

KUWAIT MOURNS SHEIKH NAWAF



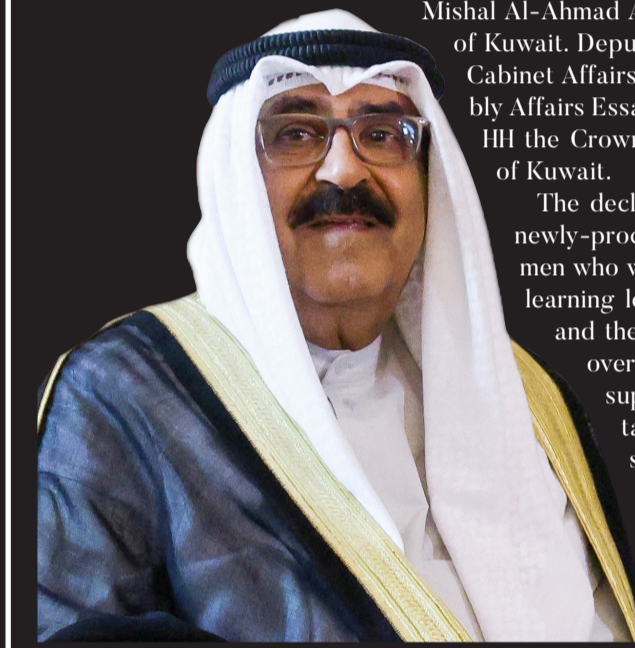
KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah passed away on Saturday, the Amiri Diwan announced. "With deep grief and regret, we mourn to the Kuwaiti people, Arab and Muslim nations and friendly people the demise of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who passed away today, Saturday," it said. "We pray to Almighty Allah to bestow upon the deceased His unlimited mercy and embrace his soul in His vast paradise."

State television had cut its regular programming and switched to a broadcast of Quranic verses before the announcement. The funeral of the late Amir Sheikh Nawaf

will be restricted to family members and relatives, Amiri Diwan Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah announced Saturday, appreciating sentiments of sorrow by citizens and expatriates. He said prayers would be held at Belal bin Rabah Mosque on Sunday at 9:00 am and the funeral would be held later in the morning.

HH the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the Al-Sabah Family will personally receive condolences of people at the Diwan of the Al-Sabah Family at Bayan Palace on Monday morning and Tuesday morning and afternoon. The government also announced a three-day public holiday and 40 days of mourning on the sad demise of late Amir Sheikh Nawaf. — KUNA (See Pages 10 & 11)

Sheikh Mishal named new Amir of Kuwait



KUWAIT: The Cabinet on Saturday named His Highness Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as the Amir of the State of Kuwait. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs Essa Al-Kandari, announced in a statement that HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal would be the Amir of Kuwait.

The declaration is in line with the constitution. The newly-proclaimed Amir is one of the extraordinary men who were raised by the gracious Al-Sabah Family, learning leadership skills from the sagacious seniors and the family's shrewd politicians. Sheikh Mishal, over the past three years, was the trusted top supporter of the late Amir Sheikh Nawaf, partaking in decision making, taking over the state's leadership in his absence, bearing part of the heavy burden of responsibilities, leading the country to be among the developed states and bolstering its security and prosperity. — KUNA (See Page 3)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ الْمُرِيدُ الْإِسْلَامَ الْإِسْلَامَ أَجْمَلَ
صَدَقَ اللَّهُ الْعَظِيمُ

It is with deep sadness and a heavy heart that

Zain Group

mourns the passing of His Highness the late Amir
Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah
may he rest in peace.

We extend our deepest condolences and sincerest
sympathy to His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait
Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

to His Highness the Prime Minister
Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah
and to the entire Al-Sabah family.

Our condolences also go out to the people of
Kuwait, Arab and Islamic nations.

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
يَا أَيُّهَا الْمُسْلِمُونَ إِنَّ الْمُسْلِمِينَ يُنَادُونَكَ بِالْحَيَاةِ وَالْمَوْتِ وَأَنْتَ خَلْقٌ حَسْبُكَ
يَا أَيُّهَا الْمُسْلِمُونَ إِنَّ الْمُسْلِمِينَ يُنَادُونَكَ بِالْحَيَاةِ وَالْمَوْتِ وَأَنْتَ خَلْقٌ حَسْبُكَ

With our belief in God's will and with
deep sorrow and sadness

**Kutayba Yusuf Ahmed Alghanim
and Alghanim Industries**

would like to extend their heartfelt
sympathy and deepest condolences to

**His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh
Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah,
His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh
Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the Al
Sabah Family and the people of Kuwait**

on the demise of His Highness

**Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad
Al-Jaber Al-Sabah**

May he rest in peace.

We pray that Almighty God have mercy on him and grant
us the strength and patience to bear his loss



Alghanim
INDUSTRIES

Sheikh Mishal named 17th Amir

New leader has worked to ensure bright future for Kuwait

KUWAIT: His Highness Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has been proclaimed Kuwait's new Amir to become the country's 17th ruler, in line with the Emirate's Succession Law, succeeding the late Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. His Highness Sheikh Mishal has been declared the Amir of Kuwait following a regular process of succession to the Amir's post, a recurrence of the power transfer by the previous top rulers.

The newly-proclaimed Amir is one of the extraordinary men who were raised by the gracious Al-Sabah family, learning leadership skills from the sagacious seniors and the family's shrewd politicians. HH Sheikh Mishal, over the past three years, has been the trusted top supporter of His Highness the Amir, partaking in decision-making, taking over the state leadership in his absence, bearing part of the responsibilities' heavy burden, leading the country to be among the developed states, bolstering its security and prosperity.

The newly-designated Kuwait Amir had served in a number of security and military posts, including senior positions in the Ministry of Interior, the National Guards, and representing the top rulers on official occasions and during various diplomatic and political missions. HH Sheikh Mishal, born in Kuwait in 1940, is the seventh son of Kuwait's 10th Ruler, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, who governed the country between 1921 and 1950.

In his early childhood, he was taught reading and writing by his parents and some seniors in the family before joining Al-Mubarakiya School, the first private school in Kuwait at the time. He continued higher-level studies in the UK, where he graduated from Hendon Police College in 1960. After returning home, he joined the newly-established Ministry of Interior. In 1987, he was appointed public inspection chief with a colonel's rank and remained in the department for up to 20 years, occupying diverse posts.

On April 13, 2004, HH Sheikh Mishal was appointed, according to an Amiri decree, the Deputy Chief of the National Guards with a Minister's Degree. He contributed to overhauling this sensitive security apparatus and en-

hanced its role in maintaining national security. HH Sheikh Mishal had repeatedly affirmed the National Guards' keenness on backing the army, the police, and the fire force for defending and maintaining the country's security and stability, as well as securing key installations.

On October 8, 2020, HH Sheikh Mishal was proclaimed as the Crown Prince during a special session of the National Assembly, where he took the constitutional oath in front of the MPs after a swearing-in ceremony in front of the late Amir, according to the Emirate Succession Law and Kuwait Constitution. Addressing the MPs, HH Sheikh Mishal said during the session that public participation would be part of his ruling policy and pledged to boost a spirit of amity, tolerance, and divisions' renunciation among the citizens.

He also vowed to ensure a bright future for Kuwait with a democracy of stability, placing the national interests above all other considerations on the basis of the

Constitution and justice. HH Sheikh Mishal has always advocated bolstering cooperation between the executive and legislative authorities to attain the aspired goals, taking agile steps to attain the

objectives of the sagacious leadership and the Kuwaiti people, and that is through development in the key sectors.

HH Sheikh Mishal, after the proclamation, devoted much of his attention to local affairs amid shutdowns witnessed throughout the world after the flare-up of the Coronavirus. He followed up on measures to minimize the effects of the pandemic at the domestic level. In this vein, he guided various authorities and associations to perform the special tasks. HH Sheikh Mishal has regularly held meetings with ordinary citizens who would express complaints or talk about their needs.

At the Gulf level, HH Sheikh Mishal has adopted his predecessors' path, keenly cementing relations with brotherly countries and cooperating with their leaders regarding regional issues and Arab and global affairs, namely the need to maintain security and stability in the Gulf and tackling occasional rifts among the regional countries. Following the steps of his predecessors, HH Sheikh Mishal has maintained close relations with Arab states, and his efforts at this level were tangibly fruitful, particularly with respect to strengthening the Arabs' ranks. In addition to the posts he had occupied, HH Sheikh Mishal was granted honorary positions.

He was designated as an honorary chairperson of the Kuwait Aircraft Engineers and Pilots Association (1973–2017). Moreover, he was a co-founder and the honorary head of the Kuwait Association for Wireless Amateurs. In 1977, the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah named HH Sheikh Mishal the chairman of Al-Nabat Poets Diwaniya. On December 4, 2018, the French Minister of the Armed Forces, Florence Barely, decorated him with the Legion of Honor Medal for his prime role in developing Kuwait and establishing solid ties with Paris.—

KUNA



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah



إلى جنات الخلد

تتقدّم شركة الاتصالات الكويتية stc

ممثلة بمجلس إدارتها وكافة موظفيها

إلى أسرة الصباح الكرام وإلى الشعب الكويتي الكريم

وإلى الأمتين العربية والإسلامية بأحر التعازي وخالص المواساة لوفاة المغفور له بإذن الله تعالى

صاحب السموّ أمير البلاد

الشيخ نواف الأحمد الجابر الصباح

سائلين المولى العليّ القدير أن يتغمّد الفقيد

بواسع رحمته ويسكنه فسيح جنّاته

إِنَّا لِلّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

stc

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
يَا أَيُّهَا الْمُسْلِمُونَ إِنَّ الْمُرْسَلِينَ
بِأَنبِيَائِهِمْ كَمَا نَزَّلْنَا عَلَىٰ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ
رُسُلًا مِّن قَبْلِهِمْ قَالُوا سَاءَ مَا يَحْكُمُونَ
قُلْ إِنَّمَا حُكْمِي وَسُؤَالِي عِندَ اللَّهِ
يَا أَيُّهَا الْمُسْلِمُونَ إِنَّ الْمُرْسَلِينَ
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In the name of God, the Gracious, the Merciful
On the sad occasion of the passing of

**His Highness the Amir
Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad
Al-Jaber Al-Sabah**



Kuwait Times | كويت نيوز
Established 1961 تأسست 2006

management and staff convey their deepest
condolences to the Al-Sabah Family, the
government and people of Kuwait

May Allah Almighty bestow His mercy on him

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
يَا أَيُّهَا النَّفْسُ الْمَطْمَئِنَّةُ اجْعِي إِلَىٰ بَارِيكَ مُضِيَّةً مُضِيَّةً فَأَخْلَفِي عَجْبًا وَأَخْلَجِي حَبْتِي
صَدَقَ اللَّهُ الْعَظِيمَ

The Chairman, Board Members,
Executive Management, and staff of

AL AHLI BANK OF KUWAIT

extend their
heartfelt condolences to the

AL-SABAH FAMILY

and the people of Kuwait,
on the sad demise of

His Highness the Amir
of the State of Kuwait

SHEIKH NAWAF AL-AHMAD AL-JABER AL-SABAH

May his soul rest in peace

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

World leaders mourn Sheikh Nawaf

Saudi Arabia

Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz and Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Mohammad bin Salman offered condolences to Kuwait and both Arab and Muslim nations over the passing away of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. The Royal Court said in a statement that the Saudi King and Crown Prince received the news of the Amir's death with great sadness and sorrow. The kingdom prayed to Allah the Almighty to bestow mercy upon the late Amir's soul and to grant the people of Kuwait further patience. The Kuwaiti Amir Diwan announced earlier on Saturday the passing away of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Qatar

"Our sincere condolences to my brother, Kuwait's new Amir, HH Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and to the government and people of Kuwait on the death of HH Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. We share the grief of Kuwait and its people in this painful affliction, and we ask Allah Almighty to bless the late Kuwaiti leader with His mercy and favor. We belong to Allah, and to Him we return," Amir of Qatar, Tamim Bin Hamad, prayed.

Bahrain

Bahraini King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa extended condolences over the passing away of HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Saturday. The Royal Court, in a statement, also declared three days of official mourning and flying flags at half-mast as of Saturday. The Bahraini king remembered the late Amir's efforts and achievements in serving his people and both Arab and Islamic nations, and supporting their issues, according to the statement. "He was a wise leader who devoted his life to serving his people and his nation, and serving humanity," he said, voicing sincere condolences to Al-Sabah family and the dear people of Kuwait. Chairman of the Shura Council Ali Al-Saleh said Kuwait and its loyal family and the Arab world have lost HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as a wise and sincere leader and Amir who was loyal to his religion, nation and people, as well as to both Arab and Muslims nations. He remembered the late Amir's praiseworthy record of good and fruitful deeds and support for his country's development and progress. Meanwhile, Bahrain has postponed all celebrations marking the kingdom's National Day slated for Saturday and Sunday as a sign of mourning for the passing of HH the Amir.

Oman

Sultan Haitham Bin Tareq of Oman has issued royal orders to declare official mourning, lower flags at half mast, and suspend work in the government and private sectors for three days, starting on Saturday, following the death of HH the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. According to a court statement carried by the Omani News Agency (ONA), Sultan Haitham deemed the late Amir one of the Arab world's prominent leaders, who worked for the progress and prosperity of both Arab and Muslim nations, as well as his country. An ONA report on the sad occasion said that during Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad's reign, Kuwait witnessed achievements on various levels, praising at the same time the sturdy and brotherly bond between the two Gulf countries. Reforms on state and parliamentary levels marked the late Amir's three-year rule, which resulted in creating a sense of unison across the Kuwaiti public spectrum. In addition to launching many mega-development projects in the oil and investment sectors, the late Amir made sure to lay new economic foundations for the future. At the social level, during HH Sheikh Nawaf's reign, Kuwait came first in the Arab social development index for 2021, as well as first worldwide in the water and health care indexes, also in 2021.

Jordan

King of Jordan, Abdullah bin Al-Hussain: "We share the grief of our brothers in Kuwait over the passing of His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Sabah. He was an Arab leader who devoted his life to serving his country, his people, and his nation, and we knew him as a man of pride, wisdom, and diligence in strengthening Arab relations. My deepest condolences to the new Kuwaiti Amir, his generous family, and Kuwaitis."

Palestine

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas mourned the death of His Highness the late Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Saturday, sending his condolences to the people of Kuwait, the people of Arab and Islamic nations, and the world. "With his passing, Palestine has lost an Arab leader who spent his life serving his people and his nation and who stood by our national cause, our people, and their legitimate rights with all sincerity," said Abbas in a statement issued by the Palestinian News Agency (Wafa). He extended his heartfelt condolences to the newly proclaimed state of Kuwait, Amir His Highness Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the government, and the Kuwaiti people, in the name of the State of Palestine and its people, and his name personally. Abbas declared mourning, and flags flown at half-mast, the statement mentioned.

Iraq

Iraqi President Abdul Latif Rashid voiced condolences to Kuwait over the death of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Saturday. "With great sorrow and sadness, we received the news of the death of His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah," he said in a cable to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. The Iraqi president prayed to Allah Almighty to bless the late Amir's soul with much mercy, and to grant the Kuwaiti people more patience and solace.

Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammad Al-Sudani said in a tweet: "We extend our deepest condolences to Kuwait and the government and people, on the passing of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah." "We ask Allah to bestow mercy upon him, and to inspire patience and solace on his family, relatives, and all the brotherly Kuwaiti people," he said.

Meanwhile, Acting Parliament Speaker Mohsen Al-Mandalawi expressed much sadness to Kuwait over the death of the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. He said that with great sadness and great sorrow, he received the news of the death of the Amir of Kuwait, remembering his sincere stances and good efforts in supporting Arab and Islamic issues and ensuring regional stability in the region.

Pakistan

Caretaker Prime Minister of Pakistan, Anwaar ul Haq Kakar, expressed deep grief and sorrow over the death

of Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, on Saturday. According to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office, Kakar expressed deep grief and sorrow over the death of Amir of Kuwait Sheikh and said that Pakistan stands in solidarity with the Kuwaiti Royal Family and the people of Kuwait at this moment of grief. He prayed for the departed soul. The Prime Minister said the late Kuwaiti Amir will always be remembered for his sterling contribution to strengthening Pakistan-Kuwait relations.

Iran

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi expressed condolences to Kuwait leadership and people for passing away of Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Saturday. Raisi extended condolences to HH the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Al-Sabah Family and Kuwaiti people. Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian extended condolences to the Kuwaiti government and people over the death of Sheikh Nawaf.

India

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed deepest condolences to Kuwait over the passing away of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. "Deeply saddened to learn about the unfortunate demise of His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. We convey our deepest condolences to the Royal family, the leadership and the people of Kuwait," the prime minister noted in his X account (formerly Twitter) on Saturday. Meanwhile, the government of India decided to observe one day's state mourning On Sunday throughout India as a mark of respect to the departed soul. "The national flag will be flown at half-mast throughout India on all buildings where it is flown regularly and there will be no official entertainment on the day," the Indian Ministry of Home Affairs said in a statement.

Lebanon

Lebanon declared official mourning for the death of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. This came in a statement issued by Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati, which included the declaration of official mourning

and that flags would be flown at half-mast at all official departments, institutions, and municipalities for a period of three days from Saturday to Monday, December 18. He prayed to Allah the Almighty to bless the late His Highness, the Amir, with mercy.

UAE

UAE President Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan mourned the passing of the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, on Saturday. In a presidential statement, Sheikh Mohammad prayed to Allah Almighty to rest his soul in Paradise and to grant patience and solace to the Al Sabah family, the State of Kuwait, and its people. The UAE president announced that the UAE would observe a three-day state of mourning with the flag flown at half-mast at all official departments, embassies, and the UAE's diplomatic missions outside the country. For his part, Vice President, Prime Minister, and Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammad bin Rashed Al-Maktoum offered condolences over the death of the Amir of Kuwait.

Egypt

Egypt mourned the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who passed away earlier on Saturday, and announced three days of mourning nationwide. "President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi and the people of Egypt mourn the late leader and the great man, who supported both Arab and Muslim nations, was keen on their affairs, wise in his leadership, and who offered great dedication to his country and both Arab and Muslim nations," according to a presidential statement. Egypt prayed to Allah the Almighty to bestow mercy upon the late Amir's soul and to grant the people of Kuwait further patience.

Kosovo

On behalf of the people of Kosovo, President Vjosa Osmani extended his deepest condolences to the Al-Sabah family and the people of Kuwait on the passing of HH the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. "His leadership and lifelong dedication to his nation will be a lasting legacy."

Serbia

It is with deep sadness that I (President Aleksandar Vucic) learned of the passing of Kuwaiti HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. "My sincere condolences to his family and the people of Kuwait. I am confident that his legacy of wise governance and thoughtful leadership will leave a lasting impact," he said.

Maldives

"I am deeply saddened to hear about the passing away of Kuwait's Amir HH Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. I extend my heartfelt condolences to his family and the people of Kuwait. The Maldives will always remember HH the Amir's efforts in building and expanding bilateral ties between our two countries. May the Almighty Allah bestow on His Highness's family and the people of Kuwait the strength to endure this immense loss," the President of the Maldives, Dr. Mohamed Muizzu, said.

Latvia

"My deep condolences to the ruling family and the people of Kuwait on the passing of His Highness the Amir Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah." President of Latvia Edgars Rinkevics said.

GCC

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) expressed deep condolences for the passing away of Kuwait Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who was announced dead on Saturday. GCC Secretary General Jassem Al-Budaiwi expressed condolences for His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah over the death of Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad. He paid tribute for the achievements of the late Amir, his wisdom and humanity. The Amiri Diwan announced earlier the death of Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and declared a 40-day mourning. - KUNA



بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ
(يَا أَيُّهَا النَّفْسُ الْمُطْمَئِنَّةُ ارْجِعِي إِلَىٰ رَبِّكِ رَاضِيَةً مَّرْضِيَّةً فَادْخُلِي فِي عِبَادِي وَادْخُلِي جَنَّاتِي)
صَدَقَ اللّٰهُ الْعَظِيمُ



Al Hamra Real Estate Company

Extends its deepest condolences
and sympathies to the people of
Kuwait and the honorable Al-Sabah
family on the passing of

His Highness the Amir

**Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad
Al-Jaber Al-Sabah**

We pray to Almighty Allah to have
mercy on his soul



إِنَّا لِلّٰهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ
(يَا أَيُّهَا النَّفْسُ الْمُطْمَئِنَّةُ ارْجِعِي إِلَىٰ رَبِّكِ رَاضِيَةً مَّرْضِيَّةً فَادْخُلِي فِي عِبَادِي وَادْخُلِي جَنَّاتِي)

In the name of God, the most Gracious, the most Merciful

On the sad occasion of the passing of
His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah
May God bestow mercy upon his soul

talabat offers its sincere and heartfelt condolences
To the honorable Al Sabah family
And to the honorable people of Kuwait and all Arab and Islamic nations

We pray for God's mercy upon him and may
He grant him the highest position in heaven.

إِنَّا لِلّٰهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

أنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

((يَا أَيُّهَا النَّفْسُ الْمُطْمَئِنَّةُ ارْجِعِي إِلَىٰ رَبِّكَ رَاضِيَةً مَرْضِيَّةً

فَادْخُلِي فِي عِبَادِي وَادْخُلِي جَنَّتِي))

تنعى

شركة آد زون العالمية ويمثلها

السيد / محمد رميح الدجيني (رئيس مجلس الإدارة)

المغفور له بإذن الله تعالى أمير العفو سمو الشيخ نواف الأحمد الجابر الصباح
وتتقدم بخالص العزاء وصادق المواساة لمقام حضرة صاحب السمو أمير البلاد

الشيخ مشعل الأحمد الجابر الصباح

وإلى عموم أسرة آل صباح الكرام



Local

Flags to fly half-mast for 40 days

Ministries, government institutions, banks close for three days



KUWAIT: National flags are lowered to half-mast position outside public buildings on December 16, 2023, as the country mourns the death of the late Amir HH Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat and KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwait lowered its national flag Saturday, declaring a 40-day period of official mourning, grieving the death of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who passed away this morning. In an extraordinary meeting held today, the Cabinet announced official mourning for a period of 40 days and the closure of official departments for three days, while the Kuwait Municipality announced the lowering of flags at half-mast for 40 days in all ministries' buildings, government agencies, and main roads.

Since the morning of November 24, 1961, the country's flag has been flying on its flagpoles, buildings, and institutions, even though the law stipulates that the national flag must be officially raised starting on the morning of January 1, 1962. That flag was not lowered except during periods when the country witnessed the death of one of its honorable rulers from the Al-Sabah family, namely the late His Highness the Amir Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, the late His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, the late His Highness the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the late His Highness the Amir Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, and the late His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Despite the crisis of the Iraqi invasion and the months of occupation that the country experienced between August 2, 1990, and February 26, 1991, the Kuwaiti flag remained raised in homes, remaining in the souls as a symbol of freedom and independence after the Iraqi forces resorted to burning

flags raised in public and private places. The flag is considered a national symbol that carries certain connotations and expresses specific meanings that remain eternal over the years and are passed down through generations.

Although each country has its own constitution, laws, and specific signs that express and indicate them, the flag remains the most expressive and used symbol to represent the country in international forums. The flag of Kuwait has great importance in representing the country through its embassies and consulates abroad, in addition to its presence among the flags of countries around the world on the United Nations building and the buildings of regional and international organizations and institutions in which Kuwait participates.

Article two of Law 26 of 1961 regarding the Kuwaiti flag stipulates that the flag be raised over government buildings in Kuwait and on ships that carry Kuwaiti nationality. As for Article 4 of the same law, it stipulates that the flag be flown at half-mast in cases of official mourning being declared in the country.

Institutions close

Meanwhile, the Civil Service Commission (CSC) announced Saturday that ministries and government institutions would close for three days as of Sunday following the passing away of HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. It was added in a statement that work would resume on Wednesday, December 20. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Education said tests for secondary school would be postponed

for justice wholeheartedly, no matter how many people were against it.

On his part, Khaled, a young Kuwaiti, said: "My heart aches for the loss of the Amir, for he was not just a leader, but also a father figure to all of us. His kindness and compassion touched the hearts of every Kuwaiti citizen. Also, his presence in both the interior and defense ministries made him an integral part of Kuwait's political landscape," he said. Khaled's father Abdulhadi further elaborated on Sheikh Nawaf's commitment to upholding the humanitarian values that Kuwait is known for. According to him, the Amir left a profound impact on the lives of Kuwaitis.

Abu Abdullah, an Indian expat, expressed his emotions on the passing of the Amir: "I am very saddened by the passing of our beloved Amir, as he did a lot for the country throughout his life in the various positions he held." He highlighted his building of Belal bin Rabah Mosque, noting he didn't attribute its name to himself, but attributed it to one of the companions of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), which is a great reflection of how a modest ruler he was.

Speaking of Belal bin Rabah Mosque, Hesham, an Egyptian expat in his early 60s, spoke of his personal grief of losing the late Amir, as he shared a special memory with him. "I'll never forget how he humbly prayed among us in his local mosque without his guards. I will always pray for his soul to rest in peace every time I visit it." He added how Sheikh Nawaf fought against corruption, and how all residents of Kuwait, despite their differences, can agree that his rule was marked by grace and integrity.

Shaimaa, a middle-aged Egyptian resident, described how Sheikh Nawaf was one of his kind, as he never practiced racism or oppression against any nationality. Not once in her life did she hear someone speaking negatively about him, as everyone unconditionally praised his manners and his gentle personality. She explained he was a very eloquent person too, and even though his words were concise as he chose them very carefully, they never failed to deeply reach everyone nevertheless.

to December 20–28, while 10th and 11th grades would be held on December 20 until January 4.

Ministry spokesman Ahmad Al-Wuhaida said 12th grade tests would be postponed until January 7 and ended on January 18. The Kuwait Banking As-

sociation said banks would be closed for three days and would reopen on Wednesday, December 20. The Ministry of Health, meanwhile, said it would reschedule appointments that were not urgent following the death of Amir. — KUNA

Citizens, expats mourn passing of Sheikh Nawaf

By Ghadeer Ghloom and Passant Hisham

KUWAIT: As the heartbreaking news of the passing of HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah was announced, waves of sorrow washed over Kuwait. It was a singularly sorrowful moment for citizens and expats, who shared with Kuwait Times their deep emotions, reminiscing about the remarkable qualities that made the late Amir an unforgettable figure in their lives.

Bu Muhammad, a middle-aged Kuwaiti, expressed his deep sorrow for Kuwait's loss. "Kuwait with its people, population, government, rulers and allies are all in deep pain and sorrow on the loss of this dear person," he said, sharing his gratitude for Sheikh Nawaf's remarkable humane actions that benefited Kuwaiti citizens and made their lives easier.

"Despite his short period of rule, Sheikh Nawaf's efforts were not limited to making Kuwait and its people live in dignity during his rule, but even before that. He was like a wise and compassionate father to the Kuwaiti people. One of the most remarkable and humane things about him is that Sheikh Nawaf was well known for being keen on improving the living conditions of Kuwaiti citizens," he said.

Ahmed, a young Palestinian residing in Kuwait, expressed utmost respect and gratitude for Sheikh Nawaf for the unwavering support he always declared for the Palestinian people and their rights, highlighting Kuwait as one of the top contributors for reconstructing Palestinian territories and sending humanitarian aid to its people during times of wars and suffering. "If this is how he treated Palestinians, imagine how he dealt with his own people," he said, adding Sheikh Nawaf was a person who always spoke the truth and called

CONDOLENCES

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mourns the sad demise of



H H the Amir

Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

May Allah grant his soul eternal peace



The late Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (center) attends the second session of the 16th legislative term, at the parliament in Kuwait City on October 26, 2021. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat, KUNA and AFP



Kuwait overwhelmed with sorrow, sadness

KUWAIT: Sorrow and sadness overwhelmed Kuwait at the news of the passing of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at the age of 86, after a long and illustrious career spanning decades and including monumental milestones, contributing to the development and progress of the country. With his passing, Kuwait has lost one of its major figures who added to the country's history and helped it overcome various challenges, leading to a more prosperous nation.

History will remember His Highness the Amir through the various posts he held prior to leading the country, and Kuwaitis are grateful for his wise and thoughtful leadership. The Amiri Diwan, on this grim occasion, expressed its sorrow over the death of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, sharing this sentiment with both the Arab and Muslim worlds.

His Highness the Amir ascended to power on September 29, 2020, following the death of the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in accordance with the consti-

tuition, becoming the 16th Amir of the State of Kuwait. The Cabinet convened on that day and announced His Highness Sheikh Nawaf, then the Crown Prince, as the Amir of Kuwait in accordance with the constitution pertaining to the ascension of leadership in Kuwait.

His Highness Sheikh Nawaf

holding the position for 14 years and contributing to the nation's decision-making process.

On September 30, 2020, Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad took the constitutional oath in front of the National Assembly in accordance with Article 60 of the Constitution. His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad



A file photo taken on February 07, 2006 shows the then Crown Prince HH Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in his car in Kuwait City.

Al-Ahmad became the Amir after 58 years of holding numerous posts, including Governor of Hawally, Interior Minister, Minister of Defense, Minister of Social Affairs and Labor, Deputy Chief of the Kuwait National Guard (KNG), and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior. His Highness Sheikh Nawaf, prior to becoming the Amir, was named Crown Prince of Kuwait in 2006,

was born on June 25, 1937, the sixth son of the late Amir Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the 10th ruler of Kuwait who ruled between 1921 and 1950. Since the Independence of Kuwait, Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad has held several positions, starting on February 12, 1962, when then-Amir, the late Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, assigned him as Governor of Hawally.



A handout file picture shows the late Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (center right) inaugurating the Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC)'s full operation of the environmental fuel project.



A handout file picture shows the late Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (right), welcoming Algerian President Abdelmajid Tebboun in Kuwait City on February 23, 2022.



A handout file picture shows the then Kuwaiti Crown Prince HH Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah shaking hands with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan at the Kuwait international airport on April 27, 2015.

Local



The late Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah takes constitutional oath as Minister of Interior in 1978.

