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Zionist terror rocks Mideast

Dozens killed in Lebanon • Houthi targets bombed in Yemen • More martyred in Gaza

Amir receives Crown Prince



KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Sunday HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah after he headed Kuwait's delegation at the high-level week of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly in New York. HH the Amir also received HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah and Deputy Prime Minister, Interior Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef Al-Sabah. — KUNA

JERUSALEM/BEIRUT: The Zionist entity said it bombed Houthi targets in Yemen on Sunday, expanding its confrontation with Iran's allies in the region after killing Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah on Friday in an escalating conflict in Lebanon. The airstrikes on Yemen's port of Hodeidah were in response to Houthi missile attacks on the Zionist entity in recent days, the Zionist entity said, amid fears that Middle East fighting could spin out of control and draw in Iran and the Zionist entity's main ally the United States.

The strikes took place as the Zionist entity attacked more targets in Lebanon, where its intensifying bombardment over two weeks has killed a string of top Hezbollah leaders and driven hundreds of thousands of people from their homes. Lebanon's Health Ministry said Zionist strikes on Sunday had killed 24 people in Ain Deleb in the south and 21 people in Baalbek-Hermel in the east and that 14 medics had been killed in airstrikes over the past two days. Zionist drones hovered over Beirut over-

night and for much of Sunday, with the loud blasts of new airstrikes echoing around the Lebanese capital. The Zionist entity rapidly ramped up its attacks on Hezbollah two weeks ago with the declared goal of making northern areas safe for residents to return to their homes, killing much of the group's leadership. The Zionist defense minister is now discussing widening the offensive.

Nasrallah's death dealt a particularly significant blow to the group which he led for 32 years, and it was followed by new Hezbollah rocket fire on the Zionist entity, while Iran said his death would be avenged. The United States has urged a diplomatic resolution to the conflict in Lebanon, but has also authorized its military to reinforce in the region in a sign of the growing unease.

In an interview with NBC, the chair of the US Senate Armed Services Airland Subcommittee, senator Mark Kelly, said the bomb that the Zionist entity used to kill Nasrallah was an American-made 2,000-lb (900-kg) guided weapon. White House national security spokesperson John Kir-

by said all-out war with Hezbollah or Iran would not help residents of the Zionist entity return to their homes. "We believe that a diplomatic path is the right course," he said.

Zionist military strikes across the Gaza Strip killed at least 11 Palestinians, health officials in the enclave said on Sunday, as Zionist planes bombarded several northern, central and southern areas. The Um Al-Fahm School sheltering displaced Palestinians in Beit Lahiya in the northern Gaza Strip was among buildings hit, killing four people and wounded several others, Gaza medics said.

In another strike, three people were killed in a house in Gaza City, medics said. Four others were killed in three separate airstrikes in Nuseirat and Khan Younis in central and southern parts of the Gaza Strip. Zionist forces pursued their operations in Rafah, near the border with Egypt, and in Gaza City's suburb of Zeitoun, where forces blew up several houses, according to residents and Hamas media.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Driving licenses valid for 3 years

KUWAIT: The validity of expats' driving licenses has now been extended to three years instead of one year after issuance or renewal, the interior ministry's traffic department announced on Sunday. Expats' driving licenses are still only available on the Kuwait Mobile ID app, it said, noting they can be used without the need to print a physical card.

Army chief stresses preparedness

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Army Chief-of-Staff Lt Gen Bandar Al-Muzain stressed on Sunday the importance of taking all necessary measures to enable army units to fully execute their tasks and duties. He highlighted the need to address and overcome any obstacles that may hinder the implementation of military plans, programs and strategies, while also focusing on ways to develop them. — KUNA

US strikes kill 37 in Syria

WASHINGTON: US forces conducted two separate strikes in Syria, killing 37 "terrorist operatives" including members of the Islamic State group and Al Qaeda affiliate Hurras al-Din, the military's Central Command (CENTCOM) said Sunday. A Sept 24 strike in northwest Syria killed nine "terrorist operatives," including senior Hurras al-Din leader Marwan Bassam 'Abd-al-Ra'uf, the US military said. A Sept 16 strike in central Syria targeted an IS training camp and killed at least 28 people, including four senior leaders, the statement said. — AFP

Bootleg alcohol kills 6 in Iran

TEHRAN: Six people have died of alcohol poisoning in northern Iran after consuming bootleg booze, state media in the Islamic republic reported Sunday. Official news agency IRNA said four people died in the northern province of Gilan. Sixteen others were hospitalized, including six in serious condition. In a similar incident, two people died in the neighboring Mazandaran province and three are hospitalized, IRNA said. — AFP

Kuwait to boost int'l cooperation in medical field

NEW YORK: Health Minister Dr Ahmad Al-Awadhi affirmed Kuwait's keenness to improve health system and enhance global cooperation in the medical field, ensuring the delivery of quality health services. This came in a press release following a high-level meeting on Thursday on antimicrobial resistance between Dr Awadhi and Director-General of the World Health Organization Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, on the sidelines of

Depth of Zionist penetration of Hezb revealed

BEIRUT: In the wake of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah's killing, Hezbollah faces the enormous challenge of plugging the infiltration in its ranks that allowed its arch-enemy the Zionist entity to destroy weapons sites, booby-trap its communications and assassinate the veteran leader, whose whereabouts had been a closely guarded secret for years.

Nasrallah's killing in a command HQ on Friday came barely a week after the Zionist entity's deadly detonation

of hundreds of booby-trapped pagers and radios. It was the culmination of a rapid succession of strikes that have eliminated half of Hezbollah's leadership council and decimated its top military command.

In the days before and hours after Nasrallah's killing, Reuters spoke to more than a dozen sources in Lebanon, the Zionist entity, Iran and Syria who provided details of the damage the Zionist entity has wrought on the powerful paramilitary group, including to its supply lines and command structure.

One source familiar with Zionist thinking told Reuters, less than 24 hours before the strike, that the Zionist entity has spent 20 years focusing intelligence efforts on Hezbollah and could hit Nasrallah when it wanted, including in the

high-level week of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The meeting focused on discussing ways to enhance international cooperation towards the delivery of the Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (GAP). The meeting also discussed the humanitarian health challenges some countries of the Eastern Mediterranean are facing as well as the current humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip.

The minister of health reaffirmed that Kuwait developed a national action plan to combat antimicrobial resistance based on a strong multi-sectoral approach based on the "One Health" principle. Also, Kuwait succeeded in enhancing its participation in the World Health Organization's Global Surveillance System for Antibiotic Resistance and Use (GLAS), he added. — KUNA



NEW YORK: Health Minister Dr Ahmad Al-Awadhi meets WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. — KUNA

Retaliation or defeat: Hezb at crossroads

BEIRUT: The Zionist entity's killing of Hassan Nasrallah leaves Hezbollah under huge pressure to deliver a resounding response to silence suspicions that the once seemingly invincible movement is a spent force, analysts said. Widely seen as the most powerful man in Lebanon before his death of Friday, Nasrallah was the face of Hezbollah and the Zionist entity's arch-nemesis for more than 30 years.

His group had gained an aura of invincibility for its part in forcing the Zionist entity to withdraw troops from south Lebanon in 2000, and after waging a devastating 33-day-long war in 2006 and opening a "support front" in solidarity with Gaza since Oct 2023. But Nasrallah's killing in Hezbollah's southern Beirut bastion known as Dahiyeh was the culmination of two weeks of unprecedented blows to the

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SYDNEY: Demonstrators hold flags and pictures of Hassan Nasrallah, late leader of Hezbollah, at a protest rally in the central business district on Sept 29, 2024. — AFP

Local

Crown Prince receives PM, First Deputy PM



KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received Sunday His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. His Highness the Crown Prince also received First Deputy Prime Minister, Interior Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef Al-Sabah. — KUNA

Army chief, officials discuss strategies

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Army Chief-of-Staff, Lieutenant General Bandar Al-Muzain



stressed on Sunday the importance of taking all necessary measures to enable army units to fully execute their tasks and duties. He highlighted the need to address and overcome any obstacles that may hinder the implementation of military plans, programs and strategies, while also focusing on ways to develop them.

According to a General Staff press release, the Kuwaiti top brass aforementioned remarks came after chairing a De-

fense Council meeting, where he praised the official visit made by First Deputy Prime Minister, Defense Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, to the United Arab Emirates.

The visit was seen as a significant step in strengthening military cooperation between the two countries, particularly in the areas of training, military technology and enhancing the readiness of the armed forces. — KUNA



India-Kuwait relations strengthen with growing trade, investment, cultural ties

Ambassador highlights rising exports, infrastructure projects and new cultural initiatives



Indian Ambassador Dr Adarsh Swaika poses for a group photo with local media representatives.

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: Ambassador of India to Kuwait Dr Adarsh Swaika highlighted recent high-level meetings aimed at strengthening India-Kuwait relations. "During the meetings, Kuwait's leadership expressed strong interest in deepening ties with India, particularly in trade, infrastructure development and investments, and emphasized the desire for greater participation of Indian companies in Kuwait's growth sectors," he told journalists.

On the trade front, the Indian ambassador noted: "Our exports reached \$2 billion last year, with diversification into new sectors. Rice remains a key export, but we are now seeing increased interest in areas such as telecommunications equipment and Indian-made cars."

Dr Swaika added that a recent delegation of 40 to 50 Indian companies from the food and agro sectors visited Kuwait and had productive interactions with Kuwaiti importers. "Our cooperation in agriculture and food safety is also growing, as

seen by the visit of Kuwait's Public Authority for Food and Nutrition to India's largest food event, World Food India," he said.

Swaika mentioned Kuwaiti investments in India are increasing. "We have seen more engagement from Kuwait's investment agencies, signaling a positive trend. Regarding the Indian community here, we have crossed the 1 million mark. Regulatory changes in Kuwait, such as easing restrictions on family visas, have been warmly welcomed by our expatriate community. As a result, we are seeing renewed interest in the labor market, with more professionals such as doctors, engineers, and nurses arriving in Kuwait," he noted.

On Kuwaiti investments in India, he said: "I believe India is a growing hotspot for global investment. Last year, India saw \$70 billion in foreign investment, part of over \$600 billion in the last decade. With a consistent growth rate of 7-8 percent, India is on track to become the third-largest economy in the world, offering ample opportunities for Kuwaiti investors. We're actively sharing the India growth

story with our partners in Kuwait, and I am optimistic about the future."

Regarding Indian companies' participation in Kuwait's mega projects, the ambassador stated: "I'm pleased to report that several have contributed significantly. For example, the Al Sabah Hospital and the new Kuwait University campus are both being built by Indian firms. Under the GCC project, two Indian companies are working on the Kuwait-Iraq electricity interconnection, while another Indian firm is responsible for the South Sura Road project. Indian companies are particularly interested in sectors like pharmaceuticals, real estate and food processing. We encourage companies to explore opportunities in Kuwait's upcoming special economic zones. Indian firms are showing more interest in registering through the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority, with a few already taking that route."

In line with the global focus on sustainability, Dr Swaika revealed that the embassy is launching an environmental campaign inspired by Indian

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's initiative to plant a tree in the name of one's mother. This will be done in collaboration with UN-Habitat and Farwaniya governorate in Kuwait.

The ambassador also spoke about recent cultural developments. "Kuwait Radio started a Hindi language program, which was appreciated by our Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his radio address. Additionally, we signed an MoU with a private university to introduce Hindi language courses, with a professor from India expected to arrive soon. We're planning various events in the coming months, including a large tourism event, a musical concert by a renowned Indian musician in November and a start-up conference in December to explore mutual opportunities," he said.

"I believe we are entering a dynamic and exciting phase of India-Kuwait relations, with growing cooperation in trade, culture and investment. Both countries are eager to deepen this partnership, and I look forward to more high-level engagements in the coming months," Dr Swaika concluded.



Kuwait Red Crescent official signs two agreements with his Palestinian counterpart to finance the treatment of injured Palestinians. — KUNA photos



Secretary-General of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society Maha Al-Barjas with leaders of the Palestinian Red Crescent after the signing ceremony.

KRCS signs agreements to finance treatment of injured Palestinians

CAIRO: Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) signed two agreements with its Palestinian counterpart on Sunday to finance the treatment of injured Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and cover the operating expenses of the KRCS field hospital in the Strip. The two agreements were signed by KRCS Secretary-General Maha Al-Barjas and Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS) President Dr Younis Al-Khatib in the Egyptian capital Cairo in the presence of a number of PRCS leaders.

Al-Barjas stressed in a statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that KRCS is keen on providing all forms of support to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian brothers, especially those injured as a result of the brutal aggression on the Gaza Strip, especially with regard to supporting the medical sector with medicines and medical supplies. She said that the society will contribute through the two agreements to finance the treatment of injured Palestinians from the Gaza Strip during their stay at Palestine Hospital in Cairo, in addition to operating the KRCS field hospital in Gaza to ensure the sustainability of health services in the Strip in light of the ongoing war.

She added that Kuwait, its leadership, government, and people have been keen to support the



Secretary-General of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society Maha Al-Barjas tours Palestine Hospital in Cairo.

Palestinians since the beginning of the war until now and have been making efforts through the official institutions and Kuwaiti charitable organizations to provide medical and relief aid in order to help them overcome the current crisis.

Following the signing, the Secretary-General of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society, Maha Al-Barjas, toured the Palestine Hospital affiliated with the Palestine Red Crescent Society (Cairo Branch). She visited some of the injured people and inspected the hospital's various departments. During the tour, Al-Barjas listened to an explanation from officials about the hospital. The hospital was established in 1976 and consists of 9 floors with a capacity of 85 beds and 12 for intensive care. It includes 4 operating rooms and wings for all major medical specialties, especially cardiology, internal medicine, orthopedics, and ophthalmology. Plans are underway to increase the capacity to 130 beds. — KUNA

With Gaza kids at heart, Kuwait students discuss pediatric emergency care

By Passant Hisham

KUWAIT: Moved by the daily suffering of thousands of children in Gaza being injured due to bombings and killings, a group of medical students in Kuwait took the initiative to organize a seminar on the importance of pediatric emergency care. The seminar included a special session featuring two Kuwaiti doctors, Mohammad Shamsah and Faisal Alhajerji who volunteered in Gaza, sharing their experiences of performing life-saving surgeries amidst the conflict.

Noting that medical emergencies can occur "anywhere, anytime, anywhere," Rowa Al-Enezi, a medical student and member of the event's organizing team, emphasized the importance of raising awareness about this topic among medical students, patients, and parents in Kuwait. She explained that part of the initiative is to spread knowledge on the proper management of emergencies, while another key aspect is to "keep the children of Gaza always in mind," as she added.

From fractures, bleeding, and poisoning to upper

airway problems and CPR, Rowa Al-Enezi believes that being able to help someone recover in any of these situations can "make the difference between life and death." That's when she noted that some first aid skills are tailored for public awareness, not just for medical professionals, such as CPR and AED.

Dr Rita George Alfattal, a pediatric consultant, advocated for the wider adoption of life-saving skills such as Basic Life Support (BLS) for everyone, whether it's a parent or even a high school student. She also encouraged families with children suffering from chronic illnesses to develop emergency plans in collaboration with their treating doctors. Additionally, she stressed the importance of seeking medical advice as soon as parents notice any abnormal symptoms in their children, pointing out the need for effective communication between parents and healthcare providers to achieve the best possible outcomes for patients.

Organized by the Kuwait Medical Student Association and the Kuwaiti Board of Pediatrics, the seminar, chaired by Dr Fatoumah Alabdulrazzaq, a leading pediatric emergency consultant, featured insightful discussions on urgent pediatric care topics, ranging from toxicology to neonatal sepsis. Attendees also participated in hands-on workshops focusing on essential emergency skills, such as bleeding control, suturing, and intubation, making it a comprehensive learning opportunity for healthcare providers in Kuwait.



Participants are pictured during the workshop on pediatric emergency care.

Local

Kuwaitis recall late Amir's immense contributions on death anniversary

Late Amir propelled the nation to the upper echelon



The late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.



The United Nations honored the late Amir and named His Highness the Humanitarian Leader in September 2014.



HH the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah assumed power on January 29, 2006. — KUNA photos

KUWAIT: Some four years after his death, Kuwaitis on Sunday reminisced about the notable achievements of the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, which helped propel the nation to the upper echelons of the international community. On this day in 2020, Kuwait lost with great anguish Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, with flags lowered to half-mast as a mark of respect for the late Kuwaiti leader, christened by the United Nations as a "Humanitarian Leader," in recognition, whose leadership helped usher in an unprecedented trajectory of national development.

With his passing, the wider Arab region lost an astute leader who made it a mission to forge a united regional stand through efforts to iron out any differences between Arab countries, subsequently keeping ties within the region on an upward trajectory. Assuming power in January of 2006, the late Kuwaiti Amir demonstrated from day one his uncanny prowess to lead by example, despite growing challenges around the region and beyond, which were not a deterrent for him to push forward his mission of bringing Kuwait to the apex of development and prosperity.

Overseeing broad growth in various realms, his decision to involve the private sector in national development plans was among his key contributions, which were largely instrumental in transforming Kuwait into a regional trade and financial hub. Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad's efforts were highly regarded across the Arab World, with widespread

recognition for his constant work, as he was a part of ending the Yemeni civil war in August 1966 and contributed to the peace agreement between South Yemen and North Yemen in October 1962, as well as successfully establishing diplomatic relations between Oman and Yemen.

The late Amir also laid the foundation of balancing foreign policies and addressing complex issues, most notably the Iran-Iraq war and its repercussions on Kuwait's internal and external security. He also made great efforts to strengthen Kuwait's foreign relations with various countries, particularly with the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. Kuwait's unique foreign policy stood out on August 2, 1990, when the entire world stood in support of Kuwait against the Iraqi invasion.

The Security Council then issued Resolution 678, which authorized the use of all means, including military force, against Iraq unless it withdrew its forces from Kuwait. During his earlier career, the late Amir also held the position of acting minister of information from February 2, 1971, to February 3, 1975. He was appointed Deputy Prime Minister on February 16, 1978, and on March 14, 1981, he was acting minister of information in addition to his role as Minister of Foreign Affairs until February 9, 1982.

The late Amir continued his service as Prime Minister until January 2006, and during his 14-year reign, Kuwait witnessed a comprehensive developmental renaissance, full of major projects in eco-



GCC leaders are pictured after during the 25th Gulf Summit of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries in Bahrain also known as the Sheikh Zayed Summit in 2004.

nomie, health, developmental, and service sectors, as well as attaining a prestigious position among nations. Sheikh Sabah was the fourth son of late ruler Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. He enrolled in Al-Mubarakiya School and later sent abroad to study and acquire the experiences and skills that shaped him on various levels and helped him assume official roles.

He continued to cement Kuwait's commitment to

the Palestinian cause, which he regarded as a top priority, and Kuwait has consistently advocated for Palestinian rights in political and humanitarian arenas. Throughout his career, the late Amir received numerous medals and honors, the latest being the US' Distinguished Service Medal awarded in September 2020, which is the highest military honor granted to a non-American leader, acknowledging his remarkable achievements and contributions. — KUNA

'Teddy Bear Hospital' campaign creates health awareness

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Medical Students Association (Al-Academiyah) held the non-profit "Teddy Bear Hospital" campaign, a three-day event, at Avenues Mall. In a press statement, the Head of the campaign, Abdullah Alsanad, said that "Teddy Bear Hospital" is a global educational campaign. It is held across Europe (the United Kingdom, Belgium, Ireland and Germany), the Middle East, and in Kuwait.

He noted that it has been held for 10 consecutive years in Kuwait. The event was held as part of their social responsibilities towards children and to raise awareness about the role of doctors and the importance of medicine. Speaking to Kuwait Times, Aryam Sultan, a medical student and the head of student activities at Academiyah, affirmed that Teddy Bear Hospital is an international initiative by the IFMSA (International Federation of Medical Students Associations), noting that this campaign aims to help children overcome their fear of doctors by allowing them to role-play as doctors.

