

R RIDE SAFE
BOOK YOUR RIDE NOW
@ridesafe.app
DOWNLOAD THE APP NOW

3 Kuwait remains steadfast in support to Palestinian cause



8 Bursa Kuwait joins global stock exchanges to commemorate WIW



13 Too hot by day, Dubai's floodlit beaches are packed at night



16 Beleaguered Man United battle to 0-0 draw at Villa



A year of intense Zionist terror

Dozens killed in attacks on Gaza mosque, school • Beirut hit by heaviest bombardment



KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Sunday First Deputy Prime Minister and Interior and Defense Minister Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef Al-Sabah, accompanied by the newly appointed Director General of the General Department of Investigations Maj Gen Dr Faisal Khaled Al-Mukrad, who took the oath before HH the Amir. — KUNA

GAZA/BEIRUT: Hamas is rebuilding despite nearly a year of devastating Zionist air strikes and fighting, even as Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu claimed on Sunday his country's military "completely transformed reality" in the year since the Oct 7 Gaza war. In Gaza, the Zionist military said it had encircled the northern area of Jabaliya after indications Hamas was rebuilding.

Rescuers said 17 people, including nine children, were killed on Sunday by Zionist air strikes on the area. "The shelling is

SEE PAGES 6 & 7

random and violent in multiple directions and we do not know where the shelling is coming from and we do not know where to go," Gaza resident Jameel Al-Habibi told AFP. In recent months, Zionist troops have returned to several areas across the Palestinian territory where they had previously conducted operations against Hamas, only to find fighters regrouping. Gaza's health ministry said on Sunday a Zionist strike

Continued on Page 6



GAZA: Bodies of victims of a Zionist strike that targeted a mosque in Deir al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip are laid in the courtyard of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital on Oct 6, 2024. — AFP

In my view

Every day is October 7 in Palestine

By Nejouad Al-Yagout

local@kuwaittimes.com

Yes, October 7 was abominable. No human being would support the killing of another human being. It goes against our universal spiritual principles. But October 7 has been happening every single day to Palestinians since the actual October 7, but nobody saves the date of October 7, October 8, October 9, October 10 and every single day since (and before) that day to today.

In fact, Palestine has had so many October 7s in the last century that people around the world, no matter how frustrated and anguished, have become almost hopeless in the face of Zionist atrocities. It seems as though the Zionists will keep up their justifications for protecting their security until the world realizes that something is amiss.

Let's ponder for ourselves who needs more protection from whom: How many Zionist refugees are there in the world? How many Zionist refugee shelters are there? How many Zionists have had their homes invaded by Palestinians? How many Zionists need proper documentation to travel from one part of the land to another? How many Zionists rely on donations to keep their families afloat?

Continued on Page 6

Khamenei decorates commander as Iran ready for any attack

TEHRAN: Iran's supreme leader has decorated the Revolutionary Guards aerospace commander for the Islamic republic's missile attacks on arch-foe the Zionist entity, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's website said on Sunday. "Ayatollah Khamenei presented the Order of Fath (Conquest) to General Amir Ali Hajizadeh, commander of the Guards Aerospace Force," it said. The decoration was bestowed because of "the brilliant 'Honest Promise' operation", the website said.

Hajizadeh, 62, has headed the Guards aerospace unit since its creation in 2009. On Tuesday, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) fired some 200 missiles at the Zionist entity in retaliation for a Zionist air strike that killed Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah and IRGC top general Abbas Nilforoushan in Beirut. It was also in retaliation for the killing of Palestinian Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh on July 31 in Tehran.

It was Iran's second direct attack on the Zionist entity in six months, after a missile and drone assault in April in retaliation for a deadly strike on Iran's consulate in Damascus. The Zionist entity has vowed to respond after Tuesday's Iranian missile attack. Flights from all Iran's airports will be canceled until 6 am local time on Monday from 9 pm

Continued on Page 6



TEHRAN: Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei decorates IRGC Aerospace Force Commander Brig Gen Amir Ali Hajizadeh with the 'Fath' order on Oct 6, 2024. — AFP

Thousands rally worldwide for Gaza, Lebanon

WASHINGTON: Tens of thousands of protesters marched in cities around the world over the weekend calling for a ceasefire in Gaza and Lebanon as the war in the Palestinian territory neared the one-year mark. Demonstrations were held in major cities from Jakarta to Istanbul to Rabat on Sunday, and followed protests on Saturday in major European capitals as well as Washington and New York. "We are here to support the Palestinian resistance," said protester Ahmet Unal in Istanbul, where thousands assembled.

In Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim-majority country, at least 1,000 pro-Palestinian protesters gathered on Sunday morning near the US embassy demanding that Washington stop supplying weapons to the Zionist entity. In Sydney, thousands of pro-Palestinian protesters gathered ahead of the Oct 7 anniversary, chanting and waving Lebanese and Palestinian flags amid a heavy police presence.

In Rabat, thousands of Moroccans marched, calling for a halt to the violence in Gaza and Lebanon, in one of the largest protests in the country since the beginning of the war in Gaza. Protesters demanded an end to Morocco's diplomatic ties with the Zionist entity, chanting "no to normalization, Palestine is not for sale," referring

Continued on Page 6



RABAT: Protesters burn a Zionist flag during a rally in solidarity with Palestinians in the Moroccan capital on Oct 6, 2024. — AFP

Wynn Resorts wins UAE's first gaming license

DUBAI: US hotel and casino operator Wynn has received the first commercial gaming operator's license to be issued in the United Arab Emirates. The license was issued by the General Commercial Gaming Regulatory Authority, which was set up last year to allow for commercial gaming licenses to be issued in the Gulf Arab state.

"Wynn Resorts ... is proud to be the recipient of the first commercial gaming facility license in the UAE," said a statement posted on the group's website on Saturday. It made no mention of casinos. Wynn operates casinos in Las Vegas and Boston as well as in Macau, a Chinese territory close to Hong Kong.

It is developing a luxury resort at Wynn Al Marjan Island in Ras Al Khaimah, one of the seven sheikhdoms that constitute the UAE which includes the tourist hub of Dubai. The 1,542-room resort will have gaming amenities and is scheduled to open in early 2027. Gambling is prohibited under Islamic laws in the Gulf state, where the population is 90 percent foreign.

UAE authorities have made a series of liber-

alizing moves amid regional competition, notably from Saudi Arabia and Qatar. These included lifting a ban on unmarried couples living together, loosening restrictions on alcohol and offering long-term residencies. In 2022, the UAE adopted a Western-style Saturday-Sunday weekend, in what experts said was an attempt to maintain its edge over regional competitors.

Another US gaming giant, MGM Resorts, filed for a gaming license in September, according to CEO Bill Hornbuckle, who confirmed that MGM's planned project would be located in Abu Dhabi. The UAE last month set up a federal entity to regulate gaming and hired veterans of the US industry to lead it. — Agencies



NBK launches workshop on tech majors in collaboration with KU

Workshop within 'NBKConnect' program to increase students' awareness

KUWAIT: Underscoring its leading role in supporting educational initiatives to upskill the Kuwaiti youth and open future horizons for them to be active players in society, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) organized a workshop titled "Tech Majors" for Kuwait University students majored in IT and Data Science within "NBKConnect" program.

These workshops that run for 7 days from October 2nd to 9th, aim to increase participants' awareness about the required majors in the banking sector, especially with the rapid digital advancement and the banking industry's reliance on cutting-edge technologies and AI.

The first workshop was held at the Faculty of Science for students with a passion for technology and digitization. It will enable students to identify the necessary skills that need to be developed to increase their opportunities in the labor market, by providing them with detailed information about jobs requirements in the banking sector.

On this occasion, Emad Al-Ablani, GM –Head of Group Human Resources at National Bank of Kuwait's aid: "This workshop aims to familiarize students with technology uses in banking, including digital banking systems, AI, Big Data, IT Security, Robotics, Programming, and Cybersecurity, as these majors are the future of the financial services industry, making them essential for students seeking to build a thriving career."

Al-Ablani explained that such initiatives reflect NBK's vision and keenness to keep pace with the rapidly changing requirements of the digital era, as well as its awareness of the crucial importance of developing and nurturing highly skilled talents in areas like information systems, data, computer science, and cybersecurity. "Kuwait has a talented and promising generation with professional skills and abilities in technology and digitization," he noted.

"This workshop is a valuable opportunity for students to engage in effective discussions with industry experts, enabling them to gain a deeper



Emad Al-Ablani



A group photo taken during the workshop.

We seek to contribute to the development of national professionals who will add value to the Kuwaiti economy

- We aim to open future horizons for the Kuwaiti youth to meet the challenges of the changing labor market
- The workshop aims to familiarize students with the required majors in banking
- Kuwait has a talented and promising generation with high skills and capabilities in technology and digitization

understanding of the nature of work in financial institutions," he emphasized.

"We are always keen to attract, train and upskill high-caliber national talent, and qualify them to join

the banking sector. We are also dedicated building outstanding cadres who can take on leadership roles in the future and add value to NBK, the banking sector and the Kuwaiti economy in general," he added.

NBK seeks to prepare a generation of national cadres who can contribute to the development of the Kuwaiti economy and providing innovative solutions in the banking industry, as such workshops represent an important step towards motivating students to explore their career options and providing them with the knowledge and skills tools needed to face the challenges of the labor market in the future. NBK is committed to attracting, training and upskilling high-caliber national talent and qualifying them to join the banking sector, in line with New Kuwait Vision 2035 which aims to promote Kuwaitization in the private sector. In addition, the bank has highest employee recruitment and retention rates, and the private sector employer of choice for Kuwaiti fresh graduates.

Cosmetic surgery: A true solution or just an obsession?

By Passant Hisham

KUWAIT: Many women pursue cosmetic surgeries with the false expectation that changing their appearance will alter how they feel about themselves. However, this often results in even greater disappointment after the procedure.

"Self-confidence must come from within: it's not something I can give to a patient," said Dr Yasser Najaf Ghaleb, a facial plastic surgeon in Kuwait, referring to women who mostly approach him out of insecurity about their own appearances.

He described this as a phenomenon mostly stemming from Body Dysmorphic Disorder (BDD). Patients with BDD, according to National Library of Medicine, believe they appear ugly or deformed — for example, thinking they have a large, 'repulsive' nose when in reality they look normal.

"Eventually, it becomes an obsession, not just an idea," Ghaleb said. "Especially when women assume that changing their appearance will alter the course of their lives, securing better job opportunities, marriage prospects, and more." For him, understanding the motive behind a woman's desire for plastic surgery is crucial, as he believes permanent choices like this should not arise from temporary emotions, such as those triggered by recent negative life experiences, like recent breakups or job losses. He also emphasizes the importance of ensuring that the decision is neither impulsive nor influenced by social media or peer pressure. Instead, it should be a mature choice grounded in sound reasoning.

This is why the psychological aspect is an integral part of his practice. "Many times, I sense that my clients need to see a psychologist instead, so I



Dr Yasser Najaf Ghaleb



Dr Ghaleb during a surgical procedure.

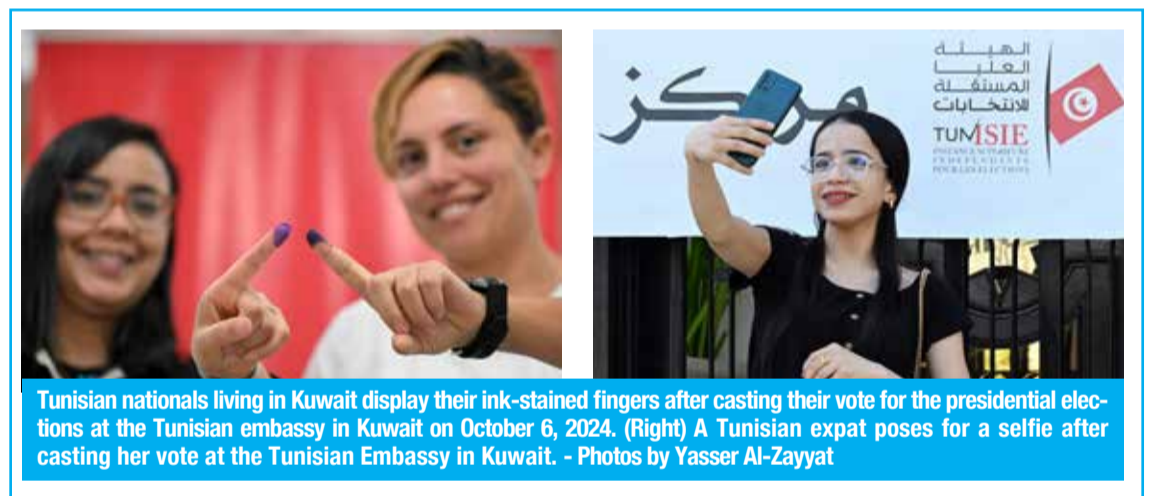
refer them to one," Ghaleb noted. Only when he observes stability in a woman's mental well-being does he agree to proceed with the surgery.

While he notes that 90 percent of his patients are women between the ages of 16 and late 30s, he also sees male clients. However, these men typically seek surgery for functional reasons rather than cosmetic ones, such as correcting facial flaws resulting from accidents.

Ghaleb exercises particular caution with male clients seeking cosmetic surgery, especially those he categorizes under the acronym 'SIMON,' representing Single, Immature, Male, Obsessive, and Narcissistic. He notes that these individuals can present significant challenges for surgeons due to unrealistic expectations or deeper psychological concerns. To ensure the right patient selection and prevent negative outcomes after surgery, Dr Ghaleb highlights the importance of open and honest communication with his patients prior to any procedure. He ensures that both parties are on the same page, sharing similar expectations and understanding the potential outcomes of the surgery.

following a visit by Major General Sabah Al-Sabah to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation within the framework of coordination, cooperation and exchange of experiences between the Ministry of Defense and ministries and state institutions.

He praised the efforts made by the Civil Aviation in developing the aviation sector, stressing that close cooperation between military and civil authorities is the key to achieving sustainable successes in this vital sector. A meeting was held between the two sides to discuss, develop and increase the efficiency of air operations, as well as air traffic, future plans and the modernization of technological systems that support aviation operations and increase the safety and security of passengers. — KUNA



Tunisian nationals living in Kuwait display their ink-stained fingers after casting their vote for the presidential elections at the Tunisian embassy in Kuwait on October 6, 2024. (Right) A Tunisian expat poses for a selfie after casting her vote at the Tunisian Embassy in Kuwait. - Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



Director General of Kuwait Municipality Eng Saud Al-Dabbous and his accompanying delegation at the Gulf Municipal Work Conference in Riyadh. — KUNA

Sustainable goals vital for municipal projects: Al-Dabbous

RIYADH: Director General of Kuwait Municipality Eng Saud Al-Dabbous said on Sunday that sustainability in municipal projects and services is top priority for Kuwait Municipality. Al-Dabbous told KUNA during his participation in the Gulf Municipal Work Conference in Riyadh that Kuwait Municipality has taken "tangible steps to ensure sustainability of municipal projects and services by integrating the concepts of green economy and smart urban planning." Al-Dabbous stressed that the municipality will continue to work hard and diligently to achieve "qualitative" achievements in the

field of municipal work by adopting sustainable plans and projects aimed at improving the quality of life in cities and urban areas. He pointed to the municipality's work over the past years to implement modern waste management systems, develop public parks and green spaces, and encourage the use of renewable energy in municipal facilities. He stressed the municipality's commitment to investing in infrastructure and developing public services, taking into account the preservation of the environment and natural resources in line with Kuwait Vision 2035. He pointed to the importance of the Gulf Municipal Work Conference hosted by Saudi Arabia, indicating its role in enhancing cooperation in Municipal field between the Gulf countries.

The 12th session of the Gulf Municipal Work Conference, organized by the Ministry of Municipalities and Housing in cooperation with the General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council, kicked off Sunday in the Saudi capital. The conference will continue for three days. — KUNA

Air force official reviews air traffic growth, readiness

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



KUWAIT: Deputy Chief of the Army General Staff and Acting Commander of the Air Force Major General Staff Pilot Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah presides a meeting at the Directorate General of Civil Aviation.

Local



KUWAIT: Ahmad Al-Baker (second right) speaks during the symposium titled 'A Year on Gaza' held at the Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah on Sunday. — KUNA



A view of the audience attending the symposium.

'A year on Gaza': Kuwait steadfast in support to Palestine: Diplomat

Al-Baker reaffirms Palestine tops Kuwait's foreign policy priorities

KUWAIT: The State of Kuwait is steadfast in its efforts to support the Palestinian cause through the establishment of an independent state of Palestine with east Jerusalem as capital, said a diplomat on Sunday. Speaking to KUNA after a symposium titled 'A Year on Gaza' held at the Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah, Assistant Foreign Minister for Arab affairs at the Foreign Ministry Ambassador Ahmad Al-Baker said that the Palestinian cause was a priority for Kuwait and was a standing issue that would hopefully end with Palestinians gaining full rights and an independent state with east Jerusalem as capital.

In addition to Al-Baker, Head of the International Organization for Migration Mission to the country Mazen Abu Al-Hassan and member of the Kuwait Relief Society Jamal Al-Nouri also participated in the symposium.

Kuwait always supports the cause in all regional and international participations, he affirmed, adding that the current year-long brutish Zionist entity occupation campaign against the Gaza Strip must stop and end in a ceasefire, Al-Baker said.

He stressed that providing protection to the Palestinian people, freeing



Jamal Al-Nouri



Ahmad Al-Baker



Mazen Abu Al-Hassan

their prisoners, and establishing an independent state were all but a few demands that the Palestinians deserved. He warned that the harrowing situation in the region, due to the Zionist entity aggressors, might lead to grave consequences.

On his part, Mazen Abu Al-Hassan—IOM Chief of Mission in Kuwait—told KUNA that recent UN reports revealed that over 1.9 million people were internally displaced in Gaza, adding that the number might be far greater than what was reported. The IOM official described the happenings in

Gaza as catastrophic especially with 70 percent of infrastructure in Gaza already collapsed. With the number of operating hospitals at 16 and casualties' numbers reaching over 41,000 deaths and 96,000 injured, the whole image could only be described as bleak, he said. Matters, according to what was occurring daily, would only get worse with no intervention by the UN, the international community, and key parties. Abu Al-Hassan said, indicating that abiding by international law was the only way to prevent the situation from worsening.

Also providing similar statements, head of the executive committee of The Kuwait Society for Relief (KSR), Jamal Al-Nouri revealed that the KSR had spent around \$21 million last year and during the Zionist entity aggression on the Gaza Strip to help in the relief aid efforts, pointing out that over 6,000 tons of relief goods dispatched to Gaza. He went on to say that the KSR teams managed to enter Gaza on two occasions early this April delivering 10 tons of medical aid and medicine in addition to performing 420 surgeries in Gaza hospitals. — KUNA

GCC Chief renews call to end Zionist occupation of Gaza

RIYADH: The Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Jassem Al-Budaiwi, renewed his call on Sunday for the international community to assume its responsibilities and take immediate action to stop the dangerous Zionist entity aggression on the Gaza Strip.

In a statement, the GCC Chief said that after a

full year since the start of the military operations of the Zionist entity occupation forces in the Gaza Strip, the humanitarian, security and economic situation in the strip has further deteriorated, which requires the international community to take urgent steps and immediate measures to stop the brutal Zionist entity crimes against the Palestinian people and end the military escalation.

He also stressed the need to provide protection for civilians, including relief and humanitarian workers who face grave risks while carrying out their humanitarian duties. Al-Budaiwi expressed the GCC countries' firm and supportive position on the Palestinian cause and support for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state within the borders of June 4, 1967, with East

Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with the Arab Peace Initiative and relevant United Nations resolutions.

