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Limited power cuts amid Zour fire

Municipality warns against using home basements as warehouses

Amir receives new Ahmadi governor



KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives on Sunday First Deputy Prime Minister, Defense and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef Al-Sabah, who presented to him newly-appointed Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Humoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. — KUNA

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The ministry of electricity and water and renewable energy resorted to limited power cuts on Sunday as temperatures dropped slightly to around 48 degrees Celsius, a statement said. The ministry said on its X account that a two-hour cut was applied to seven non-residential industrial and farming areas despite a small fire breaking out at a small unit at Al-Zour South power plant, which did not affect power production.

Minister of Electricity and Water Mahmoud Bushehri visited the plant and ordered an investigation into the fire, which was put out quickly. Power was cut in blocks 1, 2, 3, and 4 in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh on Sunday due to emergency maintenance works, the ministry said. On Friday and Saturday, the weekend holidays, there were limited cuts in a block in Salwa and another in Khaldiya, as two substations in each area went out of work briefly. Power was later restored to both areas.

Last week, the ministry resorted to major power cuts after consumption soared dramatically after temperatures of 51-52 degrees Celsius were recorded in several areas and remained almost



KUWAIT: Minister of Electricity and Water and Renewable Energy Mahmoud Bushehri visits the Al-Zour South power plant after a fire broke out in a unit on June 23, 2024.

above 50 degrees in most areas. The programmed cuts covered over 40 residential areas when consumption levels crossed the 16,200 MW danger line. On Sunday, consumption hit 16,047 MW. The cuts came even after Kuwait began receiving around 400 MW daily from the joint Gulf power grid.

Meanwhile, Kuwait Municipality on Sunday strongly warned house owners against renting their basements as storage areas after a campaign by authorities forced a large number of store owners to

evict from buildings following the Mangal fire that killed 49 people, mostly Indians. The municipality warned in a statement that renting basements in private homes to be used as warehouses is a legal violation.

The statement said authorities have lately noticed advertisements offering basements in private homes to be used as warehouses in violation of the law and which puts the lives of people at risk. The statement called on people to report such violations on the hotline 139 or on WhatsApp on 24727732.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kuwaitis evacuated from Lebanon

KUWAIT: Kuwait Airways sent Saturday the first aircraft to evacuate nationals from Lebanon after a call from the foreign ministry on Friday for them to depart the Arab country soon amid rising tensions with the Zionist occupation. Earlier, Kuwait Airways said it is operating large planes to Beirut for Kuwaitis seeking to return home. — KUNA

Ship attacked in Red Sea

DUBAI: A drone attack damaged a merchant ship in the Red Sea near Yemen early Sunday morning, according to the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO), which is run by Britain's Royal Navy. Later on Sunday, UKMTO said it received a distress call from a second vessel, this one off Yemen's southeastern coast, that had "suffered flooding that cannot be contained", forcing the "master and crew to abandon the ship." — AFP

Jordan police find explosives in flat

AMMAN: Police in Jordan said on Saturday they had discovered and detonated explosives stored in a home in the crowded residential Marka neighborhood of the capital close to the Marka military airport used by US army planes. The explosives were discovered after civil defense authorities arrived at the flat following an explosion that was initially believed to have been caused by a gas leak. — Reuters

Nicaragua names envoy to Afghanistan

MANAGUA: Nicaragua has appointed an ambassador to Afghanistan. Michael Campbell, currently Nicaragua's ambassador to China, will take on the additional role from his office in Beijing. "We thank the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, that people, that government, for the blessing they have given to our comrade Michael Campbell," Nicaraguan Vice President Rosario Murillo said Friday. — AFP

Zionists tie injured Palestinian man to jeep during raid

JENIN: Zionist forces strapped a wounded Palestinian man to the hood of a military jeep during a raid in the occupied West Bank city of Jenin on Saturday. Footage of the incident, which occurred on Saturday, has gone viral and shows a man strapped horizontally to the bonnet of a military jeep as it passes through a narrow alley past two ambulances. Medics identified the Palestinian as Mujahid Raed Abbadi, 24, who told AFP he lives in the Jenin refugee camp.

Francesca Albanese, the United Nations special rapporteur on the rights situation in the Palestinian territories, suggested the troops were using Abbadi to shield themselves from gunfire. "#HumanShielding in action", Albanese wrote on social media platform X, sharing footage of the incident. At the hospital, Abbadi said he was hit and wounded as he stepped out of his uncle's house in Wadi Burqin's Jabriyat neighborhood. "I tried to withdraw and get inside the house, but they started shooting", hitting him in the hand, Abbadi told AFP in his hospital bed.

He said he fell to the ground in an area behind the military jeep and was hit once more, with a bullet penetrating his leg. According to Abbadi, rescuers or medics were unable to reach him for more than two hours as he lay on the ground. "I started crawling" trying to escape as fighting continued around him, he said, before the Zionist troops noticed him.

"When they (the soldiers) arrived they stomped on my head and hit my face, my injured leg and hand," Abbadi recalled. "They were laughing and playing while they hit me." The soldiers lifted him and threw him on the ground before tying him to the bonnet of the jeep, he said. Bahaa Abu Hammad, the doctor treating Abbadi at Ibn Sina hospital, told AFP that "he has burns on his back from neck to lower back" from being tied to the military jeep in the scorching summer heat.

The Zionist military said a Palestinian man was wounded during a "counterterrorism operation" to arrest wanted suspects in the area of Wadi Burqin, between the town of Burqin and Jenin. During an exchange of fire between troops and militants in Jabriyat, a Palestinian was wounded and apprehended, the military said in a statement. The statement referred to him as a "suspect", but did not specify any accusations against Abbadi, who medics told AFP was being treated at Jenin's Ibn Sina hospital, and not in Zionist custody.

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JENIN: The Zionist army straps a Palestinian on a military jeep during a raid in this screengrab from a video in the Zionist-occupied West Bank on June 22, 2024. — Reuters

Zionists hit Gaza aid center as more babies die

GAZA: Eight Palestinians were killed on Sunday in a Zionist airstrike on a training college near Gaza City being used to distribute aid, Palestinian witnesses said, as Zionist tanks pushed further into the southern city of Rafah. The strike hit part of a vocational college run by the UN Palestinian refugee agency UNRWA that is now providing aid to displaced families, the witnesses said.

"Some people were coming to receive coupons and others had been displaced from their houses and they were sheltering here. Some were filling up water, others were receiving coupons, and suddenly we heard something falling. We ran away, those who were carrying water let it spill," said Mohammed Tafesh, one of the witnesses.

A Reuters photographer saw a low-rise building completely demolished and bodies wrapped

Continued on Page 6



GAZA: A Palestinian rescue worker carries children killed by Zionist strikes on houses at the Al Shati refugee camp in Gaza City on June 22, 2024. — Reuters





Algharabally and Al Enzi with the honored graduates.

Zain honors top high school graduates

Company organizes annual ceremony, attended by executive management, MoE officials

In my view

Specializations & labor market requirements

By Azzah Al-Ghamdi

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The transition from secondary school to university is considered a very delicate stage in the lives of students, especially since university life is completely different from the lives of students in secondary schools. The options are very open, in addition to the total dependence on oneself, which many students do not know how to manage because they are not accustomed to such freedom and choice.

We find out that they may choose a specialization that does not match their inclinations, as well as specializations that are not required in the labor market. These students continue to study these university degree courses without knowing the nature of the profession that they will practice after graduation. The problem is that the Ministry of Higher Education's role is unfortunately limited to the equivalency of certificates, although it is supposed to have a role in determining the specializations required in the labor market as well as in the job classification of these students by both government agencies and the private sector.

In many cases, the labor market forces university graduates to work as secretaries after joining the workplace. It is not fair to treat them equally with institutes' students or graduates of secretarial courses. However, the labor market today needs secretaries more than their specializations. This certainly constitutes a major defect and contradicts the labor law.

Given the multiple complaints from graduates, the Ministry of Higher Education, in coordination with the Civil Service Bureau, is supposed to determine a job description for university graduates so as not to force them into secretarial jobs, especially since the institutes graduate a large number of secretaries and there is no shortage of secretaries in the labor market.

The Ministry of Higher Education is supposed to stop university specializations that are not in demand in the labor market so that the efforts of students (who studied for four years after high school) will not be wasted. Many graduates have high grades but do not have the required specialization and counseling, given that their parents are uneducated. These students become victims due to a lack of guidance and counseling. The Ministry of Higher Education should have provided them with counselors before they chose their specializations.

In addition, there are still other specializations that offer them no other opportunity or choice other than teaching. Therefore, it is necessary for the Ministry of Higher Education, the Civil Service Bureau, and the Public Authority for Manpower to coordinate with each other in order to create job opportunities for university graduates in line with their qualifications.



Recognizing two distinguished graduates.



Top student honored.

KUWAIT: Zain organized its annual honoring ceremony to recognize and celebrate Kuwait's top high school graduates for the academic year 2023-2024. The event was held at the company's headquarters in Shuwaikh and was attended by the students and their parents, along with Zain Kuwait CEO Nawaf Algharabally, Ministry of Education Assistant Undersecretary Maryam Al Enzi, and the Ministry's Official Spokesperson Ahmad Al Wehaida.

During the event, Zain honored the very top graduates in three categories: top graduates nationwide, top Kuwaiti graduates, and top graduates from Special Education Schools. Students from both science and humanities disciplines were recognized within each of these categories. In his opening speech, Zain Kuwait CEO Nawaf Algharabally expressed the company's immense honor and pride in the distinguished graduates.

He highlighted that their achievements are a testament to their hard work, determination, and pursuit of

excellence. Algharabally noted that the graduates have shown not only academic excellence but also leadership, creativity, and resilience, which are traits essential for success in any field. He also extended his deepest congratulations and gratitude to the families of the graduates, acknowledging that their support and guidance were crucial for the students' success.

Algharabally emphasized that the achievements of each student are not only personal milestones but also accomplishments for the entire nation. Ministry of Education Assistant Undersecretary Maryam Al Enzi expressed the Ministry's appreciation to Zain for holding this initiative every year, where the company celebrates the nation's top graduates and sheds light on their most distinguished achievements. She noted that such efforts contribute to supporting the educational ecosystem locally.

At the end of every academic year, Zain holds its annual ceremony to celebrate the top high school graduates after the results are officially an-



Recognizing a Special Education graduate.

nounced by the Ministry of Education. The company takes this opportunity to express its pride in Kuwait's future leaders, shed light on their talents, and reaffirm its unwavering support to education in the community. Zain firmly

believes in the importance of contributing to the progress of education. By presenting similar initiatives, Zain looks to empower and prepare the youth for the important roles they will play in the future of the nation.

Transforming lives in special needs school

By Harichandana PD

KUWAIT: Educating children with special needs is a deeply rewarding yet challenging vocation. Two dedicated teachers, Nayana Santhosh, the Head of Department and Kiran Kumar VB, a special educator, in a special needs school in Kuwait, share their insights, experiences, and perspectives on what it means to teach and care for special needs students. Their stories offer a profound look into the passion, dedication, and resilience required to serve as an epitome of hope and, to make a meaningful difference in the lives of these children.

Inspirations

For Nayana, the journey into special education was deeply personal. "I became a special need teacher because I wanted to help children who face unique challenges. Seeing them learn and grow makes me happy. I enjoy making sure every student feels important and can succeed", she explained. Growing up with an autistic uncle who struggled due to the lack of educational support made her realize the importance of providing such opportunities to others.

Kiran's motivation stems from a broader desire to make a significant impact. "Special education teachers want to make a difference in the lives of the students who are not being successful in school. Their passion is not for a single subject but for helping a students learn strategies to overcome disabilities", he said. Nayana highlights the many small victories that accumulate to create deeply rewarding moments.

She recalls a student named Dana who, despite severe cerebral palsy, managed to write her name for the first time with the help of an accommodation pen. "Seeing the joy and pride on her face was unforgettable. It encapsulated why I became a special needs teacher", she said. Kiran's proudest moment came when he received an award from the government of Kerala for his best practices in the disability sector, highlighting his significant contributions and recognition in the field.

Teaching approach

Both educators stress the importance of personalized approaches. Nayana uses a variety of teaching methods and tools, including visual aids, hands-on activities, assistive technologies, and individualized lesson plans. She emphasizes creating a supportive and inclusive classroom environment. For her, success includes improvements in social skills, communication, independence and overall well-being.

Kiran adapts his teaching modalities to each child's needs, using IEPs and IFSPs as key tools. He employs psychological interventions and behavior management techniques, such as functional analysis and the ABC technique, to handle challenging behaviors. He relies on criterion-referenced and norm-referenced tests, alongside teacher-made tests, to measure academic advancements. He celebrates the remarkable progress of a deaf-blind student who, after his training sessions, became independent and secured a job as a bank employee.

Staying motivated

Teaching children with diverse needs in a single classroom is a significant challenge. Both the teachers agree. Nayana stays motivated by focusing on her students' progress and achievements, collaborating with colleagues, and practicing self-care. Kiran finds in-



Kiran Kumar VB



Nayana Santhosh

trinsic motivation in the daily development of his students, viewing each day as an opportunity for growth. Nayana advises patience, empathy, flexibility, collaboration, and continuous learning for aspiring teachers in this field. "Celebrate small victories. These victories are significant and rewarding for both you and your students", she said. Kiran encourages thoughtful consideration before choosing this career, emphasizing the profound impact and gratitude it brings.

Hope and perseverance

Nayana's message is one of hope and belief: "Every student has incredible potential and unique gifts. With patience, understanding, and the right support, they can achieve great things and inspire us all." Kiran echoes this sentiment, emphasizing perseverance: "Disabled children may not learn in one day, but surely they will learn one day." Through their dedication, compassion, and innovative teaching methods, Nayana and Kiran illuminate the path for special needs education, showing that with the right support, every child can thrive, hence, transforming lives through heartfelt teaching.

Local

Crown Prince receives PM, First Deputy PM, Ahmadi Governor



KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah on Sunday received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah at Al-Seif Palace. His Highness also received First Deputy Prime Minister, Defense and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, as he presented to him the newly appointed Governor of Ahmadi Sheikh Humoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. — KUNA

Kuwait gears up for Arab cultural celebration

KUWAIT: Minister of Information and Culture, Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, reviewed on Sunday the preparations of the supreme committee to celebrate

Kuwait as the Capital of Arab Culture and Media 2025. During the meeting, the activities, programs, and necessary procedures and preparations related to the two occasions were reviewed to highlight the pioneering cultural and media role of Kuwait in the Arab world. The meeting discussed the coordination mechanism with all relevant authorities in the country for their participation in the activities of the two events. It also touched on follow-up supervision of the development of media, marketing, and promotional plans for the two events. — KUNA



'A Light from Every House'

Initiative promotes rationalizing electricity consumption



Members of the 'A Light from Every House' initiative.



KUWAIT: A general view shows high voltage electricity pylons in Kuwait City. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

By Ghadeer Ghloom

KUWAIT: "Unfortunately, Kuwait has very high indicators of irregular electricity consumption due to the lack of a culture of energy conservation. The daily consumption reaches 16,000-17,000 megawatts, and given the hot weather we are experiencing this summer, there is a warning of a potential crisis." Engineer Fares Alenezi, a resident of Jaber Al-Ahmad residential area and a member of the Jaber Al-Ahmad City Residents Group, stated to Kuwait Times during an interview conducted to highlight "A Light from Every House" initiative.

Alenezi told Kuwait Times that the idea behind "A Light from Every House" initiative arises from the importance of the community's role in rationalizing electricity consumption. "Today, thankfully, we consider elec-

tricity one of the greatest and most important blessings that we must be grateful for and preserve to ensure its longevity. However, unfortunately, Kuwait has very high indicators of irregular electricity consumption due to the lack of a culture of energy conservation," he said.

Alenezi also said that to find a radical solution to electricity issues in Kuwait we need to build power plants and promote energy conservation. "Building power plants or using alternative energy such as solar and wind energy is the government's responsibility. However, the solution that lies in the hands of the people and citizens is conservation. The culture of conservation must be promoted from the individual to the whole family. We named this initiative 'A Light from Every House,' meaning that if everyone turns off one light in each house, it will

significantly contribute to energy savings, reaching to an approximate of 40 percent, and help us overcome the expected crisis. Therefore, we want the community to participate positively and not blame others," he explained.

"Every individual has a responsibility today to reduce the use of devices, especially between 11 am and 5 pm, as these are the peak hours," Alenezi said, emphasizing on the necessity of turning off lights in unused areas during the day, turning off water heaters, closing the vents in unused bathrooms, setting the air conditioner temperature to 24°C, not using high-power electrical appliances during peak hours, avoiding leaving chargers plugged in, and preferably unplugging them.

"Nations advance and improve through initiatives that come from the individuals themselves. Therefore, we must instill these values, follow up on

them, and try to make every area follow the example of Jaber Al-Ahmad City, which is considered a model area. We hope that all regions of Kuwait will be like Jaber Al-Ahmad, which innovates and implements. Energy conservation should be a lifestyle, not a temporary trend. We need the public's support to implement these ideas. The real solution lies in conservation, and the culture of conservation is the biggest challenge we face today," he added.

He expressed hope and optimism about the Kuwaiti society, as it is an educated and understanding community regarding the ideas we present. "We ask nothing of you but 'A Light from Every House.' If you have laundry or chores that can be postponed to the evening, please do so because this is a national responsibility, and we will not feel the greatness of this blessing until we lose it," concluded Alenezi.

Forum seeks ways to reduce energy consumption

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Industry organized the Industry Dialogue Forum on Sunday to discuss the mechanism of rationalization of energy consumption in industrial areas during peak hours in the presence of the director general of the Authority, Mohammed Al-Adwani, and with the participation of representatives of the Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy, the Federation of Kuwaiti Industries, and the owners of industrial enterprises.

The official spokesman of the Authority, Walid Al-Majni, told the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that the forum aims to develop joint solutions to reduce

electric power levels by stopping work in industrial facilities during peak times, which contributes to rationalizing electricity consumption and avoiding current difficulties and challenges regarding electrical overloads. It is worth mentioning that the forum comes out of the sense and national motivation of the Authority, especially in light of the current circumstances in which the industrial sector is facing a number of challenges during the current electricity crisis.

