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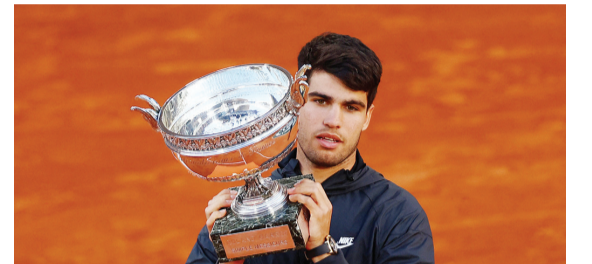
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Outrage over Nuseirat massacre

Kuwait slams Zionist assault • Gantz resigns • 3 captives killed in raid • Gaza martyrs top 37,000

Amir receives Crown Prince



KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah at Seif Palace on June 9, 2024. HH the Amir also received HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Acting Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef Al-Sabah and Deputy Chief of the National Guard Sheikh Faisal Al-Nawaf Al-Sabah. — KUNA

GAZA: Zionist forces pounded central Gaza anew on Sunday, a day after killing 274 Palestinians during a captive rescue raid, and tanks advanced further into Rafah in an apparent bid to seal off part of the southern city, residents and Hamas media said. Palestinians remained in shock over Saturday's death toll, the worst over a 24-hour period of the Gaza war for months and including many women and children, Palestinian medics said.

In an update on Sunday, Gaza's health ministry said 274 Palestinians were killed - up from 210 it reported on Saturday - and 698 were injured when Zionist commandos stormed into the densely populated Al-Nuseirat camp to rescue four captives held since October by Hamas fighters. Sixty-four of the dead were children and 57 were women, the Gaza government media office said on Sunday.

Kuwait strongly condemned and denounced the Zionist occupation assault on Al-Nuseirat camp. According to a statement by the foreign ministry, Kuwait deemed this act as a violation of international and humanitarian laws. Kuwait reiterated its condemnation of this heinous criminal act and called on the international community and the UN Security Council to halt the barbaric aggression on the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip that killed, so far, over 37,000 unarmed civilians. Kuwait also called for enabling the delivery of much-needed humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people.



GAZA: Raed Abu Youssef kisses the hand of his child Tawfik, injured in a Zionist strike, at Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir Al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip on June 9, 2024. — Reuters

A key member of the Zionist entity's war cabinet quit Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government on Sunday, heaping domestic pressure on the Zionist leader. Benny Gantz, a former general and defense minister, announced his resignation from the emergency body after failing to get a post-war plan for Gaza approved by Netanyahu, which he de-

manded in May. "Netanyahu is preventing us from progressing to a real victory. That is why we are leaving the emergency government today with a heavy heart," Gantz said. The Zionist premier responded within minutes, saying: "Benny, this is not the time to abandon the battle — this is the time to join forces."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

9 pilgrims killed in Jammu

SRINAGAR: At least nine people were killed and 33 injured when a bus carrying Hindu pilgrims plunged into a deep gorge after a suspected militant attack in the Indian federal territory of Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday. "Militants ambushed the bus and fired at it indiscriminately," the police chief of Reasi said. — Reuters (See Page 6)

Bomb blast kills 7 Pak soldiers

ISLAMABAD: A bomb blast targeting a military truck killed seven soldiers on Sunday in northwestern Pakistan along the border with Afghanistan, the army said. The incident took place in the Lakki Marwat district which is on the edge of a lawless tribal region divided on both sides of the border. — Reuters

Colombia halts coal sales to Zionists

BOGOTA: Colombian President Gustavo Petro announced Saturday that his country will suspend coal exports to the Zionist entity "until the genocide stops" in Gaza. Colombia is the Zionist entity's main coal supplier with exports of some \$450 million in 2023. Petro also said Colombia would stop purchasing weapons made by the Zionist entity. — AFP

Saudi clears unregistered pilgrims

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia said on Saturday that security forces had cleared hundreds of thousands of unregistered pilgrims from Makkah ahead of the hajj. Those turned away include 153,998 foreigners who traveled from abroad on tourist visas rather than the required hajj visas. Authorities also rounded up 171,587 others who are based in Saudi Arabia but are not residents of Makkah and did not have hajj permits. — AFP

Protesters slam Biden in Gaza 'red line' rally

WASHINGTON: Thousands of Gaza war protesters held a "red line" rally near the White House on Saturday, voicing anger at what they said is US President Joe Biden's tolerance of the Zionist entity's bloody military campaign against Hamas. Chanting "From DC to Palestine, we are the red line", the demonstrators held a long banner

scribbled with the names of Palestinians killed by Zionist forces, as the fighting enters its ninth month.

Biden has faced criticism for playing a balancing act on key ally the Zionist entity's actions in the conflict. The White House said in May that a deadly Zionist strike on Rafah did not cross a "red line" that Biden had seemingly set two months earlier when asked about a potential invasion of the southern Gaza city. "I no longer believe any of the words that Joe Biden says," said protester 25-year-old Zaid Mahdawi from Virginia, whose parents are Palestinian.

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WASHINGTON: Pro-Palestinian demonstrators, in formation holding a "red line" rally near the White House on June 8, 2024. — AFP

Modi sworn in as PM, Amir sends congratulations

NEW DELHI: India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi was sworn in on Sunday for a third term after worse-than-expected election results left him reliant on coalition partners to govern. Modi's Hindu-nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ruled outright for the past decade but failed to repeat its previous two landslide wins this time around, defying analysts' expectations and exit polls.

He was instead forced into quick-fire talks with the 15-member coalition, the National Democratic

Alliance (NDA), which guaranteed him the parliamentary numbers to govern. His office said he would appoint a 71-member cabinet, including 11 NDA ally ministers, without adding further details. Modi, flanked by top BJP officials and party leaders of his coalition, vowed in a ceremony marking his formal assumption of power to "bear true allegiance to the constitution of India".

HH the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Sunday sent a cable to Modi, expressing sincere congratulations on BJP winning the legislative elections and on taking the oath as prime minister for a new term. HH the Amir praised the good historical relations between the two friendly countries, wishing the Indian prime minister good health, wellness, continued success and prosperity, and for India further progress and prosperity.

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NEW DELHI: BJP leader Narendra Modi takes the oath of office as the country's Prime Minister for his third term during a ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan on June 9, 2024. — AFP

Foreigners grab 'majority' of Aramco shares

RIYADH: Oil giant Saudi Aramco said Sunday that international investors had snatched up the bulk of shares sold in its latest offering, which was set to raise \$11.2 billion. The secondary offering was expected to offer a boost to Saudi Arabia's finances as the Gulf kingdom builds large-scale projects including resorts and stadiums, part of a reform drive to prepare for

an eventual post-oil future. "The majority of the shares constituting the institutional tranche of the Offering was allocated to investors located outside of the Kingdom," the company said in a statement before the Saudi bourse reopened on Sunday. Sources close to the situation told AFP that around 58 percent of shares were allocated to international investors, up from around 23 percent for the company's initial public offering in 2019 which was the biggest flotation in history.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the private information, said around 70 percent of orders outside the local market came from the European Union and the United

States, while others came from Japan, Hong Kong and Australia. Aramco, the mostly state-owned jewel of the Saudi economy, announced on May 30 that it would sell 1.545 billion shares, or approximately 0.64 percent of its issued shares, on the Saudi stock exchange.

It was widely seen as a test of foreign investor interest more than half-way through the kingdom's campaign known as Vision 2030, whose ambitions are reflected in so-called mega-projects such as NEOM, a planned futuristic megacity in the desert. On Friday Aramco said it would price its secondary offering at 27.25 Saudi riyals (\$7.27) per share, at the low end of the range of 26.70 to 29 Saudi riyals announced

on May 30. Aramco ended trading on Thursday at 28.30 Saudi riyals per share, giving it a market capitalization of around \$1.83 trillion. On Sunday, shares opened at 27.95 Saudi riyals and had climbed to 28.15 Saudi riyals by 0800 GMT. About 10 percent of the shares were offered to retail investors, drawing 1.3 million subscribers. Aramco said on Friday. One source close to the situation told AFP that retail coverage was 3.7 times and that total demand from institutional and retail investors was worth over \$65 billion.

"The whole deal would have been covered a number of times by international demand.

Continued on Page 6



Crown Prince receives top officials



KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah on Sunday received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. His Highness the Crown Prince also received the deputy head of the Kuwait National Guard (KNG), Sheikh Faisal Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Kuwait First Dep-

uty Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, Governor of Hawally Ali Salem Al-Asfar, Governor of Farwaniya Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah, Governor of Assima Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Governor of Mubarak Al-Kabeer and Acting Governor of Al-Ahmadi Sheikh Sabah Bader Sabah

Al-Salem Al-Sabah, and Governor of Al-Jahra Hamad Jassem Al-Mheisen Al-Habshi.

His Highness the Crown Prince also received Chief of Staff of Kuwait's Armed Forces Air Marshal Bandar Al-Muzayyen, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior Lieutenant General Sheikh Salem Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, KNG Undersecretary Lieutenant General Hashem Al-Rifai, Acting

General Director of Kuwait Fire Forces Lieutenant General Khaled Fahad, and Director for Human Resources and Information Technology at the Interior Ministry Sheikh Mubarak Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah. During the meeting, they congratulated His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled on being appointed as Crown Prince by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. — KUNA

Environment Month highlights the impact of desertification

Programs promote environmental awareness

KUWAIT: The Scientific Center launched one of the activities of the Environment Month 2024 on Sunday under the slogan "Together we restore our planet: Focusing on land reform, desertification, and drought resistance". The program is aimed at promoting environmental awareness and highlighting the impact of desertification on biodiversity.

Director General of the Center, Msaed Al-Alyaseen, said in a press release that this year's events focus on land restoration, drought resistance, and biodiversity restoration, topics that are vital for the future of our environment. He added that the events come within the framework of our commitment to spreading environmental awareness and highlighting the importance of preserving the environment in light of current environmental challenges, expressing his hope that they will contribute to inspiring individuals and institutions to work together to protect our environment for future generations.

He explained that this year's environment month includes a range of activities and various programs, including the environmental talk event, which will be held on June 29. It will also include a series of scientific lectures by experts in the field of the environment. The environment month also includes workshops, interactive activities for children and families, and the distribution of seeds during the weekends to promote home farming and encourage the community to grow plants.

It will also include a digital environmental photo contest on the Instagram platform to invite the public to share their photos of nature and biodiversity. According to Al-Alyaseen, these events come in strategic partnership with Kuwait University, the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, the environment, public authority, the United Nations program Human Settlements, and a number of private entities such as Kuwait Finance House and Wafra Real Estate Company. — KUNA



KUWAIT: A spotted-garden eel swims in a tank of the aquarium at The Scientific Center Kuwait (TSCK) in this photo. TSCK complex spans over 80,000 square meters, and housing one of the largest aquaria in the Middle East, with the capacity of one of its tanks at 1.5 million liters and holding over 100 different species of animals. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Kuwait charitable societies support Sudanese people

KUWAIT: The Union of Kuwaiti Charitable Societies and Institutions affirmed the continuation of tireless efforts to support the people of Sudan by providing humanitarian aid in light of the worsening humanitarian crisis, pointing to coordination with the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Kuwaiti Affairs. The President of the Union, Saad Al-Otaibi, said: "We are committed to assisting the Sudanese people in this difficult



Saad Al-Otaibi

ordeal, and we seek to strengthen cooperation with international and local bodies to provide the necessary support. Since April 15, 2023, 15,550 deaths have been recorded in Sudan, in addition to more than 1,400 violent incidents targeting civilians."

Al-Otaibi expressed deep concern about the catastrophic situation in which the Sudanese people have been living since mid-April 2023, with more than 8.8 million people fleeing their homes, reflecting the scale of suffering and turmoil caused by the ongoing conflict. According to statistics, there is high level of hunger and acute malnutrition which are expected to lead to an increase in mortality rates in the coming months, posing a major threat to the lives of thousands. He thanked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Air Force for their continuous support and significant contributions in delivering humanitarian aid to those affected, reflecting the spirit of cooperation and solidarity that characterizes Kuwait in times of crisis. — Agencies



KUWAIT: The Municipal Council holds its first extraordinary session of the third session on Sunday, chaired by Abdullah Al-Mehri. — KUNA photos

Municipal Council nominates, honors committee members

KUWAIT: The Municipal Council, in its first extraordinary session of the third session of the thirteenth legislative term on Sunday, chaired by Abdullah Al-Mehri, honored all members of the main and sub-committees. At the beginning of its session, the Council approved the minutes of the twentieth ordinary meeting of the second session of the thirteenth legislative term of the Municipal Council on the third of June this year.

The Council commended the members of the technical committee by selecting Munira Al-Amir as chairman and Abdullah Al-Anezi as rapporteur, while Dr Hassan Kamal, Fahad Al-Khunain, Alia Al-Farsi, Abdullah Al-Daei, and Khalid Al-Mutairi

were all recommended as members. The members of the Council also recommended that the legal and financial committee choose Fahad Al-Abduljader as chairman and Walid Al-Dagher, Abdullah Al-Sharifa Al-Shalfan, Ismail Behbehani, and Khaled Al-Mutairi are members of the committee.

He approved the recommendation of the members of the Environmental Affairs Committee to choose Alia Al-Farsi as chairman, Sharifa Al-Shalfan as rapporteur, Walid Al-Dagher, Abdullah Al-Anezi, and Fahad Al-Khunain as members, as well as Saud Al-Kandari as chairman of the Objections and Complaints Committee; Fahad Al-Abduljader as rapporteur, and Ismail Behbehani, Saud Al-Kandari, and Nassar Al-Azmi as committee members.

The Council recommended Farah Al-Rumi as chairman of the Engineering Professions Committee, Abdullah Al-Daei as rapporteur, Munira Al-Amir, Ismail Behbehani, and Dr Hassan Kamal as members, while the members of the Reform and Development Committee recommended choosing Abdul Latif Al-Daei as chair-



man, Ismail Behbehani as rapporteur, Sharifa Al-Shalfan, Farah Al-Rumi, and Alia Al-Farsi as members. They also nominated members of the sub-committees of the governorates in accordance with Article XXVI of Law No (2016/33) on the municipality of Kuwait, selecting 5 members for each committee belonging to the six different governorates. — KUNA

GCC condemns Gaza massacre

RIYADH: The Secretary General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC), Jassem Al-Budaiwi, condemned on Sunday Zionist occupation's brutal attack on the Nuseirat Camp in Gaza, which killed and injured hundreds of Palestinians. Al-Budaiwi stated that this terror attack targeted innocent and defenseless people with unprecedented brutality. He added that this barbaric attack demonstrated the occupation's terrorism and their complete disregard for all international conventions and humanitarian values.

He called on the international community to assume its historical and moral responsibilities and take immediate action to stop these horrific crimes against the Palestinian people. He stressed that the GCC countries stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people in their struggle for freedom and to live in peace, and he further reiterated the firm positions of the GCC regarding the Palestinian cause and their support for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the 1967 borders, with its capital in East Jerusalem, in accordance with the Arab Peace Initiative and international legitimacy resolutions.

Also, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) strongly condemned on Saturday the new occupation's massacre of hundreds of Palestinian civilians in

Nuseirat refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. In a statement, the OIC said such crimes and genocidal attacks are carried out by a terrorist state in total disregard of international law and UN resolutions.

The OIC called for accountability and justice under international criminal law, stressing the need for the International Criminal Court to fulfill its responsibilities in this regard. The organization renewed its call on the international community, especially the UN Security Council, to urgently intervene in order to stop the war crimes committed by the occupation in the Gaza Strip and provide international protection for the Palestinian people. Earlier, more than 210 Palestinians were killed and 400 others injured in a Zionist massive offensive from air and sea at the Nuseirat camp. — KUNA



GAZA: Palestinians walk past debris, a day after an operation by Zionist Special Forces in the Nuseirat camp, in the central Gaza Strip on June 9, 2024. — AFP

Local

Divorce law: Women raise concerns

‘Men can divorce for any reason, while women must provide specific reasons’

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: Several women complained on social media about how the law of divorce in Kuwait makes it easier for men than women to initiate it. According to Mariam Hamad, men can divorce their wives for any reason, while women must provide specific reasons, such as lack of financial support, abuse, or mental illness. She noted that Kuwait still faces significant challenges in achieving gender equality, where it was not until 2020 that legal recognition was given to protect women from domestic violence, marking a crucial step towards safeguarding their rights.

The legal system requires women to present substantial evidence to support their claims, which can involve lengthy court proceedings and significant personal scrutiny. This process often places a heavy burden on women, both emotionally and financially. Additionally, societal and familial pressures may further complicate a woman's decision to pursue a divorce, making it a daunting and arduous journey.

“I filed a case against my abusive

husband, and it has been a year with no progress. Despite presenting evidence of his abuse, the legal proceedings have been painfully slow and frustrating,” she told Kuwait Times, underscoring the difficulties women face in seeking protection and legal recourse in cases of such divorces. Meanwhile, Rana Mzanra said that the law should accept women's divorce cases immediately as they do with men, noting that no woman will seek to leave her home unless she has enough.

“I had to approve of giving up money and my gold to be divorced from my ex-husband. As I filed “Mokhalaa” which allows women to divorce the man immediately in exchange for giving up everything she had. In my case, it was not enough, because that man was mentally ill. Why should women deal with that for a long time or else give up everything?” she wondered.

She indicated that the divorce process can be particularly challenging for women, where they face a more complex and stringent process in providing specific and compelling reasons to seek a divorce. Lawyer Ahmed Al-Turki affirmed to Kuwait Times that the process

depends on the evidence, and it takes longer because the main goal of the court to prevent the divorce, saying “If my client filed “Divorce for harm” which is a lawsuit filed usually by the wife when she is subjected to psychological, physical, or material harm by the husband, is a different case.

The process begins at the Family Court, where the court attempts to reconcile the spouses but if that fails, the court issues a final ruling to separate them. He added that the judge reviews the arbitrators' report and issues the final ruling based on their findings. According to Article 127 of Law No 51 of 1984 regarding personal status stipulates: “The court must do its best to reconcile the spouses, if reconciliation is not possible and harm is proven, it rules to separate them with an irrevocable divorce.”

In Kuwait, divorce laws are primarily governed by Islamic Sharia law, which presents different rules for men and women. As for men, they have the right to unilaterally divorce their wives without providing a reason. This can be done by verbally declaring the divorce before witnesses or through written documentation.



For women, they must petition the court for a divorce, provide specific reasons, and present substantial evidence to support their claims. Meanwhile, women who seek a divorce through Mokhalaa, should return the dowry or any form of compensation to the husband, but even Mokhalaa requires the husband's consent.

160th Ministerial meeting bolsters GCC relations

DOHA: Kuwait's Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya headed on Sunday the Kuwaiti delegation participating in the 160th GCC Foreign Ministerial Council meeting held in Doha. The Foreign Ministry said in a statement that the meeting discussed the items on the agenda and the decisions that support and enhance the process of joint Gulf action in various fields. Views were also exchanged on regional and international issues, especially the war on Gaza and the Palestinian issue.

