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## Zionist carnage in Gaza, Lebanon

87 killed in north Gaza strike • Zionists escalate Beirut bombing • Hezb targets Zionist bases, troops



GAZA: Palestinians mourn over the bodies of relatives killed in a Zionist airstrike outside Kamal Adwan Hospital in Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip on Oct 20, 2024. — AFP

GAZA/BEIRUT: The Zionist entity said it had struck Hezbollah's intelligence headquarters in the Lebanese capital Beirut on Sunday, while officials in Gaza said they were still trying to recover bodies from the rubble after a Zionist strike that killed dozens. At least 87 people were dead or missing following the airstrike on Beit Lahia in northern Gaza late on Saturday, the health ministry in the Palestinian territory said, one of the highest death tolls reported for months from a single attack.

It marked an intensification of the Zionist entity's offensives against Palestinian group Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon, days after the killing of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar had raised hopes of an opening for ceasefire negotiations to end more than a year of escalating conflict in the Middle East. With US elections approaching, officials, diplomats and other sources in the region say the Zionist entity is seeking through military operations to try to shield its borders and ensure its rivals cannot regroup. The Zionist entity is also preparing to retaliate for an Iranian missile barrage earlier this month, though Washington has pressed it not to strike Iranian energy facilities or nuclear sites.

Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he was the subject of an assassination attempt by "Iran's proxy Hezbollah" on Saturday when a drone was directed at his holiday home. In a call with-

mer US President Donald Trump, the prime minister reiterated that the Zionist entity would make decisions based on its own interests, according to a statement from Netanyahu's office. The Zionist entity's government has rejected several attempts by the United States, its main ally and military backer, at brokering ceasefires in both Gaza and Lebanon.

In Gaza, the health ministry said rescue operations following the strike in Beit Lahia were being hindered by communications problems and by ongoing Zionist military operations. At Kamal Adwan Hospital, which was flooded with wounded from the strike, many patients had to be treated on the floor while nearby the dead were wrapped in white burial shrouds and placed in neat rows where relatives gathered to grieve. The Jeddah-based Organization of Islamic Cooperation "condemned the strike in the strongest terms" and called the Zionist entity's actions in Gaza a "stain on the conscience of humanity".

The strike came two weeks into a major Zionist assault around the town of Jabalia, just to the south of Beit Lahia. As the fighting has continued, two of the three remaining hospitals in northern Gaza have been hit and patients, medical staff and displaced people injured, according to the United Nations. The UN has been urgently seeking access. Over 5,000 Palestinians left Jabalia via designated routes, Zionist

Continued on Page 6

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Short-term project visas revived

KUWAIT: The interior ministry and the Public Authority of Manpower announced on Sunday the re-introduction of short-term work permits for government projects which will be completed in under one year. The two bodies said in a statement that applications for work permits for government projects for durations of under one year will be accepted at a CSC statement, giving employees the liberty to choose the hours that suit them. State bodies are allowed to take the measures they deem necessary to maintain a balance between day and night shifts, ensuring seamless and uninterrupted workflow, added the statement. — KUNA

#### Govt evening shifts from Jan 5

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti state bodies that offer services to the public will start working during evening hours as of Jan 5, 2025, the Civil Service Commission (CSC) said on Sunday, citing the measure as per a Cabinet decision. Evening shifts for state body employees should be no more than four and a half hours long from Sunday to Thursday, while it should not exceed 30 percent of the body's total workforce, according to a CSC statement, giving employees the liberty to choose the hours that suit them. State bodies are allowed to take the measures they deem necessary to maintain a balance between day and night shifts, ensuring seamless and uninterrupted workflow, added the statement. — KUNA

#### Ex-MP acquitted of vote-buying

KUWAIT: The court of appeals on Sunday overturned a two-year jail sentence against former MP Saadoun Hammad and five of his workers for vote-buying and acquitted him and the rest. Hammad was handed the jail term by the criminal court. He later surrendered to the court of appeals and denied the charges. He and other defendants were sent to jail until the court verdict. However, the case now goes to the court of cassation, the country's top court whose rulings are final.

### US and Iran in 'tug of war' over Lebanon

BEIRUT: With Hezbollah on the defensive after a series of heavy Zionist blows, the United States and Iran are locked in a showdown over Lebanon's future, analysts said. Hezbollah, the most powerful regional force backed by Iran, which arms and finances it, has long held sway in Lebanon. But the group's influence is now in question after the Zionist entity's assassination of its leader, Hassan Nasrallah, in a significant setback.

Hezbollah's losses have left Lebanon in a "tug of war between Iran and

the United States", said Michael Young of the Carnegie Middle East Center think tank. "The (Zionists) with the Americans... are trying to use military force to try to transform the balance of power in Lebanon to their advantage," he told AFP. "There are no signs that the Iranians are going to accept this without a fight."

Hezbollah is considered better armed than Lebanon's national military and remains the only group that did not put down its weapons after the 1975-90 civil war. Last year, it opened a new front with the Zionist entity over the conflict in Gaza, in support of its ally Hamas. It carefully calibrated attacks to avoid a full-blown conflict, which eventually came on Sept 23 when the Zionist entity stepped up bombing of

Continued on Page 6

### War, settlers ruin Palestine olive harvest

AL-ZAWAYDA: After a year of relentless war, Gaza's olive harvest is set to suffer, while in the occupied West Bank, Palestinian farmers fear to tend their groves due to settler attacks. For generations, olive harvests have been central to Palestinian life and culture. At a farm in Deir el-Balah in central Gaza, workers picking the olives by hand stay alert, listening for drones or warplanes that could bomb without warning.

The ongoing war has reduced vast

areas of Gaza to rubble, with about 68 percent of the territory's agricultural areas damaged by the conflict and farmers unable to fertilize or irrigate their land, the UN says. In the West Bank, the harvest has been marred by perennial fears of attacks by Zionist settlers, who regularly prevent Palestinians from accessing their olive groves or outright destroy their orchards.

Olive groves have long been essential to the economy and culture of the West Bank, but have also been the site of bloody clashes between farmers and encroaching Zionist settlers for decades, with the disputes hinging on access to land. In the past, settlers have assaulted Palestinians, set fire to or damaged their crops, stolen sheep and blocked them from getting to their land, water and grazing areas, according to the UN. — AFP (See Page 5)

### WHO certifies Egypt as free of malaria

GENEVA: Egypt was certified as malaria-free on Sunday, with the World Health Organization calling the achievement "truly historic" and the culmination of nearly a century of work

to stamp out the disease. "Malaria is as old as Egyptian civilization itself, but the disease that plagued pharaohs now belongs to its history and not its future," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a statement. "This certification of Egypt as malaria-free is truly historic, and a testament to the commitment of the people and government of Egypt to rid themselves of this ancient scourge."

Globally, 44 countries and one territory have now been certified as ma-



BEIRUT: People drive next to a building targeted in a Zionist airstrike the night before in Beirut's southern suburbs on Oct 20, 2024. — AFP



BURQA: Zionist soldiers throw a sound grenade to disperse Palestinian farmers, preventing them from picking olives in their fields, in this village east of Ramallah in the Zionist-occupied West Bank on Oct 20, 2024. — AFP

laria-free. Certification is granted by the WHO when a country has proven that the chain of indigenous malaria transmission by Anopheles mosquitoes has been interrupted nationwide for at least the previous three consecutive years. A country must also demonstrate the ability to prevent the re-establishment of transmission.

Malaria kills more than 600,000 people every year, 95 percent of them in Africa, according to the WHO. There were 249 million recorded ma-

laria cases worldwide in 2022. Spread by mosquitoes, malaria is mostly found in tropical countries. The infection is caused by a parasite. "Receiving the malaria elimination certificate today is not the end of the journey but the beginning of a new phase," said Egypt's Health Minister Khaled Abdel Ghaffar. "We must now work tirelessly and vigilantly to sustain our achievement through maintaining the highest standards for surveillance, diagnosis and treatment." — AFP





## Local

# Voices of Change: Invaluable insights designed to inspire positive change

## TEDx 'Mindset: Shaping Tomorrow'

By Ghadeer Ghloom

**KUWAIT:** In continuation of the speeches sparked by the TEDx event titled "Mindset: Shaping Tomorrow," held at the Australian University on Saturday, Kuwait Times engaged with the second part of the speakers, who shared invaluable insights designed to inspire positive change and foster resilience in the face of challenges.

### Sayer Al-Otaibi

Sayer Al-Otaibi's journey shared his transformative experience that evolved from passive observation to a meaningful engagement with the world around him. His exploration began with the purchase of a camera, made possible through a grant from IHH the Amir. He highlighted that this initial step marked the start of his pursuit of deeper significance in his life. Al-Otaibi shared one of the most remarkable experiences he ever made - describing how his passion for photography motivated him to engage with sanitation workers by taking them to a studio and take their portraits wearing elegant clothes he provided.

This unique approach gave back very positive reactions from the worker that elevated his own sense of fulfillment. This connection and joy with the workers fueled his project with purpose. During his talk, Al-Otaibi also addressed the concept of emptiness, identifying it as a fundamental source of negative emotions and psychological distress. He urged his audience to seek out meaningful experiences that provide joy and inspiration, emphasizing the importance of introspection regarding the motivations behind their actions.

He explained that at the beginning, his work was driven by the pursuit of dopamine, the pleasure derived from external validation. However, he eventually realized that the essence of his work transcended mere reactions from others, and that dopamine should be regarded as a secondary element, one that enhances rather than defines the core purpose of one's endeavors, while the prior motivator must be the meaning behind each endeavor.

### Nicholas Chahoub

On his part, Nicholas Chahoub, a Civil and Environmental Engineer, delivered a compelling message that centered around the theme, "The enemy of success is mediocrity and settling for less." He underscored the detrimental effects of mediocrity on societal brilliance and encouraged for a proactive approach to overcoming it. He emphasizes that each individual possesses a unique capacity for brilliance and confidence, unhindered by the fear of failure.

However, the education system often stifles creativity, leading individuals to become disconnected from their true self and capabilities. Chahoub explained that this disconnection frequently becomes apparent upon entering the workforce, where there is a disparity between institutional expectations and personal aspirations. Hence, he argued that without the tools to confront real-life challenges, individuals may find themselves trapped by a limiting mentality perpetuated by the system.

He urged the audience to break free from this mediocrity. "One does not need to be an expert to escape this cycle; rather, cultivating simple - yet effective habits can pave the way. Ask yourself, "What are we afraid of? Every aspect of life carries inherent risks - be marriage, remaining single, having children, or adopting pets. Success hinges on effective risk management, which involves understanding one's values and identifying sources of happiness," he explained.

This understanding leads to what Chahoub describes as the "zone of genius." He highlighted the importance of transforming challenges into resources and obstacles into assets. "When setting goals, it is crucial to comprehend the underlying motivations," he emphasized. He concluded by saying that the meaning of life lies in discovering and sharing one's zone of genius with the society, all while embracing the idea of "failing forward."

### Ali Nasser

Moreover, Ali Nasser shared his journey of breaking the pattern, which sparked when he traveled to

the United States at the age of 16. He expressed his journey of self-discovery, emphasizing the need to find what resonates with him and the person he aspires to become. Through his speech, Nasser praised the younger generation, countering stereotypes that paint them in a negative light. He asserted that young people are capable of remarkable achievements but often require belief, motivation and opportunities from others to reach their potential.

"Individuals should not fear relocation or change if they feel unfulfilled in their current circumstances. Embracing new environments can be a powerful way to break free from the constraints of societal expectations," Nasser explained. He encouraged listeners to challenge the status quo and actively seek their own paths, reinforcing the value of community and support in the journey of self-discovery.

### Sharifa Baqer

Another powerful and heartfelt journey of triumph was shared by Sharifa Baqer, who spoke about her struggle with vitiligo, a skin condition that affected her face. She described the various treatments she underwent, many of which were ineffective, and recounted painful experiences of bullying that deeply impacted her self-esteem. Baqer spoke about the significant energy, time, and effort required for her to reach a place of acceptance, moving away from hiding her condition with makeup.

At the end of her speech, Sharifa displayed a powerful photo of her face in its true form, radiating the beauty and confidence she has finally embraced after a long journey marked by denial and concealment. This moment symbolized her triumph over the challenges that had troubled her, illustrating her commitment to self-acceptance and resilience. Sharifa's bravery was a testament to the transformative power of embracing one's true self.

### Hussain Al-Moussawi

Last but not least was Hussain Al-Moussawi's story of struggle with diabetes that became not a source of suffering, but rather a catalyst for creativ-



ity and resilience that propelled him forward. During his speech Al-Moussawi described the challenges he faced during his youth due to the disease and the side effects he endured from insulin treatment.

However, his suffering pushed him to actively seek alternatives to insulin, until he discovered an effective herbal treatment. This breakthrough gradually allowed him to reduce his reliance on insulin, marking a significant turning point in his life. He described this experience as the beginning of his journey characterized by persistence and determination. "I now see my struggle with diabetes as a blessing from God. It shaped me into the person I am today, a person of resolve and fortitude. Without this challenge, I would not have developed the strength and determination that define me today," he expressed.

## PWF hosts 'Shades of Pakistan Exhibition'

**KUWAIT:** Under the patronage of the Embassy of Pakistan in Kuwait, Dil Dil Pakistan (Shades of Pakistan Exhibition) Season-2 was organized by Pakistan Women's Forum, Kuwait (PWF) on October 11, 2024 at IBIS Hotel, Salmiya. Many exhibitors participated in the exhibition showcasing Pakistani brands famous for clothing, jewelry, hand-painted foot-wears, face-paint, handicrafts, food stalls etc. Faisal Majeed, Deputy Head of Mission, and Usman Nawaz, Officer Passport, from the Embassy of Pakistan in Kuwait attended the event as chief guests.

In his remarks, Majeed praised PWF's efforts for staying at the forefront in promoting a soft image of Pakistan at every platform and assured that the Embassy of Pakistan will always extend its support to its cause. Visitors got an opportunity to explore a variety of Pakistani stalls. They were entertained by patriotic performances by famous singers in Kuwait. In addition to the cultural stalls, a rickshaw art photo booth was also set up at the entrance which was the center of attraction for everyone.

Earlier, PWF President Nighat Tariq, Sabiha Ubaid (advisory), General Secretary Shazia Arshad and media person Mahrukh Omer received the guests. A token of gratitude was presented to the Embassy of Pakistan in Kuwait for its support to PWF in organizing the exhibition. Appreciations were awarded to media and volunteers for their great coverage and support for the exhibition.



Head of Mission at the Pakistan Embassy in Kuwait Faisal Majeed is honored by Pakistan Women's Forum during the event.



Visitors check out the garments on display at the exhibition.



Brigadier General Ayed Al-Halfi

## Symposium seeks to unify military terminology

**CAIRO:** The 65th symposium of the Committee for Unifying Military Terminology and Concepts kicked off on Sunday at the headquarters of the Arab League, with the participation of Kuwait Director of the Military Department at the Arab League. Minister Plenipotentiary Tariq Abdul Salam said in his opening speech that the symposium, chaired



Officials and military personnel participate in the 65th symposium with the participation of Kuwait. — KUNA photos

by the Sultanate of Oman, will discuss military abbreviations for land, sea, air, and air defense forces, weapons of mass destruction, signals, information systems, and joint supply.

Abdul Salam added that the holding of this symposium, which will continue until October 30, comes as a continuation of previous symposiums and is based on the recommendations of the 64th symposium. The participants underscored the importance of studying military abbreviations along with the concepts, terms, and symbols that were not included in the dictionary of military terms issued in 2007.

The symposium aims to unify military concepts and add them to the dictionary of military terms, which includes all the concepts, terms, symbols,

and military abbreviations used in the Arab armed forces until 2024. Abdul Salam pointed out the importance of unified military symbols, abbreviations, and terms in facilitating joint operations and training, enhancing joint Arab military action, and unifying military visions and doctrines.

He stressed that the Arab Affairs and National Security Sector in the General Secretariat of the Arab League will remain a supporter and sponsor of these meetings and symposiums with the aim of enhancing opportunities for joint cooperation that greatly benefit the armed forces in the Arab countries. Kuwait is represented by the Assistant Head of the Military Office, Brigadier General Ayed Al-Halfi. — KUNA

## CAN stresses importance of early examination

**KUWAIT:** The Cancer Aware Nation (CAN) called for the importance of conducting breast self-examination once a month and mammograms once a year for those who have reached the age of forty years. This will help to detect breast cancer early, which will in turn lead to speedy treatment and full recovery. This came in the speech by a member of the Board of Directors of CAN, Dr. Hessa Al-Shaheen, during the celebration held under the slogan 'Pink Steps' in cooperation with the International Women's Committee on Sunday.

She said that breast cancer is the most common among women around the world. The number of cases in 2019 is about 630 (359 Kuwaiti women and 272 cases non-Kuwaitis), pointing out that CAN is organizing its breast cancer awareness initiative for the 13th consecutive year. Al-Shaheen explained that the strategy of the CAN campaign is concerned with developing programs to train women on examination, indicating that it has trained 156,000 students on the method of self-examination in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, in addition to holding lectures and exhibitions, distributing brochures and booklets explaining prevention methods and their importance, highlighting the risk factors for infection, and raising awareness about the need to adopt a healthy life.

She pointed out that sports is one of the most important aspects of the campaign, focusing on the International Breast Cancer Awareness Month and encouraging women to practice physical activity, which reduces the likelihood of breast cancer and many diseases related to obesity, explaining that the partnership with the International Women's Group gave a distinctive character to the event.

For her part, a member of the International Women's Group, wife of the Ambassador of Jordan in Kuwait, Rana Abu Shakra, stressed in a similar speech



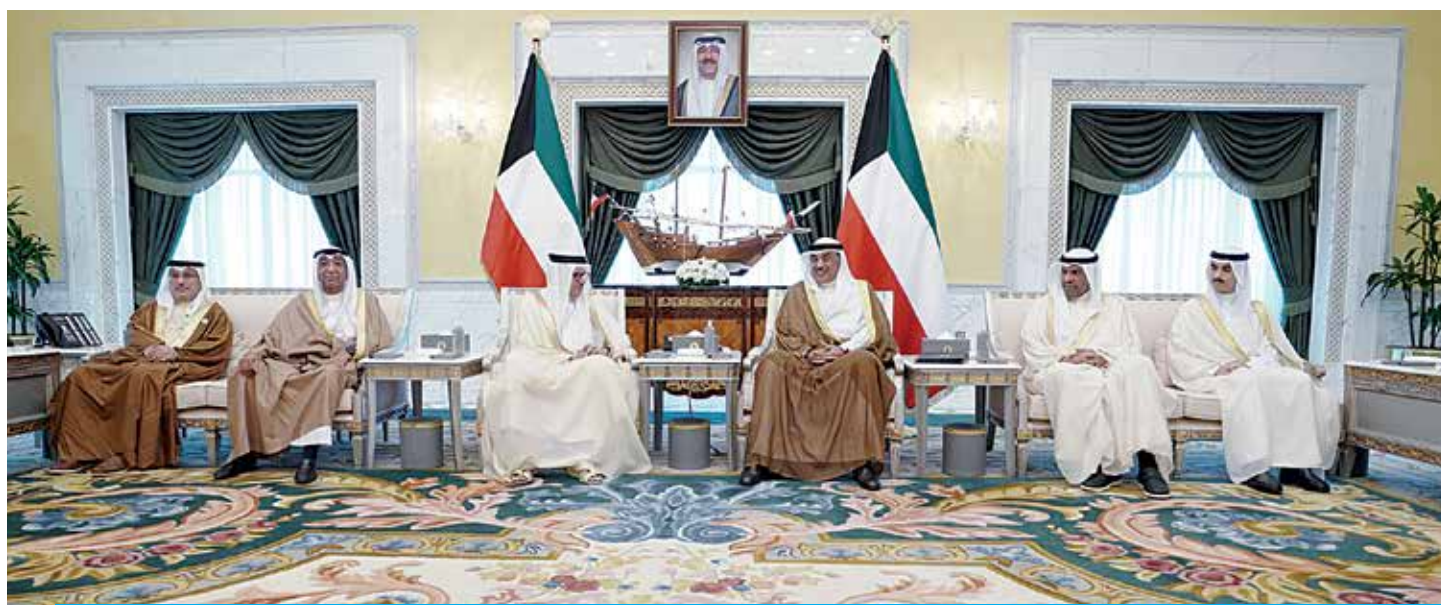
Participants are pictured during the event.



the importance of awareness to combat breast cancer, indicating that the International Women's Group participated in the event in order to spread the awareness among women. She explained that the fear of tumors was a psychological barrier before. Some women were afraid to talk about it, but awareness broke this barrier. — KUNA







**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah receives the Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain, Abdullatif Al-Zayani and his delegation at Seif Palace on Sunday. The meeting coincides with the convening of the 11th session of the Kuwait-Bahrain Joint High Committee in Kuwait. — KUNA photos



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah holds talks with Foreign Minister of Bahrain Abdullatif Al-Zayani and his delegation on Sunday at Seif Palace.

