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3 Kuwait condemns Zionist attacks in Lebanon, calls for Arab unity

7 UK hands Indian Ocean islands to Mauritius, keeps US military base

12 Crafting hyper-surreal worlds through Kuwaiti mythology

16 Madrid beaten in Champions League as Villa shock Bayern



Kuwait condemns world inaction amid Zionists' atrocities, attacks

Amir Representative sends cables of gratitude to Qatari Amir, Father Amir



DOHA: The Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, stressed on Thursday that failure to bring the Zionist entity, which is an occupying force, to accountability has emboldened it to commit more crimes and expand its aggression, a thing that "we have already warned of and its consequences on the region's countries."

He cited the heinous aggression on Lebanon, where the occupying forces have killed hundreds of people and injured thousands in a blatant breach of all international norms and laws, as a clear-cut and unequivocal paradigm in this regard. His Highness reiterated the vehement condemnation and denunciation of such crimes while standing side by side with the Lebanese people against anything that could undermine their country's sovereignty and stability.

He called on the Asian continent to come up with a decisive and open stance defending justice, human conscience, and the right of the people of Palestine and the region to freedom,

dignity, and peace. Regarding the third summit of the Asian Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), His Highness the Amir's representative said: "Our summit, held today under the theme 'Sports Diplomacy', is considered a significant tool in public diplomacy and some sort of soft power that is able to bring together all peoples, communities, and cultures."

He underlined that sports are a crucial way of attaining peace and development and contributing to inculcating and disseminating the values of cooperation, tolerance, solidarity, and people-to-people peaceful coexistence. He cited Qatar's hosting of the 2022 FIFA World Cup as a significant model of the concept, purposes, and noble goals of sports diplomacy thanks to its eye-catching success in bringing together peoples, cultures, and languages all over the world, as well as in promoting Gulf, Arabic, and Islamic culture.

Looking forward to Saudi Arabia's hosting of the 2034 FIFA World Cup, he hoped that major regional and international sports gatherings hosted by Asian countries would lead to

Continued on Page 6

Kuwait revokes citizenship of 133

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The higher commission for citizenship agreed on Thursday to revoke the citizenship of 133 Kuwaiti nationals. The Interior Ministry said the decision was taken during a meeting chaired by Interior and Defense Minister Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef Al-Sabah. The decision becomes effective only after it is approved by the Council of Ministers. In the past few months, Kuwait revoked the citizenship of hundreds of Kuwaitis, mostly naturalized, on the grounds of obtaining nationality by cheating.

In another development, the Interior Ministry exempted Kuwaitis residing abroad from the measures against citizens who did not make the biometric fingerprints before the deadline on September 30. Authorities have stopped all applications at government departments for those who failed to make the fingerprints. The Interior Ministry is still allowing such people to make fingerprints. The deadline for expats is at the end of 2024.

Zionists, Hezbollah in deadly battles on southern border

BEIRUT: Zionist military said Thursday it killed 15 Hezbollah militants in an air strike on southern Lebanon, as the Iran-backed movement said it thwarted an advance at the border. Zionist entity announced this week that its troops had started "ground raids" into parts of southern Lebanon, a stronghold of Hezbollah, after days of heavy bombardment on areas across the country where the group holds sway. The bombing has killed more than 1,000 people, according to Lebanon's health ministry, and forced hundreds of thousands to flee their homes in a country already mired in economic and political crisis.

Zionists shifted their focus to secure the northern border and ensure the safe return of more than 60,000 people displaced by Hezbollah attacks over the past year. On the Gaza front, the Zionist military said a strike three months ago killed three senior Hamas leaders, including Rahwi Mushtaha, the head of the militant movement's government in the war-ravaged Palestinian territory.

"Mushtaha was one of Hamas' most senior operatives and had a direct impact on decisions relating to Hamas' force deployment," the military said.

Continued on Page 6



Can AI win Nobel Prize?

STOCKHOLM: Artificial intelligence is already disrupting industries from banking and finance to film and journalism, and scientists are investigating how AI might revolutionize their field - or even win a Nobel Prize. In 2021, Japanese scientist Hiroaki Kitano proposed what he dubbed the "Nobel Turing Challenge", inviting researchers to create an "AI scientist" capable of autonomously carrying out research worthy of a Nobel Prize by 2050.

Some scientists are already hard at work seeking to create an AI colleague worthy of a Nobel, with this year's laureates to be announced between October 7 and 14.

Continued on Page 6

Gaza war fuels Arab support, to little effect

CAIRO: A year into the Gaza war, grassroots support for Palestinians has surged across the Arab world, but the groundswell has yet to trigger stronger action against Zionist, with governments largely ignoring these calls. As the conflict spills into Lebanon and Iran's missile strike on Zionist entity raises fears of further escalation, Arab governments are walking a careful line.

While they routinely condemn Zionist invasion - triggered by unprecedented October 7 attack - nations with diplomatic ties to Zionist entity have yet to make major policy changes.

"Our government, just like other Arab governments, has ignored the demands of its people, including the expulsion of Zionist ambassador," said Ahmed, a 27-year-old Bahraini at a September rally in Manama.

He asked to be identified by his first name for fear of reprisal. Bahrain, along with Morocco, Sudan and the United Arab Emirates, recognized Zionist entity under the US-brokered Abraham Accords of 2020, seeking

Continued on Page 6



Local

Kuwait-funded Islamic Studies Faculty inaugurated in Irbil

Iraq, Kuwait to have dialogue on outstanding issues



Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein meets US Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Barbara Leaf. — KUNA



In my view

Animal rights in Islam

By Hassan T Bwambale

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World Animal Day is an international day of action for animal rights and welfare celebrated annually on October 4. It serves as an opportunity for organizations and individuals to unite in making animal welfare a global priority. Together, we can create change by recognizing that taking care of animals is an important aspect of worship in Islam.

All living beings — humans, birds, animals and insects — are worthy of consideration and respect. Islam views animals as a special part of God's creation, and humans are responsible for their well-being. The Noble Quran, Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) traditions, and Islamic history provide numerous examples of kindness, mercy and compassion towards animals. In the Noble Quran, Almighty Allah states, translated as: "And there is not a (single) beast (treading) on the earth, nor a bird flying with its two wings, but they are communities like you..." (Al-An'am 6:38). This verse emphasizes that animals have their own communities and rights, similar to humans.

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) demonstrated compassion toward animals. In one narration, Abdullah bin Ja'far bin Abi Talib (RA) recounted that the Prophet (PBUH) saw a distressed camel and asked about its owner. When the owner stepped forward, the Prophet (PBUH) said, "Fear Allah regarding how you treat these animals. This camel has complained to me that you overwork it and do not feed it well." (Authentic, Sahih Abi Dawoud #2,549). This hadeeth highlights the importance of treating animals with kindness and respect.

Islam mandates that animal owners provide food and drink to their animals. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) warned that neglecting this duty leads to severe consequences. Abu Huraira (RA) narrated: "A woman entered Hellfire because of a cat she had caged. She neither fed it nor allowed it to eat the vermin and insects of the earth until it died." (Muslim #2,619).

In another narration, a man quenched the thirst of a dog by filling his shoe with water from a well. The Prophet (PBUH) said that Allah rewarded him for this good deed, teaching that "there is a reward for serving any living creature." (Bukhari #2,363).

Animals offer numerous benefits in Islam. Animals like horses, camels, oxen and even elephants assist with transportation and farming, while dogs provide security and aid in hunting and shepherding. Several animals, such as dogs, horses, donkeys and cattle are mentioned in the Noble Quran as beneficial to humans (eg, An-Nahl 16:8). Animals provide milk, eggs, honey, meat and other nutritious products. Insects like bees help with pollination, indirectly supplying us with fruits. Allah reminds us to be grateful and ethical in our treatment of animals that provide us with sustenance (An-Nahl 16:114).

From sheep's wool to silkworms' silk, animals provide materials for clothing and furnishings. Allah says, translated as: "...And for you in cattle, in their wool, fur and hair are (manifold) furnishings and utility for a preordained time." (An-Nahl 16:80). Animals can be affectionate, playful and loyal, providing emotional support and happiness. The companionship they offer is a blessing often overlooked.

Prophet Muhammad's Companion, Abu Hurairah (RA), whose name means "father of a kitten", was known for his love of animals. He would play with his kitten daily, and this compassionate behavior earned him this affectionate nickname. Animals enrich our lives in countless ways. As Muslims, we should always strive to fulfill our responsibilities toward them by treating them with kindness, compassion and respect.

NOTE: Courtesy of Kuwaiti Society for Cultural Dialogue, which is a non-profit charity society and an educational hub for English-speaking expatriates in Kuwait.

IRBIL: The Islamic Studies Faculty building within Salaheddine University in Irbil has been inaugurated, an achievement that has been attained with funding from Kuwait. The financial resources had been allocated through Kuwait Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, and the Kuwaiti Relief Society, as part of the Kuwaiti humanitarian campaign, "Kuwait on your side." In a statement to KUNA, the Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs in the Kurdistan Region, Pshtiwan Sadq Abdullah, said this

scientific edifice is the latest of the chain of generous initiatives that have been launched by Kuwait for the Kurdistan Region. He affirmed that the faculty graduates "would be armed with enlightened thoughts free of extremism." Meanwhile, Dr Jamil Ali, the dean of the Islamic Sciences Faculty, expressed gratitude to Kuwait, in remarks to KUNA, for this generous gesture.

Outstanding issues
In another development, Iraqi Foreign

Minister Fuad Hussein said Thursday that his country is set to have dialogue with Kuwait soon to look into outstanding issues, voicing his country's genuine willingness to reach understandings thereof. Hussein made the remark while meeting with US Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Barbara Leaf in Washington, focusing on bilateral relations and joint cooperation, along with several regional matters, said the Iraqi Foreign Ministry in a press release.

During the meeting, both sides

touched upon ways of settling unresolved issues with Kuwait and the necessity of returning to the negotiating table, it said. The Iraqi minister added that the recent meetings of both Iraqi and Kuwaiti delegations during the UN General Assembly in New York had underlined the significance of dialogue as "the right way to resolve problems." For her part, the US official vowed that Washington would utterly back the Iraqi government's endeavors to contain crises, according to the release. — KUNA

Kuwait Society for Students supports stranded Gazans

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Society for Students Support has launched an initiative to help around 2,200 students from the Gaza Strip who are stranded abroad and studying in various universities around the world. The initiative's estimated cost is KD 330,000. It was funded by charitable foundations and donors and approved by Kuwait's ministry. In a statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), Secretary of the Society Monia Al-Nouri stressed the society's goals are to support Palestinian students, lessen their burdens, and prevent Zionist occupation from depriving them of education.

The initiative's objectives are to communicate with external charities and act as intermediaries between the universities and the students, to support them, especially senior students, and help with graduation to find work and support their families. Around 20 universities in the Middle East, Europe, Asia, and others have Gazan students, where aid varied between tuition and living fees, not sparing any effort to support Arab education, she stressed.

Planes change routes

In another development, all Kuwaiti planes' routes have been changed due to the instability in the region, in line with the measures to maintain the safety and security of airliners, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said. Some flights will arrive late in Kuwait due to changes in their routes, acting deputy director general for aviation safety and air transport affairs Abdullah Al-Rajhi said. All Kuwait's planes are safe, and unrest is over, in accordance with the measures that ensure the planes' arrivals, in a safe and security manner, to Kuwait or other airports, he added.

Strategic Dialogue

In another development, the United States and Bahrain held the fourth round of their annual

14-meter artwork brings Kuwait's timeless wedding traditions to life

KUWAIT: Through a 14-meter painting on canvas, Kuwaiti artist Ibrahim Shukrallah captured the essence of traditional Kuwaiti weddings in a vibrant and artistic portrayal. The artwork explained the various stages of the Kuwaiti wedding. The artwork started with the engagement, followed by the Dazza (a gift to the bride), then the marriage contract—known as "Melcha"—witnessed by family and friends, then the Yelwa (performative celebration for the bride) and the groom's parade "Zafah" to their new home after the wedding. This piece is one of the largest works that explores the details of Kuwaiti weddings, offering a unique and innovative approach. Shukrallah incorporates elements of Kuwait's environment through colors, lighting techniques, and architectural features, which is a remarkable work that stands as historical documentation. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwait Society for Students Support launches an initiative to help around 2,200 students from the Gaza Strip who are stranded abroad. - KUNA photos



Strategic Dialogue in Washington. The two sides discussed bilateral cooperation and the conditions in the Middle East, especially in the Gaza Strip. A joint statement was issued on Tuesday, following the conclusion of the session, stating the commitment of both countries to enhance bilateral and regional security, promote economic innovation and prosperity, strengthen cultural and public relations, as well as support fundamental rights and values.

"The dialogue is a platform to advance practical cooperation in areas like border security, counterterrorism, energy security, trusted technology, education, cultural exchange, and trade and investment," the statement added. During the current session, the United States praised the leadership of Bahrain as the current Arab League president and the host of the 33rd Arab Summit. Both countries reaffirm their commitment to a more peaceful and stable region, including achieving a permanent end to the war in the Gaza Strip, the release of hostages and detainees, the reconstruction of Gaza, and the expanding of the unhindered flow of humanitarian aid to civilians.

Both sides reiterated their call for a two-state solution "that would allow Palestinians and Zionists to live side by side in security, sovereignty, and economic opportunities." The US government commended Bahrain's "invaluable role as a partner in maintaining regional security, highlighting its

commitment to "Operation Prosperity Guardian," launched by the US at the end of last year amid Houthi attacks on ships allegedly linked to the occupation. Both countries condemned the ongoing Houthi attacks on commercial shipping and innocent mariners, which have harmful effects on regional and international economies.

Washington and Manama reiterated calls for the Houthis to release United Nations staff, US embassy employees, and international organization personnel unlawfully detained in Yemen. The two nations stated that the open and comprehensive discussions within the Strategic Dialogue reflect the decades-long US-Bahrain friendship and security alliance. Both governments explained that economic cooperation would continue to grow in the context of the US-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement, signed 20 years ago in September 2004.

Joint initiatives in higher, secondary, and primary education were discussed among other areas in the dialogue, as well as opportunities to enhance media cooperation and develop skills in journalism. The joint statement noted that Bahrain and the United States look forward to holding the 2025 Strategic Dialogue again, with follow-up sessions to advance progress on specific initiatives. The 2023 dialogue took place in Washington, culminating in a meeting between US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and his Bahraini counterpart, Dr Abdullah bin Rashid Al-Zayani. — KUNA



The groom's 'Zafah' - a march to celebrate his marriage.



The bride's 'Yelwa', performative celebration for the bride. — KUNA photos



KRCS launches medical camp in Yemen's Marib

ADEN: Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) launched a free medical camp for urinary tract surgery in Marib governorate, central Yemen, on Wednesday. The camp aims to perform 100 surgical interventions at Kari General Hospital in the governorate as part of the "Kuwait by Your Side" campaign, which entered its 10th year. Director-General

of the Ministry of Health and Population Office in the Governorate Ahmed Al-Abadi highlighted the importance of establishing such medical camps to enhance the capabilities of the health sector in the governorate and alleviate the difficulties patients face due to the high waves of displacement.

Al-Abadi extolled Kuwait Amir, government, and people for their continuous support of the Yemeni people and the groups they affected during the civil war, especially in the health sector. Deputy Director of Kari General Hospital Ahmed Al-Faqih said the camp will help alleviate patients' suffering and provide specialized surgical services. He thanked KRCS for its generous support for this vital project and the Response Foundation for Relief and Hu-

manitarian Works for its efforts.

Mohammed Salim, the Director of the Office of the Response Foundation Marib, which is implementing the project, confirmed that the KRCS pays excellent attention to implementing health projects that contribute to changing the lives of many patients. Salim explained that the camp aims to perform 100 urinary tract surgeries, extract stones, implant ureteral stents, and perform other surgical interventions. In addition, it will dispense medicines and conduct medical examinations free of charge. He pointed out that this project comes within the framework of the continuous humanitarian efforts of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society to provide health care to patients in need in Yemen. — KUNA



Kuwait Red Crescent Society launches a free medical camp for urinary tract surgery in Marib governorate.