He continued in this position until March 19, 1978. In the same year, Sheikh Nawaf was assigned as Interior Minister in the era of the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, continuing in the post until January 26th, 1988, when

Sheikh Nawaf was appointed as Deputy Chief of the Kuwait National Guard (KNG) until July 13, 2003, when he took on the responsibility of Minister of Interior. On October 16th of the same year, he became First Deputy Prime Minister



Late Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at the National Assembly to take constitutional oath as Amir.

he was appointed as Minister of Defense. After the liberation of Kuwait from the Iraqi invasion in 1991, His Highness Sheikh Nawaf was assigned as Minister of Social Affairs and Labor on April 20, 1990, and he continued in this post until October 17, 1992.

On October 16, 1994, His Highness

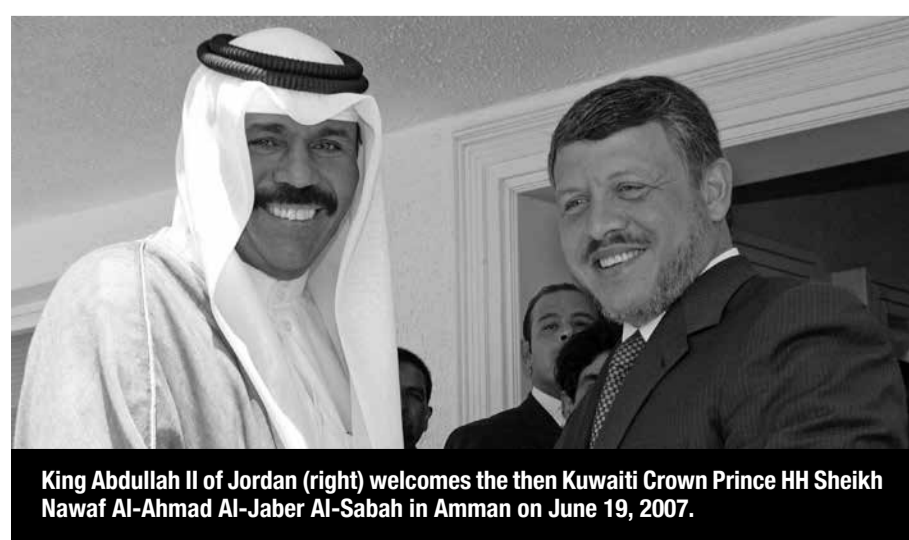
and Minister of Interior and remained as such until becoming Crown Prince in 2006. In the last three years, Kuwait has witnessed a quantum leap in its development plans due to the instructions and guidance of His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad, efforts recognized by countries in the Arab world, the region,



In this file photo, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak (right) meets with the then Crown Prince HH Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah in Cairo 17 June 2007.



A handout picture shows the the late Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah (left) welcoming Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Kuwait City on August 26, 2013.



King Abdullah II of Jordan (right) welcomes the then Kuwaiti Crown Prince HH Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in Amman on June 19, 2007.



A file photo shows the late Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (center) and HH the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah (right) bestowing upon Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman the Order of Mubarak the Great, during their meeting in Kuwait City on December 10, 2021.

and the world.

On numerous occasions, His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad stressed the need for national unity and solidarity to face any hardships and challenges that might face Kuwait and its people. He also called on his people to cherish the country's democracy and traditions, saying that Kuwaitis would be strong and productive through their unity and sacrifice. His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad was always keen on issues pertaining to Kuwait and its people, doing his utmost to ensure that Kuwaitis and residents alike were cared for and their concerns were heard by the executive, legislative, and judicial authorities.

He called on state institutions to heed the aspirations of the Kuwaiti people, enabling young and old to excel and achieve their dreams for the development and progress of Kuwait in all possible domains and spheres. His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad was also keen on matters pertaining to the Arab world; chiefly among them was the struggle of the Palestinian people towards independence from their Zionist occupiers and oppressors.

On relations with the world, His Highness Sheikh Nawaf continued Kuwait's longstanding foreign policy of previous decades, which stood on respecting international laws and regulations, bolstering world peace and security, and helping boost dialogue and understanding amongst all countries. Despite his passing, His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad's achievements and contributions will remain etched in the history of both Kuwait and the world. - KUNA



(File photo) Late Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah (right) walks with Bahrain's King Hamad bin Issa Al-Khalifa at the end of the final session of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) summit in Kuwait City on December 15, 2009.



The late Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.



A file photo shows Kuwait's Late Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (left) receiving Egypt's President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi in Kuwait City on February 22, 2022. - AFP



(Files photo) Late Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah receives condolences from Britain's Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, in Kuwait City.

Embassies offer condolences

British Ambassador Belinda Lewis



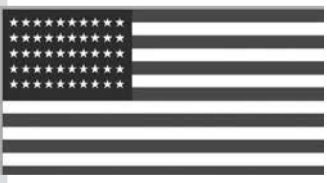
It is with great sorrow that I learnt of the passing of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. His Highness dedicated his life to the service of Kuwait, including its relationships with its allies and friends. He will be remembered by all for his efforts to support those in need, and for his humanitarian leadership in the face of natural disasters and conflict. His Highness will also be remembered as a great and long-standing friend of the UK, and for all he did to strengthen UK/Kuwait relations. On behalf of the British government, I would like to offer my deepest condolences to the Al-Sabah family, friends and the people of Kuwait.

Cypriot Ambassador Michael Mavros



It is with profound sorrow and grief that we have received the sad news of the demise of His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the 16th Amir of Kuwait. Since the country's independence and during his almost sixty year-long public service His Highness demonstrated hardworking ability, wisdom and exemplary dedication to the country's affairs and citizens' matters. During his reign, Kuwait witnessed further development and prosperity, managed to maintain national unity, stability and security, successfully dealt with the coronavirus' repercussions and completed the Kuwaiti mediation process of uniting Gulf Cooperation Council member countries in 2021, thus boosting the country's distinguished status on Arab, regional and international levels. Under his leadership, Kuwait maintained its long-standing policy of moderation and tolerance, respect for the sovereignty of all countries, non-interference in their domestic affairs, adherence to international law and peaceful settlement of conflicts amongst countries, all of which are paramount to the Republic of Cyprus as well. On behalf of the Government and the people of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to extend to the bereaved Royal Family and the friendly people of the State of Kuwait, our most heartfelt condolences. May His Soul rest in peace and His Legacy forever be remembered.

US Embassy



We are deeply saddened to learn of the death of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. We extend our deepest condolences to his family and the people of Kuwait. His Highness the Amir was a friend of the United States and a keen supporter of the deep and longstanding partnership between our two countries. We mourn his passing and remember his significant contributions to the development and progress of his country.

Austrian Ambassador Marian Wrba



Austria mourns the demise of His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the 16th Amir of Kuwait. We always will remember His Highness as a man of great justice and compassion, a wise leader and a noble man with a great heart full of humanity, warmth and care, who tirelessly strived and succeeded in providing the best to his people and all the residents of Kuwait.

European Union Ambassador Anne Koistinen



I am deeply saddened by the passing of His Highness the late Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. On behalf of the European Union Delegation to Kuwait, I would like to convey my sincere condolences to Al-Sabah Family, the government of Kuwait, and to the Kuwaiti people at this difficult time. His Highness the late Amir was a great leader who served his country for many years with unwavering dedication and commitment. He will be long remembered by all who work for regional stability and understanding between nations. I deeply value his friendship towards the European Union and am confident that his legacy will live on in the hearts and minds of the people.

Italian Ambassador Lorenzo Morini



The Ambassador designate of Italy Lorenzo Morini expressed his sincere condolences to the ruling family, government and the people of Kuwait on the death of the Amir, IIII Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. He added: The Italian government, as well as the Italian community residing in Kuwait, offer their deepest condolences and sympathy for the death of His Highness the Amir.

Spanish Ambassador Miguel Moro Aguilar



My deepest condolences and those of Spain's government on the sad news of the death of IIII the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. May God bless his soul. Our deepest sympathy to the ruling family, the government and the People of Kuwait in this moment.

Swiss Ambassador Tiziano Balmelli



On behalf of the Swiss Federal Council, I express our sincere condolences to the ruling family, the government and the people of Kuwait on the death of His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. I know that His Highness was a true friend of Switzerland, a country he knew very well and he appreciated for its genuineness, a characteristic we share between our two peoples. May his soul rest in peace.

French Ambassador Claire Le Flecher



We are very saddened to learn of the death of the Amir IIII Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. On behalf of France, I extend my most heartfelt condolences to the Al-Sabah family, the government and the People of Kuwait.

Japanese Ambassador Morino Yasunari



I would like, on behalf of the government of Japan and its people, to express our most sincere condolences on the demise of the Amir IIII Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. We express our heartfelt sympathies with the ruling family and Kuwaitis. We are deeply grieved by the death of the IIII the Amir who made great contributions with his outstanding leadership and wisdom by deepening ties between Japan and Kuwait. May his soul rest in peace.

Romanian Ambassador Mugurel Stanescu



I would like to express my deepest sorrow on the news of the passing away of His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and to convey my country's sincere regrets to his family and all Kuwaiti citizens. May His Highness's memory last forever, as His leadership contributed so much to peace and stability for Kuwait and the region, especially during such turbulent times. On this sad occasion, I wish to restate the friendship and solidarity that connect our countries and peoples, which will endure even in the most unfortunate periods.

Belgian Ambassador Christian Domes



We extend our most profound condolences to the friendly people of Kuwait on the sad news of the passing of the Amir His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. The departure of this great head of state, who demonstrated extraordinary human qualities, will leave a great void. Our thoughts and prayers are with the honorable ruling Al-Sabah family and the Kuwaiti nation.

German Ambassador Hans-Christian von Reibnitz



It is with the utmost sorrow and sadness to receive news about the passing away of the Amir, IIII Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. He was a great man, in the service of his country at all times; defender of social justice and reconciliation; wise leader in challenging times - fostering the close relationship with Germany. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the ruling family and to all people of Kuwait. May his soul rest in peace.

Azeri Ambassador Emil Karimov



With profound sorrow, I express my deepest condolences, both personally and on behalf of the staff of the Embassy of Azerbaijan to the government and people of Kuwait. The news of the death of the Amir IIII Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is met with great sadness by myself and the entire Azerbaijani nation. His Highness Sheikh Nawaf was a beacon of values, principles, and ethics. He dedicated his life to the betterment of the Arab and Islamic nation. His achievements and contributions are etched in history, leaving a lasting legacy.

Sierra Leonean Ambassador Haja Ishata Thomas



Sierra Leone Embassy in Kuwait offers its deepest sympathy and condolence to Kuwait's leadership and the people of Kuwait for the death of His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. His Highness was a friend to all. He has an outstanding legacy. Sierra Leonean Ambassador to Kuwait Haja Ishata Thomas said. May his soul rest in peace.

Bhutanese Ambassador Chitem Tenzin



Royal Bhutanese Embassy and the Bhutanese workers in Kuwait share the immense sorrow and loss at the saddest passing away of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. We all offer our deepest condolences to the esteemed Royal Family members and the friendly people of Kuwait. Bhutan and Kuwait enjoy the most cordial relations and IIII the late Amir has greatly strengthened our bilateral relations. Our Kings, governments and our people will always remain highly indebted for IIII's graciousness and love for our country and people. Our King, country and people profoundly mourn IIII's sad demise. May His Highness's gracious soul rest in peace. May peace, progress and prosperity ever shine on the great rulers and the friendly people of Kuwait forever.

Hungarian Ambassador Andras Szabo



The Embassy of Hungary in Kuwait extends its sincere condolences to Al-Sabah family and Kuwaitis on for the passing of the Amir, His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Nigeria Embassy



The Nigeria Embassy in Kuwait wishes to express its sympathy to the Kuwait's leadership and Kuwaitis on the death of the Amir, IIII Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Nigeria embassy's Charge d'affaires Mahammed Ahmed Abdullahi praised the great Amir for his great service and wise leadership. May Allah grants him eternal rest.

Peruvian Ambassador Carlos Velasco Mendiola



On behalf of the Embassy of the Republic of Peru, I extend my heartfelt condolences to the noble people of Kuwait and the government on the passing of the Amir IIII Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. His Highness was a respected leader who led Kuwait through times of both prosperity and challenge. His unwavering dedication to his nation and his commitment to regional and international cooperation were an inspiration to all. With deepest sympathy.

Canadian Ambassador Aliya Mawani



On behalf of our Embassy team, I would like to offer my deepest and most sincere condolences to the Al-Sabah family and the people of Kuwait on the passing of the Amir of Kuwait IIII Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. His wise leadership and dedication to his country will never be forgotten.

Iranian Ambassador Mohammad Totoni



On behalf of the government and people of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I convey heartfelt condolences to the new Amir IIII Sheikh Mishal Al-Sabah, the esteemed Al-Sabah family, and the people of Kuwait. We mourn the passing of His Highness the late Amir. May God grant Kuwait leader strength and solace to all those affected by this profound loss.

Palestinian Ambassador Rami Tahboub



With profound sorrow, I express my condolences on behalf of the Palestinian community in Kuwait and the Palestine embassy. We mourn the loss of a distinguished Arab leader, the Amir IIII Sheikh Nawaf Al-Sabah, who dedicated his life to the service of Kuwait, its people, and the broader Arab and Islamic nation with utmost sincerity and love. May God bestow mercy upon him as we remember his genuine affection for Palestine. Throughout his tenure, he steadfastly championed the Palestinian cause, demonstrating unwavering support for their rights. His clear and resolute stance during the Gaza Strip aggression reflected a commitment to stand by the Palestinian people, directing Kuwait's political leadership and government to provide essential assistance. In praying for the late Amir's soul to find peace, we extend heartfelt condolences to the honorable Al-Sabah family, the beloved people of Kuwait, and the entire Arab nation.

Senegalese Ambassador Ibrahim Al Khalil Seck



The Senegalese Ambassador to Kuwait Ibrahim Al Khalil has expressed his sincere condolences to the Kuwait leadership and the people of Kuwait on the death of the Amir, IIII Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. May His Highness's soul rest in peace.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
يَا أَيُّهَا النَّفِيرُ الْمُطِيبُ اجْعَلِي بَرَكَةَ هَذَا مَرْتَابًا صَيِّبًا وَمِنْهُ جَنَاتِي وَعِزِّي
صَدَقَ اللَّهُ الْعَظِيمُ



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بوفاة صاحب السمو أمير البلاد

السيد نوراف في الله محمد الجابر الصباح

تغمده الله بواسع رحمته وأسكنه فسيح جناته
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International

Three Gaza hostages killed by Zionist forces waved white flag

Funeral held for Al-Jazeera journalist killed by Zionists • Gaza pounding continues

JERUSALEM: The Zionist entity's army said Saturday that three hostages mistakenly killed by soldiers carried a white flag and cried for help in Hebrew. Yotam Haim, Alon Shamriz and Samer El-Talalqa—all in their 20s—were shot during operations in Gaza City on Friday, sparking protests in Zionist entity.

They were among about 250 people taken hostage during Palestinian militant group Hamas's October 7 attacks in Zionist entity. Zionist army spokesman Daniel Hagari said that during fighting in the Shejaiya district of Gaza City, troops "mistakenly identified three Zionist entity hostages as a threat and as a result, fired toward them and the hostages were killed". An army official said the hostages were all "without shirts" and had "a stick with a white cloth on it", but a soldier felt threatened and opened fire. "Two are killed immediately, one is injured and runs back into the building," the official said, adding that the soldiers heard "a cry for help... in Hebrew".

