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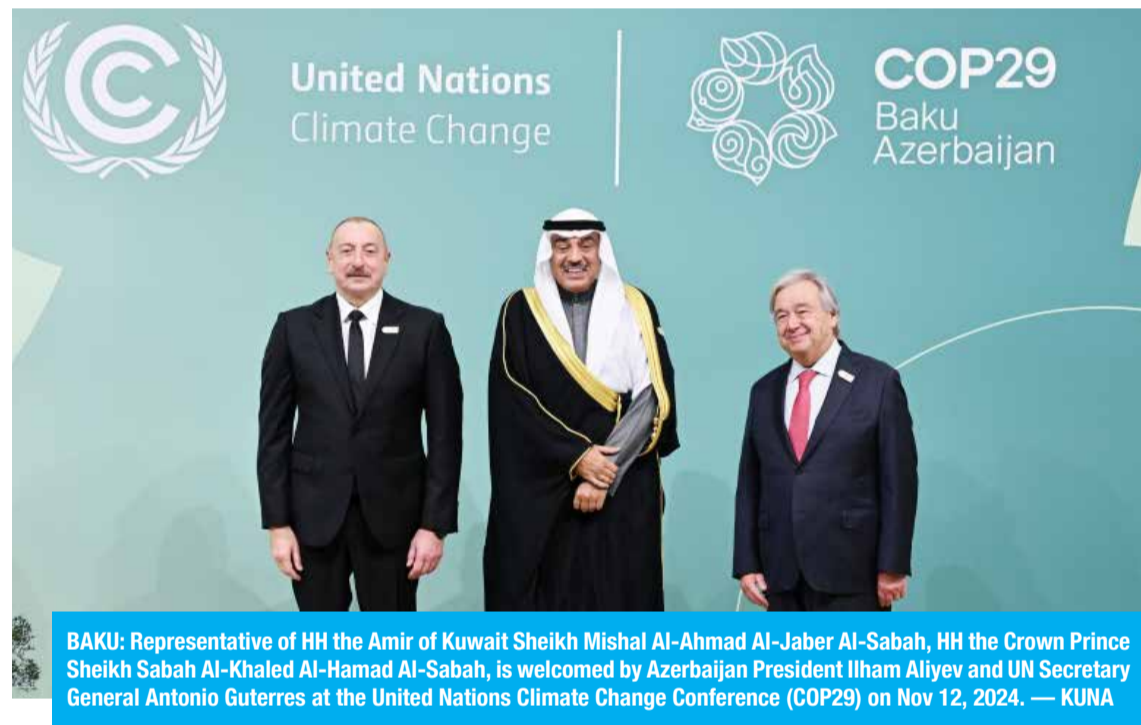


16 Intense competition at BNK Premier Padel tournament



COP29 host defends fossil fuels

Amir's Representative attends UN climate talks in Azerbaijan



BAKU: The host of the UN climate summit in Azerbaijan on Tuesday defended fossil fuels and the right of countries to exploit them as dozens of world leaders arrived for the COP29 conference. Representative of HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, is also in attendance.

In the host's opening address, President Ilham Aliyev said Azerbaijan had been subject to "slander and blackmail" for its use of fossil fuels and that no country should be judged for its natural resources. "Quote me that I said that this is a gift of the God, and I want to repeat it today here at this audience," Aliyev told delegates. "Oil, gas, wind, sun, gold, silver, copper, all... are natural resources and countries should not be blamed for having them and should not be blamed for bringing these resources to the market, because the market needs them."

"As a president of COP29 of course, we will be a strong advocate for green transition, and we are doing it. But at the same time, we must be realistic," said Aliyev. He singled out the United States, the world's largest historic carbon emitter, and the European Union for particular criticism. "Unfortunately, double standards, a habit to lecture other countries, and political hypocrisy became kind of modus operandi

for some politicians, state-controlled NGOs and fake news media in some Western countries," he said.

The United States is the world's largest oil and gas producer. European countries, meanwhile, have some of the world's strictest targets to cut emissions by 2030 — but have also raced to secure new gas supplies following Russia's 2022 full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

More than 75 leaders are expected, but the heads of many top polluting nations are skipping the crunch climate talks, where the impact of Donald Trump's election victory is being digested. Just a handful of leaders from G20 nations — which account for nearly 80 percent of the world's planet-heating emissions — are expected over two days in Baku.

Joe Biden, Xi Jinping, Narendra Modi, Emmanuel Macron and Olaf Scholz are among G20 leaders missing the event, where uncertainty over future US climate action overshadows proceedings. UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer, one of the higher profile leaders attending, announced Britain would aim to cut its emissions 81 percent from 1990 levels by 2035. The updated climate goals are intended to show British "leadership on the climate challenge," he said. Washington's delegation meanwhile sought to reassure partners that US efforts on global

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Tehran building 'defensive' tunnel

TEHRAN: Iran is building what it calls its first "defensive" tunnel within the capital Tehran's metro network, state media reported on Tuesday. "For the first time in the country, a tunnel with defensive functionalities is being built in Tehran," Jafar Tashakori, who heads the city council transport commission, was quoted as saying by the official IRNA news agency. "This tunnel follows the path between 'The Defenders of Health' and 'Imam Khomeini Hospital' metro stations, and provides the possibility of direct tunnel access to this medical center," he added. — AFP

Archbishop quits over abuse scandal

LONDON: Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, the senior cleric of the Church of England, resigned "in sorrow" on Tuesday, saying he had failed to ensure a proper investigation into allegations of abuse by a volunteer at Christian summer camps decades ago. Welby, also spiritual leader of 85 million Anglicans worldwide, had faced calls to resign after a report last week found he had taken insufficient action to stop arguably the Church's most prolific serial abuser. — Reuters (See Page 5)

Court delays Trump sentencing

NEW YORK: The judge in Donald Trump's New York criminal case has delayed to Nov 19 a decision on potentially throwing out the US president-elect's conviction, the court said Tuesday. Trump was convicted of 34 felony counts in May after a jury found he had fraudulently manipulated business records to cover up an alleged sexual encounter with a porn star ahead of the 2016 election. Trump, due to be sentenced on November 26, may receive a reprieve if Judge Juan Merchan decides to dismiss the case following the Supreme Court's recent ruling on presidential immunity. — AFP

Cabinet OKs draft residency law, new National Guard chief

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The Cabinet on Tuesday approved a new draft residency law which includes major changes from the existing 60-year-old legislation and toughens penalties on violators, in addition to banning

giving shelter to illegal expats, an official statement said. The approval came during the Cabinet's weekly meeting headed by Acting Prime Minister and Interior and Defense Minister Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef Al-Sabah. It becomes effective only after HH the Amir issues it in a decree, expected to happen soon.

The Cabinet also approved on Tuesday a draft decree appointing Sheikh Mubarak Homoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as Chief of Kuwait National Guard (KNG). Also, Minister of Municipality Affairs Abdullatif Al-Meshari accepted the resignation of Kuwait Municipality Director General Saud Al-Dabbous, which he had submitted on Tuesday.



New Chief of Kuwait National Guard Sheikh Mubarak Homoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

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Horrific Zionist massacres in Gaza, Lebanon

GAZA/BEIRUT: At least 62 Palestinians have been killed and 147 others injured in five massacres committed by Zionists against families in the Gaza Strip during the past 48 hours, Gaza health authorities said Tuesday. Palestinian medics said at least 37 people had been killed in Zionist strikes in several parts of the Gaza Strip overnight and into Tuesday, including 10 people killed in a house in Beit Hanoun and two others in the nearby town of Beit Lahiya.

Four Zionist soldiers were killed in northern Gaza. Later on Tuesday, a Zi-

onist strike killed 11 Palestinians in Rafah, medics said. A strike on a house in the Gaza City suburb of Sabra killed a Hamas leader in the city, Waleed Aweida, and his granddaughter. Three other people including his wife were still under the rubble.

For more than a month, Zionist troops have been laying siege to the northern end of Gaza in a push the military says is aimed at squeezing out Hamas fighters reforming in the area around the town of Jabalia. The Zionist entity has faced growing international pressure over the disastrous humanitarian situation facing civilians who have been largely cut off from aid for weeks.

"We are witnessing alarming cases of malnutrition among both children and adults. We are struggling to provide even one meal

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GAZA: Men react over the body of a baby at Al-Ahli Arab Hospital, also known as the Baptist Hospital, in Gaza City, after a house was hit by Zionist bombardment on Nov 12, 2024. — AFP

35 killed in south China car ramming

ZHUHAI, China: A man killed 35 people and injured 43 more when he ploughed his car into people exercising around a sports center in the southern Chinese city of Zhuhai on Monday, local police said Tuesday. The toll was a dramatic increase from the initial incident report the day before, when police only said that people had been injured, with videos apparently scrubbed from social media.

A 62-year-old man surnamed Fan drove his small SUV through the gate and "forced his way into the city's

sports center, ramming people who were exercising on the internal roads", police said Tuesday. Preliminary investigations suggested Fan's attack had been "triggered by (his) dissatisfaction with the division of property following his divorce", their statement said.

Footage from Monday night geo-located by AFP showed people lying motionless on the ground, while others were seen frantically attempting to resuscitate the unconscious. An eyewitness surnamed Chen told Chinese news magazine Caixin it was common for groups to take daily walks on the dedicated track around the stadium. He had just completed his third lap on Monday when a car suddenly sped at them and knocked down "many people", but he was able to jump aside.

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ZHUHAI, China: A police car is seen at the Zhuhai Sports Center on Nov 12, 2024, a day after a car rammed through the site killing dozens. — AFP



Arab-Islamic summit calls for end to Zionist brutality in Middle East

Death toll mounts as Zionists pound south Beirut

CAIRO: The Arab Parliament on Tuesday welcomed the outcomes of the Arab-Islamic summit in Saudi Arabia, considering it an important step to enhance Arab and Islamic solidarity and mobilize international efforts to stop the occupation's aggression against the Palestinian people in addition to its aggression on the Lebanon Parliament. Speaker Mohammed Al-Yamahi said in a statement that the outcomes of this summit included emphasizing the main constants and principles on which the Arab and Islamic position on the Palestinian issue is based.

He affirmed the Arab Parliament's support for all Arab, Islamic, and international efforts aimed at stopping the aggression on the Gaza Strip and Lebanon, stressing the need for the UN Security Council to assume its legal, moral, and political responsibility and issue a binding and decisive resolution to immediately stop this aggression and facilitate the entry of humanitarian and medical aid. He praised the Riyadh summit's call for the International Criminal Court to quickly hold accountable the perpetrators of genocide, enforced disappearance, mass graves, forced displacement, and other horrific war crimes and crimes against humanity.

He appreciated the summit's call to mobilize international support for the State of Palestine to join the United Nations as a full member, stressing that the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital is the main key to achieving security and stability in the region. The Saudi capital, Riyadh, hosted the extraordinary Arab-Islamic summit with the participation of Representative of His Highness the

Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

The summit's final statement called on the UN Security Council to issue binding resolutions to stop the Zionist occupation's aggression and ensure the protection of civilians in accordance with international law, stressing the centrality of the Palestinian cause and the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to establish their independent state on the borders of June 4, 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Five killed in Lebanon

Meanwhile, Lebanon's health ministry said a Zionist airstrike on Tuesday killed five people in the mountains east of Beirut, after a security official said a house sheltering displaced people was hit. "The Zionist enemy strike on Baalshmay killed five people," the ministry said in an initial report. The security official, speaking anonymously due to the sensitivity of the matter, said the "(Zionist) strike targeted a house where displaced people lived, including women and children".

On Tuesday morning, Zionists launched more than 10 airstrikes on south Beirut, state media said, shortly after the army warned people in several neighborhoods to evacuate the Hezbollah stronghold. Since September 23, Zionist entity has stepped up its aerial bombing campaign, mainly targeting Hezbollah strongholds in Lebanon's east and south and in southern Beirut. A week later, it sent ground troops into Lebanon. The escalation came after nearly a



GAZA: Displaced Palestinians from Beit Hanoun following Zionist army evacuation orders sit on the side of a main road upon their arrival in Jabalia in the northern Gaza Strip on November 12, 2024. — AFP

year of cross-border exchanges of fire, launched by Hezbollah in support of its Palestinian ally Hamas following their October 7, 2023 attack. More than 3,240

people have been killed in Lebanon since the clashes began last year, according to the health ministry, the majority of them since late September. — Agencies



Tajikistan Cultural Days kicks off

KUWAIT: Tajikistan Cultural Days kicked off on Monday with an exhibition of fine artistic paintings and handcrafts. The exhibition was



co-organized by Kuwait's National Council for Culture, Arts, and Letters (NCCAL) and the Tajikistan Embassy in Kuwait in the wake of the Tajikistan President's visit to the country a week ago. Speaking to KUNA in a statement during the opening, head of NCCAL Mohammad Al-Jassar said the two-day exhibition aims to enhance cultural relations between Kuwait



and Tajikistan. The event was also attended by Tajik Minister of Culture Matlubakhon Sattoriyov. The Days seek to help Kuwaiti society learn about Tajikistan's traditions and culture through paintings, photos, and handcrafts, in addition to traditional costumes and music, Tajikistan Ambassador to Kuwait Zubaydzoda Zubaydullo told KUNA. — KUNA



Mubarak Al-Abdullah Command receives Omani delegation

KUWAIT: Mubarak Al-Abdullah Joint Command and Staff College received a military delegation from the Joint Command and Staff College in Oman on an official visit. The Ministry of Defense said in a press statement on Tuesday that Assistant Commander of Mubarak Al-Abdullah Joint Command and Staff College, Brigadier General Abdullah Al-Dosari, welcomed the visiting delegation, headed by Commander of the Omani Command and Staff College, Brigadier General Saif bin Hamad Al-Yousfi, where the delegation listened to a detailed briefing on the various de-



partments and facilities of Mubarak Al-Abdullah College and the mechanism of the educational process, including curricula, lectures and exer-

cises. During the visit, the most important topics of common interest were discussed and experiences were exchanged. — KUNA

Kuwait presents tech experience in Lisbon summit

MADRID: Kuwait took part in the 'Meet Arab Tech' forum, held on the sidelines of the prestigious international Web Summit (2024), in the Portuguese capital Lisbon. The summit is aimed at exchanging expertise and presenting expertise and experience in the technological sector. Kuwait Ambassador to Portugal Hamad Al-Hazeem said in a statement to KUNA on Tuesday that the mission made sure that the Kuwaiti private sector would partake in the section on digital tech-

nology at the affiliated 'Meet Arab Tech' meet — first edition.

Ambassador Al-Hazeem said the Kuwaiti former Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs, Minister of State for Communication Affairs, and Minister of Youth Dawood Maarafi were among the main speakers at the event. The former minister conveyed Kuwait's pioneering digital experience, namely the establishment of the Sahel application.

He indicated that the affiliate Arab activity, organized by an initiative by the Council of Arab Diplomats in Lisbon, was intended to facilitate interaction between Arab technological innovators, executives, and investors with their peers from foreign countries. He affirmed that the participation in the event is aimed at studying other states' experi-



LISBON: Kuwait Ambassador to Portugal Hamad Al-Hazeem and Kuwait former Minister of State for Communication Affairs and the Minister of Youth Dawood Maarafi are pictured with other participants during the prestigious international Web Summit (2024). — KUNA

ence in the field and promoting Kuwait's experience. He also shed light during a session on the Kuwaiti private sector's innovations and products. — KUNA

'IXIR Expo': Journey into the world of health, wellness

KUWAIT: Fouz Expo Company, a leading local exhibition and conference organizer known for hosting the Mirzaam exhibition (the largest and oldest exhibition dedicated to interior design, furniture, and decor), announced the launch of the first edition of the IXIR Expo in Hall 8 at the International Fairgrounds in Mishref, from Wednesday, November 13th until the 16th.

This exhibition goes beyond mere displays, aiming to establish and raise awareness of comprehensive healthy lifestyles for all ages, improving overall quality of life. IXIR Expo focuses on physical fitness, mental renewal, psychological balance, and balanced nutrition, offering activities and experiences that promote mental and psychological health, reduce stress, and foster inner peace and general well-being.

Founder and CEO of Fouz Expo, Eng Farah Al-Humaidhi, emphasized, "IXIR Expo is more than just an ordinary event; it is a unique journey into the world of health and wellness. Our mission is to empower people of all ages and backgrounds to lead healthier and happier lives." Al-Humaidhi added that the inspiration behind IXIR Expo stemmed from a desire to bridge the gap between purely medical and purely sports-focused events. IXIR Expo 2024 embodies vitality and renewal, offering a diverse range of resources, opportunities, and support for health enthusiasts, wellness professionals, and industry leaders.

Reflecting on the name choice, Al-Humaidhi explained, "Our choice of the name 'IXIR,' inspired by the legendary substance believed to grant youthful renewal and health, is not coincidental. It reflects our philosophy at IXIR Expo, where we approach health as a holistic and comprehensive lifestyle, encompassing physical, mental, emotional, and social wellness. Central to IXIR Expo's philosophy is the belief that health is not merely a goal but a valuable resource in daily life, reinforcing the proverb 'prevention is better than cure.' This aligns with Kuwait Vision 2035, where health sustainability is a top priority."

Al-Humaidhi also revealed that over 75 companies, organizations, and institutions specializing in health, fitness, and nutrition would be participating. Key sponsors of the exhibition include IKEA, PharmaZone, and Asnan Tower, along with NBK, Gulf Takaful Insurance Company, and The Healthy Home. The IXIR Expo will feature dedicated spaces with custom-designed booths for sponsors and participants, as well as strategic areas for activities, lectures, workshops, physical activities, and children's crafts.