In this regard, he called for unifying regional and international efforts to immediate and permanent cease war in Gaza and provide the necessary support to the Palestinian people in a way that contributes to achieving stability and security in the region. — KUNA



Jassem Al-Budaiwi



Saeed Mana'a conducts the training program. — KUNA

KUNA's Media Center launches training program

KUWAIT: KUNA Center for Media Development launched on Sunday its training program "Training of Trainers" with the participation of a number of employees of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), Saudi News Agency (SPA), Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) and the Public Authority for Combating Corruption (Nazaha). The program, presented by the Editor-in-Chief of Arabic News at the Ministry of Information's Al-Akhabar Channel Saeed Mana'a, will last for five days and will cover the foundations and skills of successful training, dealing

with types of trainees, rules of interactive training, identifying French and English schools in training, preparing training and evaluation topics, skills of elaboration, abbreviation, conciseness, editing headlines and breaking news.

The program also addresses skills of training editors on the topics of number and counted, Hamzat Al-Qata' and Hamzat Al-Wasl, writing various types of reports—informational, descriptive and analytical—and training editors on preparing electronic reports.

The program, which relies on theoretical and practical methods, also covers skills of training editors on preparing video reports, taking notes in seminars, conferences and statements, and skills of training correspondents on preparing different types of questions and daring to ask them during seminars, press conferences, etc. in addition to training them to convert reports and statements into infographic reports. The program also covers the skills of training correspon-

dents on writing reports, preparing and formulating reports, training on preparing and implementing references and bridges for correspondents in reports, and training correspondents and editors on discovering their vocal talents. The program also aims to train correspondents and editors on self-management, improving pronunciation, voice, tone, rhythm, and fluency in speech, training on preparing documentaries, training skills on preparing podcast dialogue programs, formulating a virtual script for a dialogue program, and evaluation and assessment skills to improve the training courses program.

The KUNA Center for Media Capacity Development, which was established in December 1995, is considered one of the most important media training centers and has provided hundreds of training programs in various media fields. It aims to develop personal media capabilities and potentials and advance professional media work. — KUNA

PAAET opens third student exhibition

KUWAIT: Director General of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) Dr Hassan Al-Fajjam inaugurated on Sunday the third student exhibition 'From Your Decision to Your Stability' aimed at providing guidance and counseling to students under the patronage of Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research and Acting Minister of Education Dr Nader Al-Jallal.

Dr Al-Fajjam said in a speech at the opening of the exhibition, which will last for three days at the PAAET Theater in Shuwaik, that the exhibition includes all the PAAET colleges,

institutes and departments that serve students under one roof, organized by the Deanship of Student Affairs with the aim of providing guidance and counseling to students. He stressed the PAAET's keenness to achieve stability for male and female students from the moment they join it until the moment they graduate, calling on students to attend this forum to answer all their inquiries and achieve the desired benefit from it.

The Dean of Student Affairs at the Authority, Dr Abdullah Al-Ajmi, stated in a representative speech that the third session of the exhibition comes as a continuation of the efforts of the Authority, represented by the Deanship of Student Affairs, to communicate and interact with male and female students. This exhibition is distinguished by the title 'From Your Decision to Your Settlement', which is a journey that the student goes through all stages from the moment he makes the decision to join the Authority until he graduates. — KUNA



A part of the exhibition.

In my view

The changing face of workplace health: A journey through time



Dr Sajed Al Abdali

local@kuwaittimes.com

Remember when smoking in the office was not only allowed but practically expected? When safety goggles were seen as optional, and stress was just part of the job? The world of work has come a long way since then, and with it, our understanding of workplace health has undergone a remarkable transformation. The story of workplace health is a tale of progress, setbacks and paradigm shifts. It's a narrative that reflects our evolving understanding of human health, societal values, and the role of work in our lives. Let's take a walk through time and explore how we've arrived at today's holistic approach to employee well-being.

In the early days of the Industrial Revolution, workplace health was barely a consideration. Workers toiled in dangerous conditions, exposed to hazardous materials and treacherous machinery. The concept of "occupational hazards" existed, but it was accepted as an unavoidable part of progress. Children worked alongside adults, and the idea of a "safe workplace" was as foreign as the notion of paid vacation time.

It wasn't until the late 19th and early 20th centuries that things began to change. Muckraking journalists exposed the horrors of industrial working conditions, and labor unions fought for basic safety measures. Governments started to take notice, passing laws like the Factory Acts in the UK and establishing organizations like the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) in the US. These early efforts focused primarily on physical safety—preventing accidents, limiting exposure to harmful substances, and setting basic standards for working conditions. It was a start, but it was far from comprehensive.

As we moved into the mid-20th century, the scope of workplace health began to expand. The field of occupational medicine gained prominence, recognizing that certain jobs came with specific health risks. Miners' lung, for instance, became a recognized occupational disease. Companies started to provide health insurance and even on-site medical care for employees. But it wasn't all smooth sailing. The rise of office work brought new challenges. Smoking was rampant, ergonomics was an unknown concept, and mental health was rarely discussed. The idea that sitting at a desk all day could be harmful to one's health would have seemed laughable to most.

The 1980s and 1990s saw another shift. Wellness programs began to pop up in workplaces, initially focusing on physical fitness and nutrition. Companies installed gyms, offered healthy snacks and organized fitness challenges. It was a step in the right direction, but still focused primarily on physical health. Then came the turn of the millennium, and with it, a growing recognition of the importance of mental health in the workplace. Stress, once seen as a badge of honor in high-pressure jobs, was increasingly recognized as a serious health concern.

Employee Assistance Programs (EAPs) became more common, offering counseling and support for personal and work-related issues. Today, we're in the midst of another revolution in workplace health. The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated trends that were already in motion, bringing remote work, flexible schedules and digital health solutions to the forefront. We're seeing a more holistic approach to employee well-being that encompasses physical health, mental health, work-life balance and even financial wellness.

Companies are investing in mindfulness programs, offering mental health days and recognizing the importance of sleep for employee productivity and well-being. There's a growing understanding that a healthy workplace isn't just about avoiding accidents or providing health insurance—it's about creating an environment where employees can thrive in all aspects of their lives. Moreover, we're seeing a shift towards personalization in workplace health. One-size-fits-all programs are giving way to individualized approaches that recognize the unique needs and preferences of each employee. Wearable technology and health apps are allowing for more targeted interventions and real-time health monitoring.

But challenges remain. The gig economy has created new questions about who's responsible for workers' health. The line between work and personal life is increasingly blurred, especially for remote workers. And as we gain more ability to monitor employee health, we're grappling with important questions about privacy and ethics. As we look to the future, it's clear that the evolution of workplace health practices is far from over. Emerging technologies like artificial intelligence and virtual reality are poised to revolutionize how we approach employee well-being. We're likely to see even more emphasis on preventive care, mental health, and work-life integration.

The journey of workplace health practices reflects our growing understanding that healthy employees are not just a nice-to-have, but a crucial component of a successful and sustainable business. It's a testament to how far we've come, and a reminder of how much further we can go in creating workplaces that truly support human flourishing. As we continue to spend a significant portion of our lives at work, the importance of workplace health will only grow. The evolution continues, and the next chapter is ours to write.

60 participants win 9th edition of informatics awards

KUWAIT: His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah Informatics Award announced on Sunday the victory of 60 participants in the ninth edition of the awareness-raising cultural competition "I saw Kuwait" that was launched under the title 'Kuwait Humanity' on September 9, marking the 10th anniversary of the UN's historic honoring of the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as a Leader of Humanitarian Action and naming Kuwait as a Global Center for Humanitarian Action.

Member of the Board of Trustees and Head of the Award's Higher Organizing Committee Eng Bassam Al-Shammari told KUNA that the competition was launched on social media platforms (X), (Instagram) and (Facebook), targeting all social classes in various countries to highlight the humanitarian contributions that distinguished Kuwait to obtain this unprecedented global designation.

Al-Shammari added that the competition did not exceed ten days during which only five questions were asked, one question every two days, and more than 21,000 participated in it, but the winners were 60 from ten Arab countries: Kuwait, Yemen, Egypt, Algeria, Sudan, Palestine, Jordan, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

For his part, member of the Board of Trustees and member of the Higher Organizing Committee Rajab Al-Aloush told KUNA that the competition shed light on Kuwait's journey in humanitarian work and achieved success and wide turnout from various Arab countries, congratulating the winners of the competition, which has become a distinctive mark in the history of the award.

Al-Aloush added that the topics of the competition varied during its previous eight versions, as the first version was launched in 2010 under the title 'National and Information Culture', the second in 2011 under the title 'Religious and Information Culture', the third in 2012 under the title 'Information Culture', the fourth in 2013 under the title 'Information Security', and the fifth in 2015 under the title 'Kuwait Humanity'. He explained that the sixth edition of the competition was hosted by the award pavilion at the Kuwait International Book Fair (43) under the title 'Artificial Intelligence' in 2018 and in 2019 under the title 'Technical Transformations in Education', and the eighth edition of this cultural awareness-raising technical competition was held in 2021 under the title 'Your Health'. — KUNA



Kuwaiti photographer Ali Al-Arbash displays the beauty of French cities and their cultural heritage through a Kuwaiti lens. - KUNA

A French vision through Kuwaiti lens

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti photographer Ali Al-Arbash opened his photography exhibition on Sunday titled "French Vision through a Kuwaiti Lens", which includes a distinguished collection of photographs he took during his trips to France, highlighting the natural beauty of French cities and their cultural heritage.

Through his lens, Al-Arbash displays breathtaking views of famous landmarks such as the Eiffel Tower in Paris, in addition to photos that reflect people's daily lives and buildings, giving visitors an enjoyable visual experience that mimics French nature, history and civilization.

In this regard, Al-Arbash told KUNA, "I wanted through this exhibition, which is held under the auspices of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), to convey part of the magic and beauty of France to the Kuwaiti public and to express the strong relationship between the two cultures through visual art."

He explained that his photographic works are a message of love and connection for the friendly relations between Kuwait and France through the vision of a young Kuwaiti who has been roaming



France for years to convey its culture through the lens of his mobile phone. He added that the exhibition is not just a documentation of landscapes or famous buildings, but rather an invitation to explore the French spirit that pulsates in its streets,

alleys and the lives of its residents. The exhibition, which is being held at the Kuwait National Library, is a unique opportunity for photography lovers and travel enthusiasts to explore France from a new and dreamy perspective. — KUNA

Al-Wasmi leads Kuwait at Islamic Affairs summit

DOHA: Kuwait's Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Dr Mohammad Al-Wasmi emphasized the significance of participating in the 10th meeting of GCC ministers responsible for Islamic affairs held in Qatar. In a statement to KUNA, Minister Al-Wasmi, who headed Kuwait's delegation, noted that the meeting discussed several key issues, including the exchange of scientific research and experiences in the field of endowments among member states.

This exchange was facilitated through interactive seminars conducted via video conferencing, showcasing the latest developments. The ministers explored the establishment of an international day for endowments and the creation of a GCC scientific observatory aimed at promoting the true and tolerant image of Islam. They also discussed a proposal on the role of and Islamic affairs ministries in supporting persons with disabilities, as well as another paper



DOHA: Minister of Justice, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Dr Mohammad Al-Wasmi attends the 10th meeting of GCC ministers responsible for Islamic affairs in Doha. — KUNA

focusing on the importance of preserving historical mosques, alongside other topics of mutual interest.

Minister Al-Wasmi expressed his gratitude to Qatar for hosting the meeting and praised the GCC's General Secretariat for its dedicated efforts to strengthen joint GCC cooperation and concluded by welcoming the GCC delegations to Kuwait for next year's meeting. — KUNA

Al-Babtain Foundation announces winners of poetry competition

KUWAIT: Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Cultural Foundation announced on Sunday the winners of the 19th Poetry Creativity Competition 'Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Session', which aims to support poetry and poets, promote the Arabic language and highlight the cultural role of poetry in Arab societies. Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation Saud Al-Babtain told KUNA that the foundation seeks through this competition to support the Arabic language, poetry and poets and enable them to express themselves in our beautiful Arabic language, especially the youth among them, and encourage them to explore new horizons in poetic writing.

Al-Babtain added, "We believe that poetry is a sophisticated tool for expressing ideas and feelings, so we are committed to providing all necessary support

to ensure the continuation of Diwan Al-Arab as a living part of the Arab nation's consciousness as one of the basic pillars of the Arabic language." He explained that the works participating in this session showed a high level of innovation and creativity that heralds a bright future for Arabic poetry in the coming generations, congratulating the winners of this session's awards, especially since these awards represent one of the goals of The Foundation and its work. The creativity award in the field of poetry criticism, worth \$40,000, was won by Dr Ahmed Al-Jawa from Tunisia for his book 'Lyricism and Issues of Commitment in the Recent Poems of Mahmoud Darwish', shared with Dr Wahb Roumieh from Syria for his book 'Poetry and Memory — Intertextuality between Arabic Poetry in the Twentieth Century and Pre-Islamic Poetry'. The best collection award, worth \$20,000, was won by the poet Latifa Hassani from Algeria for her collection 'The Butterfly's Philosophy'. The best poem award, worth \$10,000, was won by the poet Abdel Moneim Al-Aqbi from Egypt for his poem "Mirrors of Time". The best collection award for youth, worth \$10,000, went to the poet Jaafar Hijawi from Jordan for his collection "Runner Around My Father's Palm." — KUNA



Scan & Subscribe
KD 20 a year

For Individuals Only



Scan Now

Kuwait Times
Established 1961
The First English Daily in the Arabian Gulf



Tel: 24833199 Ext: 220



One year of Gaza war: Mental scars that will last a lifetime

Tons of rubble weigh on Gazans



BEIRUT: Flames and smoke rise in an area targeted by a Zionist air strike on Beirut's southern suburbs on October 6, 2024. — AFP

South Beirutis endure night of Zionist terror

'It was the most violent night ... They are not hitting military targets, but civilian ones'

BEIRUT: Sipping a coffee in front of a blaring television as black smoke rose from the rubble nearby, Ali Mahmoud, 63, recounted a night of terror in Beirut's southern suburbs. "We were at the coffee shop when we heard the strikes," he said early on Sunday. "We whisked our families out of the suburb into the city. We were scared like everybody else." Mahmoud said he had come back to see what state his home was in, and to collect a few belongings for relatives who were now sleeping in the street.

Many of the 850,000 residents of the stronghold of Lebanese militant group Hezbollah have fled their homes since the Zionist entity ramped up its air strikes targeting Lebanon on Sep-

tember 23. But each morning after the air raids, some semblance of normal life returns for a few hours before the bombardment begins again. Residents arrive on foot or by moped from other parts of the capital where they have sought refuge, and where they often sleep out in the open. On Sunday morning, residents gathered what they could from their homes or supplies from small shops as Zionist drones buzzed loudly overhead. People passing near Beirut airport in the south of the city were met by clouds of black smoke and the smell of burning.

'Endless nightmare'
On the old airport road, an import-

ant thoroughfare that everybody now tries to avoid, diggers worked to remove new rubble. In another district south of the capital, vegetable shop owner Mehdi Zeiter, 60, said he and his family had not slept all night but would be staying put. "The strikes were like an earthquake. Each time they bombed, our building shook," he said. "It was the most violent night ... there were strikes everywhere. They are not hitting military targets, but civilian ones," he said.

Around the southern suburbs, everybody tells the same story. During the 2006 war between the Zionist entity and Hezbollah, Zionist warplanes targeted the group's headquarters, so

residents kept clear of those areas. But nowhere seems safe now.

Piles of debris, collapsed buildings and shuttered shops can be seen all across Beirut's southern suburbs. The latest escalation has killed more than 1,100 people and wounded at least another 3,600 nationwide, and pushed upwards of a million people to flee their homes, according to government figures. Among those who have been become displaced is 30-year-old mother Salma Salman. "We spent the night in a beauty salon owned by one of my father's friends," she said, hugging her seven-year-old twin daughters. "It's an endless nightmare." — AFP

'Never quit': Trump rallies at site of failed assassination

BUTLER: Donald Trump defiantly returned Saturday to the site of a campaign rally where an assassin's bullet almost killed him in July, questioning whether his opponents were responsible and declaring he would "never quit." "Exactly 12 weeks ago this evening, on this very ground, a cold-blooded assassin aimed to silence me," the Republican candidate told tens of thousands of supporters after taking the stage behind bulletproof glass. Calling the gunman a "vicious monster," Trump vowed he would "never quit ... never bend ... never break" to cheers of "fight, fight, fight" from the crowd. Trump's much-hyped return to Butler, Pennsylvania, came exactly one month before the November 5 presidential election, the outcome of which President Joe Biden suggested on Friday might not be peaceful.

Trump lashed out at his political opponents, calling them the "enemy within" who had pushed to indict him and "who knows, maybe even tried to kill me." "I wasn't supposed to make it," he said ominously. Security was noticeably tighter than Trump's July rally, with sniper squads atop surrounding buildings, and a surveillance drone deployed overhead. "There's a lot going on that's unnerving," said Heather Hughes, 43, who had traveled from New Castle in must-win Pennsylvania. "Do I think he's safe? No. I think there's going to be another attempt. But I think he's going to make it through."

After the assassination attempt, pictures of Trump — with a blood-streaked face, pumping his fist and shouting "fight, fight, fight" — became defining images of the campaign. On Saturday, many Trump supporters wore shirts emblazoned with the iconography, and some sported ear coverings recalling the bandage the former president wore after the shooting.

Billionaire Elon Musk joined Trump on stage, stressing the tight margins that will likely decide the election in battleground states like Pennsylvania and encouraging voter registration. Trump "must win to preserve democracy in America," said Musk, echoing the alarmist messaging he frequently pushes to his 200 million followers on his X platform.

Race upended

Much has changed since Trump's last visit to Butler, when he was riding high in polls after crushing Biden in a TV debate. Barely a week after the failed assassination bid, the presidential race was turned on its head when Biden



BUTLER: Tesla CEO Elon Musk (right) jumps on stage as he joins former US President and Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump during a campaign rally at site of his first assassination attempt in Butler, Pennsylvania on October 5, 2024. — AFP

dropped out and was replaced as the Democratic nominee by Vice President Kamala Harris. Harris has clawed back the poll deficit — reversing it in some states — and the seismic events in Butler that had threatened to unleash chaos were largely overtaken.

Trump's rally appeared aimed at recovering the momentum as a bruising campaign enters its final phase. Harris, who Trump called incompetent, was in North Carolina Saturday meeting first responders and people hit by Hurricane Helene, which killed at least 220 as it ripped through the southeast. The emergency response is "an example of the best we can do when we bring resources together at the federal, state and local level and tap into the kind of collegiality that produces results," she told officials at a briefing. Trump has criticized the federal response, alleging without evidence that the Biden-Harris administration wrongly redirected relief funds to migrants.

Election violence

The heavy security presence on Saturday highlighted persistent security fears, underscored when another attempt on Trump's life was foiled last month.

The Secret Service has been pilloried for failing to secure the building where the Butler shooter managed to fire at Trump eight times before being shot dead. Along with Trump, two supporters were wounded and one — firefighter Corey Comperatore — was killed. Trump and his campaign have sought to challenge Democrats' warnings about the former president representing a threat to democracy. "The Republicans aren't violent ... I think they (the Democrats) incite. They keep talking about Hitler and the end of democracy," said retiree Glen Scheirer, who was with five relatives wearing identical "By the grace of God" T-shirts showing Trump after the shooting.