Meanwhile, dozens of journalists took part in a funeral on Saturday for an Al-Jazeera cameraman killed in a Zionist entity strike in the south of the war-torn Gaza Strip. Samer Abu Daqqa's body, bearing his bullet-proof vest and helmet, was carried through a crowd in the city of Khan Yunis before being buried in a grave dug by fellow journalists. His mother Umm Maher Abu Daqqa accused Zionists of targeting journalists, "especially those working for Al-Jazeera".

Abu Daqqa, born in 1978, was reporting from a school in Khan Yunis when he was hit by a drone strike on Friday, said the Qatar-based Al-Jazeera television network. His colleague, Gaza bureau chief Wael Al-Dahdouh, was wounded in the same attack. Dahdouh had lost his wife and two children in a separate Zionist strike in the initial weeks of the war.

Despite a ceasefire order, "there's another burst of fire towards the third figure and he also dies." The official called it a "tragic" event and "very hard day", but said the troops had faced "intense combat in the area". Hundreds were expected to gather Saturday in Tel Aviv to call on Netanyahu's government to secure the release of 129 hostages still held in the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip. "I am dying of fear," said

Merav Svirsky, sister of hostage Itay Svirsky at a protest on Friday. "We demand a deal now."

In November, a one-week truce saw more than 100 hostages freed in exchange for Palestinians held in Zionist entity jails, but fighting has since resumed. The hostages' deaths have heightened already fierce scrutiny of how Zionist entity is conducting its ground and air assault in Gaza. The White House, which provides billions of dollars in military aid to Zionist entity, has voiced growing concern over civilian deaths. "I want them to be focused on how to save civilian lives—not stop going after Hamas, but be more careful," US President Joe Biden said this week. News platform Axios said the director of Zionist entity intelligence agency Mossad, David Barnea, was due to meet this weekend in an unspecified location in Europe with Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, who helped negotiate the earlier truce.

In Gaza, fierce fighting continued. The Zionist entity army said Saturday it had raided two schools in Gaza City. It said they were Hamas hiding places. A funeral was held in Gaza for Samer Abu Daqqa, a journalist with TV network Al-Jazeera killed the previous day by a Zionist entity strike in Khan Yunis that also wounded his colleague, Wael Al-Dahdouh. "He died hungry, they died with nothing to eat, with hunger. Oh my darling," said his grieving mother, Umm Maher.

More than 60 journalists and media staff have died since the war began, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists. "We were reporting, we were filming, we had finished and we were with the civil defense, but when we were on the way back, they hit us with a missile," said Dahdouh, who lost his wife, two children and grandchild earlier in the war. In the face of growing international pressure, Zionist entity announced a "temporary measure" allowing aid to be delivered directly to Gaza through the Kerem Shalom border crossing. A World Health Organization representative said the decision was "very good news". Since the war began, aid has trickled into Gaza through the Rafah crossing with Egypt. Humanitarian agencies have said the volume is just a



KHAN YUNIS: Al-Jazeera correspondent Wael Al-Dahdouh mourns over the body of Al-Jazeera cameraman Samer Abu Daqqa, who was killed during Zionist bombardment, during his funeral in Khan Yunis on the southern Gaza Strip on December 16, 2023. — AFP

fraction of what is needed to help the estimated 1.9 million Gazans displaced by the war. Washington hopes the Palestinian Authority can resume control of Gaza as part of a renewed push for a two-state solution to the Zionist entity-Palestinian conflict—a solution that Netanyahu has resolutely opposed. The conflict has appeared to push any peace deal further out of view. Multiple Western governments issued a joint statement demanding that Zionist entity "take concrete steps to halt unprecedented violence by Zionist entity settlers" in the West Bank. More than 280 Palestinians have been killed by Zionist entity forces or settlers in the West Bank since the war in

Gaza erupted. Zionist entity's police force said it had suspended several officers after they severely assaulted a journalist for Turkish news agency Anadolu as he was trying to take photos of Palestinians praying in annexed east Jerusalem.

And on Saturday eight Palestinians were arrested across the West Bank during Zionist entity raids, according to Palestinian news agency Wafa. The war continues to be felt across the Middle East, with fears of a new front opening on Zionist entity's northern border with Lebanon, where it has exchanged regular fire with militants, mainly the powerful Hezbollah. — AFP

Iran executes man convicted of spying for Zionist entity

TEHRAN: Iran on Saturday executed a man who was sentenced to death after being convicted of working with Zionist entity's intelligence services, the judiciary said.

"The death sentence was carried out this morning against a spy of the Zionist regime in Zahedan prison" in the southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchistan, the judiciary's Mizan Online website said. It did not identify the man but said he had been convicted of "intelligence cooperation and espionage for the benefit of the hostile Zionist regime (Zionist entity)".

He was also found guilty of "collecting and providing classified information to the Mossad spy service with the aim of disrupting public order", Mizan added. It was not immediately clear when or where the man was arrested or put on trial. Iran has previously announced the arrests of alleged agents working for foreign countries, including Zionist entity, its regional arch-foe. In December 2022, the Islamic republic hanged four people who had been convicted of collaborating with Zionist entity's intelligence services.

Iran does not recognize Zionist entity and the two countries have engaged in a shadow war for years. Tehran accuses Zionist entity of carrying out a wave of sabotage attacks and assassinations targeting its nuclear program. The United States and Zionist entity accuse Iran of using drones and missiles to attack US forces and Zionist entity-linked ships in the Gulf. According to human rights groups, including Amnesty International, Iran executes more people per year than any other nation except China. — AFP

West urges Zionist entity to halt settler violence

PARIS/RAMALLAH: Western nations and the European Union Friday urged Zionist entity to "take concrete steps to halt unprecedented violence by Zionist entity settlers in the occupied West Bank," in a joint statement published by France's foreign ministry. The call from Australia, Britain, Canada, France, the European Union and several other European countries—but notably excluding Germany and the United States—highlighted "an unprecedented number of attacks perpetrated by extremist settlers" since early October that they said had claimed eight Palestinian lives and wounded 83 people.

Reiterating that Zionist entity's settlement policy "is illegal under international law," the signatories of Friday's statement said that "as the occupying power, Zionist entity must protect Palestinian civilians in the West Bank" and "bring those responsible for this violence to justice". Friday's statement comes days after EU chief Ursula von der Leyen backed imposing sanctions on "extremist" Zionist entity settlers—although not all of the bloc's 27 nations agree. While some members such as Spain have sharply criticized Zionist entity's response to Hamas' attack, others including Germany stand firmly behind the state.

More than 280 Palestinians have been killed by Zionist entity forces or settlers in the West Bank since the war in Gaza erupted on October 7, health officials say. Over the same period, more than 18,700 people have been killed in the Zionist entity offensive on Gaza, according to the health ministry in the Hamas-run besieged Palestinian territory.

Ukraine says shot down 30 drones in new attack

KYIV: The Ukrainian air force said Saturday that it had repelled a Russian drone attack overnight, shooting down 30 of 31 drones launched by Moscow.

The attack targeted regions including the capital Kyiv, the southern region of Kherson as well as the western Khmelnytsky region. "A total of 31 Shahed-136/131 attack drones were used in the attack, which the occupiers sent to different region of Ukraine," the Ukrainian air force said in a statement.

Kherson was recaptured by Ukrainian forces in November 2022 but has since faced relentless shelling by Russian forces from the opposite bank of the adjoining Dnipro river. Meanwhile Russian authorities reported that one person had died in overnight Ukrainian bombings on the occupied southern Kherson region. The governor of the Russian region of Belgorod, Vyacheslav Gladkov, reported that there had been 41 Ukrainian strikes in the last 24 hours on the territory, which borders Ukraine.

Russia said Friday that it had thwarted a series of Ukrainian drone attacks in two border regions. Over a two-hour period, 26 drones were shot down over the Crimea peninsula annexed from Ukraine in 2014, the defence ministry said in a statement, without saying if there were any victims or damage. Earlier, the ministry said in posts on Telegram that six drones targeting "installations on Russian territory" were shot down in the Kursk region, again without providing further details.

Drone attacks have been almost daily occurrences in Russia's border regions, though mass attacks are less common. Russia, meanwhile, bombards Ukrainian towns almost daily. This week, it launched a



JENIN: Men stand amid the rubble of a building destroyed during the Zionist army operation in the Jenin refugee camp, on December 15, 2023. — AFP

Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas said Gaza was an "integral part" of the Palestinian state during talks with a top US official at his West Bank headquarters Friday, his office said. The meeting came as Zionist entity pressed its offensive in Gaza despite mounting international calls for restraint, with key backer the United States saying the

war must not lead to a long-term Zionist entity occupation of the territory. Abbas told visiting US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan that "Gaza is an integral part of the State of Palestine", his office said in a statement, adding that "the president underscored that separation or any attempt to isolate any part of it is unacceptable". — AFP

Two migrants dead in attempted Channel crossings: France

CALAIS: Two migrants died as they attempted to cross the Channel in two separate incidents, French authorities said on Friday. The first migrant—a man aged 30 to 35—died overnight Thursday to Friday off the coast of Gravelines as an overcrowded inflatable boat capsized, regional prosecutors said. The boat was carrying 50 men, seven women and two children. Two people were missing, but the search for them was called off at nightfall Friday, prosecutors said.

A man suspected of piloting the boat was arrested, prosecutors said. French sea rescue coordinators at Gris Nez, near the northern port city Calais, were warned during the night that a migrant boat was in difficulty less than eight kilometers (five miles) from the coast. A rescue vessel arrived in the area at around 30 minutes past midnight (2330 GMT), maritime authorities said.

After the crew found one of the migrant boat's buoyancy tubes "deflated" and people "in the water", they brought everyone they could find back to Calais. In a separate incident, the body of a migrant was found on a beach in Sangatte on Friday morning after an aborted crossing attempt, according to a police source.

The victim was probably Sudanese, the source said. The exact cause of death was not yet known, said the Boulogne-sur-Mer public prosecutor's office, which opened an investigation into "involuntary manslaughter". According to the prosecutors, "a group of 70 migrants went to sea in a 'small boat', but the boat returned to the beach" around 7 am. — AFP



A Ukrainian tank crew takes part in a drill not far from the front line in the Bakhmut direction, in the Donetsk region, on December 15, 2023, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine. — AFP

massive drone attack on southern Ukraine and fired ballistic missiles at Kyiv, where about 50 people were wounded by debris. Moscow's forces say Ukrainian missile kills 2 in Russian-held village

Meanwhile, a Ukrainian missile attack on a Russian-held village in southern Ukraine killed two people, Moscow's occupying authorities in the Kherson region said on Saturday. Moscow's forces said the missile hit the village of Nova Mayachka, on the Russian-occupied bank of the Dnipro river and located some 70 kilometers (40 miles) east of the Ukrainian-held city of Kherson. "Two civilians were killed. Two other (civilians) were wounded," Moscow-appointed

official Vladimir Saldo said.

A US-made HIMARS missile hit in the village of Nova Mayachka "during the delivery of humanitarian aid", according to Saldo. Other missiles, which he said were launched by Kyiv, had been downed by air defense. Military personnel helping to deliver the aid had also been wounded.

"The wounded have been given the necessary medical help and emergency services are working at the scene," he said. Moscow's offensive in Ukraine has dragged on for nearly two years. The front has barely moved in southern and eastern Ukraine for months. — AFP

International

Japan, ASEAN to boost maritime security ties with eye on China

Tokyo to push energy cooperation with AZEC meeting

TOKYO: Southeast Asian and Japanese leaders will agree to boost "maritime security cooperation", according to a draft statement seen by AFP from a summit that kicked off Saturday against the backdrop of growing tensions in the South China Sea. China claims almost the entire waterway, a vital trade corridor, and its increasingly aggressive behavior in disputed areas has riled nations across the region as well as Washington. Close US ally Japan, which also has competing territorial claims with China, is upping its military spending and has already boosted security cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region, including with South Korea and Australia.

According to the draft of the weekend summit's final statement, Japan and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) will commit to "(strengthen) security cooperation, including maritime security cooperation". Japan on Wednesday expressed "serious concern" about "dangerous actions" after the latest tense confrontation between Philippine and Chinese vessels at flashpoint reefs that included a collision and Chinese ships shooting water cannon.

Tokyo added that it "concurs with the Philippines' long-standing objections to unlawful maritime claims, militarization, coercive activities and threat or use of force in the South China Sea".

Japan last month agreed to help the Philippines—whose President Ferdinand Marcos was due in Tokyo—buy coast-

guard vessels and to supply a radar system, and the two are discussing allowing troop deployments on each other's soil. With Malaysia, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said on Saturday that he had agreed with counterpart Anwar Ibrahim to deepen strategic ties and provide 400 million yen (\$2.8 million) for "warning and surveillance" equipment.

Kishida said that with the world "at a historical turning point, Japan places great importance on promoting cooperation with ASEAN, including Malaysia, to maintain and strengthen a free and open international order based on the rule of law and to ensure a world where human dignity is protected".

Malaysia, along with the Philippines, Vietnam, Brunei and Taiwan, have overlapping claims in the South China Sea.

In September, militaries from ASEAN nations held their first-ever joint exercises, although host Indonesia insisted they were non-combat drills, focusing on areas such as disaster relief and maritime patrols. Asked about the ASEAN summit, China's foreign ministry said Friday that Beijing "believed that any cooperation should be conducive to advancing mutual trust among regional countries and promoting common development".

"We hope that relevant countries can truly do things conducive to regional peace and stability. At the same time, any cooperation should not target third parties," spokeswoman Mao



TOKYO: ASEAN leaders pose for a group photo prior to their dinner at the Akasaka Guesthouse in Tokyo on December 16, 2023. — AFP

Ning told a regular briefing.

Japan is also expected to use the summit to push energy cooperation, with a meeting of its Asian Zero Emission Community (AZEC) initiative scheduled for Monday that will be attended virtually by Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, officials said.

Tokyo is boosting its renewables sector but has also come under fire from environmental groups for providing large-scale public financing for fossil fuel projects around Asia.

Japan has also been seeking to push the export of tech aimed at reducing emissions by coal plants, such as co-firing with ammonia and carbon capture. But critics say these methods are unproven and expensive.

"This push to lock in fossil fuel-based energy across the continent is delaying the transition from fossil fuels to renewables," the Climate Action Network said this month. Ammonia "fails to meaningfully reduce emissions, jeopardises the decarbonization

of Japan's energy and any possibility of phasing out fossil fuels", it said.

ASEAN's 10 member states are Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and Myanmar. The summit marks 50 years of ties with Japan. While Myanmar is a member, the leaders of its junta have been banned from the bloc's high-level meetings since failing to implement an agreed five-point peace plan following the 2021 coup in which they took power. — AFP

DR Congo's democracy backsliding ahead of vote, say rights groups

KINSHASA: DR Congo's democracy has been backsliding ahead of elections this month, according to rights defenders, as prominent journalists languish in prison and the murder of an opposition politician remains unsolved. President Felix Tshisekedi came to power in 2019 after a campaign criticizing the rights record of his predecessor Joseph Kabila, among other issues.