# Kuwait, Bahrain ink 4 agreements

## Crown Prince receives Bahraini FM

**KUWAIT:** The 11th session of the Kuwaiti-Bahraini Joint Higher Committee was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Sunday. The Kuwaiti delegation was headed by Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya, while the Bahraini delegation was headed by Foreign Minister Dr Abdullatif Al-Zayani. The committee discussed vital areas of co-operation and ways of enhancing them, especially economic, investment, security, and development, in order to further bilateral relations. The committee culminated with four agreements and memoranda of understanding signed; on ports and commercial navigation, civil service, diplomatic cooperation and training, as

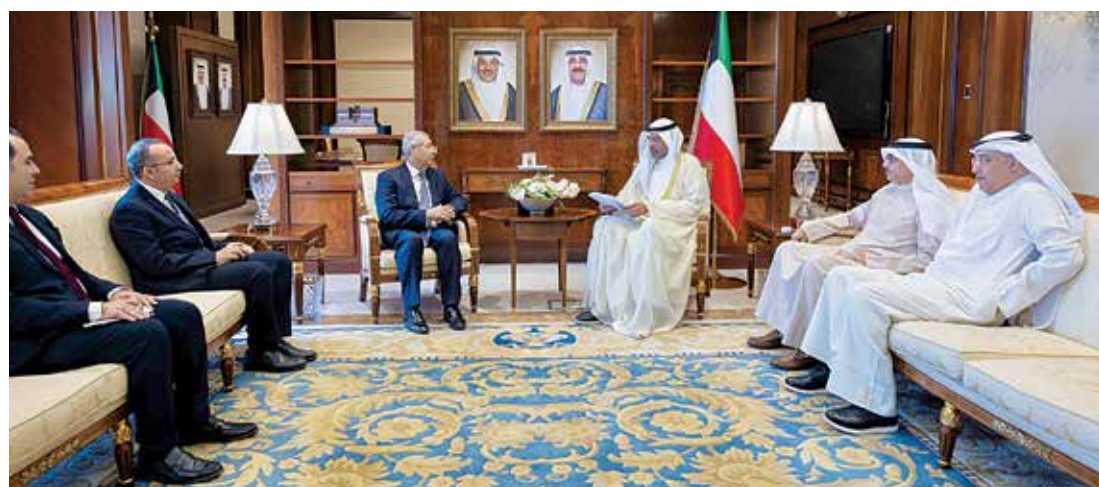
well as on education. Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received the Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain, Abdullatif Al-Zayani and his delegation at Seif Palace on Sunday. The meeting coincides with the convening of the 11th session of the Kuwait-Bahrain Joint High Committee in Kuwait. Present at the meeting were Kuwait's Foreign Minister Abdullah Ali Al-Yahya, Kuwait's Ambassador to Bahrain Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the Crown Prince's office director Retired lieutenant General Jamal Mohammad Al-Theyab, Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs at the Diwan of His Highness the

Crown Prince Mazen Al-Issa, and the Assistant Foreign Minister for GCC Affairs, Ambassador Najib Al-Bader. Also, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and in the presence of the Foreign Minister, Abdullah Ali Al-Yahya, received Foreign Minister of Bahrain Abdullatif Al-Zayani and his delegation on Sunday at Seif Palace. During the meeting, both sides reviewed the strong and bilateral relations between Kuwait and Bahrain, discussing ways to enhance close cooperation across various fields to promote further progress and prosperity for both countries and their peoples. — KUNA



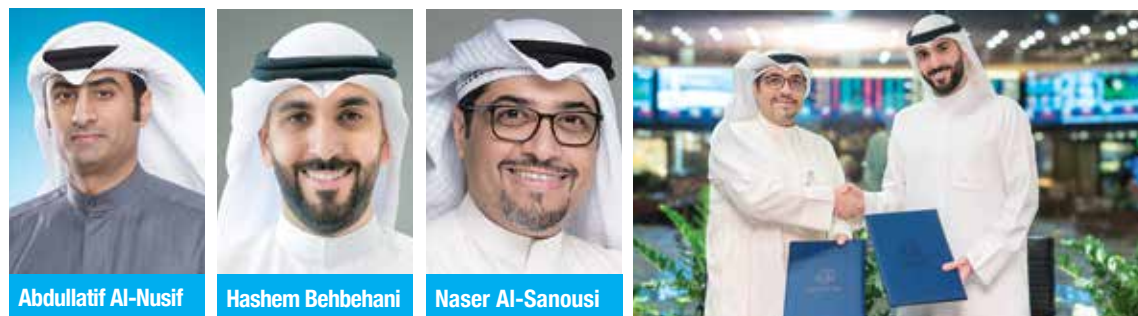
**Foreign ministers of Kuwait and Bahrain sign four agreements and memoranda of understanding.**

## Egypt president invites Amir for WUF12



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received an invitation on Sunday from Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi to attend the opening of the 12th World Urban Forum (WUF12), which will be hosted by Cairo from November 4 to 8, 2024. The forum, titled "Everything

Starts from Home," will focus on urban development, achieving sustainable development goals, and sharing successful experiences and expertise in these areas. Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya received the invitation during his meeting with Egyptian Ambassador to the country, Osama Shaltout. — KUNA



## Bursa Kuwait sponsors, hosts CODED Academy's UniCODE Program

**KUWAIT:** Bursa Kuwait entered a strategic partnership with CODED Academy, the first coding bootcamp in the Middle East. As part of this partnership, the Kuwaiti stock exchange will sponsor and host the academy's UniCODE coding program for college students and recent graduates. The Kuwait Financial Centre (Markaz) will also participate in the program as a co-sponsor. CODED Academy's UniCODE program empowers college students and recent graduates with the coding and programming skills needed to thrive in today's competitive job market. Through training in cybersecurity, mobile, and web development, participants gain valuable expertise and enhance their career prospects.

Bursa Kuwait contributes to the nation's progress and the growth of a robust and diversified economy.

"We are confident this program will serve as a launchpad for their success in their careers, leading to tangible achievements that contribute to the advancement of Kuwaiti society. We sincerely thank CODED Academy for their dedication to cultivating young talent and fostering innovation within our nation. To the students, we wish you a journey filled with success as you embark on this path of learning and development," Al-Sanousi added.

"Markaz is committed to supporting effective initiatives like UniCODE that equip young people with essential technical and digital skills. At Markaz, we recognize the growing importance of these skills for our future workforce. Coding and computer literacy are quickly becoming vital in the financial industry, and the training this program provides will undoubtedly benefit these students in their careers. We applaud CODED Academy for their efforts and wish the students every success in the program," said Abdullatif W Al-Nusif, Managing Director of Wealth Management and Business Development at the Kuwait Financial Centre (Markaz).

CODED Academy Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer Hashim Behbehani thanked Bursa Kuwait for sponsoring the program, saying: "We are delighted to launch the fourth edition of this program in collaboration with Bursa Kuwait, marking the beginning of a promising strategic partnership. The UniCODE program has a strong track record of inspiring innovation, and we are excited to see the creative solutions this group of coders will develop. We thank Bursa Kuwait and the Kuwait Financial Centre for their generous support and look forward to further collaboration in the future."

The strategic partnership with CODED Academy and sponsorship of its UniCODE program forms part of Bursa Kuwait's efforts to develop and educate Kuwaiti society and create a lasting meaningful impact on the communities where it operates. Part of the company's Corporate Sustainability (CS) strategy, the initiative is also in line with Goal 4 – Quality Education – and Goal 17 – Partnership for the Goals – of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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

As part of the strategy, Bursa Kuwait has launched many initiatives in partnership with local and international organizations, focusing on support for nongovernmental organizations and charity programs, financial literacy and capital market awareness, the empowerment of women, and environmental protection.

The fourth edition of the program commenced on October 19th and will run until December 14th, 2024. The seven-week program, composed of three tracks, will help students master key cybersecurity topics including Linux, web security, cryptography, and digital forensics to help them effectively secure digital environments. The mobile development track will focus on Flutter, which will help students become proficient in building high-performance, cross-platform apps using its reactive framework and widget-based architecture while the web development track will explore some of the more fundamental languages of webpage development.

Speaking about the partnership, Bursa Kuwait's Senior Director of Marketing and Communication Naser Meshari Al-Sanousi said, "Bursa Kuwait is proud to support CODED Academy's UniCODE program, an initiative providing intensive training to 250 students in the dynamic fields of AI-powered mobile application development, web development, and cybersecurity. This program directly addresses the widening gap between academic learning and the evolving needs of the labor market. Our sponsorship reflects Bursa Kuwait's commitment to investing in Kuwaiti youth, empowering them with essential technical skills and the exceptional innovation sense and business acumen to build a promising future."

As part of the sponsorship, Bursa Kuwait will host some of the program's workshops and interactive training sessions, providing an inspirational backdrop for students to engage in real-life practical on-the-job training. Both the exchange and CODED Academy stressed the importance of hosting the program in the iconic Bursa Kuwait building, which will provide an extra impetus for participants and inspire the next generation of market participants and financial sector professionals.

Bursa Kuwait is delighted to welcome participants of the UniCODE program to its landmark building. This initiative underscores the company's commitment to fostering young talent and investing in their development. By empowering the next generation of Kuwaiti professionals,

## Minister participates in white cane procession

**KUWAIT:** Minister of Social Affairs, Family Affairs, and Childhood, Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah, affirmed that participation in the "white cane procession" is part of the efforts for supporting people with impairments and boosting their social role. The minister, in remarks to KUNA during her participation in the march, organized by the Kuwait Blind Association, marking the Global White Cane Safety Day, affirmed that the rod is a key tool in the hands of this segment of people.

The white cane, according to reports by the World Health Organization, is a tool that helps them be independent and integrate with the surroundings. Meanwhile, Fayez Al-Azmi, the society chair, said

that the association has been receiving, since inception 50 years ago, support from various parties and institutions in the country in line with instructions by the supreme leaders. The society has throughout its history made several accomplishments, namely establishing the center for youth under 18 to care for the blind, the Quran publishing center, and the Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad sports facility.

He mentioned other achievements, namely the electronic library, the holding of conventions and seminars, organizing training courses and programs. In February, the society will organize an Arab-level conference and a Gulf sports tournament. Meanwhile, the society secretary, Mansour Al-Enezi, said the association dedicates special attention to cyber security and artificial intelligence. The Global White Cane Safety Day, which falls on October 15, aims at backing the blind to be self-sufficient and independent. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Minister of Social Affairs, Family Affairs and Childhood Dr Amthal Al-Huwailah takes part in the white cane procession. — KUNA photos





## Local

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P.O.Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait.  
Email: info@kuwaittimes.com  
Website: www.kuwaittimes.comKIF launches  
exhibition

KUWAIT: Kuwait International Fair Company (KIF) announced that the "Perfumes and Cosmetics" exhibition will kick off on Tuesday and will continue until November 2 at the international fairgrounds in the Mishref area with the participation of local and international perfume and cosmetic companies. The company's executive director of marketing and sales, Basma Al-Duhaim, said in a press statement on Sunday that all allocated areas have been covered and participants' reservations have been completed amid competition from major exhibitors and sponsors.

Al-Duhaim pointed out the company's keenness to host the event twice a year, adding that participation in this session has reached its peak significantly with more than 400 exhibiting entities and companies representing local and regional sponsors and agents from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar, and the UAE. There is also strong competition from a number of international brands and trademarks.

Al-Duhaim explained that the exhibition will be held in halls (5, 6, 7 and 8), which reflects the large and increasing turnout for this season, expecting the exhibition to attract more than 250,000 visitors. The exhibition is a pioneering event in the field of perfumes and cosmetics in Kuwait and represents an ideal launching pad for the cosmetics market. It is a suitable opportunity for the consumers to meet with specialists in the world of cosmetics from local, regional and international companies. — KUNA

Kuwait's participation  
in UN meet mirrors  
anti-crime advocacy

VIENNA: Kuwait's participation in the 12th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) mirrored its solid advocacy of fighting the scourge, said a top diplomat. Ambassador Talal Al-Fassam, Kuwait's permanent representative at the UN in Vienna, said in remarks to KUNA that such crimes threaten communities' stability and security worldwide and warrant coordination at the regional and international levels.

Ambassador Al-Fassam, who headed the Kuwait delegation at the session, said the Kuwait is keen on boosting regional cooperation through information swap and coordination with international agencies such as the UN agency for combating drugs and crime and Interpol. He has affirmed that Kuwait has continued to update its legislation to bolster the facing of organized crimes. The session was held earlier this week. — KUNA

## Photo of the day



KUWAIT: Birds fly as the sun rises over Kuwait City. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Kuwait Namaa Charity provides  
vital aid to Palestinians in Gaza

RAMALLAH: Chairman of the Charity Society, Mohammad Abu Marei, said on Sunday that the Kuwaiti Namaa Charity Foundation continues its vital humanitarian support to the people of the Gaza Strip by providing potable water to the displaced in the most affected areas. Abu Marei told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that this initiative comes within the framework of the "Water Supply" campaign launched by Namaa Charity to alleviate the water crisis, as more than 26,000 families benefited from it across the Strip.

He expressed his gratitude for "this support, which represents a strong partnership between us and directly contributes to alleviating the humanitarian suffering of the people of Gaza as a result of the harsh conditions imposed by the aggression and the blockade. This generous support reflects Kuwait's continued keenness to stand by its brothers, especially in critical times."

He stressed that Namaa Charity, through this campaign, continues to enhance Kuwait's pioneering humanitarian role in the world, which reflects the directives of the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Abu Marei added that "such initiatives are a lifeline for hundreds of thousands of families amid the



water crisis that is sweeping the Gaza Strip, which is no longer just a basic need but has become a matter of life and death, especially with the significant deterioration of the water infrastructure due to the blockade and the occupation's policies.

He pointed out the importance of continuing these urgent humanitarian efforts, indicating that the water crisis in Gaza is getting worse day after day as the per-

centage of potable water has decreased, especially in the central and southern governorates, while it is almost completely nonexistent in the north. He called on the international community and humanitarian institutions to move quickly to provide the necessary assistance to the residents of the Strip who are facing the risk of diseases and epidemics as a result of drinking contaminated water and the lack of basic health services. — KUNA



Workers distribute drinking water in the Gaza Strip with the support of Namaa Charity. — KUNA photos

KUNA Center launches  
its training program

KUWAIT: KUNA Center for Media Development launched its training program "Speech Skills and Official Spokesperson Techniques for Government Institutions" on Sunday with the participation of a number of employees of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), Qatar News Agency (QNA), the Kuwaiti Ministries of Interior and Oil, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), the Public Authority for Youth and Warba Bank.

The program, presented by media professional

Yousef Jawhar and continuing until October 24, includes an introduction to speech, planning skills, and fears of facing the audience, in addition to an introduction to speech techniques and the speaker, the basics of correct language, correct pronunciation, appropriate tone of voice and how to regulate the respiratory system during speech.

The program combines theoretical and practical approaches in addressing scientific content, vocal coloring, tone of voice, the arts of dialogue and its skills, dialogue, its preparation and writing, scientific rules for discussion, and the necessary skills. It is worth mentioning that the KUNA Center for Media Development was established in December 1995 and is considered one of the most prominent training centers in the region. — KUNA



Participants attend the training program.— KUNA

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Prabowo sworn in as Indonesia's president

## Cuba braces for hurricane as millions still without power

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BEIT LAHIA: Palestinians inspect the damage after a Zionist airstrike flattened residential buildings the previous night in Beit Lahia, in the northern Gaza Strip on October 20, 2024. — AFP

# Zionist massacre in Beit Lahia adds to Palestinians' suffering

Trapped without food, medicine, Palestinians in northern Gaza terrified as Zionist assault continues

**BEIT LAHIA:** With their dead relatives wrapped in white burial shrouds, families in northern Gaza mourned their loved ones on Sunday killed in a Zionist air strike that was part of a withering, weeks-long military assault on the area. The strike, which happened late on Saturday, flattened entire blocks of residential buildings in the town of Beit Lahia, AFP photographs showed, while rescuers said at least 73 Palestinians were killed, with many more still trapped under the rubble.

Families gathered at the Kamal Adwan Hospital, one of the main medical facilities in northern Gaza, where the dead were placed in rows in a scene now familiar from a year of unrelenting Zionist

air strikes on the Palestinian territory. Many of the injured, caked in dust, were treated by doctors on the hospital's floor. For those fortunate enough to escape the bombardment, displacement has brought only more hardship. Gazans fleeing the sweeping land and air assault have been left hungry and exhausted as they try to escape the military's dragnet, often forced to move repeatedly. "We left with nothing but our children, walking a long distance to Gaza City. We are exhausted, with no food or water for the babies," said Mariam Hamuda, 33.

### 'Dying slowly'

Hamuda was among thousands who walked south all night to Gaza City to

flee the Zionist ground offensive targeting northern Gaza's Jabalia and surrounding areas. "We arrived in Gaza from Beit Lahia during the bombardment. We don't know where to go or stay. There's no place for us and our families. We can't live like this. It's like dying slowly," said Ibrahim Hamuda, 66.

The Zionist entity launched the assault on northern Gaza on October 6, tightening its siege on the war-battered area and sending tens of thousands of people fleeing. "The nightmare in Gaza is intensifying," Tor Wennesland, UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East peace process, said in a statement on Sunday. "Horror scenes are unfolding in the northern Strip amidst conflict, relentless (Zionist) strikes and

an ever-worsening humanitarian crisis."

On Friday, the UN's top aid official talked of people trapped in north Gaza. "In Jabalia, people are trapped under the rubble and first responders are blocked from reaching them," the UN's acting humanitarian chief Joyce Msuya said on X. "Tens of thousands of Palestinians are being forcibly displaced. Essential supplies are running out. Hospitals, overwhelmed with patients, have been hit." The Zionist army has defended the operation, while accusing Gaza health officials of giving exaggerated civilian casualties, including in Beit Lahia.