She revealed, "Kuwait has witnessed a steady rise in participation over the past decade, with 1,500 children attending in 2022 and 1,700 in 2023. Inspired by a similar event in Ireland, which had 600 participants over two days, the organizers aimed to set a Guinness World Record for the largest Teddy Bear Hospital. In an impressive feat, this year over 740 children participated within less than 12 hours on September 28th - far surpassing their expectations."

Although they have yet to officially secure the Guinness World Record title, the organizers are proud they were able to conquer this feat and educated over 1,200 children this weekend on various topics ranging from hygiene, eye health to oral health as well as helped in eliminating children's fear of doctors and hospital settings in general, which hopefully will make hospital visits easier for the little ones as well as doctors. They consider the event a significant success.

She added, "The campaign aims to introduce the importance of the medical profession and the role of doctors. That is why we are here to raise awareness and educate children about this role and break



A medical student explains to a child how to brush teeth.



Taking the temperature of the bear.



A teddy bear gets its eyes checked.



A child holds a certificate of participation.



Medical student explains to a child how to treat the bear.



Young doctor doing an MRI.



Medical students



Head of the campaign Abdullah Alsanad



Children examine a bear at the event.

the barrier of fear between the child and visiting the doctor, as the children played the doctor role under the supervision of students at the College of Human Medicine and Dentistry." During the event, children put on lab coats, received teddy bears, and performed check-ups, dental exams, and even "surgeries" on their teddies, all under the guidance of medical students.

"The event includes various interactive stations," she explained, adding that "children are guided through areas where they check their teddy's height, weight, and temperature, and even practice dental care. In the surgical section, they wear gowns and simulate surgeries on their bears. There is also a hand-washing station, teaching children about hygiene and the importance of fighting bacteria. At the end of the experience, each child receives a certi-

cate for completing the Teddy Bear Hospital." Sultan indicated that the campaign focused on making medical environments less intimidating for kids while promoting a doctor-friendly society by educating children and building a positive association with medical visits.

She shared a story of one of her colleagues who visited "Teddy Bear Hospital" as a kid and now she is a medical student and volunteer at the event, saying "One medical student shared that she had attended the first-ever Teddy Bear Hospital in Kuwait as a child and was inspired to pursue medicine as a career. Now, she's part of the team helping to organize the same event that had once impacted her. This demonstrates how the initiative not only helps reduce children's fear of doctors but can also inspire them to enter the medical field."



Children seen brushing teeth.



A medical student assists a child.

In my view

Neutrality is the
key to justice

Dr. Khalid A Al-Saleh

local@kuwaittimes.com

A law professor asked his students about the most important trait a judge must possess. Each student responded with what they believed to be the most crucial trait: Some said wisdom, others knowledge, and a third group chose credibility. However, only one student gave the answer the professor sought — she said, “neutrality.” Neutrality is not just a crown that every judge must wear; it’s a quality that people must believe in and strive to embody. It is the lifeboat for any society.

Today, the Kuwaiti government is facing many challenges, such as dealing with those who have forged nationalities and academic credentials, addressing the bedoon issue, managing the Afya health insurance program and other concerns that the public holds various opinions about. In this age of “a paper in each hand”, everyone expresses their views freely, often without examining the root of the problem or seeking data or studies. All that’s needed are fingers to write — and sometimes those fingers are not guided by the brain but by self-interest.

Neutrality is a behavioral stance that commits an individual to avoid leaning toward one side over another for reasons related to personal gain or animosity. Today, we need this positive behavior more than ever. The government must pursue reform without injustice, and society needs to be led by a neutral class that guides it toward the path of justice, which is the foundation of governance and a successful life. The government should avoid listening to those who have vested interests in any issue, as they are not neutral and tend to produce evidence and justifications that serve their own opinions, not necessarily the most truthful or beneficial.

In every political, social, economic or other issue, it is essential to distance oneself from the conflicting parties and seek out neutral individuals who are known for their sound behavior and knowledge in the relevant field. By consulting these knowledgeable neutrals and relying on Almighty Allah, leaders can guide a nation toward success. Confusion and pressure will not deter those who are determined. When leaders understand the elements of success, nations progress with them.

Kuwaiti-Chinese partnership constitutes
cornerstone for sustainable development

BEIJING: Kuwaiti Minister of Public Works Dr Noura Al-Mashaan affirmed that the Kuwaiti-Chinese partnership is a basis to achieve sustainable development and deepen integration of visions between the two countries’ leaderships. Speaking to KUNA in a statement, the minister stressed the importance of enhancing the standing strategic partnership between Kuwait and China in a manner that contributes to achieving sustainable development goals.

Developing partnerships and cooperation with China is the basis for reciprocal benefits and commercial and economic collaboration in a manner that contributes to upgrading reciprocal ties to wider horizons in all fields, she said. Kuwait has historic and deep-rooted relations with China in all fields, and it was the first Gulf State that has diplomatic ties with China and signed a cooperation agreement in the Belt and Road Initiative, Al-Mashaan noted.

Her visit to China with a high-profile delegation aims at boosting these ties and deepening strategic partnership between the two sides, she pointed out. She affirmed keenness on implementing the deals and memoranda of understanding signed between the two governments during the official visit of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to China last September.

At the end of the visit, Al-Mashaan and her



Kuwaiti Minister of Public Works Dr Noura Al-Mashaan during her visit to Yangshan Port near Shanghai. — KUNA

delegation visited Yangshan Port near Shanghai in response to an invitation from the Chinese government and the company tasked with completing and carrying out the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port project. Al-Mashaan and her delegation

took part in the Global Transport Sustainable Forum in Beijing, in the presence of China’s Transport Minister and a number of Arab and foreign ministers, as well as representatives of international organizations. — KUNA

Charities launch
campaign to support
needy students

KUWAIT: The Union of Kuwaiti Charitable Societies and Institutions launched on Sunday a campaign to support needy students inside the country with the aim of promoting education and social responsibility. The head of the Union of Kuwaiti Charitable Societies and Institutions, Saad Al-Otaibi, told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) on the sidelines of the press conference that the campaign seeks to provide financial support to the most needy students, believing in the importance of education in building a strong and sustainable future.

He stressed that the main objective of the campaign is to fill the financial gaps for students whose families are unable to pay tuition fees, which ensures that they continue their education without interruption, adding that education is the foundation on which the future of societies is built. Al-Otaibi explained that coordination with schools is carried out directly to ensure that donations reach the most needy students with full transparency.

The campaign embodies the values of compassion and cooperation that characterize Kuwaiti society. For his part, the campaign manager and member of the Union, Abdullah Al-Haidar, explained in a similar statement to KUNA that education is a fundamental pillar for the advance-



Union of Kuwaiti Charitable Societies and Institutions launches a campaign to support students in Kuwait.

ment of societies, as the progress of a country is measured by the level and quality of education.

He added that this campaign comes as a continuation of last year’s campaign, where statistics indicate that more than 3,000 students were unable to pay their tuition fees, indicating that education is one of the main strategic areas for the work of charitable institutions in Kuwait. Al-Haidar called on philanthropists to support children’s education and provide their basic needs.

face urgent health challenges. This took place during the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly. This significant agreement was inked by OIC Secretary General Hussein Ibrahim Taha and WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

This MoU reflects the evolving landscape of global health challenges and emphasizes the commitment of both organizations to work together more effectively. The updated MoU outlines key areas of cooperation, including health system strengthening with a focus on primary health care (PHC) orientation, advancements in vaccine

development and technology, cancer control initiatives, and nuclear medicine, among other critical health issues.

In his remarks during the signing ceremony, Secretary General Taha emphasized the shared vision of both organizations for a healthier future: “Today, we reaffirm our commitment to unite our resources, expertise, and innovation to address the pressing health challenges facing our member states.” This collaboration is expected to enhance the capacity of Member States to respond to health crises, improve healthcare delivery systems, and foster resilience in the face of emerging health threats. — KUNA

OIC and WHO sign
MoU to face urgent
health challenges

JEDDAH: The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) signed on Sunday a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the World Health Organization (WHO) to

Kuwait Heart
Foundation marks
World Heart Day

KUWAIT: Kuwait Heart Foundation is celebrating World Heart Day, which occurs on September 29 each year, in cooperation with Sabah Al-Ahmad Heart Center. The celebrations will continue until October 26th. Medics will carry out sugar, blood pressure, and cholesterol tests at Kuwait Market for three days until October 1st (from 4:00 pm until 8:00 pm). Other activities will be at The Avenues mall from October 17, 18, and 19th (3:00 pm until 8:00 pm); Mall 360 events on 24-26th (from 3:00 pm until 8:00 pm). The event is aimed at increasing awareness of heart problems and strengthening joint efforts in order to fight the spread of heart and vessel diseases.

Electricity and Water
committee discusses
cooperation

DOHA: Assistant Undersecretary for Customer Services at Kuwait’s Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy Eng Falah Al-Mutairi stressed on Sunday the importance of the 31st meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council’s (GCC) Electricity and Water Cooperation Committee in enhancing cooperation and facing common challenges.

Al-Mutairi told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that the meeting, hosted by the Qatari capital, discusses a number of topics on the agenda in preparation for submitting them to the next ministerial meeting to take appropriate decisions and recommendations. Al-Mutairi added that the

Kuwait Heart Foundation (KHF) Secretary General Dr Rashed Al-Owayesh said the celebration of World Heart Day (WHD) is to remind of the dangers of heart diseases, which are considered the killer No 1 in the world and in Kuwait, and also a reminder for all to undergo periodical tests to avoid such dangerous diseases. Dr Al-Owayesh said KHF pays great attention to scientific research and encourages specialists to join scientific meetings and conferences. The society carried out a study spanning from May 15th, 2023 until August 2024. According to the result, a total number of attacks recorded was 7,600-6,239 (men), while there were 1,363 were women.



Dr Rashed Al-Owayesh

meeting discusses various topics, including the continuation of the work of the electricity and water rationalization group in the GCC countries, the continuation of the work of the subscriber services working group, and the award for the best service office and call center, in addition to discussing the final recommendations of the fourth Gulf Forum for Subscriber Services.

It also studies the impact of raising tariffs and reducing consumption in the GCC countries, completing work on the item of calculating the per capita consumption rate and the sector consumption rate, completing the item of the media plan regarding harmonization with scientific initiatives related to rationalization, and other topics. Earlier, the Chairman of Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation, Issa Al-Kuwari, opened the meeting in which Kuwait is participating with a delegation headed by the Assistant Undersecretary for Customer Services at the Kuwaiti Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy, Eng Falah Al-Mutairi. — KUNA

Kuwait reaffirms
commitment to
human rights

KUWAIT: Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights Affairs Ambassador Sheikh Jawaher Ibrahim Al-Duaili Al-Sabah reaffirmed on Sunday Kuwait’s firm commitment to promoting and protecting human rights. This came in a speech delivered by Sheikh Jawaher Al-Sabah during a meeting organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with leaders of

educational and academic institutions. She said that Kuwait is keen to implement international human rights recommendations, as the meeting aims to raise awareness, build capacities, and educate the public on these important issues.

Representatives from several entities participated in the meeting, including Ali Al-Sabah Military College, Saad Al-Abdullah Academy for Security Sciences, Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah Diplomatic Institute, Kuwait Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies, the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, the Civil Service Commission, and Kuwait University. The meeting is part of a series organized by the Foreign Affairs Ministry, aimed at preparing comprehensive reports reflecting national efforts and enhancing the role of academic institutions in promoting human rights. — KUNA

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Iran's 'serious dilemma' after Nasrallah killing

63 dead from storm Helene as rescue, cleanup efforts grow

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KATHMANDU: Local residents wade through flood waters after the Bishnumati River overflowed following heavy rainfall in Kathmandu on September 28, 2024. — AFP

Floods leave 148 dead in Nepal

Entire neighborhoods in Kathmandu inundated

KATHMANDU: Residents of Nepal's flood-hit capital returned to their mud-caked homes on Sunday to survey the wreckage of devastating floods that have killed at least 148 people across the Himalayan republic. Deadly rain-related floods and landslides are common across South Asia during the monsoon season from June to September, but experts say climate change is increasing their frequency and severity.

Entire neighborhoods in Kathmandu were inundated over the weekend with flash floods reported in rivers coursing through the capital and extensive damage to highways connecting the city with the rest of Nepal. Kumar Tamang, who lives in a slum area by a riverbank, told AFP he and his family had to flee after midnight on Saturday as waters rushed into his shack.

"This morning we returned and everything looks different," the 40-year-old said. "We couldn't even

open the doors to our house, it was jammed with mud," he added. "Yesterday we were afraid that the water would kill us, but today we have no water to clean." Nepal's National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority said 148 people had been killed across the country with another 59 still missing. Home Ministry spokesman Rishi Ram Tiwari told AFP that bulldozers were being used to clear several highways that had been blocked by debris, cutting Kathmandu off from the rest of the country.

"More than 3,000 people have been rescued," he added. At least 36 of those killed were aboard three vehicles and were buried alive when earth from a landslide careened into a highway south of Kathmandu, Nepal Police spokesman Dan Bahadur Karki told AFP. The valley in which the capital sits recorded 240 millimetres (9.4 inches) of rain in the 24 hours to Saturday morning, the country's weath-

er bureau told the Kathmandu Post newspaper. It was the highest rainfall recorded in Kathmandu since at least 1970, the report said.

Chest-deep water

The Bagmati river and its numerous tributaries which cut through Kathmandu broke their banks, inundating nearby homes and vehicles after midnight on Saturday. Residents struggled through chest-deep water to get to higher ground. Bishnu Maya Shrestha, who lived in another inundated area of Kathmandu, said they had to cut the roof of their homes to escape.

"We jumped from one roof to another to safety and finally they came with boats to rescue us," Shrestha told AFP. More than 3,000 security personnel were deployed to assist rescue efforts with helicopters and motorboats. Rescue teams were using rafts

to pull survivors to safety. Domestic flights resumed in and out of Kathmandu by Sunday morning after weather forced a complete stoppage from Friday evening, with more than 150 departures cancelled.

The summer monsoon brings South Asia 70-80 percent of its annual rainfall. Monsoon rains from June to September bring widespread death and destruction every year across South Asia, but the number of fatal floods and landslides has increased in recent years. Experts say climate change has worsened their frequency and intensity. A landslide that hit a road in Chitwan district in July pushed two buses with 59 passengers aboard into a river. Three people were able to escape alive, but authorities managed to recover only 20 bodies from the accident, with raging flood waters impeding the search. More than 260 people have died in Nepal in rain-related disasters this year. — AFP

Justice or assassination: Leaders react to killing of Nasrallah

PARIS: World leaders warned of potential repercussions on Saturday after Lebanese militant group Hezbollah announced its longtime leader Hassan Nasrallah was killed in a Zionist airstrike on a suburb of Beirut. The killing of the Iran-backed group's chief has intensified fears of all-out war in the Middle East. US President Joe Biden welcomed "a measure of justice".

Iran

First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref warned Zionists that Nasrallah's death would "bring about their destruction", Iran's ISNA news agency quoted him as saying. The foreign ministry of Iran, which finances and arms Hezbollah, said Nasrallah's work will continue after his death. "His sacred goal will be realized in the liberation of Quds (Jerusalem), God willing," spokesman Nasser Kanani posted on X. Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei announced five days of public mourning.

United States

Biden said Nasrallah's death was "a mea-

sure of justice for his many victims, including thousands of Americans, Zionist and Lebanese civilians". Washington supports Zionist entity's right to defend itself against "Iranian-supported terrorist groups" and the "defense posture" of US forces in the region would be "further enhanced". Biden added in a statement. Vice President Kamala Harris said Nasrallah was "a terrorist with American blood on his hands" and said she would "always support Zionist right to defend itself against Iran and Iran-backed terrorist groups such as Hezbollah, Hamas, and the Houthis." Leading Republicans in the House of Representatives also welcomed the end of a "reign of bloodshed, oppression, and terror" by "one of the most brutal terrorists on the planet".

Russia

Russia's foreign ministry said "we decisively condemn the latest political murder carried out by Zionist entity" and urged it to "immediately cease military action" in Lebanon. Zionists would "bear full respon-

sibility" for the "tragic" consequences the killing could bring to the region, the ministry added in a statement.

Germany

Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock told ARD television that the killing "threatens destabilization for the whole of Lebanon", which "is in no way in Zionist security interest".

Canada

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau described Nasrallah as "the leader of a terrorist organization that attacked and killed innocent civilians, causing immense suffering across the region". But he called for more to be done to protect civilians in the conflict, adding: "We urge calm and restraint during this critical time."

Britain

Foreign Secretary David Lammy said in a post on X that he had spoken with the Lebanese premier. "We agreed on the need for an immediate ceasefire to bring an end to the bloodshed. A diplomatic solution is the only way to restore security and stability for the Lebanese and Zionists," he said.

France

French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Bar-

rot demanded Zionist entity's "immediately stop its strikes in Lebanon" and said it was opposed to any ground operation in the country. France also "calls on other actors, notably Hezbollah and Iran, to abstain from any action that could lead to additional destabilization and regional conflagration", the foreign ministry said in a statement.

United Nations

UN chief Antonio Guterres said he was "gravely concerned by the dramatic escalation of events in Beirut in the last 24 hours".

Hamas

Palestinian militant group Hamas called Nasrallah's killing "a cowardly terrorist act". "We condemn in the strongest terms this barbaric Zionist aggression and targeting of residential buildings," Hamas said in a statement.

Palestinian Authority

Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas offered his "deep condolences" to Lebanon for the deaths of Nasrallah and civilians, who "fell as a result of the brutal aggression", according to a statement from his office.

Houthis

The Iran-backed Yemeni rebels, who have been firing on ships in the Red Sea in soli-

darity with Hamas, said in a statement that Nasrallah's killing "will increase the flame of sacrifice, the heat of enthusiasm, the strength of resolve" against Zionists, with their leader vowing Nasrallah's death "will not be in vain".

Turkey

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, whose country maintains diplomatic relations with Zionist entity but who has been a sharp critic of its offensive in Gaza, said on X that Lebanon was being subjected to a "genocide", without referring directly to Nasrallah.

Cuba

In a post on X, Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel called the killing a "cowardly targeted assassination" that "seriously threatens regional and global peace and security, for which Zionists bear full responsibility with the complicity of the United States."

Argentina

Argentine President Javier Milei reposted on X a message from a member of his council of economic advisers, David Epstein, who hailed the killing. "(Zionist entity) eliminated one of the greatest contemporary murderers, responsible, among others, for the cowardly attacks in #ARG," it said. "Today the world is a little freer". — AFP

UK Conservatives assemble to find a new leader

LONDON: Britain's opposition Conservatives gather for an annual conference on Sunday, licking their wounds from a historic election defeat and locked in battle over the party's future direction. The four-day meeting in Birmingham, central England, comes three months after the Tories were ousted from power by Labor, with Keir Starmer taking over as prime minister. It is the Conservatives' first conference in opposition since 2009 - a year before David Cameron set them on their way to 14 years of consecutive but chaotic rule, marked by austerity, Brexit, the COVID pandemic and in-fighting.

The get-together will see four candidates audition in front of parliamentary colleagues and grassroots members as they bid to replace ex-premier Rishi Sunak as the next Tory leader. Kemi Badenoch, Robert Jenrick, James Cleverly and Tom Tugendhat will all make pitches from the stage in the main hall at the International Convention Centre in Britain's second-largest city.

Setting out his stall, frontrunner and former immigration minister Jenrick pledged

a cap "cast in iron" on immigration. "The age of mass migration must end. It's placing immense pressure on housing, on public services and on community cohesion. You can't integrate 1.2 million people into a small country each year," he told Sky News' Sunday Morning with Trevor Phillips. The subject was a key issue at the July general election when the Conservatives lost critical votes to Nigel Farage's anti-immigration Reform UK party. Jenrick's nearest rival, Badenoch said immigration was something the country needed to "get right".

"Numbers matter... culture matters. If we want to have a well-integrated society we need to make sure that we have a shared culture and a shared identity," she told Sky. Conservative MPs will vote next week to determine the final two candidates. Party members will then select the winner in a ballot that closes at the end of October. "It's essentially going to be a talent parade," Robert Ford, politics professor at the University of Manchester said. Britain's new opposition leader - and the person tasked with reuniting the party before the next elections - will be announced on Saturday November 2.