He stressed that the authority has been paying great attention to the support and development of industrial areas since its inception. The forum provided several initiatives to the owners of the factories, including operating a single-shift system. Some of the factory owners actually took the initiative to stop work during peak times in appreciation for the national initiative. The forum will come up with important recommendations that will help rationalize electricity consumption in the industrial area and reduce electrical loads during the summer period. — KUNA



KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Industry organized the Industry Dialogue Forum on Sunday to discuss the mechanism of rationalization of energy consumption in industrial areas during peak hours.

KFF acting chief inspects marine firefighting stations

KUWAIT: Acting Chief of the General Fire Force Major General Khalid Abdullah Fahad has conducted an inspection tour of the marine firefighting and rescue stations tasked with securing the safety of seafarers. The tour aimed to ensure that the departments' work was going smoothly and check on the readiness of fire departments to respond to emergencies. Major General Fahad thanked the firefighters for doing their job diligently. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Acting Chief of the General Fire Force Major General Khalid Abdullah Fahad is seen during the inspection tour. — KUNA photos



Tips that can help residents address electricity shortage

KUWAIT: According to a research paper in 2020, it has been found that residential buildings in Kuwait consume about 60 percent of the country's national electrical power, which is considerably greater than all other sectors or building types. This puts a responsibility on every individual to be more mindful in handling their daily home interactions with electricity. Below are some tips that can help citizens and residents address the current electricity shortage in the country.

Air conditioners

Set the air conditioning temperature between 23°C and 25°C and ensure all doors and windows in the room are closed to reduce heat loss. Additionally, using insulators, curtains, or heat-reflecting glass can help minimize external heat transfer, thereby enhancing efficiency of AC.

Washing machine

Use the washing and drying machine during off peak hours such as nighttime, preferably at low heat (30°C maximum), to consume less energy in water heating.

Refrigerator

Frequently opening and closing the fridge door allows the leakage of warm air inside, hence adding extra pressure to the compressor. This means the fridge and freezer will need to use more energy to bring the fridge back to its desired temperature.

Lighting

Rely on natural lighting during the day by opening the curtains' windows to reduce the use of artificial lighting. In the evening, avoid relying solely on ceiling lights and use directed lighting such as lamps, which use less electricity thanks to their low wattage.

Electrical appliances

Disconnect non-essential electrical or electronic devices, such as the TV, microwave, and electric kettle before leaving the house or when unneeded. Ensure to unplug mobile phones and batteries as soon as charging is complete. While devices connected to the plug consume small amounts of energy, over time, this accumulated consumption significantly impacts total energy usage.

Dishwasher

Fill the dishwasher completely before turning it on to reduce the frequency of use and thereby lower energy consumption.

Electric kettle

Replace the electric kettle with a traditional whistling kettle, as electric kettles are among the most energy-consuming appliances.

News in Brief

Crown Prince to host citizens

KUWAIT: The Amiri Diwan has relayed greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah to the citizens. The Amiri Diwan declared that His Highness the Crown Prince would receive citizens on Monday between 7:30 am and 9:30 pm at the residence of the gracious Al-Sabah Family at Bayan Palace. — KUNA

Dar Suad creativity award

KUWAIT: Dar Suad Al-Sabah for Culture and Creativity has started receiving entries for its periodic competitions for the years 2023–2024, including the Sheikh Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah Awards for Scientific Creativity and the Suad Al-Sabah Awards for Literary Creativity. The entries will continue until the end of September. The director of the house, Ali Al-Masoudi, said that the Suad Al-Sabah House for Culture is seeking innovative scientific and literary topics. New topics include: Judiciary in Kuwait before independence; Nanotechnology and future industry prospects; Kuwaiti sports before the 1960s; Tomorrow's world and manufacturers of epidemics and vaccines. For the Suad Al-Sabah Competition for Literary and Intellectual Creativity, the topics include: The march of fine art in Kuwait; Women's issues and Kuwaiti poets; The best novel and best poetry collection. The winners of the awards will be honored financially. Dar Suad Al-Sabah competitions are the longest-lived competitions in the Arab world. — KUNA

Cleaning campaign on island

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti Diving and Rescue Club and the Kuwait Olympic Committee organized a cleaning campaign on Umm Al Maradim Island on Saturday with the participation of more than 50 volunteer divers and elite champions of diving sports. The president of the club, Talal Al-Sarhan, said in a statement to the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that the campaign aims to increase environmental awareness among divers and residents and to emphasize their national responsibility to preserve the marine environment. Some of the plastic and iron residues were removed. — KUNA

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: A woman looks at the city from NBK Tower amid soaring temperatures in Kuwait. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

AAW, Roche introduce Elevidys medication

A testament to the dedication to pediatric care

KUWAIT: In partnership with the Ministry of Health, Ali Abdulwahab Al Mutawa Commercial Co (AAW), and the Swiss multinational healthcare company Roche, announced today the successful registration and introduction of Elevidys to Kuwait, the first approved disease-modifying therapy for Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD), a rare genetic muscle-wasting disease. This achievement is part of the ongoing collaboration between the parties that aims to bring the latest advancements and cutting-edge therapies to Kuwait's healthcare sector, address unmet medical needs, and improve the quality of life for patients in the country.

Elevidys is designed to address the underlying cause of Duchenne. It targets skeletal, respiratory, and cardiac muscle expression of shortened dystrophin. The innovative therapy is a one-time treatment administered through a single intravenous dose, and represents a significant milestone in the field of Duchenne muscular dystrophy treatment, providing a convenient and effective solution for patients in Kuwait.

Kuwait Medical Genetics Centre Clinical Genetics Specialist, Dr Hadeel Alrohaif, said, "As healthcare providers dedicated to serving patients with

rare genetic disorders, we are thrilled about the registration of Elevidys as a potential treatment for Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD). This milestone directly targets the genetic cause of the condition, adding hope for improved outcomes. The registration of Elevidys in Kuwait is a crucial step in our efforts to enhance the lives of DMD patients. We eagerly anticipate its positive impact on their well-being and quality of life."

Adan Hospital Consultant Pediatric Neurologist and Head of Pediatric Neurology, Dr Sara Alenezi, said, "Kuwait's swift registration of DMD gene therapy ahead of developed countries is a testament to the dedication to pediatric care. It demonstrates a proactive approach to addressing the urgent needs of children with Duchenne muscular dystrophy, setting a commendable example for other nations in improving outcomes for pediatric patients worldwide."

Roche Country Manager, Ahmed Tawfik, stated, "Roche is proud to collaborate with the Kuwait Ministry of Health and AAW in serving patients with DMD and all patients in Kuwait. Our shared commitment to improving healthcare and providing innovative solutions drives us to work tirelessly to make a difference in the lives of patients." AAW CEO and

Chairman, Faisal Al Mutawa said, "Our partnership with Roche for over 70 years and our commitment to the Kuwait healthcare community has made us pioneers in leading Kuwait's healthcare landscape and introducing innovative medications.

The swift registration of Elevidys is a great example of our excellent cooperation with the regulatory authority at the Ministry of Health, and our commitment to enhancing patient care and providing access to innovative treatment for every patient in Kuwait." Roche is a global pioneer in pharmaceuticals and diagnostics, focused on advancing science to improve people's lives. It is the world's largest biotech company, with truly differentiated medicines in oncology, immunology, infectious diseases, ophthalmology and diseases of the central nervous system.

AAW is one of the largest trading and commercial companies in Kuwait and operates in multiple consumer, pharmaceutical, and retail sectors. The company's pharmaceutical division is one of the company's oldest divisions with operations spanning over 70 years and a portfolio of global products from global pharmaceutical companies, such as Roche. It is also one of the major suppliers to the Ministry of Health, hospitals and pharmacies in Kuwait.



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KUWAIT: Kids are pictured during KUNA's first summer media training program 'KUNA Little Club'. — KUNA photos

KUNA launches summer training program for kids

KUWAIT: The Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) on Sunday launched its first summer media training program for children under the title 'KUNA Little Club'. The program is being held at the agency's headquarters and will last two weeks with the participation of 15 children. The program aims to increase children's media awareness by developing their skills in the field of media and journalism so that they can distinguish between real and misleading news, verify official news sources, as well as hone their language

skills and the ability to write news and press reports.

The first day started with several activities, including the introduction of children to KUNA, the purpose of its foundation, its goals, the basics of integrated journalism, and skills. The guest of the magazine "Little KUNA" was hosted by the young farmer Banwan Al-Banwan, who talked about his experience in the field of agriculture.

There was also a fun science activity and a real science project. Children carried out several physical scientific experiments. The children also toured the editorial hall to get acquainted with the mechanism of work and the preparation of news materials. The training program includes several activities, including the arts of radio and television delivery, photojournalism skills, learning about media and artificial intelligence applications, and how to write news. — KUNA





Trump courts black voters in Philadelphia

US responsible for Ukrainian attack on Crimea: Russia

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JABALIA: A Palestinian family fills water from a standpipe erected in the Jabalia refugee camp, in the northern Gaza Strip on June 20, 2024. — AFP

Without food or toys, a Gaza family tries to survive

‘People are getting displaced from house to house, tent to tent, school to school’

Iranians split on presidential vote as hardships mount

TEHRAN: With less than a week remaining before a presidential election, Iranians are divided over whether voting will address pressing economic issues and mandatory hijab laws. Iranians head to the polls on June 28 to choose from six candidates — five conservatives and a relative reformist — to succeed Ebrahim Raisi, who died in a helicopter crash last month. The election comes as Iran grapples with economic pressures and international sanctions.

“They promise change, but won’t do much,” said Hamid Habibi, a 54-year-old shop owner at Tehran’s bustling Grand Bazar. “I’ve watched the debates and campaigns; they speak beautifully but need to back their words with action,” he said. Despite his skepticism, Habibi plans to vote next week.

The candidates have held two debates, each pledging to tackle the financial challenges impacting the country’s 85 million people. “The economic situation is deteriorating daily, and I don’t foresee any improvements,” said Fariba, a 30-year-old who runs an online store. “Regardless of who wins, our lives won’t change,” she said.

‘No difference’

Others, like 57-year-old baker Taghi Dodan-geh, remain hopeful. “Change is certain,” he said, viewing voting as a religious duty and national obligation. But Jowzi, a 61-year-old housewife, expressed doubts, especially about the candidate line-up. “There’s hardly any differences between the six,” she said. “One cannot say any of them belongs to a different group.”

Iran’s Guardian Council approved six candidates after disqualifying most moderates and reformists. Leading contenders include conservative parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, ultraconservative former nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili and the sole reformist candidate, Masoud Pezeshkian. Keshvar, a 53-year-old mother, intends to vote for the candidate with the most robust economic plan. “Young people are grappling with economic hardships,” she said. “Raisi made efforts, but on the ground, things didn’t change much for the general public, and they were unhappy.” In the 2021 election that brought Raisi to power, many voters stayed away, resulting in a participation rate just under 49 percent — the lowest since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Iran’s supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has urged a high voter turnout. Yet, 26-year-old shopkeeper Mahdi Zeinali said he would only vote if a candidate proves to be “the right person”. This election comes at a turbulent time, with the Zionist entity’s war on Gaza, which it claims is to destroy Iran-backed Palestinian group Hamas, along with ongoing diplomatic tensions over Iran’s nuclear program.

Compulsory hijab laws remain contentious, particularly since mass protests triggered by the 2022 death in custody of Mahsa Amini. Amini, a 22-year-old Iranian Kurd, was detained for an alleged breach of Iran’s dress code for women, who are required to cover their heads and necks and wear modest clothing in public. Despite increased enforcement, many women, especially in Tehran, defy the dress code.—AFP

JABALIA: Surrounded by a sea of rubble, the Palestinian Al-Balawi family in northern Gaza hang blankets above the ruins of their home to create a makeshift tent that provides shade from the searing summer heat. The family are struggling to feed themselves in the Jabalia refugee camp after the nearly nine months of war that have followed Hamas’s October 7 attack.

Gazans are suffering from severe shortages of supplies including food and water alongside the Zionist entity’s bombardment of the territory, forcing desperate mothers like Umm Siraj Al-Balawi to fight for their survival with no end to the conflict in sight. “There are no vegetables or fruits. No vitamin intake. When you get sick, you stay in bed for two or three weeks to recover,” the 33-year-old told AFP. “This war must stop, because it is a war of displacement. It is a war of annihilation.”

Jabalia has been hit particularly hard in recent weeks, with Zionist forces carrying out a massive bombardment campaign, part of a fierce ground offensive in northern Gaza — an area the military had previously said was out of the control of Hamas militants. Zionist forces retrieved the bodies of some hostages from Jabalia and in May and reported “perhaps the fiercest” fighting there since the start of the war.

Displaced from ‘tent to tent’

Desperation among Gaza’s 2.4 million population

has increased as the Zionist assault on the territory nears its nine-month mark, with warnings from humanitarian agencies that they are unable to deliver aid. Vital supplies of food have piled up undistributed on the Palestinian side of the Karam Abu Salem crossing, a key conduit for aid to enter Gaza.

The Zionist military says it has let supplies in and called on agencies to step up distribution. The commissioner-general of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), Philippe Lazzaraini, listed a few reasons for why aid is not getting to Palestinians — regular denials and delays by Zionist forces for coordinated movement and convoys was among them. In a post on X, Lazzaraini blamed Zionist forces and armed Palestinian group activities, in addition to insecurity for humanitarian workers and installations despite coordination with Zionist forces. Lazzaraini referred to regular denials and delays by Zionist forces for coordinated movement and convoys as another reason. He added that “a near total breakdown in law and order leading to regular looting” was also to blame for constricted aid.

The misery of Gazans has only been exacerbated by Zionist bombing raids the entity says are meant to destroy the infrastructure of Hamas. On Saturday at least 24 people died after huge strikes on two Gaza City neighborhoods. The strikes left several residential complexes in rubble, while the Zionist military said it

had targeted two Hamas military infrastructure sites. “People are getting displaced from house to house, tent to tent, school to school,” said Umm Siraj. “They (the Zionists) instructed people to head to Rafah before instructing them to evacuate Rafah. They are doing the same in Khan Younis. Until when?”

‘No house’

The Al-Balawi family’s dire situation leaves them scrabbling in a wasteland of debris for items like pillows and food. “The situation was very very difficult (before the war). And it became worse after the war,” said Umm Siraj’s husband. He pulls a pink cushion from the wreckage of buildings, passing it to his wife who beats it to clear it of dust. Elsewhere he uses a spade to claw back mounds of rubble before finding a red teddy bear for his young son.

He then leads his children through a destroyed street to get hold of much-sought-after water, before heading back to their tent where his children share some bread and beans from a bowl. “There is scarcity of food and water, we can barely find food for our children. Diseases have spread in all the areas where the displaced are gathered.” For their nine-year-old boy Siraj the horrors of war are apparent, despite his age. “We can’t find clothes. We have no clothes,” he complains. “There are no toys,” he adds, holding up a damaged doll. “We have no house.” — Agencies

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International

US responsible for Ukrainian attack on Crimea: Russia

At least 5 people killed, 124 injured in US-delivered missile strikes, Kremlin says

MOSCOW: Russia said on Sunday that the United States was responsible for a Ukrainian attack on the Russian-annexed Crimean Peninsula with five US-supplied missiles that killed at least five people including three children and injured 124 more. The Russian Defense Ministry said four of the US-delivered Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS) missiles, equipped with cluster warheads, were shot down by air defense systems and the ammunition of a fifth had detonated in mid-air.

The ministry said US specialists had set the missiles' flight coordinates on the basis of information from US spy satellites, meaning Washington was directly responsible. "Responsibility for the deliberate missile attack on the civilians of Sevastopol is borne above all by Washington, which supplied these weapons to Ukraine, and by the Kyiv regime, from whose territory this strike was carried out," the ministry said. The United States began supplying Ukraine with longer range ATACMS missiles, which have a 300-km range, earlier this year.

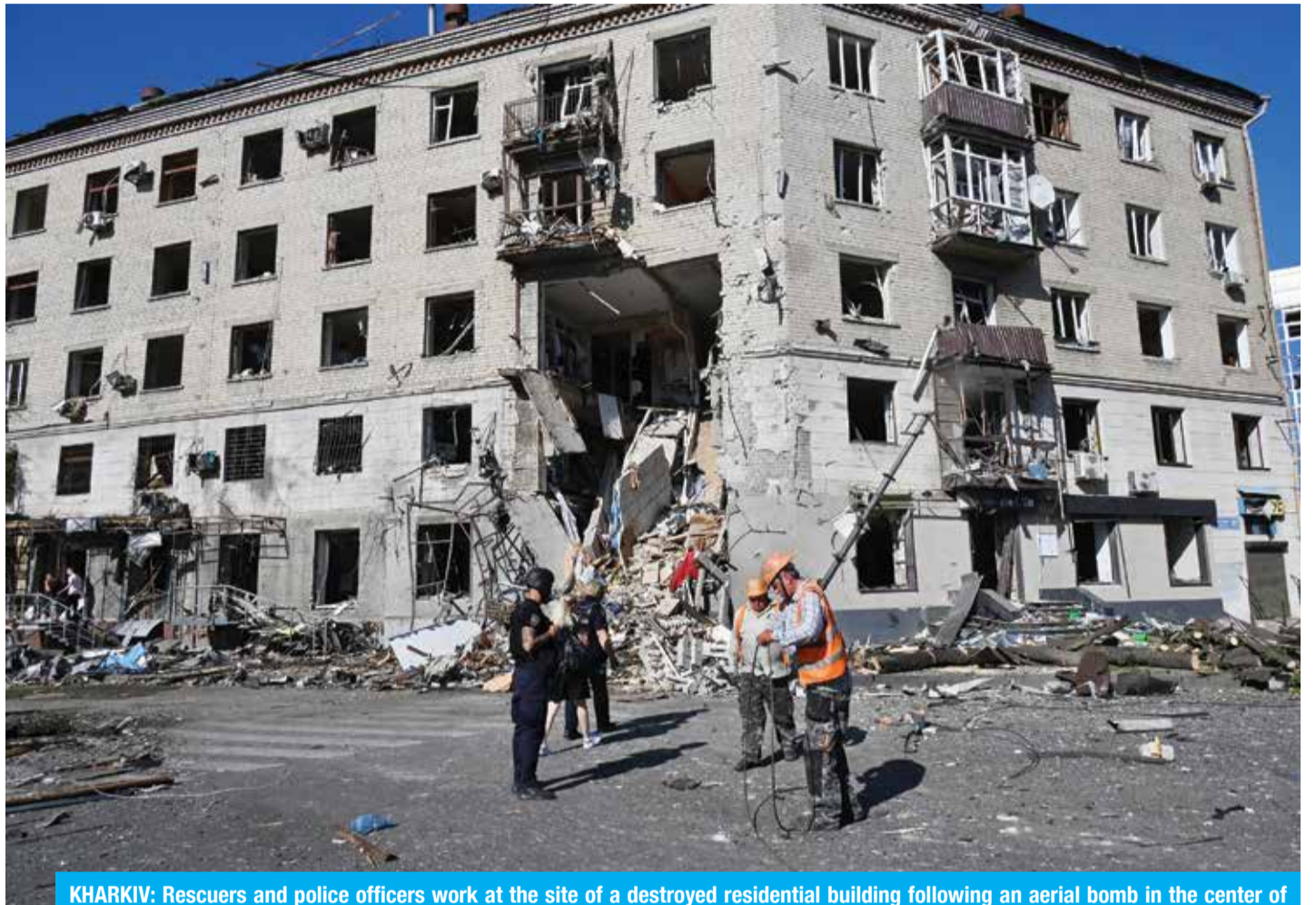
Reuters was unable to immediately verify battlefield reports from either side. Television footage on Russian state television showed people running from a beach and some people being carried off on sun loungers. Russian-installed authorities in Crimea said missile fragments had fallen just after noon near a beach on the north

side of the city of Sevastopol where locals were holidaying. At least 124 were injured, Russian Health Minister Mikhail Murashko said. The injured included 27 children, five of whom are in a serious condition, authorities said.