### 'Trapped'

Gaza's civil defence agency said on

Saturday that the operation has killed more than 400 people in just two weeks. The Zionist entity has faced mounting criticism over the civilian toll and lack of food and aid reaching Gaza, where the UN has warned of famine. The Zionist attack on Gaza has killed 42,603 people in Gaza, mostly civilians, according to data from the health ministry in the territory. For those stuck in northern Gaza, the continued fighting has only added to their misery. "We are now trapped with no food, water or medicine, facing starvation amid the rubble and destruction," said Ahmad Saleh, 36, from the Al-Tawbah area in northern Gaza. "The situation gets worse every day and we are terrified, wondering when our turn will come." — AFP



BEIT AWA: A Palestinian woman picks olives from her trees in the village of Beit Awa, west of Hebron, next to the Zionist entity's separation barrier in the occupied West Bank on October 19, 2024.



A Palestinian family picks olives from their trees in the village of Beit Awa. — AFP photos



Zionist settlers patrol near the fields of Palestinian farmers in the village of Burqa.

## Settler attacks, Zionist assault in Gaza ruin Palestinian olive harvest

**AL-ZAWAYDA, Palestine:** After a year of relentless war, Gaza's olive harvest is set to suffer, while in the occupied West Bank, Palestinian farmers fear to tend their groves due to settler attacks. For generations, olive harvests have been central to Palestinian life and culture. "We are happy that the olive season has started but we are afraid because we are in a state of war," said Rami Abu Asad, who owns a farm in Deir El-Balah, central Gaza. Workers picking the olives by hand stay alert, listening for drones or warplanes that could bomb without warning. "But it is clearly evident (to Zionist forces) that we are workers and we do nothing else," he said, noting a sweeping Zionist military operation in Jabalia, less than 20 kilometers (12 miles) to the north.

More than a year of military assault on Gaza has damaged nearly 70 percent the territory's agricultural areas and left farmers unable to fertilize or irrigate their land, the UN says. "The number of remaining olive trees is very small and the costs are very high," Asad added.

### Low production

Jamal Abou Shaouish, an agricultural engineer, expects this year's harvest in Gaza to net just 15,000 tons, sharply down from around 40,000 tons in the years before the war. Supply shortages and destruction caused by the war will also impact the quality of olives, while pressing prices have soared due to the lack of fuel needed to run the machinery required for sorting and pressing the oil. In the West Bank,



BURQA: Zionist soldiers block the road in front of Palestinian farmers, preventing them from picking olives in their fields, in the village of Burqa, east of Ramallah in the Zionist-occupied West Bank on October 20, 2024.

the harvest has been marred by perennial fears of attacks by Zionist settlers, who regularly prevent Palestinians from accessing their olive groves or outright destroy their orchards.

Khaled Abdallah has made the tough decision not to harvest the olives this season on his land near the Beit El settlement. "I didn't even consider going to these lands close to the colony, because the situation is very dangerous," he told AFP, saying he will instead

focus on harvesting olives from a separate property in the village of Jifna, north of Ramallah. Like other Palestinians who own olive groves near the settlements, Abdallah coordinated with advocacy organizations in the Zionist entity to obtain special permits for the crops. "But there are no longer any rights organizations capable of protecting us from settler attacks, and there is no longer any coordination," he lamented. Olive groves have long been essential to the econo-

my and culture of the West Bank, but have also been the site of bloody clashes between farmers and encroaching Zionist settlers for decades, with the disputes hinging on access to land.

### Settler violence

In the past, settlers have assaulted Palestinians, set fire to or damaged their crops, stolen sheep and blocked them from getting to their land, water and grazing areas, according to the UN. And since October 7, 2023, the violence has only intensified. Attacks by settlers have increased "significantly" this year, said the human rights group Yesh Din. According to the group's spokesperson Fadia Qawasmi, farmers from the village of Madama, south of Nablus, were prevented from accessing their plots for three years. Settlers also damaged their vehicles. "The owners were expelled from their land by settlers from Itamar," said Abdallah Ziada, the head of the Madama village council. "Every day there are clashes." "We cannot distinguish those who arrests us — if they are settlers or soldiers, because they are sometimes in civilian clothes and armed, and other times in military uniform," Ziada added.

Earlier this week, the Palestinian health ministry in Ramallah said Zionist forces shot dead a woman in Faqoua village near Jenin while she harvested olives. The Zionist military said it had prepared for the harvest season. "This is done out of a commitment to maintaining the security of the area and its residents, while at the same time allowing the local residents to harvest their crops," the military said in a statement to AFP. "IDF (Zionist military) forces are securing the harvest in the coordinated areas." For many poor Palestinian families, the olive season provides a vital source of income. Earlier this week, UN experts said Palestinian farmers in the occupied West Bank are facing "the most dangerous olive season ever". — AFP



## International

# Cuba braces for hurricane as millions still without power

## Efforts to restore electricity to island faces setbacks, leaving most neighborhoods in the dark

### Musk says to award \$1m a day to a signer of his petition

**HARRISBURG, Pennsylvania:** Billionaire Elon Musk promised on Saturday to give away \$1 million each day until November's election to someone who signs his online petition supporting the US Constitution. And he wasted no time, awarding a \$1 million check to an attendee of his event in Pennsylvania aimed at rallying supporters behind Republican Donald Trump. The winner was a man named John Dreher, according to event staff. "By the way, John had no idea. So anyway, you're welcome," the Tesla founder said as he handed Dreher the check. The money is the latest example of Musk using his extraordinary wealth to influence the tightly-contested presidential race between Trump and his Democratic rival Kamala Harris.

Musk started America PAC, a political action organization he founded in support of Trump's presidential campaign. The group is helping mobilize and register voters in battleground states, but there are signs it is having trouble meeting its goals. The Harrisburg event is the third in as many days in Pennsylvania, where Musk is painting November's election in stark terms and encouraging supporters to vote early and get others to do the same. He said on Saturday that if Harris wins, it will be "the last election," suggesting the US will no longer exist. He also said the two assassination attempts against Trump prove he is ruffling feathers and upending the status quo in ways Harris won't. He said that's why no one is trying to kill Harris. "Assassinating a puppet is worthless," Musk said, reiterating an argument he has made in a social media post.

The petition Musk is asking people to sign reads: "The First and Second Amendments guarantee freedom of speech and the right to bear arms. By signing below, I am pledging my support for the First and Second Amendments." Attendees of Saturday's event had to sign the petition, which allows America PAC to garner contact details for more potential voters that it can work to get to the polls for Trump. — Reuters

### Harris, Trump duel intensifies as celebs join campaign trail

**LATROBE:** Kamala Harris and Donald Trump invited star power to the campaign trail Saturday, as they took shots at each other's endurance and urged early voting in battleground states key to the ever-tightening US presidential race. At rallies in Detroit and Atlanta Harris brought out pop stars Lizzo and Usher respectively to warm up her crowds, while painting her rival Trump as exhausted and unhinged. The Republican running for a second go in the White House countered those accusations with a marathon speech in Pennsylvania, as billionaire Elon Musk campaigned for him elsewhere in the state. Both candidates are fighting on every front to seal up voters' support in a race that polls suggest is effectively tied with fewer than three weeks to Election Day.

Harris told voters in Detroit that her opponent's platform is "self-consuming" while repeating vows to invest in the working and middle classes. "We stand for the idea that the true measure of the strength of a leader is not based on who you beat down, it's on who you lift up," said Harris. Later in Atlanta Harris, who turns 60 on Sunday, accused the 78-year-old Trump of "ducking debates and canceling interviews because of exhaustion." "When he does answer a question or speak at a rally — have you noticed he tends to go off script and ramble, and generally, for the life of him, cannot finish a thought?" she said. "He's called it the

### Zionist carnage in Gaza, Lebanon...

Continued from Page 1

military spokesperson Avichay Adraee said on social media platform X. Evacuation orders directing people to the south have fueled fears among many Palestinians that the operation is intended to clear them out of the northern part of Gaza to help ensure Zionist control of the area after the war.

Palestinians were also shocked by footage appearing to show a group of people in a street in Jabalia being hit by a strike as they approached to rescue someone who had already been hit. The Zionist offensive has made most of Gaza's 2.3 million people homeless, caused widespread hunger and destroyed hospitals and schools. "Horror scenes unfolding in Gaza, amidst conflict, relentless (Zionist) strikes & an ever-worsening humanitarian crisis," UN Middle East peace envoy Tor Wennesland posted on X.

In Lebanon, the Zionist entity stepped up its bombardment of southern Beirut from Saturday afternoon. On Sunday, it said its air force attacked Hezbollah's intelligence headquarters in Beirut as well as an underground workshop for the production of weapons. Fighter jets killed three Hezbollah commanders, including Alhaj Abbas Salameh, a senior figure in the group's southern command, the Zionist military said in a statement. Reuters witnesses saw

**HAVANA:** Cuba braced Sunday for a hit from Hurricane Oscar as it grapples with a nearly nationwide power outage now in its third day. The arrival of Hurricane Oscar, after the collapse Friday of Cuba's largest power plant crippled the whole national grid, will pile more pressure on a country already battling sky-high inflation and shortages of food, medicine, fuel and water. The storm was expected to make landfall in northeastern Cuba some time Sunday afternoon or evening Cuba time, the US National Hurricane Center said in its latest bulletin.

As of Sunday morning, Oscar was a Category 1 storm packing maximum sustained winds of 80 mph (130 kph), the NHC said. President Miguel Diaz-Canel said Saturday in a post on social media that authorities in the east of the island were "working hard to protect the people and economic resources, given the imminent arrival of Hurricane Oscar." The Cuban president's office said in another post that progress had been made in restoring power, with 16 percent of consumers receiving electricity and approximately 500 megawatts being generated. But around midnight the energy ministry said a sub-system in western Cuba had collapsed. That wattage was a fraction of the country's 3,300-megawatt demand on Thursday, the day before the grid collapsed and the government declared an "energy emergency" following weeks of extended outages.

The power grid failed in a chain reaction Friday due to the unexpected shutdown of the biggest of the island's eight decrepit coal-fired power plants, according to the head of electricity supply at the energy ministry, Lazaro Guerra. National electric utility UNE said it had managed to generate a minimal amount of electricity to get power plants restarted on Friday night, but by Saturday morning it was experiencing what official news outlet Cubadebate called "a new, total disconnection of the electrical grid."

Most neighborhoods in Havana remain dark, except for hotels and hospitals with emergency generators and the very few private homes with that kind of backup in the economically challenged nation. "God knows when the power will come back on," said Rafael Carrillo, a 41-year-old mechanic, who had to walk almost five kilometers (three miles) due to the lack of public transportation amid the blackout. The blackout followed weeks of power outages, lasting up to 20

weave. But we here we will call it nonsense."

#### 'Grandpa'

Trump began his more than 90-minute rally with a lengthy monologue on the late golfer Arnold Palmer, for whom the regional airport in Latrobe, where the Republican appeared, is named. He then launched into his routine, meandering speech that includes attacking migrants, personally denigrating Harris and repeating false claims about the 2020 election. But his was a show of onstage endurance, which also included a number of guests and screenings of his filmed campaign ads.

Shortly after recalling his own expensive education at the private Ivy League University of Pennsylvania, Trump vied to appeal to working class voters by bringing a parade of steel workers in hard hats onstage. He also underscored the importance of the eastern US state's electoral college delegates to the overall election: "If we win Pennsylvania, we win the whole damn thing."

At rally in Las Vegas, former US President Barack Obama took aim at Trump, comparing him to a grandfather whose bizarre behavior would spark worry after his rambling speeches and a strange dance party. "So you would be worried if your grandpa started acting like this? You would, ... right? You'd like, call up your brother, ... be like, have you seen grandpa lately? What we gonna do? "But this is coming from somebody who wants unchecked power, wants the most powerful office on Earth, with the nuclear codes and all that," said Obama.

Earlier in the day the pop star Lizzo noted that "whether you're a Democrat or Republican or neither, you deserve a president who listens when you speak." "You deserve a president who respects

smoke rising from Beirut's southern suburbs, once a densely populated zone that also housed Hezbollah offices and underground installations.

The Lebanese army, which is not fighting in the war, said three of its soldiers were killed in a Zionist strike on their vehicle in southern Lebanon. Hezbollah said on Sunday it had fired various rocket barrages at the Zionist entity, including a "salvo" directed at "the city of Haifa", and at three Zionist military bases. It also said it had fired rockets at Zionist troops in the vicinity of two border villages, Markaba and Adaisseh. Lebanon's official National News Agency (NNA) said Zionist forces had used explosives to blow up buildings there and in a third village, Rab El Thalathine.

The Zionist military said about 70 projectiles fired from Lebanon crossed into the Zionist entity within a matter of minutes, and that it intercepted some of them. NNA said Zionist strikes on Beirut hit a residential building in Haret Hreik near a mosque and a hospital. In southern Lebanon, NNA later said Zionist strikes had targeted dozens of locations, including the city of Nabatiyeh for the third time this week. It also reported that a Zionist strike hit a center for rescue workers affiliated with Hezbollah in Deir Al-Zahrani in southern Lebanon, partially destroying it.

Illustrating the intensity of the fighting, NNA later reported 14 Zionist strikes in the space of 15 minutes on a single border village, Khiam. Over the last year, more than 2,400 people have been killed, according to Lebanon's health ministry, with more than 1.2 million people displaced, most in recent weeks. — Agencies



**MATANZAS, Cuba:** A woman boils water while another lights her with a mobile phone during a nationwide blackout caused by a grid failure in Matanzas, Cuba, on October 18, 2024. — AFP

hours a day in some provinces. Prime Minister Manuel Marrero on Thursday declared an "energy emergency," suspending non-essential public services in order to prioritize electricity supply to homes.

#### Leaving Cuba

President Diaz-Canel blamed the situation on Cuba's difficulties in acquiring fuel for its power plants, which he attributed to the tightening, during Donald Trump's presidency, of a six-decade-long US trade embargo. Cuba is in the throes of its worst economic crisis since the collapse of key ally the Soviet Union in the early 1990s — marked by soaring inflation and shortages of basic goods. With no relief in sight, many Cubans have emigrated. More than 700,000 entered the United States between January 2022 and August 2024, according to US officials.

While the authorities chiefly blame the US embargo, the island is also feeling the aftershocks of the COVID-19 pandemic battering its critical tourism sector, and of economic mismanagement. To bolster its grid, Cuba has leased seven floating power plants from Turkish companies and also added many small diesel-powered generators. In July 2021, blackouts sparked an unprecedented outpouring of public anger. Thousands of Cubans took to the streets shouting, "We are hungry" and "Freedom!" in a rare challenge to the government. One person was killed and dozens were injured in the protests. According to the Mexico-based human rights organization Justicia 11J, 600 people detained during the unrest remain in prison. In 2022, the island also suffered months of daily hours-long power outages, capped by a nationwide blackout caused by Hurricane Ian. — AFP



**ATLANTA:** Musician Usher does a little dance as he takes the stage to speak at a rally for Kamala Harris on October 19, 2024 in Atlanta, Georgia. — AFP

when you protest. You deserve a president who understands that their job is to be a public servant," she said before emphasizing that Harris offers just that. Lizzo — who sported a suffragette-white pantsuit as she addressed the crowd in Motor City — also drew cheers when urging listeners that America was more than ready for its first woman president,

dropping a reference to her own hit song: "It's about damn time!" One of Atlanta's major stars, Usher, told voters there that "I'm counting on you" to get Harris's "campaign across the finish line" in Georgia. Both candidates are spending their final campaign days in pivotal battleground states where early voting is already underway. — AFP

### US and Iran in 'tug of war'...

Continued from Page 1

Hezbollah strongholds, including south Beirut. The United States has pushed for ceasefire, but has also expressed support for Zionist attempts to "degrade Hezbollah's infrastructure". US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said this month that "it's clear that the people of Lebanon have an interest — a strong interest — in the state asserting itself and taking responsibility for the country and its future."

Kim Ghattas, the author of "Black Wave", a book on the Saudi-Iran rivalry, said: "Lebanon is caught between Iran and Hezbollah on the one hand, and (the Zionist entity) and the US on the other." But "Washington's vision doesn't necessarily align with (the Zionist entity's) in terms of war goals and tactics", she said. "The US would certainly like to see a weakening of Hezbollah, maybe even the disarming of the group, but it is wary of (the Zionist entity) going too far with the military campaign."

Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned Lebanon it could face destruction "like Gaza" as the Zionist entity vowed to keep fighting Hezbollah until it secures its northern border. "I say to you, the people of Lebanon: Free your country from Hezbollah so that this war can end," Netanyahu said on Oct 8. Iran, for its part, "wants to preserve what's left of its assets in Lebanon and ensure the survival of the regime", Ghattas said, referring to the Islamic republic. "It needs to walk a fine line between continuing to support Hezbollah... while signaling it is ready for diplomacy."

Iran's meddling drew a rare rebuke from Lebanon last

week, as Prime Minister Najib Mikati accused it of "blatant interference" over remarks attributed to a Tehran official regarding ceasefire terms. Mikati charged that Iran had attempted "to establish an unacceptable guardianship over Lebanon", after Iran's parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf reportedly told France's Le Figaro newspaper that his government was ready to negotiate on the implementation of a 2006 UN resolution that calls for only the Lebanese army and UN peacekeepers to be deployed in southern Lebanon.

As the Zionist-Hezbollah war nears its one-month mark, calls have mounted for Lebanon to elect a president after a two-year void due to political deadlock. The last president, Michel Aoun, was a Hezbollah ally, making the vote a test for the country's political trends. In an interview with AFP, Mikati said serious efforts were underway to elect a president, in line with calls from the United States and other Western allies.

Political leaders in Lebanon too have made careful appeals for a new president, trying to avoid impressions they were leveraging Hezbollah's setbacks for political gain. "The Lebanese parties hostile to Hezbollah understand that the situation is very delicate," said Young. "They don't want to provoke the Shiite community, which already feels humiliated and angry and isolated and let's remember, is armed," he added.

While suspicion between sects has grown since the Zionist-Hezbollah war forced displaced Shiite communities into Christian-majority areas, many are wary of a repeat of the country's 15-year war. The Zionist invasion of Lebanon in 1982 also recalls bitter memories for the Lebanese and ultimately led to the creation of Hezbollah, one of the Zionist entity's most formidable foes. "It seems that politicians in Lebanon have learned lessons of the past, but the longer this current limbo and war lasts, the harder it will be to keep tensions under control," said Ghattas. — AFP



## International

## Prabowo sworn in as Indonesia's president

## Ex-general vows to fight corruption, calls on Indonesians to help him tackle problems

JAKARTA: Indonesia's Prabowo Subianto on Sunday took over as president of the world's third-largest democracy, vowing to combat internal issues such as corruption that plague the country and to make it more self-sufficient. The 73-year-old has undergone a remarkable transformation, from being a former military commander facing unproven allegations of rights abuses to sweeping the polls and now leading the country of 280 million people. Wearing a traditional black hat and navy suit with a woven maroon and golden sarong, Prabowo officially became Indonesia's eighth president on Sunday morning after he was sworn in during a ceremony at Indonesia's parliament.

Prabowo, who unsuccessfully ran for the presidency twice before, said in a fiery speech to lawmakers he would be president for all Indonesians and challenged the nation to help him face down the country's problems. "We must always realize that a free nation is where the people are free," Prabowo said, at times raising his voice. "They must be freed of fear, poverty, hunger, ignorance, oppression, suffering," he said.