Whoever is chosen will determine whether the party tacks further to the right or seeks to regain the centre ground following the Conservatives' worst-ever general election result on July 4. Labor

won a whopping 174-seat majority in the 650-seat UK parliament. The Tories lost 251 seats to return just 121 MPs, the lowest number in their history. It capped a stunning downfall from the previous election in 2019 when the Tories won an 80-seat majority under Boris Johnson, mainly on a promise to "get Brexit done".

Conundrum

The party unraveled in spectacular fashion. Several scandals, not least Downing Street staff partying during coronavirus lockdowns, forced Johnson from office. His successor, Liz Truss, then lasted just 49 days due to her mini-budget which tanked the pound and spooked markets. Sunak, brought in to steady the ship, was unable to reverse the slide and his 20 months in office were marred by factional infighting. After the election, he announced he would step down once a successor had been chosen. The party faces a dilemma: should it focus on winning back voters who defected to Nigel Farage's hard-right Reform UK party, or aim to regain the support of those who switched to the centrist Liberal Democrats?

The party as a whole has drifted rightwards in recent years but Badenoch and Jenrick are seen as the more right-wing of the candidates, with Cleverly and Tugendhat nearer the centre. — AFP

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International

63 dead from storm Helene as rescue, cleanup efforts grow

Federal emergencies declared in US six states

CEDAR KEY: Rescuers struggled on Saturday with washed-out bridges and debris-strewn roads in the search for survivors of devastating Storm Helene, which killed at least 63 people across five states and caused massive power outages. Helene slammed into Florida as a Category 4 hurricane and surged north, gradually weakening but leaving in its wake toppled trees, downed power lines and mudslide-wrecked homes.

Federal emergencies were declared in six states - Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee - with more than 800 personnel from the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) deployed. Now classified as a "post-tropical cyclone", the remnants of the storm are expected to continue inundating the Ohio Valley and central Appalachians through Sunday, according to the National Hurricane Center (NHC). In affected communities across the eastern coast and midwest, storm victims and volunteers toting trash bags, mops and hammers tried to repair what they could and clean up the rest.

"There's only a couple businesses open. They have limited supply. So I'm just worried about families that have kids and stuff like that, getting somewhere to stay and have something to eat," said Steven Mauro, a resident of Valdosta, Georgia. At least 24 people died in South Carolina, 17 in Georgia, 11 in Florida, 10 in North Carolina and one in Virginia, according to local authorities and media tallied by AFP.

The National Weather Service said conditions would "continue to improve today following the catastrophic flooding over the past two days." But it warned of possible "long-duration power outages." "Main issue is the electrical power," said another man from Valdosta who declined to give his name. "With

the whole town down, the traffic lights are out. So driving around... people should just stay home." More than 2.6 million customers were still without electricity across 10 states from Florida in the southeast to Indiana in the midwest as of early Sunday morning, according to tracker poweroutage.us.

'It breaks my heart'

Helene blew into Florida's northern Gulf shore with powerful winds of 140 miles per hour. Even as it weakened into a post-tropical cyclone, it has wreaked havoc. Record levels of flooding threatened to break several dams, but Tennessee emergency officials said Saturday that the Nolichucky Dam - which had been close to breaching - was no longer in danger of giving way and people downriver could return home. Massive flooding was reported in Asheville, in western North Carolina. Governor Roy Cooper called it "one of the worst storms in modern history" to hit his state. There were reports of remote towns in the Carolina mountains without power or cell service, their roads washed away or buried by mudslides.

In Cedar Key, an island city of 700 people off Florida's Gulf Coast, several pastel-colored wooden homes were destroyed by record storm surges and ferocious winds. "I've lived here my whole life, and it breaks my heart to see it. We've not really been able to catch a break," said Gabe Doty, a Cedar Key official, referring to two other hurricanes in the past year. In South Carolina, the dead included two firefighters, officials said. Georgia's 17 deaths included an emergency responder, according to state officials. In the Tennessee town of Erwin, more than 50 patients and staff trapped on a hospital roof by surging floodwaters had to be rescued by helicopters.



NORTH CAROLINA: Heavy rains from Hurricane Helene caused record flooding and damage in Asheville, North Carolina. — AFP

In a statement Saturday, President Joe Biden called Helene's devastation "overwhelming." Biden was briefed by FEMA administrator Deanne Criswell and Homeland Security Advisor Liz Sherwood-Randall on "the tragic loss of life across the region," the White House said. Criswell, who went to Florida on Saturday to survey damage, will visit Georgia on Sunday and North Carolina on Monday.

September has been an unusually wet month around the world, with scientists linking some extreme weather events to human-caused global warming. The North Atlantic hurricane season runs from the beginning of June to the end of November, with most of the severe storms historically forming around the end of August or beginning of September. — AFP

Claudia Sheinbaum: Cool-headed scientist who will lead Mexico

MEXICO CITY: Claudia Sheinbaum, the former city mayor who will take office on Tuesday as Mexico's first woman president, is an environmental scientist and dedicated leftist known for keeping a cool head in times of crisis. Sheinbaum, 62, is a close ally of outgoing President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, but considered more pragmatic and less populist. "The driving force of both is the fight for a more just society, but with important nuances," analyst and author Jorge Zepeda Patterson wrote in his latest book "Presidenta."

While Lopez Obrador hails from rural southern Mexico, "Sheinbaum comes from an intellectual university environment, middle class, cosmopolitan, modern and essentially urban," he added. She has a "more modern left" agenda that includes the issues of feminism and the environment, according to Zepeda Patterson. Sheinbaum was born to



MEXICO CITY: Handout picture shows Mexico's President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador (2nd right) and Mexico's President-elect Claudia Sheinbaum (2nd left) during a flag hoisting ceremony. — AFP

Bulgarian and Lithuanian Jewish migrants in Mexico City during the turmoil of the early 1960s, when students and other activists were seeking to end the Institutional Revolutionary Party's long grip on power. "I am a daughter of 1968," she often repeats in reference to the student movement.

Her mother, renowned biologist Annie Pardo, lost her job as a university professor for denouncing the massacre of students. "At home, we talked about politics morning, noon

and night," Sheinbaum was quoted as saying in a biography. Guillermo Robles, a former classmate at the prestigious National Autonomous University of Mexico, remembers Sheinbaum as a serious student. "Neither she nor I were that into socializing with everyone," he said. Sheinbaum's magnetism as a young woman lay in her left-wing political convictions, Robles said. She spent several years as a researcher in California, where she honed her English language skills. — AFP

Trump launches into 'dark speech' on illegal immigration

PRAIRIE DU CHIEN: Donald Trump on Saturday called Democrat Kamala Harris "mentally impaired" and said illegal immigrants are out to cut the throats of ordinary Americans in their own homes as he doubled down on the racially charged rhetoric fueling his unprecedented bid to regain the US presidency. Trump was seeking to strike back at Harris after she visited the US-Mexico border on Friday and vowed to do more to control asylum claims and undocumented migrant crossings.

The issue is one of the Democratic vice president's weakest in polling, as she runs neck-and-neck against Trump in the November 5 election. Trump dismissed Harris' speech at the border, swearing and telling sup-

porters in the small town of Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, that President Joe Biden and Harris are responsible for an "invasion" of violent criminals.

Anti-immigrant sentiment has been at the core of Trump's appeal in economically depressed, majority-white parts of the country ever since his 2016 presidential victory, but the rhetoric is turning ever more extreme as election day nears. The 78-year-old businessman - the first major presidential candidate in US history to be a convicted felon and subject of multiple ongoing court cases - said former California prosecutor Harris, 59, is "dumb." "Joe Biden became mentally impaired. Kamala was born that way. She was born that way. — AFP

Zionist terror rocks Mideast...

Continued from Page 1

In Iran, which helped create Hezbollah in the early 1980s, senior figures mourned the death of a senior Revolutionary Guards member killed alongside Nasrallah, and Tehran called for a UN Security Council meeting on the Zionist entity's actions. Nasrallah's body was recovered intact from the site of Friday's strike, a medical source and a security source told Reuters on Sunday. Hezbollah has not yet said when his funeral will be held. Nasrallah had not only made Hezbollah into a powerful domestic force in Lebanon during his 32 years as leader, but helped turn it into the linchpin of Iran's network of allied groups in the Arab world.

Supporters of the group and other Lebanese who hailed its role fighting the Zionist entity, which occupied south Lebanon for years, mourned him on Sunday. "We lost the leader who gave us all the strength and faith that we, this small country that we love, could turn it into a paradise," said Lebanese Christian woman Sophia Blanche Rouillard, carrying a black flag to work in Beirut. Lebanon's top Christian cleric, Maronite Patriarch Bechara Boutros Al-Rai, said Nasrallah's killing had "opened a wound in the heart of the Lebanese". Rai

Retaliation or defeat: Hezb at ...

Continued from Page 1

Iran-backed group either claimed by the Zionist entity or blamed on it. "If, at this point, Hezbollah does not respond with a strategic strike using its arsenal of long-range, precision-guided missiles, one must assume they simply can't," said Heiko Wimmen, project director for Iraq, Syria and Lebanon at the International Crisis Group. "Either we see an unprecedented reaction by Hezbollah... or this is total defeat."

Hezbollah has been the most powerful group in Lebanon for decades and the only one that has kept its arms after the end of the 1975-1990 civil war. But after nearly a year of low intensity cross-border fighting, the Zionist entity has shifted the focus of its operation from Gaza to Lebanon, where heavy bombing since Monday has killed hundreds of people and displaced around 118,000.

This week's air assault followed pager and walkie-talkie blasts that targeted operatives of Hezbollah, killing 39 and wounding nearly 3,000. And in the past week, Zionist strikes on south Beirut have killed one top Hezbollah commander after the other. For Sam Heller, an analyst with the Century Foundation, a lack of de-

terminance after such an important leader's killing could encourage the Zionist entity to press on even further.

In nearly a year of cross-border fighting with the Zionist entity, Hezbollah "haven't mustered the more dramatic capabilities that most of us had assumed it held in reserve", even as its foe intensified raids and conducted sophisticated operations, said Heller. Hezbollah's capabilities may have been "oversold" or completely obliterated by the Zionist entity, he added. Since the 2006 war in which Hezbollah "defeated the (Zionists)", the group had "maintained this long-time deterrent equation", Heller said. "Now, it seems evident Hezbollah cannot protect... itself."

With Lebanon's most powerful man gone and his community displaced and bereaved, its support base will expect more than just a symbolic response, analysts said. Amal Saad, a Lebanese researcher of Hezbollah at Britain's Cardiff University, said that after the enormous blow to the now leaderless group, it would need to strike a delicate balance in choosing a response.

On the one hand, Hezbollah would seek to avoid triggering a Zionist "carpet bombing campaign against Beirut or all of Lebanon", while "at the same time raising the morale" of its supporters and fighters, she said. Hezbollah would need to show it can protect its own people, exact revenge on the Zionist entity but also keep the peace among Lebanon's diverse religious communities. — AFP

Depth of Zionist penetration of...

Continued from Page 1

"This is a massive blow and intelligence failure for Hezbollah," Magnus Ranstorp, a veteran Hezbollah expert at the Swedish Defence University. "They knew that he was meeting. He was meeting with other commanders. And they just went for him." Including Nasrallah, the Zionist entity's military says it has killed eight of Hezbollah's nine most senior military commanders this year, mostly in the past week. These commanders led units ranging from the rocket division to the elite Radwan force. Around 1,500 Hezbollah fighters were maimed by the exploding pagers and walkie-talkies on Sept 17 and Sept 18.

On Saturday, the Zionist entity's military spokesperson Lieutenant Colonel Nadav Shoshani told reporters in a briefing that the military had "real-time" knowledge that Nasrallah and other leaders were gathering. Shoshani did not say how they knew, but said the leaders were meeting to plan attacks on the Zionist entity. Brigadier General Amichai Levin, commander of Hatzirim Airbase, told reporters that dozens of munitions hit the target within seconds. "The operation was complex and was planned for a long time," according to Levin.

Hezbollah has shown the ability to replace commanders quickly, and Nasrallah's cousin Hashem Safieddine, also a cleric, has long been tipped as his successor. "You kill one, they get a new one," said a European diplomat of the group's approach. The group, whose name means Party of God, will fight on: by US and Zionist estimates it had some 40,000 fighters ahead of the current escalation, along with large weapons stockpiles and an extensive tunnel network near the Zionist entity's border.

Founded in Tehran in 1982, the paramilitary outfit is the most formidable member of Iran's so-called Axis of Resistance of anti-Zionist allied irregular forces, and a significant regional player in its own right. But it has been materially and psychologically weakened over the past 10 days. Thanks to decades of backing from Iran, prior to the current conflict Hezbollah was among the world's most well-armed non-conventional armies, with an arsenal of 150,000 rockets, missiles and drones, according to US estimates.

That is ten times the size of the armory the group had in 2006, during its last war with the Zionist entity, according to Zionist estimates. Over the past year, even more weapons have flowed into Lebanon from Iran, along with significant amounts of financial aid, a source familiar with Hezbollah's thinking said. There have been few detailed public assessments of how much this arsenal has been damaged by the Zionist entity's offensive over the past week, which has hit Hezbollah strongholds in Bekaa Valley, far from Lebanon's border with the Zionist entity.

One Western diplomat in the Middle East told Reuters prior to Friday's attack that Hezbollah had lost 20-

25 percent of its missile capacity in the ongoing conflict, including in hundreds of Zionist strikes this week. A Zionist security official said "a very respectable portion" of Hezbollah's missile stocks had been destroyed, without giving further specifics. In recent days, the Zionist entity has struck more than 1,000 Hezbollah targets. The security official, when asked about the military's extensive target lists, said the Zionist entity had matched Hezbollah's two-decade build up with preparations to prevent it launching its rockets in the first place - a complement to the Iron Dome air defense system that often downs missiles fired at the Zionist entity. Zionist officials say the fact that Hezbollah has only been able to launch a couple of hundred missiles a day in the past week was evidence its capabilities had been diminished.

Before the strike on Nasrallah, three Iranian sources told Reuters Iran was planning to send additional missiles to Hezbollah to prepare for a prolonged war. The weapons that were to be provided included short-to-medium-range ballistic missiles including Iranian Zelzals and an upgraded precision version known as the Fateh 110, the first Iranian source said. While Iran is willing to provide military support, the two Iranian sources said it does not want to be directly involved in a confrontation between Hezbollah and the Zionist entity. The rapid escalation in hostilities over the past week follows a year of skirmishes tied to the Gaza war.

Iranian Revolutionary Guards' deputy commander Abbas Nilforoushan was killed in the Zionist strikes on Beirut on Friday, Iranian media reported on Saturday, citing a state TV report. Hezbollah may need certain warheads and missiles along with drones and missile parts to replenish those destroyed by Zionist strikes across Lebanon last week, a senior Syrian military intelligence source added.

Iranian supplies have in the past reached Hezbollah by air and sea. On Saturday, Lebanon's transport ministry told an Iranian aircraft not to enter its airspace after the Zionist entity warned air traffic control at Beirut airport that it would use "force" if the plane landed, a source at the ministry told Reuters. The source said it was not clear what was on the plane.

Land corridors are currently the best route for missiles, parts and drones, through Iraq and Syria, with the help of allied armed groups in those countries, an Iranian security official told Reuters this week. The Syrian military source, however, said Zionist drone surveillance and strikes targeting convoys of trucks had compromised that route. This year, the Zionist entity stepped up attacks on weapons depots and supply routes in Syria to weaken Hezbollah ahead of any war, Reuters reported in June. As recently as August, a Zionist drone hit weapons concealed in commercial trailers in Syria, the source said. This week, the Zionist entity's military said its warplanes bombed unspecified infrastructure used to transfer weapons to Hezbollah at the Syria-Lebanon border. Joseph Votel, a former army general who led US forces in the Middle East, said the Zionist entity and its allies could well intercept any missiles Iran sent by land to Hezbollah now. — Reuters

International

Some 500 scientists to be impacted as Europe lab CERN cuts Russia ties

Decision-making body agrees to terminate agreements with Russia, Belarus

GENEVA: Europe's physics lab CERN said Sunday that some 500 scientists linked to Russian institutes will be affected when it stops cooperation with Russia in late November as planned. CERN's decision-making body agreed in June 2022 to terminate cooperation agreements with Russia and its ally Belarus over the war in Ukraine. Thus, Belarus' five-year agreement was not renewed when it expired last June 27, and Russia's will not be extended when it ends on November 30, CERN said.

This has already reportedly left around 15 Belarusian scientists cut off from cooperating with CERN, and hundreds of Russian scientists will soon face the same fate. "This applies to scientists affiliated with Russian institutes - less than 500 today - who will have to stop such cooperation," CERN spokesman Arnaud Marsollier told AFP, confirming reports. Those scientists have until now figured among a community of around 17,000 researchers

worldwide, mostly working from their own host institute or laboratory as they participate in CERN-linked work, including experiments and data analysis.

When CERN's decision-making council finalized the decision to halt cooperation with Russia last December, it stressed that it would "not affect the relationship with scientists of Russian nationality affiliated with other institutes". Marsollier estimated that around 90 Russians had moved to other labs and would be able

to continue their collaboration. The decision also does not impact employees at the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research (JINR), based in Dubna, around 110 kilometers north of Moscow. It is considered "an international organization", Marsollier explained. The exclusion of Russia also means CERN will lose out on significant financial contributions.

Russia had been pitching in around 4.5 percent towards the annual operational costs of the experiments run in the lab's

giant particle accelerator, the Large Hadron Collider, or around 2.3 million Swiss francs (\$2.7 million). And it had vowed to pitch in 40 million francs towards the dramatic upgrade underway of the LHC, set to come online in 2029 and increase the number of detectable events by a factor of 10. Other member states will step in to cover Russia's budget contribution, and Marsollier said CERN would fill the gap on the LHC upgrade. There is "no delay expected due to this", he said. — AFP

Iran's 'serious dilemma' after Nasrallah killing

TEHRAN: The killing of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah has given Iran a serious dilemma - how to cope with the loss of a crucial ally and still maintain its regional influence. Lebanon's Hezbollah group, which has long been armed and financed by Iran, on Saturday confirmed Nasrallah's death after Zionists said they had "eliminated" him in an air strike on Beirut's southern suburbs. His death was a sharp escalation in nearly a year of tit-for-tat cross-border exchanges between Hezbollah and Zionists since the Gaza conflict began, and risks plunging the entire region into a wider war.

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei vowed Nasrallah's death "will not be in vain", and First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref said it would bring about Zionist entity's "destruction". Iran also vowed to avenge the killing of Revolutionary Guards General Abbas Nilforoushan, who died alongside the Hezbollah leader.

"Nasrallah has been crucial to Iran's power expansion," said Karim Sadjadjpour of the Carnegie Endowment, noting that Hezbollah remains "the crown jewel" of the Islamic republic's regional allies. His killing "has not altered the fact that Iran still does not want to get directly engaged" in the ongoing conflict, said Ali Vaez of the International Crisis Group. But it left Iran with "a serious dilemma", said Vaez, especially that the group's deterrence regarding Zionist entity was now "in complete disarray".

Economic crisis

For Tehran-based international relations professor Mehdi Zakerian, developments have shown that the Iran-aligned resistance front "was not only unable to contain (Zionist entity), it also suffered serious blows". Nasrallah's death came around two months after Palestinian group Hamas' political chief Ismail Haniyeh was killed in late July in Tehran where he had attended President Masoud Pezeshkian's inauguration.

Iran blamed Zionists for his death and vowed to retaliate. Zakerian says rebuilding Hezbollah will be no small feat for Tehran amid its mounting economic challenges. "If the government wants to get involved in reconstructing Lebanon or re-equipping Hezbollah, it will aggravate Iran's economic crisis," he said. Iran has been reeling from the economic impact of international sanc-



TEHRAN: A billboard bearing a picture of slain Lebanese Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah is displayed in Tehran, two days after his targeted assassination by Zionist forces. — AFP

tions, which have contributed to soaring inflation, high unemployment and a record low rate for the Iranian rial against the US dollar.