In the immediate aftermath of the Butler incident, all sides urged a lowering of the political temperature. But Trump quickly reverted to his signature inflammatory rhetoric and has refused to commit to accepting the eventual result in November. He has been indicted over the effort to subvert the 2020 election that culminated in his supporters storming the Capitol. Asked about the possibility of further election-related violence, Biden said Friday he did not know if the vote would be peaceful. — AFP

Tunisia votes with Kais Saied set for re-election

TUNIS: Tunisians voted Sunday in a presidential election largely expected to see incumbent Kais Saied secure another five years in office while his main critics — including one contender — are behind bars. Three years after Saied staged a sweeping power grab, the election is seen as a closing chapter in Tunisia's short-lived experiment with democracy. After ousting long-time dictator Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in 2011, Tunisia prided itself for more than a decade on being the birthplace of the Arab Spring uprisings against dictatorship.

The ISIE electoral board has said about 9.7 million people were expected to turn out. About 47 percent of them are aged between 36 and 60. At one polling station in central Tunis, a group of mostly older men were seen queuing up to vote. "I came to support Kais Saied," 69-year-old Nouri Masmoudi said. "My whole family is going to vote for him." Fadhila, 66, said she voted "in response to those who called for a boycott". The station had seen "a good influx of voters", mostly over 40 years of age, its director Nouredine Jouini said, with 200 voters in the first half hour of polling. An hour into the vote, Farouk Bouasker, head of ISIE, said the board had seen a "considerable attendance" of voters.

'Respectable number'

In another station in the capital, Hosni Abidi, 40, said he feared electoral fraud. "I don't want people to choose for me," he said. "I want to check the box for my candidate myself." In Bab Jeddid, a working-class neighborhood, there were fewer voters, and most were elderly men. Saied cast his vote alongside his wife in the affluent Ennasr neighborhood, north of Tunis, in the morning. That station then saw a "very respectable number" of voters, its head Aycha Zidi said.

After rising to power in a landslide in 2019, Saied led a sweeping power grab that saw him rewrite the constitution. A burgeoning crackdown on dissent ensued, and a number of Saied's critics across the political spectrum were jailed, sparking criticism both at home and abroad. New York-based Human Rights Watch has said more than "170 people are detained in Tunisia on political grounds or for exercising their fundamental rights". Jailed opposition figures include Rached Ghannouchi, head of the Islamist-inspired opposition party Ennahdha, which dominated political life after the revolution. Also detained is Abir Moussi, head of the Free Destourian Party, which critics accuse of wanting to bring back the regime that was ousted in 2011. — AFP



TUNIS: A Tunisian voter casts her ballot at a polling station in Tunis during the North African country's presidential election on October 6, 2024. — AFP

International

Tons of rubble weigh on Gazans

Gazans wonder how to clear 42m tons containing unexploded bombs, decaying bodies

KHAN YUNIS: In the ruins of his two-storey home, 11-year-old Mohammed gathers chunks of the fallen roof into a broken pail and pounds them into gravel which his father will use to make gravestones for victims of the Gaza war. "We get the rubble not to build houses, no, but for tombstones and graves — from one misery to another," his father, former construction worker Jihad Shamali, 42, says as he cuts through metal salvaged from their home in the southern city of Khan Yunis, damaged during a Zionist raid in April. The work is hard, and at times grim. In March, the family built a tomb for one of Shamali's sons, Ismail, killed while running household errands. But it is also a tiny part of the efforts starting to take shape to deal with the rubble left by the Zionist entity's military offensive in Gaza.

The United Nations estimates there is over 42 million tons of debris, including both shattered edifices that are still standing and flattened buildings. That is 14 times the amount of rubble accumulated in Gaza between 2008 and the war's start a year ago, and over five times the amount left by the 2016-17 Battle of Mosul in Iraq, the UN said. Piled up, it would fill the Great Pyramid of Giza — Egypt's largest — 11 times. And it is growing daily. The UN is trying to help as Gazan authorities consider how to deal with the rubble, three U.N. officials said.

A UN-led Debris Management Working Group plans a pilot project with Palestinian authorities in Khan Yunis and the central Gaza city of Deir Al-Balah to start clearing roadside debris this month. "The challenges are huge," said Alessandro Mrakic, the Gaza Office head for the United Nations' Development Programme (UNDP) which is co-chairing the working group. "It's going to be a massive operation, but at the same time, it's important that we start now."

Asked about the debris, the Zionist military unit COGAT said it aimed to improve waste-handling and would work with the UN to expand those efforts. Mrakic said coordination with the Zionist en-

tity was excellent but detailed discussions on future plans were yet to take place.

Tents amid the ruins

Wreckage is piled high above pedestrians and donkey carts on dusty narrow paths that were once busy roads. "Who is going to come here and clear the rubble for us? No-one. Therefore, we did that ourselves," taxi driver Yusri Abu Shabab said, having cleared enough debris from his Khan Yunis home to erect a tent. Two-thirds of Gaza's pre-war structures — over 163,000 buildings — have been damaged or flattened, according to UN satellite data. Around a third were high-rise buildings.

Mrakic cited an unpublished preliminary estimate that it would cost \$280 million to clear 10 million tons, implying around \$1.2 billion if the war stopped now. A UN estimate from April suggested it would take 14 years to clear the rubble.

The debris contains unrecovered bodies, as many as 10,000 according to the Palestinian health ministry, and unexploded bombs, Mrakic said. The International Committee of the Red Cross says the threat is "pervasive" and UN officials say some of the debris poses a big injury risk. Nizar Zurub, from Khan Yunis, lives with his son in a home where only a roof remains, hanging at a precarious angle. The United Nations Environment Programme said an estimated 2.3 million tons of debris might be contaminated, citing an assessment of Gaza's eight refugee camps, some of which have been hit. Asbestos fibers can cause larynx, ovarian and lung cancer when inhaled. Doctors fear a rise in cancers and birth defects from leaking metals in coming decades. Snake and scorpion bites and skin infections from sandflies are a concern, a UNEP spokesperson said.

Land and equipment shortages

Gaza's rubble has previously been used to help build seaports. The UN hopes now to recycle a portion for road networks and bolstering the shoreline.

March 19, Zionist forces launched a second assault, again using tanks. For 11 days, soldiers then combed through the premises. When they finally withdrew, the Zionist military said they had killed "200 terrorists", and that they had found many weapons. Gaza's civil defense agency, which carries out rescue work across the Palestinian coastal enclave, said at least 300 bodies were found.

The Zionist entity claimed without providing any evidence that hundreds of Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) militants were organizing on the hospital grounds when it launched its devastating assault on Al-Shifa, resulting in as many as 1,500 casualties or people disappeared, including medics and patients. To defend its claim, it held press events and aired videos it said proved that troops had found tunnels beneath the site, though specialists have questioned the veracity of the footage.

'Pursuit of life'

Established in 1946, two years before the founding of the Zionist entity, Al-Shifa evolved from a "rather almost colonial and basic" health facility into Gaza's largest health care center, said Palestinian-American Yara Asi, an academic at the University of Central Florida who specializes in access to healthcare in war zones. "It wasn't just a hospital itself, but it was a representation of the Palestinian pursuit of life and willingness to live on the land in many ways," Asi said.

Al-Shifa became one of Gaza's best-known institutions, said Ghassan Abu-Sittah, a Palestinian-British surgeon who spent the first 43 days of the war treating the wounded. "With each war, this hospital became more important," said Abu-Sittah, referring

to the previous four wars in Gaza in 2008-9, 2012, 2014 and 2021. "After the fall of Al-Shifa, people felt there was nothing left in the north (of the Gaza Strip) that could help them," he said.

Beyond Al-Shifa, the Palestinian territory's health system has largely collapsed, with the World Health

Organization estimating that just a handful of clinics remain operational. The wounded, who number in the dozens every day, must seek treatment in field hospitals run by international aid organizations. Al-Shifa "was the nerve center of the health care system, and the raids broke it," Abu-Sittah said. — Agencies

As another strike hit Beirut's southern suburbs on Sunday, Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati appealed to the international community to put pressure on the Zionist entity for a ceasefire. At Beersheba central bus station, a border policeman was killed and 10 other people injured, first responders said.

Lebanon's official National News Agency said more than 30 strikes hit Hezbollah's south Beirut stronghold overnight into Sunday. Shopkeeper Mehdi Zeiter, 60, said they "were like an earthquake". A petrol station and medical warehouse were hit, NNA said. "It was the most violent night... there were strikes everywhere. They are not hitting military targets, but civilian ones," Zeiter said.

AFP TV footage showed a massive fireball over a residential area, followed by a loud bang and secondary explosions. Smoke was still billowing from the site after dawn. Amid the fighting, Hezbollah continued attacks on the Zionist entity, saying on Sunday it launched attack drones towards a military base near the northern city of Haifa.

On Sunday, the Zionist army said rockets fired from northern Gaza had crossed into the Zionist entity. The Zionist entity says it aims to allow tens of thousands of Zionists displaced by almost a year of Hezbollah rocket fire into the Zionist entity to return home. — Agencies

we can level to the ground any place it desires". On Saturday, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi warned of a "proportional and similar reaction from Iran, and even stronger" if the Zionist entity attacks.

On Sunday, Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad visited a key oil site in the Gulf, amid growing concerns over possible Zionist strikes on Iran's oil facilities. On Thursday, US President Joe Biden said he was "in discussions" with the Zionist entity about possible strikes on oil facilities in Iran, one of the world's 10 largest oil producers. Following the statement, oil prices surged. But on Friday Biden advised the Zionist entity against striking Iran's oil facilities, telling it to find "other alternatives".

Paknejad arrived at the Kharg Island oil facilities in the morning and met with employees, his ministry's news agency, SHANA, reported. "We are not afraid that our enemies will ignite a crisis, and visiting the region is a normal business trip," Paknejad said on state television. Kharg Island, located on the Gulf, is home to Iran's largest crude oil export terminal. — Agencies



KHAN YUNIS: People walk amid the rubble of buildings destroyed during Zionist bombardment in Khan Yunis, on the southern Gaza Strip on April 16, 2024. — AFP

Gaza, which had a pre-war population of 2.3 million crammed into an area 45 km (28 miles) long and 10 km wide, lacks the space needed for disposal, the UNDP says. Landfills are now in a Zionist military zone. The Zionist entity's COGAT said they were in a restricted area but that access would be granted. More recycling means more money to fund equipment such as industrial crushers, Mrakic said. They would have to enter via crossing points controlled by the entity.

Government officials report fuel and machinery shortages because of Zionist restrictions that slow clear-up efforts. The UNEP spokesperson said prolonged approval processes were a "major bottleneck". The Zionist entity did not specifically comment on allegations it was restricting machinery. The UNEP says it needs owners' permission to remove debris, yet the scale of destruction has blurred property boundaries, and some property records have been lost during the war. — Reuters

Al-Shifa hospital a symbol of Gaza's destruction

GAZA: Once the pride of Gaza's medical community, the Palestinian territory's main Al-Shifa hospital has become a stark symbol of the utter devastation wrought by Zionist war on Gaza. Until October 2023, patients received for years the best care Gazan doctors and nurses could offer, but earlier this year, they had to cease all operations. Al-Shifa was all but destroyed in two Zionist military operations — one in November 2023, the other in March 2024. Zionist troops detained the director of Al-Shifa, Mohammed Abu Salmiya, for more than seven months. He said he was tortured during that time.

An emergency department has since reopened, though the rest of the sprawling complex lies in ruins, charred by the flames of war. To revive the ward, staff had to "pull dialysis machines from under the rubble", Abu Jaafar, a doctor there, told AFP. When Zionist tanks stormed the complex on the night of November 15, at least 2,300 people were in the hospital complex, according to the United Nations. Many of those on the site were Gazans who had sought shelter in what they had hoped would be a safe place.

Gunfire and explosions terrified patients, staff and others seeking refuge from the war, said one AFP correspondent who was among the displaced. On



GAZA: A man sits near the destroyed Al-Shifa hospital in Gaza City on September 17, 2024. — AFP

to the previous four wars in Gaza in 2008-9, 2012, 2014 and 2021. "After the fall of Al-Shifa, people felt there was nothing left in the north (of the Gaza Strip) that could help them," he said.

Beyond Al-Shifa, the Palestinian territory's health system has largely collapsed, with the World Health

Organization estimating that just a handful of clinics remain operational. The wounded, who number in the dozens every day, must seek treatment in field hospitals run by international aid organizations. Al-Shifa "was the nerve center of the health care system, and the raids broke it," Abu-Sittah said. — Agencies

A year of intense Zionist terror...

Continued from Page 1

on the Ibn Rushd School and Shuhada al-Aqsa Mosque in central Deir el-Balah killed 26 people.

"The mosque has been here for 20 years, and the neighborhood has displaced people," imam Ahmed Fleet said as he retrieved Holy Qurans from the debris. "I was shocked when it was struck."

Netanyahu told troops the Zionist entity "will win" as it attacks both the Gaza Strip and Lebanon and prepares to strike Iran, almost exactly a year since the unprecedented operation by Hamas. In late September, the Zionist entity turned its focus north, intensifying military action against Hezbollah, which had been sending rockets over the border from Lebanon in support of Hamas for nearly 12 months.

Zionist air attacks battered Beirut's southern suburbs overnight and early on Sunday. During the night, the blasts sent booms across Beirut and sparked flashes of red and white for nearly 30 minutes visible from several kilometers away. It was the single biggest attack of the Zionist entity's assault on Beirut so far, witnesses and military analysts on local TV channels said.

Khamenei decorates commander as Iran...

Continued from Page 1

on Sunday, Iran's state media said, citing a spokesperson for Iran's Civil Aviation Organization. The flights have been canceled due to operational restrictions, state media cited the spokesperson as saying.

Local media reported on Sunday Iran has prepared a plan to respond to a possible Zionist attack. "The plan for the necessary response to a possible action by the Zionists has been fully prepared," Tasnim news agency said, quoting "an informed source" in the armed forces. "If (the Zionist entity) takes action, there will be no doubt that an Iranian counter-attack will be carried out," said Tasnim.

It added that Iran "has a list of many (Zionist) targets", and said Iran's attack on Tuesday "showed that

Every day is October 7...

Continued from Page 1

How many Zionists have had their farmland stolen or their source of welfare stripped from them? How many Zionists have had their homes bulldozed?

How many Zionist children face snipers or are maimed? How many Zionist children have been killed? How many Zionists are afraid to go to school out of fear of being bombed? How many Zionists are arrested at checkpoints? How many Zionist protestors are killed through a fence? How many Zionists are not allowed to return home from abroad? How many Zionists face enforced exodus from their country? How many Zionist journalists have been shot at or killed? How many Zionists wake up to settlers from other countries taunting or harassing them?

When Zionists run away from their country, they run away out of choice, to protect themselves from the instability of the region or potential terrorism or because they want to live elsewhere. Many have dual citizenship or relatives in other countries. They have the privilege to come and go whenever they choose.

Palestinians and Lebanese, however, do not have a choice. They leave because their houses have been

reduced to rubble, their relatives have been slaughtered, and bombs go off continuously, day in and day out. And many Palestinians are not allowed to return to their land once they leave. Can you imagine not being allowed to return home by someone who is not even from your homeland? Palestinians leave because they cannot handle yet another funeral or more hospital expenses for the wounded. So, let's ponder once more: Who needs more protection from the other? Who?

And as the Palestinians run away from a life of horror, we watch in disbelief as Zionists close borders so that food and aid and medicine cannot reach the needy. We watch in disbelief as they warn people to flee only to bomb them while they do. The Zionists claim that they are after terrorists. But more than 42,000 people have been killed since October 7. More than 42,000 people! That is more than the entire population of Liechtenstein! Who needs more protection, one asks...

It has been a year since the attacks, and the Zionists keep bombing, killing, maiming, fighting and invading. They keep finding ways to justify murder and retaliation against retaliation, even when their neighbors agree to a ceasefire. When more of us realize that Palestinians deserve a way out of their endless cycle of "October 7s", the region can finally know peace. It's beyond time.

Thousands rally worldwide for...

Continued from Page 1

to Morocco's establishment of diplomatic relations with the Zionist entity. "We consider Palestine to be a national cause," Khadija Mokhtari, a 56-year-old retiree living in the capital, told AFP at the protest near parliament.

In Washington, more than a thousand protesters demonstrated outside the White House, demanding the United States, the Zionist entity's top military supplier, stop providing weapons and aid to the Zionist entity. One man attempted to set himself on fire, AFP journalists saw, succeeding in lighting his left arm ablaze before bystanders and police extinguished the flames. Thousands of pro-Palestinian supporters also gathered in cities

across Europe, Africa, Australia and the Americas to demand an end to the conflict, which has killed nearly 42,000 people in Gaza.

Candlelight vigils are set to take place on the Oct 7 anniversary on Monday. The Zionist entity's military offensive has killed at least 41,870 people in Gaza, most of them civilians. Underlining international polarization over events in the Middle East, demonstrations in support of both the Zionist entity and the Palestinians are planned worldwide — sometimes with rival events scheduled in the same city.

A pro-Palestinian protest in Rome drew thousands of people. At least one policeman was wounded and two protestors were detained, AFP journalists said. "(The Zionist entity) is a criminal state!" the demonstrators shouted. In Berlin, police said they had detained 26 people who shouted insults at a pro-Zionist commemoration attended by around 650 people. Meanwhile, a pro-Palestinian demonstration drew just over 1,000 protestors in the German capital, police said. — Agencies



NUSEIRAT: A Palestinian man carries the body of a relative killed in Zionist strikes on the Bureij refugee camp, at the al-Awda Hospital at the Nuseirat refugee Camp on September 17, 2024.



FALLUJAH: Children react following a Zionist strike on a school sheltering displaced Palestinians in Fallujah near the Jabalia refugee camp in the northern Gaza Strip on September 26, 2024.

One year of Gaza war: Mental scars that will last a lifetime

Almost 1.2 million children need mental health support; adults suffer extreme stress, sleep loss

BEIRUT: Hazem Sulciman lost almost a quarter of his body weight as he and his family fled time and again from Zionist airstrikes in Gaza. But what really worries him is the damage you can't see — the invisible trauma that will mark him forever. "I won't forget the screams of children and women ... I have nightmares of charred bodies. Horror films do not show this, but it is what happened." The 26-year-old now lives in a tent in the devastated southern city of Khan Younis, alongside his wife, mother and eight children. They are alive, unlike many neighbors and friends, but that doesn't mean they are unscathed. "My mental state is very bad, and my children are constantly afraid," he said.

Mona Abu Amer hasn't slept in months for fear of bombs crashing into the flimsy tent where she lives with her husband and three children, also in Khan Younis. She is so stressed all the time that her hair is falling out. A new mother, she also cannot feed her hungry child. "My milk has suddenly stopped flowing well because of stress and I can no longer breast-feed," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "My four-month-old son, Mahmoud, is always crying and I cannot do anything to help him."

A year into the Zionist offensive in Gaza, more than two million people out of a total population of around 2.3 million in the enclave have "either experienced or witnessed violent and traumatic events," said Mohammed Abu Shawish, who leads Medical Aid for Palestinians' mental health support work in the strip. "Mothers in particular face high levels of anxiety as they are balancing the responsibility of protecting their children with the fear of violence," Abu Shawish said in an emailed response to questions. The recent



RAFAH: One of the Palestinian workers who were stranded in the Zionist entity is assisted after he collapsed upon arriving at the Rafah border crossing with Egypt on November 3, 2023. — AFP photos

escalation in the decades-long war on Gaza began after Hamas attacked the Zionist entity, leaving 1,200 people dead as a result of the attack and the aftermath and taking around 250 hostage. Most of Gaza's people have been displaced — some up to 10 times — since the Zionist assault, which reduced much of the strip to rubble and killed than 41,000 people, according to the Gaza health ministry. At least 90,000 people have been wounded.

