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# Gazans flee Zionist onslaught

Tens of thousands forced to leave Khan Yunis in darkness, a day after deadly school strike



GAZA: A youngster helps an elderly Palestinian woman as people flee the Hamad residential district and its surroundings in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip after receiving a warning from the Zionist army to evacuate the area on Aug 11, 2024. — AFP

GAZA: Palestinians fled southern Gaza's main city on Sunday as the Zionist entity warned of a new military operation, a day after one of the deadliest reported strikes in more than 10 months of war. The fighting in the besieged Gaza Strip has sent tensions soaring across the region. Intense diplomacy in recent days sought to avert a wider war in the Middle East following the killings of Iran-aligned resistance leaders, while international mediators invited the Zionist entity and Hamas to resume stalled talks towards a long-sought Gaza truce and hostage-release deal.

AFP journalists said scores of Palestinians fled northern neighborhoods of Khan Yunis, southern Gaza's main city already ravaged by months of bombardment and battles, after the Zionist entity issued fresh evacuation orders overnight. Tens of thousands of Palestinian residents and displaced families were forced to leave in the dark as explosions from tank shelling reverberated around them.

The Zionist military dropped leaflets and sent mobile phone messages warning of "dangerous combat" in Al-Jalaa district and telling Palestinian residents to leave the area, which until Sunday was designated a humanitarian safe zone. Similar evacuation orders have preceded major military incursions, often forcing Palestinians displaced numerous times by the war to pack up and leave for safety.

said "just in the past few days, more than 75,000 people have been displaced in southwest Gaza." The entire territory has a population of about 2.4 million people. Philippe Lazzarini, head of UNRWA, said people in Gaza were trapped and had nowhere to go. "Some are only able to carry their children with them, some carry their whole lives in one small bag. They are going to overcrowded places where shelters are already overflowing with families. They have lost everything and need everything," he said.

Families gathered their meager belongings as crowds of people left Al-Jalaa, some loading mattresses, clothing and cooking utensils into pick-up trucks. Others took to the road on foot. Umm Sami Shahada, a 55-year-old displaced Palestinian, said she had "fled Gaza City at the start of the war for Khan Yunis", hoping to find shelter. "My daughter was killed in bombardment, so we went to Rafah, then we came back here, and now with this new evacuation order we don't know where to go", she said.

In northern Gaza, a Zionist air strike on Friday killed at least 93 people at Gaza City's Al-Tabieen religious school housing displaced Palestinians, according to civil defense rescuers, sparking international condemnation. The death toll is one of the largest from a single strike since the war began. Mahmud Bassal, spokesman for the civil defense

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Major offshore discoveries eyed

KUWAIT: Kuwait Oil Company CEO Ahmad Al-Eidan announced promising offshore oil and gas exploration in Kuwait's marine region. The project involves drilling six exploratory wells to identify potential reservoirs, aiming to enhance Kuwait's hydrocarbon reserves and global standing. A recent discovery in the Noukhtha field off Failaka Island marks a key milestone, with plans underway for production. The initiative supports Kuwait's 2040 strategy, develops technical skills and creates jobs, driven by strong collaboration within KOC and with government entities. — KUNA (See Page 2)

Fintas armed robber arrested

KUWAIT: The ministry of interior said on Sunday that the criminal investigation department arrested the suspect behind an armed robbery at an exchange office in Fintas. The ministry said in a statement that the suspect stormed the exchange office using a firearm and fled to an unknown destination in a stolen taxi after threatening the driver with a weapon. The police investigated and tracked down the suspect using surveillance cameras, where he confessed the crime, adding that authorities were currently taking all necessary legal measures against him.

8,000 illegals deported monthly

KUWAIT: Minister of Interior and Defense Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef Al-Sabah said between 7,000 and 8,000 illegal expats are being deported every month after an amnesty ended in late June. The minister told a local daily that security campaigns against illegal residents will continue and will intensify with the aim of comprehending and deporting all expats living illegally in the country. The interior ministry has announced that a number of expat families who overstayed visit visas had been deported along with their sponsors. "We will not tolerate this matter," Sheikh Fahad vowed.

US pip China in medals table as Games end

PARIS: The United States pipped China for top spot in the battle of medals on Sunday as Paris brought the curtain down on one of the most successful Olympic Games in history. In a thrilling finale that capped 17 days of spellbinding action, the United States women's basketball team squeezed past France 67-66 to clinch the last gold of the Games.

The win - the eighth consecutive Olympic women's basketball won by the USA - ensured the Americans finished level with China on 40 golds each as the games drew to a close. The USA however finished on top of the overall medals table with a total of 126 medals, with China in second place on 91. With the last of the medals handed out, attention turned to Sunday's closing ceremony spectacular at the Stade de France, as the countdown to the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics gets underway.

As the sport ended, attention turned to the closing ceremony and the next Olympics in Los Angeles in four years. LA played heavily on its Hollywood star power and rolled out its big guns, including pop



PARIS: Gold medallists USA pose during the podium ceremony after the women's gold medal basketball match against France during the Paris 2024 Olympic Games at the Bercy Arena on Aug 11, 2024. — AFP

star Billie Eilish, rapper Snoop Dogg and the Red Hot Chili Peppers. The worst-kept secret in Paris was that "Top Gun" star Cruise would close the ceremony with a spectacular stunt sequence.

"On August 11, the Olympic Games will be over, and the Olympic flame will be extinguished," said

Thomas Jolly, who masterminded the unique opening ceremony along the River Seine. "That moment will remind us just how precious are these Olympic Games," added Jolly, whose opening ceremony sparked outrage in some quarters with a scene that appeared to parody the Last Supper. — AFP

N Ireland violence shocks Muslims amid sectarianism

BELFAST: A week of racism-fueled disorder in Northern Ireland, sparked by disturbances in English towns and cities, is proving harder to end, with fears the UK region's sectarian divisions are feeding into the violence. "They burned every single thing, there is nothing left inside, just ashes," said Bashir, whose supermarket in Belfast was torched during attacks against foreign-owned shops and businesses. A mosque in a town near Belfast was also targeted late Friday.

"We are scared at what may happen next, there is lots of hostility against the Muslim community," said the 28-year-old from Dubai, who did not want to give his full name citing safety reasons. Northern Ireland has seen nightly unrest, mainly in pro-UK loyalist neighborhoods, that began after an anti-immigration protest in Belfast on Aug 3. The violence has mirrored disorder across England, spurred by misinformation spread on social



BELFAST: Protestors attend a "unity over division" protest called to oppose an anti-immigration demonstration in Northern Ireland on Aug 9, 2024. — AFP

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## Local

# Marine region a 'promising area' for hydrocarbon resources: KOC

## Massive reservoirs of oil and gas found in Noukhtha field



Drilling Rig (Oriental Phoenix)



Noukhtha Marine Field

KUWAIT: CEO of Kuwait Oil Company (KOC), Ahmad Al-Eidan, said that the marine region in Kuwait is a promising area based on conducted studies and geological and geophysical data found. Speaking to KUNA, Al-Eidan explained that the exploratory marine project used two-dimensional seismic surveying to examine earth layers, their composition, identify the best location for drilling, and prepare for logistic operations.

This current phase of the project includes drilling six exploratory fields to find oil and gas reservoirs, expounded Al-Eidan, stating that subsequent phases will be determined by the findings of this current one. He underscored the importance of the offshore exploration project as a national endeavor with the goal of enhancing the sustainability of Kuwait's hydrocarbon



Ahmad Al-Eidan

reserves and meeting global demand.

This would elevate Kuwait's status as a reliable global oil and gas producer and place it prominently on the regional map of leading offshore operators. Additionally, the project contributes to developing new technical

skills in drilling and offshore production, creating varied employment opportunities for national talents, he pointed out.

Last July, KOC announced discovering massive reservoirs of oil and gas in the Noukhtha field in Failaka Island's economic waters, marking a turning point in its operations. A developmental plan will be put in place based on current findings to begin official production as soon as possible. The plan aims to augment Kuwait's production capabilities and take it a step closer to achieving the 2040 strategy.

This project is the culmination of cohesive collaboration across KOC sectors, continuous support from Kuwait Petroleum Corporation's (KPC) management, and ongoing cooperation with all relevant government entities, paving the way for the successful exploration and investment in oil and gas drilling operations in the area, commented Al-Eidan. — KUNA



Noukhtha 1

## Kuwait attaches great importance to youths' leadership roles

KUWAIT: Kuwait attaches great importance to the youth, supporting and preparing them for leadership roles, creative endeavors, and excellence, Minister of Social Affairs, Family, and Childhood Affairs and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Dr Amthal Al-Huwailah said on Sunday. Marking the International Youth Day, celebrated on August 12, the minister said that the support towards the youths came upon the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad



Dr Amthal Al-Huwailah

Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and with a continuous follow-up of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

The Youth Authority, in partnership with other state institutes, works to

achieve the aspirations and ambitions of young people in the most important areas, while the Sports Authority is concerned with the sports aspect, she added. She affirmed that the Youth Authority implemented many youth-based programs, projects, and activities throughout the year in order to provide young people with important skills and experiences that will help them succeed in their professional lives and provide them with suitable job opportunities.

It is also held annually under the patronage of His Highness the Amir. "The youth centers, spread across the six governorates, embrace programs and projects that boost young people's talents and open up spaces for creativity in fields of science, technology, arts, media, volunteer work, and others," Al-Huwailah said.

Al-Huwailah considered the Kuwait Technical Complex for Entrepreneurship, which is being held in partnership between the Public Authority for Youth and Boeing Company, to offer young people technical and technological knowledge to enhance the role of youth in the sustainable development of society. "These continuous efforts in promoting youth work and highlighting their role in all aspects of life have resulted in boosting excellence in Kuwaiti youth, which is evident in many international youth forums," she continued.

The minister praised the important role of Kuwaiti youth and the success of the authority's programs and projects through participation and organization, in addition to their distinguished achievements in many fields at the local and foreign levels. The International Youth Day, designated by the United Nations on August 12, 1999, focuses this year on developing young minds to harness technology in creating digital paths with the aim of achieving sustainable development for all societies. — KUNA

## Collective ignorance and emotional impulses perpetuate violence

By Ghadeer Ghloom

KUWAIT: Humanity has been plagued by criminal acts that have resulted in many victims being killed due to ignorance and superstitions passed down from one generation to another and prevailing in many cultures across the globe. What is even more troubling is that, in many cases, the law justifies the killer's crime under the pretext of social norms and some prevailing misconceptions. To understand the reasons behind these crimes and their social justifications, Kuwait Times interviewed psychologist Jumanah Mohammed.

Jumanah clarified that crimes are crimes, regardless of the false justification they may be given by society: "Unfortunately, some people wrap criminal acts under the guise of 'honor motive,' dominating individual culture until it becomes a societal norm. This leads individuals to respond to wrongdoing



Jumanah Mohammed

with more wrongdoing and results in dire consequences for both parties. Jumanah attributed the motive for criminal behavior and the difficulty in controlling emotions to the fact that a person may become a criminal, even if such behavior is provoked or later justified by society. Since a person consists of thoughts, feelings, and behaviors, difficulty in controlling emotions such as anger and shame leads to impulsivity and rash actions, away from wisdom. This creates a killer who justifies criminal behavior," she said.

Moreover, Jumanah emphasized the importance of seeking help if an individual struggles with controlling violent emotions, as specialists can assist individuals in channeling their thoughts in a humane and civilized manner, away from the societal barbarism that affects many mindsets in various communities.

"In psychological awareness and education, the



focus is on changing mindset by raising awareness about the consequences of honor crimes like imprisonment and their psychological impact on the perpetrator and their families, whether immediate or long-term. This gradually diminishes feelings of anger and impulsiveness, leading to behavioral change by preventing the inclination towards honor crimes," she concluded.



## UAE delegation visits Sabah Al-Ahmad Coast Guard Base

KUWAIT: An official National Guard delegation from the UAE's National Search and Rescue Center (NSRC) visited the Sabah Al-Ahmad Coast Guard Base on Sunday. The visit aimed to learn about Kuwait's search and rescue operations and the latest developments at the Maritime Rescue Coordination Center (MRCC). Kuwait's Ministry

of Interior said in a statement the Director General of Coast Guard Commodore Sheikh Mubarak Ali Al-Sabah received the NSRC delegation. According to the statement, the visit was part of the ongoing joint security and military cooperation, as well as the exchange of expertise among GCC countries. — KUNA

## FM receives Chinese envoy

KUWAIT: Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya received Sunday the Chinese Ambassador to Kuwait Zhang Jianwei. During the meeting, both sides touched on the bilateral ties between the two friendly countries. — KUNA



## GCC and EU discuss upcoming summit in Brussels

RIYADH: The Secretary-General of the Cooperation Council (GCC), Jassem Al-Budaiwi, discussed with the High Representative of the European Union (EU) for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell, on Saturday, the latest preparations for the European Summit, scheduled to be held next October in Brussels. In a press release, GCC's General Secretariat stated that this came during a phone call between Al-Budaiwi and the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell.

The statement noted the two sides stressed that this summit is the culmination of the joint and distinguished relations between the European Union and the Cooperation Council and the keenness to strengthen them in a way that contributes to achieving the common interests of the GCC countries and the European Union countries. The statement added that issues of common interest were also discussed to confront common challenges and enhance dialogue and cooperation in various fields between the Cooperation Council and the European Union.

The two sides also delved into the latest developments in the region and the major developments that have had an unprecedented negative impact on regional and global security and stability, most notably the crisis in Gaza. Al-Budaiwi stressed during the call the need to exert European efforts and work to call on all concerned parties to reduce tension, to immediately cease fire, and end the Gaza crisis in accordance with UN and international resolutions. The two sides stressed the importance of supporting efforts aimed at achieving and enhancing regional and international stability and security. — KUNA

Local

# Exhibition evokes heroes of series 'Slippery Trail'

NCCAL launches competition and exhibition



KUWAIT: National Council for Culture, Arts, and Letters launched the competition and exhibition 'Loyalty to the Heroes of Darb Al-Zalag - The Slippery Trail' at the National Kuwait Library. — KUNA photos

KUWAIT: The National Council for Culture, Arts, and Letters (NCCAL) launched the competition and exhibition 'Loyalty to the Heroes of Darb Al-Zalag - The Slippery Trail' at the National Kuwait Library in cooperation with the Arts Center for Art Production and Distribution under the patronage of Sheikh Hala Bader Al-Mohammed Al-Sabah and the participation of artists.

The patron of the exhibition, Sheikh Hala Al-Sabah, said on Sunday that the exhibition evokes the heroes of the series 'Slippery Trail', which entertained many in Kuwait and the Arab world, noting that the artists participating in the exhibition expressed their loyalty and love for the heroes of the series. She pointed out that the exhibition coincides with the anniversary of the death of the artist Abdulhussein Abdulredha, who passed away on August 11, 2017 and was distinguished by his many artistic works of plays, series, and others.



She considered that the importance of the series 'Slippery Trail' lies in the fact that it "preceded its time and era and merged the old with the new," pointing out that viewers enjoy seeing this series and repeating watching it and laughing at its paragraphs every time. She expressed her admiration for the works of the exhibition of the heroes who left a mark that is still present and has become

part of the history of Kuwait. In a similar statement to KUNA, Kuwaiti sculptor Maytham Abdal said that he is participating in three sculptures, expressing his happiness to participate in the exhibition, which is one of the important forums that gives opportunity to remember the works of great artists and their role in the Kuwaiti cultural arena. The exhibition will continue until next Thursday



(morning and evening) and provides the opportunity for the public to vote on the most beautiful work of art. The closing ceremony and the announcement of awards will be held on Thursday evening at the National Library of Kuwait. — KUNA

## SACGC opens registration for development program

KUWAIT: Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity (SACGC), one of the centers of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, announced the opening of registration for the second edition of the 2024 professional development program for Kuwaiti teachers working at the Ministry of Education with scientific disciplines, until August 28. The Director General of the Center, Nada Al-Daihani, said in a press release on Sunday that the program is held in cooperation with the Graduate School of Education at the prestigious American University (Harvard) and in implementation of the agreement signed by the Center last year with the platform (Aanaab) in Saudi Arabia.

Al-Daihani added that the program achieved great success in its first edition, which included about 100 teachers from public education (in scientific disciplines). He stressed the constant endeavor of the Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity in providing all available capabilities to support and encourage the spirit of talent and creativity in the Kuwaiti educational sector.

He pointed out that the center's cooperation with Harvard University and the (Aanaab) platform would achieve the common goal of promoting a culture of creativity and modern technology in Kuwaiti society and add value to the center, which is a key



Participants take a group photo. — KUNA

axis in the development of the educational system in the country. The Harvard Teacher Professional Development Program includes the provision of two accredited courses in the Arabic language to train 100 teachers from Kuwait.

The courses include 'Flexible Thinking', which focuses on how teachers make decisions to adapt to students, attract their attention, provide the appropriate challenge for them, and address some practical problems in the classroom. The second course,

'Levels of Assistance,' deals with the different ways of providing assistance to students and enhancing students' independence instead of dependence, while reviewing the circumstances that require the use of educational supports and subsidies and how to ensure that learning is appropriate to the needs of the students. The educational staff who meet the conditions for enrollment are invited to apply for the program through the link <https://apply.aanaab.com/s3/sacgc-aanaab> — KUNA

## PAHW offers 45,344 services with 96,647 housing applications

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) announced on Sunday that it provided 45,344 services to citizens with 96,647 housing applications in July. Deputy Director General for Public Relations and Development and official spokesperson of the PAHW, Omar Al-Ruwaih, said in a press statement. The total number of electronic services provided by the PAHW during the past month amounted to 29,139 services, in addition to 14,607 calls via telephone and chatbot services.

He added that the total number of allocation requests for the (South Saad Al-Abdullah) housing project until August amounted to 4,305 re-

quests, while the total number of distributed plots in the project amounted to 16,643 housing plots. Regarding the executive position in housing projects, Al-Ruwaih explained that the actual completion rate of the first contract in the East (Sabah Al-Ahmad) project, which contains 1,184 houses, amounted to 93.4 percent, while the rate in the second contract amounted to 86.2 percent.

Meanwhile, the authority has completed the implementation of 53 industrial plots in the Wafra expansion project, while the South Sabah Al-Ahmad City project has achieved progress in the works, which recorded 25.9 percent. The South Saad Al-Abdullah project recorded a completion rate of 3.2 percent, achieving progress over the work schedule.

Regarding public buildings, he indicated that the officials are currently working on implementing 122 public buildings, including 68 in Al-Mutlaa City, one in each of Jaber Al-Ahmad City and the Southern Khaitan Project, 14 in Sabah Al-Ahmad City, and 7 others in the East Sabah Al-Ahmad

City. He stated that the authority has signed three construction contracts and supervised their signing, the first of which is to establish, complete, and maintain roads and infrastructure networks for 6,189 housing units for the suburbs (N4, N6, N8) in the South Sabah Al-Ahmad project.