But a slew of recent events have sparked concerns about the president's own record. A former minister turned opposition member was found dead in the central African nation's capital Kinshasa in July. A few months later, one of the best-known Congolese journalists was imprisoned after the authorities accused him of spreading fake news about the murder.

"These are signs of the narrowing of the democratic space," said a rights researcher, who requested anonymity. The Democratic Republic of Congo is scheduled to hold elections on December 20. Tshisekedi, 60, will be running for a second term.

Human Rights Watch warned Saturday that it had documented clashes and other violence between supporters of rival parties that could undermine the vote. "Political parties and candidates should publicize their anti-violence stance and help ensure that people have the opportunity to vote for the candidates of their choice," said HRW researcher Thomas Fessy.

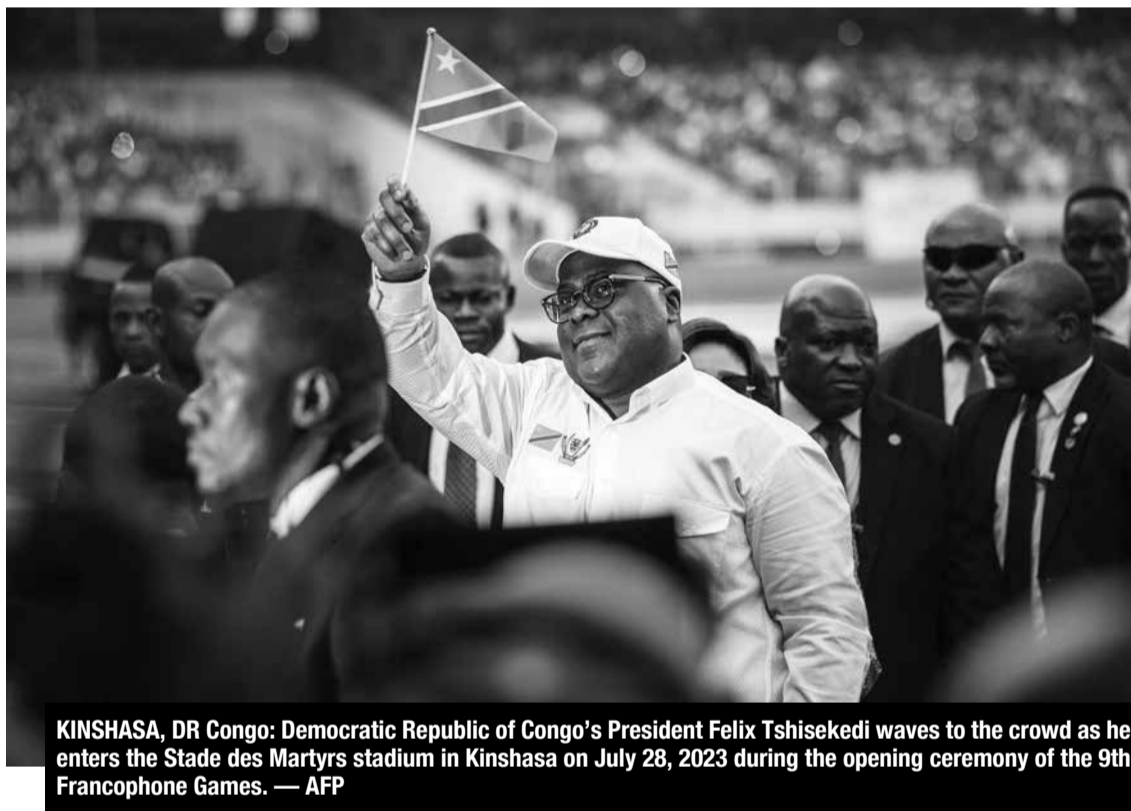
Tshisekedi released hundreds of political prisoners when he first took office, but initial optimism began to fade after intimidation of critics started again in 2020. Opposition members regularly say they are harassed, and point to arrests they claim are politically motivated.

Despite its mineral riches, DRC is one of the poorest nations of the world, and has a history of autocratic rule. Floribert Anzuluni, a presidential candidate and former rights activist, told AFP that repression often spikes around elections.

"It's the case today, there's a hardening of the democratic space," he said.

In a high-profile case in May, Congolese military intelligence arrested Salomon Idi Kalonda, a close advisor to opposition presidential contender Moïse Katumbi. Kalonda was accused of colluding with M23 rebels in the country's east, as well as the group's alleged backers, Rwanda. His trial is ongoing.

A month later, the body of Cherubin Okende, a former transport minister and Katumbi ally, was



KINSHASA, DR Congo: Democratic Republic of Congo's President Felix Tshisekedi waves to the crowd as he enters the Stade des Martyrs stadium in Kinshasa on July 28, 2023 during the opening ceremony of the 9th Francophone Games. — AFP

found riddled with bullets in Kinshasa. The government has condemned the killing and opened an investigation. But several analysts say the investigation has stalled.

"The justice system seems not to be doing its job," Anzuluni said. In September, the prominent Congolese journalist Stanis Bujakera, who works for Reuters and Jeune Afrique magazine, was arrested on suspicion of spreading false information about Okende's killing. His arrest followed a Jeune Afrique article -- which was not bylined—that suggested that Congolese military intelligence had assassinated Okende. The article was based on a memo that the Congolese authorities have said is fake.

Bujakera remains in prison with the trial ongoing. Eric Nsenga, who works on human rights for ECC, a federation of Congolese protestant churches, said Bujakera's arrest "sends an image of intimidation".

Bujakera's case attracted an outpouring of international criticism. But rights defenders say arrests of lesser-known figures have gone unnoticed. Human Rights Watch said last week that opposition member Lens Omelonga had been freed after seven months in detention. He had shared a social-media post criticizing the foundation of the president's wife Denise Tshisekedi.



Deja Taylor arrives with attorney James Ellenson (left) to the Newport News Sheriffs Office in Newport News, Virginia, on April 13, 2023, to turn herself in.

killing seven people during a US Independence Day parade pleaded guilty last month to "reckless conduct" for helping his son obtain the assault rifle used in the mass shooting. The parents of a 15-year-old boy who killed four people at a high school in Oakland County, Michigan, in November 2021 have been charged for buying their son a gun even though they were aware of signs he was a threat. While accidents involving young children accessing unsecured firearms in their homes are common in the United States, school shootings perpetrated by those under 10 years old are rare. A database compiled by US researcher David Riedman has only registered about 15 such incidents since the 1970s. — AFP

Mother of 6-yr-old US boy who shot teacher sentenced to 2 years

WASHINGTON: A Virginia woman whose six-year-old son shot and severely wounded his teacher was sentenced to two years in prison on Friday. Deja Taylor's son brought her gun to school in the southern US state on January 6 and shot his elementary school teacher.

The teacher was hospitalized for two weeks with injuries to her hand and chest. The 26-year-old Taylor was sentenced to 21 months in prison in November after pleading guilty to illegally obtaining the firearm and making a false statement on a government form required to purchase the weapon. Taylor had claimed, falsely, on the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives form that she did not consume illegal drugs. Newport News Circuit Court Judge Christopher Papile sentenced Taylor on Friday to an additional two years in prison for felony child neglect. The two-year prison sentence is to be served after Taylor completes the 21-month sentence.

Amid a huge number of deadly firearms incidents involving young people, pressure has been mounting in the United States to punish parents who make it possible for their children to get weapons. The father of an Illinois man accused of

US warns China against Taiwan poll interference

WASHINGTON: The United States on Friday warned China not to interfere in Taiwan's upcoming presidential elections, urging "responsible behavior on all sides." The lead-up to the self-ruled island's January 13 poll is being closely watched—including by policymakers in Beijing and Washington—as it could determine the future of Taiwan's relations with an increasingly bellicose China.

Dutch gov't drops objection to Bulgaria joining Schengen

THE HAGUE: Bulgaria has met the conditions to join Europe's passport-free Schengen area by strengthening its borders and efforts to combat illegal migration, the Netherlands said Friday, as Sofia took one step closer to joining. The Dutch government

Founder of China's SenseTime, AI scientist dies

BEIJING: The founder of leading Chinese AI firm SenseTime and an influential computer scientist has suddenly passed away, the company said in a statement Saturday. "It is with an extremely heavy heart that we announce to everyone the sorrowful news: Our beloved founder... Tang Xiao'ou, due to illness that could not be treated, left us forever at 23:45 on December 15, 2023," SenseTime said in an online post.

Tang, an alumnus of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and former professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong who founded SenseTime in 2014, was in his mid-fifties.

The specific cause of the renowned computer scientist's death was not stated. SenseTime was placed on a US trade blacklist in 2019, accused of being an arm of China's "military-industrial complex" over the use of its technology in mass surveillance in the western region of Xinjiang.

In December 2021, the firm's initial public offering in Hong Kong was delayed after it came under new restrictions by the US for related accusations, although it successfully listed on the exchange before the year ended.

SenseTime hailed Tang in its Saturday statement as "an outstanding representative in (China's) AI field", calling him "knowledgeable, rigorous in scholarship, truth-seeking and pragmatic". "The company mission he formulated, to 'insist on originality and let AI lead human progress' will inspire all SenseTime people," the firm said. Tang had extensive experience in American academia, earning a PhD from MIT in 1996 after completing an MSc at the University of Rochester in 1991. — AFP



Tang Xiao'ou

"Our strong expectation and hope is that those elections be free of intimidation, or coercion, or interference from all sides," said the US ambassador to China, Nicholas Burns.

Taiwan is a major tension point between China and the United States, Taipei's most important ally. China claims self-ruled Taiwan as its own and has repeatedly vowed to seize it one day, by force if necessary. "The United States is not involved and will not be involved in these elections," Burns said.

Taiwan is a major semiconductor producer, and the Taiwan Strait remains a crucial shipping route for global trade. More broadly, Burns noted that "China wishes to become the strongest power in the Indo-Pacific," referring, for example, to its recent activities in the South China Sea. — AFP

has "come to the conclusion that Bulgaria meets the conditions set for Schengen accession and can therefore agree to a decision leading to Bulgaria's full application to Schengen", Dutch deputy justice minister Eric van der Burg said. The Schengen area comprises 23 of the 27 EU member countries plus associated neighbours Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein. Both the Netherlands and Austria have so far thwarted Sofia's bid to enter the free-to-travel zone over worries that the influx of asylum-seekers could grow if the Schengen zone was expanded. But a recent follow-up mission led by the European Commission to Bulgaria found that there were no shortcomings, including in its border controls, Van der Burg said. — AFP

Business

Shipping firms suspend Red Sea traffic after Yemen rebel strikes

Strategic route for Gulf oil and natural gas shipments remains under threat

DUBAI: Two of the world's largest shipping firms, Maersk and Hapag-Lloyd, said Friday they were suspending passage through a Red Sea strait vital for global commerce, after Yemeni rebel attacks in the area.

The Iran-backed Houthis, who control much of Yemen but are not recognized internationally, say they're targeting shipping to pressure Zionist entity during its two-month-old war with Palestinian Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip. The maritime tensions have added to fears that the Gaza conflict could spread.

German transport company Hapag-Lloyd said it was halting Red Sea container ship traffic until December 18, after the Houthis attacked one of its vessels. "Hapag-Lloyd is interrupting all container ship traffic across the Red Sea until Monday," the company said in a statement sent to AFP.

The Danish firm Maersk made a similar announcement, a little earlier. "We have instructed all Maersk vessels in the area bound to pass through the Bab Al-Mandab Strait to pause their journey until further notice," it said. Maersk said this followed a "near-miss incident involving Maersk Gibraltar yesterday" as well as Friday's attack, in which the rebels struck a Hapag-Lloyd cargo ship in the Red Sea.

A US defense official identified it as the Liberia-flagged Al-Jasrah, a 368-metre (1,207-foot) container ship built in 2016. "We are aware that something launched from a Houthi-controlled region of Yemen struck this vessel which was damaged, and there was a report of a fire," the official told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity so that he could discuss intelligence matters. The US Central Command in the Middle East (CENTCOM) confirmed on X, formerly Twitter, that "a UAV" struck the Al-Jasrah causing a fire that was successfully extinguished.

Vessel seized

A Hapag-Lloyd spokesman told AFP: "There has been an attack on one of our ships." It was en route from the Greek port of Piraeus to Singapore. There were no casualties and the ship was traveling onward to its destination, he added. Later in the day during a pro-Palestinian rally in the Yemeni capital, Sanaa, the rebels said they attacked two other ships in the area.

"Container ships MSC Palatium and MSC Alanya were targeted by two naval missiles as they were heading toward the Zionist entity," Houthi military

spokesman Yahya Saree said in a broadcast on the rebels' television channel. The rebels said that, in an earlier attack, the Maersk Gibraltar vessel was "targeted with a drone and the hit was direct". According to a US official, the missile missed.

Saree said the attack came after the ship's crew "refused to respond to the calls of the Yemeni naval services", and that it was intended as retaliation for the "oppression of the Palestinian people". CENTCOM said that the MSC Alanya was only threatened but not struck, while the Palatium was hit by one of two ballistic missiles fired. In a statement posted December 9 on social media, the Houthis said they "will prevent the passage" of ships heading to Zionist entity—regardless of ownership—if food and medicine are not allowed into besieged, Hamas-ruled Gaza.

On Tuesday, they claimed responsibility for a missile strike on a Norwegian-flagged tanker. Last month, they seized a Zionist entity-linked cargo vessel, the Galaxy Leader, and its 25 international crew members. Germany's Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock on Friday said the Houthi attacks "endanger not only Zionist entity's security" but also international shipping routes.

Oil, gas route

Asked at a press conference in Oslo about the potential for broader conflict after the Houthi attacks, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan said: "Our region is very complex and we do not need any other conflicts to erupt." A Saudi-led military coalition has for years backed the Yemeni government against the Houthis, but a United Nations-brokered ceasefire has largely held since expiring over a year ago. Iran's Defense Minister Mohammad-Reza Ashtiani warned on Wednesday against the possible deployment of multinational forces in the Red Sea, which he said would lead to "extraordinary problems", the ISNA news agency said. The attack on the Al-Jasrah occurred near Bab al-Mandab, the narrow strait between Yemen and northeast Africa through which around 20,000 ships pass annually. The area leads to the Red Sea, Zionist entity's southern port facilities and the Suez Canal, making it part of a strategic route for Gulf oil and natural gas shipments. The Houthis have declared themselves part of the "axis of resistance" of Iran-affiliated groups. Western warships are patrolling the area and have shot down Houthi missiles and drones several times. — AFP



Yemeni coastguard members loyal to the internationally-recognized government ride in a speedboat and a patrol boat cruising in the Red Sea off the government-held town of Mokha in the western Taiz province, close to the strategic Bab Al-Mandab Strait. — AFP

Soaring inflation forces Turkey CB chief to move in with parents

ISTANBUL: The new head of Turkey's central bank said she has been priced out of Istanbul's property market by rampant inflation, leaving no choice for the former finance executive but to move back in with her parents.

