45 Boeing 737 MAX aircraft at a list price of more than \$5 billion, though large orders normally come at a discount. SunExpress's order for 28 737-8s and 17 737-10s includes options that could extend to 90 aircraft, potentially more than doubling its fleet of 66. "It's the largest order in the history of SunExpress," Max Kownatzki, chief executive of the low-cost joint venture of Turkish Airlines and Lufthansa, said at the signing ceremony.



DUBAI: Aircraft of the Fursan Al-Emarat (UAE Knights) aerobatics team releases smoke as they fly over during the 2023 Dubai Airshow at Dubai World Central - Al-Maktoum International Airport on Nov 13, 2023. — AFP

"We're very happy to have the MAX aircraft for fuel efficiency reasons, for sustainability reasons."

Meanwhile Latvia's airBaltic said it was buying 30 A220-300 planes from Airbus, Boeing's European rival, with purchase rights for another 20. It said it intends to operate 100 of the planes by 2030.

"This day marks a significant milestone in the history of airBaltic," airBaltic's president and CEO Martin Gauss said, highlighting the airline's "plans for the first time ever to operate a fleet of 100 aircraft by 2030".

However, rumors of a major order by Turkish Airlines, said to be for about 350 aircraft, did not materialize on the first day, and there were no purchases by Saudi airlines including newcomer Riyadh Air, which hopes to compete with Emirates as a leading regional carrier. With the latest deal, Emirates' order book rises to 295 planes, including 205 777X aircraft. The airline also ordered 202 GE9X engines for its 777X fleet. Separately, French tech group Thales said it had signed a contract to provide in-flight entertainment systems for the 777xs.

Demonstrating its recovery, last week Emirates Group announced record half-year net profits of 10.1 billion AED (\$2.7 billion), up 138 percent from a year earlier. The company also unveiled record annual profits of \$3 billion in May. Emirates posted a \$5.5 billion loss in COVID-ravaged 2020-2021, its first in more than three decades, after grounding its fleet and making heavy layoffs. Its losses shrank to \$1.1 billion in 2021-2022. This week is the first edition of the biennial Dubai Airshow since Emirates bounced back into the black.

Turkish Airlines, the country's flag carrier, confirmed Monday that it was in talks with Airbus to buy up to 355 jets in a huge push to expand its fleet. "Negotiations are held with Airbus regarding the purchase of a total of 355 aircraft -- 240 of which are firm and 115 of which are optional—to be delivered between 2026-2036," the airline said in a statement.

It did not disclose any financial details for the deal announced as the Dubai Air Show opens on Monday, where a number of major purchases could be signed this week. In September, Turkish Airlines revealed plans to purchase 10 additional Airbus A350-900 aircraft, nearly doubling its existing fleet of the wide-body planes. — AFP



FINANCIAL RESULTS 9 MONTHS 2023

172

Million KD
NET INCOME
↗ 13%

REVENUE

↗ 11%

1.4

Billion KD

EBITDA

↗ 8%

530

Million KD

EPS

40

Fils

CUSTOMERS ↗ 0.2%

52

Million

CBK bonds and related Tawarruq

KUWAIT: The Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) announced the most recent issues of CBK bonds and related Tawarruq at a total value of KD 240 millions for six months with a rate of return at 4.500 percent.

Business

Zain Group 9M 2023 net income up 13% to reach \$561m, revenues up 11% to \$4.6bn

Kharafi: Our 4Sight strategy propels efficiencies, digital transformation and revenue growth

KUWAIT: Zain Group, a leading provider of innovative technologies and digital lifestyle communications operating in eight markets across the Middle East and Africa, announced its consolidated financial results for the nine-month (9M) and third-quarter (Q3) periods ended Sept 30, 2023, serving 52 million customers.

For 9M 2023, Zain generated consolidated revenue of KD 1.4 billion (\$4.6 billion), up 11 percent year-on-year (YoY), while consolidated EBITDA for the period reached KD 530 million (\$1.7 billion), up 8 percent YoY, reflecting an EBITDA margin of 37 percent. Consolidated net income increased 13 percent YoY, amounting to KD 172 million (\$561 million). Earnings per share amounted to 40 fils (\$0.13) for the nine-month period.

In Q3 2023, Zain generated consolidated revenue of KD 485 million (\$1.6 billion), up 10 percent YoY. EBITDA for the quarter reached KD 183 million (\$594 million), an increase of 7 percent YoY, reflecting a 38 percent EBITDA margin. Net income for the three months amounted to KD 60 million (\$196 million), a 11 percent increase YoY. Earnings per share for Q3 amounted to 14 fils (\$0.05).

The robust consolidated results for the 9M 2023 is mainly attributable to the strong performances of all operations; the gains achieved from the sale and leaseback of towers in key markets; successful group-wide cost optimization initiatives and price revamp programs; the monetization and growth of consumer digital and fintech services; as well as ZainTECH and B2B initiatives building on strategic partnerships and exploiting the investments made in ICT entities, 4G, 5G and Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) expansion and upgrades.

Key operational notes for 9M 2023

- The interim cash dividend of 10 fils totaling KD 43.3 million (\$140 million) was distributed in September 2023.
- The 9M period highlighted by net income increases of 38 percent YoY in Zain Kuwait; 234 percent YoY in Zain Saudi Arabia; 561 percent YoY in Zain Iraq; 14 percent YoY in Zain Jordan and 8 percent YoY in Sudan.
- Data revenue grew 8 percent YoY to reach \$1.8 billion representing 39 percent of consolidated revenue.
- Zain invested \$275 million in CAPEX, mainly in FTTH; spectrum fees; 4G and 5G upgrades.
- Zain entered exclusive negotiations with Ooredoo Group and UAE based TASC Towers Holding to combine approximately 30,000 telecom tower assets in Qatar, Kuwait, Algeria, Tunisia, Iraq, and Jordan into a jointly owned independent tower company in a cash and share deal.
- The tower infrastructure sale and leaseback deal in KSA, Kuwait and Iraq generated net gains totaling \$217 million for the nine-month period.
- ZainTECH enters agreement to acquire STS, a leading digital transformation solutions provider.
- Digital services including Dizlee API platform witness revenue growth of 10 percent for 9M.
- Digital operators 'Yaqoot' in KSA, 'oodi' in Iraq record revenue growth of 93 percent & 275 percent respectively.
- Zain KSA in partnership with Red



Zain Group Chairman
Osamah Al-Furaih

Our operations have shown great resilience in overcoming many headwinds, Board focused on new digital verticals and comprehensive ESG practices

Sea Global, launched the world's first zero-emission 5G network in The Red Sea powered entirely by renewable energy.

- Launch of Thought Leadership Report entitled "Building Inclusive Societies Through Connectivity".

Chairman of the Board of Directors of Zain Group Osamah Al-Furaih said, "Our operations have shown great resilience in overcoming many headwinds as the board continues to work closely with management on all facets of the business, including the development of new business ver-

impacted by the ongoing regional conflict by providing various resources including professional therapy, creation of a communication platform offering advice and well-being checks from our Mental Health First Aiders team."

"With distinct merit, we recognize the various government authorities in Kuwait and across our markets for creating a conducive environment that supports the telecom sector and empowers Zain to provide meaningful connectivity and drive systemic change across the communities, businesses, and governments we serve."

Group Key Performance Indicators (KD and USD) for 9M2023		
Consolidated Revenue	KD 1.4 billion	- USD 4.6 billion
EBITDA	KD 530 million	- USD 1.7 billion
EBITDA Margin	37%	
Net Income	KD 172 million	- USD 561 million
EPS	40 fils	- USD 0.13

Group Key Performance Indicators (KD and USD) for Q3 2023		
Consolidated Revenue	KD 485 million	- USD 1.6 billion
EBITDA	KD 183 million	- USD 594 million
EBITDA Margin	38%	
Net Income	KD 60 million	- USD 196 million
EPS	14 fils	- USD 0.05

ticals in the digital space and vast network upgrades. In parallel, our focus on implementing comprehensive ESG practices is complementing our mission to enhance sustainable shareholder value."

"On the back of these robust results combined with our strong balance sheet and financial solvency, and in accordance with our declared 35 fils per share minimum dividend policy for three years starting 2023, on Sept 14, we distributed 10 fils per share as interim dividends for the third consecutive year to shareholders. This amounted to KD 43.3 million (\$140 million)."

"We are mindful of the challenges faced by our operation in Sudan with the ongoing social unrest. We are supporting the local management team to safeguard our people and commercial operations to ensure the community stays connected, and hope that the conflict will end soon. Furthermore, through our internal BE WELL mental well-being program, we are supporting our people emotionally

Zain Vice-Chairman and Group CEO Bader Al-Kharafi commented, "Despite the many socio-economic and competitive challenges across our markets, the impressive 9M financial performance reflects the implementation of our value-creative '4Sight' strategy in propelling efficiencies, digital transformation and revenue growth. The remarkable operational performance of all our key markets is very gratifying and testament to the coherence between the Group and local management teams in driving synergies and growing the business through multiple initiatives."

"Zain is witnessing the maturing of its ZainTECH and B2B arm, digital operators in KSA and Iraq, fintech operations and digital services across various markets, which are developing to become compelling businesses in their own right, as monetization from these strategic activities is significantly growing."

"In Kuwait, we are very optimistic of the potential of marketing partnership



Zain Vice-Chairman & Group CEO
Bader Al-Kharafi

Exceptional performance a result of the value-creative 4Sight strategy propelling efficiencies, digital transformation and revenue growth

with Red Bull Mobile, bringing together Zain's superior telecom expertise with the adventurous world of Red Bull. Targeting the youth, we are offering appealing options for prepaid voice and internet services. We will foster this partnership and our other digital operators in KSA (Yaqoot) and Iraq (oodi), as we continue to stay ahead of the digital curve, offering the latest innovative technologies and services to customers."

"Our exclusive negotiations with Ooredoo and TASC Towers Holding into a jointly owned independent tower company are continuing. This is a milestone development that raises the notion of collaboration and regionalization to an entirely new level."