The second contract is currently being implemented under the authority's supervision for the establishment, completion, and maintenance of public buildings in the suburbs (N2, N4, N1, N3) in Al-Mutlaa Residential City. The authority has floated five tenders for the supply, installation, and implementation of two main power stations in the South Saad Al-Abdullah City housing project. The total number of citizens who received certificates for "whom it may concern" to issue building permits in Al-Mutlaa City amounted to 27,454 citizens, in addition to 3,236 certificates issued to owners of plots in the South Abdullah Al-Mubarak project. Also, 1,392 others were issued to owners of plots in the Southern Khaitan project. — KUNA

In my view

## From Haniyeh to Sinwar: Bodies fall but ideas endure



By Hussain Sana

Over 60 people were the total number of relatives Ismail Haniyeh had to sacrifice during the current war for the sake of the Palestinian cause, before sacrificing his own life. This number includes his children and grandchildren. Orientalist studies would never grasp it, and Bernard Lewis would never understand why. It is challenging to explain it in English.

They are all [fida'a], a sacrifice for Palestine. You can hardly understand this if you have colonized this land; you have to be a native to grasp why someone would pay such a heavy price.

Now that Haniyeh himself is gone, the Zionist entity faces an even tougher leader, an Arab counterpart to the Vietnamese general Vo Nguyen Giap. The New York Times, Washington Post and Jerusalem Post, among other media outlets, are already mystifying him. The usual orientalist perception reduces the entire regional cause to a single person, though it is not about him per se.

I am talking about Yahya Sinwar, an emerging Palestinian leader who seems more hardline. This is not about individualism. The whole Palestinian situation is radicalizing. The hardships in that environment forge radicalism, producing ruthless and sharp people who are strongly attached to their basic rights.

The root issue is not about Hamas, Islamism, leftism or Arab nationalism (which leaned more toward the left rather than fascism, raising valid questions). The root cause has always been occupation, settler-colonialism and imperialism. Netanyahu's autobiography outlined a Zionist solution for the Palestinian question — keep Palestinians divided, reach out to Arabs in the region and suffocate Gaza with a strangling blockade. With one stroke, Sinwar, the mastermind behind the events of October 7, ruined all these plans.

According to journalist Ahmad Natheef, such an operation, limited in time and space, can only be conducted by a mind entirely dedicated to understanding the Zionist entity's mentality, which annoys Zionists and provokes their supporters. Sinwar had enough time, having spent over two decades in Zionist prisons, to understand this mentality. He knows the price of liberating Palestine and understands the Zionist entity's strengths and weaknesses. His doctrine is built on pillars of offense over defense, acting swiftly, moving the battle into enemy territory and using uncertainty against the enemy.

Zionists don't know how they can win against Palestinians in this round, not to mention what their war goals are. Sinwar knew that Zionist "society" is the enemy's weakness, and he made sure to strike there, keeping this "society" divided. Sinwar understands Hebrew fluently and knows that there is no ultimate grand victory; victory is achieved through the accumulation of points.

As General Giap used to say, "As long as the resistance survives and lives for another day, it can win." Asa'ad Abu Khaleel concludes that Sinwar represents the ascendancy of the "Iranian" wing within Hamas over the "Turko-Qatari" moderate wing. This wing would not have prevailed if Palestinians had been offered a fair and equal solution.

This conflict requires heavy casualties, and the main reasons it continues are the foreign, unlimited support for the Zionist entity and the Arab world's near-total absence from Palestine. To win, Hamas must break ties with the "Arafat" era that transformed the PLO into a "moderate regime". Hamas needs to steer clear of "moderate" Arab tendencies.

To win a guerrilla war, Palestinians must activate the Zionist entity's weaknesses and neutralize their strengths. The region's strongest air force is useless against tunnels, and emerging from beneath the ground is terrifying even to the best-trained soldiers. Guerrilla warfare has no borders to defend; it's all about attrition. The Zionist entity's ego may retaliate against civilians and push further toward genocide as much as it wants, but it cannot come closer to achieving any of its political and military goals.

The Palestinian destiny is to become like Sinwar. Abandoned by their Arab brethren, they can only rely on themselves and their limited resources. The Palestinian diaspora has been neutralized since the Oslo Accords. The Palestinian bourgeoisie and upper class only identify as Palestinian through wedding chants and symbolism. Gazans must manufacture their arms themselves.

Understanding this, Sinwar rises from the refugee camp, the prison and the tunnel as the freedom fighter that Palestine deserves. Sinwar might be next on the target list. However, as Ghassan Kanafani said before his assassination in his car with his little niece, "Bodies fall, but ideas endure."

## Abdulredha: Kuwaiti acting giant with endearing legacy

**KUWAIT:** On August 11, 2017, Kuwait lost one of its most iconic actors, Abdulhussein Abdulredha, who left an endearing legacy through countless theater performances, television roles, and artistic endeavors. Despite the passage of time, Kuwaitis young and old continue to browse through Abdulredha's catalog of work and often utter catchphrases by the acting giant, whether meant to evoke joy and laughter or move something deep inside people's collective consciousness.

Born on July 15, 1939, in Sharq, Kuwaiti City, Abdulredha left an undeniable imprint in the acting scene for 50 years, namely in the genre of comedy, where he excelled. He was also known for his writing, production, singing, and musical composition prowess. Abdulredha's theater, radio, television, and film roles spanned many genres and decades, and he is known for partaking in 30 iconic series, including Darb Al-Zalag (the Slippery Road), Qasid Khair (Seeker of Goodness), and many more.

He took part in 33 theater productions, including his classic leading roles in "Bye Bye London," Fursan Al-Manakh, and The 50-year-old teenager, to name a few. Abdulredha contributed to the establishment of several theater troupes, including the Arab theater group and the national theater group. He founded the Funoon (arts) center for production and distribution. To honor his legacy, the Abdulhussein Abdulredha Theater was opened in 2016 in the Salmiya area under the supervision of the National Council for Culture, Arts, and Letters (NCCAL).

This year, the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center (JACC) organized and produced a play in honor of the iconic actor called Aalam Abdulhussein (Abdulhussein's world), with the production revisiting several of his classic works and career-defining roles via actors portraying his likeness during performances. During his life, Abdulredha had several health relapses in 2003, 2005, and 2015. He passed away in London on August 11, 2017 on a Friday at age 78. The passing of Abdulredha had garnered attention from all sectors of Kuwaiti society, and the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah instructed that the remains of the actor would be brought back to Kuwait on an Amiri plane from the UK. Abdulhussein Abdulredha was finally laid to rest on August 16, 2017 with crowds from all walks of life, Kuwaitis, and residents all bidding farewell to their beloved actor. — KUNA



Late Kuwaiti acting giant Abdulhussein Abdulredha

# Kuwait Relief Society sends tons of aid supplies to Gaza



Photos show relief convoys with 60 tons of food to help Gaza Strip's residents. — KUNA photos

**KUWAIT:** The Kuwait Society for Relief (KSR) announced on Sunday the dispatch of a relief convoy carrying 60 tons of essential food supplies to support those affected by the ongoing Zionist occupation attacks in northern Gaza. The aid was delivered through the offices of the Rahma Worldwide organization in Palestine, with joint funding and collaboration from the Direct Aid Society. The Deputy General Director of KSR and team leader, Omar Al-Thuwaini, said to KUNA that the organization successfully sent the convoy to northern Gaza.

This area has been experiencing severe food shortages over the past 10 months. Al-Thuwaini noted that the supplies would help at least 30,000 families in the region. In a similar statement to KUNA, Director General of Direct Aid Society Abdullah Al-Sumait emphasized that the relief convoys were part of the urgent relief campaigns undertaken by the Society for Gaza. He assured that Direct Aid, in collaboration with the KSR, was committed to supporting the affected people in Gaza and other Palestinian cities and would continue to provide care for those displaced and affected by the attacks.

The founder and president of Rahma Worldwide, Dr Shadi Zaza, told KUNA that northern



Gaza was suffering from famine due to the ongoing blockade and lack of food supplies. Dr Zaza highlighted the importance of the humanitarian efforts by Kuwaiti organizations, which continue to demonstrate solidarity with Palestine, and con-

firmed that Rahma Worldwide would continue to provide essential food packages to those affected in northern Gaza. The KSR has also launched a fundraising campaign to support the continued delivery of food convoys to the area. — KUNA



International Islamic Charitable Organization provides school uniforms to 420 orphans in Uganda. — KUNA photos



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## IICO announces distribution of 420 school uniforms in Uganda

**KUWAIT:** The International Islamic Charitable Organization (IICO) announced on Sunday the distribution of school uniforms to 420 orphans and poor people. The program is sponsored by the Al-Lahib Social Welfare Center in Uganda. Ibrahim Al-Bader, deputy director general of institutional communication at the authority, said in a press statement that school uniforms were distributed to orphans in Uganda. 340 orphans, 80 students, and the children of teachers and workers in the community surrounding the center benefited from the program.

Al-Bader added that the distributions also included sportswear, winter clothes, and shoes. The authority's efforts to empower orphans are part of its ongoing commitment to support education and



Ibrahim Khaled Al-Bader



Students receive school uniforms.

provide children. He pointed to the authority's interest in the Al-Lahib Social Welfare Center project, which is one of its main centers that plays a vital role in providing comprehensive care for orphans and poor children.

Al-Bader pointed out that the authority will continue its hard work in meeting the needs of the vulnerable and needy groups, including orphans, through various projects that are aimed at improving their lives and providing excellent educational opportunities. He expressed his deep thanks to the donors, stressing their efforts in changing the lives of many beneficiaries. — KUNA





Thousands of Ukrainian troops deployed to destabilize Russia

## Iran's new president picks pragmatist as top diplomat

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BEIRUT: A man walks on an overpass beneath a giant billboard that reads "Enough, we are tired, Lebanon doesn't want war" on a street in Beirut on August 7, 2024. — AFP photos



Firefighters arrive as a car burns following a Zionist strike in the southern Lebanese city of Sidon on August 9, 2024.

# Zionist attacks reignite Lebanese trauma

## Bombing, uncertainty over full-fledged war trigger anxiety, panic attacks

BEIRUT: Fears of a major escalation between the Zionist entity and Hezbollah have left many Lebanese on edge, exacerbating mental health problems and reviving traumas of past conflicts in the war-weary country. One 29-year-old woman, who lives near the southern city of Sidon, said she dreaded the thunderous, explosive boom of Zionist jets regularly breaking the sound barrier. "I feel the house will fall down on top of me ... Sometimes I freeze ... or start crying," said the woman, a contract worker for a non-governmental organization.

She was 11 years old when the Zionist entity went to war with Hezbollah in the summer of 2006, and said bombs fell near her house. "Sometimes, unconsciously, you remember it," said the woman, requesting anonymity in a country where mental health issues are often stigmatized. "These sounds give you flashbacks — sometimes you feel you're back at that time," she said.

Lebanon has been on a knife's edge since a Zionist strike on Beirut's southern suburbs killed Hezbollah's top military commander, just hours before the assassi-

nation, blamed on the Zionist entity, of Hamas's political leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran. Iran and Hezbollah have vowed revenge, amid fears that retaliatory attacks could spiral into all-out war, with airlines suspending flights to Lebanon and countries imploring foreign nationals to leave.

### Panic attacks

"I already had been suffering from anxiety and depression ... but my mental health has deteriorated" since October, said the woman, who can no longer afford therapy because her work has slowed due to the hostilities. "You feel afraid for the future", she said.

Before 2006, Lebanon endured a grueling 1975-1990 civil war in which the Zionist entity invaded the south and in 1982 besieged Beirut. Laila Farhood, professor of psychiatry and mental health at the American University of Beirut, said "cumulative trauma" has left many Lebanese with stress, anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. "Individuals transmit their anxieties to their children as cross-generational

trauma," she told AFP. "What is happening now triggers previous traumas," causing some people to have panic attacks, said Farhood, who specializes in war trauma and its impact on Lebanese civilians.

On Tuesday, Zionist jets broke the sound barrier over central Beirut, causing intense sonic booms that rattled windows and nerves, just two days after the anniversary of a catastrophic blast at Beirut's port in 2020. "I had my first panic attack," said Charbel Chaaya, 23, who studies law in France and is living with his family near Beirut. "I couldn't breathe, my legs felt numb ... in that very first moment, you don't know what the sound is — just like what happened on August 4," he said.

### 'Uncertainty'

Layal Hamze from Embrace, a non-profit organization that runs a mental health center and suicide prevention hotline, said people in Lebanon now are "more susceptible to any sound". "Baseline, the adrenaline is already high. It's a stressful situation," said Hamze, a clinical psychologist. "It's not only the Beirut blast,"

Hamze added. "The natural or automatic response" is to be frightened, she said, and while "maybe the older generation ... are a bit more used to" such sounds, they could trigger "the collective trauma".

Some on social media have urged people to stop letting off fireworks — a ubiquitous practice for celebrations — while humorous skits making light of difficulties like flight cancellations have also circulated. With coping mechanisms varying greatly, some people are "going partying", while others "are reaching out to the community more", which helps them feel they are not alone, Hamze said.

Dancer Andrea Fahed, 28, whose flat was damaged in the port blast, said she panicked when she heard this week's sonic booms. She said she felt "lucky" to be a dancer, because with her community "we laugh together, we move together ... you let go of a lot of things". But she said the "uncertainty" was a constant struggle, and now leaves her windows open, fearing another blast could shatter everything. "Anything can happen," Fahed said. "If it's happening with that intensity in Gaza, why wouldn't it come here?" — AFP

## Skin diseases afflict Gaza's children as war drags on

GAZA: Like thousands of Gaza children, Yasmine Al-Shanbari, 3, is not only suffering from the upheaval of war. She is ravaged by skin disease and no relief is in sight, with medicine scarce and few hospitals functioning in the Zionist-besieged enclave.

The Zionist 10-month-old war has left the Gaza Strip with no clean running water, a shortage of aid and medicine and raw sewage everywhere, giving rise to skin diseases and other afflictions. Red scratchy patches have spread all over Yasmine's face and her father feels helpless as she sits in his lap in a burnt-out, crowded school where they have taken shelter in the Jabalia urban refugee camp in north Gaza.

Tiny little insects were visibly flitting around her face, while piles of garbage rotted in the high summer heat outside. "The disease she has on her face has been there for almost 10 days now and hasn't gone away," said her father, Ahmed Al-Shanbari. "We did not leave out any medicine to give to her, hoping it will clear up from her face."

The death toll continues to climb in Gaza, with almost 40,000 Palestinians killed, according to Gaza authorities. Skin diseases are not the only illnesses that are creeping into one of the most densely populated places on earth. "Yesterday, we were talking about hepatitis, and today we are talking about contagious skin diseases. Every day there are new diseases spreading among children," said Doctor Wissam Al-Sakani, spokesman for Kamal Adwan Hospital.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has sounded the alarm that Hepatitis A and polio are also spreading among children. "UN agencies



BEIT LAHIA: Two-and-a-half-year-old Ismail Abu Naji, receives treatment for sores that have appeared on his legs at Kamal Adwan Hospital in Beit Lahia, in the northern Gaza Strip on July 29, 2024. — AFP

warned of the high risk of the further spread of infectious diseases in Gaza, amid chronic water scarcity and no way to adequately manage waste and sewage," it said in a report earlier this month. "The waste management system in Gaza has collapsed. Piles of trash are accumulating in the scorching summer heat. Sewage discharges on the streets while people queue for hours just to go to the toilets."

The Zionist entity denies responsibility for delays in getting urgent humanitarian aid into Gaza, says the UN and others are responsible for its distribu-

tion once inside the enclave. Ammar Al-Mashharawi, a 2-year-old toddler, also has a fiery red rash all over his face and body in Kamal Adwan Hospital, which was struck by Zionist missiles in May.

"Look at the child, his whole body is like this. We have been to more than one hospital to find medicine for him," said Ammar's father Ahmed as he held his wailing son while medical staff checked him. "We adults manage somehow, but the children, God help them, have no food or medicine. The situation is indescribable," Ahmed added. — Reuters

## Substance abuse on the rise in the Zionist entity

BEERSHEBA: At 19, Yoni has to put aside his plans to join the military and instead enter rehab for drug abuse that has worsened since Hamas' October 7 attack. Health professionals said Yoni's case is not an exception in the Zionist entity, noting a surge in drug and alcohol abuse as well as other addictive behaviors.

Yoni, who asked to use a pseudonym to protect his privacy, told AFP he had started taking drugs recreationally before, but "after the war it seemed to really get worse". "It's just a way to escape from reality, this whole thing," said the resident of Beersheba in the south of the Zionist entity who lost a

friend, Nir Beizer, in the Hamas attack.

Psychiatrist Shaul Lev-Ran, founder of the an addiction center in the entity, said that "as a natural reaction to emotional stress and as a search for relief, we've seen a spectacular rise in the consumption of various addictive sedative substances." A study carried out by his team, based in the central city of Netanya, found "a connection between indirect exposure to the October 7 events and an increase in addictive substances consumption" of about 25 percent.

Lev-Ran told AFP they have identified a rise in the use of "prescription drugs, illegal drugs, alcohol, or addictive behavior like gambling". One in four people in the Zionist entity have increased their addictive substance use, according to the study, which was conducted in November and December on a representative sample of 1,000 people. In 2022, before the war, one in seven struggled with drug addiction. Contacted by AFP, the Palestinian Authority said there was no equivalent data on addiction and

mental health for the Palestinian territories.

### 'Shock'

The October 7 attack, when Palestinian militants attacked towns, communities, army bases and an outdoor rave, caused a real "shock" in the Zionist society, Lev-Ran said. The study found that "the closer individuals were to the trauma on October 7, the higher the risk" of addictive behaviors.

The study found an increase in addictive substance consumption among survivors of the October 7 attack, but also among Zionists displaced since then from communities near the Gaza border or in the north, near Lebanon. "Some who had never consumed addictive substances started using cannabis, some used substances but increased their use, and some were already treated for addiction and relapsed", said Lev-Ran.

### 'Forget'

Lev-Ran said the entity was already "at the outset

of an epidemic in which large swathes of the population will develop an addiction to substances". The study found that the use of sleeping pills and painkillers has also skyrocketed, by 180 percent and 70 percent respectively. The psychiatrist gave the example of one of his patients, a man who demanded "something" to help him cope and be able to sleep while his son was fighting in Gaza. At a bar in Jerusalem, Matan, a soldier deployed to the Palestinian territory who gave only his first name for privacy concerns, told AFP that using drugs "helps forget" the harsh reality.