Local

Kuwait condemns Zionist attacks in Lebanon, calls for Arab unity

Gulf-Iran meeting focuses on regional, international development

CAIRO: Kuwait condemned on Thursday Zionist occupation forces aggression on Lebanon and renewed its call for the international community to stop these attacks that threaten the stability of the region. This came during the speech of Kuwait's Permanent Delegate to the Arab League, Ambassador Talal Al-Mutairi, in the urgent meeting to discuss ways to ignite Arab unity with Lebanon against this dangerous aggression.

"The meeting is being held under dangerous circumstances as escalation of Zionist occupation against Lebanon rises, which has resulted in a large number of casualties and injuries and the displacement of hundreds of thousands, including innocent children and women, some of whom are homeless under the continuous and criminal bombardment by the occupation forces," said Al-Mutairi. "Kuwait affirms its rejection and denunciation of the aerial military operations launched by the occupation forces against the brotherly Lebanese people, as well as its condemnation of the ongoing attacks carried out against the brotherly Palestinian people," he added.

Al-Mutairi said that these acts are a blatant violation of international law and international humanitarian law as they threaten the security and stability of

the region. He stressed Kuwait's firm stance in calling for the international community and security council to take political, legal, and humanitarian responsibilities for these attacks and provide international security for the people in Lebanon and Palestine.

Gulf-Iran meeting

GCC Secretary General Jassem Al-Budaiwi said Thursday the informal meeting of GCC and Iranian foreign ministers aimed to discuss regional and international political developments and to welcome the positive steps taken in bilateral relations. The statement followed the informal joint ministerial meeting between the GCC and Iran, held on the sidelines of the Asian Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) summit. The meeting was chaired by Sheikh Mohammad bin Jassim Al-Thani, Qatari Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, and current president of the ministerial council. It included the participation of the foreign ministers of the GCC countries and Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on Thursday in Doha, Qatar.

The GCC chief stressed during the meeting, the importance of continuing this bilateral communication between the GCC countries and Iran was high-



Kuwait's Permanent Delegate to the Arab League Ambassador Talal Al-Mutairi

lighted, with the aim of reaching understandings that foster a positive environment and contribute to the constructive enhancement of relations between the GCC and Iran. Furthermore, he noted that the meeting addressed the escalating tensions in the region and their serious implications for both regional and international peace and security. The GCC reaffirmed

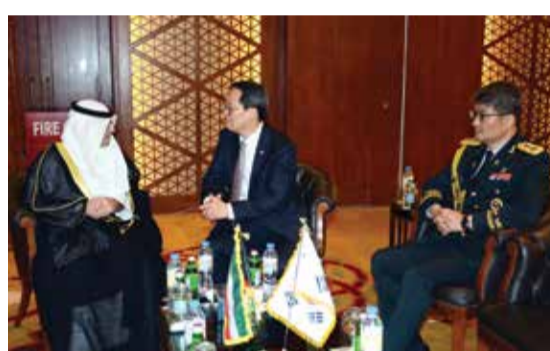
during the meeting the importance of de-escalation, exercising the utmost restraint, and preventing further instability and the threats posed by wars and destruction, along with their impacts on the peoples of the region and the world, he noted.

Emergency meeting

The emergency meeting of the permanent representatives of the Arab League Council began their meeting Thursday, chaired by Yemen, to discuss solidarity with Lebanon and address the serious repercussions of Zionist occupation's attack. This meeting came at the request of Iraq to hold an urgent session at the level of permanent representatives of the Council to discuss the occupation's military escalation against Lebanon and the resulting humanitarian consequences. The meeting would address ways to help displaced people and refugees, deliver urgent medical and food aid to those affected, as well as call on the international community to stand with Lebanese people and collaborate with international organizations to ensure the immediate delivery of aid. The Kuwaiti delegation is headed by Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the Arab League, Ambassador Talal Al-Mutairi. — KUNA



Participants pose for a group photo. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



Ambassador Chong-Suk Park speaks with Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Abdullatif Al-Meshari on the sidelines of the event.



Ambassador Chong-Suk Park with Minister Abdullatif Al-Meshari.

Embassy marks Republic of Korea and Kuwait ties

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: The Korean Embassy in Kuwait marked, on Wednesday, the 45th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the Republic of Korea and Kuwait. During his remarks, Chong-Suk Park, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Kuwait, said "Today we mark a significant milestone in the relationship with Kuwait, celebrating 45 years of diplomatic ties and 60 years of energy cooperation."

Korean ambassador highlighted the importance of economic relations between the two countries, saying "Korea is importing around 100 million barrels of oil annually. Recently, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation signed a MoU with Korea National Oil Corporation for the Project of Crude Oil Storage in Korea." He pointed out that Korean construction companies started expanding into Kuwait's market,



Chong-Suk Park

noting that after signing the first contract in 1975, Korean companies took part in the construction of the 1st and 6th Ring Road, Highway 30, Port of Shuaiba, Clean Fuel Projects, Al-Zour refinery project, power plants, and then the Jaber Causeway, the landmark in Kuwait that opened in 2019.

"Recently, we also have been working together in various areas such as airport operation, medical treatment, construction of new cities, and smart farming. A few weeks ago, Kuwait, in cooperation with Korea, inaugurated its first-ever fiber optic cable factory. This is expected to contribute to strengthening Kuwait's internet infrastructure," he revealed. The ambassador indicated that his country is keen to step forward together to attain Kuwait's Vision 2035, through continuous partnership.

Regarding the people-to-people and cultural exchanges, the ambassador stated that more than



Korean dancers perform during the event.

2,000 Kuwaitis visited Korea in the first half of this year, adding "It is indeed a significant increase compared to the average annual visit of 3,500 Kuwaitis before COVID-19." He added "We established the King Sejong Institute, which is a language learning center, through collaboration with Kuwait University in October 2023. Through the center, around 200

people have learned and are learning the Korean language and culture." "Also, more than 10 Korean students come to Kuwait every year under the Kuwait government scholarship programs. They not only learn Arabic but also interact with Kuwait University students, developing mutual stepping-stone for future cooperation," he concluded.



KUWAIT: Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army and Acting Commander of the Air Force Major General Pilot Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah during his visit to the General Directorate of Civil Aviation. — KUNA

Military and security officials address air traffic, future plans

KUWAIT: Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army and Acting Commander of the Air Force Major General Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah stressed on Thursday the importance of continuing coordination between all concerned parties to ensure achieving the highest levels of readiness to keep pace with future growth in aviation traffic. This came in a press statement issued by the Chief of Staff following a visit by

Major General Sabah Al-Sabah to the General Directorate of Civil Aviation within the framework of coordination, cooperation, and exchange of expertise between the DGCA, the Ministry of Defense, and other ministries, bodies, and state institutions.

He praised the efforts exerted by the DGCA in developing the aviation sector, stressing that close cooperation between military and civilian bodies is the key to achieving sustainable successes in this vital sector. The meeting was held between the two sides to discuss, develop, and increase the efficiency of air operations. It also addressed air traffic, future plans, and updating technological systems that support aviation operations and increase the safety and security of passengers. — KUNA

International Forum discusses cybersecurity, empowering women

RIYADH: The International Cybersecurity Forum, held in Riyadh, is an opportunity to exchange ideas and expertise and enhance global cybersecurity, said Head of Kuwait's National Cybersecurity Center Mohammad Buarki, on Thursday. Participation in the fourth edition of the International Cybersecurity Forum is an opportunity to "converge views and exchange global expertise, especially since the forum is witnessing the participation of global elites in this field," Buarki told KUNA.

The forum came with two initiatives this year, the first of which is the initiative to protect children

in cyberspace and the other to empower women through cybersecurity, he added, stressing the great importance of these two initiatives in light of the expansion of cyberspace. Buarki said that ways to protect children in cyberspace and fill the need for human resources in this field were discussed.

We showed in a dialogue session the Kuwaiti point of view on protecting countries' "infrastructure and risks and addressing them in the field of cybersecurity," he added. He pointed out that the Kuwaiti participation comes to highlight the role of the State of Kuwait and the interest of the Kuwaiti leadership in cybersecurity and all that it includes, starting from protecting infrastructure to protecting educational curricula, training, and capacity building. He expressed his thanks to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the generous invitation and the good hospitality that all participants in this forum received. — KUNA

Summit highlights achievements of Kuwaiti women

KUWAIT: The National Committee for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1,325 (Women, Peace, and Security) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized a forum on the occasion of the 24th anniversary of the resolution in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations Coordinator (UN) and the European Union Mission to Kuwait, with the participation of the ministries of interior, defense, justice, information, and public prosecution.

The forum, held at the UN House on Thursday, aims to highlight the distinguished achievements of Kuwaiti women in various fields and shed light on sectors that have witnessed development through increasing female participation. Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Sheikh Jawaher Ibrahim Duaij Al-Sabah said in a speech during the event that Kuwait has made remarkable progress in promoting the women, peace, and security agenda.

It established (in December 2023) the National Committee for Women, Peace, and Security, which is clear evidence of Kuwait's continued commitment to the relentless pursuit to systematically and sustainably integrate women in all sectors. Sheikh Jawaher Al-Sabah added that in conjunction with this, Kuwait participates and cooperates with prestigious regional and international organizations such as ESCWA, UN Women, and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to raise awareness and implement critical training programs on women's rights.

She praised the pivotal role of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah in strengthening the strategic partnership with NATO and advancing it to new horizons. His recent speech on the 20th anniversary of the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative demonstrated Kuwait's commitment to international cooperation for peace and security.

Regarding the achievements of Kuwaiti women in various sectors, she indicated that the percentage of women's participation in the police forces has increased to more than 900 women, in addition to the entry of 19 new women into the Kuwaiti National Guard, which is a historic achievement for Kuwait and

the region. Also, women's participation in the judiciary has also increased, with 19 female judges appointed in addition to four female directors of public prosecution offices, noting that Kuwaiti women's contributions have expanded to include the diplomatic field as women constitute 22 percent of the diplomatic corps and serve in capitals and international organizations around the world.



Sheikha Jawaher Ibrahim Duaij Al-Sabah

Sheikha Jawaher Al-Sabah said, "We have made great progress, but much work remains, as women are the most affected by conflicts, as they face the highest rates of displacement, injury, and loss." She urged the international community to renew its commitment to confronting future challenges, promoting gender equality, promoting peace, and ensuring that women's voices are heard and valued in all aspects of decision-making.

For her part, the Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the country, Ghada Al-Tahir, praised Kuwait's role, great commitment, and achievements in the women's peace and security agenda, stressing that in a short period of time from the year 2021/2022 to 2023/2024, Kuwait's ranking in the Women's Peace and Security Index issued by the Georgetown Institute rose from 123rd to 61st globally.

Al-Tahir added that Kuwait has advanced ten points in the global gender gap, as Kuwait ranks third in the Arab world in the fields of women, peace, and security. She stressed that Kuwait has a leading role in the Arab region, the Gulf countries, and at the global level, referring to the speech of the representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, in which he encouraged countries to recommit to strengthening international peace and security during a speech at the Future Summit in New York.

In turn, the European Union Ambassador Anne Kostinen said in a similar speech that the Union places women, peace, and security agendas at the heart of its overall priorities for the common foreign and security policy, stressing that the agenda presented during the forum is an essential tool in ensuring respect for and protection of the rights of women and girls. — KUNA

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IKEA and Suffix partner to create Little Heroes



KUWAIT: IKEA Kuwait and Suffix have joint forces to create Little Heroes, a MEGA sports event for the little ones. This engaging event is inviting children between the ages of 4 to 12 years to experience what the Olympic Games feel like! They will bring the whole family together, giving kids the chance to explore a wide variety of sports and fun activities inspired by the Olympics.

"We aim to inspire all the little ones in Kuwait to have a more active life, encouraging them to discover their passion for athletics, team sports, and community fun. At IKEA, we believe that play must be at the core of childhood. It is not just fun, it is essential for children's mental, physical and emotional development," said Elisa Albendea, IKEA Brand and CMI Director. "With our partnership with Suffix, we are excited to create a joyful and engaging experience that inspires a healthier lifestyle and encourages less screen time and more time outdoors, while incorporating sports and play as a vital part of the everyday life of families in Kuwait," explained Sabrina Shammass, IKEA Sustainability Manager.

"At Suffix, we are dedicated to organizing prominent and successful sporting events. We are excited to introduce Little Heroes — a dedicated children's sports event in Kuwait! The event is not only about introducing kids to a variety of sports, but also about creating lasting memories with their families in a fun and energetic atmosphere. Partnering with IKEA adds tremendous value to our vision, as they share our belief in the importance of children's health and development," Ahmed Al Majed, COO at Suffix.

Get ready for two days packed with action and smiles at Little Heroes! With thrilling races, jaw-dropping performances, and fun-filled activities for the whole family to dive into. Whether it's dashing down the track, scoring goals on the field, or just soaking up the energy, kids will be inspired to get moving and enjoy the joy of play in a friendly, supportive space. Little Heroes is set to become a cornerstone in IKEA and Suffix's calendar of community events. The event is scheduled for 1st and 2nd November. The registration is opened on Suffix website. To register and to know more about the event, please visit: <https://suffix.events/en/events/details/714>

NBK, Jazeera Airways make Al Momen and Yusuf's dream of becoming pilots a reality

Part of bank's 'I Dream to Be' initiative



KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) continues its "I Dream to Be" initiative, a first-of-a-kind initiative which aims to fulfill the dreams of children with cancer, giving them the opportunity to experience their aspirations, giving them the chance to live their dreams. Two young patients, Ali Yusuf and Ali Al Momen, who are receiving treatment at NBK Hospital, have always dreamt of becoming pilots.

Through a collaboration with Jazeera Airways, NBK helped make their dream come true by providing them with the chance to learn the basics of piloting. NBK arranged a special visit for Yusuf and Al Momen to Jazeera Airways, where they met with officials and participated in a training session, followed by a real flight experience, with a round-trip journey from Kuwait to Riyadh and back.

On board the flight, the Jazeera Airways captain, together with the NBK team, welcomed the two young heroes, acknowledging their bravery as they undergo chemotherapy at NBK Children's Hospital. The captain announced, "We are honored to welcome our two heroes, Captain Ali Yusuf and Captain Ali Al Momen, who had a dream

to become pilots. Today, that dream is coming true. Let's give them a round of applause for their strength — we are proud of them!"

Barathan Pasupathi, Chief Executive Officer, Jazeera Airways, said: "At Jazeera Airways, we are dedicated to uplifting the communities we serve. It was an honor to collaborate with NBK to fulfill the hopes of two remarkable boys, Ali Yusuf and Ali Al Momen. Currently under chemotherapy treatment at the NBK Children's Hospital, both aspire to be pilots and it was a pleasure to host them on their journey as Captains for the day." "As an airline, we are committed to making travel more accessible to all and through this initiative we hope to inspire the dreams and empower the spirits of both these brave young heroes. We eagerly anticipate the day we see them soar as pilots with Jazeera Airways", he added.

Joanne Al Abdul Jaleel, NBK's Public Relations Manager, expressed her pride in the initiative: "Granting Yusuf and Al Momen's wish to become pilots is yet another success of our 'I Dream to Be' initiative. We are proud with Jazeera Airways

and both play a role in bringing joy to these two children and support their dreams in every way we could." Al Abdul Jaleel added, the "I Dream to Be" initiative offers children, including those with life-threatening conditions and special needs, a once-in-a-lifetime experience. It's our way of spreading happiness and showing that even in difficult situations, there is always hope. We ask the children what they want to be and do our best to make that a reality."

The initiative is part of NBK's commitment to its social responsibility program and expanding its reach to cover more sustainable programs. NBK gives top priority to children through its commitment to corporate social responsibility. NBK works closely with children's associations in Kuwait to maximize its reach to all the children in Kuwait. NBK has been at the forefront of supporting Kuwait's community through a range of initiatives towards education, health, environment and social responsibilities. "I Dream to Be" aims at focusing and supporting NBK's efforts towards children and addressing their needs as much as possible.

NBK warning against scams using deepfake technology

KUWAIT: Underscoring its dedication to raising public awareness and active participation in enhancing financial literacy and inclusion among all people, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) continues promoting the "Let's Be Aware" campaign introduced by the Central Bank of Kuwait, in cooperation with local banks and Kuwait Banking Association (KBA).