Russia vows response
Russia will respond to Sunday's attack, the Defense Ministry said, without elaborating. The Kremlin said President Vladimir Putin has been "in constant contact with the military" since the attack on Sevastopol. Neither Ukraine nor the United States has commented on the attack, which came on a day when Ukraine said one person had been killed and 10 others wounded by Russian strikes on the eastern Ukrainian city of Kharkiv.

Russia annexed Crimea in 2014 and now views the Black Sea peninsula it as an integral part of its territory, though most of the world considers it still as part of Ukraine. Putin has repeatedly accused the US of using Ukraine to undermine Russia's own security - something Kyiv and its Western allies deny - and has warned of growing risks of a direct confrontation between Moscow and the US-led NATO alliance.

Putin sent tens of thousands of troops into Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022, in what he cast as a defensive move against a hostile and aggressive West. Ukraine and the West say Russia is waging an imperial-style war of aggression and a land grab. — Reuters



KHARKIV: Rescuers and police officers work at the site of a destroyed residential building following an aerial bomb in the center of Kharkiv, on June 22, 2024. — AFP

Russia could reduce decision time for use of nuclear weapons

MOSCOW: Russia, the world's biggest nuclear power, could reduce the decision-making time stipulated in official policy for the use of nuclear weapons if Moscow believes that threats are increasing, parliament's defense committee chairman said. The war in Ukraine has triggered the biggest confrontation between Russia and the West since the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis, with President Vladimir Putin last month saying that Russia might change its official nuclear doctrine setting out the conditions under which such weapons could be used.

On Sunday Andrei Kartapolov, the head of the Russian lower house of parliament's defense committee, was quoted by state news agency RIA as saying that if threats increased then the decision-making time for using such weapons could be changed. "If we see that the challenges and threats increase, it means that we can correct something in (the doctrine) regarding the timing of the use of nuclear weapons and the decision to make this use," RIA quoted Kartapolov as saying.

Kartapolov, who once commanded Russian forces in Syria and now serves as a lawmaker from the ruling United Russia party, added that it was too early to speak about specific changes to the nuclear doctrine. Russia's 2020 nuclear doctrine sets out when its president would consider using a nuclear weapon: broadly as a response to an attack using nuclear or other weapons of mass destruction or conventional weapons "when the very existence of the state is put under threat."

Russia and the United States are by far the world's biggest nuclear powers, holding about 88 percent of the world's nuclear weapons, according to the Federation of American Scientists. Both are modernizing their nuclear arsenals while China is rapidly boosting its nuclear arsenal. Putin said this month that Russia had no need to use nuclear weapons to secure victory in Ukraine, the Kremlin's strongest signal to date that Europe's deadliest conflict since World War Two will not escalate into nuclear war. — Reuters

Ukraine rushes for solar panels as Russia hits its power grid

KYIV: Nazariy Gichka surveyed the roof of the Kyiv maternity hospital he runs as workers installed a scarce and suddenly vital new commodity in Ukraine: solar panels. Waves of devastating drone and missile attacks by Russian forces have again crippled Ukrainian power plants, causing blackouts and forcing Ukrainians to plan for the worst. "They are being so cynical - we need to be prepared for anything. Why should children suffer as they are coming into this world?" the hospital director told AFP.

President Volodymyr Zelensky said this week that all hospitals and schools in Ukraine must be equipped with solar panels "as soon as possible". "We are doing everything to ensure that Russian attempts to blackmail us on heat and electricity fail," he said. Gichka was already a step ahead. His hospital began work to put the panels in place in late 2022, when Russian strikes were knocking out power and heating for millions.

Demand rocketing

As a designated critical facility, the hospital is spared the planned rolling outages designed to ease pressure on the grid. Generators, and soon the solar panels, ensure the lights and incubators stay on during emergency cuts. "Patients don't know. We don't even discuss it with them. Our task is simply to make sure that they have everything," Gichka said.

Several floors below, Alina and Pavlo Kondratyuk were holding their son Maksym, born an hour before during air raid sirens that Alina barely noticed. "I had my own alarm going off here," she said, holding her newborn. Pavlo said they had been "nervous" about electricity supplies, but staff assured them the power would stay on. "So, we didn't worry about it," the 34-year-old told AFP. Russia says it does not target civilian infrastructure, but its defense ministry has acknowledged retaliatory attacks on energy sites that it says support the Ukrainian army. The war sent



KYIV: Workers install solar panels on the roof of Maternity House No 3 during a partial electricity blackout in Kyiv on June 14, 2024, following Russian strikes on Ukrainian energy infrastructure. — AFP

demand for renewable energy sources skyrocketing, said Dmytro Bondarenko, a senior researcher from the Institute of Renewable Energy in Kyiv.

It is a major shift for Ukraine, which drew just 11 percent of its energy from renewables before the war - one of the smallest shares in Europe - according to the International Energy Agency. "At the local level, people are already using it. Maybe this pressure from the ground will impact our entire energy system," Bondarenko said. Alongside the solar panel order, Zelensky this week urged the government to roll out tax incentives and loans for Ukrainians seeking to use energy-saving technology.

'Change our way of life'

But Ukrainians were rushing to source panels before Zelensky's appeal, according to Yuri Skoblikov of installers Solar Tech. "From the second when power outages started," he said, "we have just had phones

going crazy and our office was full of customers."

He said the company has a backlog of orders until August and that employees were getting calls to their personal phone numbers. Anastasiya Kyslinska, the 51-year-old director of the Spilno School in Kyiv, said they avoided the rush by installing panels in November 2022. She said they had been vital during "the most difficult times" that winter.

They allowed the school to charge power banks, laptops, keep the lights on, and even share electricity, she said. "Parents of the children and people from the neighboring houses came to charge their flashlights and power banks because we had solar panels," she recalled. Bondarenko, the renewable energy researcher, said that while solar is useful in a bind, it was less stable than traditional sources. Ukrainian authorities would need to overhaul the energy system to dramatically increase its share in the country's energy mix, he added. — AFP

Zionists tie injured Palestinian man...

Continued from Page 1

The military said: "In violation of orders and standard operating procedures, the suspect was taken by the forces while tied on top of a vehicle." He was later transferred to the Palestinian Red Crescent for treatment, it said. "The conduct of the forces in the video of the incident does not con-

form to the values of the IDF (Zionist military)," the statement claimed. "The incident will be investigated and dealt with accordingly."

Jenin has long been a stronghold for Palestinian militant groups, and the army routinely carries out raids in the city and an adjacent refugee camp. Violence in the West Bank, which had already surged before the Zionist-Hamas war broke out on Oct 7, has only escalated since. At least 553 Palestinians have been killed in the West Bank by Zionist troops or settlers since the Gaza war broke out, according to Palestinian officials. — AFP

Zionists hit Gaza aid center as...

Continued from Page 1

in blankets laid out beside the road, waiting to be taken away. "We pulled out martyrs (from beneath the rubble), one who used to sell cold drinks and another who used to sell pastries and others who distributed or received coupons," Tafesh said. "There are about four or five martyrs and 10 injured. Thank God, the condition of the injured is good."

Juliette Touma, UNRWA's Director of Communications, said the agency was looking into the details of the reported attack before providing more information. "Since the beginning of the war, we have recorded that nearly 190 of our buildings have been hit. This is the vast majority of our buildings in Gaza," she said. A total of 193 UNRWA team members have been killed in the conflict, she added.

The armed wings of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad

movement said their fighters had attacked Zionist forces in Rafah with anti-tank rockets and mortar bombs and pre-planted explosive devices. Another strike killed two people in Nuseirat in central Gaza. In Beit Lahiya in the northern Gaza Strip, health officials at Kamal Adwan Hospital said two babies had died of malnutrition, taking the number of children who have died of malnutrition or dehydration since Oct 7 to at least 31, a number that health officials say reflects under-recording.

More than eight months into the Zionist war in the Hamas-administered Palestinian enclave, its advance is focused on the two areas its forces have yet to seize - Rafah on Gaza's southern tip and the area surrounding Deir al-Balah in the center. The Zionist offensive has killed at least 37,598 people, mostly women and children.

Residents said Zionist tanks had advanced to the edge of the Mawasi displaced persons' camp in the northwest of Rafah in fierce fighting with Hamas-led fighters, part of a push into western and northern Rafah in which they had blown up dozens of houses in recent days. "The fighting with the resistance has



GAZA: A woman stands holding a child surrounded by the rubble of buildings destroyed during Zionist bombardment in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip on June 23, 2024. — AFP

been intense. The occupation forces are overlooking the Mawasi area now, which forced families there to head for Khan Yunis," said one resident, who asked not to be named, on a chat app.

The Zionist siege has deprived Gaza's 2.4 million people of most drinking water, food, fuel and other essentials. "This war must stop," said

Umm Siraj Al-Balawi, surviving in a makeshift shelter amid a field of rubble, with strung-up sheets protecting her young children from the blazing sun. "People are getting displaced from house to house, tent to tent, school to school," she said. "This is a war of displacement. It's a war of annihilation." — Agencies

International

Trump courts black voters in Philadelphia

Trump urges evangelical Christians to vote en masse for him one last time

In my view

ACD: Opportunity to deepen intra-Asian cooperation

Ali Bagheri Kani
Iran's Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs

This week, Tehran will host a ministerial meeting for Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) members states, which is hosted by Kuwait based on its emphasis on strengthening dialogue and Asian cooperation. Foreign ministers and senior officials from 35 countries, along with heads of regional and multilateral Asian organizations in addition to an official delegation from the State of Kuwait will take part in this gathering.

This significant multilateral event takes place while the Islamic Republic of Iran mourns the loss and martyrdom of two pioneers of multilateralism, late President Raisi and late Foreign Minister Dr Amir-Abdollahian who supported the upcoming meeting in Tehran with their wisdom.

The incumbent Iranian government has shown a serious and remarkable commitment, led by the martyred President and Foreign Minister, to compensate the monopolized interaction and reliance on the West by focusing on the East, fostering the Asian identity and ultimately ensuring that good-neighborliness policies serve collective development and security.

Undoubtedly, promoting regional integrity through active membership to regional and global organizations would save the international community from the harms of the dominance systems and direct it towards multilateralism as a means of realizing justice in international arena. The current Iranian administration's particular focus on the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and BRICS, which started following Iran's official membership to these two international mechanisms which are based on multilateral thinking and was continued with its active participation would be studied from the same perspective. In pursuing multilateralism, we need to take identity and aspirations into account as well, and the ACD addresses this essential need. Emerging powers' membership to this forum will further energize it in order to form its identity and enhance optimism to its promising future.

Asia and the world are still deeply saddened and shocked by the ongoing atrocities and genocide perpetrated by the Zionist regime in the Gaza Strip. The humanitarian catastrophe has been in place for more than eight months in Palestine, and the international community, hindered by the dominance system, has failed to stop the attacks against the innocent people, particularly women and children. Meanwhile, each of the ACD member states have made efforts in their turns to end these crimes, establish a ceasefire and deliver humanitarian aid to Gaza. It is still essential to make collective efforts in this regard as a step in line with the ACD objectives, which will be emphasized during the Tehran meeting. It is also noteworthy that in mid-June, during the D-8 Foreign Ministers' meeting in Türkiye, we witnessed the efforts of the member states to adopt collective stances in order to stop the attacks and end genocide in Gaza.

Established in 2002, the ACD encompasses a vast expanse of the Asian continent and its 35 member states represent 56 percent of the world's population and 35 percent of the global GDP. Through dialogue and partnership, these nations aim to develop their relations in various fields such as transportation and communication, sciences, technology and innovation, education and human resource development, food, energy, and water security, culture and tourism and inclusive and sustainable development. The Islamic Republic of Iran joined the ACD in 2004 and is considered one of its active members. Since October 2023, the Iranian late Foreign Minister was the ACD Chair. In addition to the Islamic Republic of Iran, the ACD's member states include Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Brunei, Singapore, Cambodia, Vietnam, Myanmar, Laos, Nepal, Russia, Türkiye, Japan, China, Mongolia, South Korea, India, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the UAE, Oman, Palestine, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

Forming an "Asian Community" is one of the ACD's stated aspirations. Given the rich cultural heritage and lasting values of Asia, as well as the continent's strong potential and actual economic and technological foundations, if a stronger sense of belonging to an Asian community is created among the Asian peoples, it will undoubtedly bring about a number of significant benefits. This would also encourage the Asian states to form Asian coalitions and ultimately an "Asian Union" at an appropriate time and the ACD can play a crucial role in this regard. Moreover, the impact of people-to-people interactions and the role of the private sectors in achieving these valuable goals should not be overlooked. Intra-Asian tourism, cultural exchanges and the active participation of the private sectors of the ACD member states in intra-Asian economic and trade interactions are effective drivers in this process.

As the ACD Chair, the Islamic Republic of Iran took good steps in both above-mentioned areas. Appointing Yazd as the "ACD Tourism Capital for 2024" has provided a suitable ground for hosting various Asian cultural and tourism activities. Moreover, this year, Yazd will host the meeting of the ACD tourism ministers, where they will make decisions regarding their upcoming cooperation. In May, Isfahan hosted the Chambers of Commerce from the ACD member states, resulting in conclusion of some agreements on future joint measures and the "Isfahan Pact".

The Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy includes multilateralism, good-neighborliness and collective development through regionalism. Thus, countering unilateralism and hegemony and supporting regional and extra regional multilateral mechanisms are among Iran's top diplomatic priorities. Accordingly, we availed ourselves of our capacity as the ACD Chair to foster and stabilize its dialogue and cooperation structures, and with the support of the member states and the ACD secretariat, we took some effective and positive steps in this regard. The ACD ministerial meeting in Tehran will review and decide on some of these measures and initiatives.

PHILADELPHIA: Donald Trump made two speeches on Saturday, urging Christian supporters to go to the polls for him one last time and courting black voters in Philadelphia by promising to fix a city "ravaged by bloodshed" even as data shows a decline in violent crime.

If elected in November, the Republican presidential candidate told a rally of several thousand at Philadelphia's Temple University, he would give police "immunity" to do their jobs and "surge" federal resources to cities battling violence.

Trump dismissed as "fake" FBI statistics that showed a continued drop in levels of violent crime and murder across the country in the first three months of 2024, and accused Democratic President Joe Biden of lying about the data. "Under crooked Joe Biden the City of Brotherly Love is being ravaged by bloodshed and crime," Trump said in an arena in a historically black neighborhood, addressing an audience more diverse than a typical rally, but still largely white. "Under the Trump administration we are going to bring law and order and safety back to our streets."

The promise to fight crime was part of a larger pitch to black and Hispanic people, who form more than half the city's population. The Trump campaign has been encouraged by some opinion polls showing he may be gaining ground with these voters this election cycle. As he often does, Trump portrayed migrants in the country illegally as dangerous and burdensome. He claimed, without citing evidence, that they were taking jobs from black and Hispanic workers. "Joe Biden's open border has also been a disaster for our great African-American and Hispanic-American populations," Trump said.

Trump has little chance of winning

Philadelphia, which Biden won easily in 2020. But he hopes to narrow the margin in the region, key to the tally in Pennsylvania, a hotly contested state because it can swing either to Republicans or Democrats. Trump, who has falsely claimed that systematic cheating cost him Pennsylvania in 2020, told the crowd, "Philadelphia was one of the most egregious places anywhere" for voter fraud. "We are not going to let it happen again."

State lawmaker Malcolm Kenyatta, a Democrat, said black voters remember Trump's history promoting the bigoted conspiracy theory that questioned whether Barack Obama, the first African American president, was born in the United States, and policies he pursued that hurt the black working class. "Donald Trump is in a black place, but Donald Trump does not give a damn about black people," Kenyatta said at a briefing at a Biden campaign office in Philadelphia before the rally.

Christian votes

Trump and Biden will face off in the first presidential debate of the 2024 race in Atlanta on Thursday. During a pre-rally stop at a cheesesteak shop in Philadelphia, Trump told supporters he knew whom he planned to choose as his running mate and that person was likely to be at the debate, a video posted to social media by a campaign spokesperson showed.

At an earlier event on Saturday in Washington organized by the Faith and Freedom Coalition, a conservative Christian group, the former president urged churchgoers to go to the polls for him one last time in November. "Christians go to church, but they don't vote that



PHILADELPHIA: Former US President and Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump gestures as he speaks at a rally in Philadelphia on June 22, 2024. — AFP

much. You know the power you have if you would vote," Trump said. "You gotta get out and vote. Just this time. In four years you don't have to vote, OK? In four years don't vote, I don't care."

Trump briefly mentioned the politically sensitive issue of abortion, a topic important to the group, reiterating his position that curbs on the procedure should be decided by voters on a state-by-state basis. That stance contradicts the view of most conservative Christians, and Trump's reticence to push for or even discuss additional federal regulations speaks to how sensitive the issue has become for Republicans.

