

R Book your ride. Today.

RIDE SAFE

Your chauffeur arrived for pickup. Your chauffeur Malik has reached your location for pickup.

Download the app

Available on the App Store and Google Play

2 Kuwait and Britain launch joint military exercise 'Iron Shield 2'



5 Middle East on the brink of full-scale war, Putin warns



11 Tracking Kuwait's elusive crab plovers, documenting stages



16 Barcelona thrash Bayern in Champions League 4-1



Expats will no longer own more than one vehicle under new law

Penalties, traffic fines to skyrocket soon under new traffic law

By B Izzak

Kuwait stresses urgent need for UN reform



Ambassador Tareq Al-Banai

NEW YORK: Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Tareq Al-Banai on Thursday emphasized the urgent need for reform within the UN system to ensure it can adapt to global developments in light of the growing challenges facing the world. In a statement to KUNA on the occasion of United Nations Day on October 24, Ambassador Al-Banai highlighted the UN's achievements and its contributions in fostering peace, security and international cooperation.

Al-Banai reaffirmed Kuwait's belief in the importance of enhancing the efficiency of the UN system and improving its operational structures to ensure broader and more equitable participation among member states. He stressed the need for greater transparency in decision-making and quicker responses to global crises, and emphasized the importance of empowering developing nations and giving them a more significant role in shaping international decisions, while also reaffirming the need to adhere to the principles and objectives of the UN Charter in maintaining international peace and security.

Al-Banai reiterated Kuwait's unwavering support for the UN's efforts in addressing various global and regional challenges, including the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 goals. He also affirmed Kuwait's commitment to advancing international peace and security, supporting the UN's ongoing efforts to strengthen international cooperation, resolve conflicts through peaceful means and support humanitarian activities aimed at alleviating the suffering of vulnerable populations worldwide.

Ambassador Al-Banai highlighted Kuwait's deep commitment to the UN's principles, emphasizing its active contributions to promoting international dialogue, stability, and sustainable development for future generations. The ambassador also reiterated the longstanding cooperative relationship between Kuwait and the UN, which spans over 60 years, praising the tireless efforts of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in advancing the UN's goals and enhancing global cooperation.

Al-Banai renewed Kuwait's full support for UN personnel, particularly those who have lost their lives in humanitarian service, acknowledging them as the cornerstone of

Continued on Page 6

KUWAIT: Expatriates will no longer be allowed to own more than one vehicle under a new traffic law to be implemented soon, announced a top Interior Ministry official on Thursday, adding that fines and penalties will be increased dramatically to curb rising accidents. "The new law stipulates that expat's ownership is only one vehicle," Assistant Undersecretary for Traffic Affairs and Operations, Major-General Yousef Al-Khaddah, told KUNA in an interview.

He said that the law, where fines are increased in some cases by as high as 750 percent, has been reviewed and passed by the government's legal department, the public prosecution, and the higher judicial council, and that the Interior Minister has sent it to the council of ministers last week for approval. After that, the law, which replaces 48-year-old legislation, will be sent to HH the Amir, who will issue it



Assistant Undersecretary for Traffic and Operation Affairs Major General Yousef Al-Khaddah

in a decree. There is no need for the National Assembly to pass it since the legislative body is dissolved.

Khaddah said that the existing traffic law was introduced in 1976, and most of the fines and penalties are not

stringent enough to curb offenders. He said that the smallest fine in the new law would be KD 15 for parking in prohibited areas (KD 5 currently), and the biggest fine could reach as high as KD 5,000. Khaddah said that police issue some 300 traffic tickets on average daily, 90 percent of which happen because drivers pay no attention to the roads or use mobile phones while driving or as a result of reckless driving.

The fine for using a mobile while driving will be increased from KD 5 to KD 75, while the fine for not using a seatbelt will triple from KD 10 to KD 30, he said. The fine for reckless driving will be increased from KD 30 to as high as KD 150, while the fines for breaking the red light and racing on the road will be raised to KD 150 each from KD 50 currently, Khaddah said. Vehicles with harmful emissions, loud noises, or dropping some harmful liquids will have their fines increased from KD 10 currently to KD 75, while the fine for parking in plac-

es for the handicapped will be increased 15 folds to KD 150 from KD 10, he said.

The fines for speeding will be raised from between KD 20 and 50 to as high as between KD 70 and KD 150. Khaddah said the fines and penalties for driving a vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs have significantly been increased. Those who drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be fined between KD 1,000 and KD 3,000 and jailed between one and two years.

If they damage public or private property, the fine will be between KD 2,000 and KD 3,000, and the jail term will be between one and three years. However, if these drivers cause the death or injury, the fine will be at least KD 2,000 and could go up to KD 5,000, in addition to a jail term ranging between two and five years. Khaddah said that jail terms can be replaced by social service under the new law. The new law also allows vehicles to be seized at home instead of being seized at the Ministry facilities.

Kuwait eager to diversify economy

WASHINGTON: Kuwait is eager to diversify its income and enhance regional and international partnerships to achieve the Kuwait Vision 2035 goals. The remarks came in a statement by Minister of Finance, Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment and Acting Minister of Oil Noura Al-Fassam during her speech at the Arab finance ministers

meeting with the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Kristalina Georgieva, as part of the annual meetings of the international finance institutes of the IMF and the World Bank's Board of Governors in Washington late Wednesday.

Kuwait is currently executing a number of major economic reforms, said minister Al-Fassam, adding that the country is also committed to social, environmental and economic sustainability in accordance with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. She expressed regret over the geopolitical tension in Palestine, Lebanon, Yemen and Syria, calling on the international community to exert further efforts to

achieve peace in the Arab World. The minister hailed the role of the IMF in boosting cooperation between member countries, hoping that the Fund would develop its training centers in the future for more experience sharing. Kuwait is proud to have established an IMF training center since 2011, she added.

The meeting, also attended by Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) Basel Al-Haroun, discussed developing the Fund's support to its member states in facing different challenges, as well as adopting policies to re-build institutions and enhance digitalization and governance.

Continued on Page 6

Zionist assaults leave 770 dead

JERUSALEM: Gaza's civil defense agency said Thursday more than 770 people have been killed in the north of the territory since Zionists launched military assaults aimed at preventing Hamas from regrouping there. With Zionist enmity under pressure to end its wars with Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon, the United States said negotiators will meet in the coming days on reaching a truce in the Palestinian territory.

After nearly a year of war in Gaza sparked by October 7, 2023 attack, Zionist entity expanded its focus to Lebanon last month, vowing to secure the northern border from Hezbollah attacks.

It has meanwhile kept up the pressure on Hamas, launching an operation earlier this month in the north of Gaza where tens of thousands of civilians are trapped. "Since the start of the military operation in northern Gaza more than 770 people have been killed," said Mahmud Bassal, spokesman for the territory's civil defense agency, adding that the toll could rise as there were people buried under the rubble.

He also said a strike on a school-turned-shelter in central Gaza killed 17 people, while the military said it was targeting Hamas militants when it hit the site. The civil defense agency also said on Thursday it can no longer provide first responder services in the north, accusing troops of threatening to "bomb and kill" its crews.

Continued on Page 6

Paris aid conference raises \$800 million for Lebanon

PARIS: A Paris conference Thursday on aid for conflict-stricken Lebanon raised around \$800 million for humanitarian aid but saw little diplomatic progress as fighting continues between Zionists and Hezbollah. "In total, we have jointly gathered \$800 million in humanitarian aid," French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot told participants as the conference closed. He added that there were further "\$200 million for the security forces" bring-

ing the total to "almost a billion, even more than a billion... with the latest contributions".

The total far outstrips both France's target of 500 million euros and the 400 million originally requested by the UN for Lebanon, where Barrot said over 2,500 people had been killed and "almost one million" displaced in fighting since late September. Zionists launched a ground offensive against

Continued on Page 6



GAZA: Palestinians mourn by the bodies of relatives killed in Zionist military operations in northern Gaza, at Al-Ahli Arab hospital, also known as the Baptist hospital in Gaza City. — AFP



PARIS: France's President Emmanuel Macron (center) speaks next to Lebanon's Prime Minister Najib Mikati (2nd left), Lebanon's Foreign Affairs Minister Abdallah Bou Habib (left), France's Foreign Affairs Minister Jean-Noel Barrot (2nd right) and France's Minister of the Armed Forces Sebastien Lecornu (right) during an international press conference in support of Lebanon, in Paris on October 24, 2024. — AFP



Kuwait, UK launch 3-week joint military exercise

Iron Shield embodies strong 125-year-old partnership between Kuwait, UK: British official



KUWAIT: Troops participate in Iron Shield 2, which includes training in operating weapons, handling different military vehicles and using drone technology. — KUNA photos

KUWAIT: British infantry battalion (F Company, 3 RIFLES) joined the Kuwait Armed Forces' 94 (Saleh al-Mohammad) Mechanized Brigade Thursday, kicking off a three-week joint military exercise (Iron Shield 2). Kuwait's Exercise Director Colonel Faisal Al-Jaber told KUNA that this cooperation aims to enhance bilateral relations, especially in the military and security fields, in addition to increasing efficiency and readiness for any emergency event, especially at the regional level.

Colonel Al-Jaber said the joint exercise will include operating weapons, specialized joint sniper training, and handling different military vehicles while exchanging expertise in their respective weapon systems. He also noted that both sides will train on the use of drone technology to support ground elements, particularly in maneuvers within and between buildings, as well as the best methods for providing accurate information to the battalion commander to facilitate peacekeeping and internal security operations.

The exercise will also cover training on modern armored vehicles, inspection and precautionary methods for vehicles and personnel, building clearance, counter-terrorism, and crowd control, along with securing personnel during curfews if implemented.

Colonel Al-Jaber said cooperation with the



Colonel Neil Marriott



Colonel Faisal Al-Jaber

British side is expected to continue regularly, with each exercise focusing on different skills.

In a statement to KUNA, Colonel Neil Marriott, the British military attaché in Kuwait, expressed pride in the presence of the British battalion in the exercise and in training partner military forces in the Middle East. "Exercise Iron Shield is a great demonstration of the strong Kuwait-UK defense and security partnership that has now endured for 125 years," he said, emphasizing that it provides an opportunity to test new competencies and methods to enhance readiness



against various shared challenges.

The exercise, he added, represents the UK's commitment to maintaining security and prosperity in Kuwait and the Gulf region. This is the second

Exercise Iron Shield to take place in Kuwait. (Iron Shield 1) was conducted in October 2023 between (Saleh Al-Mohammad) Brigade and the UK's SCOTS GUARDS. — KUNA

Diplomat: Kuwait backs efforts for fair globalization

NEW YORK: Kuwait has reiterated determination to support international efforts to achieve a fair and sustainable globalization that ensures equal rights and opportunities for all countries. Diplomatic Attache Ahmad Sayyar, of the Kuwaiti Mission to the UN, said this on Wednesday at a special session of the UN Economic and Financial Committee on the issue of globalization in New York. He argued that synergy and cooperation between world countries are necessary for tackling the numerous economic and geopolitical challenges facing the world. Joint cross borders actions are also necessary to achieve social justice and sustainable development for all, Sayyar said.

The Kuwaiti diplomat pointed to Kuwait's efforts to contribute to building a more cooperative global system based on mutual respect for sovereignty and amid realizing common interests. Kuwait firmly convinced that international cooperation is the only way to ensure stability and prosperity in the world, he affirmed. He added that since its independence, Kuwait is committed to build strong relations with the international community and consolidate political, economic and cultural partnerships. Sayyar highlighted Kuwait's generous assistance to developing and disasters-hit countries to strengthen international security and stability. He stressed that Kuwait believes in the importance of a multilateral global system based on mutual respect and sustainable cooperation. Sayyar underlined the need to eliminate economic and social disparities between countries by establishing fair and comprehensive cooperation mechanisms. He emphasized the importance of cooperation in the fields of science and technology to achieve sustainable development for all in the era of globalization.

Also Wednesday, Abdullah Al-Obaid, Diplomatic Attache at Kuwait Mission to the UN, said Kuwait attached special attention to use of radioactive materials that serve mankind for the objective of peace and development. He said destructive impacts of high radiation levels "compels us to find serious solutions" to prevent whatever harmed mankind and environment with harmful radiation. Speaking before the Fourth Committee, meeting to discuss impacts of radiation, said radiation should be used for the benefit of human race and to take into consideration long-term consequences of radiation.

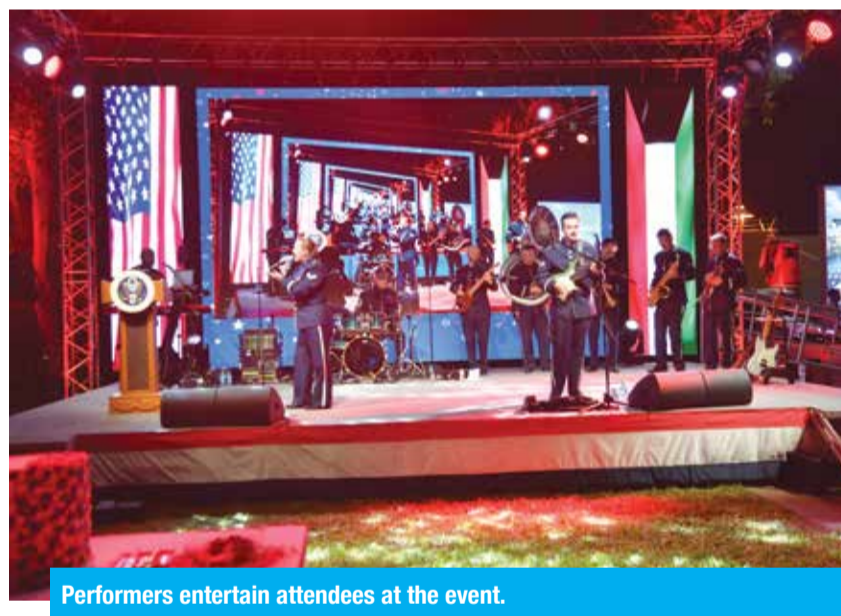
He urged member countries to facilitate scientific mandate of the committee by supplying its members with all information related to radiation. Obaid said a delegation from Kuwait Cancer Center reached an initial agreement recently to be a regional center for cancer treatment, part of an initiative launched by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). — KUNA



Abdullah Al-Obaid



Ahmad Sayyar



Performers entertain attendees at the event.



KUWAIT: Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya and US Ambassador to Kuwait Karen Sasahara cut a celebratory cake during an event marking the 248th US Independence Day. — Photos by KUNA and Yasser Al-Zayyat

US wants to remain good partner to Kuwait: Ambassador

By Faten Omar and KUNA

KUWAIT: US Ambassador to Kuwait Karen Sasahara praised the United States' long-standing relationship with Kuwait on Wednesday, reaffirming her country's unwavering commitment to the security and sovereignty of Kuwait. "We have a very strong relationship that goes back even beyond 33 years, since invasion and liberation. It's nice to look in the past, but we have to keep moving forward," she told the press during a ceremony hosted by the US embassy in Kuwait, celebrating the 248th US Independence Day.

Kuwait's Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya, who participated in the reception, extended heartfelt congratulations to the United States, its leadership, government, and people, wishing for the continued progress and prosperity of the close bilateral relations between the two friendly countries. In a statement to KUNA, he also expressed hopes for further development and enhancement of the existing strategic partnership.

Sasahara noted that her country wants to remain a good partner for Kuwait and keep working together and move forward. "Our shared history has been shaped by both prosperity and hardship. From the days of Kuwaiti pearl divers navigating

the seas in dhows to the present, where Kuwaiti engineers develop cutting-edge safety systems for the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, our partnership has evolved and strengthened. Five generations of Kuwaitis have studied in the US and returned home to enrich their nation, while trade between our countries now reaches billions of dollars annually in goods and services."

Minister Al-Yahya praised the historical relations between Kuwait and the United States, noting that this year marks 63 years since the establishment of diplomatic ties. He emphasized the depth of these relations, which are characterized by a continuously evolving cooperation in various fields to achieve the common interests of both countries and their peoples.

On the security level, Sasahara said: "We have the fourth largest presence outside of the United States. Our security partnership has been tested and emerged stronger." Regarding the current situation in Gaza, she noted: "We must also acknowledge the looming challenges, particularly the conflict that has cast a shadow over the region since last year. It is crucial to work toward an international consensus, backed by persistent diplomacy, to bring an end to the violence and restore peace for the most vulnerable, and to start the process for practical, time-bound, irreversible steps towards the establishment of a Palestinian state. As one anonymous wise man once said, you can't kill your way out of a war. May God protect all innocents no matter who they are or where they are."

The US ambassador spoke of the significance of democracy in Kuwait, noting that the country has a proud democratic history, as seen in



US Ambassador to Kuwait Karen Sasahara.

the diwaniya, where public dialogue and debate have always flourished. On the American election, the ambassador indicated that all Americans must embrace the civic responsibility that was so hard-fought for us to be able to exercise. "More than 4 billion people have already gone or will go to the polls this year. Citizens of more than 100 countries on all continents have a voice in shaping their future and the future of their children. Democracy is not just a single election on a single day. It's a lifelong commitment to representation, accountability, and the idea that every individual has a stake in their nation's future." Ambassador Sasahara also highlighted the cultural and personal ties between Kuwait and the US, saying: "Thousands of Kuwaitis travel to the United States each year for tourism, business, and to benefit from the world-class medical and technological services."

Kuwait supports UN efforts in facing global challenges

KUWAIT: On the occasion of the United Nations Day, which falls on October 24, Kuwait Thursday reiterated support for all efforts led by the UN Sec-

retary-General to enhance the organization's ability to address the unprecedented challenges facing the world. These challenges include areas such as international peace and security, poverty eradication, the achievement of sustainable development goals, combating terrorism, and disarmament, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The ministry expressed the country's pride in its longstanding strategic relationship and over-six-decade partnership with the UN.

It pointed out Kuwait's commitment to a proac-

and leading humanitarian and developmental diplomacy for supporting UN agencies and specialized programs across various fields, particularly in line with the organization's three fundamental pillars: maintaining peace and security, promoting sustainable development, and upholding human rights. It added that Kuwait affirms that the UN remains a cornerstone of multilateral international efforts, with the UN Charter and its principles and goals serving as the solid foundation for regulating relations between states. — KUNA

Local

Kuwait reaffirms support for Lebanon

Situation in the region represents 'the greatest political and moral test' for the international system: Official

PARIS: Kuwait reaffirmed its solidarity with Lebanon and its people during the Paris Conference aimed at assisting Lebanon, emphasizing the need for measures to ensure the country's security and stability and to fully restore its state institutions.