NBK intensifies awareness by sharing educational material including video clips, text messages, and tips across its social media platforms and other digital channels, as well as reposting CBK's communications. This aims to raise awareness among all people and familiarize them with different fraud schemes and the required precautions to steer clear of banking scams.

In this context, NBK highlights scams using Deepfake, a sophisticated AI technology used to create videos in which a person's face and voice are digitally altered so that they appear to be those of a famous and trusted person. This scam targets convincing people to invest in certain companies, trade on certain platforms, or promote

investments. Deepfake is also used to create convincing fake videos or audio recordings that can deceive individuals into giving away sensitive information or making unauthorized transactions.

NBK advises customers to beware of ads about lucrative investments, especially those appearing on social media, tempting people with cash prizes, or ads impersonating well-known companies aiming to trick them into investing in attractive stocks and bonds with high returns, provide false information about a real investment, or entering trading websites and registering personal information to obtain profits, as all these are scams for identity theft, and obtaining personal and banking information.

NBK also urges customers to avoid communication with unknown parties impersonating official institutions by using the same logo or the same IVR message to trick victims into believing they are employees of that institution, which may expose the victim to fraud from unknown parties. Therefore, NBK calls to ignore such calls and not disclosing any banking information to any party, in addition to following the bank's tips and instructions to avoid any scams.

Additionally, it affirms that it will never ask customers for personal information via e-mail, SMS or phone calls, warning them of responding to such scam messages trying to obtain their banking information to steal their money. NBK's role is not limited to warning, but also extends to providing various safe investment and savings alterna-

الحملة التوعوية المصرفية



lives that suit all customer segments.

With the ever-evolving fraud threats using various techniques, NBK is keen to protect customers and increase their awareness of how to steer clear of fraud by following the tips provided on all its digital channels. NBK employs its strong customer communication capabilities as well as all its digital channels, which are the most popular among all Kuwaiti banks, to support the Central Bank's endeavors to protect customers and the national economy.

It is worth mentioning that NBK is a key promoter and participant in all CBK's campaigns and initiatives to increase financial and banking awareness among different segments of society. As one of the leading financial institutions in Kuwait, the bank frequently organizes various activities to raise awareness on all topics related to the banking sector, as well as a wide range of training courses for its employees to enhance their knowledge and expertise in the areas of combating fraud and financial crime.



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Primary health care is the first line of defense: Minister

KUWAIT: Minister of Health Dr Ahmad Al-Awadhi said that primary health care is the first line of defense for the health system, indicating that the Ministry pays great attention to achieving more achievements and positive indicators. The minister confirmed in a statement to reporters after the opening of the Musaed Al-Saleh Health Center in the Shaab area on Wednesday that the Ministry will continue to expand primary health care services, as several centers have been opened in the northern and southern regions.

He pointed out that this medical edifice includes six general medicine clinics and specialized clinics namely: diabetes, chronic diseases, asthma, osteoporosis, and healthy child clinics, as well as nutrition clinics, health education, geriatrics, and oral and dental health clinics. The center also provides home visit services. He added that this center is an addition to the health system for support services.



KUWAIT: Minister of Health Dr Ahmad Al-Awadhi inaugurates the Musaed Al-Saleh Health Center in the Shaab area on Wednesday. — KUNA photos

For his part, Najib Musaed Al-Saleh, representing the donor's family, said that the medical edifice will serve the people of Kuwait in line with the desire of the late Musaed Al-Saleh, pointing out that the construction was completed in 2019, but the opening was postponed due to the Corona pandemic. Al-Saleh explained that the center occupies an area of more than 6,600 square meters - at a cost of about KD 3,000,000. — KUNA





US election like no other enters nail-biting month

NATO's Rutte visits Kyiv in maiden trip as alliance chief

Page 7

Page 6



ROISSY-CHARLES DE GAULLE AIRPORT, France: A woman and a man repatriated from Beirut speak to the press as they arrive from Lebanon at Charles de Gaulle airport and (right) another woman repatriated from Beirut arrives in Roissy-en-France on Oct 3, 2024. — AFP



Foreigners flee Lebanon as war rages

More countries evacuate citizens from Beirut as Zionists intensify bombing

ATHENS/LARNACA: A growing number of countries evacuated citizens from Beirut on Thursday as Zionist entity's bombing of the Lebanese capital intensified and governments worldwide urged their citizens to get out. Zionist entity has sent its troops into southern Lebanon after two weeks of intense airstrikes, in an escalating conflict that has drawn in Iran and risks drawing in the United States.

Zionist entity's military bombed the heart of Beirut on Thursday, after Zionist entity forces suffered their worst losses on the Lebanese front in a year of clashes with the Iran-backed group. Dozens of Greeks and Greek Cypriots boarded a Greek military aircraft at Beirut airport, many of them children clutching soft toys and school bags. In the cramped conditions onboard, some played with glow sticks,

while others slept on their parents' laps as the plane left behind the smoking city below.

The plane dropped off 38 Cypriots at Larnaca airport in Cyprus, about 200 km (124 miles) west of Lebanon, and continued on to Athens, where 22 Greek nationals disembarked.

"We were trapped, there was no other way to leave because Middle East aeroplanes are full and the earliest flight you can get is in ten days," Giorgos Seib told Reuters on the runway at an airport outside Athens after landing. "Every day the situation gets worse and we don't know what will happen tomorrow."

Expatriates in Lebanon have been scrambling to leave and governments from China to Europe have drawn up plans to get their citizens out. Russia organized a special flight from Beirut on Thursday for

the family members of Russian diplomats. Australia said it has organized hundreds of airline seats for its citizens to leave. This week, life in Lebanon became too traumatic for many as Zionist entity's military urged residents of more than 20 towns in the south to evacuate their homes immediately. Nearly 2,000 people have been killed over the past year, including 127 children, the country's health minister Firass Abiad said on Thursday. "It was very hard, very traumatic I've never lived through anything like that before," Clea Rita Barsamian, a 21-year-old hospitality management student who had been studying in Lebanon for two years, said shortly after landing in Larnaca.

Gretchen, an American citizen who lived in Beirut for five years, said she arrived on a regular commercial ferry because flights in Beirut were cancelled over the last few days. "We are continuously hearing artillery and shelling and it was just too much," she said after disembarking. "I just wanted to leave immediately."

Many hope to return to Lebanon, where they have built their lives. Others are too traumatized to say. Gigi Khalifa, a Libyan Cypriot, moved to Lebanon four years ago so her two children could learn Arabic. "The bombing was very close, it was very traumatic," she said, her voice breaking in the arrivals hall of Larnaca airport. "I just feel bad, you know? For all those people left behind. My friends, my kids' friends. I don't know if we will ever see them again." — Reuters

Trauma

At Turkey's southern Tasucu port in Mersin,

WHO launches plan to rein in 'alarming' dengue spread

GENEVA: The World Health Organization announced Thursday a global plan to battle dengue and other diseases carried by mosquitoes as they spread faster and further amid climate change. "The rapid spread of dengue and other arboviral diseases in recent years is an alarming trend that demands a coordinated response across sectors and across borders," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a statement.

The UN health agency said the number of reported dengue cases has approximately doubled each year since 2021, with over 12.3 million cases, including more than 7,900 deaths, reported in just the first eight months of 2024. That is already almost double the 6.5 million cases reported throughout the whole of 2023.

Dengue can cause high fever and body aches, but most people have no symptoms, and the WHO estimates that there are between 100 million and 400 million infections each year. The disease is caused by an arbovirus carried by *Aedes aegypti* mosquitos, whose territory has spread as the planet warms.

Factors like unplanned urbanization and poor water, sanitation and hygiene practices, as well as international travel, have also facilitated the rapid spread of the disease, which is now endemic in over 130 countries, WHO said. Currently, an estimated four billion people worldwide are at risk of contracting dengue and other arboviruses, including chikungunya and zika, with that number estimated to swell to five billion by 2050, it warned.

WHO's plan is aimed at fostering a coordinated global response, including through disease surveillance, laboratory activities, vector control and research and development of improved treatments and effective vaccines. The agency said it would require \$55 million in funding to implement the plan over the next year. "From maintaining clean environments to supporting vector control and seeking and providing timely medical care, everyone has a role to play in the fight against dengue," Tedros said.

"This plan is a roadmap to turn the tide against this disease and other Aedes-borne arboviral diseases, protect vulnerable populations and pave the way for a healthier future." — AFP

Iran summons European envoys over criticism

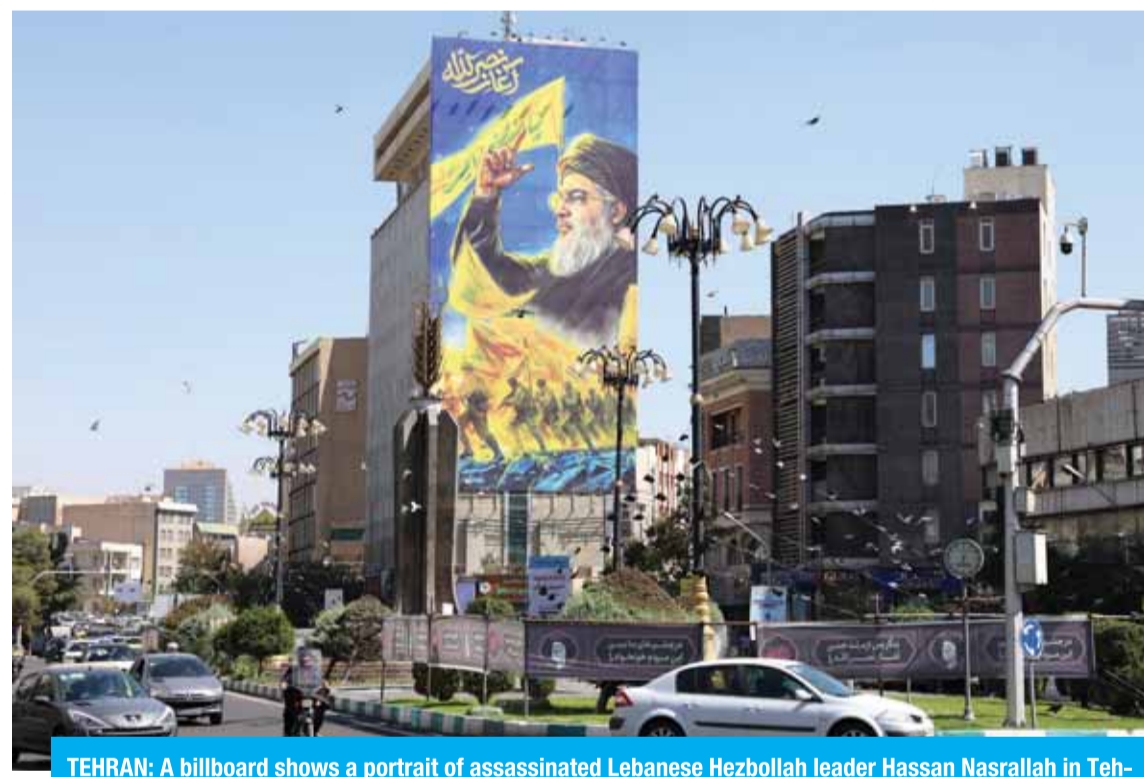
TEHRAN: Iran summoned the German and Austrian ambassadors on Thursday after their governments rebuked the Islamic republic over its missile attack on Zionist entity, state media reported.

The move, according to the official IRNA news agency, was in response to the "unacceptable measures" by Germany and Austria in summoning the Iranian envoys over Iran's attack on Tuesday. Iran's foreign ministry said in a statement that the attack was a "legitimate, responsible and effective response in punishing the aggressor Zionist regime (Zionist entity)".

The Islamic republic on Tuesday evening launched around 200 missiles at Zionist entity in its second-ever direct attack on its sworn enemy, following a missile and drone attack in April.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards said the attack was in retaliation for the killing last month of Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah alongside Tehran's Quds Force commander Abbas Nilforoushan, as well as Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh, who died in a July bombing in Tehran. The attack triggered international criticism of the Islamic republic.

Also on Thursday, foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei, condemned what he called "the



TEHRAN: A billboard shows a portrait of assassinated Lebanese Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah in Tehran on October 3, 2024. — AFP

continued biased and irresponsible approach" of the G7 group after it criticized the attack on Zionist entity. He also condemned the group's call for

further sanctions against Tehran, saying the attack was a "necessary response" to Zionist entity's "aggressive actions". — AFP

Palestinian activist wins prize for peaceful resistance

STOCKHOLM: Palestinian activist Issa Amro on Thursday accepted the Right Livelihood prize—considered by some an alternative Nobel—for his "nonviolent resistance to Zionist entity's illegal occupation" in the West Bank, the jury said. Amro was born in the city of Hebron, a flashpoint West Bank city where roughly 1,000 Jewish settlers live under heavy Zionist entity military protection amid some 200,000 Palestinians. He has dedicated his life to fighting against Zionist entity's occupation of the West Bank.

The 44-year-old founded the Youth Against Settlements group, which campaigns against the proliferation of Jewish settlements in the territory—communities widely regarded as illegal under international law. The rights campaigner has been repeatedly detained and tortured by both the Palestinian Authority and by Zionist entity, the foundation said.

"It's a miracle that I still exist," said

Amro. When Palestine Polytechnic University, where he was studying, closed in 2003 during the Second Intifada, Amro successfully led a six-month civil disobedience campaign. "I managed to reopen the university with other students," Amro said in a statement. "I graduated as an engineer and as an activist—it became part of my character," he added.

The Sweden-based Right Livelihood Foundation also honored Joan Carling, a Filipina champion of indigenous rights and Anabela Lemos, a climate activist from Mozambique. It also gave the nod to research agency Forensic Architecture for its work in uncovering human rights violations around the world. The foundation said the four prize winners had "each made a profound impact on their communities and the global stage".

"Their unwavering commitment to speaking out against forces of oppression and exploitation, while strictly



HEBRON, Palestinian Territories: Prominent Palestinian activist Issa Amro is welcomed by supporters after he was released on bail by a Palestinian court, in the West Bank city of Hebron on Sept 10, 2017. — AFP

adhering to non-violent methods, resonates far beyond their communities," Right Livelihood said in a statement. Carling from the Philippines was recognized for having defended the rights of indigenous communities for three decades, particularly in their fight against mining projects.

The foundation celebrated Lemos, who heads the NGO Justica Ambi-

ental (JA!), for her role in opposing liquefied natural gas extraction projects in northern Mozambique. Forensic Architecture, a London-based research laboratory known for 3D modeling conflict zones, won the distinction for "pioneering digital forensic methods" to ensure accountability of human rights violations around the world. — AFP

International

NATO chief Rutte visits Kyiv in maiden trip to assert support

Ukraine's commander orders defenses bolstered in east after Vuhledar falls

KYIV: NATO's new chief Mark Rutte visited Kyiv on Thursday, a major show of support for Ukraine in his maiden trip in the role. Kyiv relies on billions of dollars in Western military aid to fight the Russian invasion, with the NATO Secretary-General a powerful voice corraling support for Ukraine on the global stage.

Taking over the role on Tuesday, the former Dutch prime minister steps in at a pivotal moment, with Russia advancing on the battlefield, China flexing its growing might, and just weeks before US voters choose a new leader. A staunch backer of Ukraine who has visited the country several times since Russia invaded, Rutte has pledged NATO will continue its support under his stewardship.

"Putin has to realize that we will not give in, that we want Ukraine to prevail in the end," he said upon taking the role. He also said he wanted to "step up our support for Ukraine and bring it ever closer to NATO." Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has welcomed Rutte's appointment.

"Ukraine's course toward NATO membership is irreversible, and we remain committed to that goal," he said on Tuesday.

Rutte's government in the Netherlands was one of Kyiv's most important European backers, a major driving force pushing for advanced F-16 fighter jets to be delivered to Kyiv. Rutte was also prime minister when Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 was shot down over Ukraine in 2014, killing 298 people, the majority of them Dutch.

He said the crash "changed my personal view of the world" and made him all the more determined

to support Ukraine, "for their security and ours." But it is NATO members, not the alliance itself, that calls the shots on supplies of much-needed military hardware and ammunition to Kyiv. Zelensky has said that without Western aid Ukraine has no chance of winning the war. He has also chided delays in shipments and criticized restrictions that he says limit Kyiv's ability to hit back.