"The establishment of 'Zain Omantel International' (ZOI), is revolutionizing the telecommunications wholesale landscape serving regional operators, international carriers, and global hyperscalers. The team is innovating and creating new growth opportunities, with Zain and Omantel customers benefiting from quality internet connectivity, voice, roaming, and messaging. We are very enthusiastic of ZOI's strategic growth roadmap in creating value for all stakeholders."

"ZainTECH's spectacular debut at GITEX 23 last month was very instrumental in firmly placing the fast-growing entity on the regional ICT enterprise map. The agreement to acquire Jordan headquartered STS, comes 20 years after Zain's first regional expansion into the Kingdom. The STS talented team, years of expertise and impressive customer base, will amplify ZainTECH and Zain B2B teams' capabilities to provide clients with cutting-edge and comprehensive digital transformation solutions, solidifying our position as leaders in the industry and driving digital transformation across the region."

"Zain FinTech, our financial services arm agreement with Al-Ansari Financial Services sets the stage for an exciting partnership that will leverage the strengths of both companies to drive innovation, harness technologies and transform financial services delivery to cater to our evolving customer needs. We aim to expand our fintech service offerings to advance the region's digital ecosystem and will continue pushing the boundaries, leveraging on the vast network of strategic partners in each of our markets." Operational review of key markets for the nine months ended 30 September, 2023.

Kuwait: Maintaining its market leadership in all areas, Zain Group's flagship operation saw its customer base grow by 1 percent to serve 2.6 million customers. The Group's most profitable operation

saw its 9M 2023 revenue grew 2 percent to reach KD 264 million (\$859 million), EBITDA grew 26 percent to reach KD 124 million (\$405 million), representing an EBITDA margin of 47 percent. Net income grew 38 percent to reach KD 84 million (\$275 million), mainly due to the successful number range fees litigation of KD 24.68 million (\$80.3 million). Data revenue represents 38 percent of total revenue.

- Q3 revenue up 10 percent to KD 485 million (\$1.6 billion); Q3 net profit up 11 percent to KD 60 million (\$196 million)
- Solid performances in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Jordan and Sudan recorded for the 9M period
- A total of KD 43.3 million (\$140 million) in interim dividends distributed to shareholders on Sept 14 for the first six-months of 2023
- Data revenue grew 8 percent to reach \$1.8 billion, representing 39 percent of consolidated revenue
- Enterprise revenue up 27 percent for 9M as ZainTECH and local B2B teams target key clients
- Robust customer and revenue growth in digital operators, KSA's 'Yaqoot', and Iraq's 'oodi'
- Digital services including Dizlee API platform witness revenue growth of 10 percent for 9M
- Zain Kuwait teams up with Red Bull Mobile to offer prepaid voice and internet services

Saudi Arabia: For the 9M 2023, Zain KSA revenue grew 10 percent to reach \$2.0 billion, EBITDA for the period grew 5 percent and reached \$627 million, reflecting an EBITDA margin of 32 percent. Net income for the nine months grew 224 percent to reach \$259 million. Data revenue rose by 2 percent to represent 40 percent of total revenue and customers served stood at 8.9 million, a growth of 4 percent. The impressive net income is attributed to the increase in revenue driven by the growth in B2B, Yaqoot, TAMAM, and 5G revenues as well as the gain from the sale of its Tower network to the Kingdom's PIF.

Iraq: Zain Iraq's 9M 2023 revenue grew by 19 percent to reach \$713 million and EBITDA grew by 11 percent to reach \$268 million, reflecting EBITDA margin of 38 percent. Net income increased six-fold to reach \$64 million for 9M 2023 driven by increased revenues and sale of its Tower network. The operator's customer base stood at 18 million customers, maintaining its market leading position.

Sudan: For 9M 2023, Zain Sudan generated revenue of \$435 million (up 28 percent), with EBITDA amounting to \$215 million (up 20 percent), reflecting an EBITDA margin of 49 percent. Net income reached \$189 million, an 8 percent increase in USD terms. Data revenue grew 41 percent YoY and represented 35 percent of total revenue, while the operator's customer base reached 15.6 million, maintaining its market leadership.

Jordan: For 9M 2023, Zain Jordan revenue increased by 3 percent to \$394 million, EBITDA reached \$162 million, reflecting a healthy EBITDA margin of 41 percent, with net income reaching \$58 million, an increase of 14 percent YoY. With the ongoing expansion of 5G services across the country, data revenue represented 50 percent of total revenue. Zain Jordan served 4 million customers (up 4 percent) maintaining its market leading position.

Bahrain: Zain Bahrain generated revenue of \$143 million for 9M 2023 (7 percent growth). EBITDA reached \$44.3 million, reflecting an EBITDA margin of 31 percent. The company reported a net income of \$12 million, for 9M 2023.



Business

NBK ECONOMIC REPORT

UAE's non-oil growth to remain solid in 2024; inflation softens

Geopolitical tensions could weigh on investor sentiment

KUWAIT: After surging in 2022, UAE's economic growth is set to soften over 2023-24 on lower oil production, normalizing non-oil growth, tighter financial conditions, and a slowing global economy. However, non-oil growth should remain solid on steady implementation of the government's pro-growth agenda and investments under net zero emissions goals. As COP 28 approaches in late 2023, the government updated its pledge to cut UAE carbon emissions by 40 percent in 2030 (up from 31 percent) while state energy firm ADNOC brought forward its net-zero target by five years to 2045, unlocking more opportunities for the private sector and enabling the non-oil sector to drive sustainable growth over the long term. Near term, oil sector output could fall this year by 1.7 percent following May's voluntary output cuts. But the reversal of OPEC+ cuts in early 2024 and the scheduled quota upward revision by 200k b/d in 2024 to 3.2 mb/d could result in 2.5 percent growth in 2024. Plans to raise oil production capacity to 5 million b/d by 2027 (currently at 4.65 mb/d) would support medium-to-long-term growth, even amid the sped-up green objectives.

The non-oil sector saw vibrant growth in H1 2023 of 9.2 percent y/y and 3.2 percent in Abu Dhabi and Dubai respectively, with retail trade, hospitality, and finance the main drivers. Non-oil growth in H2 2023 may have softened as the effects of high interest

rates take hold, though still supported by the post-pandemic recovery in tourism (Jan-Aug 2023: 22 percent y/y) and strong PMI readings – which at 56.4 on average in July-October remained firmly in expansion territory and above historical norms. After a stellar H1, non-oil growth for 2023 could reach 5.2 percent with further easing in 2024 on elevated funding costs, moderate credit expansion, softer real estate activity and slowing global growth. However, a still-strong outlook is underpinned by high oil prices, resilient activity in the Gulf region and government efforts to achieve vision goals (UAE 2031, D33, and Abu Dhabi 2030), which will sustain reform momentum and strengthen economic fundamentals over the medium term.

Softening inflation

Inflation could slow to 3.2 percent on average in 2023 after reaching its highest level since 2008 at 4.8 percent in 2022 due to spiking fuel and recreation prices (liberalized pricing makes UAE inflation more sensitive to global energy prices than other Gulf economies). Next year, we see inflation easing to 2.8 percent as non-oil growth slows and food prices soften, offsetting a limited rise in fuel prices. Housing services (35 percent of the CPI basket), mostly rents, have also put upward pressure on inflation this year (+6.1 percent y/y in September in Dubai), but there are signs that the rental market is cooling after a very

strong run. Dubai's two-year residential property sales boom also appears to be slowing (sales +15 percent y/y in October versus 65 percent in December 2022), affected by high valuations, rising interest rates and seemingly less intense overseas buying versus last year. Our base case is for market activity to soften further in 2024 and for the boom to draw to a close. However, with recent market buoyancy not driven by excessive borrowing and the non-oil economy expected to expand strongly next year, the systemic consequences of a faded property boom should be limited.

Fiscal surpluses in 2023-24

The fiscal position achieved a surplus of 4.8 percent GDP in H1 2023 (13.4 percent in H1 2022) on lower revenues (-19.2 percent y/y) due to declining oil prices and a faster rise in spending (+8.3 percent versus +3.0 percent). Higher spending came on nearly doubling social welfare and low-income households' subsidies, including food and energy inflation assistance. For 2023 as a whole, we expect a slightly larger surplus of 5.1 percent of GDP, as higher oil prices in H2 and the phased introduction of the 9 percent Corporate Income Tax from mid-2023 boost revenues, while expenditures could see a mild seasonal slowdown (+6.4 percent). The expansionary stance should continue next year with Federal and Dubai 2024 budget spending allocations up by 2 percent (to \$17bn) and 17 percent (to

Table 1: Key economic indicators

		2020	2021	2022e	2023f	2024f
Nominal GDP	\$ bn	350	415	507	504	533
Real GDP	% y/y	-5.0	4.4	7.9	3.3	3.9
- Oil sector	% y/y	-3.8	-1.1	9.5	-1.7	2.5
- Non-oil sector	% y/y	-5.4	6.5	7.2	5.2	4.5
Inflation (avg.)	% y/y	-2.1	0.2	4.8	3.2	2.8
Fiscal balance	% of GDP	-2.5	4.0	9.9	5.1	4.4
Current acc. balance	% of GDP	6.0	11.6	30.7	27.7	26.1

Source: Official sources, NBK forecasts

\$22bn), respectively, with higher capital provisions to support non-oil growth. We expect another 6 percent rise in consolidated expenditures in 2024 and a smaller pick up in revenues, resulting in a surplus of 4.4 percent of GDP. ADIA & Mubadala assets estimated at \$1.1 trillion, according to SWF institute, complemented by large external surpluses and declining public debt during the forecast period (estimated at 29.4 percent of GDP in 2023 by the IMF), provide additional support for the country's strong credit ratings (S&P: AA; Moody's: Aa2). We see a positive overall economic

outlook for the UAE amid an increasingly competitive regional climate. Key downside risks however include lower oil prices, a slowdown in global growth that affects UAE trade and inward investment, a sharper-than-expected correction in the real estate market and rising geopolitical tensions in the region that affect investor sentiment, hindering the country's efforts to attract capital and push ahead with its ambitious development plans. Key upside risks include higher oil prices, rapid increases in oil production and greater-than-expected resilience to a global slowdown.

NBK hosts CreditLens workshop for Kuwaiti bankers

KUWAIT: In collaboration with the prestigious international training providers Moody's Risk Matrix, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) hosted CreditLens workshop for its local and overseas employees, as well as a group of bankers from all Kuwaiti banks at its Head Office.