Yoni said that in the early months of the war, his friends and him would take "party drugs like ecstasy, MDMA, LSD" recreationally "in order not to be bored and not to be afraid". Then, Yoni started taking drugs "alone at home", which he said eventually led him to realize "that I need to go to rehab". Once out, he wants to complete his military service, Yoni said, to "prove to myself, prove to the family, that I am indeed capable of more, and (can) contribute to the community like everyone else". — AFP

## International

## Biden brands Trump a 'danger' to US

In first interview since leaving race, Biden says Democratic politicians believed he was a hindrance

WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden, in his first TV interview since dropping out of the White House race, warned that Republican candidate Donald Trump was "a genuine danger to American security." "Mark my words, if he wins ... this election, watch what happens," Biden told CBS News in a pre-taped interview broadcast on Sunday. "He's a genuine danger to American security. Look, we're at an inflection point in world history ... and democracy is the key."

Biden, 81, has kept a low profile since withdrawing after his flailing debate performance against Trump underlined fears about his age and mental abilities. In the short TV interview, recorded in the White House last week, he appeared frail but cogent, again admitting he failed in the debate but stressing that health-wise he has "no serious problem."

Explaining his exit, he said other Democratic Party politicians standing for re-election feared he



US President Joe Biden

would damage their chances — and added that his only priority was to stop Trump from returning to power. "A number of my Democratic colleagues in

the House and Senate thought that I was going to hurt them in the (election) races," he said. "A critical issue for me still is — not a joke — maintaining this democracy. I have an obligation to the country to do what is the most important thing we can do, and that is — we must, we must, we must defeat Trump."

## Helping Harris

Biden said he was proud of his record on jobs, investment and Covid recovery — and vowed to campaign hard for Vice President Kamala Harris, who has replaced him on the ballot. "I'm going to do whatever Kamala thinks I can do to help most," he said.

Biden's age had come to dominate the 2024 campaign, and the Democrats' hopes of winning have soared since his exit, as Harris has enjoyed a surge in support that has left Trump struggling. The outgoing president said he had expected to serve only one term

when he won in 2020, but that he had been persuaded to stay on. "I thought of myself as being a transition president. I can't even say how old I am. It's hard for me to get it out of my mouth, but things got moving so quickly, it didn't happen," he told CBS's Robert Costa.

Trump's light campaign schedule has come under scrutiny, and it was his running mate, J.D. Vance, who blitzed the Sunday morning political talk shows. Appearing on CNN, ABC and CBS, Vance fielded questions about white supremacist attacks on his family, child care, asylum seekers and abortion. In one tetchy exchange with CBS's Margaret Brennan, Vance complained that she had asked "six questions about abortion." "I'm still trying to get a clear answer," Brennan retorted. He also claimed that Harris was the one "calling the shots" in the Biden administration. "If she's not calling the shots, Dana, who is?" he told CNN's Dana Bash. — AFP

## Iran's new president picks pragmatist as top diplomat

DUBAI: Iran's new president presented his cabinet to parliament on Sunday for a vote of confidence, state media reported, proposing seasoned pragmatic diplomat Abbas Araqchi as foreign minister at a time of heightened regional tensions. President Masoud Pezeshkian is shaping his cabinet at a time of an increased risk of escalation of the conflict in Gaza into a broader regional war, after the recent killings of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Iran and of Hezbollah military commander Fuad Shukur in Beirut drew threats of retaliation against the Zionist entity.

Following the death of hardline President Ebrahim Raisi in a helicopter crash in May, Pezeshkian won a snap election last month by promising to improve ties with the world, promoting a pragmatic foreign policy, and to ease social restrictions at home. Pezeshkian's proposed cabinet lineup requires lawmakers' approval and parliament speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said that parliamentary commissions will start reviewing his candidates on Monday.

Araqchi, 61, who was Iran's ambassador to several countries, including Japan, played a key role in negotiating Tehran's 2015 nuclear agreement with six world powers, which then-US President Donald Trump exited in 2018 and re-imposed sanctions on Iran. Araqchi later led Iran's negotiators during multilateral efforts — ultimately unsuccessful — to revive the pact via indirect diplomacy with Washington before he was replaced by hardline Ali Bagheri Kani in 2021.

The president's powers are limited in the Islamic Republic by those of the Supreme Leader, who is commander-in-chief of the armed forces, appoints the head of the judiciary and has the last say on major policies. Tensions between Iran and the West have increased over Tehran's fast-advancing nuclear program and its threats to "harshly punish" the Zionist entity over the assassination of Haniyeh. — Reuters

## Rwanda's Kagame sworn in for fourth presidential term

KIGALI, Rwanda: Rwanda's all-powerful President Paul Kagame was sworn in on Sunday for a fourth term after sweeping to victory in elections last month with more than 99 percent of the vote. Several dozen heads of state and other dignitaries from African nations joined the inauguration ceremony at a packed 45,000-seat stadium in Kigali, where crowds had started gathering from the early morning.

Kagame took the oath of office before Chief Justice Faustin Nteziyayo, pledging to "preserve peace and national sovereignty, consolidate national unity". The outcome of the July 15 poll was never in doubt for the iron-fisted Kagame, who has ruled the small African nation since the 1994 genocide, as de facto leader and then president.

He won 99.18 percent of ballots cast to secure another five years in power, according to the National Electoral Commission. Rights activists said the 66-year-old's overwhelming victory was a stark reminder of the lack of democracy in Rwanda. Only two candidates were authorized to run against him out of eight applicants, with several prominent Kagame critics barred. Democratic Green Party leader Frank Habineza scraped into second place with 0.5 percent of the vote against 0.32 percent for independent Philippe Mpayimana.

## DRC ceasefire talks

Kagame is credited with rebuilding a ruined nation after the genocide, when Hutu extremists unleashed 100 days of vicious bloodletting targeting the Tutsi minority, killing around 800,000 people, mainly Tutsis but also Hutu moderates.

But rights activists and opponents say he rules in a climate of fear, crushing any dissent with intimidation, arbitrary detentions, killings and enforced disappearances. Kigali is also accused of stoking



KIGALI: Rwanda President Paul Kagame is seen on screen moments after taking the oath of office in front of supporters during the presidential inauguration ceremony in Kigali on August 11, 2024. — AFP

instability in the east of its much larger neighbor the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Angola's President Joao Lourenco, among those attending Sunday's ceremony, was due to have private talks with Kagame on a DRC ceasefire deal, the Angolan presidency said. Luanda brokered the agreement last month after a meeting between the foreign ministers of DRC and Rwanda, which is accused of backing the M23 rebel group fighting Kinshasa's armed forces.

But on August 4, the day the deal was supposed to take effect, M23 rebels — who have seized territory in the east since launching a new offensive at the end of 2021 — captured a town on the border with Uganda.

With 65 percent of the population aged under 30,

Kagame is the only leader most Rwandans have ever known. "I proudly cast my vote for president Kagame and made it a priority to be here today to witness this historic inauguration," said Tania Iriza, a 27-year-old trader, one of the tens of thousands who turned out for the ceremony. "His leadership has been transformative for our nation. Under his leadership, Rwanda has risen from our tragic past and forged a path towards prosperity, unity and innovation."

Kagame has won every presidential election he has contested, each time with more than 93 percent of the ballot. In 2015, he oversaw controversial constitutional amendments that shortened presidential terms to five years from seven but reset the clock for the Rwandan leader, allowing him to potentially rule until 2034. — AFP

## Gazans flee Zionist onslaught...

Continued from Page 1

agency in Gaza, said on Sunday that identifying the victims could take at least two days as "we have many bodies torn into pieces" and "shredded or burnt by the bombs".

Hamas in a statement called Arab and Muslim nations to "take effective decisions" to stop the war and demanded an urgent UN Security Council meeting to force the Zionist entity "to stop the aggression and genocide". The Palestinian group, which has named its Gaza chief Yahya Sinwar to succeed slain political leader Ismail Haniyeh, has yet to respond to an invitation from US, Qatari and Egyptian mediators for truce negotiations on Aug 15. The Zionist entity has accepted.

Haniyeh was killed during a visit to Tehran on July 31, an attack blamed on the Zionist entity which has not claimed responsibility. But hours earlier it killed the mil-

itary chief of Lebanese Hamas ally Hezbollah in a strike on Beirut. Iran, Hamas, Hezbollah and other regional allies have vowed retaliation, spurring fears of a wider conflagration. US President Joe Biden, asked what his message was to Iran, responded: "Don't."

The Zionist military offensive in Gaza has killed at least 39,790 people, according to the territory's health ministry, mostly women and children. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz told Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in a phone call on Sunday that "an end to the war in Gaza would be a decisive step towards a regional de-escalation". Hamas officials, some analysts and critics in the Zionist entity have said Netanyahu has sought to prolong the fighting for political gain.

Witnesses told AFP that the Zionist entity carried out a strike on Khan Yunis, wounding several people. "Civilians... were shopping in the market when a missile hit," said resident Awad Barbakh. The military said its air forces hit militants in Rafah, further south, and "struck approximately 30 Hamas terror targets" across Gaza over the past day. — Agencies

Turkish chef who has been living in Northern Ireland for two years, told AFP. "There was never any trouble before," he said, sitting at the Sahara Shisha Cafe, one of several Middle Eastern and Turkish-owned businesses near Sandy Row that were hit.

The Northern Ireland Muslim Council said in a statement that "the vast majority of the violence has been whipped up and fuelled by deliberate misinformation and disinformation on social media". "False and dangerous narratives" about Muslims who "constitute a small minority in Northern Ireland" led to the attacks, it added.

Northern Ireland has low rates of immigration compared to the rest of the UK and the Republic of Ireland. The 2021 census showed about six percent of the population were born outside the UK or Ireland, with around 97 percent describing their ethnicity as white. The disorder was "extremely shocking for the wider community," said Fiona Doran, chair of the United Against Racism group which co-organized a solidarity rally in Belfast on Saturday.

The demonstration, which drew several thousand people, gave people "a chance to come out on the streets, to show that Belfast is a welcoming city, it's a city that says no to racism and fascism," she told AFP. At an anti-immigration rally the previous day in Belfast, around a hundred protesters carried British flags and placards reading "respect our country or leave!"

Some chanted the name of Tommy Robinson, a notorious anti-Muslim agitator who has been accused of helping to fuel the unrest in England through constant social media posts about the events. Nearby, behinds ranks of armored police vehicles, more than 1,000 counter-protestors chanted "racists out!" Bashir told AFP on Saturday he is unsure if he will reopen his supermarket. "My question is: are we able to do that? If we do, it will be because of all the people who came out to show us support," he said following the solidarity demonstration. — AFP

## N Ireland violence shocks Muslims...

Continued from Page 1

media about the suspected perpetrator of a knife attack in Southport on July 29 which killed three children. The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) said Saturday that 31 people have been arrested during the disturbances.

"On a fundamental level the Belfast attacks are similar in its dynamic to anti-immigration protests in white working class areas in England, the Republic of Ireland and elsewhere in Europe," said Peter McLoughlin, a politics lecturer at Queens University Belfast. "It is driven by racism and fear of the other, but in Northern Ireland it also interfaces with sectarian political dynamics," he told AFP.

Three decades of violent sectarian conflict known as the "Troubles" largely ended in 1998, but bitterness and frictions persist between pro-UK Protestant loyalists and pro-Irish unity Catholic nationalists. Outside Bashir's smoke-scarred shopfront in the staunchly loyalist inner-city district of Sandy Row, British Union Jack flags flutter on lampposts and painted wall murals proclaim fierce allegiance to the UK.

"Within loyalism there is a sense that prevailed through Northern Ireland's peace process that their community is in retreat, that their community and British identity is under attack," McLoughlin explained. Many loyalists feel they "must oppose outsiders coming into those areas, who are seen as taking supposedly Protestant jobs and houses, and encroaching on a community that was once dominant," he added.

After last Saturday's anti-immigration protest, rioters rampaged through streets looking for foreign-owned businesses to attack. "What happened last week was crazy," Yilmaz Batu, a 64-year-old



BOZEMAN, Montana: Former US President and Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks during an election campaign rally on Aug 9, 2024. - AFP

## Trump campaign blames Iran after operation hacked

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump's US presidential campaign said on Saturday some of its internal communications were hacked and blamed the Iranian government, citing past hostilities between Trump and Iran without providing direct evidence. The Republican's campaign statement came shortly after news website Politico reported it had begun receiving emails in July from an anonymous source offering authentic documents from inside Trump's operation, including a report about running mate JD Vance's "potential vulnerabilities".

"These documents were obtained illegally from foreign sources hostile to the United States, intended to interfere with the 2024 election and sow chaos throughout our Democratic process," Trump campaign spokesperson Steven Cheung said in a statement. Late on Saturday, Trump posted on his Truth Social app that Microsoft had just informed the campaign that Iran had hacked one of its websites. He cast blame on Iran, adding they were "only able to get publicly available information". He did not elaborate further on the hack.

Reuters has not independently verified the identity of the alleged hackers or their motivation. In 2016, a hack of Democratic National Committee emails — blamed on Russians — exposed internal party communications, including about candidate Hillary Clinton. Trump, who would go on to win the election, was criticized for encouraging the hack.

The Trump campaign referred to a Friday report from Microsoft researchers that said Iranian govern-

ment-tied hackers tried breaking into the account of a "high-ranking official" on a US presidential campaign in June. The hackers had taken over an account belonging to a former political advisor and then used it to target the official, the report said. That report did not provide further details on the targets' identities. A Microsoft spokesperson declined to name the targeted officials or provide additional details after the report was published.

Iran's permanent mission to the United Nations in New York said in an email that "the Iranian government neither possesses nor harbors any intent or motive to interfere in the United States presidential election". "We do not accord any credence to such reports," it added in response to the Trump campaign's allegations. On Friday, in response to Microsoft's findings, Iran's UN mission told Reuters its cyber capabilities were "defensive and proportionate to the threats it faces," and that it had no plans to launch cyberattacks.

The former president had tense relations with Iran while in office. Under Trump, the United States killed Iranian military commander Qassem Soleimani in 2020 and withdrew from a multilateral Iran nuclear deal. "The Iranians know that President Trump will stop their reign of terror just like he did in his first four years in the White House," Cheung said.

Trump survived an assassination attempt in July. While there have been no suggestions that the suspect was linked to Iran, CNN reported last month that the US had intelligence about an Iranian plot against Trump. Iran has denied such charges. Late last month, a senior intelligence official told reporters in a briefing that Tehran and Moscow maintain their same presidential preferences as in past cycles, where Iranian operatives will attempt to tear down the Republican ticket while Russia has made efforts to smear Democrats, according to prior intelligence community assessments. — Agencies

## International

# Thousands of Ukrainian troops deployed to destabilize Russia

## Western nations had 'indirect' role in incursion; father, son die in Russian missile attack

**KYIV:** Ukraine has deployed thousands of troops in a major incursion into Russia's western Kursk region, in a bid to "stretch" and "destabilize" Russia, a senior Ukrainian security official told AFP. Ukrainian units stormed into Russian territory on Tuesday in a surprise attack that has developed into the most significant cross-border assault by Kyiv since the conflict began in February 2022.

"We are on the offensive. The aim is to stretch the positions of the enemy, to inflict maximum losses and to destabilize the situation in Russia as they are unable to protect their own border," the official said late Saturday, speaking on condition of anonymity.



**KYIV:** Ukrainian servicemen wait in a bus on the outskirts of Sumy, on August 11, 2024, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

The Russian army earlier said Ukraine had deployed around 1,000 soldiers in the incursion which appeared to catch the Kremlin off guard with Ukrainian forces successfully penetrating Russian defensive lines. Asked whether 1,000 Ukrainian troops were taking part in the assault, the official said: "It is a lot more ... thousands".

The offensive was also having an important psychological effect at home, he said. The attack has "greatly raised our morale, the morale of the Ukrainian army, state and society", the Ukrainian official said,

speaking after weeks of Russian advances in eastern Ukraine. "This operation has shown that we can go on the offensive, move forward," the official said.

"It seems that the Russians have problems with coordination, preparedness for action," he said. But he said there had been little effect so far on fighting in the east. "The situation is basically unchanged. Their pressure in the east continues, they are not pulling back troops from the area," he said, adding only that "the intensity of Russian attacks has gone down a little bit".

### No annexation plans

The official said Ukrainian troops would respect international humanitarian law while on Russian territory and had no plans to annex areas they currently hold. "There is no idea of annexation ... We are operating in strict accordance with international law," he said, contrasting this with alleged violations by Russian troops in occupied territory.

Asked whether capturing the Kursk nuclear power plant near the border was an aim, he said: "We will see how the Kursk operation will develop." Russia has sounded the alarm over feared strikes on the plant, 60 kilometers (37 miles) from the Russia-Ukraine border.

The International Atomic Energy Agency has urged both sides "to exercise maximum restraint in order to avoid a nuclear accident with the potential for serious radiological consequences". "We absolutely will not cause problems for nuclear security. This we can guarantee," he said.

The Ukrainian official also rejected reports that Kyiv's Western partners had not been informed about the offensive. The White House said Wednesday it was contacting Ukraine to learn more about the "objectives" of the incursion. Asked whether Western partners had been kept in the dark about Ukraine's offensive, the official said this was "incorrect". "Judging by how actively Western arms are being used, our Western partners played a part indirectly in the planning," he said.

Russia's top general has pledged to put down the offensive and drive Ukrainian troops back to the bor-



**KYIV:** This photograph shows a residential house, heavily damaged following a Russian missile strike on August 11, 2024, in a village in the Brovary district, Kyiv region. — AFP photos

der. The official said he expected Russia would "in the end" manage to stop Ukrainian forces. He also expected Moscow would retaliate with a large-scale missile attack, including "on decision-making centers" in Ukraine.

### Kyiv missile attack

A man and his four-year-old son were killed in an overnight Russian missile attack near the Ukrainian capital Kyiv, the emergency service said Sunday. Explosions rang out Saturday night in the center and east of Kyiv, AFP journalists noted, as Ukraine's air force said two Russian missiles were headed towards

the city. Air raid sirens sounded in the capital and at least two flashes could be seen against the night sky, said an AFP reporter. Kyiv's military administration said in a post on Telegram that the city's air defense systems had been activated. Ukraine's air force said five other regions were being attacked by drones.

Fragments of a missile fell on residential buildings in Brovary district, neighboring Kyiv, the State Emergency Service of Ukraine said on Telegram. A 35-year-old man and his four-year-old son were found dead in the rubble of a building during search and rescue operations, it said. Three other people were seriously injured. — AFP

## Misinformation from India, vandalism frighten Hindus in Bangladesh

**DHAKA:** Young Bangladeshi professional Tanushree Shaha is outraged by recent mob violence against her family in the chaotic wake of premier Sheikh Hasina's ouster from power, fearful that her fellow Hindus could face more reprisals. Those fears, however justified, are being turbocharged by a wave of false rumors of other, deadly attacks being spread online and amplified by the media in Hindu-majority neighbor India.