Ukraine is currently pushing the United States to allow its army to fire Western-supplied missiles on military targets inside Russia. Cautious to avoid a possible escalation, Washington has been hesitant to give the green light.

Ukraine faces a critical next few months on the battlefield. Russian forces have been grinding through the east for most of 2024 and are targeting the key logistics hub of Pokrovsk. With Moscow's troops less than 10 kilometers away (six miles), its fall would severely hamper Ukrainian supply routes and defensive positions in the Donetsk region. The country also faces possibly its most difficult winter of the war.

Russian strikes have battered Ukraine's energy grid and destroyed swathes of generating capacity, with Kyiv bracing for blackouts that could plunge millions into darkness, cutting off heating and hot water in sub-zero temperatures. Meanwhile the possible return of aid-skeptic Donald Trump to the White House has raised questions about how long Ukraine's most important backer will carry on supplying and bankrolling its fight against Moscow.

Meanwhile, Ukraine's armed forces commander General Oleksandr Syrskyy said on Thursday he had



KYIV: Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky (right) attends a meeting with NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte (left) in Kyiv, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine. — AFP

ordered defenses to be strengthened in the eastern Donetsk region, a day after Kyiv forces announced they had withdrawn from the town of Vuhledar. Russian troops are steadily inching forward in different sectors in eastern Ukraine despite Kyiv's surprise incursion into Russia's western Kursk region in August that it was hoped would slow the advances. Syrskyy said on social media he was working on

"one of the hottest front sectors" with the 25th Sicheslav Airborne Brigade.

He gave no details on the exact location but the brigade operates in the Pokrovsk front, an area of intensified Russian assaults. "While working in the brigade, I made a number of decisions aimed at strengthening stability and effectiveness of our defense," Syrskyy said. — Agencies

Flowers and toys at funeral for Thai bus fire victims

LAN SAK, Thailand: Weeping parents laid flowers and toys on the coffins of 20 children killed in a Thai school bus inferno, along with three teachers, as five days of funeral prayers began on Thursday.

Family members dressed in black gathered in the assembly hall of Wat Khao Phraya Sangkharam school in the northern province of Uthai Thani to console one another and pray for their loved ones.

A huge display of white flowers adorned the 23 coffins, which were topped with portraits of the dead and offerings of food, drink—and even toy trucks and dolls—to comfort the departed spirits. Most relatives were too traumatized to speak to reporters, but one grandmother choked back sobs to tell of her pain.

"Their father went to work and left the boys with me, and he was to get them in the evening. I lost both of my grandsons," she told local



Mourners pray for the victims of a school bus fire in front of their coffins at Wat Khao Phraya Sangkharam School in Uthai Thani on Oct 3, 2024. — AFP

broadcaster Amarin TV. Nattawin Tongyoy, a journalist for ThaiTV station, lost a cousin in the blaze. "I am a reporter. I never think that this kind of news will happen to my cousin one day," he told Thairath.

"They were children, there was no way they could have escaped."

Buddhist monks will begin formal funeral prayers on Thursday evening, with King Maha Vajiralongkorn to be represented by the head of Thailand's Privy Council. The prayers will go on until a mass cremation expected on Tuesday.

Police have arrested the driver of

the bus on suspicion of causing death by careless driving in the crash, which happened on a highway in a northern Bangkok suburb at lunchtime on Tuesday. They are also investigating whether the compressed gas tanks fueling the bus played a role in the blaze, which engulfed the vehicle so quickly that barely half of those on board were able to escape. It is thought the bus suffered a burst tire and then crashed into a highway barrier before erupting into flames.

The government has announced urgent checks on more than 13,000 gas-fueled buses, although some victims' relatives are demanding a complete prohibition.

"I want gas tanks on all public buses and vans to be banned," one told public broadcaster ThaiPBS, without giving her name. Thailand has long had an appalling road safety record, with around 20,000 deaths reported every year—an average of more than 50 a day.

Speeding, drink driving and poor vehicle standards all contribute to the bloody toll, but weak enforcement of rules, exacerbated by rampant corruption in the police, also undermines efforts to improve safety. — AFP

Nine dead in hospital fire in Taiwan

TAIPEI: Nine people died on Thursday after a fire ripped through a hospital in southern Taiwan just as a typhoon hit, making rescue operations "more difficult", authorities said. The blaze in Pingtung County was reported at around 7.40 am, and was put out shortly after 1 pm, according to an online post by the island's fire agency.

Eight victims were confirmed dead after being taken away for treatment, and another was later found dead at the scene, the agency said. The fire broke out the same day that Typhoon Krathon made landfall in Taiwan's south, and the Pingtung County government said strong winds and heavy rains in the area made rescue operations "more difficult".

One image released by the county government showed a glowing red and orange fireball surrounded by billowing smoke, with what appeared to be a jet of water aimed at the blaze.

Another showed fire engines and firefighters in protective gear responding at the scene. The local government said a probe had been launched into the cause of the blaze, and that firefighters continued to conduct search and rescue operations. There have been several hospital fires in Taiwan in recent years, claiming dozens of lives. In August 2018, nine people were killed and 30 injured in a blaze that broke out at a hospice for the terminally ill near Taiwan's capital Taipei.

In 2012 a cancer patient set a fire in a nursing facility in southern Tainan city that killed 13 people and injured 60 others. The arsonist was sentenced to death. Another major blaze at a dilapidated 13-storey apartment block in Kaohsiung tore through multiple floors over a matter of hours in October 2021, killing 46 people and injuring 41.

Authorities had said the blaze started when a woman left unextinguished incense ashes on a sofa before leaving the building. She was indicted on murder and arson charges, but ultimately escaped the death penalty. And the island was left in shock after a fireball ripped through a crowd at a northern Taiwanese waterpark in June 2015, leaving 15 dead.

Almost 500 people were injured in the blast at Formosa Fun Coast, more than 200 of them seriously, and the organizer of the party where the incident occurred was jailed for almost five years.

Typhoon Krathon, meanwhile, has forced schools and offices to shut for a second day, and its effects have so far left two dead and more than 100 injured. The typhoon was packing sustained wind speeds of 126 kilometers (78 miles) per hour and gusts of up to 162 kph just before reaching the southern seaport city of Kaohsiung, according to the Central Weather Administration (CWA).

Authorities said Wednesday that the typhoon was expected to weaken rapidly after landing, but residents of Kaohsiung were urged to take shelter. Across Taiwan, nearly 10,000 people had been evacuated as of Thursday, according to the interior ministry. — AFP

Bangladesh recalls five envoys in major diplomatic reshuffle

DHAKA: Bangladesh has recalled five envoys, including the ambassador to neighboring India, foreign ministry officials said on Thursday, in a major diplomatic reshuffle as the interim government clears out holdovers from the previous administration. Political upheaval in the South Asian nation ushered in the interim government led by Nobel Peace laureate Muhammad Yunus after weeks of violent protests forced the Aug 5 resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who then fled to India.

The foreign ministry ordered envoys in Brussels, Canberra, Lisbon, New Delhi and the permanent mission to the United Nations in New York to immediately return to the capital, Dhaka, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. "It's possible the government doesn't want them to continue, as they were appointed by Hasina's administration," said one government official, who also spoke on condition of anonymity.

"It wouldn't be surprising if more changes in the diplomatic corps follow." The departure of Hasina's government has triggered a broad administrative overhaul, with hundreds of senior officials being re-assigned or transferred, and the contracts of some key ones terminated, forcing many of them to resign or retire early. All the recalled diplomats are set to go on post-retirement leave in December, another foreign ministry official said.

"You are requested to leave your current posts and return to Dhaka without delay," the ministry told the diplomats in its notice, seen by Reuters. The step follows the recall from Britain of Saïda Muna Tasneem, the high commissioner, or ambassador, who was similarly told to return.

A foreign ministry spokesperson made no comment on when the replacements might be announced. More than 700 people died as a result of the student-led movement that ousted Hasina, straining ties with India. The neighbors have a 4,000-km (2,500-mile) border and maritime boundaries in the Bay of Bengal. Minority groups in Bangladesh have made accusations of attacks on Hindus after the political changes, though the government says the violence was motivated by politics, not religion. — Reuters



PORT LOUIS, Mauritius: Demonstrators from the Chagos Islands protest at a British defiance of a UN deadline to end their illegal occupation of the Indian Ocean archipelago in Port Louis on Nov 22, 2019. — AFP

UK hands Indian Ocean islands to Mauritius

LONDON: Britain on Thursday said it would give up sovereignty of the Chagos Islands to Mauritius but under what US President Joe Biden called a "historic agreement" will keep its strategic joint military base with the United States on Diego Garcia. Britain has been under pressure for decades to hand over the Indian Ocean islands but has resisted because of the Diego Garcia base, a key installation used to help US operations across the Indian Ocean and Gulf regions.

"For the first time in more than 50 years, the status of the base will be undisputed and legally secure," the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) said. Biden hailed the continuation of the Diego Garcia base on the largest island in the chain and was used during the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"I applaud the historic agreement and conclusion of the negotiations," Biden said in a White House statement, adding that the site "plays a vital role in national, regional, and global security".

Britain decided in 1965 to separate the islands from its then colony of Mauritius and set up a military base there, which it leased to the United States. In doing so, it evicted thousands of Chagos islanders who have since mounted a series of legal claims for compensation in the British courts.

Mauritius has claimed the archipelago—renamed British Indian Ocean Territory—since its independence in 1968. Mauritius Foreign Minister called the announcement of the accord "a day to remember" and a "seminal moment" in his country's relationship with Britain. International calls for Britain to hand over one of its last remaining overseas territories have grown in recent years. In 2019 the International Court of Justice advised Britain to hand over the remote islands. The same year, the UN General Assembly also voted for Britain to withdraw.

Talks on the future of the islands began between the countries in 2022 after years of the UK refusing to relinquish control. Without the agreement, "the long-term, secure operation" of the military base would be under threat. Britain's foreign ministry said, including through legal challenges posed by international courts. "Today's agreement secures this vital military base for the future", Foreign Secretary David Lammy said, adding that the deal would also shut down the potential use of the islands being used as a "dangerous illegal migration route to the UK". — AFP

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2024

Middle East escalation could trigger deeper market selloff

US oil production reduces global sensitivity to disruptions



RAMALLAH, Palestinian Territories: Palestinians walk on Oct 1, 2024 through the central market in Ramallah in the occupied West Bank, which was partially burned down during a Zionist raid. — AFP

LONDON: Conflict in the Middle East is escalating once more, but the mood music across financial markets remains upbeat for now due to shifts in oil production and as global interest rate cuts eclipse geopolitics. Zionist entity, still battling Hamas in Gaza, bombed Beirut on Thursday as it continued its conflict with Lebanese group Hezbollah days after being attacked by Iran.

Yet MSCI's world stock index is just 1 percent off last week's record highs and oil prices, which rose around 5 percent in the 24 hours after Iran's missile attack on Zionist entity, have steadied around a far from threatening \$75 dollars a barrel.

Certainly, a bigger escalation that disrupts supplies of oil from the Middle East and shakes the global economy would invoke a bigger reaction, and the fact that stock markets are near record highs could make them vulnerable to sharp falls. But for now markets are cushioned by the prospect of more monetary easing and by the United States' expanded role in oil production, which has offset the Middle East's dominance.

Wall Street's so-called fear gauge, the VIX volatility index, is at a moderate level around 20 - well below a post-pandemic peak above 60 hit during market turmoil in early August linked to an unwind in global carry trades. "When we think about geopolitical risk and its transmission into asset prices, what will obviously have a bigger impact is if we see outcomes that materially impact growth or inflation," said Mark Dowding, BlueBay Asset Management's chief investment officer.

"The main concern really has been through a transmission impact on oil prices. But even here,

we've been in a situation where, if anything that the oil price had been sliding." The United States becoming a big oil producer - the world's biggest for the past six years - has reduced global sensitivity to Middle East supply disruptions, analysts say. And European energy markets have reorganized themselves since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which was a dramatic example of how an energy price surge can roil global markets and economies. "The growing importance of the US would suggest that risks to energy supply from rising tensions in the Middle East are somewhat mitigated," said Katharine Neiss, chief European economist at PGIM Fixed Income.

In 2022, when Russia invaded Ukraine, oil prices surged above \$100 and gas prices soared, unleashing a fresh wave of inflation that piled pressure on central banks to hike interest rates, driving bond yields higher, especially in the US and, in turn, boosting the dollar. The situation today is different. Central banks are already in easing mode and hopeful the US will avoid recession.

The world economy is not primed for an oil shock, said Trevor Greetham, Royal London Asset Management head of multi asset, because it is at a "softer stage of the cycle." That contrasts with 2022, "when Ukraine happened, you were already in that period where you were just starting to get very high inflation numbers," Greetham said.

The current backdrop of easier monetary policy supports investor sentiment, even as tensions in the Middle East rise. Tilmann Kolb, emerging markets strategist at UBS Global Wealth Management, said that while the past two years had seen significant de-

velopments in domestic and international politics, for markets, the economic outlook remained key.

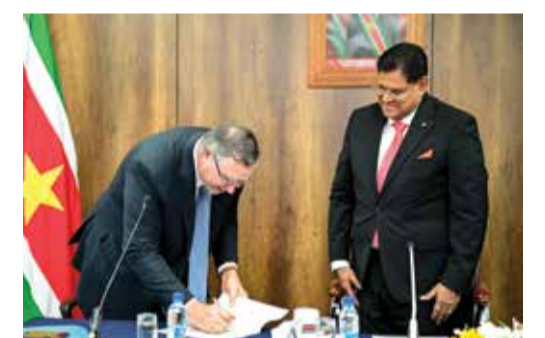
"Where is inflation going? How is the Fed responding? Is growth holding up?" he said. Meanwhile, investors have jumped on announcements of long-awaited economic stimulus measures from China that have sent Chinese shares surging, and boosted global assets from luxury stocks to industrial metals and miners.

"The impact of China delivering a big policy stimulus last week was almost a more significant factor in terms of what it means for global demand and growth," said BlueBay's Dowding.

Of course, the dial could swing very quickly and oil itself remains the transmission mechanism if geopolitics flare further. Tina Fordham, founder and geopolitical strategist at Fordham Global Foresight, said she was watching to see if Zionist entity would target either Iran's energy infrastructure or nuclear facility. "Either of those targets would result in a market impact," she said.

"Where this could get more problematic is, for example, if Ukraine targets Russian energy infrastructure at the same time." And with stock markets near record highs, there is scope for dramatic tumbles, policymakers warn. The Bank of England said on Wednesday that global asset prices remain stretched and are vulnerable to a big fall as investors grow more concerned about geopolitical risks.

And for Andrew Bresler, CEO at Saxo UK, assets are mispriced given geopolitical risks, adding that volatility indicators such as the VIX should be higher. "It's a little bit alarming to me how desensitized markets are to geopolitical risks," he said. — Reuters



PARAMARIBO, Suriname: Suriname's President Chan Santokhi (right) and French energy group TotalEnergies CEO Patrick Pouyanne signing documents during a meeting in Paramaribo on October 1, 2024. — AFP

TotalEnergies plans to grow oil and gas production until 2030

PARIS: French energy giant TotalEnergies has announced plans to increase its oil and gas production until 2030, as it seeks to reassure investors about its fundamentals.

CEO Patrick Pouyanne has a raft of ambitious projects aimed at propelling growth through the decade, not least a \$10 billion offshore investment in Suriname that received a green light Tuesday. The company on Wednesday attempted to buoy investors at its annual strategy and outlook meeting in New York, as energy prices have fallen since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

TotalEnergies raised its growth forecast in oil and gas production to around three percent a year until 2030, led by liquefied natural gas (LNG), and after the launch of six major projects this year in Brazil, Suriname, Angola, Oman and Nigeria, according to a company statement. LNG is highly coveted in Asia and by Europeans, who have sought to compensate for the drastic drop in Russian deliveries by land since the war in Ukraine began.

The firm's forecast is up from the previous target of two to three percent per year until 2028. To justify the prolonged rise, Pouyanne pointed to the natural decline of oil field production and the rise in global demand for oil. "So we need to continue to invest in oil," he said, adding that for now, low-carbon technologies were not penetrating the market significantly.