The "Zen Zone" promises a unique experience for all visitors. IXIR Expo will also provide exclusive offers, discounts, sports classes, the renowned Hyrox competition (sponsored by Elite Fitness), and lectures by prominent speakers and experts in the world of health and wellness. In addition, carefully selected ambassadors, known for their strong connection to the community and ability to inspire, will play a vital role in raising awareness of IXIR's offerings.

Al-Humaidhi concluded by inviting the public to visit IXIR Expo, benefit from the offers and innovations showcased, and explore solutions tailored to the Kuwaiti community's wellness needs. IXIR Expo is the latest addition to Fouz Expo's lineup of prestigious events, including Mirzaam Exhibition and the Mirzaamiyat Ramadan Exhibition. Looking ahead, Fouz Expo plans to expand its portfolio with new exhibitions catering to diverse community interests.



Eng Farah Al-Humaidhi

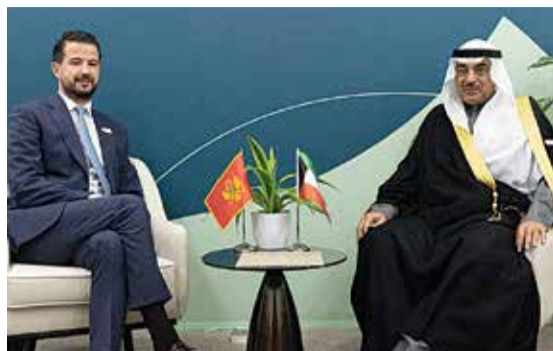
Amir's Representative meets world leaders



Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, on the sidelines of COP29 summit.



Representative of HH the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah to the COP29 conference meets Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev.



Representative of His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince receives Montenegro President Jakov Milatovic on the sidelines of COP29 summit. — KUNA photos



Representative of His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince holds talks with Jordan's Crown Prince Hussein bin Abdullah II on the sidelines of COP29 summit.

Electricity Minister signs contract for Al-Subiya station's expansion project

Kuwait eyes long-term partnership agreement with China

KUWAIT: Minister of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy Dr Mahmoud Bushehri on Tuesday signed a contract for the expansion project of Al-Subiya Power Plant with a production capacity of up to 250 megawatts (MW) with Alghanim International Company at a total value of about KD 118 million (about \$384 million). Minister Bushehri said in a press statement that this project represents the first steps to enhance and develop the electrical system in Kuwait after obtaining all necessary approvals from regulatory authorities.

Minister Bushehri added that the Ministry is currently in the process of floating the tender for the expansion project of Al-Subiya Power Plant (Phase IV) with a production capacity of up to 900 MW. He pointed out that the tender for the construction of the North Al-Zour station (second and third phases) with a production capacity of 2,700 megawatts is being finalized, as the bids of qualified companies have been received by the Public-Private Partnership Authority in preparation for awarding it to the winner.

The Ministry, in cooperation with the Partnership Authority, is also in the process of finalizing the tender documents for the Al-Khairat station, which has a production capacity of 1,800 megawatts. Regarding renewable energy, Minister Bushehri said that six companies were recently qualified to establish the Shaqaya station project (second and third phases) with a production capacity of 1,700 megawatts by the Ministry and Partnership Authority teams.

Minister Bushehri pointed out that the Ministry is also working in cooperation with the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Finance to conclude a long-term partnership agreement with China to establish the Abdaliyah station and the Shaqaya station

(fourth and fifth) for renewable energy, which have a production capacity of 3,400 megawatts. He stated that the Minister of Electricity, in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance and the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority, is currently working on fulfilling the legal requirements to establish two power generation stations based on the future producer (supplier) system in the Abdali and Nuwaiseeb areas with a production capacity of up to 6,600 megawatts.

He explained that the expected electricity production capacity to be added

successively over the next five years amounts to 17,350 megawatts, of which renewable energy represents 30 percent, with total financial investments estimated at about KD 5 billion (about \$16.5 billion), with the private sector's contribution exceeding 90 percent. He pointed out that with the start of the new power generation stations, some existing stations will be gradually dispensed with due to the end of their useful life and the high costs of their operation and maintenance, which makes them economically unfeasible. — KUNA



Al-Ata'a exhibition at Sadu House.



Handmade linen table cloth.

Empowering resilience: Al-Ata'a Association's mission and exhibition

By Ghadeer Ghloum

KUWAIT: Hayat Wahhab Arsalan, the founder of the Lebanon Al-Ata'a Charity Association, is currently showcasing the association's work at an exhibition hosted by Sadu House in Kuwait. This event highlights the association's ongoing efforts to support communities in Lebanon and empower women through handmade crafts. The exhibition is a testament to the dedication and resilience of the association in the face of adversity.

Arsalan expressed her gratitude for the positive response from the management and staff of Sadu House, which has created a warm and welcoming environment for the exhibition. "The Lebanese Al-Ata'a Association has consistently felt embraced and supported during its visits to Kuwait, fostering a sense of comfort, security, and belonging. The collaboration with Sadu House has allowed us to showcase the association's diverse range of products, including clothing, table linens, bedding, books, and more.

The exhibition space provides an opportunity for the Association to engage with the local community and raise awareness about its mission," she said. Arslan elaborated on the mission of Al-Ata'a Association saying: "Founded in 1983, the Lebanon Al-Ata'a Charity Association was established to address the social and economic challenges stemming from the wars in Lebanon. The Association's primary goal is to provide support to those affected by the war, with a particular focus on women and children. Over the years, the Association has implemented various programs aimed at alleviating hardship and promoting economic independence, especially for women who lack formal education.

The Association developed a program focused on the economic empowerment of women, teaching them specialized handicrafts. These women were trained to create high-quality handmade goods, which have been developed to meet international standards to compete with some of the most pres-



Hayat Arsalan



igious global retailers." She also said that since its inception, the "Lebanon Al-Ata'a Charity Association" has organized numerous exhibitions worldwide, starting in the 1990s.

These exhibitions serve as a platform to promote the products created by the women in the Association's programs, as well as to raise funds for the ongoing work of the charity. To date, the Association has held five exhibitions in Kuwait, with the first taking place in 1993, shortly after the liberation of Kuwait. The current exhibition at Sadu House marks another important achievement in the Association's ongoing commitment to raising awareness and garnering support for its initiatives

KRCS announces formation of new board of directors

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) announced on Tuesday the formation of its new board of directors for the year 2024-2025, headed by Ambassador Khaled Al-Mughhamis, with Dr Nasser Al-Tanak as vice chairman, Counselor Hamoud Al-Sanea as secretary general, Dr Latifa Al-Meer as treasurer and Yousef Al-Zaben, Fahd Al-Mandil, and Saud Al-Mukhaizeem as members.

Chairman of the society's board, Ambassador Al-Mughhamis, said in a press statement after the formation that the new board of directors is committed to working in a team spirit to exert all humanitarian efforts to relieve the afflicted around the world with the support and directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and with the solidarity and cooperation of humanitarian bodies and institutions in the country.

He explained that the society closely monitors current developments on the global scene and the accompanying humanitarian disasters, as it bears the responsibility of facing these challenges by developing plans and strategies to provide urgent humanitarian support and assistance to all those affected around the world.

Ambassador Al-Mughhamis stressed that the association and its leadership and excellence in the fields of humanitarian work constitute an incentive for it to provide more aid, alleviate human suffering, and preserve human dignity. Regarding the relief bridge to Lebanon, Ambassador Al-Mughhamis announced the launch of the fourth plane next Saturday under the directives of the political leadership and in cooperation between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Social Affairs. — KUNA

IES students visit Kuwait Times and Kuwait News



KUWAIT: Students from Ideal Education School visited Kuwait Times and Kuwait News on Tuesday to gain insights into journalism and learn about the various departments of the newspaper. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



In my view

Keep smiling

By Hassan T Bwambale

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World Kindness Day is an international observance of kindness every November 13. It was introduced in Japan in 1998 by the World Kindness Movement. A smile is among the acts of kindness. Smiling has a great effect on a person's situation. As such, the next time something does not go your way, try smiling instead of showing signs of frustration, since this will help you to be more content with the divine pre-destiny. Consequently, this has a great effect on your attitude, allowing you to deal with matters in a calmer and stress-free manner.

Smiling is an act of worship: Abu Dharr (RA) narrated that Allah's Messenger (PBUH) said, translated as: "Smiling at your brother is charity, and enjoining good and forbidding evil are charity..." (Al-Albani rated it as sahih (authentic) in Sahih At-Tirmidhi # 1, 956). Abu Dharr (RA) also narrated that Allah's Messenger (PBUH) said, "Do not belittle any good deed, even meeting your brother with a cheerful face" (Muslim # 2, 626).

We are God's property: Since we humans are God's property, then whatever we do to improve our health and wellness, He rewards us abundantly for it. Therefore, we have to explore what benefits us and stick to it, and avoid what harms us. Abu Huraira (RA) related that Allah's Messenger (PBUH) said in a long hadith (prophetic tradition): "Be keen (to do and say) what benefits you, seek help from Allah, and do not laze..." (Muslim # 2, 664).

Smiling benefits in many ways: It releases endorphins, natural mood boosters and reduces stress. It also helps you appear more approachable and trustworthy, and makes people more likely to want to help you if you're struggling. Smiling is one of the most important facial expressions and can make you look younger.

A smile is an act of kindness. It expresses warmth, happiness or friendliness – among others. It can convey various emotions, such as joy, amusement or comfort – among others – and is often used as a social signal to show kindness, gratitude or reassurance. It's a universal gesture that can communicate goodwill and openness without words.

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was our role model in everything, including smiling: He was always cheerful and bright-faced. According to Muslim historians, he always maintained a smiling face in the company of his Companions to the extent that Abdullah bin Al-Harith bin Hazm (RA) said: "I have never seen anyone smile more than Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) (Al-Albani rated it as sahih (authentic) in Sahih At-Tirmidhi # 3, 641).

Keep smiling: We are encouraged in various ways to keep a beautiful and sincere smile on our face at all times, and not a senseless mechanical smile that is fake and deceitful. A beautiful and sincere smile penetrates the walls of other people's hearts and settles there as a crown king.

A sincere smile shows one's good character: Abdullah bin Al-Mubarak – an 8th-century Muslim scholar and jurist – explained good character, saying: "It is a smiling face, doing one's best in performing good deeds, and refraining from evil and harm" (This athar (tradition of our rightly-guided predecessors) was graded as sahih (authentic), see Sahih At-Tirmidhi # 2, 005).

Finally: If there is an opportunity to smile, grab it! You can make other people smile by giving them a genuine smile, and you will be rewarded for that. — Courtesy of Kuwaiti Society for Cultural Dialogue.

Kuwait Charity launches 2nd phase of economic empowerment project

AMMAN: The Kuwaiti International Islamic Charitable Organization (IICO) and the Jordanian Arab Society for the Protection of Nature launched on Monday the second phase of a project for economic empowerment, enhancing food and water security in Jordan Valley through implementing sustainable agricultural projects at a cost of \$500,000.

The project, which was launched in the presence of the representative of the Kuwaiti Embassy in Jordan, Counselor Nasser Al-Mutairi, targets 600 agricultural families in the northern, central, and southern Jordan Valley regions by providing them with a total of 25,000 fruit trees and 5,000 kilograms of vegetable seeds. The project works to extend irrigation networks over an area of 375,000 square meters of agricultural land and construct and rehabilitate 50 agricultural ponds.

Secretary General of the Jordanian Ministry of Social Development, Barq Al-Damour, stressed in a speech he delivered during the ceremony the impor-



NBK launches 'NBK Pioneers Program' to upskill and advance career of high potential employees

A 6-month program in collaboration with 6 prestigious local, international institutions

KUWAIT: As part of its continuous endeavors to enhance the career development of its human resources and support them in building a successful career, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) has launched a talent management training program titled "NBK Pioneers Program", to develop and enhance the leadership skills of its employees and help them advance in their careers, which ensures high-quality human capital being the bank's most valuable asset.

The new program announced in a ceremony held yesterday at NBK's headquarters and will run for 6 months until May 15, 2025, specifically targets high potential and high performing employees, especially in customer-facing divisions including Domestic Branches Division, Direct Sales Division, Call Center, Business Banking.

The material in this program is much varied and intense in order to cover all opportunities and dimensions that they will face in their careers including soft and technical skills, which will reflect positively on their performance and qualify them to play a greater role in the bank's success and growth in the future. NBK's partners in delivering the NBK Pioneers program include a number of local and international training institutions including: Lifelong, CODED, Trusted Advisor, Mawaarid, Scotwork and

Euromoney. This learning journey prioritizes experiential learning and ensures that Pioneers learn by experiencing rather than passively. Covering various themes throughout their journey which include several topics related to Impact Skills, Digital Transformation, Technical Skills, Leadership Skills, Interpersonal Skills, and innovation. The program also addresses key topics including, but not limited to Self-marketing, AI in Retail Banking, Mega Trends In Technology, Fraud Prevention, Advanced Selling Skills, Business Etiquette, Leading High Performing Teams, Generation Gap And The New Tech Savvy Customer- amongst many others.

Talent development

Commenting on the launch of the NBK Pioneers Program, Emad Al-Ablani, GM - Group Human Resources at National Bank of Kuwait, said, "Launching this program comes in light of the growing needs and demands of skills and talents in the banking sector, and as part of NBK's efforts to develop and upskill its high potential employees, and to qualify them to take on leadership roles in the future." "The journey of Group Human Resources with the development of NBK employees is a continuing process that begins with attracting high-caliber talent to join the bank,

continues with enhancing their skills and developing their performance through various training programs and workshops, and culminates with qualifying them to take on leadership roles in the bank through specialized training programs," he elaborated.

Unique work environment

"NBK stands out with a unique work environment, akin to international peers, raising the slogan "More Than a Workplace" by continuously providing employees with exceptional career development opportunities. This includes diverse training and development programs delivered in cooperation with leading local and international educational institutions to develop their professional as well as their personal skills," he noted. "This unique work environment makes NBK an employer of choice for fresh graduates and increases employees' loyalty, reflecting the bank's firm belief that the success of any organization is dependent on diverse and high-quality talent," he added. It is worth mentioning that investing in human capital is instrumental in NBK's culture and strategy to achieve its goals. The bank also stands out among Kuwaiti banks and companies in terms of attracting national talent from fresh graduates and providing them with suitable job opportunities.



IWG hosts Mongolian Cultural Day, promotes cultural exchange, unity

KUWAIT: The International Women's Group (IWG), in collaboration with the Embassy of Mongolia in Kuwait, hosted the "Mongolian Cultural Day" on November 10, 2024, under the theme "Women's Involvement in Saving the World." Held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, the event gathered members of Kuwait's diplomatic community, public and private sector officials, and IWG members, all dressed in white to symbolize purity and a commitment to peace, to celebrate Mongolia's rich traditions and heritage.

In her welcome speech Polina Dalmini, President of the IWG and wife of the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Eswatini, thanked and commended the Embassy of Mongolia and IWG Vice President, Baigal Bayantsagaan, wife of the Ambassador of Mongolia, for organizing such a meaningful celebration. Dalmini highlighted the theme's focus on women's global contributions to peace, sustainability and community resilience, emphasizing the essential role that women play in shaping a more harmonious world. She noted that events like the Mongolian Cultural Day foster cultural exchange and unity, allowing women from diverse

backgrounds to learn, share and support one another's traditions and reinforcing the values of the IWG.

Ambassador of Mongolia, Sergelen Purev opened the event, saying, "It is my distinct honor and privilege to welcome you all to this special occasion of Mongolian Cultural Day." He emphasized the "critical role that women have played and continue to play in shaping a sustainable and peaceful world" and expressed gratitude to the IWG for hosting the event. In his address, Ambassador Purev highlighted Mongolia's "deep-rooted connections to our environment and livestock," which are fundamental to Mongolian culture and economy, shaped by a rich heritage of nomadic life on Mongolia's vast steppes and rugged landscapes. Attendees were also enlightened with some details of Mongolia's contri-



butions to world history, such as the 13th-century postal system established under Genghis Khan and first passport called "Gerege".

Ambassador Purev underscored the honored role of women in Mongolian society, stating, "Mongolians hold a deep respect for women and mothers. Throughout Mongolia's history, women have been at the heart of our communities, embodying courage and wisdom." He explained that the event's white dress code symbolizes "the women's pure, white heart and its commitment to bring peace to the world." As guests arrived, they received a traditional blue scarf, or khadag, a welcoming gesture that "symbolizes respect, purity, goodwill, and conveys a deep sense of honor."

Throughout the event, several interactive stations highlighted unique aspects of Mongolian heritage. Guests experienced traditional artifacts, games, luxury cashmere, Mongolian food, and the "Deel" (traditional clothing), along with enchanting music and dance performances. Models walked the runway in vibrant "Deel" garments, showcasing the intricate designs and magnificent patterns that reflect Mongolia's cultural richness. The mesmerizing event concluded as an outstanding celebration of cultural heritage and women's roles in fostering peace. Through its vibrant displays, performances, and inspiring theme of "Women's Involvement in Saving the World," the Mongolian Cultural Day offered a memorable journey into Mongolia's past and present, leaving a lasting impression on all attendees.

ance of the economic empowerment, food, and water security project that targets farmers in the Jordan Valley regions. Al-Damour explained that the project's desired goals are to increase the productive green area, improve water resources, reduce water loss, enhance economic empowerment, enhance food security, improve management of surplus agricultural products and raise their economic value, combat climate change, raise community awareness about the importance of agriculture, and volunteer.

He pointed out that Jordan seeks to be a provider of food to the region due to its central geographical location and its successful experience in providing food. In

turn, the Director of the International Islamic Charitable Organization office in Jordan, Mustafa Al-Awad, said in a statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that the organization is working on the project with enthusiasm as a result of the success achieved in the first phase of the project, noting that the funding for the second phase amounted to \$500,000.