Pezeshkian's government has boosted efforts to help ease the crippling sanctions and revive a 2015 landmark nuclear deal which collapsed when the United States unilaterally withdrew from the accord three years later. Analysts have said Iran has been treading carefully since the outbreak of the Gaza conflict, trying to project power without provoking a US response.

Even during its first-ever direct attack on Zionist entity in April - retaliation for an air strike on Tehran's embassy annex in Damascus - most projectiles were intercepted by Zionist defenses or allied forces. Iran said at the time it had informed the United States and given neighboring nations a 72-hour warning before what it called its "limited" attack on Zionist entity. Still, Vaez said Iran "has every interest in trying to preserve whatever remains of Hezbollah. Hezbollah is Iran's shield." "I don't think Iranians would give up on almost 40 years of investment in this project overnight because a dozen people were eliminated," he added.

'Weak and meagre'

And "Iran cannot abandon Hezbollah, because in that case it would also lose its other allies", said

Women and values

In a sign of the work yet to be done, the program of Sunday's mass had to be changed at the last minute after it emerged that the closing hymn was composed by a priest accused of sexual abuse. The blunder prompted the head of the Belgian bishops' conference, Archbishop Luc Terlinden, to admit that the Church needed to better monitor cases and perpetrators. While the question of abuse cast a shadow throughout his stay, the Argentine pontiff was given a rapturous welcome at Sunday's mass, where young people and families cheered as he toured the venue in his Popemobile.

"He transmits all kinds of values," Olivier Caillet, 44, from Brussels, said of the pope, praising his welcoming stance on migration. "He's a bit like the pope of surprises, he's with the underprivileged... he's opening up new possibilities, trying to change people's consciences so that we don't close borders like barriers." Belgium's King Philippe and Queen Mathilde were also in attendance at the mass, which Francis used to appeal for an immediate ceasefire in Lebanon and the wider Middle East. "I call on all parties to immediately cease fire in Lebanon, Gaza, the rest of Palestine and Israel," the pontiff said, as Israel continued to target the Hezbollah armed group in Lebanon.

Francis's visit, the first by a pope to Belgium since John Paul II in 1995, also highlighted the growing disconnect between the Vatican and some faithful in progressive, secular countries over issues such as gender inequality. On Saturday, he was challenged during a frank exchange with students about the place of women in the

police said in a statement. A short time later, a van was rammed into two shops nearby, causing damage but no injuries, the police said. A 41-year-old Syrian man was arrested at the scene. Initial investigations indicated that the suspect's alleged motive was that his wife had left him, the police said.

He had gone out armed with "knives and fire accelerants" intending to target homes and shops in Essen connected with people who had supported his wife, they said. The Bild daily reported that the suspect had threatened passers-by with a machete. The alleged rampage comes at a time of heated debate in Germany over migration after a spate of suspected Islamist attacks. Three people were killed and eight wounded in a knife attack at a street festival in the

Zakerian. Iran-backed militant groups in Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, and Yemen have all become involved in rising regional tensions since the war against Hamas erupted. Another strong dilemma Iran may face is communicating with Hezbollah and the transfer of weapons, analysts say.

On Friday, Zionist military vowed to prevent Iran from supplying Hezbollah with weapons via Beirut airport, saying its fighters were patrolling the skies above. "It is too late now for Iran to support Hezbollah with weapons," said political commentator Mossadegh Mossadeghpour. But he said he believes the group "will repair itself as it has done in the past". Hezbollah's internal communications were also dealt a heavy blow when sabotage attacks this month targeted members' pagers and walkie-talkies.

Vaez believes it would be "very difficult" for the Iranians to communicate now with their allies, unlike during the 33-day war in 2006 between Zionists and Hezbollah. He said Hezbollah's "weak and meagre" responses have been noted as the violence with Zionists has escalated. "The question is whether they are unwilling or unable to take action," he said. Vaez maintains that Iran appears to be hoping that Hezbollah will "get its act together ... and mount a significant attack to demonstrate it's still standing." — AFP



BRUSSELS: Pope Francis shakes hands with outgoing Belgian Minister of Interior Annelies Verlinden before a farewell ceremony at Melsbroek air base, northeast of Brussels on September 29, 2024. — AFP

Church - after paying tribute to a former sovereign who took a public stance against abortion.

His response, describing women as daughters, sisters and mothers upset some, with the Catholic university hosting the meeting later expressing its "incomprehension and disapproval" at the reductive view. "I don't understand why women can't become priests. It's something that was established because it was rooted in society at the time, but now we've moved on," Alice Vanwijnsberghe, an 18-year-old student, told AFP after attending a festival with 6,000 young Catholics. The pope left Brussels at around 1:30 pm, taking off from the Melsbroek military airport outside the city. He was expected to give his traditional press conference on board the aeroplane taking him back to Rome. — AFP

western city of Solingen in August, allegedly carried out by a Syrian asylum seeker and claimed by the Islamic State group.

An Islamist motive is also suspected in the killing of a police officer in a knife attack on the market square in the city of Mannheim in May. Germany has responded to the attacks by taking steps to tighten immigration controls and knife laws. The government has introduced new checks along all of its borders and promised to speed up deportations of migrants who have no right to stay in Germany. Germany took in more than a million asylum seekers in 2015-2016 at the height of Europe's migrant crisis - a deeply divisive influx that has fuelled the popularity of the far-right AfD. — AFP

Pope denounces abuse cover-ups as he wraps thorny Belgium visit

BRUSSELS: Pope Francis implored bishops not to cover up the sexual abuse of children, during an open-air mass on Sunday that capped a three-day visit to Belgium, which is still struggling with the legacy of past scandals. Gathered in bright morning sunshine, about 40,000 faithful, some waving Belgian and Vatican flags, packed the King Baudouin stadium north of the capital to hear the 87-year-old pontiff. "There is no place for abuse, there is no place for covering up abuse," Francis said during a homily. "I ask everyone not to cover up abuse, I ask the bishops not to cover up abuse, to condemn the abusers and help them heal themselves of this disease of abuse."

During his stay, the pontiff was pressed by Belgian authorities and victims' advocates on the Catholic Church's handling of child sexual abuse, which was put back on the front pages by a hard-hitting documentary last year. The Belgian documentary prompted around 200 more people to come forward with allegations that they were abused by members of the Church, adding to around 1,000 cases reported before then. On Friday, Francis met with 17 victims. "I felt their suffering," he told the Sunday mass. "Evil must not be hidden, evil must be brought out into the open, let it be known," he added, calling for all perpetrators to be judged.

Syrian arrested in Germany over fires and shop rammings

BERLIN: A Syrian suspect has been arrested after fires broke out at two apartment blocks and a van was rammed into shops in the western Germany city of Essen, police said Sunday. More than 30 people were injured in the fires on Saturday evening, including eight children who were seriously injured, Essen

Bike apprenticeship helps break UK reoffending cycle

LONDON: Cameron Moseley hopes never to return to jail thanks to a pioneering scheme in London that aims to cut reoffending by training former prisoners to become bicycle mechanics. The XO Bikes project chimes with the intention of Britain's new Labour government to ease overcrowding in prisons, partly by rehabilitating inmates so they can find employment. "There's not much work out there for people like me," said 30-year-old Moseley, who has been in and out of jail three times.

He was most recently released in July after serving a two-year-term for actual bodily harm. His probation officer referred him to XO Bikes, a charity-owned business formed two years ago that takes participants through a six-week course in how to build and fix bicycles. Afterwards, they can either work as mechanics for XO Bikes, where they can earn around £26,000, (\$34,000), or use the industry-standard qualification to apply for a job elsewhere.

"If I didn't have this I'd probably turn to crime again," Moseley told AFP at the XO Bikes repair shop in Lewisham, southeast London. The initiative was started in March 2022 by Stef Jones, a 58-year-old former advertising executive. He came up with the idea while volunteering at Brixton prison in south London, where he saw inmates return to jail because often they had been unable to find work after their release. "If no one else is going to give you a job, I'll give you a job," Jones said he remembered thinking at the time.

The scheme sees vetted participants fix up bikes that have been donated by various groups, including London's Metropolitan Police, railway companies, corporations and members of the public. Every donated bike is stripped and cleaned and then every part, from the brakes and the gears to the tyres and the frame, is tested, rebuilt, then tested again. The refurbished bikes are returned to their original finish or branded an XO Bike and stamped with a number unique to the ex-prisoner who repaired it.

The bikes are sold on XO's website and in its two stores, with the profits then reinvested into the scheme. "You've got a bike with a past and a bloke with a past, and you're giving them both a crack at a decent future. That's the idea," said Jones. Trainees also gain "a routine, fellowship, support, encouragement, affirmation that you do belong on this side of the street, that you've got options", he added.

Timpson

Gary Oakley, 38, says the scheme has given him purpose and a sense of "pride" since he left prison in April after serving 18 months for assault. "To have something that I was looking forward to kept me from being depressed, sitting indoors and going the other way and ending up back inside." UK government statistics estimate that about one in four prisoners reoffend, costing England and Wales about £18 billion a year.

It is contributing to jails being at near capacity. Earlier this month the government was forced to release 1,700 prisoners early to reduce overcrowding. After sweeping into power this July, Prime Minister Keir Starmer - a former human rights lawyer and chief state prosecutor - appointed businessman and justice reform advocate James Timpson as prisons minister.

Timpson's family-owned key-cutting business runs training academies in dozens of prisons, with former convicts making up 10 percent of its workforce. He believes that prisons need to become "rehabilitative" and wants more companies to hire adults with criminal records. The Ministry of Justice estimated in a 2013 study that 18 percent of ex-prisoners reoffended within a year, but the figure rose to 43 percent for those without employment.

Some 65 ex-convicts have completed the XO Bikes program. Jones said, with a couple of graduates going on to work for major sports firms. Only two participants have subsequently reoffended. "It's working," said Jones, who now wants to replicate the scheme with a barbering course. — AFP



LONDON: Ex-prisoner Darrell works on refurbishing a bike at XO Bikes in Lewisham on Sept 18, 2024. — AFP

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

As dollar stores close, US families lose lifeline

Closures affect low-income areas, worsening food access issues



ALHAMBRA: A shopper walks through the aisles of the Dollar Tree store in Alhambra, California on December 10, 2021. — AFP

NASHVILLE: Nearly every day, Latrina Begley, 37, of Nashville, or one of her six children, shopped at the Family Dollar down the hill from their home, using federal food benefits to buy Hot Pockets or frozen pizza, and staples like milk. But Family Dollar shut down the location earlier this year, as part of closures of nearly 1,000 stores out of its 8,200, a move intended to boost profits. Cuts last year to the largest US anti-hunger safety net, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), previously called food stamps, after the end of the COVID pandemic hit the retailer's sales in the months before the closures.

Purchases made with SNAP represent \$11 out of every \$100 spent at the bargain chain, according to retail research firm HSA Consulting. The closure leaves Begley with only a few convenience stores within one mile of the former Family Dollar, expensive options she can't afford. The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) has identified her neighborhood, in a historically Black part of Nashville, as low-income and with low-access to healthy, affordable food, an area formerly called a food desert. "It's harder for us and me," said Begley, who works at the city's housing agency. "I have to stop after work, or else we don't have anything for the night."

Begley said she relies on her mother to help with childcare and to make ends meet, and, if she did not

have her, would turn to food pantries. Most of the nearly 1,000 stores Family Dollar is closing are in areas where it had competition from other low-cost food retailers like Walmart, according to a Reuters analysis of data from the retailer locator for SNAP. Family Dollar's parent company, Dollar Tree, is not sharing the locations of the closed stores, but Reuters was able to find and analyze 648 shuttered Family Dollars using the locator.

Fifteen of them are in urban neighborhoods like Begley's with high poverty rates and only convenience shops and drugstores within a one-mile drive, a widely used distance for measuring consumers' access to food. The shutdowns come after executives at the retailer's parent company late last year linked softening sales to reductions in food benefits, saying "the month-by-month deceleration" in sales at Family Dollar "matched the progressive reductions in national (food benefit) payments."

The closings, after a sustained period of high inflation, will worsen access to groceries in poor communities like Begley's that rely on federal food benefits and dollar stores, policy experts, professors, community leaders and healthcare providers told Reuters. Food prices at drug and convenience stores are often significantly higher than at dollar stores like Family Dollar, which offer a wider variety of cheaper private label items and have leverage

with suppliers because of their scale.

The chain has touted that its stores serve low-income people for "fill-in" shopping trips for necessities between visits to supercenters or supermarkets. But shoppers using food benefits at dollar stores depend on them for meals and pantry staples more than shoppers who use all forms of payment, buying cereal, milk, bread, soup and frozen dinners more often on visits to the stores, according to data for the year ended August 11 from research firm Circana shared exclusively with Reuters.

A spokesperson for Dollar Tree, Family Dollar's parent company, said that the retailer's focus is on "identifying favorable opportunities to position Family Dollar for long-term success with continued investment in new and existing stores." The Chesapeake, a Virginia-based company which reported \$4.6 billion in gross profit in the six months ended August 3, is also looking to potentially sell or spin-off Family Dollar, it has said.

The spokesperson added that customers can use their food benefits on delivery app Instacart to order from Family Dollar. However, buying groceries at Family Dollar through Instacart is often more expensive than in stores, and customers cannot use the food aid to pay for delivery and service fees. "In these neighborhoods, it's removing a place where people are shopping, where they've been buying

more food than ever before," said Sean Cash, an economist and professor at the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University. "This is going to make food access harder."

Less food options

As Family Dollars close, people's earnings buy significantly less at stores like Walgreens, 7-Eleven or local bodegas and gas station convenience shops that remain open. For example, a package of eight Ball Park beef hot dogs costs \$4.95 at Family Dollar, versus \$5.99 at Walgreens, Stanley Chase, 64, who sells copies of "The Contributor" newspaper, previously depended on one of the Family Dollars that closed in North Nashville, located less than half a mile away from his apartment in a city-managed building. He made full dinners from the canned goods, meat, eggs and milk he bought at the store. A veteran using a wheelchair, Chase does not own a car and supplements his income with food aid. He said he now faces a one-hour bus ride to go to Kroger, and when he can't make that trip, he heads to a convenience store where he has spent \$8 on hot dogs, more than double the price of those at Family Dollar. His customers give him snacks like NutriGrain and Millville granola bars, holding him over until his next trip to the supermarket, he said. — Reuters

Weyay Bank teams up with Pro Futbol Academy

KUWAIT: Weyay Bank, the first digital bank in Kuwait and the pioneer in providing the best digital experience to kids and parents, is excited to announce its sponsorship of Pro Futbol Academy. This partnership reflects Weyay Bank's commitment to supporting young talents and fostering community engagement through innovative and impactful initiatives. Pro Futbol Academy, renowned for its dedication to nurturing young football enthusiasts and developing their skills, perfectly aligns with Weyay Bank's mission to inspire and empower the next generation.

"This sponsorship is a significant step for us," said Amal Al-Duwaisan, Head of Weyay Bank. "We're thrilled to be part of this collaboration. We believe that by investing in young athletes and providing them with the resources they need, we are not just supporting their dreams, but also contributing to the vibrant future of our community." Since the season has officially started, Weyay Bank has been engaging with Pro Futbol Academy's events throughout the year. This partnership aims to enhance the academy's ability to offer top-notch training and opportunities to its athletes, while also bringing exciting new initiatives to the football community. "We are incredibly grateful for Weyay Bank's support," said Abdullah Khaja, CEO of Pro Futbol Academy. "Their commitment to our academy underscores their dedication to the next generation and their belief in the power of sports to shape futures. Together, we look forward to creating more opportunities for young football players and making a positive impact on their lives."

Weyay Bank's sponsorship of Pro Futbol Academy is part of its broader strategy to engage with and support the youth of Kuwait, reinforcing its position as a forward-thinking bank that understands and responds to the need and passion of its customers, especially the younger generation who can own



KUWAIT: CEO of Pro Futbol Academy Abdullah Khaja (left) and Amal Al-Duwaisan, Head of Weyay Bank, are seen during the ceremony announcing their organizations' partnership.



Amal Al-Duwaisan

their own debit Jeel card and banking app interface. The Jeel card is created for kids aged 8 to 14 years old, under the supervision and control of their parents. All information about Weyay Bank and its initiatives for Jeel cardholders are available on www.weyaybank.com or on the Weyay app that can be downloaded from the App Store or Google Play Store.

Weyay Bank is Kuwait's first digital bank, offering an advanced banking experience tailored to the needs of the youth and kids. With a focus on innovation, accessibility, and customer satisfaction, Weyay Bank is dedicated to providing seamless financial solutions in a digital-first environment. Pro Futbol Academy is a leading football training academy in Kuwait that is dedicated to developing young talents and promoting the football sport across Kuwait. The academy organizes comprehensive training sessions as well as camps outside the country and provides mentorship and competitive opportunities for aspiring footballers.

Nepal dam-building spree powers electric vehicle boom

KATHMANDU: Taxi driver Surendra Parajuli's decision to buy an electric cab would have been unthinkable a decade ago, when chronic power cuts left Nepalis unable to light their homes at night. But a dam-building spree has led to dirt-cheap energy prices in a landlocked Himalayan republic otherwise entirely dependent on fossil fuel imports, meaning the switch has put more money in his pocket. "It has meant huge savings for me," Parajuli, the proud new owner of a battery-powered and Chinese-made BYD Atto 3, told AFP in the capital Kathmandu. "It gives 300 kilometers (186 miles) in a single charge and costs me a tenth of what petrol does. And it's environmentally friendly."

Kathmandu is ground zero of an incipient transport revolution set to see the clapped out cars that clog its traffic-snarled streets make way for emissions-free alternatives. More than 40,000 electric vehicles are on the roads around the mountainous country, according to official estimates — a small fraction of the 6.2 million motor vehicles currently in service. But demand is insatiable: more than a quarter of those vehicles were imported in the 12 months to July, a near-threefold increase from the previous year. Neighboring China, now the dominant player in electric vehicles globally, is supplying nearly 70 percent of the market. "EVs are genuinely suitable for Nepalis," Yajira Raj Bhatt, a prospective buyer at an electric vehicle motor show, told AFP. "Before, we had to rely on petrol cars, but now we can drive independently."

'Great potential'

More than four in five Nepalis did not have access to electricity at the turn of the century, according to the International Energy Agency. But rapid investment in dams, which generate 99 percent of Nepal's baseload power, has transformed the energy grid since. Hydro-power output has increased fourfold in the past eight years, according to government figures, while 95 percent of the population now has access to electricity.

The country has already signed deals to export

surplus power to coal-dependent India and has its sights set on future revenues by raising its current 3,200 megawatts of installed power generation capacity to 30,000 megawatts over the next decade. Making electricity universal, and universally cheap, has the potential to jumpstart an economy that has historically depended on remittances from Nepalis working abroad. Kulman Ghising of the Nepal Electricity Authority told AFP that the benefits have already been felt by setting the favorable conditions for widespread electric vehicle adoption.

Nepal is entirely dependent on imports from India to meet its fossil fuel needs, imposing additional costs on motorists, but Ghising said curbs on demand had saved the country around \$224 million. "The EVs have great potential for us," he added. "EVs in India and Bangladesh need to depend on coal, but in Nepal, it's fully green energy," he said. Road transport accounts for just over five percent of greenhouse gas emissions and has fueled a worsening air pollution crisis. Kathmandu was this year listed as one of the world's most polluted cities for several days in April. Experts say that getting more petrol-powered vehicles off the road will be a major step towards alleviating that problem. Electric vehicles are subject to much lower import duties, and the government expects them to help Nepal reach its ambitious aim of becoming a net-zero greenhouse gas emitter by 2045. Its plan aims to have electric vehicles account for 90 percent of all private vehicle purchases by the end of the decade. — AFP



KATHMANDU: An electric vehicle is put to charge at a showroom in Kathmandu. — AFP

NBK MONEY MARKETS REPORT

Global business activity slows down

Key US inflation gauge nears Fed target • Eurozone PMI slips below expectations

KUWAIT: US business activity remained steady in September, with the S&P Global Composite PMI at 54.4, slightly down from 54.6 in August, indicating continued private sector expansion. However, average prices for goods and services rose at their fastest rate in six months, suggesting potential inflationary pressures. The prices paid by businesses for inputs reached a one-year high of 59.1, while the prices charged by businesses increased to 54.7 from 52.9 in August. Consumer confidence in the US fell more than expected in September, with the Conference Board's index sliding to 98.7, down from 105.6 last month, the biggest one-month decline since August 2021. Consumers cited concerns about the labor market as a major source of worry in the survey. Additionally, inflation concerns continued to be a sticking point in the mind of consumers, with the one-year inflation outlook rising to 5.2 percent. The survey was done prior to the Federal Reserve's decision to cut interest rates by 50 bps last week.