The bald numbers do little to convey the depth of trauma for people who have lived through the de-

struction. The mental scars, especially for children, are profound, relief workers say. The UN children's agency UNICEF estimates that almost all of Gaza's 1.2 million children need mental health support. "They have lost their sense of belonging to their family, to their siblings to their parents because neither their mother nor their father or anyone else can provide them with that feeling of safety," said Israa Al-Qahwaji, a Gaza-based mental health and psychosocial support coordinator with Save the Children. "No one can protect them."

Litany of mental health needs

In June, Save the Children said up to 21,000 children were believed to be missing in Gaza — this includes 17,000 unaccompanied and separated children and 4,000 children buried under the rubble. An unknown number are believed to be interred in mass graves. Others have been forcibly disappeared, including an unknown number detained and transferred out of Gaza amid reports of ill-treatment and torture, the agency said.

Those that have survived are particularly vulnerable to developing mental health and psychosocial problems, Abu Shawish said. The trauma children are experiencing may come to define their lives and contribute to a litany of mental illnesses ranging from cognitive and educational challenges to behavioral issues and chronic health disorders, he added. The mental toll weighs particularly heavy on wounded children. In April, UNICEF cited data from the Palestinian Ministry of Health showing that more than 12,000 children — or almost 70 children every day — had been injured in Gaza since October.

No time for hugs

Qahwaji said the most important thing for a child's mental health is a sense of safety. That feeling "completely collapsed," when children lost their homes during the conflict, she said. To combat the extensive and extended exposure to trauma, she provides mental health support sessions, called grounding sessions, and works with children to stop them from dissociating so they can cope with the demands of surviving in a war zone.

But Qahwaji wonders if anything can combat the brutality of the war and the savage existence it is imposing on people. She and her colleagues try, but they too are enduring the same mental and physical hardships. Small wins are often all they can hope for. "We see things that might be simple, but for us they mean a lot," she said. For example, a few weeks ago, a woman burst into tears as she held her child during a support session Qahwaji was leading. It was the first time the woman had hugged her child since the war began. "She loves her child dearly but she doesn't have time to think about him," Qahwaji said. "She is only worried about keeping him alive: getting him water, getting him food, and that does not only take up all of your day, but that of the entire family as well." Suleiman, who used to captain a cycling team, feels the same burden. He now rides his bicycle over long distances every day just to get water and food for his children. Abu Amer is also intent on surviving but she knows a harsh reckoning is coming. "What I can think about right now is hoping that we survive," she said. "But even if we survive, we will be haunted by the terrifying memories of this war." — Reuters

By the numbers: One year of Zionist entity's genocide in Gaza

By Nebal Snan

Over the past year, the Zionist bombing and invasion of Gaza have exacted a terrible price on Gaza and its people. For months, the Zionist entity has terrorized Gazans, destroying their homes and killing their loved ones. About 1.9 million people, 90 percent of Gaza's population, are estimated to have been internally displaced, half of them children. Zionist restrictions on aid have left Gazans without access to food, fuel and medicine.

The Zionist entity stands accused of genocide at the International Court of Justice, which has ordered it to ensure its forces do not commit acts of genocide and take measures to guarantee that humanitarian assistance is provided to civilians in Gaza. Yet, the entity has not only continued its war in Gaza, but has also expanded its aggression to Lebanon, killing more than 2,000 and reducing swathes of Beirut's suburbs and the country's south to rubble. Marking one year since the escalation of the decades-long Zionist aggression on Gaza, Kuwait Times looks at how the attack has affected the Palestinian territory.

In ruins

No place in Gaza has been safe from Zionist bombardment. Strikes have flattened apartment complex-

es, destroyed clothing boutiques, cafes and playgrounds. Around 66 percent of the total structures in the Gaza Strip were destroyed or damaged, including a total of 227,591 estimated damaged housing units. Most of the damage since July 2024 was concentrated in Khan Younis and Rafah, with around 1,470 new structures damaged in Khan Younis and around 3,770 in Rafah, according to a UNOSAT assessment based on satellite images collected on September 3 and 6, 2024. Bombardment has destroyed or damaged 92 percent of primary roads and seriously impaired the communications infrastructure.

A joint World Bank and the United Nations report estimates the cost of damage to critical infrastructure in Gaza at around \$18.5 billion. That is equivalent to 97 percent of the combined GDP of the West Bank and Gaza in 2022. Zionist attacks have targeted mosques, churches and cemeteries. Gaza's Ministry of Religious Affairs said 79 percent of mosques in the Strip have been left in ruins. The Zionist army has flattened 814 of Gaza's 1,245 mosques and severely damaged another 148 during its intensified bombardment, the ministry said. Along with the mosques, three churches were also destroyed, and 19 of the 60 cemeteries were deliberately targeted, according to the ministry.

Indiscriminate killing

More than 40,000 Palestinians have been reported dead since the Zionist aggression began including 34,344 identified as of August 31 as: 13,737 men; 6,297 women; 11,355 children; and 2,955 elderly. Gaza's government media office says the Zionist army has "exterminated" 902 Palestinian families, "erasing them from the civil registry by killing all their members during a year of genocide in Gaza." Nearly

97,000 injured people struggle to get the medical care they need with 19 out of 36 hospitals out of service. "Only 17 of 36 hospitals remain partially functional, and all suffer from a lack of fuel, medical supplies, and clean water," Oxfam said this week. Zionist forces have killed 1,151 Palestinians working in Gaza's health sector during its onslaught, the Palestinian health ministry said in September.

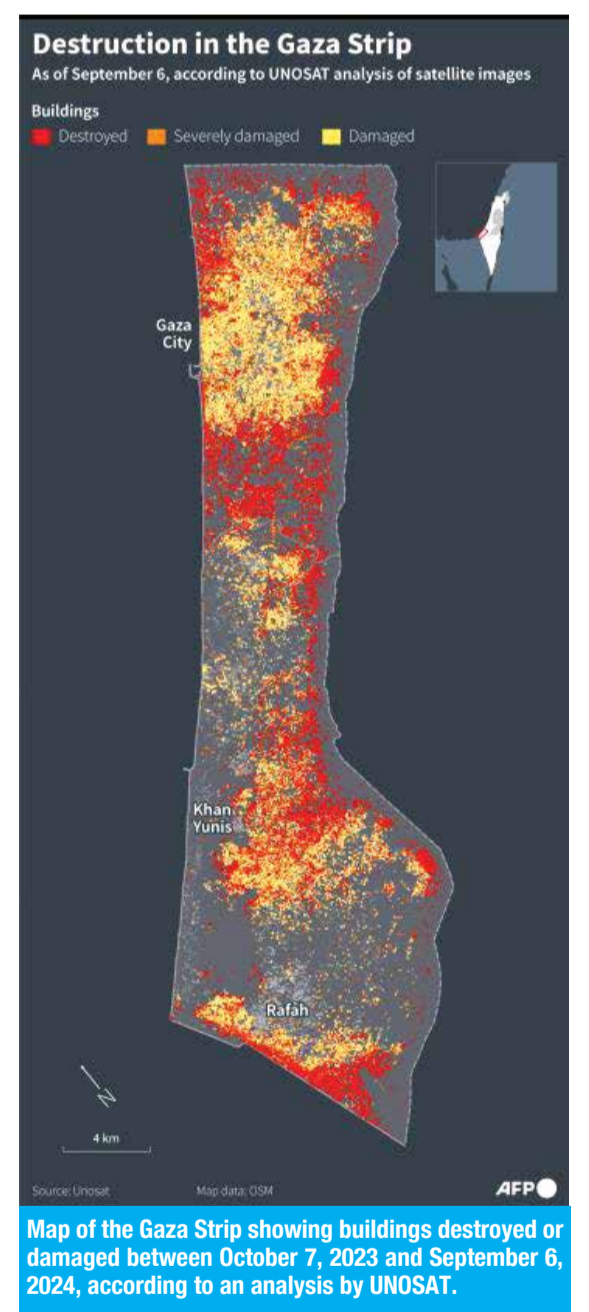
This includes nurses, paramedics, doctors, and other medical personnel. Many more have been injured. Journalists were not spared. As of October 4, 2024, at least 128 journalists and media workers were killed by the Zionist entity over the last year, a CPJ preliminary investigation showed. The organization, which promotes press freedom and defends the rights of journalists, said it was the deadliest period for journalists since it began gathering data in 1992. "Every time a journalist is killed, injured, arrested, or forced to go to exile, we lose fragments of the truth. Those responsible for these casualties face dual trials: one under international law and another before history's unforgiving gaze," said CPJ Program Director Carlos Martinez de la Serna.

Out of school

Education is a source of pride for people in Gaza. The besieged territory, along with the occupied West Bank, have internationally high literacy levels. But Gaza's education system has now collapsed, with 100 percent of Gazan children out of school since October 2023. At least 87 per cent of schools in Gaza have been directly hit or damaged, including one-third of UNRWA schools, leaving Gaza's estimated 625,000 school-aged children unable to attend classes. All 12 of Gaza's higher education institutions have been destroyed or damaged, leaving nearly 90,000 students stranded, and more than 350 teachers and academics have been killed, according to Palestinian official data published by Reuters.

Attacks on crops, livestock

The coastal enclave of 2.3 million people is one of the most densely populated areas in the world. Since October 2023, 1.9 million people have been internally displaced and as of 9 September, 86 percent of Gaza remains under Zionist-issued evacuation orders. People have been pushed into the Zionist-designated "humanitarian/safe zone" of Al-Mawasi, which now encompasses less than 13 percent of the Gaza Strip. Like the rest of Gaza, this area has not been spared from Zionist air strikes, proving this zone is far from safe. Across the territory, people have limited access to basic necessities, including food, water and hygiene products — 96 percent of Gaza's 2.15 million people are projected to face worse levels of food insecurity. Water and sewage sectors in Gaza have also suffered significant damages, leaving areas of the territory covered in puddles of untreated sewage. According to Palestinian officials, over 85 percent of water and sewage facilities have either completely or partially ceased operations due to the destruction of vital infrastructure.



Map of the Gaza Strip showing buildings destroyed or damaged between October 7, 2023 and September 6, 2024, according to an analysis by UNOSAT.

Attacks on Gaza's livestock and crops have left people completely reliant on aid. According to the UN, 60-70 percent of meat and dairy-producing livestock were killed or prematurely slaughtered; 68 percent of cropland and 33 percent of greenhouse area were damaged and 70 percent of the territory's fishing fleet was destroyed. But Zionist-imposed bureaucratic hurdles, lack of security guarantees within Gaza, insufficient border crossing points, and risk of criminal gangs looting humanitarian convoys in South Gaza have reduced aid deliveries to their lowest in September 2024. Forced evacuations have also disrupted the capacity of aid organizations to reach those in need. More than 50,000 children are estimated to require treatment for acute malnutrition in 2024.



DEIR AL-BALAH: Palestinians stare at a mosque-turned-shelter in Deir Al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip, heavily damaged in a Zionist strike during the night of October 6, 2024. — AFP photos

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2024

Boursa Kuwait marks WIW 2024

Bourse launches financial literacy program 'The Bell' in collaboration with Union of Investment Companies

KUWAIT: For the fourth consecutive year, Boursa Kuwait joined over 100 stock exchanges around the world to raise awareness of financial literacy as part of World Investor Week (WIW) 2024, a week-long global campaign by the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) and the World Federation of Exchanges (WFE).

This year's WIW, which begins on Monday the 7th of October and concludes on the 13th, aims to disseminate key messages that support investor education, investor protection and financial literacy as well as foster learning opportunities for investors. Additionally, WIW aims to strengthen collaboration between WFE and IOSCO member states and drive awareness around trending issues impacting investors worldwide.

Mohammad Saud Al-Osaimi

"As a member of the World Federation of Exchanges (WFE) and an affiliate member of the International Organizations of Securities Commissions (IOSCO), Boursa Kuwait is pleased to join stock exchanges from around the world in the eighth edition of World Investor Week, marking the fourth year in a row for the Kuwaiti stock exchange. This participation stems from our commitment to promoting financial literacy in the Kuwaiti capital market and expanding the knowledge base of its participants as we firmly believe that investing in financial awareness contributes to the development of capital markets and enhances the ability of investors to make informed decisions, which is in line with Boursa Kuwait's vision to strengthen its position as a reliable and sustainable investment destination," said Boursa Kuwait's Chief Executive Officer Mohammad Saud Al-Osaimi.

The principal themes for this year's World Investor Week include Technology & Digital Finance, Crypto Assets, and Sustainable Finance, which will be complemented with discussions and workshops on Fraud and Scam Prevention, Investor Resilience, and the Basics of Investing. IOSCO's Committee 8 agreed upon these themes, which conduct its work on retail investor education and financial literacy and includes 38 members from established and emerging markets. Participating members can choose any week in October and November to organize initiatives related to World Investor Week.

Jean-Paul Servais

Jean-Paul Servais, Chair of IOSCO's Board, and Chairman of the Financial Services and Markets Authority, Belgium, said: "Last year's World Investor Week saw the involvement of 118 jurisdictions and reached almost 730 million individuals. We have to keep the ball rolling as with technological advancements and increased use of AI, new challenges arise. We also see how fractional trading, gamification and copy-trading are trending. I am confident that WIW2024 will build on the success of previous years to drive greater investor awareness of these issues and look forward to contribute to its success."

IOSCO believes the need for investor education and financial literacy has never been greater than today. As the financial marketplace continues to evolve and innovate, investment products are becoming increasingly complex and financial services increasingly diverse. A greater understanding of key financial concepts is required on the part of retail investors to understand and evaluate the choices available to them and to avoid financial fraud.

As part of World Investor Week, IOSCO is holding webinars on technology and digital finance and navigating the new economy on October 7 and 8. These webinars are available on the World Investor Week website with



Mohammad Saud Al-Osaimi



Jean-Paul Servais



Abdullah Hamad Al-Terkait



Ali Khalil



Aminah Abotalaf



Dr Fahad Waleed Al-Mudhaf



Mai Bader AlOwaish

free registration for everyone.

'The Bell' initiative

Boursa Kuwait launched 'The Bell' initiative in collaboration with the Union of Investment Companies, The Kuwait Financial Center (Markaz), the CFA Society, Kuwait University, and the Kuwait Credit Information Network (CINET). This initiative reflects Boursa Kuwait's longstanding commitment to educational programs that empower individuals and strengthen the community, ultimately contributing to Kuwait's economic development. By fostering financial awareness and literacy, Boursa Kuwait aims to solidify its position as a leading regional and international exchange.

The initiative's title, "The Bell," is symbolic on multiple levels. It evokes Boursa Kuwait's crucial role in signaling market changes and investment opportunities to investors, much like a bell announces important events. Additionally, it alludes to the bell ringing that signifies the start of trading sessions, emphasizing the importance of being prepared and knowledgeable when making investment decisions. Throughout the month, the initiative will delve into a wide array of investment trends from the growing influence of artificial intelligence to the rise of digital finance.

Al-Osaimi added: "Today, we launch 'The Bell' initiative to promote financial literacy, which contains training programs, workshops, seminars, and panel discussions, organized in collaboration with experts in the capital markets industry and the financial sector. I would like to thank our partners in this initiative and look forward to more fruitful collaborations in the interest of the Kuwaiti capital market in the future."

The initiative is packed with workshops, seminars and educational events, including a seminar for university students organized in collaboration with CINET focusing on financial management and a seminar by Dr Fahad Waleed Al-Mudhaf, Associate Professor in the Department of Finance at the College of Business Administration at Kuwait University who will explore the intersection of technology and digital finance. Additionally, Boursa Kuwait will organize a virtual workshop with UIC which delves into the importance of sustainable de-

velopment and a workshop with Markaz, which aims to provide valuable insights into the complexities of mergers and acquisitions and examine bonds and sukuk as an alternative way of financing.

In addition to these engaging events, Boursa Kuwait is also planning to revamp its Boursa Academy online financial education portal, which aims to enhance capital market knowledge for both novice and seasoned investors. Boursa Kuwait's partners in this initiative will also be enriching Boursa Academy's content with a whitepaper from Markaz on sustainable finance in the GCC, a podcast on utilizing artificial intelligence finance and investments from the CFA Society, and educational videos that shed light on the basics of investing from UIC.

Abdullah Hamad Al-Terkait

Union of Investment Companies Chairman Abdullah Hamad Al-Terkait spoke about UIC's involvement in "The Bell", saying "The Union of Investment Companies (UIC) is proud to collaborate with Boursa Kuwait in this initiative, which coincides with World Investor Week. This partnership reflects the commitment of both organizations to educate Kuwaiti society, from students to financial institutions, about the importance of financial knowledge, responsible investing, and adhering to best practices within the financial market. I would like to thank Boursa Kuwait for its efforts in putting this initiative together and look forward to more collaborations in the future."

The Union of Investment Companies was established to contribute to the development of Kuwait's investment market. By advocating for revised economic legislation and proposing solutions tailored to the diverse needs of Kuwaiti investment companies, the Union plays a key role in driving economic growth and development in Kuwait. Its efforts are focused on fostering a thriving investment environment and creating innovative financial tools that will position Kuwait as a leading financial center in the region.

Ali Khalil

Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz" CEO Ali Khalil also hailed Boursa Kuwait for this initiative, saying: "At Markaz, we firmly believe that financial literacy is fundamental to empowering individuals and

communities, paving the way for a more sustainable society. This belief underpins our commitment to corporate social responsibility, where we prioritize sustainable economic development and good governance.

By promoting financial knowledge and responsible investment practices, we aim to equip investors with the tools to make responsible investment decisions based on fundamental factors that enable the right companies to attract capital, grow and prosper, contributing to the country's economic growth. I applaud Boursa Kuwait for their commendable initiatives and efforts aimed at building a more financially aware and empowered Kuwait." Established in 1974, Kuwait Financial Centre 'Markaz' is one of Kuwait's leading asset management and investment banking institutions with a presence in 13 countries and a total of KD 1.38 billion in assets under management.

Aminah Abotalaf

Additionally, CFA Society President Aminah Abotalaf spoke about the Society's collaboration with Boursa Kuwait, saying, "The CFA Society is proud to partner with Boursa Kuwait in all initiatives that seek to raise financial literacy levels and awareness in Kuwait. Both entities have a shared goal of empowering individuals, from students to seasoned professionals, to invest with confidence through effective and innovative financial literacy programs. Together, we are committed to building a more financially aware future for Kuwait."

The CFA Society Kuwait is an association of local investment professionals, consisting of portfolio managers, security analysts, investment advisors and other financial practitioners, that has served CFA charter holders and CFA Program candidates locally since 2008. Boursa Kuwait entered a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the CFA Society in October 2018, aiming to educate the public on the fundamentals of investing through the Boursa Academy Online platform and collaborating to organize training programs and seminars.

Dr Fahad Waleed Al-Mudhaf

"Technology has removed geographical barriers, allowing everyone to access financial services and expanding their scope, in addition to pro-

moting financial inclusion and reducing the digital divide. Digital finance offers tremendous opportunities in a rapidly changing world, but that requires keeping pace with technological and regulatory developments. I extend my sincere thanks to Boursa Kuwait for their efforts in organizing this initiative, and I look forward to more fruitful collaborations," said Kuwait University Associate Professor of Finance Dr Fahad Waleed Al-Mudhaf.

Mai Bader AlOwaish

Commenting on CINET's participation, company CEO Mai Bader AlOwaish stated, "Credit information and credit score services are among the most important indicators for improving and developing financial systems worldwide. They contribute to creating efficient systems with added value through the collection, request, and analysis of credit information, which in turn enhances the efficiency of financing operations and the granting of credit facilities in all forms. Therefore, we must raise awareness in the community and provide society with the necessary knowledge and skills to be fully aware of their credit rights and obligations. I extend my sincere thanks to Boursa Kuwait for this initiative and look forward to further cooperation in the future."