In a wide-ranging speech lasting about an hour, Prabowo said self-sufficiency for food was possible within five years, while also pledging to become self-sufficient in energy. The new president vowed to eradicate corruption and said that while he wanted to live in a democracy, it must be "polite". "A difference of opinion must come without enmity ... fighting without hating," he said.

Prabowo won the February 14 contest with nearly 60 percent of the vote and has spent the past nine months building a formidable parliamentary coalition. He was joined in the swearing-in

ceremony by his running mate, Gibran Rakabuming Raka, 37, the eldest son of outgoing President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo.

Later on Sunday, Prabowo announced his cabinet at the presidential palace. While it had of a mix of professional and political appointees, most of the economics-related ministers remained the same as those under Jokowi. One key announcement was for the foreign ministry, which will now be led by Sugiono, a former member of the army's special forces. The cabinet will be sworn in on Monday morning.

## Greeting supporters

After his speech, Prabowo wore a baseball cap and waved through a car sunroof as he made his way to the presidential palace, passing thousands of flag-waving supporters thronging Jakarta's streets in a festival-like atmosphere. Jokowi supporters are also attending the celebrations to bid farewell to Indonesia's outgoing leader. Aneta Yuniar, a bystander who had excitedly waved at Jokowi's motorcade as it slowly made its way past supporters before the ceremony, said she would miss Jokowi but that Prabowo was a strong leader. "Prabowo will continue the development that Jokowi started. There's continuity. It's what I want," she said.

Jokowi has left an indelible mark on the nation of 280 million, presiding over a period of strong economic growth and massive infrastructure development. Critics also say, though, his rule has been marked by a rise in old-time patronage and dynastic politics, and they warn about diminished integrity in courts and other state institutions.

Prabowo also touched on foreign policy during his speech, saying Indonesia was non-aligned on



JAKARTA: Indonesia's new President Prabowo Subianto (right) takes the oath during the presidential inauguration ceremony at the Parliament building in Jakarta on October 20, 2024. — AFP

the global stage, but that he stood in support of the Palestinian people and said Jakarta was ready to send more aid to Gaza. During his campaign, Prabowo billed himself to voters and investors alike as the "continuity candidate". Past allegations against Prabowo, a former military general, of involvement in the kidnapping of student activists and human rights

abuses in Papua and East Timor, however, have also raised concern about Indonesia's trajectory of democracy, human rights advocates say. Prabowo has always denied the allegations that led to his dismissal from the military in 1998, the same year Indonesia broke free from the decades-long authoritarian rule of former President Suharto. — Reuters

## Libyan arrested in Germany over alleged Zionist embassy plot

BERLIN: German prosecutors said Sunday they had arrested a Libyan man on suspicion of having links to the Islamic State group and planning to attack the Zionist embassy in Berlin with firearms. The suspect, identified only as Omar A, was arrested on Saturday evening at his home in Bernau, just outside the German capital, the federal prosecutor's office said. The 28-year-old was accused of "supporting a foreign terrorist organization" and was said by prosecutors to be an adherent to the ideology of the Islamic State group. Prosecutors said Omar A was planning a "high-profile attack with firearms" on the Zionist embassy in Berlin. As part of his preparations, Omar A was said to have had "exchanges with a member of IS in a messenger chat".

A judge ordered the suspect to be held in pre-trial detention, a spokesman for the federal prosecutor's office told AFP. Authorities said they searched the suspect's home in Bernau on Saturday. They also searched the property near Bonn of another person "not suspected" of involvement in the alleged plan. German media said the flat in the town of Sankt Augustin near Bonn belonged to the suspect's uncle, who was being treated as a witness.

## Asylum request

German authorities arrested Omar A after a tip-off from a foreign intelligence agency, according to local media, adding that he had not been on any militant watchlist in Germany. The suspect was said to have entered Germany in November 2022 and to have made a request for asylum the following January, a government source told AFP. This was rejected in September 2023, meaning Omar A would have been required to leave the country, the source said.

Responding to news of the arrest, the Zionist entity's ambassador to Berlin said: "Muslim anti-Semitism is no longer just hate rhetoric. It leads to and encourages terrorist activities worldwide." Zionist embassies were "on the front line of the diplomatic battlefield", ambassador Ron Prossor said in a message posted by the embassy on social media platform X. Interior Minister Nancy Faeser said protecting Jewish and Zionist institutions in Germany was "of the utmost importance to us". Law enforcement were acting with the "utmost vigilance" to prevent any suspected "Islamist, anti-Semitic and (anti-Zionist) violence", Faeser said. — AFP

## Zionist entity deliberately targets Beirut's vital infrastructure: Expert

BEIRUT: Just a month ago, south Beirut's bustling streets were packed with traffic, families strolling about and youths in cafes, but now silence dominates the abandoned Hezbollah bastion, interrupted only by the sound of Zionist bombs. Escalating Zionist attacks since late September, after nearly a year of low-intensity cross-border exchanges, have reduced much of the Lebanese capital's once densely-packed southern suburbs to rubble and sent many of its residents fleeing. Braving the smell of rotting flesh that reeks from razed buildings, a few young men stood guard, dressed in black civilian clothes and occasionally driving around the ruins on their motorbikes.

They observed the odd car and the handful of displaced residents who come on foot, hastily checking on their apartment or collecting some belongings before heading back to safety. "The young people told me not to stay too long because drones were constantly flying over and could strike at any time," said 32-year-old Mohammed, on a brief visit home to get more clothes. Giving his first name only for security concerns, he said he first left on September 27, days into the Zionist entity's intense air campaign on Lebanon.

That day, massive Zionist strikes killed Hezbollah's elusive leader Hassan Nasrallah in the heart of the group's south Beirut stronghold, toppling several apartment buildings and spreading fear of even greater violence. "We left in a hurry and thought we would never see our house again," said Mohammed, adding that his neighbors had also fled. The building



DAKAR: Demonstrators gather in front of the Millennium Gate in Dakar on October 19, 2024 during a march calling for peace and justice for Lebanon and Gaza. — AFP

## 'Everything is lost' as Senegal repatriates citizens from Lebanon

DAKAR: Hussein Hachem hugged his injured daughter as she arrived in Senegal on a flight repatriating citizens escaping the escalating conflict in Lebanon. His 14-year-old son was not with her — killed, he said, when their home was bombed. As Zionist forces pounded Lebanon in a broadening offensive, Hachem's daughter Mariam, 11, who had suffered a broken foot, was among 117 Senegalese flown to Dakar on a government-organized flight. "I lost everything. I lost my son. I lost my house. All my dreams," he said, speaking amid emotional scenes outside the Leopold Sedar Senghor International Airport, where families were reunited with loved ones late on Saturday. "We have a 14-and-a-half-year-old son who just disappeared like that. Ten minutes before, I was talking to him. 'Hello?' He said, 'Dad, you're going to come get me?' I told him 'yes' ... Ten minutes later, they called me: 'there's no more house, no more son'." Senegal has a significant Lebanese diaspora

community, and has historical ties to both Lebanon and Palestine. "The Senegalese government, of course, is condemning the (Zionist) army's bombardment in Lebanon, the bombardment of civilians ... the destruction of infrastructure," the country's foreign minister, Yassine Fall, said in an interview with Reuters on Saturday evening. She said there had been about 1,000 Senegalese nationals in Lebanon but that some had left by their own means before the repatriation flight.

Fall also highlighted her country's longstanding relationship with the Palestinian people, dating back to 1975 when Senegal chaired the United Nations Committee for the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. "We are very, very disappointed to see the world watching a genocide happen under our eyes, children being killed, children being shot in the head, hospitals being bombed, sick people not being able to be evacuated, people in refugee camps that are not fighting, that are civilians, being maimed and killed," she said in reference to the Zionist entity's offensive in Gaza. "So Senegal, with other countries, we are really side by side condemning this and calling it what it is: it is a genocide." Earlier on Saturday, demonstrators marched through Dakar to protest against the Zionist entity's actions in Gaza and Lebanon and call for a ceasefire. — Reuters



BEIRUT: A man looks at the destruction at the site of an overnight Zionist airstrike on the Ruwais neighborhood in Beirut's southern suburbs on October 1, 2024. — AFP

was still standing, but many others have been damaged or destroyed.

## Attacks on infrastructure

Cracks snaked down nearby buildings as torn-off asphalt and burst pipes leaked sewage and tap water. Generators that long made up for daily power cuts after five years of economic crisis had also been blown to bits. "About 320 buildings were destroyed in Beirut and its suburbs" in less than a month of war, Mona Fawaz of the Beirut Urban Lab told AFP. The devastation has surpassed the damage caused by the Zionist entity's last war with Hezbollah in 2006, said Fawaz, who records cases of "urbicide", the destruc-

tion of cities in conflict, focusing now on Lebanon and the Gaza Strip. She accused the Zionist entity of "deliberate targeting of what allows life to continue," including vital infrastructure unrelated to Hezbollah. Hezbollah had completely rebuilt Beirut's south based on the existing urban plans from before the 2006 war, which had displaced about 100,000 people from the area. During that 33-day war, surveys list 1,332 severely damaged multi-story apartment buildings, of which 281 were completely razed to the ground" in an area of about 20 square kilometers (eight square miles), said Fawaz. The Burj al-Barajneh neighborhood, unscathed in 2006, has been heavily damaged in the bombardment this time around. — AFP

## Iraqi Kurdistan votes, shadowed by economic struggles

ARBIL, Iraq: Iraq's autonomous Kurdistan region voted on Sunday to elect a new parliament for the oil-rich region, where voters express concern over economic struggles and disenchantment with the political elite. Iraqi Kurdistan presents itself as a relative oasis of stability in the turbulent Middle East, attracting foreign investors due to its close ties with the United States and Europe. However, activists and opposition figures contend that the region, autonomous since 1991, faces the same issues affecting Iraq as a whole: corruption, political repression and cynicism among those in power.

Originally scheduled for two years ago, the vote has been postponed four times due to disputes between the region's two historic parties, the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK). Each party is controlled by a powerful Kurdish family — the KDP by the Barzanis and the PUK by the Talabanis. Despite holding election rallies and mobilizing their patronage networks, experts say there is widespread public disillusionment with the parties, exacerbated by the region's bleak economic conditions.

By early afternoon, turnout was 31 percent, the electoral commission said, with official results expected Monday evening. Huri Mohammed,



SULAIMANIYAH: A Kurdish voter prepares his ballot during parliamentary elections at a polling station in Sulaimaniyah in Iraq's autonomous Kurdistan region on October 20, 2024. — AFP

a 66-year-old housewife, said she voted for the KDP which dominates the regional capital Arbil, as it "serves the people". But she expressed hope the next government would "pay attention to the poor classes. The majority of our population has limited means".

Opposition parties such as New Generation and a movement led by Lahur Sheikh Jangi, a dissident from the Talabani clan, may gain from a protest vote, said Sartep Jawhar, a PUK dissident and political commentator. Hiwa Hadi, a candidate for the newly formed opposition Halwest party, said after voting in Arbil: "People are dissatisfied and angry due to rising prices and taxes, electricity and water shortages".

## Tensions with Baghdad

Political analyst Shivan Fazil, a PhD student at the US-based Boston University with a focus on Iraq, noted that there was "a growing fatigue with the region's two ruling parties". He said people's living conditions "have deteriorated over the last decade."

Fazil cited erratic payment of salaries for the region's 1.2 million civil servants as problematic because the money serves as "a vital source of income for households". This issue is tied to ongoing tensions between Kurdistan and the federal Iraqi government in Baghdad, amid disputes over control of the region's lucrative oil exports.

The creation of four new constituencies for this election — a change from only one previously — "could lead to redistribution in vote shares and seats in the next parliament", Fazil said. He still predicted, however, that the KDP could maintain its majority. The KDP is the largest party in the outgoing parliament, with 45 seats against 21 for the PUK. The KDP's majority was assured by an alliance with deputies elected via a quota reserved for Turkmen, Armenian and Christian minorities. — AFP



MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2024

# NIC concludes its dynamic participation in Kuwait's largest career fair 'Watheefti'

## The leading investment firm joins for the second time

**KUWAIT:** As part of its constant efforts to support the process of human development, professional and administrative growth and attract the best competencies of young national cadres, National Investments Company (NIC) concluded its dynamic participation in Watheefti, the largest career fair, for the second time. The fair, which has witnessed the participation of more than 40 renowned entities, was held at the Arena Hall – 360 Mall over three days, 17-19, October 2024.

NIC's participation was aimed at showcasing the job opportunities available to young Kuwaitis and employing those who are qualified to work in the private sector to achieve the vision of (New Kuwait 2035) and to support national cadres while building and refining the skills and talents of young candidates and upholding their self-confidence. These valuable objectives can be achieved by making employment chances available for young Kuwaitis within the private sector that suit the specializations and tendencies of youth competencies.



Abdulmohsen Al-Khatrash

and requirements of work within different private and government organizations, thus equipping them with the knowledge and understanding they need to make informed career decisions.

NIC's booth witnessed a remarkable turnout and audience of job seekers, from university graduates and other young Kuwaitis wishing to develop their careers to those interested in attending events, seminars, and workshops that support and guide national cadres. Employees representing NIC's various sectors participated in answering all inquiries and introduced the youth to the company's role in the investment sector as one of the largest investment companies in Kuwait and the region. They provided a detailed overview of the development opportunities offered by the company to its employees, and the participants filled out recruitment forms for vacant and available jobs.

Abdulmohsen Al-Khatrash, Executive Director of Human Resources and Administration Affairs at National Investments Company (NIC), said: "This active participation is happening for the second year. At NIC, we believe in the importance of participating in these influential exhibitions, which emphasize the company's role as one of the leading institutions locally and regionally, attracting and developing the skills of Kuwaiti



Abdulmohsen Al-Khatrash poses for a group photo at the NIC booth at Watheefti.

youth, as well as its role in encouraging and educating the category of job applicants through the exhibition, in terms of direct communication with graduates and helping them make the appropriate decision and choose their career path and practical future."

Al-Khatrash added that the launch of the second edition of the "Shift" program was backed by the support of the National Investments Company as a strategic partner and in cooperation with Creative Confidence. This program is designed exclusively for freshly graduated Kuwaiti women to qualify them to enter the investment employment market. He also shed light on Kuwaiti women's dedication to enhancing their capabilities and skills to match the requirements of the

labor market. Our aim through 'Shift' is to advance the career path and achieve successful professional development of all participants while helping them grow in the area of investment and assume leadership positions in various economic fields in the future.

Al-Khatrash also highlighted NIC's interest in attracting and retaining young cadres and talents to promote an innovative and creative work environment that enhances the capabilities of its employees and plays a leading role in building a sustainable system for the future. NIC is also committed to creating new job opportunities for ambitious Kuwaiti youth from various disciplines to work for the company, engage in field experiences in learning and competition, and activate its

role among applicants in the company and the investment sector in general. He said that the Human Resources Department at NIC supports youth empowerment and education initiatives that positively impact society; these initiatives align with the company's CSR strategy, helping the community and Kuwaiti youth and providing valuable professional advice and guidance that inspires future generations.

Thanks to the Watheefti organizers for their active and prominent role in enhancing solidarity and cooperation to embrace and encourage graduates and job seekers in the private sector, open channels of direct communication between the two parties, and help them identify the most important leading companies in the Kuwaiti labor market.



شركة الاستثمار الوطنية  
NATIONAL INVESTMENTS COMPANY

NIC, a key player in various local, regional, and international sectors, is dedicated to achieving advanced Kuwaitization rates. With a large and diverse base of shareholders from selected Kuwaiti institutions and high-net-worth individuals, the company is committed to highlighting the various job opportunities it offers to potential candidates, allowing them to fully exploit their skills and build a promising career. Moreover, such fairs are an excellent opportunity for students to gain valuable insights into the nature

## Japan shifting back to nuclear to ditch coal and power AI

**TOKYO:** Glinting in the sun by the world's biggest nuclear plant, the Sea of Japan is calm now. But as the huge facility gears up to restart, Kashiwazaki-Kariwa has a new tsunami wall, just in case. Japan pulled the plug on nuclear power after the 2011 Fukushima disaster, but with the G7's dirtiest energy mix, it is seeking to cut emissions, and atomic energy is making a steady comeback, in part because of AI. At the 400-hectare (1,000-acre) KK plant, shown to AFP in an exclusive tour, the 15-metre (50-foot) wall is just one measure to prevent another catastrophe and reassure the public and Japan's jittery neighbors.

"We believe that (a similar accident to Fukushima) could be largely avoided," Masaki Daito, KK deputy superintendent, told AFP. Japan now has "the strictest (regulatory) standards in the world". The facility in central Japan — like the nation as a whole — is no stranger to earthquakes, having been shut down for two years for "upgrades" after a big jolt in 2007. At Fukushima, a 15-metre tsunami cut power lines and flooded backup generators, disabling water pumps needed to keep nuclear fuel cool.

In this century's worst nuclear accident, three reactors went into meltdown and hydrogen explosions blew off roofs and released radioactivity into the air. To keep the power running in the event of a quake, KK has new backup power supply vehicles on higher ground, plus "blow-out" panels and a new vent meant to filter out 99.9 percent of any radioactive particles.

In addition to the recently built sea wall, an embankment has been enlarged and reinforced. In corridors deep inside the reactor building, luminous stickers mark pipes and faucets. "The lights all went out at Fukushima and no one could see," Daito said.

Before the 2011 quake and tsunami, which killed around 18,000 people, nuclear power generated about a third of Japan's electricity, with fossil fuels contributing most of the rest. All of Japan's 54 reactors were shut down afterwards, including



This picture taken on August 5, 2024 shows people visiting Arahama beach in front of the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear power station in Kashiwazaki, in Japan's Niigata prefecture. — AFP

those at KK. To keep the lights on, resource-poor Japan has hiked imports of natural gas, coal and oil while increasing solar power. But fossil fuels are expensive, with imports last year costing Japan about \$510 million a day.

It is also not helping Japan achieve its climate pledges. The E3G think-tank ranks Japan in last place — by some distance — among G7 nations on decarbonizing their power systems. Britain recently closed its last coal power station. Italy, France and Germany plan to follow suit. Japan and the United States, however, have no such target. The government is striving for "carbon neutrality" by 2050 and to cut emissions by 46 percent by 2030 from 2013 levels.

It wants to increase the share of renewables to 36-38 percent from around 20 percent and cut fossil fuels to 41 percent from around two-thirds now. Hanna Hakko, a Japan-based energy expert

at E3G, thinks Japan could aim higher and have renewables generate 70-80 percent of its power by 2035. "This would allow Japan to phase out coal, as it has committed to doing together with its G7 peers," Hakko told AFP.

Yet even under this scenario, the remainder would need to be covered by gas and nuclear energy. Under its current plan, Japan aims for nuclear power to account for 20-22 percent of its electricity by 2030, up from well under 10 percent now.

Japan in late 2022 decided to accelerate reactor restarts and to extend operating time for nuclear reactors to 60 years from 40. Nine of Japan's 33 still-operable reactors are currently online. At KK, unit seven is ready to join them once the local governor approves, with others set to follow. Because of tougher safety rules since Fukushima, getting approval is a slow process. One restart was recently blocked because of earthquake risk. — AFP

## Google wins delay in opening Android app store to rivals

**SAN FRANCISCO:** A US judge on Friday let Google delay opening Android-powered smartphones to rival app shops, suspending a November 1 deadline ordered in an antitrust case brought by Fortnite-maker Epic Games. Google was pleased by federal judge James Donato's decision to "tem-

porarily pause the implementation of dangerous remedies demanded by Epic," a company spokesperson said, as an appeals court considers permanently blocking the order stemming from Epic's argument that the tech titan's Android Play store is an illegal monopoly.