The 160th Ministerial Meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries officially commenced on Sunday in Doha. In his speech, Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad bin Abdulrahman stated that the ministerial conference bolsters the already concrete relations between the GCC countries and reflects a willingness to achieve joint strategic development and integration. He also emphasized that the region is surrounded by conflicts that compel the leaders to take political and economic action, highlighting the war in Gaza and the persistent



Kuwait Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya participates in the 160th GCC Foreign Ministerial Council meeting. — KUNA

Zionist occupation's aggression.

He added that the international community has yet to act to stop the injustice and rescue innocent Palestinian civilians, reiterating Qatar's stance alongside Palestine and calling for the establishment of a free, independent

Palestinian state on the 1967 borders. The GCC countries have worked tirelessly to bolster relations and have discussions on strategies across all fields, which is manifesting in the council's vision of achieving regional stability and security, he added. — KUNA



Awareness campaign to prevent trafficking

KUWAIT: The Public Authority of Manpower participated in the awareness campaign of the Standing Committee concerned with implementing the national strategy to prevent human trafficking and smuggling in Kuwait. The program was launched at Kuwait International Airport. The Acting Deputy Director General for Manpower Protection Sector, Dr Fahad Al-Murad, thanked the National Committee for its efforts and its keenness to extend legal support to maintain the dignity and rights of expatriates in Kuwait. Al-Murad spoke about the role of the Authority in dealing with labor issues, the shelter, and Kuwaiti laws regarding human trafficking. He thanked the Directorate General of Civil Aviation.



Federation promotes sports activities and healthy lifestyle

KUWAIT: Kuwait Sports for All Federation has concluded the Beach Sports Village events at Marina Crescent, which is the last sports village. The events were held under the auspices of the Public Authority for Sport, which was launched in December last year. Hamed Al-Hazem, deputy director general of the Public Authority for Sport, said in a press statement that the Authority supports sports events as well as healthy activities and invites all segments of society to practice sports for a healthy lifestyle.

The activities of the sports villages were distributed to various governorates - two weeks for each location - so that the dates of activities would be at the end of each week, namely on

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. The sports villages contained a lot of sports activities for all categories of people in society. These categories include men and women of various age groups and people with special needs, with special areas dedicated to women.

A member of the board of directors of the Kuwait Sports for All Federation, Dr Mishaal Ramadan, said in a similar statement that the beach sports village was inaugurated on May 30 and lasted until June 1, and was held again on June 6 until June 8. Among the activities held in the beach sports village are beach soccer, beach volleyball, electronic games, and cross-fit sports.

He explained that the Kuwait Sports for All Federation is a non-profit or-



KUWAIT: Children participate in a 12-week sporting activity in the sports villages.

ganization whose goal is to create a healthy society in a comprehensive and interactive manner through the sports activities held across the country. The programs are aimed at freeing society from chronic and overweight-related diseases. One of the most prominent

tasks of the Federation is to spread awareness of the importance of sports in improving the quality of life. People are encouraged to practice regularly. The event spread the culture of sports throughout Kuwaiti society. — KUNA



NEW DELHI: In this file photo, Kuwait's Ambassador to India Mishaal Al-Shamali presents his credentials to the President of India Droupadi Murmu on June 1, 2024. — KUNA

Ambassador pledges to cement Kuwait-India ties

NEW DELHI: Kuwaiti Ambassador to India Mishaal Mustafa Al-Shamali expressed his strong desire to cement the Kuwait-India relationship as he attended the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Cabinet. In a statement to KUNA after attending the constitutional oath-taking ceremony of Modi and his Cabinet ministers, Ambassador Al-Shamali said that he is hoping to cement the India-Kuwait relationship in all areas of mutual interest during the third term of the Modi government.

Al-Shamali, who took charge recently, pledged to do everything in his power to consolidate the long-standing political, social, and economic relations that exist between the two friendly countries. He also stressed the importance of joint work for the well-being of the people in India and Kuwait. Earlier in the day, Modi was sworn in as Prime Minister for a third term after the National Democratic Alliance, under his leadership, won the general elections. Modi and other members of the Cabinet took the constitutional oath before President Droupadi Murmu at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi in celebrations attended by more than 8,000 leaders, including heads of state and governments from neighboring countries. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Indian Ambassador Dr Adarsh Swaika held talks with Kuwait Minister of Health Dr Ahmad Abdul Wahab Al-Awadhi. Discussions pertained to further collaborations in a broad spectrum of healthcare sector, including pharmaceuticals, medical devices and human resources.

Local

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EDITORIAL : 24833199-24833358-24833432
ADVERTISING : 24833199 Extn. 359
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P.O.Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait.
Email: info@kuwaittimes.com
Website: www.kuwaittimes.comNBK, IE University Spain ink
exclusive collaboration deal

Agreement covers several areas including talent development

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) signed an exclusive collaboration agreement with IE University-Spain, a globally recognized institution based in Spain and known for its innovative approach to higher education. The agreement covers several areas including talent development, promoting corporate innovation, developing and implementing integrated solutions, and leveraging the University's capabilities in applied and academic research.

The signing ceremony was held at NBK Headquarters in the presence of Emad Al-Ablani, General Manager - Group Human Resources at National Bank of Kuwait, and Irina Deneanu, Director, Corporate Relations Middle East Region at IE University, along with executives from both parties. The agreement focuses on areas such as talent development, and will see IE University developing a tailored program to cater to the specific needs of NBK.

This will be achieved through IE's customized training design unit which leverages knowledge and materials from its training programs, Master's programs from any of the five schools and the Executive Education. Additionally, it includes promoting Corporate Innovation by designing, developing and implementing comprehensive innovation solutions together with NBK, and bringing IE University's capacity, knowledge closer to NBK.

Through this agreement, NBK will also gain access to the applied research resources and capabilities of IE University, as well as priority invitations to register and attend the University's events and annual open lectures. Moreover, the agreement also includes aiding children of NBK Employees in master's and undergraduate programs at IE University, which offers an innovative environment with the constant presence of important figures from the

academic and business world. Furthermore, IE shall facilitate and support access of all employees of NBK Group (Kuwait and IBG locations) to its training programs.

Meanwhile, NBK shall facilitate and support access by its employees to the training which IE offers, particularly allowing working hours which are compatible with the study needs of its employees who are admitted and who receive grants. Commenting on this collaboration, Al-Ablani said: "This collaboration is a key milestone in developing and upskilling our human resources as per the highest quality and excellence standards by partnering with leading international universities and experts, with a view to further elevate their career."

"This partnership demonstrates our culture and vision of investing in the human capital and striving to develop well-qualified national banking leaders according to the latest and highest international standards," he remarked. "This agreement re-imagines the relationship between institutions and employees by providing benefits and aids to the children of the bank's employees to pursue their undergraduate studies at the prestigious IE University with discounted tuition fees for the first year, for the first year, renewable for the following years of the program provided the students maintain an adequate academic performance," he explained.

"NBK places the development of its people as a top priority, harnessing all its capabilities to contribute to their career progression by providing training and development programs held in partnership with globally renowned educational institutions, in order to keep pace with the key changes in the banking business," he added.

Irina Deneanu said: "IE University is thrilled to announce a significant milestone as we sign the corporate



Irina Deneanu, Emad Al-Ablani and Maryam Al-Nasrallah take a group photo after the event.

benefits agreement with our esteemed partner, NBK. This achievement underscores the unwavering commitment of NBK and IE University to foster talent development and personal growth through continuous learning at a top-tier institution." She added: "At IE, we are dedicated to maintaining innovation at the forefront of corporate education. This will enhance creativity and drive positive impact, especially in our ever-evolving world."

This agreement not only benefits NBK employees and their children by providing opportunities to pursue EMBA's, Masters, and Undergraduate degrees at IE University, but also strengthens our collaborative efforts to create a strong impact on the corporate community. We remain committed to delivering sustained success

and innovation." It is worth mentioning that NBK places learning and training initiatives at the heart of its strategic plans. It also enjoys a unique work environment and culture akin to international peers, making it the private sector employer of choice for Kuwaiti fresh graduates.

NBK harnesses all its tremendous capabilities to develop and upskill its human capital, and always seeks to unlock their creativity, which reflects positively on their performance, and strengthens its leading position, locally and regionally. Founded in 1973, IE University is considered one of the leading and top ranked universities in the world according to international magazines and newspapers including Forbes, The Economist, Financial Times and Bloomberg.



Kuwait Permanent Representative to the Arab League Ambassador Talal Al-Mutairi attends the meeting. — KUNA

Arab League holds
consultative forum

CAIRO: The Arab League held a consultative meeting with permanent delegates of member states on Sunday, headed by Mauritania, to evaluate Arab cooperation forums with countries and regional groups. Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the International Political Affairs Sector, Dr Khaled Manzalawi, said in a press release that the meeting discussed member states views and proposals regarding Arab cooperation forums in order to coordinate collective efforts to address issues of common interest.

During the meeting, the permanent delegates pointed out the importance of setting a comprehensive strategy that includes specific objectives and implementation to achieve the forum's goals, Manzalawi added. He stressed that this meeting represents an important step to enhancing cooperation and communication between Arab countries and regional groups. Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the Arab League, Ambassador Talal Al-Mutairi, headed the Kuwaiti delegation. — KUNA



RIYADH: Women walk next to a billboard, highlighting the importance of a permit to perform pilgrimage, at a mall in Riyadh, ahead of the annual hajj pilgrimage. — AFP

Kuwait hajj mission
chief urges adhering
to Saudi laws

KUWAIT: Chief of Kuwaiti pilgrimage mission Dr Bader Al-Mutairi stressed on Sunday the need to adhere to the special systems and laws in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This came in a statement to KUNA by Dr Al-Mutairi, also the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Al-Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, following a meeting between the head of the mission and his deputy and assistant undersecretary for information and external relations of the Ministry of Al-Awqaf, Mohammad Al-Mutairi, along with heads of the tasked commissions.

Dr Al-Mutairi expressed his thanks to the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Kuwait, Prince Sultan bin Saad Al-

Saud, and to the staff of the Saudi Embassy in Kuwait for their cooperation and coordination with the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs. He also expressed his thanks to all the parties participating in the mission for their dedication and work. For his part, the Consul General of Kuwait in Jeddah and its Permanent Representative to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Mohammad Al-Mutairi, confirmed in a similar statement the consulate's preparations for hajj through its plans that were put in place early to facilitate and ease the work of the Supreme Hajj Committee.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Interior, the General Fire Force, the Public Authority for Youth, the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition, and the Kuwait Red Crescent Society at the mission's headquarters in Makkah. The meeting discussed topics related to the services provided to the pilgrims of Kuwait and reviewed the hajj mission plan. — KUNA

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Participants at the Dakhla International Film Festival. — KUNA photos

Kuwaiti film 'Amakor'
features in Morocco's
Dakhla Film Festival

DAKHLA: The Kuwaiti film "Amakor" was featured in the Dakhla International Film Festival, which concluded on Saturday, with movie stars from Africa and the Arab world in attendance. In a statement to KUNA, the president of the festival, Zine El-Abidine Charafeddine, said that in this 12th edition of the festival, they were honored to feature movies from the Gulf, especially Kuwait and the UAE. The festival was a good way to introduce Moroccan and African viewers to Gulf cinema and Kuwaiti cinema through the movie "Amakor" by Kuwaiti director Ahmad Al-Khudari, which drew the attention of the public and critics.

On his part, the movie's star Abdullah Al-Tarawah expressed his happiness at the representation of Kuwaiti cinema in the feature films category in a statement to KUNA. He added that this is considered a great opportunity to introduce Kuwaiti cinematic achievements in front of a wide audience, including film critics and artists from Africa, the Arab world, and Europe. The movie "Amakor," produced by Ahmad Al-Khudari, written and directed by Mohammad Al-Muhaiteb, and starring Abdullah Al-Tarawah, Khaled Ameen, Samah, Hassan Abdal, and Hussain Sherazi, received wide acclaim in Arab and international festivals. — KUNA



Amakor film poster



Zionist war upends Gaza's budding health system

Seoul resumes loudspeaker propaganda against North



BERLIN: Protesters take part in a demonstration to defend democracy against the far right on June 8, 2024, one day ahead of European Parliament elections. — AFP

Far-right gains set tone in EU vote

New EU Parliament likely to be cooler on climate action, eager on limiting immigration

BRUSSELS: The far-right was seen scoring big gains in Germany and Austria in Sunday's EU election, opinion polls showed, joining the Netherlands in offering the first signs that an expected rightwards shift in the European Parliament is happening. The far-right Alternative for Germany took second place behind the opposition conservatives with 16.5 percent of the vote, up from 11 percent in 2019, according to an exit poll published by public broadcaster ARD. All three parties in German Chancellor Olaf Scholz's coalition suffered losses, according to the poll.

The results were in line with an expected broader shift in favor of rightwing parties in the European Parliament which covers a bloc of 450 million citizens. Meanwhile, in Austria, the far-right Freedom Party is the likely winner of the ballot, according to a poll based on surveys carried out over the past week and published as voting there closed on Sunday evening.

In the Netherlands, which voted on Thursday, exit polls showed nationalist Geert Wilders' anti-immigration party was set to win seven of the 29 Dutch

seats in the EU assembly, just one short of the combined seats of a Socialist Democrat-Greens alliance. The new European Parliament is likely to be cooler on policies to address climate change while eager to support measures to limit immigration to the EU.

The parliament could also be more fragmented, which would make adopting any measure trickier and slower as the EU confronts challenges including a hostile Russia and increased industrial rivalry from China and the United States. It also means both German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and French President Emmanuel Macron, whose party is expected to take a beating at the benefit of Marine Le Pen's far-right, could emerge diminished and weakened.

Voting began on Thursday in the Netherlands and in other countries on Friday and Saturday, but the bulk of EU votes will be cast on Sunday, with France, Germany, Poland and Spain opening their polls and Italy holding a second day of voting.

The European Parliament votes legislation that is key for citizens and businesses in the 27-nation EU.

"I don't always agree with the decisions that Europe takes," 89-year-old retiree Paule Richard said after voting in Paris. "But I still hope that there will be a reckoning in all European countries, so that Europe can be a unified bloc and look in the same direction."

Right turn

For many years, voters across the bloc have complained that EU decision-making is complex, distant and disconnected from daily realities, which explains often low turnout in EU elections. "People don't know who really has the power, between the Commission and Parliament," another French voter, Emmanuel, said in a northern Paris polling station. "And it's true that it raises questions and breeds mistrust which today might not exist if things were clearer," the 34-year-old programmer said.

The center-right European People's Party (EPP) is projected in opinion polls to remain the European Parliament's largest group, putting its candidate to head the European Commission, incumbent Ur-

sula von der Leyen of Germany, in pole position for a second term. However, she may need support from some right-wing nationalists, such as Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's Brothers of Italy, to secure a parliamentary majority, giving Meloni and allies more leverage.

Many voters have been hit by the cost of living, have concerns about migration and the cost of the green transition and are disturbed by geopolitical tensions, including war in Ukraine. Hard and far-right parties have seized on this and offered the electorate an alternative. "Whoever believes that we need a change of course and that things can be done much better in Brussels has only one alternative, which is Vox," the leading candidate for the far-right Spanish party, Jorge Buxade, said after voting in Madrid.

In Belgium, voters also elect federal and regional chambers on Sunday and are forecast to back far-right Flemish separatist party Vlaams Belang in record numbers, although it could still be kept from office by other parties. — Reuters



This combination photo shows the six Iranian candidates for the upcoming elections, from top left to bottom right: Alireza Zakani, Amirhossein Ghazizadeh-Hashemi, Mostafa Pourmohammadi, Saeed Jalili, Masoud Pezeshkian and Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf. — AFP

Iran approves six candidates for presidential vote

TEHRAN: Iran on Sunday announced the six candidates, mostly conservatives, approved for the June 28 election to replace president Ebrahim Raisi, who was killed in a helicopter crash. The candidates announced by the interior ministry were selected from 80 registered hopefuls by the Guardian Council, which oversees elections in the Islamic republic. Among those approved are the conservative speaker of parliament Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf and the ultraconservative former nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili, who is known for his inflexible negotiating stance.

Just one reformist candidate, Massoud Pezeshkian, who is a lawmaker representing Tabriz in Iran's parliament, has been approved. Pezeshkian, 69, has been outspoken against the government's lack of transparency during nationwide protests which were triggered by the September 2022 death in police custody of Mahsa Amini. The conservative former interior minister Mostafa Pourmohammadi has also been authorized to run. Others on the list include conservative Tehran mayor Alireza Zakani and incumbent vice president Amirhossein Ghazizadeh-Hashemi, the ultraconservative head of the Martyrs' Foundation.

In a Sunday post on social media site X, Zakani said he would "compete until the end to continue the path of" Raisi. According to Iran's electoral law, campaigning should officially start from Sunday until 24 hours before the elections.

Ahmadinejad disqualified
Former hardline president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who was previously disqualified from entering the presidential races in 2017 and 2021, was again excluded from the list. Others including moderate ex-parliament speaker Ali Larijani and Vahid Haghani, a former commander in Iran's Revolutionary Guards, were also barred from standing.

Four women had also registered their candidacy but were disqualified, as has been the case for all presidential elections since the 1979 Islamic revolution. Iran's presidential elections were originally slated for 2025 but were brought forward following Raisi's unexpected death on May 19.

Raisi and seven members of his entourage, including foreign minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, were killed when their aircraft came down on a fog-shrouded mountainside in northern Iran.

In Iran, ultimate authority is wielded by the supreme leader and not the president. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, 85, has held the former post for 35 years. Following Raisi's death, Khamenei assigned Vice President Mohammad Mokhber, 68, as caretaker president in accordance with the constitution.

In the 2021 elections, the Guardian Council disqualified multiple reformist and moderate figures ahead of the presidential elections which brought the ultraconservative Raisi to power. Those elections had a record low turnout for a presidential poll, at just 48.8 percent.

This month's vote will be held during a turbulent time, as the Gaza war rages between Iran's arch-foe the Zionist entity and Tehran-backed Palestinian militant group Hamas, and amid continued diplomatic tensions over Iran's nuclear program. — AFP

'I should be dead': Survivors recall Nuseirat massacre

GAZA: While Zionists have rejoiced at the safe return of four captives following a raid on Nuseirat camp, much of the world decried a "massacre" in which 274 people were killed and 698 wounded, according to Gaza health ministry numbers. Soon after the raid started around 11 am (0800 GMT) in Nuseirat's busy market area, bombs were raining down and turning the neighborhood into "smoke and flames", said Muhammad Thabet, a 35-year-old resident. "People were screaming - young and old, women and men," he said by phone. "Everyone wanted to flee the place, but the bombing was intense and anyone who moved was at risk of being killed due to the heavy bombardment and gunfire."

"Houses were destroyed with their occupants inside. There were also large numbers of displaced people and shops, stalls and cars were on fire due to the bombing."

The Zionist entity had sent in a special forces team of troops, police and Shin Bet operatives who simultaneously raided two buildings to extract the hostages.