The Kuwait Credit Information Network (CINET) is the sole and leading provider of credit information and credit scores in Kuwait, operating under the supervision of the Central Bank of Kuwait. The company aims to assist the financial and banking sectors in making informed and sound decisions, helping the entities it serves facilitate financing processes, increase the collection rates of customer loans, and reduce non-performing loans. Additionally, CINET contributes to facilitating individual transactions and reducing credit and financing risks.

"The Bell" initiative forms part of Boursa Kuwait's efforts to develop and educate market participants as well as create a lasting meaningful impact on the communities where it operates. Part of the company's Corporate Sustainability (CS) strategy, they are in line with Goal 4 - Quality Education - and Goal 17 - Partnership for the Goals - of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Boursa Kuwait's support of World Investor Week comes from the company's Corporate Sustainability (CS) strategy, which stipulates ensuring initiatives apply and fall in line with the company's corporate social responsibility (CSR), industry best practice standards and investor expectations, creating strong and sustainable partnerships that ultimately achieve success and allow it to leverage the capabilities and strengths of other companies or organizations that have experience in different fields, and integrating sustainability efforts with the company culture, in order to achieve longevity and an ongoing impact that is carried on and instilled in the day-to-day operations of the stock exchange.

Vietnam economy grows 7.4 percent in third quarter

HANOI: Vietnam's economy grew by 7.4 percent in the third quarter, government figures showed Sunday, despite severe economic damage caused by deadly Typhoon Yagi. Vietnam suffered \$3.3 billion in economic losses as a result of Yagi which swept across the country's north, causing devastat-

ing flooding and 345 deaths. The growth rate was the result of "adapting effectively to the fluctuations of the global economy and addressing the severe consequences of natural disasters", the General Statistics Office (GSO) said in a statement.

The agriculture, forestry and the fishery sector was particularly affected by Yagi, the GSO said. But exports were up 15.8 percent compared to the same period last year. The Vietnamese government is aiming to reach an economic growth rate of 6.8 to 7 percent for 2024. But the Asian Development Bank (ADB) warned in September that "geopolitical tensions and uncertainties related to the United States election in November could lead to trade fragmen-

tation, adversely affecting exports, manufacturing activity, and employment".

The United States was Vietnam's largest export market in the first nine months of 2024, according to the GSO. The ADB also said that Vietnam was still in the recovery phase after the storm, and the estimated damage figures may not yet be final. S&P Global Market Intelligence said that manufacturing production dropped sharply in September, with new orders down and firms unable to complete or export orders they had. The ADB predicts six percent growth for Vietnam's year-end figure. The communist state has long been a success story among Asian economies and in 2022 its economy grew eight percent. — AFP



HANOI: A street vendor walks with his bicycle next to West Lake in Hanoi. — AFP

Business

German govt slashes forecast

Germany expects another recession

FRANKFURT: The German government has slashed its forecast and now expects Europe's largest economy to shrink for a second year running as hopes for a consumption-driven recovery fizzle out, media reported Sunday. The economy ministry sees the German economy contracting by 0.2 percent this year, a dramatic downgrade from its prior estimate of 0.3-percent growth, according to the Sueddeutsche newspaper. Economy Minister Robert Habeck will officially unveil the latest forecasts on Wednesday.

Germany was the only major advanced economy to contract in 2023, hit hard by an industrial slowdown, cooling export demand and surging energy prices following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Expectations that easing inflation and the first interest rate cuts by the European Central Bank would drive a recovery this year have however seemed increasingly out of reach in recent months, as demand at home and abroad remained weak.

Germany's leading economic institutes have also recently downgraded their forecasts, and now expect the economy to either stagnate or shrink by 0.1 percent this year. "Instead of gaining momentum, the economy continues to be characterized by a general reluctance by consumers to spend," the Sueddeutsche said. The economic headwinds come as Germany also faces structural challenges including increased competition from China, a shortage of skilled workers and a complex green



BERLIN: German Minister of Economics and Climate Protection Robert Habeck (2R) takes part in a round table talk at the "Berlin Global Dialogue 2024" event taking place at the European School of Management and Technology (ESMT) in Berlin. — AFP

transition. Nevertheless, the German government was optimistic in its outlook for 2025, the newspaper reported.

Habeck's economy ministry will on Wednesday say it now expects 1.1-percent growth next year, according to Sueddeutsche, up from one percent in the previous forecast. By 2026, the economy is expected to expand 1.6 percent. The government's proposed "growth initiative" has a key role

to play in the recovery, Habeck told the Sueddeutsche. The measures include tax relief, permanently reduced energy prices for industry, less red tape and incentives to keep older people in the workforce as well as attract foreign skilled workers. "The German economy can grow significantly stronger in the next two years if the measures are fully implemented," Habeck was quoted as saying. — AFP

Ukrainian miners send families away as Russia advances

POKROVSK: Yury Kozynets embraced his wife Alyona Gladkaya in front of the evacuation bus, just before it separated them, whisking her away from the under-fire Ukrainian city of Pokrovsk. The 31-year-old miner wiped tears from Gladkaya's face. He was staying put, despite the advancing Russian troops. "There's no other way: to protect his family, a man has to provide for them," Kozynets said, his teary eyes surrounded by black rings.

Gladkaya - with her three children from a previous marriage - clambered onto the bus and

pressed her hand against the window. From the other side of the glass, Kozynets did the same. Like hundreds of men sending their families to the relative safety of other parts of Ukraine, he was staying behind to work at the mine, harvesting the precious coal Ukraine needs for its economy and the war effort. The heartbreaking choice sheds light on a common dilemma for workers living close to the front lines, who cannot afford to give up jobs and relocate.

Their story started at the mine. Gladkaya operated an elevator, hoisting workers in and out of the ground, with Kozynets giving her the tokens that proved he had completed a shift. Before separating, they reenacted the scene, laughing between tears. Gladkaya was now being forced to leave the home she had set up with her family. "When I look at everything that has become a part of me, everything that I poured my soul into, I lose all strength," Gladkaya, 35, said. "I just wish there was a

car with wheels big enough to carry my home with me, for it to remain alive."

Coal mine 'shapes the city'

Gladkaya was being pushed out by the relentless Russian shelling. It was getting louder as Russia edged towards the city, scaring her children - Kira, 13, Angelina, 12 and Matviy, nine. Moscow's troops are less than 10 kilometres (six miles) from Pokrovsk, a key logistics hub that is vital for Ukraine's supply routes across the Donetsk region. Some 35,000 people have left since the end of August, with only 13,900 remaining, according to the city's administration. Public transport has stopped running along its main street, where barricaded shops stand next to obliterated buildings. Only shuttles to the mine are on schedule. Waiting for one, Andriy Radin and three colleagues said most of the miners had sent their wives away. —AFP

Burgan Bank announces names of monthly draw winners of Kanz Account



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

The 20 lucky winners are: Hamad Hasan Baniyan; Maasoumah Ali Makhseed; Rizwana Laskarwala; Mustansir Raipurawaia; Ayesha Essa Alrshoud; Hamad Jassim Ben Awadh; Erinjeri Raphael Antony; Fereshteh Jaafar Ali; Bushra Rashed Abdulaheem; Abdullah Essa Kakkouli; Mayank Jain Mahavir; Amani Abdulsattar Saeedan; Karl James Pope; Isam Zaghloul; Ali Hassan Is-

mail; Ahmad Abdullah AlFalkawi; Ahmad Khalefa Alshohomi; Tayab Ali Lashkarwala; Abdulmohsen Hameed Haidar and Sami Mijbel Hassan.

In addition to the monthly draw of Kanz account, Burgan Bank also offers a semi-annual KD 500,000 prize and a mega annual prize of KD 1,500,000. Kanz Account is accessible to any individual and can be opened in Kuwaiti Dinar or in major currencies (USD, EURO, GDP) with a minimum KD 200 requirement for account opening. More information on opening a Kanz account, the draws or any of the Bank's products and services, is available at any of Burgan Bank branches, through the Call Center at 1804080 and Burgan Bank website www.burgan.com.

AL SAFAT INVESTMENT COMPANY

KUWAIT BOURSA WEEKLY REPORT

WEEK ENDED ON 3 OCTOBER 2024

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

Market	M. Cap (KD ml)	Last Close	WTD %	MTD %	YTD %	Quantity Traded	Value Traded	No. of Trades	P/E	P/B	% of Total M. Cap
Premier Market	34,664	7,582.95	-2.7%	-1.6%	1.4%	482,442,235	163,449,519	41,518	17.0	1.3	81.4%
Main Market	7,941	6,254.66	-0.3%	-0.4%	12.3%	1,918,881,870	217,721,871	77,201	12.4	0.9	18.6%
All Share	42,605	7,036.08	-2.2%	-1.4%	3.2%	2,401,324,105	381,171,390	118,719	14.2	1.0	100%

Sector	M. Cap (KD ml)	Last Close	WTD %	MTD %	YTD %	Quantity Traded	Value Traded	No. of Trades	P/E	P/B	% of Total M. Cap
Banking	25,788	1,722.30	-2.7%	-1.8%	4.5%	167,321,322	85,877,512	21,456	17.0	1.4	60.53%
Basic Materials	451	798.98	-1.5%	-1.0%	7.1%	2,741,533	1,702,173	763	9.1	1.8	1.06%
Consumer Discretionary	1,234	1,799.11	-0.3%	-0.4%	12.2%	45,603,747	9,039,039	3,406	14.2	1.3	2.90%
Consumer Staples	306	1,006.93	0.8%	0.3%	52.9%	3,126,228	1,545,884	390	27.2	1.6	0.72%
Energy	227	1,117.64	0.2%	0.0%	17.8%	73,598,291	8,541,378	4,008	10.4	1.0	0.53%
Financial Services	4,886	1,389.01	-2.5%	-1.5%	14.6%	1,272,524,281	164,598,426	44,385	12.3	1.0	11.47%
Health Care	226	470.69	-0.3%	0.0%	-2.4%	370	159.100	1	47.6	1.5	0.53%
Industrials	2,429	718.48	-1.6%	-1.0%	-20.9%	198,086,278	32,731,689	11,926	14.6	1.0	5.70%
Insurance	853	2,081.35	4.7%	-0.1%	-9.2%	6,822,239	1,211,126	995	8.4	1.1	2.00%
Real Estate	2,913	1,373.59	-1.2%	-0.1%	13.2%	606,625,166	65,083,069	27,405	16.3	0.8	6.84%
Technology	18	1,338.60	-8.5%	-7.5%	131.4%	380,269	72,073.62	87	557.6	1.6	0.04%
Telecommunications	3,111	1,017.94	-2.6%	-1.0%	-7.9%	21,202,026	10,279,584	3,487	15.9	1.4	7.30%
Utilities	164	392.11	-1.3%	0.7%	-13.9%	3,292,355	489,278	410	15.3	1.2	0.38%

Top Gainers

Stock	last Close	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
NIH	160	66.67%	144,708,090	20,183,000,400	5,003
GINS	1,375	14.68%	4,712	6,279	17
ALMANAR	73.1	12.12%	22,889,932	1,620,895	797
ALOLA	49.8	11.66%	78,507,920	3,791,469	2,212
MASAKEN	36.9	11.48%	36,887,609	1,358,595	1,226

Top Losers

Stock	last Close	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
WARBACAP	154	-22.22%	84,829,621	13,771,461	5,072
TAMINV	817	-18.14%	5,390	4,782	28
FTI	185	-14.75%	3,356,748	663,873	699
TAHSSILAT	34.9	-12.53%	1,903,665	69,424	144
EQUIPMENT	50.7	-8.65%	9,333,001	513,756	496

Top Volume

Stock	Last	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
MANAZEL	45.2	-0.44%	264,911,051	12,592,353	3,805
KBT	101	6.43%	193,256,604	20,744,615	6,866
NIH	160	66.67%	144,708,090	20,183,000	5,003
INOVEST	166	4.40%	94,598,220	15,084,626	2,936
WARBACAP	154	-22.22%	84,829,621	13,771,461	5,072

Top Value

Stock	Last	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
KFH	706	-2.35%	60,629,339	43,280,688	11,089
IFA	379	-4.77%	64,739,584	25,785,502	3,292
KBT	101	6.43%	193,256,604	20,744,615	6,866
NIH	160	66.67%	144,708,090	20,183,000	5,003
NBK	859	-3.37%	22,753,208	19,886,409	3,282

Market Summary:

- Premier market volume dropped by 6%, while value rose by 1%. Main market volume and value increased by 21% and 15%, respectively.
- Escalating geopolitical tensions have led to a drop in blue-chip trades and prices, while intraday trading continued to dominate small- and mid-cap companies.
- Technically, the All-Share Index closed at 7,036, with support levels at 7,000, 6,981, and 6,959, and resistance at 7,041. The Premier Index closed at 7,582, with support levels at 7,555, 7,519, and 7,477, and resistance at 7,591. The Main Index closed at 6,254, with support levels at 6,235, 6,216, and 6,196, and resistance at 6,267.

Business

ABK Capital partners with Blackstone

To promote private credit and private real estate to investors in Kuwait

KUWAIT: ABK Capital, the asset management arm of Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait, and Blackstone, the world's largest alternative asset manager, have partnered to promote leading private market investment solutions in Kuwait within the private credit and real estate markets. Blackstone is recognized as the leading alternative asset manager globally, with \$1.1 tn in Assets Under Management.

Blackstone's credit platform manages \$418 bn in assets, and the firm's global real estate portfolio is valued at \$603 bn, with approximately 12.4 thousand real estate assets. Private credit has attracted significant investor interest around the world in the past few years as it offers attractive risk-adjusted returns. The asset class has grown rapidly in recent years as it offers borrowers flexible, quick, and customized access to capital while offering investors a higher income with lower volatility and historically lower default rates.

On top of that, the direct lending strategy, which this partnership will focus on, adds an additional lay-

er of risk mitigants by focusing on senior-secured lending with tighter covenants. In this space, Blackstone is considered one of the largest direct lenders globally, with a private credit platform focused on senior direct lending and opportunistic credit among other credit strategies. Meanwhile, ABK Capital has been a pioneer in offering private credit solutions in the local market, availing a strategy of well-diversified senior secured lending exposure with an opportunistic approach to other credit strategies.

Private real estate has historically delivered a good combination of capital growth and income with relatively lower volatility. Its relatively lower correlation to other asset classes adds another diversification component to the investor's portfolio. Blackstone's real estate platform provides access to global real estate opportunities benefiting from the firm's scale, knowledge, and breadth. While the common approach in the local market is to invest in single assets or a selection of clubbed assets, ABK Capital will continue delivering real estate



Dr. Husayn Shahrur



Rashmi Madan

solutions based on an open-ended funds approach, offering a well-diversified exposure within the real estate asset class in terms of number of properties, markets, and sectors.

The partnership with Blackstone on private credit

and real estate will bolster ABK Capital's approach in the space and enable it to provide such solutions to a wider client base, offering greater access to private markets. On this occasion, Dr. Husayn Shahrur, CEO of ABK Capital, said, "Our partnership with Blackstone is a cornerstone to our promise of delivering leading investment solutions for local and regional investors. It is a manifestation of our commitment to bringing the finest of the world closer to our clients."

Building on Blackstone's track record, ABK Capital will be advising investors on private market solutions that should meet the investment goals and needs of a wide base of investors." Rashmi Madan, Head of EMEA for Blackstone Private Wealth Solutions, commented, "We see strong demand for private markets from individual investors wanting to diversify their portfolio into asset classes previously reserved for institutional investors. That's why we are pleased to partner with ABK Capital to bring their clients access to Blackstone's private real estate and private credit strategies."



ISTANBUL: Street vendors sell corn and traditional Turkish backeray 'Simit' as people pass by their stands in the Eminonu district of Istanbul. — AFP

Turkish inflation still raging out of control

ANKARA: Although Turkish inflation slowed in September, it is still raging out of control with the government avoiding difficult decisions that could help tackle it, experts told AFP. Turkey has experienced spiraling inflation the past two years, peaking at an annual rate of 85.5 percent in October 2022 and 75.45 percent in May. The government claims it slowed to 49.4 percent in September.

But the figures are disputed by the ENAG group of independent economists who estimate that year-on-year inflation stood at 88.6 percent in September. Finance Minister Mehmet Simsek has said Ankara was hoping to bring inflation down to 17.6 percent by the end of 2025 and to "single digits" by 2026. And President Recep Tayyip Erdogan recently hailed Turkey's success in "starting the process of permanent disinflation".

"The hard times are behind us," he said. But economists interviewed by AFP said the surge in consumer prices in Turkey had become "chronic" and is being exacerbated by some government policies. "The current drop is simply due to a base effect. The price rises over the course of a month is still high, at 2.97 percent across Turkey and 3.9 percent in Istanbul. "You can't call this a success story," said Mehmet Sisman, economics professor at Istanbul's Marmara University.

'Budgetary black holes'

Spurning conventional economic practice of raising interest rates to curb inflation, Erdogan has long defended a policy of lowering rates, citing Islamic precepts that ban usury. That has sent the lira sliding, further fuelling inflation. But after his reelection in May 2023, he gave Turkey's Central Bank free rein to raise its main interest rate from 8.5 to 50 percent between June 2023 and March 2024. The central bank's rate remained unchanged in September for the sixth consecutive month.

"The fight against inflation revolves around the priorities of the financial sector. As a result, it is done indirectly and generates uncertainty," explained Eric Yeldan, economics professor at Kadir Has University in Istanbul. But raising interest rates alone is not enough to steady inflation without addressing massive budget deficits, according to Yakup Kucukcalle, an economics professor at Karadeniz Technical University.

He pointed to Turkey's record budget deficit of 129.6 billion lira (3.45 billion euros). "Simsek says this is due to expenditure linked to the reconstruction in regions hit by the February 2023 earthquake," he said of the disaster that killed more than 53,000 people. "But the real black hole is due to the costly public-private partnership contracts," he said, referring to infrastructure contracts which critics say are often awarded to firms close to Erdogan's government. Such contracts cover construction and management of everything from motorways and bridges to hospitals and airports, and are often accompanied by generous guarantees such as state compensation in the event they are underused.

"We should question these contracts, which are a burden on the budget because this compensation is indexed to the dollar or the euro," said Kucukcalle. Anti-inflation measures also tend to impact low-income households at a time when the minimum wage hasn't been raised since January, he said. "But these people already have little purchasing power. To lower demand, such measures must target higher-income groups, but there is hardly anything affecting them," he said.

Reinforcing inequality

"Austerity measures", such as cancelling cleaning services in public schools, hit the most disadvantaged and reinforce inequalities, Yeldan said, indicating it would be preferable to introduce a "tax on wealth, financial transactions and property income". But Erdogan's AKP ruling party relies on the support of "pro-government companies" who have won infrastructure contracts, he said.

According to a study by Koc University, households are expecting annual inflation to reach 94 percent by the end of the year, well above the central bank's forecasts. "Price rises experienced by the middle and lower classes are all the more distressing because it involves essential products and services like food, housing and education, where inflation remains very high," Sisman said. Uncertainty about the future is also contributing to the ongoing price rises as retailers try to anticipate future costs, observers say. "Inflation is now structural and persistent in Turkey. Without structural reforms, we will be stuck in a vicious circle as we were in the 1990s," said Yeldan. — AFP

Gulf Bank announces winners of AIDanah monthly draw

KUWAIT: As part of its commitment to rewarding customers, Gulf Bank announced the 10 winners of the September monthly draw, each receiving a prize of KD 1,000. The winners are: Arfat Khurshid Alam; Hajjar Ayyad Sulaiman Al-Azmi; Fahad Abdul-la Omer Al-Asfour; Bader Hamad Huwedi Al-Deferi; Rajaa Mahdi Habib; Nabihah Abdulrahman Mesfer; Ahmad Ramadan Gotb; Turki Maijah Ali Saleh; Manal Ali Mandani Haider; Mohammed Ahmad AbdulRaheem AbdulRahman

On October 17th, 2024, the bank will hold a special draw where 100 winners will each receive KD 1,000. This is the first time this draw is being held, following the bank's decision to divide the quarterly prize of KD 100,000 among 100 winners, rather than awarding the entire amount to one individual. Previously, the bank also increased the grand annual prize from KD 1.5 million to KD 2 million, earning recognition in the Guinness World Records as the largest cash prize tied to a bank account globally.