Awad pointed out that the second phase of the project focuses on supporting small farmers in the Jordan Valley, stressing that investing in these farmers is an investment in the future of agriculture and food security in Jordan and a step towards achieving sustainable economic development. He added that the project aims

to enhance the capabilities of farmers and provide them with the necessary resources to increase their production and improve their standard of living.

For her part, Razan Zuaier, head of the Arab Society for the Protection of Nature, confirmed in a similar statement that food systems in the developing world do not support small farmers, which exacerbates the challenge of food sovereignty. Zuaier added that the project contributes to creating more job opportunities for residents of the targeted areas, increasing the productive agricultural area, working to benefit from the surplus agricultural production, and enhancing water resource management. — KUNA



Kuwait International Islamic Charitable Organization (IICO) and the Jordanian Arab Society for the Protection of Nature launch the second phase of a project for economic empowerment, enhancing food and water security in Jordan Valley. - KUNA photos





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AIN YAACOUB: A woman reacts while sitting on the rubble at the site of an overnight Zionist strike in Ain Yaacoub, Akkar region, on November 12, 2024. — AFP photos

Zionist strikes reach Lebanon's far north

Bombing kills at least 8 people in rare attack on Akkar

BEIRUT: A day after Zionist warplanes flattened their building, Lebanese residents helped rescuers scour the rubble for survivors, still reeling from the rare strike in the country's far north. The bombing killed at least eight people in Ain Yaacoub, one of the northernmost villages the Zionist entity has struck, far from Lebanon's southern border. "They hit a building where more than 30 people lived without any evacuation warning," said Mustafa Hamza, who lives near the site of the strike. "It's an indescribable massacre."

The Zionist entity intensified its attacks on Lebanon in September, mainly targeting south Beirut and eastern and southern Lebanon. But Zionist airstrikes have killed people across the country. On Sunday, Lebanon said a Zionist strike killed 23 people, including seven children, in the village of Almat — a rare strike north of the capital. Earlier this month, authorities said a Zionist strike on a residential building killed at least 20 people in Barja, a town south of Beirut that is outside Hezbollah's area of influence.

Following Monday's strike on Ain Yaacoub, residents joined rescuers, using bare hands to sift through dust and chunks of concrete, hoping to find survivors. The health ministry said the death toll was expected to rise. On the ground, people could be seen pulling body parts from the rubble in the morning, following a long night of search operations. In near-darkness, rescuers had struggled to locate survivors, using mobile phone lights and car headlamps in a remote area where national grid power is scarce.

'People are shocked'

For years, Syrians fleeing war in their home country, along with more recently displaced Lebanese escaping Zionist strikes, sought refuge in the Akkar region near the Syrian border, once seen as a

haven. "The situation is dire. People are shocked," Hamza told AFP. "People from all over the region have come here to try to help recover the victims." The village, inhabited mostly by Sunni Muslims and Christians, lies far from the strongholds of Hezbollah, a Shiite Muslim movement.

A security source said Monday's air strike targeted a Hezbollah member who had relocated with his family to the building in Ain Yaacoub from south Lebanon. Local official Rony Al-Hage told AFP that it was the northernmost Zionist attack since September. "The people who were in my house were my uncle, his wife, and my sisters ... A Syrian woman and her children who had been living here for 10 years, were also killed," said Hashem Hashem, the son of the building's owner. His relatives had fled the Zionist entity's onslaught on south Lebanon seeking a safe haven in the Akkar region more than a month ago, he said. — AFP



First responders search around a damaged car at the site of the Zionist strike.

Archbishop of Canterbury resigns over abuse scandal

LONDON: The leader of the world's Anglicans, Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, announced Tuesday he was resigning following a damning report that concluded the Church of England covered up a serial abuse case. Welby had faced days of growing pressure to quit after the independent probe found Welby "could and should" have formally reported decades of abuse by a Church-linked lawyer to authorities in 2013.

A petition demanding his resignation, launched in the wake of the report's revelations, has garnered nearly 14,000 signatures while leading clergy, including some bishops, were increasingly urging him to quit. "It is very clear that I must take personal and institutional responsibility for the long and re-traumatizing period between 2013 and 2024," said Welby, 68. "I hope this decision makes clear how seriously the Church of England understands the need for change and our profound commitment to creating a safer church. "As I step down I do so in sorrow with all victims and survivors of abuse."

The independent Makin Review concluded that John Smyth, a lawyer who organized evangelical summer camps in the 1970s and 1980s, was responsible for "prolific, brutal and horrific" abuse of as many as 130 boys and young men. It found the Church of England — the mother church of Anglicanism — covered up the "traumatic physical, sexual, psychological and spiritual attacks", which occurred in Britain, Zimbabwe and South Africa over several decades. Smyth, who lived in Africa from 1984, died aged 75 in South Africa in 2018 while under investigation by British police. He never faced any criminal charges.

'Failed'

One of those who began the petition calling for Welby to resign said he was "pleased" he had taken responsibility. Ian Paul, an associate minister at a church in Nottingham, central England, said Welby had in the past said that "if an organization makes



Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby

these errors, then the leaders must take responsibility". "He's terminated other people's ministries for safeguarding failings, and I don't see there was any alternative than him doing the same himself," he added. Appointed the Church of England's highest-ranking cleric in 2013, Welby has apologized for what occurred but previously insisted he would not resign because he did not know about the wrongdoing before then. On Tuesday, he said he was told the year that police had been notified and had "believed wrongly that an appropriate resolution would follow".

Hours earlier, UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer had increased the pressure on Welby when he said Smyth's victims had been "failed very, very badly". Asked whether Welby should stand down, Starmer, a former chief prosecutor for England and Wales, said it was "a matter, in the end, for the Church". "But I'm not going to shy away from the fact that these are

horrific allegations and that my thoughts are with the victims in relation to it," he added. Starmer's spokesman said later that the prime minister "respects the decision". King Charles III, who is supreme governor of the Church of England, approved the resignation, Buckingham Palace said. The report into Smyth, led by former social services chief Keith Makin, concluded those "at the highest level" within the Church knew from mid-2013 about the extent of his abusive crimes. The failure to alert police "represented a further missed opportunity to bring him to justice" it said. The Makin probe also further criticized the Church's response to a 2017 Channel 4 expose of Smyth's abuses, calling it "poor in terms of speed, professionalism, intensity and curiosity". Welby's successor is appointed by the king on the recommendation of the 16-member Crown Nominations Committee, which includes senior clergy and lay members. The decision can take months. — AFP

North Korea ratifies landmark defense treaty with Russia

SEOUL: North Korea has ratified a landmark defense pact with Russia, state media reported Tuesday, deepening security cooperation that has seen Pyongyang send thousands of troops to help Moscow fight Ukraine. The agreement formalizes months of tightening military bonds between two nations that were Communist allies throughout the Cold War. Seoul and ally the United States have accused the nuclear-armed North of sending thousands of soldiers to Russia, where they have been outfitted with Russian uniforms and are, according to reports, massed on the border near Kursk. The deal "was ratified as a decree" of leader Kim Jong Un, the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said Tuesday.

The notice comes after Russian lawmakers voted unanimously last week to ratify the deal, which President Vladimir Putin later signed. "The treaty will take effect from the day when both sides exchanged the ratification instruments," KCNA said.

North Korea has become one of the most vocal and important backers of Russia's offensive in Ukraine. Pyongyang has long been accused by Western nations of supplying Moscow with artillery shells and missiles for use in Ukraine, but that support has escalated in recent weeks with the reported arrival of thousands of North Korean troops prepared to engage in combat.

Putin and Kim signed the strategic partnership treaty in June, during the Kremlin chief's visit to North Korea. It obligates both states to provide military assistance "without delay" in the case of an attack on the other and to cooperate internationally to oppose Western sanctions. Putin hailed the deal in June as a "breakthrough document".

"With bilateral ratifications, Pyongyang and Moscow will claim legitimacy for North Korea's military deployment to Russia, arguing that this action is justified by the ratified treaty between the two," said Hong Min, a senior analyst at the Korea Institute for National Unification. "While their treaty does not override UN resolutions prohibiting such cooperation, they will assert its legitimacy based on their agreement," Hong added. "This raises the prospect of additional, potentially larger deployments of North Korean manpower to Russia in the future." — AFP

International

Philippines braces for 5th storm in 3 weeks

Nearly 160 people killed, thousands displaced due to typhoons, storms since late October

MANILA: The Philippines prepared Tuesday to evacuate potentially tens of thousands of people as the fifth major storm in three weeks bore down on the archipelago shortly after the onslaught of Typhoon Toraji. Now a weakened tropical storm, Toraji blew out to sea overnight after causing relatively limited damage and no reported deaths. But Tropical Storm Usagi is now just two days away from the coast of Luzon, the archipelago nation's largest and most populous island, and gaining strength, the national weather agency said. "It's looking like it will follow the track of (Yinxing)," civil defense chief Rueli Rapsing of Cagayan province told AFP, referring to a typhoon that struck the northern tip of the country last week. "We preemptively evacuated 40,000 people that time, so we could be looking at the same scenario and evacuate 40,000 individuals again," he said, adding Cagayan officials will decide on it at a meeting on Wednesday.

Rapsing said the water level of the Cagayan river, the country's largest, was four meters (13 feet) above normal, preventing more than 5,000 people who were previously evacuated from returning home. He said he also dispatched a search and rescue team to Amulung town after two young men went missing while collecting driftwood from the Cagayan river's swollen waters. The local government also reported knee-high floods across Santiago, a city of 150,000 people along an upper bank of the Cagayan river. In total, the government said it had evacuated more than 32,000 people from vulnerable areas in the

northern Philippines ahead of Toraji's Monday landfall.

The evacuations follow Severe Tropical Storm Trami, Typhoon Yinxing and Super Typhoon Kongrey, which killed a combined 159 people. Most of the fatalities happened during Trami, which unleashed torrential rains that triggered deadly flash floods and landslides.

Landfall expected Thursday
Usagi is now packing 95 kilometers (59 miles) an hour and may start affecting the Philippines late Tuesday, the national weather service said in an updated bulletin. "This tropical cyclone is forecast to steadily intensify in the next three days and reach typhoon category tomorrow afternoon or evening. (Usagi) will possibly make landfall at peak intensity" on Thursday, it added. Coastal waters will be rough and "mariners of small seacraft ... are advised not to venture out to sea under these conditions".

While the government reported no casualties from Toraji, it said around 15,000 people were still sheltering at mainly government-run evacuation centers. Utility workers on Tuesday repaired damaged bridges, restored electricity and cleared roads blocked by landslides, fallen trees and power pylons, the civil defense office said. The full extent of the damage to private homes was not immediately known, but 29 towns and cities were still without power. Ports reopened, meanwhile, and college and university students in nearly 600 towns and cities began returning to class. "A small number of people were preemptively evacuated but they have since returned home. Classes at



ILAGAN, Philippines: Rescuers ferry stranded residents from their flooded houses at a village in Ilagan town, Isabela province on November 12, 2024, a day after Typhoon Toraji hit the province. — AFP

the collegiate level have resumed," civil defense official Randy Nicolas of the northern province of Ilocos Norte told AFP.

After Usagi, the weather service said Tropical Storm Man-yi, now near Guam,

may also threaten the Philippines early next week. About 20 big storms and typhoons hit the archipelago nation or its surrounding waters each year, killing scores of people and keeping millions in enduring poverty.

A recent study showed that storms in the Asia-Pacific region are increasingly forming closer to coastlines, intensifying more rapidly and lasting longer over land due to climate change. — AFP

Mauritius opposition claims clean-sweep election triumph

PORT LOUIS: Mauritius opposition leader Navin Ramgoolam said Tuesday his alliance had secured a landslide election victory, after the incumbent prime minister conceded he faced a "huge defeat". Ramgoolam, now set for a third term as prime minister, told crowds of jubilant supporters that his Alliance of Change had made a clean sweep of parliamentary seats on the island of Mauritius in Sunday's vote. "The court of the people has delivered its verdict and a new Mauritius awakes," the 77-year-old said to boisterous cheers and blaring horns.

He claimed his side had won all 60 of the National Assembly seats for the island that were up for grabs, in a victory over prime minister Pravind Jugnauth, known as PKJ, who has been in office since 2017. Ramgoolam now faces the task of uniting the Indian Ocean archipelago, touted as one of Africa's most stable and prosperous democracies, after a tense



PORT LOUIS: Former Prime Minister of Mauritius and opposition leader Navin Ramgoolam (right), casts his ballot during the 2024 Mauritian election. — AFP

and hotly-disputed election.

"I hope PKJ resigns soon. He was beaten 60-0," Ramgoolam added. The figure was confirmed by local media, although the election commission has yet to issue official results. It would be the third time since Mauritius became independent from Britain in 1968 that there has been a 60-0 score, media reports said. As well as the 60 seats for Mauritius, there were

this for years, with disagreements over how much should be paid, and who should pay it.

Developing countries warn that without adequate finance, they will struggle to offer ambitious updates to their climate goals, which countries are required to submit by early next year.

Leaders from climate-vulnerable countries including the Maldives warned: "we need the finance COP to deliver." "We see funds flowing freely to wage war, but scrutinized when it's for climate adaption," said Mohamed Muizzu, president of the archipelago.

The small group of developed countries that currently contributes the money wants the donor pool expanded to include other rich nations and top emitters, including China and the Gulf states, something firmly rejected by Beijing. UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres on Tuesday said developing nations "must not leave Baku empty-handed". "A deal is a must," he said.

UN climate chief Simon Stiell has tried to convince rich countries that climate finance is not charity, but a downpayment on a safer, wealthier planet. "The climate crisis is fast becoming an economy killer," he warned. "Climate action is global inflation insurance." He also sought to reassure the talks that recent "political events" would not derail global climate diplomacy. "Our process is strong. It's robust, and it will endure." — AFP

blocked by a police car and security guards shouting "No filming!" At another entrance, candles flickered at a makeshift memorial where people were sending online flower deliveries. One delivery driver told AFP he had already brought 10 orders there that night.

Security was also high in front of the emergency room of a nearby hospital, where a huge group of doctors and nurses were milling about. After the announcement of the death toll, the news shot to the top of the trending topics on Chinese social media, with tens of millions of views. The graphic videos that circulated on social media on Monday night showing the aftermath of the incident had mostly disappeared though.

On Chinese social media platform Xiaohongshu, users expressed their shock at the sudden rise in fatalities. "Last night after work, when I watched the news, there weren't this many people reported," one user commented on a photo of the police statement released. "Tonight, suddenly seeing this number — so many families affected." Videos on the social media platform showed Zhuhai residents queuing up at blood donation centers and hospitals.

One Weibo user wrote: "Even in today's highly connected world, it took over 24 hours to learn about this incident." Others expressed shock. "I don't know what to say, but I hope this kind of sickness does not spread," wrote one. — Agencies

COP29 host defends fossil fuels...

Continued from Page 1

warming would not end under Trump, who has pledged to withdraw from the landmark Paris climate deal. US climate advisor Ali Zaidi said the country was now on a "secular and sustained trajectory on our emissions," and Washington was "very focused on achieving a good result" at COP29.

The meeting's top priority is landing a hard-fought deal to boost funding for climate action in developing countries. These nations — from low-lying islands to fractured states at war — are least responsible for climate change but most at risk from rising seas, extreme weather and economic shocks. Some are pushing for the existing pledge of \$100 billion a year to be raised ten-fold at COP29 to cover the future cost of their nations shifting to clean energy and adapting to climate shocks.

Adonia Ayebare, the Ugandan chair of a bloc that groups over 100 mostly developing countries and China, said they had already rejected a draft deal on the table at Baku. "We cannot accept it and we asked them to produce a new text," he told AFP. Nations have haggled over

35 killed in south China..

Continued from Page 1

Another eyewitness surnamed Liu told Caixin that the car "drove in a loop". "People were hurt in all areas of the running track — east, south, west, and north," he said. Fan was "controlled on the spot" as he attempted to drive away, police said Tuesday. He was found in his car cutting himself with a knife, and is currently in a coma after self-inflicted injuries to his neck and other parts of his body, unable to undergo interrogation, they added. The 43 people wounded are not currently in life-threatening condition, police said.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has urged "all-out efforts" to treat the injured and has "demanded punishing the perpetrator in accordance with the law", according to state news agency Xinhua. China's largest airshow showcasing Beijing's civil and military aerospace sector is being held in Zhuhai at 20 people.

There were fewer than 20 people at the sports stadium on Tuesday night when AFP visited the scene. Some of them were attempting to film videos but were

two up for grabs for the island of Rodrigues and another eight allocated under what is dubbed the "best loser" system. The winner-takes-all election model means single coalitions often dominate parliament.

'Huge defeat' for PM

Jugnauth had said Monday that his Lepep alliance, led by his Militant Socialist Movement (MSM), was "heading towards a huge defeat". "The people have chosen another team to lead the country." Only last month, the 62-year-old prime minister was celebrating a historic deal that saw Britain cede sovereignty over the Chagos Islands to Mauritius after a long-running dispute.

But the vote was overshadowed by an explosive wire-tapping scandal, when secretly recorded phone calls of politicians, diplomats, members of civil society and journalists were leaked online. During the campaign, both camps promised to improve the lot of ordinary Mauritians who face cost-of-living difficulties despite robust economic growth. Measures outlined in the Alliance of Change manifesto include the creation of a fund to support families facing hardship, free public transport, increased pensions and reduced fuel prices, as well as efforts to tackle corruption and boost the green economy. It also called for constitu-

tional and electoral reforms including changing how the president and parliament speaker are chosen.

The majority-Hindu nation has seen substantial stability and growth since independence, building an economy based on tourism as well as financial services and textile manufacturing. Gross domestic product per capita in 2022 was more than \$10,000, according to the World Bank. But analysts have highlighted growing concerns about governance and corruption as well as the need to diversify the Mauritian economy.