"We haven't found a home in Istanbul. It's terribly expensive. We've moved in with my parents," 44-year-old Hafize Gaye Erkan, who took up her post in June after two decades in the United States, told the Hurriyet newspaper. Erkan previously worked at firms including Goldman Sachs and First Republic Bank—and is now getting a crash course in the soaring prices that have seen many young people struggling to find lodgings.

"Is it possible that Istanbul has gotten more expensive than Manhattan?" she said. Year-on-year inflation stood at 61 percent in November as President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has allowed the lira currency to weak-

en while promising that a new team of economists with Wall Street experience would tackle years of economic crisis. To quell growing anger, officials also capped rent increases at 25 percent—though experts say that has only amplified the housing tensions, as owners try to push out occupants, sometimes fraudulently, in order to set new and higher rents. The central bank last month pushed up benchmark lending rates to 40 percent in a bid to get inflation under control. "We're nearing the end of our monetary tightening measures," Erkan told the paper. — AFP



Hafize Gaye Erkan

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
يَا أَيُّهَا النَّفْسُ الطَّيِّبَةُ اجْعِي إِلَىٰ بَيْتِ رَبِّكِ صَاحِبَةَ مَوْضِعَةٍ وَأَدْخِلِي فِي عَيْتِكَ وَأَدْخِلِي جَنَّتِي
صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ

In the name of God, the Gracious, the Merciful
On the sad occasion of the passing of

His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

The Late Amir of Kuwait

(May God Bestow Mercy Upon His Soul)

Al-Waseet Financial Business Co.

offers its sincere and heartfelt condolences to

His Highness the Amir

Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

And to his Highness the Prime Minister

Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah

and to the whole honorable Al Sabah Family

And to the honorable people of Kuwait and all Arab and Islamic Nations

You were a leader in humility, and you will forever remain in our hearts

We pray for God's ultimate mercy upon you and grant you the highest position in heaven

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Business

Coal use hits record in 2023, Earth's hottest year, says IEA

Worldwide coal consumption expected to start declining in 2024

PARIS: Global consumption of coal reached an all-time high in 2023, the IEA energy watchdog said Friday, as Earth experienced its hottest recorded year. The International Energy Agency reported that nations would burn even more coal this year than in 2022, the previous record for consumption of the key source of planet-warming gases.

Scientists say greenhouse gases will need to be cut almost in half this decade to meet the world's targets of limiting global heating and avoiding catastrophic impacts on the Earth's climate. The EU's Copernicus Climate Change Service said earlier in December that 2023 will be the hottest on record after November became the sixth record-breaking month in a row.

The IEA said, nevertheless, that after peaking this year, worldwide coal consumption was expected to start declining in 2024, as renewable power generation from solar and wind continues to expand. Its latest forecasts were published two days after the conclusion of the United Nations climate negotiations (COP28) in Dubai—where nearly 200 countries reached a deal that the world should be “transitioning away from fossil fuels” to limit global warming.

It was the first time in the 28-year history of the annual climate negotiations that all fossil fuels were mentioned in an accord. The disruption in the Earth's climate has contributed to an increase in the intensity and frequency of storms, droughts and lethal wildfires around the world.

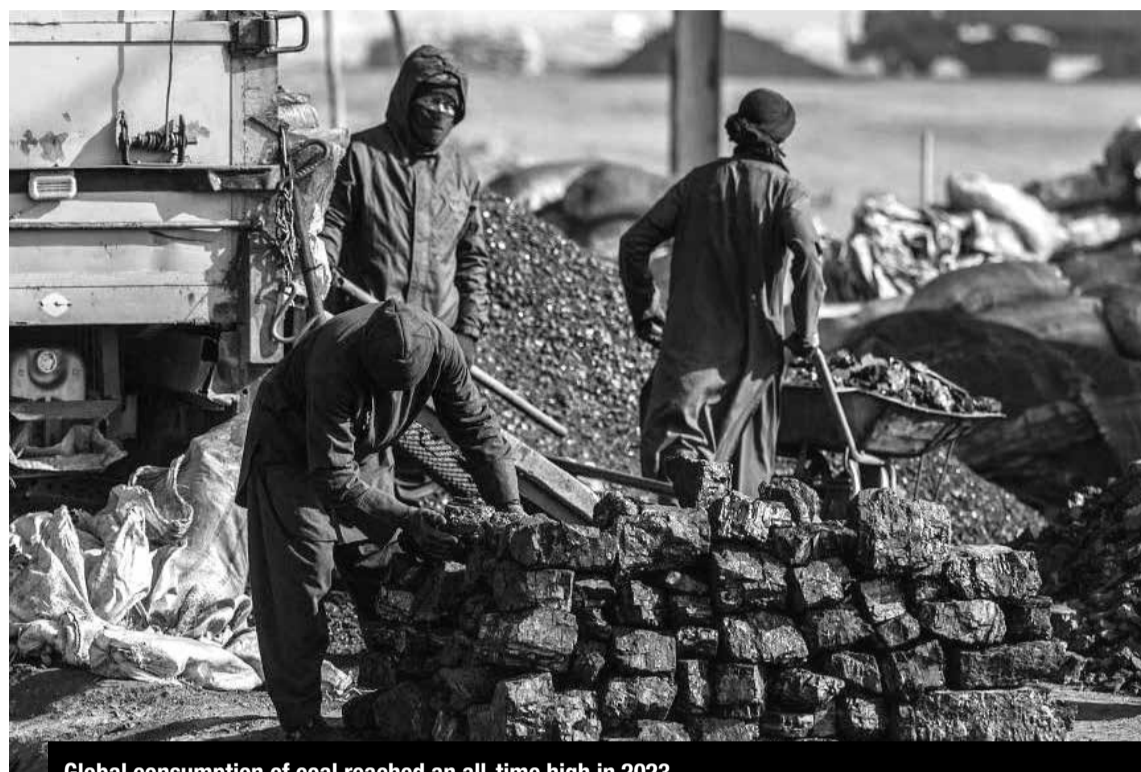
Asia powering coal use

The IEA said consumption of coal, the dirtiest fossil fuel, rose by 1.4 percent in 2023 to a record 8.5 billion tons, as increases in China, India and Indo-

nesia outweighed sharply falling demand in Europe and the United States, the IEA said. “We expect to see a trend emerging of declining worldwide coal demand, starting in 2024,” the Paris-based energy watchdog said, as renewable power generation from solar and wind continues to expand. The appetite for coal is strongest in Asia, it said. Consumption in China alone grew by 220 million tons or 4.9 percent in 2023, while in India it grew eight percent and in Indonesia by 11 percent. Elsewhere, coal use fell 23 percent or by 107 million tons in Europe, while in the United States it dropped 95 million tons or by 21 percent, largely due to weakening industrial activity and an ongoing shift away from coal-fired generation towards renewables.

The IEA said it was difficult to forecast demand in Russia, currently the fourth-largest coal consumer, because of the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, and forecasts for Ukraine were equally uncertain. While the IEA predicted a decline in coal in power stations, it said its use in heavy industries like cement production was expected to continue at high levels. Paradoxically, the high demand for coal in Indonesia's mining sector stems from its booming industry in extracting and refining nickel for use in electric car batteries. China remains the world's largest user of coal, responsible for half (54 percent) of all coal burned worldwide. More than 60 percent of coal burned in China is used to generate electricity and the country continues to build coal-fired power stations.

This year alone, the country has approved new projects totalling 52 gigawatts of new electricity-generating capacity. The IEA nevertheless expects coal consumption in China to start declining, unless heatwaves and very cold spells lead to



Global consumption of coal reached an all-time high in 2023.

higher demand on its power plants.

Burning coal to generate electricity would decline in China to 2.8 billion tons, a drop of 175 million, over the period 2024-26. In its place, the main demand for coal would come from India, at least as far as 2026, the IEA said. In the European Union, an expansion of

renewable energies, which generate very little greenhouse gas emissions, is curbing demand for coal. In Germany, the use of lignite- and coal-powered power stations is expected to tail off significantly by 2025, the watchdog forecast, as solar and wind farms come on stream. — AFP

EU reaches deal to reform bloc's electricity market

BRUSSELS: The European Union reached an agreement on Thursday to reform the bloc's electricity market in a bid to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and stabilize consumer prices, the EU Council said in a statement. “Today, the Council and the Parliament reached a provisional agreement to reform the EU's electricity market design (EMD),” said a statement released by the presidency of the Council of the EU, currently held by Spain.

“The reform aims to make electricity prices less dependent on volatile fossil fuel prices, shield consumers from price spikes, accelerate the deployment of renewable energies and improve consumer protection.” The EU's plans are aimed at making the market less vulnerable to volatility and were seen as a response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which sent energy prices spiraling for consumers and businesses last year.

“This deal is great news, as it will help us reduce even more the EU's dependence on Russian gas and boost fossil-free energy to cut greenhouse gas emissions,” said Teresa Ribera, Spain's energy minister.

The deal will have to be endorsed and adopted by both the Council and the Parliament. Part of wider reforms, the deal also includes a regulation that will improve the EU's protection against market manipu-



lation through enhanced monitoring and transparency, also known as REMIT.

The 27 member states reached a provisional agreement on REMIT on November 16. Thursday's agreement will see states given the “possibility to exclusively support” the acquisition of new renewable generation, in line with member countries' decarbonization plans, said the statement.

Markets faced a busy week for global interest rates after the US Federal Reserve pivoted Wednesday to signal it would cut next year. Both the Bank of England and the European Central Bank distanced themselves on Thursday from cutting any time soon.

“The ECB and the BoE refused to join the Fed-thrown pivot party,” said Ipek Ozkardeska, senior analyst at Swissquote Bank. “Both (ECB president) Christine Lagarde and (BoE governor) Andrew Bailey declined to discuss cutting interest rates, judging a policy loosening too early as the inflation threat looms,” she added, noting also that Norway had sprung a surprise rate hike.

“As a result, the rally in global stock and bond markets slowed.” Nevertheless, the Fed's pivot, which was more dovish than expected, has set up equities for a Santa rally, with a string of data suggesting inflation in the world's top economy was being tamed while avoiding recession.

Now the debate turns to the timing of the first rate cut and how many there will be. Some experts have suggested there could be more than the three envisaged in the Fed's “dot plot.” JPMorgan economists see five. Asian indices were also buoyed by news that China had injected more cash than expected into the financial system. Hong Kong led the advances, surging

more than two percent. Tokyo rebounded from the previous day's loss as the yen's rally against the dollar faded, but Shanghai gave up early gains to end down. Dealers are now keenly awaiting the Bank of Japan's policy decision next week after boss Kazuo Ueda suggested officials could soon move away from their ultra-loose policy. — AFP

the WNA. The financial markets are also concerned by the recent military coup in Niger, a country responsible for four percent of uranium production worldwide last year, Hinze said.

In another move likely to squeeze prices, the Republican-led US House of Representatives voted on Monday to ban uranium imports from Russia, which is responsible for five percent of global production. The bill still has to pass the Democratic-controlled Senate.

All of these factors are compounded by the emergence of financial players who have amassed large reserves of uranium and driven up prices. The biggest of these is Canada's Sprott, which controlled almost 28,000 tons of the precious ore at the end of June. To supply the growing demand for uranium, old mines are being reopened around the world in places like the US state of Utah.

“The demand for uranium will remain strong and grow,” said Hinze from UxC, adding that it was not possible to ramp up supply overnight. As a result, “if anything, the price will go up further, not down,” in the medium term, he said. — AFP

electricity from nuclear power in 2021, according to the US Energy Information Administration.

France, along with Belgium, the UK and Romania recently authorized the extension of the operation of several existing power plants. In the United States, California's public utilities commission (CPUC) approved a five-year extension on Thursday to the lifespan of two reactors close to Los Angeles, which were originally scheduled to close in 2024 and 2025.

New projects have also been launched, particularly in China, where 25 reactors are under construction—as well as in India, Turkey and Egypt. Demand for nuclear power has been rising, but “the supply has not really responded,” according to Jonathan Hinze, president of nuclear industry research firm UxC. This is particularly true in Kazakhstan, which is the world's largest uranium producer by far, accounting for 43 percent of global production last year, according to the World Nuclear Association (WNA).

Kazakhstan has faced logistical problems, in particular a shortage of the sulfuric acid used for extraction, Hinze told AFP. Some 58,000 tons of uranium were extracted worldwide in 2022, according to

What is Storm-1152, top creator of fake Microsoft accounts?

SEOUL: Microsoft has seized the websites of a Vietnam-based group it alleges sold millions of fake accounts to cybercriminals who used them for ransomware attacks, identity theft and other scams around the world. The group, identified by Microsoft as Storm-1152, developed sophisticated tools to defeat the US tech giant's security features to set up fraudulent Outlook and Hotmail email accounts in bulk.

Who is in Storm-1152?

Storm-1152 was first detected in 2021. Arkose Labs, the cybersecurity firm that worked with Microsoft against the group, tracked it to Vietnam. The leaders of the group are three Vietnam-based individuals, Duong Dinh Tu, Linh Van Nguyen and Tai Van Nguyen, Microsoft said in a statement on Wednesday. It is not clear if there are any other members.

AFP has asked the three for a response on email addresses listed in Microsoft's complaint against them in a US federal court last week. AFP has also contacted Vietnamese authorities for comment.

How did they make millions of accounts so rapidly? Storm-1152 developed automated software—or “bots”—to create fake accounts. These bots defeated Microsoft's safeguards, such as the CAPTCHA puzzles users have to solve to prove they are human, the tech giant said in its court filing.

Storm-1152 is “the number one seller and creator of fraudulent Microsoft accounts”, creating around 750 million to date, the company said Wednesday. Microsoft's court filing included a screenshot of a Storm-1152 website that boasts the use of artificial intelligence against CAPTCHA.

The group created accounts “at a scale so large, fast, and efficient that it could have only been carried out through automated, machine-learning technology”, Patrice Boffa, chief customer officer at Arkose Labs, said in a statement. Who needs so many fake email accounts? Storm-1152 pursued a model called “cyber-crime-as-a-service” or CaaS, acting as a provider to other criminal groups, Microsoft and Arkose Labs.

With tech companies improving their detection and deletion of fake accounts, cyber attackers need huge amounts to carry out their operations. “Instead of spending time trying to create thousands of fraudulent accounts, cybercriminals can simply purchase them from Storm-1152 and other groups,” Microsoft's Amy Hogan-Burney said in a blog post. Storm-1152 allegedly made millions of dollars from the operation. What did Storm-1152's customers do with fake accounts? The group's customers have used fake email accounts for a variety of crimes, according to Microsoft and Arkose Labs.

These include phishing attacks to either steal information or insert malware on devices. Its customers have also used these accounts to install ransomware and demand payment from victims, according to Microsoft. The highest-profile customer named in Microsoft's court filing is a group known as Octo Tempest, which has been linked to a wave of cybercrimes in recent years. Octo Tempest recently launched ransomware attacks against Microsoft customers that “inflicted hundreds of millions of dollars of damage”, the company said in its court filing, without naming the victims. Google and X, formerly known as Twitter, have also been hit by Storm-1152 activities, Microsoft said in the filing.