Zionist military spokesman Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari said that it was a "rescue operation" planned "weeks in advance", with the entity even building models of the two apartments in preparation. EU's top diplomat, Josep Borrell, condemned the raid. "In the strongest terms... reports from Gaza of another massacre of civilians". In a post on X, he called what occurred a "blood-bath". Eyewitnesses said the Zionist raid and retreat were covered by heavy air strikes as well as drone and tank fire. Several told AFP they had seen bodies in the streets, which AFP could not independently verify. As the fighting raged, the injured were taken to one of Ga-

za's hospitals, medics said. "The hospital was filled with martyrs and injured, and it was impossible to accommodate such a large number within minutes," said Dr Marwan Abu Nasser, an official at the Al-Awda health facility near the camp. "Of course, the hospital was under fire, and no one could move during the operation."

Watching from his roof, another Palestinian man, Mohammed Moussa, said he was terrified when he caught a glimpse of a Zionist tank on the street below with artillery fire crashing down. "I should be dead," marveled the 29-year-old after the raid was over, leaving much of the area covered in debris and heavy dust that coated the streets in grey.

Troops 'disguised as Hamas'

Several witnesses reported seeing Zionist forces burst out of a refrigerated truck, dressed in the garb of Palestinian militants in an apparent bid to confuse their enemies, although this also could not be independently verified. Alaa al-Khatib, a displaced woman living in the camp, told AFP she was walking to a market when she saw people climbing out of a refrigerated truck and exiting a small white car. They then took out a ladder and began climbing into an upper floor of a nearby building, she said. "Moments later, I heard gunfire and explosions from the houses, neighborhoods and streets of the camp," she said.

"I learnt that (Zionist) special forces had infiltrated the camp with Palestinian aid vehicles, all as a distraction to divert the attention of the people in the camp from the operation they came for, to liberate (Zionist) hostages." Several other witnesses reported similar details to AFP, notably the presence of a refrigerated truck. "They were wearing clothes like Hamas and Islamic Jihad people, and some were masked," said another local man, Mahmoud al-Assar, 27. Recalling the intensity of the raid that soon erupted and devastated several city blocks, Assar said that "what happened in the camp was like an earthquake". — Agencies



NUSEIRAT: Palestinian children search through the rubble of their home a day after an operation by the Zionist forces in the Nuseirat camp, in the central Gaza Strip on June 9, 2024. — AFP

International

Seoul resumes loudspeaker propaganda against North

North floats more balloons carrying trash towards the South late Sunday

SEOUL: South Korea resumed Sunday a loudspeaker propaganda campaign against the North as Pyongyang sent a fresh barrage of trash-filled balloons across the border. Relations between the two Koreas are at one of their lowest points in years and in recent weeks the two have engaged in a tit-for-tat campaign of balloon launches, with analysts warning the escalating cycle could end in actual military skirmishes.

Seoul suspended this month a 2018 military deal aimed at reducing tensions on the peninsula after Pyongyang sent hundreds of balloons carrying bags of garbage, including cigarette butts and plastic waste, paving the way for the resumption of the loudspeaker broadcasts.

The loudspeaker broadcasts, a tactic which dates back to the 1950-1953 Korean War, infuriated Pyongyang, which previously threatened artillery strikes against the loudspeaker units unless they were switched off. "The South Korean military conducted a loudspeaker broadcast this afternoon," Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff said, adding that whether additional broadcasts follow "depends entirely on North Korea's actions."

The president's office had earlier confirmed the move, describing it as "corresponding measures" for the more than 300 trash-filled balloons Pyongyang sent across the border in a fresh blitz that started on Saturday. "Although the measures we are taking may be difficult for the North Korean regime to endure, they will deliver messages of light and hope to the North Korean military and citizens," it said.

Late Sunday, Seoul's military said the North was "again floating (suspected) balloons carrying trash towards the South," advising the public to report any balloons to authorities and refrain from touching them.

'Low class'

Officials in Gyeonggi province sent out a text

alert to residents late Sunday, warning about the new balloons. Seoul's military has said analysis of the balloons that arrived Saturday "shows there were no substances that were harmful to safety" and that they contained plastic and wastepaper.

"North Korea is making another low-class provocation with trash balloons against our civilian areas," Seoul mayor Oh Se-hoon wrote in a Facebook post. Activists in the South have sent dozens of balloons bearing K-pop, dollar bills and anti-Kim Jong Un propaganda northwards in recent weeks, infuriating the North which has retaliated in kind.

Pyongyang sent nearly a thousand balloons across the border in late May and early June before calling off its campaign. It restarted on Saturday in response to new launches last week by activists, against which Seoul's government has almost no legal recourse.

Low point in ties

Seoul's decision to resume the loudspeaker broadcasts could have serious implications, experts said, with previous propaganda tit-for-tats having had real-world consequences for inter-Korean relations. "There is a high possibility the resuming of speakers could lead to an armed conflict," Cheong Seong-chang, director of the Korean peninsula strategy at Sejong Institute, told AFP.

"With the resuming of the speakers, North Korea will not stay put. It is likely that North Korea will resume firing in the West Sea or fire at the balloons if the South sends any again," Cheong said. "North Korea has been jamming GPS signals for several days last week and it is likely for this kind of provocation to appear in a much stronger form in the West Sea as well."

In 2018, during a period of improved inter-Korean relations, the leaders of the two Koreas agreed



PAJU: South Korean soldiers work on a loudspeaker that is set up for propaganda broadcasts during a military drill near the demilitarized zone separating the two Koreas in this handout picture provided by the Defense Ministry and released on June 9, 2024. — Reuters

to "completely cease all hostile acts", including stopping the leaflets.

The South Korean parliament passed a law in 2020 criminalizing the act of sending leaflets to the North, but the activists did not stop and the law was struck down by the Constitutional Court last year as an undue limitation on free speech.

The opposition Democratic Party criticized the

government for not doing more to stop the activists' balloons, with a spokesperson at a Sunday briefing saying they were using "freedom of expression" as an excuse to jeopardize the safety of our people". They also said the resumption of loudspeaker campaigns was not wise, adding that "the government's move poses a risk of escalating into a regional war". — AFP

Nine killed in India's Kashmir after Hindu pilgrim bus ambushed

SRINAGAR, India: Gunmen ambushed a bus carrying Hindu pilgrims in Indian-administered Kashmir, which then tumbled into a ravine killing of at least nine people, police said Sunday. The attack came around an hour before Hindu-nationalist Prime Minister Narendra Modi was sworn in for a third term on Sunday evening in the capital New Delhi. "Initial reports suggest that militants were waiting there in an ambush and they fired on the bus," police officer Mohita Sharma told AFP. "The driver lost control and fell into the deep gorge. Nine people died and 23 were injured."

The crash happened near Reasi town, in the south of the disputed territory, as the bus was returning from a popular Hindu shrine in the area. Opposition Congress party president Mallikarjun Kharge condemned the "gruesome terror attack" in a post on social media platform X. Modi's "chest-thumping propaganda of bringing peace and normalcy ... rings hollow", he said.

Kashmir has been divided between India and Pakistan since their independence in 1947, and both claim the high-altitude territory in full. Rebel groups have waged an insurgency since 1989, demanding independence or a merger with Pakistan.

The conflict has left tens of thousands of civilians, soldiers, and rebels dead. Violence and anti-India protests have drastically fallen since 2019, when Modi's government cancelled the region's limited autonomy. — AFP



SYMI: A drone view shows the area where the body of British TV presenter Michael Mosley was found, on the southeastern Aegean Sea island of Symi, Greece, June 9, 2024. — Reuters photos

British TV doctor Mosley found dead on Greek island

ATHENS/SYMI: British TV presenter Michael Mosley has been found dead in a rocky area of Symi, days after he disappeared during a walk on the Greek island, local officials and police told Reuters. The 67-year-old healthy living advocate, who was had been a prominent face on British TV for two decades, was found on Sunday morning, ending a four day search that included aircraft, drones and sniffer dogs.

"It's devastating to have lost Michael, my wonderful, funny, kind and brilliant husband. We had an incredibly lucky life together. We loved each

other very much," Mosley's wife said in a statement issued on her behalf. Police spokeswoman Constantina Dimoglidou said the body of a person believed to be Mosley had been found in the area of Agia Marina, north of the village of Pedi and opposite the northeast beach of Agios Nikolaos where Mosley set out for his walk.

"It is certainly him," said deputy mayor Nikitas Grillis, pending formal identification of the body, which was found on rocky terrain, close to the sea and near a beach bar. The body was transferred to the neighboring Dodecanese island of Rhodes for more tests, after a police official said a coroner at the scene excluded any criminal act but could not determine the exact cause of death.

Symi Mayor Lefteris Papakaloudoukas said the discovery was made after he and others, including journalists from state TV channel ERT, filmed the area from a vessel. "We analyzed the recorded ev-

idence and it was obvious that it was, unfortunately, Mosley," Papakaloudoukas said. "He was found 10 meters away from the sea, 10-15 meters from his destination, the beach of Agia Marina, between a fence and a path," adding that it was unclear what had happened.

ERT reported that Mosley was found lying face up, with his head on a rock. Mosley, who was on holiday with his wife, was last seen alive at 1:30 pm (1030 GMT) on Wednesday. His children had arrived on Friday on Symi, which is about 10 miles (16 km) long and has 2,500 residents, following his disappearance.

Mosley appeared on programs including the BBC series Trust Me, I'm a Doctor, the BBC's The One Show and ITV's This Morning. "Absolutely devastating news," said celebrity chef Jamie Oliver on Instagram. "He did such a lot of good for public health with his TV shows and research." — Reuters



Rescuers transfer the body of Michael Mosley.

Outrage over Nuseirat massacre...

Continued from Page 1

Hamas armed wing, the Ezzedine Al-Qassam Brigades, said on Sunday three Zionist hostages, including one with US citizenship, were killed during the raid, but provided no names. It released a video of corpses with censor bars obscuring their faces. A Hamas assertion on Saturday that some hostages had died was rejected as "a blatant lie" by the Zionist military. Hamas' armed wing also warned that conditions would worsen for the remaining captives. "The operation will pose a great danger (for) the enemy's prisoners and will have a negative impact on their conditions," spokesman Abu Obaida wrote on the Telegram channel.

Gaza's health ministry said 698 Palestinians were injured in the Zionist raid, and one of them, 4-year-old Tawfiq Abu Youssef, was in critical condition when visited in hospital on Sunday by his father Raed. The boy was first thought to have died before he moved his hand slightly while in the arms of a relative rushing him to hospital - captured in a video that went viral on social media. "I had already dug his grave," his father told Reuters, adding that most members of his extended family were among those killed in the raid.

In central Gaza on Sunday, Zionist airstrikes on houses in the city of Deir Al-Balah and in the nearby Al-Bureij refugee camp killed three Palestinians in each location, while tanks shelled parts of Al-Nuseirat and Al-Maghazi camps, medics said. The Zionist entity sent forces into Rafah in May in what it called a mission to wipe out Hamas' last intact combat units after eight months of war, in which Zionist forces have bombed much of the rest of Gaza to rubble while advancing against fierce resistance from militants embedded in crowded cities and built-up camps.

Zionist tank forces have since seized Gaza's entire border strip with Egypt running through Rafah to the Mediterranean coast and invaded many districts of the city of 280,000 residents, prompting around one million displaced people who had been sheltering in Rafah to flee elsewhere. On Sunday, tanks advanced into two new districts in an apparent effort to complete the encirclement of the entire eastern side of Rafah, touching off clashes with dug-in Hamas-led armed groups, according to residents trapped in their homes.

Palestinian medics said a Zionist airstrike on a house in Tel Al-Sultan in western Rafah killed two people. The Zionist air and ground war in Gaza has killed at least 37,084 Palestinians, mostly women and children, the health ministry in the territory said in its Sunday update. The ministry says thousands more dead are feared buried under the rubble. — Agencies

wearing red clothing — held Palestinian flags and signs saying "Biden's red line was a lie" and "Bombing children is not self-defense".

The White House stepped up security with an additional anti-scale perimeter fence ahead of the demonstration, which saw chartered buses ferrying in people from as far afield as Maine and Florida. Five months from his election battle with Republican candidate Donald Trump, Biden is facing pressure to hang onto Muslim and young voters, blocs seen as crucial to his reelection bid. "It's very disappointing to have a president who doesn't follow through with their word... I will be voting for a third party," said McKinney. — AFP

Modi sworn in as PM, Amir sends...

Continued from Page 1

HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah also sent congratulatory cables to Modi.

"Honored to serve Bharat," Modi posted on X, minutes before he was sworn in, referring to India's name in Indian languages. Honor guards lined the steps of the presidential palace where thousands gathered to watch Modi, dressed in a flowing white kurta shirt and blue waistcoat, take the oath. South Asian leaders from neighboring Bangladesh, the Maldives and Sri Lanka attended the ceremony, but neighboring rivals China and Pakistan did not.

The cheering crowd also included adoring BJP loyalists, as well as celebrities such as Bollywood legend Shahrukh Khan and billionaire tycoons Gautam Adani and Mukesh Ambani, key Modi allies. But with Modi yet to announce details of his cabinet, the

line of lawmakers also taking the oath of office was keenly watched as an indication of who will be in government. Modi was followed immediately by top BJP aides Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah and Nitin Gadkari — the defense, interior and transport ministers in his last government respectively. The first among the BJP's coalition members was H.D. Kumaraswamy from the Janata Dal (Secular) party. Larger coalition parties have demanded hefty concessions in exchange for their support.

Other coalition leaders to take the oath included Ram Mohan Naidu of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), the largest BJP ally with 16 seats, and which India media reports has extracted four cabinet positions. Rajiv Ranjan Singh also took the oath, from the BJP's next biggest ally the Janata Dal (United) with 12 seats, which has reportedly two minister posts.

Modi described recent days as "very busy" in an article published on his website Sunday ahead of the ceremony, saying he was in the "midst of preparations of government formation". Indian media reported widely that the top jobs including the four most powerful posts of the interior, foreign, finance and defense would remain in the BJP's grip. — Agencies

Aramco announced last year it would start paying a performance-based dividend in addition to its base dividend. Last month the firm announced base dividend payments for the first quarter totaling \$20.3 billion and a performance-linked dividend distribution of \$10.8 billion to be paid in the second quarter. "It is no surprise that eligible traders wanted to buy shares, especially after seeing how the dividend payments have gone out regardless of how much money the company made," said Ellen Wald, senior fellow at the Atlantic Council and author of a history of Aramco. Saudi Arabia is the world's largest crude oil exporter and the government's stake in Aramco is around 81.5 percent after the second share sale. The kingdom's sovereign wealth fund, the Public Investment Fund, and its subsidiaries control about 16 percent. — AFP

Protesters slam Biden in Gaza...

Continued from Page 1

"This 'red line' in his rhetoric is rubbish... it shows his hypocrisy and his cowardice," Mahdawi told AFP.

Nursing assistant Tala McKinney, 25, said: "I think we all hope it's going to stop soon but clearly our president is not living up to the words he is speaking to our country. It's outrageous." The protesters — almost all

International

Zionist war upends Gaza's budding health system

With each specialist killed, Gaza lost a network of knowledge that will take years to rebuild

GAZA: Dr Sireen Al-Attar was on WhatsApp day and night, communicating with colleagues and pregnant women in the Gaza Strip to make childbirth safer, fellow doctors said. Her work was part of a campaign that began long before the Zionist war on Gaza.

The doctor was sleeping in a bed on Oct 11 with two of her three daughters. Hamas had attacked the Zionist entity four days earlier. Anticipating Zionist reprisals, Attar and her three children had left Gaza City to stay with her parents in Bureij, a refugee camp, where they hoped they'd be safer.

There were 21 relatives under one roof. Attar's eldest daughter, Reema, had a mattress on the floor. Before going to sleep, "the last thing I told her was, 'I love you, mom,'" Reema, now 14, told Reuters. They slept between bombardments. Then the house was hit. Reema woke beneath a cupboard, choking in dust. "I started yelling 'Help, help. Mother, anyone, help, people!'"

No reply came from the bed. Attar was dead, killed in a Zionist airstrike, according to Gaza's health ministry. Reema's 6-year-old sister was seriously injured.

Attar, 39, was one of at least 490 Gazan healthcare workers killed since the Zionist entity swore to destroy Hamas in retaliation for its cross-border assault on Oct 7, according to Gaza's health ministry.

She was a specialist doctor, one of a vanguard improving public health for Gaza's fast-growing population before the war, whose deaths have done its health service grave harm.

Operating under a Zionist blockade after Hamas won elections to rule the strip in 2007, the health service in Gaza was fraught with difficulties. But in some fields the health service had made advances, thanks to investment and support from abroad and the persistence of doctors like Attar, according to a Reuters review of data from the Palestinian health ministry and global aid agencies, and interviews with more than two dozen Gazan and foreign doctors.

One example: Data from the Gaza health ministry shows the territory's maternal mortality rate had dropped to 17.4 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 2022 from 23.4 in 2010, the earliest year for which Gaza-specific data is available. For context, data from the World Health Organization (WHO) shows that in 2020, the most recent year available, 41 out of 100,000 women in Jordan died during or soon after giving birth. In Egypt that number was 17; in the Zionist entity, three.

There is no independent mechanism to verify the Gaza government's data, which is recognized by the UN and used by international health agencies in the same way as government data from other countries. To verify the number of specialist doctors killed and assess the impact of their deaths, Reuters spoke to 10 Gazan doctors in the territory or abroad, 14 foreign doctors who helped train the specialists, and 10 of their relatives and friends.

Between 2006, when Hamas won power in Gaza, and 2022, Gaza's population jumped by 49 percent to 2.2 million, health ministry data shows. In that time, the number of general practitioners more than doubled to 1,913, as did the ranks of specialists, to 1,565.

That was helped by an influx of foreign support, including from doctors in the Zionist entity. A Reuters tally of public records and inquiries to UN officials show at least \$2 billion was allocated to healthcare in Gaza over that time by the Gazan ministry of health and UN aid agencies alone.



Palestinian patients undergo kidney dialysis at Al-Shifa hospital in 2013.

Specialist doctors like Attar were part of a strategic effort by Hamas to build a self-sufficient health system for Gaza, from burn care to cancer diagnosis and kidney treatment, Gaza's first health minister told Reuters.

In the current war, 55 specialist doctors in Gaza have been killed, according to information from the ministry of health, as well as relatives, colleagues and friends. Reuters could not independently verify the circumstances of their deaths. That works out at nearly 4 percent of Gazan specialists.

In some specialties with small cadres of doctors, the losses are stark. The enclave had just three kidney specialists before the war — one has been killed and the other fled abroad, Reuters learned. Hamas and its allies have long argued that the Zionist entity has a goal of destroying its health system, an allegation the Zionist military denies. Reuters found that seven of the 55 specialists were killed in hospitals. As many as 23 were killed when they were away from work. Reuters couldn't find clear information on where the remainder died.

With each specialist killed, Gaza has lost a network of knowledge and human connections, blows more enduring than those borne



This photo shows the damaged Al-Shifa Hospital after Zionist forces withdrew from the hospital and the area around in April 2024. — Reuters photos

by most of the area's 35 hospitals since Oct 7, the doctors and experts said. The killing of even one doctor could cripple the services they led where specialists were few.