Both Jugnauth and Ramgoolam are members of the dynasties that have dominated the leadership of Mauritius since independence. Ramgoolam, who previously worked as a doctor and a lawyer, served as prime minister between 1995 and 2000 and again from 2005 to 2014. He is the son of Seewoosagar Ramgoolam, who led Mauritius to independence from Britain in 1968.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was the first foreign leader to publicly congratulate Ramgoolam, who is of Indian ancestry. "I wished him great success in leading Mauritius and extended an invitation to visit India. Look forward to working closely together to strengthen our special and unique partnership," Modi posted on X on Monday. — AFP

Cabinet OKs draft residency law, new...

Continued from Page 1

A Cabinet statement said the new draft residency law aims at banning trading in residencies and determination of rules that govern deporting expats, in addition to increasing penalties on violators of the residency law. The new law consists of seven chapters that govern and explain the rules for the entry of expats, informing authorities, trading in residencies and related crimes and penalties for violators, the statement issued by the Cabinet said.

One of the articles prohibits "trading in residencies by facilitating the entry of expats through

a visa or work permit or renewing them against money or benefits". Another article prohibits employers from forcing recruited expats from working in jobs other than specified in the work permit. It also bans employers from allowing their employees to work for others without a license from the interior ministry and prohibits employers to withhold wages of their employees.

The law prohibits expats working for others without obtaining a permit from their government employers or from concerned authorities, the statement said. The law also bans sheltering expats or employing them, whether their residencies are valid or expired, and bars renting houses to illegal expats. The new law obliges sponsors of expats to notify the interior ministry in case their visas or temporary and permanent residencies had expired and they had not left the country. The statement did not provide further details on the new penalties.

Horror Zionist massacres in...

Continued from Page 1

a day for our hospital workers amidst severe food and medical supply shortages," said Hussam Abu Safiya, director of Kamal Adwan Hospital in northern Gaza. "We are losing lives every day due to the lack of specialized care and resources," he added.

This week, the outgoing US administration is expected to judge whether the Zionist entity has done enough to meet a demand issued last month to get more aid flowing into Gaza. Last week, a committee of global food security experts warned of a strong likelihood that famine was imminent in certain areas of northern Gaza.

As the 30-day deadline imposed by Washington has approached, Zionist authorities have been rushing to meet some of the US demands but it remains unclear whether enough has been done to satisfy US requirements. On Tuesday, the military said it had opened a fifth crossing into Gaza, one of the US demands, which it said would help get food, water, medical supplies and shelter equipment to central and southern Gaza. International aid groups said the effort falls short of what would be needed and the Zionist entity's military operation in northern Gaza has worsened the situation.

More than 43,500 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza over the past year and Gaza has been reduced to a wasteland of wrecked buildings and piles of rubble where more than 2 million Gazans seek shelter as best they can. The Zionist campaign in the north of Gaza, and the evacuation of tens of thousands of Palestinians from the area, has fueled accusations from Palestinians that it is clearing the area for use as a buffer zone and potentially for a return of Jewish

settlers. On Tuesday, residents said Zionist tanks advanced deeper in Beit Hanoun and besieged four displaced families before ordering them to leave towards Gaza City.

Meanwhile, the Zionist military pounded Beirut's southern suburbs with airstrikes on Tuesday, mounting one of its heaviest daytime attacks yet on the Hezbollah-controlled area after the defense minister ruled out a ceasefire until Zionist goals were met. Smoke billowed over Beirut as around a dozen strikes hit the southern suburbs from mid-morning.

Rocket fire from Lebanon on Tuesday killed two men in their 40s in the Zionist entity's north, close to the town of Nahariya, first responders said. People were forced to take shelter as attack drones were launched from Lebanon, the military said. Hezbollah also said it fired missiles at an air base near Tel Aviv. A Zionist strike killed five people in the village of Baalchmay some 15 km southeast of Beirut, Lebanon's health ministry said. Another person was killed in a Zionist strike in Hermel, in northeastern Lebanon, it said.

Beirut residents have largely fled the southern suburbs since the Zionist entity began bombing it in September. Footage of one strike shared on social media showed two missiles slamming into a building of around 10 storeys, demolishing it and sending up clouds of debris. Tuesday's strikes destroyed 15 buildings in the southern suburbs, security sources said.

The new Zionist defense minister Israel Katz said on Monday there would be no ceasefire in Lebanon until the Zionist entity achieves its goals. Imran Riza, UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Lebanon, said the conflict was imposing an alarming human cost in Lebanon, saying that airstrikes reportedly killed 23 people, including seven children, in a village in Mount Lebanon on Monday. "On the same day, an airstrike in the city of Tyre killed five siblings from the same family, all of whom had special needs," he said in a statement. — Agencies

International

Trump's new admin picks reflect climate, foreign policy stance

Marco Rubio, Kristi Noem, Lee Zeldin tapped to be on Trump's team

WASHINGTON: US President-elect Donald Trump has chosen new members of his incoming administration. He has chosen South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem to serve as the next Homeland Security Secretary, two sources familiar with the decision told Reuters on Tuesday. Trump was also expected to tap US Senator Marco Rubio to be his secretary of state, putting the Florida-born politician on track to be the first Latino to serve as America's top diplomat once the Republican president-elect takes office in January.

Killed a dog

Noem, once seen as a possible running mate for Republican Trump, is currently serving her second four-year term as South Dakota's governor after a landslide reelection victory in 2022. She rose to national prominence after refusing to impose a statewide mask mandate during the COVID-19 pandemic. Noem faced widespread backlash in April when she wrote in a memoir that she shot to death an "untrainable" dog that she "hated" on her family farm. Some Trump advisers said they believed Noem's stock fell in the former president's eyes after that, at a time when she was still a vice presidential contender. The Department of Homeland Security is responsible for everything from border protection and immigration to disaster response and the US Secret Service.

China hawks

Both Rubio and Congressman Michael Waltz, who has been lined up for the powerful National Security Advisor role, have notably hawkish views on China, which they see as a threat and challenge to US economic and military might. The two appointees, both from Florida, would be key architects of Trump's "America First" foreign policy, with the incoming president having promised to end the wars raging in Ukraine and the Middle East, and avoid any more US military entanglements.

Over the last several years, Rubio has softened some of his foreign policy stances to align more

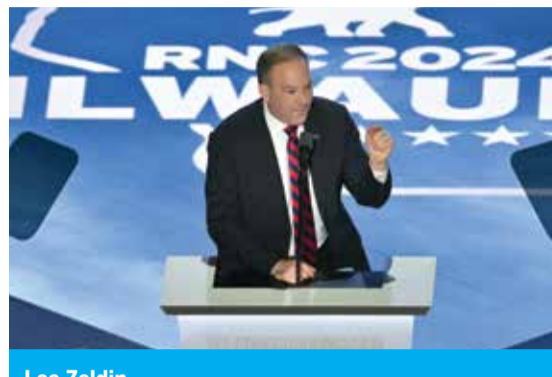


RALEIGH: Donald Trump greets Senator Marco Rubio, Republican of Florida, during a campaign rally in this file photo. — AFP

closely with Trump's views. The president-elect accuses past US presidents of leading America into costly and futile wars and has pushed for a more restrained foreign policy. While the famously mercurial Trump could always change his mind at the last minute, he appeared to have settled on his pick as of Monday, according to the sources, who requested anonymity to discuss private conversations. The Ukraine crisis will be high on Rubio's agenda. Rubio, 53, has said in recent interviews that Ukraine needs to seek a negotiated settlement with Russia rather than focus on regaining all territory that Russia has taken in the last decade. He was also one of 15 Republican senators to vote against a \$95 billion military aid package for Ukraine, passed in April.

Boon for Latinos

Rubio's selection holds domestic as well as international significance. Trump beat Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris in the November 5 election in part by winning over large numbers of Latinos, who had voted overwhelmingly for Democrats in previous election cycles but have become an increasingly diverse demographic in a political sense,

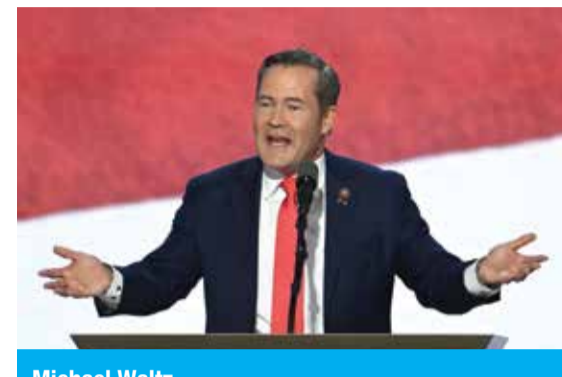


Lee Zeldin



Kristi Noem

with more and more Latinos voting Republican. By selecting Rubio for a key policy role, Trump may help consolidate electoral gains among Latinos and make clear that they have a place at the highest levels of his administration. If confirmed, Rubio will likely place a much greater importance on Latin America than any previous secretary of state, said Mauricio Claver-Carone, a Rubio ally, former president of the Inter-American Development Bank and a former National Security Council aide on Latin America in the first Trump administration. "This is the time Latin



Michael Waltz

America will most be on the map in the history of any US presidency. It's historic. There's no other way to say it," said Claver-Carone.

Slash climate rules

US media also reported that Stephen Miller, the author of Trump's so-called "Muslim ban" immigration policy during his first term, was set to be his deputy chief of staff with a broad portfolio. New York congresswoman Elise Stefanik, a hardline defender of the Zionist entity, got the nod for UN ambassador. Trump's transition team said in a statement. In a further announcement, Trump's team said Lee Zeldin, an early political ally, would be proposed as Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) chief with a mandate to slash climate and pollution regulations that are considered red tape by businesses. His choice for the environmental department head gives a clear hint about his intentions. Trump said Zeldin would be tasked with making "fair and swift deregulatory decisions," with the tycoon promising to shred rules on safety and pollution that he believes hold back businesses. "We will restore US energy dominance, revitalize our auto industry to bring back American jobs, and make the US the global leader of AI. We will do so while protecting access to clean air and water," Zeldin wrote on X. — Agencies

4B: South Korean feminist movement sweeps America

SEOUL: No dating, sex, marriage or having children with men: South Korea's extreme feminist movement "4B" has gone viral in America and beyond since Donald Trump won the US presidential election. AFP takes a look at what the movement is and why it's taking off in the US.

What is 4B?

In Korean, 4B stands for the "Four Nos": dating, sex, marriage and childbearing with men. The movement emerged in the mid-2010s in South Korea, against a backdrop of persistent pay disparity, entrenched gender roles, and an epidemic of cyber sex crimes and sexual violence against women. Yet, it has largely remained a fringe campaign. Adherents like Baek Ga-eul, 33, say it has allowed them to be a "complete human being, not just a being reserved for a man or children."

The movement arose because South Korean women — who do 3.5 times more work in the home per week than men, official data shows — cannot "accept the expectation to perform both paid labor and the majority of household duties", she said. In addition, women were fed up with "a male culture that pretends to be proper toward women while, behind closed doors ... shares sex videos of their girlfriends with their male friends."

Why is it trending?

As it became clear Trump had won the November 5 US presidential election, 4B became one of the top trending search terms on Google in the United States and elsewhere, with search volume increasing to the maximum on the interest scale. Google analytic data shows. Videos about the movement were soon being widely shared on TikTok and Facebook. Newswhip data shows, with footage of women shaving their heads to protest Trump's victory and breakdowns of the 4B movement particularly viral.

The election was seen by many as a referendum on women's rights, in particular over Trump's appointment of three conservative Supreme Court justices which resulted in the end of national abortion rights protections. It made American women "realize that men do not regard women as equals", activist Baek told AFP. "How can women love, marry, or have children with men who so openly hate and disre-



SEOUL: South Korean women carry flags reading "Feminist" as they march during a rally to mark International Women's Day in this file photo. — AFP

gard you?" "It was only a matter of time before the 4B movement extended beyond South Korea to the world," she said.

What's happening in South Korea?

The wealthy country has one of the world's lowest birth rates and plummeting rates of marriage. Nearly 42 percent of South Korean households are headed by a single person, official figures show, and this is likely to rise. "South Korean women are still participating in the 4B movement in their own ways," one adherent who goes by JH told AFP. Even though "there are many Korean women who are not interested in feminism or have never even heard of the 4B", they are inadvertently participating anyway, the 27-year-old said.

What will it achieve?

Sexism is entrenched in South Korea, said JH, who said she was bullied at work for involvement in the "Escape the Corset" feminist movement which rebels against strict beauty standards by, for example, encouraging women not to wear makeup. She eventually lost her job. "What I went through is not unique for women in a misogynistic Korea," she said. "Boycotting men" is one of the most effective ways to show the severity of sexism in the country, said Kang Ji-young, another 4B participant.

The movement has grown out of "South Korean women's painful contemporary experiences" said

Keung Yoon Bae, a Korean studies professor at Georgia Institute of Technology in the United States. "It's ultimately most accurate to view the movement as a symptom, one that reflects the untenable nature of pre-existing patriarchal norms of Korean society in light of the vastly increased number of high-achieving, well-educated women," she said.

Is this a new election trend?

In the US election, "voting patterns were strongly divided by gender across racial groups", Sharon Yoon, a Korean studies professor at the University of Notre Dame in the United States, told AFP, adding it was similar to South Korea's 2022 presidential election. In South Korea, data indicates that men and women are increasingly ideologically opposed — with young men skewing far more conservative, which helped to propel President Yoon Suk Yeol to power in 2022, after he promised to abolish the Ministry of Gender Equality.

"The gendered divide that we are seeing in voting behavior is not particular to a country, but is pointing to a global trend of gendered backlash among a growing base of economically precarious men," she said. "The rise of President-elect Trump will also trigger a strong response from American women," she said. "Their expressions of solidarity with Korean women in the 4B movement should be seen as one, but not the sole, manifestation of this emerging trend." — AFP

As Trump staffs up, only MAGA loyalists need apply

WEST PALM BEACH: As advisers and allies of Republican President-elect Donald Trump search for personnel to staff his coming administration, one quality is absolutely paramount: unquestioning loyalty. During his 2017-2021 term, Trump butted heads with key appointees, particularly those in the intelligence, national security and law enforcement communities, several of whom later recounted slow-walking or trying to talk Trump out of his most controversial plans.

Without people around him who are inclined to push back, the president-elect may find it easier to bend longstanding norms in pursuit of his conservative agenda, both Trump supporters and opponents say. On Thursday, Trump named his campaign chief, Susie Wiles, as White House chief of staff. And on Sat-

urday, Trump said he would not invite back his former UN ambassador, Nikki Haley, nor his former secretary of state, Mike Pompeo, both of whom have criticized elements of Trump's conduct and policy, even as they tried to make amends in recent months.

Just days before the November 5 election, one of Trump's former chiefs of staff, John Kelly, called him a "fascist" in an interview. One of his national security advisers, John Bolton, has repeatedly described Trump as unintelligent. And his second defense secretary, Mark Esper, recounted talking Trump out of bombing drug cartels in Mexico in his 2022 autobiography. Trump has in return blasted those former cabinet-level officials, going so far as to suggest that his second joint chiefs of staff chairman, Mark Milley, should have been executed for treason. This time around, Trump has said only true believers in him — and in his "Make America Great Again" movement — will be allowed into government.

"President Trump has publicly said that he's learned from his first term," Mike Davis, a conservative attorney who frequently talks to the president-elect, told Reuters. Davis, who helped Trump get his Supreme

Court picks through the Senate as a high-ranking Capitol Hill aide, has drawn frequent praise from Trump's most conservative allies. "Political appointees require both competency and loyalty. You can't have just one or the other. You need both." On X last week, Davis put it bluntly: "Before asking me for help, I am going to ask you to provide me specific and concrete evidence of your loyalty to Trump," he wrote. "If you cannot provide a lot of that, stop asking me."

To keep actors considered disloyal out of Trump's government, his transition team is taking a forensic look at every potential appointee for signs they might turn against their boss, even for lower-level appointees like assistant and deputy secretaries, according to two people involved in the effort. Researchers contracted by Trump's transition team are sifting through potential appointees' past statements to see if they have ever spoken negatively about Trump, according to one of those people involved in the transition effort, who has direct knowledge of the matter. They are also checking if potential appointees have donated to Democrats — or even to Republicans who have sharply criticized the president-elect, that person

said. While such donations or negative statements are not necessarily disqualifiers, the person added, they are demerits.

Davis singled out the attorney general as a particularly crucial position. Trump fired his first attorney general, Jeff Sessions, after he declined to shut down inquiries into contacts between Trump's 2016 campaign and Russian officials. Trump later said that hiring Sessions was his "biggest mistake." Trump also fired his first FBI director, James Comey, under similar circumstances.

With a more loyal attorney general and FBI director, Trump allies say, he would be less likely to face damaging probes. Trump would also likely face less resistance if he tries to make good on campaign trail pledges to investigate opponents, including Democratic President Joe Biden, a matter of serious concern for Democrats and civil servants. While it is normal for presidents to choose loyal allies for key appointments, the focus on loyalty over subject-matter expertise goes beyond the norm, according to interviews with five Trump advisers and public statements made by the president-elect's associates. — Reuters

S Korea prosecutors indict controversial American streamer

SEOUL: Controversial YouTube and Twitch streamer Johnny Somali has been indicted for "causing a commotion" at a convenience store in South Korea, prosecutors said on Tuesday. They said American national Somali, whose real name is Ramsey Khalid Ismael, is not allowed to leave South Korea because of a travel ban linked to the case. "He was indicted on Monday without detention for creating a commotion at a convenience store in October," a spokesman for the Seoul Southern District Prosecutors' Office told AFP.