"These remedies threaten Google Play's ability to provide a safe and secure experience and we look forward to continuing to make our case," the spokesperson added. In response to the ruling, a spokesperson for Epic Games said in an email to AFP that Google's appeal was "meritless," citing the judge's deference to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals instead of striking down the order outright.

"The pause... is merely a procedural step," the spokesperson said.

Phones running on the Android operating system have about a 70 percent share of the world's smartphone market. Google has been hit with a series of recent legal challenges to its dominance. In August, a different judge found that Google's world-leading search engine was an illegal monopoly.

Google is also facing an antitrust lawsuit in a third federal case in Virginia over its dominance of online advertising. Under the Epic Games order, for the next three years Google will be prohibited from engaging in several practices that were deemed anticompetitive by the jury in the landmark case.

## Bangladesh garment industry lost \$400m due to unrest

**DHAKA:** Bangladesh's vital garment industry lost \$400 million due to unrest following the student-led revolution that ousted the country's autocratic premier, industry leaders said Sunday, insisting the situation was now "stable". The South Asian nation's 3,500 garment factories account for around 85 percent of its \$55 billion in annual exports, but the unrest caused significant disruptions to the linchpin industry. After months of deadly protests, ex-leader Sheikh Hasina fled by helicopter to neighboring India on August 5.

An interim government, led by Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus took over, but protests in a string of garment factories continued with workers demanding jobs and better pay. Such demonstrations sometimes spiralled into violence. On September 30, a garment worker was killed and 20 were injured in clashes between protesters and the police. Kalpana Akhtar, president of the Bangladesh Garments and Industrial Workers Federation, said Sunday that there had to be "a drastic change in the attitude" of factory owners and the government.

"The discussion about pay raises only takes place when the workers take to the streets", Akhtar told AFP. She said changes were needed "to ensure stability in this sector", warning that "otherwise, the calm situation might not last."

Bangladesh is the world's second-biggest exporter of clothing by value after China and supplies many of the world's top brands, including Levi's, Zara and H&M. Khandaker Rafiqul Islam, president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, said that the "industry is currently stable after going through a challenging period". Islam, speaking to reporters on Saturday, estimated losses since August to total around \$400 million, and said security forces needed to continue protecting the industry. "The army formed a task force to protect the factories, and they are conducting regular patrols to ensure security at the garment hubs", Islam said. — AFP

For instance, the trial found that Google made its Play app store the only method to make payments to third party apps, like Fortnite. A sizable chunk of app store revenue comes from video games, and Epic Games has long sought to have payments for its mobile games take place outside the Google or Apple app stores that take commissions as high as 30 percent.

Epic mostly lost a similar case against Apple, where a US judge largely ruled in favor of the iPhone-maker. Apple and Google regularly argue that their app shop commissions are industry standard, and that they pay for benefits such as reach, transaction security and ferreting out malware. — AFP



# NBK continues to prove its resilience against shifting operating conditions

## Isam Al-Sager speaks on the sidelines of bank's analyst conference for 9M 2024

**KUWAIT:** Isam Al-Sager, the Vice Chairman and Group CEO of National Bank of Kuwait (NBK), said, "NBK continues to prove its resilience against shifting operating conditions, its prudent approach to risk management and its ability to sustain growth from diversified income streams." On the sidelines of the Analyst Conference for the results of 9M 2024, Al-Sager added, "We reported net profits of KD 457 million for the nine months of the year; growing by 6 percent on an annual basis. As for the three months ended September 2024, net profits reached KD 164.6 million; posting a growth of 5.7 percent year-on-year.

relationships with existing clients and actively seeking new business opportunities, we will endorse the Group as a trusted financial partner," he explained. "Moreover, we will remain focused on leveraging our unique competitive advantage domestically, as the only bank in Kuwait with access to both conventional and Islamic banking markets. Our subsidiary Boubyan Bank continues to support the Group in diversifying our client base and income streams.

Meanwhile, NBK wealth will solidify its proposition and offering best-in-class wealth management experience in the market. Similarly, our international operations remain vital for the Bank's stability and growth prospects," he continued.

### Robust governance

Al-Sager pointed out, "At NBK, ESG principles remain a cornerstone of our operations and lending philosophy. Our robust governance framework is central to every strategic decision that we continue or intend to make. This affirms our dedication to ESG stewardship, our commitment to transition to a low-carbon economy and our carbon neutrality pledge."

### Saudi market

On a question about NBK's strategy in Saudi Arabia, Al-Sager said, "Our strategy in Saudi Arabia is to increase our presence in the wealth management business through NBK Wealth. This is in line with the focus on increasing wealth management offerings to private banking customers beyond Kuwait and Saudi is a key growth market for us." "With respect to corporate banking, we continue to provide credit facilities and other trade finance services to different companies in Saudi Arabia - some GREs while others are high-quality corporates. We of course maintain our conservative approach to credit, which has resulted in a sound credit quality and lower NPLs for the Group," he added.

### Economic conditions

Commenting on local economic conditions, Al-Sager said, "In Kuwait, economic indicators point to subdued pace of growth but not far from a rebound. Latest provisional data showed that non-oil GDP grew modestly in 2Q-2024. Meanwhile, oil GDP contracted on lower crude production." "Inflation on the other hand softened marginally to 2.9 percent as of August-2024 and expected to continue to trend lower to remain on track for an average annual rate of 3.0 percent compared to 3.6 percent recorded in 2023." "On a positive note, project activity maintained its momentum and remained solid in 3Q 2024 with the power and water sector constituting three quarters of the value awarded during the period. Activity is likely to pick up for the remainder of the year, in line with government development plan priorities with around KD 3.3 billion worth of awards penciled for next couple of quarters," he clarified.

### Mortgage law

On a question about the mortgage law, Al-Sager said, "The previous parliament penciled various housing-related laws and



Isam Al-Sager

- NBK continues its prudent risk management approach, maintaining its ability to sustain growth from diversified income streams
- Our diversified business portfolio across geographies and business segments has further driven growth while capturing opportunities even in volatile market conditions
- We continue to excel in digital innovation and deliver a holistic banking experience that reflects positively on operational efficiency
- By deepening relationships with existing clients and actively seeking new business opportunities, we will endorse the Group as a trusted financial partner

initiatives that position the law closer to getting passed; minding that the political scene has changed in the meantime. Given the growing number of housing applications which reached 97.6 thousand as of September 2024, there is an increased likelihood that the law will be passed to address this financing mechanism issue going forward. Looking at the political scene recently in Kuwait, there is no solution other than passing the law and the sooner it does the better."

"In the GCC region, performance across markets witnessed relatively positive economic developments with strong non-oil growth amid looming uncertainties. On the other hand, the challenging geopolitical scene and oil price volatility will continue to

demonstrate the continued growth in our business. The higher interest rate regime for a significant part of the reporting period and an overall stable operating environment in Kuwait have generally benefitted the bank."

"The Group's Balance Sheet remains strong with a stable credit quality. NBK's capital base along with the ability to generate healthy operating profits provides a strong credit loss-absorption capacity," he added. "Average earning assets grew by KD 1.8bn i.e. 5.2 percent over September 2023, to reach KD 36.4 billion. NBK's focus on digital channels and product offerings continues to play a vital role in attracting and servicing customers, with increased volume of electronic transactions. We also continue to press ahead with selective product of-

percent to net operating income and 23 percent to the Group's profit, reflecting a strong operating performance. The Group's Islamic banking subsidiary, Boubyan Bank, delivered a net profit of KD 73.5 million, up 20.3 percent on 9M 2023. International Banking and Boubyan Bank contributed 42 percent and 23 percent, respectively, to Group's total assets reinforcing the Group's diversification strategy," Ronghe said. "NBK Wealth contributed to 10 percent and 11 percent of the Group's operating income and profit respectively. NBK Wealth provides asset management, brokerage, lending, deposits and other customized and innovative offerings to high-net-worth individuals and institutional clients, further advancing the Group's diversification agenda," he added.

### Operating environment

On the operating outlook for the coming period, Ronghe said, "In light of the ongoing regional and international geopolitics, we remain cautiously optimistic that the overall operating environment, although challenging, will remain generally stable in the coming quarter. As regards loan growth, given the current geo-political and the general macroeconomic situation, we continue to expect the overall loan growth for 2024 to be in the mid-single digit range."

"At the same time, we remain very optimistic that the significant project activity expected, would lead to first non-cash in the business i.e. guarantees, LC's, etc. and later translate into loan growth," he noted.

### Saudi market

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NBK headquarters building

have an economic impact on GCC economies." "On a global scale, uncertainty continues to shadow the economic outlook as major central banks shift their attention from rising prices and inflation towards potential recession challenges. The sluggish demand and increased geopolitical tensions added to the uncertainty of the outlook," he added.

### Strong operating performance

On his part, Sujit Ronghe, Group CFO of National Bank of Kuwait commented, "Our results for 9M2024 stem from a strong operating performance by the Group and

offerings in certain geographies e.g. through our global wealth management business i.e. NBK Wealth, Islamic banking through Boubyan Bank and by further leveraging our overseas network." Ronghe mentioned that NBK's Consumer Banking contributed 20 percent and 17 percent to the Group's net operating income and profit respectively. Similarly, Corporate Banking contributed 13 percent and 19 percent to the Group's net operating income and profit," he added.

### International operations

"International Banking contributed 24

## NBK MONEY MARKETS REPORT

### ECB cuts rate as inflation drops below target

**KUWAIT:** US retail sales rose by 0.4 percent in September, exceeding economists' expectations of a 0.3 percent increase, according to data from the Commerce Department. This represents a 1.7 percent gain annually. The growth was driven by lower gasoline prices, which gave consumers more disposable income to spend on dining out and shopping at clothing stores, miscellaneous retailers, and health and personal care stores. Online purchases also saw an uptick. Gas prices fell by about 12 cents per gallon, further supporting consumer spending. Sales at restaurants and bars, a key indicator of household financial health, rose 1.0 percent. Despite strong consumer spending, economists expect the Federal Reserve to deliver a modest 25-basis-point interest rate cut next month.

### Yellen sounds tariff warning

US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen cautioned that broad tariff proposals would increase inflation and harm American businesses. She criticized the idea of imposing high tariffs on both allies and competitors, warning that such measures would raise prices for American consumers and reduce business competitiveness. Yellen argued that while challenges like supply chain disruptions, climate change,

and China's industrial overcapacity need addressing, outdated approaches like blanket tariffs are not the solution. Instead, she emphasized the need for targeted and thoughtful economic strategies. The US dollar index closed the week at 103.46.

### Canada inflation drops

The likelihood of a 50 bps interest rate cut by the Bank of Canada has increased after annual inflation fell to 1.6 percent in September, according to Statistics Canada. This inflation drop, along with a strong labor market report showing 47,000 new jobs and a lower unemployment rate of 6.5 percent, provides key data ahead of the central bank's interest rate decision on October 23. Falling gasoline prices contributed to the decline in inflation, but excluding gasoline, inflation stood at 2.2 percent. Rent and food prices remained elevated, with rent rising 8.2 percent year-over-year and food prices increasing faster than the headline inflation rate. The Bank of Canada, which has already cut interest rates three times this year, may continue with further reductions depending on its economic evaluation. Governor Tiff Macklem has hinted that additional cuts could be forthcoming, though the pace and timing remain uncertain. The USD/CAD currency pair closed the week at 1.3800.

### ECB delivers quarter percentage cut

European Central Bank (ECB) reduced its key interest rate by 25 bps to 3.25 percent on Thursday, marking the third quarter-point cut this year. This move was widely expected, following earlier signals from policymakers about lower inflation risks and a slowing economic outlook. The

ECB noted that the disinflation process is "well on track," and inflation in the eurozone eased to 1.8 percent in September, falling below the ECB's 2 percent target for the first time in three years. However, the central bank warned that inflation could rise again in the coming months before stabilizing next year. Additionally, the ECB revised its 2024 growth forecast for the eurozone down to 0.8 percent, citing weaker domestic demand and challenges in major economies like Germany and France. This is the first time the ECB has cut rates in consecutive meetings since 2011. The EUR/USD currency pair closed the week at 1.0865.

### UNITED KINGDOM

#### UK inflation falls

The Office for National Statistics announced on Wednesday that inflation in the United Kingdom had decreased significantly to 1.7 percent in September, surpassing market expectations and raising the likelihood of an interest rate cut by the Bank of England in November. Economists had predicted a higher inflation rate of 1.9 percent for the month, but the actual figure marked the first time it had fallen below the BoE's target of 2 percent since April 2021. Inflation had been hovering near this target for the past four months, reaching 2.2 percent in August. Core inflation, which excludes energy, food, alcohol, and tobacco, also declined from 3.6 percent in August to 3.2 percent in September, falling below the forecast of 3.4 percent. Price increases in the services sector, the primary component of the UK economy, experienced a notable decrease to 4.9 percent in September from 5.6 percent in August,

reaching the lowest level since May 2022. Core and services inflation are closely monitored by Bank of England policymakers as they consider whether to implement another interest rate reduction at their upcoming meeting in November. Markets are now pricing in 86 percent probability of a rate cut by 25 basis points.

### Retail sales rise unexpectedly

In September, British retail sales unexpectedly rose by 0.3 percent, surpassing economists' expectations of a 0.3 percent decline. This increase, combined with stronger sales in July and August, led to a 1.9 percent rise in sales for the third quarter, marking the joint largest growth since mid-2021. The telecom and computer sectors were key drivers of this non-food sales boost, with a nearly 35 percent surge in sales for September. This rise contrasts with concerns that consumers might cut spending due to potential tax increases ahead of the new government's budget later this month. The GBP/USD currency pair closed the week at 1.3048.

### Chinese inflation falls

Consumer price index in China dropped, with the y/y figure showing a 0.4 percent increase, lower than the previous and forecasted figure of 0.6 percent. The producer price index deflation also further deepened, with the y/y figure at -2.8 percent, versus August's -1.8 percent figure. The figures highlight the need for stronger stimulus measures, where finance minister Lan Fao spoke on Saturday, stating that there will be more "counter-cyclical measures" in hopes of reducing deflationary pressures in China.

China's National Bureau of Statistics reported that the country's GDP grew by 4.6 percent year-on-year in the third quarter of 2024, slightly surpassing economists' expectations of 4.5 percent. This was a slight decrease from the 4.7 percent growth in the second quarter. On a quarterly basis, GDP expanded by 0.9 percent, up from 0.7 percent in the previous quarter. Officials noted positive economic signs in September, with growing confidence in meeting the full-year GDP growth target of around 5 percent. This follows government efforts to stimulate the economy, including reducing bank reserve requirements by 50 basis points. Following the data release, China's CSI 300 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index both saw gains.

China reported stronger-than-expected retail sales and industrial production for September. Retail sales grew by 3.2 percent year-on-year, exceeding the 2.5 percent forecasted by analysts and accelerating from the 2.1 percent growth in August. Industrial production also outpaced expectations, expanding by 5.4 percent compared to the predicted 4.5 percent increase. Fixed asset investment grew 3.4 percent from January to September, while the urban unemployment rate fell to 5.1 percent, down from 5.3 percent the previous month. These positive figures come as Beijing introduces measures to stimulate consumption and support the real estate sector. The USD/CNY currency pair closed the week at 7.1015.

### KUWAIT

#### Kuwaiti dinar

USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30610.



# Modern pressures burden Pakistan's donkey business

Donkeys being put out to pasture due to high upkeep costs, surging sprawl of city



KARACHI: Laborers along with a loaded donkey cart move through a street at a wholesale market in Karachi. — AFP photos



KARACHI: Mohammad Atif, the warden of a donkey called Raja - meaning "King", unloads sacks of grains from his cart at a wholesale market in Karachi.

KARACHI: Doves of braying donkeys were once the backbone of Pakistan's commercial hub Karachi, but growing upkeep costs and the surging sprawl of the city are putting them out to pasture. Jittering donkey carts have long been essential for after-market transport from southern Karachi's wholesale bazaars, nestled in narrow streets preventing regular vehicles from accessing their trove of wares.

For low-income workers, the beasts of burden provided a path to financial stability — their resilience, low overheads and integral role guaranteeing a modest and stable profit to live off. But punishing inflation has made feed costly whilst the city has exploded in size, accommodating around 50 times more people today than before Pakistan's independence, with vast distances testing the animal's limits. "We continued the work of our fathers, but I want my kids to study and do something else," said Mohammad Atif, the warden of a donkey called Raja — meaning "King".

The 27-year-old spends up to 750 rupees (\$2.70) on hay for Raja per day. It used to cost just

200 rupees, the same amount Atif pays for a plate of food he splits with a colleague on increasingly common slow days. "Now you can't make a living in this line of work," Atif told AFP in the colonial-era Bolton Market where everything from spices and water to cutlery and construction equipment is sold.

A good shift may earn him up to 4,000 rupees, far short of the expenses of his dependents and donkey.

There are just shy of six million donkeys in Pakistan, according to government estimates, one for every 40 people in the country. Local animal broker Aslam Shah told AFP the majority were in Karachi, which exploded into a megacity of more than 20 million people after mass migration in the partition of Pakistan and India.

But the 69-year-old said they're no longer a desired commodity at an animal market held each Sunday. "Sometimes weeks and months go by without us selling a single one," he said. Bolton Market springs to life at mid-morning as shopkeepers lift their shutters, and housewives in apartments above

lower baskets from their balconies to collect orders of foodstuffs. As customers prepare to leave, post-sale negotiations begin on who will win the work of hauling shopping away. But most donkey carts are empty with their owners and animals idle. The carts were once so dominant on roads that the government issued them license plates. But the metropolis has sprawled with expressways and overpasses off-limits to animal carriages.

"I have been told there is lots to carry and that I would have to travel to the other side of the city to deliver goods," said 21-year-old Ali Usman, in envy of a three-wheeled motorized rickshaw being loaded with rice sacks. "It will take me three to four hours," he said. "In this time, the rickshaw will have made two trips so the work has not been given to me."

Noman Farhat, a wholesaler at Empress Market, built in 1884, said he tries to give some work to donkey owners every day — a small act of mercy despite their impracticality. "They are a part of our culture, and I would be loathe to see them go out of business," he said. One Karachi animal welfare

activist who asked to remain anonymous said increasingly long journeys and poor road conditions are knacker the animals.

"Due to a lack of resources, donkey owners use rope or a piece of cloth in place of proper harnesses leading to severe chaffing and skin wounds," she said. Mistreatment can also cause muzzle mutilation that restricts eating, she said. But some stubbornly believe donkeys will remain at the heart of Karachi.

"Despite the harsh conditions they often face, these animals are an essential part of the informal economy," said Sheema Khan, manager of Karachi's Benji Project animal shelter.

"It is still the cheapest form of transport," she said. At a wholesale market, pointing to his two sons and grandson loading rice and wheat onto their carts, Ghulam Rasool is inclined to agree. "This work will never end, it will endure till doomsday," said the 76-year-old.