Reuters chronicled the struggle of Attar and two other specialist doctors in Gaza to train and work under the Zionist embargo of the enclave, and examined how they helped improve healthcare there. "It's a massive loss," said Dr Deborah Harrington, a British obstetrician who helped instruct Attar and others. "The healthcare system can ill afford to lose these experts." Rebuilding the system, Harrington said, "is going to go into decades." Hamas did not respond to a request for comment.



Dr Sireen Al-Attar (R) and her friend fellow medical student Dr Sana Najjar.

The Zionist forces did not comment on the deaths of the doctors named in this story. But it said in a statement to Reuters that the IDF has "overwhelming and irrefutable" evidence that Hamas used hospitals and medical infrastructure as cover for "terror purposes."

Throughout the war, the Zionist army has released what it says is evidence Hamas made military use of medical facilities, including weapons it said it seized in hospitals, a video of the interrogation of a detained hospital director and a tunnel near Al-Shifa hospital that the IDF says was a command post for Hamas fighters. Hamas denies these claims.

"The IDF is not interested in medical staff vis-a-vis their roles as medical professionals, but due to their potential involvement in Hamas terror," it said, speaking generally. Reuters was unable to independently verify the competing claims made by both sides about the involvement of Gaza's health system in the current conflict. More than 36,000 Palestinians and nearly 1,500 Zionists have been killed since Oct 7, Gazan and Zionist tallies show.

New generation of professionals

Around 80 percent of the Palestinians living in Gaza are refugees who were expelled or fled their homes during the 1948 war which led to the Zionist entity's creation, and their descendants. Attar's story parallels that of Gaza's healthcare system amid isolation, war and intra-Palestinian political strife.

Born in 1984, she started medical school in 2002, when Gaza depended for advanced medical treatment on hospitals in the Zionist entity and other nearby states. At that time the enclave had fewer than 30 beds in special care units, according to a 2012 report by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS).

Hamas, a militant Islamist group, secured control of Gaza in 2007. Gaza's health services were isolated from the Ramallah ministry, which began restricting funds to the enclave.

Dr Basem Naim, the first health minister under Hamas rule, said Hamas began seeking specialist training to create what he called a "new generation of professionals" for a health system to support a Palestinian state. In his first year, Naim said, the ministry paid \$110 million to hospitals in Zionist entity, Egypt and Jordan for the treatment of Palestinians. But Hamas wanted to invest in its own doctors instead.

In 2008, medical student Al-Attar graduated from the Gaza branch of Al-Quds University with top grades. That won her the enclave's only scholarship for specialty training

in obstetrics and gynecology — in Amman, Jordan. She was one of about 140 doctors whom Naim said the Gaza ministry sent for training there. "We fought with all of our force and all our capabilities to get some of the young, freshly graduated doctors outside the country, to get a very professional training," said Naim, himself a surgeon.

Pregnant with Reema as she prepared to take up the scholarship, Attar had direct experience of the Zionist blockade. She needed to give birth in Jordan or delay her studies while waiting for permits to travel with the child, her husband, Dr Wajdy Jarbou, told Reuters. Attar had difficulty getting out. In April 2010, she made it to a hospital in Jordan less than 24 hours before Reema was born, Jarbou said.

Unexpected help

By 2022, Gaza had 3,412 hospital beds, almost a 70 percent increase from 2009, the earliest year for which health ministry data is available. That amounted to nearly 15.5 beds per 10,000 people — more than in Egypt, Jordan and Syria, but about half the Zionist total, according to the latest WHO data.

Gaza was helped by governments and charities abroad including the European Union, Indonesia, Kuwait, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, and the United Nations.

No clear data is available on how much all have spent. The records Reuters was able to review add up to a minimum of \$2.2 billion since 2006, including almost \$740 million from the UN children's agency UNICEF and population fund UNFPA.

The main aid provider in Gaza is the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). Its reports do not say how much of the \$4 billion it has dedicated to Gaza was spent on health, but they do show this was at least \$75 million. UNRWA didn't respond to questions about its medical spending.

Reuters could not access all the Gaza health ministry's spending records. According to its public reports, its total spending was \$1.4 billion between 2015 and 2022.

"One paradoxical consequence of the siege is that actually the health sector has witnessed an expansion," said Cambridge University social scientist Mona Jebri, who published a 138-page study of Gaza's health system in 2021. She attributed the growth to a range of factors, saying a well-functioning healthcare system was essential for Hamas's survival.

Physicians in the Zionist entity also helped. Jaffa-based nonprofit Physicians for Human Rights began working with Gaza's health ministry in 2009, said its head, Guy Shalev. From 2010 until the war started, PHRI sent specialist doctors of Palestinian origin to Gaza on regular trips to train doctors on advanced medical procedures.

The physicians received "unexpected support and welcome from the ministry", Shalev told Reuters. "Our impression was they were super motivated, in terms of making it work even in these very impossible conditions, getting the public health system to operate properly and provide for the people."

The organization's main contact in Gaza's health ministry was its director general, Dr Munir Al-Bursh. The ministry said Al-Bursh was injured in a Dec 21 Zionist airstrike on his home in Jabalia in northern Gaza — a strike that killed his daughter. Al-Bursh's wife said he is still recovering and so was not available for comment.

Hell with the protocol

In 2016, Al-Attar and her husband returned to Gaza to work for the health ministry. Ministry data shows its hospitals then handled two-thirds of surgeries in Gaza, performing 66,051 procedures — an increase of nearly 13 percent since 2010.

She joined a health ministry project to lower maternal mortality, passing on skills she learned in Jordan and training doctors how to diagnose lung embolism and deep vein thrombosis, which can be fatal. "She was the youngest, and the new one," said her colleague and friend Dr Sana Najjar.

Daily life was characterized by power outages, slow internet, political instability and cycles of conflict. The system lacked stable supplies and still needed to refer certain patients to hospitals in the Zionist entity and elsewhere. "We couldn't afford fuel for her to get to work," said her husband, Dr Jarbou. "She was — and not just her ... subjected to many crises like this."

He had also received specialist training in Jordan, as a radiologist. But in 2020, like many doctors in Gaza, he moved abroad for a better salary. He spoke to Reuters from his home in Oman, where Reema and her sisters joined him after their mother's death.

In 2017, Attar joined a study across four of Gaza's hospitals, co-writing a paper published in *The Lancet* in 2021. It found that hospitals where newborns were thoroughly dried, received immediate skin-to-skin contact and enjoyed early breastfeeding had improved outcomes. In 2020, she moved to a more reliably paid role at UNRWA, the UN aid agency. Across UNRWA's 22 health centers, Attar was one of just three obstetric specialists, said Najjar, a family health officer at UNRWA. Najjar said Attar supported her at a center she ran in the southern city of Khan Younis, using her knowledge and connections to intervene for women at risk. She would personally offer to see each patient and would follow up through messages and calls.

"She said, 'Hell with the protocol, hell with the schedule, refer to me any case,'" said Najjar. Attar would be assigned 25 cases but see up to 50, and stay late to see patients. Attar herself had help from abroad. She was working to develop multidisciplinary training, bringing in midwives and doctors of all levels, said consultant Harrington, who works at Oxford University Hospital. Harrington and others visited Gaza annually since 2016 to help with training, funded by charities including UK non-profit Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP). "Sireen was making the care of women better," she said. "And she had gotten other people on board."



Dr Hammam Alloh

Skin grafts via skype

Gaza's population was growing, increasing demand for obstetrics specialists. But it also needed doctors specialized in injury. During a 2008-2009 war, doctors faced wounds caused by Zionist smokescreen munitions containing white phosphorus — a material that ignites instantly on contact with oxygen, sticks to surfaces such as skin and clothing, and burns deep into the flesh. Zionist entity said it used the chemical in accordance with international regulations. White phosphorus is not illegal under international law and the law of armed conflict, as long as it is being used defensively as a smokescreen or as battlefield illumination. The targeted use of incendiary weapons directly against civilians, however, is illegal and could be considered a war crime.

Patients who had more than 20 percent of their total body area burned died for lack of specialist facilities and expertise, doctors said. In Europe and the US, patients with even 90 percent burns could be helped to survive.

So Gaza's medics sought training in burns. Dr Medhat Saidam had attended medical school in Kazakhstan and returned to Gaza in the early 2000s. Most Thursdays in 2012 and 2013, he was one of a group of six surgeons and four nurses who would join a 6 am Skype call from a room in Al-Shifa

Hospital in Gaza City.

On the line from Britain, where it was 4 am, Syria-born plastic surgeon Dr Ali Ghanem would lead the students in hands-on simulations of skin grafts and other training. It was part of a distance-learning program on burn care at Queen Mary University of London. The blockade made it impossible for Gazan medics to attend on site.

"The Gazan cohort was so eager, extremely thirsty," Ghanem said. "They developed their skills and grew very, very fast." Saidam focused on burns, limb reconstruction, and cleft lip and palate. He went on to mentor colleagues at Al-Shifa on burn management, "like the big brother or the father of everyone else in the plastic surgery department," recalled Dr Hasan Eljaish, who worked with him for 15 years there. Gaza had only five practicing plastic surgeons with the same experience and training, Eljaish said.

The enclave was training more. Medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) helped, running clinics across Gaza and a burn care program at Al-Shifa. To handle such burns involves a combination of specialisms, said Emmanuel Massart, the head of Gaza operations for MSF's Belgian arm.

By late 2023, an MSF limb reconstruction center at another hospital, AlAwda, was treating more than 100 patients, each over a period of several years, Massart said. "You really, really struggle to find specialists that can do that," he said.

On Oct 13, plastic surgeon Saidam, who had three daughters and a son, was on call at Al-Shifa but asked Eljaish to cover while he left to help his sister evacuate her home. The following day, ambulance workers extracted his body from beneath the rubble of his home in the Tal Al-Hawa neighborhood of Gaza City after a Zionist airstrike around 1 am, his colleagues said.



Dr Medhat Saidam

Eljaish said he saw Saidam's body brought into the Shifa morgue. Before Saidam left the hospital, "last I remember, he was playing with my son Ali," who was 2. In April, another of the five main plastic surgeons, Ahmad al-Maqadma, was killed with his mother in an IDF raid on Al-Shifa hospital, friends and colleagues said. Three of the five remain.

3D-printed supplies

The day Hamas attacked the Zionist entity, kidney specialist Dr Hammam Alloh contacted Dr Tarek Loubani, a Canada-based physician and medical director of the Glia Project, a group that makes medical devices for conflict zones. Alloh, 36, was looking for help with equipment for dialysis machinery. He had been treating kidney patients in Gaza since 2020.

When they spoke, Loubani said, Alloh recalled a previous war in 2014: He remembered patients had died because hospitals could not obtain equipment such as dialyzers, tubing, needles, cartridges and bags. Alloh asked what equipment could be made in Gaza using 3D-printing, Loubani told Reuters. "Unfortunately, the answer was 'not very much in the context of dialysis.'"

In 2007, when the Zionist entity's blockade began, Gaza had no certified kidney experts, doctors said. By October 2023, it had three, including Alloh. There were 1,061 patients on dialysis treatment at six hospitals, according to the WHO.

Since the war started, the Zionist entity and Egypt have granted permission for 153 of Gaza's dialysis patients to continue treatment abroad, though not all have been able to leave, a WHO spokesperson told Reuters.

With much dialysis equipment destroyed or damaged in the fighting, 760 patients were being treated in two facilities as of April 25, the WHO spokesperson said. There they receive only partial care, which makes them prone to disease and worsens their condition, the spokesperson said. The remainder have not been reporting for dialysis. It is possible that they are dead, he said.

Less than a month before the Hamas attack, Alloh attended a meeting to spearhead a program for Gazan doctors to receive specialist training in nephrology in Gaza instead of abroad. A longer-term goal was to establish a kidney transplant program, three doctors familiar with the plans told Reuters. Transplants were preferable because the blockade made dialysis supplies unreliable.

Alloh was "really thinking huge, like, 'We're going to get nephrology to world-class levels,'" recalled Loubani. But five weeks after the kidney doctor contacted Loubani, Alloh was killed in an airstrike on his in-laws' house near Al-Shifa Hospital, relatives and colleagues said. Another kidney specialist left Gaza in January. Now, there is one. — Reuters

Business

MONDAY, JUNE 10, 2024

NIC recognized as the 'Best Local Investment Bank in Kuwait - 2024'

Euromoney award confirms NIC's distinguished services and continuous achievements



Bashar Khan

KUWAIT: The National Investments Company has announced being named the 'Best Local Investment Bank in Kuwait—2024' by Euromoney International, one of the world's leading financial platforms. The prestigious award confirms the company's prominent position among regional and local investment companies and recognizes its distinguished services and continuous achievements. In 2024, NIC has witnessed exceptional performance and efforts to take its investments to the next level and develop its services to keep pace with developments in the local and regional markets.

Commenting on the recognition, Bashar Khan, Managing Director of the Invest-

ment Banking Sector at The National Investments Company, said: "Today we add a new achievement to our track of records and successes by receiving the 'Best Local Investment Bank in Kuwait—2024'.

This award affirms our position as a leader within the investment management sector. It highlights the level of professionalism we pursue and the quality of the investment management services we offer.

Khan also said that the award reflects the company's solid strategy in attracting investment operations, including mergers and acquisitions, capital increases, and managing many private placements and qualitative consultations on Bursa Kuwait. The value of recent transactions by NIC



The National Investments Company receives the 'Best Local Investment Bank in Kuwait—2024' award from Euromoney International.

reached nearly half a billion US dollars. NIC adopts a well-thought-out and balanced investment strategy with clear and specific objectives to attract more distinctive investment opportunities. The company's strategy extensively focuses on expanding locally and regionally by exploring high-return investment opportunities in various sectors.

"The company is going on with its promising strategic policy, which has been followed for many years, to achieve the de-

sired goals, but within a scope of conservatism that guarantees its steadiness in achieving more successes, especially considering the fluctuations and developments in the markets that cast a shadow on the overall performance of all sectors," added Khan.

Euromoney is a global company that bases its nominations and selections on comprehensive studies that evaluate quantitative and qualitative factors, such as key performance indicators and financial ratios, innovation and new

services, industry insiders, reports, and research. These awards are granted to distinguished entities with significant achievements and results, created added value in their sectors, and contributed to raising the level of service provided through their innovative products and services. Euromoney Awards and Rankings for Excellence Programs have lasted over 50 years, attracting thousands of entries from international financial institutions.

US Fed likely to remain on pause

WASHINGTON: The US Federal Reserve is likely to keep interest rates unchanged this week, but could pare back the number of cuts it has penciled in for this year, as policymakers digest a mixed bag of economic data.

Stalled progress against inflation and a robust labor market have pushed many analysts to predict that the rate-setting Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) will not cut interest rates from their current 23-year high before September at the earliest. A September start to cuts would likely increase the gap between the Fed and the European Central Bank (ECB), which began easing monetary policy rates last week.

"Data released since the last meeting indicate that the threat of price re-acceleration due to strong economic activity has diminished somewhat," Wells Fargo economists wrote in a recent note to clients. "However, we share the universal expectation that the FOMC will keep its target range for the federal funds rate unchanged at 5.25-5.50 percent at the conclusion of its policy meeting on June 12," they said.

After two days of debate, the Fed will publish its interest rate decision on Wednesday afternoon and will also update its economic forecasts from March. Most analysts expect the data since March will cause the FOMC's 19 members to lower the number of cuts they expect this year, bringing the median number down from three to two. "At the June FOMC meeting, we see the Fed revising its outlook in favor of slower growth and firmer inflation," Bank of America economists wrote in an investor note published Friday.

"It should project two rate cuts this year and a cutting cycle that begins in September," they said, adding that the FOMC would likely need to see more evidence of disinflation before beginning to cut interest rates. Fed chair Jerome Powell has repeatedly insisted that the Fed is "data-dependent" and will not be swayed by politics.

Nevertheless, a September start to rate cuts would thrust the Fed into the middle of a fractious presidential campaign between President Joe Biden and his Republican opponent, Donald Trump, who has previously questioned the US central bank's independence.

Futures traders see almost no chance of a rate cut before September, according to data from CME Group. In recent days, they have also sharply lowered their expectations of a September cut, assigning a probability of around 50 percent on Friday that the Fed would not start easing monetary policy before November. This marks a dramatic shift from late last year, when the financial markets were pricing in as many as six interest rate cuts for 2024, with the first of them coming as early as March.

"At this juncture, there is little reason to think that the FOMC will prioritize downside risks to employment over the much more salient risk of sustained high inflation," economists at Barclays wrote in a recent investor note. "As such, this should keep rates on hold for the next few meetings as the FOMC awaits evidence that (will) restore its confidence that inflation is moving sustainably toward the 2 percent target," they said, adding they still expect the Fed to make just one rate cut this year, most likely in December. With the Fed almost certain to keep interest rates unchanged on Wednesday, analysts will closely scrutinize chair Powell's press conference after the decision is announced for any indication of when the first cut could come. — AFP

Gulf Bank announces 10 winners of Al-Danah monthly draw

KUWAIT: As part of its ongoing commitment to reward its customers, Gulf Bank has announced the 10 monthly winners of the Al-Danah account draw for May 2024. Each lucky winner will receive a prize of KD 1,000. The winners are:

1. Aayah Dahir Mostafah Alkhames (minor)
2. Faisal Abdul Ghafoor
3. Mishal Dekheel Mudhhi Alenezi
4. Meshil Fayeze Mekhaeil Farnis
5. Zahra Abbas Alag Alaboudi
6. Abdulsalam Aref Badi Albaqaawi
7. Mohammad Khalifah Sultan Alhadeed Aal Binali
8. Hamad Rashed Khaled Alkhother
9. Ali Nasser Ali Saraj
10. Mohammed Abdulla Ali Alwazan

Gulf Bank recently made two significant announcements regarding its prizes. Firstly, to divide the KD 100,000 prize among 100 winners, with each receiving KD 1,000 instead of one winner taking the full amount. Secondly, to increase the annual grand prize from KD 1.5 million to KD 2 million, earning it a place in the Guinness World Records as the largest cash prize linked to a bank account globally.

Following these adjustments, Gulf Bank has revised its Al-Danah Millionaire account draw schedule. Now, there will be two major draws held an-

nually, each granting a grand prize of KD 2 million. Additionally, there will be a semi-annual draw with a KD 1 million prize, along with monthly draws where 10 winners will each receive KD 1,000.

Furthermore, a separate draw for KD 100,000 will take place, with the winner announcement scheduled for April 18, 2024. Furthermore, on Oct 17, 2024, there will be another draw where 100 lucky winners will each receive a prize of KD 1,000. The deadline for participation and deposits for this draw is June 30, 2024.

It is worth mentioning that the semi-annual draw for the Al-Danah Millionaire Account, where the winner of the KD 1 million prize will be announced, is scheduled for July 18, 2024. Representatives from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Ernst & Young, will be present at the event.

Gulf Bank announced the grand prize winner of the annual draw for the Al-Danah Millionaire account on Feb 1, 2024, for the first time, following the increase in the prize's value to KD 2 million in 2023. This is part of the bank's continuous efforts to reward its customers and foster a culture of savings within the community. Renowned as one of the top savings accounts in Kuwait, the Al-Danah account offers numerous benefits, including periodic draws with substan-



tial prizes. Gulf Bank's Al-Danah account offers monthly opportunities to win KD 1,000 to ten lucky winners, in addition to two quarterly draws with KD 100,000 prizes each, a semi-annual draw prize of KD 1 million and a grand draw prize of KD 2 million. One of the many advantages of the Al-Danah account, is being the only account in Kuwait that transfers the customers' chances of winning from the previous year to the next, as part of a program that rewards customers for their loyalty to Gulf Bank.