The Bureau of Economic Analysis' third estimate for US second-quarter GDP remained unchanged from their second estimate, confirming 3 percent annualized growth, significantly higher than the 1.4 percent growth in the first quarter. While this reading reflects past data, projections indicate steady economic growth continuing into the third quarter. The Atlanta Fed's GDPNow tracker currently forecasts 2.9 percent annualized growth for the third quarter, which ends in September.

Inflation gauge down

New applications for US unemployment benefits unexpectedly fell by 4,000 to 218,000 in the week ending September 21, signaling continued low layoffs and easing concerns about the labor market. Economists had expected 225,000 claims. The data coincided with the government's household survey for September's unemployment rate. The jobless rate fell to 4.2 percent in August, down from 4.3 percent in July. Despite the rise in unemployment from 3.4 percent in April 2023, driven by increased immigration and labor supply, fears of rapid labor market deterioration have lessened.

In August, inflation moved closer to the Federal Reserve's target, which could ease the way for future interest rate cuts. The personal consumption expenditures (PCE) price index, a key measure of US inflation, rose by 0.1 percent, bringing the 12-month inflation rate to 2.2 percent, down from 2.5 percent in July, the lowest since February 2021. Core PCE, excluding food and energy, also rose 0.1 percent, with a year-over-year increase of 2.7 percent. Although

Rates - 29th September 2024

Currencies	Previous Week Levels				This Week's Expected Range		3-Month Forward
	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	
EUR	1.1161	1.1082	1.1213	1.1163	1.1080	1.1240	1.1204
GBP	1.3316	1.3245	1.3434	1.3373	1.3250	1.3500	1.3360
JPY	143.93	142.05	146.49	142.19	140.10	143.30	140.40
CHF	0.8500	0.8400	0.8518	0.8405	0.8250	0.8500	0.8320

inflation showed progress, personal spending and income grew less than expected, with both rising by 0.2 percent. Last week, the Fed lowered its benchmark interest rate and shifted focus from fighting inflation to supporting the labor market, hinting at further rate cuts this year and in 2025, though markets anticipate a more aggressive approach. The US Dollar index closed the week at 100.42.

Eurozone PMI down

Eurozone business activity unexpectedly contracted in September, with the services sector stagnating and manufacturing's decline worsening. Germany's economic downturn deepened, and France returned to contraction after a temporary boost from the August Olympics. The HCOB's preliminary composite PMI for the eurozone dropped to 48.9, below the 50 threshold that indicates growth, signaling contraction for the first time since February. This was worse than the Reuters poll's prediction of a modest decline to 50.5. Demand fell at its fastest rate in eight months, with new business and services PMIs falling below expectations. Manufacturing continued its decline, with the output index dropping to 44.5. The EUR/USD currency pair closed the week at 1.1163.

The Swiss National Bank (SNB) reduced its interest rate by 25 basis points to 1.00 percent, following similar moves by the European Central Bank and US Federal Reserve. This marks the SNB's third rate cut this year, enabled by sharply cooling inflation in Switzerland, which fell to 1.1 percent in August and has remained within the bank's 0-2 percent target range for 15 months. Outgoing SNB Chairman

Thomas Jordan signaled that further rate cuts may be necessary to maintain price stability. The SNB also lowered its inflation forecasts for 2025 and 2026, predicting a 0.6 percent rise in Q2 2027. The USD/CHF currency pair closed the week at 0.8405.

British businesses experienced slower growth in September, with some firms expressing concerns about potential higher taxes, according to a survey. The UK S&P Global Composite PMI dropped to 52.9 from 53.8, below forecasts but still above the 50 level that indicates growth. Economists viewed the data as signaling a return to more sustainable growth after a post-recession rebound earlier in the year, contrasting with weaker performance in the euro zone. The Bank of England is waiting for clearer signs of inflation before considering further interest rate cuts, following a reduction in August. The GBP/USD currency pair closed the week at 1.3373.

RBA holds rate

The Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) kept its cash rate at 4.35 percent in its September meeting, marking the seventh consecutive hold, in line with market expectations. The RBA acknowledged that inflation, especially the trimmed mean measure, remains high and may not return to the 2-3 percent target until 2026. The board emphasized vigilance regarding inflation risks but maintained a data-driven approach. They noted that the current monetary policy stance would remain restrictive for some time. While household consumption is expected to improve in the second half of 2024, the recovery may be slower, potentially leading to subdued economic growth and a

weakening labor market.

In the 12 months to August, Australia's monthly consumer price index (CPI) indicator increased by 2.7 percent. Annual inflation was 2.7 percent in August, down from 3.5 percent in July, and is the lowest reading since August 2021. The key price increases were in housing (+2.6 percent), food and non-alcoholic beverages (+3.4 percent), and alcohol and tobacco (+6.6 percent), while transport saw a decrease (-1.1 percent). Excluding volatile items like fuel, fruit, vegetables, and holiday travel, CPI inflation rose to 3 percent in August, down from 3.7 percent in July. Annual Trimmed mean inflation, which excluded both the falls in automotive fuel and electricity, alongside other large price rises and falls, was 3.4 percent in August, down from 3.8 percent in July. The AUD/USD currency pair closed the week at 0.6902.

PBOC stimulus

On Tuesday, the People's Bank of China (PBOC) announced extensive monetary stimulus and property market support measures aimed at revitalizing the economy, which is facing significant deflationary pressures and risks missing the 5 percent growth target for 2024. Key measures include a 50-basis point reduction in banks' reserve requirement ratios in the near future, which would release approximately 1 trillion yuan (\$142 billion) for lending, and a cut in the seven-day reverse repo rate to 1.5 percent from 1.7 percent. Additionally, the support package reduced the minimum down payment for second homes from 25 percent to 15 percent. Despite these efforts, many analysts indicate that further fiscal stimulus is necessary to bolster real economic activity and restore consumer confidence. The USD/CNY currency pair closed the week at 7.0110.

In Tokyo, core inflation in September matched the Bank of Japan's (BOJ) 2 percent target, signaling progress toward potential interest rate hikes. The Tokyo core consumer price index (CPI), excluding fresh food costs, rose 2.0 percent year-over-year, down from 2.4 percent in August due to government subsidies for utility bills. This data is seen as an indicator of national inflation trends. Service prices also grew, reflecting rising labor costs. BOJ Governor Kazuo Ueda indicated the bank may continue raising rates if inflation stabilizes at 2 percent but will monitor global economic uncertainties given Japan's fragile recovery. The USD/JPY currency pair closed the week at 142.19.

Kuwait

USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30500.



شركة الصفاة للاستثمار
AL SAFAT INVESTMENT COMPANY

KUWAIT BOURSA WEEKLY REPORT

WEEK ENDED ON 26 SEPTEMBER 2024

- (965) 22 675 140
- Al-Safat Tower, Hawalli, Beirut St.
- alsafatinvest.com
- research@alsafatinvest.com
- alsafatinvestment
- al-safat-investment-company

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	35,607	7,789.84	0.0%	-0.4%	4.2%	511,759,353	161,956,116	36,710	17.1	1.4	81.7%
Main Market	7,967	6,271.86	2.0%	3.3%	12.6%	1,588,615,587	189,851,092	70,149	12.4	0.9	18.3%
All Share	43,574	7,197.07	0.3%	0.2%	5.6%	2,100,374,940	351,807,208	106,859	14.5	1.0	100%

Sector	M. Cap (KD ml)	Last Close	WTD %	MTD %	YTD %	Quantity Traded	Value Traded	No. of Trades	P/E	P/B	% of Total M. Cap
Banking	26,501	1,770.24	-0.1%	-0.5%	7.5%	154,252,931	73,076,855	14,306	18.0	1.4	60.82%
Basic Materials	458	810.92	-0.3%	-0.7%	8.7%	2,164,063	1,373,951	528	9.1	1.9	1.05%
Consumer Discretionary	1,239	1,804.96	0.5%	1.8%	12.5%	60,230,533	8,821,708	3,928	14.6	1.4	2.84%
Consumer Staples	303	998.69	0.7%	0.7%	51.6%	1,945,362	1,285,513	289	26.7	1.6	0.70%
Energy	227	1,115.67	0.4%	1.5%	17.6%	78,642,802	7,442,915	4,751	10.2	0.9	0.52%
Financial Services	5,005	1,424.36	0.6%	1.9%	17.5%	927,565,360	131,100,952	34,898	12.4	1.0	11.49%
Health Care	226	472.25	3.7%	7.0%	-2.1%	25,572	19,665,970	12	48.1	1.5	0.52%
Industrials	2,470	730.23	-2.1%	-4.0%	-19.6%	124,216,509	25,638,831	10,587	14.5	1.0	5.67%
Insurance	816	1,988.81	0.8%	1.4%	-13.3%	18,677,119	2,555,235	1,896	8.8	1.1	1.87%
Real Estate	2,950	1,390.73	3.3%	3.5%	14.7%	695,126,217	83,687,062	31,424	15.8	0.8	6.77%
Technology	20	1,462.27	-5.6%	-8.6%	152.8%	436,014	88,721.39	96	609.1	1.7	0.05%
Telecommunications	3,193	1,044.87	2.5%	3.1%	-5.5%	32,487,444	16,025,449	3,717	16.4	1.4	7.33%
Utilities	166	397.37	0.7%	-1.3%	-12.7%	4,605,014	690,350	427	15.5	1.3	0.38%

Top Gainers

Stock	Last Close	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
URC	99	84.01%	148,637,292	10,934,332,870	4,262
UNICAP	252	44.00%	29,897,773	6,805,754	2,696
KBT	94.9	31.62%	108,176,785	9,732,866	4,131
MANAZEL	45	23.71%	174,768,376	7,301,874	3,403
ENERGYH	127	23.30%	40,602,813	5,109,859	3,123

Top Losers

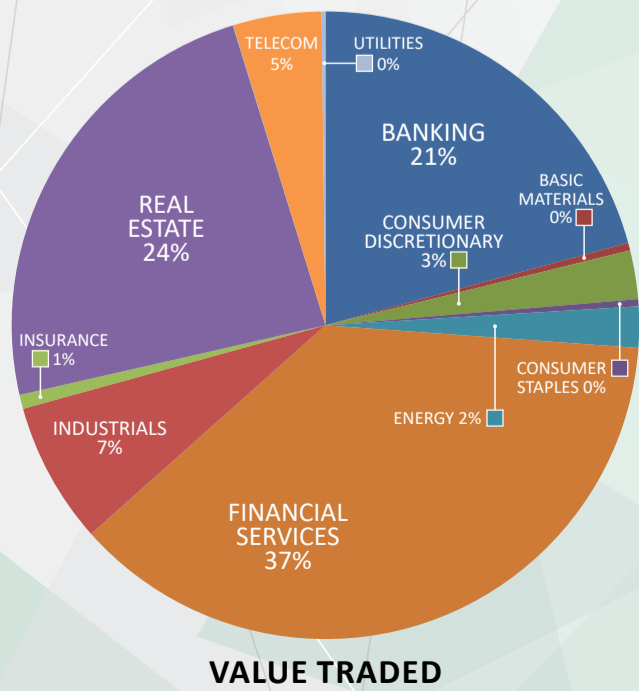
Stock	Last Close	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
AGLTY	229	-6.91%	37,037,912	8,744,786	3,288
BEYOUT	416	-6.31%	4,635,665	1,977,283	769
SHIP	780	-6.02%	1,973,728	1,555,433	492
THURAYA	98	-5.77%	101,626	9,804	12
ASC	201	-5.63%	436,014	88,721	96

Top Volume

Stock	Last	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
MANAZEL	45.4	23.71%	174,768,376	7,301,874	3,403
URC	99	84.01%	148,637,292	10,934,333	4,262
INOVEST	159	1.92%	133,925,122	20,570,656	5,056
MENA	193	-3.50%	131,308,468	30,604,873	10,318
KBT	94.9	31.62%	108,176,785	9,732,866	4,131

Top Value

Stock	Last	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
IFA	398	2.05%	88,979,173	35,771,498	3,521
MENA	193	-3.50%	131,308,468	30,604,873	10,318
KFH	723	-0.14%	41,120,610	29,656,856	6,011
INOVEST	159	1.92%	133,925,122	20,570,656	5,056
NBK	889	1.14%	18,045,249	15,951,308	2,376



Market Summary:

- The Premier market's volume and value dropped by 7% and 8%, while the Main market increased by 75% and 48%, respectively.
- Due to market uncertainty, trading in blue chips has dropped significantly, while intraday trading is increasing massively in small- and mid-cap companies.
- Technically, the All-Share Index closed at 7,197, with support levels at 7,178, 7,162, and 7,141, while resistance is at 7,214. The Premier Index closed at 7,789, with support levels at 7,767, 7,737, and 7,716, while resistance is at 7,811. The Main Index closed at 6,271, with support levels at 6,267, 6,235, and 6,216, while resistance is at 6,285.

Business

Antitrust law enforcement between public & private: Where is Kuwait?

By Dr Abdullah Ahmed Alkayat

In the 19th century, a few businesses known as "trusts," controlled the supply and pricing of major economic sectors around the world — railroads, oil, steel, and sugar. Without competition in these industries, smaller businesses and consumers had limited choices; the artificially high prices and low-quality products from these trusts threatened economic prosperity and the US Congress passed an innovative antitrust law — the Sherman Act — to break up many trusts into smaller companies, protecting consumers by promoting competition in the marketplace.

When market players impede competition by fixing prices, rigging bids, or allocating (dividing up) customers, consumers lose the benefits of fair competition. These anti-competitive behaviors often inflate prices higher than actual costs, distorting the allocation of societal resources, and harming both consumers and the economy. Antitrust provisions and laws seek to ensure competition between market players is free and open, benefiting consumers and businesses. Competition often ensures lower prices and better products or services for consumers. A freely competitive market also encourages businesses to find innovative and efficient production methods, attracting consumers with low prices and improved quality.

Similar antitrust legal provisions are found in most jurisdictions. For example, sections one and two of the Sherman Act, Articles 101 and 102 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), and Articles L420-1 and L420-2 of the French Commercial Code, all prohibit certain types of agreements between undertakings and the abuse of dominant position. Despite these similarities, the antitrust legal systems of the United States, the EU, and France function differently due to their distinct enforcement rules governing antitrust laws.

Legal rights are typically enforced through judicial decisions or legislative intervention, but methods beyond litigation and legislation can also help enforce legal rights. Use of physical force is perhaps the most direct method but strategic power — the power to grant or withhold the reward of future cooperation — may also be used to enforce legal rights. However, its application depends on various factors and the nature of the relationship between the parties, including the extent of a potential benefit or potential loss without cooperation.

Moral condemnation may also be an enforcement mechanism as a violation of certain rules can lead to moral condemnation from consumers and moral regret from the violator. This could even apply to the image of the business itself, such as recent moral condemnation for businesses infringing environmental law or social networking sites violating users' privacy. Businesses must not underestimate the power of moral sanctions for the enforcement of the legal rules.

Legal enforcement mechanisms involve compensation, restitution, punishment, and prevention. Competition law aims to restore competition in the market and can involve ending infringement of competition rules, compensating victims, and minimizing future anticompetitive behavior. Many legal systems use a combination of public and private enforcement for antitrust matters. Public enforcement typically involves the government, a competition agency, or a public prosecutor identifying and sanctioning violators of competition laws. Public authorities may impose criminal or monetary sanctions to compensate the general public for the distortion of the competitive process in the market, but this enforcement is intended to deter violations and protect competition, not compensate injured parties.

Private enforcement mainly fulfills a compensatory function for direct victims of anti-competition behavior and often involves litigation initiated by an individual, a legal entity, an organization, or a public entity seeking a court-established antitrust violation and order for compensation and even injunctive relief. Private enforcement, in combination with public enforcement, can enhance the deterrent impact of public antitrust enforcement on market players. The coexistence of stand-alone actions and public enforcement actions help detect more anticompetitive behaviors in the market, while follow-on actions after public enforcement decisions can increase the amount of monetary sanctions. The relationship between public and private enforcement in follow-on actions is complementary. Under some antitrust enforcement systems, additional discouragement is beneficial and can lead to an optimal level of deterrence. However, over-deterrence can negatively affect competition processes in the market and lead to suboptimal results for social welfare.

Furthermore, private enforcement complements public enforcement because competition authorities — particularly in larger markets — often have limited resources and must concentrate on cases with the greatest impact on competition and the economy. In the absence of public enforcement action, private enforcement helps individuals protect their legitimate rights and receive relief when no public enforcement action has occurred.

Accordingly, the optimal antitrust law enforcement system may involve public enforcement for clarification and development of the law as well as deterrence and punishment, with private enforcement used to compensate victims of anticompetitive behaviors. A good antitrust enforcement policy considers the interaction of public and private enforcement and integrates the separate tasks approach, under which public and private antitrust enforcement are each assigned the tasks for which they are best suited. Despite the benefit of a dual antitrust enforcement system, however, it remains limited in its actual application.

The Competition Protection Agency oversees antitrust issues and assesses violations in Kuwait and, although Kuwait has implemented two different antitrust laws — the annulled No 10 of 2007 and the current Law 72 of 2020 — public enforcement remains the norm. Private enforcement mechanisms, like the dual enforcement opportunities in the United States, are unavailable in Kuwait. In fact, most countries still primarily apply public enforcement; however, more jurisdictions are trending toward additional private enforcement tools, including the European Union, which has leaned into private enforcement in the last decade. In Kuwait, with its smaller market — particularly when compared to the United States — public enforcement remains the most efficient mechanism. At least, until the need for private enforcement emerges.

NOTE: Dr Abdullah Ahmed Alkayat is a Commercial and Capital Markets Law Professor at Kuwait University School of Law.



Gulf Bank concludes participation in Auto World Exhibition

Gulf Bank offers customers opportunity to purchase cars interest-free

KUWAIT: In its commitment to engaging with customers, Gulf Bank concluded its participation in the first edition of the Auto World Exhibition, which took place over six days from September 23 to 28, 2024 at the Kuwait International Fairgrounds. As always, Gulf Bank remains committed to delivering exceptional banking services and tailored financing solutions across various sectors, including the automotive industry. The bank offers flexible financing options to all customers, both citizens and residents, through car dealerships across Kuwait.

The bank offers interest-free (0 percent) car loans of up to KD 25,000, with flexible repayment terms of up to five years. Additionally, car dealerships provide exclusive discounts in collaboration with Gulf Bank, offering up to KD 500 off when purchasing a new or certified vehicle from the exclusive dealership. Gulf Bank offers its services six days a week, from Saturday to Thursday, with morning and evening shifts available at over 40 showrooms for new and certified cars. As an added benefit, the bank provides an exclusive complimentary service for female customers, arranging a luxury limousine with a driver to transport them and their families from home, to the dealership, for a comfortable car collection experience.

Moreover, Gulf Bank is dedicated to delivering exceptional services to all customers, helping them choose the showroom that best meets their



needs while offering flexible credit terms. The bank's branches located within these showrooms prioritize customer privacy, streamline transactions, and enhance the overall banking experience, all while maintaining the highest quality standards in the industry. The bank prioritizes customer satisfaction and is dedicated to ensuring their comfort. Employees are available at auto showrooms in various locations across Kuwait — including Al-Rai, Shuwaikh, Al-Ahmedi, Fahaheel, Al-Qurain Markets, and Al-Jahra — during both morning and evening shifts.