"So what if there are two or three days of no work? There will always be someone who needs us." — AFP



شركة الصفاة للاستثمار  
AL SAFAT INVESTMENT COMPANY

## KUWAIT BOURSA WEEKLY REPORT

WEEK ENDED ON 17 OCTOBER 2024

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Market	M. Cap (KD ml)	Last Close	WTD %	MTD %	YTD %	Quantity Traded	Value Traded	No. of Trades	P/E	P/B	% of Total M. Cap
Premier Market	34,649	7,576.66	0.0%	-1.7%	1.3%	514,236,458	156,376,270	35,535	15.6	1.4	80.8%
Main Market	8,248	6,496.71	2.7%	3.5%	16.6%	1,490,550,279	182,214,971	61,405	11.7	1.0	19.2%
All Share	42,897	7,080.17	0.5%	-0.8%	3.9%	2,004,786,737	338,591,242	96,940	12.9	1.1	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	25,969	1,733.57	0.4%	-1.1%	5.2%	159,377,988	64,748,642	12,625	14.9	1.4	60.54%
Basic Materials	465	824.45	0.4%	2.1%	10.5%	5,632,648	3,585,092	1,105	11.1	2.2	1.08%
Consumer Discretionary	1,301	1,898.67	4.0%	5.1%	18.4%	173,224,818	27,194,944	9,012	11.5	1.1	3.03%
Consumer Staples	314	1,032.25	2.4%	2.8%	56.7%	2,040,853	1,521,830	229	NM	2.6	0.73%
Energy	226	1,113.23	1.8%	-0.4%	17.3%	23,372,586	2,481,895	1,627	7.9	0.8	0.53%
Financial Services	5,027	1,429.41	2.5%	1.3%	17.9%	796,692,698	113,537,035	33,255	10.2	1.1	11.72%
Health Care	226	470.69	0.0%	0.0%	-2.4%	30	23.880	1	NM	NM	0.53%
Industrials	2,321	684.93	-5.4%	-5.6%	-24.6%	200,204,124	44,829,898	13,567	11.7	0.8	5.41%
Insurance	829	2,019.29	-0.7%	-3.1%	-11.9%	3,668,364	727,962	519	13.0	1.1	1.93%
Real Estate	2,967	1,398.75	1.4%	1.7%	15.3%	619,438,870	72,112,923	21,275	17.3	0.8	6.92%
Technology	14	1,040.32	-1.4%	-28.1%	79.9%	2,370,859	354,409.95	449	433.3	NM	0.03%
Telecommunications	3,076	1,006.63	0.2%	-2.1%	-8.9%	13,429,860	6,712,936	2,900	13.4	1.0	7.17%
Utilities	162	386.84	-0.7%	-0.7%	-15.0%	5,333,039	783,650	376	15.1	1.2	0.38%

Top Gainers

Stock	last Close	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
OULAFUEL	219	59.85%	36,600,442	7,181,012,753	3,153
SOOR	201	46.72%	5,698,010	1,052,284	671
TAMINV	1,000	24.38%	20,250	19,661	8
KMEFIC	117	20.62%	5,285,029	567,398	284
OSOS	110	18.28%	1,192,984	123,427	98

Top Losers

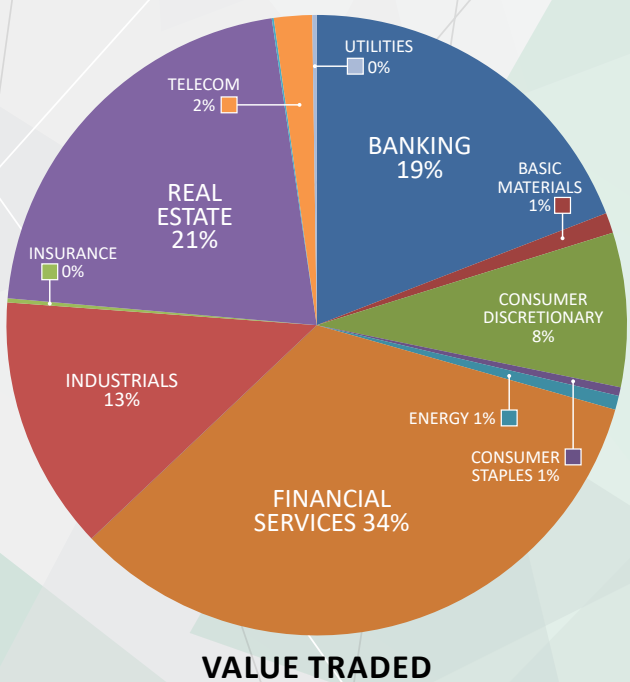
Stock	last Close	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
ALAFCO	492	-77.82%	1,940,522	1,769,140	681
KCIN	1,201	-7.40%	65,228	78,496	21
EQUIPMENT	44	-7.37%	7,444,975	349,680	387
MASAKEN	35.3	-7.11%	13,084,421	498,565	361
TAHSSILAT	34	-6.85%	351,213	11,977	81

Top Volume

Stock	Last	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
KBT	133	14.66%	249,512,366	31,242,922	5,191
MANAZEL	45.3	2.95%	139,303,720	6,359,482	2,445
AGLTY	239	10.14%	109,181,613	26,566,349	6,756
URC	111	9.90%	104,888,198	11,295,985	3,139
FUTUREKID	116	-3.33%	92,520,697	11,714,704	2,806

Top Value

Stock	Last	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
KBT	133	14.66%	249,512,366	31,242,922	5,191
AGLTY	239	10.14%	109,181,613	26,566,349	6,756
KFH	715	0.70%	29,611,640	21,071,686	4,680
AGHC	430	10.82%	38,497,725	16,138,679	2,120
NIH	215	-3.15%	69,489,100	15,418,751	4,774



Market Summary:

- Premier market volume increased slightly compared to previous weeks, while the Main market dropped.
- The Main index continued moving upwards, while the Premier index has yet to rebound.
- Technically, the All Share index closed at 7,080, with support levels at 7,041, 7,000, and 6,981, and resistance at 7,085. The Premier index closed at 7,576, with support levels at 7,555, 7,519, and 7,477, and resistance at 7,591. The Main index closed at 6,496, with support levels at 6,463, 6,411, and 6,357, and resistance at 6,523.



MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2024



Passengers take pictures of a performer during the 'Zombie Shinkansen' event on a bullet train from Tokyo to Osaka, ahead of Halloween. - AFP photos

## JAPAN 'ZOMBIE' TRAIN SPOOKS PASSENGERS AHEAD OF HALLOWEEN



An actor attends a rehearsal at a studio in Tokyo before boarding a bullet train.



An actor prepares during a rehearsal.



An actor performs for passengers during the 'Zombie Shinkansen' event.

It's usually a serene two-and-a-half-hour ride on Japan's famously efficient bullet train. But the journey quickly descended into a zombie apocalypse, with passengers screaming in terror. Organizers of Saturday's adrenaline-filled trip, less than two weeks before Halloween, touted it as the "world's first haunted house experience on a running shinkansen". On board one chartered car of the shinkansen — the Japanese word for bullet train — were around 40 thrill-seekers, ready to brave an encounter with the living dead between Tokyo and the western metropolis of Osaka.

The eerie experience was inspired by the hit 2016 South Korean action-horror movie "Train to Busan", in which a father and daughter trapped on a moving train battle zombies hungry for human flesh. All seemed normal at first as the bullet train made a peaceful departure Saturday evening, but it wasn't long until the first gory attack.

The victims — actors planted in seats by the organizers — jerked in agony and then underwent a terrifying transformation before starting a rampage against their fellow passengers. Event organizer Kenta Iwana of the group Kowagarasetai, which translates to the "scare squad", said they wanted to "depict the normally safe, peaceful shinkansen — something we take for granted — collapsing in the blink of an eye".

### 'Like I was in the film'

Sitting next to one of the actors was Joshua Payne, one of many foreign tourists on board. "I literally felt like I was in the film, just sitting here watching it take place in front of me," the 31-year-old American told AFP. "The fact that we can physically go from Tokyo to Osaka right now and have this whole performance at the same time...



An actor performs for passengers during the 'Zombie Shinkansen' event.

I think is really cool and maybe a little bit groundbreaking," he said. It was far from Central Japan Railway Company's first experiment with the usually dazzlingly clean, accident-free shinkansen, a Japanese institution that turned 60 this year.

After demand for long-distance travel plunged during the Covid-19 pandemic, the railway operator started renting out bullet train compartments for special events to diversify its business. A sushi restaurant, a bar and even a wrestling match have been hosted on the high-speed train, and carriages can also be reserved for private parties.

Marie Izumi of JR Central's tourism

subsidiary told AFP that she was surprised by the idea for a zombie-themed commute when Kowagarasetai approached her, thinking it would be "almost impossible to pull off". But the event has convinced her of "new possibilities" for the bullet train, Izumi said, adding that concerts and comedy shows might be a good fit in the future.

### Thriller

On Saturday, toy chainsaws and guns were used as props, but depictions of extreme violence and gore that could tarnish the shinkansen's squeaky-clean reputation were avoided. To counterbalance the subdued horror, the two-

and-a-half-hour tour was peppered with light-hearted performances by zombie cheerleaders, magicians and comedians, including a choreographed dance to Michael Jackson's "Thriller". "Nobody wants to sit tight for such a long time being constantly exposed to horror," said Ayaka Imaide from Kowagarasetai.

Many aboard the zombie-infested train said the experience alone was worth the ticket price of up to 50,000 yen (\$335). "It was very immersive," Naohiko Nozawa, 30, told AFP. "And the appearance of so many different kinds of zombies kept me entertained all the way." — AFP



Actors walk to Tokyo station before boarding a bullet train to perform for passengers during the 'Zombie Shinkansen' event on a trip from Tokyo to Osaka.



Actors have makeup applied during a rehearsal at a studio in Tokyo before boarding a bullet train to perform for passengers during the 'Zombie Shinkansen' event.



Actors walk to Tokyo station before boarding a bullet train.



Actors perform for passengers during the 'Zombie Shinkansen' event.



Actors (right) walk to Tokyo station before boarding a bullet train to perform for passengers during the 'Zombie Shinkansen' event.



An actor performs for passengers during the 'Zombie Shinkansen' event.



Lifestyle



Inductee Mary J. Blige poses in the press room during the 2024 Rock & Roll Hall Of Fame Induction ceremony streaming on Disney+ at Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse on October 19, 2024 in Cleveland, Ohio.



Dave Matthews, Buddy Strong, Rashawn Ross and Jeff Coffin speak on stage.



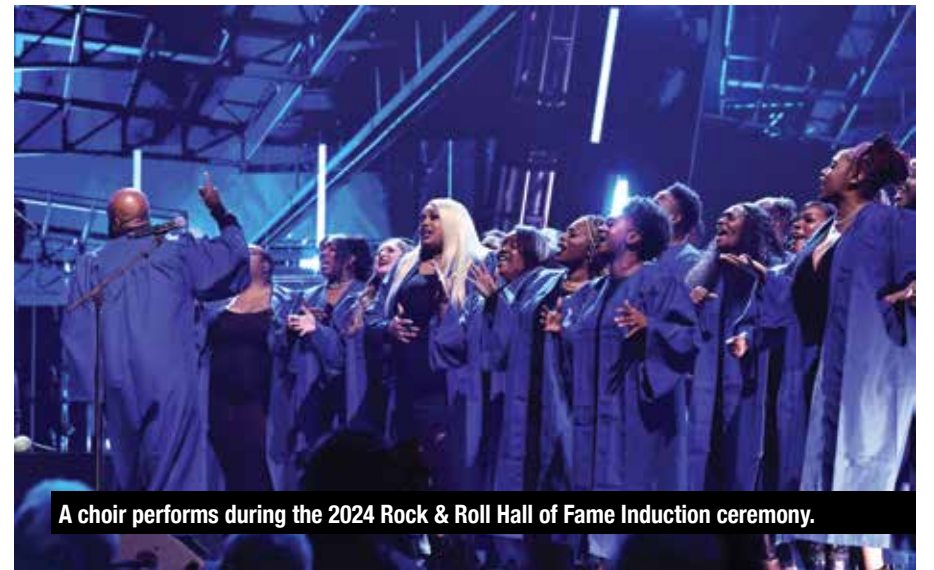
(From left) Steve Stevens, Billy Idol, Andrew Watt, Robert Trujillo and Zakk Wyld perform on stage.



Julia Roberts along with Dave Matthews Band Inductees Carter Beauford, Buddy Strong, Tim Reynolds, Stefan Lessard, Rashawn Ross, and Dave Matthews.



(From left) Andrew Watt, Jelly Roll and Zakk Wyld perform on stage.



A choir performs during the 2024 Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Induction ceremony.



Jack Black and Ozzy Osbourne.



Julia Roberts speaks on stage during the 2024 Rock & Roll Hall Of Fame Induction ceremony.



(From left) Andrew Watt, Maynard James Keenan and Wolfgang Van Halen perform on stage.

# Cher, Mary J. Blige, Ozzy Osbourne among Rock Hall of Fame inductees

Cher, Mary J. Blige and Ozzy Osbourne were among this year's Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductees, an elite group formally introduced into the music pantheon Saturday at a star-studded concert gala. Kool & the Gang, Dave Matthews Band, Foreigner, A Tribe Called Quest, and Peter Dinklage round out the 2024 class of

honorees, artists honored at the ceremony held in Cleveland, Ohio, home of the prestigious hall. Big Mama Thornton, Alexis Korner and John Mayall received special honors for "musical influence," as Jimmy Buffett, MC5, Dionne Warwick and Norman Whitfield received awards for "musical excellence."

Suzanne de Passe, a trailblazer for

women executives in the music business, who was big in Motown, won the night's award for non-performing industry professionals. Dua Lipa kicked off the evening with a performance of "Believe," with Cher joining the pop star onstage to finish her 1998 smash hit, which was credited as the first song to use auto-tune technology as an instrument. "I changed

the sound of music forever," she said in her acceptance speech, less than a year after railing against the hall for not having yet added her to the ballot.

"It was easier getting divorced from two men than it was getting in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame," she quipped Saturday night. Performers included Kelly Clarkson, Sammy Hagar, Slash and Demi

Lovalo, who all appeared for Foreigner. A group of artists including Queen Latifah, De La Soul and Busta Rhymes also performed with the surviving members of the eclectic, pioneering hip hop group A Tribe Called Quest - Q-Tip, Ali Shaheed Muhammad and Jarobi White. — AFP

## Lost ghost story by 'Dracula' author Bram Stoker unearthed in Dublin

A short story by Bram Stoker, the legendary author of "Dracula", has been unearthed by a lifelong enthusiast in Dublin who stumbled upon the work while browsing in a library archive. Titled "Gibbet Hill", the story was uncovered by Brian Cleary in a Christmas supplement of the Dublin edition of the Daily Mail newspaper from 1890 and had remained undocumented for more than 130 years. The rare find, which has never been referenced in any Stoker bibliography or biography, is now

Marino neighborhood of Dublin where the author grew up. Thanks to "Dracula", Stoker "had a massive impact on popular culture, but is under-appreciated", Cleary told AFP in the Casino at Marino, an opulent 18th-century building near the writer's birthplace that is hosting the exhibition.

### 'Flabbergasted'

Cleary's journey of discovery began in 2021 when a sudden onset of deafness changed his life. While on leave to

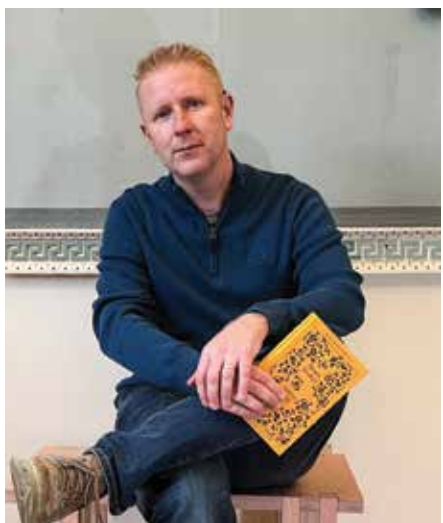
from around the time he was writing 'Dracula', with elements of 'Dracula' in it," said Cleary. "I sat looking at the screen wondering, am I the only living person who had read it? Followed by, what on earth do I do with it?" Cleary did extensive literary searches to verify the find and consulted Stoker expert and biographer Paul Murray who confirmed the story was unknown, lost and buried in the archives for more than 130 years.

"Gibbet Hill" is very significant in terms of Stoker's development as a writer, 1890 was when he was a young writer and made his first notes for 'Dracula', Murray told AFP. "It's a classic Stoker story, the struggle between good and evil, evil which crops up in exotic and unexplained ways, and is a way station on his route to publishing 'Dracula'."

### Illustrations

The macabre tale tells of a sailor murdered by three criminals whose bodies were strung up on a gibbet or hanging gallows on a hill as a ghostly warning to passing travelers. To celebrate the discovery, "Gibbet Hill" has been captured in a book that features cover art and illustrations inspired by the story by respected Irish artist Paul McKinley.

"It's quite surreal now to be standing next to a picture inspired by three of the characters in the story," said Cleary. "When Brian sent me the 'Gibbet Hill' there was so much I could work with," said McKinley. His eerie, sometimes sinister illustrations include a "juicy, wet, oily painting" of worms inspired by a young character in the story who has a bunch of earthworms in his hands. "Making new images for an old story that has been buried for so long" was a "fascinating challenge" said the artist. — AFP



Writer Brian Cleary, 44, poses with a newly published book "Gibbet Hill" by Irish writer Bram Stoker, the legendary author of Dracula, at an exhibition in Marino Casino, Dublin. — AFP photos



being brought to the public for the first time at an exhibition in the Irish capital.

"Dracula", the Gothic, mysterious and supernatural vampire novel from 1897 may have been set in Transylvania and England but its author, Stoker, was a Dubliner. "I read 'Dracula' as a child and it stuck with me, I read everything from and about Stoker that I could get my hands on," said Cleary, 44, a writer and amateur historian who lives in the

retrain his hearing after having cochlear implant surgery, Cleary visited the National Library of Ireland to indulge his interest in historical literature and the works of Stoker. There, in October 2023, he chanced upon the hidden literary gem, the "Gibbet Hill" story which he had never heard of before.

"I sat in the library flabbergasted, that I was looking at potentially a lost ghost story from Stoker, especially one



(From left) Jason Blum, Meghann Fahy and Christopher Landon speak on stage at BlumFest NYCC during New York Comic Con 2024 at The Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in New York City. — AFP photos

## Meta unveils AI tie-up with horror movie producers

Tech giant Meta has unveiled a partnership with horror film production company Blumhouse to road-test its latest AI video tool. The program, known as Movie Gen, was announced earlier this month though Meta said it was still being developed and would not be added to publicly available products until next year. Meta announced that it had been working with filmmakers from Blumhouse - known for producing franchises like "Paranormal Activity", "The Purge" and "Insidious" - to refine and improve the tool.

Oscar-winner Casey Affleck, who was also given early access to Movie Gen, praised it in a promotional video as "more like a collaborator than it is like a tool". The advance of AI was one of the flashpoints during last year's writers' strike in Hollywood, where creatives feared that studios would use AI tools to create scripts or even replace actors. But Blumhouse founder Jason Blum said he welcomed the chance to test the program while it was still being developed.

"These are going to be powerful tools for directors, and it's important to engage the creative industry in their development to make sure they're best suited for the job," he was quoted as saying in a Meta blog post. Meta also released a sleek three-minute video packaged like an advert made by filmmaker Aneesh

Chaganty, framed around the idea that he should "hate" AI because it was going to wreck his industry.

Chaganty revisited a series of snippets he had filmed when he was a youngster, using Movie Gen to add aliens, or change the location from the countryside to Manhattan, or make it appear like he was in a bank vault rather than his family home. "I hate AI, but with a tool like this... I dunno... maybe I would've just dreamt a little bigger," the voiceover concludes. Meta has hailed Movie Gen's ability to create videos with sound from short prompts or photos as a major breakthrough, though the tool is still limited to 16-second clips. — AFP



Leigh Wannell and Mike Flanagan attend Blumhouse at New York Comic Con at Jacob Javits Center.