Hindus are the largest minority faith in mostly Muslim Bangladesh and are considered a steadfast support base for Hasina's party, the Awami League. After Hasina's abrupt resignation and flight abroad on Monday brought an end to her 15 years of autocratic rule, numerous Hindu families came into the crosshairs of their neighbors. "A group of people vandalized my uncle's shop," said Shaha, the 31-year-old manager of a handicrafts business in the capital Dhaka. She told AFP the mob had stolen his cash till and emptied the shelves of his grocery store further north in the city of Mymensingh. They then beat him and demanded more money to prevent future attacks.

### 'Women were abused'

Hindus account for around eight percent of Bangladesh's 170 million people. That is a sharp fall from 1947, when the haphazard partition of India and Pakistan on religious lines at the end of British colonial rule sparked widespread violence. Many more fled in 1971 during Bangladesh's devastating liberation war against Pakistan. Up to three million people died in the conflict and Hindus, seen as supporters of independence, were disproportionate victims. Over the past week, religious rights groups said they documented more than 200 incidents of attacks on minority communities, a figure



**DHAKA:** A Hindu shopkeeper (left) helps a woman put on a traditional conch shell bangle at a shop selling traditional prayer items in Shakhari Bazar, a Hindu majority area, in Dhaka on August 9, 2024. — AFP

that also includes Christians and Buddhists. "The incidents include attacking homes, vandalizing shops and places of worship," rights activist Rana Dasgupta said in a video statement. "Women were abused too."

### Student patrols

Nearly all of these attacks took place in the chaotic hours after the premier fled and the police force, loathed for firing on anti-Hasina demonstrators, went on strike. The young students who ousted her and other members of the public have stepped into the law-and-order vacuum. They have organized nightly neighborhood watch groups, and posted volunteers outside temples to stop looting.

"We are staying awake at night to catch the robbers," Mohammed Miad, patrolling one busy Dhaka neighborhood after midnight on Sunday, told AFP. Student protest leaders met with the Hindu community on Friday to hear their concerns and pass them on to

Yunus' administration. Yunus himself said on Saturday that there was no room for discrimination in the country. Bangladesh's new interim government said Sunday it was working to resolve attacks on Hindus and other religious minorities.

### Fabricated attacks

Anxieties are being further inflamed by the spread of false reports of attacks online suggesting the violence against Hindus is orders of magnitude worse than reality. Many originated from social media users in India, whose Prime Minister Narendra Modi is an unabashed champion of the Hindu faith and was a staunch backer of Hasina's rule.

One widely shared X post written in Hindi, India's most common language, falsely claimed that over 500 Hindus had been killed, hundreds of Hindu women raped and dozens of temples burned to the ground. Many of the more outlandish claims had also been picked up and reported as fact by Indian media, International Crisis Group's Thomas Kean told AFP. "Their reporting and analysis reflects a worldview that is quite out of touch with the reality on the ground," he said.

Hasina took refuge in India after her fall, heightening animosity towards the regional giant among Bangladeshis. But whether this provoked a spike in violence against practitioners of India's majority faith in Bangladesh is far from certain. Many attacks appear to have been petty and opportunistic robberies against a largely affluent but vulnerable minority.

Kean said that of the more than 450 people killed in the unrest around Hasina's ouster, there was no indication that Hindus had been disproportionate victims. Yet even if the worst reports of attacks against Hindus were fabricated, the pervasive sense of fear and anger within the community has persisted.

"After the fall of the dictatorship, we were supposed to hold a victory rally," student Moumita Adhikari, 20, told AFP at the Hindu protest near Dhaka University. "So why are we protesting here?" she asked. "Aren't we citizens of this country?" — AFP



**LONDON:** People take part in a "Stop the Far-right" demonstration on a National Day of Protest, outside of the headquarters of the Reform UK political party, in London on August 10, 2024. — AFP

## UK women of color learn self-defense after racist riots

**LONDON:** At a London sports ground, Maya Hasnan looks on with pride as around 30 women, nearly all Muslims and from ethnic minorities, join a self-defense class that she organized in response to a wave of riots that saw violent, racist attacks on Muslims and migrants. The 28-year-old martial arts expert said she wanted to help women of color to learn how to deal with abuse and build connections and confidence after more than a week of unrest aimed at mosques, asylum seeker hotels and the police. "It gives you a little bit more confidence," she said. "You kind of know what to look for, how to be socially aware, how to spot things and how to get out of a really bad situation."

Muslim and ethnic minority communities have expressed shock over the disorder which was sparked by false information online that the suspected killer of three young girls in a knife attack in Southport, northwest England, was an Islamist migrant. Martial arts instructor Stewart McGill said he had seen more women signing up for classes since the unrest started. He told them how to defend themselves with tactics including kicks and impromptu weapons such as belts.

One attendee, Elza Annan, 24, said she felt more confident. "I obviously don't want to have to use these techniques but it is useful and beneficial to have them ... especially because of recent events of far-right racists coming out and targeting people of color," she said.

The riots have largely targeted migrants, Muslims, and Asian people, spreading fear through ethnic minority communities and casting a light on Britain's record of integration. Tell MAMA UK, a group that monitors anti-Muslim incidents, said hate directed at Muslims had been growing in Britain for some time, and especially since October 7 last year, the start of the Zionist war in Gaza.

Since the riots began, it had received more than 500 calls and online reports of anti-Muslim behavior across Britain. Sunder Katwala, director of the think-tank British Future, which focuses on migration and identity, said at its best, Britain is a "confident multi-ethnic democracy". But he said successive governments had lacked a strategy for integrating different communities. While those arriving recently from Ukraine and Hong Kong were given government support, that did not happen to all. The asylum system faced particular pressures, with a huge backlog of applications and some Britons concerned about pressure on housing, healthcare and education. "With asylum you've got a visible lack of control, and that can feed into fear," he said. The riots have largely stopped since thousands of anti-racism protesters turned out to protect potential targets such as immigration advice centers, mosques, and hotels housing asylum seekers. — Reuters

## 19 dead after Uganda rubbish dump landslide

**KAMPALA, Uganda:** Nineteen people including five children are confirmed dead after a landslide at a huge garbage dump in the Ugandan capital Kampala, a senior official said on Sunday, amid claims the site was a disaster waiting to happen. Local media said homes, people and livestock were buried in mountains of waste at the landfill in the northern Kampala district of Kiteezi on Saturday after a collapse caused by heavy downpours.

President Yoweri Museveni said he had directed the army's special forces to help in the search and rescue operation and demanded to know who allowed people to live near such a "potentially hazardous and dangerous heap". The area's resident commissioner Yasin Ndide told AFP after visiting the scene of the disaster that the death toll was now 19, including five children. "The rescue mission is ongoing but with little hope of finding more survivors," he said, adding that local authorities were setting up temporary shelters for those affected by the disaster.

Ndide blamed the "encroachment" of local people who had breached the perimeter fence and settled on the site for the loss of life. Kampala's metropolitan police spokesman Patrick Onyango had earlier told reporters at the scene that 14 bodies had been recovered on Saturday, and another four on Sunday.

Onyango also told AFP that 14 people had been



**KAMPALA:** A Red Cross officer runs for help following a landfill collapse in Kampala on August 10, 2024. — AFP

rescued, while an estimated 1,000 were displaced and that the police were working with other government agencies and community leaders to see how to help those affected. Kampala mayor Elias Lukwago said that "many, many more could be still buried in the heap as the rescue operation is ongoing". He described it as a "national disaster", blaming corrupt officials who he said had been syphoning off money that should have been used to maintain the landfill.

### 'Danger zone'

Museveni said in a statement posted on X that he had ordered payments to the victims' families of five million Ugandan shillings (\$1,300) for each fatal-

ity and one million shillings (\$270) for each injured person. He also called for an investigation into how people were allowed to live so close to the site and ordered the removal of all those living in the "danger zone". Excavators were still churning through huge mounds of rubbish on Sunday as crowds of local residents looked on, some wailing in despair. Lukwago had on Saturday raised concerns about the safety of the 36-acre (14-hectare) landfill which was established in 1996 and takes in almost all garbage collected across Kampala. "This is a disaster and was bound to happen as the landfill was full to capacity," he told AFP, adding that it received about 1,500 tons of waste a day. — AFP

MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 2024

# Khaled Waleed Al-Falah: NIC achieved positive financial indicators in H1 2024

Net profits amounted to KD 5.77 million and earnings per share amounted to 7.24 fils



Khaled Waleed Al-Falah

- The National Investments Company maintained the growth momentum, achieving financial profits for the first half of this year, and continued to strengthen its leadership position locally and regionally.
- Achieving positive profitability indicators confirms the company's solid base and high asset quality and affirms that investments are selected with prudent risk management.
- Extreme professionalism led to winning distinguished awards for two consecutive years.



Fahad Abdulrahman Al-Mukhaizim

- NIC has managed to maintain sustainable growth and provide the best services with long-term value to our shareholders and customers.
- The company owns a portfolio of major investment deals, including capital offerings and mergers and acquisitions worth over \$300 million.
- Our client base was expanded by offering a variety of investment solutions through balance in achieving long-term and short-term goals

**KUWAIT:** The National Investments Company announced its financial results for the first half of 2024, in which the company achieved a net profit of KD 5.77 million at 7.24 fils per share, compared to the corresponding period of 2023, in which the net profit reached KD 4.23 million, 5.3 fils per share, an increase of 37 percent. These results position NIC as a distinctive investment banking brand and one of the largest investment companies in Kuwait and the region.

In a press release, Khaled Waleed Al-Falah – NIC's Chairman of the Board, said that the company maintained the growth momentum in achieving financial profits for the first half of this year, 2024, maintaining the achievements of the first quarter, which came in line with the wise strategy and flexibility to adapt to the ongoing changes, which in turn proved its strength in addressing local and global economic challenges and achieving competitive advantage and success in the diversified businesses.

and enhance its leading role locally and regionally, ensuring sustained profitability in the first half of this year; supported by a solid base, high asset quality, selected investments, and prudent risk management, NIC achieved favorable rates in profitability indicators. This confirms the disciplined implementation of the company's strategy, which impacted achieving the desired goals. The company's strong foundation and careful investment choices have been pivotal in sustaining its financial health and driving growth.

#### Notable achievements

Al-Falah also stressed the level of professionalism with which NIC operates, which led to receiving distinguished awards by Euromoney for the second year in a row across the Wealth Sector and the Investment Banking Sector in the company, where the company won the "Kuwait's Best for Family Office Services" and "Kuwait's Best for Next-Gen" for 2024 and "Best Local Investment Bank in Kuwait 2024". Among the notable achievements is the recognition by Forbes Middle East, recommending National Investments Company (NIC) as one of Kuwait's most assertive asset managers.

Emphasizing NIC's prudent strategy and wise vision of highlighting its positive role in society by adopting the concept of sustainability, the company's first sustainability report for 2023 will be launched. This report aims to enhance the chances of consolidating a sustainable approach by adopting proactive responsibility in several areas. Al-Falah also referred to the company's remarkable efforts in applying its vision in providing constructive ideas and outputs based on innovation and creativity in the future labor market to reach the desired results in increasing production and profit rates. NIC also continues to support and employ national cadres and enable women to benefit by 60 percent, proving the company's commitment to providing all means to sustainably and positively develop their role in the labor market and giving summer training programs for students to develop their future skills.

#### Selective studies

Fahad Abdulrahman Al-Mukhaizim, Board Member and Chief Executive Officer

at The National Investments Company, said: "We have ended the first half of 2024 with sustainable growth, as we focused on meeting the changing needs of customers and provide the best offers and services that rely on innovations and advanced digital technologies. Our plans and tactics have proven to be successful in all its sectors, positively impacted the number of current and potential investors, and helped increase the investment portfolios managed by the company for individuals and institutions locally and globally.

"The first half of 2024 was characterized by the excellent performance of some investment equity funds despite the factors driving the local market volatility, especially in the second quarter, which came due to regional geopolitical tensions and fears of a global recession af-

several accomplishments and deals worth more than \$300 million in the first half of the year, including the completion of the private placement and listing of Beyout Investment Group Holding Company KSC on Boursa Kuwait's Premier Market.

This is the first listing of its kind in more than two years. NIC has played an exceptional role as lead coordinator and joint lead book runner, financial advisor, and exclusive listing advisor for the listing process. The secondary offering of 30 percent of the company's issued shares has commenced, and the number of requests exceeded 17 times the value of the offering during the initial allocation period, with an initial coverage of KD 771 million.

NIC also acted as the exclusive advisor for the first preferred share issue

The Alternative Investments Department has also entered a mezzanine investment in Germany and is currently in the final stages of another investment in France. Both investments focus on the logistics and warehousing sector. The department is also working with its affiliate companies to restructure its investments in line with the company's strategy.

The Wealth Management Sector recorded significant achievements during the first half of 2024, expanding its customer base and attracting investors to its various investment products. The sector achieved a 16 percent growth in new investment portfolios for the first half of this year. Additionally, many practices were implemented to develop and improve investor service and keep pace with the latest technologies.



شركة الاستثمار الوطنية  
NATIONAL INVESTMENTS COMPANY

This resulted in significant gains in key financial indicators, with total assets growing by 9.21 percent to KD 266 million at the end of the first half of this year compared to KD 243.56 million value of total assets in the corresponding period of 2023, in addition to the increase in the total shareholders' equity of the parent company by 4.45 percent to reach KD 183.71 million, compared to KD 175.88 million during the first half of 2023. Other comprehensive revenues grew during the first half of this year to reach KD 16.63 million compared to other comprehensive losses of KD 4.84 million in the corresponding period last year. Al-Falah emphasized that NIC continues to benefit from its strategic, diversified approach to products and services. This strategy has helped the company maintain its position



ter the slowdown in global inflation data, but some of our investment funds have already succeeded in achieving positive performance during the current year", added Al-Mukhaizim.

During this period, the Financial Instruments team signed Market Maker service agreements with two listed companies, bringing the number of companies that NIC services to 12. This includes companies we have maintained among the Premier Market, which makes our company one of the largest investment companies in providing Market Maker service in Boursa Kuwait.

Al-Mukhaizim also praised the outstanding performance of the Financial Advisory Services Department, recording

in the Kuwaiti market for the benefit of Action Energy Company. In addition, the company was appointed as an exclusive acquisition advisor for the acquisition of a strategic investment by a listed company and as a sale advisor to another listed and wholly owned hospitality company in Kuwait. NIC is also in the process of executing the private subscription process to increase the capital of Alrai Media Group; the evaluation procedures for a healthcare company for one of the leading banks in the Kuwaiti country have also been completed. Management is moving forward with a robust portfolio of investment deals, including capital offerings and mergers and acquisitions.

#### Creative digital services

Al-Mukhaizim highlighted the company's digital transformation strategy, emphasizing that a key aspect of their strategic investments in technology involves adopting modern financial technologies. This includes the development of advanced and innovative financial products designed to meet the evolving needs of customers in digital financial markets. Additionally, the company is committed to continuing national investments aimed at expanding and enhancing all digital services provided to customers. These efforts are focused on aligning digital transformation initiatives with the company's broader strategic goals, ultimately driving business growth and overall success.

## New York eco activists turn up heat on Citi

**NEW YORK:** Environmental campaigners in New York have kept up a campaign of direct action against one of the city's foremost banking empires, Citi, accusing the group of fueling the climate crisis. Enraged by Citi's bankrolling of polluting businesses, activists have unleashed a "summer of heat" campaign that includes protests and leafleting, coupled with an online pressure campaign. Every week, dozens of protesters gather at Citigroup's gleaming headquarters in Lower Manhattan to demand it change its fossil fuel investments policy, following in the footsteps of European campaigners who did the same with eurozone banking giants. Nearly 600 people have been arrested at the New York protests and sit-ins so far.

In June four activist groups — Climate Organizing Hub, New York Communities for Change, Planet Over Profit and Stop the Money Pipeline — created the campaign against Citi, in conjunction with dozens of other groups. "We met with them for years, and you just felt like we were getting no-



NEW YORK: People gather to protest Citigroup's investment in fossil fuels in front of Citibank headquarters in New York. — AFP

where," said protest organizer Jonathan Westin who vowed to keep up the campaign until Citi changes course.

"We felt like we had to bring it to their doorstep." Oil and gas exploration in the Arctic, Amazon, and seabed alongside thermal power plants, coal mines and LNG plants have received more than \$6.9 trillion from banks since 2016. That was the year

the Paris Agreement was signed to strive to keep global warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius. In 2023, the world's 60 largest banks committed \$750 billion to fossil fuels, according to a report by NGOs Rainforest Action Network, Reclaim Finance and others. US finance giants JP Morgan Chase, Citi and Bank of America lead the pack. "Citi is the second worst funder of dirty

energy projects in the world from 2016 to 2023, spending a total of \$396.3 billion on coal, oil and gas," the report claims.

"These are the people that have the power to stop... and make investments in things that are not destroying our planet," one of the protest organizers, Renata Pumarol, told AFP. Citi insists it is "transparent about our climate-related activities." "We

are supporting the transition to a low-carbon economy through our net zero commitments and our \$1 trillion sustainable finance goal," Citi said.

Last year was the hottest on record globally, while several new temperature records were set in July this year alone. In a letter to the bank's leaders, more than 750 scientists warned Citi that "climate impacts will be significantly worse if we do not make deep, rapid cuts to heat-trapping emissions, phase out fossil fuels, and pursue a just transition to a clean energy system."

Extreme heat events like drought, forest fires and floods have hit virtually every corner of the planet, wreaking havoc on healthcare, infrastructure and ecosystems.

The UN has called heat a "new epidemic," warning that new oil and gas licenses were signing away the future of the planet. Finance is one of the planks underpinning polluting energy alongside government permits and insurance to guarantee the projects.

"Without any one of those pieces, it can't proceed. And so that's why we're going after the financiers," said campaigner Laurel Sutherland. Protester Laura Esther Wolfson said the battle against fossil fuel financing would not be "a one-day fight."

"The civil rights struggle lasted years, what we cannot do is sit back and do nothing," she said. — AFP



NBK MONEY MARKETS REPORT

# Lower jobless claims help ease recession worries in US market

## Eurozone retail sales disappoint; BoJ keeps rates steady

**KUWAIT:** Business activity in the US services sector returned to expansion territory in July, with the PMI reading coming in at 51.4 from 48.8 previously. Several components of the index also surprised to the upside, including employment at 51.1 from 46.1 in June, and new orders rising to 52.4 from 47.3. Furthermore, the prices component also ticked higher to 57.0. The reading helped slightly ease concerns of muted growth and a potential recession following last week's NFP jobs data and the subsequent sell-off in equities.