Gulf Bank strives to simplify banking transactions for its customers and is committed to enhancing service quality to meet their expectations. A dedicated team of Gulf Bank employees is available at the showrooms to assist with customer needs and answer inquiries, both through the Gulf Bank website and app, as well as at any branch across Kuwait. Gulf Bank aims to be Kuwait's leading bank, fostering a diverse and inclusive workplace to deliver exceptional customer service while contributing sustainably to the community. Through its extensive

branch network and innovative digital services, the bank empowers customers to conduct banking transactions conveniently and efficiently, ensuring a seamless experience.

In alignment with Kuwait Vision 2035, "New Kuwait," and its commitment to fostering collaborative partnerships, Gulf Bank is dedicated to driving robust sustainability initiatives across environmental, social, and governance (ESG) dimensions. The bank is committed to implementing strategically selected and diverse sustainability programs both internally and externally.

Boursa Kuwait, MEIRA hold seminar on digital innovation in IR

KUWAIT: In collaboration with the Middle East Investor Relations Association (MEIRA) and its Kuwait chapter, Boursa Kuwait organized an interactive seminar on digital innovation and its impact on the investor relations (IR) function at its premises on Sunday, September 29, 2024, as part of its efforts to enhance the field of IR and its practices as well as improve the transparency of communications with prospective and current local and international investors and other stakeholders. The event kicked off with a session on digital innovation from Smart Media: The Annual Report Company's Chief Operating Officer Malshini Silva, which provided insights into the latest advancements in crafting annual reports, sustainability reports and other forms of corporate reporting, shedding light on how to turn these traditional reports into advanced interactive solutions. Silva also highlighted the importance of digital innovation to IR professionals and practitioners, as it has become essential for communications with stakeholders, improving transparency and creating long-term value for companies. Silva also added that adopting cutting-edge digital tools and strategies empowers IR teams to deliver timely, relevant, and personalized information, fostering deeper connections with investors and analysts.

Silva was followed by Andrey Kozhevnikov, the Chief Executive Officer of Fanda, who presided over an informative panel on digital interaction with stakeholders, looking at the variety of ways IR professionals can build a comprehensive communications system that includes a website, webcasts, CRM, mailing lists, online reports, and surveys, to achieve meaningful engagement with stakeholders. The seminar concluded with Faisal Kanth, Managing Partner at Fairvue Partners, who led an interactive workshop on quantifying IR impact across an organization, exploring the measurable value investor relations can bring to various parts of a company. Kanth shed light on the importance of developing robust metrics that measure the impact of the IR function on key performance indicators like as investor sentiment, capital access, and overall corporate reputation, which enable companies to make data-driven decisions, allocate resources effectively, and demonstrate the department's strategic value to the business.

Partnership with MEIRA

The strategic partnership with the MEIRA and its Kuwait chapter stems from Boursa Kuwait's Corporate Sustainability strategy and is an example of the Kuwaiti stock exchange's ongoing efforts to increase financial literacy and awareness among the Kuwaiti capital market's various participants. Commenting on the partnership, Boursa Kuwait's Director of Investor Relations Fahad Al-Besher said, "Digital innovation is reshaping



investor relations, making it easier for companies to communicate, improve transparency, and connect with a larger audience. With advanced platforms and applications, companies can share financial reports, regulatory updates, and key information smoothly, keeping shareholders and potential investors informed in real time. As technology advances, IR strategies are becoming more personalized, data-driven, and scalable."

Director Al-Besher added, "Boursa Kuwait is dedicated to promoting investor relations and maintaining international standards in corporate governance. Our aim is to strengthen the reputation, efficiency, and appeal of the Kuwaiti capital market. I would like to thank the Middle East Investor Relations Association for its strategic partnership over the years, and I look forward to further collaborations in the future." The Middle East Investor Relations Association's Chief Executive Officer Paolo Casamassima praised the event's focus. "The Middle East Investor Relations Association is dedicated to elevating the investor relations profession throughout the region, and events like this one are essential for sharing knowledge and fostering innovation. Digital innovation is a key driver of success, and today's discussions have been instrumental in showcasing how technology can enhance the IR function. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Boursa Kuwait for their generous hospitality and their unwavering dedication to the development of the IR field."

Mohammed Abdal, MEIRA Kuwait Chapter Head and Chief Communications Officer at Zain Group, emphasized the importance of embracing change. "The future of investor relations lies in adopting new digital strategies. As companies evolve, so too must our approach to engaging with investors, and today's sessions have shed light on some of the tools and technologies we need to stay ahead in this dynamic field." MEIRA Board Member and Deputy General Manager of In-

couver Terminal Elevator Association. Workers are slated to vote on the deal on October 4.

The notification from the union also says picket lines were to be removed Saturday and members will return to work pending ratification, ending the strike that had paralyzed grain shipments from Metro Vancouver's port. The dispute had previously led to picket lines going up at six Metro Vancouver grain terminals on Tuesday as about 600 workers went on strike.

Labor Minister Steven MacKinnon confirmed that a "tentative agreement to get Canada's harvest to market" had been reached. "Thanks to the parties for putting in the work necessary to get a deal done, and to federal mediators for their support," he said on X.

The strike halted bulk shipments of canola, wheat, barley, oats and specialty crops. Last year, 52 percent of all grain produced in Canada passed through

investor Relations at Gulf Bank Dalal Al-Dousari added: "Digital transformation is no longer a luxury, but a necessity for IR professionals. This event has provided valuable insights into how we can leverage technology to enhance communication and build stronger relationships with our stakeholders. I would like to thank Boursa Kuwait for hosting this event and supporting the Middle East Investor Relations Association's initiatives throughout the years."

Boursa Kuwait has launched numerous initiatives to empower and equip companies and investors to seize market opportunities and transform Kuwait into an attractive and prosperous investment destination within a robust capital market ecosystem. Boursa Kuwait's hosting of this initiative also forms part of the company's efforts to create a lasting meaningful impact on the communities where it operates and is in line with Goal 4 – Quality Education – and Goal 17 – Partnership for the Goals – of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Boursa Kuwait's Corporate Sustainability strategy stipulates ensuring initiatives apply and fall in line with the company's corporate social responsibility (CSR), industry best practice standards and investor expectations: creating strong and sustainable partnerships that ultimately achieve success and allow Boursa Kuwait to leverage the capabilities and strengths of other companies or organizations that have experience in different fields, and integrating sustainability efforts with the company culture, in order to achieve longevity and an ongoing impact that is carried on and instilled in the day-to-day operations of the stock exchange. Boursa Kuwait has launched many initiatives in partnership with local and international organizations, focusing on support for nongovernmental organizations and charity programs, financial literacy and capital market awareness, the empowerment of women, and environmental protection.

the Pacific coast port. The Grain Growers of Canada, an association representing 65,000 farmers, had urged the government to intervene to bring an end to the strike, which it said risked having a "devastating impact on grain farmers." Nearly 100,000 metric tons of Canadian grain arrive at these terminals each day, the association said in a statement, and a shutdown would entail a loss of Can\$35 million (US\$26 million) in potential exports daily.

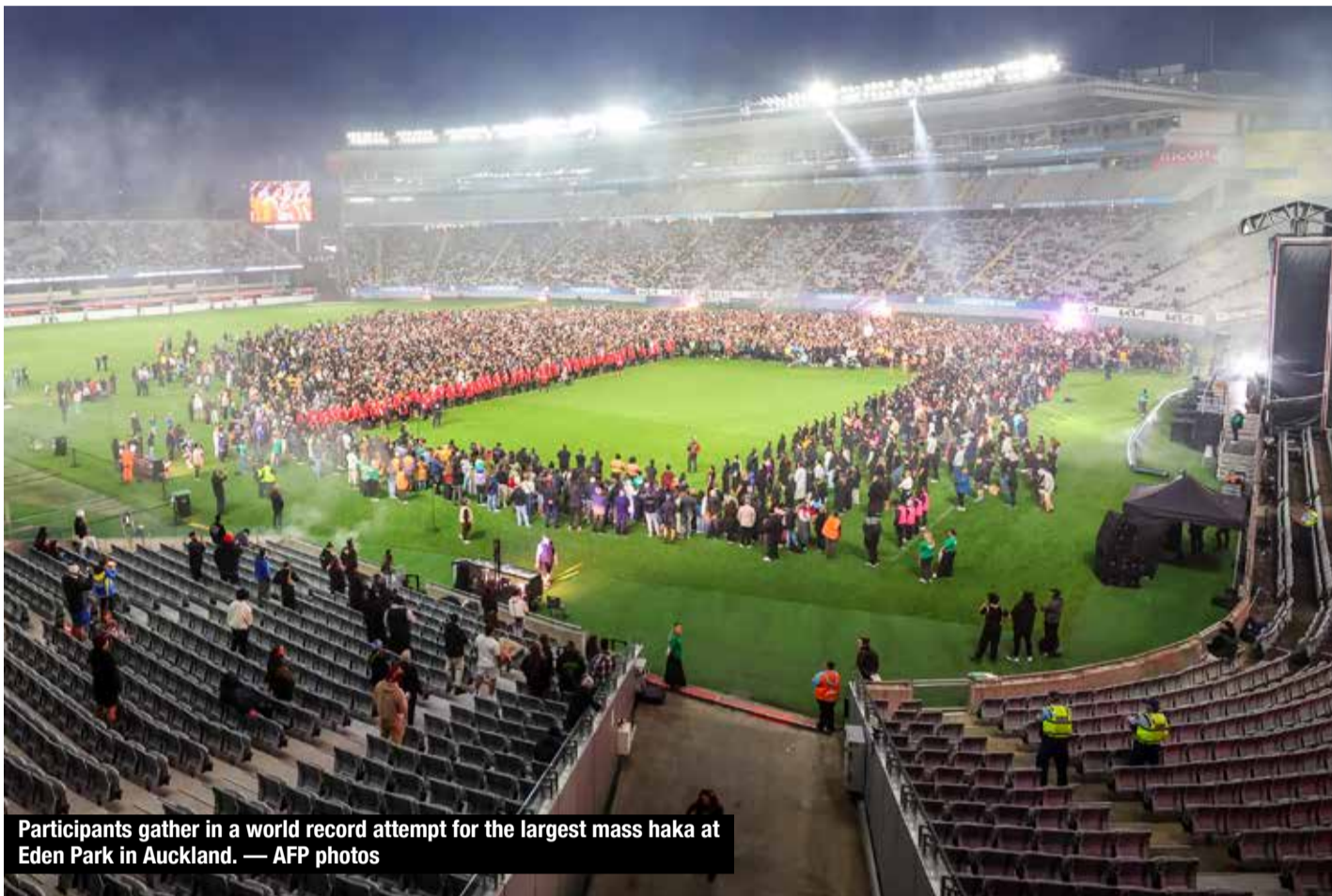
Talks had stalled after two days of negotiations last week, with the employer saying it had increased its offers to settle "outstanding issues." The employers' group had said they've reached the end of their "financial ability to conclude an agreement that industry can absorb" with the last offer, and it was up to the federally appointed mediator to report the results to MacKinnon for the next steps. MacKinnon says in his tweet that both parties put in "the work necessary to get a deal done." — Agencies

Workers end grain terminal strike at busy Vancouver port

MONTREAL: Grain terminal workers at the port of Vancouver on Saturday ended a four-day strike that had halted shipments of about half of Canada's grain exports during the peak autumn shipping season, their labor union said. The Grain Workers Union, which represents 650 workers at six Vancouver grain terminals — including those owned by Cargill, Richardson International and Viterra — announced late Friday that employees would return to work Saturday after reaching a tentative agreement with their employer, the Van-

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

New Zealand breaks world record for largest mass haka



Participants gather in a world record attempt for the largest mass haka at Eden Park in Auckland. — AFP photos

New Zealand on Sunday reclaimed the world record for the largest mass haka after more than 6,000 people performed the legendary Maori war dance, dethroning France. The record was broken in deafening fashion at Eden Park rugby stadium in Auckland, where thousands of men, women and children combined on the pitch to complete the traditional native challenge involving vigorous movements, stamping feet and rhythmic shouting. An adjudicator confirmed 6,531 participants had performed the 'Ka Mate' haka, a rendition made famous by the All Blacks rugby team, who perform it immediately before Test matches.

The world record had been held by France since September 2014 when 4,028 people slapped their thighs and bellowed the chant following a rugby match in France Brive-la-Gaillarde, southwestern France. Auckland organizers had hoped for up to 10,000 participants but were nevertheless pleased the record had been reclaimed by New Zealand, where the haka is regarded as a national treasure. "We want to bring the



Participants gather in a world record attempt for the largest mass haka at Eden Park in Auckland.



Guinness World Records adjudicator Brian Sobel (centre left) holds up a plaque as he officially announces a new record for the largest mass haka at Eden Park in Auckland.



New Zealand filmmaker-actor Taika Waititi (second right) and US comedian and television personality Conan O'Brien (second left) gesture as people gather in a world record attempt for the largest mass haka at Eden Park in Auckland.

mana (pride) of the haka back home," Michael Mizrahi, director of the Auckland attempt, told AFP.

"It's not just that we want to take it off the French, it's like a national treasure that somebody has taken from us. It's got enormous meaning for us as New Zealanders." "Some things should be culturally sacred." Previous attempts involving crowds of more than 5,000 on New Zealand soil failed because Guinness World Records officials didn't ratify

them, Mizrahi said. This time around, an adjudicator was flown to Auckland.

The Ka Mate haka was composed around 1820 by the warrior chief Te Rauparaha to celebrate his escape from a rival tribe's pursuing war party. Under New Zealand law, a Maori tribe, the Ngati Toa, based in Porirua just outside Wellington - are recognized as the cultural guardians of the Ka Mate haka. — AFP

Bollywood's 'King Khan' steals show at Indian film awards

Bollywood icon Shah Rukh Khan declared "it's good to be back" as he won best actor at the International Indian Film Academy Awards on Saturday after a long absence from the limelight. The 58-year-old stole the show as event co-host before walking off with the coveted prize for his role in the action thriller "Jawan", capping a five-hour show in Abu Dhabi. "I just want to tell you it's good to be back," he told a packed crowd in United Arab Emirates, which has a large Indian population.

"I love awards, I'm greedy about



Bollywood actress Shabana Azmi arrives to attend the 24th edition of the International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Awards in Abu Dhabi.

awards... I think I have a little happiness from the audience this year because I worked (again) after a long time," he added. Sandeep Reddy Vanga's "Animal" won best picture among six awards including best supporting actor for Anil Kapoor, another stalwart of the Hindi film industry. Rani Mukerji was named best actress for the child-custody drama "Mrs Chatterjee vs Norway" and Vidhu Vinod Chopra won best director for "12th Fail".

In a rambling event that finished at 2:30 am, Khan's comedy skits with fellow actor Vicky Kaushal were interspersed with hip-thrusting dance numbers and frequent commercial endorsements. Shahid Kapoor rode up to the stage on a motorbike and after "King Khan" appeared, to blasts of fireworks and with a huge crown superimposed above his head, there were constant ad-lib tributes to the star. Before releasing "Jawan" and "Pathaan" last year, Khan had not played any starring roles for five years.

His return comes as Mumbai-based Bollywood, for decades India's dominant film business and a major cultural export, faces challenges including competition from elsewhere in the vast, culturally diverse country. As non-Hindi productions grow in popularity, Bollywood has also been outshone by independent films such as director Payal Kapadia's "All We Imagine as Light", which won the coveted Grand Prix award at Cannes in May.

Bollywood's cinema-based busi-



Bollywood actor and producer Shah Rukh Khan attends a press conference for the 24th edition of the International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Weekend and Awards in Mumbai on September 10, 2024. — AFP

ness model is also grappling with the rise in streaming services such as Netflix, whose Indian content includes eight films and 14 series. Elara Capital, an Indian investment and advisory firm, estimates that box office takings were down up to 35 percent in the first half of 2024 compared to the same period last year. However, 2023 was particularly strong as Bollywood bounced back after Covid with a strong slate of films, compared to a much weaker content pipeline this year. Abu Dhabi was playing host for the third straight edition of the globe-trotting event, which started in 2000 and has only taken place once in India. — AFP



Bollywood actor Vivek Oberoi and his wife Priyanka Alva Oberoi arrive to attend the 24th edition of the International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Awards in Abu Dhabi.



Bollywood actor Vicky Kaushal arrives to attend the 24th edition of the International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Awards in Abu Dhabi.

Bullfighting documentary wins top prize at San Sebastian



French actor Pierre Lottin delivers a speech after receiving the "Concha de Plata" (Silver Shell) for best supporting performance award for "Quand vient l'automne / When fall is coming".

A documentary about bullfighting, "Tardes de Soledad", picked up the top award at the San Sebastian Film Festival Saturday. The film, by Spanish director Albert Serra, won the Golden Shell for best film at the festival, for its portrayal of a day in the life of a Peruvian bullfighter, Andres Roca Rey. Serra thanked the festival organizers for having selected his film after animal rights groups had campaigned against its screening.

It got a warm reception at its festival screening, even though animal rights group PACMA had denounced it as a romanticized vision of bullfighting that normalized violence towards animals. The best director prize was tied between two film-makers, Laura Carreira and Pedro Martin Calero. Carreira's feature debut, "On Falling", tells the story of a Portuguese worker in a Scottish warehouse struggling with the pressures of the gig economy. Perreira is a Portuguese film maker based in the Scottish capital Edinburgh.

Martin-Calero's film, "The Wailing" ("El Llanto"), also his first feature, is a horror film about an evil presence that stalks three women. The Spanish director previously made music videos. Earlier in the week, the festival awarded a lifetime achievement award to Spanish director Pedro Almodovar. — AFP



Argentinian actor Nahuel Perez Biscayart reacts to receiving the "Horizontes" award to the best Latin American film for "El jockey / Kill the jockey" during the 72nd San Sebastian Film Festival closing ceremony in the northern Spanish Basque city of San Sebastian. — AFP photos



US director Gia Coppola (right) and Canadian actress Pamela Anderson deliver a speech after receiving the Special Award of the Jury for "The Last Showgirl".



Spanish director Albert Serra delivers a speech after receiving the "Concha de Oro" (Golden Shell) for best film award for "Tardes de soledad / Afternoons of solitude".



Spanish actress Patricia Lopez delivers a speech after receiving the "Concha de Plata" (Silver Shell) for best lead performance award for "Los destellos / Glimmers".



Joint winner of the "Concha de Plata" (Silver Shell) for best director award, alongside Spanish director Pedro Martin Calero for "El llanto / The Wailing", Portuguese director Laura Carreira receives the award for "On falling".

Saint-Tropez hails film legend Bardot as she turns 90

Glitzy French Riviera village Saint-Tropez honored one of its most famous residents Saturday by showing "Et Dieu crea la femme" ("And God Created Woman"), the 1956 film that turned Brigitte Bardot - now 90 - into a megastar. The homage on Bardot's birthday was "simple, Saint-Tropez style, just like she is", mayor Sylvie Siri said. Saturday's film showing was "a cry from the heart of Saint-Tropez residents, who are here to show how much they appreciate her lifelong attachment" to the Mediterranean village, she added.

Bardot did not attend the showing, which had to be held indoors rather than outside as the region's chilly Mistral wind was blowing strongly. But Siri said the star had told her she was "very happy" with the honor.

Bardot's 90th has also been marked by outdoor photo exhibits and two portraits affixed to the Saint-Tropez lighthouse. "And God Created Woman" was directed by Bardot's then-husband Roger Vadim and filmed on the Pampelonne beach in Saint-Tropez's neighboring village of Ramatuelle, as well as in Saint-Tropez itself. The work kicked off the transformation of the little fishing village into a world-famous tourist destination.