"The international community gathers today to witness, with great sorrow, the atrocities faced by innocent civilians in both Lebanon and occupied Palestine due to the ongoing campaigns of extermination by Zionist occupation forces, which clearly violate fundamental principles of international law and relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions," said Assistant Foreign Minister for International Organizations Affairs Minister Plenipotentiary Abdulaziz Al-Jarallah, at the international conference supporting the Lebanese people and the country's sovereignty.

Jarallah condemned the attacks by Zionist forces on the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), highlighting this as a flagrant disregard for international law and Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolution 1701. He stressed the importance of maintaining the safety and security of UN personnel and respecting the sanctity of UN premises. He called for immediate ceasefire and all military operations, as well as the provision of necessary international protection for the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples, ensuring humanitarian aid reaches besieged areas.

Jarallah pointed out Kuwait's warnings about the international community's negligence in deterring these violations, which disregard all international laws or treaties. He referred to the ongoing suffering of innocent civilians in Gaza, expressing concern



Minister Plenipotentiary Abdulaziz Al-Jarallah (left) attends the conference.

cern over the international community's inability to fulfill its political, legal, and moral responsibilities. He questioned the Zionist entity's claims that the massacres it commits in the occupied territories and Lebanon are merely acts of self-defense, asserting that these actions represent a systematic plan to cause chaos and instability, risking a regional war with global repercussions.

In closing, Jarallah noted that the current situation in the region and the world represents "the greatest political and moral test" for the international system, emphasizing the need to adhere to the principles of international law, respect for international legitimacy, and commitment to the UN Charter.

He expressed deep gratitude to France for its initiative to



MREIJEH: A man stands on the rubble of a building that was destroyed during an overnight Zionist airstrike that targeted the Mreijeh neighborhood in Beirut's southern suburbs on October 24, 2024. — AFP

host this important conference aimed at supporting the Lebanese people and reinforcing their sovereignty and stability amidst systematic aggressions, which have resulted in thousands of casualties and injuries, as well as the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people from their homes. The conference,

initiated by French President Emmanuel Macron, brought together 70 delegations and 15 international organizations to seek a diplomatic solution and mobilize humanitarian assistance of at least \$400 million from as many participating countries as possible. — KUNA

Exhibition encourages small enterprises, supports economy

KUWAIT: Al-Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Humud Jaber Al-Sabah underlined Thursday role of Al-Ahmadi 2024 exhibition and small enterprises in supporting national economy. While inaugurating the exhibition, Governor Al-Sabah remarked that this initiative encourages innovation and creativity, and provides a platform for presenting new ideas. The exhibition, organized by Al-Ahmadi Governorate in cooperation with Kuwait Oil Company (KOC), is taking place over the span of three days. KOC Chief Ahmad Al-Eidan said that this exhibition is in support of small enterprises, youth talents, and handicrafts. He spoke of KOC's interest in such events, saying that it stems from its sense of social responsibility and supporting national talents. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Officials tour the exhibit organized by Al-Ahmadi Governorate in cooperation with Kuwait Oil Company (KOC). — KUNA



KUWAIT: Representatives pose for a photo at the annual conference of the International Association of Gendarmeries and Police Forces with Military Status (FIEP). — KUNA photos

Kuwait National Guard attends FIEP conference

KUWAIT: Undersecretary of Kuwait National Guard Lieutenant General Hashem Al-Rifai, along with a delegation, participated in the 30th annual conference of the International Association of Gendarmeries and Police Forces with Military Status (FIEP), held in Italy.

During the conference, the President of Italy, Sergio Mattarella welcomed Rifai who conveyed to the Italian President the greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sa-

bah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Rifai praised the strong bilateral relations between Kuwait and Italy, and Italy's efforts in hosting the conference and supporting security cooperation during its presidency of the organization. In a statement released on Thursday, the National Guard noted that Kuwait has been a member of FIEP for five years and recalled Kuwait's successful hosting of the FIEP Human Resources Conference last year, which saw participation from 14 member countries.

Rifai noted that the conference saw the presidency transition from Italy to France, with the upcoming session focusing on addressing challenges posed by artificial intelligence, irregular migration and environmental issues. Rifai expressed gratitude to the conference organizers and the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs, particularly the Embassy of Kuwait in Italy, for their efforts in facilitating the National Guard's participation in the event. — AFP



Lieutenant General Hashem Al-Rifai.

Wedding halls can now be booked via 'Sahel' app

KUWAIT: Ministry of Social Affairs announced Thursday the introduction of a new service for booking wedding halls and social development center rooms through the "Sahel" application.

This initiative is part of efforts to digitize and streamline services provided to citizens. In a press statement, the ministry stated that this service allows for easy procedures such as booking halls, reserving venues, and paying security deposits electronically. The goal of this step is to provide more flexible and faster services, reducing time and effort for citizens in line with the country's digital transformation agenda.

The ministry also announced the launch of a new service via the "Sahel" app that provides essential supplies for the elderly. This service

aims to facilitate the monthly application process for distributing supplies electronically, saving time and effort for beneficiaries. It allows elderly individuals or their representatives to apply easily through the app, enhancing the speed and flexibility of procedures related to meeting their needs. The introduction of this service reflects the ministry's commitment to providing technological solutions that improve the quality of life for citizens and is part of the ongoing efforts to simplify processes and enhance services for the elderly. — KUNA

Kuwait Municipality begins preparations for camping season

KUWAIT: Kuwait Municipality approved 18 sites for spring camping in the new season, with 10 sites in the Jahra Governorate and 8 in the Ahmadi Governorate. The municipality announced Thursday that it began implementing a multi-phase work plan to ensure the success of the 2024-2025 camping season, which will begin in mid-November. An official with the Jahra Municipality Meshari Al-Husseini told KUNA that the municipality is keen on the success of the spring camping season to ensure the comfort and safety of outdoor enthusiasts.

Husseini said the first phase of the work plan began this week and will continue until the start of the camping season on November 15. The phase will focus on cleaning and removing obstacles in areas designated for camping. He added that the second phase will take place after the start of the spring camping season and will last until mid-March. During this phase, various municipality teams will clean the containers distributed in the camping areas and monitor the cleanliness of the land and compliance by campers.

He noted that the third and final phase will begin after the spring season ends in March. During this phase, the municipality will ensure the removal of spring camps and the cleaning of the land, as well as compliance with municipal regulations by campers. Husseini emphasized the importance of raising environmental awareness among outdoor enthusiasts to preserve the wilderness by combating the cutting of trees, soil erosion, and the disposal of barbecue waste. — KUNA



Jahra Municipality Official Meshari Al-Husseini.



MARIB: Kuwait Red Crescent Society runs a medical camp in Yemen in this file photo. — KUNA

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: Vehicles move along a road towards Kuwait City amid heavy rain. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

KRCS Kuwait's tool to enact humanitarian diplomacy: Official

KUWAIT: Kuwait Red Crescent Society Chairman Ambassador Khaled Al-Maghames highlighted the importance of outlining a roadmap for coordination between Gulf Red Crescent Societies in administering social services, providing relief efforts and carrying out development projects. The statement came on the sidelines of KRCS' celebration of Gulf Red Crescent Day, which is observed annually on October 23 and honors the efforts of volunteers in serving humanity. Maghames said KRCS' history of relief and development projects showcase Kuwait's global humanitarian role. He added that the association's efforts are the result of esteemed directives from the political leadership, which has worked diligently to establish humanitarian diplomacy as a comprehensive Kuwaiti approach through the association's projects both within the country and abroad, in line with its humanitarian vision.

Maghames praised Gulf Red Crescent associations' humanitarian efforts such as providing health care and relief to those in crisis around the world. He emphasized that the organizations cooperate with countries and humanitarian and international organizations to reach the most devastated areas in the world. The celebration also coincides with the anniversary of the first meeting of Gulf Red Crescent associations held in 1984 in Abu Dhabi.

Kuwait Red Crescent Society is also participating in the General Assembly of the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC) and Red Crescent Societies, which kicked off Wednesday, with representatives of 191 countries. President of the International Federation of Red Cross, Kate Forbes, urged for promoting the language of dialogue and peace, especially during such times the world is witnessing. Forbes noted that humanitarian aid requires a favorable environment free of pressures to ensure that it reaches all those in need without exception, especially for those living under the burden of wars, conflicts, and crises. — KUNA

Kuwait, Malaysia to increase flight frequency, code sharing

Civil aviation body signs agreement with South Korea related to international air transport

KUALA LUMPUR: Kuwait's Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) signed two memoranda of understanding with Malaysia and South Korea Thursday to enhance cooperation in civil aviation. Chief of the DGCA Sheikh Humoud Mubarak Al-Sabah signed the agreements during the fourth day of the International Civil Aviation Agreements Conference (ICAO 2024) held in the Malaysian capital.

He said the MOU with Malaysia, signed with the Deputy Minister of Transport Mohammad Mazlan, includes several advantages, most notably the increase in flight frequencies and the introduction of code-sharing agreements between airlines in Kuwait and Malaysia. The agreement signed with South Korea's Director of international air transport Ji Young Shim, aims at keeping pace with developments in the

air transport industry and provide more facilities for airlines, enhancing operations between Kuwait and South Korea.

Sheikh Humoud also held discussions with the Director General of Civil Aviation in the UAE Saif Al-Suwaidi on key issues related to civil aviation at regional and global levels, focusing on the development of airline operations in both countries. He also met with the Deputy Director General of Civil Aviation in Rwanda, Winnie Ngamije, resulting in a full coordination plan for cooperation between the two countries, including the exchange of expertise and training on safety, security and air navigation.

Sheikh Humoud explored avenues for cooperation with President of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Salvatore Sciacchitano

and its director of air transport Mohammad Rahma on Wednesday. The cooperation between ICAO and the DGCA aims to improve employee capabilities and workflow through instructions and recommendations issued by the organization, adding that Kuwait is working tirelessly to guarantee safety of civil aviation and navigation. The Malaysian Ministry of Transport is hosting the annual ICAO 2024 conference, which runs from October 21 to 25, with representatives from civil aviation authorities worldwide and various regional and international organizations specializing in civil aviation. This international meeting facilitates negotiations and consultations regarding air services, allowing policymakers, regulatory bodies, aircraft operators, and other stakeholders to network and collaborate. — KUNA



KUALA LUMPUR: Chief of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Sheikh Humoud Mubarak Al-Sabah (right) is seen with Deputy Minister of Transport Mohammad Mazlan. — KUNA photos



Sheikh Humoud is seen with South Korea's Ji Young Shim.



Scan & Subscribe KD 20 a year

For Individuals Only



Scan Now

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



Tel: 24833199 Ext: 220

NCCAL unveils 24th International Music Festival program

KUWAIT: The National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) announced the launch of the 24th edition of its International Music Festival. Set to start on November 17, it will feature a tribute ceremony for singer Mohammad Al-Bloushi. In a press conference held at the council's headquarters, Assistant Secretary-General for Arts at the council and festival president, Musaad Al-Zamil, stated that the festival will run until November 22 and will include various events and activities showcasing different musical genres.

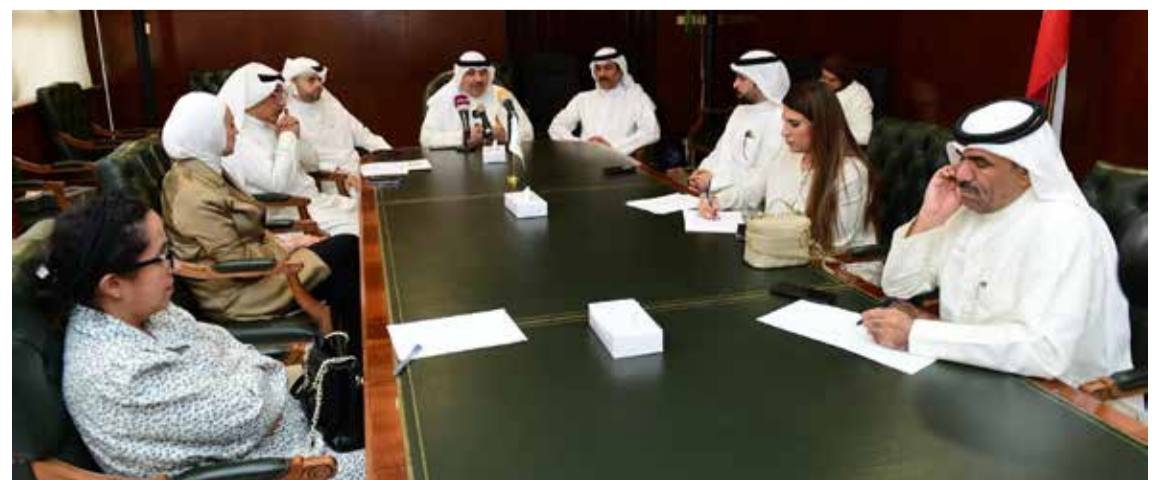
The opening ceremony will be held under the patronage of Minister of Information and Culture, Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi at Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center. The ceremony to honor Bloushi will include playing his most famous songs, led by Maestro Dr Mohammed Al-Baijan and other top artists, he added. Zamil emphasized that Bloushi deserves this recognition for his rich artistic career, being a graduate of the Higher Institute of Musical Arts and known for his significant contributions, particularly in the national music genre.

The opening ceremony will also honor several artists who have excelled in academic and research fields related to music, including Dr. Youssef Al-Rashid from Kuwait, artist Hanaa Al-Ashmawi from

Egypt, and artist Ibrahim Habib from Bahrain. On the second day of the festival, Omani cellist Maryam Al-Munjiya will perform a mix of Eastern and Western melodies during the "Cello Night," followed by a seminar highlighting Bloushi's journey in singing and composing. The third day, November 19, will feature a dinner for festival guests and a scientific seminar on Arabic singing from local to global perspectives, with participation from researchers and academics in melodies and singing. Zamil noted the council's role in enhancing artistic appreciation and cultural exchange through music, mentioning a concert titled "Melody from Greece" on November 20, where Greek clarinetist Vassilis will present a selection of folk melodies and world music in a unique style.

He added that the evening of November 21 will take attendees back to a beautiful era with a concert titled "Night of Nagat and Warda," featuring beloved Eastern songs and melodies performed by renowned artists, conducted by Maestro Dr Ayoub Khader. For the closing ceremony, Zamil stated that graduates of the Higher Institute of Dramatic Arts, known for their achievements in Kuwait's artistic scene, will present a musical performance featuring orchestral and choral pieces, conducted by Maestro Dr Khaled Nouri.

Entry to the musical events will be available through reservations on the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Centre's website for a nominal fee. Zamil highlighted the partnerships with cultural institutions that contribute to supporting the festival and providing an exceptional experience for attendees. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Assistant Secretary-General for Arts at NCCAL and festival president Musaad Al-Zamil holds a press conference to announce the festival's program. — KUNA



South Korea's Yoon, Poland's Duda slam North's troop dispatch to Russia

Turkey buries attack victims after striking PKK targets

Page 6

Page 7



Russian President Vladimir Putin and participants in the outreach/BRICS Plus format meeting posing for a family photo during the BRICS summit in Kazan on October 24, 2024. — AFP

Middle East on the brink of a full-scale war, warns Putin

Russia, China and India call for two-state solution

KAZAN, Russia: Russian President Vladimir Putin told BRICS leaders on Thursday that the Middle East was on the brink of a full-scale war after a sharp rise in tension between Zionist entity and Iran, though the Kremlin chief also faced calls to end the war in Ukraine. The BRICS summit, attended by more than 20 leaders including Chinese President Xi Jinping, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Turkey's Tayyip Erdogan, has shown the depth of Russia's relations beyond the Western world.

Much discussion at the summit in the Russian city of Kazan was dedicated to the war in Ukraine and the violence in the Middle East, though there were no sign that anything specific would be done to end either conflict. "The degree of confrontation between Zionist entity and Iran has

sharply increased. All this resembles a chain reaction and puts the entire Middle East on the brink of a full-scale war," Putin, sitting beside Chinese President Xi Jinping, said.

Xi, speaking after Putin, said that China wanted a political settlement in Ukraine, and suggested joint efforts by Beijing and Brasilia offered the best chance of peace. "We need to work for an early de-escalation of the situation and pave the way for a political settlement," Xi said.

On the Middle East, Xi said that there should be a comprehensive ceasefire in Gaza, a halt to the spread of war in Lebanon and a return to the two-state solution under which states for both Zionist entity and Palestine would be established.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian criticized international organizations,

particularly the United Nations, for failing to end the conflict. "The flames of war continue to rage in the Gaza Strip and cities of Lebanon, and international institutions, particularly the UN Security Council as a driver of international peace and security, lack the necessary effectiveness to extinguish the fire of this crisis," Pezeshkian told the BRICS.

Putin said that unless Palestinians got their state, they would feel the burden of "historical injustice" and the region would remain in "an atmosphere of permanent crisis with inevitable relapses of large-scale violence." BRICS leaders in their summit declaration called for the establishment of a sovereign, independent and viable Palestinian state within the borders of 1967. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas attended the summit.

At one of the BRICS+ meetings

on Thursday, Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar sat in for Modi who also missed one of the group photographs. Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said he could not travel to Russia due to a head injury.

China, which together with India buys about 90 percent of Russia's oil, supported more Global South countries joining the BRICS grouping in various formats, Xi said. United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres, who was criticized by Kyiv for attending the meeting in Russia, said peace was needed in Gaza, Lebanon, Sudan and Ukraine. "We need peace in Ukraine," Guterres told the BRICS+ meeting that was chaired by Putin. "A just peace in line with the UN Charter, international law and UN General Assembly resolutions." — Reuters

US unveils a framework to regulate AI

WASHINGTON: The United States unveiled Thursday a framework to address national security risks posed by artificial intelligence, a year after President Joe Biden issued an executive order on regulating the technology.

The National Security Memorandum (NSM) seeks to thread the needle between harnessing the technology to counter the military use of AI by adversaries such as China while building effective safeguards that uphold public trust, officials said. "There are very clear national security applications of artificial intelligence, including in areas like cybersecurity and counterintelligence," a senior Biden administration official told reporters.

"Countries like China recognize similar opportunities to modernize and revolutionize their own military and intelligence capabilities. It's particularly imperative that we accelerate our national security communities' adoption and use of cutting-edge AI capabilities to maintain our competitive edge."

Last October, Biden ordered the

National Security Council and the White House Chief of Staff to develop the memorandum. The instruction came as he issued an executive order on regulating AI, aiming for the United States to "lead the way" in global efforts to manage the technology's risks.

The order, hailed by the White House as a "landmark" move, directed federal agencies to set new safety standards for AI systems and required developers to share their safety test results and other critical information with the US government.

US officials expect that the rapidly evolving AI technology will unleash military and intelligence competition between global powers. American security agencies were being directed to gain access to the "most powerful AI systems," which involves substantial efforts on procurement, a second administration official said. "We believe that we must out-compete our adversaries and mitigate the threats posed by adversary use of AI," the official told reporters.