Trump has repeatedly said Republicans risk electoral defeat if they take too tough a line on abortion rights. The party's lackluster performance in the

2022 congressional midterm elections has been widely blamed on the Supreme Court's Dobbs ruling that year, which removed most constitutional protections for the procedure. "Like Ronald Reagan, I believe in exceptions for the life of the mother - rape and incest," Trump said. "You have to go with your heart. You have to also remember you have to get elected."

Trump's comments on abortion appeared to receive a lukewarm reception, with some in the crowd chanting "No dead babies!" He drew applause with discussion of other proposals, such as scrapping the Department of Education, a measure favored by many conservative Christians who accuse the federal government of attacking faith-based teaching methods. — Reuters

Philippines not in business of instigating wars: President Marcos

MANILA: Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr said on Sunday his country is not in the business of instigating wars and will always aim to settle disputes peacefully, amid escalating maritime confrontations with China. "In defending the nation, we stay true to our Filipino nature that we would like to settle all these issues peacefully," Marcos said in a speech to troops of the Western Command unit in charge of overseeing the South China Sea.

Hezbollah targets Zionist barracks after commander killed

BEIRUT: Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group said Sunday it had targeted two military positions in the northern Zionist entity with an armed drone in response to the killing of a commander. For almost two weeks, tensions and cross-border fire have escalated, along with bellicose rhetoric, raising fears of a wider Middle East war.

The Zionist entity and the Iran backed Hezbollah had already been exchanging near-daily cross-border fire since the Gaza war erupted on October 7. Hezbollah's announcement of the latest cross-border attacks came hours after it published a video excerpt purporting to show locations in the Zionist entity along with their coordinates.

On Saturday, another armed group, Jamaa Islamiya, announced the death of one of its commanders, Ayman Ghotmeh, saying he was killed in a "Zionist raid" in Khiara, in Lebanon's eastern Bekaa area near Syria. The Zionist entity later confirmed it had carried out the strike, saying Ghotmeh was responsible for supplying the Fajr Forces, Jamaa Islamiya's armed wing, and Hamas with weapons in the area.

Hezbollah on Sunday said its fighters launched a strike "with an attack drone" on a military leadership position in the north of the Zionist entity "in response to the assassination carried out by the (Zionist) enemy in the town of Khiara". The Zionist military said in a statement that a drone had "crossed from Lebanon and fell in the area of Beit Hillel" but "no injuries were reported". Hezbollah later said it had also struck further south into the entity. A "squadron of assault drones" targeted the "headquarters of the newly created 91st Division in Ayelet Hashahar" near the occupied city of Safad, it said.

The Zionist military said one of its soldiers "was severely wounded" as a result of a drone strike and taken to hospital for treatment. On Tuesday the Zionist military had announced that plans for an offensive in Lebanon had been "approved and validated", after which Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah said no part of the entity would be spared in the event of an all-out war.

Hezbollah on Saturday evening published a video showing Zionist positions and coordinates, along with an excerpt of Nasrallah's speech in which he says "if

Philippine navy personnel and the Chinese coast guard had their latest clash during a routine resupply mission by Manila in the South China Sea last week, in which it said a sailor was severely injured and vessels damaged. China's Coast Guard personnel carrying knives and spears looted firearms and "deliberately punctured" Philippine boats involved in the mission, the Philippine military said. China disputed the Philippine account, with a foreign ministry spokesperson saying on Thursday the necessary measures taken were lawful, professional and beyond reproach.

Marcos, who did not name China in his speech, commended the troops for exercising restraint "amidst intense provocation", and said his country would always exercise its freedoms and rights in line with international law. "In the performance of our duties, we will not resort to the use of force or intimidation, or deliberately inflict injury or harm to

anyone," Marcos said. "We stand firm. Our calm and peaceful disposition should not be mistaken for acquiescence." Recent maritime run-ins between China and the Philippines, a US treaty ally in Southeast Asia, have made the highly strategic South China Sea a potential flashpoint between Washington and Beijing. The United States has condemned China's actions and reaffirmed its ironclad defense commitments against any attack on Philippine aircraft or vessels in the South China Sea under their mutual defense treaty.

But the Philippines said on Friday there was no reason to invoke the treaty because China's actions, which security officials have described as escalatory, could not be classified as an "armed attack". China claims almost the entire South China Sea, a conduit for more than \$3 trillion of annual shipborne commerce, including parts claimed by the Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei. — Reuters

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MONDAY, JUNE 24, 2024

UK's Manchester Airport faces cancellations after power cut

Passengers due to travel from Terminals One and Two told to 'not come to airport'

MANCHESTER: Flights departing the UK's Manchester Airport faced cancellations and severe delays on Sunday after a power cut in the area caused widespread disruption, an airport spokesperson said. A significant number of flights, particularly from Terminals 1 and 2 were expected to be delayed or cancelled, the spokesperson said.

The disruption was first reported by Sky News, which said an issue with the power supply affected the airport and a number of other buildings. Power has been restored but the impact will affect services throughout the day, the report added.

The Manchester Airports Group, which also operates London Stansted and the East Midlands airports, said Manchester Airport had been "affected by a major power cut in the area earlier this morning." Power has now been restored at the international airport in the north of England, but passengers due to travel from Terminals One and Two were told to "not come to the airport" as all flights were cancelled "until further notice".

Passengers for Terminal Three were told to come to the airport as normal, but were warned they "could be affected by delays".

The airport operator said that while passengers already checked in were scheduled to depart as planned, the disruption meant "some baggage may not be on those flights". "We will work with airlines and handling

partners to reunite affected passengers with their luggage as soon as possible", the group added.

The airline Jet2 - which operates from both terminals - said that as well as cancelling dozens of flights, it was unable to load bags onto planes as the airport's baggage system remained "inoperable".

Airline easyJet, which operates flights from Terminal One, warned of "very long queues" for security, and said passengers could only board flights with cabin bags. In addition, some arriving flights were being diverted to other airports according to the airport statement, including London Heathrow and Birmingham. Some flyers took to X, formerly known as Twitter, to describe the "chaos", with one passenger saying they had been waiting for their bags after landing after midnight and another saying they were "stuck on the plane".

The UK's travel industry has been hit by a series of disruptions in the last few years, including technical problems and industrial action affecting rail and air passengers. Last month, a nationwide outage of immigration e-gates caused long delays for thousands of passengers.

In August last year, the country faced its worst air traffic control disruption in almost ten years due to a technical fault. Meanwhile, a Boeing 777 aircraft B.A.N. operated by Dutch airline KLM AIRFPA returned to Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport on Sunday



Passengers queue outside Terminal 1 after an overnight power cut led to disruptions and cancellations at Manchester Airport in Manchester, Britain, June 23, 2024. - Reuters

after reporting an unspecified technical problem, national air traffic control said. Flight KLM705 destined for Rio de Janeiro in Brazil turned around over Belgium after requesting to land as a precaution, a spokesperson for Dutch air traffic control said. It was unclear

precisely what was wrong. KLM said the safety of passengers and crew were never at risk and that an alternative aircraft would be used for the flight. The aircraft was shown on FlightRadar 24 has having returned to Schiphol Airport. - Agencies

NBK Wealth Thought Leadership

The art of value investing: How to identify undervalued assets

KUWAIT: Value investing involves selecting stocks listed in the public markets trading at a price below their fair or intrinsic value. The concept of value investing was popularized by Benjamin Graham and the approach was adopted by many successful investors such as Warren Buffet. Stocks can become undervalued for several reasons, often related to market psychology, company-specific factors, or broader economic conditions. Regardless of the reason for a stock becoming undervalued, it represents an opportunity for a value investor to capitalize on. Fund managers use a range of techniques and metrics to assess intrinsic value and screen for potentially undervalued stocks such as price relative to earnings, book value or cash flow where a lower ratio may indicate that a stock is undervalued. The fund manager should then also evaluate the quality of the company's top and executive management, its business model, the outlook for the business, industry trends and the company's standing relative to its competitors (peer analysis) before making an investment decision.



Value investing carries risk just like all other investments, one key to long term success is to invest with a margin of safety. The margin of safety refers to the difference between the intrinsic value of a stock and its market price. It acts as a buffer against errors in estimation or unforeseen events, offering a cushion for potential losses. When buying undervalued assets, it can take time before the market recognizes their true worth and therefore value investors typically have at least a 3-5-year horizon.

Stocks that appear to be undervalued but fail to realize their potential are referred to as value traps and should be avoided by conducting thorough research to understand the company's prospects. An active manager with strong research capability can add significant value by helping investors avoid value traps and constructing robust, diversified portfolios of value stocks.

Growth stocks (stocks expected to grow at an above-average rate) typically perform better during

periods of strong stock market performance and when corporate earnings are on the rise. However, during economic slowdowns, growth stocks tend to underperform value stocks. Value tends to outperform growth during periods of weak stock market performance and in the early stages of an economic recovery. Value stocks typically offer higher dividend yields, which is particularly relevant for investors with a focus on income generation.

In recent years, value has significantly underperformed growth, leading to growth stocks being valued at near all-time highs relative to value stocks. Due to the recent outperformance, investors in the US large cap market have overweighted their portfolios towards growth stocks, driven partly by the strong performance of the so-called "Magnificent Seven". Long-term investors should be cautious of having a significant underweight exposure to value stocks, as relative valuations can vary significantly throughout an economic cycle.

In conclusion, value stocks are currently at historically low valuations compared to growth stocks, key indices are overweight growth due to recent outperformance of the growth style. A long-term horizon is key for an investor that wants to explore value opportunities and an active manager can add significant value by identifying attractive stocks and ensure a robust portfolio construction with sufficient diversification.

Beyond Nvidia: The search for AI's next breakthrough

TORONTO, Canada: For a few days, AI chip juggernaut Nvidia sat on the throne as the world's biggest company, but behind its staggering success are questions on whether new entrants can stake a claim to the artificial intelligence bonanza. Nvidia, which makes the processors that are the only option to train generative AI's large language models, is now Big Tech's newest member and its stock market takeoff has lifted the whole sector. Even tech's second rung on Wall Street has ridden on Nvidia's coattails with Oracle, Broadcom, HP and a spate of others seeing their stock valuations surge, despite sometimes shaky earnings. Amid the champagne popping, startups seeking the attention of Silicon Valley venture capitalists are being asked to innovate - but without a clear indication of where the next chapter of AI will be written.

When it comes to generative AI, doubts persist on what exactly will be left for companies that are not existing model makers, a field dominated by Microsoft-backed OpenAI, Google and Anthropic.

Most agree that competing with them head-on could be a fool's errand. "I don't think that there's a great opportunity to start a foundational AI company at this point in time," said Mike Myer, founder and CEO of tech firm Quiq, at the Collision technology conference in Toronto. Some have tried to build applications that use or mimic the powers of the existing big models, but this is being slapped down by Silicon Valley's biggest players. "What I find disturbing is that people are not differentiating between those applications which are roadkill for the models as they progress in their capabilities, and those that are really adding value and will be here 10 years from now," said venture capital veteran Vinod Khosla.

The tough-talking Khosla is one of OpenAI's earliest investors. "Grammatically won't keep up," Khosla predicted of the spelling and grammar checking app, and others similar to it. He said these companies, which put only a "thin wrapper" around what the AI models can offer, are doomed. One of the fields ripe for the taking is chip design, Khosla said, with AI demanding ever more spe-



TORONTO: HP's new Snapdragon Elite X powered laptop is used during a demonstration at the 2024 Collision tech conference at Enercare Centre in Toronto. - AFP

cialized processors that provide highly specific powers. "If you look across the chip history, we really have for the most part focused on more general chips," Rebecca Parsons, CTO at tech consultancy Thoughtworks, told AFP. Providing more specialized processing for the many demands of AI is an opportunity seized by Groq, a hot startup that has built chips for the deployment of AI as opposed to its training, or inference—the specialty of Nvidia's world-dominating GPU.

Groq CEO Jonathan Ross told AFP that Nvidia won't be the best at everything, even if they are uncontested for generative AI training. "Nvidia and (its CEO) Jensen Huang are like Michael Jordan... the greatest of all time in basketball. But inference is baseball, and we try and forget the time where Michael Jordan tried to play baseball and wasn't very good at it," he said.

Another opportunity will come from highly specialized AI that will provide expertise and know-how based on proprietary data which won't be co-opted by voracious big tech. "Open AI and Google aren't going to build a structural engineer. They're not going to build products like a primary care doctor or a mental health therapist," said Khosla. Profiting from highly specialized data is the basis of Cohere, another of Silicon Valley's hottest startups that pitches specifically-made models to businesses that are skittish about AI veering out of their control. "Enterprises are skeptical of technology, and they're risk-averse, and so we need to win their trust and to prove to them that there's a way to adopt this technology that's reliable, trustworthy and secure," Cohere CEO Aidan Gomez told AFP. — AFP

EU, China open consultations over EV tariffs

BRUSSELS: EU and China trade chiefs held "candid and constructive" talks on Saturday over plans from Brussels to ramp up tariffs on Chinese electric cars, and the two sides will hold further consultations, the EU said. The European Union warned this month that it would slap additional tariffs of up to 38 percent on Chinese electric car imports from July after an anti-subsidy probe, in a move that risks provoking a bitter trade war. An EU spokesman said European trade commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis and China's Commerce Minister Wang Wentao "had a candid and constructive call on Saturday on the EU's anti-subsidy investigation into battery electric vehicles produced in China".

"The EU side emphasized that any negotiated outcome to its investigation must be effective in addressing the injurious subsidization," spokesman Olof Gill said. "The two sides will continue to engage at all levels in the coming weeks." China's commerce ministry wrote on X that the two sides "agreed to start consultations" during the call. Brussels angered Beijing by launching the investigation last year in a bid to defend European manufacturers in the face of a surge of cheaper Chinese imports. The European Commission has now proposed a provisional hike of tariffs on Chinese manufacturers: 17.4 percent for market major BYD, 20 percent for Geely and 38.1 percent for SAIC. The EU said the amount depended on the level of state subsidies received by the firms.

Electric car producers in China that cooperated with the EU will face a tariff of 21 percent, while those that did not cooperate would be subject to a 38.1-percent duty. This would be on top of the current import duty of 10 percent. The tariffs would apply provisionally from July 4 and then definitively from November.

But the EU vowed when it unveiled its plans to hold discussions with China to "explore possible ways to resolve the issues" around subsidies. The EU tariffs, while high, are lower than the 100-percent rate the United States imposed from last month on Chinese electric cars. — AFP



ZERALDA, Algeria: Amira Messous (left) and Ibtissem Mahtout fill paper bags with produce from their farm during the Friday market at an educational farm in Zeralda, west of Algiers. - AFP

Women pioneer eco-friendly farming in Algeria

ALGIERS: Ibtissem Mahtout and Amira Messous pick fresh strawberries and tomatoes on the eco-friendly smallholding the two women are working near Algiers, a pioneering initiative in Algeria's male-dominated agricultural sector. After graduating from university four years ago, they left the capital and started working on the small patch of land in Douaouda, some 30 kilometers (18 miles) to the west.

"As soon as I'm in the field I'm happy," said Messous, 28, holding a bundle of fresh beetroot.

"From morning to night, we're here. To me, it's the most beautiful job in the world." The plant ecology and biodiversity graduates now run one of the country's rare ecological plots of land, where the produce is grown in harmony with the broader ecosystem and without using pesticides.

Messous said it was challenging at first to "have to integrate" into a sector in which most people who work the land are men. According to local media, as of last October just four per cent of workers registered with the Chamber of Agriculture in Tipaza province where their land is were women.

But some "male farmers are happy to see educated women working the land", said Messous. "They take the time to explain things to us, and it brings more value to their own work." Her 29-year-old partner, Mahtout, recalls that they launched the project with just 60,000 Algerian dinars (around \$445) - "enough to buy basic tools" - after renting the patch of land.

With the help of Torba, an association that promotes ecological farming in Algeria, they "learned to plant, to sow, to work the soil". Today, their 1,300-square-metre farm even employs one male worker full-time - and up to eight part-timers at harvest time.

When they are not in the fields themselves, the two women make full use of social media to sell their produce. On Instagram, they advertise their baskets of seasonal fruits and vegetables each week, and take orders for the produce on WhatsApp. Come Friday, the first day of the Algerian weekend, clients pick up their orders at a larger farm in nearby Zeralda, where other smallholders also sell produce including flowers. "We want to eat something healthy from time to time," said Fatma Zohra, a 72-year-old loyal customer and subscriber to the small farm's social media account.

"I found these girls very nice, and when I discovered they sell to subscribers, I wanted to encourage them." Each week, the pair sell between 10 and 30 baskets of fruit and vegetables that are in season. The farm in Zeralda where they market their produce is also educational, and runs themed programs for children. In addition to the Friday farmers' market, it is also a meeting space for local families and offers cooking classes, entertainment and cultural events. — AFP

Business

NBK MONEY MARKETS REPORT

Central banks diverge on monetary policy amid diverse economic data

US retail sales pick up, BoE keeps interest rates unchanged

KUWAIT: The US Consumer Price Index was unchanged in May 2024 on a seasonally adjusted basis after rising 0.3 percent in April. Over the past 12 months, the all-items index increased by 3.3 percent before seasonal adjustment. Shelter costs rose by 0.4 percent, and the food index increased by 0.1 percent, with a notable rise in the food away from home index. Energy prices fell by 2.0 percent, driven by a 3.6 percent decrease in the gasoline index. The all-items less food and energy index rose by 0.2 percent in May/m.m.

The Federal Reserve announced that economic activity has continued to expand at a solid pace, with job gains remaining strong and unemployment low. Inflation has eased but remains elevated. Thus, the Federal Reserve has decided to maintain the target range for the federal funds rate at 5.25 to 5.50 percent. As well as continue to reduce their holdings of Treasury securities and mortgage-backed securities to achieve maximum employment and 2 percent inflation over the longer run.

US retail sales rise in May

Retail sales in the US rose by 0.1 percent in May as seen in the month-over-month figure, higher than the previous -0.2 percent figure seen in April, while still lower than expectations of a 0.3 percent rise. Meanwhile core retail sales were unchanged from the previous month at -0.1 percent, lower than expectations of a 0.2 percent rise. The figure indicates that the US economy is losing some momentum in the consumer space even as employment data shows a resilient labor market.

The S&P Global Flash US Composite PMI rose to 54.6 in June 2024, marking a 26-month high. The services sector led the expansion, with business activity growing at its fastest pace since April 2022 where the Services PMI increased to 55.1, up from 53.4 in May. Manufacturing output also improved, though at a slower rate at 51.7 up from 51.0. Employment rose for

the first time in three months, and input cost inflation slowed to a five-month low. Future sentiment remained optimistic, though manufacturing optimism hit its lowest level in 18 months amid concerns about the demand environment and election-related uncertainty.