In order to increase one's chances of winning, customers must maintain a minimum of KD 200 in their accounts, or deposit continuously to increase their chances of winning. Al-Danah account holders are eligible to win Gulf Bank's monthly, quarterly, and annual Al-Danah draws.

Gulf Bank's vision is to be the lead-

G7 plans to warn small Chinese banks over Russia ties

WASHINGTON: US officials expect the Group of Seven (G7) wealthy democracies to send a tough new warning next week to smaller Chinese banks to stop assisting Russia in evading Western sanctions, according to two people familiar with the matter. Leaders gathering at the June 13-15 summit in Italy hosted by Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni are expected to focus heavily during their private meetings on the threat posed by burgeoning Chinese-Russian trade to the fight in Ukraine, and what to do about it.

Those conversations are likely to result in public statements on the issue involving Chinese banks, according to a US official involved in planning the event and another person briefed on the issue. The United States and its G7 partners - Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan - are not expected to take any immediate punitive action against any banks during the summit, such as restricting their access to the SWIFT messaging system or cutting off access to the dollar. Their focus is said to be on smaller institutions, not the largest Chinese banks, one of the people said. Negotiations

were still ongoing about the exact format and content of the warning, according to the people, who declined to be named discussing ongoing diplomatic engagements. The plans to address the topic at the G7 were not previously reported. The White House did not respond to a request for comment. The US Treasury Department had no immediate comment, but Treasury officials have repeatedly warned financial institutions in Europe and China and elsewhere that they face sanctions for helping Russia skirt Western sanctions.

Daleep Singh, deputy national security adviser for international economics, told the Center for a New American Security this week that he expected G7 leaders to target China's support for a Russian economy now reoriented around the war. "Our concern is that China is increasingly the factory of the Russian war machine. You can call it the arsenal of autocracy when you consider Russia's military ambitions threaten obviously the existence of Ukraine, but increasingly European security, NATO and transatlantic security," he said.

Singh and other top Biden administration officials say Washington and its partners are prepared to use sanctions and tighter export controls to reduce Russia's ability to circumvent Western sanctions, including with secondary sanctions that could be used against banks and other financial institutions.

Washington is poised to announce significant new sanctions next week on financial and nonfinan-



Flags of China and Russia are displayed in this illustration picture taken Mar 24, 2022. — Reuters

cial targets, a source familiar with the plans said. This year's G7 summit is also expected to focus on leveraging profits generated by Russian assets frozen in the West for Ukraine's benefit.

Washington has so far been reluctant to implement sanctions on major Chinese banks - long deemed by analysts a "nuclear" option - because of the huge ripple effects it could inflict on the global economy and US-China relations. Concern over the possibility of sanctions has already caused China's big banks to throttle payments for cross-border transactions involving Russians, or pull back from any involvement altogether, Reuters has reported. — Reuters

NBK MONEY MARKETS REPORT

US manufacturing slows as job market shows signs of cooling

ECB cuts interest rates signaling a shift in monetary policy approach

KUWAIT: Manufacturing in the US contracted for the second month in a row, as seen by the latest ISM publication where the manufacturing PMI came in at 48.7 in May, down from 49.2 in April, and below expectations of 49.8. The new orders index dropped from 49.1 in April to 45.4 in May, while the production index came in at 50.2 down from 51.3. Furthermore, the prices index registered 57.0, down from 60.9, while the backlog of orders index registered 42.4 compared to 45.4 previously. The figure is considered the 18th contraction figure seen in the last 19 months, highlighting the slowdown in US manufacturing activity amid the current tight monetary policy by the Fed. The US dollar index was seen trading at around 104.63 following the report release.

The number of job openings in the US continued to decline in April, reaching its lowest point in three years, as they decreased to 8.06 million from the previous month's revised 8.36 million reading. This suggests a slowdown in hiring but layoffs are still low. While this could be a sign of the labor market returning to pre-pandemic levels, it might also indicate a broader economic slowdown. The Federal Reserve is looking for this cooling effect to fight inflation, but they likely won't cut interest rates based on just one month of data. Job openings are still higher than pre-pandemic times, but interpreting the data is difficult due to lower survey response rates and a changed labor market.

ADP non-farm employment change

In the US, the ADP non-farm employment report indicated that the US private sector added 152k jobs in May,

down from 188k the previous month and below expectations of 173k. The report comes following other employment measures such as the JOLTS job openings, which were also slightly lower than expectations at 8.06M compared to 8.36M previously. Meanwhile, the ISM services index rebounded in May, with the index showing a 54.8 print, up from 49.4 in April, and beating expectations of 51.0. Improvements were seen in business activity and new orders, while prices paid eased slightly for the month.

Unemployment claims

The US Department of Labor reported a slight increase in unemployment claims. New claims for unemployment benefits rose by 8,000 to a seasonally adjusted figure of 229,000 for the week ending June 1st. This was slightly higher than the economist's prediction of 220,000 claims. This comes after a period of interest rate hikes by the Federal Reserve intended to curb inflation and cool down the economy. Despite the uptick, the number of claims remains relatively low compared to historical levels. This suggests the labor market is still in a strong position. Economists believe this strength is reflected in the low numbers for continuing claims, which track individuals who are still receiving benefits after their first week. This data indicates that people who lose their jobs are able to find new employment fairly quickly.

Nonfarm employment change

The US job market continued to be strong in May 2024. There was a significant increase in nonfarm payroll employment, exceeding expectations by a wide margin. This growth of 272,000 jobs outpaced the average monthly gain

seen over the past year. However, the unemployment rate ticked up slightly to 4.0 percent, though it remained relatively low. It's worth noting that the labor force participation rate also dipped a bit. On the positive side, average hourly earnings grew at a faster pace than anticipated, suggesting some

be relaxed somewhat. However, the ECB also revised its inflation forecasts upwards, now predicting inflation to average around 2.5 percent for this year and 2.2 percent for next year. This suggests that the ECB is still cautious about inflation, despite the rate cut. ECB President Christine Lagarde emphasized that

percent target continues to increase, it is reasonable to expect further cuts to our policy interest rate." Economists see this as the start of a potential easing cycle, with markets pricing in another potential rate cut for the Bank of Canada in September. The USD/CAD currency pair closed the week at 1.3764.

Currencies	Previous Week Levels				This Week's Expected Range		3-Month Forward
	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	Forward
EUR	1.0849	1.0798	1.0915	1.0800	1.0700	1.0860	1.0846
GBP	1.2729	1.2692	1.2817	1.2721	1.2600	1.2760	1.2728
JPY	157.31	154.53	157.47	156.70	156.00	157.80	154.53
CHF	0.9025	0.8879	0.9035	0.8959	0.8900	0.9040	0.8865

wage growth for workers. This increase continued a trend of rising wages over the past year. Overall, the data paints a picture of a healthy job market with new positions being created, although there might be a slight shift in labor force participation. The US dollar index closed the week at 104.885.

Monetary policy statement

The European Central Bank (ECB) recently announced a reduction in interest rates, signaling a shift in their monetary policy approach. This move comes after several months of holding rates steady, and was expected by the market. The interest rate reduction, which amounts to a quarter of a percentage point (25 basis points), reflects a belief that the period of stricter monetary controls can

this is a moderation, not an elimination, of restrictions. She acknowledged there will be challenges ahead in reaching the ECB's target inflation rate of 2 percent, and that the bank will be closely monitoring economic data to determine future actions. The EUR/USD currency pair closed the week at 1.0800.

The Bank of Canada cut its interest rate for the first time in over 4 years down to 4.75 percent from 5 percent previously, signaling confidence that inflation is falling towards its 2 percent target. This makes Canada the first G7 country to reduce rates. The bank hinted at further cuts if inflation keeps easing as Bank of Canada Governor Tiff Macklem clearly stated that "If inflation continues to ease, and our confidence that inflation is headed sustainably to the 2

The Australian economy grew at a slower pace of 0.1 percent in Q4 2023, compared to the upwardly revised 0.3 percent growth in Q3. This fell short of market expectations of 0.2 percent growth. This marks the 10th consecutive quarter of growth, but the weakest in the past six quarters. Several factors contributed to the slowdown, including subdued domestic demand, a further decline in fixed investment, and a drag from net trade where imports significantly outpaced exports. The AUD/USD currency pair closed the week at 0.6582.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti dinar USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30620.



شركة الصفاة للاستثمار
AL SAFAT INVESTMENT COMPANY

KUWAIT BOURSA WEEKLY REPORT

WEEK ENDED ON 6 JUNE 2024

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Market	M. Cap (KD ml)	Last Close	WTD %	MTD %	YTD %	Quantity Traded	Value Traded	No. of Trades	P/E	P/B	% of Total M. Cap
Premier Market	35,006	7,669.28	-0.2%	-0.2%	2.6%	452,562,237	175,557,055	38,978	16.6	1.2	82.3%
Main Market	7,523	5,974.48	0.3%	0.3%	7.3%	526,880,965	68,069,237	32,035	11.3	0.8	17.7%
All Share	42,529	7,045.16	-0.1%	-0.1%	3.3%	979,443,202	243,626,292	71,013	13.0	1.0	100%

Sector	M. Cap (KD ml)	Last Close	WTD %	MTD %	YTD %	Quantity Traded	Value Traded	No. of Trades	P/E	P/B	% of Total M. Cap
Banking	26,029	1,734.49	-0.4%	-0.4%	5.3%	219,176,571	100,583,192	16,042	17.1	1.3	61.20%
Basic Materials	481	850.57	1.2%	1.2%	14.0%	5,404,275	3,546,238	1,209	9.4	1.5	1.13%
Consumer Discretionary	1,088	1,580.88	0.8%	0.8%	-1.4%	79,712,885	25,358,532	8,014	11.7	1.3	2.56%
Consumer Staples	264	865.52	-1.3%	-1.3%	31.4%	10,476,856	2,752,387	928	26.5	1.4	0.62%
Energy	230	1,099.66	2.9%	2.9%	15.9%	40,951,330	4,945,321	2,111	10.2	0.9	0.54%
Financial Services	4,507	1,346.69	-1.0%	-1.0%	11.1%	322,517,656	36,406,675	15,424	12.6	0.8	10.60%
Health Care	207	430.69	-3.4%	-3.4%	-10.7%	80,000	58,000	2	11.0	1.4	0.49%
Industrials	2,621	772.00	4.1%	4.1%	-15.0%	112,539,102	36,021,890	13,579	12.8	0.9	6.16%
Insurance	1,044	2,546.68	1.4%	1.4%	11.1%	6,000,129	1,799,692	694	9.3	1.3	2.45%
Real Estate	2,839	1,333.36	0.5%	0.5%	9.9%	155,686,460	20,842,573	9,027	14.1	0.7	6.68%
Technology	24	1,716.90	-9.9%	-9.9%	196.9%	8,267	1,925.97	15	NM	2.0	0.06%
Telecommunications	3,021	986.54	-1.0%	-1.0%	-10.7%	23,290,853	10,736,996	3,642	16.3	1.3	7.10%
Utilities	174	415.79	-0.6%	-0.6%	-8.7%	3,598,818	572,871	326	13.5	1.3	0.41%

Top Gainers

Stock	last Close	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
ARKAN	108	18.03%	7,735,979	783,109,995	322
EKHOLDING	271	14.83%	3,518,800	943,759	187
CABLE	1,420	14.52%	2,247,339	3,029,317	747
JTC	404	10.38%	3,513,040	1,391,166	389
INTEGRATED	543	9.92%	5,099,088	2,697,731	750

Top Losers

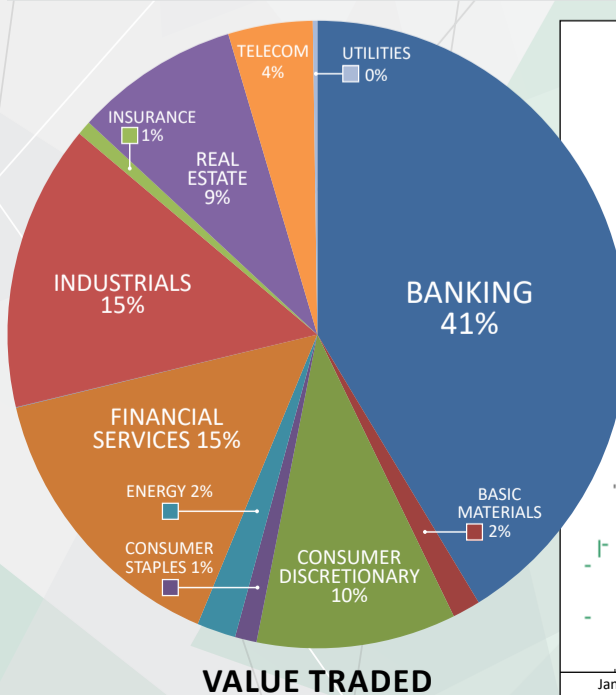
Stock	last Close	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
KFOUC	540	-19.64%	1,034,473	626,889	497
AGHC	415	-12.08%	1,874,952	802,156	424
ALIMTIAZ	53.9	-10.32%	20,598,632	1,129,821	1,085
MASAKEN	31.1	-9.86%	20,722,113	683,948	880
KCIN	1,183	-9.49%	148,451	180,039	12

Top Volume

Stock	Last	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
KFH	722	-1.10%	63,485,897	46,044,779	7,457
GBK	262	3.15%	60,380,192	15,638,116	1,623
MANAZEL	37.4	4.76%	49,034,856	1,786,547	1,526
GFH	88.8	-0.45%	46,183,320	4,197,542	1,201
ALEID	207	0.49%	38,720,822	8,215,976	1,328

Top Value

Stock	Last	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
KFH	722	-1.10%	63,485,897	46,044,779	7,457
NBK	860	0.35%	26,653,109	22,873,866	2,974
GBK	262	3.15%	60,380,192	15,638,116	1,623
ZAIN	450	0.45%	20,846,681	9,390,895	2,778
JAZEERA	996	8.26%	9,496,656	9,052,700	2,824



Market Summary:

- Premier volume and value rose, dropping 30% and 35%, respectively. The Main market volume dropped 23% while the value rose 7%.
- The Premier index showed stability towards the end of last week, while the Main index continued moving horizontally.
- Technically, the All Share index closed at 7045, with support levels at 7041, 7000, and 6981, and resistance at 7085. The Premier index closed at 7669, with support levels at 7650, 7591, and 7555, and resistance at 7716. The Main index closed at 5974, with support levels at 5970, 5959, and 5940, and resistance at 5990.

Business

Rising levels of global debt a growing concern: IMF official

A sustainable debt reduction plan for low-income countries essential: Okamura

TOKYO: Global debt is 9 percentage points above pre-pandemic highs at 93 percent of GDP and by 2029 it is projected to reach around 100 percent of GDP, said Kenji Okamura, IMF's Deputy Managing Director. "Even before COVID-19, rising levels of public debt were a growing concern in many countries. But when the pandemic hit, public debts jumped significantly as governments provided huge amount of fiscal support to households and businesses," he told the Fiscal Policy and Sovereign Debt Conference in Tokyo.

The conference organized as part of the IMF's Sovereign Debt Network project, brings together leading scholars and senior policymakers to discuss and share their recent work on fiscal policy and public debt. At the national level, figures are even higher, Okamura said. In the US, China, and Japan respectively, debt-to-GDP ratios are forecast to reach 133, 106 and 251 percent by 2028. Historically, these are levels that have only been seen during wartime.

"High debt at a time of high interest rates means rising debt service costs that constrain fiscal space and the situation

is compounded by weak medium term growth prospects," he said.

Together, these factors mean countries are less able to meet rising spending pressures to address challenges such as climate change and aging populations. It also means they have less flexibility to respond to future crises and safeguard financial stability. And some economies, particularly low-income countries, are already in debt distress.

These challenges raise important questions about fiscal policy and sovereign debt. First, what makes a debt reduction plan sustainable? And how can governments commit to ambitious but credible adjustment plans? Growth can help, but with a significant and broad-based slowdown in productivity, this is less likely in the coming years.

For most countries, reducing debt means making tough choices to curb budget deficits - so building public support for these efforts will be vital.

Talking about the implications of rising public debt levels in large economies such as the United States, he asked if they

can generate substantial negative spillovers for the global economy. "US debt levels are expected to grow over the next five years and beyond. This could mean higher for longer interest rates, which can be transmitted internationally through financial channels," Okamura mentioned.

Risk sentiment could also spill over from financial centers, which would be detrimental to global growth and investment. Taken together, this could render otherwise sustainable fiscal paths in several corners of the world unsustainable. Policymakers must be prepared to address this challenge by strengthening their own fiscal policies and frameworks.

US public debt continues to play a special role as a global safe asset, giving the US government a funding advantage. But this "exorbitant" privileges can be eroded (although this would probably materialize as a slow-moving process), he said.

For emerging market and developing economies, sovereign liquidity risks and default risks are interconnected. Questions of who holds debt, the composition of debt, and



IMF's Deputy Managing Director Kenji Okamura.

debt-carrying capacity are critical. Understanding how an aging population can influence fiscal outcomes is crucial to be able to help our member

countries navigate this challenge. There is no better place to do it than here in Japan, which has been at the leading edge of policy thinking on this issue, he added.

Talabat launches 'Make a Wish' campaign to support delivery riders

KUWAIT: In a bid to enhance the well-being of delivery riders, talabat, the leading technology company, has launched the "Make a Wish" campaign this May. This innovative initiative, part of talabat's social responsibility program, aims to fulfill the personal wishes of riders, showing gratitude for their dedication and hard work.

Commenting on the campaign, Abdullah Al-Mansour, Director of Communications, Public Affairs, and Corporate Responsibility at talabat Kuwait, said: "Our success is deeply rooted in the efforts and dedication of 3rd party delivery riders. Through the "Make a Wish" campaign, we seek to express our profound gratitude and appreciation in a unique and meaningful way."

The campaign gathered individual wishes from delivery riders, which ranged from personal gifts like electronic devices and household appliances to financial support for personal goals such as wedding expenses or umrah trips. Drivers expressed immense happiness with this generous initiative, reflecting talabat's deep appreciation for their continuous efforts. Al-Mansour emphasized that this initiative aligns with the company's social responsibility strategy, highlighting that a rider's welfare is a key priority to the company. He noted talabat's commitment to providing the necessary support to improve their working and living conditions, recognizing the challenges they face.

The "Make a Wish" campaign is one of several initiatives launched by talabat to strengthen relations with delivery riders. The company aims to

Shein's pre-IPO charm offensive hits roadblocks

LONDON: As online fast-fashion retailer Shein ramps up its pre-IPO charm offensive in Britain, pushback is growing too from Europe's retail industry and lawmakers. As citizens of 27 countries vote in European Union elections, European manufacturers of fabric, clothes, leather goods and shoes this week called on future EU policymakers to protect the 1.5 million jobs in the sector from low-cost products being "dumped" on the market.