The NSM, he added, seeks to ensure the government is "accelerating adoption in a smart way, in a responsible way." Alongside the memorandum, the government is set to issue a framework document that provides guidance on "how agencies can and cannot use AI," the official said.

In July, more than a dozen civil soci-



CONCORD: US President Joe Biden delivers remarks at NHTI Concord Community College. — AFP

ety groups such as the Center for Democracy & Technology sent an open letter to the Biden administration officials, including National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan, calling for robust safeguards to be built into the NSM.

"Despite pledges of transparency, little is known about the AI being deployed by the country's largest intelligence, homeland security, and law enforcement entities like the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Security Agency, and Central Intelligence Agen-

cy," the letter said. "Its deployment in national security contexts also risks perpetuating racial, ethnic or religious prejudice, and entrenching violations of privacy, civil rights and civil liberties."

Sullivan is set to highlight the NSM in an address at the National Defense University in Washington on Thursday, the officials said. Most of the memorandum is unclassified and will be released publicly, while also containing a classified annex that primarily addresses adversary threats, they added. — AFP

Swiss tourist slain in Algeria knife attack

GENEVA: A Swiss tourist was murdered in Algeria this month when a knife-wielding man attacked her at a cafe in front of her children, slitting her throat while shouting "Allahu Akbar", media reported.

The attack took place in Djanet in southeastern Algeria on October 11, but was first reported this week by the French newspaper Liberation. Switzerland's foreign ministry told AFP that it was aware of "the violent death of a Swiss citizen on October 11 in southeastern Algeria". It said she had been part of a group of five travelers, all of them Swiss, but provided no further details.

Algerian authorities have meanwhile remained silent about the attack, and Swiss broadcaster RTS reported that the authorities had even asked residents in the area to refrain from sharing information on social media about what had happened. At the time of the attack, the woman, whose name and age were not given, was reportedly seated outside a popular Djanet cafe with her children and a friend.

The attacker, reportedly a young man from northern Algeria, slit the woman's throat, and she later died in hospital, according to RTS.

While his motive was not known, the broadcaster reported that the man had shouted "Allahu Akbar" ("God is greatest") and "Long live Palestine" during the attack.

Following the attack, the man fled the scene. RTS reported that the Algerian authorities had deployed significant means to catch him, including using helicopters and distributing flyers with his picture, and he was apprehended several days later. The man had also reportedly attempted to attack another group of tourists at a market shortly before the deadly attack, but had been pushed back.

The attack came as Algeria has been striving to promote tourism, especially in the Sahara region, with authorities promising to facilitate tourist visas.

Some 2.5 million tourists visited the country last year—its highest number of visitors in two decades, according to a recent report by Euronews, which has been doing promotional work with the government's ANEP media and advertisement agency. — AFP

UN chief calls for 'just peace' in Ukraine

KAZAN: United Nations leader Antonio Guterres pleaded on Thursday for a "just peace" in Ukraine, calling in a speech in front of Russian President Vladimir Putin for an end to more than two years of fighting.

Speaking at a BRICS summit hosted by Putin in Russia's Kazan, Guterres also demanded an "immediate ceasefire" in Gaza, the release of hostages and an "immediate cessation of hostilities" in Lebanon. The UN secretary general was in Russia for the first time since April 2022 and was due to hold talks on Ukraine with Putin later on Thursday.

He spoke on the final day of the BRICS summit, a forum Moscow hopes will help forge a united front of emerging economies against the West. Guterres has been critical of Moscow's offensive and military annexation of Ukrainian territory but there has been no halt in the fighting, now grinding through its third year. "We need peace in Ukraine. A just peace in line with the UN Charter, international law and (UN) General Assembly resolution," Guterres told the summit.

He said it was essential to respect "the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all states". Putin, meanwhile, said Russia could not be defeated on the battlefield in Ukraine, warning of "illusory" Western hopes. Moscow's opponents "do not conceal their aim to deal our country a strategic defeat", he said.

"I will say directly that these are illusion-

ary calculations, that can be made only by those who do not know Russia's history," Guterres and Putin—who last met in the Kremlin in April 2022 during Russia's siege of the Ukrainian city of Mariupol—were due to hold face-to-face talks later on Thursday.

The meeting comes as the United States has queried why thousands of North Korean soldiers have been sent to Russia, speculating that they could be deployed to fight in Ukraine.

Ukraine has strongly criticized Guterres's decision to meet "criminal Putin." Guterres's spokesman said the UN chief was willing to offer his mediation when both parties were ready and would use the meeting to reiterate his position on the conflict. The UN secretary general has condemned Moscow's military offensive and visited places in Ukraine where Russia's army have been accused of atrocities. — AFP



Ukrainian servicemen of the 30th separate mechanized brigade prepare to run test flights of a hexacopter drone ahead of battle mission in the eastern Donetsk region. — AFP

International

Turkey buries attack victims after striking PKK targets

Ankara points the finger at Kurdish militants as 'very likely' responsible

ANKARA: The first Ankara attack victims were being buried Thursday, just hours after Turkey struck PKK militants in Iraq and Syria whom it blames for the assault on a defense firm that killed five.

As the dust settled after Wednesday's deadly attack on the state-run Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI) that also left 22 injured, Turkey pointed the finger at Kurdish militants as "very likely" responsible.

Turkish investigators said both attackers were "PKK terrorists", identifying them as a man called Ali Orek, codename "Rojger", and a woman called Mine Sevjin Alcicek, Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya wrote on X. Both appeared in CCTV images posted on X in which they are seen emerging from a taxi then firing assault rifles before entering the building.

The taxi driver, whom they killed, was buried on Thursday at a funeral attended by Yerlikaya and parliamentary speaker Numan Kurtulmus. Of the 22 people hurt in the attack, eight had been discharged, while the other 14 remained in hospital, Turkey's health ministry said.

Istanbul's two main airports have since stepped up security, the DHA news agency

and private NTV channel reported. Sabiha Gokcen airport, which is located on the Asian side of the city, told passengers to arrive "at least three hours" early to avoid delays due to increased security. Overnight, the defense ministry said the military struck "47 terrorist targets" in Syria and northern Iraq and pledged the raids would continue.

Kurdish sources in northern Syria said the strikes had killed 12 civilians and wounded 25 others. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who is in Russia attending the BRICS summit of major emerging economy nations, said the attack had "further strengthened Turkey's determination and resolve to eliminate terrorism".

The attack happened amid growing signs of a political thaw between Ankara and Kurdish militants. Just hours beforehand, PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan—who has been jailed on a Turkish prison island in solitary confinement since 1999 -- received his first family visit in years.

His nephew, Omer Ocalan, who is a lawmaker for the main pro-Kurdish DEM party, confirmed the visit on X, and said the family had last seen him "on March 3,

2020". The only other contact was a brief phone call in March 2021. His uncle was "in good health" and had sent a message about the ongoing "political developments", saying: "If the conditions allow, I have the necessary theoretical and practical power to shift this process from an arena of conflict and violence to one of law and politics."

According to Abdulkadir Selvi, a columnist for the Hurriyet daily which is close to the government, during the two-hour meeting "Ocalan said he was ready to lay down his arms".

On Tuesday, Devlet Bahceli, head of the far-right MHP, which is fiercely hostile to the PKK and belongs to Erdogan's ruling coalition, sparked shockwaves by inviting Ocalan to parliament to renounce terror and dissolve his movement. After the attack, DEM—the third largest party in parliament—condemned the violence but said it was "noteworthy" it happened "just as Turkish society was talking about a solution and the possibility of dialogue".

Arrested on February 15, 1999 in the Kenyan capital Nairobi following a Hollywood-style operation by Turkish security



Family members of killed taxi driver Murat Arslan comfort each other during his funeral in Ankara on October 24, 2024. — AFP

forces after years on the run, Ocalan was brought to Turkey for trial and sentenced to death. He escaped the gallows when Turkey abolished capi-

tal punishment in 2004 but has spent his remaining years in an isolation cell on Imrali prison island in the Sea of Marmara.—AFP

At quake trial, Turkey families seek justice 'until last breath'

ANTAKYA: More than 18 months after a massive earthquake flattened the southern Turkish city of Antakya, the victims' families have little faith justice will be served but say they will fight "until their last breath". With a huge area hit by the February 2023 quake that killed 55,000 people, the luxury Ronesans Residence apartment bloc quickly became a high-profile symbol of the construction malpractice at the heart of the tragedy.

Built in 2013 and sold as "a corner of paradise", the complex's abrupt collapse like a house of cards prompted a criminal case against eight defendants which had its third hearing in the historic city on Thursday. Among its celebrity residents was former Ghana international footballer Christian Atsu, one of hundreds who died when it collapsed.

Days after the quake, police arrested the building's contractor at Istanbul airport in the apparent act of fleeing to Montenegro. Hafize Acikgoz, 43, who lost her husband and three children there, said she had "zero hope" that those responsible would be properly punished.

"I don't have any faith in justice," she told AFP, saying she thought their apartment block, which towered over those around it, was the safest in the area. "We were looking down on the buildings nearby ... They stood tall and ours collapsed. My family is under the ground and I am like the living dead," she said, her

eyes full of tears. Lawyer Emine Candarli, who lives in the western city of Izmir, also lost family in Ronesans, finding the bodies of her sister, her brother-in-law and their two kids embracing each other under the ruins 11 days after the quake.

"It's not the quake that killed my sister and her family but the contractors who sold the flats as safe and sound," she told AFP by phone.

"That is the contractors' fault." Almost all the rubble from the complex was cleared away in the weeks after the quake. AFP journalists visiting the area on Thursday found the site completely flattened with heavy machinery operating there. Turkish prosecutors are seeking 22 years and six months for each of the eight suspects, including contractor Mehmet Yasar Coskun who has pleaded not guilty.

"What would happen if you loaded 30 tons into a 10-tonne capacity truck?" he asked the judge on Thursday, via video link. "This is what exactly happened to our building," he said, pointing to the intensity and duration of the quake.

The eight suspects are charged with "causing death through conscious negligence".

At the hearing, the judge ordered the release from pre-trial detention of Onder Artun, who was responsible for Ronesans' oversight. Three others are still in custody while another suspect remains at large. The next hearing is scheduled for January 24.

At the hearing, there was emotional testimony from Cemile Incili, who was trapped under the rubble for two days. Although she was rescued, they never found the bodies of her sister and nephew.

"Have you ever said goodbye to your loved ones?" she asked. "You are all alive. I want you to pay a price," she said, staring directly into the eyes of the suspects sitting in the courtroom.—AFP

he said. Qatari Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani said American and Zionist teams would fly to Qatar, without giving any timetable.

Blinken's visit comes ahead of the US election on November 5, and days after Zionists killed Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar. Prior to the Qatar stop, Blinken had been in Zionist entity and Saudi Arabia, where he was seeking to make headway on a normalization deal between the two countries. Blinken said Zionist entity had "achieved most of its strategic objectives" in Gaza and should now aim for lasting success.

Addressing Zionist pledge to retaliate for Iran's October 1 missile attack, he said: "It's also very important that (Zionist entity) respond in ways that do not create greater escalation." Blinken acknowledged "progress" on aid for Gaza but said more needed to be done, as he pledged another \$135 million in assistance to the Palestinians. In Gaza, winter is approaching and the displaced fear the cold. Ahmad Al-Razz said he sewed sacks together to make his tent on the beach near Deir El-Balah. "We are freezing every night because we are right by the sea, and we have no blankets or coverings to keep us warm," the 42-year-old said.

In Lebanon, Zionists conducted at least 17 raids overnight that leveled six buildings, according to Lebanon's official National News Agency, sending a huge ball of fire enveloped in a tower of smoke soaring into the night sky. The military said Thursday it hit Hezbollah weapons production facilities in the group's south Beirut bastion. In south Lebanon, also a stronghold of Hezbollah, the group said its militants were clashing at close range with Zionist troops in a border village.

Hezbollah earlier said it launched a "large rocket salvo" at the northern town of Safed, after vowing to keep firing into Zionist entity until a ceasefire is reached not only in Lebanon but also in Gaza. Hezbollah is Lebanon's only group that did not disarm following the 1975-1990 civil war. On Thursday, Lebanon's Prime Minister Najib Mikati said only the state should carry weapons, as he pushed for a ceasefire. "Lebanese authorities must deploy over (all) Lebanese territory and weapons should be carried only by the state and the Lebanese army," he said.—AFP

officials from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group (WBG) in Washington. In a press statement, the Ministry of Finance said that Minister Al-Fassam met with the IMF's Director of the Middle East and Central Asia Department, Dr Jihad Azour. The meeting reviewed ways to enhance technical cooperation between the Ministry of Finance and the IMF in the field of public finance reform, the statement added. Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait Basel Al-Haroon and Deputy Director of the Middle East Department Zein Zidane attended the meeting. The Minister of Finance also met with WBG's Vice President of the World Bank for the Middle East and North Africa Region, Ousmane Dione.—KUNA

Kamala Harris rallies with Springsteen, Obama in Georgia

PHILADELPHIA: Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris headed to the battleground of Georgia on Thursday for a star-studded rally featuring rock legend Bruce Springsteen, entertainer Tyler Perry and former President Barack Obama.

It's the latest attempt by the Harris campaign to capitalize on the backing of movie and music stars to rally voters in the closing days of a tight election race against Republican rival Donald Trump.

Harris' whirlwind campaign started with a big jump in polls after President Joe Biden dropped out of the race in late July, but her lead has narrowed in national polls and evaporated in the battleground states that will decide the US election. Celebrity endorsers add cultural cachet to candidates, and have typically helped campaigns raise money, turn out crowds at rallies and generate excitement on social media. For both the Harris and Trump campaigns, they are part of the down-to-the-wire blitz to mobilize voters ahead of Election Day on Nov 5.

It will also mark the first time Harris and Obama will campaign together. Harris is also slated to appear with Michelle Obama on Saturday in Michigan, one of seven swing states expected to decide the winner on Nov 5. The latest polls in Georgia show Trump with a slight lead, but Harris campaign officials say they remain confident the state - along with its neighbor North Carolina - are still in play come November. President Joe Biden pulled off a surprise victory in Georgia in 2020, and



US Vice President and Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris speaks as she answers a question from an attendee during a CNN Town Hall debate. — AFP

Democrats won two hard-fought Senate seats there that gave them control of both houses in Congress for the first half of Biden's term. Some 1.9 million residents have already cast their ballot in Georgia, according to the secretary of state's office.

On Monday, Springsteen, 75, will also appear in Philadelphia with Obama and the Harris campaign has signaled more concerts with other musicians will be announced soon. In 2016, Springsteen played a three-song set at a rally in front of 20,000 people at Philadelphia's Independence Hall for Democrat Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign on the eve of the election. In 2008, Springsteen played a seven-song set for tens of thousands on the city's Benjamin Franklin Parkway to urge people to register and vote for Obama. Taylor Swift, Pink, Oprah Winfrey, George Clooney, Lizzo and many other celebrities have endorsed Harris and her running mate Tim Walz. Swift's endorsement of Harris via an Instagram post this September has now received more than 11 million likes.—Reuters

Zionist assaults leave 770 dead...

Continued from Page 1

The military says the goal of its assault is to destroy the operational capabilities Hamas is trying to rebuild in the north. It has repeatedly told people to evacuate, and to do so they must pass through army-manned checkpoints. Images posted online and verified by AFP show crowds of Palestinians waiting to cross such checkpoints, while several Palestinians reported mistreatment or detention during the process.

Blinken in Qatar

The Gaza war began with October 7 attacks. Zionist retaliatory offensive has killed 42,847 people in Gaza, the majority civilians, according to figures from the Hamas-run territory's health ministry which the United Nations considers reliable. The war in Lebanon erupted last month, nearly a year after Hezbollah began low-intensity cross-border fire into Zionist entity in support of its ally Hamas. At least 1,580 people have been killed in Lebanon since September 23, according to an AFP tally of Lebanese health ministry figures, though the real number is likely to be higher.

The high civilian tolls from the fighting have sparked repeated calls for a halt to the wars, with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken returning to the region this week for the 11th time since the start of the Gaza war. Visiting key mediator Qatar on Thursday, Blinken said he expected negotiators would meet in the coming days on a Gaza truce as he again called on Zionists and Hamas to reach a deal.

"We talked about options to capitalize on this moment and next steps to move the process forward, and I anticipate that our negotiators will be getting together in the coming days," Blinken told reporters. Qatar and the US were seeking a plan "so that (Zionists) can withdraw, so that Hamas cannot reconstitute, and so that the Palestinian people can rebuild their lives and rebuild their futures,"

Kuwait eager to diversify ...

Continued from Page 1

They also discussed launching reform programs aiming to face poverty, climate change and other topics of mutual concern. IMF and World Bank autumn meetings kicked off last Monday to discuss key topics including debts, achieving development, and tackling different challenges.

Kuwaiti Minister held several meetings with of-

Paris aid conference raises \$800m...

Continued from Page 1

Iran-backed Hezbollah in southern Lebanon after a year exchanging fire over the border following Hamas' October 7, 2023 attack.

But while there were repeated calls for a ceasefire, diplomatic progress in Paris was limited by the absence of key players Zionist entity and Iran, while America was represented only by a deputy to Secretary of State Antony Blinken. "We have risen to the occasion" with financial support, Barrot told participants, with major pledges including 100 million euros (\$108 million) from France, 95 million from Germany and at least 15 million pounds (\$20 million) from Britain. Nevertheless, "we cannot limit ourselves to a humanitarian and security response... we have to bring about a diplomatic solution," he added.

France, which has historic ties to Lebanon and hosts a large Lebanese diaspora, is pushing alongside the US for a 21-day ceasefire to give space to find a more lasting truce. Paris wants a return to UN Security Council Resolution 1701, which sealed the end of the last Zionist-Hezbollah war in 2006. "The war must end as soon as possible, there must be a ceasefire in Lebanon," President Emmanuel Macron said sitting alongside the country's Prime Minister Najib Mikati.

The Lebanese government chief in turn called on "the international community to hold together and support ef-

forts... to implement an immediate ceasefire". As well as stipulating that the only armed forces on Lebanon's border should be UN peacekeepers and the Lebanese army, 1701 says no foreign forces should enter Lebanon without the government's consent. That was why participants pledged support for Lebanese troops, with Macron saying Paris would "contribute to equipping the Lebanese army".

Speaking remotely, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres also called on participants to "strengthen their support to (Lebanon's) state institutions, including the Lebanese armed forces". A ceasefire can only be agreed with involvement from Zionist entity and Iran, neither of whom were invited on Thursday. Hezbollah must "stop its provocations... and indiscriminate strikes" against Zionist entity, Macron said. Although Zionist entity has eliminated Hezbollah leaders over recent weeks, it "knows from experience that its military successes do not necessarily represent victory in Lebanon," Macron said.