The two-day workshop titled "Knowledge Transfer in CreditLens", was held in coordination with Group Risk Management, and was attended by over 80 participants. The topics covered in the workshop included Financial Projections for Corporates and Project Finance, CreditLens Operational Governance and Policies, Regulatory Expectations on Model Risk Management and the Road to Compliance, Assessing Commercial Real Estate Exposures in CreditLens, Generating Projected Financials and Ratings at a Sector / Portfolio Level, Pricing (RAROC) Models in CreditLens.

Speaking on this, Munirah Al-Sejary, Learning and Development Manager, Group Human Resources at National Bank of Kuwait said, "this workshop is a great opportunity to exchange experience and promote cooperation among Kuwaiti banks and raise the credit risk knowledge of the participants."

"This workshop, which is the first of its kind in Kuwait, complements NBK's endeavors to raise the efficiency of its employees through the best training programs, workshops and partnerships, in line with international best practices," she added.

RiskMatrix is a regional partner of Moody's Analytics specializing in Credit Risk and Commercial Lending solutions, as well as providing solutions for Credit Risk Automation and Consulting projects.

NBK provides training and development opportunities aimed at building employees' technical competencies and skills, including digital and leadership capabilities, and interpersonal and professional skills. Moreover, it offers mandatory annual or bi-annual trainings to ensure all employees' acknowledgment and understanding of NBK commitments and expectations in areas including legal compliance requirements, code of business ethics and conduct, anticorruption and bribery, and anti-money laundering.



KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait hosts CreditLens workshop for its local and overseas employees.



Munirah Al-Sejary

Hundreds protest APEC on eve of San Francisco meeting

SAN FRANCISCO: Hundreds of demonstrators, from anti-capitalists to pro-Palestinian advocates, gathered in San Francisco on Sunday on the eve of an APEC summit to protest against the world

The growing cyber threat to global shipping

SEOUL: The cyberattack that paralysed several major Australian ports was a sharp reminder of what governments and experts say is a growing threat to shipping, the lifeblood of the global economy.

The attack on DP World's ports—which handle 40 percent of Australia's freight trade—forced them offline for days and was the latest in a series of breaches at ports around the world in recent years.

Who has been targeted?

Cyberattacks have disrupted or halted operations at some of the world's busiest ports in recent years. A ransomware attack in July at Japan's busiest port, Nagoya, disrupted operations for days.

Oil terminals last year at some of western Europe's largest ports could not process vessels because of a cyberattack. And in 2017, the "NotPetya" malware spread into systems around the world, crippling the operations of global shipping giant Maersk. There have also been cyberattacks at major ports in the Netherlands, Canada, India, South Africa and the United States. Nearly 75 percent of US shipping executives say their companies had faced cyberattacks, according to a 2022 survey by the law firm Jones Walker.

Why are governments worried?

Shipping is crucial to the global economy, moving more than 80 percent of trade in goods, according to the UN's trade body UNCTAD. And the entire infrastructure contains what experts have described as single points of failure—where one cyberattack at a port can cause a logistical nightmare across the supply chain. "If you were looking for a target, that would be the target," Rob Nicholls, an associate professor at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, told AFP.

"This is why under Australian law and increasingly around the world, ports are regarded as critical infrastructure because they are... a single point of failure in the supply chain." The US Cyberspace Solarium Commission warned in a report this year: "A cyberattack against a complex maritime ecosystem could be devastating to the stability of the global economy."

Is shipping more vulnerable now?

Automation and connectivity in global maritime operations have increased rapidly in recent years, linking everything from cargo-handling machines at ports to traffic control in waterways to sensors on ships. While that has boosted efficiency, security firms and government bodies have warned that there are now more points for cyberattackers to target.

An intrusion at a port manager's office, for example, could allow a hacker to insert malicious code that can in turn paralyze the entire facility. "Ports are target-rich environments" for cyberattackers, the US research firm Mitre said in a report this year.

And the paralysis at one port could cascade around the world, said UNSW's Nicholls, offering the example of the 2021 traffic jam caused when the Suez Canal was blocked by a giant container ship.

There was "an almost universal expectation" of cyberattacks on the shipping industry, according to an industry survey published this year by DNV, a global maritime classification and risk management firm. — AFP

bloc. The protestors marched through the US city demanding participants in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum put people and planet above business.

"APEC is a form of neoliberal colonial government," Nik Evasco told AFP. "We're here to make sure they put people and planet front and center of the issues they are negotiating."

President Joe Biden this week plays host to 20 other members of APEC, a trade-focused body whose summit will be dominated by the US leader's meeting with Chinese Premier Xi Jinping, as well as

Zionist entity's war on Gaza. "They are framing negotiations around trying to build a green economy, but what actually happens is exploiting... precious resources essential to develop clean solutions in order to make profits for corporate CEOs here in the US," said Evasco.

The gathering also attracted a number of pro-Palestinian protesters, who called for an end to "genocide" in the Gaza Strip. "I'm here to protest in solidarity with Palestinians who have been undergoing 75 years of occupation and genocide and ethnic cleansing," said Eleonore Collet, 28. — AFP

Samsung, Sharing Group to revolutionize secure logistics in Kuwait with Samsung Knox



KUWAIT: Samsung's Enterprise Business Group Director Mohammad Aburadwan, CEO of Sharing group, and Delivery & More team.

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: Samsung Gulf Electronics has partnered with Sharing Group, a major business solutions provider in Kuwait, to introduce and roll out the state-of-the-art security and Mobile Device Management (MDM) solution – Samsung Knox. This is done in partnership with Delivery & More Company, Kuwait's leading delivery company, marking a significant milestone for the delivery services in Kuwait, and a first-of-its-kind within this sector. Kuwait Times spoke with Fadi Abu Shamat, Head of Mobile eXperience Division at Samsung Gulf Electronics, to learn more.

Kuwait Times: How does Samsung Knox specifically impact delivery operations in Kuwait?

Fadi Abu Shamat: Samsung Knox, a leading security and MDM solution, converts mobile phones into specialized devices for delivery riders, ensuring security and efficiency. Enabling policies for constant device connectivity, regulated data usage and controlled app access enhances the speed and efficiency of order deliveries. Remote-control capabilities of Knox offer troubleshooting options, minimizing disruptions.

KT: What benefits does Knox offer in terms of the software and hardware aspects?

Abu Shamat: Knox provides analytics for actionable insights, enabling delivery companies to refine strategies, optimize routes and deliver cost-effective services.

KT: Could you describe the strategic alignment between Samsung and Sharing Group in this initiative?

Abu Shamat: Samsung's alignment with Sharing Group expands its solutions business in Kuwait, capitalizing on the growing

demand for advanced mobile device management and security solutions tailored to the local market.

KT: How does Samsung Knox's features respond to the growing needs of the last-mile delivery industry in Kuwait?

Abu Shamat: Samsung Knox responds to the dynamic growth in the last-mile delivery sector, meeting heightened customer expectations during the pandemic. The system ensures secure and efficient connectivity, limits on data usage and app access management, enhancing the delivery experience and customer satisfaction.

KT: Could you elaborate on the unique value that Samsung Knox brings to the Kuwaiti market, particularly to local businesses?

Abu Shamat: Knox offers a scalable, adaptable and flexible solution recognized for strong security features. Customizable, affordable and high-value, Knox safeguards data and meets the distinct requirements of businesses in Kuwait, reinforcing Samsung's commitment to innovative solutions.

KT: What is the long-term vision for Knox in Kuwait?

Abu Shamat: Samsung envisions Knox as the leading security and MDM solution for businesses in Kuwait, extending services to government entities, semi-government organizations and large corporations to enhance their operations through state-of-the-art technology.



Fadi Abu Shamat



KUWAIT: National Investments Company's press conference to officially launch Shift program on Monday.

NIC launches Shift program

Launch within framework of its strategic partnership with Creative Confidence

KUWAIT: In cooperation with Creative Confidence, National Investments Company held a press conference to officially launch Shift program. The program is exclusively designed for newly-graduated Kuwaiti females to qualify them to enter the investment field. The program focuses on the importance of supporting Kuwaiti youth by providing the necessary training courses to develop their professional skills. The program offers strategic guidance that will reflect directly on the Ku-

waiti labor market, providing an efficient and experienced workforce ready to venture into the investment world. November 13, 2023, officially marks the launch of Shift program that is set to continue for four weeks.

waiti labor market, providing an efficient and experienced workforce ready to venture into the investment world. November 13, 2023, officially marks the launch of Shift program that is set to continue for four weeks.

In his speech, Fahad Al-Mukhaizim, Board Member and the CEO of National Investments Company, stated that the company affirms its commitment to the main objective of Shift program by supporting the growth and development of the economy through strengthening the position of the private sector as a major player in the economic development of the country, and qualifying the young powers with the necessary skillset to be ideal candidates for employment in the labor market.

Al-Mukhaizim noted that National Investments Company fully supports Shift program and its main objectives in committing to develop and refine young Kuwaiti women's skills and capabilities and enabling them to meet the requirements of the investment labor market locally and regionally. The company contributes to the program in training participants and presenting them with the work and its challenges, to reach the ultimate goal of the program, which is to increase the efficiency, productivity and competitiveness of the youth in creating equal job oppor-

On a separate note, Sumayah Mohammad Al-Jasem, Founder and Managing Director of Creative Confidence Consulting Company, praised National Investments Company's role in Shift, and encouraged the trainees to try to benefit from this exceptional opportunity as much as possible, as the program provides a unique training experience that blends investment creativity and innovation.

Al-Jasem indicated that the company received more than 340 applications within less than three weeks during that registration period, submitted by Kuwaiti freshly-graduated women, from diverse majors ranging from business administration, engineering and medicine, who are interested in starting their professional careers in the investment field, which is truly a great indication on the importance of this initiative. Shift program will be accepting 20 trainees, based on their eligibility and qualifications.

Jasem expressed her satisfaction with the success of Shift. "We are incredibly proud to have received an overwhelming response to the program. Despite a registration period of just three weeks, over 340 girls from various study fields have signed up. This demonstrates a genuine desire for change and a commitment to building a future in the investment sector," she said. She further clarified that by focusing on women, they aim to make a difference by providing more opportunities to Kuwaiti women.