TotalEnergies said it intends to develop flexible renewable electricity from wind and solar, aiming to produce more than 100 Terrawatt hours of electric energy by 2030, with 70 percent coming from renewable sources. OPEC sees demand for oil increasing significantly by 17 percent between 2023 and 2050, contrary to the efforts required to limit global warming and the forecasts of the International Energy Agency, which predicts demand for all fossil fuels — oil, gas and coal — to peak before 2030.

After TotalEnergies' record profits in 2022 and 2023, as prices spiked in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, this year could mark a return to normalcy. The group intends to reward shareholders with an \$8 billion share buyback, just as the French government is considering taxing such operations to replenish dwindling state coffers. — AFP

Turkish inflation falls less than expected in Sept

ISTANBUL: Turkish annual inflation slowed less than expected in September to 49.4 percent, official data showed Thursday, a figure which analysts said could disappoint central bank officials after a series of interest rate hikes. Turkey's central bank began to raise rates last year in efforts to battle soaring prices, after President Recep Tayyip Erdogan dropped his opposition to orthodox monetary policy.

The September inflation figure was higher than the 48.1 percent consumer price increase forecast by Turkish economists cited by local media. Inflation had reached 52 percent in August. "The smaller-than-expected decline in Turkey's headline rate to 49.4 percent y/y (year-on-year) in September will be a disappointment to policymakers at the central bank," Nicholas Farr, emerging Europe economist at the London-based Capital Economics, said in a note to clients.

He said the figure showed that a monetary easing cycle was unlikely to start until 2025 - later than most other analysts have been forecasting. Last month, the central bank kept its main interest rate stable at 50 percent for a sixth consecutive month and said it remained highly attentive to inflation risks. According to the central bank's forecast, inflation will ease to 38 percent at the end of this year, 14 percent next year and nine percent in 2026.

While inflation will fall further over the coming months, the central bank's end-year forecast of 38 percent "looks way out of reach", Farr said. He said a particular concern for the central bank would be that, in month-on-month terms, core inflation



ISTANBUL: People shop at a vegetable market in Istanbul. — AFP

continued to accelerate.

Inflation increased 2.97 percent on a monthly basis in September, the TUIK statistics agency said. "The disinflation process that began in June is continuing," Finance Minister Mehmet Simsek commented on X, formerly Twitter. "We continue to implement all our policies in line with our price stability target in a coordinated and determined manner," he said. Erdogan this week also said inflation was on a downward trend. "Our people will feel the slowdown more in the bazaars, and in their shopping baskets," he added. Cagri Kutman, Turkey expert at KNG Securities, said that while inflation is falling, "it's not the rapid glide path that some had hoped".

Despite the relatively modest improvement, he said it showed that the orthodox monetary policy

now backed by Erdogan's government was working.

"Government resistance to high interest rates has died down and there's confidence that the orthodox monetary policy will be given more time." According to the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce, retail prices in Turkey's largest city Istanbul alone increased by 3.9 percent on a monthly basis and 59.2 percent on an annual basis in September. Turkey's annual inflation rate reached a decades-long high of 85 percent in October 2022, according to official data.

It fell to 38.2 percent in June 2023 before rising again. It reached 75 percent in May this year but started to fall in June. The biggest price increases in September came from housing, which rose almost 98 percent on an annual basis, followed by education at 93.6 percent, and restaurant and hotels at 65.4 percent. — AFP

Business

OPEC+ could cushion Iran oil shock

Spare capacity in region vulnerable to wider conflict

LONDON: OPEC has enough spare oil capacity to compensate for a full loss of Iranian supply if Zionist entity knocks out that country's facilities but the producer group would struggle if Iran retaliates by hitting installations of its Gulf neighbors.

Iran fired hundreds of missiles at Zionist entity on Tuesday in response to Zionist entity airstrikes and attacks. Zionist entity's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Iran made a big mistake and would pay for it, and Iran threatened a crushing response if Zionist entity retaliated.

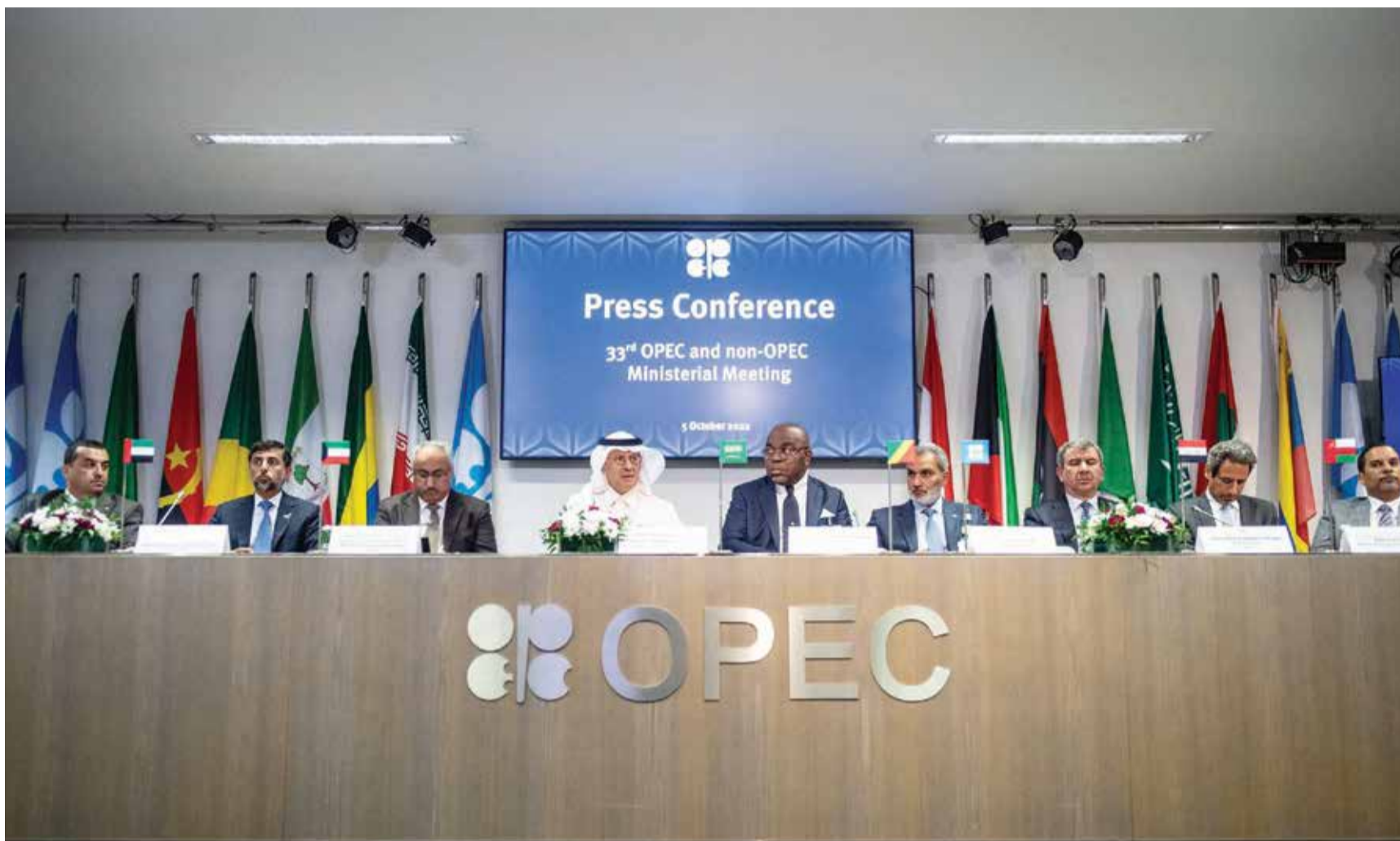
Zionist entity's options include targeting Iranian oil production facilities among other strategic sites, US news website Axios reported on Wednesday citing Zionist entity officials. Iran is an OPEC member with production of around 3.2 million barrels per day or 3 percent of global output. Iranian oil exports have climbed this year to near multi-year highs of 1.7 million bpd despite US sanctions. Chinese refiners buy most of its supply. Beijing says it doesn't recognize unilateral US sanctions.

"In theory, if we lost all Iranian production - which is not our base case - OPEC+ has enough spare capacity to make up for the shock," said Amrita Sen, co-founder of Energy Aspects. OPEC+, which includes OPEC and allies like Russia and Kazakhstan, has been cutting production in recent years to support prices amid weak global demand. So the group is sitting on millions of barrels of spare capacity.

Cuts by OPEC+ producers currently total 5.86 million bpd. Analysts estimated Saudi Arabia is able to raise output by 3 million bpd and the United Arab Emirates by 1.4 million. OPEC+ met on Wednesday to discuss compliance with cuts. The group did not discuss the Zionist entity-Iranian conflict, OPEC+ sources said. "The only thing mentioned about the geopolitical situation and the conflict was the hope for non-escalation," said an OPEC+ source familiar with the discussions.

While OPEC has enough spare capacity to compensate for the loss of Iranian supplies, much of that capacity is in the Middle East Gulf region and potentially vulnerable should the conflict escalate further, said Giovanni Staunovo, analyst at UBS. "The effectively available spare capacity might be much lower if renewed attacks on energy infrastructure on countries in the region happen," he said, adding the West might have to tap strategic reserves if there were severe disruptions.

Zionist entity has so far refrained from attacking Iranian oil facilities. Oil analysts and security experts have said Zionist entity could target Iran's oil refining sites and the Kharg Island oil port, which handles around 90 percent of the country's crude exports. During the Iran-Iraq War in the 1980s, Baghdad regularly attacked tankers around Kharg Island and threatened to destroy the oil terminal.



VIENNA: Representatives of OPEC member countries attend a press conference after the 45th Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee and the 33rd OPEC and non-OPEC Ministerial Meeting in Vienna, Austria in this file photo. — AFP


"Iran and its proxies could potentially target energy operations in other parts of the region in order to internationalize the cost if the current crisis devolves into an all-out war," said Helima Croft from RBC Capital Markets. In 2019, a drone attack by Iranian proxies on Saudi oil processing facilities briefly knocked out 50 percent of the kingdom's crude production. "In case of an escalation Iran's proxies might launch attacks on Middle East oil producers, namely Saudi Arabia," said Tamas Varga from PVM. Riyadh and Tehran have had a political rapprochement since 2019, which helped ease regional tensions, but relations remain difficult. Oil

prices have traded in a narrow range of \$70-90 per barrel over the past years despite the war between Russia and Ukraine and conflict in the Middle East.

A rise in US production has helped ease the fear premium in oil markets, said Rhett Bennett, chief executive at Black Mountain, which has operations in the US Permian basin. The US produces 13 percent of global crude and almost 20 percent of global oil liquid production compared to OPEC's 25 percent global crude production share and some 40 percent by OPEC+.

"This diversity of supply from US domestic sources, combined with healthy spare capacity

within OPEC, is translating into the market feeling insulated from a dramatic supply shock - regardless of perpetual Middle East flare ups," Bennett said. A broad conflict in the Middle East, however, with a major impact on production would inevitably push oil prices up. That would drive up fuel costs. A related rally in gasoline prices could hurt US vice president Kamala Harris in her campaign to win the Nov 5 presidential election against Republican candidate Donald Trump. "The United States will likely try to push Zionist entity for a more modest response, wanting to avoid a significant escalation in tensions," said Warren Patterson from ING. — Reuters



شركة الصفاة للاستثمار
AL SAFAT INVESTMENT COMPANY

KUWAIT BOURSA WEEKLY REPORT

WEEK ENDED ON 3 OCTOBER 2024

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No.	Ticker	Sector	Price Movement & Performance										Valuation Multiples *				
			Open Price	Close Price	Week High	Week Low	Range	Volume	WTD Change	WTD %	YTD %	Support Level	Resistance Level	P/E	P/B	Yield	Beta
101	National Bank of Kuwait	Banking	889	859	889	859	30	22,753,208	-30	-3.37%	0.89%	854	860	12.9	1.64	3.9%	1.05
102	Gulf Bank	Banking	306	298	306	296	10	28,465,798	-9	-2.93%	11.35%	298	303	17.9	1.41	3.8%	1.28
104	Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait	Banking	286	274	286	270	16	5,691,723	-10	-3.52%	23.48%	273	279	14.2	1.12	3.2%	0.96
106	Kuwait International Bank	Banking	182	176	182	175	7	20,415,647	-7	-3.83%	20.85%	173	176	14.0	0.65	2.8%	1.08
107	Burgan Bank	Banking	192	182	193	182	11	5,242,097	-11	-5.70%	11.10%	176	185	17.0	0.66	3.1%	1.31
108	Kuwait Finance House	Banking	721	706	723	706	17	60,629,339	-17	-2.35%	6.00%	704	715	19.7	2.04	2.7%	1.11
109	Boubyan Bank	Banking	575	563	576	563	13	8,920,024	-13	-2.26%	-0.54%	557	567	28.6	2.32	1.3%	1.15
201	Kuwait Investment	Financial Services	154	152	155	150	5	3,743,816	-3	-1.94%	19.69%	147	154	9.4	0.70	6.6%	2.01
204	National Investments	Financial Services	235	224	237	223	14	17,267,329	-12	-5.08%	-6.28%	224	232	31.4	0.97	6.6%	2.03
205	Kuwait Projects	Financial Services	99.0	96	100	96.0	3.8	21,606,292	-2.8	-2.83%	-8.38%	95.0	96.5	NM	0.54	0.0%	0.94
212	Arzan Financial Group	Financial Services	208	200	210	198	12	52,161,414	-8	-3.85%	-0.95%	195	202	23.8	1.14	1.0%	1.23
222	Aayan Leasing and Investment	Financial Services	153	150	153	148	5	12,108,417	-4	-2.60%	-13.79%	146	151	8.3	1.01	5.0%	1.62
252	Al Imtiaz Investment	Financial Services	49	47.5	49.5	46.2	3.3	8,390,083	-1.6	-3.26%	-15.93%	47	47.7	NM	0.33	0.0%	1.34
401	Kuwait Real Estate	Real Estate	241	237	243	234	9	23,246,581	-5	-2.07%	22.55%	237	246	17.3	1.55	1.6%	1.15
404	Salhia Real Estate	Real Estate	430	428	435	423	12	4,054,665	-1	-0.23%	4.76%	424	434	17.7	1.39	3.3%	0.58
413	Mabaneer	Real Estate	845	825	845	825	20	2,423,608	-15	-1.79%	3.74%	825	838	17.5	1.81	1.6%	0.94
418	The Commercial Real Estate	Real Estate	153	153	155	148	7	20,454,722	-2	-1.29%	53.00%	150	156	15.3	0.93	2.6%	0.68
501	National Industries	Financial Services	226	216	226	216	10	27,391,111	-11	-4.85%	11.18%	211	217	12.3	0.98	2.2%	1.60
505	Gulf Cable	Industrials	1,572	1,577	1,600	1,550	50	1,415,544	5	0.32%	20.38%	1,522	1,600	17.0	1.30	4.1%	1.11
506	HEISCO	Industrials	799	765	799	751	48	2,040,415	-15	-1.92%	-6.71%	753	769	16.9	1.92	3.9%	0.91
514	Boubyan Petrochemical	Basic Materials	640	631	645	630	15	2,372,864	-12	-1.87%	7.86%	604	633	19.0	1.28	9.5%	0.91
603	Agility	Industrials	228	216	228	214	14	37,242,502	-13	-5.68%	-57.56%	216	223	7.0	0.63	9.2%	1.58
605	Zain	Telecommunications	465	468	477	464	13	16,295,899	-12	-2.50%	-7.69%	463	468	10.9	1.76	7.5%	0.54
623	Human Soft Holding	Industrials	2,682	2,650	2,730	2,647	83	815,062	-32	-1.19%	-18.14%	2,628	2,675	8.5	3.48	12.5%	0.61
642	ALAFCO	Industrials	234	233	235	230	5	1,175,747	1	0.43%	29.44%	227	236	14.5	0.95	0.0%	1.19
654	JAZEERA	Consumer Discretionary	990	990	1,004	977	27	1,857,056	-9	-0.90%	-28.73%	990	1,021	84.1	7.81	2.9%	1.36
813	GFH Financial Group	Financial Services	102	103	105	100.9	4.1	46,174,305	0	0.00%	34.99%	102	104	10.9	1.28	4.8%	1.31
821	Warba Bank	Banking	191	186	191	185	6	15,198,413	-6	-3.13%	6.00%	176	188	25.9	1.02	0.0%	1.08
822	Kuwait Telecommunications	Telecommunications	547	541	552	538	14	3,113,573	-9	-1.64%	-3.91%	530	548	16.1	2.39	6.5%	0.71
823	Mezzan Holding	Consumer Staples	907	906	926	895	31	1,509,522	6	0.67%	57.57%	879	949	20.1	2.49	2.2%	0.46
824	Integrated Holding	Industrials	517	510	526	506	20	3,330,469	-8	-1.54%	0.00%	510	520	25.9	2.12	3.9%	0.75
827	Boursa Kuwait	Financial Services	2,076	2,007	2,076	2,002	74	766,960	-65	-3.14%	16.42%	2,005	2,035	24.1	6.86	3.6%	1.34
830	AL GHANIM	Consumer Discretionary	1,060	1,036	1,070	1,030	40	1,855,478	-27	-2.54%	-1.89%	1,033	1,069	9.7	3.39	6.6%	0.84
831	Beyout Investment	Financial Services	418	410	420	400	20	2,312,552	-6	-1.44%	#VALUE!	408	420	16.0	2.38	0.0%	NULL

* As of end of week closing

Business

Mixed US car sales in Q3 as auto sector eyes post-election bounce

Amid sluggish demand, consumers contend with affordability challenges

NEW YORK: US automakers reported mixed third-quarter sales, pointing to sluggish demand as consumers contend with affordability challenges and wait for lower interest rates to reach the car lending market. The reports included a bruising 20 percent decline in sales at Stellantis compared with the year-ago period. General Motors experienced a 2.2 percent fall, while Toyota US sales dropped by eight percent.