Bardot moved to Saint-Tropez in 1958, buying a sheltered property set apart from the town, La Madrague. Although she still lives there, she has not appeared in public for several years. Bardot bowed out of cinema in 1973, turning to animal-rights activism. The foundation she launched in her name in 1986 now employs 300 people to battle hunting, animal shows, slaughter without stunning and human consumption of horsemeat. — AFP



French actress Brigitte Bardot smokes a cigarette at the courthouse in Paris on January 29, 1962 after testifying for her ex-husband film director Roger Vadim in the trial against film director Francois Truffaut over the film "La Bride sur le cou".



French actress Brigitte Bardot attends the international feline exhibition in Saint-Tropez, southern France, on June 4, 1977. — AFP photos



French actress Brigitte Bardot and her partner French actor Jacques Charrier smile the day of their wedding in Louveciennes on June 18, 1959.



French actress Brigitte Bardot poses on May 11, 1993 in Paris next to the bust of Marianne, the symbol of the French Republic, for which Bardot served as the latest model.



Former French actress Brigitte Bardot plays with a dog as she arrives to the animal rescue center of Cabries (Bouches-du-Rhone) on January 17, 1989 as part of an open day to raise awareness among local residents about adopting a pet.



Participants take part in a stand up paddleboard and kayak instructing session at Limehouse Cut canal in east London. — AFP photos



Qualified paddle sport instructor Dilruba Begum, prepares lifejackets for participants during a stand up paddleboard and kayak instructing session.



Qualified paddle sport instructor Atiyya Zaman (right) gives instructions to participants before a session.

Muslim women break taboos navigating east London's waterways



A participant takes part in a stand up paddleboard and kayak instructing session.

Paddle dipped gently below mossy water, Dilruba Begum guided the kayak and a trainee sat in front of her down a canal in east London. "Out here, you can be anyone," she whispered as she lifted the paddle up to allow the kayak to drift with the current.

Two years ago, when Dilruba, 43, was swamped with mothering duties, a friend told her about a free, women-only program to learn paddle sports near her home. Now she is a qualified paddle sport instructor, after taking part in the program run by local housing and community regeneration body Poplar HARCA.

Dilruba and her fellow paddlers are breaking new ground, encouraging women from London's less advantaged eastern neighborhoods to embrace water sports that many felt were inaccessible to ethnic minorities like them with stretched resources and limited leisure time. The initiative has grown in the last two years from a pilot project with 18 women to a group of around 70. Among them are women who are "working, some are full-time mums, some haven't been out of the house in years", Dilruba told AFP.

Nine of them, including Dilruba and Atiyya Zaman, 38, have qualified as instructors and started London's first boat club with an all-female, Muslim committee. On a rain-soaked September afternoon, the pair led their first session, teaching a small group of women how to use kayaks and inflatable paddle boards. Life vests secured, they demonstrated different maneuvers to participants on a small pontoon before lowering themselves into kayaks to begin the session on Limehouse Cut.

'Blue spaces'

The canal runs through Poplar and Bow in Tower Hamlets, one of the city's most deprived and densely populated boroughs. One aim of the initiative is to improve local people's access to "blue spaces" in Poplar, which lies at the heart of 6.5 kilometers (3.7 miles) of uninterrupted waterways. "I live next to the canal, and I used to see people going (on it) all the time. I did always wonder how it would feel if I could do that?" said Atiyya, bobbing up and down on an orange kayak.

Jenefa Hamid, from Poplar HARCA, said many people from black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds that make up most of the local community "thought water sport was not something that's typically for them". This could be due to a fear of drowning, as well as cultural and religious reasons. "I think it is just feeling socially excluded," she added.

According to Sport England data from 2017 to 2019, less than one percent of Asian (excluding Chinese) adults participated in water sports, and all BAME communities were under-represented in swimming activities. Some of the women in the group "haven't even been in the water before", said Atiyya. "When I started, especially women within this community, we would never do this sort of thing."

Making the program women-only and allowing different



Oar and Explore Boat Club Chair, and qualified instructor, Naseema Begum, poses for a photograph.



Participants take part in a stand up paddleboard and kayak instructing session.

attire made it welcoming to local Muslim women. Naseema Begum, 47, who was part of the initial cohort and is now an instructor, said there was a "taboo" preventing Asian women and those wearing headscarves from taking part in water sports. Wearing a niqab, Naseema wanted to show that "you can wear anything and go in the water. As long as you've got the right equipment... anyone can take part". Women were also attracted by the affordability. Private boating clubs are "quite unaffordable if you've got a family to maintain", said Naseema, adding that she could not justify spending the amount on her own "leisure".

'An escape'

Naseema now chairs the "Oar and Explore" boat club. With Atiyya and Dilruba, they hope to raise enough funds to acquire their own boats and a storage space by a new pontoon planned for the area. "The way I felt, the enjoyment and the confidence that I've built from this, I want to pass it on to others and tell them there's more to life," said Dilruba. Part of the enjoyment for her was a rare chance to "just sit down with your thoughts, not think about anything else".

Atiyya agreed. "During Covid, it was quite hard with three young children at home, and then with work, it was very stressful. This was a way to escape," she said. Dilruba credits the instructors for helping her become one herself — and opening up a new world. "They have lifted us up and made us into some new people, with new experiences... new skills we never thought we would have," she said. — AFP



Qualified paddle sport instructor Dilruba Begum (right) gives instructions to participants.



Qualified paddle sport instructor Atiyya Zaman poses for a portrait on a kayak.



Qualified instructor Atiyya Zaman returns with paddles after a stand up paddleboard and kayak instructing session.



Participants take part in a stand up paddleboard and kayak instructing session.

Heirs claim back Rembrandts from top Dutch museum

The heirs of a prolific Dutch art collector are demanding that one of the country's top museums return 25 paintings, including eight works by Rembrandt, because they are not on permanent display.

The heirs to the collection have served a legal summons on the Mauritshuis in The Hague to hand the paintings back, lawyer Gert-Jan van den Bergh told AFP on Friday.

Collector Abraham Bredius, a former Mauritshuis director, bequeathed the 25 paintings to the museum when he died in 1946, on the strict condition they would always be displayed to the public.

"The conditions were not met. Therefore the heirs are now demanding that the museum give the paintings back," said the lawyer.

Four works by 17th-century master Rembrandt — including "Saul and David", painted between 1651 and 1658, and "Two African Men" from 1661 — are currently hanging at the museum.

A fifth painting by landscape master Salomon van Ruysdael can also be viewed but the 20 other works from the collection are not on public view, the Mauritshuis confirmed.

These included works by other Golden Age artists including Jan Steen, Jan van Goyen and Paulus Moreelse. Van den Bergh said the case filed before The Hague District Court was not on behalf of Bredius, who himself had no children.

The lawsuit has been brought by the grandnephew and grandniece of Joseph Kronig, an art critic who was named Bredius's sole heir.

Kronig was about 30 years younger than Bredius, who often referred to him as a "protege" and sometimes a "stepson", according to the New York Times. Several art historians have suggested Kronig and Bredius were lovers but Kronig's grandnephew Otto told the New York Times there was no evidence for this.

The Mauritshuis said it could not comment on the case. "As long as the case is being researched — and this may take a long time — we are unable to make any announcements," spokesman Rene Timmermans told AFP in an email.

Situated near the historic Dutch parliament buildings in The Hague, the Mauritshuis boasts a world-famous collection, including Vermeer's "Girl with a Pearl Earring". — AFP

Sports

S Lanka debutant Peiris spins New Zealand to innings defeat

Sri Lanka's first series win against New Zealand in 15 years

GALLE: Debutant off-spinner Nishan Peiris took six wickets Sunday to seal Sri Lanka's first series win against New Zealand in 15 years with a crushing victory by an innings and 154 runs in the second Test in Galle. New Zealand were all out for 360 in their second innings before tea on day four after being asked to follow-on.

Peiris, 27, and fellow spinner Prabath Jayasuriya shared 18 wickets in the match, the latter taking 6-42 in the first innings to bundle out the tourists for just 88 after the hosts had amassed a mammoth 602-5 declared.

"Amazing how the batting unit rose to the occasion," Sri Lanka captain Dhananjaya de Silva told reporters. "Then the spinners were too good... Once we bowled them out for less than 100 runs in the first innings, it was very difficult for them to come back into the game."

New Zealand's lower order did put up some fight after resuming at 199-5 on Sunday, with Tom Blundell, Glenn Phillips and Mitchell Santner all making half-centuries. Peiris, who had taken three second-innings wickets on Saturday, trapped Blundell lbw for 60 early in the first session, ending a 95-run stand with Phillips.

Santner helped craft a 64-run partnership for the seventh wicket before the gutsy Phillips fell on 78 when he mistimed a shot to long-on, giving Peiris his maiden five-wicket haul. Santner put together a stubborn ninth-wicket stand of 53 with Ajaz Patel before the latter was sent back, bowled by Jayasuriya, on 22. Sri Lanka sealed the victory when Santner's gritty resistance was finally broken, stumped by Kusal Mendis for 67 off Peiris.



GALLE: Sri Lanka's players pose with the trophy as they celebrate after winning the second and last Test cricket match against New Zealand, at the Galle International Cricket Stadium in Galle on September 29, 2024.—AFP

'Tough place'

"Galle is a tough place to come and play cricket and Sri Lanka are a strong team here," said New Zealand captain Tim Southee. "We were on the wrong side of the toss and we struggled to make the breakthroughs. We really struggled to come

back from there," he added. Sri Lanka could have wrapped up the match and series in the morning session but for a succession of dropped catches.

Kamindu Mendis spilled Patel on two at second slip and let Santner off on 36 in the covers. Peiris shelled another chance from Santner not long af-

ter. Sri Lanka won the opening match by 63 runs and series win is their first against New Zealand since a 2-0 win at home in 2009. The result leaves New Zealand winless from six Test appearances at Galle, with Sunday's 360 their highest innings total at the venue.—AFP



ROGERS: Ashleigh Buhai of South Africa plays a shot on the 18th hole during the second round of the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship presented by P&G 2024 at Pinnacle Country Club.—AFP

Buhai closes strong to take NW Arkansas Championship lead

LOS ANGELES: Ashleigh Buhai shook off a "silly" double bogey and surged home with four birdies in the last five holes on Saturday to take a one-shot lead in the US LPGA NW Arkansas Championship. "I felt I played just as well as yesterday. Obviously the winds were a little trickier than yesterday morning for us, so kind of faded out for everybody," said Buhai, who posted a four-under par 67 for an 11-under par 36-hole total of 131 at Pinnacle Country Club in Rogers, Arkansas.

One back to start the day, South Africa's Buhai birdied the first hole. But a double bogey at the eighth left her needing to gain ground. She birdied nine and 11, and after a bogey at 13 she birdied 14, 15, 17 and 18 to power past Dottie Ardina of the Philippines, who carded a 67 for 10-under 132.

"I did start to get a little frustrated, but I was hitting a lot of good shots," Buhai said. "Made a silly double bogey, but at least I kept calm and just reminded myself to keep doing what I was doing, and finally got rewarded down the last few holes."

Buhai, whose two LPGA victories include a major title at the 2022 Women's British Open, is battling to claim a spot in the 60-player Tour Championship field after a season disrupted by injury. She battled back injuries and a broken toe—playing the Paris Olympics with a piece of one shoe cut away because of her toe trouble.

The 35-year-old led after the first round of the Queen City Championship this month on the way to a tie for 14th and said she'd try not to think about holding the lead going into the final round of the 54-hole event.

"If I go out tomorrow and try to do my job well that's all I can do," she said. "Hopefully the rest will take care of itself." Ardina, chasing a first LPGA title, was 11-under after a blistering start that saw her birdie the first then pick up four strokes in three holes with birdies at the fourth and sixth sandwiched around a hole out eagle at the fifth.

Thailand's Arpichaya Yubol had six birdies in a six-under par 65 to join a group of four sharing third place on nine-under 133. She was joined by Japan's Nasa Hataoka, who had seven birdies to offset a double bogey in her five-under 66.

Thailand's Pajaree Anannurakorn and Mexico's Gaby Lopez both carded four-under par 67s to join the group on nine-under. Eight players shared seventh on 132. Overnight leader Jasmine Suwanapura carded a one-over 72 that left her tied for 15th on 133.

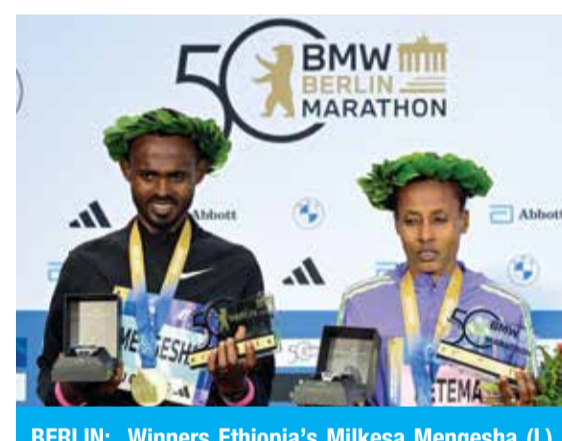
Lopez, who played collegiate golf at the University of Arkansas in nearby Fayetteville, shook off a triple-bogey at the par-five 14th to card a five-under 66. "It's probably the best mental round that I've had," she said. "After having a triple bogey, it's so easy to kind of just lose yourself and lose patience." —AFP

Mengesha, Ketema complete Ethiopian double at Berlin

BERLIN: Ethiopian duo Milkesa Mengesha and Tigist Ketema won the men's and women's races respectively in the 50th running of the Berlin Marathon on Sunday. Mengesha finished just five seconds ahead of Kenyan Cibrian Kotut in a time of 2hr 03min 17sec with both recording personal bests.

The times were outside the late Kelvin Kiptum's world record time of 2:00.35 and five-time Berlin winner Eliud Kipchoge's course record of 2:01.09, set in 2022. "It was wonderful," said 24-year-old Mengesha. "I am totally happy." It was good that I wasn't among the favourites, because I had no pressure at all.

"I was totally relaxed and achieved exactly what I wanted in the end. I'm not the most experienced runner and I've had bad experiences, but it was perfectly organized and the spectators were wonderful too. "It was hard and but I enjoyed it—I prepared for it extremely well." Ketema, 26 and who only competed in her first marathon in January, won



BERLIN: Winners Ethiopia's Milkesa Mengesha (L) and Tigist Ketema celebrate on the podium after the 50th edition of the Berlin Marathon in Berlin, Germany on September 29, 2024.—AFP

in a time of 2:16.42. "I worked very hard with my trainer and I would like to thank my coaches from the bottom of my heart," she said.

Ketema's time was just under five minutes slower than training partner Tigist Assefa's world record of 2:11.53 but is the third-best women's winning time in Berlin Marathon history. Many of the big names—including Kipchoge—gave Berlin a miss having run

Rune comes back from brink to reach Japan Open semis

TOKYO: Denmark's Holger Rune fought back from a match point down to reach the Japan Open semi-finals after beating Kei Nishikori 3-6, 6-2, 7-5 on Sunday. Rune, the number six seed, came back from the brink to win four straight games and end the Japanese veteran's challenge in front of a lively crowd in Tokyo.

"It was about getting that first serve, and if I could save that match point I knew that I could put on pressure," said Rune, who will play either defending champion Ben Shelton or France's Arthur Fils in the semi-finals. "The momentum shifted a little bit. I lifted myself up, I was more positive."

Nishikori, 34, has been plagued by injuries and he returned to Grand Slam competition at the French Open in May after an absence of almost three years. He has been in inspired form this week in Tokyo and took control of the match early against Rune.

"It was a great week for me—great three matches with tough opponents," said Nishikori, who reached the US Open final a decade ago and was

once ranked number four in the world. "I would say this was the best week so far. I played very solid, I raised my level." Rune needed a medical time-out in the third set and he said that "in one moment I thought it was not going to be." "But I just kept my belief and trusted my fighting spirit, that was really all I could do and I managed to get through," he said. "Definitely one for the books."

Humbert advances

France's Ugo Humbert also advanced to the semi-finals after his British opponent Jack Draper retired early in the second set. The 22-year-old Draper earlier this month became the first British man to reach the US Open semi-finals since Andy Murray won the title 12 years ago.

He was looking to build on his success in Tokyo but he needed medical treatment on his upper body late in a first set that Humbert won 7-5. The Frenchman was leading 2-1 in the second when Draper signaled that he could not continue.

"I feel sorry for him because he was not 100 percent but at least we played an amazing first set with a great level, great intensity," said Humbert. "I'm just happy to be in the semis." Draper had not dropped serve in two matches heading into the quarter-finals in Tokyo but Humbert broke him three times in a hard-fought first set.

Humbert, who is ranked 19th in the world and has

in July's Paris Olympics.

Despite the lack of world records, the combined first-place finishing times of the men and women made Sunday's race the 12th fastest marathon of all time, and the fourth quickest in Berlin history. The leading men's group broke away early, setting a strong pace over the first 10 kilometers of 28:42, just outside world record time, but slowed gradually in sunny conditions.

Just before the 40-kilometre mark, four men pulled away from the pack: Mengesha, Kotut, Haymanot Alew and Stephen Kiprop. With the Brandenburg Gate in sight, Mengesha and Kotut distanced themselves from the chasers and were neck and neck until the Ethiopian managed to edge ahead in the final meters.

Alongside fellow Ethiopian Azmera Gebru, Ketema opened up an early lead over the rest of the pack, pulling away after five kilometers. Just before the halfway mark, Ketema began to pull away from Gebru, opening up a 12-second lead.

Ketema continued to pull away from her compatriot, eventually crossing the line two minutes and six seconds ahead of second-placed Mestawot Fikir. Ketema signaled she could be a force in marathons with her maiden performance in January in Dubai, her time of 2:16.07 was the best ever recorded by a debutant.—AFP



TOKYO: Denmark's Holger Rune hits a return against Japan's Kei Nishikori during their men's singles quarter-final match on the fifth day of the ATP Japan Open tennis tournament in Tokyo.—AFP

won two titles on the ATP tour this year, will face the Czech Republic's Tomas Machac in the semi-finals. Machac beat American qualifier Alex Michelsen 7-6 (7/2), 6-3 in the day's first quarter-final. "Everyone is playing so good, the ranking doesn't matter," said Humbert. "Everyone plays really good, everyone can beat everyone. I just try to take my chance, to play my game, and let's see what happens." —AFP

Martin wins Indonesia MotoGP

LOMBOK: Jorge Martin won a crash-filled Indonesia MotoGP on Sunday to extend his championship lead, while closest rival Francesco Bagnaia limited the damage by claiming the final podium place.

The win leaves the Pramac rider 21 points ahead of his Italian Ducati rival, who finished third behind Spaniard Pedro Acosta in sweltering conditions at the Mandalika track on Lombok island. In front of a crowd of 60,000 in motorbike-mad Indonesia, the 26-year-old put his tumble in Saturday's sprint behind him, cancelling out the gains his title rival Bagnaia made after securing victory in that race.

"Thank you Indonesia. I am very happy. This is not just a victory. After what happened last season, after yesterday's



LOMBOK: Indonesia's President Joko Widodo (C) presents the trophy to first-placed Pramac Racing's Spanish rider Jorge Martin (top C) on the podium following the MotoGP race of the Indonesian Grand Prix at the Mandalika International Circuit in Mandalika, West Nusa Tenggara.—AFP

crash, to perform this way was quite difficult," Martin said. "I trust in myself but I thought I would crash at every corner.

There was a lot of pressure from Pedro so I am really happy."

There was an intense all-Italian battle

for the final podium place between Bagnaia, Enea Bastianini, Franco Morbidelli and Marco Bezzecchi. But Bagnaia, who won at Mandalika last year, nabbed it after his teammate Bastianini crashed with six laps remaining and he overtook Morbidelli. "A very, very tough race. I struggled a lot at the start. It's the fifth start in a row that we struggle. We have to improve that area," Bagnaia told reporters. "As soon as I was back at the front I was able to push, but it was too late."

As riders crossed the finish line, it was announced Acosta was being investigated for low front tire pressure, but no further action was taken in a boost to Martin. Acosta could have faced a potential penalty of 16 seconds, which would have put him down to eighth and elevated Bagnaia to second and four more points.