"The lack of diversity, especially in the male-dominated investment industry, is a challenge that needs to be addressed. Our



Participants listening to the opening speech during their gathering at Volvo Studio.

Empowering Kuwaiti women through Shift

By Ghadeer Ghloom

KUWAIT: The launch of the Shift program in Kuwait represents a collaboration between Creative Confidence Company and National Investments Company. The program aims to provide comprehensive training to fresh female Kuwaiti graduates, supporting their integration into the investment community and fostering their presence in this field, driven by the values of diversity and women's empowerment. The participants were given a chance to get to know each other in a gathering at Volvo Studio on Monday.

During the gathering, Sumayah Al-Jasem, CEO and Founder of Creative Confidence, a consulting and training company, told Kuwait Times: "Together with National Investments Company, we have developed a training program called Shift, which aims to address the strong interest among recent female graduates to enter the investment field. Recognizing that these opportunities may not always be clear to interested women, we have created the Shift program to specifically highlight and provide training in important skills such as teamwork, creativity and innovation. This program serves as a valuable entry point into the investment world, where participants can excel and find better opportunities."

Jasem expressed her satisfaction with the success of Shift. "We are incredibly proud to have received an overwhelming response to the program. Despite a registration period of just three weeks, over 340 girls from various study fields have signed up. This demonstrates a genuine desire for change and a commitment to building a future in the investment sector," she said. She further clarified that by focusing on women, they aim to make a difference by providing more opportunities to Kuwaiti women.

"The lack of diversity, especially in the male-dominated investment industry, is a challenge that needs to be addressed. Our

program seeks to empower female participants, offer them a platform for communication and contribute to increased diversity and inclusion in the sector. Our focus is mainly on experiential learning. Throughout the program, participants will engage in an exploration of innovation and investment. They will have the opportunity to present their ideas, work on problem-solving and ultimately showcase their findings and proposals at the end of the program. We are excited about the potential that this program holds for the

women. More than 350 women have expressed interest, confirming the success of this initiative. Therefore, we are excited to continue with this program in the future."

Kuwait Times spoke to two women participating in the Shift program, trainees Dalal Abulhasan and Yasmeen Bader Al-Wuthaiqi. "Kuwait offers a promising investment landscape, with a thriving community of investors. Recognizing the importance of investing, I believe it is an initial stride towards a better future, as the world's progress relies on it. This program is a valu-



Abdulmohsen Al-Khatrash



Dalal Abulhasan



Sumayah Al-Jasem



Yasmeen Bader Al-Wuthaiqi



NIC launches the Shift program on Monday.

Lifestyle



One of three protected species of turtle is carried to the water edge to be released on the coast of Sfax, central-eastern Tunisia. - AFP photos



One of three protected species of turtle has a beacon attached to its back, as it is released on the coast of Sfax, central-eastern Tunisia.



One of three protected species of turtle is prepared to be released on the coast of Sfax, central-eastern Tunisia.

ENDANGERED SEA TURTLES GET SECOND LIFE AT TUNISIAN CENTRE

A crowd has gathered to see off Rose, a loggerhead sea turtle, who labors across the Tunisian sand to rejoin the waters of the Mediterranean. For the last month, Rose has been recovering at the First Aid Sea Turtle Center in the coastal city of Sfax after she was ensnared in a fishing net. The facility, one of two in North Africa, is run by the EU-funded Life Med Turtles project, which looks after endangered species, such as the loggerhead, and aims to improve marine life protection by gathering data on their behavior. Since the centre opened in 2021, nearly 80 turtles have been treated and returned to their natural environment, said its chief Imed Jribi.

The project also aims to educate the local population in places like Sfax, which relies on fishing. "Before, we were ignorant," said 29-year-old local fisherman Hamadi Dahech, who brought Rose into the centre after trapping her accidentally. "People ate them, used them for witchcraft, or as medicine and many other things. Today, thanks to (the centre) raising awareness among fishermen, she has a better chance of survival at sea," Dahech said at Rose's release.

Do not eat

"We use the turtles that arrive here



Onlookers, many of them children, watch as one of three protected species of turtle is released after being rescued and looked after.

for scientific research, for their protection as well as raising awareness," Jribi said. To highlight the natural wonders in the waters off Tunisia, the centre opens to the general public on weekends. Malak Morali, a 30-year-old local who brought her two children to watch Rose's release, said her son loves the ocean-going creatures. "Every time he hears that there are turtles, he wants to come to take photos and learn new things," she said.

Morali said that it was only thanks to the centre that she learnt "that the meat is not edible". "We usually say

that cooking it is good, but it is the opposite." The consumption of sea turtle meat is dangerous due to the high levels of pollution in the waters they inhabit. Toxins, such as mercury, build up in their liver and kidneys, posing a significant threat to human health. Besides the deadly metals, the turtles often eat floating waste. The creatures can "confuse plastic bags with jellyfish", said Hamed Mallat, a marine biologist. A 2015 study by the University of Queensland in Australia found that the majority of the world's sea turtle population was consuming plastic.

Trapped in nets

Every year, around 10,000 loggerheads are caught by trawlers and in fishing nets in the waters off Tunisia, a potential death sentence for the turtles. Life Med Turtles estimates that around 70 percent of sea turtle deaths in the Mediterranean alone are caused by gillnets, a sort of large net suspended vertically in the water. Some, however, make it through alive and at the centre in Sfax, it is often the fishermen themselves who bring in the injured turtles. As an acknowledgement of their help, the rescued animals are frequently named after the fishermen themselves.

One of them, a frail baby turtle called Ayoub, was fed by caretakers



Some fifty onlookers, many of them children, watch as one of three protected species of turtle is released after being rescued and looked after.

with a syringe. As well as fishing, global warming poses an acute threat to the turtles by altering their sex ratio. According to the US National Ocean Service, if a turtle's egg incubates below 27.7 Celsius (81.9 degrees Fahrenheit), the hatchling will be male. But above 31 degrees Celsius the baby turtle will be female, putting the turtles at greater risk of extinction as fewer males are born. The rescue centre in Sfax nonetheless has hope

and is continuing its work to prevent the death of the species.

Before releasing Rose, Jribi and Mallat attached a location tracker to her shell. They aim to analyze where Rose is most active, which could reveal more about her species' migration and behavior. "She is the one who will protect the ecosystem at sea," said Rose's rescuer Dahech. — AFP



Kai Bickle-Nygaard, son of former fashion mogul Peter Nygard, addresses media outside the Toronto courthouse in Toronto after his father was found guilty of four counts of sexual assault. — AFP

Peter Nygard, from Canadian fashion mogul to convicted sex abuser

Described as egocentric and manipulative, Peter Nygard built Canada's largest womenswear maker — and on Sunday he was convicted of using that status to sexually assault women and girls. The flamboyant fashionista hawked blouses and slacks at major department stores and his own outlets, and once threw lavish parties at his homes in the Bahamas — a Mayan-inspired playground with fake volcanoes — and Los Angeles.

But after a seven-week trial in Toronto, the 82-year-old was convicted of four counts of sexual assault, following testimony that he had sexually abused four women and a 16-year-old girl between 1988 and 2005. Nygard was also found not guilty of a single count of sexual assault and another count of forcible confinement.

Canadian prosecutor Ana Serban accused him during the trial of having used his "power and status as a wealthy fashion designer to lure and sexually assault young women." Similar allegations — all of which Nygard has denied — have been made in Quebec and Manitoba, and he also faces extradition to the United States, where he has been accused of abusing dozens of women and girls, racketeering and trafficking.

Lisa Haba, a lawyer representing almost 60 women suing Nygard in the United States, has previously told AFP that "Nygard is worse than (Jeffrey) Epstein," the US financier who killed himself in 2019 while awaiting trial over sex-trafficking and conspiracy charges. "We believe he had more victims, and he was more violent," she told AFP in 2021.

'A monster'

In the Toronto courtroom, several women said Nygard had invited them to tour his opulent Canadian offices on the pretense of lucrative modeling or other opportunities, only to find themselves "trapped" in a top floor bedroom suite with a hot tub. A contractor who renovated the space testified it had no interior door handles and required "a key code" controlled by Nygard to exit.

Tearing up on the stand, the women — who by court order cannot be identified — alleged that Nygard had berated and sexually abused them. One called Nygard "a monster." "He lunged at me and adeptly pinned me on the bed. I kept repeating the word 'no,' at least 50 times," said another. "He angrily told me off for not cooperating: 'Why aren't you just letting me do this to you? Other girls let me do this...'"

Once a towering and sinewy figure, Nygard dined with Queen Elizabeth II and rubbed shoulders with political leaders and Hollywood stars. He had long boasted about his rise from humble beginnings, as a young Finnish immigrant who built a fashion empire with almost 170 stores at its peak, and amassed a personal fortune worth Can\$850 million (\$620 million). To the jury, the king of polyester claimed to have "invented the Casual Friday look."

A bust of Nygard in his Toronto office lobby, one of his accusers suggested, "indicated a huge ego... like he wanted everyone to feel his importance when they entered." "He talked about himself a lot," and "his shirt (was) more undone than it should have been," the court heard. — AFP

Critically endangered Sumatran elephant born in Indonesia

A critically endangered Sumatran elephant was born in western Indonesia over the weekend, according to officials, giving renewed hope to conservation efforts after several other baby elephant and rhino births in recent months. Weighing about 108 kilograms (238 pounds), the yet-to-be-named male calf was born at the Way Kambas National Park in Lampung province in southern Sumatra, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry said Sunday. The calf was in good health and his mother Riska was being monitored after giving birth on Saturday, the ministry said.



This handout picture shows a newborn male Sumatran elephant standing next to an adult elephant at the Way Kambas National Park. — AFP

Riska had a female calf in 2017. The new addition to the elephant herd at Way Kambas comes after a baby Sumatran rhino was born there in September and another baby elephant was born at a different national park in Sumatra that same month. "Hopefully the birth of various wildlife indicates conservation efforts for protected species in the National Park... have been executed well," said Satyawati Pudyatmoko, a conservation official.