On the other side, Ford, mustered a 0.7 percent increase, while Honda enjoyed an eight percent rise. Auto experts have described the 2024 car market as a shift from the seller's market of recent years.

Vehicle inventories are much more robust than during the pandemic and its aftermath, reducing the pricing power for automakers and reviving some incentive programs dormant in recent times amid lack of supply. But prices are still well above pre-pandemic levels.

The average vehicle price in August was \$47,870, down 1.7 percent from the year-ago level, but up 23 percent from the average transaction price in December 2019, according to Kelley Blue Book. Buyers "are still facing affordability issues," said Charlie Chesbrough, senior economist Cox Automotive.

At GM, sales were mixed among the truck and SUV products that have supported the Detroit giant's profits in recent years. Whereas GM scored an uptick in sales of GMC Sierra pickup trucks, its top-selling Silverado line experienced a dip.

Chesbrough said the Chevrolet Trax, a compact SUV, is the type of vehicle that has enjoyed growth this year. Sales of the Trax, which begins at \$20,400, approached 60,000 during the quarter, up 56.6 per-

cent from the year-ago period.

Smaller pickups allow consumers to "keep the functionality but address the affordability issues," Chesbrough said. Ford reported Wednesday that US sales for the third quarter were 504,039, up 0.7 percent from the year-ago period. The Detroit auto-giant's sales benefited from a rise in demand for hybrid vehicles, with sales rising 38 percent to 48,101 and outpacing Ford's growth in electric vehicle sales.

"The hybrid market is both larger and growing faster than the EV market in the US and companies that have invested in hybrid development such as Toyota, Honda and Ford are now reaping the benefit," said Garrett Nelson, an analyst at CFRA Research. At Stellantis, which has struggled to clear out inventory of pricier vehicles in the United States, sales came in at 305,294, down 20 percent.

The European company, whose brands include Jeep, Fiat and Peugeot, earlier this week trimmed its profit margin outlook, saying efforts to turn around its North American business accounted for most of the downgrade. "At the beginning of Q3, we introduced an aggressive incentive program across our US brand portfolio that ... resulted in the reduction of dealer inventory by over 50,000 units through the end of the quarter," said Matt Thompson, head of US retail sales at Stellantis.

"We continue to take the necessary actions to drive sales and prepare our dealer network and consumers for the arrival of 2025 models," Stellantis has announced production and job cuts in recent weeks, raising the ire of the United Auto Workers, which has threatened to strike over the delaying of a pledge to



DETROIT: Members of the media look at the Chevy Equinox EV at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Michigan. — AFP

reopen a factory in Illinois. Last week, Cox Automotive projected a 2.1 percent drop in third-quarter US sales in the wake of affordability challenges, with the benefit of lower Federal Reserve interest rates not yet flowing through to the car loan market.

But Cox has pointed to a possible bounce late in the year in an economy where growth has slowed but remains positive. Chesbrough said some buyers are holding off due to the uncertainty of the presidential election. — AFP

Why oil price yet to ignite on Middle East escalation?

LONDON: Despite growing tensions in the Middle East, oil prices are yet to inflame skyward, with Tehran and Washington holding back from full-scale war and owing to abundant supplies, analysts said.

Benchmark oil contract, Brent North Sea crude, has rallied about five dollars this week after Iran's missile attack on Zionist entity — but remaining around \$75 per barrel. This compares with more than \$90 at the start of the Zionist entity-Gaza war almost one year ago.

"Until the geopolitical situation in the Middle East deescalates, oil prices will clearly remain at risk of spiking higher," David Oxley, chief commodities analyst at Captial Economics research group, noted on Wednesday. "But against a backdrop of faltering demand and greater supply in the wider oil market, the risks to oil prices over the next year are arguably skewed to the downside."

Iran launched its second direct attack on Zionist entity in history on Tuesday, firing what it said were 200 missiles in retaliation for the killings of Tehran-backed militants.

Zionist entity's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to make Iran "pay" for its "big mistake", while Tehran on Wednesday warned that it would launch an even bigger attack if it is targeted.

Experts are unsure over the nature of potential retaliation, however. "With Zionist entity now expected to retaliate, the chances of further escalation are high, prompting a pivot in (oil) market sentiment from concerns over excess supply to fears of shortages," said Ricardo Evangelista, senior analyst at ActivTrades.

Tamas Varga, an analyst at oil broker PVM, said retaliation "could include damaging or obliterating Iran's oil facilities". Iran, producing around three million barrels of oil daily, is the world's ninth-largest producer of crude, according to current industry data.

Naeem Aslam, analyst at traders Zave Capital, said prices could be "flirting near the \$100" mark should a really serious threat materialize. But he added: "We continue to believe that the likelihood of such a prolonged war is improbable." Market watchers have drawn comparisons with Iran's attack against Zionist entity on April 13, which had no concrete follow-up and little impact on oil prices.

Meanwhile, ahead of US presidential elections next month, "the (Joe) Biden administration will not let oil prices soar", analyst John Plassard at investment group Mirabaud, told AFP. At the same time, Biden has ordered the US military to "aid Zionist entity's defense against Iranian attacks and shoot down missiles that are targeting Zionist entity".

For several months, global oil demand has been weighed down by an economic slowdown in China, the world's largest importer of crude, keeping world supplies elevated. That could change, however, after Beijing last week announced significant measures aimed at stimulating the world's second-biggest economy. "To reverse the trend, China needs an increase in consumer demand and a solution to the real-estate crisis," noted analyst Jorge Leon at research group Rystad Energy.

Supplies won a further boost Wednesday, with official data revealing a surprise jump in US crude stockpiles. Eight members of the OPEC+ group of oil-producing nations, including Saudi Arabia and Russia, did agree last month to extend their voluntary supply cuts until the end of November, postponing a planned output increase. However, "if Iran's production was disrupted, OPEC+ would be able to produce more...., probably around 3.5 million barrels per day", forecast Leon. — AFP

Bhutan inks huge renewable energy deal with Indian firm

THIMPHU, Bhutan: Bhutan has signed a deal with India's Reliance Group to build 1,270 megawatts' worth of renewable electricity projects in the Himalayan nation as it seeks to become an energy-exporting powerhouse. Tiny and landlocked, with a population of less than 800,000, Bhutan is wedged between China and India and is known for its policy of prioritizing "Gross National Happiness" over growth.

That policy, however, has not helped the government deal with widespread unemployment,

which has spurred thousands of young people to leave the country.

The power project is part of broader efforts to reverse that trend by soliciting foreign investment to drive economic growth, including through a much-hyped special economic zone known as the "Gelephu Mindfulness City". "Bhutan is rich in energy resources, and India's demand makes this partnership even more crucial," Ujjwal Deep Dahal, chief executive of Bhutan's state-owned Druk Holding and Investments (DHI), said in a press release late Wednesday.

The project commits Reliance Group, helmed by Indian billionaire Anil Ambani, to build in conjunction with DHI 770 megawatts of hydropower and 500 megawatts of solar projects in Bhutan.

If realized, the projects would be equal to just over half of Bhutan's current installed capacity of 2,444 megawatts, more than 99 percent of which is hydropower.

The agreement did not specify the cost of the investment or when the hydro project, known as Chamkharchhu-1, would be completed. It aims to have the solar plant up and running in the next two years. Part of the combined power output will be exported to India, Bhutan's main diplomatic and trade partner.

"We hope to become the largest Indian player in Bhutan, contributing to a greener future," Ambani said in a press release. "In this partnership, I also call on Bhutan to export its happiness to the 1.4 billion people in India." Part of the projects will also power the Mindfulness City, billed as a future home for foreign companies utilizing the kingdom's cheap and abundant hydropower resources, including for data centers and artificial intelligence companies.

There has been no official confirmation of when construction on that project will break ground or its total estimated budget. — AFP

Asia producers hail delay in EU deforestation law

BANGKOK: Producers from Malaysia's palm oil industry to Vietnam's coffee sector on Thursday welcomed a European Union decision to delay implementation of its anti-deforestation rules.

The year-long delay triggered immediate outcry from environmental groups, but the legislation had faced substantial pushback from many governments and industries. They criticized the law, which intended to prevent the import of products that drive deforestation, for confusing rules and complex documentation requirements that they said would particularly burden small-scale farmers.

The EU's decision to delay was a relief, said Trinh Duc Minh, chair of the Buon Ma Thuot Coffee Association. "The extension of the timeline is necessary and reasonable," he told AFP, though he noted coffee prices that rose as companies stockpiled before the deadline might now drop.

Nguyen Xuan Loi, head of Vietnamese coffee exporter An Thai Group, also hailed the news as a "positive move". "In reality, Vietnam has been strictly managing deforestation issues," he told AFP. "There are hardly any violations anymore."

Global Forest Watch says Vietnam's primary forest loss has fallen from a peak in 2016, but the country still lost about 16,500 hectares in 2023, with commodity-driven deforestation a leading cause.

EU imports accounted for 16 percent of deforestation linked to global trade in 2017, according to WWF. When the law was adopted in 2023 it was hailed as a major breakthrough to protect nature and the climate. It requires exporters of cocoa, soy, timber, cattle, palm oil, rubber, coffee — and items derived from those products — to certify their goods were not produced on land deforested after December 2020.

Countries including Malaysia and Indonesia have vocally opposed the new rules and the chorus of criticism grew louder as the December implementation deadline neared, with Brazil and the



PLEI BAU CAN, Vietnam: A man walking in a coffee farm in Plei Bau Can in Vietnam's central highlands, Gia Lai province. — AFP

United States among those voicing concern. Malaysia's Palm Oil Council welcomed the proposed delay as a "victory for common sense". The decision is a "welcome relief for all those businesses who highlighted the need for a delay," the body's head Belvinder Kaur Sron said.

"Malaysia has over the past two years consistently provided evidence... that the implementation date of 30th December, 2024 was unworkable, and the EU systems were not ready," the council added in a statement. It called for the EU to address outstanding demands, including exemptions for smallholders, clear benchmarking criteria and accepting Malaysia's sustainable palm oil standard. In Indonesia, the country's leading palm oil association also welcomed the delay.

"Our calls have been listened to," said its chairman Eddy Martono, who also urged the EU to accept Indonesian sustainability standards

and recognize its anti-deforestation efforts. Palm oil is one of Indonesia's top commodity exports, but also a key driver of deforestation. The country lost nearly 300,000 hectares of primary forest in 2023, an uptick from the previous year, though still down from the 2016 peak, according to Global Forest Watch. Indonesian environmentalists warned that the EU delay was likely to mean more unchecked deforestation.

"We can't imagine how much more land-clearing or deforestation the one-year delay could cause in West Kalimantan and other places like Papua," said Uli Arta Siagian at Indonesian environmental group WALHI. Uli acknowledged challenges in implementing the rules, but said there was no guarantee a year-long delay would fix those.

"It should have been implemented, and then the EU could see what needs to be corrected," she told AFP. "For us, this decision is disappointing." — AFP

Dutch airline KLM to cut investments due to rising costs

AMSTERDAM: Dutch airline KLM will cut costs and postpone investments to lift profits, it said on Thursday, as the industry grapples with rising equipment costs, staff shortages and higher airport fees.

The Dutch arm of airline group Air France said it aimed to improve its operating result by 450 million euros (\$497 million) in the short term, boosting its profit margin to above 8 per-

cent by 2028 from 5.4 percent in 2023.

Airlines across Europe have been struggling with rising costs, aircraft delivery delays, a levelling off of the post-pandemic travel boom, and a step up in competition. Air France KLM shares were up 1.5 percent in early trade, bucking a lower Amsterdam market. Measures include rejigging flights and scrapping an undisclosed number of office jobs, while seeking to increase productivity through automation and mechanization.

"Just as many other airlines, KLM is suffering from high costs and shortages of staff and equipment," Chief Executive Marjan Rintel said in a statement. The new flight schedule should provide a "better balance" between European and intercontinental flights, in an effort to improve the use of KLM's capacity and get more flying hours out

of its existing staff of pilots.

"We are not at 100 percent of our intercontinental capacity, which is where we should be," spokesperson Anoosjka Asperslagh said. "We will have to grow with our existing pool of pilots. We will look together with unions for ways to do so." The rebalancing does not mean that KLM will scrap flights, she added. KLM said it would "reconsider and postpone" investments, such as those in a new headquarters and new engineering and maintenance buildings, while striving to maintain planned billion-dollar investments in the renewal of its fleet.

It will also try to boost revenues by at least 100 million euros per year by introducing new onboard products, such as an expanded catering offer, and improving the layout of its planes. — AFP

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2024

Weekender

Riding the waves of adventure

With a one-way ticket, Naif left Kuwait behind, chasing a dream of being a free soul, surfing Bali's perfect waves. Naif, a 47-year-old Kuwaiti, has been captivated by extreme sports since childhood. As he grew older, his need for more daring experiences pushed him beyond Kuwait's borders. "I've been a swimmer for 15 years, and in 2015 I pursued my number one passion for surfing. I've traveled to many countries to surf but always returned to Bali, the international surf center of the world," he said.

Naif's journey began when the pandemic hit, and Kuwait's airport was about to shut down. He faced a fateful choice: stay in Kuwait and put his surfing passion on hold or catch the last flight to Bali and pursue his dream. "I followed my gut and went. Amid the chaos of the pandemic, I realized that Bali is my home and has everything I need — good surf, good people with positive energy,

Trading Kuwait for Bali's perfect swells, Naif embraces surfing and self-discovery

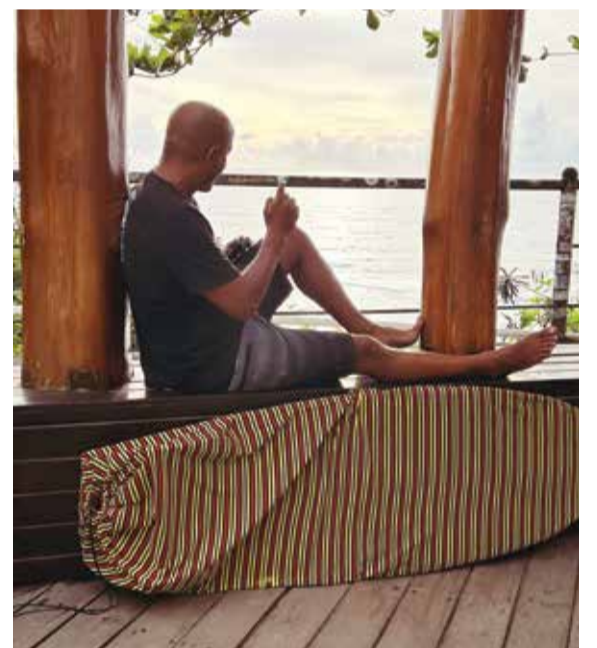


By Faten Omar

and smiles all around. Simple life, great healthy food. I knew the locals and the culture. It's welcoming, and they believe in karma, similar to my beliefs."