"Anything that does not bring about an immediate end to the destruction and killing would make this summit a failure," Bachir Ayoub, aid group Oxfam's Lebanon chief, said before the conference ended. Oxfam was among over 150 aid groups to denounce "flagrant disregard for international law by the international community" over Zionist military actions in Gaza, the West Bank and Lebanon. "Without accountability, there will be no red lines," they added.

UN Development Program chief Achim Steiner warned that Lebanon's economy was "beginning to collapse under the pressure of this conflict," predicting a contraction of more than nine percent this year if the war continues.—AFP

Kuwait stresses urgent need for...

Continued from Page 1

multilateral international efforts. United Nations Day commemorates the anniversary of the UN Charter's entry into force in 1945, with its ratification by a majority of signatories, including the five permanent members of the Security Council, the UN was officially established.

Member states and NGOs observe the day through local and international events - addressing global issues such as human rights, equality and environmental protection in addition to holding conferences and workshops aimed at promoting the UN's role and highlighting its goals. The UN uses this day to remind the international community of its objectives, which include maintaining international peace and security through diplomacy and peacekeeping, promoting human rights by upholding principles of justice and equality, and eradicating poverty.

Some 79 years ago, the United Nations was established as a global organization geared towards international cooperation, security and development. During the

celebration, the UN marks all of the achievements since establishment in 1945, but also addresses current challenges whether political, economic or related to security and peace worldwide with an eye always set on the future.

The UN was created following WWII by 51 founding nations who signed the UN statute, which has organized affairs since then. The member states and NGOs celebrate the UN Day via variety of functions addressing various issues including human rights, gender equality, environment protection, and more. While celebrations are important, the UN would also be addressing some of the crucial issues of the world namely, achieving its 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as trying to find solutions to most important challenges whether manmade or naturally occurring.

Though the UN succeeded in ending some conflicts via diplomacy and also helped overcome some man-made disasters, it still needs to address the needs of billions around the globe affected by various troubling situations such as war, disease, and other alarming developments. The war in the Middle East, battling climate change, addressing hunger and disease, and ending poverty are some of the challenges that face the world in which the UN has an important role to solve and end as a collective of human cooperation and collaboration.—KUNA

International

South Korea's Yoon, Poland's Duda slam North's troop dispatch to Russia

Seoul, Warsaw aim to finalize new K2 tank contract

SEOUL: South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and Polish President Andrzej Duda on Thursday condemned North Korea's dispatch of troops to Russia for its war against Ukraine as a global security threat, Yoon's office said. The two leaders held a summit and agreed to push to finalize a new contract to export South Korean K2 tanks to Poland by the end of the year, Yoon told a joint news conference with Duda.

"We agreed that North Korea's dispatch of troops to Russia is a direct violation of UN Security Council resolutions and the UN Charter and is a provocation that goes beyond the Korean Peninsula and Europe to threaten global security," Yoon said. North Korea has sent 3,000 troops to Russia to support its war against Ukraine, South Korean lawmakers said on Wednesday after being briefed by the national intelligence agency, an estimate that is twice the previous figure.

Washington also said it had seen evidence of North Korea's dispatch of 3,000 troops to Russia for possible deployment in Ukraine and it would be "very serious" if the North Koreans are preparing to fight Ukraine with Russia. The Kremlin has previously dismissed Seoul's claims about the North's troop deployment as "fake news" and a North Korean representative to the United Nations in New York called it "groundless rumors" at a meeting on Monday.

Yoon said South Korea and Poland are partners who share the universal values of liberty, human rights and the rule of law and Seoul wanted to deep-

en cooperation in a range of areas beyond defense. South Korea will work with Poland to explore support for Ukraine to help it rebuild itself after the war with the lessons they have learned from experiencing war themselves, he said. Yoon and Duda did not unveil new developments in ongoing talks for South Korea's exports of arms to Poland, which has become one of the largest buyers, but pledged to continue cooperation in the defence industry.

The South Korean and Polish governments will actively lend support to seal a deal before the end of the year for South Korea's Hyundai Rotem to supply K2 tanks to Poland, Yoon said. Yoon said South Korea and Poland will establish a new forum for defense dialogue and cooperate closely on security matters that affect the two countries. South Korea, which has emerged as a major arms exporter, signed an estimated \$22 billion framework agreement in 2022 to export mechanized howitzers, tanks and fighter jets, as Poland ramps up military spending in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Hanwha Aerospace, South Korea's biggest defense firm, has signed a total of \$9.2 billion deals with Poland to supply 364 howitzers and 290 missile defense systems since 2022.

Hyundai Rotem, which specializes in industrial and defense contracts, had reached in the 2022 agreement to deliver 1,000 K2 tanks, but has only so far signed a 4.5 trillion won (\$3.26 billion) contract to export 180 tanks. — Reuters



SEOUL: South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol (second right), his wife Kim Keon Hee (second left) and Polish President Andrzej Duda (right) and his wife Agata Kornhauser-Duda (left) attend a welcoming ceremony at the Presidential Office in Seoul on October 24, 2024. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bangladesh bans student wing of Hasina's party

DHAKA: Bangladesh's interim government has officially banned the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), the student wing of ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League party, declaring it a "terrorist organization". This move comes in response to escalating demands from the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, which outlined five key demands, including the abolishment of the current constitution, the removal of President Mohammed Shahabuddin, and the dissolution of the BCL. The ban under the Anti-Terrorism Act takes effect immediately, it said in a gazette notification issued late on Wednesday. — Reuters

Bulgaria holds 7th election in 4 years as coalitions fail again

SOFIA: Bulgarians headed to the polls on Sunday in the seventh snap election inside four years as the country's fractured political parties struggle to form a stable coalition and voters become increasingly apathetic about the outcome. Bulgaria, the poorest member of the European Union and one of its most corrupt states, has been plagued by revolving-door governments since anti-graft protests in 2020 helped topple a coalition led by the centre-right GERB party. The latest polls released on Thursday suggest more of the same - no clear winner, and no obvious options for a meaningful coalition. Voter turnout, seen at around 30 percent, is expected to be the lowest since the fall of communism.

Ex-PM Najib apologizes for mishandling of 1MDB scandal

KUALA LUMPUR: Jailed former Malaysia Prime Minister Najib Razak on Wednesday issued a rare apology for his mishandling of the multibillion-dollar 1MDB financial scandal, but maintained he had no knowledge of illegal transfers from the now-defunct state fund. 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB), a sovereign wealth fund co-founded by Najib in 2009 while he was premier, has faced corruption probes in at least six countries over the alleged misappropriation of over \$4.5 billion by high-level officials of the fund and their associates. — Reuters

Taiwan president to visit frontline islands with China

TAIPEI: Taiwan President Lai Ching-te will visit a sensitive group of frontline islands that sit next to the Chinese coast on Friday for the 75th anniversary of a key victory over communist forces and just over a week since China staged war games. Taiwan has controlled Kinmen, and the Matsu islands to the north, since the defeated Republic of China government fled to Taipei in 1949 after losing a civil war with Mao Zedong's communists. — Reuters

UK to ban disposable vapes to crack down on teen use

LONDON: The sale of single-use vapes will be banned in England from June next year, the British government said on Thursday, seeking to crack down on the environmental harm and rising usage levels among children. Vaping has grown rapidly in Britain in the last decade, with nearly one in 10 people buying and using the products, according to the government. Supporters say vapes can help people give up smoking, but health authorities are concerned that their colorful designs and fruity flavors are designed to attract children. — Reuters

Pakistan ex-PM Khan's wife freed from jail

ISLAMABAD: Bushra Bibi, the wife of Pakistan's ex-prime minister Imran Khan, was released from jail on Thursday, his party said, nine months after she was imprisoned alongside him in the runup to elections. In the days before the February polls, Bibi was convicted of graft and illegal marriage alongside opposition leader Khan in what he claimed was a campaign to sideline him from the vote.

"She was kept in jail to put pressure on Imran Khan," the chairman of Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party Gohar Ali Khan told reporters. "I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all PTI supporters on the release of Bushra Bibi, and we offer our gratitude to God." Following the election, the illegal marriage case collapsed on appeal and Bibi's graft sentence was suspended.

She was bailed on another pending case on Wednesday, allowing her to

walk free from Adiala Jail where Khan remains imprisoned. PTI chair Ali Khan said that after her release Bibi was headed home to the upscale Bani Gala neighborhood on the outskirts of the capital Islamabad.

A faith healer who has rarely been seen in public, Bibi wedded former playboy Khan shortly before he was elected in 2018 after becoming his spiritual guide. She was arrested on January 31 - one week before Pakistan went to the polls. The charges against her in the illegal marriage case sparked uproar both among PTI supporters and wider society. "The cases brought against her were not only false and unjust, but also petty and morally questionable," PTI supporter Aqsa Qasim, who was waiting outside the residence, told AFP. "It's been a long time since we received any good news, but today we are here to welcome the wife of our leader, who was unjustly imprisoned."

Former cricket star Khan served as prime minister from 2018 to 2022, when he was ousted in a parliamentary no-confidence vote after falling out with the king-making military establishment.

The military establishment wields immense power to determine the



RAWALPINDI: A convoy of vehicles believed to be carrying Bushra Bibi, the wife of Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan, is pictured after her release from prison in Rawalpindi on October 24, 2024. — AFP

course of ostensibly democratic politics in Pakistan, according to analysts. As opposition leader, 72-year-old Khan led an unprecedented campaign of defiance before becoming tangled in slews of court cases he claims have been orchestrated to prevent his return to power. Despite

that, candidates loyal to PTI secured more seats than any other party in the February elections — which were marred by allegations of vote tampering. However, a broad coalition of parties considered more pliable to the influence of the military shut PTI out of government. — AFP

More than a million Indians flee as cyclone approaches

BALASORE, India: At least 1.1 million people on India's eastern coast hunkered down in storm shelters ahead of a powerful cyclone set to hammer the low-lying region early Friday morning. Cyclone Dana is likely to hit the coasts of West Bengal and Odisha states — home to around 150 million people — as a "severe cyclonic storm", India's weather bureau said.

It predicts winds gusting up to 120 kilometers (74 miles) per hour to cause "major damage" to thatched-roofed houses, which are common on the coast. Major airports have shut overnight, including key travel hub Kolkata, where heavy rain lashed the sprawling megacity. India's navy said two ships were "standing by with supplies and rescue and diving teams". The eye of the storm is predicted to make landfall early Friday (from 1830 GMT Thursday), near the coal-exporting port of Dhamra.

An AFP photographer in Balasore, about 70 kilometers north from the area of expected landfall, reported ferocious rains and trees bending in gales. Government disaster response teams drove the streets, broadcasting warnings from loudspeakers



BALASORE, India: Children wait to receive relief materials at a storm shelter before the landing of cyclone Dana, in Balasore district of India's Odisha state on October 24, 2024. — AFP

urging people to take shelter. The storm will also hit neighboring Bangladesh, where the leader of the interim government Muhammad Yunus said that "extensive preparations" had been made. Crashing waves are expected to inundate swathes of coastal areas, with water predicted to surge up to two meters (6.5 feet) above usual tide levels. Odisha's health minister Mukesh Mahaling told AFP that "nearly a million people from the coastal areas" had been taken to cyclone centers. West Bengal government minister Bankim Chandra Hazra said more than 100,000 people had moved there.

Businesses in Puri, a popular beach resort, have

been ordered to close, and tourists told to leave. "All efforts are being made to face the cyclone and save lives," said Puri district magistrate Siddharth Swain. Kolkata airport director Pravat Ranjan Beuria said flights were suspended overnight due to "predicted heavy winds and heavy to very heavy rainfall".

The airport in the city of Bhubaneswar has done the same, while scores of trains have been cancelled and ferries from Kolkata ordered to stay in port. Bangladesh disaster minister Faruk-e-Azam told AFP that authorities were on "high alert" but evacuation orders had not been issued as it was predicted the worst of the storm would hit India. "We are closely monitoring the cyclone's progress," he said.

Cyclones — the equivalent of hurricanes in the North Atlantic or typhoons in the northwestern Pacific — are a regular and deadly menace in the northern Indian Ocean. Scientists have warned that storms are becoming more powerful as the world heats up due to climate change driven by burning fossil fuels.

Warmer ocean surfaces release more water vapor, which provides additional energy for storms, strengthening winds. A warming atmosphere also allows them to hold more water, boosting heavy rainfall. However, better forecasting and more effective evacuation planning have dramatically reduced death tolls.

In May, Cyclone Remal killed at least 48 people in India, and at least 17 people in Bangladesh, according to government figures. — AFP

Philippines races to reach stranded as storm's toll rises

MANILA: Philippine rescuers raced Thursday to reach residents stranded by fast-rising floodwaters after torrential rains from Tropical Storm Trami submerged villages and killed more than 20 people.

Schools and government offices were shuttered across the northern Philippines as the storm made landfall on the country's main island of Luzon after first paving a trail of destruction south of the capital.

"The rain is not stopping, so the floods are going up fast. We have received countless reports asking for rescue," Batangas province rescue official April Serrano told AFP. A hospital in the Batangas town of Lemery, about 97 kilometers (60 miles) south of Manila, was forced to turn away patients as its wards and emergency rooms were flooded, according to the provincial health office.

On Luzon's western coast, a surge warning was raised in Pangasinan province

at around 2 pm (0600 GMT), with officials estimating waves could reach as high as two meters (6.6 feet). In the hardest-hit Bicol region's Naga city and Nabua municipality, rescuers were using boats to reach residents stranded on rooftops. "They are seeking assistance through (Facebook) posts and that's how we learned about them," Bicol police spokeswoman Luisa Calubaquib told AFP.

"As of 7 am, we have 20 dead (throughout the Bicol region)," regional police chief Brigadier-General Andre Dizon told reporters Thursday morning, attributing most of the deaths to drowning and landslides. According to a national weather service advisory issued at 2 pm, the storm's eye was passing over the Ilocos region with maximum sustained wind speeds of 95 kilometers per hour at the centre and gusts as high as 115 kph.

More than 30,000 people were forced



BATO, Philippines: Residents carrying their belongings wade through a flooded street caused by heavy rains brought about by Tropical Storm Trami in Bato town, Camarines Sur province on October 24, 2024. — AFP

to evacuate in Bicol on Wednesday, police said, as "unexpectedly high" flooding turned streets into rivers. Lorie Dela Cruz of the state weather bureau told AFP a month's worth of rainfall had been dumped in the region in a 24-hour window from 8 am on October 22 to the following morning, with Camarines Sur province and

Albay province's Legazpi city particularly hard hit. On Thursday, rescuers were forced to halt the search for a missing fisherman after a boat sunk in the waters off Bulacan province, west of Manila, the local disaster agency told AFP. "Although it's now cloudy in the area, the water's current is still strong." — AFP

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2024

Conflict in Lebanon could cause 9.2% drop in GDP in 2024: UN

GDP contracted by 28% between 2018 and 2021; pound lost over 98% of value



A man stands on the rubble of a building that was destroyed during an overnight Zionist airstrike that targeted the Mreijeh neighborhood in Beirut's southern suburbs on October 24, 2024. — AFP

China risks 'way below' 4% growth, says Georgieva



IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva speaks during a briefing in Washington, DC on October 24, 2024. — AFP

WASHINGTON: International Monetary Fund Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva on Thursday warned that China's annual economic growth could drop to "way below" 4 percent unless it executes reforms to lift domestic consumption. A major obstacle to improving Chinese consumer confidence is its depressed property sector, and actions should be taken to address that, Georgieva said at a press briefing during the IMF's annual meetings in Washington.

The European Central Bank should keep a close eye on the rise in emerging currencies like the Chinese yuan, its President Christine Lagarde said Wednesday at an event in Washington. "The role of a currency should never be taken for granted," the European Central Bank president said during an interview with the Atlantic Council in Washington, on the sidelines of the annual meetings.

"We have to be attentive and careful," she said. "There are phenomenon of rising movements concerning — gold notably." "China has been buying gold like never before, Russia is supporting gold because it is extracting a lot of gold out of its underground," she continued.

"And there are clearly attempts to push other currencies," she said, adding that the Chinese yuan was currently "neck-to-neck with the euro on trade finance." Thousands of miles from the IMF in Washington, some 20 leaders associated with the BRICS group of countries are gathering in Russia, including Chinese President Xi Jinping. The goal of the BRICS meeting in Kazan is to develop trade links — in particular by strengthening trade in local currencies rather than the US dollar or the euro.

In a meeting with former Brazilian president Dilma Rousseff, who now runs the New Development Bank — the BRICS-backed multilateral development bank — Russian President Vladimir Putin reiterated his desire for an increase in settlements in national currencies between BRICS countries. In the face of Western sanctions, and with its main banks excluded from the SWIFT international payment system, Russia has been calling for an alternative system to counter the dollar's hegemony.

"We need to be really attentive to developments around the world," Lagarde said, noting that the US dollar still accounts for around 50 percent of transactions, and the euro for just under 20 percent. — Agencies

UNITED NATIONS: Fighting in Lebanon could further destabilize the country's economy, already devastated by years of crisis, the UN warned Wednesday, predicting a 9.2 percent drop in GDP in 2024 if the conflict continues. After a year of border skirmishes, Zionist entity and the Hezbollah are now engaging in open conflict. Late last month, Zionist entity launched a ground offensive in southern Lebanon.

"The scale of the military engagement, the geopolitical context, the humanitarian impact and the economic fallout in 2024 are expected to be much greater than in 2006," when the last Zionist entity-Hezbollah war erupted, the UN Development Programme said in an initial evaluation of the economic impact on Lebanon. "The escalating hostilities in Lebanon in 2024 strike while Lebanon is already weakened by years of political, economic, and social crises," it said.

HEISCO celebrates golden jubilee

KUWAIT: Heavy Engineering Industries and Shipbuilding Company KSC (Public) (HEISCO) celebrated its Golden Jubilee at the Grand Hyatt 360 Hotel under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Prime Minister of Kuwait, and in the presence of Khalifa Dhahi Al-Ajeel Al-Askar, Minister of Commerce and Industry.