According to the World Wildlife Fund, Sumatran elephants are on the brink of extinction with only about 2,400-2,800 left in the world. The elephant population is threatened by rampant poaching for their tusks, which are prized in the illegal wildlife trade. The archipelago nation faces an ongoing battle against wildlife crime and several elephant poisoning cases have been reported in recent years. Deforestation has reduced the critically endangered elephants' natural habitat and brought them into increasing conflict with humans. — AFP



The pinnacles of the Sagrada Familia basilica's four towers of the Evangelists Matthew (left), Mark (second left), John (second right) and Luke are lit up for the first time, following a blessing ceremony, marking their completion. — AFP photos

Barcelona's Sagrada Familia lights up new towers

A celebratory light show graced the newest towers of Barcelona's Sagrada Familia basilica on Sunday as the iconic attraction moves closer to completion 141 years after construction started. The final two of the four Towers of the Evangelists, 135 meters (443 feet) high and dedicated to Matthew and John, were finished in September with the addition of figures representing a human bust and an eagle. The other two, dedicated to Luke and Mark and crowned by cow and lion sculptures, were completed last year.

Archbishop of Barcelona Juan Jose Omella blessed the structures in the basilica on Sunday before the light show kicked off. The towers will be the basilica's third highest once the site is completed. Only the Tower of Jesus Christ, designed by famous Catalan architect Antoni Gaudi to be the building's summit, remains unfinished.

The developers expect to finish the tower in 2026, coinciding with the 100th anniversary of Gaudi's death. The basilica's construction committee initially set a



The pinnacle of the Sagrada Familia basilica's tower of Matthew is lit up for the first time along with the other three Evangelists towers.

2026 target to complete the entire basilica, but the Covid-19 pandemic set back the project. The Sagrada Familia "will be finished in 10 years maximum" barring major problems, the head of the committee's board, Esteve Camps, told local newspaper La Vanguardia on Sunday. — AFP



The pinnacles of the Sagrada Familia basilica's four towers of the Evangelists are lit up for the first time, following a blessing ceremony, marking their completion in Barcelona.



Nepal Armed Police dog handlers and their dog show off their skills during an event to mark the Hindu festival Tihar, at the Armed Police Dog Training School in Kathmandu. — AFP photos



Nepal Armed Police dog handlers clean their dogs during an event to mark the Hindu festival Tihar, at the Armed Police Dog Training School in Kathmandu.



A Nepal Armed Police dog handler cleans a dog during an event to mark the Hindu festival Tihar.



Nepal Armed Police dogs handler and their dogs show off their skills during an event to mark the Hindu festival Tihar.



An Armed Police dog shows off its skills during an event to mark the Hindu festival Tihar.



A Nepal Armed Police dog handler cleans a dog during an event to mark the Hindu festival Tihar.



Nepal Armed Police dog handlers along with their dogs attend an event to mark the Hindu festival Tihar.



A Nepal Armed Police dog handler and his dog show off their skills during an event to mark the Hindu festival Tihar.

Pampered pooches: Nepal's day for dogs festival



An Armed Police dog with vermilion on his forehead and marigold garland placed around his neck looks on during an event.

Dogs in Nepal were decked with marigold garlands and bright vermilion paint on Sunday to celebrate a day dedicated to them as part of a Hindu festival. Kukur Tihar, the second day of the five-day Tihar festival. Businessman Sujit Dongol, who celebrated the festival at home, told AFP that his dog was part of the family. "He is a companion to everyone and is always happy and playful like a child," he said, holding his one-year-old American Bully in his arms. "We feel happy worshipping a dog that lives with us." Dog lovers also offer treats and toys to their pets and street dogs during the celebration. The Armed Police Force held a special ritual to honor and worship their

canine force, which is often used during natural disasters and in the detection of explosives and drugs. "It is a special day," said Ramesh Pokharel, chief of the Animal Health and Dog Handler section of the Armed Police Force. "Our dogs have helped us a lot, so the security personnel feel happy to celebrate this." Inspired by Nepal's festival, a similar annual celebration began in Mexico in 2016. But animal welfare groups say the special treatment should not be limited to a single day and inhumane treatment towards street dogs, such as poisoning them to cull the population or to prevent rabies, must be stopped. — AFP

Titanic menu sells for £84,000 at UK auction

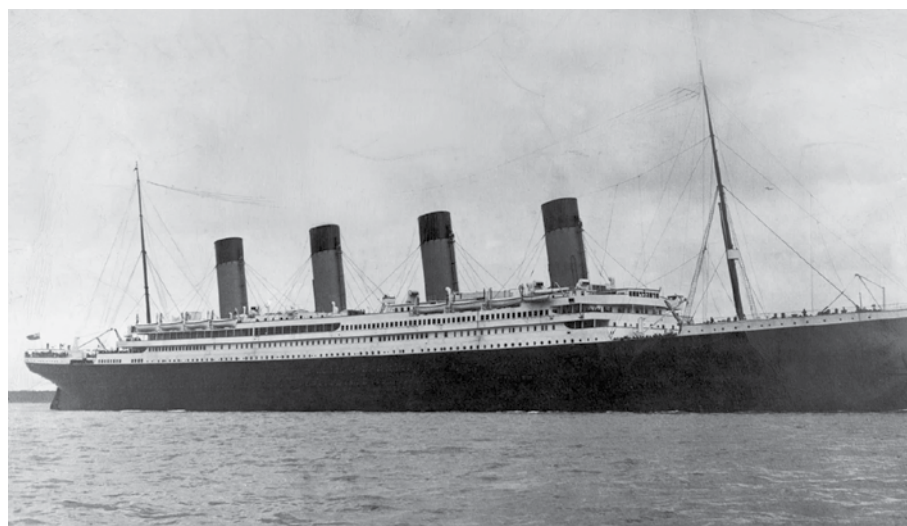
A first-class dinner menu from the Titanic's ill-fated maiden voyage offering oysters, beef and mallard duck has sold for £84,000 (\$103,000), the UK auction house responsible for its sale said Sunday. The menu, for a meal served on April 11, 1912, is decorated with a red White Star Line burgee but the original gilt lettering is no longer visible. More than 1,500 passengers and crew died when the vessel sank after hitting an iceberg on the evening of April 14, 1912.

The menu "shows signs of wa-

ter immersion having been partially erased, the reverse of the menu also clearly displays further evidence of this," said auctioneer Andrew Aldridge. "This would point to the menu having been subjected to the icy North Atlantic waters on the morning of April 15 either having left the ship with a survivor who was exposed to those cold sea waters or recovered on the person of one of those lost," he added.

It is believed to be the only surviving copy of a first-class April 11 dinner menu and was discovered in a pho-

to album belonging to late Canadian amateur historian Len Stephenson. The menu was sold on Saturday at Henry Aldridge & Son auction house in Wiltshire, south west England. Other items in the sale included a Swiss-made pocket watch recovered from passenger Sinai Kantor, which sold for £97,000, while a tartan-patterned deck blanket likely used during the rescue operation fetched £96,000. — AFP



US actor Robert De Niro departs the Manhattan Federal Court in New York City. — AFP

Robert De Niro's company found liable for gender discrimination

A US jury found Robert De Niro's production company liable for gender discrimination against a former employee who said she had been forced to perform "stereotypically female" jobs for the actor. De Niro's Canal Productions was ordered to pay \$1.3 million to Chase Robinson, who said the "Raging Bull" star had ordered her to wash sheets, vacuum his apartment, and organize soirees even after she was promoted to senior roles at the company.

She accused him of unwanted physical contact, and making sexually charged comments. The damages awarded also covered Robinson's successful claim of retaliation. She claimed De Niro refused to write her recommendation letters or pay her severance. The jury dismissed the original lawsuit filed by Canal Productions against Chase Robinson.

De Niro's company had accused her

of charging hundreds of thousands of dollars in personal expenses to a company credit card, claiming millions of air miles for personal use, and binge-watching "astounding hours of TV shows on Netflix" on company time. "We are delighted that the jury saw what we saw and returned a verdict in Chase Robinson's favor against Robert De Niro's company, Canal Productions," her lawyer David Sanford wrote in a statement to AFP.

"Not only did Ms. Robinson win her case against Canal but the jury completely vindicated Ms Robinson by finding De Niro's claims against her to be without merit." De Niro, who did not attend Thursday's hearing, was not found individually liable. Earlier in the two-week trial he had testified that Chase Robinson's claims were "nonsense." The jury deliberated for around five hours before returning their verdicts. — AFP

India wary of World Cup's 'glorious uncertainties'

'They are playing like champions, like the West Indians did'

NEW DELHI: India are the overwhelming favourites to lift a third World Cup but a star of the country's 1983 breakthrough triumph has warned of the threats posed by cricket's "glorious uncertainties". Rohit Sharma's side have cruised into the semi-finals, where they will face New Zealand on Wednesday, with nine wins from nine matches in the group phase.

Now, Syed Kirmani, who played a major role in the 1983 title victory which set India on the road to becoming the sport's financial powerhouse, has warned against complacency undermining the nation's hopes. Kirmani, 73, believes the West Indies, who arrived at the 1983 World Cup as two-time champions, paid the price for under-estimating India. "Superb," Kirmani told AFP when asked for his thoughts on the 2023 World Cup side who are looking for a third title and first since MS Dhoni's team triumphed at home in 2011.

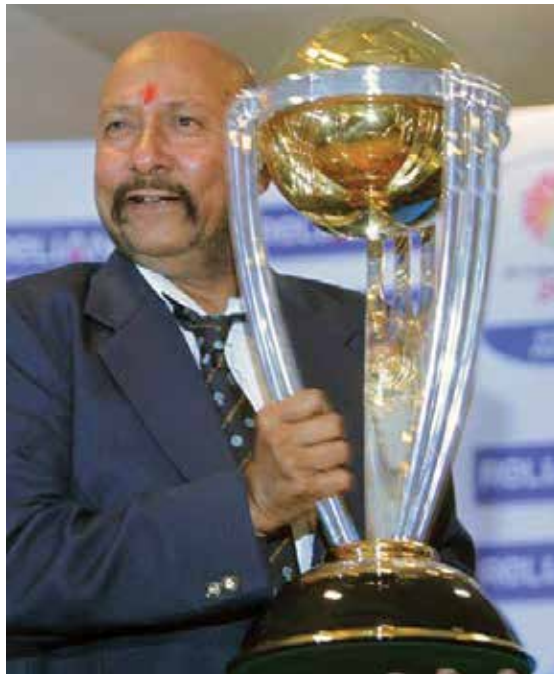
"They are playing like champions, like the West Indians did. 'Nobody is going to think that India is going to lose and I am very positive that India will win this World Cup. But with the glorious uncertainties of this great game you never know. You cannot take things for granted like the West Indies in 1983.'