A convenience store employee reported Somali to the police on October 17 when he confronted her after being told not to drink alcohol inside the store. He is also accused of making sexist remarks towards her. Somali, 24, has dominated headlines in the country for a series of stunts, including kissing and twerking by a statue memorializing Korean victims of wartime sexual slavery — euphemistically called "comfort women" — by the Japanese military during World War II. The incident, which appeared in a now-removed video on his YouTube channel, drew strong backlash and condemnation. Somali later issued an apology.

"I want to apologize to the Korean people. I was not aware of the significance of the statue... It was just an entertainment for my audience," he said in a video posted online. But his apology was largely met skeptically by the local media, questioning his sincerity. "Youtuber apologizes for the statue insult ... but his sincerity is in question," read one headline in the Kukmin Ilbo daily. "It appears he had some knowledge on the statue's meaning and historical facts around it," the paper said.

He has even been subject to South Koreans chasing him to physically hurt him, with one video posted by Yonhap news agency showing a man assaulting him to the ground. Somali also caused controversy in neighboring Japan last year for his behavior, including taunting subway commuters about Nagasaki and Hiroshima, the two cities devastated by US nuclear bombs in 1945.

In August 2023, Ismael was arrested after yelling "Fukushima" at workers while trespassing in a construction site. He was also arrested on the suspicion of conspiracy of obstruction of business when he disrupted a restaurant by playing extremely loud music during business hours. He was fined \$1,400 for obstruction of business after appearing in court. His YouTube account is unavailable. — Agencies

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2024

ZainTECH partners with Tencent

Collaboration to introduce advanced Digital Twin applications regionally

DUBAI: ZainTECH, the integrated digital solutions provider of Zain Group, announced a compelling collaboration with Tencent Cloud, a global technology leader, to further enrich digital transformation initiatives across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) through the integration of Tencent Cloud's cutting-edge Digital Twin technology onto ZainTECH's enterprise solutions.

- Revolutionizing results and transforming knowledge into power for enterprises
- Digital Twins support the optimization of business operations, enhancement of decision-making processes, and driving of sustainable growth in the digital era

This strategic partnership is a significant step towards empowering enterprises and government entities with innovative solutions that leverage the power of digital twins to optimize business operations, enhance decision-making processes, and drive sustainable growth in the digital era. The companies will capitalize on Tencent Cloud's expertise in this area and ZainTECH's deep understanding of the regional market dynamics and customer needs.

Tencent Cloud's Digital Twin technology offers a sophisticated platform for creating virtual replicas



Signing of the collaboration between ZainTECH and Tencent Cloud.

of physical assets, processes, and systems, enabling organizations to simulate, analyze, and optimize their operations with precision and efficiency. By harnessing this capability, businesses can gain valuable insights, streamline processes, and drive innovation across various industries.

Commenting on the collaboration, Andrew Hanna,

CEO of ZainTECH said, "This collaboration underscores our commitment to delivering transformative solutions that enable organizations to thrive in an increasingly digital world. Integrating Tencent Cloud's technology into our digital transformation initiatives will empower our clients to unlock new opportunities for growth and efficiency. This partnership exempli-

fies our dedication to driving innovation and delivering tangible value to our customers through strategic collaborations with global technology leaders."

Digital twin technology is enjoying a widening range of applications, including testing new designs for equipment or spaces; conducting diagnostics on organizational health; and enabling more effective city management. ZainTECH's expanding portfolio of products and solutions, including cloud, cybersecurity, big data, drones and robotics, modern infrastructure, and digital solutions can all benefit from the application of digital twin technology, as we help accelerate our clients' time-to-value.

Dan Hu, Vice President of Tencent Cloud International, Middle East and North Africa (MIENA) commented, "We are excited to partner with ZainTECH, a trusted leader in digital transformation, to bring our advanced Digital Twin solutions to the MIENA market. Together, we will empower organizations to harness the power of digital technologies and unlock new avenues for growth and innovation."

According to ZainTECH estimates, Digital Twin technology will revolutionize results and transform knowledge into power for enterprises:

- Enhanced Operational Efficiency: Reduce maintenance cost by up to 30 percent
- Predictive Maintenance: Cut downtime by up to 20 percent
- Energy Savings: Optimize energy use by up to 15 percent
- Faster Time-to-Market: Speed up product development cycles by up to 30 percent
- Risk Mitigation: Lower compliance costs by 50 percent
- Data-Driven Revenue Models: Identify new streams through performance-based services

OPEC again cuts its 2024-25 oil demand growth forecasts

LONDON: OPEC cut its forecast for global oil demand growth this year and next on Tuesday, highlighting weakness in China, India and other regions, marking the producer group's fourth consecutive downward revision in the 2024 outlook.

The weaker outlook highlights the challenge facing OPEC+, which comprises the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and allies such as Russia, which earlier this month postponed a plan to start raising output in December against a backdrop of falling prices. In a monthly report on Tuesday, OPEC said world oil demand would rise by 1.82 million barrels per day in 2024, down from growth of 1.93 million bpd forecast last month. Until August, OPEC had kept the outlook unchanged since its first forecast in July 2023. In the report, OPEC also cut its 2025 global demand growth estimate to 1.54 million bpd from 1.64 million bpd.

China accounted for the bulk of the 2024 down-



OPEC Secretary-General Haitham Al-Ghais

grade, OPEC trimmed its Chinese growth forecast to 450,000 bpd from 580,000 bpd and said diesel use in September fell year-on-year for a seventh consecutive month. "Diesel has been under pressure from a slowdown in construction amid weak manufacturing activity, combined with the ongoing deployment of LNG-fuelled trucks," OPEC said with reference to China.

Oil LCOcI pared gains after the report was issued, with Brent crude trading below \$73 a barrel. Fore-

casts on the strength of demand growth in 2024 vary widely, partly due to differences over demand from China and the pace of the world's switch to cleaner fuels. OPEC is still at the top of industry estimates and has a long way to go to match the International Energy Agency's far lower view.

The IEA, which represents industrialized countries, sees demand growth of 860,000 bpd in 2024. The agency is scheduled to update its figures on Thursday. OPEC+ has implemented a series of output cuts since late 2022 to support prices, most of which are in place until the end of 2025.

The group was to start unwinding the most recent layer of cuts of 2.2 million bpd from December but said on Nov. 3 it will delay the plan for a month, as weak demand and rising supply outside the group maintain downward pressure on the market. OPEC's output is also rising, the report showed, with Libyan production rebounding after being cut by unrest. OPEC+ pumped 40.34 million bpd in October, up 215,000 bpd from September. Iraq cut output to 4.07 million bpd, closer to its 4 million bpd quota.

As well as Iraq, OPEC has named Russia and Kazakhstan as among the OPEC+ countries which pumped above quotas. Russia's output edged up in October by 9,000 bpd to about 9.01 million bpd, OPEC said, slightly above its quota. — Reuters

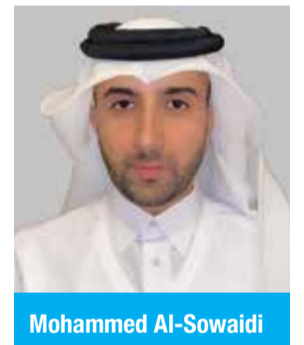
Al-Sowaidi named as QIA's new CEO

DOHA: Qatar's Amir on Tuesday appointed Mohammed Al-Sowaidi as CEO of the Qatar Investment Authority (QIA), according to a statement issued by the Amir's office. Al-Sowaidi served as the \$510 billion sovereign wealth fund's chief of investments in the Americas and previously established the fund's offices and investment team in New York. He replaces Mansour Ibrahim Al-Mahmoud as the QIA's CEO, whom the emir on Tuesday appointed as Qatar's next minister of health.

Speaking at the Qatar Economic Forum in May, Al-Sowaidi set out the QIA's investment priorities. "Investments that are generally long-term in nature, that could compound with time (and) marry it with some of the themes that we believe in: digitalization, decarbonization, sustainability, inclusivity, growth," he said. "We do invest as a minority investment most of the time so having like-minded shareholders and stakeholders is super important."

As part of a broader cabinet shuffle, the Amir also appointed Sheikh Faisal bin Thani bin Faisal Al-Thani as the country's new minister of commerce and industry. Sheikh Faisal is the QIA's chief of Asia-Pacific and Africa investments and the chairman of Qatari telecoms group Ooredoo. It is unclear if he will remain in those roles. Additionally, the Amir appointed Lolwah bint Rashid Al-Khater as the new education minister. She served previously as minister of state for international cooperation and led Qatar's global humanitarian efforts, especially in Gaza and Lebanon. She also spearheaded Qatar's role in brokering the return of dozens of Ukrainian children from Russia or Russian-occupied territory.

The emir also appointed Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan bin Ali Al-Thani as deputy prime minister and minister of defense. — Reuters



Mohammed Al-Sowaidi



Participating world leaders and delegates pose for a family photo during the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) in Baku on November 12, 2024. — AFP

Climate action 'will endure' post-Trump: UN climate chief

BAKU: Global action on climate change "is robust and will endure" despite the re-election of Donald Trump, who has pledged to withdraw from the Paris agreement, the UN's climate chief said Tuesday.

"Many of you have been reporting on the climate implications of political events in the last weeks. I'll just say this: our process is strong. It's robust, and it will endure," Simon Stiell told reporters at the COP29 talks in Baku. Trump's election sweep has cast a long shadow over proceedings in Azerbaijan, with concerns that the imminent US withdrawal from the landmark 2015 Paris deal could undermine ambition around the negotiating table.

Stiell reiterated calls for the meeting to show global solidarity on climate was not dead.

"Global cooperation is the only way humanity survives global warming," he said. The crunch talks are centered on increasing finance to help developing countries adapt to climate change and wean their economies off fossil fuel. But the small group of rich countries currently paying the funds want to see the donor pool expanded, and are resisting calls for the current pledge of \$100 billion a year to be raised ten-fold. Many face domestic publics more concerned about inflation and sluggish economies than climate action.

But Stiell insisted the two were linked. "The climate crisis is fast becoming an economy killer," he warned. Without action, "every country and every household will be hammered even harder than they currently are."

Meanwhile, European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde warned Tuesday of a widening gap between the amount of funding necessary to adapt to the climate crisis and what has so far been pledged. As delegates at the COP29 climate conference in Baku try to land a hard-fought deal to boost funding for climate action in developing countries,

Lagarde said "the 'financing gap' is widening".

She pointed to figures that suggest that financing needs are "50 percent higher than previously estimated and up to 18 times greater than current commitments". "The energy transition alone requires investment in clean energy to triple by 2030," she said in a column published by the Financial Times and on the ECB's website. She cited estimates by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), according to which up to \$11.7 trillion has to be spent on climate change mitigation annually by 2035 in order to meet the Paris agreement target to keep warming "well below" two degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels. This represents around ten percent of global economic output.

Lagarde, who has made climate protection a central goal of her tenure at the head of the ECB, said that events including the "horrific" recent floods in Spain and storms in North America showed that "the steep price of our inaction... is rising by the day".

Such extreme weather events are "ruining the foundations of our economies and, ultimately, the basis of our economic survival," she wrote. — AFP

Tech sector gathers in Lisbon in shadow of Trump victory

PARIS: Leading lights of the tech industry met in Lisbon on Tuesday for the Web Summit, the sector's first big event since the US election, with Donald Trump's victory expected to be a key theme of their discussions.

The tech industry is holding its breath to see what Trump's second term will bring when he takes over in January, especially as SpaceX and Tesla chief Elon Musk is expected to have a huge influence on the next US government. During Trump's last term from 2017 to 2021, big tech firms were often at odds with the president, particularly given his crackdown on immigration and ramping up the trade war with China. The Web Summit runs until Thursday with some 3,000 startups pitching their products to 1,000 investors, and 70,000 visitors taking part in events and debates, according to the organizers.

Thousands poured through the doors on the first full day of the event, delegates from countries and local governments manning pavilions with splashy slogans and sleek logos, flanked by banks of stands devoted to startups. Among Tuesday's high-profile speakers was Cristiano Amon, boss of chip giant Qualcomm, who played down the impact of Trump's election.

"We've done well globally regardless of the administration," he said in a press conference, adding that his firm also was managing to thrive in China despite the current trade war with the United States. — AFP

Business

Gulf Bank hosts students from Center for Child Evaluation and Teaching

Visit promotes financial literacy and cybersecurity awareness among students

KUWAIT: In its ongoing commitment to supporting the community and the "Diraya" campaign, Gulf Bank welcomed a group of students from the Center for Child Evaluation and Teaching. The visit aimed to educate the students on the bank's services, the importance of saving, and the risks associated with electronic fraud.

The visit included an introductory tour of the bank, where students received an in-depth explanation on how banking accounts function, as well as deposit and withdrawal services. They were also introduced to modern digital products such as mobile banking applications and online banking services. Additionally, the students learned about conducting safe bank transfers. The students were introduced to a range of benefits available at Gulf Bank, designed to encourage early saving and investing across various community segments. These include the Neo account for children, the Red account for youth, and the AIDanah Millionaire account, which offers the largest cash prize globally tied to a bank account, valued at KD 2 million.

The students were also briefed on the important role Gulf Bank plays in supporting the "Diraya" campaign, launched by the Central Bank of Kuwait in collaboration with the Kuwait Banking Association. The campaign seeks to educate bank clients about essential banking services and improve their ability to conduct transactions securely, ensuring safety while promoting financial inclusion, monetary stability, and economic security. It focuses on raising awareness of clients' rights and responsibilities, emphasizing the advantages of electronic



A group photo of the Gulf Bank team with teachers and students of the center.

financial transactions, and offering guidance on mitigating associated risks to achieve cybersecurity.

The students expressed their appreciation for the experience, noting that the visit offered a valuable opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of money management and explore modern financial services. 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 Vi-

sion 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.

Vietnam EV maker VinFast to get \$3.5bn in funding

HANOI: Vietnamese electric vehicle maker VinFast will receive \$3.5 billion in new funding, the majority from its CEO Pham Nhat Vuong, parent group Vingroup said on Tuesday, as it struggles to break into the international market. VinFast - Vietnam's first homegrown car manufacturer - is aiming to compete with global EV giants such as Tesla.

It debuted on the Nasdaq in August 2023 at \$10, hitting headlines around the world as its valuation skyrocketed and then crashed. It was sitting at \$3.89 at Monday's close.

On Tuesday, Vingroup said in a press release that it plans to lend VinFast up to \$1.4 billion by the end of the year. Vuong will also inject \$2.1 billion into the EV maker, it said, after he gave \$1 billion in April. The move aims "to provide VinFast with sufficient financial resources to fund operations, investments, and other obligations," the group said in a statement.

The goal is also to achieve the break-even point and cash flow balance by the end of 2026, the statement added. VinFast said in the first 10 months of the year, it delivered 51,000 electric vehicles to the domestic market. The company has continued "to expand its business in the US, Canada, and Europe, while rapidly penetrating new markets such as the Middle East, Indonesia, the Philippines, and India," but did not provide further details on EV's sales there.

The company reported net losses of more than \$2 billion last year.

Vuong, Vietnam's richest person, was appointed CEO of VinFast earlier this year. He is also chairman of the parent firm Vingroup. The firm set a target of delivering 100,000 EVs in 2024. — AFP

Chancay: China's megaport of entry to South America

CHANCAY, Peru: Huge cranes loom over Peru's massive new Chinese-funded Chancay port, a symbol of Beijing's growing influence in South America which is set to be inaugurated by President Xi Jinping on Thursday. "It's nearly ready," Gonzalo Rios, deputy general manager of the Peruvian subsidiary of Chinese port operator Cosco Shipping, which has a 60 percent stake in the facility, said during a recent visit to the deep-water port.

Situated around 50 miles (80 kilometers) north of the capital Lima, the \$3.5 billion complex is expected to become a major hub for trade between South America and China. Chancay's maximum depth is 17.8 meters (58.4 feet), two meters deeper than Lima's Callao port, making it capable of handling the world's biggest container ships.

"With the addition of this port, this part of the Pacific and Peru in particular could become the logistical hub of South America," Rios told AFP. The facility will be unveiled by Xi and his Peruvian counterpart Dina Boluarte on the sidelines of this week's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Lima.

The port is the latest addition to the vast collection of railways, highways and other infrastructure projects built under China's massive Belt and Road Initiative. Launched in 2013, the program initially focused on better connecting China with Europe, Africa and the rest of Asia but has since expanded to include South America. Chancay, a fishing town of around 50,000 inhabitants, was chosen for its strategic location in the heart of South America.

Cosco Shipping Ports, which has a 30-year concession to operate the terminal, has forecast it will handle up to one million containers in its first year of operations. Chancay is expected to be a major hub for imports of Asian electronics, textiles and other consumer goods and for the export of minerals, including lithium — a metal used in mobile phone and laptop batteries — from Chile and copper from both Chile and Peru.



View of the Chancay "megaport" in the small town of Chancay, 78 kilometers north of the Peruvian capital Lima, on October 29, 2024. — AFP

"Peru is a source of raw materials for China," Oscar Vidarte, professor of international relations at the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru, told AFP.

Bilateral trade between the Asian giant and Peru, one of Latin America's fastest-growing economies for the past decade, stood at nearly \$36 billion in 2023, making Peru China's fourth-largest Latin American trading partner. "Our goal is to become the Singapore of Latin America," Peruvian Transport Minister Raul Perez told reporters at Chancay.

"We will have direct routes to Asia, in particular to China, which will reduce (shipping time) by 10, 15, even 20 days, depending on the route," compared to 35-40 days currently, he said.