The ceremony commenced with a recitation of verses from the Holy Quran, followed by the playing of the Kuwaiti national anthem. The event was opened by Marzouq Nasser Al-Kharafi, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the company, who expressed his gratitude to all attendees. In his speech, Al-Kharafi highlighted that since its establishment in 1974, the company has continuously worked diligently, growing and developing. Over the past fifty years, the company has achieved numerous milestones, leaving its mark in various fields, such as shipbuilding and repair, engineering and construction contracts, and specialized projects in mechanical maintenance for oil and gas refineries, as well as civil and marine construction contracts. Al-Kharafi added that the company was listed on the Kuwait Stock Exchange in 1984, and its market value has since grown to approximately KD 140 million. In 2023, the company was upgraded to the Premier Market, reflecting the confidence of its shareholders. Al-Kharafi emphasized that the company continues to work with determination, cooperation, and teamwork to maintain its path of success and excellence, improving working conditions to support and encourage national labor and promote ethical values and social responsibility. He also highlighted the company's recent major achievements, such as:

- Establishing a subsidiary in Chennai, India.
- Expanding and upgrading industrial maintenance workshops with the most advanced equipment, making them the most developed in the Middle East.
- Signing exclusive contracts with various government entities for ship and marine equipment maintenance, replacing previous contracts with foreign companies.
- Increasing the volume of maintenance projects for power plants and water desalination stations.

Al-Kharafi took the opportunity to extend his sincere thanks and appreciation to the company's shareholders for their trust. He expressed his deep gratitude to everyone who contributed to building this national edifice, including the founders, employees, and strategic partners. Al-Kharafi also expressed his pride that the company and its group are an integral part of the beloved nation, striving to realize Kuwait's Vision 2035

Lebanon's GDP contracted by 28 percent between 2018 and 2021, and the Lebanese pound lost more than 98 percent of its value, sparking hyperinflation and a significant loss of purchasing power, the report said. Despite all that, the situation seemed to have stabilized in 2022 and 2023, and the UN agency had predicted 3.6 percent growth in 2024, Kawthar Dara, an economist in the UNDP country office in Lebanon, told AFP.

But if the fighting persists until the end of the year, "GDP is projected to decline by 9.2 percent," she added, citing two main reasons — companies unable to do business because of Zionist entity's air strikes, and capital destruction, from factories to roads. The conflict, which has intensified since September 23, "threatens to further destabilize Lebanon's already fragile economy," and lead to a "prolonged economic downturn." "Even if it ends in 2024, the consequences of the escalation of hostilities in Lebanon are expected to persist for years," the UNDP report said.

Without "substantial" international support, Lebanon's economic outlook is "grim," with GDP expected to contract by 2.28 percent in 2025 and another 2.43 percent in 2026. And while in 2006, economic activity quickly resumed along with reconstruction, this time, "the dynamic is totally different," Dara said, expressing concern about the willingness of international donors to come to Lebanon's aid again.

The UN agency said in its report that with living conditions severely diminished, "it is imperative for the international community to mobilize immediate humanitarian relief support," along with development assistance for longer-term recovery. An international donors conference on Lebanon was held in Paris on Thursday. The priority will be to fulfill the UN's appeal for \$400 million in aid for Lebanese displaced by the fighting, French President Emmanuel Macron's office said. — AFP

The UN agency said in its report that with living conditions severely diminished, "it is imperative for the international community to mobilize immediate humanitarian relief support," along with development assistance for longer-term recovery. An international donors conference on Lebanon was held in Paris on Thursday. The priority will be to fulfill the UN's appeal for \$400 million in aid for Lebanese displaced by the fighting, French President Emmanuel Macron's office said. — AFP



Dignitaries pose for a group photo during the celebration.

under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, may God protect him, and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, may God protect him, towards achieving development and prosperity for the nation. The ceremony concluded with a commemorative gift presented to His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, which was received

on his behalf by Khalifa Dhahi Al-Ajeel Al-Askar, Minister of Commerce and Industry. As a token of deep appreciation for his attendance, a commemorative gift was also presented to the Minister of Commerce and Industry. Finally, a special recognition was awarded to Mousa Jafar Marafie, the first Chairman of the Board, who played a significant role in the company's leadership and development.



Dignitaries during the golden jubilee celebration of HEISCO at Grand Hyatt 360 Hotel.

Gulf Bank holds employee seminar in breast cancer awareness month

Seminar held in partnership with Royale Hayat Hospital

KUWAIT: In its ongoing efforts to support and empower women, Gulf Bank organized a seminar titled "Your Health Always Comes First" in conjunction with Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The event was held in collaboration with Royale Hayat Hospital and featured a distinguished lineup of renowned doctors and nutrition specialists.

As part of this initiative, Gulf Bank is offering exclusive discounts of up to 50 percent for its female customers at various hospitals, health centers, and fitness facilities throughout October in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Gulf Bank is committed to actively participating in a range of awareness initiatives and events each year, aimed at promoting health education about breast cancer and encouraging women to undergo regular screenings for early detection of the disease.

The seminars and events organized by the bank serve as a call to action for its female employees and customers, highlighting the importance of early detection and motivating other women to take proactive steps towards their health, ultimately protecting the community from the dangers of this disease. Gulf Bank prioritizes the health and well-being of its employees, reinforcing its commitment to sustainable practices within the community through ongoing social responsibility programs that encompass social, economic, and environmental aspects.

October is recognized globally for extensive campaigns aimed at raising awareness about breast cancer, which is the most common type of cancer among women worldwide. Early detection plays a critical role in the successful treatment and recovery from this disease. Gulf Bank aims to be Kuwait's leading bank, fostering a diverse and inclusive workplace to deliver exceptional customer service while contributing sustainably to the community. Through its extensive branch network and innovative digital services, the bank empowers customers to conduct banking transactions conveniently and efficiently, ensuring a seamless experience.

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



The seminar titled "Your Health Always Comes First" organized by Gulf Bank.

Pakistan aims to privatize flag carrier: Minister

WASHINGTON: Pakistan is hoping to finalize both the delayed privatization of its flag carrier and the outsourcing of Islamabad's international airport in November, the country's finance minister said Wednesday. Muhammad Aurangzeb, who took office earlier this year, spoke to AFP at the World Bank's headquarters in Washington, where he is attending the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

During a previous interview with AFP in April, Aurangzeb had said he hoped the privatization of the government-owned Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) could be completed by June 2024. Speaking Wednesday, the finance minister said the five-month delay was down to two factors: ensuring macroeconomic stability, and doing the proper due diligence of the interested parties.



Muhammad Aurangzeb

"The reality is, when any foreign investor comes in, or even the local investor, who are going to put in a substantial amount of money, they want to ensure that the foundation is there," he said, referring to macroeconomic factors. Aurangzeb noted that potential bidders for both PIA and Islamabad airport also required scrutiny, another factor in the delay. "Therefore it's ultimately the cabinet which approved the extension in the timelines so people can do their due diligence before they make these submissions," he said.

Aurangzeb said Pakistan had been behind on

existing profit and dividend repayments when the current government took office, and had taken steps to remedy that after making progress on macroeconomic stability. The country came to the brink of default last year as the economy shrank amid political chaos following catastrophic 2022 monsoon floods and decades of mismanagement, as well as a global economic downturn. Inflation peaked at 38 percent, but has since dropped to less than seven percent, after the central bank maintained sky-high interest rates, amid other government tightening measures, including import bans to preserve foreign exchange.

Last month, the IMF approved a \$7 billion loan, Pakistan's 24th such payout from the multilateral lender since 1958. Aurangzeb touted progress on the country's current account deficit and the stabilization of the Pakistani rupee, which has depreciated against the US dollar by about 65 percent since 2020. "In May and June on the back of this macroeconomic stability and building up on our reserves, we paid more than \$2 billion to our existing international investors," he said.

Pakistan's gross public debt currently stands at 69 percent of GDP, according to the IMF, or roughly \$258 billion. Alongside privatizing state-

owned enterprises (SOEs), Pakistan's IMF deal also rests on increasing its tax base, and reforming of the country's power sector. Aurangzeb told AFP there was a common theme between all three major issues. "Tax, power, SOE: There's leakage, there's theft, there's corruption, right?" he said. "And we have to deal with all of that."

But he dismissed media reports that the government was not serious about broadening its tax base, saying that the tax take had risen by 29 percent in the last fiscal year, which overlapped with a prior caretaker government, and was targeted to rise by a further 40 percent in the current fiscal year.

In a nation of more than 240 million people where most jobs are in the informal sector, only 5.2 million filed income tax returns in 2022. "People who are not paying up, they need to start paying for the simple reason that we have reached a saturation point of the people who are paying," he said.

"The salaried class, the manufacturing industry, reached a saturation point. And this cannot go forward," he added. The government was also committed to doing a better job of taxing certain sectors of the economy, he said, naming real estate, retail, retail distributors, and agriculture. — AFP

No.	Ticker	Sector	Price Movement & Performance										Valuation Multiples *				
			Open Price	Close Price	Week High	Week Low	Range	Volume	WTD Change	WTD %	YTD %	Support Level	Resistance Level	P/E	P/B	Yield	Beta
101	National Bank of Kuwait	Banking	862	840	862	840	22	16,772,559	-21	-2.44%	-1.34%	835	846	12.4	1.59	4.0%	1.05
102	Gulf Bank	Banking	301	300	307	298	9	19,632,489	-1	-0.33%	12.10%	298	303	18.1	1.42	3.8%	1.28
104	Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait	Banking	269	272	273	268	5	517,601	3	1.12%	22.58%	267	273	14.1	1.11	3.2%	0.97
106	Kuwait International Bank	Banking	179	178	181	176	5	14,191,772	-2	-1.11%	22.23%	176	180	14.0	0.65	2.7%	1.08
107	Burgan Bank	Banking	182	178	182	177	5	5,091,990	-4	-2.20%	8.66%	176	185	16.6	0.64	3.2%	1.32
108	Kuwait Finance House	Banking	715	705	715	705	10	46,192,500	-10	-1.40%	5.85%	704	715	19.3	2.04	2.7%	1.11
109	Boubyan Bank	Banking	541	534	541	534	7	12,220,691	-6	-1.11%	-5.66%	527	557	26.0	2.17	1.4%	1.16
201	Kuwait Investment	Financial Services	154	152	158	152	6	1,690,543	-3	-1.94%	19.69%	147	154	9.5	0.71	6.5%	2.00
204	National Investments	Financial Services	246	246	250	240	10	18,044,016	1	0.41%	2.93%	244	248	34.3	1.06	6.1%	2.02
205	Kuwait Projects	Financial Services	98.5	98.4	99.7	96.0	3.7	23,573,759	0.9	0.92%	-6.29%	97.6	99.5	NM	0.54	0.0%	0.94
212	Arzan Financial Group	Financial Services	198	186	202	186	16	25,072,605	-12	-6.06%	-7.89%	186	195	22.6	1.09	1.0%	1.24
222	Aayan Leasing and Investment	Financial Services	150	147	151	146	5	6,428,656	-3	-2.00%	-15.52%	146	151	8.1	0.99	5.1%	1.63
252	Al Imtiaz Investment	Financial Services	47.0	46.7	48	46.1	2.1	8,964,328	-0.3	-0.64%	-17.35%	46.0	48	NM	0.33	0.0%	1.33
401	Kuwait Real Estate	Real Estate	237	237	239	235	4	6,167,838	0	0.00%	22.55%	237	246	17.2	1.55	1.6%	1.15
404	Salhia Real Estate	Real Estate	426	420	426	420	6	3,691,768	-1	-0.24%	2.80%	416	424	17.4	1.37	3.4%	0.58
413	Mabaneer	Real Estate	833	815	841	780	61	1,525,315	-18	-2.16%	2.48%	811	825	17.2	1.79	1.6%	0.94
418	The Commercial Real Estate	Real Estate	152	145	152	144	8	10,736,898	-7	-4.61%	45.00%	144	148	14.8	0.90	2.6%	0.69
501	National Industries	Financial Services	227	224	229	222	7	12,824,468	-4	-1.75%	15.29%	217	226	12.8	1.02	2.1%	1.59
505	Gulf Cable	Industrials	1,660	1,575	1,660	1,556	104	748,360	-64	-3.90%	20.23%	1,522	1,600	16.8	1.29	4.2%	1.12
506	HEISCO	Industrials	760	739	762	729	33	3,162,465	-26	-3.40%	-9.88%	720	753	16.3	1.85	4.1%	0.93
514	Boubyan Petrochemical	Basic Materials	644	633	645	622	23	2,369,492	-11	-1.71%	8.21%	633	655	15.2	1.43	9.5%	0.91
603	Aglity	Industrials	242	233	248	232	16	28,283,045	-6	-2.51%	-54.22%	233	241	7.6	0.69	8.5%	1.57
605	Zain	Telecommunications	456	446	456	445	11	7,265,206	-8	-1.76%	-12.03%	446	455	10.4	1.68	7.8%	0.55
623	Human Soft Holding	Industrials	2,631	2,586	2,640	2,570	70	372,154	-26	-1.00%	-20.11%	2,583	2,628	8.2	3.38	13.0%	0.61
642	ALAFCO	Industrials	518	482	528	455	73	1,587,370	-10	-2.03%	-71.87%	470	485	3.2	0.21	187.2%	1.33
654	JAZEERA	Consumer Discretionary	985	1,010	1,023	970	53	2,325,102	30	3.06%	-27.29%	990	1,021	85.6	7.95	2.8%	1.35
813	GFH Financial Group	Financial Services	101	101	102	99.7	2.3	14,170,971	0	0.10%	32.37%	99	102	10.6	1.24	5.0%	1.32
821	Warba Bank	Banking	184	181	185	179	6	17,409,336	-3	-1.63%	3.15%	176	182	25.0	0.99	0.0%	1.09
822	Kuwait Telecommunications	Telecommunications	543	547	555	541	14	2,266,072	4	0.74%	-2.84%	537	548	16.4	2.43	6.4%	0.71
823	Mezzan Holding	Consumer Staples	933	924	950	912	38	1,826,309	-8	-0.86%	60.70%	879	949	20.6	2.55	2.2%	0.45
824	Integrated Holding	Industrials	513	519	523	507	16	2,909,803	6	1.17%	1.76%	510	520	25.9	2.13	3.9%	0.76
827	Boursa Kuwait	Financial Services	2,040	1,999	2,040	1,998	42	701,622	-31	-1.53%	15.95%	1,971	2,005	24.0	6.83	3.7%	1.35
830	AL GHANIM	Consumer Discretionary	1,048	1,034	1,049	1,025	24	1,875,544	-8	-0.77%	-2.08%	1,033	1,069	9.6	3.36	6.8%	0.85
831	Beyout Investment	Financial Services	399	393	404	392	12	1,788,007	-7	-1.75%	#VALUE!	392	400	15.5	2.30	0.0%	NULL

* As of end of week closing

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

Business

NBK ECONOMIC INSIGHT

Saudi non-oil growth rising on business, investment activity

Economic outlook positive, but downside risks evident

KUWAIT: Saudi Arabia's non-oil growth is expected to be steady in 2024 (3.7 percent y/y) before accelerating to 4.2 percent in 2025. Private sector activity has been robust (+4.2 percent in H124), backed up also by PMI readings pointing firmly to business expansion, and is expected to continue to benefit from positive government reform momentum and expansive fiscal policy, including higher on-budget and PIF investment spending on diversification projects, as well as by falling interest rates. Recent reforms to simplify and streamline business procedures should help attract greater volumes of FDI going forward, which could play an even more important role in achieving Vision 2030 goals in the context of fiscal pressures resulting from a lower oil prices. Important also to the growth story has been bank credit and especially corporate lending, which were up 9.3 percent y/y and 12 percent y/y in August, respectively.

Implementation of the Saudi National Investment Strategy should further drive

output gains in manufacturing, trade and hospitality, the latter being the fastest growing sector in recent years (+6.4 percent y/y in H124) and a significant contributor to Saudi employment gains. The citizen unemployment rate fell to a record low of 7.1 percent in August from 7.7 percent at the end of 2023.

Oil sector fortunes better

A recovery in Saudi oil output is on the cards with OPEC+ scheduled to begin restoring withheld supply back to the market from end-2024. Total production should rise by 1 mb/d to 9.6 mb/d by end-2025 in our baseline scenario, delivering a 6.7 percent y/y increase in oil GDP following a decline of 5.3 percent in 2024. Total GDP growth is expected at 5.0 percent in 2025 from an estimated 1.1 percent in 2024.

Inflation to edge up

Falling unemployment, rising global food prices, and the expected pick-up in non-oil activity could see inflation tick up

in 2025, but continued strong competitive pressures will help keep upward pressures limited. Housing rents growth – the main inflationary impulse recently – could ease as lower borrowing costs encourage a shift to mortgage demand over renting, but the rental market may remain tight on a strong influx of expat labor. Against this backdrop, we project a small rise in inflation to 2 percent in 2025 from an estimated 1.8 percent in 2024. On monetary policy, the Saudi Central Bank has begun its monetary easing cycle having cut the policy repo rate by 50 bps to 5.5 percent in September, tracking the US Fed as normal given the rial's peg to the US dollar.

Fiscal deficit to widen

The fiscal deficit is expected to widen to 3.5 percent of GDP in 2025 from 2.7 percent of GDP in 2024, on a combination of lower oil revenues and higher expenditures. Oil receipts are projected to decline as the revenue effect of the expected fall in oil prices in 2025 will ex-

ceed the projected increase in Saudi oil exports after OPEC+ begins unwinding its supply cuts. Although the authorities in their 2025 pre-budget statement penciled in a mild expenditure increase of 2.7 percent, a typical spending overshoot is expected, and a strong pace of project spending is likely to continue via the PIF, even under lower oil price assumptions. The softer on-budget spending growth is in line with efforts to prioritize key strategic projects while extending the timeline for others, intended to mitigate overheating and fiscal risks. It also reflects a continued effort to rationalize subsidies and other forms of current spending including wage bill containment.

The deficit will once again be financed via debt issuance. This is likely to exceed 2024 levels, which, as of October 2024 reached over \$29 billion, a record \$17 billion of which was bonds and sukuk sold internationally. Yet, we project a relatively modest increase in outstanding debt as a share of GDP in 2025, to 29 percent from

27.8 percent in 2024 amid robust economic growth. S&P recently revised the credit rating outlook for Saudi Arabia to A/A-1 positive from stable, supported by sustainable public finances, reform progress, and strong economic growth.

Our strong base case outlook is for continued, positive economic progress, with Saudi reform and investment efforts proceeding apace and translating into robust output and employment gains across a range of strategically important economic sectors. In terms of risks, the escalating the Zionist entity-Iran conflict could increasingly weigh on the region's economic prospects. It is the most serious downside risk at this juncture, followed by a more precipitous drop in oil prices, or an unanticipated slowdown in investment rates and project implementation. Meanwhile on the upside, business friendly reforms could lead to a pick-up in FDI, while broader eligibility for the tourist visa (and the GCC unified visa) could boost tourism growth.

China sees no relief from trade tensions as US goes to polls

BEIJING: While the outcome of next month's US presidential election remains on a knife-edge, analysts say that for many in China the consequence is the same whoever emerges victorious: more tariffs, more tensions and a trade war that shows no sign of easing.