Naif explained Bali's surf culture: "The surf scene is international, with a mix of beginners and advanced surfers. There are both friendly and selfish people from around the world. In the end, everyone on the waves is dealing with a powerful force of nature. Waves bring out both the best and the worst in you. You don't want to hurt yourself or others. You also want to be aware of your surroundings and respect nature and people."

Surfing gave Naif a better understanding of people's energy. "You sense who you can trust and who to be cautious of. Facing fears with different sizes



and experiences to share. I didn't need to adjust — I felt right at home."

Naif elevated his surfing passion by competing in local Indonesian surf competitions. "It was a beautiful experience to compete in Bali among local and international surfers. The referees were kind, and the other surfers were happy to see me trying. Not a single negative remark. It felt like a family picnic — everyone was happy to see each other! I can't wait to compete in more competitions and improve my skills." Naif indicated he became a better person, with a stronger mindset and more compassion towards others. "I'm proud to be known in the Munich river surfing community as one of the locals. I'm also honored to have been sponsored by the Indonesian government to surf the 50-kilometer river wave known as the 7 Ghosts, which is a luxury in the surf world. I've surfed at the Mentawai Islands on the King Millennium II charter boat with amazing people, including Nazaré big-wave surfer Benjamin Sanches. I've made friends in Japan while surfing in the southern town of Ohki Beach. In Bali, I have a strong reputation and many surfer friends from different villages.

These unexpected moments — a mix of fear and thrill — become something you laugh about with experience."

Before surfing, Naif follows a pre-surf routine. "I always sleep for 10 hours. I bring dates from palm trees to eat before surfing for energy and nutrients. Sometimes I take a banana and share it with monkeys along the way. Once in the water, I paddle gently to warm up, then catch smaller waves to get my body ready before going for bigger ones."

Naif advises beginners to follow their passion, reminding them that the mind can push the body ten times harder. "Be mentally tough and never give up. Repetition is key!"



of waves helped me feel comfortable outside my comfort zone, even with people and their intentions. Now, I can tell who's comfortable in their skin and who's struggling. You have to respect both equally because we're all on our journey of self-discovery. I love that — the humanity and compassion."

Adjusting to Bali's simple lifestyle wasn't difficult for Naif, but he acknowledged that it's not for everyone. "Unlike big cities, Bali doesn't have everything, yet its people are the happiest. I concluded that life is about beautiful experiences, not material possessions. Sunset and sunrise are events where everyone appreciates nature and its colors. People from all walks of life come with stories

Together, we're always happy to surf and learn from each other. I've become one with nature, constantly pushing my surfing boundaries to new levels."

Naif's morning routine involves riding the waves at dawn. "Sunrise surfing is the best. I love the colors in the sky, the silence, and the smaller crowds. My favorite time is during the full moon — I surf at 4:30 am under the moonlight, like a football stadium's floodlights. When it gets crowded, I have breakfast and rest before the next session."

He shared stories of surfing in challenging conditions. "In Cape Town, my local friend kept an eye out for sharks while I surfed. In Munich, river surfing hazards included bricks lining the wave bottom. I hit my shins and cheek but avoided serious injury. In Bali, I once thought I saw a rock at the top of a fast-moving wave, but it was actually a turtle surfacing for air.





Crafting hyper-surreal worlds through Kuwaiti mythology

Young Kuwaiti artist Jassem Al-Sanea blends history, fantasy and culture in his captivating sculptures and paintings

Jassem Al-Sanea is a 24-year-old Kuwaiti artist known for his unique blend of hyper-surrealist paintings and sculptures. His work draws inspiration from fictional oral stories, Kuwaiti mythologies and collective historical experiences, such as post-war trauma. With a deep connection to his surroundings in Kuwait, Jassem creates art that challenges traditional styles while weaving hidden symbols and narratives into his maximalist creations.



By Sahar Moussa

Kuwait Times: Can you tell us a bit about your personal journey? How old were you when you first became interested in art, and what initially sparked your passion?

Jassem Al-Sanea: I've always been fascinated by art and world-building. As a child, I sought to challenge reality and bring my imagination into the physical world through art.

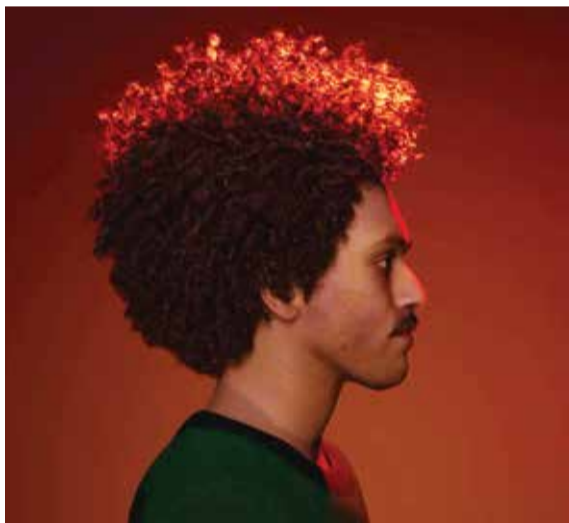
KT: How has your academic background influenced your artistic style and the way you approach both sculpture and painting?

Al-Sanea: My artistic language is heavily influenced by my early childhood fascination with 90s special effects in "witch" films.



KT: Can you share the story behind how you first got into both sculpture and painting? Did you discover them together or at different points in your life?

Al-Sanea: I started experimenting with special effects makeup and prop making when I was 8 years old, but as I got older, I shifted focus. Once I began growing facial hair, I moved away from special effects and pursued more traditional art forms, teaching myself painting and later sculpture. This journey eventually led to earning a bachelor's degree in fine arts.



KT: What themes or messages do you aim to convey through your art? Is there a particular subject that resonates deeply with you?

Al-Sanea: In my work, I blend fictional oral stories and Kuwaiti mythologies with historical collective experiences, like post-war trauma. I embed these narratives into hyper-surreal, maximalist artworks filled with hidden symbols.

KT: How does the culture and landscape of Kuwait influence your work, whether in your choice of materials, themes or forms?

Al-Sanea: Everything, from the concept to the materials and inspiration, is deeply rooted in my surroundings here in Kuwait. There's so much to reflect upon.



KT: Do you feel that your art reflects or challenges traditional Kuwaiti or Arab art styles? In what ways?

Al-Sanea: I wouldn't say my art reflects traditional regional styles. It's based on my personal fascination with the uncanny. While it doesn't follow traditional forms, I believe it challenges them — especially since my work is more figurative and hyperreal, which some might find conflicting or even immoral.

KT: Are there any specific materials you prefer work-

ing with for your sculptures, and do those materials carry symbolic significance in your art?

Al-Sanea: Each project is unique, with different tools and motifs symbolic to the work. I ensure that every element, especially the research, carries intentional conceptual and symbolic significance. Recently, I've been using sand, shells and myths as key symbols.

KT: What has been the most rewarding project in your career as a sculptor and painter, and what made it stand out for you?

Al-Sanea: The project I'm currently working on always feels the most rewarding. I'm most inspired by what's yet to come, rather than by what I've already accomplished.

KT: What were some of the challenges or key turning points in your journey as a Kuwaiti artist?

Al-Sanea: There's a lot happening in the art scene in Kuwait and the region, which makes me excited and hopeful. It's great to connect with like-minded people in such close proximity. Kuwait's size is ideal for community organizing, and there's so much talent here! The main challenge is access to resources, as there aren't many options for art materials.

KT: Do you have any upcoming exhibitions or projects that you're particularly excited about? Can you tell us more about them?

Al-Sanea: Yes, I have some very exciting things coming up in the next few months — new artworks and exhibits. You'll just have to stay tuned!



KUWAIT-BASED GALLERY BAWA MAKES FIRST INTERNATIONAL APPEARANCE IN PARIS

By Talal Abueljebain

In the city of Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, a chance encounter in 2016 sparked a creative partnership that would propel two Middle Eastern artists to international acclaim. Yasmeen Al Sudairy and Rajaa Al Hajj, two visionary women whose styles seamlessly merged, have now showcased their work at the Menart Fair in Paris - a milestone not just for them, but for Kuwait-based Gallery Bawa, the institution that represents artists from our region.

Rajaa auditioned for a play in which Yasmeen was acting. Their initial connection was rooted in art, it didn't take long for their shared passion for visual art to bring them together. "We started collaborating on a painting without any plans, and it just clicked," Yasmeen recalled. The pair realized they had an intuitive creative chemistry, blending Yasmeen's mechanical forms with Rajaa's surreal, organic shapes. Their work soon became a harmonious reflection of what they describe as "organized chaos," a dynamic concept that would define their collaborative efforts.



Intuitive Collaboration: A Reflection of Their Souls

Yasmeen and Rajaa's artistic partnership thrives on a delicate balance of structure and spontaneity, allowing their styles to merge seamlessly. Yasmeen's precise, mechanical forms create a sense of order, while Rajaa's surreal, organic shapes introduce fluidity and imagination. This harmonious blend is more than just visual - it's a reflection of their inner worlds and emotional journeys.

Yasmeen's *Postpartum* (2024), for instance, explores the profound impact of the postnatal period. The deep purple color and intricate geometric forms symbolize her sense of recalibration after childbirth. "I felt like a machine recalculating itself," she explained, referencing how the work captures her body's internal shifts, paired along with clusters of corporal and bodily references.

Rajaa complements this with her dreamlike compositions, adding layers of emotional depth to their shared works. Together, their pieces become a fusion of the mechanical and the organic, offering a window into their souls. "It's like we're mirrors for each other," Yasmeen



noted, emphasizing how their work flows intuitively. Through years of collaboration, their styles have not only merged but evolved into a language that communicates both complexity and harmony - a testament to their shared creative vision.

The Menart Fair in Paris marked a new chapter for both artists. While they have previously exhibited in Saudi Arabia and Switzerland, this exhibition was different. The Menart Fair exclusively showcased female artists from the Middle East and North Africa, offering Yasmeen and Rajaa the space to present their work alongside like-minded creators from across the region. "This is our first major presentation in Paris, and we were both excited and nervous," Yasmeen shared. "We were eager to see how our work resonated with a global audience, especially in a city known for its rich art culture."

Rajaa echoes her collaborator's sentiments, noting the significance of being part of a fair that celebrates



Yasmeen Al Sudairy and Rajaa Al Hajj

female artists. "It's empowering to be part of this collective," she said. "We didn't just represent ourselves, but also the many talented women artists from the Gulf."

Gallery Bawa: Kuwait's Rising Art Powerhouse

At the heart of this exhibition is Gallery Bawa, founded in Kuwait in 2020. This year's participation in the Menart Fair is a monumental achievement for the gallery, as it becomes the first from Kuwait to exhibit in Paris. Bandar Al-Wazzan, founder of Bawa, sees this as a crucial step in the gallery's mission to elevate Middle



Eastern artists on a global stage. "To show artists like Yasmeen and Rajaa in an international venue like Paris is a huge honor," Bandar said. "It's about putting GCC artists on the map and showcasing the incredible talent coming from our region."

For Kuwait, Bawa's involvement in the Menart Fair is a moment of cultural pride. It not only highlighted the gallery's success but also signaled Kuwait's growing influence in the global art world. Through Bawa's platform, Yasmeen and Rajaa have been able to focus more on their production as a duo, refining their work in preparation for this important exhibition.

For Yasmeen and Rajaa, the Menart Fair was more than just an exhibition. It's a celebration of their partnership, their individual growth, and a testament to Gallery Bawa's mission of fostering collaborative, honest, and innovative art from the Middle East. Anyone eager to follow their journey, Gallery Bawa offers ongoing updates on their exhibitions, and art lovers can explore the works of Yasmeen, Rajaa, and other GCC artists through their official platforms and social media channels.



WHAT'S ON IN KUWAIT

Event: Artistic Night "Brushes to Lebanon"
Location: ARTNDINE
Date: October 4, 2024

Event: "French Vision Kuwaiti Lens 2" Exhibition
Location: Kuwait National Library
Date: October 6, 2024

Event: Kuwaiti Bands
Location: The Promenade
Date: October 3-5, 2024

Event: Beit Alomr Expo
Location: Kuwait International Fairground - Hall 5, 6, 8
Date: October 7-12, 2024

Event: "Robots" Educational Workshop
Location: Jaber Al-Ahmad Youth Center
Date: October 6-8, 2024

Event: Kuwait's 5th Nasa Space
Location: Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Cultural Center
Date: October 3-6, 2024

Event: Call for Comedians
Location: ART Scene
Date: October 4, 2024

Sports

Messi scores two as Miami clinch MLS Supporters' Shield

Columbus are second in the East with Cincinnati

WASHINGTON: Lionel Messi scored twice as Inter Miami beat the defending Major League Soccer champions the Columbus Crew 3-2 to clinch the Supporters' Shield awarded for the best regular season record.

Minutes later, Messi made it 2-0, taking advantage of a poorly assembled wall to curl a laser-precision free-kick into the corner past the stationary Columbus keeper Patrick Schulte. Messi, who recently returned from a two month injury absence, has now scored 17 goals and produced 15 assists in 17 matches.

But 20 seconds after the start of the second half, Columbus pulled a goal back when the ball fell to Diego Rossi just inside the box and he cleverly curled his shot into the far corner.

Straight from the restart, Columbus gifted Miami a third when Schulte raced off his line but with defender Rudy Camacho in his way, he dropped the ball to Luis Suarez who headed into the unguarded goal.

The Crew battled back again though and made it 3-2 through a Cucho Hernandez penalty after Noah Allen handled in the box. But once again, the momentum Columbus had gained was lost when Camacho was sent off for a second yellow card after a studs up challenge on Federico Redondo.

Seven minutes from the end though, the Crew had a glorious chance to grab a point—and deny Miami their celebration—when a penalty was awarded for handball against Ian Fray after a VAR review.

But this time Colombian Hernandez's penalty was

weak and Miami keeper Drake Callender dived to his right and saved to secure the Shield for his team.

"I'm happy to achieve the first goal and think about what's coming. Today was a very tough opponent. We knew it, they are the last champion of the Leagues Cup. They are a great team," Messi told Apple TV. "(Although they were) down a man, we suffered until the end and that shows what this team is," he said.

Meet again?

The champion of MLS is determined by the winner of the MLS Cup playoffs—where Eastern Conference rivals the Crew and Miami could meet again.

Inter Miami have 68 points with two matches remaining, ensuring they'll finish the MLS campaign as the league's best record. If they win both games, they'll establish a new single-season points record.

Inter, the Eastern Conference top seeds, will have home-field advantage throughout the playoffs.

Columbus are second in the East with Cincinnati, who lost 3-2 to New York City, in third place. Orlando, who beat Philadelphia 2-1 are fourth.

The eighth and ninth placed teams in each conference will meet in the wild card round. The first round of the playoffs are played on a "best of three" basis with the top four teams given two home games. The conference semi-finals and finals are single elimination games.

Messi said the Shield was a "secondary" prize for his team and said the MLS Cup title remains the main goal for the team. "The first objective has been achieved and now we have to think about what's next," he said.

ing worked with him in the past. He was really close to being in the last squad but got injured just before selection," said Carsley.

"He did so well at Bournemouth and now he's taken that form into Spurs. He's got a lot of really good attributes." Palmer withdrew from the last England camp through injury but returns after scoring five times in his past two games for Chelsea.

"I've known Cole for a number of years and seen how he's progressed," said Carsley. "Every challenge put in front of him he takes in his stride, he doesn't get too high or too low. It's great to see him doing well."

The interim boss said it was a challenge to juggle the wealth of creative talent at his disposal, with Palmer, Foden and Bellingham all in the mix. "We always look at finding the right balance, who complements who in terms of the way that we play," he said.

"I try not to get too caught up in positions, it's more the attributes and the way we can potentially attack the opposition. All three are excellent players." Carsley was announced as interim boss in August following the departure of Gareth Southgate after England's Euro 2024 final defeat to Spain.