The eurozone's economic recovery slowed in June 2024, as indicated by the HCOB Flash Eurozone Composite PMI dropping to 50.8 from 52.2 in May. Manufacturing output fell sharply to a six-month low, with the PMI at 45.6, while the services PMI also decreased to 52.6, a three-month low. New orders declined for the first time in four months, particu-

larly impacting manufacturing. Employment growth slowed, reflecting reduced business activity. Germany showed slight growth, whereas France saw a contraction in output for the second month. The EUR/USD currency pair closed the week at 1.0691.

The Swiss National Bank lowered its policy rate by 0.25 percentage points to 1.25 percent, effective June 21, 2024. This decision was made to maintain appropriate monetary conditions amid decreasing underlying inflationary pressures. The SNB indicated that they are committed to

UK inflation

adjusting their policy to ensure inflation remains within the range consistent with price stability over the upcoming period. While inflation in Switzerland is currently driven by higher prices for domestic services, the SNB forecasts average annual inflation of 1.3 percent for 2024.

meeting. CPI inflation fell to 2.0 percent in May from 3.2 percent in March. Despite stronger-than-expected UK GDP growth, the MPC noted considerable uncertainty in labor market activity and persistent inflationary pressures.

The UK private sector experienced its slowest activity growth in seven months in June 2024. The S&P Global Flash UK PMI Composite Output Index decreased to 51.7 from 53.0 in May. The services sector growth declined to a PMI of 51.2, down from 52.9 in May, while manufacturing output increased to a 26-month high. The GBP/USD currency pair closed the week at 1.2645.

BoJ policy rate unchanged

The Bank of Japan decided to maintain the uncollateralized overnight call rate around 0 to 0.1 percent and will reduce its purchase of Japanese government bonds to ensure better long-term interest rates. While inflation expectations have risen moderately, risks remain high due to uncertainties in overseas economic activity and domestic price-setting behavior. The Bank of Japan will continue to monitor developments and adjust policies as necessary. The USD/JPY currency pair closed the week at 159.79.

New Zealand's economy is showing signs of recovery after a period of sluggish growth. In the first three months of 2024 (Q1), the economy bounced back with a 0.2 percent increase compared to the previous quarter (Q4 2023), exceeding expectations of economists who predicted no change. This marks a turning point after a series of slowdowns, with Q1 being the second quarter to show positive growth since early 2021. The expansion was driven by several sectors, including utilities like electricity and water, services like entertainment, and retail trade. Interestingly, some sectors continued to struggle, like wholesale trade which saw a slower decline than the previous quarter. Overall, the picture is mixed across industries, with 8 out of 16 experiencing growth, particularly those related to rentals, property, and utilities. Looking year-over-year, the annual growth rate also improved to 0.3 percent in Q1, reversing a slight decline in the previous quarter. While there's still a way to go, these figures offer a hopeful glimpse of New Zealand's economic recovery. The NZD/USD currency pair closed the week at 0.6118.

Kuwait

The Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) decided to keep the cash rate target unchanged at 4.35 percent and the interest rate paid on Exchange Settlement balances unchanged at 4.25 percent. Although inflation has fallen significantly from its peak in 2022, it remains above the target range of 2 percent. Headline CPI rose by 3.6 percent over the year to March, with persistent excess demand and domestic cost pressures continuing to influence inflation. The AUD/USD currency pair closed the week at 0.6639.

Rates - 23rd June 2024

Currencies	Previous Week Levels				This Week's Expected Range		3-Month
	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	Forward
EUR	1.0700	1.0668	1.0720	1.0691	1.0600	1.0730	1.0741
GBP	1.2656	1.2620	1.2676	1.2645	1.2560	1.2680	1.2655
JPY	158.93	158.66	159.79	159.79	159.00	161.00	157.59
CHF	0.8914	0.8903	0.8944	0.8937	0.8900	0.9040	0.8842

lary impacting manufacturing. Employment growth slowed, reflecting reduced business activity. Germany showed slight growth, whereas France saw a contraction in output for the second month. The EUR/USD currency pair closed the week at 1.0691.

The Swiss National Bank lowered its policy rate by 0.25 percentage points to 1.25 percent, effective June 21, 2024. This decision was made to maintain appropriate monetary conditions amid decreasing underlying inflationary pressures. The SNB indicated that they are committed to

inflation, which excludes fluctuating items like energy and food, remains stubbornly high at 3.5 percent. This suggests that underlying inflationary pressures persist within the economy, and the bank is likely waiting for further signs of price stability before considering a rate cut. This wait-and-see approach stands in contrast to the situations in the eurozone and the US, where inflation currently sits at 2.6 percent and 3.3 percent respectively.

The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) maintained the Bank Rate at 5.25 percent in its June 2024

The Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) decided to keep the cash rate target unchanged at 4.35 percent and the interest rate paid on Exchange Settlement balances unchanged at 4.25 percent. Although inflation has fallen significantly from its peak in 2022, it remains above the target range of 2 percent. Headline CPI rose by 3.6 percent over the year to March, with persistent excess demand and domestic cost pressures continuing to influence inflation. The AUD/USD currency pair closed the week at 0.6639.



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Business

Gulf Bank resumes GB Masterclass series with a session on jewelry fundamentals

Session held in collaboration with Kuwaiti designer Abrar Al-Ibrahim

KUWAIT: As part of its ongoing efforts to engage with the community, Gulf Bank has resumed its GB Masterclass series, which was initiated in collaboration with a team of experts and specialists from various fields. The latest session focuses on jewelry fundamentals and is conducted in partnership with the renowned Kuwaiti designer Abrar Al-Ibrahim.

Designer Abrar Al-Ibrahim hosted a lecture and interactive workshop at The Avenues, attracting a significant audience of women passionate about diamonds, jewelry, and gemstones. The session covered topics such as diamond and gemstone examination, selection, evaluation, and design.

Gulf Bank is committed to actively interacting and communicating with the wider community and its clients year-round. This commitment is exemplified through thoughtfully curated programs aimed at promoting sustainability principles in society. Through the GB Masterclass series, developed in collaboration with a diverse group of experienced experts and specialists, Gulf Bank addresses topics of wide interest to its audience.

It's important to highlight that last year, the bank arranged numerous lectures and workshops covering diverse fields including Makeup, Fashion Styling and Getting Ready for Ramadan.

These sessions, which catered to the interests of both the public and clients, each lasted for two consecutive hours.

The bank expressed pride in its close ties to the community, continuously working towards meeting the aspirations of both the public and clients through a variety of meaningful initiatives and events. It looks forward to introducing more initiatives in the future. Gulf Bank's vision is to be the leading Kuwaiti Bank of the Future. The Bank is constantly engaging and empowering its employees as part of an inclusive and diversified workplace in recognition of every employee's role in delivering customer excellence and serving the community at large. With its extensive network of branches and innovative digital services, Gulf Bank is able to give its customers the choice of how and where to conduct their banking transactions, all while ensuring a simple and seamless banking experience.

Gulf Bank is committed to maintaining robust developments in sustainability at environmental, social and governance levels through diverse sustainability initiatives, strategically selected to benefit the Bank both internally and externally. Gulf Bank supports Kuwait Vision 2035 "New Kuwait" and works with various parties to achieve it.



Designer Abrar Al-Ibrahim hosts a lecture and interactive workshop at The Avenues on jewelry fundamentals.

German minister urges China to shift from coal power

HANGZHOU: German Economy Minister Robert Habeck said on Sunday that China was indispensable to achieving global climate goals and must find a safe alternative to coal, which accounted for nearly 60 percent of China's electricity supply in 2023. Officials told Habeck that China was expanding coal production for security reasons, the minister told reporters in the southern city of Hangzhou, the day after meeting Chinese officials in Beijing.

"China also imports large amounts of gas and oil and China has already seen what has happened in Europe and Germany in the last two years," he added, referring to the energy crisis triggered by Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. He said cooperation with China must be strengthened, adding: "Without China it would not be possible to meet the climate targets globally."

"You don't have to teach them that CO2 emissions are bad for the climate. They've got that," Habeck said, adding that it should be possible to achieve the same level of security with fewer coal-fired power plants.

Later, Habeck told students at the university of Zhejiang that the difficulty lay in integrating variable forms of energy such as wind and solar into a system built to work on more predictable fuels, adding: "That is basically my work." He said that doubling capacities was "the old way" of doing it, but not the most efficient. China is expanding its coal production but also installed almost 350 gigawatts (GW) of new renewable energy capacity in 2023, more than half the global total.

Habeck said extension of the power grid and use of batteries to store energy could reduce the num-



German Vice Chancellor and Economy Minister Robert Habeck speaks during his visit to carmaker BMW's research and development (R&D) centre in Shanghai, China June 23, 2024. — Reuters

ber of traditionally fuelled power plants needed to meet China's needs, adding that economic growth and climate action were not opposites. "Transforming the economy to a climate-neutral one is not only good for the climate but creates new opportunities for wealth and growth," Habeck said.

Habeck had said on Saturday that the door of the European Union is open for discussions regarding EU tariffs on Chinese exports. "What I suggested to my Chinese partners today is that the doors are open for discussions and I hope that this message was heard," he said in his first statement in Shanghai, after meetings with Chinese officials in the morning in Beijing. Habeck's

visit is the first by a senior European official since Brussels proposed hefty duties on imports of Chinese-made electric vehicles (EVs) to combat what the EU considers excessive subsidies. Habeck said in Shanghai that until November, there is time for a dialogue between the EU and China on tariff issues, and that he believes in open markets but that markets require a level playing field.

The EU provisional duties are set to apply by July 4, with the investigation set to continue until Nov 2, when definitive duties, typically for five years, could be imposed. "This opens a phase where negotiations are possible, discussions are important and dialogue is needed," Habeck said. — Reuters



Apple, Meta have discussed AI partnership: WSJ

WASHINGTON: Facebook parent Meta Platforms META.O has discussed integrating Meta's generative AI model into Apple Inc's AAPL.O recently announced AI system for iPhones, the Wall Street Journal reported on Sunday. Apart from Google and Meta, AI startups Anthropic and Perplexity have also been in discussions with Apple to bring their generative AI to Apple Intelligence, the Journal reported, citing people familiar with the matter.

Apple, Meta, Perplexity and Anthropic did not respond immediately to requests for comment outside business hours. The discussions haven't been finalized and could fall through, the Journal reported, adding that deals with Apple would help AI companies to obtain a wider distribution of their products.

The size of potential financial windfall is unclear, but the talks involved AI companies selling premium subscriptions to their services through Apple Intelligence, the report said. The iPhone maker announced long-awaited AI strategy this month, saying it would integrate new Apple Intelligence technology across its suite of apps, including Siri, and bring Microsoft-backed MSFT.O OpenAI chatbot ChatGPT to its devices. — Reuters

Who profits from the soaring price of cocoa?

PARIS: Though cocoa prices on the financial markets have soared, the rise is benefiting cocoa growers, bean processors, speculators and chocolatiers in unequal measure. In March, prices rocketed to more than \$10,000 a ton in New York after a poor harvest in West Africa due to a combination of bad weather conditions and disease devastating ageing plantations.

They have since fallen back from the peak, yet are still three times higher than last year.

In Ivory Coast and Ghana, the world's largest cocoa producers, prices are set by the authorities in October on the basis of the previous months. But by that point the harvests "have already been largely pre-sold", said Tancrede Voiturez of the French agricultural research and cooperation organization CIRAD. This reduces the impact of cocoa price fluctuations—whether upwards and downwards.

As a result, small-scale producers, who generally earn barely enough to live on, did not immediately benefit from the surge.

That said, the authorities raised the price of the intermediate crop in April by 50 percent to between \$2,300 and \$2,500 per ton—a modest rise compared to what the farmers could charge on the international exchanges. In countries with less regulated systems, such as Cameroon, Nigeria, Ecuador and Brazil, growers managed to pocket more from the trend.

There, farmers have been allowed to sell their beans to buyers willing to approach the prices paid on the financial markets. But that deregulated approach comes with risks of its own.

"Soaring prices have made production more attractive," David Gonzales, coordinator of the Peruvian Chamber of Coffee and Cocoa, told AFP. The fear is that there will be an excess of cocoa in three to five years' time—the time needed for farmers hoping to cash in to grow new trees—causing prices to tumble back to earth.

The major processors who grind the beans into butter, liquor or powder—notably Switzerland's



Though cocoa prices on the financial markets have soared, the rise is benefiting cocoa growers, bean processors, speculators and chocolatiers in unequal measure. — AFP

Barry Callebaut, America's Cargill, Singapore's Olam—generally negotiate a large part of their supplies in advance. But some contracts have not been honored, forcing them to scour for urgently needed cocoa at high cost and in some cases to slow down production. Barry Callebaut reported in early April that it had drawn more than usual from its cash reserves to finance bean purchases, but had enough cocoa on hand to meet demand.

Other smaller intermediaries may find it difficult to advance the funds needed to adapt to the higher prices. Yet there is one group of middlemen who would have been delighted at the price rises.

"The smugglers would have done very nicely there," Steve Wateridge of commodity firm Tropical Research Services told AFP.

He said black marketeers could have taken advantage of the system in Ivory Coast and Ghana by buying cocoa at slightly above the fixed prices and selling the beans on the open market in Togo, Guinea, Liberia or Sierra Leone.

Cocoa prices have risen because supply has fallen short of demand for the third year running, according to the International Cocoa Organization. Investment funds that sensed the changing wind bet on higher prices, pocketing a profit in the process. But from January onwards, prices became very erratic, even beyond the liking of funds with a taste for speculation.

Many investors withdrew from the market altogether: the number of traded contracts fell from 334,000 in mid-January to 146,000 in April, according to Saxo Bank's Ole Hansen. — AFP

Wall Street Week Ahead

Rally in US big tech stocks may be getting stretched

NEW YORK: A blistering rally in US big tech stocks may be due for a breather, offering hope for market segments that have been more tepid this year. Although the S&P 500 .SPX is up 14.6 percent this year, most of the broader index's gains have been concentrated in the information technology and communications sectors - up 28.2 percent and 24.3 percent, respectively. The rest of the market has been more subdued: the next best performing sector, utilities, is only up 9.5 percent year-to-date.

Many investors believe the long-term case for tech stocks is solid, given their strong earnings and excitement over the revolutionary potential of artificial intelligence. But huge price gains, including Nvidia Corp's NVDA.O 155 percent year-to-date run, have stirred worries that the tech rally might be overheated. Market laggards such as small caps and so-called value stocks such as financials and industrials may be looking like bargains.

"Nvidia has been a rocket ship, and when things go up this quickly you don't want to be the last one through the exit door," said Michael Purves, CEO of Tallbacken Capital Advisors. "People want to be invested in this equity rally, and if they sell Nvidia the most likely places they are going to go is value and cyclical stocks." A rotation out of big tech could allay concerns of concentration that have arisen in recent weeks, as the market rally has once again narrowed to a handful of names. About 60 percent of the S&P 500's total return of more than 14 percent for the year has been driven by five companies whose shares have some of the heaviest weightings in the index: Nvidia, Microsoft MSFT.O, Meta Platforms META.O, Alphabet GOOGL.O, and Amazon.com AMZN.O, data from S&P Dow Jones Indices showed.

Some signs of big tech exhaustion emerged in the past week. Nvidia shares are down 10 percent from their peak reached on Thursday, taking the chipmaker out of its short-lived position as the world's most valuable company. Nvidia is on track for a 4 percent decline for the week, while the S&P 500 is on track for a less than 1 percent gain.

Closely watched economic data in the week ahead, including inflation data on Friday, could also affect investor positioning, as market participants gauge whether a nascent slowdown in inflation is continuing. Tech appears over-extended based on several barometers. Purves noted. The Relative Strength Indicator of the Mag6 Index, which measures the speed and magnitude of price changes in the stock market's six biggest stocks, is at the highest it has ever been, he said.

Meanwhile, the price ratio between the Nasdaq 100 .NDX and the S&P 500 Equal Weight Index .EWGSPC - a proxy for the average stock - has jumped 9 percent since the beginning of June, he said. The S&P 500, by contrast, is up nearly 4 percent this month.

Optimism is high among retail and institutional investors, which some view as a contrarian indicator because it means the bar for positive surprises is elevated. The AII Sentiment Survey was steady at 44 percent in the week ended June 19, about 8 percentage points above its historical average. Sentiment among fund managers in the latest survey by BofA Global Research was at its highest level since late 2021, with investors trimming cash positions and increasing equity allocations. The 13 percent month-to-date gain in the VanEck Semiconductor ETF SMH.O is a sign that AI-fever might have gone too far, said Larry Tentarelli, chief technical strategist at Blue Chip Daily Trend Report.

"In the near-term you could get a pullback in tech and semis, and a healthy rotation into other parts of the market that would keep this bull market going."

Even if a pullback does occur, there are few signs investors would leave tech and growth stocks for long. Betting against tech has been a losing proposition over the last decade, as the Nasdaq 100 index has advanced more than 400 percent while the Russell 1000 Value .RLV is up about 70 percent over the same time. The Russell Value index is up 5.6 percent this year. Investors have given an even chillier reception to small cap stocks, with the Russell 1000 .RUT down 0.5 percent year-to-date.

Tech could rebound fairly quickly as investors rush to buy the dip. The Nasdaq 100 took five weeks to reach a new high after falling as much as 9 percent in April. "I don't get the sense that investors are looking to ring the register on this and book gains," said Jason Alonzo, portfolio manager at Harbor Capital Advisors. "If anything, I'm seeing people who feel that they missed it trying to get in on this trend." — Reuters

Lifestyle

MONDAY, JUNE 24, 2024



Plates with grilled sausages are pictured at the city's oldest sausage stand 'Wuerstelstand LEO' in Vienna, Austria.



Patrick Bernhardt, employee at Vienna's oldest operating sausage stand 'Wuerstelstand LEO', poses for a photo with plates of sausages in Vienna, Austria.



Grilled sausages are pictured at the city's oldest sausage stand 'Wuerstelstand LEO'.