Americans go to the polls on November 5 to choose between Vice President Kamala Harris and former president Donald Trump, with polls suggesting the two are neck and neck. Governments around the world are hoping to avoid a return to the disruption that marked Trump's term in office, but Beijing is readying for more bitter disputes over trade regardless of who sits in the White House.

Both candidates have promised a harder line on China, the world's second-largest economy and one of Washington's biggest trading partners, to ensure the United States "wins" the great power competition. "A Harris administration would employ a scalpel, and a Trump administration a hammer," said Thibault Denamiel, associate fellow at Washington's Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Beijing as a matter of principle does not comment on other countries' elections, though it has said it opposes China being used as an issue on the campaign trail.

During his time as president, Trump launched a grueling trade war with China, imposing swingeing tariffs on Chinese goods for what he said were unfair practices by Beijing such as theft of US technology and currency manipulation.

Tensions haven't abated under his Democratic successor, Joe Biden, with relations at their lowest levels in decades and Washington putting sharp new tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles, EV batteries and solar cells. And there is a sense of grim resignation that neither candidate will reverse that.

"The United States used to be the champion of free trade," Wang Dong of Peking University's School of International Studies told AFP. Now, the country has thrown it "into the trash bin".

Harris' campaign says she "will make sure that America, not China, wins the competition for the 21st century", noting that the Democrat has "stood up to China's unfair economic practices". Trump, in turn, built his political brand on the assertion that foreign countries — including China — have been taking advantage of the United States. While the former president has proposed a 10-20 percent tariff on all imports, he wants an even higher rate of 60 percent on Chinese goods.

"A ratcheting up in protectionism following the US elections could trigger a major re-ordering of world trade," wrote Adam Slater, Lead Economist at Oxford Economics. Trump's tariff proposals "could slash US-China bilateral trade by 70 percent and cause hundreds of billions of dollars' worth of trade to be eliminated or redirected", he wrote. In contrast, one analyst suggested a potential Harris administration could take a more "strategic and selective approach" to tariffs.

"Harris would be in a better position to minimize any economic harm to the United States, while focusing on impacting China on products that matter," Wendy Cutler, Vice President at the Asia Society Policy Institute, told AFP.

Trump's proposal could hit \$500 billion worth of Chinese exports, analysis by asset managers PineBridge Investments suggested in August. But they also said Trump would likely use tariffs as a "negotiation tool". The tycoon has made much of his reputation as a dealmaker and his rapport with autocratic leaders like President Xi Jinping.

And in China, some online think Trump might be keen to improve ties.

"That would be worth looking forward to," one user on X-like Weibo wrote, predicting Trump would come to the negotiating table only after his tariffs caused an "economic crisis" in the United States. — AFP

KFH announces the winners of Al-Rabeh draw

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announced the winners of the Al-Rabeh draw with 20 customers winning cash prizes worth KD 1,500 each for the 40th and 41st weeks of 2024. Additionally, KFH announced Khaled Al-Majroub as the monthly winner of 1 kilogram of KFH gold for the month of September 2024 and the bank also announced Hesham Kamoura as the winner of the 3rd quarter draw of a prize worth KD 25,000.

The winners of KD 1,500 are: Ali Al-Harbi, Saud Al-Otaibi, Saud Al-Ajmi, Mustafa Shalaby, Abdulaziz Maarafy, Fahad Al-Muraikhi, Shouq Al-Shammari, Haya Al-Ebrahim, Suad Al-Enezi, Abdullah Al-Hussaini, Abdulrahman Al-Mutawtah, Meshari Abbas, Rizwan Rafique, Mustafa Elseesy, Hamed Al-Enezi, Estabraq Al-Rashed, Amira Zeid, Afrah Al-Mutairi, Samyah Al-Meajel, Mazen Abdelwahab.

The Al-Rabeh campaign provides prizes and draws that offer customers several chances of winning "weekly, monthly and quarterly". The campaign crowns 536 winners throughout the year. The draw took place under the supervision of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The campaign is part of KFH's ongoing efforts to offer exceptional products and services that meet customers' aspirations, enhance the bank's leadership in the local and global markets, as well as reflect its excellence in offering innovative banking solutions as per the highest quality standards.

The Al-Rabeh account is a salary account available to customers wishing to transfer their salaries and manage their personal accounts. Customers can open Al-Rabeh account in any of KFH branches in Kuwait, or through the Bank's online channels. The account can be opened in the Kuwaiti Dinar and is targeted for customers wishing to transfer their salaries and manage their personal accounts. Salary

Eastern DR Congo grapples with China gold mining firms

KAMITUGA, DR Congo: Italian priest Davide Marcheselli has been fighting for years against Chinese companies illegally mining gold in the town of Kitutu in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

He says mining has spoilt the town which lies in South Kivu province, polluting rivers and destroying fields. Hundreds of foreign companies, most of them Chinese-owned, mine gold in the mineral-rich province often without permits and without declaring profits, according to local authorities.

For a long time, civil society groups and members of the church in Kitutu, have been the only people taking a stand against the powerful mining businesses, who often have friends in high places. "From the deputies, to the village chief, everyone receives something (from the companies), money or shares (in businesses)," Marcheselli told AFP.

In July, South Kivu governor Jean-Jacques Purusi suspended "illegal" mining activity in the province until companies could comply with Congolese mining laws. Under the legislation, companies would have to renew their mining permits, some of which have been expired for decades.

Since the ban, firms, which normally operate in the shadows, have come in hordes to the governor's office in an attempt to get authorization to resume business. "In place of the 117 illegal companies we invited, 540 showed up here overnight", Purusi said.

In the town of Kamituga, some 40 kilometers (25 miles) from Kitutu, gold mining is in full throttle. In one site mined by Congolese cooperative Mwenga Force, around 400 people delve into vast open pits hoping to make a few dollars a day. The president of an association for artisanal diggers, Felicien Mikalano, says local operators "don't have the same means" as Chinese firms, such as machinery and cash. Artisanal mining refers to small-scale mining, carried out by individuals without big machinery and not employed by big businesses.

The practice is forbidden to foreigners by the



transfer is a prerequisite for customers to enter the draw provided that the transfer of salary to Al-Rabeh account is constant. Regarding the terms and conditions of the prizes and draws, a customer is able to deposit 3 salaries during the three months prior to the draw, and the minimum balance of the account should not be less than KD 50 at the end of each month during the 3 months prior to the draw. Ten draws take place on a weekly basis for amount of KD 1,500 for 10 winners each, 1kg of KFH gold will be drawn monthly for one winner and KD 25,000 for one winner every quarter, reaching a total number of 536 winners during the year.

KFH is keen to further meet customers' requirements and aspirations and their increasing needs as well as offer innovative and modern services, therefore achieving customer satisfaction, which is one of the fundamentals at KFH. The Bank has achieved a qualitative shift in the level of financial services by utilizing technology.



KAMITUGA, DR Congo: Two artisanal miners look on at the Kamituga artisanal gold mine, in the South Kivu province in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo. — AFP

country's mining code, but Chinese companies use local cooperatives as "partners" to circumvent the ban. Around half of the Congolese cooperatives in the province are partnered with Chinese companies, according to the bureau of scientific and technical study (BEST), a Congolese NGO specializing in mining governance.

A few kilometers from Kamituga, at the end of a dirt track, access to a mine operated by one of these cooperatives is controlled at three checkpoints. AFP was not allowed to pass them.

Officials employed to control and inspect mining sites are also refused entry. "It is difficult to monitor these companies," said inspector Ghislain Chivundu Mutalemba. "These Chinese partners mine (and) the cooperatives sell the product over the counter. We don't know what percentage the Chinese take, or how much they produce", he said.

"All that I know is that the bosses take the gold and bring it to Bukavu, I don't dare ask questions," says gold buyer Siri Munga Walubinja. "But I have never seen a Chinese person, it is uniquely the Congolese buying," he adds. Gold bought in Kamituga is transported to South Kivu provincial capital Bukavu by "big traders", most of them Congolese.

Once they arrive in the provincial capital, some declare only a fraction of their merchandise and sell the rest illegally in DRC, which is then transported by smugglers to Rwanda, according to BEST.

In December 2022, the government granted a monopoly on gold exports from South Kivu to Congolese state-owned business Primera Gold. The move aimed to "break the ore export routes to Rwanda", and "to target political opposition business", according to a note from the French Institute of International Relations published in February 2024. Gold exports out of South Kivu have boomed from 42 kilograms (92 pounds) in 2022 to more than five tons (11,200 pounds) in 2023 – about a sixth of the officially declared national production. But Primera Gold now lacks the liquidity to buy the mineral and has failed to curb the black market, according to BEST.

The channels used by the Chinese companies, none of which responded to AFP's requests for comment, remain unknown to the authorities and NGOs. Even Purusi is having trouble getting answers from businesses. "Their representatives put you through to this general (telephone line) or a minister in Kinshasa on the phone, to tell you not to bother them," says the provincial governor. — AFP

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2024

Weekender



Tracking Kuwait's elusive *crab plovers*



Kuwaiti environmental researcher and photographer Khalid Saleh Nasrallah wades through mud on Boubyan island to photograph crab plovers.

Spotting crab plovers is a rare event for photographers, given the species' limited global population of only 60,000 to 70,000 birds. However, for environmental researcher and photographer Khalid Saleh Nasrallah, the



By Passant Hisham

bird is a familiar sight. It is both a common resident and a summer visitor to Kuwait, especially on Boubyan Island, where up to 10,000 birds have been recorded.



Photographer **Khalid Saleh Nasrallah** has spent 21 years capturing every life cycle of the rare bird



A crab plover incubates an egg inside a burrow.



"Very little research has been done on this bird," said Nasrallah, who has spent 21 years photographing and documenting every stage of the crab plover's life, from nesting to flight. "What intrigued me most is that it lives under unusual conditions, digging burrows up to two meters below the surface to create its habitat," he explained. The burrow serves as the nest, where the bird lays only a single egg. Recalling his research challenges, Nasrallah shared how he waded through muddy shores on foot, as boats could not access these remote areas.

Since beginning his work in 2002, Nasrallah's research led to the discovery of approximately 3,000 crab plover nests in Kuwait by 2013 — a finding he described as "the largest record for this species worldwide". The bird's population is primarily concentrated in the Arabian Gulf region, with major habitats in the UAE, Kuwait and Iran. Its range also extends to India, the Red Sea,

Farasan Island in Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Djibouti and as far as Kenya.

While Kuwait's coastal mudflats serve as the crab plover's breeding grounds from May to July, the bird migrates to Oman during winter. "I eagerly await its return each year for the chance to photograph it," said Nasrallah.

The bird's breeding behavior is also remarkable. Both the male and female incubate the egg for about 33 days in harsh conditions, maintaining temperatures of 32 to 33 degrees Celsius until it hatches. The crab plover is typically observed in small groups along the shore, foraging for crabs and mudskippers — its preferred prey.

Among the countless birds Nasrallah has photographed, one of his favorite images is of a banded crab plover. This bird was tagged by a specialized Dutch team to monitor its migration route from Kuwait to Oman.



Crab plovers' nests at a depth of 2 meters on Boubyan island.



Crab plovers photographed in Oman. — Photos by Khaled Saleh Nasrallah



A mudskipper, a vital food source for the crab plover.



A tagged crab plover walks along the shoreline.



Imaginative drawing by Kuwaiti artist Bader Al-Qatami of the fort from which Kuwait derived its name. It was most likely built in 1670.

KUWAIT IN 1868

Memoirs of an American adventurer

An account from A Locher's journey reveals Kuwait's social, political and cultural life in the mid-19th century, including his experience as a guest of Sheikh Abdullah II

By Mahmoud Zakaria

In 1868, A Locher, an American adventurer, embarked on a journey through the Gulf region en route to Iraq. The purpose of his trip was to purchase high-bred horses on behalf of Napoleon III (1852-1870). Locher began his travels in western India aboard the merchant steamer Penang, departing from the port of Mazagaon. The ship journeyed along the coast of Oman, crossed the Strait of Hormuz, and entered the Gulf, mak-

that echoed across the calm waters, drawing the attention of the town's inhabitants. Crowds quickly gathered on the beach to witness the arrival of the steamer. Locher observed that no boats were floating in the harbor, as most were pulled ashore, their shapes resembling alligators basking under the scorching sun.

Soon, a boat approached the steamer, carrying 10 to 12 armed men, half-naked to the waist. These were the bodyguards of Sheikh Abdullah II, who came to welcome the visi-

which included strong Arabic coffee and sweets, the Sheikh extended an invitation to the captain and the European passengers to dine and spend the night at his residence. The invitation was warmly accepted.

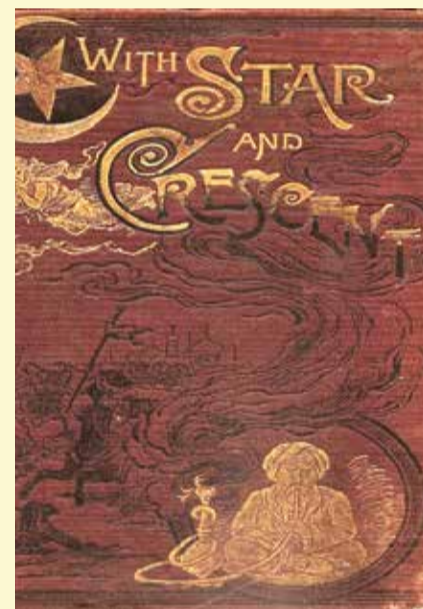
The Town and People of Kuwait

Upon disembarking, the visitors were met by enthusiastic crowds eager to glimpse the foreigners. Locher noted that many women, especially, seemed to be seeing Europeans for the first time in their lives. Sheikh Abdullah's residence, a sturdy, square building constructed from bricks, stood near the shore. Once inside, the guests were welcomed into a large saloon, where slaves served fragrant tobacco pipes — narghileh and shattabs — and small gold goblets of strong coffee. Ostrich-feather fans were used to cool the room and drive away flies, while a silver censer filled the air with pleasant incense.

After a brief rest, the guests explored the town under the protection of eight armed guards provided by the Sheikh. Locher described Kuwait as resembling Muscat but cleaner. The town was surrounded on all sides by the arid Dahna Desert, which made the climate extremely hot. Locher observed that there was no greenery within or around the town, save for a small garden in the Sheikh's courtyard. However, he learned that several oases existed within a thirty-mile radius, serving as vital sources of water and grazing land.

Kuwait's economy relied heavily on trade, with most supplies such as rice, dates, coffee and barley being imported from Basra. The Kuwaiti baghalas — heavy sailboats carrying up to 250 tons — were the primary vessels used for trade. These boats transported goods such as pearls, frankincense and textiles to and from Basra, Persia and Bedouin tribes in the desert. The town's camels and white donkeys were renowned throughout the Arabian Peninsula for their endurance and speed.

Kuwaiti women were known for both their beauty and industriousness, excelling in crafts such as knitting, weaving and spinning. Even Turks and Persians regarded Kuwaiti women as the most beautiful along the Gulf coast.



Cover of the book 'With Star and Crescent' by A Locher

Dinner with the Sheikh

Dinner was served in the traditional Arab style. A fine Indian straw mat was spread over a Persian carpet, forming the dining area. Silver goblets filled with laban (a sour milk drink) were placed on the mat. Locher noted that although no livestock was visible in the town, the laban was likely from camels kept at nearby oases.

The meal consisted of a variety of dishes, including boiled goat, roasted lamb, camel meat, chicken and fish, accompanied by fruits and vegetables imported from Basra. Sheikh Abdullah, following Arab custom, sampled each dish first to assure his guests that the food was safe. Once the formalities were complete, everyone began eating. The Sheikh and his nephew awkwardly used Western utensils, clearly more accustomed to eating with their hands.

After dinner, the guests resumed smoking their pipes and drinking coffee and sherbet. As the evening wore on, the Sheikh invited the visitors to join him on the flat rooftop of his residence. In Kuwait, rooftops served as places to enjoy the cool evening breeze and to sleep under the open sky. From the rooftop, the group observed a variety of scenes: Believers in prayer, couples whispering softly,



Yusuf Al-Ibrahim, one of the most famous and richest merchants of Kuwait in the past, who was onboard the ship that carried the author on its way to Kuwait (died 1906).

mothers tending to children and maidens singing plaintive songs. In the distance, travelers on camels and horseback crossed the desert, silhouetted against the glowing horizon.

Departure and Farewell

The visitors spent the night on silken couches under the stars, lulled to sleep by the gentle sea breeze. At dawn, the Sheikh personally woke them to ensure they rose before the sun's rays could reach their faces, as Arabs believed this could cause severe headaches.

A jollyboat from the steamer waited for the visitors on the beach, signaling it was time to depart. The guests expressed their gratitude to the Sheikh for his hospitality, and the captain promised to recommend Kuwait as a regular stop for future steamers. The Sheikh, standing on the beach with his people, watched until the ship disappeared from view. As a final gesture of respect, the Penang fired three parting cannon shots before leaving the harbor.



The ways of the people in the past at sunrise — you can see the mason, the water carrier, the crowd at the bakery, the woman who sells bajilla (broad beans), sitting with her pot near the mosque. — By Kuwaiti artist Ayoub Hussein

ing Kuwait its first stop. This marked a historic moment, as it was the first time a steamship docked at Kuwait's isolated port.

Locher stayed as a guest of Sheikh Abdullah II, the fifth ruler of Kuwait, who governed from 1865 to 1891. In his book 'With Star and Crescent', published in 1888 by Aetna Publishing Co in Philadelphia, Locher documented the details of his travels. This account provides a rare and valuable description of the political and social life in Kuwait during the mid-19th century, with the fourth chapter offering an in-depth account of his time in the region. (Edited for clarity)

Arrival and First Impressions

As the Penang entered Kuwait's harbor, it fired three cannon shots

tors. The men were dressed in brightly colored Bedouin clothing and armed with a variety of weapons, including long-barreled guns, scimitars and pistols. Upon boarding, Sheikh Abdullah — accompanied by his attendants — was introduced to the captain by a wealthy merchant from Kuwait, believed to be Yusuf Al-Ibrahim, a relative of the Sheikh.

Locher described the Sheikh as a tall, muscular man with a silver beard and intelligent expression. Despite being over eighty years old, he was still energetic and polite. He wore a luxurious silk robe, and a purple mantle embroidered with gold rested over his shoulders. Curious about the vessel, the Sheikh explored the steamer, taking particular interest in its engine. It was the first time he had ever set foot on a steamship. After refreshments,



Part of a Portuguese map with the conspicuous Gulf of Kuwait in the Groote Schuur Library in Cape Town. Failaka island appears as Dos Porcos.



Baghalahs were the main maritime transport means in Kuwait and some countries in the Arabian Gulf.



Front side of an astrolabe, the type of which Arab navigator and cartographer Ahmad ibn Majid (1432-1500) may have been familiar with, since such astrolabes were sometimes used on land for establishing the latitudes of ports of call.