The 50-year-old oversaw victories in his first two games in charge against Ireland and Finland but said his situation had not changed. "I think it's clear what my remit is," he said. "It's to take these three camps in the Nations League. I'm happy with that. My situation hasn't changed and I'm looking forward to the camp."

Sevilla and lifted the competition for a fourth time with Villarreal in 2021 to deliver the club's first ever major trophy. The next season Villarreal reached the Champions League semi-finals, knocking out Juventus and Bayern along the way. Villa are now reaping the rewards of Emery's shrewd tactical mind and ability to polish rough diamonds.

'Moving forward'

Chelsea, Manchester United and Tottenham were among the sides with bigger budgets that were beaten into fourth place by Villa in the Premier League last season. In doing so, Emery's men beat both title contenders Manchester City and Arsenal 1-0 at Villa Park in December and repeated that trick against a Bayern team that arrived in England in free-scoring form. Bayern were stifled by Villa's organization and hit with the sucker punch by super sub Jhon Duran.

The Colombian lobbed Manuel Neuer 11 minutes from time to score his fifth goal this season after coming off the bench. Emi Martinez was then needed to make two huge saves in the dying moments as a Bayern side that had averaged over four goals a game since Vincent Kompany took charge were shut out.

"It's a statement but there are still a lot of games to play. We want to qualify in the top eight," said Argentina's World Cup winner Martinez. "This is the loudest Villa Park that I've heard since I joined the club, that's for sure."

"It's a club that is moving forward. I love playing here, I love the fans. This is a win for them." Emery's gameplan even won the seal of royal approval. He



COLUMBUS: Lionel Messi #10 of Inter Miami CF controls the ball against Malte Amundsen #18 of the Columbus Crew during the first half at Lower.com Field on October 02, 2024 in Columbus, Ohio. — AFP

"The first round is three games but then it's one game and anything can happen. But we have the great advantage of playing all the games at home, which is what we were looking for. We are very strong at home."

Seventh-placed Charlotte, coached by former As-

ton Villa manager Dean Smith, secured the final automatic place in the East with Karol Swiderski scoring twice in a 4-3 win over the Chicago Fire. Brazilian Gabriel Pirani scored twice in stoppage time as DC United came from behind to win 4-3 at Nashville and keep their hopes of a wild card spot alive. — AFP

Solanke handed England recall as Bellingham returns

LONDON: Dominic Solanke has been called up to the England squad for games against Greece and Finland seven years after winning his only cap, with Jude Bellingham back for the first time since Euro 2024.

Manchester United's Harry Maguire and Marcus Rashford miss out while Tottenham playmaker James Maddison is also overlooked by interim manager Lee Carsley for the Nations League fixtures. England take on Greece at Wembley in Group B2 next Thursday before heading to Helsinki to face Finland three days later.

Solanke's sole international cap came as a substitute against Brazil in 2017 but the 27-year-old has impressed since joining Tottenham from Bournemouth in August, scoring in his past three games. Real Madrid's Bellingham, in-form Cole Palmer, Phil Foden, Kyle Walker and Ollie Watkins are in the 25-man squad after missing last month's games against Ireland and Finland for various reasons.

But Crystal Palace's Eberechi Eze has been left out after a disappointing start to the season. "Dom's (Solanke) a player I'm fully aware of hav-



Dominic Solanke

England squad:

Goalkeepers: Dean Henderson, Jordan Pickford, Nick Pope

Defenders: Marc Guehi, Ezri Konsa, John Stones, Trent Alexander-Arnold, Levi Colwill, Rico Lewis, Kyle Walker.

Midfielders: Conor Gallagher, Kobbie Mainoo, Declan Rice, Cole Palmer, Morgan Gibbs-White, Angel Gomes, Phil Foden, Jude Bellingham.

Forwards: Jack Grealish, Anthony Gordon, Harry Kane, Noni Madueke, Bukayo Saka, Ollie Watkins, Dominic Solanke. — AFP

Conte plays down Napoli's title chances

MILAN: Antonio Conte has taken Napoli back to the top of Serie A for the first time since they won the title in 2023 but he says while the fans can dream of regaining the crown "I have to keep my feet on the ground."

The next test of their title credentials comes on Friday as they host in-form Como, coached by former Spain and Arsenal star Cesc Fabregas. Napoli, perhaps benefitting from not being engaged in European competition, after a disastrous defence of their crown resulted in them finishing 10th last season, go into the seventh round of matches a point clear of Juventus at the top. However, it is a congested table with AC Milan, Inter Milan and previous table-toppers Torino just two points off Napoli on 11. A further three clubs are on 10 points and Como, on the back of two successive victories, are a respectable 10th with eight points.

Inter Milan host Torino on Saturday, coming into the game fresh from a good win in the Champions League phase—and with Argentinian star Lautaro Martinez rediscovering his scoring form. Torino will want to get back to winning ways after two successive home defeats, in the cup against Empoli and then to Lazio in the league.

Juventus and AC Milan both have good opportunities to pick up three points to keep the pressure on Napoli. Juventus host lowly Cagliari on Sunday with AC Milan travelling to mid-table Fiorentina. Little wonder the no-nonsense Conte is not permitting himself to make any bold predictions with the season still young.

Indeed the 55-year-old, who has won the Serie A title four times as a coach—guiding Juventus to three Scudettos and Inter Milan to one—sees both sides of the coin regarding the southern side's lack of involvement in European competition.

"There is an advantage and a disadvantage—the advantage is that you can train the team all week, the disadvantage is that the squad is not as competitive as those that do play in Europe," Conte told DAZN.

Conte, who due to being a proven winner is regarded as worth hiring despite a history of taking on club directors, said so much had happened at the club recently—including the departure of Nigerian forward Victor Osimhen, in a surprising loan move to Turkish club Galatasaray—they still need time to settle down.

"Not even three months have passed, the president (Aurelio De Laurentiis) is the first to have spoken of a total reconstruction," he said. "Osimhen and (Piotr) Zielinski left. I know there are high expectations for me because I have done important things. — AFP



Unai Emery

was afforded an audience with Villa fan Prince William, who was among the more than 40,000 crowd celebrating a famous night.

"I told him the best moment we can pass is days like today," said Emery of his meeting with Britain's future king. "I don't know where (Villa can go) but we are going to try to enjoy the way. Today we (will) remember how we played, who we played and the Champions League final from 42 years ago. It was a special day."

Forward Morgan Rogers was playing in the Championship earlier this year for Middlesbrough, but is another who Emery has moulded into a player now taking the Champions League in his stride. "It's a pinch me moment," Rogers said of his meteoric rise. "We're not here to just compete, we're here to try and win games." — 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, **Hussain Shabbir Hussain**, holder of Indian Passport No. N0422293 having permanent address of Aabedin Colony, Opposite Saifiyah School Play Ground, Sagwara (Rajasthan) PinCode 314025, I hereby declare that my name will be read as (given name) Hussain, (father name): Shabbir, (surname): Shayer.
(# 6151 03/10/2024)

Real Madrid beaten in Champions League as Villa shock Bayern

Slot makes Liverpool history as Reds beat Bologna



LIVERPOOL: Bologna's Polish goalkeeper #01 Lukasz Skorupski makes a save during the UEFA Champions League league stage football match between Liverpool and Bologna at Anfield in Liverpool. — AFP

Bangladesh edge Scotland in T20 WCup opener

SHARJAH: Bangladesh kicked off the Women's T20 World Cup campaign with a scrappy 16-run win over tournament debutants Scotland in the searing heat of Sharjah on Thursday.

After winning the toss and batting first, Sobhana Mostary top-scored with 36 for Bangladesh in a below par total of 119-7. Their bowlers then strangled the Scotland reply and in spite of Sarah Bryce's 49 not out, the newcomers could only muster 103-7 in reply, handing Bangladesh their first win in a T20 World Cup in a decade.

It was a tough opener for both sides with temperatures hitting 38 degrees celsius and the batters stymied by a sluggish pitch and slow outfield. There were just 15 fours in the match and no sixes to cheer the sparsely-populated stands.

The Bangladesh innings got off to a solid start with an opening partnership of 26 before Murschida Khatun, dropped on 12, slogged the next ball she faced from Katheryn Bryce to mid-on where Katherine Fraser took the catch.

Shathi Rani then combined with Sobhana Mostary to add 42 for the second wicket before Shathi's attempt to accelerate the scoring resulted in a skied catch to Saskia Horley at mid-on, her 29 coming off 32 balls.

Taj Nehar, on her 27th birthday, was run out for a duck before Mostary charged down the wicket to Olivia Bell and was comfortably stumped by Sarah Bryce for 36 from 38 balls. The end of the innings fell away with Bangladesh's star batter Nigar Sultana Joty, playing her 100th T20I, falling in the final over for 18, a third wicket for Saskia Horley who finished with 3-13 in two overs.

Scotland's reply began poorly with the early dismissal of Horley, stumped off the impressive Fahima Khatun. When Marufa bowled Katheryn Bryce with one that nipped back and kept low, Scotland were already behind the pace at 31-2 at the end of the six-over powerplay and they never made that up.

Player of the match Ritu Moni nipped in with 2-15 from her four overs as Bangladesh chipped away at the Scottish batters, while Sarah Bryce, who also kept wicket, began to feel the effects of the heat. Her 49 off 52 balls featured just one boundary which tells the tale of Scotland's defeat. Pakistan play Sri Lanka in the day's second match later in Sharjah. — AFP

PARIS: Holders Real Madrid suffered a shock 1-0 loss to Lille in the Champions League on Wednesday, while Aston Villa defeated Bayern Munich 1-0 in a repeat of the 1982 European Cup final. Liverpool continued their flying start under new boss Arne Slot with a 2-0 victory at home to Bologna to secure a second successive win over Italian opposition this season.

Kylian Mbappe made his return from injury for Madrid in France as a substitute but he was upstaged by Jonathan David, whose penalty condemned Carlo Ancelotti's side to a first loss in all competitions since January — a run spanning 36 matches. "It hasn't been a very good night for us, we shouldn't look for excuses," said Ancelotti.

"We could have equalized at the end but it wouldn't have been deserved." Canada international David, scorer of a hat-trick in Ligue 1 at the weekend, buried his spot-kick at the end of the first half after Eduardo Camavinga used his arm to block a strike from Edon Zhegrova.

Lille goalkeeper Lucas Chevalier produced a string of late saves as the French club clung on for a famous win over the record 15-time European champions. Villa also enjoyed a night to remember as a brilliant goal from in-form Colombian forward Jhon Duran lifted the hosts past Bayern.

Duran's majestic lob in the 79th minute caught Manuel Neuer well out of position and earned Villa their second win in a row in the club's first appear-

ance in Europe's top competition in 41 years. Harry Kane almost snatched a last-gasp equalizer but Villa goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez pulled off a superb stop to deny the England captain.

"It's unreal to be fair. This is the loudest Villa Park that I've heard since I joined the club, that's for sure, it was hurting my ears at some point," Martinez told TNT Sports. "It's a statement, there's still a lot to play. We want to qualify in the first eight, in the top eight, it's one step at a time."

At Anfield, Alexis Mac Allister prodded in from close range after meeting Mohamed Salah's cross to give Liverpool an early lead. Dan Ndoye hit the post for Champions League debutants Bologna, but Salah made the game safe with a terrific curling effort in the final quarter of an hour.

Slot is the first Liverpool manager to win eight of his opening nine matches, surpassing even the likes of Jurgen Klopp, Kenny Dalglish, Bill Shankly and Bob Paisley. "It's hardly impossible to do something special at this club. It says a lot about how we started how players bought into it, the effort put in," said Slot.

Juventus resilient as Atletico flop

Juventus won 3-2 in a thrilling encounter against RB Leipzig in Germany despite having goalkeeper Michele Di Gregorio sent off for handling outside his area. Leipzig led twice through goals from Benjamin Sesko but Juventus replied both times through

Dusan Vlahovic, his magnificent second coming just after Di Gregorio saw red on the hour.

Francisco Conceicao's fine solo effort late on won it for Juventus, who are one of seven teams with maximum points in the new 36-team league phase. Atletico Madrid fell to a humiliating 4-0 loss at Benfica.

The Portuguese team went ahead through Kerem Akturkoglu, with Angel Di Maria extending the lead from the penalty spot. Alexander Bah headed home the third and Orkun Kokcu completed the rout with another penalty. Monaco rallied from two goals down on a sodden pitch to salvage a 2-2 draw away to Dinamo Zagreb. Goals from Petar Susic and Martin Baturlina had Dinamo on course for victory, but Mohammed Salisu halved the deficit for Monaco before Dennis Zakaria equalized from the spot in the final minute.

Champions League newcomers Girona slid to a second straight defeat after scoring two own goals in a 3-2 home loss to Feyenoord. David Lopez put Girona ahead before Yangel Herrera turned into his own net and Antoni Milambo then gave Feyenoord the lead.

Donny van de Beek equalized in the second half but Ladislav Krejci's own goal sank Girona as both sides also missed a penalty. Atalanta strolled to a 3-0 win over Shakhtar Donetsk in Gelsenkirchen with goals from Berat Djimsiti, Ademola Lookman and Raoul Bellanova. Club Brugge picked up their first points courtesy of Christos Tzolis' goal in a 1-0 win at Sturm Graz. — AFP

Coco Gauff survives scare to reach China Open semi-finals

BEIJING: Coco Gauff survived a scare to beat Ukrainian qualifier Yulia Starodubtseva in three sets and reach the China Open semi-finals on Thursday. The 2023 US Open champion will face Paula Badosa after the Spaniard ended the fairytale run of China's 595th-ranked Zhang Shuai in straight sets.

Gauff, seeded four, fought back to defeat 115th-ranked Starodubtseva 2-6, 6-2, 6-2 in Beijing. The 20-year-old American recently parted ways with coach Brad Gilbert as she attempts to regain the form that brought her a first Grand Slam crown last year.

Gauff's serve has become a particular problem and it was so again as she surrendered the first set. But Gauff recovered her poise to battle back in the second — it was the first set Starodubtseva had dropped in her seventh match at the tournament.

Gauff, who is chasing an eighth singles title, surged into a 3-0 lead in the deciding set on the way to sealing her place in the semi-finals. In the other quarter-final on the day, former world number two Badosa disappointed the home fans with

a 6-1, 7-6 (7/4) defeat of Zhang.

The 35-year-old Zhang, a two-time Grand Slam singles quarter-finalist who has been plagued by injury, arrived in Beijing on a run of 24 defeats in a row. The painful losing run, stretching more than 600 days, was the second-longest on the WTA Tour in the Open Era, which began in 1968.

But the former top-25 player finally won a match to start her tournament and then rattled off three more victories to improbably reach the last eight. In front of a near-capacity crowd at the 15,000-seater Diamond Court, Zhang went a double break down in a blur of unforced errors.

She finally held to get on the board for 4-1, but Badosa raced away with the first set in 23 minutes. The second was closer and they went to a tie break. Badosa, who is looking to win a fifth singles title, sealed the deal on her first match point when Zhang's forehand return drifted wide. Zhang was the lowest-ranked player ever to reach this stage at the China Open.

With her fellow players including Badosa encouraging her not to give up, Zhang said: "Before my plan was to play more doubles, focus on doubles. But now I think I have to change the plan. Paula told me I have to play. Don't retire." "Should I continue as a doubles player? I did not want that."

Zhang, who has won two major titles in doubles, said that as much as anything else, she did not know what to do beyond tennis. Despite being an elite player she said she had been turned down to be a



BEIJING: USA's Coco Gauff hits a return to Ukraine's Yulia Starodubtseva during their women's singles quarterfinal match at the China Open tournament in Beijing on October 3, 2024. — AFP

coach at a prestigious university in Beijing because she did not have a local residential permit.

"I did not have any other options. I had to continue my path on the tour," she said. "I do not know what I can do after I retire," said Zhang, a popular figure in the locker room. "I think the only thing left for me is to continue to be on the tour, to be a professional tennis player. "Other than that, what can I do?"

Top seed Arina Sabalenka plays Karolina Muchova on Friday for a place in the last four. The winner will face Russian teenager Mirra Andreeva or China's Olympic champion Zheng Qinwen. — AFP