COULD BE WURST: VIENNA SAUSAGE STANDS PUSH FOR UN RECOGNITION

From top bankers and politicians to students and factory workers, Vienna's popular sausage stands heaving with bratwurst and meaty delicacies are a longstanding cultural legacy they hope to have recognized by UNESCO. The owners of 15 stands in the Austrian capital have formed a lobbying group and applied last week to have the "Vienna sausage stand culture" inscribed as intangible cultural heritage by the UN agency. "We want to create a kind of quality seal for Vienna sausage stands," said 36-year-old Patrick Tondl, one of the association's founders whose family owns Leo's Wuerstelstand - Vienna's oldest operating sausage stand.

"At the sausage stand, everyone is the same... No matter if you're a top banker who earns hundreds of thousands of euros or if you have to scrape together the last euros to buy a sausage... You meet here, you can talk to everyone," he adds. High inflation driving consumers looking for affordable



Customers queue outside the 'Wuerstelstand' sausage stand near the famous Kaertner Street in Vienna, Austria.

meals, plus a new wave of vendors with updated flavors, have helped keep the stands busy. Tondl's great-grandfather started their business in the late 1920s, pulling a cart behind him and selling sausages at night. The fami-

ly's customers have included former chancellor Bruno Kreisky, recalls Vera Tondl, 67, who runs the shop together with her son Patrick.

Leo's is one of about 180 sausage stands in Vienna today, out of a total

of about 300 food stands, selling fast food at fixed locations and open until the early hours, according to the city's economic chamber. Whereas the number of stands has remained similar over the last decade, more than a third have changed from selling sausages to kebabs, pizza and noodles, a spokesman for the chamber told AFP.

'Momentum'

But sausage stands have seen a "mini boom" in customer numbers recently, according to Patrick Tondl. Many have been drawn back to the stands by high inflation, where a meal can be had for less than 10 euros (\$11) with lower overheads than restaurants. New stand operators have also brought a "bit of momentum", said Tondl, bringing the likes of organic vegetarian sausages with kimchi. Tourists are already drawn in droves. "When you come to Austria, it's what you want to try," 28-year-old Australian tourist Sam Bowden told AFP.

The cultural legacy of Vienna's sausages is far-reaching, including the use of the term "wiener" for sausages in the United States, which is believed to have derived from the German name for Vienna, Wien. However Sebastian Hackenschmidt, who has published a photo book on the stands, said the legacy of the "Vienna phenomena" is more complex. He says that for many in multicultural Vienna, the sausage stands hold little appeal - equally for the growing number of vegetarians - and their universal appeal is something of a "myth".

"Vienna is a city in great flux... With the influx of people, cultural customs are also changing," Hackenschmidt told AFP. Some 40 percent of Vienna's two million inhabitants were born outside the country, where the anti-immigrant far-right looks set to top September national polls for the first time. — AFP



Customers queue outside the 'Wiener Wurstl' sausage stand at Graben Street in Vienna, Austria. - AFP photos



Customers enjoy their sausages at the 'Wiener Wurstl' sausage stand at Graben Street in Vienna, Austria.



Patrick Bernhardt, employee at Vienna's oldest operating sausage stand 'Wuerstelstand LEO', prepares sausages in Vienna, Austria.

Prince William celebrates birthday at Taylor Swift London concert



Fans exchange friendship bracelets as Swifties arrive to attend the concert of US singer and songwriter Taylor Swift.

Taylor Swift got the London-leg of her Eras tour off to a good start, with the UK's Prince William posting a backstage picture of them posted on social media Saturday. After celebrating his 42nd birthday at Swift's Wembley Stadium concert with his children, Prince George and Princess Charlotte, William posted their backstage selfie. The US pop sensation seemed equally enamored, posting a photo with the three royals and her boyfriend Travis Kelce. "Happy Bday M8! London shows are off to a splendid start," she wrote on X, formerly Twitter.

A widely shared video on social media appeared to show William, who is the heir to the throne, dancing ener-

getically to Swift's hit single "Shake it off". Also among the nearly 90,000 fans packed into the stadium was Labour party leader Keir Starmer, who with his wife. Starmer, who after next month's election could be Britain's next prime minister, said on Saturday that Swift "was fantastic. Absolutely fantastic".

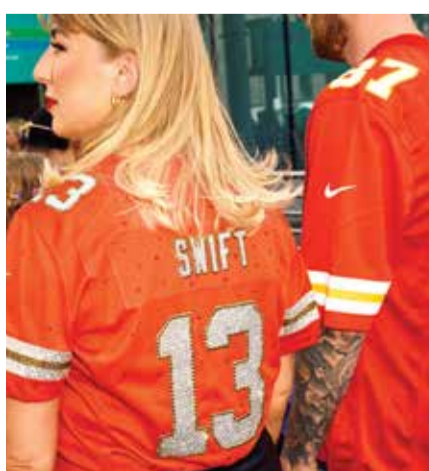
"I know I will be asked what is my favorite song and I am not going to pretend I have got every album and know every song," he told reporters on the campaign trail. "Although 'Change' is the one for obvious reasons," he added, referring to the word which is also his election campaign slogan. Swift is currently touring the UK as part of the Europe-leg of her Eras' tour. She is per-

forming two more shows in London on Saturday and Sunday before returning to the British capital again in August.

She has already played shows in Edinburgh, Liverpool and Cardiff and will be heading to Dublin next. The London Mayor's office announced on Thursday that the eight Eras' tour performances in London would generate £300 million (\$380m) for the city's economy. In the lead-up to Friday's show, the mayor unveiled several murals dedicated to Swift as well as a special Tube map with stations named after songs to mark the tour. — AFP



A fan shows off a cowboy hat reading 13 and TS in reference to the lucky number and initials of US singer and songwriter Taylor Swift as Swifties arrive to attend her concert as part of her 'Eras Tour' at Wembley Stadium, west of London.



A fan wearing American Football shirt reading "Swift 13" in reference to the lucky number of US singer and songwriter Taylor Swift wait prior to her concert.



A fan wearing a "I heart Taylor Swift" t-shirt poses as Swifties arrive to attend the concert of US singer and songwriter Taylor Swift.— AFP photos

Wolf attack at French zoo leaves woman fighting for life

Three wolves in a zoo outside Paris attacked a 37-year-old woman leaving her fighting for her life, a source familiar with the case and local prosecutors said. The woman was bitten "on the neck, the calf and the back" at the Thoiry zoo around 40 kilometres (25 miles) west of the French capital, the source familiar with the case told AFP. Maryvonne Caillibotte, chief prosecutor in Versailles, said the woman's life was in danger. The woman is believed to have gone out alone for a jog after spending the night with her family in a safari-style lodge at the zoo, which it advertised on its website at between 220 and 760 euros (\$235-810) per night.

Lodges in the wolf zone promise "silence, rest and disconnection", according to the zoo's adverts. They offer "a one-of-a-kind, very intimate experience with the arctic wolves you'll be able to see from the living room". The woman "ended up in the safari zone, which is supposed to be restricted to cars. That's where she was attacked by three wolves," Caillibotte said. She added that it was not clear "whether she made a mistake or the trail wasn't clearly marked". First responders got to the scene "very quickly", the wolves were "moved away, then returned to their area," Caillibotte said. The source familiar with the case earlier said the woman must have got through "security systems, a trench and an electric fence supposed to keep the animals in". — AFP

No-Makeup Makeup

THE CULTURAL IMPACT AND FUTURE OF NO-MAKEUP MAKEUP IN KUWAIT

The no-makeup makeup look, a beacon of natural beauty and understated elegance, has resonated deeply within Kuwaiti society and beyond. This trend, mirroring broader cultural shifts towards authenticity, wellness, and environmental consciousness, has woven itself into the fabric of Kuwait's evolving beauty ideals. Let's explore its cultural impact and envision its future amidst Kuwait's unique societal landscape.

Societal shifts in Kuwait

Embracing Authenticity: In Kuwait, a country rich in tradition yet rapidly embracing modernity, the no-makeup makeup look aligns with growing preferences for authenticity in beauty. This trend reflects a broader shift towards valuing genuine self-expression, moving away from ostentatious displays of wealth and status in favor of a more grounded and realistic portrayal of self.

Wellness and Self-Care: The emphasis on skincare inherent in the no-makeup makeup trend echoes the global and local uptick in wellness culture. In Kuwait, where the harsh climate demands rigorous skincare routines, this trend has emphasized the importance of healthy skin as the ultimate foundation, promoting routines that prioritize skin health over temporary cosmetic fixes.



Eco-Conscious Beauty: The minimalist nature of the no-makeup makeup look encourages a reduction in product use, aligning with a growing environmental awareness in Kuwait. This trend supports the burgeoning interest in sustainable and ethically produced beauty products, resonating with a nationwide push towards more eco-friendly lifestyles.

Celebrity and influencer impact

In Kuwait and across the Middle East, celebrities and influencers wield



significant influence over beauty trends. The adoption of the no-makeup makeup look by prominent figures has played a pivotal role in its popularity. These influencers showcase how beauty can be both aspirational and attainable, providing inspiration and practical advice on achieving this look through social media platforms. Their endorsement of the trend has not only popularized it but also legitimized it as a choice that balances modern beauty standards with cultural modesty.

The future of no-makeup makeup in Kuwait

Looking ahead, the no-makeup makeup trend is poised to evolve in response to changing societal norms, technological advancements, and global environmental challenges.

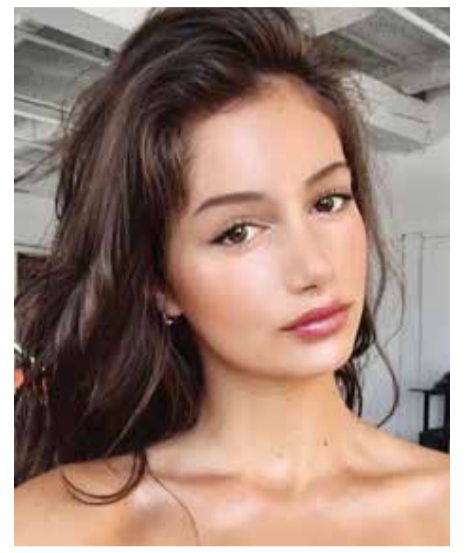
Innovation in Beauty Products: The demand for high-quality, skin-friendly makeup products is likely to drive innovation, with brands developing more sophisticated formulas that offer natural coverage, sun protection, and hydration suited to Kuwait's climate.

Educational Platforms and Workshops: As interest in this look continues to grow, we can anticipate a rise in educational resources, including workshops and online platforms dedicated to teaching the techniques and philosophies behind the no-makeup makeup trend.

Sustainability at the Forefront: The future will likely see a stronger emphasis on sustainability within the beauty industry, with Kuwaiti consumers demanding products that are not only effective but also ethically sourced and packaged.

Conclusion

The no-makeup makeup trend has transcended its status as a mere beauty preference, embedding itself into the cultural and societal fabric of Kuwait. It reflects a nation in flux, one that honors



its traditions while navigating the waters of global beauty trends. As Kuwait continues to embrace this look, it signifies a broader move towards authenticity, wellness, and environmental responsibility in beauty and beyond. The future of no-makeup makeup in Kuwait is bright, promising a continued celebration of natural beauty in its most genuine form. Get more inspiration by visiting our website <https://dashebeauty.com> or follow up at our beauty blog. -Dashe Beauty Kuwait

Locals protest against Turkish island's 'monstrobuses'

Ibrahim Aycaan has been waging all-out war against the electric minibuses newly introduced on the car-free island of Buyukada, which he says threaten his corner of paradise on the southern shores of Istanbul. "We live a peaceful life here," said Aycaan, a lawyer and head of the Association of Friends of the Island. "These vehicles sadden us. Let people walk and cycle!" Buyukada is one of the Princes' Islands, a popular destination for tourists and a retreat for many of Istanbul's 16 million inhabitants.

Motor vehicles are prohibited on the islands, except for essential services, and even horse-drawn carriages were banned in 2020 to protect the local wildlife. But the controversial new minibuses, with a capacity of 12 people, went into service on June 15, driving through the narrow alleys of the islands. As one of the protest leaders against the new mode of transport, Aycaan uses his body as a roadblock whenever he comes across one of these "monstrobuses"—a name given by islanders in Buyukada—the largest of the Princes' Islands, in the Sea of Marmara. "I saw a bus on the way to my home yesterday. I had an appointment but I froze in front of it for half an hour," Aycaan said.

Losing identity

Eight protesters were detained on



Lawyer and head of the Association of Friends of the Island Ibrahim Aycaan, 47, is protesting to stop new minibuses on the island of Buyukada, in Istanbul.

the first day, and locals have staged demos daily and spontaneously since. Kamer Alyanakyan, 58, has spent every summer on Buyukada since his childhood, which is home to white wooden villas with gardens filled with colourful Bougainvillea plants. "Nobody asked our opinion. The island's streets are pedestrian, and we don't want to lose that

identity," said Alyanakyan. He has been knocking on doors to persuade residents to sign a petition calling for the removal of the minibuses.

Mehmet Can, whose cafe is a 40-minute walk from the pier, admits the new buses could have been "smaller" but he says they are "more comfortable". Above all, he sees them as "necessary

in summer" because tens of thousands of people flock to the islands daily. "(Authorities) will not throw them away just because a bunch of people are barking," he said.

Resisting 'pressure'

Istanbul Municipality, run by the opposition CHP party, has defended the minibuses and said that public transport is "indispensable for the island's inhabitants", especially the elderly. It also argued that these minibuses are accessible to people with disabilities, unlike the existing small electric shuttle service. Istanbul's city council, a non-profit body that is in close dialogue with the municipality, has opposed minibuses. "We support the islanders who want to defend their pedestrian streets," the council said.

In the 1930s, cars were banned on the islands and since 1984, it has been a pedestrian zone and a protected area. Alyanakyan is convinced that the municipality will eventually back down. The activist will join a festival in July on Mackinac Island near Detroit—America's car capital—which is known for its car-free roads. "I'm going to talk to people, to the authorities over there," he said. "I will ask them: 'How did you hold up? How did you resist the pressure?'" —AFP



Belgium fashion designer Dries Van Noten gestures to the public during the Menswear Ready-to-wear Fall-Winter 2023-2024 collection show for Dries Van Noten at Paris fashion week on January 19, 2023. — AFP

Dries Van Noten bids farewell to florals and the fashion world

Fashion great Dries Van Noten presented his very last show in Paris on Saturday to end a glittering 40-year career. The universally respected Belgian, nicknamed the "Flemish master of fashion", took everyone by surprise when he announced his decision to quit this year. Few fashion designers retire at the age of 66 in good shape and with a healthy business, as he recently told the New York Times.

"I feel it's time to leave room for a new generation of talents to bring their vision to the brand," he wrote in an open letter on Instagram. He went on to say that he wanted to enjoy all the things he never had the time to do. On top of his design business, Van Noten will also be leaving behind the beauty and perfume lines that he had created. "After the men's show, I'm going to have another email address," he told the New York Times. "I'm not going to be @driesvannoten anymore. I have to find an Instagram name now, because my Instagram is Dries Van Noten, and that is the brand. It's strange. That I didn't see coming."

'Flowers come up everywhere'

No details have been released about the spring-summer 2025 show, which will take place in La Courneuve, north of Paris. It is expected to be a celebration of Dries Van Noten style: garments cut to perfection, clashes of color and bursts of fabric and print. "I'm a gardener, so flowers automatically come up everywhere: symbolic flowers, simply their colors, or real flowers," he told AFP in 2014. He went on to say that he draws a great deal of inspiration from his travels—in particular to India—and from art. "The starting point for a collection can be very literal or very abstract: a painting, a color, someone's thoughts, anything at all," he told AFP.

At the end of February, Van Noten showcased a women's collection marked by a touch of dreaminess in pastel colors and loose silhouettes like nightwear. It also featured bags as soft as cuddly toys, all presented in a construction site in Paris—where he has been putting on shows since 1993. The collections that will follow, including a women's collection due in September, will be created by the team at his studio, with whom he has worked for years. —AFP



Electric golf carts depart from the bus stop on the island of Buyukada, in Istanbul.



A new minibus carries passengers on the island of Buyukada, in Istanbul.



Young girls ride bicycles on the island of Buyukada, in Istanbul.



New minibuses are parked on the island of Buyukada, in Istanbul. — AFP photos



A visitor looks at her phone during a press preview for the "Naomi" exhibition.



An assistant looks at dresses on display during a press preview for the "Naomi" exhibition.

LONDON'S V&A CELEBRATES NAOMI CAMPBELL, 'FASHION LEGEND'

In 1987, Naomi Campbell became the first black model to grace the cover of UK Vogue in 20 years, and her trailblazing career is now being recognized by London's Victoria and Albert Museum. Campbell was such a fixture on catwalks in the 1990s that she was referred to by her first name only, just like fellow supermodels Claudia Schiffer, Cindy Crawford, Christy Turlington and Linda Evangelista. She remains a highly influential figure in the industry and is the first supermodel to have a V&A exhibition dedicated to her.

The "NAOMI In Fashion" show, which opens on Saturday, explores the dozens of looks that have marked the history of fashion during Campbell's 40-year career. Born in 1970, Campbell saw herself as a dancer, like her mother, when she was a child. Aged 15, an agent spotted her in London's Covent Garden and two years later she had already appeared on several fashion magazine covers and in shows in New York, Milan and Paris.

'Peerless'

Some have questioned the choice of the V&A, a revered art and design museum, to dedicate an exhibition to a model. But curator Sonnet Stanfill said: "The best fashion models are not simply models. They serve as creative inspiration and they are creative collaborators. "Naomi Campbell's peerless walk and



A car corset and sequin skirt made by French fashion designer Thierry Mugler are displayed during a press preview for the "Naomi" exhibition.

her alchemy in front of the camera are the stuff of fashion legend," she added.

Stanfill interviewed the model for hours as part of her preparation for the exhibition. "She has an incredible memory. She remembers where she was when she was wearing something, who she was with, where she went out that night," she added. She was also allowed to dig through Campbell's personal collection, including accessories, photos, clothes and even Concorde tickets between London and New York. A section is dedicated to the great fashion designer Azzedine Alaïa, who died in 2017, with whom she

lived from the age of 16 when she was in Paris and whom she called "papa".

He found a muse in what he called her "perfect body". Campbell also praises designer Yves Saint Laurent in the show, whom she said "really helped women of color and changed the course of my career". "God bless Yves," she added in quotes that appear on the label describing the feather dress the London-born model wore for a 1987 autumn/winter show - her first for the French designer. Saint Laurent famously threatened to withdraw his advertising from Vogue if it did not place Campbell on the front of

its French magazine in 1988. As a result, she became its first black cover star.