With industrial policy a key issue in the election, apparel manufacturers, retailers and e-commerce companies are trying to put cheap clothes, accessories and gadgets from China on the agenda, invoking the same language used by EU officials about Chinese overcapacity in electric vehicles. The textiles, footwear and leather industries in Europe - home to fast-fashion giants Zara and H&M, as well as the world's biggest luxury brands - have a combined annual turnover of more than 200 billion euros (\$220 billion). Ninety-nine percent of companies in the sector are small or medium enterprises, making them vulnerable to "fierce" global competition, the industry groups said in a joint statement.

Poland's e-commerce association argued in a report that Chinese state subsidies are giving online marketplaces like Shein, which sends \$5 T-shirts, \$15 jeans and \$1 earnings from China directly to customers around the world, an unfair advantage over European rivals.

A Shein spokesperson said: "There is no truth to the allegation that Chinese state subsidies help support SHEIN's business and its expansion

China probes top exec at state firm for corruption

BEIJING: A top executive at a major Chinese state-backed investment company is under investigation for corruption, the government's anti-corruption body said Sunday, as an unrelenting crack-



create a positive and motivating work environment for the riders by offering ongoing training programs to develop their skills, along with rewards and incentive programs to ensure their satisfaction and motivate them to deliver the best possible service to customers. It serves to note talabat's numerous initiatives dedicated to the health, safety, and wellbeing of delivery riders. One of its ongoing investments within this vein includes talabat's rest-stations across Kuwait, purposely set up for delivery riders. With several of them built so far, the fully equipped stations were designed to provide

shelter for riders evading harsh weather conditions or looking to take a short break between rides to enjoy some refreshments and snacks.

Concluding his remarks, Al-Mansour reiterated that talabat remains keen on listening to riders to acknowledge their needs and aspirations, the same way it listens to its staff members. Even as third-party logistics partners, talabat views these riders as an integral part of its extended family and a key factor in the company's continued success. talabat reaffirms its ongoing plans to continue developing initiatives that support their interests and well-being.

worldwide." Most of the products Shein sells are made in southern China but the company has been building a supplier base in Brazil and in Turkey. "We expect our Turkish supply chain partners to increasingly support us in serving the European market," the spokesperson said.

Shein is also working to improve its image in France, where lawmakers in the lower house of parliament in March approved a bill seeking penalties on fast fashion products to offset their environmental impact.

Raphael Glucksmann, an EU lawmaker leading France's Socialists party list in the elections, is a proponent of the bill and prominent campaigner against Shein. Shein has said the bill would only serve to worsen French consumers' purchasing power. On Monday, Shein announced it would expand its second-hand clothing resale platform "Shein Exchange" to France first, followed by the UK and Germany, having first launched it in the US in late 2022.

The e-commerce giant, which has declined to comment on IPO plans, is also courting officials in Germany. Lionel Lim, associate director of global government relations at Shein, last month hosted an "ESG breakfast roundtable" in Berlin with attendees from government, trade associations, and business partners, according to his LinkedIn post.

Tax loopholes

Retailers in Europe have become increasingly critical of tax loopholes they say benefit Shein and other foreign e-commerce platforms. Under EU rules, individuals can order parcels worth less than 150 euros (\$170) online from abroad, without paying import duties. In Britain, the equivalent threshold is a similar 135 pounds. "We are calling on the MEPs to be elected to the European Parliament on Sunday to ensure equal conditions for competition in Europe," the Finnish Commerce Federation's managing director Kari Luoto said in a statement

down on graft sweeps through the finance sector.

Xu Zuo, vice president at China Citic Group, is "suspected of serious disciplinary and legal violations", the Communist Party's Central Commission for Discipline Inspection said in an online statement, without giving further details.

Citic Group is a vast state-run investment conglomerate with the equivalent of over \$1.5 trillion in total assets as of last year, according to its official website. Xu, a senior economist with a background in overseas acquisitions and restructuring, has been on the firm's executive committee since 2019.



A view of a Shein pop-up store at a mall in Singapore. — Reuters

on Wednesday. "The removal of the duty-free limit should be urgent."

Theo Paphitis, chairman and owner of UK retailers Ryman and Robert Dyas, told Reuters: "It's beyond belief that the government hasn't clamped down on a gaping tax loophole that allows giant companies from abroad to sell in the UK without paying customs, or contributing to the cost of the retail economy, at the expense of British companies that are paying their fair share."

Germany has called for EU-wide changes. Its main retail association, Handelsverband Deutschland, said Finance Minister Christian Lindner "has signaled that Germany will support the abolition of the 150-euro duty-free limit at the European level". Shein says the duty-free treatment of low-value parcels is not critical to its success, and that it keeps prices low thanks to its on-demand business model and flexible supply chain.

Next chief executive Simon Wolfson has also called on the UK government to review the loophole despite the administrative complexity of trying to tax millions of small deliveries. — Reuters

Chinese President Xi Jinping has waged a near-constant crackdown on official corruption since coming to power over a decade ago. Proponents say the campaign encourages clean governance, while critics argue it also serves as a vehicle for Xi to purge political rivals.

Anti-graft bodies have trained their sights on the financial sector in recent months, including banking, insurance and state-owned enterprises. Last month, Bai Tianhui, the former general manager at another huge state-backed asset management firm, Huarong, was sentenced to death after being found guilty of taking over 1.1 billion yuan (\$151.8 million) in bribes. — AFP



Burgan Bank announces monthly draw winners of Kanz Account

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

The 20 lucky winners are:

- * Mohamed Medhat Swefi
- * Abdullah Mohammad Qabazard
- * Rami Selim Albaraki
- * Munira Majid Alhaza
- * Rashed Humoud Hamadah
- * Maher Hashim Ismail
- * Humoud Ayed Alsulaimani
- * Eman Mohammad Almuhanna
- * Zahra Sayed Zaree
- * Amar Farzat Alhalak
- * Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Hamad Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah
- * Zaineldin Mohamed Awad
- * Sirajuddin Abdulgani Dalvi
- * Hasaini Bankoda Hussain
- * Bushra Zaid Alkazemi
- * Shoghick Wkean Bairamian
- * Yousef Obaid Alali
- * Mojtaba Ali Hajjipour
- * Ibrahim Matar Atia
- * Mohammad Abdulrahman Al-Awadhi

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

More information on opening a Kanz account, the draws or any of the Bank's products and services, is available at any of Burgan Bank branches, through the Call Center at 1804080 and Burgan Bank website www.burgan.com.

Mali financial workers union extends strike

BAMAKO, Mali: A financial workers' union in Mali on Saturday called on employees of banks, insurance companies, micro-finance institutions and petrol stations to extend their strike until its secretary-general is released from detention. The National Union of Banks, Insurance Companies, Financial Institutions and Businesses of Mali (SYNABEF) held a strike from Thursday to Saturday after its secretary-general, Hamadou Bah, was arrested on Wednesday.

In a new statement, it called for employees to continue striking from Sunday. SYNABEF "decides to continue the work stoppage from June 9, 2024 until the full release of our comrade," it said.

SYNABEF's former secretary-general, Aguibou Bouare, told Reuters on Wednesday he had visited Bah in prison. He said Bah was arrested after a complaint was filed by a member of a bank's union committee, accusing the secretary-general of forging a document related to an internal union matter. — Reuters

MONDAY, JUNE 10, 2024

'IT'S TOO MUCH': SPAIN'S BALEARIC ISLES BATTLE OVERTOURISM



A chain closes the access to a private alley in Binibeca.



Tourists take pictures in Binibeca.

Every year, nearly 800,000 tourists wander through the alleys of Binibeca Vell, a tiny whitewashed village nicknamed "the Spanish Mykonos" for its resemblance to the famous Greek island which attracts huge crowds of visitors. For its 200 residents, "that is a lot" said Oscar Monge, who runs a local residents' association and would like the village "to be calmer". Binibeca Vell, on Menorca Island, sits on a small bay with sparkling turquoise waters, and the picturesque village has become a major draw for visitors to Spain's Mediterranean Balearic Isles.

A windfall for tour operators quick to promote the "fairytale" allure of this village, designed by Catalan architect Francisco Barba Corsini, the crowds are a source of irritation for locals forced to put up with the rude behavior of some visitors. "Everyone wants to come here to have their picture taken," said Monge, whose association represents homeowners in this private residential community that was established in 1972. "We don't have anything against tourism, but sometimes it feels like we're living in Disneyland Paris," he sighed. Behind him is a sign asking visitors to be "respectful" and "quiet". "We have put these up everywhere... because some tourists walk on the walls and climb up to the rooftops" or even open doors and go inside the homes "to see who is living there", he said.

'Negative social aspect'

Residents recently decided to limit access to their picturesque streets, with visitors only allowed between 11:00 am and 8:00 pm. And on August 15, they will vote on whether to go even further and ban visitors altogether. But the initiative has raised debate. "It's good to

limit visitors at night. But if the village is totally closed, it will have a negative effect on businesses," said Maria Neyla Ramirez, who runs El Patio restaurant and is hoping to see "a bit of flexibility". And while many visitors understand, they also want to keep coming.

"For the people who live here, it's special. But that's tourism... we like to see beautiful things," admits Jean-Ma-



rie Bassut, 66, from southeastern France. Monge insists that it is possible to have a balance. The village can't have "busload after busload" of tourists coming in "without any kind of regulation," he said, hoping the restrictions will raise awareness.

It's not only Binibeca Vell that is affected by overtourism. Last year, a record 17.8 million people visited the Balearic Islands, both from Spain and abroad. And the figures are expected to be even higher this year. "The Balearic Isles have reached their limit," regional leader Marga Prohens of the right-wing Popular Party (PP) said last

week. She said the "negative social impact" should be taken into account to make tourism "compatible with the residents' lives".

'Not for sale'

At the end of May, several million people hit the streets of Mallorca, Menorca and Ibiza - the three main Balearic islands - to demand steps

shops after 9:30 pm, as well as imposing a ban on drinking in the streets. In Mallorca, the mayor of the island's capital is also planning to ban new tourist accommodation and limit the arrival of cruise ships. Ibiza also wants to tighten the rules for party boats.

The regional government has set up a committee of experts to draw up a "roadmap" for the archipelago in the



Tourists take pictures in Binibeca, a small fishermen's village, in the municipality of Sant Lluís on the Balearic island of Menorca. - AFP photos

to limit overtourism under the slogan: "Our islands are not for sale". Residents point to the noise levels, the clogged roads and the pollution - but above all the impact on house prices, which have surged in recent years as many apartments have been transformed into tourist accommodation. Faced with growing local exasperation, the authorities have taken a number of steps.

Some towns in Mallorca and Ibiza have restricted the sale of alcohol in

hope of finding some long-term solutions. Although both lawmakers and locals feel some restrictions are necessary, it will be a tricky balance to find in a region that gets 45 percent of its income from tourism. "We do want tourists to come... and enjoy the natural paradise we have here," says Joaquin Quintana, 51, gazing down at Binibeca's calm waters. "But it's important to find a balance." — AFP



This picture shows a general view of Binibeca.



Tourists with bicycles walk along a street of Binibeca.



Lifestyle



Sitali Poot, captain of "Las Amazonas de Yaxunah," watches as a teammate throws to home base, during a friendly match against the Walnut High School girls softball team in Walnut, California.



A member of "Las Amazonas de Yaxunah," warms up ahead of a friendly match against the Walnut High School girls softball team in Walnut, California. — AFP photos



A member of "Las Amazonas de Yaxunah," drops the bat as she runs for first base, during a friendly match against the Walnut High School girls softball team.

Indigenous Mexican softball team fight against machismo

Enedina Canul wanted to play softball, but the 47-year-old didn't have a bat—and that was the least of her problems. Her simple desire to play sports was also a major fight for women's rights as she fought against the conservative social mores of her rural Mexican village, captured in the film "Las Amazonas de Yaxunah," premiering at the Los Angeles Latino International Film Festival on Sunday.

The documentary focuses on Canul and the softball team she formed in her small, Indigenous hamlet—and their push against the stifling machismo culture that saw their participation in sports as an affront. On a makeshift field, Canul and her team played with a baseball she took from her husband, ditching their sandals to run faster barefoot and carving a bat from a tree. "My husband told us it's not okay for women to go out and play—what will people say?" Canul told AFP. "I told him that doesn't matter to me." As a young child she had a passion for baseball, a hugely popular sport in Latin America.

But in her teenage years, her desire to play sports ran up against a culture that considered a woman's proper place to be in the house, the mother of four said. So she gave up



Members of "Las Amazonas de Yaxunah," compete in a friendly match against the Walnut High School girls softball team.

the idea of playing sports, until years later, in 2017, when a government program helping to fight against obesity organized Zumba lessons in her jungle town. The softball team became so controversial that some of the players' marriages fell apart. Canul ran into her own roadblocks—such as her husband asking her to cook dinner right when she was about to go play. "There's food in the pan, I'm leaving," she would re-

spond as she told her son to grab the bats and gloves.

Viral fame

The Amazonas' fame escaped a thick jungle of the Yucatan peninsula thanks to a viral video, and soon more cameras were arriving to capture the women playing ball in huipil, a traditional dress made famous by Frida Kahlo. US sports juggernaut ESPN soon

caught wind of the story, with a producer tapping documentary filmmaker Alfonso Algara to work on the project. "It was a super conservative community, where literally a few years ago they still couldn't go out in the street alone," he said. Women weren't even allowed to vote, Canul said, with their husbands demanding they hand over their IDs on election day.

But slowly, softball has helped change everything. "Between four years ago and now, there is a big difference. We are slowly undoing the machismo," said Sitali Poot, team captain and Canul's daughter-in-law. "We have made it clear to most of the men that we also have the opportunity to go out and play, to get to know each other, to have fun, because to play softball or baseball is to unite the family."

Her husband has been swayed as well—and is now the team manager. Canul's husband died a year and a half ago, but he also came around, she said, telling her he felt "proud" of her. "I am thankful that before he passed away he accepted that I can play softball with my children," she said. With the team's fame has come invitations to play internationally, including in the United States.



Shoes are left in the dug out as "Las Amazonas de Yaxunah," compete in a friendly match against the Walnut High School girls softball team.

"It doesn't matter if we win or lose," Poot said at a match against a local high school in California on Friday to promote the film. "The important thing is that we show we know how to play." "Las Amazonas de Yaxunah," featuring narration by Oscar-nominated Mexican actress Yalitza Aparicio, will be available on ESPN in English and Spanish this fall. —AFP



US WWII veteran Harold Terens, 100, waves a Normandy flag before his marriage to Jeanne Swerlin, 96, (unseen) and as they arrive for the wedding at the town hall of Carentan-les-Marais, in Normandy, northwestern France.—AFP photos



US WWII veteran Harold Terens, 100, and Jeanne Swerlin, 96, gesture as they arrive for their wedding at the town hall of Carentan-les-Marais, in Normandy, northwestern France.



Jeanne Swerlin, 96, throws her bouquet of flowers after officializing her marriage to US WWII veteran Harold Terens, 100, in the town hall of Carentan-les-Marais.

WWII veteran, 100, marries sweetheart, 96, in France after D-Day events

It might have been the longest wait but on Saturday 100-year-old American World War II veteran Harold Terens married his 96-year-old fiancée in Normandy, just days after being honored on the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings in northwestern France. To the sounds of "I will always love you," "Ave Maria" and bagpipes, Terens and his sweetheart Jeanne Swerlin said "I do" in the town of Carentan-les-Marais at a ceremony attended by dozens of guests, some wearing military uniforms.

To top off an extraordinary day, the newly wedded couple then attended the state banquet at the Elysee Palace in Paris thrown by President Emmanuel Macron in honor of visiting US leader Joe Biden. "I waited 96 years to find the right man and now I have a wedding like only a queen and king can have," Swerlin told AFP before the ceremony in Normandy. "I feel young again," Terens said. "It's the best time of my entire life." Terens, who wore a light blue suit, entered the local wedding hall to applause from family and friends. Dressed in satin pink, Swerlin made her entrance to the sound of Whitney Houston's "I will always love you." The bride and groom embraced, swaying with emotion. "Oui!" Swerlin said in French when asked by the mayor, Jean-Pierre Lhonneur, if she wished to take Terens to be her husband. Terens and Swerlin, who live in Boca Raton, Florida, tied the knot after commemorations of the 80th anniversary of the June 6, 1944 Normandy landings.

'Dreams of big things'

"Today Harold chose our country to marry Jeanne. They are among us today. congratulations to the young couple!" Macron told the pair in his toast to Biden at the state dinner. The glitzy assembly of guests rose and cheered the couple. "My religion is love," Terens told AFP in Normandy. He said he always taught his family to "just love." "I never leave my house without saying goodbye and kissing them, always, from the day they are born until today." His son Bill Terens said they did not know "if he'd be alive or well enough to travel" to France for the anniversary of the D-Day landings as he regularly did in the past. But Terens said he felt good. "I want to marry Jeannie," he also said, according to his son.



Newly-weds Jeanne Swerlin, 96, and US WWII veteran Harold Terens, 100, pose for photographs in front of a piper band as they celebrate their marriage during a wedding at the town hall of Carentan-les-Marais.

"So we all thought it was a little crazy, but we supported him again, and here we are. He has always been a dreamer, he dreams of big things, and sometimes he gets them." Anne-Marie Ruffier, a 66-year-old local, called the wedding a "unique event." "It's also a way of thanking this man who helped liberate France," she told AFP. Pierre Le Goubey, 69, said he "wouldn't have missed this wedding for the world." "It's a powerful symbol," he said, adding that in a way the veteran was "marrying France".

'Unbelievable guy'

Philip Taubman, Swerlin's son-in-law, praised the "once-in-a-lifetime" celebration. "It proves what life is all about," he said. "Harold was a hero and he made a safer democracy of all the world and this is just the final celebration of his particular life." Terens was awarded the French Legion of Honor by Macron in 2019. "We are very honored that Mr. Terens has chosen to marry here, in Carentan, where in June 1944 the Allied troops landed on the beaches of Utah and Omaha," the mayor said. "We'll be offering him champagne, of course, but also a gift to thank him for taking part in the liberation of France." During the war Terens was also part of a secret mission that took him to Soviet Ukraine via Casablanca, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Cairo, Baghdad and Tehran.

After the war Terens married his first wife, Thelma, with whom he spent 70 years and raised three children until her death in 2018. In 2021, a friend introduced him to Swerlin, a charismatic woman who had also been widowed, and the two have been inseparable ever since. "She makes life worth living," Terens told AFP last month in Florida. Swerlin said Terens was "an unbelievable guy." "He's handsome—and he's a good kisser." —AFP



Newly-weds Jeanne Swerlin, 96, and US WWII veteran Harold Terens, 100, wave from a window as they celebrate their marriage during a wedding at the town hall of Carentan-les-Marais.



Tourists wait to enter a Harry Potter merchandise shop on Victoria Street, thought to be the inspiration for Diagon Alley in the Harry Potter books.



Colin Bramwell (center) of The Potter Trail leads a Harry Potter walking tour in central Edinburgh.-AFP photos



A member of the public takes a photograph in Greyfriars Kirk in central Edinburgh.