Chancay port will also serve Chile, Colombia and Ecuador, among other South American countries, allowing them to skirt ports in Mexico and the Unit-

ed States for trade with Asia. "It will allow China to position itself in this part of the world," Vidarte said. Francisco Belaunde, a professor in international law at Lima University and other faculties, called it "part of the battle for geopolitical influence" in South America pitting China against the United States.

Connected to the Pan-American highway — a network of roads linking most of North and South America along the Pacific — through a mile-long tunnel, the port will use artificial intelligence to inspect containers for drugs and other illicit goods, according to Perez, the transport minister. Peru is the world's biggest cocaine producer after Colombia. Currently, much of the drug is smuggled through the port of Guayaquil in neighboring Ecuador. "We will use the most advanced technology to ensure the safety of the containers," Perez said. — AFP

UK's Bolt ride-hailing platform drivers are employees: Tribunal

LONDON: UK drivers using the Bolt ride-hailing platform should be considered employees and have access to rights such as the minimum wage and paid holidays, an employment tribunal ruled Friday.

The tribunal said that its ruling applied to all drivers who used Bolt as their only platform for finding customers. Leigh Day, the legal firm representing a group of 15,000 drivers, said that the ruling affects all of the estimated 100,000 drivers who use the Bolt app.

The Estonian-based company said that nine in 10 of its drivers use multiple platforms to maximize earnings, so the ruling only applied to 10 percent of its drivers. The UK Supreme Court made a similar ruling in 2021 in respect to Uber drivers, which was then a world first for the US company. Leigh Day argued that that case should also apply to its clients. The status of "worker" in the UK is not necessarily formalized by a contract, with those employed under informal arrangements lacking protections afforded to salaried employees, such as sick leave and unemployment insurance.

"This judgment confirms that gig economy operators cannot continue to falsely classify their workers as independent contractors running their own business to avoid providing the rights those workers are properly entitled to," Leigh Day employment team solicitor Charlotte Pettman said.

"We call on Bolt to compensate our clients without further delay." The legal firm believes the compensation for the backdated overpayment of minimum wage and unpaid holidays owed to the 15,000 drivers could be worth more than £200 million (\$259 million), or £15,000 each. — AFP

Italy, Lufthansa reach deal on ITA Airways stake

MILAN: The Italian government and Lufthansa reached a deal on the sale of a stake in flag carrier ITA Airways to the German airline, Rome announced Monday evening, hours before a midnight deadline to present the agreement to European regulators. Both sides had been locked in tough negotiations on the price and terms of the deal, which will need to be cleared by the European Commission, the EU's antitrust regulator, to ensure fair competition.

Italian media reported that Lufthansa had asked for a 10 million euro discount on the 325 million euro

(\$346 million) purchase price of a 49 percent stake, which was refused by the government and led to stalled negotiations. The sale comes after Lufthansa first bought a 41 percent stake in ITA in May 2023, also for 325 million euros, with the right to increase its stake to 100 percent in the medium term.

On Wednesday, Italian Economic Minister Giancarlo Giorgetti said the additional 49 percent stake would be sold for the same price. "The economic conditions envisaged have not changed with respect to the agreement already signed," his office said in a statement, referring to the first deal.

Giorgetti also agreed to the European Commission's demands that a series of take-off and landing slots be transferred to other airlines to safeguard competition. The German carrier had pointed to ITA's expected drop in value in the last quarter of 2024 as the reason for its discount request. But an Italian government source told AFP last Tuesday that "Italy is not selling off its airline". — AFP



A Lufthansa Boeing 747 taking off at the airport in Frankfurt am Main (top) and an Airbus A319-112 bearing the ITA Airways livery taking off from Rome's Fiumicino airport. — AFP

British grocery inflation edges higher again

LONDON: British shoppers faced renewed pressure on their budgets in October after grocery price inflation edged higher for the second month in a row, industry data showed on Tuesday. Market researcher Kantar said annual grocery price inflation was 2.3 percent in the four weeks to Nov 3, having been 2.0 percent in the previous four-week period.

The data showed prices are rising fastest in products such as chilled soft drinks and chocolate confectionery, and falling fastest in items such as

toothbrushes, household paper products and sparkling wine. UK supermarkets have warned that tax rises in the new Labour government's first budget last month, together with another rise in the national minimum wage, will be inflationary.

Official data published last month showed overall UK inflation eased to 1.7 percent in September. Data for October will be published Nov 20. Kantar said grocery sales rose 2.0 percent over the four week period year-on-year to 11.6 billion pounds (\$14.9 billion) - the biggest sales month of the year so far.

The researcher said there were signs that some consumers were starting their Christmas shopping early. It noted that 648,000 shoppers have already bought a Christmas cake, while 14.4 percent of households purchased mince pies in October. Over the 12 weeks to Nov. 3 online supermarket Ocado was again the fastest growing grocer with sales up 9.5 percent year-on-year, taking its market share to 1.8 percent. — Reuters



LONDON: File photos shows prices of food displayed at the Borough Market as the UK inflation rates fall by less than expected in London, Britain May 22, 2024. — Reuters

Business

China's largest air show takes off with fighter jets, attack drones

Beijing seeks to showcase its growing military might to potential customers, rivals alike

ZHUHAI, China: Fighter jets and attack drones took center stage as China's largest air show officially opened on Tuesday, an opportunity for Beijing to showcase its growing military might to potential customers and rivals alike. China has poured resources into modernizing and expanding its aviation capabilities as it faces off against the United States and others around regional flashpoints like Taiwan.

Record numbers of Chinese warplanes have been sent around the self-ruled democratic island, which Beijing claims as its territory, over the past few years. The star of Airshow China, which showcases Beijing's civil and military aerospace sector every two years in the southern city of Zhuhai, is the new J-35A stealth fighter jet. Video from state media showed the warplane rearing up into the air, engines roaring, before flipping upside down and speeding away as spectators on the ground excitedly cheered.

Its inclusion in the airshow suggests it is nearly ready to enter operation, which would make China the only country other than the United States to have two stealth fighters in action, experts said. The J-35A is lighter than China's existing model, the J20, and looks more similar in design to a US F-35.

A group of J20s also performed a display flight on Tuesday morning, in a diamond formation across the sky. State news agency Xinhua quoted military expert Wang Mingzhi as saying the combination of the two models greatly enhances the People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF)'s "ability to conduct offensive operations in high-threat and contested environments".

For the first time, a PLA naval jet will be present at

the airshow, according to state broadcaster CCTV. The J-15T's design suggests it may be intended for use on China's newest aircraft carrier, the Fujian. Another key piece of hardware making its debut is the HQ-19 surface-to-air missile system, designed to intercept ballistic missiles and hypersonic glide vehicles, according to state media.

The airshow features a dedicated drone zone for the first time, reflecting their increased prominence in warzones, including Ukraine. The SS-UAV—a massive mothership that can release swarms of smaller drones for intelligence gathering, as well as strikes—will be on display in Zhuhai, according to the South China Morning Post.

In October the United States unveiled sanctions targeting China-based companies linked to the production of drones that Russia has deployed in Ukraine. Moscow and Beijing have deepened military and defense ties since Russia's invasion of its neighbor three years ago, and the secretary of its Security Council, Sergei Shoigu, is due to visit Zhuhai.

Russia's Su-57, a stealth jet with a distinctive grey-and-white mosaic pattern, also took to the skies on Tuesday. In another display, soldiers descended on ropes from helicopters.

This year the show's focus is squarely on the military sector, as it coincides with the 75th anniversary of the PLAAF, but China's burgeoning space industry will also be showcasing developments.

A model of a homegrown reusable space cargo shuttle will debut at the show. Xinhua reported on Monday. Named Haolong, the shuttle is de-



People take photos at the 15th China International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition in Zhuhai, in south China's Guangdong province on November 12, 2024. — AFP

signed to be launched on a commercial rocket, and then dock with China's space station Tiangong.

"It can re-enter the atmosphere, fly and land horizontally at a designated airport, allowing for re-

covery and reuse," Xinhua said. Beijing has poured huge resources into its space program over the past decade in an effort to catch up to traditional space powers the United States and Russia. — AFP

China planning to cut taxes on home buying

BEIJING: China is looking to slash taxes on home purchases as the government strengthens fiscal support for its ailing real estate sector, a media report said on Tuesday. Regulators are preparing a proposal that would enable major cities such as Shanghai and Beijing to reduce the deed tax for buyers to as low as one percent from the current level of up to three percent, Bloomberg News said, citing

people familiar with the matter.

The property sector has long accounted for around a quarter of gross domestic product and experienced dazzling growth for two decades, but a years-long housing slump has battered growth as authorities eye a target of around five percent for 2024.

China is trying to shore up the sector, and said in October that it would boost credit available for unfinished housing projects to more than \$500 billion. Beijing has in recent months also announced a raft of measures aimed at boosting economic activity, including rate cuts and the easing of some home purchasing restrictions. China last week unveiled an ambitious plan to relieve public debt, aiming to turn local governments

away from belt-tightening practices that have exacerbated the domestic downturn. Policymakers approved a proposal to swap six trillion yuan (\$840 billion) of hidden debt belonging to local governments for official loans with more favorable terms.

Hidden debts are defined as borrowing for which a government is liable, but not disclosed to its citizens or to other creditors. This move would free up space for local governments to better develop the economy and protect people's livelihoods, state broadcaster CCTV said.

Lawmakers are also eyeing the possibility of escalating trade tensions following Donald Trump's re-election, with China's top economic planning body on Monday urging the govern-

ment to bolster domestic demand. Trump has promised punishing tariffs on Chinese goods that threaten further grief for the world's second-largest economy, which is already grappling with sluggish consumption on top of the prolonged housing crisis.

"In the coming period, the dominance of the domestic market in the economic cycle will become increasingly apparent," according to a commentary written by the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) in China's Economic Daily. Focusing on lifting domestic demand is not only a "strategic necessity for national development but also mitigates the impact of external shocks and declining external demand", the NDRC added. — AFP



People walk by the entrance of the Lima Convention Center, part of the government complex where the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit will take place, in Lima on November 11, 2024. — AFP

Fears of Trump trade wars cast pall over Asia-Pacific summit

LIMA: The presidents of the United States, China and other Asia Pacific nations gather in Lima this week for an economic summit overshadowed by the prospect of a world embroiled in trade wars under Donald Trump. It will be the last Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit for Joe Biden before he hands the presidency to Trump next year after a rout for the Democratic Party in November 5 presidential elections.

Trump's "America First" agenda, with protectionist stances on global commerce, fossil fuel extraction and foreign conflicts, is threatening alliances Biden had built on issues ranging from the wars in Ukraine and the Middle East, to climate change and trade.

Biden will be in the Peruvian capital later this week with China's Xi Jinping, who had called for the two countries to find ways to "get along" after Trump's victory. It is not known if the men will meet for private talks, nor has any envoy from Trump's Republican Party been confirmed to attend the summit. The president-elect has promised to slap huge new tariffs on Beijing in an attempt to balance bilateral trade, which he claims has left America holding the short end of the stick.

He also threatened tariffs of 25 percent or more on goods coming from Mexico unless it stops an "onslaught of criminals and drugs" crossing the border. "Trump's victory will definitely impact the APEC summit, given his rather protectionist narrative," international relations professor Oscar Vidarte of the Catholic University of Peru told AFP.

"APEC is obviously weakened," he added. APEC, created in 1989 with a goal of regional trade liberalization, brings together 21 economies that jointly represent 62 percent of global GDP and over 40 percent of global commerce. With the theme: "Empower. Include. Grow," the 2024 summit program was to focus on trade and investment for inclusive growth, innovation, and sustainable growth for its members' common good.

But uncertainty over Trump's next moves now clouds the event's agenda—as it does with the COP29 climate talks under way in Azerbaijan, and a G20 summit in Rio de Janeiro next week.

Biden had not removed all the tariffs imposed on China during Trump's first term from 2017-2021. But observers say the 47th president's increasingly pugilistic narrative will drive the wedge between Washington and Beijing ever deeper. "With respect to the two main issues on the agenda—migration and China—Trump will take a tougher stance... than Biden," Michael Shifter, an expert at the Inter-American Dialogue, a think tank in Washington, told AFP.

"There is a risk, however, that pressuring governments in the Pacific Basin to pick sides between China and the US could be counterproductive, increasing China's presence and influence in Latin America." — AFP

Europe must prepare for new trade war with US: ECB

VIENNA/FRANKFURT: Protectionist policies from the incoming US administration will hamper global growth and Europe must be better prepared than in 2018, European Central Bank policymakers warned on Tuesday. US President-elect Donald Trump has promised a big increase in trade barriers, including a 10 percent universal tariff on imports from all foreign countries and a 60 percent tariff on imports from China, with the aim of reducing the US trade deficit.

"What we do know is that the significant import duties spoken of could have detrimental ramifications for the world economy," Finnish central bank chief Olli Rehn said in London. "A new trade war is the last thing we need amid today's geopolitical rivalries — especially among allies."

Austrian central bank chief Robert Holzmann warned that these policies, if implemented, will keep US interest rates and inflation higher, also putting upward pressure on prices elsewhere. "He means what he has said and he will probably implement it faster than we expect. If so, what do markets expect? ... That interest rates will stay higher and that inflation will also be higher," Holzmann said in Vienna, adding that would put upward pressure on the dollar and eurozone inflation.

UK to beef up its emissions cut to be 'climate leader'

BAKU: The UK will aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 81 percent on 1990 levels by 2035, Prime Minister Keir Starmer announced Tuesday, as his government ramps up its ambitions to help curb climate change.

The new target is the latest policy change in this area by Starmer's new Labour government, which took power in July. It follows criticism that the previous Conservative administration under Rishi Sunak was failing to deliver on the so-called green agenda. Ex-prime minister Boris Johnson had committed in 2021 to curb such emissions by 78 percent over the same period compared to 1990.

Starmer unveiled the revised target at the start of the COP29 climate conference in Baku, Azerbaijan, where he is one of the only G20 leaders to show up. The summit has been overshadowed by the re-election in the United States of longtime climate change skeptic Donald Trump, as well as new warnings that 2024 is on track to break temperature records.

Starmer said Britain was "building on our reputation as a climate leader" and that it has "a critical role



NEWARK, US: Dockworkers at the Maher Terminals in Port Newark are on strike on Oct 1, 2024 in New Jersey. — AFP

Holzmann argued that if the dollar firms and approaches parity against the euro, that would have a measurable impact on import costs, especially for energy, making it harder for the ECB to get to its 2 percent inflation target and potentially delaying the process. Trade tensions started to increase between the US and Europe during Trump's first presidency and Europe struggled to find a joint

response, a mistake it should not make this time, Rehn said. "If a trade war were to start, Europe must not be unprepared, as it was in 2018," Rehn added. "The (ECB) must, within its mandate, act as an anchor for economic and financial stability in this landscape of great challenges," Rehn said. "No one should doubt that we will shoulder this responsibility in full." — Reuters

to play." "I've had a series of meetings here at COP this week because this government recognizes that the world stands at a critical juncture in the climate crisis," he said. "There is no national security, there is no economic security, there is no global security without climate security."

Sunak faced criticism for a series of moves during his 20-month tenure which were seen as backpedaling on the UK's climate commitments. They included delaying the shift to electric cars and granting a flurry of controversial new oil and gas licenses.

Labour won the July general election vowing to be more ambitious, promising among other things to decarbonize the UK's electricity grid by 2030. It has since ended an effective Tory ban on new onshore wind projects and ended new oil and gas exploration licenses in the North Sea.

The new government has also closed the UK's last coal power plant, prompting Starmer to proclaim Tuesday that Britain was the "first G7 economy to phase out coal power". The Climate Change Committee (CCC), the UK's top advisory body on the issue, warned shortly after Labour took power that it must act "fast" to put the country back on track to meet its climate goals.

Piers Forster, its interim head, welcomed Tuesday's new "Nationally Determined Contribution", or NDC, target for 2035 as "showing climate leadership". "Our analysis shows that this is a feasible target that will support jobs and investment," he said, adding it was "informed by the latest science,



Prime Minister of Barbados Mia Mottley and Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer pose for a photo during the COP29 in Baku on Nov 12, 2024. — AFP

technological developments, and the UK's national circumstances".

Appearing mindful of accusations of being overly interventionist, Starmer insisted his ministers were not going to "start telling people how to live their lives" to meet the goal.

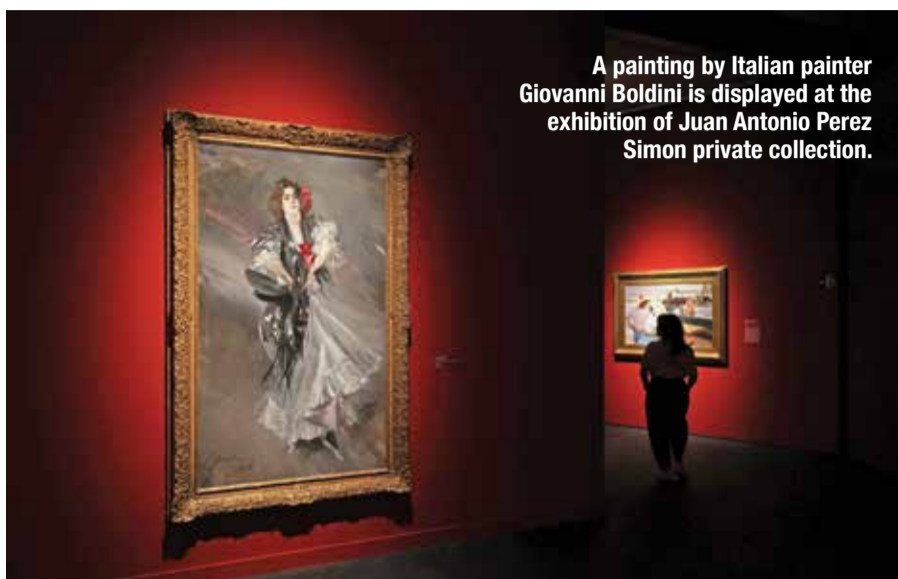
"We're not going to start dictating to people what they do," he added. However, the UK leader reiterated his view that "inaction and delay" on climate change were not an option.