Initial jobless claims in the US fell more than expected, alleviating some concerns that the labor market is in free fall, with the reading coming in at 233,000 initial claims, down from 250,000 previously and below the 240,000 forecasted figure. The print represents the first reading related to the labor market since last week's weaker than expected jobs report that had markets worried about recession. Additionally, it offers some semblance of relief for the Fed, after several economists and market participants criticized the central bank for not cutting rates earlier, citing a deteriorating labor market as a reason to lower interest rates. Following the reading, markets are pricing in a 52 percent probability that the Fed will deliver a 25 bps rate cut in the upcoming September meeting, after previously heavily favoring a 50 bps cut. The US dollar index closed the week at 103.13.

### Retail sales in eurozone

Eurozone's retail sales declined by 0.3 percent in June after increasing by 0.5 percent in May, high-

lighting the struggles faced by European consumers amid elevated interest rates. The reading missed the consensus estimate of a 0.1 percent rise. The eurozone failed to achieve two consecutive months of retail sales increases so far this year, highlighting the volatile nature of consumer spending and the complicated path towards lower rates. The European Central Bank (ECB) delivered a widely expected 25 bps rate cut in June, taking the deposit rate down to 3.75 percent. However, the central bank has since held interest rates steady, citing concerns over inflationary pressures, and reiterating that future moves will depend on the data. Markets are currently pricing in three more 25 bps rate cuts until year-end, taking the deposit rate all the way down to 3 percent. The EUR/USD currency pair closed the week at 1.0916.

### Bank of Japan meeting

The BoJ kept rates steady in June however they hiked at the subsequent meeting in July. Minutes from the June meeting show that at least two of the nine voting members called for early hikes. Additionally, "Members agreed that the yen's recent falls were among factors that push up inflation, and must warrant close attention in guiding monetary policy." The discussions in June's meeting underline how the movement of the yen and concerns about inflation were key factors influencing the central bank to tighten in July and raise interest rates to levels not seen in 15 years. Ever since the June meeting, the yen staged a remarkable recovery to hit a 7-month high, reaching 141.67 at one point before easing. At

present, BOJ Governor Kazuo Ueda refuses to rule out another rate hike following July's decision, while markets are pricing in a potential hike in December's meeting. The USD/JPY currency pair closed the week at 146.61.

The Reserve Bank of Australia held the cash rate at 4.35 percent, in line with market expectations. RBA Governor Michele Bullock delivered hawkish guidance, stating that inflation might take longer to return to the target range, and that interest rates could remain higher for longer. In their policy statement, the board said that "Inflation in underlying terms remains too high, and the latest projections show that it will be some time yet before inflation is sustainably in the target range. Data have reinforced the need to remain vigilant to upside risks to inflation and the Board is not ruling anything in or out. Policy will need to be sufficiently restrictive until the Board is confident that inflation is moving sustainably towards the target range." The AUD/USD pair gained following a hawkish RBA rate decision and guidance. The AUD/USD currency pair closed the week at 0.6572.

### China inflation

Consumer prices in China rose more than expected, with annual CPI up 0.5 percent versus 0.2 percent previously and 0.3 percent expected. High temperatures and rainfall played a big role in pushing food prices up, therefore partially contributing to the overall rise in CPI. Meanwhile, producer price inflation came in unchanged, falling 0.8 percent annually. The readings come amid concerns about shrinking manufacturing and weak consumer demand. Authorities in the world's second largest economy introduced a series of stimulus measures, including lowering key rates, lowering down payment requirements for real estate purchases, and lowering the reserve ratio requirement. However, a prolonged property sector crisis, higher unemployment among nationals, especially youth, and high levels of local government debt are weighing on consumer's ability to purchase and the government's ability to introduce further easing measures. The USD/CNY currency pair closed the week at 7.1660.

**Kuwait**  
Kuwaiti dinar  
USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30560.

## India's e-scooter maker Ola shines in market debut

**MUMBAI:** India's biggest e-scooter maker Ola Electric Mobility dazzled on its market debut after raising \$734 million, as traders bet on surging demand for battery-powered vehicles. A booming stock market in the world's fifth-largest economy has stoked an initial public offering frenzy over the last two years, with start-ups and companies scooping up billions of dollars from domestic and foreign investors. Ola Electric, backed by global investors such as Japan's SoftBank and Singapore's Temasek, has managed to establish a leading position in a country where electric vehicle adoption is low but growing fast.

Sales of two-wheelers dwarf cars in India, but less than 6 percent of the nearly 18 million scooters and bikes sold in India in the fiscal year ending March 2024 were electric. Ola has sought to convince wary Indian customers that long-term fuel savings will make up for a lack of country-wide charging infrastructure.

The company sold 35 percent of all electric scooters bought in India in the year to March, but has reported losses for the last three years. The Indian government has spent over a billion dollars subsidizing the sale of electric and hybrid vehicles over the last five years in an attempt to cut down on vehicle emissions. Founder Bhavish Aggarwal, who often cheekily says "Tesla is for the West, Ola for the Rest", was jubilant as he entered the billionaires' club.

"Our hard work has paid off and the world recognizes that," Aggarwal wrote on Tesla boss Elon Musk's social media platform X. The company's shares surged to 91.20 rupees (\$1.09), 20 percent above their IPO price of 76 rupees (\$0.90). Aggarwal founded Ola Electric in 2017 after tasting success with Ola Cabs, a popular ride-hailing app that competes with Uber in India. — AFP

### Rates - 11<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Currencies	Previous Week Levels				This Week's Expected Range		3-Month Forward
	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	
EUR	1.0921	1.0881	1.1008	1.0916	1.0800	1.1200	1.0962
GBP	1.2805	1.2662	1.2817	1.2759	1.2600	1.3000	1.2772
JPY	146.50	141.86	147.89	146.61	144.00	150.00	144.75
CHF	0.8588	0.8430	0.8674	0.8652	0.8400	0.8800	0.8562



شركة الصفاة للاستثمار  
AL SAFAT INVESTMENT COMPANY

# KUWAIT BOURSA WEEKLY REPORT

WEEK ENDED ON 8 AUGUST 2024

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Market	M. Cap (KD ml)	Last Close	WTD %	MTD %	YTD %	Quantity Traded	Value Traded	No. of Trades	P/E	P/B	% of Total M. Cap
Premier Market	35,286	7,697.02	-2.1%	-2.6%	2.9%	707,298,657	223,359,861	53,900	17.6	1.4	82.3%
Main Market	7,609	5,970.99	-1.7%	-1.6%	7.2%	347,463,435	45,790,648	24,948	11.8	0.8	17.7%
All Share	42,896	7,065.61	-2.1%	-2.4%	3.6%	1,054,762,092	269,150,509	78,848	13.5	0.9	100%

Sector	M. Cap (KD ml)	Last Close	WTD %	MTD %	YTD %	Quantity Traded	Value Traded	No. of Trades	P/E	P/B	% of Total M. Cap
Banking	26,345	1,754.43	-2.3%	-2.8%	6.5%	379,284,983	147,167,427	25,981	16.7	1.4	61.42%
Basic Materials	423	746.85	-0.8%	-0.4%	0.1%	4,721,266	2,710,717	957	9.2	1.9	0.99%
Consumer Discretionary	1,143	1,660.24	-1.7%	-2.0%	3.5%	38,413,897	10,098,114	4,691	12.7	1.3	2.66%
Consumer Staples	311	1,022.29	5.6%	4.0%	55.2%	1,429,776	997,709	520	25.9	1.6	0.73%
Energy	214	1,048.57	-1.3%	-2.3%	10.5%	4,386,333	511,132	410	9.2	0.9	0.50%
Financial Services	4,704	1,336.24	-2.0%	-2.1%	10.2%	405,192,480	57,627,062	21,618	12.8	0.9	10.97%
Health Care	225	468.00	0.0%	0.0%	-2.9%	0	0	0	14.3	1.6	0.52%
Industrials	2,588	762.49	-2.8%	-2.9%	-16.0%	73,180,130	19,817,111	9,152	14.2	0.9	6.03%
Insurance	949	2,317.26	-2.1%	-2.4%	1.1%	3,981,510	643,509	702	8.7	1.1	2.21%
Real Estate	2,789	1,308.89	-1.5%	-1.8%	7.9%	113,852,337	16,792,307	8,718	13.7	0.7	6.50%
Technology	21	1,549.57	-4.9%	-18.7%	167.9%	89,828	18,916.73	28	256.6	1.8	0.05%
Telecommunications	3,012	982.63	-0.6%	-1.0%	-11.1%	25,949,570	12,099,764	5,542	15.3	1.3	7.02%
Utilities	171	407.89	-3.7%	-3.7%	-10.4%	4,279,982	666,740	529	13.2	1.3	0.40%

#### Top Gainers

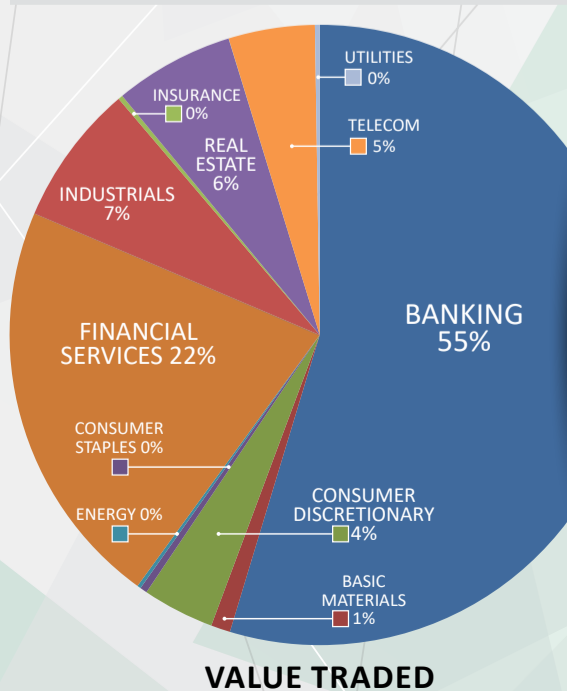
Stock	last Close	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
GFC	94.6	9.87%	8,199	705,347	6
WINSRE	148	8.03%	2,374,123	3,336,614	231
ALDEERA	384	8.00%	11,068	3,712	19
INOVEST	113	7.62%	16,821,147	1,746,747	698
OSOUL	80	7.53%	313,384	24,876	29

#### Top Volume

Stock	Last	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
KFH	720	-1.91%	85,811,326	61,580,252	10,539
KIB	180	-3.74%	81,444,540	14,375,610	2,150
WARBANK	185	0.54%	79,414,976	14,261,742	2,559
GFH	96.3	-4.56%	71,524,911	6,784,693	2,178
GBK	299	-2.61%	68,696,468	20,479,758	2,544

#### Top Losers

Stock	last Close	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
KMEFIC	80	-11.99%	290,219	24,179	166
MUNSHAAT	129	-11.64%	11,723,271	1,525,921	688
MARAKEZ	48.2	-10.74%	253,702	13,050	47
TAHSSILAT	40	-9.09%	76,974	3,147	13
FUTUREKID	103	-8.85%	10,146,880	1,039,107	777



### Market Summary:

- Premier market volume and value increased by 5% and 1%, respectively, while the Main market dropped by 19% and 20%.
- Both markets started the week with a significant drop due to the recession threat, which eased during the week, leading to a rebound.
- Technically, the All Share index closed at 7,065, with support levels at 7,041, 7,000, and 6,981, and resistance at 7,085. The Premier index closed at 7,697, with support levels at 7,685, 7,650, and 7,591, and resistance at 7,716. The Main index closed at 5,970, with support levels at 5,970, 5,959, and 5,940, and resistance at 5,990.

# India's market regulator chief rejects bias in Adani probe

## Hindenburg alleges Buch's complicity in Adani's past offshore investments

**MUMBAI:** India's market regulator chief rejected Sunday allegations by US short-seller Hindenburg Research that claimed past offshore investments may have prevented her from properly investigating corporate malfeasance allegations against the Adani Group.

Last year, Adani Group, the sprawling ports-to-power Indian conglomerate, saw billions of dollars wiped from its market value after a bombshell report by the Hindenburg forensic financial research firm accused it of "brazen" corporate fraud. The family-run conglomerate's founder, Gautam Adani, the world's 12th richest person according to a Bloomberg index of the world's billionaires, denied the allegations made in that report, calling it a "deliberate attempt" to damage its image for the benefit of short-sellers. Hindenburg claimed that Adani's elder brother Vinod "manages a vast labyrinth of offshore shell entities" in tax havens including Mauritius, Cyprus and several Caribbean islands.

### 'Insinuations'

The fraud claims wiped more than \$150 billion off the group's market value and prompted India's top court to ask the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to probe the allegations. On Saturday, citing whistleblower documents, Hindenburg accused SEBI chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband of having held investments in offshore

funds that Vinod Adani also allegedly used.

"We suspect SEBI's unwillingness to take meaningful action against suspect offshore shareholders in the Adani Group may stem from Chairperson Madhabi Buch's complicity in using the exact same funds used by Vinod Adani, brother of Gautam Adani," Hindenburg said. It suggested that the regulator may have been "reluctant to follow a trail that may have led to its own chairperson". The report says the couple opened their account in one fund in 2015. It added that weeks before her appointment to SEBI as a "whole-time member" in 2017, her husband requested to be the sole operator of the account.

Buch was later appointed as chairperson of the markets watchdog in 2022. She said her and her husband's "life and finances are an open book", in a statement. "We strongly deny the baseless allegations and insinuations made in the report," she said. "All disclosures as required have already been furnished to SEBI over the years," she added. "We have no hesitation in disclosing any and all financial documents, including those that relate to the period when we were strictly private citizens, to any and every authority that may seek them". Adani is considered a close associate of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and opposition parties and other critics say their relationship helped Adani to unfairly win business and avoid proper oversight. — AFP



**MUNDRA, India:** This photograph taken on January 11, 2024, shows a general view of the Adani Group owned Mundra Port in Mundra. — AFP

## Italy retains appeal for super-rich despite tax hike

**MILAN:** Italy's doubling of a "flat" tax on the overseas income of wealthy new residents will curb its tax shelter appeal that risked becoming excessive, but the country's inheritance tax set-up will continue to draw the ultra-rich, tax advisers said. Italy on Wednesday doubled the so-called flat tax it applies on the overseas income of wealthy individuals who transfer their tax residence to the country to 200,000 euros (\$218,180) per year. Footballers, including Cristiano Ronaldo, and many finance professionals who left London for Milan after Britain's departure from the European Union, have taken advantage of the flat tax regime, which was introduced in 2017.

Designed to help the economy by attracting big spenders, the scheme has been blamed for heating up housing demand in Italy's financial capital and increasing its social divide. Italy's tax arrangements are also under the spotlight partly because of Britain's decision to end in April 2025 its centuries-old "non-dom" tax regime that exempted from taxation the overseas income of UK residents with a foreign domicile, including for inheritance purposes.

"Italy's government, whilst in favor of the (flat tax) regime, also needs to avoid that the arrival of many new high net worth individuals triggers a political discussion about its fairness," said Marco Cerrato, a partner at tax law firm Maisto e Associati. "The 200,000 euro flat tax may reasonably contain the regime to an acceptable overall number of non-doms," Cerrato said.

With inflation soaring, the previous 100,000 euro figure had "started to be perceived as cheap", he added. Italy is expected to be the top 2024 European destination for globally mobile millionaires, British investment migration consultancy Henley & Partners said, ahead of Switzerland, Greece and Portugal. Based on relocations up to June, Henley & Partners expected 2,200 individuals with at least \$1 million in liquid investable wealth to move to Italy this year.

Italy's tax incentives had prompted 1,136 relocations at the end of 2022, and tax advisers estimate the total is currently close to 3,000.

Marco Palanca, a partner at international law firm Simmons&Simmons who heads its Italian tax department, said the changes could prompt some of their clients who work in the European fund management industry to reconsider Italy as a destination, given the fluctuating nature of their foreign earned income. But Italy's move will have little impact on people with a net worth of at least 7 million euros, Vito Di Pede, a tax adviser at Milan's Studio Rock tax and law firm, said.

"Italy remains a very good option for such individuals," he said pointing to the importance of its inheritance tax provisions. Britain's new Labour government has proposed scrapping temporary relief measures for non-doms including one that would allow them to set up trusts to shield their foreign assets from inheritance tax. Outside the non-dom regime, Britain's inheritance tax rate is 40 percent above a 325,000 pound threshold.

By contrast, the Italian inheritance tax rate is between 4 percent and 8 percent applied above various thresholds, but the flat tax regime exempts foreign assets from inheritance tax. The regime is for a 15-year period and can be extended to family members paying 25,000 euros per person.

Palanca said Italy was attracting new ultra-wealthy residents not just from the UK but also Switzerland, where a proposal has been put forward to impose a 50 percent inheritance tax on assets worth more than 50 million Swiss francs to fund the country's green transition. Italy's flat tax regime also works well in combination with a wide number of bilateral agreements Rome has in place to avoid double taxation of income and capital, unlike the situation in a number of other countries, Di Pede said. "It's obvious the changes may have caused some alarm, but all in all Italy still offers a very advantageous set-up," he added. — Reuters

## Saudi Cabinet approves new investment law

**RIYADH:** The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Cabinet announced on Sunday approval of updated investment law in alignment with the 2030 vision and the National Investment Strategy. Minister of Investment Khalid Al-Falih stated in a press statement to Saudi News Agency (SPA) that the law reaffirms Saudi Arabia's commitment to creating a welcoming and secure environment for both domestic and international investors,

driving economic growth, and enhancing the Kingdom's position as a premier global investment destination.

Al-Falih said that since the 2030 vision was outlined, Saudi Arabia has introduced pro-investment measures including the introduction of the Civil Transactions Law, Private Sector Participation Law, Companies Law, Bankruptcy Law and Special Economic Zones. He added that reforms have helped drive rapid investment growth, with gross fixed capital formation increasing by 74 pct from 2017 to nearly \$300 billion in 2023. Additionally, FDI stock increased by 61 pct from 2017 to 2023, reaching almost \$215 billion in 2023, and FDI inflows have surged by 158 percent, jumping from \$7.5 billion in 2017 to \$19.3 billion in 2023. The executive regulations will come into effect from 2025. — KUNA



**Saudi Arabia's Minister of Investment Khalid Al-Falih**

## In deluge of protests, fuel subsidies prove hard to abolish

**LONDON:** Like thousands of Nigerians and millions of others across the developing world, higher fuel costs have irked Antonia Arosanwo. "I am angry," the 46-year-old mother of five said at a bus stop in Lagos, the teeming commercial capital of Africa's most populous nation.