HARRY POTTER OFFERS MAGICAL BOOST TO UK TOURISM

Sam Thorne guides Harry Potter fans through the gothic streets of Edinburgh, where controversial author JK Rowling dreamt up the boy wizard more than three decades ago. The Scottish capital attracts lovers of the bespectacled schoolboy from across the world, boosting the UK economy and helping generate billions of pounds in global sales of Potter-related offerings. "Here you will encounter the tomb of Voldemort," Thorne tells his tour group, in reference to the villainous dark lord of magic who murdered Potter's parents when he was a baby.

The tour, numbering some 20 fans, snakes through Greyfriars Kirkyard cemetery where some gravestones bear names similar to several characters, although Rowling -- much criticized for her views on transgender rights -- has not admitted any link. American Kate Merson, 43, works in Edinburgh and is on the walk with her husband and two children, seeking to satisfy her nine-year-old's obsession with Potter -- and her desire to explore the magical world of Hogwarts.

'Busier and crazier'

Rowling wrote seven Potter books which were published between 1997 and 2007, spawning eight blockbuster movies in a multi-billion-dollar global phenomenon. Fans remain captivated by Edinburgh, whose sights and



A view taken of Victoria Street, Edinburgh thought to be the inspiration for Diagon Alley in the Harry Potter books.

scenes were the inspiration for fantastical characters and locations. "It's only gotten busier and busier and crazier and crazier. There's more people coming in -- who are all asking for tours as well," Thorne, 33, told AFP. His "Potter Trail" lasts one-and-a-half hours and takes several dozen tourists across the city's pretty streets. His recommended tour donation is £20 (\$26) per person. Thorne's popular guided walk ends

on the colorful Instagram-friendly Victoria Street... in front of two heaving Potter merchandise shops thronged by muggles, or non-wizards. Briya Maru, a 27-year-old Indian who lives in Toronto, queues in the driving rain in front of one of the shops, waiting to splurge cash on Potter souvenirs. "It was symbolic for me to get them from here, the Harry Potter city," Maru told AFP, adding she was searching for "exclusive" artefacts.

Manager Monica Alsina says business is brisk at her 'Enchanted Galaxy' shop, where punters can buy a "magic wand" for £40 and the most expensive item -- a limited-edition character sculpture -- costs £650.

'Tourism engine'

"The shop has been doing great. Harry Potter is just getting more and more popular," said Alsina. There have been no new books or films -- but the "Potterverse" has in recent years expanded to include a hit video game, a play in London's West End and the "Fantastic Beasts" film franchise, while a television series is also in the works. "Harry Potter is a fantastic engine for tourism in Scotland," said Jenni Steele, spokeswoman for tourism agency VisitScotland.

Fans of the extremely popular franchise also flock to filming destinations in England, including London and surrounding areas, the Cotswolds and York. Devotees also tend to visit "The Making of Harry Potter" film-studio park, which has attracted 19 million visitors since it opened in 2012. Tickets for the attraction close to London cost a minimum of £53 each and total revenues have already passed one billion dollars. But in recent years, Pottermania has been overshadowed by Rowling's views, including her belief that biological sex is immutable. She denies being transphobic.



A gravestone is pictured in Greyfriars Kirk in central Edinburgh, which contains many gravestones with names that appear in the Harry Potter books; JK Rowling was known to spend time in the Kirkyard while writing the books.

In Edinburgh, her views have been difficult for some. "It's been a tough time to be a Harry Potter fan as a result of her comments, chiefly because one of the reasons why the wizarding world meant so much to so many people is because Harry was seen as being an outsider," Thorne told AFP. "For people who really felt that, Harry Potter was a form of escapism for them, a place where they could feel accepted -- it does feel like a betrayal." Yet the best-selling franchise continues to generate huge sales. "Adults who grew up with it now show it to their children. It's a fandom that only gets bigger," said Alsina. --AFP



Colin Bramwell of The Potter Trail leads a Harry Potter walking tour in central Edinburgh.



'The Elephant House' cafe is seen in Edinburgh where JK Rowling wrote some of the Harry Potter series of books.

Japan to build anti-tourist fence at Mount Fuji viewpoint



This photo taken on Jan 1, 2024 shows a tourist posing in front of a convenience store with Mount Fuji in the background, in the town of Fujikawaguchiko, Yamanashi prefecture. -- AFP

A tall metal fence will be built to control unruly tourists who have annoyed locals at a popular Mount Fuji photo spot, a Japanese official said Thursday. It follows the construction last month of a black screen in another nearby town to block an Instagram-famous view of the snow-capped volcano rising from behind a convenience store. Now residents have complained about mostly foreign visitors venturing into the road on the Mount Fuji Dream Bridge in search of the perfect shot of Japan's highest peak. Despite its flashy name, the bridge is an ordinary overpass that runs above a river, with a narrow pavement separated from the road by a waist-high concrete wall.

But people have been jaywalking across the road to reach a vacant area between the two lanes of traffic, said Haruhito Yoshizaki, a tourism official at Fuji City. There, they pose for photos, twirl for

videos or just chill out -- some even bringing their suitcases. To deter this risky behavior, authorities have already put up low metal scaffolding and signs telling people to keep away from the stretch of tarmac. Next, authorities say they plan to erect a 1.8 meter (5.9 feet) high metal mesh fence around the area by the end of June. Locals "welcome visitors as long as basic rules are observed", Yoshizaki said, saying the move is meant to ease the "frustration of local residents". "Maybe we can build a sightseeing course" instead to encourage more considerate exploration, he added. A pedestrian staircase to the bridge also appears in countless photos on Instagram and other platforms -- including wedding pictures -- because from a certain angle it appears to lead to Mount Fuji.

Residents have also grumbled about tourists parking illegally in the qui-

et neighborhood, or shouting to one another when taking wide shots from afar. The Dream Bridge has existed for about a decade but photo-hungry visitors began to congregate there in November, Yoshizaki said. Record numbers of overseas tourists are coming to Japan, and as photos taken in the spot spread on social media, the crowds have grown sharply in recent weeks.

This week, the city set up a parking area and a bathroom facility at the bridge to ease the burden on locals. Meanwhile, the nearby town of Fujikawaguchiko plans to rebuild a black mesh barrier, already in place next to the convenience store, with stronger material. Several small holes have been poked in the screen meant to stop people littering, trespassing and breaking traffic rules. --AFP

Sports

Ruthless Australia crush England at T20 World Cup

Australia top Group B after two wins

BRIDGETOWN: Jos Buttler said England must "dust ourselves down" after a damaging 36-run defeat by ruthless Australia in Barbados on Saturday left their T20 World Cup defence in the balance.

Australia raced out of the blocks at the Kensington Oval, posting 201-7 in their 20 overs, and England wickets tumbled after a bright start as they struggled to 165-6. Buttler's men, who flopped badly when defending their 50-over title in India last year, are still winless after their opening game against Scotland was wrecked by rain.

But Australia top Group B after two wins as they stay on track to become the first nation to hold all three global cricket titles simultaneously - Test, one-day and T20. Opener David Warner top-scored for the winners with 39 while spinner Adam Zampa was player of the match after taking 2-28, including the crucial wicket of Buttler for 42.

"They came out with a lot of intent and played really well and put us under a lot of pressure straight away," said the England captain. "It was tough to drag it back from there. They bowled really well in that middle phase, took wickets at regular times and defended really well."

Buttler said England needed to play with a lot of confidence in their remaining games against Oman and Namibia. "It's all laid out what we need to do so we need to dust ourselves down and go again," he added. Buttler won the toss in Bridgetown but watched in horror as Australia's openers

Warner and Travis Head savaged his bowlers.

Spinner Will Jacks was smashed for 22 runs in his first over and paceman Mark Wood also conceded 22 runs in his opening over as Australia raced to 55-0 off four overs, relishing a short boundary on one side of the ground. Moeen Ali made the breakthrough England desperately needed, bowling Warner for 39, and paceman Jofra Archer flattened the stumps of Head (34), leaving Australia 74-2.

But captain Mitchell Marsh (35) and Glenn Maxwell (28) kept the score ticking over and Marcus Stoinis' 30 off 17 balls ensured Australia became the first side to reach the 200-mark during the tournament.

Zampa breakthrough

Buttler and Phil Salt ensured England got off to a swift start in their reply, reaching 73-0 at the end of the seventh over. But Zampa bowled Salt for 37 with his first ball and took the prized wicket of Buttler in his next over for 42.

Jacks was caught by Mitchell Starc in the deep off the bowling of Stoinis as Australia turned the screw, conceding just 11 runs in three overs. Moeen took three sixes off a Maxwell over as England briefly flickered but Jonny Bairstow went cheaply and Moeen perished for 25.

The innings petered out and the impressive Zampa finished with eye-catching bowling figures, with Pat Cummins taking 2-23. Marsh said his team's all-round game was "outstanding", pinpointing the early fireworks from



BRIDGETOWN: England's Chris Jordan (L) attempts to run out Australia's Matthew Wade during the ICC men's Twenty20 World Cup 2024 group B cricket match between Australia and England at Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Barbados. — AFP

Warner and Head as key.

"That was the difference in the game, the way we started, all based around our trust in each

other," he said. "The boys set the tone beautifully." The top two teams in the group will advance to the Super 8 stage of the competition. — AFP

Hosein shines as Windies thrash record-low Uganda

PROVIDENCE: Left-arm spinner Akeal Hosein's career-best figures of five for 11 decimated an inept Ugandan batting line-up as the West Indies romped to a 134-run victory in a Group C match of the T20 World Cup at the Guyana National Stadium on Saturday.

Set a daunting target after the tournament co-hosts posted 173 for five batting first, the World Cup debutants looked completely out of their depth in being routed for 39 off 12 overs. The score equalled the record of the Netherlands against Sri Lanka at the 2014 tournament for the lowest innings total in the T20 World Cup.

West Indies' second win in as many matches pulls them level at the top of the table on points with Afghanistan although the Afghans remain in first position by virtue of a better net run-rate. Now regularly entrusted with the responsibility of opening the bowling for the Caribbean team, Hosein felt the spectacular success on the night was just reward for continuous hard work and improvement.

"I needed this. In the nets and in the previous series we've played I felt the ball was coming out nicely but I just wasn't getting the rewards," he said after collecting the "Man of the Match" award. "It's a lot of hard work, especially when you start getting success. The way the game is moving, guys are going to study and come up with different plans, so you have to keep working to stay one step ahead of them every time."

Just four days after a historic victory over Papua New Guinea, the Africans were made acutely aware of the yawning gap in class in the batting department, even if their bowlers still emerged from the match with considerable credit.

Opener Johnson Charles led the West Indies batting effort with a top score of 44 off 42 balls (four fours, two sixes), yet none in the celebrated power-hitting middle-order were able to cut loose. Captain Brian Masaba earned the two important wickets of Nicholas Pooran and opposite number Rovman Powell with his wrist-spinners, while seamers Cosmas Kyeuwuta and Juma Miyagi impressed with their pace and accuracy.

It was left to Andre Russell with a 17-ball unbeaten 30 (six fours) to the West Indies innings late acceleration. "It's a very steep learning curve for us, especially in the batting department and we have to learn from this experience and understand what we need to do to keep ourselves in the game," said Masaba in assessing the overall effort of his team.

"It's a huge challenge (this World Cup debut) but it's something we're enjoying and we understand if we are going to get better we need to be playing against opposition like this a bit more and over time we will be able to narrow the gap."

For West Indies captain Rovman Powell, the improvement from a scrappy opening victory over PNG nearly a week earlier was particularly pleasing. "That last game we were a little bit flat so coming into this game we just wanted to improve as a team and I think we're up to 70-80 percent now and it's good to see guys getting performances under their belts because moving forward it's going to get tougher," he noted.

"We have been playing good cricket as a team for the last 12 months or so it's just for us to continue to improve because we understand the conditions and cricket isn't easy in the Caribbean." — AFP

Kolisi to miss Twickenham Test

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa captain Siya Kolisi is one of 12 players from the matchday 23 who won the Rugby World Cup last year who will not be considered for a one-off Test against Wales at Twickenham on June 22, SA Rugby announced on Sunday.

Just 11 of the side that edged New Zealand 12-11 at the Stade de France in October will be available after injuries, club commitments and retirement ruled out the other 12. "Players based in Europe, the UK and Ireland will not be considered for the Boks' first Test of the season against Wales at Twickenham," SA Rugby said in a statement.

Kolisi moved to Paris after the World Cup triumph to join Racing92 who on Saturday qualified for next week's Top 14 play-offs, with the semi-finals on the same weekend as the Wales Test. The match is taking place outside the international window so teams beyond South Africa do not have to release players.

With the Japanese season completed, however, eight South Africans based there were selected by head coach Rassie Erasmus on Sunday. Veteran lock Eben Etzebeth is considered a strong candidate to skipper the world champion Springboks in a match that serves as a warm-up for two home Tests against Ireland during July.

Erasmus, who played different but key coaching roles in the 2019 and 2023 World Cup triumphs, named 18 forwards and 17 backs for a training camp in Pretoria, which begins on Monday. He included fly-half Handre Pollard and No. 8 Jasper Wiese, but neither will be considered for Twickenham.

Wiese, the likely successor to retired Duane Vermeulen in the back row, was hit with a six-Test ban after being sent off in an English Premiership match, and it starts against Wales. Pollard was a key figure in the 2023 World Cup triumph. Initially ruled out of the tournament by injury, he was called up when hooker Malcolm Marx was sidelined.

The playmaker did not miss a single kick at goal in tense, one-point knockout victories over hosts France, England and New Zealand. With Pollard out of the reckoning for Twickenham, Manie Libbok and uncapped pair Siya Masuku and Jordan Hendrikse will be the fly-half contenders.

11 uncapped players

Hendrikse and Masuku are among 11 uncapped players in the squad. Another is hooker Andre-Hugo Venter, a son of Springbok legend Andre Venter. "We gained immense value by granting a few players a chance to prove what they can do at international level in the years leading up to the 2023 World Cup," said Erasmus. "Some of the players who made their Test debuts were members of the squad that lifted the trophy in Paris, and we feel it is important that we continue bleeding new players."

"Having them in camp and working closely with them on the field will set them and the team in good stead as we start laying the foundations for the 2027 World Cup in Australia." After Wales, South Africa host Ireland - the only team to beat them at the 2023 World Cup - and Portugal in July, following that with six Rugby Championship matches against Australia, arch rivals New Zealand and Argentina in August and September. The four-time world champions then take on Scotland, England and Wales during a November tour of Europe.



Siya Kolisi

Training squad Forwards

Joseph Dweba, Ben-Jason Dixon, Neethling Fouche, Frans Malherbe, Salmaan Moerat, Evan Roos, Andre-Hugo Venter (all Stormers), Pepsi Buthelezi, Eben Etzebeth, Vincent Koch, Bongani Mbonambi, Ntuthuko Mchunu, Ox Nche (all Sharks), Malcolm Marx (Kubota Spears/JPN), Franco Mostert (Honda Heat/JPN), Kwagga Smith (Blu Revs/JPN), Pieter-Steph du Toit (Toyota Verblitz/JPN), Jasper Wiese (Leicester/ENG)

Backs

Aphelele Fassi, Ethan Hooker, Makazole Mapimpi, Siya Masuku, Grant Williams (all Sharks), Morné van den Berg, Jordan Hendrikse, Quan Horn, Edwill van der Merwe (all Lions), Sacha Feinberg-Mngomezulu, Manie Libbok (both Stormers), Faf de Klerk, Jesse Kriel (both Canon Eagles/JPN), Damian de Allende (Panasonic Wild Knights/JPN), Andre Esterhuizen (Harlequins/ENG), Cheslin Kolbe (Sun-tory Sungoliath/JPN), Handre Pollard (Leicester/ENG)
Coach: Rassie Erasmus (RSA). — AFP

Lawes proud to leave Northampton with a title

TWICKENHAM: Courtney Lawes said his career in English club rugby had finished with the "ending you want" as his Northampton side beat 14-man Bath 25-21 in a dramatic Premiership final. But the 35-year-old former England captain, who will join French club Brive next season, was almost denied a fairytale finale in front of a packed crowd of nearly 82,000 at Twickenham on Saturday.

Bath played nearly an hour of the game a man down after prop Beno Obano was sent off, yet were still 21-18 ahead seven minutes from time before a brilliant run by Northampton replacement George Hendy led to England scrum-half Alex Mitchell scoring a game-clinching try.

Even then, however, Northampton - who only just topped the regular season table from Bath after both sides finished on 60 points - had to put in one last colossal defensive effort to secure a first Premiership crown since powerhouse forward Lawes helped them win the 2014 title.

But by the time he attended the post-match press conference, Northampton skipper Lawes was in a more relaxed mood, the blindside flanker taking questions while bare-chested and with a pair of ski goggles perched on top of his head.

"I don't think we could have played worse," he said with a laugh. "But what a way to go out, I'm over the moon and couldn't have asked for more. "We got across the finish line, and that's what rugby is. Sometimes it doesn't look pretty, and it certainly didn't today, but we won, and that's what matters."

Not long after Obano saw red for a shoulder-led tackle onto the head of Northampton No 8 Juarno Augustus, the Saints surged into a 15-3 lead thanks to tries from Tommy Freeman and Ollie Sleightholme. But Bath were level at 18-18 midway through the second half before edging three points in front thanks to a penalty from fly-half star Finn Russell.

Nevertheless, it was Mitchell's try - converted by fellow England international George Furbank - that proved decisive. "It's the ending that you obviously want," said Lawes. — AFP



SUNRISE: Sergei Bobrovsky #72 of the Florida Panthers hits the ice against the Edmonton Oilers in Game One of the 2024 Stanley Cup Final at Amerant Bank Arena on June 08, 2024 in Sunrise, Florida. — AFP

Panthers down Oilers in Stanley Cup Final opener

MIAMI: Florida goalie Sergei Bobrovsky made 32 saves and the Panthers shut out the Edmonton Oilers 3-0 on Saturday in game one of the NHL Stanley Cup Final. Bobrovsky notched his second shut-out of these playoffs, frustrating three-time NHL Most Valuable Player Connor McDavid and the rest of an Edmonton team that was averaging 3.5 goals per game heading into the best-of-seven championship series.

Carter Verhaeghe and Evan Rodrigues scored on two of the Panthers' first five shots and Eetu Luostarinen added an empty-net goal to seal the win against an Oilers team that dominated much of the night.

"They obviously have an elite offense, it was a really hard game," said Bobrovsky, who was serenaded with chants of "Bobby! Bobby!" as he delivered an array of highlight-reel saves. "They're really smart players and it was a fun challenge."

The Panthers got off to a nervy start but struck on their first shot. Verhaeghe scored his 10th goal of the playoffs with a wrist shot past Edmonton goalie Stuart Skinner off a pass from Aleksander Barkov at 3:59 of the first period. Barkov had launched the play, powering into the zone and passing to Sam Reinhart. Reinhart passed back to Barkov who flipped the puck across the crease to a wide-open Verhaeghe.