Unlike many cybercriminals that offer such services on the so-called dark web, hidden away from general users, Storm-1152's websites were on the open web. It offered its services on at least two websites, according to Microsoft, and even had step-by-step user guides. Duong Dinh Tu, one of the defendants, also had a YouTube channel with a video demonstration, and the group would edit the code for their anti-CAPTCHA software on GitHub—a Microsoft-owned internet depository for software. — AFP

Fresh record for Dow at weekend dominated by CBs

NEW YORK: The Dow edged to a fresh record Friday, extending a rally on a mixed day for global equities after this week's central bank announcements.

The blue-chip US index, which topped 37,000 for the first time this week, added 0.2 percent to finish at 37,305.16, a third straight record. For the seventh straight time, all three indices in New York scored weekly gains. “Selling efforts had been driven by a lingering sense that stocks are overbought on a short-term basis,” said Briefing.com. “Still, selling was modest considering the scope of recent gains.”

Markets largely shrugged off comments from New York Federal Reserve President John Williams that downplayed talk of imminent interest rate cuts. Europe diverged amid news of slumping eurozone business activity. Frankfurt ended flat while Paris rounded out the week slightly ahead for a record close but London lost one percent.

Uranium price hits highest level in almost 17 years

NEW YORK: The price of uranium reached the highest level for almost 17 years on Friday, driven by constrained supply and accelerating demand, against a backdrop of renewed interest in nuclear power.

The benchmark contract for uranium oxide which, once enriched, is used as nuclear fuel, rose to \$85.75 a pound (around 450 grams) for the first time since January 2007.

This price rise is the result of a combination of factors, notably the rebound in demand due to renewed interest in nuclear power, but also due to fears about oil and gas supplies following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The higher prices will cause headaches for countries that rely heavily on nuclear energy, such as France, which generated almost 70 percent of its

Sports

Morant returns with a new outlook after 25-game ban

Two-time NBA All-Star guard endured 'horrible days'



Ja Morant of the Memphis Grizzlies

WASHINGTON: Two-time NBA All-Star guard Ja Morant says he endured "horrible days" during a 25-game ban and prepares to return to the Memphis Grizzlies with a new outlook on life. Morant spoke after a Grizzlies workout on Friday after being suspended for the first 25 games of the NBA season following two social media videos showing him displaying a gun went public. "Definitely tough. Horrible days," Morant said of his ban. "But the support I had throughout this process, it definitely helped me a lot. It was pretty much all I could lean on."

The 24-year-old American, named the NBA's Most Improved Player in 2022, will be eligible to return on Tuesday when the Grizzlies play at New Orleans. "I'm just trying to come back and do whatever I can to help the team win," Morant said. "I'm not forcing a historic game my first game back. I'm just super excited to be back out there."

At 6-17, the Grizzlies are level with Portland for the fourth-worst record in the NBA and will struggle to try and reach the playoffs for a fourth consecutive season. "There's definitely some guilt in that. Obviously I'm not on the floor and nobody likes losing," Morant said. "I take full responsibility of that... The decisions I made didn't allow me to be out there, to go to battle with my team."

Morant was able to practice with his teammates but could not be in arenas when they were playing. Morant was issued an eight-game ban last March after a

video showed him displaying a gun at a Denver nightclub, then handed the longer ban to open the 2023-24 campaign after another video of him with a gun inside a car from last May went public. "I've made a lot of my mistakes," Morant said. "Even with my family. Not some that has been public. I've done a lot."

Morant, however, says he has a new outlook upon life after therapy sessions and in some ways does not regret what happened because, "In the end, it made me better." "I feel like I learned some stuff about myself during that process," Morant said. "Very eye-opening. Gave me a new look on life with how I go about my days, how I carry myself. Just being grateful and thankful I'm still here in the position I'm in. "The change will be my decision-making and how I go about my daily life of being an NBA player, a father, a role model, a brother, a son. Just focusing in on that—being the best Ja I can be."

Morant credited his support from friends, family and teammates through the ban, which he said kept him from the therapeutic benefit of playing basketball. "Taking that away makes it tougher but I had the right people around me... that helped me in the learning process," Morant said. "Thankful for the support I had during this time. It's not easy, not being out there on the floor and having to watch, but being around the team, being able to practice, being able to travel, guys talking to me and vice versa—it has been good." — AFP

News in Brief

Northampton down Toulon

PARIS: Northampton replacement lock Tom Lockett's late try grabbed the English side a dramatic 22-19 victory over three-time winners Toulon in the Champions Cup at Franklin's Gardens on Friday. The hosts moved five points clear at the top of Pool 3 after a second straight win, with Toulon left floundering at the foot of the table following their home defeat by Exeter on the opening weekend. Enzo Herve's early penalty gave Toulon the lead but tries from Tom Seabrook and England fullback George Furbank put Saints in control at half-time. Melvyn Jaminet touched down shortly after the break for Toulon, but Furbank's second try gave Northampton a 15-8 lead. The deficit was wiped out in a seven-minute spell as Herve slotted over another penalty, former Northampton second-row David Ribbans crossed his old side's line to score and Jaminet kicked a drop goal. — AFP

Scherzer undergoes surgery

WASHINGTON: Star pitcher Max Scherzer underwent back surgery on a herniated disk and will be sidelined until mid-season 2024 for the reigning Major League Baseball champion Texas Rangers, the club announced on Friday. The 39-year-old US right-hander, a three-time winner of the Cy Young Award as best pitcher, had the surgery on Thursday, Rangers general manager Chris Young said. Obtained in a trade with the New York Mets last July, Scherzer went 4-2 with a 3.20 earned-run average and 53 strikeouts over 45 innings for the Rangers, then made three playoff starts for Texas despite struggles with back spasms as the club won its first World Series crown. It was the second title for Scherzer, who helped Washington capture the 2019 championship. Young gave no timeline for the ace hurler's return but said it would be at least June or July before he took the mound again in a game. "After returning to my off-season home in Florida, my discomfort in my back continued to get worse," Scherzer said in a statement. — AFP

Russia slams IOC ruling

MOSCOW: Russia has criticized the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for ruling that Russian athletes can only compete in Paris next year as neutral athletes and if they do not back fighting in Ukraine. Olympic chiefs earlier this month gave the green light to the participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes at next year's Games as neutrals, outside of team events and as long as they did not actively support Moscow's large-scale military intervention in Ukraine. The IOC "announced their readiness to admit Russian and Belarusian athletes to the Paris Olympics, and then immediately mockingly announced how many of them had been admitted," Russian Olympic Committee president Stanislav Pozdnyakov said at a press conference. The IOC on making their announcement this month said International Olympic Committee there were currently only eight athletes from Russia and three from Belarus who had qualified as neutral athletes. — AFP

Raiders romp past Chargers

LOS ANGELES: The Las Vegas Raiders ran in nine touchdowns in a 63-21 thrashing of the Los Angeles Chargers on Thursday, coming within a whisker of breaking the NFL's all-time scoring record. The Raiders, who failed to score a single point in a dismal 3-0 loss to the Minnesota Vikings on Sunday, ran riot in a one-sided clash at their Allegiant Stadium. The Raiders rattled off six unanswered touchdowns to lead 42-0 after a disastrous first half for the Chargers. Vegas kept the hammer down after the restart, running in three more touchdowns against a Chargers side struggling to readjust after confirmation of a season-ending injury to quarterback Justin Herbert earlier this week. The Raiders led 63-7 early in the fourth quarter after cornerback Jack Jones intercepted Herbert's back-up Easton Stick to stroll into the end zone for a 16-yard pick six. — AFP

Mumbai Indians pick Pandya as IPL captain

NEW DELHI: Mumbai Indians have appointed star all-rounder Hardik Pandya to lead in next year's Indian Premier League season, replacing all-format India captain Rohit Sharma, who led the franchise to five title wins. Pandya, 30, returned to his former franchise Mumbai only last month in a high-profile trade after a successful two-year stint with Gujarat Titans.

Mumbai Indians said the change in leadership was a part of their future planning and thanked Rohit, the joint-most-successful captain in the tournament's history alongside Chennai Super Kings' M.S. Dhoni. "It is part of legacy building and staying true to the MI philosophy of being future-ready," Mahela Jayawardene, Mumbai's global head of performance, said in a statement late Friday.

'Angry' Kriechmayr edges super-G at Val Gardena

VAL GARDENA: Vincent Kriechmayr picked up the 17th World Cup victory of his career when he edged home to take the first super-G of the winter in Val Gardena on Friday. In the tightest of contests, the 32-year-old Austrian finished just 0.02 seconds ahead of compatriot Daniel Hemetsberger with the Swiss Marco Odermatt another 0.01sec further back. It marked a third victory for Kriechmayr at the Dolomites' resort following his successes in super-G in 2019 and downhill in 2022. It made up for his poor performance in Thursday's downhill when the 2021 super-G and downhill world champion slouched home in 17th.

"I was angry after yesterday's downhill," he

Tiger makes pro-am walk ahead of title hunt with son

MIAMI: Tiger Woods rejected using a golf cart in favor of walking on Friday during a pro-am round at the PNC Championship, feeling fit as he regains his form for 2024. The 15-time major winner and his 14-year-old son Charlie will play in the 36-hole PNC Championship this weekend at the Ritz-Carlton Golf Club in Orlando, Florida. Woods, who turns 48 on December 30, has struggled to walk during competitive rounds since a 2021 car crash in which he suffered severe leg injuries.

Until finishing 18th in the 20-man Hero World Challenge two weeks ago, Woods had not played since the Masters after undergoing ankle surgery last April. "I felt like I was physically fit to do it (walk), and also, walking is always better for my back," Woods said. "I just wanted to keep it loose and keep it going and we're just having so much fun, it doesn't really matter. We had a good time doing it." It will be the fourth time that Team Woods attempt to take the title against other PGA Tour stars and their family members.

Little, Campher star as Ireland beat Zimbabwe

HARARE: Josh Little claimed a national-record six wickets for 36 and Curtis Campher hit a brisk 66 as Ireland beat Zimbabwe by four wickets on Friday to take a 1-0 lead in a one-day international series. Having won the toss and opted to bat first, Zimbabwe slumped to 70-6 before a middle-order revival led by Wellington Masakadza (40) saw the hosts all out for 166 in 42.5 overs.

"It is in keeping with this philosophy that Hardik Pandya will assume captaincy of Mumbai Indians for the IPL 2024 season." Jayawardene expressed gratitude to Rohit, 36, for his "exceptional leadership" since taking the reins in 2013. "His leadership has not only brought unparalleled success to the team but has also solidified his place as one of the finest captains in the history of the IPL," he said. Rohit led Mumbai 163 times in the IPL and the Champions League T20, winning 91 games, drawing four and losing 68.

But the last three seasons have been a disappointment for the franchise. They failed to make the playoffs in 2021 and 2022, and departed the 2023 tournament knockout with a loss to Titans in the second qualifier. Rohit is currently India's all-format captain, but has not played a T20 international since a semi-final defeat at the 2022 T20 World Cup in Australia. Pandya has led India in 13 of their last 25 T20Is but is currently out of action with an ankle injury sustained during this year's ODI World Cup. Led by Rohit, hosts India lost the World Cup final to Australia after winning 10 games on the trot. — AFP



India's Hardik Pandya

VAL GARDENA: First placed Austrian Vincent Kriechmayr, poses on the podium of the men's Super G, during the FIS Alpine Ski World Cup in Val Gardena on December 15, 2023. — AFP



VAL GARDENA: First placed Austrian Vincent Kriechmayr, poses on the podium of the men's Super G, during the FIS Alpine Ski World Cup in Val Gardena on December 15, 2023. — AFP

admitted. "I put that anger into my skiing on this super-G. I had a good run, taking more risks." It was also a second near-miss in two days for Oder-

"It's a blast for us to be back out here, playing and competing and just enjoying this atmosphere," Woods said. "Hopefully we're able to post something good." Woods said he was feeling well and not as rusty as at the World Challenge in the Bahamas earlier this month. "Definitely a bit better," Woods said. "I was able to knock a lot of the rust off there at Hero and my hands felt better with control hitting shots, and especially today with the wind blowing as hard as it was, I was able to hit flighted shots nicely."

Charlie Woods has won a state high school title and given his father a new challenge as the parent of a talented young golfer. "I provide guardrails for him and things that I would like to see him learn and address, but also, then again, I'm trying to provide as much space as I can for him," the elder Woods said. "There's so much of the noise in our lives that people are always trying to get stuff out of us, and my job as a parent is to protect him from a lot of that stuff."

Rival Justin Thomas, a two-time major winner, said a win by Woods and son would be extra special. "In meaning, it would be number one for special," Thomas said. "Winning majors is unbelievable and how he has won his majors, but doing that together with Charlie and as he's watched him grow up, it would be a very different kind of win that doesn't maybe come with the record books and history and whatnot." — AFP

Seamer Little wreaked havoc in the fourth over, claiming three wickets off five deliveries at Harare Sports Club. He dismissed Zimbabwe star Sikandar Raza, deputising as captain for injured Craig Ervine, soon after for just two. Ireland lost Andy Balbirnie to a golden duck and fellow opener and captain Paul Stirling (14) fell cheaply as the visitors stumbled to 29-2 in an innings briefly halted by rain.

Campher then took charge, striking 10 fours off 71 balls, and stands of 52 with Harry Tector and 43 with Lorcan Tucker set up the tourists to reach 170-6 with 59 balls remaining. Victory gave Ireland the lead in the three-match series after the first was abandoned due to rain on Wednesday. The final match is scheduled for Sunday. Player-of-the-match Little said: "It

was nice that the team won and I enjoyed some personal success.

"I managed to beat the bat today on a few occasions and it kept the ball new, allowing me to swing it. "My in-swingers were a decent option to the right-handers, so that is definitely a plan. I was quite sore after my spell so I want to get into an ice bath and be ready for Sunday." Stirling, captaining Ireland for the first time on the white-ball tour of Zimbabwe, described the 10 overs of Little as "one of the best spells I have seen". "We wanted to go 1-0 up and ticked that box. There is a series to win and we will come back hungry on Sunday." Raza said: "We have had too many top-order collapses this year. We needed at least 200 runs to be competitive." — AFP

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ORLANDO: Charlie Woods son of Tiger Woods of the United States putts on the third green during the pro-am prior to the PNC Championship at The Ritz-Carlton Golf Club on December 15, 2023. — AFP

Sports

Olise's late penalty rocks Man City as Palace hold champions

Luton's Lockyer collapses as Bournemouth clash abandoned

LONDON: Manchester City threw away a 2-0 lead at home against Crystal Palace on Saturday as the Bournemouth v Luton game was abandoned after defender Tom Lockyer collapsed on the pitch. Pep Guardiola's champions dominated their match at the Etihad but two late goals from Roy Hodgson's men, including a stoppage-time penalty, could have a major impact on the title race.

Crystal Palace have been something of a bogey team for Guardiola since he arrived in England in 2016 -- they are one of only three teams to have won at the Etihad more than once, along with Manchester United and Chelsea. The champions enjoyed nearly three-quarters of possession in the first half but had only Jack Grealish's goal to show for their dominance.

The England winger scored for the third league game in a row, sweeping home after being found by Phil Foden in the 24th minute. City had the ball in the net again early in the second half after Julian Alvarez's free-kick found the net but the goal was ruled out, with Rodri deemed to be in an offside position. However, moments later the home side did extend their lead, when Rico Lewis thumped the ball into the bottom left corner.