Her journey from Ojuelegba, a bustling suburb just 8 miles north of Lagos's business district, has more than doubled in price to 700 naira (45 US cents) since the government announced an end to fuel subsidies last year - allowing petrol prices to triple. Arosanwo's anger mirrored that of thousands of other Nigerians, whose nationwide protests last week demanding protection from rocketing inflation, spreading hunger and dwindling jobs rattled the government.

Nearly all had one core complaint: fuel prices. Across Africa - and a string of other emerging market nations - debt-laden governments trying to shed costly fuel subsidies are running headlong into angry populations reeling from years of increasing living costs. Egypt and Malaysia this year boosted prices to cut subsidy spending, while Bolivia's President Luis Arce, who fended off an attempted coup in June, called this week for a referendum on fuel subsidies. The government expects gasoline and diesel subsidies to cost Bolivia some \$2 billion this year.

Arce, like others, faces dollar shortages and a flagging economy. "Difficult moments require firm, mature, thoughtful decisions and human beings who do not falter in the face of adversity, and this is precisely a moment of this nature," Arce said in a speech in the Bolivian city of Sucre.

But the smoke of protests is clouding governments' hopes of ending fuel subsidies, as the same stagnating economic growth that's punching a hole in budgets

is making life harder for citizens.

Leaders in Angola and Senegal are, like Nigeria, struggling to cut them. "In a situation of cost-of-living crisis and high inflation, (more expensive fuel) becomes even unbearable," said Bismarck Rewane, chief executive of the Financial Derivatives Co in Lagos and a government economics adviser.

Removing the subsidy, he said, must be phased in according to two principles - "one, what the government can afford (and) two, what the people can afford?" Nearly every nation on earth has some form of energy subsidy, costs of which hit a record \$7 trillion in 2022 - a whopping 7.1 percent of GDP - according to the International Monetary Fund.

Experts slam subsidies as blunt-force tools that give more to wealthy car owners than to the poor - and that they are prone to corruption and bad for the environment. The biggest spenders, according to the International Energy Agency, are Russia, Iran, China and Saudi Arabia - countries that can, broadly, afford the costs. But for emerging countries, saddled with costly debt and still-high global interest rates, financing these is more punishing.

"It's acute now, because countries have fiscal problems," said Chris Celio, senior economist and strategist with ProMeritum Investment Management. "And so then the question is, why do you have fiscal problems? Well, one reason is because you have this hole in your budget going to something that's inefficient ... and you're having problems financing it."

Nigeria's President Bola Tinubu announced an end to subsidies after taking office last year. But when pump prices tripled, he froze them. And when the naira currency crashed, subsidies crept back - despite higher pump prices.

testers gave the government a deadline to ban the exploration and exploitation of lithium which expired on Saturday.

"We are not going to give up. The mine cannot be built on agricultural land," said Mica Miliovanovic, a 63-year old worker. "This does not have anything to do with politics."

On Friday, Vucic said authorities had received information from Russia that a coup was being planned in Serbia. "We have reason to be cautious," vice premier Aleksandar Vulin told Tanjug news agency on Saturday. If implemented, the \$2.4 billion Jadar lithium project could cover 90 percent of Europe's current lithium needs and make Rio Tinto one of the world's leading lithium producers.

Lithium is a key component in batteries for electric vehicles and mobile devices. Government officials say the lithium mine would boost Serbia's economy, but environmentalists say the price for it would be too high. On July 19, Vucic, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and EU energy commissioner Maros Sefcovic signed a deal that would grant producers from EU member states access to raw materials mined in Serbia, which would include lithium. The deal is meant to reduce the EU's dependency on imports from America and Asia. — Reuters



**KARACHI:** Commuters walk past a closed fuel station amidst a nationwide strike to protest against the hike in tax in Karachi. — AFP

Now, leaders mulling further price hikes are also nervously eyeing revolts elsewhere over unpopular economic policies.

Bangladesh's prime minister resigned after hundreds died protesting job quota changes, while Kenya's president fired his cabinet and backtracked on tax hikes after deadly demonstrations in June. "If there was a reluctance to increase fuel prices prior to the events in Kenya ... that reluctance, if anything, is probably even higher," said Goldman Sachs senior economist Andrew Matheny.

"Politicians around the world are tuned to this cost of living crisis ... that probably does limit the willingness of policymakers to undertake reforms that, at least in the short term, might prove to be unpopular." That could further strain budgets. Nigeria's subsidies cost 3.3 percent of GDP, Matheny said, and its oil company owes billions for imports. Senegal's electricity and fuel subsidies hit 3.3 percent of GDP last year, while Angola's 1.9 trillion kwanza (\$2.1 billion) subsidy bill in 2022 was more than 40 percent of spending on social

programs, according to the IMF.

Angola has pledged to scrap fuel-price supports by the end of next year, though five people died in protests over price hikes last year. Celio of ProMeritum said a sustainable budget is key to attracting the investor cash these countries need.

In a post on X, Tinubu appealed for patience and promised social support, such as access to affordable education. "I urge you all to look beyond the present temporary pain and aim at the larger picture," he said, without commenting on whether he would further hike fuel costs.

But Rewane noted that "shock therapy" of higher fuel costs could have even greater consequences for Nigeria than Kenya's proposed tax hikes did. Arosanwo, for one, questioned why she should "stop talking", or protesting, with doubled transportation costs and as she struggles to feed her family. "The government has a political will," Rewane said. "But ... time is something that is not a friend of everybody right now." — Reuters

## US inflation still 'uncomfortably' high: Fed official

**WASHINGTON:** US inflation remains "uncomfortably" above the Federal Reserve's target despite the progress it has made in recent months, a senior bank official said Saturday. The US central bank has held interest rates at a two-decade high for the past year as it battles to return inflation to its long-term target of two percent following a pandemic-era surge in prices.

The Fed's favored inflation gauge now sits at an annual rate of just 2.5 percent - well below the peak reached in 2022 - while the US economy is still growing and the labor market has weakened somewhat. Against this backdrop, Fed chair Jerome Powell suggested in late July that the bank could move ahead with its first interest rate cut as soon as September - if economic data continues to come in as expected. But some Fed officials have been more cautious about signaling rate cuts than others. — AFP

MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 2024



This aerial photo shows bleached and dead coral around Lizard Island on the Great Barrier Reef, located 270 kilometres (167 miles) north of the city of Cairns.



Tourists snorkeling above bleached and dead coral around Lizard Island on the Great Barrier Reef, located 270 kilometres (167 miles) north of the city of Cairns. - AFP photos



Bleached and dead coral around Lizard Island on the Great Barrier Reef.

## Great Barrier Reef ocean temperatures hit 400-year record



Bleached and dead coral around Lizard Island on the Great Barrier Reef.



Bleached and dead coral around Lizard Island on the Great Barrier Reef.



A green turtle swimming at Lizard Island on the Great Barrier Reef.



A green turtle feeding on sea grass at Lizard Island on the Great Barrier Reef.

**F**or the past decade, water temperatures along Australia's famed Great Barrier Reef have been the warmest in 400 years, a major study said on Thursday. Ocean temperatures around the spectacular coral system have increased yearly since 1960 but were particularly hotter during recent mass coral bleaching events, according to a study in the science journal Nature. The warmer waters are most likely down to human-induced climate change, the report said.

Co-author Helen McGregor said she was "extremely concerned" about the reef, describing the temperature increases as "unprecedented". "These are corals that have lived for 400 years and this is the warmest temperatures they're experiencing. These are the Redwood trees of the reef," she told AFP.

Often dubbed the world's largest living structure, the Great Barrier Reef is a 2,300-kilometre (1,400-mile) long expanse, home to a stunning array of biodiversity that includes more than 600 types of coral and 1,625 fish species. But repeated mass bleaching events — when extreme heat saps the coral of nutrients and color — threaten the reef's fragile ecosystem. Coral bleaching occurs when water temperatures rise more than one degree Celsius (1.8 degrees Fahrenheit).

### 'Changes happening too quickly'

The Australian researchers examined sea surface temperatures in the Coral Sea — a 2,000-kilometre (1,200-mile) stretch of ocean that extends down the northeast coast and includes the Great Barrier Reef. Scientists used coral skeleton samples to reconstruct sea surface temperatures from 1618 to 1995, as well as more recent data. They found temperatures before 1900 had been relatively stable but the sea had warmed 0.12C (0.2F) on average since 1960 until the present.

Those temperatures were even

higher during the past five mass bleaching events in 2016, 2017, 2020, 2022 and 2024, the report found. McGregor said that although corals could recover, increasing high temperatures and repeated bleaching events were straining that ability. "These changes — from what we're seeing so far

record, the latest government data shows. It will take scientists a few more months to determine how much of the reef is beyond recovery.

### 'Existentially threatened'

Richard Leck, World Wide Fund Australia's head of oceans, said the

"I think we have to be hopeful that the world is not going to stand by and let that happen. But it is a fraction of a second to midnight," he said. Governments around the globe are ramping up efforts to help curb greenhouse gases or invest in reef adaptation and mitigation efforts. Australia has invest-



A boat anchored near coral around Lizard Island on the Great Barrier Reef.

— appear to be happening too rapidly for the corals to adapt to so it really threatens the reef as we know it," said McGregor, a climate researcher at the University of Wollongong.

This year's bleaching event has left 81 percent of the reef with extreme or high levels of damage — one of the most severe and widespread on

future of the reef was "increasingly vulnerable". "At the moment, we can see the reef is resilient. It's bounced back from previous coral bleaching events but at some point that elastic band will snap," he told AFP. "Coral reefs, as an ecosystem, are the first ecosystem on the planet to be existentially threatened by climate change."

ed about Aus\$5 billion (\$3.2 billion) in improving water quality, reducing the effects of climate change, and protecting threatened species. But Australia, one of the world's largest gas and coal exporters, has only recently set targets to become carbon neutral. — AFP



Marine biologist Anne Hoggett snorkels to inspect and record bleached and dead coral around Lizard Island on the Great Barrier Reef.



# Banksy unveils seventh animal-themed work in a week in UK capital

**B**anksy on Sunday unveiled a new artwork in London, depicting a shoal of fish on a police sentry box, his seventh animal-themed piece to surface in the British capital over the last week. The series created by the elusive street artist has sparked a frenzy of media interest and questions over its meaning. Banksy — whose identity is publicly unknown and the subject of feverish speculation — confirmed on Instagram that the latest to appear overnight, in the City of London financial district, was his own. Prior to Sunday, they had all been dark silhouette images, of a goat, elephants, monkeys, a wolf, pelicans and a cat.

But the newest offering appears to have been made using translucent spray paint on the sentry box's glass windows, turning it into what looks like a giant fish tank. Two police officers could be seen examining the design and taking pictures of it on Sunday. "We are aware of criminal damage to a City of London Police box in Ludgate Hill," detective chief inspector Andy Spooner said in a statement. He noted the police force were "liaising" with the local authority who own the sentry box.

Two of the seven works that have appeared since Monday are no longer



A person poses with an artwork by street artist Banksy, the seventh to be released this week, depicting fish swimming around a Police Box, in the City of London, on August 11, 2024.

visible, after one depicting a wolf on a satellite dish was stolen less than an hour after it was unveiled in southeast London Thursday. Then on Saturday, a piece crafted on an empty, distressed advertising billboard — showing a stretching cat — was removed from its

location in northwest London by contractors citing safety reasons. Several months usually pass between new Banksy artworks and this week's daily unveilings have sparked speculation in the media and among fans about what they could mean.



An artwork by street artist Banksy, the seventh to be released this week, depicting fish swimming around a Police Box, is pictured in the City of London. — AFP photos

The Observer newspaper reported late Saturday that they were designed to "cheer up the public" during a tumultuous week in the UK marked by violent disorder on the streets of various towns and cities. "Some recent theorizing about the deeper significance of

each new image has been way too involved, Banksy's support organization, Pest Control Office, has indicated," the Sunday newspaper said. — AFP



(From left) Kevin Feige, President, Marvel Studios, Ryan Reynolds, Shawn Levy, Hugh Jackman, Emma Corrin, Dafne Keen, Jennifer Garner, Chris Evans, Channing Tatum and Wesley Snipes speak onstage during Marvel Studios: The Ultimate Deadpool & Wolverine Celebration of Life in Hall H at SDCC in San Diego, California. — AFP photos

## Viral marketing stunts made 'Deadpool' a \$1 billion hit, says Disney exec

**F**rom cameos in K-pop videos to cooking chimichangas with celebrity chefs, movie stars like Ryan Reynolds are trying ever-more unorthodox stunts to reach fragmented Gen-Z audiences, according to Disney's marketing chief. The giant Hollywood studio is enjoying a blockbuster summer, with irreverent superhero movie "Deadpool & Wolverine" becoming its latest film set to pass \$1 billion at the global box office this weekend. Speaking at Disney's D23 fan convention Saturday, chief brand officer Asad Ayaz attributed a large part of that breakaway success to stars Reynolds and Hugh Jackman pushing the boundaries of traditional marketing.

The A-listers appeared in character for the "Chk Chk Book" music video with Korean pop sensation Stray Kids, and joined a YouTube cooking competition with Gordon Ramsay and his 22-year-old daughter. They also took their world tour to a European Championship soccer match in Germany, a London chicken shop (for a popular online comedy sketch series), and got drenched at a water balloon festival. "We were very lucky and fortunate to have talent... who are willing to do things that sometimes actors don't want to do, like do things in character," Ayaz told AFP.

Gen Z, who are roughly aged 12-27, have been particularly difficult for Hollywood and movie theaters to reach in recent years, setting off alarm bells in the industry. But unusual stunts "cut through" to young viewers who pay more attention to their phones, social media, YouTube influencers and commercials on video games than traditional TV ads or movie trailers, said

Ayaz. Much of the focus is on generating off-the-wall content that spreads rapidly online.

A highly suggestive popcorn bucket for the film, supposedly "designed" by Reynolds' innuendo-loving Deadpool character, was intended to — and succeeded in — going viral globally. Reynolds and Jackman also filmed a pre-movie message warning theatergoers to switch off their cell phones — in character as their wise-cracking superhero characters. "Turn your phone to silent," growls Jackman's aggressive Wolverine, in an expletive-laden threat to camera, which has been watched hundreds of thousands



Canadian-US actor Ryan Reynolds (left) and Australian actor Hugh Jackman, pose with UK's Ugliest Dog Winner Dogpool on the red carpet upon arrival to attend the UK sneak peek event for "Deadpool & Wolverine", at the Eventim Apollo, Hammersmith, west London.

of times on YouTube. "That was an example of us producing unique content with Ryan and Hugh... in full costume," said Ayaz.

### Meme-ready marketing

"Deadpool and Wolverine" was particularly suited to the gonzo approach because the character of Deadpool repeatedly speaks directly to audiences during the film. Reynolds' potty-mouthed hero frequently pokes fun at parent company Disney, and even makes jokes about "saving" the Marvel superhero franchise, which has endured a relatively lackluster few years. But the outside-the-box approach is becoming more widespread.

Last year, rival studio Warner built a real-life "Malibu DreamHouse" to promote "Barbie," which went viral after it was listed for rent on Airbnb. Another recent big Disney hit, "Inside Out 2," deals with issues such as anxiety and depression, which are themes frequently discussed by Gen Z online. Analysts have warned that many widely shared movie memes feature pirated footage, or clips illegally filmed by audience members in theaters.

But Disney made custom clips and digital toolkits for "Inside Out 2" available to TikTok and YouTube creators, who rapidly spread memes about the film, said Ayaz. "This is an audience that is heavily on their devices. Their consumption of media is very different" to older generations, he said. "Making sure that we are on the platforms that Gen Z spends the most amount of time" on is key, Ayaz added. — AFP

## 'Avatar' and 'Star Wars' films revealed at Disney event

**D**isney lifted the lid on "Avatar: Fire and Ash" and presented new footage from "Star Wars" and Pixar movies at a giant showcase in front of 12,000 fans in California on Friday. "Avatar" director James Cameron took the stage at the company's biennial D23 fan gathering to announce the name of the latest installment of his sci-fi franchise, due out December 2025. "The new film is not what you expect. But it's definitely what you want," teased Cameron of his third visit to Pandora.

The previous two "Avatar" films are the highest and third-highest grossing movies of all time, earning \$5.2 billion combined. Images from the new movie, currently in production in New Zealand, showed its blue Na'vi characters dancing around a campfire, as well as images of giant floating ships and flying beasts. The director promised higher emotional stakes, and "new cultures and settings and creatures and new biomes." "You'll see a lot more Pandora, the planet, that you never saw before," he said.

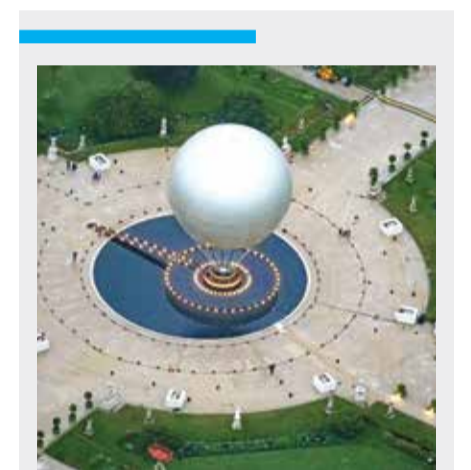
The fourth and fifth "Avatar" films are scheduled for 2029 and 2031. Also in Friday's presentation, Disney fans saw a first glimpse of "The Mandalorian and Grogu." Out in May 2026, it will be the first "Star Wars" film since 2019's divisive "The Rise of Skywalker." Disney, which had been churning out a new "Star Wars" film every year to that point, dramatically slammed the brakes in the face of diminishing box office returns. "We're putting 'Star Wars' back on the big screen," said Dave Filoni, producer of the new movie — which is spun off from streaming series "The Mandalorian," and will feature its beloved Baby Yoda.

Footage showed the cutesy creature and his mercenary friend speeding around a snowy planet. On the television side, Jude Law plays a Jedi in "Skeleton Crew," streaming in December. The kid-centric show is "in the spirit of... coming-of-age films of the '80s like 'The Goonies' and 'E.T.," promised Law.

### 'Who else?'

The giant D23 fan gathering caters to and showcases the obsessive loyalty of Disney's most die-hard devotees. Every two years, thousands flock to a California convention center, dressed as their favorite princesses and heroes. Tickets — ranging from \$80 to an eye-watering \$2,600 VIP pass — allow attendees to spend yet more money on rare merchandise, and watch starry presentations unveiling new films, shows and theme park rides.