India had shown early signs of things to come at the 1983 tournament when they also beat the West Indies in their opening match. Kirmani said that win was a "shot in the arm" to their confidence and India "capitalised on the complacency" of the bigger teams. The Kapil Dev-led squad went in as underdogs but also defeated Australia and then England in the semi-finals. In a low-scoring final at Lord's, India won by 43 runs despite only defending 183.

'Blistering, devastating'

Madan Lal dismissed Viv Richards for 33 with Dev running back to take a stunning catch which turned the tide. "All along we played good cricket as a team." Roger Binny, now the president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), told AFP.

Key for Binny was the 118-run win over Australia



Syed Kirmani

lia in the group stage before a six-wicket victory against England in the semi-final. "We just started to play well. We had beaten Australia in the game before the semi-final. Before the tournament they were tipped to win the cup," recalled Binny.

"Then onwards our game changed gears and we started to play better. We won the semi-final very easily." Binny played a key part in the 1983 victory, taking 18 wickets with his medium-pace to finish top of the bowling charts which included Richard Hadlee (New Zealand), Malcolm Marshall (West Indies) as well as Kapil Dev.

It wasn't all smooth sailing, however, when India faced elimination from the tournament in a must-win



MUMBAI: India's captain Rohit Sharma (L) gestures during a practice session ahead of their 2023 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup one-day international (ODI) semi-final match against New Zealand. — AFP photos

game against Zimbabwe. Dev's memorable innings of 175 not out famously saved India after they had slipped to 17-5 and 140-8. He took India to 266-8 and then the team bowled out Zimbabwe for 235. "I have never seen such a blistering, devastating knock from any cricketer," wicketkeeper-batsman Kirmani, who shared a 126-run unbeaten stand with Dev and made 24, said of the epic innings.

'History'

"From 22 yards I saw the most memorable and the best innings. And from there it was history." Dev was part of an Indian team with many all-rounders including Binny, Lal, Balwinder Sandhu and Mohinder

Amarnath, who took three wickets in the final to be named of the match.

Veteran sports journalist Ayaz Memon says the 2023 team and their 1983 predecessors have one key factor in common — deadly bowling attacks. "The only parallel that we can draw is how well the bowlers have performed. India's bowling was never renowned—in 1983 certainly not," Memon told AFP.

"The bowlers have done extremely well this time when everybody thought that on India's flat pitches it would be the batsmen who would dominate. "They (batsmen) have done that but the bowlers have been equally good and as the cliché goes 'batsmen win you matches and bowlers win you tournaments.'" — AFP

Australia 'peaking at right time' at WCup, says Starc

KOLKATA: Mitchell Starc on Monday said Australia have lived up to their reputation of "peaking at the right time" after overcoming a shaky start to win seven straight World Cup matches. The five-time champions take on South Africa in the second semi-final in Kolkata on Thursday after the two teams ended on 14 points each in the group stage.

Australia lost a one-day series in South Africa followed by a series defeat to India ahead of the World Cup. They then suffered opening defeats at the tournament to the hosts by six wickets and the Proteas by a huge 134 runs.

"It's been quite busy, the guys who were in Africa as well. I think we counted it's like our 15th flight since we've been in India," Starc said on the gruelling schedule. "For the guys who were in Africa as well, it's been a jam-packed 10 or 11 weeks. It's a World Cup, it's what we play for. We seem to be peaking at the right time which Australia tend to do in tournament play." The left arm-quick added: "Whilst we didn't start the way we wanted to, we've certainly had good contributions from individuals along the way and we find ourselves in another World Cup semi-final."

Australia have been the most successful team in the World Cup with title wins in the 1987 (India), 1999 (England), 2003 (South Africa), 2007 (West Indies) and 2015 (Australia and New Zealand) editions. They were runners-up in the inaugural edition in 1975 and then again in 1996, reached the quarter-finals in 2011 and lost to eventual winners England in the 2019 semi-finals. Starc, who was part of Australia's 2015 ODI and 2021 T20 World Cup triumphs, said the experienced team will not be overawed by Thursday's occasion at Kolkata's iconic Eden Gardens.

'Calm group'

"Whether it's goosebumps or not, it's just another game," he said. "I've played a lot of one-day cricket... (performing in big matches) is not something that's really spoken about. "It's a very calm group, this one, and fairly experienced with a couple of younger, less experienced guys gelling in really nicely."

Australia have beaten South Africa twice in World Cup semi-finals in 1999 and 2007. Both times they went on to win the title. Starc, 33, and a veteran of 119 one-day internationals, was the leading bowler in the World Cups of 2015 and 2019 with 22 and 27 wickets respectively. In all, he has 230 wickets in the format.

He and fellow quick Pat Cummins have 10 wickets each in the tournament so far with teammate and leg-spinner Adam Zampa leading the bowling charts with 22. The lack of reverse swing, due to two balls being used in each innings at the World Cup, appears to be one of the factors for Starc's lack of wickets.

"There's a lot of contributing factors," he said. "The wickets have certainly been two very different wickets, what gets through the day and through the night. "Speed is not the be-all and end-all over here in India as well. How you go about that tactically, and whether it's variations or what time you bowl through a game, or whether you win or lose a toss (can affect potency)." — AFP

Sehwag, de Silva and Edulji go into Cricket Hall of Fame

NEW DELHI: India's Virender Sehwag, Sri Lankan batsman Aravinda de Silva and pioneering Indian women's captain Diana Edulji have been inducted into cricket's Hall of Fame, the game's governing body announced Monday.

They will be honored at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai during the World Cup semi-final between India and New Zealand on Wednesday. The International Cricket Council has recognized 109 players in the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame since its launch in 2009.

De Silva, 58, enjoyed a 19-year international career for Sri Lanka, playing a starring role in their memorable World Cup triumph in 1996. In 93 Tests, he scored 6,361 runs at an average of 42.97

WCup win would be riches aplenty for Rohit's boyhood coach

MUMBAI: Rohit Sharma's boyhood cricket coach says he will be the "richest person in the world" if the India captain lifts the World Cup — despite never charging for a training session. Dinesh Lad, a former railway worker and cricketer, has helped mould dozens of players during a 30-year coaching career, including Rohit and India team-mate Shardul Thakur.

Lad has done this mainly while operating as the coach at the Swami Vivekanand International School in Borivali, a northwestern suburb of Mumbai far removed from the city's famous cricket nurseries such as the Oval Maidan or Shivaji Park. But whether they have gone on to international honours or not, all of his charges have had one thing in common. "I never took money from anybody (for cricket). I never took money from any parent," Lad told AFP during an interview at the school on Sunday.

Rohit, 36, is set to lead India in a World Cup semi-final against New Zealand at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium on Wednesday, with Lad saying: "I'm the happiest person in the world. "And if I saw the (World Cup) trophy in his hands, then I must be the richest person in the world."

Rohit, averaging nearly 56 at the World Cup, is the only man to have scored three double-centuries in one-day internationals. But it was his bowling that captured Lad's attention when he first saw the 12-year-old playing against his school team during a summer camp in May 1999.

Pakistan bowling coach Morkel quits after WCup flop

LAHORE: Bowling coach Morne Morkel on Monday became the first man to quit Pakistan's backroom staff following the team's exit from the World Cup in India. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said the 39-year-old has tendered his resignation. "Morkel has resigned as the bowling coach of the Pakistan men's team," said a PCB release. "He was given a six-month contract in June this year." PCB said his replacement will be announced before the team's three-Test tour of Australia starting next month.

and collected 9,284 runs from 308 ODIs while taking 106 wickets.

De Silva made his Test debut at Lord's in 1984, and a year later scored 75 as Sri Lanka recorded its first-ever Test win against India. In 1991, he struck a then-national record individual score of 267 against New Zealand at Wellington.

Sehwag, 45, played a key part in India's World Cup winning campaign at home in 2011, and scored over 17,000 runs in international cricket during a stellar 14-year career. He transformed the opener's role in Test cricket through his trademark explosive approach to batting.

Edulji, who became the first Indian woman to be inducted into the Hall of Fame, played a pioneering role in establishing the most successful domestic team in Indian women's cricket history. A right-handed batter and slow left-arm bowler, Edulji took 109 wickets in Test and ODIs.

When she retired after the World Cup in 1993, she had taken more wickets in international cricket than anyone except Australia's Lyn Fullston. "These three



Virender Sehwag

figures have revolutionized the sport in their own way, and have provided fans with some of the most unforgettable moments in recent memory," ICC chief executive Geoff Allardice said in a statement. "Their lasting contributions to cricket mean they are richly deserving of their status in the ICC Hall of Fame." — AFP



MUMBAI: In this photograph taken on November 12, 2023, India's captain Rohit Sharma's boyhood cricket coach Dinesh Lad (center L) gives training tips to young cricketers during a practice session at the Swami Vivekanand International School in Mumbai. — AFP

"They were just 10-over games. They (Rohit's side) scored about 67 in 10 overs and we chased that down in seven or eight overs. "But in that time I saw Rohit's off-spin — not batting — the way he bowled...in just two overs he only conceded five or six runs and took one wicket."

Immediately impressed, Lad wanted to bring Rohit, then living with his uncle, into the school team and arranged a meeting with the director (headmaster). "I told him 'your nephew is very good at cricket'. But there was a problem. "His uncle asked me about the fees, which were 275 rupees (\$3.30) per month. Immediately, he said 'we cannot afford that'."

"So I went to the director and said to him 'Sir the boy is very poor but he's very talented', please give him a freeship (the equivalent of a scholarship). And then Rohit came to this school." But it wasn't until a few years later Lad realized he had a batsman on his

Pakistan's team director Mickey Arthur told AFP that Morkel had enjoyed his brief stay in the job. "Morne was only contracted until January 2024 but his work with other leagues does not allow any more time unfortunately," said Arthur.