"Make no mistake, the race is on for the clean energy jobs of the future, the economy of tomorrow," he said. "And I don't want to be in the middle of the pack. I want to get ahead of the game." — AFP

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2024



A woman stands next to a painting by Miquel Barcelo at the exhibition of Juan Antonio Perez Simon private collection in Madrid. — AFP photos



A painting by Italian painter Giovanni Boldini is displayed at the exhibition of Juan Antonio Perez Simon private collection.



A man watches a painting by Alex Katz at the exhibition of Juan Antonio Perez Simon private collection.

TOP ART COLLECTOR DISPLAYS RARE TREASURES IN MADRID

After visiting Europe 60 years ago as a penniless art aficionado, Juan Antonio Perez Simon overcame hardship to amass a remarkable collection, which is on display for the first time in Madrid. "I have always wanted to share my works with the public," the Spanish-born millionaire businessman, 83, told AFP in a written exchange. "It makes me profoundly happy." Perez Simon's lifelong passion for art has led to a collection boasting 4,000 paintings, drawings, sculptures and decorative objects.

The new exhibition at Madrid's grandiose Cibeles Palace -- "70 great masters of the Perez Simon collection" -- runs to mid-January and is crammed with art treasures, ranging from the 16th century to today. They include works by masters like Van Gogh, Sisley, Picasso, Rubens, Goya, Monet, Renoir, Magritte and Rothko. Perez Simon, who has spent most of his life in Mexico where he now lives, has never previously lent his collection to a museum in this way, even if some items have been loaned around the world.

After this show, a new site dedicated to 200 pieces of his collection is due to open in Madrid. It will be an addition to the Spanish capital's established art in-



A visitor looks at a painting by Alfred Sisley (1839-1899) at the exhibition of Juan Antonio Perez Simon private collection.

stitutions -- the Prado, Reina Sofia and Thyssen museums -- to which millions of visitors flock every year. Perez Simon said the loan would be long-term, although details are still being finalized. Madrid city hall has said he has already agreed to take care of securing, storing and transporting the works.

Art 'not a luxury'
Born in a rural family in Spain's northwestern Asturias region, Perez

Simon moved to Mexico at the age of five before making a fortune in telecommunications. He then became a trader and crossed paths with Mexican billionaire Carlos Slim, one of the world's richest men, describing him as his "best friend" and "brother" in a 2020 interview with Paris Match magazine. When he returned to Europe in 1964 as a 23-year-old, his daily budget of \$8 went towards museum tickets to admire the artworks that had "dazzled"



A man watches a painting by Lawrence Alma Tadema at the exhibition of Juan Antonio Perez Simon private collection.

him as a teenager, he told AFP. "Art is not a luxury," Perez Simon insisted. "Art is within everyone's reach." "When I had no money, I would buy reproductions in museums. When my economic situation improved, I started my collection." But money was never the motivation, he added, highlighting the "beauty" of the art and the feelings it inspired in him. Such is his voracious appetite for art, he said, he has never resold any of the works painstakingly

gathered over decades. The collection has become "part of my daily life", finding a place in all his homes and offices -- even in bathrooms and kitchens. Perez Simon said his "quest for beauty has not finished yet" -- but he remained coy on the next gems to enter his possession, hoping they would "surprise the public" in future exhibitions. —AFP



(From left to right) Peggy Lu, Hutch Parker, Rhys Ifans, Juno Temple, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Kelly Marcel, Tom Hardy, Cristo Fernández, Alanna Ubach and Clark Backo attend the "Venom: The Last Dance" New York Premiere at Regal Times Square on October 21, 2024 in New York City. — AFP

'Venom' stays potent, again leading North America box office

Sony's "Venom: the Last Dance," extended its streak atop the North American box office with an estimated haul of \$16.2 million on a notably slow weekend, industry watcher Exhibitor Relations reported Sunday. The horror threequel, with the popular Tom Hardy in the titular role, benefited from the big studios' decision to avoid releasing major films on a weekend when some feared the US election might spark chaos.

"Venom" has now taken in \$114.8 million domestically and \$279 million internationally in its three weeks out. Lionsgate's comedy-drama "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" meantime managed a surprise second-place showing at \$11.1 million, not a bad start for a film shot on a \$10 million shoestring. Judy Greer plays the mother of the Herdman herd -- introduced as the six "worst kids in the history of the world" -- who is tricked into directing a small town's Christmas pageant. Pete Holmes also stars in the semi-faith-based film. A24's new horror movie "Heretic" -- featuring a Hugh Grant playing very much against type -- opened in

third place, taking in \$11 million for the Friday-through-Sunday period.

That was "a very good opening for an original, non-series horror film.... with sensational critics' reviews," said industry analyst David A. Gross. "Heretic" tells the story of two Mormon missionaries (Sophie Thatcher and Chloe East) who, while trying to convert a reclusive Englishman (Grant), stumble into a terrifying game designed to test their faith. Universal and DreamWorks Animation's family-friendly "The Wild Robot" extended its top-five run, taking in \$6.7 million to place fourth in its seventh week out. And Paramount's horror film "Smile 2" dropped two spots, taking in \$5 million. Made for \$28 million, it has earned \$60.5 million in North America.

Rounding out the top 10 were:
"Conclave" (\$4.1 million)
"Anora" (\$2.5 million)
"Here" (\$2.4 million)
"We Live in Time" (\$2.2 million)
"Terrifier 3" (\$1.5 million)—AFP

Balinese hope construction freeze can tame tourism

On Indonesia's beach-fringed resort island of Bali, fed-up locals want to slow the mass tourism that is their biggest money earner—hoping a plan to freeze hotel-building can restore some calm. Anxious about runaway tourism, many Balinese yearn for a more tranquil yesteryear, much like residents in European hotspots Barcelona, Palma de Mallorca or Venice. In response, Indonesian authorities recently announced plans—yet to be confirmed by the new government—for a two-year moratorium on building hotels, villas and nightclubs.

Before foreign surfers discovered its waves decades ago, Canggu was a quiet, southern Balinese beachside village perched on the Indian Ocean and dotted with rice paddy fields. Now, it bristles with hotels and lodgings, its streets clogged with cars, scooters and trucks. Locals like 23-year-old Kadek Candrawati fear the environment is taking second place. "Canggu is now busier... its tranquility and greenery are gradually disappearing," said Kadek, who owns a motorcycle rental service that earns her seven million rupiah (\$453) monthly. "The government and the community need to work together to ensure that Bali stays green, sustainable, and the local culture is preserved," she told AFP. "I hope that Bali's tourism can continue to grow, while maintaining a balance between development and the environment."



This photo shows a villa under construction next to rice fields in Canggu, Badung regency on Bali island.



This photo shows rice fields and a resort under construction in Canggu, Badung regency on Bali island.

'New Singapore'

Bali's lush canvas of rainforests, paddies and surf beaches that host luxury resorts and backpacker haunts has kept tourists coming back. When tourism numbers slumped during the Covid pandemic, the authorities tried to coax foreigners back into Bali with digital-nomad and golden-investor visas. No such incentives are needed now. Bali attracted nearly three million foreign visitors in just the first six months of this year—mostly from Australia, China and India, official figures show.

Foreign tourists spent an average of \$1,625 per visit last year, up from \$1,145 in 2019 before the COVID-19 pandemic, Indonesia's statistics agency said. It is far from certain that Indonesia's newly inaugurated President Prabowo Subianto wants to curb that income. The previous government had promised both a tourism-related construction freeze and a light rail system to ease traffic in Bali.

But Prabowo—yet to comment on the plans—has raised doubts that he wants to arrest Bali's development. Meeting island officials recently, he pledged a second international airport to turn Bali into "the new Singapore, the new Hong Kong... an economic center". Indonesian environmental group Walhi says the boom in tourism accommodation has already gone too far. "Bali is now overbuilt, with green spaces turning into structures," said executive director Made Krisna Dinata. "The proposed moratorium should become a regulation that not only pauses development but also protects lands." The damage to Bali's natural beauty is

visible to the eye. A wave of plastic trash has swamped normally pristine beaches, while groundwater over-extraction has dried up more than half its rivers. Over-tourism has also put pressure on a UNESCO-listed irrigation system that feeds the island's rice paddies, with greenlands that collect water increasingly built upon.

'Dirty seawater'

Local concerns have been fed by viral videos showing excavations of limestone cliffs for construction in southern Bali, with chunks of land tumbling into the ocean. "Many surf coaches have lost their livelihoods because guests are unwilling to surf due to the dirty seawater," said 42-year-old surfer Piter Panjaitan in nearby Ungasan. Misbehaving tourists have also sparked local ire, notably over foreigners posing naked at sacred sites. "There are a lot of problems with guests who come here," said Piter.

Jakarta says the building freeze plan aims to balance economic gain from tourism with preserving Bali's natural beauty. The head of Bali's tourism agency Tjok Bagus Pelayun said a moratorium would spread tourism development away from southern Bali, where it is now heavily focused. But not everyone is in favor of the proposed halt to construction. Bali's hotel and restaurant association vice-chairman, I Gusti Ngurah Rai Suryawijaya, called for a deeper study before any moratorium that could hurt tourism-reliant locals. —AFP



White truffles are on sale at the truffle fair of Alba.

White truffles, Italy's gold, menaced by climate change



A seller shows a white truffle at the truffle fair of Alba.



Truffle hunter Carlo Marenda holds a white truffle found by his dog Buk in a forest of the Langhe countryside in Treiso, near Alba.



Truffle hunter Carlo Marenda and his dog Buk search for white truffles in Treiso, near Alba.



Truffle hunter Carlo Marenda walks with his dog Buk through the Langhe vineyard to search for white truffles.

Deep in a thick forest in Italy's northwestern Piedmont region, the hunt is on for the white Alba truffle, with excited dogs zigzagging and digging into the wet earth. But the culinary treasure is becoming increasingly rare, undermined by climate change. "Go find it! Where is it?" Carlo Marenda, a part-time truffle hunter, calls out to Gigi and Buk, seven month- and 13-year-old crosses between the Spinone Italiano and Lagotto Romagnolo breeds, prized for their keen sense of smell.

Autumn leaves crunch under the weight of boots sinking into muddy soil. Below a picturesque hillside vineyard not far from Alba, trails wind along the Rio della Fava, crossing damp ground ideal for growing truffles. Sought after by gourmets and starred chefs around the globe, the white truffle of Alba, the most prestigious in the world, is an underground fungus growing in symbiosis with certain hardwood trees by attaching itself to their roots.

Its intense and refined scent, a mixture of hay, garlic and honey, allows hunting dogs to detect it, even if the truffle is sometimes buried up to a meter deep. Introduced to truffle hunting at the age of five by a family friend, Carlo Marenda, 42, founded the "Save the Truffle" association in 2015, alongside Edmondo Bonelli, a researcher in natural sciences.

It was an octogenarian "trifulau" loner, Giuseppe Giamasio, known as "Notu" and the last descendant of a family with a century-old truffle tradition, who revealed his secrets to him and bequeathed his dogs just before his death in 2014. The master's message was a testament: "If we want to prevent the disappearance of the truffle, we must protect the forests, stop polluting the waterways and plant new 'truffle' trees". Ten years later, thanks to donations and the support of some winegrowers, the association has planted more than 700 such trees in the hilly Langhe area, including poplars, oaks and lindens.

Notu's legacy

"Notu passed on to me his passion for truffle hunting and tree preservation," said Marenda, emerging from his metallic grey Fiat Panda 4X4, the preferred car of truffle hunters. In the last three decades, the areas dedicated



White truffles are on sale at the truffle fair of Alba.

to white truffles in Italy have dropped by 30 percent, gradually giving way to more profitable vineyards, but also hazelnut groves. The Langhe hills provide a large quantity of hazelnuts to the chocolate giant Ferrero, which was founded in 1946 in Alba, a small prosperous town of 30,000 inhabitants.

But the main threat to the white truffle, whose harvest was classified as an intangible heritage of humanity by UNESCO in 2021, is climate change. Global warming, drought, deforestation and sudden temperature changes are all factors weakening the natural habitat of this fungus.

To survive, the truffle needs cold and humidity. At the beginning of November, however, the temperature was at 20 degrees Celsius (68 degrees Fahrenheit). "With the prolongation of summer weather, production is definitely falling", he lamented.



A customer smells white truffles at the truffle fair of Alba.

Soaring prices

The harvest, running from October to the end of January, is getting shorter. And with the delayed cold and snow to arrive, "the aroma of the truffles is not yet 100 percent and they don't keep as long", Marenda said. Abundant rain, as seen in recent weeks, can also be harmful, he said. "If there is too little water, the truffle does not grow. If there is too much, it rots." Alerted by Buk, Marenda crouched down to the ground to delicately scratch the earth with a narrow spade, extracting a truffle, albeit rather modest in size.

On whether the white truffle is on the brink of extinction, experts say it isn't too late. "Not yet. But if we don't act, it could become so," said Mario Aprile, president of the Piedmont truffle hunters' association. "The white truffle cannot be cultivated, unlike the black one. Without trees, there are no truffles. We plant them to rebuild biodiversity," Aprile said.

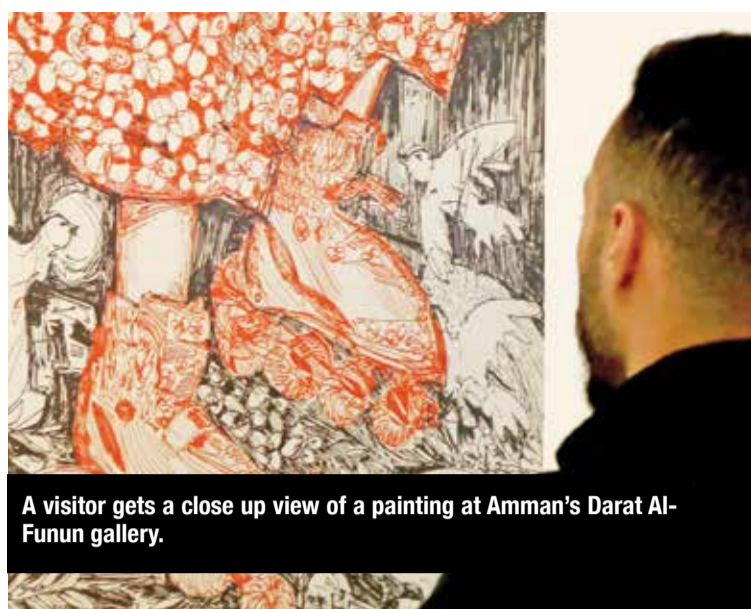
Faced with limited supply and booming demand, the white truffle is trading at a high price, reaching 4,500 euros per kilo this year at the International Alba White Truffle Fair which ends December 8. Two "twin" white truffles, bound to the same root and dug up by Aprile, were the stars of the annual world charity auction for white truffles in Alba Sunday. Weighing a total of 905 grams (2 lbs), the fungi were sold for 140,000 euros (\$150,000) to a Hong Kong finance tycoon. — AFP



Picture shows fog on the hills of Treiso, Langhe countryside, near Alba, northwestern Italy. - AFP photos



Truffle hunter Carlo Marenda and his dogs Buk and Gigino search for white truffles in the woodland area protected by "Save the truffle" association, in Barolo in the Langhe countryside.



A visitor gets a close up view of a painting at Amman's Darat Al-Funun gallery.



Mohammad Shaqdi, the deputy director of Jordan's Darat Al-Funun gallery, speaks to the press about a collective exhibition by four displaced Palestinian artists from Gaza, entitled "Under Fire".



Visitors check the program of an exhibition at Amman's Darat Al-Funun gallery.



Portraits of pain: Smuggled Palestinian art shows trauma of Gaza

When war erupted in Gaza, Palestinian artists had only one way to share their work expressing the harrowing reality of the conflict: having it smuggled out of the besieged territory. For six months, they handed over paintings and other artworks to people leaving Gaza through its Rafah border crossing with Egypt until the Zionist ground forces closed it in May when they took control of the frontier.

"The paintings document the brutality of war and massacres... carrying pain and sorrow, but also embodying an unwavering resolve," said Mohammad Shaqdi. He is deputy director of Darat Al-Funun, an art gallery in the Jordanian capital Amman exhibiting pieces that were smuggled out in a show entitled "Under Fire".

While the works themselves managed to escape the war-torn territory, the four artists who created them -- Basel Al-Maqousi, Raed Issa, Majed Shala and Suhail Salem -- were not so lucky. They remain trapped within the narrow coastal strip where Zionist's military campaign has killed more than 43,500 people, mostly civilians and created a humanitarian disaster.

The artworks "depict the daily realities of war and the hardship these artists endure, who have been displaced and lost their homes", said Shaqdi. He said the gallery was already familiar with the artists on display before the war broke out on October 7, 2023.

'Nightmares'

"The language of art is universal.

Through these paintings, we are trying to convey our voices, our cries, our tears and the nightmares we witness daily to the outside world," said Maqousi, 53, speaking to AFP by phone from Gaza. The exhibition features 79 artworks crafted from improvised materials including medicine wrappers, and

expensive pigments because there are more pressing priorities here in Gaza, like food, drink and finding safety for myself and my family" reads a text by Suhail Salem next to his sketches drawn in school notebooks with ballpoint pens.