With the camping season in Kuwait fast approaching as the weather becomes cooler, there's nothing quite like gathering around a grill under the stars in the heart of the desert. The combination of fresh air, crackling fires and sizzling food makes for a perfect camping experience. Whether you're grilling under the warm desert sun or enjoying the cool evening breeze, a barbecue is an easy and fun way to enjoy the outdoors with family and friends.

The following recipes are especially suited for camping with their bold flavors, simple marinades and easy-to-cook skewers. Most of the ingredients are pantry staples, and the recipes require minimal equipment — just a portable grill, skewers and some basic prep. From tender chicken skewers to spicy shrimp and vegetarian paneer, these dishes can be pre-marinated at home to save time and packed in coolers for the trip.

These recipes will not only fill the air with mouthwatering aromas but also bring a taste of home to the wild. Pair your BBQ with simple sides like flatbreads, grilled veggies, hummus, yogurt dips or peanut sauce, and you'll have a feast ready in no time. Whether you're relaxing after dune bashing on a quad or just sitting back to enjoy the desert silence, these dishes are guaranteed to add flavor to your camping trip.

CHICKEN SATAY WITH PEANUT SAUCE

Ingredients

- 500g chicken thighs, sliced into strips
- 1/4 cup coconut milk
- 2 tbsp soy sauce
- 1 tbsp brown sugar
- 1 tsp turmeric
- 1 tsp garlic paste

For the Peanut Sauce

- 1/2 cup peanut butter
- 2 tbsp soy sauce
- 1 tbsp lime juice

- 1 tsp chili sauce (optional)
- 1/4 cup warm water

Instructions

1. Marinate the chicken strips in the mixture for 2 hours.
2. Thread the chicken onto skewers and grill for 8-10 minutes until cooked.
3. For the peanut sauce, whisk together all ingredients until smooth.
4. Serve the satay hot with peanut sauce on the side.



SHISH TAWOOK

Ingredients

- 500g chicken breast, cubed
- 1/2 cup yogurt
- 2 tbsp lemon juice
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tsp garlic paste
- 1 tsp paprika
- Salt & pepper to taste

Instructions

1. Marinate the chicken with all ingredients for 2-4 hours.
2. Skewer the cubes and grill over medium heat until cooked through (10-12 mins).
3. Serve with flatbread and garlic sauce.

SEEKH KABAB

Ingredients

- 500g minced lamb or beef
- 1 onion, grated
- 2 tbsp coriander & mint, chopped
- 1 tsp cumin powder
- 1 tsp chili powder
- Salt to taste

Instructions

1. Mix all ingredients and shape the mixture onto skewers.
2. Grill on medium heat, rotating until cooked (8-10 mins).
3. Serve with mint yogurt and naan bread.



HARISSA SHRIMP

Ingredients

- 500g shrimp, peeled
- 2 tbsp harissa paste
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tbsp lemon juice
- Salt to taste

Instructions

1. Toss the shrimp in the marinade and rest for 30 minutes.
2. Skewer and grill for 3-5 minutes on each side.
3. Serve with couscous or grilled bread.

SPICY PANEER TIKKA

Ingredients

- 300g paneer, cubed
- 1/2 cup yogurt
- 1 tbsp lemon juice
- 1 tsp turmeric
- 1 tsp chili powder
- Salt & pepper to taste

Instructions

1. Marinate paneer in the mixture for 1 hour.
2. Skewer the cubes and grill until golden (5-7 mins).
3. Enjoy with chutney and grilled veggies.



WHAT'S ON IN KUWAIT

Event: Korean Cooking Class
Location: Madang Korean Cultural Center
Date: October 26, 2024

Event: Online Art Therapy Session to Handle War Anxiety
Location: Art Therapy Studio
Date: October 26, 2024

Event: Traditional Doll Making and Sadu Workshop
Location: Ikea-The Warehouse
Date: October 25-26, 2024

Event: October Square Expo
Location: Al-Safat Square
Date: October 24-26, 2024

Event: The Perfume Expo
Location: International Fairground-Hall 5,6,7,8
Date: October 24-November 2, 2024

Event: Mishref Bazar
Location: Mishref's Oasis
Date: October 24-27, 2024

Event: Muroj Carnival
Location: Muroj
Date: October 24-26, 2024

Event: The Music Circle-Free Jam
Location: Art Scene-Argan Bedaya
Date: October 26, 2024

Sports

Rabada 'a superstar' as S Africa crush Bangladesh

South Africa move up to fourth in World Test Championship standings

MIRPUR: South Africa cruised to a seven-wicket win over Bangladesh in the first Test on Thursday with fast bowler Kagiso Rabada the star of the show in Mirpur. Rabada took 6-46 as Bangladesh went from 283-7 overnight to 307 all out, leaving the visitors a victory target of 106.

Rabada finished with 9-72 in the match, having become the fastest bowler to reach 300 Test wickets during the first innings. "It's special," stand-in captain Aiden Markram said of a victory that was sealed before lunch on day four and gave South Africa a 1-0 lead in the two-match series.

They move up to fourth in the World Test Championship standings. "A pretty young group, or slightly inexperienced group... to come to the subcontinent and get a win is great for us," Markram added.

Left-arm spinner Tajjul Islam took all the wickets to fall in his 3-43, but he failed to slow South Africa's chase as they reached 106-3.

Tony de Zorzi top-scored with a quickfire 41 off 52 balls, hitting seven fours. Fellow opener Markram was first to go, bowled by Tajjul for 20.

De Zorzi departed in the 16th over trying to play a big shot over long-on, caught by Hasan Mahmud. David Bedingham was third out caught behind by wicketkeeper Litton Das. Tristan Stubbs, unbeaten on 30, ensured there were no further alarms. "He has

been a superstar for us for years," Markram added of Rabada. "And to see all those stats pop up about him... it really proves that he's one in a million, and we're really lucky to have him on our team."

'Disappointing'

Bangladesh lost their last three wickets for just 24 runs inside half an hour, all-rounder Mehidy Hasan Miraz top-scoring with 97. "Missing out on the century is disappointing," said Mehidy. "I would have been happy if I had executed the plan better. I was only focusing on guiding the team to a strong position."

Nayeem Hasan departed lbw without adding to his overnight 16 on the third ball of the day when a rampant Rabada inswinger kept low. Wiaan Mulder removed Tajjul for seven in the fourth over via a thick edge to Stubbs at third slip.

Mehidy fell three runs short of his second Test century in the next over when he edged Rabada to Mulder at slip. South Africa scored 308 in their first innings, powered by Kyle Verreynne's second Test century, in reply to Bangladesh's 106 all out on the first day. Bangladesh have still never won a Test against South Africa. The second and final match of the series begins on October 29 in Chattogram. — AFP



DHAKA: South Africa's players celebrate after the dismissal of Bangladesh's captain Najmul Hossain Shanto during the second day of the first Test cricket match between Bangladesh and South Africa at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Dhaka. — AFP



Novak Djokovic

Djokovic won't play Paris Masters

PARIS: Novak Djokovic said Wednesday he is withdrawing from the Paris Masters, where he is a seven-time champion, in a move which could potentially signal the end of his roller-coaster season. "Unfortunately I won't be playing the Paris Masters this year," the 37-year-old Djokovic wrote on Instagram.

"I have a lot of great memories, winning seven titles and I hope to be back with you next year. Sorry to everyone who was hoping to see me there." Djokovic, who is the defending champion in Paris, has won a record 40 Masters titles in his career along with his 24 Grand Slam titles.

His 2024 season has yielded one title — his emotional Olympic gold medal in Paris in August and he is currently marooned on 99 career trophies. This season he has been deposed as Grand Slam king by Jannik Sinner and Carlos Alcaraz.

Italy's Sinner claimed the Australian and US Open titles and also snatched Djokovic's world number one ranking. Alcaraz swept him off court in the Wimbledon final after succeeding him as French Open champion although Djokovic gained a measure of revenge with victory over the 21-year-old Spaniard in the Olympic final.

For the first time since 2017, Djokovic will end the season without a Grand Slam title. He is still in contention to qualify for the season-ending ATP Finals in Turin next month. He is currently sixth in the race for the eight-man field for the showpiece, but could be overtaken by a number of players.

This year's Paris Masters takes place from October 28 to November 3. Djokovic has recently seen his long-time rival Rafael Nadal announce his intention to retire from tennis after the Davis Cup Finals in Malaga next month.

However, the Serb insists he has no intention of following the 38-year-old Spaniard to the exit door despite enduring by his own admission "one of the worst-performing seasons in terms of results". "I don't know what the future brings, I'll just try to kind of go with the flow to see how I feel in a given moment but I still plan to compete and play next season," Djokovic said after losing to Sinner in the recent Shanghai Masters final.

That loss was his third in his last four clashes against the Italian. Djokovic also said he is not driven by joining Jimmy Connors and Roger Federer as the only men to win 100 titles. "It's not a live-or-die type of goal for me, I think I've achieved all of my biggest goals in my career," he said. "Right now it's really about Slams and about still seeing how far I can kind of push the bar for myself." — AFP

Verstappen seeking more Mexico success to end winless run

MEXICO CITY: After scrapping to a hard-fought podium ahead of title rival Lando Norris last Sunday, Max Verstappen will seek to end a nine-race winless run on a favorite circuit at this weekend's Mexico Grand Prix. Red Bull's series leader Max Verstappen's Norris into third for the first time in five outings, albeit with the aid of some controversial stewards' decisions in Texas, to enlarge his lead to 57 points with five rounds of the 24-race Formula One championship remaining. If that was not sufficient encouragement for him and Red Bull, who enjoyed an upswing in form as Ferrari dominated with a commanding one-two at the United States Grand Prix

Sundar dazzles with seven wickets as NZ all out for 259

PUNE: Washington Sundar dazzled on his return to India's side with seven wickets New Zealand were spun out for 259 on day one of the second Test on Thursday. India were 16-1 at the close in Pune, losing captain Rohit Sharma for a nine-ball duck to a Tim Southee delivery that shaped away and crashed into the off-stump via the pad.

Yashasvi Jaiswal, on six, and Shubman Gill, on 10, were batting with the hosts trailing by 243 runs. Devon Conway, 76, and Rachin Ravindra, 65, led the New Zealand batting after captain Tom Latham won the toss. Off-spinner Sundar took 7-59 while fellow off-break bowler Ravichandran Ashwin had 3-64 as New Zealand were all out in 79.1 overs.

The pitch is expected to turn more as the match progresses as India look to level the three-match series after their opening defeat in Bengaluru.

Conway and fellow left-hander Ravindra put on 62 runs for the third wicket, but Sundar struck on either side of tea. Sundar, who returned to the Test side after March 2021, justified his return with his first five-wicket haul from five appearances. After removing Southee to bring up his fifth wicket, the 25-year-old mopped up the tail in the final session.

His first wicket came when he bowled Ravindra for 65 to break a 59-run fourth-wicket stand with Daryl Mitchell as New Zealand collapsed from 197-3. Conway reached his 11th Test fifty with a four soon after lunch and put on 62 runs with fellow left-hander Ravindra to thwart the Indian attack.

Ashwin, who took two wickets before lunch,

Pakistan 73-3, trail England by 194 runs

RAWALPINDI: England fought back to reduce Pakistan to 73-3 at close on the opening day of the series-deciding third Test in Rawalpindi on Thursday, with home spinner Sajid Khan grabbing six wickets. Sajid finished with 6-128 and Noman Ali grabbed 3-88 after a rearguard 89 by Jamie Smith enabled England to post 267, having stuttered to 110-5 at lunch.

At the close, Pakistan captain Shan Masood and Saud Shakeel were both unbeaten on 16, with the home team still trailing by 194 and the match in the balance. On a dry and spin-friendly Rawalpindi pitch, 13 wickets fell on day one with all but one going to the spinners. After the Pakistan spinners' exploits, England's slow bowlers came to the fore in the final session as Shoab Bashir dismissed Abdullah Shafique for 14 and Jack Leach accounted for Saim Ayub who had made 19.

Gus Atkinson was the only fast

bowler to grab a wicket on day one, dismissing Kamran Ghulam for three. It was wicketkeeper Smith who enabled England to add 149 for their last four wickets. Smith smashed six towering sixes and five fours in his 119-ball knock before he was caught off a miscued slog against spinner Zahid Mahmood in the last over before tea.

After tea, Sajid removed Rehan Ahmed for nine to complete his third five-wicket haul before also dismissing Leach for 16. England lost captain Ben Stokes in the third over after the break, caught by Sajid for 12 but Smith, who reached his fifty off 94 balls, and Atkinson (39) added 105 for the seventh wicket.

The morning session was dominated by Sajid and Noman who bowled unchanged for 42 overs. After England won the toss and batted, Pakistan gave the new ball to the spin duo who benefited from the parched pitch offering turn and low bounce from the first ball.

It was only the fourth time in Test cricket history the new ball on the first morning was taken by two spinners and the first time in Pakistan. Zak Crawley and Ben Duckett raced to 56 in a confident start but England lost Crawley (29), Ollie Pope (three) and Joe Root



PUNE: New Zealand's Glenn Phillips (L) plays a shot during the first day of the second Test cricket match between India and New Zealand at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium in Pune. — AFP

broke through to get Conway caught behind on a delivery that turned from a good length outside the off-stump. The wicket took Ashwin past Australian spinner Nathan Lyon's 530 wickets to place him seventh in the list of leading Test bowlers.

Latham and Conway soon blunted the opening pace attack of Jasprit Bumrah and Akash Deep prompting Rohit to bring on Ashwin in the eighth over. He struck with his fifth ball to trap Latham

lbw for 15. Conway then put on 44 with Will Young and the two looked comfortable before Ashwin struck again to get Young caught behind for 18. The Black Caps won the opener for their first Test victory in India since 1988 and are looking to clinch the three-match series. The eight-wicket win in Bengaluru was New Zealand's third Test victory in India, but they have never won a series in the country. — AFP



RAWALPINDI: England's Rehan Ahmed (R) is clean bowled by Pakistan's Sajid Khan during the first day of the third and final Test cricket match between Pakistan and England. — AFP

(five) in the space of just 24 runs.

Noman had Crawley caught off a miscued drive while Sajid removed Pope and Root leg before.

Duckett, who completed a half-century off 76 balls, was trapped lbw by Noman for 52 after hitting four boundaries and a six. First Test triple centurion Harry Brook lasted for 14 deliveries before being bowled be-

hind his legs by Sajid for five after he failed to connect on a sweep.

Both the teams included three spinners on a grassless pitch which the hosts dried with fans and heaters in the build-up. Sajid and Noman shared all 20 wickets in Pakistan's second Test win to level the series at 1-1 after England won the first by an innings, with both matches taking place in Multan. — AFP

in Austin, Verstappen's impressive and breathless Mexican record should be.

The Dutchman has reeled off five wins from his last six visits to the high-altitude (2,250-metres above sea level) Autodromo Hermano Rodriguez and is the only current driver, apart from seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes, twice, to have won in the capital city. "We made good steps in Austin and I saw some promising improvement with the car," said Verstappen who won last Saturday's sprint race. "Historically, we have always gone well here too and I always enjoy driving this track. "So now it is about keeping the momentum going forwards and for us to continue picking up points."

For Norris, it represents another critical opportunity to dent the champion's progress — reversing the outcome of last Sunday's tussle in which, he admitted, he "drove like a muppet" and suffered a "momentum killer". A wider view, among many paddock observers, suggests that not only do McLaren lack the experience, sangfroid and killer instincts of Red Bull, but that

they lack a cool head for decisions in the heat of a contentious incident.

Team boss Andrea Stella criticized the Austin stewards, but missed a chance to tell Norris to give his place back, after running off circuit, and to attack again. "The next circuit should be a bit more suitable to our car," he said, adding that McLaren will have more upgrades this weekend as the focus on protecting their 40-point lead ahead of Red Bull in the constructors' championship. In that context, this weekend will be important for both teams' second drivers Oscar Piastri and home hero Sergio Perez whose future has been a subject of speculation since he was awarded a contract extension in May.

"I just have to shut out the noise and concentrate on my job and try to take a podium finish for myself, the team and the fans," said Perez. Ferrari will also fancy their chances again this weekend on a track where last year they locked out the front row of the grid, with last Sunday's victor Charles Leclerc, on pole. Another successful race could see them overhaul Red Bull. — AFP



MEXICO CITY: Red Bull Racing's Dutch driver Max Verstappen (L) and Mexican driver Sergio Perez (R) are pictured with Mexican sports journalist and television reporter Giselle Zarur (C) before a friendly football match with former professional football players at Plaza Carso in Mexico City. — AFP

Sports

Dodgers idol Ohtani eyes World Series coronation

Dodgers wanted an elite talent to help get them over the line after years of failures

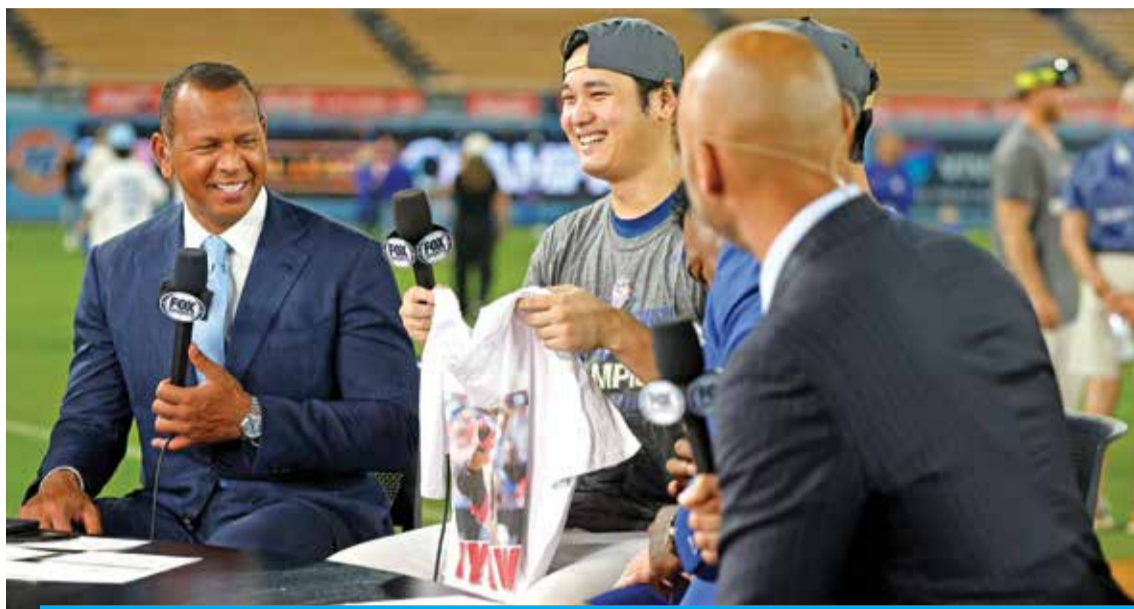
LOS ANGELES: Ten short months after joining the Los Angeles Dodgers with the goal of finally challenging for a championship, Shohei Ohtani is on the threshold of realizing his dream. The 30-year-old Japanese superstar heads into the first World Series of his career on Friday aiming to crown a record-breaking season by capturing baseball's biggest prize.