The show also features magazine front-pages projected onto the wall and video broadcasts of her best-known shows for the biggest fashion houses. Designer Vivienne Westwood's 1993-era look, which required Campbell to wear 15-centimetre (six-inch) platform shoes, is also on display. The shoes infamously led to her taking a tumble on the catwalk, with the picture of her laughing after her fall from grace going around the world, helping to soften her icy image.

Pioneering

Campbell did have a reputation for her temper. In 2007, she was sentenced to five days of community service in New York after having thrown her phone at an assistant. The paparazzi were waiting every morning she turned up for her community service, and a symbol of her defiance is featured in the exhibition.

"When the last day came, I decided I wanted to walk out and leave with my head held up high. I chose to wear this," she said, pointing to a Dolce & Gabbana evening dress. But it is her pioneering work in opening up the industry to black models, which began in 1988 when she campaigned for equal pay, that underpins the exhibition. While this is a retrospective, Campbell, now 54, continues to model, recently appearing on the catwalk



Dresses are displayed during a press preview for the "Naomi" exhibition.

for Burberry. The exhibition ends with tips on how to "walk like Naomi", with a podium set up for budding supermodels to practice on. "Shoulders back... move with the music" and "focus your gaze on the camera," she advises. — AFP



Photographic transparencies by British fashion photographer Robert Fairer are displayed through a magnifying loop during a press preview for the "Naomi" exhibition exploring the career of fashion model Naomi Campbell, at the Victoria & Albert (V&A) museum, in London. - AFP photos



Dresses are displayed during a press preview for the "Naomi" exhibition exploring the career of fashion model Naomi Campbell, at the Victoria & Albert (V&A) museum, in London.



A dress is displayed during a press preview for the "Naomi" exhibition.



Paris Fashion Week outsider highlights

As well as the usual big-hitters at the menswear shows of Paris Fashion Week, there were some unexpected moments from emerging and avant-garde brands. Here are a few highlights:

Friot's loud love

One new name creating buzz in France is young designer Jeanne Friot. In a collection sponsored by Tinder, she stripped down gender codes with risque fishnet-dresses and fun innovations like a dress made entirely of belts, or another of tiny love-locks. One model came out with the words "Love Louder" painted on his bare chest.

A\$AP-style

A\$AP Rocky, rapper and partner of Rihanna, launched a surprise with his first-ever clothing collection on Friday. The gangster vibes were strong, with models in balaclavas, cakes with sugar like lines of cocaine and luxury cars parked in the courtyard of a private hotel. The rap elite were present, including Colombian icon Maluma, while Rihanna emerged in an evening dress and leather coat. The clothes themselves combined baggy, XXL street wear plastered

with the brand name American Sabotage AWGE. The line may help with his legal fees - he is currently facing prosecution for allegedly shooting his former friend Terrell Ephron.

Rick Owens blockbuster

Rick Owens, the master showman of avant-garde art-fashion, excelled himself with his latest show, a homage to golden-era Hollywood historical epics at the Palais de Tokyo. Instead of single-file, the models emerged in massed ranks, looking like a cross be-

tween fascist platoons, Ancient Roman processions and "Dune"-style otherworldly monks in their white gowns and hoods or pharaonic headdresses. "It was a display of Rick's incredible talent and showmanship, creating a fashion moment that won't soon be forgotten," said Harrods buyer Simon Longland.

Beirenbonkers

Even by his own whacky standards, Walter Van Beirendonck pushed the limits of taste, with outfits that looked like pompom-laden devil clowns. The Belgian



Models present creations during the Jeanne Friot Spring/Summer 2025 menswear ready to wear show as part of the Paris Fashion Week, in Paris. — AFP



Sports

Afghanistan stun Australia with 21-run T20 WCup win

Australia have to win their final match against unbeaten leaders India on Monday

ARNOS VALE, SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES: Gulbadin Naib was Afghanistan's man with the golden arm, bowling his team to a surprise 21-run victory over previously unbeaten Australia in their Group One Super Eight encounter in the T20 World Cup at the Arnos Vale Stadium on Saturday.

Set a target of 149, Glenn Maxwell (59 off 41 balls, six fours, three sixes) had the Test and One-Day champions on course until he became Gulbadin's third wicket in the 15th over, opening the door to a result which keeps the duel for semi-final spots alive going into the final two fixtures in the group on Monday.

Gulbadin finished with four for 20 from his four overs of medium pace to turn the match as Australia suffered their first-ever defeat to the Afghans in a senior international encounter, being dismissed for 127 with four balls left in the match.

"It is a great moment for me, my nation, my people," said an exultant Gulbadin on receiving the Man of the Match award. "I learned a lot about the pitch from when we batted and I am glad that (captain) Rashid (Khan) had faith in me."

Earlier, Pat Cummins claimed his second hat-trick in as many matches as Afghanistan lost momentum after another century opening stand from Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Ibrahim Zadran, settling for a total of 148 for six having been put in.

A top score of 60 off 49 balls (four fours, four sixes) by Gurbaz and 51 off 48 balls (six fours) from Zadran gave the Afghans an excellent platform of 118 — their third century partnership of the tournament — by the 16th over.

But having ridden their luck via half-chances and misfields in gaining the ascendancy, four wickets for eight runs put the innings back in the balance. Marcus Stoinis made the breakthrough and leg-spinner Adam Zampa applied the brakes with two wickets.

Yet it was Cummins, who claimed a hat-trick against Bangladesh in Antigua on Thursday, who essentially switched off the Afghanistan innings with the wicket of Rashid Khan at the end of the 18th over before adding Karim Janat and eventual hero Gulbadin at the start of the 20th over.

"It was an off night for us in the field and we own that," conceded Australian captain Mitchell Marsh. "We knew it was a difficult wicket but both teams bowled on it, both teams batted on it and we were simply outplayed by a better team on the night."

In reflecting on a historic night for his team, Rashid acknowledged the reward of returning to the opening pair of Gurbaz and Zadran. "It was important to return to the previous playing eleven after we tried a few different things in the last match against India," he explained. "We had in our minds that 140 was a good total on this wicket. The belief was there and as a captain, having so many bowling options like Gulbadin makes the job easier."

With two teams from the group advancing to the semi-finals, Australia will now have to win their final match against unbeaten leaders India in St Lucia on Monday to be assured of a place in the last four. Afghanistan, also on two points like Australia, will stay in St Vincent where they face Bangladesh later on Monday by which time they will know what is required to qualify for the semi-finals for the first time. — AFP



ARNOS VALE, SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES: Australia's Glenn Maxwell (L) hits a four as Afghanistan's Rahmanullah Gurbaz (R) watches during the ICC men's Twenty20 World Cup 2024 Super Eight cricket match between Afghanistan and Australia at Arnos Vale Stadium in Arnos Vale, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. — AFP

Kuwait making great strides in showjumping

KUWAIT: Executive Director of Sharjah Equestrian and Racing Club Ashraf Elliathy, and Director of Showjumping in the 7th regional group which includes Arab countries along with Kuwait, said Kuwait has highly outstanding riders, including those who are making distinguished results in the Asian Championships.



Ashraf Elliathy

Elliathy said during a statement on the sidelines of the Equestrian showjumping league championship that a proposal was presented by the seventh group and we are waiting for its adoption by the international federation, and this will be a new addition to group seven finals for the age groups, so that this group becomes an official continental championship and includes singles and teams competitions, and will be held for the first time in the world.

He said Kuwait Equestrianism is continually developing, and that he participated in judging several Kuwaiti championships.

Young fires 59 but Korea's Kim leads US PGA

NEW YORK: Cameron Young became the 12th player in US PGA Tour history to break 60 for a round on Saturday, but his 11-under 59 still left him chasing Travelers Championship leader Tom Kim. Young had walked off the course with a share of the lead early in the third round at 13-under 197 at TPC River Highlands in Cromwell, Connecticut.

But South Korea's Kim, who took a two-shot lead into the round, shook off a near three-hour rain delay to card a second straight 65, his 18-under total of 192 putting him one stroke in front of world number one Scottie Scheffler and Akshay Bhatia, who both carded 64s.

Kim shook off an early three-putt bogey, coming up with six birdies on the rain-softened course and salvaging par from a fairway bunker at 18 as darkness fell to keep his nose in front. Scheffler, who won his second Masters title in April had two bogeys after the weather delay, but closed with four straight birdies to put himself in the hunt.

"I was pretty frustrated after that bogey on 14," Scheffler said. "Felt like I was putting myself out of the tournament. So it was nice to bounce back and finish it the way I did." Bhatia a two-time PGA tour winner, rolled in a 26-foot birdie putt at 18 for his share of second.

Xander Schauffele carded a 63 to share fourth on 194 with South Korean Im Sung-jae. Collin Morikawa was a further stroke back on 195 and another three players were tied on 196. Kim said Sunday in front in what promises to be a Sunday shootout would be "all about just execution."

"I'm going to go out tomorrow with the same game plan and try to do the things that I've been doing and if it's good enough, it's great, but if someone's better than that, I can't do anything about it."

Young, runner-up at the 2022 British Open, was five shots off the pace after seven birdies and two eagles. "It's certainly pretty cool," Young said. "It's fun to have your name on a list that short." But, he said, he'll "pretty much try to forget it" on Sunday as he pursues a first US PGA Tour title. — AFP

Kuldeep, Pandya lead India to 50-run rout of Bangladesh at WCup

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA: Leg-spinner Kuldeep Yadav took three key wickets while Hardik Pandya blasted an undefeated half-century as India moved to the brink of the T20 World Cup semi-finals with a 50-run rout of Bangladesh on Saturday.

Chasing 197 for victory, Bangladesh lost three of their top five batsmen to Kuldeep who removed Tanzid Hasan (29), Towhid Hridoy (four) and Shakib Al Hasan (11). Kuldeep finished with an impressive 3-19 from his four overs.

India now have two wins from two Super Eight games and will be guaranteed a semi-final spot if Australia defeat Afghanistan later Saturday and also make the last four from Group 1. Pandya, who had made 50 when India batted, started the slide when he took the first Bangladesh wicket, tempting opener Liton Das (13) to sky a chance.

Once skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto fell to Jasprit Bumrah for a 32-ball 40, Bangladesh's hopes went with him. Bumrah also ended Rishad Hossain's brief 24-run cameo as the veteran seamer enjoyed figures of 2-13 in four overs before the Tigers finished their 20 overs on 146-8.

"Our top score was 50, and we still got 196," said India captain Rohit Sharma. "In T20 you don't need fifties and hundreds, what matters is the pressure you put on the bowlers. That's how we want to play."

He added: "Hardik batting well, the way he did today, puts us in a very good place. We all know what he can do, and today was the perfect example of that. He's a very important player for us, with bat and ball."

Put in to bat, 2007 champions India saw five of their



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA: India's captain Rohit Sharma hits a four as Bangladesh's Liton Das watches during the ICC men's Twenty20 World Cup 2024 Super Eight cricket match between India and Bangladesh at Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in North Sound, Antigua and Barbuda. — AFP

top six batsmen reach double-figures. All-rounder Pandya top-scored with an undefeated 50 off just 27 balls with four boundaries and three sixes. India had raced to 71-1 in seven overs with Sharma making a rapid 23 and Virat Kohli hitting his tournament best 37 off 28 balls with one four and three sixes.

The only blip was Suryakumar Yadav, who had made back-to-back fifties in his last two innings, scoring just six. Those runs came off the first ball he faced before falling to Tanzim Hasan Sakib who had dismissed Kohli in the same over.

Japan's 22-year-old Miyu Yamashita, who 11 wins on the LPGA Japan Tour, fired a 70 to share second on 211 with Lauren Hartlage. World number 272 Hartlage, a 26-year-old American who has never managed a top-five LPGA finish, shot a bogey-free 69. "I've been hitting the ball pretty well and fairways are pretty tight so giving yourself good position on every hole is real important," said Hartlage. "Made a couple good par putts, stayed patient all day." American Sarah Schmelzel, who shared the lead when the day began, was fourth on 212 despite a 74.

A fifth-place pack on 213 included Americans Caroline Inglis, Lexi Thompson and Lilia Vu plus South Korean Ko Jin-young and Japan's Hinako Shibuno. World number 25 Yang sank a birdie putt from just beyond eight feet at the ninth to take a one-stroke lead over Schmelzel at the turn.

Yang reached the green in two at the par-5 11th and made a birdie putt from just inside five feet to reach seven-under and when Schmelzel missed a nine-foot par putt at 12, Yang's lead stretched to three shots.

Japan's Miyu Yamashita sank a 19-foot birdie putt at the 14th and American Lauren Hartlage birdied 16 to each pull within two of the lead. Yang found left rough off the 16th tee and was short of the green on her approach, then missed a downhill seven-foot par putt to see her lead

Bull ace by a mere two hundredths of a second.

"Today was the perfect lap," said Norris after only his second career pole. "My best lap by a long way, I knew I had to do something perfect, it was probably my best lap ever." Norris produced his one minute 11.383 seconds of magic after a "stressful" day when the McLaren hospitality unit caught fire before third practice. McLaren team boss Zak Brown told Sky Sports one staff member had to go to hospital but had been discharged, adding: "Happy to report everyone is fine." "I lost my shoes. It's all been a bit messy," said Norris. "I like to listen to my music loud beforehand, but didn't have that this time. But it's not the end of the world. I'm not going to complain about it."

Turning back to a vintage qualifying session, Norris, whose only other pole came in Russia in 2021, reflected: "It's been a while since Sochi! Max seemed a bit stronger today, but we made some changes," added the Briton who

Rishabh Pant cracked 36 off 24 balls with Shivam Dube making 34 -- 18 of those runs coming from three sixes. "I think we had a lot of batting options today, but we didn't show the intent we needed," admitted Shanto.

India beat Afghanistan by 47 runs in their Super Eight opener in Bridgetown while Bangladesh lost to Australia by 28 runs in a rain-hit clash in Antigua. India have now won all five T20 World Cup clashes against Bangladesh and taken their overall head-to-head record to 13-1. — AFP



SAMMAMISH: Amy Yang of South Korea reacts to a putt on the 17th hole during the third round of the KPMG Women's PGA Championship at Sahalee Country Club. — AFP

trimmed to one stroke.

But Yang answered at the par-3 17th with a 37-foot birdie putt that restored her two-stroke edge and she parred the last, missing a birdie putt from just inside six feet. — AFP

won his maiden Grand Prix in May in Miami.

"I'm super happy to be on pole, it's going to be tough but we're here to win!" Verstappen, targeting a fourth straight world title, leads the championship by 56 points from Ferrari's Charles Leclerc, who starts Sunday's race in fifth, with Norris seven points back in third.

"I think the whole of qualifying was better than practice for me," said Verstappen, who won his maiden Grand Prix in Barcelona in 2016 and is on a hat-trick after wins in Catalonia in 2022 and 2023. "It all clicked much better. The other teams are catching up, we need to bring more performance to the car." Ferrari-bound Hamilton was happy to be towards the front of the grid as he out-qualified his teammate Russell for only the second time this year. "It's good to be back up here, great to see we are progressing," he said. "We are slowly climbing closer to the guys in front, it's really on a knife edge." — AFP

Sports

Super subs give Venezuela win over 10-man Ecuador, Mexico edge Jamaica

Mexico face Venezuela on Wednesday with Jamaica up against Ecuador

SANTA CLARA: Goals from substitutes Jhonder Cadiz and Eduard Bello gave Venezuela a 2-1 win over 10-man Ecuador in their Copa America Group B match on Saturday. In the group's other game, Mexico made a winning start to their campaign with a 1-0 victory over Jamaica in Houston but lost their captain Edson Alvarez to injury.

Ecuador were forced to play with 10 men from the 22nd minute of the game at Levi Stadium when striker Enner Valencia was sent off for dangerous play.

The 34-year-old forward struck the chest of Venezuela defender Jose Martinez with his boot while challenging for a high, bouncing ball in the box and was initially awarded a yellow card but after a VAR review he was shown a straight red.

Ecuador, which had been in control of the game before the dismissal, responded well and went ahead in the 40th minute when Venezuela failed to clear a free-kick into the box and Jeremy Sarmiento pounced on the loose ball to drill home.

Venezuela head coach Fernando Batista made two changes at the break, bringing on Cadiz and Bello and both were to make a decisive impact.

"Vinotinto" striker Salomon Rondon laid the ball off to Cadiz, whose low side-footed shot from the edge of the box took a slight deflection as it flashed past Ecuador keeper Alexander Dominguez.

Then, in the 74th minute, Alexander Gonzalez whipped in a cross from the right, met with a diving header from Rondon which was parried by Dominguez but Bello reacted to fire home the loose ball.

"To be able to score a goal, which helped in the victory, and to have contributed to the first goal, is a joy. These three points are very important for what's

to come," said a delighted Bello. Ecuador's Spanish coach Felix Sanchez said the red card for Valencia had forced him to change the team's approach.

"We had to change the plan, wait a bit behind the opposition. It's clear that when you play with 10 men you are at the mercy of the opposition for many minutes, even if you don't want to play that way," he said.

"Obviously it's not the dream start, but there are two more games left and we have the team to compete. The most important thing is that the team recovers its spirit for what is to come."

Artega goal lifts Mexico

Mexico labored for long stretches against Jamaica before a superbly struck 69th minute goal from Gerardo Artega earned them the three points.

Jaime Lozano's team suffered a major blow when their skipper, West Ham midfielder Alvarez had to go off in the 29th minute after going down without contact. 'El Tri' struggled to create opportunities in the opening half with their best effort, a curling shot just wide from Luis Romo, just before the break.

Jamaica thought they had the lead in the 50th minute but Michail Antonio's diving header was ruled out for offside after a VAR review.

That let-off woke up the Mexicans who pushed forward with greater purpose. Luis Chavez forced a good save out of Jamaica keeper Jahmali Waite and Julian Quinones fired over the bar after cutting in from the left.

Waite was alert again to keep out a Santiago Gimenez near post blast as the pressure built and finally Mexico got the breakthrough when the ball fell to Artega on the edge of the box and he blasted a



HOUSTON: Jamaica's goalkeeper #23 Jahmali Waite kicks the ball away from Mexico's forward #22 Guillermo Martinez during the Conmebol 2024 Copa America tournament group B football match between Mexico and Jamaica at NRG Stadium in Houston, Texas. — AFP

perfectly struck half-volley into the far corner.