Bobrovsky preserved the lead when he denied McDavid minutes later, his 14 saves in the first period ensuring Edmonton went unrewarded for their strong start to the contest. The Oilers had a golden chance on the power-play with four minutes left in the first. Ryan Nugent-Hopkins thundered in on a breakaway but Bobrovsky turned his shot away with his left pad. — AFP

Sports

Croatia beat Portugal in Euro 2024 warm-up friendly

It's a great victory, it will give us confidence for the Euros: Modric

OEIRAS: Croatia finished their Euro 2024 preparations with an impressive 2-1 friendly win over Portugal on Saturday. Zlatko Dalić's side beat the Euro 2016 winners in the Lisbon suburb of Oeiras to send Group B rivals Spain and Italy a warning.

Roberto Martínez's Portugal, among the contenders to win the tournament, fell to only their second defeat in 13 matches under the Spaniard. Talisman Cristiano Ronaldo was left on the bench by Martínez, whose side spurned chances to equalize in the second half.

"Today's game had a negative result... we want to win, it's the best way to grow, but today there are also positives to take," said Martínez. Portugal won all of their qualifying games but have lost in friendlies against Slovenia in March, and now Croatia.

"Winning against Croatia doesn't make us good enough to win the tournament, losing doesn't mean we will not qualify for the last 16," continued Martínez. "A friendly game is about preparation. Now we are stronger than before the game... this is international football.

"We lost, Croatia deserved it, but for us it was a test we needed." Croatia had the better of the opening period against the subdued hosts and veteran Luka Modrić netted his 25th international goal from the penalty spot after Vitinha felled Mateo Kovacic.

Real Madrid midfielder Modrić, 38, is hoping to finish on a high in what is likely to be the last major international tournament of his career. Manchester City defender Josko Gvardiol twice came close, while Porto goalkeeper Diogo Costa denied Andrej Kramarić and Ante Budimir headed off target. Substitute Diogo Jota, on at the break, pulled Portugal level early in the second half but Budimir soon restored Croatia's advantage with a header after Mario Pašalić hit the crossbar.

Portugal upped their game with Rafael Leão and João Cancelo creating danger in search of a leveller but the visitors held on for a second friendly victory after beating North Macedonia.

"It's a great victory, it will give us confidence for the Euros," Modrić told Nova TV. "Expectations are high, we have a very good team, a great atmosphere, desire, and enthusiasm. I hope we will play like this... only with this kind of game can we expect something big."

Croatia start the tournament by facing three-time winners Spain in Berlin in a week's time. Martínez's side have one final tune-up friendly, against Ireland on Tuesday in Aveiro. Portugal are favourites to progress from Group F which also contains the Czech Republic, Turkey and Georgia. Euro 2024 begins on June 14 in Germany. — AFP



OEIRAS: Portugal's forward Cristiano Ronaldo and teammates attend a training session at Cidade do Futebol training camp in Oeiras, outskirts of Lisbon, on the eve of the international friendly match against Croatia ahead of the UEFA Euro 2024 football tournament in Germany. — AFP

This feels so good, says Russell after grabbing pole

MONTREAL: A delighted George Russell beamed with joy on Saturday after securing a dramatic pole position for Mercedes at the Canadian Grand Prix, his first since the 2022 Hungarian Grand Prix and only the second of his career. He took pole at the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve with a best lap in one minute and 12.000 seconds, equalled exactly by series leader and seven-time champion Max Verstappen of Red Bull who took second place because Russell had clocked his lap first. "This feels so good," said Russell.

"So much hard work back at the factory has gone into this - we said it in Monaco, but we hope this is the start of something for our season and I think it is!"

It was Mercedes' first pole success since seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton took pole for the Hungarian Grand Prix last year. The team are without a win since the 2022 São Paulo Grand Prix where Russell claimed his maiden triumph.

"I've missed this feeling. It's awesome here every time we come to Montreal and it's such good energy from all the fans and I'm excited for tomorrow." "The car has been amazing since we've brought the latest upgrades to Monaco and now we are in the fight."

Russell added that the team had been adding upgrades to their car for several races but had not found

a performance breakthrough until the Monaco Grand Prix two weeks earlier. "We've been zig-zagging for quite a while but now, with the latest upgrade, which is just a small change, it has changed," he added.

"We had good performance the last two races but this weekend the performance has been unreal. He said he was confident that Mercedes now had the fastest car and could gain a result in Sunday's race. "We can fight for victory - we've got the fastest car and I'm feeling good behind the wheel," he said.

"It is going to be all about preserving the tyres because when they go, they really go! So, right now I need a good night's sleep and then go for it tomorrow." After rolling back the years with a vintage lap in final free practice, qualifying did not go as smoothly for his Mercedes team-mate seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton. He wound up seventh, just 0.280 seconds off the pole pace, but was unhappy to have lost the sparkle from earlier in the day.

In Monaco, he had forecast that he would not enjoy success against Russell in qualifying for the rest of this year. He congratulated Russell and the team before shrugging off his own lack of performance. "The car had been feeling good all weekend and firstly congratulations to George as he's done a great job," said Hamilton. "It's really great for the team because everyone has worked so hard on the upgrades back at the factory so this is a huge boost for everyone."

"The car was feeling great all weekend, but as soon as I got to qualifying that kind of vanished for me. The grip just disappeared from me, so FP3 I had plenty of pace in me and then get to qualifying and the tyres don't work," he said. — AFP

Switzerland, Austria draw 1-1 before heading to Euros

ST. GALLEN: Switzerland and their Alpine neighbors Austria played out a 1-1 draw on Saturday in a final match before both sides head over the border to Euro 2024 in Germany. Christoph Baumgartner put visitors Austria ahead in the fifth minute at the Kybunpark in St. Gallen before Silvan Widmer levelled for the hosts in the 26th minute.

Switzerland had most of the possession but Austria racked up more shots. "We know we can do much better," Swiss winger Dan Ndoye said afterwards. "That's what's a little frustrating today. But the team facing us was solid. We made good sequences at times; that's what we have to keep for next week, and then modify the little things that weren't there today," the Bologna player told RTS television.

"I can do much better, but I'd rather it happen today than next week. "We have the quality; it's just that today it wasn't so good." Switzerland's Denis Zakaria added: "I think it's a draw we have to take positively. "We have to base ourselves on the good things from this match and give our best for the Euros," said the Monaco midfielder, who is currently struggling for fitness. There was plenty of support for the visitors in the 18,731-strong crowd, with the stadium less than 25 kilometres from the Austrian border. The two countries had not met since a 2015 friendly, when Switzerland won 2-1 in Vienna.

Switzerland are ranked 19th in the world and Austria 25th. Switzerland coach Murat Yakin named his 26-man squad for the Euros on Friday, retaining 18 players that went to the 2022 World Cup in Qatar. Veteran midfielders Granit Xhaka and Xherdan Shaqiri remain the star names in the Swiss squad. — AFP



JAKARTA: Winner China's Shi Yu Qi (R) poses with runner-up Denmark's Anders Antonsen (L) after their men's singles final match at the Indonesia Open badminton tournament in Jakarta on June 9, 2024. — AFP

China's Shi clinches first Indonesia title

JAKARTA: Badminton world number two Shi Yu Qi clinched his first Indonesia Open title on Sunday after triumphing over Danish shuttler Anders Antonsen in three games. The Chinese ace eventually overcame the world number five on the courts of capital Jakarta's Istora Senayan arena, winning 21-9, 12-21, 21-14 in a 71-minute final to secure the prestigious Super 1000 event.

Shi won the first game with relative ease before the Danish shuttler fought back to take the match to a third game. The 28-year-old was delighted to be the first Chinese men's singles player to win the tournament since the 1980s before setting his sights on Olympic gold in Paris next month.

"I am very happy to have won today. This proves that the efforts of the Chinese men's singles team are very strong right now," he said after his victory. "This tournament is seen as a practice before the Olympics. I still don't know how far I will go, but I will do my best to become a champion there."

In the women's singles final, Olympic women's badminton champion and Chinese star Chen Yu Fei beat South Korea's An Se-young in a three-game thriller. World number two Chen toppled world number one An 21-14, 14-21, 21-18 in 82 minutes.

"In this match, I didn't focus too much on the outcome but prioritized the process. That was the key to my victory this time," Chen said via an interpreter after her win. Olympic men's badminton champion Viktor Axelsen this week pulled out of the tournament due to an ankle injury.

The Dane rolled his right ankle during last week's Singapore Open, which forced him to withdraw from his semi-final, weeks before he defends his title at the Paris Olympics. The Olympic badminton tournament begins on July 27 in Paris. — AFP



ST. GALLEN: Switzerland's forward #19 Dan Ndoye (C) vies with Austria's midfielder #6 Nicolas Seiwald (L) and Austria's midfielder #18 Romano Schmid (R) during the international friendly football match between Switzerland and Austria at Kybunpark stadium in St Gallen, eastern Switzerland. — AFP



MONTREAL: (L-R) Second place, Red Bull Racing's Dutch driver Max Verstappen; pole winner, Mercedes' British driver George Russell; and third place, McLaren's British driver Lando Norris pose for a photo after the qualifying session for the 2024 Canada Formula One Grand Prix at Circuit Gilles-Villeneuve in Montreal. — AFP

Classifieds

Clinics & Hospitals

Clinics

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

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

Hospitals

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

Change of Name

I, SUBHASHINI JAGU, holder of Indian Passport No. N8634257, having permanent address Dno 7 340 Krishna Nagar Rly Koduru Kadapa Dist, 516101, Andhra Pradesh India residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as (given name) SUBHASHINI and (surname) KOLAVALA. (#5621, 09/06/2024)

I, RAJA GOPAL REDDY JAGU, holder of Indian Passport No. R2317277, having permanent address 7 340 Krishna Nagar Rly Koduru Kadapa Andhra Pradesh, 516101, India residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as (given name) MAHESWAR REDDY and (surname) KOLAVALA. (#5620, 09/06/2024)

I, MAHALAKSHMI NIDIGINTI, holder of Indian Passport No. U0192368, having permanent address 00, Chitvel Main Road, Chitvel, Annamayya District, Andhra Pradesh - 516104, residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as (given name) MEHREEN SHAIK and (surname) SHAIK. (#5619, 09/06/2024)

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Alcaraz wins first French Open title Spaniard outlasts Zverev in five-set Roland Garros thriller



PARIS: Spain's Carlos Alcaraz celebrates after winning his men's singles final match against Germany's Alexander Zverev on Court Philippe-Chatrier on day fifteen of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros Complex on June 9, 2024. (Inset) Alcaraz celebrates with the trophy. — AFP photos

PARIS: Carlos Alcaraz fought back to defeat Alexander Zverev in a five-set French Open final on Sunday and become the youngest man to win Grand Slam titles on all three surfaces. The 21-year-old battled cramps to recover from 2-1 down in sets and win a gripping contest 6-3, 2-6, 5-7, 6-1, 6-2 after four hours and 19 minutes on Court Philippe Chatrier.

Alcaraz adds the Roland Garros crown to the Wimbledon title he won against Novak Djokovic last year and the 2022 US Open. He will head to the Australian Open next year with the chance to become the youngest man to complete the career Grand Slam. Fourth seed Zverev, who settled a court case in Germany two days ago over domestic abuse allegations, is still waiting for a maiden major title.

He had also lost his only previous Slam final in five sets, when he blew a two-set lead against Dominic Thiem at the 2020 US Open. Zverev had high hopes of finally getting over the line — he has also lost six Slam semifinals — but Alcaraz was too strong in the key moments as he leveled their head-to-head record at 5-5.

Alcaraz said before the final he wanted to join the list of men's players from his country, including his idol Rafael Nadal, to win the Roland Garros title, and he celebrated becoming the eighth Spanish champion by falling to the clay with his head in his hands in disbelief.

Zverev's nervy start

Zverev endured a miserable start, double-faulting on the first two points of the match en route to being broken in the opening game. But Alcaraz was not immune to the nerves of a maiden French Open final, framing a regulation forehand into the stands and then also double-faulting as he gifted the break straight back. The Spaniard did not take too long to find his groove, though, breaking to love in the fifth game on his way to pocketing the opener.

The youngster had to save three break points to hold in a 10-minute first game of the second set, but slipped 3-2 behind when he failed to stave off two more break points as another forehand sailed into the crowd. Suddenly Zverev had a spring in his step and Alcaraz was

reduced to scrambling at the back of the court, falling a double-break down with a double-fault.

Zverev wrapped up an ultimately one-sided second set with a hold to love. The German made it three successive love holds with two more early in the third set, before Alcaraz celebrated coming out of a tricky service game unscathed with a fist pump as he edged 3-2 ahead, despite having been largely on the back foot. Serving into an increasingly strong breeze, Zverev was caught out by an Alcaraz return that crept over the net and the Spaniard went on to grab a break to love.

But he could not serve out the set as a rasping Zverev passing shot secured a break back. That failure to take control of the match seemed to temporarily break Alcaraz's spirit, as he ended up losing five games on the spin to concede the set.

Crucial line call saves Alcaraz

Alcaraz would not go down without a fight, though, breaking for a 2-0 advantage in the fourth with a mag-

nificent curling winner on the run. Just seconds before, Zverev had been angrily disputing a line call which was clearly correct, drawing jeers from the crowd. The German was rattled and his serve started to desert him, with Alcaraz racing through the fourth set to force a decider despite having to take a medical time-out to have treatment for apparent cramp at 4-1.

Zverev had won 10 of his previous 11 five-setters at Roland Garros but handed Alcaraz a break on a platter in the third game of the fifth. Alcaraz stuttered himself, falling 0-40 down in the next game. He appeared to have double-faulted on the second break point, but the chair umpire overruled the line judge's call of out, despite Zverev's angry protests, before HawkEye replays showed it was out.

Alcaraz went on to hold and it proved to be a pivotal moment in the match. Zverev fell a double-break down in game seven as Alcaraz delighted the fans with an outrageous flicked winner before crushing a forehand into the line. He wrapped up a historic victory with a booming forehand that Zverev could not get back. — AFP

Jacobs rules Rome as Italy basks in 'Super Saturday'

ROME: Home favourite Marcell Jacobs retained his European 100m crown in Rome as Team Italy basked in their own 'Super Saturday' with two further golds to surge to the top of the medals table. In a night of high-quality track and field at Rome's Stadio Olimpico, there was a record-extending seventh discus title for Croatia's Sandra Elkasevic.

There were also third successive European golds for Norway's Jakob Ingebrigtsen in the men's 5,000m, Belgium's Nafi Thiam in the heptathlon and Greek Miltiadis Tentoglou in the men's long jump. But the night had a decidedly Italian hue to it as the host nation soared atop the medals table with five golds, four silvers and a bronze for an overall tally of 10. In second place after two days of competition are the Netherlands, with a gold, silver and bronze.

Italian team captain Gianmarco Tamperi, the world high jump champion, had said he wanted to end up number one after a seventh place finish last time out in Munich in 2022. And Jacobs lived up to his billing, scorching to victory in a season's best of 10.02 seconds in what was a perfect tonic ahead of the Paris Olympics, just seven weeks away.

Italian teammate Chituru Ali took silver in 10.05sec, with Briton Romel Glave claiming bronze in 10.06sec. "I had three goals: Health, defending the European title and then the Olympic one," said Jacobs. "I am very happy because everything is getting better race after race."

It capped off a magical 20 minutes for the Italians, after first world silver medallist Leonardo Fabbri threw a championship record of 20.45m as he dominated the men's shot put to deny Croatian Filip Mihaljevic back-to-back Euro golds.

Then just minutes later and the crowd were chanting like football fans as Lorenzo Ndele Simonelli surged to victory in the 110m hurdles in 13.05sec to set up Jacob's final fanfare.

Elkasevic extends Euro record

Norwegian Ingebrigtsen also shone on a heady night's entertainment by taking the lead of the 5,000m at the bell and sprinting away for gold in a



ROME: Italy's Lamont Marcell Jacobs (R) wins the men's 100m final during the European Athletics Championships at the Olympic stadium in Rome on June 8, 2024. — AFP

season's best of 13:20.11. "This is a championships, the level is high and I performed at my best," said Ingebrigtsen, who will now aim for a third European title in the 1500m.

"Definitely more to come." There was to be no denying Croatian discus legend Elkasevic—better known by her maiden name Perkovic, who claimed a convincing victory with a best of 67.04m.

The 33-year-old, twice Olympic gold medallist and a two-time former world champion, is now unbeaten on the European stage since Barcelona in 2010, winning successive continental editions in Zurich, Helsinki, Amsterdam, Berlin and Munich over the past 12 years.

"After concentrating on Rome we now need to concentrate on Paris because we need to be in the right shape for Paris, for the gold, for a medal," Elkasevic said. "I am European champion, so one gold for this season is done. This medal means a lot."

In a session that favoured old heads, Thiam, herself a two-time Olympic champion and twice world title holder, also wrapped up her third successive European heptathlon gold in dominant style. Over the two days of competition, she amassed a winning 6,848 points. France's Auriana Lazraq-Khlass took silver with

6,635pts, while Thiam's teammate Noor Vidts rounded out the podium (6,596).

"Before Paris, we will try to sharpen the form. We will try to work on sprints and specifically on the starts," said Thiam. In the long jump, Tentoglou—also the Olympic and world champion—made it a third continental title by smashing the championship record twice to win in 8.65 metres.

Tentoglou sailed out to three world leads before improving, by 24cm, the previous season's best set by Switzerland's Simon Ehammer in qualifying on Friday. Ehammer failed to improve on that form, managing 8.31m for bronze behind 19-year-old Italian Mattia Furlani, whose 8.38m was a world under-20 record and best ever championship jump for silver.

There was a third championship record of the night in the women's 100m hurdles, Cyrena Samba-Mayela clocking 12.31sec for the win ahead of Swiss Dita-jii Kambundji (12.40) and Poland's Pia Skrzyszowska (12.42). Sweden's world silver medallist Perseus Karlstrom fought off the attentions of Spain's Paul McGrath to win the 20km race walk in 1hr 19min 13sec. Italy's Francesco Fortunato taking bronze to set up a night of medals for the host nation. — AFP

Roglic holds on to win Criterium du Dauphine

THORENS-GLIERES: Slovenia's Primoz Roglic held off a late surge by American Matteo Jorgenson to win his second Criterium du Dauphine by just eight seconds on Sunday in an eventful 160-kilometre mountainous run from Thones to Plateau des Glieres.

Roglic, who rides for Bora-Hansgrohe, went into the last day of the pre-Tour de France race with a 1 minute 2 second lead on Jorgenson but the American put in a fine performance to come second in the eighth and final stage, just behind stage winner Carlos Rodriguez of Spain.

"It's crazy to be able to win the Dauphine after everything that happened, the crash (on Thursday) and everything that came in between. It's incredible," said Roglic. "I was hearing all the gaps all the time. It was close but finally I'm satisfied for the team. It's definitely something we needed with the team to be able to win the Dauphine."

"I first want to be happy because you don't win a race like this every day," he added. The 34-year-old Slovenian came in sixth on the day after forcing his way up the final ascent just in time to ensure he added a second Dauphine victory to his win in 2022. — AFP



THORENS-GLIERES: First-placed Team Bora's Slovenian rider Primoz Roglic wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey (C) celebrates his victory on the podium. — AFP