"I finally arrived at this stage," Ohtani said on Sunday after the Dodgers clinched their World Series berth with a series defeat of the New York Mets. "The goal was to get this far." The journey will not be complete, however, unless Ohtani and the Dodgers take care of business against the vaunted New York Yankees line-up awaiting them in game one at Dodger Stadium on Friday.

In a sense, Ohtani's first season in Dodger blue has been a case of making up for lost time following six frustrating seasons down the freeway with the Los Angeles Angels. Ohtani arrived in Major League Baseball in 2018 widely hyped as the most talented all-round baseball player since Babe Ruth, offering a rare combination of elite pitching and hitting.

For the most part Ohtani lived up to that lofty billing, winning rookie of the year honors in his debut MLB season, American League Most Valuable Player honors in 2021 and 2023 as well as two Silver Slugger awards.

Yet individual success came against a backdrop of collective failure with the under-achieving Angels failing to reach the postseason once during Ohtani's six seasons in Anaheim. So when the Dodgers came calling after Ohtani entered free agency last year, dangling a 10-year \$700 million contract, the decision was a no-brainer.



LOS ANGELES: Shohei Ohtani #17 of the Los Angeles Dodgers is interviewed after the Dodgers defeated the New York Mets to win Game Six of the National League Championship Series at Dodger Stadium. - AFP

The Dodgers wanted an elite talent to help get them over the line after years of postseason failures: Ohtani wanted to be challenging for a World Series.

'One of the boys'

"For us it's all about winning," Dodgers president of baseball operations Andrew Friedman said.

"It jived perfectly with everything (Ohtani) was saying," Ohtani signalled his commitment to the cause by agreeing to defer \$680 million of his contract until the end of his deal, freeing up money for the Dodgers to build a winning team around him.

Ohtani's dream move was nearly blown off course as the season got underway, however, after it emerged that his long-time translator, Ipppei

Mizuhara, had stolen millions of dollars from him to pay off gambling debts.

The baseball world held its breath wondering if Ohtani would be sucked into a possibly career-ending scandal. Federal prosecutors cleared Ohtani of wrongdoing, stating that the player had no knowledge of Mizuhara's crimes and had in fact been a victim.

Ohtani brushed off the scandal over the course of his first campaign with the Dodgers, dazzling fans by becoming the first player in history to amass 50 home runs and 50 stolen bases in a single season. After spending the first six years of his MLB career as a frustrated spectator in the postseason, Ohtani has revealed in the pressure-laden theater of the playoffs.

In 42 at bats he has amassed 12 hits and blasted three home runs, the pick of them a monstrous 422-foot effort into the top deck in a 10-2 game four win over the Mets. Along the way he has become a beloved part of the Dodgers clubhouse, delighting team-mates with a sunny disposition off the field that belies a killer instinct on it.

"He can be goofy and playful and look like he's really having fun playing the game but then also at the same time be super focused and locked in," said Dodgers veteran Chris Taylor. "It's a special talent." Dodgers manager Dave Roberts described Ohtani as "one of one".

"He's still a very private guy, but I think he just really wants to be looked at as just one of the guys," Roberts said. Enrique Hernandez, a talismanic figure in the Dodgers locker room, said simply: "He's one of us. He's one of the boys. And I'm glad to have him in the group." - AFP

Japan wants to host 2031 WCup to fire up women's football

TOKYO: Japan wants to host the Women's World Cup in 2031 to ignite the domestic game and cut the gap on Europe and North America, the country's football chief told AFP. In 2011 Japan won the competition but they have since been overtaken, with women's football booming in Europe in recent years.

"We would like to raise the value of women's football here," Japan Football Association president Tsuneyasu Miyamoto said in an interview at JFA headquarters in Tokyo, in front of a giant photo of Japan's World Cup-winning team.

Miyamoto was captain of the Japan men's team when they co-hosted the World Cup with South Korea in 2002, a tournament that helped spark huge interest in football among the Japanese public. Now 47, he took over as JFA chief this year and has similar hopes for the 2031 Women's World Cup. The country has never hosted the event.

Japan is likely to face stiff competition for hosting rights however with a joint bid from the United States and Mexico expected. England and China are also reportedly interested. "We have the WE League, and it has been struggling to gather an audience," Miyamoto said. "We would like to increase the number of women players here." The professional women's WE League launched in 2021 but it has failed to attract anything like the attendances and revenue enjoyed by women's leagues in Europe and the United States.

Japan's women have not gone beyond the World Cup quarter-finals since they lost to the US in the 2015 final. Miyamoto says Japan "could have done better" to capitalize on the 2011 triumph, which triggered massive interest in women's football before it quickly fizzled out.

The former defender wants Japan to develop a more passionate football culture all round, saying his stint with Austrian side Red Bull Salzburg "inspired me a lot". "They have their own culture, they have football in their daily lives," he said. "We haven't built that kind of community here in Japan. I'd like to make



TOKYO: Tsuneyasu Miyamoto, former Japan national player and team captain, and current Japan Football Association (JFA) president, poses with a football before an interview with AFP at the group's headquarters in central Tokyo. - AFP

football our culture in Japan." Miyamoto played 71 times for his country, captaining the side at the 2002 and 2006 World Cups. He spent most of his career in the domestic J. League, at a time when only a handful of Japanese players were now all over Europe and the national team has benefitted as a result, regularly appearing in the World Cup knockout rounds.

"It's very normal for them to play in the Champions League," Miyamoto said of the current generation of players. "When facing big teams like Germany or Spain... they have no fear." The steady stream of players to Europe has helped Japan's national team but also posed problems for J. League clubs. Miyamoto says they need to keep producing talent but argues that "transfer fees for Japanese players are low compared to players from South America". Brighton paid just 2.5 million pounds to sign winger Kaoru Mitoma in 2021, while prolific goalscorer Kyogo Furuhashi joined Celtic for 4.5 million pounds the same year. "In Europe clubs are very strong, but in Japan clubs are not that strong," said Miyamoto. -AFP

Messilah Equestrian Club to hold championship

KUWAIT: The Championship of Messilah Equestrian Club will be launched today (Friday) with riders from local clubs competing. Competitions will be at heights of 70-80, 90, 105, 115, and 125 cm and they will be concluded with the main event being at the height of 130-135 cm, as the total prize value is KD 3,000.

Chairman of Messilah Club Bader Tareq Al-Mailam said "Kuwait equestrian sport is continually developing and we are optimistic that the riders will give an outstanding performance during the current season



Bader Tareq Al-Mailam

(2024-2025), following the preparations in and outside Kuwait". He said that we have the new generation of young riders for whom we provide the suitable environment to train and develop to reach at better levels.

He called upon fans of show jumping to attend the event and enjoy the skills of the riders, adding that local competitions are

held under an exciting and enthusiastic atmosphere among all riders of both genders. Dalal Al-Obaid heads the officials committee, while Abdulaziz Al-Mashoputi, Ibtisam Al-Arouri, Anwar Basha and members.

Inter, Juve face off after contrasting fortunes in Champions League

MILAN: Inter Milan head into Sunday's clash with Juventus in fine spirits after snatching a last gasp win at Young Boys while their Serie A title rivals are struggling to fire under new coach Thiago Motta.

The champions are two points behind league leaders Napoli before what is traditionally the biggest league match of their season, a red-hot rivalry which easily tops the Milan derby for pure hatred. Simone Inzaghi's team are a point ahead of third-placed Juve and in good spirits even with injuries beginning to pile up. Already without key men Hakan Calhanoglu and Francesco Acerbi after both picked up high injuries at Roma last weekend, Carlos Augusto was the latest Inter player to pull up during Wednesday's 1-0 win in Bern.

Inzaghi was forced to bring on his stars after the second string struggled in Switzerland, with Marko Arnautovic and Mehdi Taremi proving to be weak deputies for Lautaro Martinez and Marcus Thuram. Arnautovic fluffed a penalty before Thuram struck, highlighting the difference when Inter's first choice at-

tack partnership are on the field. And with the games coming thick and fast and more injuries to surely come due to a packed calendar, Inzaghi will need his squad players to perform better than on Wednesday, although Juve have problems of their own and had wildly contrasting fortunes midweek. Juve fell to their first defeat of the season at the hands of Stuttgart, Motta's team being sunk in stoppage time in Turin after a dreadful display which would have ended in a more embarrassing scoreline had Mattia Perin not performed goal-keeping heroics and saved a late penalty.

Not helping Motta's cause are a clutch of injuries, the latest a thigh problem for Douglas Luiz who hasn't impressed since signing for over 50 million euros in the summer. Nicolas Gonzalez and Teun Koopmeiners are both still out with the latter in particular missed for a Juve team which is struggling to create and score opportunities. Anything but a win for either team will likely lead to further loss of ground to Napoli, who host on Saturday a Lecce team without a win in five matches and on a run of three defeats on the bounce, the latest a 6-0 home humbling at the hands of Fiorentina. While their rivals slug it out in the long league phases of UEFA's revamped European competitions, Napoli will have had a full week to prepare for what should be a routine win. Antonio Conte's side have won six of their seven league fixtures since a 3-0 humiliation at Verona on the opening day of the season, only dropping points at Juve in that run. -AFP

Classifieds

Clinics & Hospitals

Clinics

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

Hospitals

Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300

Change of Name

I, Jenin Varghese Kattakara, father of Adora Suzann, holder of Indian Passport No: W7988821, do hereby change the name of my minor daughter to ADORA SUZANN (as given name) JENIN (as surname) for all purposes. I also undertake to effect the change in all her other public documents.

(#6182 24/10/2024)

I, Subhas, holder of Passport No. M7792645, do hereby change my name to Subhas (given name) Yadav (as surname) for all purposes. I, will henceforth be known in the name as Subhas Yadav and I also undertake to carry out this name change in all my documents, vide affidavit dated 29.08.2024 before notary Wilson H. Rodrigues, Udupi.

(#6183 24/10/2024)

REQUIRED TAILORS

Needed professional tailors with years of experience

- Modern designs and suiting
- Latest tailoring techniques and knowledge of sewing tools, equipment and machinery

Master Cutter

- Good communication skills, ability to guide a team of tailors

Contact on

Email trunkinc@yahoo.com

Phone 97839455



For labor-related inquiries and complaints: Call MSAL hotline 128

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is 1889988

Barca thrash Bayern in Champions League, Liverpool stay perfect

Atalanta held to a frustrating goalless stalemate at home to Celtic



LEIPZIG: Liverpool's Argentinian midfielder #10 Alexis Mac Allister (C) and Leipzig's Hungarian defender #04 Willi Orban vie for the ball during the UEFA Champions League football match between RB Leipzig and Liverpool FC in Leipzig. — AFP

PARIS: A Raphinha hat-trick handed Barcelona a 4-1 win against Bayern Munich in the Champions League on Wednesday, while Liverpool stayed perfect with a 1-0 win at RB Leipzig and Erling Haaland produced another moment of magic for Manchester City.

In a clash that pitted five-time winners Barca against six-time champions Bayern, it was the home side that stole the show thanks to a triple from Brazilian attacker Raphinha and a goal from in-form veteran Robert Lewandowski.

Harry Kane levelled after Barca's first-minute opener for his fifth goal of the campaign but was helpless as his team collapsed to their second defeat in three Champions League outings. "In my opinion this game could have been a (Champions League) final, to be able to win it in this way, so well, in front of our fans, is quite special and I leave here happy," Raphinha told Movistar.

The result leaves Bayern in the bottom half of the table, while Barcelona have two wins and are 10th. Raphinha sent the hosts on their way at the Olympic Stadium inside 60 seconds, tucking home after rounding goalkeeper Manuel Neuer.

Kane levelled in the 18th minute with an acrobatic volley from a Serge Gnabry cross. Ex-Bayern player Lewandowski then restored Barca's lead in the 36th minute by pouncing on a loose ball after Fermin Lopez had snuck behind the visiting defense.

Raphinha got his second on the stroke of half-time with a curling effort off his right side.

The Brazil international's third on 56 minutes showcased Barca's danger on the counter as he galloped onto a swept pass from Lamine Yamal before arrowing home a left-footed finish with both center-halves trailing in his wake.

Haaland scored a brace as Manches-

ter City thrashed Sparta Prague 5-0 at home, including a spectacular backheel at shoulder height. "I saw it when the ball came in. It's unbelievable. He's a statue. So tall and so flexible," said City boss Pep Guardiola in admiration of the Norwegian's goal.

It was an effort reminiscent of his strike against old club Borussia Dortmund two years ago that won Champions League goal of the season. The Czechs had contained the hosts to a one-goal lead at half-time after Phil Foden's early strike. But the floodgates opened in the second period with Haaland, John Stones and Matheus Nunes netting.

'Controlled the game'

Leipzig's Lois Openda was twice denied by the assistant's flag as Liverpool fought to a narrow win in Germany. Darwin Nunez's 27th-minute tap-in from Mohamed Salah's cushioned knockdown

was enough to give Liverpool their third win in three matches as they moved to second in the standings.

They and table-toppers Aston Villa are the only teams with a 100 percent record in the new 36-team format. "We controlled the game in large parts apart from the last few minutes," Liverpool manager Arne Slot told TNT Sports.

"We needed Virgil (van Dijk) and Ibou (Konate) and our goalkeeper. If we left this place with a draw then I would've felt we lost something." Irish goalkeeper Caoimhin Kelleher ably deputized for the injured Alisson Becker and produced several fine saves in the second half to protect Liverpool's lead.

Lille continued to enjoy life against teams from the Spanish capital, following up their surprise win at home to Real Madrid last time out by beating Atletico Madrid 3-1. The home side took an early lead through Julian Alva-

rez, before Edon Zhegrova and a Jonathan David brace turned the game on its head in the final 30 minutes.

Bayer Leverkusen were held to an entertaining 1-1 draw at Brest, as the French club maintained their unbeaten start to life in Europe's top club competition. Florian Wirtz broke the deadlock for Bayer in the 24th minute, before Pierre Lees-Melou thumped home a volleyed equalizer shortly before the break.

Young Boys looked to have kept Inter Milan at bay in Bern, with Marko Arnautovic failing to convert a second-half penalty. But Marcus Thuram struck three minutes into stoppage time to hand the Italian champions a 1-0 win.

Feyenoord beat Benfica 3-1 away thanks to Ayase Ueda and an Antoni Milambo double. Atalanta were held to a frustrating goalless stalemate at home to Celtic, while Dinamo Zagreb beat 10-man RB Salzburg 2-0. — AFP

Bucks cruise past depleted Sixers, Suns rally past Clippers

LOS ANGELES: Damian Lillard scored 30 points and Giannis Antetokounmpo added 25 as the Milwaukee Bucks rolled to a 124-109 victory over the injury-depleted Philadelphia 76ers on Wednesday in the NBA season-opener for both teams.

The Sixers, without Joel Embiid and off-season acquisition Paul George, couldn't keep pace with the Bucks, who had 16 points from Taurean Prince and 16 off the bench from Bobby Portis. Embiid, the Cameroon-born big man who helped the United States to Olympic gold in Paris, missed all of the pre-season as part of the management plan for his surgically repaired left knee.

The Sixers said Tuesday he will miss the first week of the regular season while George, a nine-time All-Star, had his Philadelphia debut delayed by a pre-season bone bruise in his left knee. A strong start from Philadelphia's Tyrese Maxey and an energetic attack of the offensive glass saw the Sixers take a one-point lead after the opening quarter.

But Lillard and the Bucks found their groove, Lillard's three-pointer midway through the second quarter giving Milwaukee a 36-33 lead and his driving finger-roll layup pushing the advantage to 58-45 with 33.4 seconds left in the first half.

Milwaukee led 58-47 at halftime and pushed the advantage to as many as 22 after the break. Two-time NBA Most Valuable Player Antetokounmpo showed no sign of the knee tendinitis that's been troubling him, adding 14 rebounds and seven assists.

In other games on Wednesday, Kevin Durant scored 25 points to lead the Phoenix Suns to a 116-113 overtime victory against the Los Angeles Clippers. The Clippers were playing their first regular season fixture in their new state-of-the-art Intuit Dome arena.

But the buoyant mood amongst the home fans was spoiled after a late rally by Phoenix sent the game to overtime. Clippers star James Harden missed a free throw with four seconds of overtime remaining that would have tied the scores, allowing Phoenix to snatch a slender win.

"This is just one game—we want to keep building," Durant told ESPN after the victory. "We just have a system that we can rely on for four quarters." Elsewhere, No. 1 overall draft pick Zacharie Risacher of France got his rookie season off to a promising start in the Atlanta Hawks' 120-116 victory over the Brooklyn Nets. The French 19-year-old came off the bench late in the first quarter and drained a three-pointer on his first attempt from the floor. He finished with seven points for Atlanta, who were led by 30 from Trae Young.

Young also handed out 12 assists and Onyeka Okongwu scored a career-high 28 points off the bench for the Hawks. Cam Thomas scored 36 points to lead the Nets, but it was a defeat for Spain's Jordi Fernandez in his first game as an NBA head coach.

Pacers top Pistons

A new season brought a familiar sinking feeling for the Detroit Pistons, who took an eight-point lead into the fourth quarter against Indiana only for the Pacers to fight back for a 115-109 victory. Myles Turner scored 20 points and Bennedict Mathurin scored 14 of his 19 points in the final period, when the Pacers out-scored the Pistons 33-19 to take control. It was a dream return for Mathurin, whose 2023-



INGLEWOOD: Los Angeles Clippers Bahamian center-forward #23 Kai Jones slam dunks during the NBA game between the Los Angeles Clippers and Phoenix Suns at Intuit Dome in Inglewood, California. — AFP

24 season was cut short by a shoulder injury that required surgery in March. "Stepping away from the game for seven months makes you realize how blessed I am," Mathurin said. "I'm just really excited we got the win tonight."

The Pistons are hoping to turn the page on a league-worst 14-68 campaign last season. But new coach J.B. Bickerstaff's tenure started with another

defeat. "I thought our guys did a really good job, they competed their tails off," Bickerstaff said.

In Portland meanwhile, the Golden State Warriors launched the post-Klay Thompson era with a blowout victory over the Trail Blazers, romping to a 139-104 win. Buddy Hield led the scoring with 22 points off the bench for Golden State, while Steph Curry added 17. — AFP