"He loved his time with us and is very sad that he can't continue." Pakistan crashed out of the World Cup following a 93-run defeat against England in Kolkata on Saturday, failing to reach the semi-finals with five defeats and four wins.

Skipper Babar Azam and Arthur are also under fire for the poor show of a team which was ranked as the world's top ODI side before the tournament. This is the fifth time in the last six World Cups that Pakistan failed to reach the semi-finals. Arthur's contract as head coach was not renewed after Pakistan's failed campaign in 2019. He is back in a second spell, this time as team director. — AFP



Morne Morkel

Sports

Inter romp clear in Italy with Dimarco wondergoal

Defending champions Napoli have 21 points after losing to Empoli

ROME: A magnificent long-range strike from Federico Dimarco set up Inter Milan for a 2-0 win over Frosinone on Sunday that sent them back top of Serie A ahead of the international break. Among Inter's title rivals, only Juventus won over the weekend. The pair meet in the next round of matches in Turin.

A gap is opening below the two traditional giants, after AC Milan and Napoli continued to lose ground. Simone Inzaghi's joyful Inter side have won ten of 12 games and have 31 points, with Massimiliano Allegri's Juventus on 29. AC Milan are third on 23 after letting slip a 2-0 lead over Lecce. Defending champions Napoli have 21 after losing to Empoli.

Such is the confidence at Inter, that Dimarco shot shortly after crossing the halfway-line from the left touchline, his arcing shot dropping under the crossbar and into the Frosinone goal with 'keeper Stefano Turati clutching at air. Hakan Calhanoglu doubled the lead, converting a spot-kick just after the break.

Earlier, Napoli fell to a shock 1-0 home defeat to Empoli, leaving the defending champions on the verge of sacking new coach Rudi Garcia. Lazio and Roma

slugged out a goalless stalemate in the Rome derby. Napoli were booed off after Viktor Kovalenko's superb last-minute strike snatched the win for Empoli, leaving the hosts eight points behind leaders Juventus and looking over their shoulder.

No-one from Napoli spoke to the media after yet another poor display on home turf. The club have not won a fixture in Naples since the end of September. The Gazzetta Dello Sport and Naples-based daily Il Mattino both reported that Napoli owner Aurelio De Laurentiis had already decided to sack Garcia and that the Frenchman will not take training on Wednesday.

De Laurentiis has also called a summit in Rome on Monday to decide on the successor, with Igor Tudor and Fabio Cannavaro among the names cited.

Garcia in trouble

Garcia took over from title-winning coach Luciano Spalletti in the summer but his days already look numbered after a poor performance against Empoli who lifted themselves out of the relegation zone. The 59-year-old Garcia won Ligue 1 with Lille in 2011 but his stock has fallen

dramatically since being sacked by Roma in early 2016.

He was fired from Al Nassr in April, after the Saudi Arabian club signed Cristiano Ronaldo. Napoli's home record is the 15th-best in the league while on the road where they are unbeaten in all competitions and have won six from eight fixtures.

Three defeats in six league home matches is already more than last season's total but didn't lead to them losing their place in Italy's top four.

Dismal derby

Lazio and Roma meanwhile played out a goalless draw in a Rome derby which was full of needle between fans, players and coaches. Roma would have drawn level on 20 points with Atalanta and Fiorentina if they had won the first Rome derby of the season but offered little at the Stadio Olimpico.

Jose Mourinho's team move up one place to seventh, ahead of Bologna on goal difference, while Lazio stay a point behind their local rivals in 10th. Nominal hosts Lazio came closest to scoring, Luis Alberto smacking the post in the 25th minute, and three minutes later



MILAN: Frosinone's Italian midfielder #36 Luca Mazzitelli fights for the ball with Inter Milan's Argentine forward #10 Lautaro Martinez during the Italian Serie A football match between Inter Milan and Frosinone at San Siro Stadium, in Milan on November 12, 2023. — AFP

Roma 'keeper Rui Patricio had to be at his best to keep out Alessio Romagnoli's header. After the restart, the two teams

seemed more interested in avoiding defeat and getting in each other's faces than trying for a win. — AFP

Lyon claim first win of the season

RENNES: Seven-times French champions Lyon ended their wait for a first Ligue 1 victory of the season by beating 10-man Rennes on Sunday. Fellow strugglers Clermont and Metz also won while a 90th minute goal from Jonathan Gradiat gave Lens a 1-0 win over Marseille. Irishman Jake O'Brien rose highest to nod in the goal that gave Lyon their first win this term on 67 minutes, after Rennes lost Guela Doue, sent off for a dangerous tackle just five minutes into the match.

"We managed to play a great game, we left our hearts on the pitch and everything we had in our bellies," said Lyon coach Fabio Grosso. Faced with 10 men, Lyon struggled to break down the 12th-placed side and a tetchy first half ended on a sour note with an altercation between Rennes coach Bruno Genesio, a former Lyon player and coach, and a member of the Lyon staff.

The second half was closely contested but offered up few big chances, until the decisive moment of the match arrived 22 minutes after the break. Sael Kumbedi's cross found the head of O'Brien who finally gave Lyon the breakthrough.

Despite some nervy moments at the end, when 'keeper Anthony Lopes

came to their rescue, Grosso's men clung on to their first win of the Ligue 1 season. Lyon remain bottom, but the result pushes them to seven points. Although, the Italian said that he was "not happy today", but would only be "happy in the end when I, hopefully, get the club out of this situation".

Earlier on Sunday, Lille moved up to fourth after a 1-1 draw at home to Toulouse. Leny Yoro opened the scoring for the hosts after half an hour, only for the 2021 league champions to be pegged back by Thijs Dallinga, who got his third in three matches after netting against Le Havre and Liverpool.

The strugglers win

Lyon's fellow strugglers Clermont also gained an important win at home against Lorient, who sit in 16th spot. Shamar Nicholson's penalty, in the 69th minute, was enough to seal his side's second win of the season, lifting them to nine points. Metz escaped from the relegation play-off position with a 3-1 home victory over Nantes. Kevin Van Den Kerkhof gave the hosts an early lead, but Moses Simon cancelled it out with 12 minutes gone. Simon Elisor restored the Metz lead just before the



RENNES: Lyon's French forward #10 Alexandre Lacazette (C) fights for the ball with Rennes' Serbian midfielder #21 Nemanja Matic (L) and Rennes' Belgian defender #05 Arthur Theate (R) during the French L1 football match between Stade Rennais FC and Olympique Lyonnais (OL) at the Roazhon Park Stadium in Rennes, western France on November 12, 2023. — AFP

half-hour and Joel Asoro secured the three points in the 85th minute as Metz moved up to 11th. One place separated Lens and Marseille ahead of their clash on Sunday night, both sides needing a lift after a poor run going into the game.

Marseille had been under the microscope in recent weeks after the stoning of Lyon's team bus and an in-

spired 0-0 draw last weekend at home to Lille, while Lens lost to PSV Eindhoven in midweek. An uninspiring match was heading for a goalless draw until Lens defender Gradiat popped up to head home Angelo Fulgini's corner in the final minute to send the home crowd into raptures and lift Lens from tenth to sixth in the table. — AFP

Klinsmann targets end to S Korea's Asian Cup drought

SEOUL: Coach Jurgen Klinsmann on Monday set his sights on ending South Korea's Asian Cup title drought in Qatar next year, and told fans to blame him if they fall short. South Korea are regional powerhouses who reached the 2002 World Cup semi-finals as co-hosts but they have not lifted the continental title since 1960.

Klinsmann has had mixed results since replacing Paulo Bento in February, failing to win in his first five games before racking up three straight victories. The German legend said he would accept nothing less than the Asian Cup title when the pandemic-delayed tournament kicks off in January.

"We want to go there and win the Asian Cup," the former Germany and United States boss told reporters. "Win it and not say 'maybe the final four' or 'maybe, maybe, maybe'. Not maybe—we go there to win it."

South Korea will start as one of the Asian Cup favourites, with Klinsmann able to call on star names like Tottenham's Son Heung-min, Bayern Munich's Kim

Min-jae and Paris Saint-Germain's Lee Kang-in. The Taeguk Warriors lost to Australia in the 2015 Asian Cup final and were bundled out by Qatar in the quarter-finals four years later.

Klinsmann said it was "right" that fans expect his team to lift the trophy and accepted that he will be to blame if they don't. "We have to aim for the highest goal, and if we don't reach it then it's the fault of the coach—no problem," he said.

"But you have to set the goals, clear goals. This is what we will do." South Korea kick off their 2026 World Cup qualifying campaign at home to Singapore on Thursday, before travelling to face China five days later.

They have also been drawn with Thailand in one of the toughest groups of the second round of Asian qualifiers. Klinsmann said he had travelled to Singapore to scout their first opponents and warned his players that they have to "be serious".

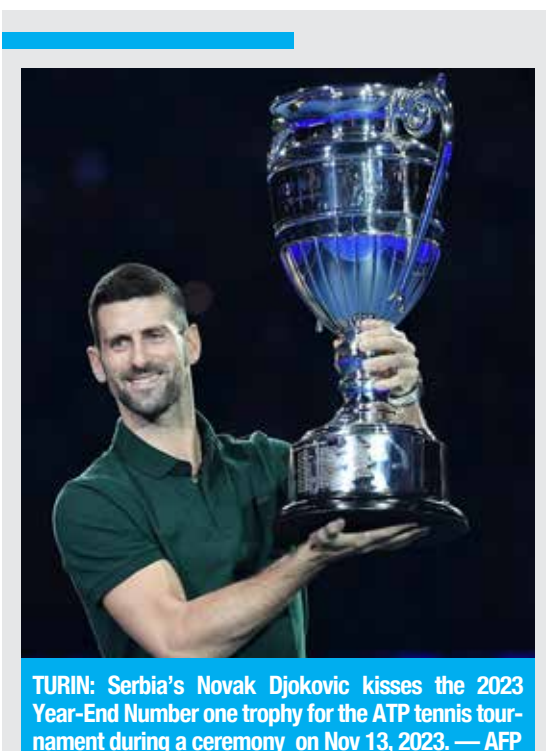
"You have to have a very professional mindset to go through World Cup qualifying, even if you have more slots available," he said. "It would be the wrong way to look at it." Klinsmann has not had a smooth ride since taking the job, with supporters and media accusing him of reneging on a pledge to move to the country, saying he spends more time at home in California than he does in South Korea.