"Who else but Disney could pull off a weekend like D23, right?" CEO Bob Iger asked the packed crowd at Anaheim's NHL professional ice hockey arena, to cheers. Seconds later, the suited executive was replaced on stage by a troupe of hula-ing Polynesian dancers and Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, promoting "Moana 2." But beneath the euphoria, Friday night's presentation of new movies and TV shows comes at a key time for Disney. The company's Pixar and Marvel franchises have suffered uncharacteristically poor runs in recent years, with high-profile flops like "Lightyear" and "The Marvels." Disney's stock price remains well below half its 2021 peak. Rounds of cost-cutting have seen thousands of jobs cut since last year, mirroring trends across Hollywood. — AFP



An aerial view of a balloon attached to the cauldron (unseen) in the Tuileries garden during the opening ceremony of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games in Paris. — AFP

## Paris Olympic cauldron could stay permanently

**T**he Olympic cauldron rising over Paris beneath a huge balloon each night has become such a popular sight that it may become a permanent fixture in the City of Light. The unique version of the Olympic flame, located in the Tuileries Gardens between the Louvre Museum and Concorde obelisk, has been one of many innovations for this year's Games. The seven-meter (23-foot) ring of flame is not actually fire, but is made up of clouds of mist lit by LED rays, built by French energy firm EDF and powered by 100-percent renewable electricity. Each night at sunset, it is drawn up into the sky for two hours by a 30-metre helium balloon, coated in light-reflecting satin paint. All 10,000 daily slots to watch it rise up-close have been booked out until the end of the Games on Sunday, and it will return for the Paralympics at the end of the month.

The "real" Olympic flame, transported from Greece to France, is installed a few steps from the cauldron in a lantern sheltered by a display case. Now, many politicians are talking about making the cauldron a permanent addition to the Paris skyline. The decision lies with President Emmanuel Macron's government. He told reporters last week that the idea "would be a dream for many people" and that his team would "look at all that in due time". It was an idea first floated by Paris mayor Anne Hidalgo, who told France 2 television she was "very keen" on keeping it.

"I'm not the one who decides since it is on the site of the Louvre, which belongs to the state. So I wrote to the president," she said. That has already sparked some competition, with the head of the wider Paris region, Valerie Pécresse, suggesting it could be shifted to the Parc de La Villette on the edge of the city if it cannot stay in the Tuileries. The huge popularity of the new landmark — with thousands coming daily for selfies — has been a surprise for its designer, Mathieu Lehanneur. "It touches me deeply, which I had not expected, or at least not to this extent," he told AFP. "It's an inverted sunset: the ritual and daily elevation of the Olympic sun. The support was immediate. We had thought about it and designed it to be absolutely recyclable after the Games and now we are considering a long-term destiny for it," he added. — AFP

# Nine big moments of the 2024 Olympics

From a colorful, sometimes controversial opening ceremony to boxers caught up in a gender row to respectful bows on the gymnastics podium, the 2024 Olympics served up many memorable moments. AFP Sport looks at 9 of the best:



Delegations arrive at the Trocadero as spectators watch French singer Philippe Katerine performing on a giant screen during the opening ceremony of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games in Paris on July 26, 2024, as the Eiffel Tower is seen in the background. - AFP photos

## Rain on opening ceremony parade

Organizers promised a spectacular opening ceremony and the rain-soaked boat parade on the River Seine ended up making global headlines, but not for the expected reasons. Church leaders, conservatives and even US presidential candidate Donald Trump were left outraged by a scene involving drag queens and DJ Barbara Butch that appeared to parody Jesus' Last Supper. Artistic director Thomas Jolly denied any such intention. He and others involved ended up facing vicious online harassment that led to police complaints.

## Cool hand Yusuf

Turkish Olympic shooting silver medallist Yusuf Dikec became an overnight sensation for his casual style during competition. His eye-catching posture saw the marksman wearing standard glasses, a team T-shirt and with his left hand casually tucked in his pocket. Other than his pistol, he notably had none of the specialized equipment used by athletes in the hyper-precise event, like headphones, special lenses or a hat. "The name's Dikec. Yusuf Dikec," said a social media post in reference to cinema icon James Bond.



Olympic silver medalist shooter Yusuf Dikec who shoots in the mixed team 10-metre air pistol category in the 2024 Paris Olympic Games and won the silver medal poses for a photograph.

## High five for Cuban wrestler

Cuban wrestler Mijain Lopez made Olympic history when he became the first athlete to win five consecutive individual golds in the same event, bettering the records of Games icons such as Carl Lewis and Michael Phelps. The soon-to-be 42-year-old then placed his shoes in the centre of the mat to signify his intention to retire. "Wrestling has been the love of my life, for all of my life," he said. - AFP



Cuba's Mijain Lopez Nunez removes his shoes as a signal that he is retiring after beating Chile's Yasmani Acosta Fernandez in their men's greco-roman 130kg wrestling final match at the Champ-de-Mars Arena.



Gold medalist Algeria's Imane Khelif poses on the podium during the medal ceremony for the women's 66kg final boxing category.

## Gender-row boxer beats 'bullying'

On a raucous night at Roland Garros, the storied home of the French Open, Algerian gender-row boxer Imane Khelif claimed gold and used her platform to hit back at "attacks" and "bullying" before defiantly declaring "I am a woman like any other." Together with Taiwan's Lin Yu-ting, who also fought in Paris, Khelif was disqualified from last year's world championships after they failed gender eligibility tests. However they were cleared to compete in Paris, setting the stage for one of the biggest controversies of the Games. "I am fully qualified to take part, I am a woman like any other. I was born a woman, lived a woman and competed as a woman," said the 25-year-old.

## Biles bows to 'queen' Andrade

Simone Biles may have been the star of the show but she was widely praised for bowing to her arch-rival Rebeca Andrade on the podium. Biles said it was "just the right thing to do" after she and team-mate Jordan Chiles finished in silver and bronze medal position respectively behind the Brazilian in the floor final. "Rebeca's so amazing, she's queen," said Biles. Romanian Ana Barbosu was later awarded the bronze medal after the Court of Arbitration for Sport ruled that Chiles should not have been upgraded from her initial fifth-place finish.



(From left) US' Simone Biles (silver), Brazil's Rebeca Andrade (gold) and US' Jordan Chiles (bronze) pose during the podium ceremony for the artistic gymnastics women's floor exercise event.



Gold medalist, Serbia's Novak Djokovic poses with his medal on the podium at the presentation ceremony for the men's singles tennis event on Court Philippe-Chatrier.

## Djokovic's roar of approval

Novak Djokovic stunned Carlos Alcaraz in a memorable men's final to clinch tennis gold and become only the fifth player to complete the Golden Slam of all four majors plus Olympic gold. The 37-year-old celebrated with a roar which echoed around Roland Garros before the tearful Serb clambered into the player's box to embrace his wife Jelena and two children. "There is no greater inspiration than representing your country," said the 24-time Grand Slam title winner. Alcaraz was also in tears, claiming he "had let Spain down".



(From bottom) Italy's Lamont Marcell Jacobs, Botswana's Letsile Tebogo, US' Noah Lyles, Jamaica's Oblique Seville, South Africa's Akani Simbine, Jamaica's Kishane Thompson, US' Fred Kerley and US' Kenneth Bednarek approach the finish line in the men's 100m final of the athletics event.

## Lyles just in time

World champion Noah Lyles roared to victory in 9.79sec to claim gold in a dramatic men's Olympic 100m final in the closest finish in modern history - just five thousandths of a second separated him from Jamaica's Kishane Thompson. "I'm the man amongst all of them. I'm the wolf amongst wolves," said Lyles whose victory was only confirmed after a photo-finish.

## North-South Korea podium selfie goes viral

Images of Olympic table tennis players from North Korea and South Korea taking a selfie together on the medal podium went viral in South Korea, hailed as a rare show of cross-border unity. After South Korea won bronze and North Korea silver in the mixed doubles behind China, South Korea's Lim Jong-hoon took a group photo after the medal ceremony. North Korea's Ri Jong Sik and Kim Kum Yong, the South's Shin Yu-bin and the victorious Chinese team Wang Chuqin and Sun Yingsha all beamed into Lim's phone, a South Korean-made Samsung. "A selfie with both Koreas' national flags and a Samsung phone," said the widely read daily JongAng Ilbo.



Arshad Nadeem of Team Pakistan competes in the Men's Javelin Throw qualification on day seven of the World Athletics Championships Oregon22 at Hayward Field on July 21, 2022 in Eugene, Oregon.

## Not cricket as Pakistan top India at javelin

Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem won the men's javelin title, his country's first individual gold at an Olympics, with a Games record of 92.97m. In second place was India's defending champion Neeraj Chopra. "Rivalry is there when it comes to cricket matches, other sports, the two countries have a rivalry, but it's a good thing for the young people in both countries to watch our sport and follow us. It's a positive thing for both countries," said Nadeem.



South Korea's Lim Jonghoon takes a selfie with his teammate and Chinese and North Korean mixed table tennis team medalists at the Paris Games on July 31, 2024.

## Sports

# China women boxers 'peel off skin' to reign at Olympics

## China's success in Paris has been years in the making

PARIS: China's women boxers have made an Olympic breakthrough in Paris with their first golds in a sport that was once banned under Mao Zedong. Women's boxing made its Olympic debut at London 2012 and after some near-misses, China struck gold this week with three titles in as many days at Roland Garros.

On Thursday, Chang Yuan clinched the 54kg crown and 24 hours later it was the turn of Wu Yu as she prevailed at 50kg. Then on Saturday, on the last night of boxing in the French capital, Li Qian won gold at 75kg.

Also boasting two silvers, it made China easily the most successful women's boxing team at the Games. Wu's performance on Friday at Roland Garros, usually home to Grand Slam tennis but hosting boxing to sell-out 15,000 crowds, was particularly eye-catching.

The 29-year-old was booed at the end of a bout in which she defeated Turkey's Buse Naz Cakiroglu on points by means both fair and sometimes foul. In the third round Wu, who is tied to China's military, had a point deducted and infuriated the Turkish boxer's corner with some of her underhand tactics.

It included punching Cakiroglu on one buttock when the Turk was facing the opposite way and her head hanging through the ropes. Wu later called it an "unfortunate accident". We will never know what Mao, the founder of communist China who banned boxing for being too violent, would have made of the scene.

"I have trained very hard and all that hard work paid off," said Wu, who has previously been described as being a sergeant in the military. The Olympic debutant adds gold to the world title and Asian Games crowns she won last year. Chinese media compared her to Zou Shiming, the men's two-time Olympic champion in 2008 and 2012 and for many years the country's best-known boxer. It is no coincidence — Wu was once under the tutelage of Zou's former coach.

### 'Goddess of the Ring'

China's success in Paris has been years in the making. At London 2012, when there were only three women's weight categories, China won a silver and a bronze. In



PARIS: (L-R) Silver medallist Turkey's Buse Naz Cakiroglu, gold medallist China's Wu Yu and bronze medallists Kazakhstan's Nazym Kyzaibay and Philippines' Aira Villegas pose on the podium during the medal ceremony for the women's 50kg final boxing category during the Paris 2024 Olympic Games at the Roland-Garros Stadium in Paris. — AFP

2016 that tally edged up to a silver and two bronzes.

Then at the pandemic-delayed Tokyo Olympics in 2021, where there were five weight divisions, China took home two silvers. Chang's victory on Thursday, also over a Turkish fighter, was particularly celebrated back home not only because it was China's first women's boxing gold, but also because of her warm and engaging personality.

She first made a name for herself on the international stage by winning Youth Olympic Games gold a decade ago. The 27-year-old was dubbed the "Goddess of the Boxing Ring" by Chinese media after her

historic gold in the French capital. Giving an insight into how China women's boxing has got to where it is now, she got into the sport when her home province formed a boxing team in preparation for London 2012. She came from a family that practiced martial arts, then she took up taekwondo, before settling on boxing because "the boxers looked so cool".

And then there is the relentless demands of training she has gone through ever since defeat in the second round at Tokyo three years ago. Training was so gruelling in the past three years that on some days it felt like "peeling a layer off my skin", she told state media. — AFP

### Paris Olympics final medals table

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
USA	40	44	42	126
China	40	27	24	91
Japan	20	12	13	45
Australia	18	19	16	53
France	16	26	22	64
Netherlands	15	7	12	34
Great Britain	14	22	29	65
South Korea	13	9	10	32
Italy	12	13	15	40
Germany	12	13	8	33
New Zealand	10	7	3	20
Canada	9	7	11	27
Uzbekistan	8	2	3	13
Hungary	6	7	6	19
Spain	5	4	9	18
Sweden	4	4	3	11
Kenya	4	2	5	11
Norway	4	1	3	8
Ireland	4	0	3	7
Brazil	3	7	10	20
Iran	3	6	3	12
Ukraine	3	5	4	12
Romania	3	4	2	9
Georgia	3	3	1	7
Belgium	3	1	6	10
Bulgaria	3	1	3	7
Serbia	3	1	1	5
Czech Republic	3	0	2	5
Denmark	2	2	5	9
Azerbaijan	2	2	3	7
Croatia	2	2	3	7
Cuba	2	1	6	9
Bahrain	2	1	1	4
Slovenia	2	1	0	3
Taiwan	2	0	5	7
Austria	2	0	3	5
Hong Kong	2	0	2	4
Philippines	2	0	2	4
Algeria	2	0	1	3
Indonesia	2	0	1	3
Zionist entity	1	5	1	7
Poland	1	4	5	10
Kazakhstan	1	3	3	7
Jamaica	1	3	2	6
South Africa	1	3	2	6
Thailand	1	3	2	6
Ethiopia	1	3	0	4
Switzerland	1	2	5	8
Ecuador	1	2	2	5
Portugal	1	2	1	4
Greece	1	1	6	8
Argentina	1	1	1	3
Egypt	1	1	1	3
Tunisia	1	1	1	3
Botswana	1	1	0	2
Chile	1	1	0	2
Saint Lucia	1	1	0	2
Uganda	1	1	0	2
Dominican Republic	1	0	2	3
Guatemala	1	0	1	2
Morocco	1	0	1	2
Dominica	1	0	0	1
Pakistan	1	0	0	1
Turkey	0	3	5	8
Mexico	0	3	2	5
Armenia	0	3	1	4
Colombia	0	3	1	4
Kyrgyzstan	0	2	4	6
North Korea	0	2	4	6
Lithuania	0	2	2	4
India	0	1	5	6
Moldova	0	1	3	4
Kosovo	0	1	1	2
Cyprus	0	1	0	1
Fiji	0	1	0	1
Jordan	0	1	0	1
Mongolia	0	1	0	1
Panama	0	1	0	1
Tajikistan	0	0	3	3
Albania	0	0	2	2
Grenada	0	0	2	2
Malaysia	0	0	2	2
Puerto Rico	0	0	2	2
Ivory Coast	0	0	1	1
Cape Verde	0	0	1	1
Refugee Olympic	0	0	1	1
Peru	0	0	1	1
Qatar	0	0	1	1
Singapore	0	0	1	1
Slovakia	0	0	1	1
Zambia	0	0	1	1

### NEWS IN BRIEF



PARIS: Australia's #11 Alanna Smith (front L) and Australia's players celebrate after winning the women's Bronze Medal basketball match between Belgium and Australia. — AFP

### Australia win basketball bronze

PARIS: Australia out-duelled Belgium down the stretch to win Paris Olympics women's basketball bronze on Sunday, beating the European champions 85-81 for their first medal since 2012. The Opals sent 43-year-old star Lauren Jackson out on a high note with the fifth Olympic medal of her career. She was on the teams that earned silver in 2000, 2004 and 2008 and was part of the bronze-medal squad in London in 2012. In a back-and-forth battle, Australia denied Belgium a first Olympic medal in their second appearance at the Games. The Cats suffered an agonizing one-point loss to Japan in the quarter-finals three years ago in Tokyo and were battling for bronze after a semi-final overtime loss to France, who face the United States later Sunday in the gold medal match. Ezi Magbegor scored 30 points and pulled down 13 rebounds for Australia while Julie Vanloo scored 26 points with 11 assists for Belgium. — AFP

### Li wins fifth weightlifting gold

PARIS: China's Li Wenwen eased to victory Sunday in the women's heavyweight class to give her nation a fifth gold in the Olympic weightlifting competition in Paris — hoisting her coach in the air to celebrate. In the event for women with a bodyweight above 81 kilograms, the 150kg Li, who also won the heavyweight category at the Tokyo Games, dominated. She was so far ahead after two lifts in both the snatch and clean and jerk that she was able to pass on her final attempt in both categories. At the end, with victory assured, she came out for the final lift of the Paris Olympic weightlifting competition and instead of picking up the bar, lifted her coach. The 24-year-old finished with a total of 309kg, 10kg ahead of Park Hye-jeong of South Korea, with Tokyo silver medallist Emily Campbell another 11kg behind. — AFP

### Leo knocks out Lopez

LOS ANGELES: Hometown hero Angelo Leo knocked out Mexico's Luis Alberto Lopez in the 10th round on Saturday to win the International Boxing Federation featherweight title in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Leo flattened Lopez with a hard left hook to the chin, sending the champion falling flat on his back to be counted out at 1:16 of the 10th round while the crowd roared and the new champion celebrated. Lopez, coming off a March stoppage of Japan's Reiya Abe, was defending his title for the fourth time and seeking a 14th consecutive triumph but instead fell to 30-3. Leo, a former World Boxing Organization junior featherweight world champion, improved to 25-1 with his 12th knockout victory in the battle of 30-year-old fighters. — AFP



PORT OF SPAIN: Jason Holder of West Indies is bowled by Aiden Markram of South Africa during Day 4 of the 1st Test cricket match between West Indies and South Africa at Queens Park Oval, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. — AFP

## Maharaj, Rabada help S Africa to keep hopes alive

PORT OF SPAIN: Keshav Maharaj and Kagiso Rabada combined on Saturday to earn South Africa a healthy first innings lead over the West Indies with the visitors attempting to defy the impact of inclement weather in seeking to force an unlikely victory going into the final day of the first Test of a two-match series in Trinidad.

Steady rain restricted play to just the final session on the fourth day but in that time South Africa dismissed the home side for 233 in the first innings and then made their intentions clear in reaching 30 without loss off five overs in the second innings at the close.

With an overall lead of 154 runs and all ten wickets in hand, the Proteas will be hoping for a full day's play

on Sunday for their batsmen to try and at least lay the platform which will give the bowlers a chance to put the Caribbean side under pressure in the final innings of this truncated match. "Hopefully we can get a full day because that will obviously give us a realistic chance of getting a result," said South Africa captain Temba Bavuma after his team made the most of the limited playing time on day four.