City seemed destined to move to within one point of Premier League leaders Liverpool but instead they collapsed in dramatic fashion. The away side scored against the run of play to give themselves hope in the 76th minute when Jeffrey Schlupp shrugged off the attentions of the City defense and crossed for Jean-Philippe Mateta to poke home. City fans faced a nervous last quarter of an hour and watched in horror when referee Paul Tierney pointed to the spot after Foden fouled Mateta. Michael Olise made no mistake, slotting home in the 95th minute and boos rang around the Etihad at the final whistle.

Game abandoned

Struggling Luton took the lead against in-form Bournemouth when Elijah Adebayo rose highest to head home a corner in the third minute but Dominic Solanke levelled just before the hour mark. But the game was halted midway through the second half as Luton's Lockyer received medical treatment after collapsing off the ball. The defender, who also collapsed during the play-off final win against Coventry in May before undergoing heart surgery, was removed from the pitch on a stretcher surrounded by the medical team, and there was a standing ovation from the crowd.

After the players were taken off, the Premier League confirmed the match had been abandoned. "The Premier League match between AFC Bournemouth and Luton Town FC has been abandoned due to a player medical incident," said a statement from the English top flight. "Our thoughts are with Tom Lockyer and all players involved in today's match."

Chelsea returned to winning ways at Stamford Bridge against bottom club Sheffield United, winning 2-0. Cole Palmer smashed Raheem Sterling's low cross into the net in the 54th minute and he turned provider just after the hour mark as Nicolas Jackson slotted home. It was just their third Premier League home win in a tough season for the injury-ravaged team.

Newcastle claimed all three points at their St James' Park stronghold against Fulham after two consecutive league defeats. Teenager Lewis Miley found the bottom corner in the 57th minute, Miguel Almiron made it 2-0 and Dan Burn scrambled home late in the game to put the result beyond doubt. Burnley faced Everton later on Saturday, while high-flying Aston Villa and Arsenal are both in action on Sunday, when Jurgen Klopp's leaders face under-performing Manchester United. — AFP



NEWCASTLE: Fulham's Mexican striker Raul Jimenez is unsuccessful with this overhead kick against Newcastle at St James' Park on Dec 16, 2023. — AFP

Juventus miss out on top spot after Genoa draw

MILAN: Juventus failed to take top spot in Serie A from Inter Milan on Friday as Albert Gudmundsson's second-half goal secured hosts Genoa a 1-1 draw. Massimiliano Allegri's Juve closed the gap on Inter to one point but could fall four points adrift when the league leaders visit Lazio on Sunday. "When you have to kill the opponent, it has to be done, when you have important chances, you have to score," Allegri told DAZN after his team extended their unbeaten run to 11 matches. "It's an important point, let's continue the positive streak."

Juventus made a strong start and Federico Chiesa wasted a big chance midway through the first half when he fired over from close range. But the Italy international was given the chance to make amends just five minutes later from the penalty spot after a foul by goalkeeper Josep Martinez and Chiesa made no mistake. Juventus were caught out less than three minutes into the second period though as Icelandic forward Gudmundsson chested and volleyed home from seven yards out after a fine Genoa

move. The visitors struggled to break down their opponents but saw a golden opportunity to snatch all three points come and go in the 89th minute. A corner found its way to Bremer, but the Brazilian centre-back could only divert the ball towards goal with his knee and Martinez made an excellent save to tip the ball over the bar. Genoa held on for a crucial point which dragged them four points clear of the relegation zone and into 14th place. On Saturday, struggling reigning champions Napoli hosted Cagliari.

Meanwhile, coach Massimiliano Allegri still insists his side are outsiders for this season's Serie A crown. "Inter Milan are the favorites for the title," he said in Thursday's press conference ahead of Juve's trip to Genoa. Sitting two points behind Inter, a win would put them top at least for 48 hours ahead of Inter's potentially awkward trip to Lazio on Sunday. "We have no realistic objective for the end of the first half (of the season). It is of no use," said Allegri.

"We are focusing on our objective for the season which is qualification for the



GENOA: Genoa's Spanish goalkeeper #01 Josep Martinez clashes with Juventus' Italian forward #07 Federico Chiesa during the Italian Serie A football match between Genoa and Juventus on December 15, 2023. — AFP

Champions League. "We have to keep our feet on the ground, take the matches one after the other and manage as best as possible the negative moments that may arise."

In spite of his team's good form at the moment, Allegri, as he has done all season, deflected the title talk to their rivals in Mi-

lan. "We know that Inter are the favorites for the title, the team was built to win their second star (for their 20th league title)," he insisted. Juventus are comfortably the most successful team in Italian history with three stars to their name, their 36th and most recent title coming in 2020. — AFP



MONACO: Lyon's Argentinean defender #03 Nicolas Tagliacofe (left) fights for the ball with Monaco's Senegalese midfielder #27 Krepin Diatta during the French L1 football match between Monaco (AS Monaco) and Olympique Lyonnais (Lyon) on December 15, 2023. — AFP

Lyon move out of relegation spot

MONACO: An 85th-minute winner from Jeffinho gave Lyon a 1-0 away victory against Monaco on Friday, moving the seven-times Ligue 1 champions out of the automatic relegation spots. Two minutes after entering the fray, Brazilian Jeffinho swept in his first goal of the season as Lyon won successive games for the first time this campaign to jump provisionally to 16th place in the table.

The win is just Lyon's third, and interim coach Pierre Sage's second, of the season and follows on from last Sunday's 3-0 home victory against Toulouse. "Beyond the three points, what made me smile was seeing the players happy," Sage said to Prime Video. The first half was evenly disputed with Monaco dominating the play and the chances, and the visitors looking to catch the principal side on the break.

In the second period, the home side pressed forward, with Mohamed Camara glancing a right-footed effort off the outside of the post seven minutes after the break. Captain Youssouf Fofana then dragged an effort wide just before the hour and Folarin Balogun pulled a shot narrowly past the post from the edge of the box. Anthony Lopes then came to Lyon's rescue on 67 minutes by making a fine diving save to deny Balogun after his side failed to clear a set-piece.

But the game was changed when Sage sent on Ainsley Maitland-Niles in the 72nd minute and then Jeffinho 11 minutes later. The substitutes combined with five minutes remaining when the ex-Arsenal man's cross found the Brazilian striker near the penalty spot and he beat Philipp Koehn with his first-time strike. Monaco remain third in the table and risk falling further behind leaders Paris Saint-Germain and Nice, who play away to Lille and Le Havre later in the weekend. — AFP

Spurs bolster bid for top-4 place

NOTTINGHAM: Tottenham bolstered their renewed bid for a top-four place in the Premier League as Richarlison and Dejan Kulusevski netted in a 2-0 win against struggling Nottingham Forest on Friday. Richarlison put Ange Postecoglou's side ahead late in the first half and Kulusevski struck after the break at the City Ground. Tottenham midfielder Yves Bissouma was sent off for a dangerous tackle with 20 minutes left, but the visitors held on for their second successive victory.

The north Londoners are level on points with fourth-placed Manchester City, who host Crystal Palace in their game in hand on Saturday. After winning for the first time in six league games last weekend when they crushed Newcastle, Tottenham's confident display offered more evidence they have emerged from their autumn swoon. Saluting his opening scorer, Postecoglou said: "Richarlison is a goalmouth monster. I'm really pleased with him in training and I was confident he could do a job for us. "It's a tough game here. You have to earn whatever you get. When the ball goes out for a throw-in, you feel like you've conceded a goal." Postecoglou was less impressed with Bissouma becoming Tottenham's latest player to be sent off. "We've had to deal with that a few times this year. You can't go on like that because we'll eventually pay a price for that," he said.

"It's a fine line between commitment to what we do and not overstepping the mark." In contrast, Forest are winless in their last six games and have managed just one victory in 13 matches as the pressure mounts on boss Steve Cooper. Forest sit five points above the relegation zone, but that gap could dwindle depending on the results of their fellow strugglers this weekend. Tottenham forward Brennan Johnson was constantly jeered on his first return to Forest since his close-season transfer. Johnson's miscued

76ers extend GM Morey's contract

WASHINGTON: Daryl Morey, president of basketball operations for the Philadelphia 76ers, has signed a contract extension through the 2027-28 season, the NBA team announced on Friday. The 51-year-old American served as general manager of the Houston Rockets from 2007 to 2020, posting a 2019 social media message in support of Hong Kong protests that led to a major split in NBA-China relations. The day after leaving the Rockets in 2020, Morey was hired by the 76ers and since then the Sixers have won 65.3 percent of their games.

At 810-489, Morey's career 62.4 percent win percentage ranks fourth in NBA history for executives with more than 1,000 games. NBA teams directed by Morey have never suffered a losing campaign. "Daryl is one of the best front office executives in sports and I greatly value his leadership," 76ers managing partner Josh Harris said. "I'm thrilled to have reached an

agreement to extend his contract and look forward to working together to maximize our chances of competing for an NBA title."

Morey had been criticized by 76ers star guard James Harden in the off-season after a trade deal failed to materialize but last month the Sixers sent Harden to the Los Angeles Clippers in a blockbuster three-team, seven-player exchange. Sparked by reigning NBA Most Valuable Player Joel Embiid and guard Tyrese Maxey, the 76ers are 16-7, two games behind NBA overall leader Boston in the Eastern Conference and sharing the fourth-best record in the league.

"I want to express my appreciation to Josh Harris and (co-owner) David Blitzer for their unwavering support and confidence. Together, we are committed to bringing a championship to Philadelphia," Morey said. "I love this franchise and the relationship my family and I have built with our fans and this city. There's no place I'd rather continue this journey than here." The Sixers fired head coach Doc Rivers last May after they were ousted by Boston in the second round. Morey hired former Toronto coach Nick Nurse in June to guide the squad. — AFP

cross drew an especially sarcastic cheer from the Forest fans before he nearly silenced his tormentors with a poked effort that drew a good save from Matt Turner. The Wales international's evening ended in pain after 32 minutes as he was forced off with blood pouring from a head wound, a worrying sight that finally prompted a sympathetic round of applause from the stands.

Spurs back on track

Tottenham forward Son Heung-min was subjected to some crunching tackles as Forest tried to rattle him, but the South Korean was unfazed, whipping in a cross that Pedro Porro headed wide. Tottenham were dominating possession and they finished with a flourish in first-half stoppage time. Kulusevski's inswinging cross picked out Richarlison and, cleverly drifting away from his marker, the Brazilian rose to head home from five yards. It was Richarlison's third goal in his last two games after he had gone nearly three months without scoring.

Willy Boly squandered a golden opportunity to equalize early in the second half when the unmarked Forest defender fired over from close-range. That was a signal for a period of sustained Forest pressure, with Guglielmo Vicario sprawling to repel Gibbs-White's drive. Forest thought they had equalised when Anthony Elanga slotted home in the 58th minute, but the goal was disallowed by VAR for offside against the former Manchester United forward. Reinvigorated by that escape, Tottenham doubled their lead in the 65th minute thanks to Turner's catastrophe.

The Forest keeper's weak clearance only reached Kulusevski and he danced into the area before drilling a powerful shot that beat Turner's limp attempted save at the near post. Bissouma saw red in the 70th minute, dismissed for a high tackle on Ryan Yates after referee Jarred Gillett was advised to consult the pitchside monitor. Forest pressed in vain in the closing stages, with Neco Williams' deflected effort flashing just wide for a corner that forced Vicario to make a superb save from Harry Toffolo's header. — AFP

Today's Matches

English Premier League		
Arsenal v Brighton	17:00	
beIN Sports HD 1		
beIN Sports HD 1 English		
Brentford v Aston Villa	17:00	
beIN Sports HD 2		
West Ham v Wolverhampton	17:00	
beIN Sports HD Xtra 1		
Liverpool v Man United	19:30	
beIN Sports HD 1		
beIN Sports HD 1 English		
beIN 4K HD R		
Spanish League		
UD Almeria v Real Mallorca	16:00	
beIN Sports HD 3		
Real Sociedad v Real Betis	18:15	
beIN Sports HD 3		
beIN Sports HD 2 English		
Las Palmas v Cadiz	20:30	
beIN Sports HD 3		
beIN Sports Fr 7 HD		
Real Madrid v Villarreal	23:00	
beIN Sports HD 1		
beIN Sports HD 1 English		
Italian League Serie A		
AC Milan v Monza	14:30	
AD SPORTS Premium 1		
beIN Sports Fr 4 HD max		
Udinese v Sassuolo	17:00	
AD SPORTS Premium 1		
Fiorentina v Hellas Verona	17:00	
beIN Sports Fr 6 HD max		
AD SPORTS Premium 1		
Bologna v Roma	20:00	
AD SPORTS Premium 1		
Lazio v Inter Milan	22:45	
AD SPORTS Premium 1		
beIN Sports FR HD 3		
German Bundesliga 1st Div		
SC Freiburg v FC Koln	17:30	
beIN Sports HD 5		
Bayer 04 v Eintracht	19:30	
beIN Sports HD 2		
beIN Sports FR HD 3		
Bayern Munich v Stuttgart	21:30	
beIN Sports HD 5		
beIN Sports HD 2 English		
beIN Sports Fr 5 HD max		
French League 1st Div		
Nantes v Stade brestois	15:00	
beIN Sports HD 4		
Toulouse v Stade Rennais	17:00	
beIN Sports HD 6		
Lorient v Strasbourg	17:00	
beIN Sports HD Xtra 2		
Metz v Montpellier	17:00	
beIN Sports HD 7		
Marseille v Clermont Foot 63	19:05	
beIN Sports HD 4		
LOSC Lille v PSG	22:45	
Ziggo Sport Racing HD		
TNT Sports 3		

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
يَا أَيُّهَا النَّفْسُ الطَّيِّبَةُ اجْعِي إِلَىٰ بَارِيكَ صَبِيْرًا مُّضِيْرًا وَأَدْخِلِي عِبَادِي وَأَخْلَجِي حَبِيْبِي
صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ

In the name of God, the Gracious, the Merciful
On the sad occasion of the passing of

His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

The Late Amir of Kuwait
(May God Bestow Mercy Upon His Soul)

National Investments Company
offers its sincere and heartfelt condolences to

His Highness the Amir
Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

And to his Highness the Prime Minister
Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah
and to the whole honorable Al Sabah Family

And to the honorable people of Kuwait and all Arab and Islamic Nations

You were a leader in humility, and you will forever remain in our hearts

We pray for God's ultimate mercy upon you and grant you the highest position in heaven

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّفْسُ الطَّيِّبَةُ اجْعِي إِلَىٰ بَارِيكَ صَبِيْرًا مُّضِيْرًا وَأَدْخِلِي عِبَادِي وَأَخْلَجِي حَبِيْبِي
صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ

CONDOLENCES

Chairman, board members and all employees of

الصفاة
AL SAFAT

شركة الصفاة للاستثمار
AL SAFAT INVESTMENT COMPANY

express their sincere condolences to

HH the Amir of Kuwait

Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

and to the dear Al-Sabah Family, as well as Arab and Islamic nations

on the sad demise of the late Amir

Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

May Allah Almighty bestow His mercy on him

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