The stewards determined that, after post-race technical checks, Acosta's tire pressure had been correct at the start of the race and had reduced due to a leaking wheel rim. "The technical director, together with the official tire supplier, determined that no infraction of the regulations occurred," said the stewards' report.—AFP

Sports

Kane injured as Bayern and Leverkusen draw in Bundesliga

We were clearly the better team and had the better chances: Neuer

MUNICH: Harry Kane went off injured as Bayern Munich were held 1-1 at home by champions Bayer Leverkusen in the Bundesliga on Saturday. Robert Andrich put the visitors ahead after 31 minutes in Munich but Aleksandar Pavlovic pulled leaders Bayern level eight minutes later with an incredible long range shot.

England captain Kane, who was largely anonymous in front of goal, hobbled off with a foot injury with four minutes remaining after a collision with Leverkusen's Amine Adli. Bayern sporting director Max Eberl said he was unsure about Kane's injury status, but added "when Harry leaves the field means something because he's pretty tough". "(The incident) doesn't look good, but we hope he's made strong out of good English wood and nothing's broken."

Bayern's Serge Gnabry hit the woodwork twice in the best chance of the second half, but Leverkusen held on for a draw. "We deserved more, definitely," said Bayern captain Manuel Neuer. "We were clearly the better team and had the better chances. The goal we conceded was frustrating."

Bayern had been champions for 11 seasons before Xabi Alonso's Leverkusen turned German football on its head last season, becoming the first side to complete an unbeaten league and cup double. The clash was spiteful in the early stages, with Bayern's Dayot Upamecano shown a yellow card for kicking the ball away and Leverkusen coach Alonso receiving the same punishment for arguing with the referee.

Bayern were completely dominant early, depriving Alonso's men of the ball and setting up camp outside the Leverkusen box. The hosts' best chance was a 19th-minute free kick, with Michael Olise curling the ball inches over. Leverkusen took the lead completely against

the run of play however, Andrich smashing in a low shot from a corner given away by a Pavlovic error. Despite bossing field position, Bayern's equalizer came through a stunning shot from well outside the box, Pavlovic making good on his error with a superb curling effort. The hosts started the second half like they did the first, Gnabry hitting the woodwork twice in a matter of seconds after a classy Kane pass.

In the final minutes, both sides seemed content to hold on for a draw, but while Bayern remain three points clear of third-placed Leverkusen, Kane's late injury will be a worry ahead of a packed fixture schedule.

Leipzig on fire

Earlier Benjamin Sesko scored twice in five first-half minutes as RB Leipzig's young attack combined superbly to beat Augsburg 4-0 at home. Sesko struck twice and laid on an assist for fellow 21-year-old Xavi Simons, who himself assisted a goal for 24-year-old Lois Openda. Augsburg's best chance of the game came when they had a penalty saved midway through the first half.

Leipzig coach Marco Rose credited his team's "belief in ourselves", saying "we were anything but happy" after a three-game winless run. Last year's runners-up Stuttgart came back to earth after Sunday's 5-1 demolition of Borussia Dortmund, needing a stoppage-time Deniz Undav goal to snatch a 2-2 draw at Wolfsburg. Jonas Wind put the Wolves in front 10 minutes in but the visitors equalized late in the first half, Enzo Millot tapping in a rebound after his penalty was saved.

Stuttgart were on the wrong end of a tough call midway through the second half, Atakan Karazor sent from the park for a second yellow despite looking the victim of a foul. Wolfsburg hit the lead



MUNICH: Bayern Munich's English forward #09 Harry Kane (R) reacts as he vies with Bayer Leverkusen's Swiss midfielder #34 Granit Xhaka during the German first division Bundesliga football match between FC Bayern Munich and Bayer 04 Leverkusen in Munich. — AFP

five minutes later through Mohammed Amoura, who escaped a send off through a VAR review. Undav's late strike saved his side from a tough defeat.

St Pauli won their first top-division match since February 2011 with a 3-0 victory at a wasteful and unlucky Freiburg. A double from Elias Saad and a goal from Dapo Afolayan took St Pauli to victory, with Freiburg having two goals ruled out for

offside, alongside a saved penalty attempt from Vincenzo Grifo.

Tomas Cvančara's goal in the sixth minute of stoppage time took Borussia Moenchengladbach to a 1-0 home win over Union Berlin, ending the latter's unbeaten record in the league this season. Goals from Marvin Pieringer and Jan Schoepfner took Heidenheim to a 2-0 win at 10-man Mainz. — AFP

Kuwait Sea Sport Club in support of Special Olympics

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Athletes of Kuwait Sea Sport Club continue training along with Special Olympics players in Abu Dhabi in preparation for the Special Olympics MENA Regional Sailing competition in Dubai. National Director of Kuwait Special Olympics Rihab Boursli appreciated the support and participation of the Sea club to prepare "our players for the competition and having its players Abdulrahman Al-Kandary and Munaf Al-Wuhaib as partners with the special Olympics athletes, as well as the Director General of the Sailing, Rowing and Kayak committee Nayef

Al-Haddah to oversee the players' training".

She lauded the decision of the Sea Club administration to ensure the success of Kuwait's participation in the competition through having its facilities open for training athletes in Kuwait and asking its athletes to participate in the training camp and competition.

Boursli thanked Chairman of the Board of the Sea Sport Club Maj Gen. Fahad Al-Fahad and Secretary General Khalid Al-Foudary for their unlimited support of Tomooh Club and Special Olympics activities. She said such patriotic sports stands are known by the club's administration which represents the "fort of Kuwait and Gulf Sea Sport, and in qualifying athletes and enhance the level of sea sports.

It is worth mentioning that six countries will participate in the competition, they are Oman, Kuwait, Morocco, Bahrain and Syria along with UAE. The upcoming regional competition seeks the support of sporting events for the special needs.



Athletes seen at the training site.

Osasuna dismantle Barca's perfect La Liga start

BARCELONA: Osasuna shattered La Liga leaders Barcelona's perfect start to the season with an emphatic 4-2 victory on Saturday and their coach Hansi Flick said he would take the blame.

The Catalans won all seven of their opening fixtures but Flick's heavily rotated side came badly undone in Pamplona as Ante Budimir scored a brace either side of Bryan Zaragoza's strike. Pau Victor had given Barca a lifeline to pull them back into the game before Budimir bagged his second from the penalty spot. Abel Bretones added a sensational fourth from the edge of the box, before Lamine Yamal pulled one back with a fine effort of his own.

Victory would have matched Barcelona's best ever start to a league campaign with eight consecutive wins, but they were not able to build on their four-point lead on second-place Real Madrid. The Spanish champions visit Atletico Madrid, third, in a derby clash on Sunday.

"In the first half we made a lot of mistakes, it's not normal we play like this — we had a lot of changes in the team and this is maybe one reason for that," Flick told reporters. "I think it was necessary. We had so many matches, a lot of players had so many minutes, I have to take care about that. This is my responsibility. "If you want to blame someone for this defeat then take me." Ahead of a Champions League match against

Young Boys on Tuesday, Flick felt he had to shuffle his pack, especially after Barca lost at Monaco in their European opener.

The coach, missing several key players through injury, handed starts to inexperienced defenders Gerard Martin and Sergi Dominguez as well as Pablo Torre in midfield and Victor in attack. The coach rested Spain Euro 2024 starlet Yamal and Brazilian winger Raphinha among other regular picks. As a result Barcelona failed to ignite in the first half and Osasuna winger Zaragoza took centre-stage.

Last season Zaragoza struck twice while playing for Granada in a 2-2 draw against Barca, a performance which helped earn him a move to Bayern Munich. On loan from the German giants, Zaragoza created the opener for target-man Budimir with a fine cross, which the Croatian nodded home with ease in the 18th minute after escaping the attentions of Dominguez. Zaragoza finished the second himself 10 minutes later after being sent through on goal, with the winger bypassing goalkeeper Inaki Pena with a fine ball roll and then slotting into the empty net. Barcelona complained there had been a foul on Victor in the build-up but the referee waved their complaints away.

The leaders created little themselves, with the best opening falling to Ferran Torres. However the Spanish winger miscontrolled on the edge of the box and was quickly swallowed up by the Osasuna defence.

End-to-end

Victor pulled Barcelona back into the game after Osasuna goalkeeper Sergio Herrera gave the ball away with a poor throw and then could not keep out his early shot from distance.



PAMPLONA: Barcelona's French defender #23 Jules Kounde (L) and Osasuna's Spanish midfielder #06 Lucas Torro Marset vie for the ball during the Spanish league football match between CA Osasuna and FC Barcelona at El Sadar stadium in Pamplona. — AFP

With Yamal and Raphinha thrown into the fray Barcelona began to threaten increasingly, although top scorer Robert Lewandowski was taken off with 20 minutes remaining after a flat display. Against the run of play Osasuna increased their lead.

Dominguez, 19, scythed down Budimir in the area as he went to shoot and the striker buried the penalty. Ruben Pena wasted a glorious chance to grab a fourth but Bretones made no mistake with a vicious effort from the edge of the box. Yamal hit back brilliantly from range and teed up Torres who struck the post, but it was too little, too late. — AFP

Messi scores but Miami held as rivals secure playoff spots

MIAMI: Lionel Messi grabbed the equalizer as a misfiring Inter Miami were held to a 1-1 draw at home against Charlotte FC in Major League Soccer on Saturday. Elsewhere, the Seattle Sounders, Houston Dynamo, New York Red Bulls, New York City, LAFC and Orlando City all secured their places in the playoffs.

Despite the setback of a third straight draw, Miami — already assured of a place in the playoffs — remain top of the Eastern Conference and the Supporters Shield regular season standings. Charlotte, coached by former Aston Villa boss Dean Smith, took the lead in the 57th minute when a low shot from Brandt Bronico deflected off Karol Swiderski and beat Miami keeper Drake Callender.

The goal added some needed urgency to Miami's approach and Jordi Alba found his former Barcelona team-mate Messi with a cross from the left, but the Argentine's header was straight at goalkeeper Kristijan Kahlina. The Croatian keeper then did well to keep out a Messi drive from the edge of the box. — AFP

Classifieds

Clinics & Hospitals

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804

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

Hospitals

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

Change of Name

I, **Fatema** holder of Passport No. M4641789 do hereby change my name to **Fatema Taher** (as given name) **Baghly** (as surname) for all purposes. I will henceforth be known in the name **Fatema Taher Baghly** and I also undertake to carry out this name change in all my documents.

(#6175 27/09/2024)

Tottenham beat 10-man Man Utd to up pressure on Ten Hag

Aston Villa denied win as Delap sparkles in Ipswich draw



MANCHESTER: Tottenham Hotspur's Welsh striker Brennan Johnson scores the team's first goal during the English Premier League match against Manchester United at Old Trafford on Sept 29, 2024. — AFP

MANCHESTER: Tottenham piled more pressure on Erik ten Hag's position as Manchester United manager with a dominant 3-0 win at Old Trafford on Sunday. Spurs made a flying start when Brennan Johnson tapped in from Micky Van de Ven's storming run after three minutes. Tottenham should have added to their lead long before United were reduced to 10 men when captain Fernandes was shown a straight red card on 42 minutes.

Dejan Kulusevski finally doubled the visitors advantage two minutes into the second half before Dominic Solanke rounded off the scoring. Ten Hag began the season under scrutiny after surviving an internal review at the end of last season. A shock FA Cup final victory over Manchester City was widely credited with saving the former Ajax coach's job after finishing eighth in the Premier League last season. Tottenham boss Ange Postecoglou was himself under pressure just over a week ago.

But Spurs have won four games in 12 days and turned in arguably their best performance of the Australian's reign. Van de Ven's stunning surge from well inside his own half to the United by-line set the

tone as his cross left Johnson a simple task to score for the fourth consecutive game. Tottenham were without injured captain Son Heung-min and missed the South Korean's clinical finishing as they tried to kill the game off.

Andre Onana saved one-on-ones from James Maddison and Timo Werner, while Johnson smashed another effort off the post. At the other end, Joshua Zirkzee had United's best chance to equalise when he was denied by a brilliant low save from Guglielmo Vicario. Any hope of a United fightback was killed off by a moment of madness from their skipper. Fernandes slipped as he slid into a challenge with Maddison but raised his studs to catch the England international.

Ten Hag responded by sacrificing his only striker in Zirkzee for the much-criticized Casemiro at half-time. The Brazilian was one of those at fault for the second Tottenham goal. Solanke outmuscled Casemiro to send Johnson tearing down the right and his deflected cross was cleverly flicked beyond Onana by Kulusevski. Thereafter the 10 men showed plenty of fight and Casemiro came close to halving United's deficit.

But more calamitous defending allowed Solanke to slide in Tottenham's third from a corner. Solanke should have rubbed salt into United wounds when Onana saved another one-on-one. The traveling support taunted Ten Hag with chants of "you're getting sacked in the morning" during the second half. United's new football leadership team handed the Dutchman an extension to his contract less than three months ago. How quickly they backtrack on that decision now appears a matter of time.

Delap steals the spotlight

Meanwhile, Aston Villa missed the chance to go second in the Premier League as Liam Delap's double rescued Ipswich in a 2-2 draw at Portman Road on Sunday. Unai Emery's side fell behind to Delap's early opener but responded to take the lead before half-time through goals from Morgan Rogers and Ollie Watkins. Delap, a promising 21-year-old signed from Manchester City in the close-season, hauled Ipswich back on level terms after the interval.

Kieran McKenna's team took the lead with a well-crafted raid in their first attack after eight min-

utes. Delap produced a fine finish, meeting Jack Clarke's pass with a low shot that squeezed past Villa keeper Emiliano Martinez's weak attempted save at his near post. Villa hit back soon after, drawing level in the 15th minute.

Jacob Greaves' wayward clearance inside his own area was cut out by Rogers, who accepted the gift with a powerful finish that flashed past Arijanet Gurrutxaga from 10 yards. Ipswich twice went close to regaining the lead with headers from Axel Tuanzebe and then Clarke, but neither could quite keep their effort on target.

Watkins put Villa in front in the 32nd minute, the England striker rising highest to meet Leon Bailey's pin-point cross with a clinical close-range header. Watkins' fourth goal in his last four games in all competitions was almost followed by an immediate Ipswich equalizer. Calvin Phillips' ferocious long-range drive had Martinez scrambling to push it away for a corner. Given a two-match ban from Argentina games this week from offensive behaviour on international duty, Martinez had set about restoring his tarnished reputation. — AFP

Alcaraz sympathizes with rival Sinner over steroid case

BEIJING: Four-time Grand Slam champion Carlos Alcaraz said Sunday that the steroid case involving Jannik Sinner was "not good" for tennis but sympathized with the world number one. The World Anti-Doping Agency on Saturday said it had appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport after Sinner was cleared of wrongdoing last month. WADA is seeking a ban of up to two years after the Italian twice tested positive for traces of the banned substance clostebol in March.

The International Tennis Integrity Agency subsequently accepted Sinner's explanation that the drug entered his system when his physiotherapist used a spray containing it to treat a cut, then provided massage and sports therapy to the player. Alcaraz, the Spanish world number three, said at the China Open: "I think for tennis it's not really good, not really a good sign for tennis in general." There has been scepticism among some players about Sinner's explanation for why he failed the two tests, but Alcaraz took a more sympathetic stance.

"It is difficult for him. I know everyone is talking about it, the news is talking about it," he said, having reached the last eight in Beijing. "Probably as he said before New York (US Open), people started to look at him in a different way. I don't know how it can be, but for sure I understand the position. I feel (for) him."

"But anyway, the game and the level that he's playing with everything he's been through right now, it's insane." Alcaraz added: "I hope that this thing... will be aside soon and he's able to stay focused on what he loves, and that is playing tennis, trying to keep going." Sinner is also playing in Beijing, where he faces Jiri Lehecka of the Czech Republic on Monday. — AFP

New Jersey gets final as FIFA unveil Club WCup venues

NEW YORK: The final of next year's expanded Club World Cup will be held at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey, FIFA president Gianni Infantino announced on Saturday. The stadium, which is home to the NFL's New York Giants and New York Jets, had already been chosen as the venue for the 2026 World Cup.

The first edition of the expanded 32-club tournament will kick-off on June 15 and conclude at MetLife on July 13. A total of 12 venues will be used for the tournament with only two of them on the West Coast—the Rose Bowl in Pasadena near Los Angeles and Lumen Field in Seattle.

The tournament is taking place at the same time as the regional CONCACAF Gold Cup which will be held mainly on the West Coast. The other venues which will host games are—Mercedes-Benz Stadium (Atlanta), Bank of America Stadium (Charlotte), TQL Stadium (Cincinnati), Hard Rock Stadium (Miami), GEODIS Park (Nashville), Camping World Stadium (Orlando), Inter&Co Stadium (Orlando), Lincoln Financial Field (Philadelphia) and Audi Field (Washington, DC).

The draw for the tournament will be held in December -- 30 of the 32 places have already been secured through the qualification procedure. The Club World Cup will feature title winning teams from each of FIFA's continental confederations.

Real Madrid, Manchester City and Bayern Munich are among the 12 European teams who have qualified for the tournament while Argentina's River Plate and Boca Juniors and Brazil's Flamengo are among six South American teams.

"This new FIFA competition is the only true example in worldwide club football of real solidarity and inclusivity, allowing the best clubs from Africa, Asia, Central and North America and Oceania to play the powerhouses of Europe and South America in an incredible new World Cup which will impact enormously the growth of club football and talent globally," said Infantino.



Gianni Infantino

The FIFA president announced the venues on stage at the Global Citizen Festival in Central Park, New York. FIFA also announced a four-year partnership with Global Citizen to support their anti-poverty initiatives. As part of the agreement Global Citizen will produce the half-time show at the 2026 World Cup final.

The tournament will be viewed as a key test ahead of the 2026 World Cup itself and there will be a focus on security issues after crowd problems at July's Copa America games at the stadiums in Charlotte and Miami. FIFA has yet to announce any broadcast deals or sponsorship contracts for the tournament and the competition has faced some opposition within the game. FIFpro and the European Leagues body filed a joint complaint to the European Commission against FIFA over the introduction of the tournament into the international match calendar.

Opponents of the new tournament have said it adds further congestion to an already crowded schedule and increases the workload of players.

The last version of the Club World Cup featured seven teams in a knockout format and was won by Manchester City who beat Brazil's Fluminense in the final in Saudi Arabia. FIFA plan to hold the expanded tournament every four years although no host as yet to be chosen for the 2029 edition. — AFP

Salah sinks Wolves as Liverpool go top

WOLVERHAMPTON: Mohamed Salah fired Liverpool to the top of the Premier League as the Egypt star's penalty sealed a 2-1 win at struggling Wolves on Saturday. Salah struck in the second half after Rayan Ait Nouri had cancelled out Ibrahima Konate's opener for Liverpool.

Arne Slot's side have won five of their six league games this season and sit one point clear of second placed Manchester City, who were held to a 1-1 draw at Newcastle earlier in the afternoon. Slot insisted this week that Liverpool are yet to prove themselves title contenders, but the Dutchman has made a strong impression at the start of the post-Jürgen Klopp era at Anfield. Since their shock home loss to Nottingham Forest, the Reds have reeled off four successive victories in all competitions. Liverpool fans packed into one side of Molineux chanted Slot's name loudly as the final minutes wound down on their latest win.

The 46-year-old has masterminded one of the best starts to a managerial reign in Liverpool history. If they continue at this pace it will be hard for even Slot to deny their title credentials. The only concern for Slot was a late injury to Andrew Robertson that forced the Scotland left-back to limp off. "The first 20 minutes weren't great. It was a real tough start for us but eventually we took control of the game and scored the first goal," Slot said. "Wolves have a really good game plan for every opponent and it was the same for us. It's always nice to win, especially away."

Liverpool, who last won the title in 2020, host Bologna in their second Champions League fixture on Wednesday before travelling to Crystal Palace in next weekend. Winless and bottom of the table, Wolves were weakened even further by a virus which had ripped through their squad this week. Given their dire circumstances, Gary O'Neil's team competed gamely in the first half. Matheus Cunha's curler tested Alisson Becker on the Liverpool keeper's return from injury. — AFP