"To use the old cliché, we will have to take care of the first hour to set it up and if it's going our way then we can throw caution to the wind to see what happens. "But it's imperative that we set it up in that first hour," he added. Resuming at 145 for four, Kavem Hodge and Jason Holder extended their fifth-wicket partnership to 49 only for Aiden Markram's occasional off-spin to achieve the breakthrough when he bowled Holder for 36. Maharaj then claimed his fourth wicket of the innings when he quickly removed Joshua da Silva before Kagiso Rabada, who was kept waiting to use the second new ball as Bavuma gave Maharaj and Markram a chance for more success, triggered a collapse with three quick wickets. — AFP

## Kuchar leads despite Greyserman's 60 at rain-hit PGA event

WASHINGTON: Max Greyserman fired a 10-under par 60 to pull within one stroke of leader Matt Kuchar when darkness halted Saturday's second round of the rain-hit PGA Wyndham Championship. Greyserman birdied the first five holes and 10 overall in a bogey-free round but US compatriot Kuchar birdied three in a row late to shoot a second consecutive 64 and swipe the lead on 12-under 128 through 36 holes at Sedgefield Country Club in Greensboro, North Carolina.

"Steady golf but found a lot of fairways," Kuchar said. "Was able to get the golf ball in my hand, tee it up and be able to be fairly aggressive with the iron shots." Greyserman was in an all-US second-place pack with Chad Ramey and Cameron Young on 129, with En-



Matt Kuchar

gland's Aaron Rai and Americans Beau Hossler and Billy Horschel sharing fifth on 130.

Kuchar, 46, is the only player to qualify for the PGA Tour playoffs every year since the system began in 2007 but he must win to have a chance to extend that run past this week's regular-season finale and reach the top 70 in season points.

"I really don't think much about it. I try to play well every week," said Kuchar. "I don't focus on my point positioning, where I stand. I just don't know how that helps you play good golf." A tropical storm dumped more than six inches of rain on the course to wash out play Thursday and delay Friday's start, preventing the first round from finishing until Saturday morning and pushing the second round finish to Sunday morning.

Organizers will try to make the cut and play 36 holes before darkness on Sunday. World number 76 Greyserman, a PGA Tour rookie, was a threat to the all-time PGA Tour record low 18-hole score of 58 posted by American Jim Furyk in the last round of the 2016 Travelers Championship.

The 29-year-old American hoped to at least be among the few to fire 59 in a PGA event, the most recent being American Hayden Springer at last month's John Deere Classic. "I was definitely thinking about it. I think everyone would be thinking about it down the stretch," Greyserman said. "Once I got to 8-, 9-under I started to think about it and it's good nerves — it's like 72nd-hole nerves. "I

tried. I putted really well. Maybe another time." His prior low PGA round was a 63 in the final round two weeks ago in a runner-up effort at the 3M Open. Greyserman's round was the 57th 60 in PGA Tour history and the fifth this season after Americans Nick Dunlap, Beau Hossler and Wyndham Clark and Canada's Nick Taylor.

### 'Icing on the cake'

Greyserman's opening run saw him sink putts from just inside 28 feet at the first hole, just outside 12 feet at the second, nine feet at the par-3 third, just beyond six feet at the fourth and a tap-in at the par-5 fifth.

He then reeled off four birdies in a row on the back nine, starting with a putt from just outside six feet at the par-3 12th and another from just outside four feet at 13. Greyserman's most spectacular putt of the day was a 75-foot birdie effort at the 14th.

"That one was icing on the cake," he said. "I'll take those any day." He followed that with a tap-in birdie at the par-5 15th and rolled in a 24-foot birdie putt at 17 -- but only managed par at 18, to settle for 60.

Defending champion Lucas Glover made a hole-in-one at the par-3 12th hole. His tee shot from 189 yards bounced twice and went in the hole for his sixth career PGA Tour ace. Hours later, fellow American Joe Highsmith aced the 12th, becoming the first player with three aces in one season since the PGA began tracking them in 1983. — AFP

Sports

PARIS 2024



# Sweden breeze to gold in men's Olympic Games beach volleyball

Beach volleyball has become one of the most popular events at the Olympics since its inclusion

PARIS: Swedish pair David Ahman and Jonatan Hellvig won gold in the men's beach volleyball finals on Saturday in Paris, storming to an easy victory against their German opponents. The world number one pair took just 34 minutes to conquer third-ranked Nils Ehlers and Clemens Wickler, who were previously unbeaten before eventually being denied the top accolade and will leave Paris with silver. The sun set over a clear Paris sky as teams battled on the sand for the final day at the spectacular venue, where thousands of enthusiastic spectators have flocked over two weeks to snap selfies in front of the Eiffel Tower.

Ahman and Hellvig, both aged 22, looked like they were thoroughly enjoying themselves, spinning on the sand, high-fiving and being cheered on by fans dressed in bright yellow. They kept the constant edge over the German pair to win the first set by an easy 21/10, and while Germany narrowed the gap in the second set it ended 21/13 after a dramatic fumble over the net at the end. Ehlers, who stands at 6 feet 11 inches (2.11 metres), used his height to make some superb blocks but was met by strong returns from the youthful Swedes, and the Germans gave away several points by sending the ball long. The Swedes applauded and bowed to the crowd after the match as the illuminated Eiffel Tower twinkled behind them.

The top-ranked Swedish pair have become famous for their style of attacking play called the "Swedish jump-set", which adds an element of unpredictability to attacking play. Other players have admitted to trying to copy the style with varying degrees of success throughout the Paris Games. Swedish fans dressed roared their approval as the final point was awarded, storming down the stands and singing along to "Mama Mia" by Swedish pop legends ABBA. "It's just unbelievable," said Ahman. "We don't really know what we did out there — we played our hearts out and it worked so well, and now we are standing here with a gold medal." "We got a really good start and after that, everything just worked for us and I still don't believe how we managed to play that well actually," added teammate Hellvig.



PARIS: Gold medallists Sweden's David Ahman (L) and Jonatan Hellvig celebrate with fans after the award ceremony of the men's beach volleyball event during the Paris 2024 Olympic Games at the Eiffel Tower Stadium in Paris. — AFP

'Always fighting'

Tokyo 2020 gold medallists Anders Berntsen Mol and Christian Sandlie Soerum of Norway won the bronze medal, also marching to victory in two short, straight sets. The Norwegian pair coolly triumphed over Cherif Younousse and Ahmed Tijan of Qatar, bronze medallists in Tokyo, in just over half an hour, winning 21/13, 21/16. The Qataris had won fans in Paris for their style of play and interaction with the crowd, but they didn't find their groove on Saturday despite some brave play, including one valiant dive that left Younousse face down in the sand.

They rallied in the second set to deny the winning match point twice, but not enough to stop Norway claiming their win. "There's a lot of people who want

to be in our shoes right now," Berntsen Mol told reporters afterwards.

"And so, with this in the back of our heads, we're super proud but we're always fighting for gold." For the women's final on Friday night, "I love Paris" had been drawn across the sand; for the men's final a large Eiffel Tower had been sketched across the court with acrobats and dancers entertaining crowds.

Beach volleyball has become one of the most popular events at the Olympics since its inclusion in 1996. But the sport has drawn particular attention in Paris both for its spectacular location, and for the controversy surrounding Dutch player Steven van de Velde, a convicted rapist who was controversially selected for the Olympics despite his criminal past. — AFP

## N Zealand cyclist Andrews wins sprint gold

PARIS: New Zealand's Ellesse Andrews blasted to the women's Olympic sprint title at the Paris velodrome on Sunday to go with her keirin gold medal. The 21-year-old easily outgunned German world record holder Lea Friedrich 2-0 in the best-of-three final to claim her country's first sprint gold since it was added to the Olympic programme in 2008.

British world champion Emma Finucane overpowered the Netherlands' Hetty van de Wouw 2-0 to take the bronze. Andrews upset Finucane 2-0 in the semi-finals and was always in charge against Friedrich, winning the first race by 0.095 and the second even more comfortably with a 0.624 margin.

Canadian defending champion Kelsey Mitchell was eliminated in the quarter-finals, then came eighth in the race-off for the minor places. Both Andrews and Friedrich have been in sizzling form in Paris, each smashing Mitchell's world record in qualifying. Andrews achieved the feat first before Friedrich bettered it minutes later with a lightning-fast 10.029secs.

American defending champion Jennifer Valente overpowered the field to defend her women's omnium title in the final velodrome race of the Paris Olympics on Sunday. Valente finished 13 points ahead of Poland's Daria Pikulik, with New Zealand's Ally Wollaston taking bronze, six points further back.



MONTIGNY-LE-BRETONNEUX: New Zealand's Ellesse Andrews celebrates after winning the women's track cycling sprint final race 2 for gold of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games at the Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines National Velodrome in Montigny-le-Bretonneux. — AFP

The omnium is one of track cycling's most unpredictable events, featuring four separate races — the scratch, tempo, elimination and points — with riders collecting points in each. Valente timed the opening 30-lap scratch race to perfection, pulling clear on the final stretch to take the maximum 40 points ahead of Canada's Maggie Coles-Lyster.

Irish rider Lara Gillespie seized the initiative in the tempo, finishing first. But Valente kept her overall lead, eight points clear of Australia's Georgia Baker and 18

ahead of Coles-Lyster. The 29-year-old then won an energy-sapping elimination race, with Baker second and Coles-Lyster third to take a 10-point advantage into the final 80-lap race where she made no mistakes.

Valente upset then-world champion Yumi Kajihara of Japan to become the first American woman to win an Olympic track cycling gold medal at Tokyo three years ago. Since then, she has asserted herself as the woman to beat in the omnium, winning back-to-back world titles in 2022 and 2023. — AFP

Olympics Gallery



MONTIGNY-LE-BRETONNEUX: Britain's Emma Finucane celebrates after winning the women's track cycling sprint final race 2 for bronze.



MONTIGNY-LE-BRETONNEUX: Netherlands' Harrie Lavreysen celebrates winning the men's track cycling keirin final for gold.



PARIS: Croatia's #01 Marko Bijac tries to stop a shot by Serbia's #09 Nemanja Vico in the men's water polo gold medal match between Serbia and Croatia.



PARIS: Bronze medallists Brazil's players pose on the podium during the award ceremony for the women's volleyball following the gold medal match between USA and Italy.



PARIS: Gold medallists Italy's players pose during the award ceremony for the women's volleyball following the gold medal match between USA and Italy. — AFP photos

# Classifieds

Clinics & Hospitals

Clinics

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

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

Hospitals

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

Change of Name

I, **Darvuri Haribabu** holder of Indian Passport No. S0588642, residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare that I have changed my name from Darvuri Haribabu to Daruru Haribabu (given name) and Daruru (surname).  
**(5647#, 11/08/2024)**

I, **Alinul Eslan** S/o Mohammad Aqil holder of Indian Passport No. T8767560 having permanent address H.No. 473-A Faithful Ganj, Cantt. Kanpur-208004, UP, India residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as given name Alernul and surname Eslam.  
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PARIS 2024 

## US beat France for men's basketball gold

Serbia win bronze with a dominant 93-83 victory over World Cup champions Germany



PARIS: (From L) Gold medallists USA's #04 Stephen Curry, USA's #07 Kevin Durant, USA's #05 Anthony Edwards, USA's #09 Tyrese Haliburton, USA's #08 Derrick White, USA's #10 Jayson Tatum, USA's #06 LeBron James, USA's #11 Joel Embiid, USA's #13 Bam Adebayo, USA's #14 Anthony Davis, USA's #15 Devin Booker and USA's #12 Jrue Holiday pose on the podium after the men's Gold Medal basketball match between France and USA during the Paris 2024 Olympic Games at the Bercy Arena in Paris. — AFP

PARIS: The United States won their fifth straight Olympic men's basketball crown on Saturday, holding off a battling France 98-87 to take their tally of Olympic golds to 17. In a rematch of the Tokyo Olympics final three years ago, LeBron James and the US team stacked with NBA stars once again proved too much for France, despite the efforts of sensational NBA Rookie of the Year Victor Wembanyama.

France sliced a 14-point deficit to three with 3min 04sec to play on Wembanyama's put-back dunk, but Golden State Warriors star Stephen Curry drilled a three-pointer—one of four from him with less than three minutes remaining — and the United States relentlessly powered to the finish. Curry finished with eight three-pointers — including a rainbow over a leaping Wembanyama — and led the US scoring with 24 points.

"You just simply marvel," James said of Curry. "Having him on your side, you just try to get stops and figure out other ways on the other end but keep finding him, keep getting him the ball." Curry said of his late-game heroics: "I was just trying to settle us down." "All we wanted to do was get a good shot," Curry said. "It had been a while since we had a good possession. "(Finally) the momen-

tum was on our side. At that point, your mind goes blank. You don't really care about setting or the scenario or anything. It's just a shot."

Kevin Durant and Devin Booker added 15 points apiece and James scored 14 with six rebounds, 10 assists, a steal and a block. For Durant it was a US men's record fourth Olympic gold. James earned his third and Curry, a four-time NBA champion, claimed his first in his first Olympic appearance.

"There's a lot of relief," Curry said. "It wasn't easy but, damn, I'm excited, man. This is everything that I wanted it to be and more, so I'm excited." Wembanyama had his best offensive game of the Olympics, scoring 26 points. Guerschon Yabusele added 20.

France connected on just nine of 30 three-point attempts and the United States held a 31-9 advantage in fast-break points. Both teams were locked in defensively in a tense first half that featured 10 lead changes. Wembanyama soared for a dunk that gave France an 11-10 lead and sent the Bercy Arena crowd into a frenzy. The Americans were soon back in front when Booker made a layup off a behind-the-back pass from James and a steal from James set Jayson Tatum loose for a dunk.

Down by five after one quarter, France took a 25-

24 lead on a Bilal Coulibaly dunk, but the US continued to capitalize in transition off of France's misses. James drove through traffic for a layup, drawing a foul and flexing at the US bench before making the free throw to put the United States up 37-31, and they led 49-41 at halftime.

The dream final drew a raft of luminaries. French President Emmanuel Macron was in the house and so was sprint star Sha'Carri Richardson, a day after she anchored the US 4x100m relay to gold. James signalled his intentions early, taking the court in golden shoes and opening the scoring with a dunk.

Curry, who scored 36 points in the come-from-behind semi-final victory over Serbia, heated up in the second half, giving the US their biggest lead of the game, 61-47, with a three-pointer early in the third. France kept pressing and were only six down heading into the fourth quarter, but finally had to watch the US players celebrate at the end, draped in flags.

A downcast Wembanyama could only hug his teammates, but with the silver medal around his neck he called the experience "incredible" and said he'd try to return the favor at Los Angeles in 2028. "I will be going for gold in four years' time," he said. — AFP

## Olympics chief Thomas Bach not to seek third term

PARIS: International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach said at the Paris Games on Saturday he will not seek to remain in charge for a third term. "New times are calling for new leaders," the 70-year-old German lawyer, who has led the Olympic movement since 2013, told a session of IOC members in the French capital.

Bach said he was asked to stay in his role but insisted he would not attempt to extend his mandate by changing the Olympic charter that limits the president to a maximum of 12 years in the role. "I know with this decision I am disappointing many of you... But it is in the best interests of our beloved Olympic movement," he told the IOC delegates. His successor will be elected during the IOC's 143rd session in Greece on March 18-21, 2025 and will take office the following June. The jostling to succeed Bach will now begin, with some well-informed IOC watchers tipping Zimbabwean former swimmer Kirsty Coventry, 40, for the role.

Nicole Hoevertz, a 60-year-old former synchronised swimmer and IOC vice-president from Aruba, has also been cited as a possible contender along with World Athletics chief Sebastian Coe, a British two-time Olympic gold medallist over 1500m. It is understood that Prince Feisal of Jordan, who is an IOC Executive Board member, will also be a candidate.

Bach, who won gold for West Germany in the foil fencing team event at the 1976 Olympics, was elected an IOC member at the age of 37 and went on to play a series of influential roles within the organisation, notably as a founding member of the IOC's Athletes' Commission, before taking over from Jacques Rogge.

When he was elected in 2013, the Bavarian claimed to embody the renewal of Olympism — in particular with less expensive and more environmentally friendly Games — with the slogan "change or be changed". "This mantra also applies to myself," he said, before pausing for a few moments, with tears in his eyes. Bach has repeatedly voiced his opposition to sports boycotts, attempting to establish a watertight boundary between political conflicts and the Olympics. — AFP

## Hollywood ending for Sifan Hassan and Paris Olympics

PARIS: Sifan Hassan completed her mission impossible with a gruelling women's marathon win on the sun-baked streets of Paris Sunday as Tom Cruise is rumoured to give the Olympic Games a Hollywood ending.

On the final day of what has been seen as a spectacular Games, the race to top the medals table was coming down to the final event, with China and the United States grappling for dominance. Dutch-woman Hassan had taken on what many considered to be a crazy gamble, competing in the 5,000m, the 10,000m and the marathon — the last two events just two days apart.

But in a thrilling sprint finish, Hassan overhauled Ethiopia's Tigst Assefa to take gold by three seconds in an Olympic record of 2hr 22min 55sec. On Friday she had taken bronze in the 10,000m in the Stade de France after coming away with a bronze in the 5,000m.

She fell to the ground on the blue carpet in front of the golden dome of the Invalides memorial complex in the heart of Paris before grabbing a Dutch



PARIS: Netherlands' gold medallist Sifan Hassan celebrates after crossing the finish in first place in the women's marathon of the athletics event at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games at the Invalides in Paris. — AFP

flag to celebrate an extraordinary achievement. "It was not easy," said Hassan, 31. "It was so hot, but I was feeling OK. I've never pushed myself through to the finish line as I did today."

"Every moment in the race I was regretting that I ran the 5,000m and 10,000m. I was telling myself if I hadn't done that, I would feel great today. "From the beginning to the end, it was so hard. Every step of the way, I was thinking, 'Why did I do that? What is wrong with me?'"

Hassan's victory was a sensational ending to an

Olympics athletics programme that saw US sprinter Noah Lyles win the 100m by just five thousandths of a second. The US dominated the athletics and are going for gold in the last event of the Games, as their women basketball stars hope to add to the men's title against hosts France.

An eighth straight triumph would give them the record for most consecutive golds in any team sport at the Olympic Games — breaking a tie with the US men, who won seven basketball titles in a row from 1936 to 1968.

"I think the gold medal is the standard," US forward Alyssa Thomas said. "No matter where we are in the world, it's our goal and that's what we came here for." Wrestling, weightlifting, water polo, volleyball, modern pentathlon, handball, and track cycling were the other sports to crown Olympic champions on the last day. Hungary's Michelle Gulyas ran and shot to Olympic gold in the modern pentathlon, with home favourite Elodie Clouvel roared on to clinch silver. In weightlifting, China's jubilant Li Wenwen lifted her coach into the air instead of the bar, having already secured gold.

On the cycling track, Dutch star Harrie Lavreysen surged to the men's keirin for his third gold of the Games, ending British dominance of the event they had won at every Olympics since 2008. New Zealand's Ellesse Andrews blasted to the women's sprint title to add to her keirin gold, while American cyclist Jennifer Valente won the women's omnium. — AFP