Jamaica had one last opportunity to salvage a point but Dexter Lembikisa's low shot was turned round the post by Mexico keeper Julio Gonzalez.

Artega said the disallowed goal had given Mexico the impetus to go on and win the game. "A goal, whether for or against, changes your mood a lot. And seeing that it had been disallowed, that also lifted us

a little bit more to keep insisting and looking for the goal ourselves," the left-back told TUDN.

Mexico face Venezuela on Wednesday in Los Angeles with Jamaica up against Ecuador on the same day in Las Vegas. "We know there's not going to be an easy opponent. Thank God we won against Jamaica and now we want to go for another win," said Artega. — AFP

Croatia face Italy in crunch Euro 2024 survival clash

LEIPZIG: Group B was dubbed Euro 2024's 'Group of Death' but while Spain soared through with a game to spare, heavyweights Italy and Croatia meet on Monday fighting to stay in the competition.

Both sides were outclassed by Spain, and while reigning champions Italy edged Albania 2-1, Croatia could only draw 2-2 with the minnows. It gives Italy the upper hand ahead of their clash in Leipzig, with Croatia's golden generation at risk of a disappointingly early exit if they fail to win.

Croatia, who reached the 2018 and 2022 World Cup final and semi-final respectively, may make several changes as they scrap for Euros survival. Midfielder Marcelo Brozovic, playing in Saudi Arabia, has come in for criticism after sub-par outings in the first two matches, while Real Madrid's Luka Modric, 38, has also struggled.

Full-back Ivan Perisic has looked a shadow of himself, still to find his footing after a long injury lay-off. "It makes me cry when I watch (Modric) on the pitch, he is giving his last atoms of strength... but he is not (the Modric) we are used to seeing," read one column in Croatian newspaper Jutarnji List.

Youngster Luka Susic could replace Brozovic, as he did at half-time against Albania. Striker Bruno Petkovic, who missed a penalty in the 3-0 beating by Spain, called on Croatia to deliver for their vast support in Germany. "The responsibility is on us, we owe it to our fans to show more," he said. "I expect us to beat Italy, and I hope it's going to happen. We are aware of everything we did or didn't do in the first two matches, and we need to fix that." Coach Zlatko Dalic complained ahead of the game he was not being given credit when Croatia did well but was immediately criticized when they struggle. "I have learned some things in these seven years where there have been far more successes than failures," he said.

Croatia goalkeeper Dominik Livakovic was positive ahead of the clash with the Euro 2020 winners. "We control our own fate - that's a good thing," said the stopper, who shone at the Qatar World Cup, saving a penalty in a shoot-out against Brazil to take Croatia to the semis.



LEIPZIG: (COMBO) This combination of pictures shows (L) Italy's head coach Luciano Spalletti and (R) Croatia's head coach Zlatko Dalic. — AFP

'Little Italy'

Italy need a draw against Croatia to claim second place but after being thoroughly outplayed in their 1-0 loss to Spain, expectations are not high for the Azzurri. Newspaper Gazzetta dello Sport labelled them "Little Italy", a far cry from the steely team which beat England at Wembley.

Veteran defenders Leonardo Bonucci and Giorgio Chiellini have since retired, while coach Luciano Spalletti left out Marco Verratti, now playing in Qatar. The coach could also ring the changes with striker Mateo Retegui in contention, along with defender Matteo Darmian, who could replace Giovanni Di Lorenzo after a torturous night against Spain's Nico Williams.

Even Italy's opening victory over Albania was not without its challenges - Sassuolo's Nedim Bajrami put Albania ahead with the fastest goal Euros history on 23 seconds. Italian goalkeeping great and the current delegation head, Gianluigi Buffon, said he was confident the Azzurri could use the loss as fuel.

"Sometimes it's easier to react to a defeat than it is to a win," said Buffon on Friday. "Yesterday we got some answers to questions we'd asked of ourselves, and some new questions to think about. "So if we thought we were a nine out of ten team against Albania, we can't suddenly think we're a four out of ten team after the Spain match. We're probably somewhere in the middle." — AFP

Belgium beat Romania to breathe new life into Euro challenge

COLOGNE: Youri Tielemans breathed new life into Belgium's Euro 2024 campaign as the Aston Villa midfielder's goal after just 73 seconds inspired a vital 2-0 win against Romania on Saturday. Domenico Tedesco's side would have been on the brink of elimination if they had suffered a second successive Group E defeat.

But Tielemans' second-minute strike in Cologne eased fears of yet another major tournament flop from star-studded Belgium. Kevin De Bruyne wrapped up the points in the closing stages to leave all four teams in the group level on three points. The stage is set for a dramatic final round of fixtures in the battle to reach the last 16. Belgium face Ukraine and Romania play Slovakia on June 26. With 45 rungs separating the two nations in FIFA's rankings, third-placed Belgium's 1-0 loss to Slovakia on Monday was the biggest upset in European Championship history. Romania, ranked in 47th place, competed gamely as they chased their own shock, but this time Belgium's superior class proved decisive. "I have the same feeling as against Slovakia: we played well but the difference is that we scored and won today," said Belgium captain De Bruyne.

"We made a few mistakes and gave away a few chances, but we can be satisfied with our performance, both offensively and defensively." Having bowed out at the group stage of the 2022 World Cup and lost in the quarter-finals of the last two Euros, Belgium's golden generation have given themselves fresh hope of finally delivering on their vast potential. Romania had powered to a 3-0 win against Ukraine on Monday - their first victory in a major tournament since beating England at Euro 2000. Despite this loss, Edward Iordanescu's team are still in contention to make the Euro knockout stage for the first time in 24 years. "We never gave up, we fought very hard. In the second half, we were better. With a bit of luck we could have got a point," said Romania coach Iordanescu. Belgium had failed to score in over 300 minutes at major tournaments since netting against Canada at the last World Cup. They needed less than two minutes to end that drought.

Influential De Bruyne

A sweeping move climaxed when Jeremy Doku's



COLOGNE: Belgium's midfielder #07 Kevin De Bruyne (C) fights for the ball with Romania's goalkeeper #01 Florin Nita (L) during the UEFA Euro 2024 Group E football match between Belgium and Romania at the Cologne Stadium in Cologne. — AFP

pass found Romelu Lukaku in the Romania penalty area and he laid the ball back to Tielemans, who smashed a powerful low strike past Florin Nita from the edge of the area.

Romania's Tottenham defender Radu Dragusin went close to equalizing moments later with a towering header that Koen Casteels tipped over at full stretch. After an injury-plagued season with Manchester City, in which he failed to reach his usual sky-high standards, De Bruyne had looked below his best against Slovakia.

The Belgium captain was far more influential this time, with a lung-bursting surge that ended with a pass to Dodi Lukebakio, whose strike was pushed away by Nita. Doku was denied by another good stop from Nita after wriggling through the over-worked Romania defence. Valentin Mihaila wasted a golden opportunity to equalize soon after half-time, pouncing on Amadou Onana's wayward pass and sprinting clear, only to blaze high into the stands. De Bruyne was moving through the gears ominously, curling just past the far post from 20 yards, then drawing a smart save from Nita with a shot on the turn. Lukaku had two goals, including a late equalizer, disallowed by VAR against Slovakia. The striker was denied by VAR again in the 63rd minute when he converted De Bruyne's pass before being ruled narrowly offside. — AFP

Classifieds

Clinics & Hospitals

Kaizen center	25716707
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Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401

Change of Name

I, Taher Ali, holder of Indian Passport No. V6089420, having permanent address Rajasthan, India, residing in Kuwait at present hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as given name Taher and surname Raj. (#5626, 24/06/2024)


I, Ansar Basha Gudur, holder of Passport No. M4451977 do hereby change my name to ANSAR BASHA (as given name) SHAIK (as surname) for all purposes. I will henceforth be known in the name Ansar Basha Shaik and I also undertake to carry out this name change in all my documents. (#5624, 21/06/2024)

I, Subhash, holder of Indian Passport No. V7437174 having permanent address Krishna Gali No.1, Dhariwal, Gurudaspur, Punjab, India, PIN - 143519 residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as (given name) Subhash and (surname) Kumar. (#5623, 21/06/2024)



I, Ashraf Kamal, holder of passport No. U0691584 do hereby change my name to Ashraf Kamal for all purposes. I will henceforth be known in the name Ashraf Kamal and i also understand to carry out this name change in all my documents. (#5625 23/06/2024)

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is 1889988

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NOTICE
June 04, 2024

Mr. Ashok Kumar Pallapu, son of Mr. Eswaraiah Pallapu, resident of 3 64 K. K. Vaddipalli, Thummachetlapalli, Annamayya district, Pin: 516104, Andhra Pradesh and **Ms. Ayesha Oruchu**, daughter of Mr. Jagannadham Oruchu, resident of Siddareddyapalli, BP Rachapalli, Chivvel, Annamayya District, Andhra Pradesh, both Indian nationals presently residing in Kuwait, have given notice of intended marriage between them under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969. If anyone has any objection to the proposed marriage, he/she may file the same with the undersigned according to the procedure laid down under the Act/Rule within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice. Communications in this regard can be made by Email (cw2.kuwait@mea.gov.in) / letters / telephonic calls (00965-22550171, 00965-22533125)

(Harit Shelat) Second Secretary
(Community Affairs)
and Marriage Officer.

Embassy of India, Kuwait.
Email: cw2.kuwait@mea.gov.in

Portugal cruise into Euro 2024 knockout stages

Belgium keep their hopes alive with 2-0 victory over Romania



DORTMUND: Turkey's forward #11 Yusuf Yazici jumps during the UEFA Euro 2024 Group F football match between Turkey and Portugal at the BVB Stadion in Dortmund. — AFP

DORTMUND: Portugal outclassed Turkey to secure their place in the last 16 of Euro 2024 with a 3-0 win in Dortmund on Saturday, while Belgium kept their hopes alive with a 2-0 victory over Romania. Cristiano Ronaldo's Portuguese side, European champions in 2016, are among the favourites to win the title in Germany and they lived up to their status with a comprehensive victory in front of a partisan crowd to secure first place in Group F.

Bernardo Silva of Manchester City opened the scoring midway through the first half, sweeping the ball home after a low Nuno Mendes cross was deflected into his path. Portugal then doubled their lead just before the half-hour mark in comical fashion.

There appeared no danger for the Turkey defence following a poor pass by Joao Cancelo aimed at Ronaldo, but Samet Akaydin's attempted backpass rolled beyond the reach of goalkeeper Altay Bayindir and crossed the line despite the efforts of Zeki Celik to clear.

Turkey never looked like getting back into the game and Portugal got their third goal early in the second half as

Ronaldo found himself in on goal but unselfishly squared for Bruno Fernandes to finish. Having already beaten the Czech Republic 2-1, Portugal are one of only three sides to have a maximum six points from their opening two games and are now certain to win the section even before playing Georgia in Gelsenkirchen on Wednesday.

They therefore know they will play a last-16 tie in Frankfurt on July 1 against one of the best third-place finishers. "We are first in the group and we can make changes in the next game which for me is very important as there are lots of players in the dressing room who deserve to play," said Portugal coach Roberto Martinez.

Ronaldo safety concerns

Ronaldo, appearing at his sixth Euros at the age of 39, will become the tournament's oldest ever goal-scorer if he finds the net in Germany but he failed to add to his competition record tally of 14 here. The superstar forward, now playing in Saudi Arabia, was also approached for a selfie by several pitch invaders in the second half.

While he enjoyed the attention the first

time, posing with a smile for a photograph in the centre circle, he appeared visibly irritated as the number of invaders grew.

Martinez admitted the ease with which so many fans got into the playing area was a concern. "It is a concern because today we were lucky that the intentions of the fans were good," he added. Earlier, Georgia claimed a historic first ever point at a major tournament in a 1-1 draw with the Czechs.

Georges Mikautadze's penalty late in the first half put Georgia in front but Patrik Schick chested in an equaliser after the break. A point does little for either side's hopes of qualification. Turkey remain second on three points, two ahead of the Czech Republic and Georgia.

De Bruyne inspires Belgium recovery

Belgium's 1-0 defeat to Slovakia was the major shock of the opening round, but they made the most of a fast start in Cologne to get their tournament back on track. Youri Tielemans blasted in inside two minutes from Romelu Lukaku's lay-off to burst Romania's bubble after their impressive 3-0 win over

the opening game in Group E.

Lukaku, who had two goals disallowed against Slovakia, was again denied by the finest of offside calls in a pulsating second half. Valentin Mihaile and Dennis Man had chances to level for Romania, but Belgium captain Kevin De Bruyne rounded off a fine individual display with the second goal to seal victory 10 minutes from time.

"I'm very relieved that we won the game," said Belgium boss Domenico Tedesco. "I think it was possible to score three, four or five goals tonight. It's great we create these kinds of chances and we need to say patient."

The group is now fascinatingly poised with all four sides on three points after Ukraine beat Slovakia 2-1 on Friday. Belgium face Ukraine next, while Romania take on Slovakia with all to play for.

Scotland will aim to reach the knockout stages of a major tournament for the first time on Sunday when they take on Hungary in Stuttgart. Hosts Germany have already secured their place in the last 16 but can guarantee winning Group A by avoiding defeat against Switzerland. — AFP

Palestinian player and family killed in Gaza airstrike

GAZA: Palestinian soccer player Ahmad Abu al-Atta and his family were killed in their home by a Zionist airstrike in Gaza, the Palestinian Football Association (PFA) said.

Abu al-Atta, 34, who played as a defender for the Gaza Strip team Al-Ahly Gaza, died along with his wife Ruba Esmal Abu al-Atta, a medical professional, and their two children after the airstrike hit their home in Gaza City, the PFA said in a statement released on Saturday.

Local media reported that the airstrike took place on Friday, but the PFA did not give a date. Last Monday, the PFA said international referee Hani Mesmeh had died after sustaining wounds from a Zionist airstrike in the Gaza Strip in May. More than 300 athletes, referees and sports officials have been killed since the start of the conflict in Gaza in October 2023 with all sports facilities in Gaza demolished, President of the Palestinian Olympic Committee Jibril Rajoub said this month.

They also included soccer player Mohammed Barakat, who was killed in a Zionist airstrike in Khan Younis in March, and FIFA International Assistant Referee Mohammed Khattab, who was killed along with his wife and four children in an assault in the Gazan neighbourhood of Deir Al Balah in February. — Reuters



Ahmad Abu al-Atta

Asian Fencing Championship kicks off

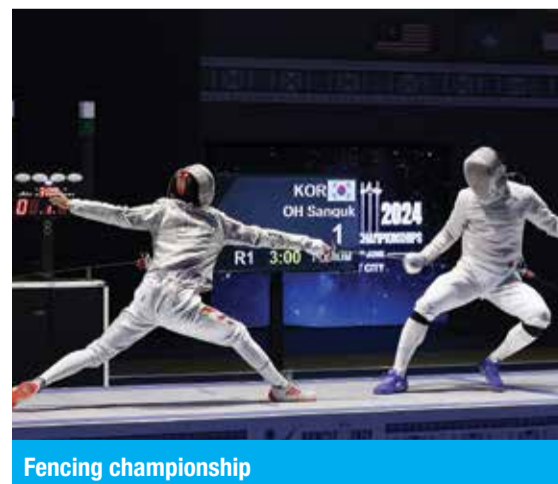
KUWAIT: The Asian Fencing Championship began on Saturday with the participation of 350 fencers from around 36 countries, hosted by Kuwait until Thursday June 27th.

The championship was opened under the patronage of Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs, State Minister for Youth Affairs Dr Amthal Al-Huwailah and in the presence of the President of Asian Fencing Federation Sheikh Salem Al-Qasimi and President of Kuwait Olympic Committee Sheikh Fahad Nasser Al-Sabah.

President of Kuwait Fencing Federation Abdulkareem Al-Shamlan said during his opening speech that Kuwait is the cradle of sport gatherings and is a fertile land for communications between people of the world with sporting spirit.

He said this championship is a basic element in developing the fencing game in Asia, as wished participants success. He said the ranking of fencers participating in the Olympics will be affected based on their results in the current championship, as he pointed the difficulty of competition and its importance for participating teams.

First day results in the saber had the Korean Oh Sang-Uk winning the gold medal by beating China's Chinbing Chin who won silver, while Kuwait's Yousuf Al-Shamlan and Iran's Mohammad Rahbari won bronze. Meanwhile in the women epee China's Sehan Yu won gold beating her compatriot Sun Yiwen who won silver, while Korea's Mi Yung and Sera Sung won bronze.



Fencing championship

Richardson wins 100m at US trials to qualify for Paris

EUGENE: World 100 meters champion Sha'Carri Richardson earned a chance for Olympic redemption after winning the 100m at the US athletics trials on Saturday, booking her ticket to the Paris Games. Three years after a positive marijuana test saw her kicked off the US team

for the Tokyo Olympics, Richardson captured the women's 100 final in 10.71sec with Melissa Jefferson second in 10.80 and Twanisha Terry third in 10.89.

Richardson surged to the lead in the middle of the race and crossed the finish line in this year's world-best time with a wind of 0.8m/sec at Hayward Field in Eugene, Oregon. "I feel honored," Richardson said. "I feel every chapter I've been through in my life designed and prepared me for this moment."

"I cannot wait to go to Paris and represent." Reigning men's 100m world champion Noah Lyles began his quest for Olympic gold in the event by leading all semi-final qualifiers from men's preliminary heats in 9.92.

Richardson hopes to capture Olympic gold in the 100 final at the Stade de France on August 3. Not since Gail Devers in 1996 has an American woman been crowned an Olympic 100m champion. The 24-year-old Texan won her preliminary heat on Friday in 10.88, leading all qualifiers despite a slight stumble at the start, and won her Saturday semi-final in 10.86, the best time of any finalist despite a slow start.

She was behind again at the start but quickly made up the time and charged to victory. "Definitely didn't have the best start, but had a better start than my other rounds," Richardson said. Three years ago, Richardson appeared set for the pandemic-delayed Tokyo

Olympics after winning at the US trials in 10.86.

But dreams of Olympic gold were shattered when it was revealed she had tested positive for marijuana, resulting in a one-month suspension that banned her from Tokyo. Plans to revive her career at the 2022 World Championships failed when she bombed out of the US trials.

Richardson, however, roared back into form in 2023 with a thrilling 100m triumph at the World Championships in Budapest, taking the crown in a championship record of 10.65sec. This year, Richardson won her only prior 100 at May's Prefontaine Classic in Eugene in 10.83. — AFP