Klinsmann defended his approach by pointing out



SEOUL: South Korea's head coach Jurgen Klinsmann (C) speaks to his players during a training session at Mokdong Stadium in Seoul on November 13, 2023, ahead of the 2026 World Cup qualifying match between South Korea and Singapore. — AFP

that 70 percent of his players were based in Europe, and said he would "not change the way I work". "The KFA knew that I would go back and forth, they knew that I look at my work from an international perspective and not from a domestic," he said. "I'm not a K-League coach, I'm an international coach." — AFP



TURIN: Serbia's Novak Djokovic kisses the 2023 Year-End Number one trophy for the ATP tennis tournament during a ceremony on Nov 13, 2023. — AFP

Djokovic top of the world after sinking Rune at ATP Finals

TURIN: Novak Djokovic will finish the year as world number one for a record-extending eighth time after beating Holger Rune 7-6 (7/4), 6-7 (1/7), 6-3 in his opening match at the ATP Finals on Sunday.

The 24-time Grand Slam champion needed just one win or a defeat for young rival Carlos Alcaraz in order to secure top spot in the ATP rankings for 2023 and prevailed in a three-hour Green Group clash with spirited debutant Rune.

Djokovic, on a run of 19 straight wins, has had an age-defying year, winning three Slams to become the all-time record winner of major titles. The 36-year-old came into the Finals in Turin off the back of his seventh triumph at the Paris Masters, his 40th victory at a Masters 100 event.

Those are two more records to add to a long and growing list for Djokovic, who is hunting a seventh Finals title which would take him one ahead of retired great Roger Federer. "It means a lot. You could see that there were a lot of emotions on the court," said Djokovic.

"I could feel it, I was very eager to win the match and get that monkey off my back... Obviously a big objective, a big goal has been achieved, everything else now is a bonus." Djokovic looked on course for victory when he took a brutal opening set in decisive fashion, prevailing in the tie-break with a stunning cross-court return winner. — AFP

Classifieds

Hospitals & Clinics

Hospitals

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

Clinics

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

Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401

Change of Name

I, **Sunny** holder of Indian Passport No. - T1939237, Indian permanent address- Village Bajrawar Bajraur Hoshiarpur Punjab- 146104, India, present hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as Sunny (Given Name) and Pathania (Surname). #4555 - 13-11-2023

present, hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as : SAI FEE (Given Name) and BOHRA (Surname) #4556 - 13-11-2023

I **SAIFEE** (current name in passport) holding of Indian Passport NO. MO404358 Having permanent Address Jawad Darwaza, Pipli Chowk, Nimbahera, Chittorgarh, Rajasthan. India 312601 residing in Kuwait at

I, **MD Ibadullah** S/o Ataulah holder of Indian passport No. t8987281 having permanent address vill-sukhipur, PO-Badshahnagar, PS-Tikaitnagar, Barabanki, Pin: 225401, Uttar Pradesh, India residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as: Mohammad Ibadullah (given name) and Khan.(surname) #4067- 13-11-2023

Canada take first Billie Jean King Cup to complete double

'Leylah played her role as leader and that made all the difference'



SEVILLE: Team Canada stand on the podium with US tennis star Billie Jean King (2L) during the trophy ceremony after winning the Billie Jean King Cup Finals 2023 in La Cartuja stadium in Seville on November 12, 2023. — AFP

SEVILLE: Canada completed a team-tennis double on Sunday as their women took the Billie Jean King Cup for the first time, winning both singles rubbers to build an unassailable lead over Italy. Canada's men are the reigning Davis Cup champions after winning their first title in Malaga last November.

Marina Stakusic, an 18-year-old, opened the final in Seville with a 7-5 6-3 victory over Martina Trevisan, capping a stunning week for the rookie. "We took a risk by selecting a young player, and it paid off," said Canada's coach Nathalie Tauziat.

Leylah Fernandez then beat Jasmine Paolini 6-2,

6-3, to spark jubilation from the Canadian team. "I'm extremely happy, ecstatic," said Fernandez. Canada, captained by Heidi El Tabakh, became the 13th nation to win the Billie Jean King Cup and the second consecutive new champion after Switzerland won in Glasgow 12 months ago.

Stakusic, ranked 258th in the world, beat three top 100 players this week, including Trevisan. Fernandez defeated Czech Wimbledon champion Marketa Vondrousova in the singles semi-finals rubber on Saturday before playing again in the decisive doubles, as she too shone in the south of Spain.

"Leylah played her role as leader and that made all the difference," said Tauziat. "She prepares like a boxer, ready to enter the ring, to receive blows and to give them." Fernandez said the victory had taken time.

"You know, it's the first time that Canada has ever won the Billie Jean King Cup. I can finally say this—we're world champions, and we rightfully deserve it," she said. "We worked really hard the past years, and, you know, I think every year, as I said before, we just keep improving."

"It's showing on the tennis court. It's showing

in competition, individual competitions. Now it has shown on the biggest stage in the world." Italy continued their 10-year drought in the competition, known as the Fed Cup until 2020, having won the last of their four titles in 2013.

"It's been a very tough week for me, mentally and of course physically," said Trevisan. "We spent a lot of energy on court and of course out of the court. Maybe today my physical energy was, well, a little bit low. "I'm a player that need to be very fast on court, and today I wasn't too much—it wasn't enough." — AFP



MANCHESTER: A hearse carrying the coffin of England World Cup winner and Manchester United legend Bobby Charlton is driven past Old Trafford stadium ahead of his funeral in Manchester, northern England, on November 13, 2023. — AFP

Fans bid farewell to Man Utd great Bobby Charlton

MANCHESTER: Thousands of people lined the streets of Manchester on Monday to pay their final respects to Manchester United and England great Bobby Charlton, who died last month at the age of 86. The 1966 World Cup winner, widely regarded as one of England's greatest players, died after an accidental fall at his care home on October 21.

Crowds clapped warmly and held banners as the funeral cortege drove past United's Old Trafford ground on its way to a private funeral service at Manchester Cathedral. The hearse passed the famous "United Trinity" statue immortalising Charlton, Denis Law and George Best and through a guard of honour made up of members of the club's Under-18 and Under-21 squads.

There were numerous black-and-white photographs depicting Charlton's long and illustrious career as a player and then as a director at the club. Around 1,000 guests including former United manager Alex Ferguson, England boss Gareth Southgate and Prince William, the Football Association president, arrived for the private funeral service, which started at 1400 GMT, along with current and former players.

Former United captain Bryan Robson, speaking outside the cathedral, told the BBC: "For a player to win the World Cup, win the Champions League and have such a long and successful career you've got to be a fantastic player to be able to achieve that. "But Sir Bob wasn't just a great player, he was a great person and had time for everybody."

Former teammate Alex Stepney said Charlton remained humble despite his success. "Nothing was over his head or anything like that, it was all about playing for Manchester United," he said. "Even on international duty it was about winning and that was what Bobby Charlton was all about. A humble guy, a great family man. It never went to his head." — AFP

Lewandowski double rescues Barca, Atletico beat Villarreal

BARCELONA: Barcelona striker Robert Lewandowski ended his barren goalscoring spell with a brace to rescue the Spanish champions a 2-1 win over visiting Alaves in La Liga on Sunday. Elsewhere, Atletico Madrid came from behind to beat Villarreal 3-1 and Ivan Rakitic snatched Sevilla a 1-1 home draw against Real Betis in a pulsating Seville derby.

Samu Omorodion sent Alaves ahead in the first minute against a dire Barcelona but Lewandowski's second half double rescued the hosts three points. The victory keeps Barcelona in touching distance of shock leaders Girona, who are four points ahead, and second place Real Madrid, who have a two-point advantage, after both won Saturday.

Veteran forward Lewandowski scored a brilliant header early in the second half and thrashed home a penalty in the 77th minute to reach seven league goals. Catalonia is in drought and Lewandowski was enduring one too, with the striker on his worst stretch of form for over a decade, having failed to score in six appearances prior.

Barcelona are also on their own miserable run of performances, which Xavi said is because the players are nervous, especially the younger ones, due to heavy media criticism. "We were more tense than normal because of all the noise generated around the team," Xavi told reporters after Barca's comeback.

"It happened to me as a player and it's happening to my players." Before the match Xavi said the team were not in crisis despite the recent Clasico defeat and a stumble against Shakhtar Donetsk in midweek, and that it was up to him to bring them out of their slump. However it took just 18 seconds for Alaves to strike.

'Unacceptable'

Ilkay Gundogan lost the ball in midfield and with Barcelona's defence in total disarray, Javi Lopez crossed for Omorodion, who slotted through



BARCELONA: Barcelona's Portuguese defender #02 Joao Cancelo vies with Alaves' Spanish defender #02 Andoni Gorosabel during the Spanish league football match between FC Barcelona and Deportivo Alaves at the Estadi Olimpic Lluis Companys in Barcelona. — AFP

Marc-Andre ter Stegen's legs. "We cannot make those mistakes, it's unacceptable," said Xavi.

"We're giving far too much away and that takes a toll." Barcelona were easily pulled apart on multiple occasions on the first half, with Alaves target man Omorodion, on loan from Atletico and only 19, bettering Jules Kounde repeatedly.

Xavi switched the French centre-back to right-back midway through the first half, after the striker barged past Kounde and hit the crossbar. Omorodion fired wide one-on-one with Ter Stegen on another occasion and Alaves could easily have walked off three goals up.

Fans whistled Barca players at the break and they reacted, levelling early in the second half. Kounde crossed from the right and Lewandowski arced a brilliant header beyond Sivera's reach and into the net. Barcelona clinched the win when substitute Ferran Torres was clumsily felled in the area by Abdel Abqar and Lewandowski smashed the penalty into the roof of the net. An inspired Antoine Griezmann helped Atletico Madrid come from behind to beat Villarreal. The French forward netted his 300th strike for club and country in the win which keeps Atletico fourth, two points behind champions Barca. — AFP