## A TRIBUTE TO LEBANON: RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY EXHIBITION



The Contemporary Art Platform (CAP) Kuwait, in collaboration with the Lebanese Business Council Kuwait, the Lebanese Ladies Society in Kuwait, and with the participation of UNHCR, proudly opened the exhibition "A Tribute to Lebanon: Resilience in the Face of Adversity." The exhibition highlights the strength, resilience, and enduring beauty of Lebanon and its rich culture amidst ongoing challenges.

The exhibition will be on view until October 31, 2024, and features a diverse selection of artworks by Lebanese artists from the CAP Collection. These works reflect a wide range of artistic expressions, capturing the spirit of Lebanon through its political, social and cultural dimensions.

In addition to the exhibition, the Con-

temporary Art Platform is organizing a donation throughout the exhibition period. Supplies such as clothing, blankets, hygiene products, and other essential items are urgently needed to support those affected by the ongoing conflict in Lebanon. Contributions are welcomed at the Contemporary Art Platform, located in Shuwaikh Industrial, Design District, Area 2, Block 1, Street 28.

UNHCR, in collaboration with Tannia Foundation, will also be collecting funds through a licensed fundraising campaign for Lebanon until December 2024. This exhibition serves not only as a tribute to Lebanon's artistic heritage but also as a call for support and solidarity during these challenging times.



## 'Unique sensation': Young climber scales French skyscrapers

It is dangerous. It is illegal. And his parents do not approve. But Titouan Leduc is not planning to give up his passion any time soon. Leduc, a 23-year-old urban climber from northeastern France, likes to scale skyscrapers without any ropes or specialist equipment, wearing only a pair of climbing boots. "It's a unique sensation. I'm face to face with myself," he

"I really respect him for his performances," he added. "He's someone who pushed the level of climbing in the '90s and he's the first person to have undertaken such extreme and random solo climbs." Robert, dubbed the "French Spiderman", became rich and famous by climbing the world's tallest buildings, and Leduc is trying to make a living out of his passion, too.



French urban climber Titouan Leduc climbs the Franklin Tower, a 115-metre-high office skyscraper located in La Defense business district, west of Paris.

climbing chalk powder was fastened around his waist, and he sometimes paused to dry out his hands. When he reached the top of the tower he raised his arms aloft in triumph.

### 'Bloodied hands'

"It was such a good feeling. At the beginning it was long, it was a bit hard to get into it," he said afterwards. "After a while, halfway up, I didn't count the floors, but then it went really smoothly and frankly I went really fast to the top," he said with a smile. The climb however took a toll on his hands, with Leduc proudly showing off fingers injured during the feat. "I hadn't anticipated

that I was going to end up with bloodied hands," he added.

Several police officers waited for him on the ground but let him off with a warning. Urban climbing is illegal in France and can result in a fine or stiffer punishment. But Leduc brushes off such concerns. "When I set out on this kind of performance, I expect to be stopped at the end. But that's secondary, really," he said. "I know that there could potentially be problems later on." Leduc has been climbing since he was a child. "I've been climbing all over the place, climbing trees, climbing everywhere," he said.

He started climbing buildings in his hometown Nancy when he was 19. "Little by little, I diversified. I really got into the big urban projects, skyscrapers." His parents have not accepted what he does, even though he has tried to make them understand the appeal.

"There's a lot of conflict with my parents. We're not on the same wavelength," he said. "There is still work to be done to get them to accept it. Which I obviously understand." But he said he did not take unnecessary risks and climbs only when he is fully ready, physically and mentally. "I'm looking for ways to push myself a bit," he said. "But I know my limits and I try not to exceed them. Otherwise, that's where it gets really dangerous." Urban climbing was also "pretty," he added. "It's great to see a human figure climbing up a smooth facade like that. I really like the artistic side of it." — AFP



French urban climber Titouan Leduc exercises by climbing the trees, in the forest of Meudon. - AFP photos



French urban climber Titouan Leduc reacts as he reaches the roof of the Franklin Tower.

told AFP in an interview. "It's something that I find hard to find elsewhere and that's what keeps me going."

Alain Robert, a 62-year-old French climber who became a legend by pioneering high-risk city ascents, is of course a huge inspiration, Leduc said.

On a recent afternoon Leduc scaled the Franklin Tower, a 115-metre (377-foot) -high office skyscraper located in Paris' La Defense business district. Like Robert, he performed a free solo climb, using only his feet and hands to move himself upwards. A small bag of



## Sports

# Young, Ravindra guide New Zealand to first win in India for 36 years

## Rohit proud of India's fight after being all out for 46

**BENGALURU:** Will Young and Rachin Ravindra put on an unbroken 75 to guide New Zealand to a first Test win in India for 36 years on day five of the rain-hit match in Bengaluru.

Chasing a tricky 107 on a rain-delayed day, New Zealand lost captain Tom Latham without scoring and Devon Conway for 17. But Young and Ravindra guided the visitors to 110-2 in the first session and a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

First-innings centurion Ravindra, a wristy left-hander, looked comfortable as he hit six fours in his 46-ball stay and was named player of the match after the eight-wicket victory. Young struck the winning boundary, one of his seven fours, as his New Zealand teammates exchanged hugs in the pavilion. He also hit one six, while facing 76 balls. It was New Zealand's third Test victory in India after their wins in 1969 at Nagpur and at Mumbai in 1988. "It was extremely difficult. There have been a lot of teams that have come here over that long period of time, so obviously it's a special feeling," Latham told reporters.

"To be in this position, I think the work we did in that first and second innings with the ball and with the bat set up the game for us. A proud moment for this group," Latham, who took over from Tim South-ee after New Zealand were swept 2-0 in Sri Lanka, marked his first Test as full-time captain with a resounding victory.

Fast bowlers Matt Henry and Will O'Rourke set up the win with 15 wickets in the match as India, having chosen to bat after the first day was lost to the weather, were skittled for 46 in their first innings, their lowest home Test score.

"We didn't think we'll be 46 all out but due credit to New Zealand. It set us back and games like this will happen," said India captain Rohit Sharma. "Got to take the good things forward. We've been here

before, conceding home losses, these things happen. We know what it takes and will give it all in the next two Tests."

### 'Nice having dad here'

On Sunday, India fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah gave the home side a glimmer of hope when he removed Latham lbw with the second ball of the day and New Zealand yet to score. Bumrah and new ball partner Mohammed Siraj then subjected the New Zealand batsmen to a testing start, with deliveries consistently going past the bat on a lively wicket that had been under covers earlier because of rain.

Bumrah struck a second time when he trapped the left-handed Conway lbw after a successful review to leave New Zealand 35-2. But that was India's last breakthrough as Young and Ravindra took their team to a famous win.

New Zealand had replied to India's first innings 46 with 402 then dismissed India for 462 in their second innings. Sarfaraz Khan scored 150 and Rishabh Pant 99 as their 177 stand led India's second-innings fight-back, but from 408-3 Henry and O'Rourke sparked a collapse as the hosts lost their last seven wickets for 54. Ravindra, a Wellington-born batting all-rounder with roots in Bengaluru and his father watching from the stands, hammered 134 in New Zealand's first innings. "Whenever I play in Bangalore it's quite nice to have the support," said Ravindra.

"My phone starts blowing up. The fans are great too. I love the support. It's nice having dad and close family here, it always makes it special." New Zealand came into the match without leading batsman Kane Williamson, who is recovering from a groin injury. The second Test begins on Thursday in Pune. The third is on November 1 in Mumbai.

India captain Rohit Sharma said he was proud of



**BENGALURU:** New Zealand's Rachin Ravindra (R) plays a shot during the fifth and final day of the first Test cricket match between India and New Zealand at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on October 20, 2024. — AFP

his team for battling back from their lowest home total of 46 to make a match of the first Test against New Zealand, despite going down to an eight-wicket defeat on Sunday.

India were bowled out for their third lowest Test total in 31.2 overs on day two when Rohit chose to bat in overcast conditions. But in the second innings, Sarfaraz Khan scored 150 and Rishabh Pant 99 as

India posted 462. "Second innings with the bat, to come out and play like that, it felt like we were ahead in the game at one stage," said Rohit. New Zealand made 402 in their first innings and took a huge 356-run lead. "We didn't feel like we were 350 behind and that is something that I am really proud of," said Rohit. "All in all, except for that first three hours, I thought we played very good Test cricket." — AFP

## Sajid, Noman 'keep it simple' for perfect mix to put England in spin

**MULTAN:** Sajid Khan and Noman Ali are as different as chalk and cheese but they gelled perfectly as they tore through England's batting to give Pakistan a long-awaited Test win. The spin pair took all 20 wickets on a worn, turning, Multan track for a 152-run win to set up a third Test winner-takes-all showdown at Rawalpindi starting on Thursday.

Left-arter Noman, 38, is the senior partner of a pair who have played together in eight Tests. "We bowled with a lot of confidence and his energy is always very high," Noman told AFP about his partner, off-spinner Sajid.

"Our plan was to keep it simple. We knew the England batsman would attack, so we were not distracted and kept it simple," he said in written comments to AFP. "This feat will go a long way in establishing our pairing. To get 20 wickets between us is an honor and it happens very rarely."

The win is Pakistan's first at home since they beat South Africa in Rawalpindi three years and eight months ago. Noman took a career best 8-46 as England were 144 all out chasing 297 to win. But it was Sajid who set the platform with 7-111 in the first innings to give Pakistan a crucial 75-run lead.

Noman finished with match figures of 11-147 and Sajid 9-204. They became the seventh pair of bowlers to take all 20 wickets in a Test, and the first since Australia's Dennis Lillee and Bob Massie against England in 1972.

Sajid cuts a dashing figure on the field, frequently twiddling his immaculately groomed moustache and celebrating a wicket with an exuberant thigh slap that has become his signature. "I followed my father in keeping a moustache," Sajid told AFP of his late



**MULTAN:** Pakistan's Noman Ali (R) celebrates after the dismissal of England's captain Ben Stokes during the fourth day of the second Test cricket match between Pakistan and England at the Multan Cricket Stadium in Multan. — AFP

father, who had served in the military.

"(Former Australia batsman) David Warner once said he was frightened of my moustache," he added. Former Pakistan left-arm spinner Iqbal Qasim believes that Noman and Sajid complement each other perfectly. "Spin gives us the winning formula which we were not using," said Qasim who took 171 wickets in 50 Tests for Pakistan. "Noman and Sajid have matured with experience and can continue to give home wins like this."

It is too early to compare the pair to India's spin duo of Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jade-

ja who jointly have over 800 wickets. Thirty-seven years ago, Qasim partnered Tauseef Ahmed for 18 wickets as Pakistan won in Bangalore for a first series win over arch-rivals India.

Off-spinner Ahmed, who took 93 wickets for Pakistan, said the pair had "bowled extraordinarily" well in the win over England, after Pakistan's new selection committee decided to pick only one seam bowler. "The previous set-up did not have belief in spinners and that's why we were not using our home advantage," said Ahmed. The series finale starts in Rawalpindi on Thursday. — AFP

## Higuchi wins Skate America women's gold

**ALLEN:** Wakaba Higuchi won the women's title at Skate America on Saturday, leading Rinka Watanabe in a Japanese one-two in the first figure skating grand prix event of the season. American Isabeau Levito, leading after the short program, had some errors, including a fall on a triple Lutz, and slipped to third, Higuchi climbing from fourth after the short program.

Higuchi, a 2022 Olympic team silver medalist who missed the 2022-23 season recovering from a stress fracture, led the free skate to climb to the top with a total score of 196.93 points. She delivered an elegant, technically crisp routine to Kate Bush's "Running Up That Hill" to claim the first grand prix title of her career. Watanabe was third in both the short program and free skate but her total of 195.22 was enough for silver as world silver medalist Levito struggled with some of her jumps to finish third on 194.83. It was a big day for Japanese skaters as former world champions Riku Miura and Ryuichi Kihara claimed pairs gold.

The duo, who earned silver at the last worlds after winning gold in 2023, delivered a polished albeit not perfect free skate to post a total of 214.23 points. They had led by more than seven points after the short program and had the best score in the free skate despite Miura falling on their triple throw loop.

Americans Ellie Kam and Danny O'Shea finished second on 201.73 points and compatriots Alisa Efimova and Misha Mitrofanov were third on 191.51. Meanwhile, world champion Ilia Malinin shook off early season nerves to score 99.69 points in the short program, just 15-hundredths of a point ahead of Japan's Kao Miura, who was in second on 99.54.

Nika Egadze of Georgia was in third with 99.89 points. "I felt really nervous before the event today," Malinin told broadcaster NBC. "I don't know why that was, but I just felt really tense and kind of a little



**ALLEN:** Gold medalist Wakaba Higuchi of Japan poses during the victory ceremony for the women's competition at the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating "2024 Skate America" at the Credit Union of Texas Event Center in Allen, Texas. — AFP

stiff in the beginning." Malinin's opening quadruple flip was slightly wobbly, but he gained confidence in a routine that included a triple Axel and a quadruple Lutz in combination.

### Pressure to defend

Malinin soared to his first world title with a gravity-defying quadruple-jumping free skate in Montreal last season that put him more than 20 points ahead of his rivals. The 19-year-old said his nerves might come from launching into a season as reigning world champion for the first time. "I think that might be the reason is just kind of all that pressure from the world championships, wanting to defend the title and kind of show who the world champion is, maybe made me a little more nervous," he said.

Miura had laid down a challenging marker with a strong performance and said he felt "very relaxed" during a routine that included a quadruple Salchow-triple toe combination. There was a surprise in the ice dancing rhythm dance as Britain's Lilah Fear and Lewis Gibson grabbed the lead over two-time reigning ice dance world champions Madison Chock and Evan Bates. — AFP

## Marquez wins duel with Martin at Australian MotoGP

**PHILLIP ISLAND:** An unrelenting Marc Marquez edged championship leader Jorge Martin in a titanic battle at the Australian MotoGP Sunday, with Francesco Bagnaia relegated to third.

The Spanish Gresini rider had a horror start but recovered to hunt down Pramac's Martin and lunge past with four laps left for his fourth victory at Phillip Island. While Marquez won, Martin bolstered his lead over Ducati's Italian defending world champion Bagnaia to 20 points in the title race with three race weekends left.

Ducati-VR46 rider Fabio Di Giannantonio came fourth ahead of Bagnaia's teammate Enea Bastianini and Pramac's Franco Morbidelli. "I thought at one time it was impossible to catch Martin, but in lap five, six, I start to get the rhythm," said Marquez, who also won in Australia in 2015, 2017 and 2019. "It's true that Martin pushed all the race, but I was saving the tyre for the last attack." Martin was fast all weekend, blasting to pole position and leading from start to finish in Saturday's sprint race where Bagnaia finished fourth.

While the championship is effectively a two-horse race, six-time world champion Marquez's victory kept him in the picture. But at 79 points behind, he only has a slender chance to spoil the party. The circuit moves to Thailand next week before Malaysia and the season's finale in Valencia. On a sunny but windy afternoon, Martin held his lead into the first corner and put the hammer down.

Marquez though had a huge wheelspin when the lights went out and plunged from second to seventh as Bagnaia manoeuvred up to second from fourth.

He had removed a helmet visor tear-off seconds before the start, and the clear plastic layer was caught under his rear wheel. "I never pull the tear-off at the start because it's dangerous, but this time when I was engaging the front start device there was something big (on the visor) and I take it off," he said. — AFP



**Najmul Hossain Shanto**

## Bangladesh to move on from Shakib for South Africa series

**DHAKA:** Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto said his men were focused on the challenge of South Africa rather than their missing all-rounder Shakib al Hasan ahead of Monday's first Test in Mirpur. The two-Test series is the first international cricket fixture in Bangladesh since a student-led revolution toppled autocratic premier Sheikh Hasina in August.

The series carries points towards the World Test Championship (WTC), with the final in England next year. South Africa currently are sixth in the standings with Bangladesh seventh. Bangladesh called up uncapped left-arm spinner Hasan Murad to replace retiring Shakib after security fears led the former captain to cancel plans to return home.

Shakib announced his retirement from international cricket last month but said that he wanted to play one last red-ball series at home. But the 37-year-old was also a former lawmaker in the government ousted by the revolution, and his links to Hasina have made him a target of public anger. "It will only be a waste of time if we think too much about this, since we cannot control it," Najmul told reporters Sunday, on the eve of the match at Mirpur, near the capital Dhaka. "These two Tests are very important to us... Players are preparing and focusing on cricket only."

### 'Nice, hot and sweaty'

Stand-in skipper Aiden Markram said the South Africans were acclimatizing to the "nice, hot and sweaty" conditions in Dhaka, but said there was little relief at the news they would not be facing Shakib. "Ultimately, they've still got a really strong squad, and really strong in their home conditions as well," Markram told reporters. Bangladesh's super spin-friendly wickets will be an added "exciting challenge", he said.

"The spin is a big talking point, especially being from South Africa," he said. "We don't get conditions like that at home." Bangladesh will start the series with a stand-in-coach, Phil Simmons, after Chandika Hathurusingha was suspended on Tuesday for alleged misconduct, charges he denies. Najmul said the former West Indies all-rounder was a "great coach" but accepted it would take time for the new system to settle in. "He is trying to understand the environment inside the dressing room," Najmul said. "But he is new and we also don't know him well. I hope in the next few matches we can adjust." The second Test will be played in the port city of Chittagong, also called Chattogram, beginning October 29.

### Bangladesh squad

Najmul Hossain Shanto (capt), Shadman Islam, Mahmudul Hasan Joy, Zakir Hasan, Mominul Haque, Mushfiqur Rahim, Litton Das, Jaker Ali, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Taijul Islam, Nayeem Hasan, Taskin Ahmed, Hasan Mahmud, Nahid Rana, Hasan Murad

### South Africa squad

Temba Bavuma (capt), David Bedingham, Matthew Breetzke, Nandre Burger, Tony de Zorzi, Keslav Maharaj, Aiden Markram, Wiaan Mulder, Senuran Muthusamy, Dane Paterson, Dane Piedt, Kagiso Rabada, Tristan Stubbs, Ryan Rickelton, Kyle Verreynne. — AFP



## Sports

# Juve squeeze past 10-man Lazio to move level with leaders Napoli

## Ten-man AC Milan hold on to squeeze past Udinese

**MILAN:** Juventus moved level on points with Serie A leaders Napoli on Saturday after squeezing past 10-man Lazio 1-0, while AC Milan overcame having to play for over an hour with 10 men to beat Udinese by the same score.

Mario Gila's own goal with five minutes remaining gave Juve the win in Turin, a crushing blow for Lazio who acquitted themselves well after Alessio Romagnoli was sent off in the 24th minute. Thiago Motta's Juve looked set to dominate when Romagnoli was shown a straight red card for taking out Pierre Kalulu as he raced towards goal.

But Lazio had little trouble holding off Juve's uninspired attacking, who had to rely on Gila poking Juan Cabal's low cross into his own goal in order to take the three points. "It was a difficult match against a good team," said Motta. "It's our first win at home (in the league) since August and it was deserved."

Lazio, in fifth, were angered by Douglas Luiz not being sent off for punching Patric, an offence which was apparently not seen by the VAR officials. "It is violent conduct and should have been a red card. I do not understand why it was not sanctioned. We feel that we are being taken for a ride," said sporting director Angelo Mariano Fabiani.