With these updates, the Al-Danah Millionaire Account draw schedule, which began in 1998 and is

NBK Weekly Market Report

Interest rates will be lowered gradually: US Federal Reserve

KUWAIT: Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell stated that interest rates will be lowered gradually, emphasizing that the US economy remains strong. He expressed confidence that inflation will continue to move toward the Fed's 2 percent target. Powell mentioned that economic conditions support further easing of price pressures, but policy adjustments will be based on incoming data rather than a fixed course. While the Fed's current rate is still restrictive, Powell indicated potential quarter-point cuts in the next two meetings, though decisions will depend on new information. He also noted that while the labor market is still solid, it has cooled over the past year.

JOLTS Job Openings

Over in the US, the number of job openings increased by 329,000 to 8.04 million in August, surpassing market expectations of 7.64 million. Significant job openings growth occurred in construction (+138,000) and state and local government, excluding education (+78,000), while other services saw a decrease (-93,000). Regionally, job openings rose in the Northeast, South, Midwest, and West. The number of hires remained steady at 5.3 million, as did total separations at 5.0 million. However, job quits fell to 3.084 million, the lowest level since August 2020, down from 3.243 million in July.

ISM Manufacturing & Services PMI

In September, US manufacturing stayed weak but showed some positive signs. New orders improved, and the cost of raw materials dropped to its lowest level in nine months. These changes, along with falling interest rates, suggest that manufacturing might pick up in the coming months. The Institute for Supply Management (ISM) reported that its manufacturing index stayed at 47.2, still below 50, meaning the sector is shrinking.

However, this marks the sixth month of contraction, though the overall economy continues to expand. Despite the weak survey results, real data like factory output and durable goods orders showed the manufacturing sector is holding steady. Manufacturing output grew by 2.6 percent in the second quarter, up from 0.2 percent in the first, and more growth is expected after the Federal Reserve's recent interest rate cuts.

Moreover, US services sector activity hit its highest point in 18 months, driven by a strong increase in new orders, indicating that the economy remained stable in the third quarter. The Institute for Supply Management (ISM) reported that its non-manufacturing PMI rose to 54.9, up from 51.5 in August, marking continued growth in the services sector, which makes up over two-thirds of the economy. This growth aligns with positive data on consumer spending and a reduced trade deficit, suggesting the economy maintained momentum from the previous quarter.

Sustaining reforms critical for Sri Lanka

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's painful austerity measures were "bearing fruit" and must be sustained, the International Monetary Fund said as the country's new president sought changes to its \$2.9 billion bailout. Leftist leader Anura Kumara Disanayake won last month's presidential election promising to reverse steep tax hikes, raise public servant salaries and

now in its 26th consecutive year, has been revised. Moving forward, two millionaires will be crowned annually through two major draws. The grand prize for the annual draw is KD 2 million, and the semi-annual prize is KD 1 million. Each month, 10 winners are selected, with each receiving KD 1,000. A special draw for KD 100,000 was held on April 18, 2024. The next special draw, scheduled for October 17, 2024, will award KD 1,000 to 100 winners. The deadline to participate in this draw is June 30, 2025.

Additionally, Gulf Bank announced the grand prize winner of the AIDanah Millionaire Account's annual draw on February 1, 2024. This was the first draw since the annual prize amount was increased from KD 1.5 million to KD 2 million. This change is part of the bank's ongoing efforts to reward its customers and promote a culture of saving in the community. The AIDanah account is one of the top savings accounts in Kuwait, offering regular draws with valuable prizes and numerous benefits for account holders. Each month, 10 winners receive KD 1,000. Additionally, there are two quarterly draws of KD 100,000 each, a semi-annual draw with a prize of KD 1 million, and an annual grand prize draw of KD 2 million.

A unique advantage of the AIDanah account is that it is the only account in Kuwait where your chances of winning carry over from one year to the next, as part of the bank's loyalty and reward program. To increase their chances of winning,

Rates - 06th October 2024

Currencies	Previous Week Levels				This Week's Expected Range		3-Month
	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	Forward
EUR	1.1157	1.0950	1.1208	1.0976	1.0800	1.1200	1.1125
GBP	1.3366	1.3066	1.3422	1.3116	1.2800	1.3400	1.3114
JPY	142.23	141.63	149.00	148.71	144.00	151.00	146.89
CHF	0.8407	0.8398	0.8607	0.8580	0.8300	0.8550	0.8491

Unemployment claims

The number of Americans filing for unemployment benefits increased slightly last week, though disruptions from Hurricane Helene in the Southeast and strikes at Boeing and ports may impact the labor market soon. According to the Labor Department's report, the job market remained stable at the end of the third quarter, which could give the Federal Reserve little reason to rush into significant interest rate cuts. Another report showed that the services sector reached its highest level in over 18 months, driven by strong new orders.

Economist Christopher Rupkey noted that the labor market appears steady, making it unlikely the Fed will cut rates aggressively unless conditions worsen. Initial claims for unemployment benefits rose by 6,000 to 225,000 for the week ending September 28, slightly above expectations. Unadjusted claims dropped by just over 1,000 but were below the anticipated decline, causing seasonally adjusted claims to rise. Despite this, claims remain low, indicating a stable labor market with few layoffs. However, this calm may be disrupted by Hurricane Helene, which caused widespread destruction in six southeastern states, leading to a long and costly recovery process.

Non-farm payrolls

US job growth in September saw its largest increase in six months, with 254,000 new jobs added, and the unemployment rate dropped to 4.1 percent. This points to a strong economy that likely won't require major interest rate cuts from the Federal Reserve this year. In addition to the job gains, wages rose steadily, and the economy added 72,000 more jobs in July and August than initially reported. Recent data revisions have also shown the economy is performing better than expected, with upgrades in growth, income, savings, and corporate profits.

Fed Chair Jerome Powell acknowledged this positive outlook and signaled no rush to cut interest rates significantly. The unemployment rate's drop from 4.2 percent in August was due to a rise in household employment, which more than offset the number of new workers entering the labor force. Although the jobless rate has risen since April, it has been influenced by factors like temporary layoffs in the auto industry.

renegotiate an unpopular IMF bailout secured by Colombo last year. The avowed Marxist held his first meeting with Fund representatives in Colombo this week, saying he wanted to reduce the tax burden on lower income households.

In response, the Washington-based lender of last resort stressed that it was important not to jeopardize Sri Lanka's hard-won economic recovery. "Reform efforts are bearing fruit in terms of reviving economic growth, lowering inflation, boosting reserves and improving revenue mobilization," spokesperson Julie Kozack said in Washington. "Important vulnerabilities and uncertainties do remain, and this means that



customers must maintain a minimum deposit of KD 200 in the account or increase their balance to improve their odds of winning in the monthly, quarterly, and annual draws.

Gulf Bank aims to be Kuwait's leading bank, fostering a diverse and inclusive workplace to deliver exceptional customer service while contributing sustainably to the community. Through its extensive branch network and innovative digital services, the bank empowers customers to conduct banking transactions conveniently and efficiently, ensuring a seamless experience. In alignment with Kuwait Vision 2035, "New Kuwait," and its commitment to fostering collaborative partnerships, Gulf Bank is dedicated to driving robust sustainability initiatives across environmental, social, and governance (ESG) dimensions. The bank is committed to implementing strategically selected and diverse sustainability programs both internally and externally.

Average hourly wages rose by 0.4 percent in September, following a 0.5 percent increase in August, and were up 4.0 percent compared to the previous year. This strong wage growth makes it less likely that the Federal Reserve will implement a large interest rate cut at its November meeting. Financial markets now predict a 91 percent chance of a smaller quarter-point rate cut in November, up from 71.5 percent before the report, while the likelihood of a larger half-point cut dropped to 9 percent from 28.5 percent. The US Dollar index closed the week at 102.520.

Euro-zone CPI

The annual inflation rate in the Euro-zone fell to 1.8 percent in September 2024, its lowest since April 2021, down from 2.2 percent in August and below forecasts of 1.9 percent. Inflation is now below the ECB's 2 percent target. Energy prices dropped significantly (-6 percent vs -3 percent), and inflation for services eased slightly (4 percent vs 4.1 percent), while prices for food, alcohol, and tobacco rose marginally (2.4 percent vs 2.3 percent).

Core inflation also eased to 2.7 percent from 2.8 percent. Inflation slowed in major economies like Germany, France, Italy, and Spain. The ECB anticipates inflation to rise later in 2024 due to previous sharp falls in energy prices dropping out of the annual rates, with a gradual decline toward 2 percent expected by the second half of 2025. The EUR/USD currency pair closed the week at 1.0976.

China manufacturing PMI

China's factory activity contracted for the fifth month in a row in September but exceeded expectations with a reading of 49.8, up from 49.1 in August. The manufacturing sector continues to face challenges due to an ongoing economic slowdown, a property crisis, and Western export restrictions, particularly on electric vehicles. In response, the Chinese government has taken steps to stimulate economic growth, including cutting the reserve requirement ratio by 50 basis points and reducing the seven-day reverse repurchase rate by 20 basis points. These measures led to a significant rally in Chinese equity markets, marking their best week in nearly 16 years. The USD/CNY currency pair closed the week at 7.0176.

sustaining reform momentum is critical."

Sri Lanka can draw down a fourth tranche of \$336 million in IMF funds only if it is satisfied that leaders are sticking to the revenue and spending targets of the rescue plan. Disanayake's office said Thursday he reaffirmed "broad agreement" with the objectives of the IMF program but "emphasized the importance of achieving these objectives through alternative means that relieves the burden off the people". The new president has said he also wants to conclude a deal to restructure \$12.5 billion in international sovereign bonds and secure more concessions for the cash-strapped nation. — AFP

Lifestyle

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2024



VIETNAM'S YOUNG COFFEE ENTREPRENEURS BREW UP A REVOLUTION



An employee makes coffee for a customer at a cafe in Hanoi.



An employee serves coffee to a customer at a cafe in Hanoi. - AFP photos



A worker checks coffee beans as they are roasted at Thai Cafe's production facility in Hanoi.

Ditching a lucrative career in finance, Vu Dinh Tu opened a coffee shop without telling his parents and joined a wave of young Vietnamese entrepreneurs using espressos to challenge family expectations around work. Traditionally taken black, sometimes with condensed milk, or even egg, coffee has long been an integral part of Vietnamese culture. But starting a cafe is not a career that many of Vietnam's growing group of ambitious middle-class parents would choose for their children.

"At first my family didn't know much about it," 32-year-old Tu told AFP. "Gradually they found out - and they weren't very supportive." Tu's parents repeatedly tried to convince him to stay in his well-paid investment banking job. But he persevered and opened four branches of Refined over four years in Hanoi. Each is packed from morning till night with coffee lovers enjoying Vietnamese robusta beans - in surroundings more like a cocktail bar than a cafe.

His parents "saw the hard work involved in running a business - handling everything from finances to staffing, and they didn't want me to struggle", explained Tu.

Vietnam was desperately poor until the early 2000s, pulling itself up with a boom in manufacturing, but many parents want to see their children climb the social ladder by moving into steady, lucrative professions such as medicine and law. Coffee, on the other hand, has become a byword for creativity and self-expression.

Like an 'artist'

In Vietnam, "cafes have become a way to break norms around family pressure to do well in school, go to college, get a degree... work in something that is familiar and financially stable", according to Sarah Grant, an associate professor at California State University.

"They have also become spaces of possibility where you can bring together creative people in a community, whether that's graphic designers... musicians, other kinds of do-it-yourself type people," said Grant, an anthropologist specializing in Vietnam. Coffee first arrived in Vietnam in the 1850s during French colonial rule, but a shift in the 1990s and early 2000s to large-scale production of robusta - usually found in instant brews

- made the country a coffee production powerhouse and the world's second largest exporter. A passion for the coffee business is often linked to that history, Grant told AFP.

Coffee entrepreneurs are "really proud that Vietnam is this coffee-producing country and has a lot of power in the

student, is typical of the new generation of customer - she says the cafe's style is what counts for her more than the brews. "I don't like coffee that much," she admits. Vietnam's coffee shop industry is worth \$400 million and is growing up to eight percent a year, according to branding consultancy Mibrand.

from Vietnamese robusta. For Tu, his parents eventually came around - and he plans further shops, wanting to create a workforce that loves coffee as much as he does. "I want to build the mindset that this is a serious career," he said. — AFP



Coffee house employees work at a cafe in Hanoi.

global market", she added. Down a tiny alley in the heart of the capital, 29-year-old Nguyen Thi Hue is mixing a lychee matcha cold brew in her new glass-fronted shop - a one-woman "Slow Bar" coffee business.

"When making coffee, it's almost like being an artist," said Hue, who had her first cup as a young child thanks to a neighbor who roasted his own. But coffee is also hugely trendy, and there is money to be made if a cafe appeals to selfie-loving Generation Z. "No-one dresses poorly to go to a cafe," notes Hue, herself decked out in stylish bright-blue-rimmed glasses and matching neck-tie.

Coffee 'a serious career'

Relaxing at a rival shop nearby, Dang Le Nhu Quynh, a 21-year-old university

There are also thousands of shops not officially registered with authorities, says Vu Thi Kim Oanh, a lecturer at Vietnam's RMIT university. "If we have problems with a job at the office, then we quit and we think: let's get some money together... choose one place, rent a house and then open a coffee shop," she said. "If it goes well, then you continue. If it doesn't, you change."

Global brands have struggled to gain a foothold and Starbucks accounted for just two percent of the market in 2022, according to Euromonitor International. Earlier this year it announced it would shut down its only store in Ho Chi Minh City selling specialty brews. Unlike most local ventures, the coffee giant uses exclusively "high-quality" arabica beans, which have a distinctly different flavor



A worker roasts coffee beans at Thai Cafe's production facility in Hanoi.



Customers sit with their coffee at a cafe in Hanoi.



A coffee house customer poses for a photo at a cafe in Hanoi.



Coffee house owner Vu Dinh Tu makes coffee at a cafe in Hanoi.

French 'Golden Owl' treasure hunt ends after 31 years

A mass treasure hunt launched in France in 1993 appeared to have been solved, with the guardian of the elusive "Golden Owl" prize saying someone had finally found it. The find marks the end of a three-decade search across France and a string of legal and financial battles over the Owl, which has inspired thousands of people to test their grey matter against riddles set by a long-dead man.

"We confirm that the replica of the Golden Owl was dug up overnight," Michel Becker wrote on a Discord forum used by would-be sleuths to collaborate

on the puzzle. The forum has more than 7,000 participants. "Don't go digging", he urged others who might think they had also worked out the answer, adding that organizers were "checking the accuracy of the solution that has been submitted". A replica of the Golden Owl - a ten-kilo (22-pound) gold and silver sculpture encrusted with diamonds - was buried at a secret location in France in April 1993. Anyone hoping to find it had to solve 11 riddles published in an accompanying book, "On the trail of the Golden Owl".

If found, the replica could be ex-

changed for the real thing - whose value was estimated at the time at one million French francs, or the equivalent of about 150,000 euros when the single currency was introduced in 1999. The fiendishly-difficult Golden Owl trials were conceived by marketing writer Regis Hauser, who published the book under the pen name Max Valentin to avoid attention from fans of the puzzles.

He rarely appeared in public and always took care to cover his face. Becker designed the Golden Owl sculpture which was then brought to life by a goldsmith. He publicized the game in TV

interviews - without himself knowing where the treasure could be found.

The puzzle survived challenges of its own, including the seizure of the Golden Owl itself by the liquidator of the publishing house that produced the book's third edition. Regis Hauser and Michel Becker got the Owl back in 2009 after four years of legal battle. Hauser himself died aged just 62 in April that year. Becker then fought Hauser's heirs in court to gain control over the solution to the riddles, entrusted to a court bailiff in Paris.

Becker tried to sell Golden Owl

itself in 2014 through renowned auction house Drouot, but backed off after outrage from the treasure-hunting community. Hauser's heirs finally allowed Becker to see the solution - stored on an old floppy disk - in 2021. He went to the spot one night, digging up the rusted-through iron replica Owl and replacing it with a bronze one. Additional clues provided by Becker after 2021 and cooperation by Owl trackers through the Discord platform now appear to have brought the saga safely to its end. — AFP



A scale model of a prototype house using cork as thermal insulation or sound absorption is pictured at the Amorim cork factory.



An employee selects the high quality corks at the Amorim cork factory.



Corks are pictured at the Amorim cork factory.



Portugal looks to put new twist on CORK INDUSTRY



An employee works during the cork harvest in a farm in Coruche, central Portugal.



Cork boards are pictured at the Amorim cork factory. — AFP photos

Portugal, the world's leading cork producer, is finding new uses for the material, from footwear to furniture, as demand for bottle stoppers wanes. Producers highlight the environmentally friendly properties of cork, which is lightweight, recyclable, waterproof and fire-resistant, to encourage its use in diverse settings.

Cork is obtained by stripping the bark of cork oak trees every nine years in a careful process that allows the tree to regenerate and grow, making the industry naturally sustainable. The material has "a negative carbon footprint because it comes from a tree that captures CO2 day and night", Antonio Rios de Amorim, the CEO of the world's largest cork producer Corticeira Amorim, told AFP. The push to diversify comes as global sales of wine decline, reducing demand for cork stoppers which have long faced competition from cheaper plastic stoppers and screw tops. "Periods of slowdown must be used to question what we do," said Amorim, whose ancestors founded Corticeira Amorim 154 years ago in the northern village of Mozelos, about 30 kilometers (18 miles) south of second city Porto.

Booster rockets, metro seats

Thanks to cork's cell-like structure, the material is elastic and highly impermeable, making it suitable to make shoes as well as ties, pants and other clothes. Furniture designers are also increasingly drawn to the material. British designer Tom Dixon has called it a "dream material" and put out a range of dark cork furniture that includes tables, stools and shelves using cork from Portugal.

The Lisbon metro in 2020 replaced the fabric lining on all seats of its train fleet with cork, an easier to maintain material. Builders have been drawn to the material because of its unique thermal insulation and sound absorption properties.

Cork is also finding its way into space. It is used in thermal protection

al market share for cork stoppers and posted sales of 985 million euros (one billion dollars) in 2023, slightly lower than in the previous year.

Traditional methods

Cork is made from the bark of the cork oak (*Quercus suber*) found in countries of the Mediterranean basin.

mer using traditional methods handed down from generation to generation.

It is a highly precise technique "that takes several years to learn", said Nelson Ferreira, a 43-year-old cork bark harvester, adding he takes great care not to damage the tree. The bark is then taken to Corticeira Amorim's factories in the north of Portugal where it



Employees work during the cork harvest in a farm.

coating on booster rockets because of its resistance "to strong variations in temperature", said Amorim. Making bottle stoppers, however, remains the main activity for Portugal's cork industry, which employs around 8,000 people.

Corticeira Amorim makes some six billion cork bottle stoppers per year, almost all of them for export mainly to Chile, France and the United States. It accounts for 70 percent of the glob-

Portugal is home to about a third of the world's total area dedicated to this tree -- more than any other country -- and accounts for nearly half the world's supply of cork. There are also plantations in France, Spain, Italy, Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia.

In the province of Ribatejo around 80 kilometers east of Lisbon, cork oaks stretch as far as the eye can see. The bark is removed from the tree in sum-

is steam-treated, cut into smaller pieces and then fed into machines that punch out stoppers. The preservation of cork oaks is crucial for Portugal, which has made them a protected species since it takes an average of 40 years for a tree to start producing cork that can be used by cork makers. —AFP



Bags of raw cork are pictured at the Amorim cork factory in Mozelos.



An employee works during the cork harvest at a farm in Coruche.



View of fish skins that will be used for the production of earrings and keychains by women workers of the Piel Marina cooperative at the Costa de Pájaros beach in Puntarenas, Costa Rica. — AFP photos



Aerial view of Costa Pajaros beach in Puntarenas, Costa Rica.



View of earrings and keychains made with fish skin by working women from the Piel Marina cooperative.

Carpe diem: The Costa Rican women turning fish into fashion



A fisherman poses for a picture carrying fish at the Costa de Pájaros beach.



Women workers from the Piel Marina cooperative manipulate fish skin to make earrings.



A worker removes the skin from a fish that will later be used by women workers from the Piel Marina cooperative.

On a beach in Costa Rica, as fishermen land the day's catch, two women are hard at work on a slimy sea bass skin, rubbing, scraping, washing and tanning the hide to turn it into leather. Two years ago, both Mauren Castro, 41, and Marta Sosa, 70, were stay-at-home mums dependent on their fishermen husbands to provide for their families of four and six, respectively. Today, they are part of the all-female Piel Marina (Marine Skin) cooperative, which turns fish skins that used to be discarded at sea into sustainable fashion.

For generations, fishing was the economic mainstay in Costa de Pajaros, a village situated about 62 miles (100 kilometers) west of the capital San Jose. But fishermen say that regulations aimed at making stocks more sustainable, which this year included a complete ban on fishing between May and July, have made it harder to live off the sea. Enter the NGO MarViva, which helped train 15 women to establish themselves as sea-front tanners two years ago. The women were skeptical at first about the sartorial possibilities of fish skins. "We said 'how can a skin, which is something that gets smelly, which is waste, be the raw material for women to be able to get ahead'?" Castro, 41, told AFP. But over time they honed their trade and are helping supplementing their families' meagre incomes.

Facebook and Instagram

Wearing blue rubber gloves and white t-shirts bearing the words Piel Marina, Sosa and Castro show how a



A worker holds a clean fish skin that will later be used by women workers from the Piel Marina cooperative during the production process to be sold at the Costa de Pájaros beach in Puntarenas.

skin rescued from a filleted sea bass can become a pair of earrings, a necklace or even a handbag. First they rub the skin gently between their fingers to remove the scales and any remaining flesh. "Then we take it and wash it with soap, as if we were washing clothes. Then we dye it with glycerin and alcohol and natural dye, and then we dry it," Sosa explained. The dyeing process takes four days, with another four needed for the leather to dry in the sun to produce a fabric that is soft and pliable but strong.

Crucially, it no longer smells of fish and has the advantage of being waterproof. The women are not only tanners, but have also become jewelry designers who sell colorful earrings and necklaces on Instagram and Facebook. A



View of an earring made with fish skin by working women from the Piel Marina cooperative.

pair of earrings in the shape of a butterfly costs the equivalent of about seven dollars. The women also sell some of the leather to small-scale textile producers in Puntarenas, the main port on Costa Rica's Pacific coast.

Indigenous tradition

Costa Rica is just the latest country to catch onto the potential of fish tanning, an age-old practice among Indigenous peoples from Alaska to Scandinavia to Asia. While salmon skins were traditionally used by the Ainu people in Japan and the Inuit in northern Canada to make boots and clothes, and on the shores of Lake Victoria in Kenya they now use the local tilapia delicacy to make handbags.

Brazilian company Nova Kaeru meanwhile offers leather made from the discarded scales of the giant pirarucu



Women workers from the Piel Marina cooperative dyes fish skin to make earrings at the Costa de Pájaros beach.

fish, which is native to the Amazon. On the internet, fish leather bags sell for hundreds of dollars. One of the first big-name fashion designers to get hooked on the skins was former Dior creative director John Galiano, who sported an Atlantic salmon skin jacket and fish leather bag in his 2002 collections.

For the moment, the women of the Piel Marina cooperative are glad to have a job that gets them away from domestic chores and provides them with a small income. But they dream of the day when the leather they make by hand on the beach struts the global stage. Castro's eyes shine at the prospect. "I would like it to be seen in Hollywood, in Canada or on the great catwalks in Paris!" —AFP

Roasted by summer temperatures too hot for the beach, Dubai has turned to an innovative solution: opening them at night, complete with floodlights and lifeguards carrying night-vision binoculars. The idea, in one of the world's hottest regions, with temperatures climbing ever higher through climate change, has proved popular -- more than one million people have visited the night beaches since last year, an official said.

The night beaches remain busy on weekend evenings in the United Arab Emirates. "The temperature drops down in the evening after the sun sets. So, yeah, it's amazing," said Mohammed, 32, from Pakistan, who brought his children to enjoy the sea without having to worry about the burning Gulf sun.

For residents of Dubai, a coast-hugging, desert metropolis of about 3.7 million people, the hot season from June to October is an annual trial. With temperatures regularly topping 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit), often with high humidity, outdoor activities are severely limited. The city now has more than 800 meters (yards) of designated night beaches fitted with shark nets and illuminated by giant, bright floodlights.

"While you're... bathing inside the water, you can see the sand even on your foot and your hands and everything," said Mohammed, who has lived in Dubai for a decade. Lifeguards are posted 24 hours a day and, beyond the floodlights' glare,



Too hot by day, Dubai's floodlit beaches are packed at night

For the authorities, the night beaches are another way to tempt tourists, especially in summer when the stifling heat usually keeps them indoors. "I believe we are one of the only cities in the world to have such infrastructure on public beaches at night," said Hamad Shaker, an official from the Dubai municipality.

Extreme weather

Dubai used to empty out in summer as expats fled the heat in droves, said Manuela Gutberlet, a tourism researcher at the University of Breda in the Netherlands. But with attractions such as the world's tallest building, giant malls and indoor amusement parks, it has become "a year-round urban destination", attracting more than 17 million visitors last year, she said. However, climate change could limit its ambitions, Gutberlet warned, citing the unprecedented rains that paralyzed the city for several days in April.

Extreme weather events and a further rise in temperatures could discourage some visitors, she said, highlighting the need to "adapt quickly to new risks". Meanwhile, Frenchman Laziz Ahmed, 77, found himself on the night beach during his first holiday in Dubai, where he was visiting relatives. "During the day, I don't go out much," he said, adding that in the evening "I make up for it". —AFP

they use the night-vision binoculars to keep an eye on swimmers or kayakers further out in the water. Officials are also testing an artificial intelligence camera system meant to detect when people are in distress.

'Feels like a bath'

At nearly midnight on a recent Friday, with temperatures still above 30C

(86F), Umm Suqeim beach was packed with people -- mainly expatriates, who make up about 90 percent of the UAE's population. Mary Bayarka, a 38-year-old fitness coach from Belarus, was enjoying being outside after a "long, hot day", even if the Gulf seawater was a little warm. "It feels like (I'm) in a bath," she said. Nearby, Filipina saleswoman Laya Manko was burying her body in

the sand. The beach is an escape for the 36-year-old, one of the hundreds of thousands of migrant workers who keep Dubai's economy ticking.

"Every weekend we come here to have fun," she said. "Sometimes we sleep here with my friends. "Because you work hard in Dubai, you feel you need to relax. Yes, this is my stress reliever," said Manko.



People gather at the Umm Suqeim beach in Dubai during the night.--AFP photos



Sports

Kaur leads India to victory over Pakistan in Women's T20 WCup

India face Sri Lanka in the next game in Dubai on Wednesday

DUBAI: India captain Harmanpreet Kaur produced a steely 29 to steer her side to a scrappy six-wicket victory over Pakistan in Dubai on Sunday. Set 106 to win after restricting Pakistan to 105-8 in their 20 overs, India were looking comfortable at 61-1. But two wickets in two balls by Pakistan captain Fatima Sana opened the door before Kaur took her side to the brink of victory.

With India two runs short, however, she slipped and appeared to rick her neck, leaving the field unbeaten on 29 from 24 balls. Sajeevan Sajana hit the winning runs from the next delivery as India closed on 108-4, winning with seven balls to spare.

"We have been very disciplined, followed the plans," said India's Smriti Mandhana. "In the field we were very good. Better start with the bat would have been good, but we will take that win." Nida Dar top-scored for Pakistan with 28 from 34 balls but there was little else to cheer after Fatima had won the toss and elected to bat on a wicket that produced some awkward bounce.

"We were not up to the mark in the batting. We were 10-15 runs short," said Fatima. All of the Indian bowlers

contributed with Arundhati Reddy the most successful as she removed Omaima Sohail (3) and Aliya Riaz (4) in the middle order before clean bowling Dar in the final over to finish with 3-19 from her four overs.

"I've worked a lot on my T20 bowling in all stages of the innings. I'm still working hard now. I kept it simple and attacked the stumps," said Reddy who was named Player of the Match. India lost Mandhana for seven but Shafali Verma and Jemimah Rodrigues took them to 61 before the second wicket fell in the 12th over. Verma, their impressive 20-year-old opener, struck three fours in a 35-ball 32 before holing out to mid-on. That gave Pakistan a sniff of a chance but Kaur made sure India made it 13 wins from 16 against Pakistan in T20Is.

After losing their opening match to New Zealand, this was a much-needed win for India in Group A. They remain fourth in the group, with Pakistan just ahead of them on net run rate. India face Sri Lanka in the next game in Dubai on Wednesday while Pakistan meet favorites Australia on Friday. West Indies face Scotland in Sunday's late game in Dubai with both sides having lost their Group B openers. — AFP



DUBAI: India's Asha Sobhana dives to stop the ball during the ICC Women's T20 World Cup cricket match between Pakistan and India at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium in Dubai on October 6, 2024. — AFP

Al-Ghareeb wins national squash championship

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Yarmouk's Sports Club under 19 squash player Jasem Al-Ghareeb won the 16th national squash championship by beating Kheitan's Club player Qadeer Ghol 3-1 after losing the first set. Al-Ghareeb was able to deal with the match due to his experience and technical abilities.

Ghol ended in second place, while Kheitan's Abdulrahman Al-Sane was third and Qurain's Ab-

dulrahman Al-Maghrabi fourth. Results of the general category saw Gadeer Ghol winning first place, Abdulrahman Al-Mughrabi second, Abdulaziz Al-Hashim third, and Abdulrahman Al-Dabbous fourth.

In the under 17 category Abdulrahman Al-Sane defeated Talal Ghol to win first place leaving second place for Talal as third place went for Mahdi Usama and Essa Al-Najadah won fourth. In the under 15 Al-Najadah won first place, Ahmad Ranjeen second, Ziyad Mohammad third and Salman Al-Saleh fourth.

In the under 13 category Abdullah Maayouf was first, Salman Al-Saleh second, Humoud Al-Sawagh third and Fawaz Al-Farsi fourth. In the under 11 category Fahad Ghol first, Fahad Al-Musabbahi second, Ali Buhamad third and Saqer Al-Kandari fourth. As for women Arabi's Basmalah Al-Shami won first place, Ayesha Al-Methen second, Sarah Al-Ali third and Dunya Jumaa fourth both from Salwa club.



Jasem Al-Ghareeb



Bagnaia sets 'example' with Japan MotoGP win

MOTEGI: Francesco Bagnaia hailed an "example" weekend after winning the Japan MotoGP ahead of championship front-runner Jorge Martin on Sunday to cut the Spaniard's lead to 10 points with four races remaining. The Italian defending world champion overtook pole-sitter Pedro Acosta on the first lap at Motegi and stayed in front to finish 1.189sec ahead of Martin with Marc Marquez third. Ducati rider Bagnaia also won Saturday's sprint race to leave Japan 11 points closer to Pramac's Martin than he was at the start of the weekend.

"I want to keep the championship—I have to try to recover points every time but without taking risks," said Bagnaia. "It's not easy but this weekend started well and we have to take it like an example for the next ones."

"We have to try to follow what we did this weekend, to work in a perfect way and try to always do the best job possible in the race," he added. The next leg is the Australian MotoGP at Phillip Island in two weeks' time. It was Bagnaia's eighth Grand Prix win of 2024, his highest tally in a single season, and his first in Japan.

Martin, who is chasing his first world title, started from 11th on the grid after crashing in qualifying. He finished fourth in the sprint race. The Spaniard said he was happy with his Grand Prix runner-up finish despite a late surge that saw him eat into Bagnaia's lead with a handful of laps remaining.

"For sure, being that close to Pecco (Bagnaia) I wanted to give it a try, so I never gave up," said Martin. "I pushed until the end. Then, three laps to go I had some moments so I said 'OK Jorge, it's time to relax and think about the points.'"

The championship moves to Thailand after the Australia MotoGP, then visits Malaysia before finishing the season in Valencia. "I feel grateful, grateful to be here, that I can battle like last year. I feel stronger, so let's go for it," said Martin. "There are some races where I feel a bit better, some others where Pecco is a bit better. The target is to bring it to Valencia and have the chance to win it."

Acosta crash
Acosta was on MotoGP pole for the first time, but he slid out with 21 laps to go from second place behind Bagnaia to complete a miserable weekend for the Spanish rookie, who also crashed in Saturday's sprint. Italy's Enea Bastianini finished fourth and remains third in the standings, two points ahead of Spain's six-time world champion Marquez. Under cloudy skies and no rain, Acosta held off Bagnaia on the first turn but the Italian took the lead soon after.



MOTEGI: Ducati Lenovo Team rider Francesco Bagnaia of Italy celebrates his victory on the MotoGP class race podium of MotoGP Japanese Grand Prix at the Mobility Resort Motegi in Motegi, Tochigi prefecture on October 6, 2024. — AFP

Martin went from 11th to fourth before the first lap was over. Martin overtook South Africa's Brad Binder and then moved up to second when Acosta wiped out two laps later. Martin pushed for the win but Bagnaia had the composure to see out the victory.

"Congrats to Pecco, he's the master in managing the tyres," said Martin. "I did a good job, I think. Nice first laps, and I'm super-happy with this second position." Marquez and Bastianini were locked in a titanic tussle for third but Marquez held on to his position.

"It was a difficult weekend but we're on the podium again so super-happy," said Marquez. Italy's Franco Morbidelli was fifth and Binder was sixth. Spain's Maverick Vinales, who started third on the grid, was another who crashed. — AFP

Pakistan's Masood warns England still a force without Stokes

MULTAN: Pakistan captain Shan Masood warned on the eve of Monday's first Test in Multan that his side would still be facing a formidable England, despite the absence of their captain Ben Stokes. Ollie Pope will again lead England after deputizing successfully in the recent 2-1 series win over Sri Lanka as Stokes, 33, was ruled out as he recovers from a hamstring injury.

"We all know the quality of Ben Stokes," said Masood on Sunday ahead of the start of the three-Test series. "He is one of the top all-rounders of the world." "England's strength will not lessen with one individual (missing)," he warned. "They are still very competitive."

"If you look at their playing eleven then it's very balanced with all-rounders, and they have two spinners and three fast bowlers with deep batting, so their loss is that of an individual." Stokes led England to an emphatic 3-0 Test series victory on England's last tour in 2022, the first time Pakistan had been swept at home.

England return with Pakistan on a painful losing streak—winless in their last 10 home Tests and suffering a humiliating 2-0 home defeat to Bangladesh last month. "They've obviously not had their strongest run recently, but we still see them as a highly skilled side," said Pope. "They are a team we don't take lightly."

Pakistan named their team with a bowling attack of two fast bowlers in Shaheen Shah Afridi and Naseem Shah, medium-pacer Aamer Jamal and frontline spinner Abrar Ahmed. An impressive Jamal took 18 wickets against Australia in three Tests in his debut series earlier this year, but missed the Bangladesh series with a back problem. He also contributed 143 runs.

"With Jamal we get an edge in the seam department," said Masood. With James Anderson and Stuart Broad retired, Mark Wood injured and Ollie Robinson not selected, none of England's pace bowlers from the 2022 series remain. But Masood cited Gus Atkinson and Brydon Carse as threats. "You cannot underestimate anyone and need to be more cautious against any unknown player," said Masood. The second match is also in Multan, from October 15, with the final Test in Rawalpindi beginning October 24.—AFP

Fabre bids to break Japanese hearts in Arc

PARIS: The Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe is a name that resonates across the sporting spectrum justifying its status as Europe's most prestigious race and on Sunday the 2024 winner will merit the term champion. That title is attractive enough but the first prize of 3.1 million euros (\$3.4million) is another magnet for the connections of the 16 runners that go to post at Longchamp. With this year's European turf superstar City of Troy being aimed at the Breeder's Cup Classic the race is wide open.

AFP Sport picks out four likely contenders to join turf legends such as Ribot, Sea Bird and Enable:

Sosie leads Arc master Fabre's hopes

Andre Fabre symbolizes the phrase 'let the horses do the talking' as the French master trainer is famously media shy. Fabre's hunger for glory even at 78 has not diminished and the admirer of Napoleon could make more history of his own on Sunday with a record-extending ninth Arc if one of his three runners wins. Sosie represents on paper at least his best chance of also becoming the first trainer to win the Arc in five different decades. Sosie is favorite with most bookmakers on the back of winning the Arc trial, the Prix Niel last month beating Prix du Jockey Club (French Derby) winner Look de Vega. Fabre can take heart from the fact the last Niel/Arc winner was Rail Link trained by him in 2006. Punters may favor him but Fabre appears to be playing down his chances. "In any country I haven't seen any top-class three-year-olds, they are all good but none of them is top class," he told The Racing Post.

Sheikh Joaan's Arc

Look De Vega's impressive win in the Prix du Jockey Club prompted Qatari Sheikh Joaan al-Thani to buy a fifth of him. Sheikh Joaan is no stranger to welcoming the winner of the Arc as Treve won in 2013 and 2014 - not a bad return for the sponsor of the race. Look De Vega may have lost his unbeaten record in the Niel to Sosie but for the father and son training team of Carlos and Yann Lerner it was the perfect prep for the big one. "For us looking back on it it was like a training gallop in the Niel," said Yann. "Even though it is a longer race than the Jockey Club we still believe he will have the necessary acceleration when it counts."

Shin Emperor carries hopes of a nation

Shin Emperor carries the heavy weight of Japanese hopes to break the Arc glass ceiling they have hit their heads against ever since their first try in 1969. Ordinarily a horse that has yet to win a Group One would be considered a long shot. However, there are three major factors in his favor. Firstly his brother Sotssass won the 2020 Arc and Shin Emperor ran an impressive third in the Irish Champion Stakes last month. That was the same race the French-trained Sotssass impressed in en route to winning the Arc. The third string to his bow is his trainer Yoshito Yahagi, otherwise known as the 'man in the hat' for his plentiful supply of different colored headwear. The 63-year-old has made history elsewhere becoming the first Japanese trainer to win at the prestigious Breeder's Cup meeting, indeed recording a double for good measure in 2021. Yahagi has staked a lot on this roll of the dice having persuaded the owner Susumu Fujita to splash out 2.1 million euros at the sales in France in 2022 with the Arc always his target. "When I bought this horse I dreamt of bringing him here for the Arc," he said. "It really is a miracle to be able to bring him here."

Los Angeles seeks Hollywood Arc climax

It is one of the anomalies of flat racing that Irish trainer Aidan O'Brien has won many great races a record amount of times but he is way off the Arc landmark with just two wins. With his stable star City of Troy aimed at the Breeder's Cup Classic he is two-handed with last year's English St Leger winner Continuous and the more favored Los Angeles. The latter finished behind Shin Emperor in the Irish Champion Stakes but based on his third behind City of Troy in the Epsom Derby and then Irish Derby victory he has every chance of delivering O'Brien a third Arc. — AFP

Sports

Juventus held by Cagliari after late penalty drama

AC Milan can move above both champions Inter and Juve with a win

TURIN: Juventus were held to a surprise 1-1 home draw by Cagliari on Sunday after a late penalty which led to the Turin giants conceding second place in Serie A to Inter Milan.