Juve have a better goal difference than Napoli but stay behind their rivals, coached by Antonio Conte, as they have played a game more. Napoli can ensure they stay top with a win at Empoli in Sunday's lunchtime match, while champions Inter Milan, who sit two points off

the pace alongside their local rivals Milan, are at Roma.

### Battling Milan

Samuel Chukwueze's 13th-minute strike looked like being the first of a comfortable win for Milan but ended up being the winning goal as the seven-time European champions held on for the points. Their task was made difficult by Tijjani Reijnders being sent off in the 29th minute for a clumsy foul on Sandi Lovric, who would have been clean through on goal had the Netherlands midfielder not clipped his heels. "It was two matches in one. The first one finished after half an hour, 30 minutes of character, quality and the sort of play which is close to what I want," said Paulo Fonseca.

The Portuguese has had to field questions about ill discipline in the dressing room, especially among star players like suspended Theo Hernandez and Rafael Leao, who was left on the bench for the entire match. "After the sending off it was all about the team spirit," he added. "If anyone doubted that we're a united team today was the demonstration that we are." The hosts looked to have been sucker-punched when Christian Kabasele bundled home for Udinese in the fifth minute of stoppage time, but a huge roar rang around the ground when, after a long VAR check, the goal was ruled out for Jurgen Ekkelenkamp's toes straying offside.

### Ultra protests

Milan's win came in front of a flat San



**TURIN:** Juventus' Italian defender #04 Federico Gatti (R) kicks the ball to try to score a goal during the Italian Serie A football match between Juventus and Lazio, at the Allianz Stadium, in Turin. — AFP

Siro following the decision of Milan's hardcore "ultras" supporters to stand in silence for most of the match in protest at what they claim is a law enforcement and Italian media campaign against them.

Leading ultras from both Milan and local rivals Inter were arrested last month and are accused of a variety of

crimes ranging from criminal conspiracy and extortion to assault. Earlier this week, Milan's ultras groups refuted allegations by investigators of any involvement in ticket touting, control of parking and sales from concession stands near the San Siro.

In the meantime, police banned the

ultras' large "Curva Sud Milano" from being hung out in that section, leading to supporters around the whole stadium, not just ultras, leaving their own banners and flags at home. Instead fans in the Curva Sud held a banner in support of their arrested allies which read, loosely translated, "Stay strong boys". — AFP

## PSG beat Strasbourg to reclaim top spot in Ligue 1

**PARIS:** Paris Saint-Germain went back on top of the Ligue 1 table on Saturday as a 4-2 victory at home to Strasbourg saw them climb above Monaco on goal difference. Youngster Senny Mayulu's first Ligue 1 goal set PSG on their way before Marco Asensio, Bradley Barcola and Lee Kang-in also found the net in the rain at the Parc des Princes.

Sekou Mara and Pape Diong were on target for Liam Rosenior's Strasbourg, but the defeat means the side from Alsace have still never won away to PSG in 34 attempts. Monaco's 0-0 draw at home to Lille on Friday had given PSG the opportunity to go back to the summit and they seized the chance despite coach Luis Enrique rotating his squad with an eye on Tuesday's Champions League clash with PSV Eindhoven.

"I think it is the same for all coaches who lose players during international breaks," said Luis Enrique, whose team also go to Marseille next weekend in French football's biggest fixture. "The first game back is always especially complicated but we fulfilled our objectives, which were to get three points against very difficult opponents, and to conserve players so they could recover from games with their national teams and their journeys."

Ousmane Dembele, Achraf Hakimi, Fabian Ruiz and captain Marquinhos were among the players left on the bench with Mayulu one of five players aged 20 or under in PSG's starting XI. The 18-year-old hit the post before he opened the scoring on 18 minutes after a one-two with Barcola, and Mayulu then missed a great chance to add another before half-time, blazing over when clean through.

"Senny is a player who last year could have left but chose to stay. He is a player with lots of quality and has the ability to score goals," said Luis Enrique. "Today he scored one but could have scored three. He is one for the future of the club." Asensio bundled in PSG's second goal just after the restart, following in to score after Desire Doue's shot had been saved, but Mara pulled one back with his first goal since joining Strasbourg from Southampton.



**PARIS:** Paris Saint-Germain's French forward #29 Bradley Barcola (R) shoots but fails to score during the French L1 football match between Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) and RC Strasbourg Alsace at the Parc des Princes Stadium in Paris. — AFP

### 'Lost in the right way'

PSG had a penalty awarded for a foul on Barcola overturned by the referee following a VAR review, but France winger Barcola then prodded in his team's third goal, and a seventh of the season for the division's top scorer. A Saidou Sow own goal that would have made it 4-1 was disallowed for offside but South Korean star Lee swept in a Joao Neves assist for PSG's fourth late on, before Diong made the final score 4-2 from close range.

It was just a second defeat so far this season for Strasbourg, who are owned by the same BlueCo consortium which controls Chelsea. "I feel we lost in the right way, if there is such a thing," said Englishman Rosenior, who said the defeat was entirely down

to the quality of the opposition.

"It was 100 percent the quality of Paris, one of the best teams in Europe," insisted the Englishman. "I think Paris are building something very special here and I am very proud of my players for playing in a style that I don't think anyone has tried."

"You have to be prepared to lose big in order to win big." Earlier, Brest warmed up for their Champions League clash with Bayer Leverkusen by drawing 1-1 with Rennes in a Brittany derby, while Lens won 2-0 at Saint-Etienne to maintain their unbeaten record this season. Marseille go to Montpellier on Sunday, when other matches include Lyon at Le Havre and high-flying Reims at Auxerre. — AFP

## Marchand ends Shanghai WCup with 3 titles

**SHANGHAI:** Leon Marchand on Sunday emphatically won a third title at swimming's short-course World Cup in Shanghai, in his first meet since taking the Paris Olympics by storm.

The 22-year-old Frenchman, the poster boy of the Olympics with four golds, blitzed the 400m individual medley final on the last day in China to go with victories in the 100m and 200m medley. He triumphed in 4:00.03, beating out Italy's Alberto Razzetti by 1.48sec. There was to be no fourth title however as he came fourth in the 200m breaststroke, 1.32sec behind winner Joshua Yong of Australia.

Marchand was thrust into the global spotlight at the Paris Olympics when he won all four of his individual races—the 200m butterfly, 200m breaststroke and 200m-400m medley double. That put him in elite company alongside American legend Michael Phelps. "Right now I'm just trying to get back to old training," Marchand told AFP on Friday. "I don't really expect a lot of results, I'm just trying to have fun and go back to my standards," he said. Marchand is next set to compete in South Korea in the coming week on the next stop of the World Cup. —AFP



**SHANGHAI:** Gold medalists USA's Kate Douglass (L) and France's Leon Marchand (C) along with bronze medalist China's Qin Haiyang celebrate on the podium during a trophy ceremony of the World Aquatics Swimming World Cup at the Oriental Sports Centre Natatorium in Shanghai. — AFP

## Soto homer lifts Yankees over Guardians

**WASHINGTON:** Juan Soto smashed a three-run home run in the 10th inning on Saturday that lifted the New York Yankees over Cleveland 5-2 and into their first World Series since 2009. The 25-year-old Dominican outfielder crushed a fastball from Cleveland pitcher Hunter Gaddis over the centerfield wall to score the deciding runs in a thriller that sent the Yankees into their record 41st World Series overall.

"It sounds amazing," Soto said. "It's the best feeling in the game whenever you win and take your team to the World Series. It's the best feeling you can ever have. That's what we play for." The Yankees captured the best-of-seven American League Championship Series 4-1 and reached Major League Baseball's championship spectacle, which begins on Friday.

"We did a really good job since day one. We've been working hard. Now



**CLEVELAND:** Bo Naylor #23 of the Cleveland Guardians tags out Gleyber Torres #25 of the New York Yankees at home plate in the first inning during Game Five of the American League Championship Series at Progressive Field in Cleveland, Ohio. — AFP

we're the best team in the American League," Soto said. "We've been grinding since day one and now we've got it accomplished."

The 27-time champion Yankees will face the National League winner, either

the Los Angeles Dodgers or New York Mets. The Dodgers lead their series 3-2 and will host game six Sunday. "We have all the talent we need to go all the way," said Soto, who helped Washington win the 2019 World Series. "We're feeling re-

ally good. We're really sticking together."

Yankees slugger Giancarlo Stanton, a 34-year-old outfielder who has never played in a World Series in his 15 MLB seasons, smacked a game-tying two-run homer in the sixth, his fourth homer of the series and the 16th playoff homer of his career. "That's our guy," Soto said of Stanton. "He put us in the game again. He has been doing that since day one of the playoffs and we're really happy to have him. He kept us close and we just came back from there."

The game stayed deadlocked until the 10th, when Gaddis walked Austin Wells, allowed an Alex Verdugo's single and surrendered the decisive three-run blast to Soto. "I was just saying to myself, 'You're all over that guy,'" said Soto, who fouled off four pitches in a row just before belting the homer. "Just had to make good contact and I did." Yankees manager Aaron Boone said the secret to success was that the players "are so close and they're so together. These guys play for each other every single day."

"It's incredible. To know we're going to the dance for a chance to play for a world championship, I can't imagine doing it with a better group." Stanton was

named the series Most Valuable Player.

"It's incredible," he said. "It's been resilient this whole playoffs. This was a roller coaster and we were able to keep punching back. "We know there is much more work to do, it's all uphill and we've got to go get it done." Cleveland, which last won the World Series in 1948, was denied a trip back for the first time since 2016. New York's Gleyber Torres opened with a single and raced for home on Soto's double to the right-field wall, but was tagged out at the plate by Cleveland catcher Bo Naylor off a throw from second baseman Andres Gimenez.

Yankees slugger Aaron Judge and Jazz Chisholm both reached after being hit by a pitch from Tanner Bibee to load the bases, but the game-two loser escaped scoreless when Anthony Rizzo flew out. Canadian siblings combined to give Cleveland a 1-0 lead in the second inning when Josh Naylor singled and scored on his brother Bo Naylor's double down the right field line. Gimenez doubled and scored on Steven Kwan's single up the middle in the fifth inning for a 2-0 Guardians edge but the Yankees surrendered no more as reliever Mark Leiter Jr. escaped a bases-loaded jam. — AFP



## Messi hits another hat-trick as Miami break MLS points record

Messi's three goals came within 11-minute spell



FORT LAUDERDALE: Inter Miami's Spanish midfielder #05 Sergio Busquets, Uruguayan forward #09 Luis Suarez, US goalkeeper #01 Drake Callender and Argentine forward #10 Lionel Messi hold the Supporters' Shield after the Major League Soccer (MLS) football match against New England Revolution at Chase Stadium in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. — AFP

**FORT LAUDERDALE:** On-fire Lionel Messi scored his second hat-trick of the week and Luis Suarez scored twice as Inter Miami beat the New England Revolution 6-2 to smash MLS's regular season points record.

Miami's win, in their final game of the regular season, took them to 74 points - one more than the previous record, set by New England in 2021. Messi, who came off the bench in the 58th minute and led the late flurry of goals, has now scored 20 goals in 19 appearances in MLS with his former Barcelona team-mate Suarez also notching 20, from 27 games.

The challenge of breaking the record added some spice to the final game of the regular season with Inter having already secured the Supporters' Shield for the best record in the regular season to stamp themselves clear favorites in the MLS Cup playoffs which start next week.

Miami had trailed 2-0 before Suarez scored twice before half-time to send Gerardo Martino's team in level at the interval. Goals from Argentine Luca Langoni and Colombian Dylan Borrero in the 34th minute had the home crowd chanting for Messi's introduction from the bench but it was Uruguayan Suarez who began the comeback.

A firm left-foot finish from the former Liverpool and Barcelona striker, pulled one back, after good work from David Martinez. Then Suarez levelled with a fine solo finish, making space for himself and switching to his right foot before drilling home.

Messi, who had scored a hat-trick for Argentina against Bolivia on Tuesday, came off the bench in the 58th minute and immediately helped put the team ahead finding Jordi Alba who set up Benjamin Cremaschi for a tap-in.

New England thought they had drawn level with a goal from striker Bobby Wood but the effort was disallowed for handball following a VAR review. Messi then made it 4-2, collecting a back-heeled pass from Suarez before brilliantly blasting into the far bottom corner.

The Argentine was on target again when he latched on to a superb pass from Jordi Alba and made no mistake and then he completed his hat-trick in the 89th minute when he met a volleyed cross from Suarez with a precise first time finish.

Messi's three goals came within an 11-minute spell and after his two month injury absence after the Copa America he now looks back to his best.

**'ideal situation'**

"I have the feeling that we have him in an ideal situation to face the most important part of the year," said

Martino. At the post-game celebration of the Supporters Shield success, club co-owners David Beckham and Jorge Mas were joined by FIFA president Gianni Infantino who announced that the Shield had earned the team a place in the 2025 Club World Cup.

Elsewhere in the last round of the regular season in MLS, Montreal clinched a place in the playoffs with a 2-0 win over New York City. The victory secured eighth place in the Eastern Conference and the Canadian side will play ninth-placed Atlanta United in the wildcard round on Tuesday for a chance to play Miami in the first round.

Atlanta took the final spot in the East with a 2-1 win at Orlando City. There was a thrilling finale to the regular season in the Western Conference with the two Los Angeles clubs locked in battle for top spot and home field

advantage throughout the playoffs.

LAFc left the field thinking their 3-1 win over San Jose was enough to have secured the top seed with LA Galaxy losing 1-0 to Houston. But a stoppage time penalty, converted by Gabriel Pec, looked to have secured LA Galaxy the point they needed to secure first place and left LAFc fans, in California, watching on their phones desolate.

But then in the 11th minute of stoppage time, Houston grabbed a dramatic winner with a header from Daniel Steres against his former club, meaning that LAFc snatched top seed on goal difference - by a single goal.

LAFc will face the winner of the wildcard game between the Vancouver Whitecaps and the Portland Timbers while the Galaxy will host the Colorado Rapids in the first round. — AFP

## Kerr leads N Zealand to maiden Women's T20 WCup triumph

**DUBAI:** An outstanding all-round performance by Amelia Kerr led New Zealand to their first ever Women's T20 World Cup title as they beat South Africa by a commanding 32 runs in Sunday's final in Dubai.

Player of the Match Kerr top-scored with 43 as New Zealand posted an imposing 158-5 in their 20 overs before taking 3-24, and crucially picking up the key wickets of Laura Wolvaardt and Anneke Bosch, to restrict South Africa to 126-9 in their 20 overs.

It marked a sweet finish to skipper Sophie Devine's career. The victory came 14 years after the White Ferns lost to Australia by just three runs in the 2010 final. They also lost to England in the 2009 championship match.

For South Africa it made for a double disappointment having lost last year's final to Australia in Cape Town. After being put in to bat by South Africa captain Wolvaardt, the New Zealand openers began aggressively with Georgia Plimmer smashing two fours in the first over from Marizanne Kapp.

Plimmer fell for nine but Suzie Bates, playing in



DUBAI: New Zealand's players celebrate with their winning trophy at the end of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup cricket final match between South Africa and New Zealand at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium in Dubai. — AFP

her 334th international, kept the scoreboard ticking over until she was bowled by Nonkululeko Mlaba for 32 from 31 balls. When Devine was leg before to Nadine de Klerk on review, the innings appeared to be faltering but the arrival of Brooke Halliday lifted the tempo as she added 57 in seven overs with Kerr for the fourth wicket.

they face at the Emirates next weekend.

Chelsea are now seven points off the top but there was plenty cause for optimism for the Blues from a performance that stretched Liverpool to their limits. Liverpool's only defeat under Slot came to Nottingham Forest following September's international break.

The Dutchman responded by this time leaving all of his South American internationals—Alexis Mac Allister, Luis Diaz and Darwin Nunez—on the bench after their exertions in recent days across the Atlantic.

The decision to hand Jones just his second league start of the season proved an inspired one as the England international won Liverpool's penalty and scored the decisive goal. Chelsea were fortunate still to have 11 men on the field after just six minutes when Tosin Adarabioyo hauled down Diogo Jota.

Halliday hit three boundaries in her 38 but was dismissed when she picked out Bosch on the mid-wicket boundary. Kerr slammed back-to-back boundaries off Mlaba before finding Tazmin Brits to fall for 43 from 38 balls. Maddy Green, however, maintained the momentum with 12 off six balls including the only six of the innings. Wolvaardt (33) and Brits (17) got South Africa off to a roaring start bringing up the 50 in the seventh over before Brits attempted to hit Fran Jonas over long-on only to find the safe hands of Green lying in wait.

With Bosch struggling to get going, Wolvaardt showed her frustration by lashing the first ball of Kerr's second over to Bates at wide mid-off. When a review concluded that Bosch had edged the last ball of the over to Isabella Gaze, South Africa had slumped to 64-3 and New Zealand were in command.

With the required run rate rising, South Africa's middle and lower order, who have barely batted in this tournament, struggled to get going with wickets tumbling at regular intervals.

Kerr took a catch to remove Nadine de Klerk and then claimed a third wicket when Bates, arguably the outstanding fielder at the tournament, took her third catch of the innings to remove Annerie Dercksen. She finished with a tournament-leading 15 wickets.

The last pair held out for the final over but could not prevent New Zealand from celebrating their first title. — AFP

The Portugal international was still a long way from goal but the incident was almost identical to the one that saw Arsenal defender William Saliba sent-off in a 2-0 defeat at Bournemouth on Saturday. Having survived that scare, Chelsea settled nicely into their rhythm and pushed the home side back by dominating possession.

However, Liverpool's pace on the break was a constant threat and Chelsea were caught out when Salah fed Jones, who was chopped down by Levi Colwill. Salah slammed home his 10th goal against his former club from the resulting penalty.

Moments later, Cody Gakpo slotted in at the end of a lightning Liverpool counter-attack, but Salah had strayed offside before delivering the assist. At the other end, Jackson smashed off the angle of post and bar in the first sign that Chelsea had some punch to their possession football. — AFP

## Kuwaitis win six medals at Dubai skiing tourney



Sisters Salil and Safaa Abdullah

**DUBAI:** Kuwait's ice skiing team have snatched six varied medals at Dubai international free skiing championship, which concluded on Saturday, thanks to two sisters Salil and Safaa Abdullah in the women's competition. Salil won a gold and two silver, while her sister Safaa had a gold, a silver and a bronze. Their compatriot Salman al-Kandari placed tenth.

Speaking to KUNA, Salil said this progress was made in the free ski slopestyle and free ski rail contests.

Safaa said she engaged into strong competitions with UAE's players who have brilliant performance, expressing delight for these medals and appreciating Kuwait Winter Games Club's support. The tourney featured teams from Bahrain, Macedonia, Belgium, Latvia, Greece, Estonia, Poland, Thailand, along with the UAE and Kuwait. — KUNA

## Liverpool pass Chelsea test to reclaim Premier League top spot

**LIVERPOOL:** Liverpool passed a major test of their Premier League title credentials to move back to the top of the table by beating Chelsea 2-1 at Anfield on Sunday. Mohamed Salah's penalty and Curtis Jones' winner made it 10 wins in 11 games for the Reds since Arne Slot took charge.

Nicolas Jackson briefly levelled for Chelsea in the second half, but they slipped to a first league defeat since losing to Manchester City on the opening weekend of the season. Victory takes Liverpool one point ahead of City and four clear of Arsenal, who