Razvan Marin lashed home the 88th-minute equalizer to give Cagliari a point at the Allianz Stadium after Roberto Piccoli was clumsily brought down by Douglas Luiz, who also gave a penalty away in Wednesday's thrilling Champions League win at Leipzig.

Romania midfielder Marin's arched penalty levelled Dusan Vlahovic's 15th-minute spot-kick and moved Cagliari a point above the relegation zone. It was the first goal conceded by Juve in Serie A this season and left Thiago Motta's third-placed side three points behind league leaders Napoli after seven fixtures.

"We took out foot off the pedal after our goal, and we can't do that. We need to keep attacking, and attack well," said Motta. "We created a few opportunities but there was always the feeling that Cagliari could get back into the game. What happened today is all our own fault."

Cagliari could have even snatched a last-gasp win as Adam Obert thumped the post in the fifth minute of stoppage time, with Juve down to 10 men following Francisco Conceicao's sending off almost immediately after Marin's equalizer.

Conceicao picked up a second booking after trying to win Juve's second penalty of the game in a frantic finish to a match which had largely been a draw affair before Luiz was penalized for his challenge following a VAR check. "I'm pleased to get a point at Juve, it was hard because I had the whole

stadium whistling me but I managed to keep my concentration," said Marin.

Penalty controversy

Juventus, who were missing Nico Gonzalez, Arkadiusz Milik, Timothy Weah and Gleison Bremer, who suffered a serious knee injury at Leipzig, would have almost certainly had the full three points had Vlahovic not wasted a huge chance in the 78th minute.

Serbia striker Vlahovic, who is on five Serie A goals for the season, somehow shot wide on the rebound after Douglas Luiz's shot was parried by Simone Scuffet. His opener was controversial too as the penalty was awarded for Cagliari defender Sebastiano Luperto's fingers grazing the ball as he engaged in an aerial tussle with Federico Gatti.

The spot-kick was given after a VAR check as Luperto's arm was high in the air when he touched the ball, but he was landing from his jump and had Gatti leaning on his shoulder while two other players also battled for the ball.

AC Milan can move above both champions Inter and Juve with a win at Fiorentina in the day's final fixture. Juve have been joined on 13 points by their next opponents Lazio, who are fourth after inflicting a first defeat of the season on surprise package Empoli with a 2-1 win in Rome.

Pedro slammed home the winner with four minutes remaining as Lazio who came back from Sebastiano Esposito's early opener. It was Lazio's fourth straight win in all competitions. Lazio, who levelled through Mattia Zaccagni in first-half stoppage time, also had Valentin Castellanos' penalty saved by Em-



TURIN: Juventus' French midfielder #19 Khephren Thuram (C) fights for the ball with Cagliari's Italian midfielder #19 Nadir Zortea (R) during the Italian Serie A football match between Juventus and Cagliari at the Allianz stadium in Turin on October 6, 2024. — AFP

poli's impressive goalkeeper Devis Vaszquez.

Bologna's difficult start to life under Vincenzo Italiano continued with a goalless draw with Par-

ma, who had to play most of the second half a man down after Woyo Coulibaly's sending off seven minutes after the break. — AFP

Real Madrid beat Villarreal, Carvajal suffers knee injury

MADRID: Fede Valverde and Vinicius Junior strikes helped Real Madrid bounce back from their first defeat since January with a 2-0 win over Villarreal on Saturday in La Liga. Los Blancos lost in the Champions League at Lille but are still unbeaten in the Spanish top flight and moved level with leaders Barcelona, before the Catalans visit Alaves on Sunday.

Valverde's deflected effort and a rocket from Vinicius allowed Madrid to put a four-point gap between them and their third-placed opponents, who battled well but came up fractionally short in the capital. Madrid's victory was marred by a late injury to defender Dani Carvajal, who had to be taken off on a stretcher.

"It seems a serious knee injury, it will be looked at in the coming hours," Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti told reporters. "The players are sad, worried, because something happened that happens a lot, because of the (busy) calendar, and it happened to a very, very important player for us."

Ancelotti said Vinicius would also have medical tests after being taken off late on with discomfort in his shoulder and neck. The Italian coach started Kylian Mbappe after the French striker had recovered from a thigh problem.

The former Paris Saint-Germain striker could only appear from the bench in Madrid's disappointing midweek display. Mbappe, who France have not selected for upcoming Nations League fixtures, was quiet at the Santiago Bernabeu as his team ground out victory with a determined, rather than inspiring, performance.

Madrid are still missing German midfielder Toni Kroos, although on this occasion he was watching on from a box. Mbappe sent an early volley off-target from Luka Modric's corner but it was midfield powerhouse Valverde who broke the deadlock after 14 minutes.

The Uruguayan's drive from distance deflected off Villarreal playmaker Alex Baena and arced beyond the reach of goalkeeper Diego Conde. The visitors, enjoying a strong start to the season under coach Marcelino Garcia Toral, came close when Nicolas Pepe's header clipped the top of the crossbar.

Mbappe had one further chance, bursting into the area with his electric pace, but goalkeeper Conde managed to dispossess him with an out-



MADRID: Real Madrid's French forward #09 Kylian Mbappe controls the ball during the Spanish league football match between Real Madrid CF and Villarreal CF at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid. — AFP

stretched leg. Villarreal appealed for a penalty early in the second half when Aurelien Tchouameni, playing at centre-back, pulled down Barry, but the French striker was offside.

Baena hit the side-netting of Andriy Lunin's goal with a free-kick, nearly catching out the Ukrainian goalkeeper standing in for the injured Thibaut Courtois. Vinicius flashed a shot narrowly wide, before his strike partner Mbappe was replaced with 20 minutes to go by Rodrygo Goes. Brazil striker Vinicius, who is hoping to win a first Ballon d'Or later in October, netted the second with a superb effort from outside the area, which ripped into the top corner.

Carvajal hurt

In stoppage time, Spanish right-back Carvajal suffered an injury while attempting to clear the ball under pressure from Yeremi Pino. "In the end, the result's a less important thing—Dani's health is what matters," Valverde told Real Madrid TV.

losing the Milan derby last month.

Thuram was involved in everything good Inter did going forward and was also left in agony on the ground by Guillermo Maripan's awful tackle in the 20th minute which left Torino a man down. The 27-year-old could easily have been seriously injured but instead he punished Torino five minutes later with the first of two almost identical headers, the second of which came in the 35th minute. Duvan Zapata, who was later stretched off with what could be a serious knee injury, pulled a goal back for sixth-placed Torino seconds later after poor defending by Yann Bissec.

But Thuram re-established Inter's two-goal lead when he pounced on goalkeeper Vanja Milinkovic-Savic's failure to hold Lautaro Martinez's header. Inter have been less solid than when they romped to the Scudetto last season and Hakan Calhanoglu gave Torino some hope with five minutes remaining by bringing down Adam Masina and allowing Nikola Vlasic to cut the deficit from the penalty spot.

However Inter held out for a win which will leave them hot on Napoli's trail as their players head off to their respective national teams. "Let's focus on the fact that the team won three matches in a week after losing the derby," said Inzaghi to Sky. "I can't say anything to the players as we deserved to win all of them."

Retegui on fire

Retegui condemned his former club Genoa to a heavy defeat with his hat-trick at the Gewiss Stadium which ensured Atalanta would move up to ninth on 10 points. Ederson and Marten de Roon also



MILAN: Inter Milan's French forward #09 Marcus Thuram scores his team second goal during the Italian Serie A football match between Inter Milan and Torino at San Siro Stadium in Milan. — AFP

scored with spectacular strikes as Atalanta crushed sorry Genoa, who scored late through Jeff Ekhardt but dropped into the relegation zone on goal difference behind Lecce.

Argentina-born Retegui has settled in quickly in Bergamo since signing in the summer after Gianluca Scamacca suffered a serious knee injury, establishing a near-immediate connection up front with Ademola Lookman and Charles De Ketelaere.

The 25-year-old also supplied the pass from which Ederson lashed in Atalanta's third on the hour. "I'm really happy, but not for myself, for the team, who played really well," Retegui told DAZN. "I can only thank everyone for how I've been treated over these first few months, I'm really happy." — AFP

Miami on track for MLS record points after win in Toronto

MIAMI: Inter Miami remained on track for the record points tally in Major League Soccer history after Leonardo Campana's stoppage-time goal gave them a 1-0 win at Toronto. Miami started with all their big-name stars, including Lionel Messi, on the bench but the Argentine was introduced in the 61st minute to the delight of many in the Toronto crowd.

The Florida side had already secured the Supporters' Shield, for the top team in the regular season, with their midweek win at the Columbus Crew. With top seed and home field advantage secured for the playoffs, the only target left for Miami is to try to better the record of 73 points in a season set by the New England Revolution in 2021.

The win leaves Miami on 71 points ahead of the final game of the season—at home to New England on October 19. An uneventful game, on a less than perfect field, was settled in added time when Luis Suarez, also on as a substitute, pumped a cross into the box and Ecuador international Campana took the ball on his thigh before volleying home on the turn.

It was only the second shot on target of the game for Miami and midfielder Julian Gressel said they were now gunning for the record. "I think we'd all be lying if we said it doesn't matter. Now we have something to play for in front of our home fans it would be a nice way to finish off with that record-setting season," he said.

It was Toronto's final game of the campaign and their slim hopes of making the post-season ended a few hours later when DC United enjoyed a 2-1 win at the New England Revolution. A left-foot blast from Pedro Santos gave D.C. a third minute lead in five minutes later MLS's leading scorer Christian Benteke took advantage of chaos in the New England defence to make it 2-0.

The Revolution back line failed to deal with a simple long ball down the middle and Belgian striker Benteke headed past the advancing keeper Aljaz Ivacic for his 23rd goal of the season. An own goal from Finnish defender Matti Pelotola, who headed a cross from Ian Harkes into his own net, provided some late nerves but D.C. held on for three points which leave them in 8th place, in a wildcard spot, level on 40 points with Montreal and three ahead of Philadelphia going into the final round of games on October 19.

Philadelphia fell to a 3-2 loss at defending champions Columbus, who have secured second spot in the East behind Miami. Colombian striker Cucho Hernandez scored twice for the Crew to leave the Union with only the slimmest of hopes of reaching the playoffs.

Twelfth-placed Atlanta United also have a mathematical chance of post-season action after beating the New York Red Bulls, who have qualified, 2-1. The final playoff wildcard spot in the Western Conference meanwhile went to Portland, who clinched their postseason berth on Saturday without kicking a ball after rivals Austin were beaten 2-1 by Los Angeles Galaxy. — AFP



TORONTO: Lionel Messi #10 of Inter Miami FC wins the ball during a game against Toronto FC at BMO Field on October 5, 2024 in Toronto. — AFP

Thuram treble fires Inter past Torino and up to second

MILAN: Marcus Thuram shot Inter Milan second in Serie A with a hat-trick in Saturday's 3-2 win over 10-man Torino which moved the champions to within two points of league leaders Napoli. France forward Thuram headed home first-half crosses from Alessandro Bastoni and Francesco Acerbi before bundling in his third on the hour mark to give Inter a narrow, but deserved win at the San Siro.

Inter can be overtaken by both Juventus, who host Cagliari, and AC Milan on Sunday with their local rivals at Fiorentina in the weekend's final fixture before the international break. Thuram leads the scoring charts in Italy's top flight with seven goals alongside Mateo Retegui, who hit a treble of his own in Atalanta's 5-1 hammering of Genoa earlier on Saturday.

"It's been a few matches since I last scored but it was more important that the team won tonight," said Thuram to Sky. "Being top scorer doesn't interest me, the only thing that counts is that Inter win matches."

Back to near full strength, after the second string hammered Red Star Belgrade in the Champions League on Tuesday, Simone Inzaghi's Inter won their third straight match in all competitions since

Man Utd fire another blank in Aston Villa stalemate

Forest earn point in frenzied 1-1 draw at Chelsea



BIRMINGHAM: Manchester United's Portuguese defender #20 Diogo Dalot (R) vies with Aston Villa's Jamaican striker #31 Leon Bailey (L) during the English Premier League football match between Aston Villa and Manchester United at Villa Park in Birmingham. — AFP

BIRMINGHAM: Manchester United's winless run stretched to five games in a 0-0 draw at Aston Villa on Sunday that did little to ease the pressure on Erik ten Hag.

Bruno Fernandes hit the crossbar with the best effort from either side from a second-half free-kick but United have now failed to score in their last three Premier League games. A point leaves Ten Hag's men still down in 14th, having won just two of their opening seven league games of the season.

"We know in this moment we have a lack of goals," said Ten Hag. "In that perspective it's not a good start, we have to step up. That's an area we have to improve." Fifth-placed Villa missed the chance to move into the top four as they were unable to repeat their heroics of beating Bayern Munich in midweek.

United's 3-0 humiliation on home soil by Tottenham last weekend had plunged Ten Hag's job back into peril. A 3-3 draw against Porto in the Europa League on Thursday did

the Dutchman's case little favors as United blew an early two-goal lead to trail 3-2 before Harry Maguire's injury-time leveller.

Ten Hag reacted by dropping centre-backs Lisandro Martinez and Matthijs de Ligt after their chastening night in Portugal with Maguire and veteran Jonny Evans brought back in to the starting line-up. Villa had a far more memorable European night in midweek when Bayern were beaten 1-0 as the Champions League returned to Birmingham for the first time in over 40 years.

Both sides showed signs of fatigue as the match failed to spark into life. "We missed some energy, but I am happy because the draw was not the worst result," said Villa boss Unai Emery. "In the second half we corrected some things to control the match." Ten Hag controversially replaced Marcus Rashford at half-time in Porto after he had scored and set up Rasmus Hojlund's second for United inside the opening 20 minutes. The United boss said

that decision was motivated by managing the minutes of his wingers and Rashford was the visitors' biggest threat.

Bruno hits bar

The England international cut inside and forced Emi Martinez into the only save of the first half with a powerful strike after five minutes. Morgan Rogers fired wide at the other end, but United's reshaped defence held out with little problems until the break.

Ten Hag was forced into another defensive reshuffle at half-time as Maguire and Noussair Mazraoui were forced off injured as De Ligt and Victor Lindelof came on. Rashford forced Martinez into another good save with a blistering shot from outside the box. But he was lucky not to be sent-off for two bookable offences just minutes apart. Rashford had been booked when he brought down Leon Bailey and was swiftly substituted by Ten Hag to avoid a United dismissal for the third consecutive game.

Fernandes' red card against Tottenham had been rescinded to allow him to play and the United captain came as close to anyone to scoring a winner with a free-kick that came back off the bar. Emery turned to Villa's super sub Jhon Duran to win the game.

Nottingham Forest earned a 1-1 draw at Chelsea on Sunday despite going down to 10 men in the 78th minute, after they kept the hosts at bay in an often frenzied Premier League encounter involving a host of second-half chances and a pitchside melee.

After a slow-burn first half with the visitors' well organized defence keeping Chelsea at arm's length, it was Forest who scored first when a classic James Ward-Prowse free kick found defender Nikola Milenkovic at the back post in the 50th minute and the Serbian nodded the ball across goal and Chris Wood tapped it home.

The match sprang into life and six minutes later Chelsea exploited a rare crack in

Forest's highly-disciplined defence when the ever-busy Noni Madueke latched on to a Cole Palmer ball, cut inside and sent it into the bottom corner. The result kept Chelsea, who enjoyed more than 66% possession, in fourth place, but dropped them three points behind Arsenal in third. Nottingham Forest are 10th.

Forest were reduced to 10 men when Ward-Prowse grabbed the ball on the ground to stop Nicolas Jackson running free on goal and received a second yellow card. The Midlands side did not just sit back and defend, however, instead taking the game to Chelsea. Robert Sanchez kept out a series of chances, notably from substitutes Neco Williams and Jota Silva as the game opened up. Williams sparked the pitchside confrontation after his challenge on Marc Cucurella sent the full back sprawling into the technical area upending his coach Enzo Maresca. Players from both sides and from the bench rushed to the scene jostling and pushing each other. — Agencies



Nasser Borjaib

Nasser Borjaib, first Kuwaiti speed climber to compete in WCup

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti athlete Nasser Borjaib competed in the climbing World Cup in Seoul last weekend, a first milestone for Kuwait. Nasser competed in speed climbing where he broke the Arab record again with a time of 6.5 seconds.

According to Nasser, Kuwait has no speed wall for him to train and with no facilities, only three weeks of training in the whole year, and online coaching with speed climbing coach Albert Ok. He says he still 'held his ground' with the world's top competitors.

"Given what minimal time he had to train on a full wall, what he accomplished in such a short amount of time is what many athletes would have taken years to do," coach Albert Ok said. "This was a big step towards a bigger journey to the highest stages of speed climbing and sports. He held his own and proved that with nothing you can show something."

Gauff beats Muchova to win China Open

BEIJING: Coco Gauff overpowered Karolina Muchova in straight sets to win the China Open on Sunday for her second title of the year and eighth overall. The 20-year-old American and last year's US Open champion stormed to victory 6-1, 6-3 in one hour, 16 minutes in Beijing.

After a disappointing few months by her standards, including surrendering her New York crown in the last 16, Gauff adds the China Open to her triumph in Auckland in January. The sixth-ranked Gauff, under a new coaching team in the Chinese capital after splitting with Brad Gilbert last month, wiped away tears at the end.

It was Gauff's third win in as many matches against Muchova, who suffered a career-threatening wrist injury and missed 10 months of tennis before returning this summer. "It's great to see you back on court. You're such an amazing player and hopefully we play many more finals," Gauff told her beaten Czech opponent.

"It's incredible to see how well you've managed your season after so many injuries," said Gauff, whose mother was court-side to see her biggest win since the US Open. It proved one match too far for Muchova, who at 49 in the world was the lowest-ranked finalist in the history of the prestigious WTA 1000 tournament.

"You kicked my butt," said Muchova, last year's French Open finalist and a two-time US Open semi-finalist.

Fast start

Gauff made a fast start, breaking for a 2-0 lead in the first set and then holding her own serve without conceding a point. The young American was up 3-0

with barely 10 minutes on the clock. The 28-year-old Muchova sent down an ace to get on the board but Gauff was in the mood and her serve — her biggest problem of late — was firing.

Gauff had three break points in the sixth game and converted the first to streak to a 5-1 lead against a shell-shocked Muchova. Gauff rattled off her third ace of the match to give her two set points. Her serving wobbles momentarily returned but she wrapped the first set up in 29 minutes on her third set point.

Muchova, chasing only the second title of her career, dumped out top seed Aryna Sabalenka in the quarter-finals and then beat Olympic champion Zheng Qinwen. She belatedly found her feet at the start of the second set and broke for a 2-0 lead, only for Gauff to break back immediately on the way to a comfortable win. — AFP



BEIJING: Coco Gauff (L) of the US poses with the trophy after winning the women's singles final against Czech Republic's Karolina Muchova at the China Open tennis tournament in Beijing. — AFP



Spain's Ariana Sanchez, Paula Josemaria win Paris Major Premier Padel titles

PARIS: Spain's Ariana Sanchez and Paula Josemaria retained the Paris Major Premier Padel title by winning the final match at Roland Garros Stadium on Sunday. This is the third grand slam win this year for the Spanish duo, who maintained their position on top of the global ranking. Kuwait's BNK Holding is the official sponsor of Spain's padel player Ariana Sanchez.