In a letter displayed alongside his

'Far more devastating'

As time passed, "I started to document the real-life scenes of displacement and exile that have affected every part of our daily lives," he added. His words are displayed next to a painting of a man embracing his wife amid a scene of destruction. "These scenes

Exhibition visitor Victoria Dabdoub, a 37-year-old engineer, said she was moved by the artwork. "It is important that works like these are shared worldwide so that people can feel the pain, sorrow, and suffering of the people of Gaza," she told AFP. On the wall nearby is posted a message from artist



Two men stand next to a poster advertising an exhibition at Amman's Darat Al-Funun gallery.

using natural pigments made from hibiscus, pomegranate and tea.

The drawings show people under bombardment, displaced families on donkey-drawn carts, makeshift tents, weary and frightened faces, emaciated children clinging to their mothers and blindfolded men surrounded by military vehicles. "I can't paint with colors and

work, Majed Shala describes how he was displaced to the southern city of Deir Al-Balah. His house, studio and 30 years of artworks were completely destroyed. "When the war first started, I felt completely paralyzed, unable to create or even think about making art," he wrote.

remind me of the stories our elders told us about the 1948 Nakba," or "catastrophe", he wrote, referring to the exodus of around 760,000 Palestinians during the war that led to the creation of the Zionist entity. "But what we're living through now feels far more devastating, far worse than what people endured back then."

Raed Issa: "We assure you: if you're asking how we are, we are far from all right! Constant bombing and terror, day and night! Gaza is in mourning, waiting for relief from God!" —AFP

China cracks down after dumpling-hunting cyclists spark road chaos

Chinese police have cracked down on an internet craze that saw thousands of cyclists through a highway under cover of night to gorge on dumplings in a nearby city. University students sparked the trend weeks ago when they posted on social media about an evening ride from the central city of Zhengzhou to Kaifeng, around 80 kilometers (50 miles) away, to enjoy some famous local soup dumplings, according to state media.

The activity went viral, with images of more recent rides showing a multi-lane motorway linking the two cities crammed with thousands of cyclists, some straddling brightly colored shared bikes -- dubbed the "Night Riding Great Army". Authorities initially welcomed the wholesome revelry, but later imposed traffic restrictions after the sheer number of participants prompted traffic chaos and safety concerns.

An online statement from the provincial police on Saturday said the road would be "closed to non-motorized vehicles" from 4pm to midday on Sunday



Chinese police have cracked down on an internet craze that saw thousands of cyclists through a highway under cover of night to gorge on dumplings in a nearby city. —AFP photos

"due to its occupation by shared bikes and other objects at various points". In a separate statement, the Kaifeng city government cited the risk of riders falling and sustaining injuries, or blocking other road users from accessing medical care. "(You) have demonstrated the wil-

ful whimsy of youth," it said, "but... more and more people are starting to worry about the hidden dangers".

Three major shared bike companies said Saturday that they would impose new local geographic restrictions, adding that the vehicles would lock automatically

if riders persisted in travelling in prohibited areas. Many riders had documented their trips on social media. "There were so many people on the road even before we started riding," read a caption on a video on Douyin, China's version of TikTok. "We're only going to be young once, guys. Life's hardships are also what give it some spice!" it added.

Chinese social media trends have driven a youthful embrace of cheap travel in recent years, such as "special forces tourism", where people pack as many sights as possible into extremely tight schedules. The country has struggled to reverse an economic slowdown that has left millions of young people struggling to find work, overqualified for the jobs that are available, or feeling trapped in its intense work culture. Other cities briefly in the spotlight for their quirky barbecue style or lip-smacking hotpot have also rushed to cash in before their online fame runs out. —AFP



Sports

Mitchell magic takes Cavaliers to 12-0 as Chicago Bulls beaten

Wembanyama's double-double helps Spurs wallop Kings

LOS ANGELES: Donovan Mitchell scored 36 points as the unbeaten Cleveland Cavaliers came from behind once more to preserve their 100% start to the season with a 119-113 victory over the Chicago Bulls on Monday.

The Cavaliers, who overcame a 14-point deficit to beat Brooklyn on Saturday, were again forced to dig deep, battling back from nine points down in the third quarter for a road victory that takes them to 12-0 for the season.

Mitchell led another fine all-round offensive performance from Cleveland, who have emerged as the surprise package of the season and are the only undefeated team in the league. Six Cleveland players finished in double figures, with point guard Darius Garland adding 17 points and Evan Mobley 15.

Caris LeVert, Georges Niang and Ty Jerome all had 12 points each off the bench. Chicago meanwhile were left ruing their inability to take full advantage after pulling into an 85-76 lead with just over four minutes remaining in the third quarter. Instead, Cleveland came roaring back with a 9-0 run to tie the game and then pulled ahead to lead by three points heading into the fourth quarter, before closing out victory by outscoring Chicago 24-21 in the final frame.

Zach LaVine led Chicago's scorers with 26 points while Coby White and Nikola Vucevic had 20 points apiece. The Bulls fell to 4-7 with the loss. "We dug deep," Mitchell said after the win. "Honestly, the bench saved us. Starters were a little fatigued and I guess teams are coming at us. But we

persevered, and shoutout to the bench for that. It's a group effort.

"For us to continue to be what we want to be, that's what it's going to take. It was a complete team win... every night it's somebody different. We're playing for each other, being selfless. We've got to keep it going."

Wemby sparks Spurs

In other games on Monday, French star Victor Wembanyama cut loose with 34 points, 14 rebounds and six assists to help the San Antonio Spurs to a 116-96 blowout against the Sacramento Kings. Sacramento started brightly, moving into a 26-22 lead after the first quarter.

But San Antonio took charge in the second quarter, pouring in 38 points including seven three-pointers to move into a lead that they never relinquished thereafter.

All of San Antonio's starters post double-digit points tallies, with Julian Champagnie adding 13 points and veteran Chris Paul 12. The Oklahoma City Thunder meanwhile bounced back from Sunday's home defeat to Golden State with a gutsy 134-128 home defeat of the Los Angeles Clippers.

Oklahoma City's defeat on Sunday had been overshadowed by a gloomy injury update to towering young star Chet Holmgren, who was confirmed to have suffered a fractured pelvis after falling to the court against the Warriors.

However the Thunder showed no sign of a hangover from that loss on Monday, with Shai Gilgeous-Alexander erupting for 45 points in a



SAN ANTONIO: Julian Champagnie #30 of the San Antonio Spurs shoots the ball during the game against the Sacramento Kings during a regular season game on November 11, 2024 at the Frost Bank Center in San Antonio, Texas. — AFP

virtuoso performance. Jalen Williams added 28 points while Luguentz Dort finished with 19.

In other games on Monday, the Brooklyn Nets

downed the New Orleans Pelicans 107-105 on the road, while the Houston Rockets cruised past the Washington Wizards 107-92. — AFP

PCB asks ICC to explain India Champions refusal

KARACHI: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said Tuesday it has asked the sport's governing body to explain India's refusal to send a team to Pakistan for the Champions Trophy next year. The International Cricket Council informed the PCB last week that India would not tour Pakistan for the eight-team tournament, leaving the fate of the event hanging in the balance. Pakistan had previously rejected the option of a hybrid arrangement that would allow India to play their matches at neutral venues, for example in the United Arab Emirates.

"The PCB has responded to last week's ICC letter seeking clarifications for the Indian Board's decision not to travel to Pakistan for next year's Champions Trophy," Sami-Ul-Hasan told AFP. Deteriorating political ties have meant the bitter rivals have not played a bilateral cricket series for over a decade — squaring off only in ICC multi-nation events.

The nuclear-armed neighbors have fought three wars since being carved out of the sub-continent's partition in 1947 and that rivalry is often reflected on the cricket field. Any cricket match between the two is among the most watched events on the global sporting calendar.

Pakistani media reported on Tuesday that the PCB would be unwilling to accept security reasons for India's refusal to visit. New Zealand have toured Pakistan three times in the past two years, with England visiting twice and Australia once in the same period. Pakistan also visited India for last year's ODI World Cup and the PCB had expected the gesture to be reciprocated for the Champions Trophy. The Champions Trophy is slated to be played across three venues — Lahore, Rawalpindi and Karachi — from February 19 to March 9 next year.

But a final schedule due to be announced this week has been postponed over the stand-off — which PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi termed disappointing. "Almost every country wants the tournament to be played in Pakistan and it will be disappointing if they don't come," Naqvi, who is also the interior minister, said last week. I don't think anyone should make this a political matter. We'll give every team as many facilities as we can." Naqvi said Pakistan would consider pulling out of events in India as a response. "Pakistan has shown great gestures to India in the past, and we'd like to say clearly India shouldn't expect such friendly gestures from us every time". India is due to host the women's ODI World Cup and Asia Cup next year and will co-host the Twenty20 World Cup

Afghanistan win series over Bangladesh

SHARJAH: Rahmanullah Gurbaz hit a cracking century and Azmatullah Omarzai showed allround skills on Monday to give Afghanistan a five wicket victory in the third one-day international and a series win over Bangladesh. Omarzai took four wickets before hitting an undefeated 77-ball 70 and Opener Gurbaz hit a 120-ball 101 as Afghanistan chased down a 245-run target in 48.2 overs in Sharjah. Bangladesh were lifted to 244-8

by Mohammad Mahmudullah, run out off the last ball of the innings for run-a-ball 98, and a solid 66 by stand-in skipper Mehidy Hasan Miraz.

The victory gave Afghanistan a 2-1 win in the series in Sharjah. Afghanistan won the first match by 92 runs while Bangladesh took the second by 68 runs. The series win is Afghanistan's third successive this year, having also beaten Ireland (2-0) and South Africa (2-1) following their wins over England, Pakistan and Sri Lanka in last year's World Cup in India.

Bangladesh pacers Mustafizur Rahman (2-50) and Nahid Rana (2-40) had jolted Afghanistan to 84-3 before Gurbaz and Omarzai added 100 for the fourth wicket. Gurbaz, who hit seven

sixes and five boundaries in his eighth ODI century, fell in the 39th over with 61 needed as Bangladesh pressed.

Omarzai hit five sixes and three boundaries added 58 runs with Mohammad Nabi (27-ball 34) to avoid any turnaround, hitting the winning six. Afghanistan skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi said he was proud of his team.

"I am very happy as a captain," said Shahidi. "When we lost the toss we were a bit worried because it's tough to bat second in Sharjah but our batters did very well." Miraz praised Afghanistan. "I think credit goes to Afghanistan the way they played in this series," said Miraz. "Gurbaz and Omarzai did very well and we couldn't get wickets to win the match."

Earlier, Bangladesh, without injured skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto, were given a sound 53-run start by Soumya Sarkar (24) and Tanzid Hasan (19) before four wickets fell in for 19 runs in 38 balls. Mahmudullah and Miraz repaired the innings with a 155-run fifth wicket stand as they blunted Afghanistan spinners, who managed just two wickets between them.

Miraz became one of Omarzai's victim in the 46th over but Mahmudullah continued to bat solidly till he was run out off the last ball, trying to sneak a second run. Mahmudullah hit three sixes and seven fours while Miraz's 119-ball knock contained four fours. Omarzai took a career best 4-37, improving on his 3-56 against Sri Lanka at Pallekele earlier this year. — AFP

Ohtani nominated for MVP after historic campaign

LOS ANGELES: Japanese superstar Shohei Ohtani was named among the nominees for Major League Baseball's National League Most Valuable Player award on Monday after a historic debut season with the Los Angeles Dodgers. Ohtani is bidding for back-to-back MVP honors after winning the award last season while playing for the Los Angeles Angels in the American League.

Ohtani, who has already won two MVP awards in his career, is coming off a season which saw him become the first player in history to amass 50 home runs and 50 stolen bases in the same season. The 30-year-old slugger also helped the Dodgers claim

a second World Series in five seasons.

Ohtani faces competition from shortstop Francisco Lindor of the New York Mets and Arizona Diamondbacks second baseman Ketel Marte. In the American League meanwhile, New York Yankees teammates Aaron Judge and Juan Soto were nominated alongside Bobby Witt Jr. of the Kansas City Royals.

The MVP awards, which are voted on by a ballot of the Baseball Writers Association of America (BBWA), will be announced on November 21. Meanwhile, there was a surprise in the nominees announced for the National League manager of the year award, with the Dodgers' World Series-winning manager Dave Roberts failing to make the cut.

Roberts was tipped to be among the favorites after guiding the Dodgers to an MLB-best 98 regular season wins despite having a pitching staff decimated by injuries. However, Roberts missed out, with Carlos Mendoza of the New York Mets, the Milwaukee Brewers' Pat Murphy and the San Diego Padres' Mike Shildt named as the nominees. — AFP



Shohei Ohtani

Zverev eases past Rublev as Alcaraz falters against Ruud

TURIN: Alexander Zverev opened his campaign at the ATP Finals in Turin on Monday evening by dispatching Andrey Rublev 6-4, 6-4 in their round-robin opener. In the afternoon match, Casper Ruud romped through the opening set before fighting back from 5-2 behind in the second to beat an out-sorts Carlos Alcaraz 6-1, 7-5.

Germany's Zverev had last faced Russian Rublev at the same stage of the finals in 2023 and won by the same score. Zverev, a two-time winner of this event in 2018 and 2021, moved to second in the John Newcombe group, behind Norway's Ruud.

The 27-year-old Zverev, the recent winner of the Paris Masters 1000, has climbed back to No.2 in the world this season. After an injury-hit 2022 season he had briefly dropped out of the top 25 in 2023. "I was never sure I was going to get back to this level," Zverev

said on the court in Turin. "Second year in a row for me here, I still want to get better. I still want to improve on a few things. We'll see how next year goes."

Rublev held to love in his first three service games. He won a 13th straight point on serve to open the crucial seventh game, but Zverev then won the next four to break to 15. Zverev did not allow a break point against his serve all match and converted immediately both times he had the chance.

"I thought it was a very solid match from my end," said Zverev. "Andrey is an incredible player, but everyone who plays here is an unbelievable player. Against anyone here, you have to play your best to have a chance, you have to be solid, mentally strong. I feel like I did that today, I felt like I used my chances quite well and I'm obviously happy with this win."

Ailing Alcaraz beaten

Earlier Alcaraz, the world number three got off to a shaky start to his maiden ATP Finals, making 34 unforced errors in an uncharacteristically errant display. "I'm tired. I'm tired mentally," said Alcaraz, who won the French Open and Wimbledon titles earlier this year.



TURIN: Germany's Alexander Zverev hits a return to Russia's Andrey Rublev during their match at the ATP Finals tennis tournament in Turin. — AFP

"Obviously a lot of matches, really tight schedule, really demanding year with not too many days off, not too many periods for you could rest. "Some players deal with it better than others." Alcaraz said he had struggled with sickness and adapting to the indoor surface. — AFP

Sinner collects ATP year-end No. 1 trophy

TURIN: Jannik Sinner spent his first rest day at the ATP Finals in Turin on Monday collecting the trophy for finishing the year ranked the No. 1 tennis player in the world. Sinner entered the season-ending event already assured of becoming the first Italian to top the ATP end-of-year rankings.

"It's very special occasion to share that here in Italy," he said. "I would like to thank you for the support around the world, to thank my team. Without the people who are close to me,

who understand me as a person, who I am, it would be very difficult," Sinner added, calling himself "very lucky".

Sinner's season has been dogged by controversy after he twice tested positive for traces of the steroid clostebol in March. He was initially cleared by the International Tennis Integrity Agency but at the end of September the World Anti-Doping Agency appealed, seeking a ban of up to two years.

The Italian, who won his first match at finals on Sunday against Australian Alex De Minaur, succeeds Serbia's Novak Djokovic, who finished the year as world No. 1 a record eight times. Boris Becker, who spent 221 days at No. 1 in 1991 but never ended a year on top, attended the presentation. He said that while "there are certainly Carlos Alcaraz and others, Jannik is going to be world No.1 for a long time." — AFP



TURIN: Italy's Jannik Sinner (C) poses with the ATP year-end No.1 trophy along with former players Boris Becker and ATP's President Andrea Gaudenzi (R), during the ATP Finals tennis tournament in Turin. — AFP

Sports

Van Nistelrooy leaves Man Utd as Amorim arrives

'Ruud is, and always will be, a Manchester United legend'



Ruben Amorim

LONDON: Ruud van Nistelrooy left Manchester United's coaching staff on Monday as new manager Ruben Amorim arrived at the club's training complex to start his Old Trafford reign. Dutchman Van Nistelrooy, a former star striker at the club, was put in temporary charge after the sacking of Erik ten Hag late last month.

He oversaw three wins and a draw in his four-match spell, signing off with a 3-0 victory against Leicester in the Premier League on Sunday. The former PSV Eindhoven boss, appointed as an assistant coach in July on a two-year contract, had voiced a desire to stay at Old Trafford to work with Amorim.

But United issued a statement on Monday confirming the 48-year-old would not be part of the new coaching set-up. "Manchester United can confirm that Ruud van Nistelrooy has left the club," the statement said. "Ruud rejoined in the summer and has taken charge of the team for the past four matches as interim head coach.

"Ruud is, and always will be, a Manchester United legend. "We are grateful for his contri-

but ion and the way in which he has approached his role throughout his time with the club. He will always be very welcome at Old Trafford." United said fellow coaches Rene Hake, Jelle ten Rouwelaar and Pieter Morel had also left the club. "We will confirm the full men's first team coaching composition in due course," United said.

'Amazing period'

Van Nistelrooy, who scored 150 goals during a stellar playing career for United, said he had relished his time in charge. "I really enjoyed it, it's been a short but amazing period," he said after the Leicester win. "We are in an uncertain position but we tried to do our jobs and help the club, which is important.

"There are a lot of feelings there, the way the fans supported me and the team always in difficult moments.... To close down this block of games with good results and a good connection I can't thank them enough."

Amorim was named as the new United boss earlier this month. The 39-year-old jetted to Britain

from Portugal on Monday after completing his stint as Sporting Lisbon boss with a 4-2 win against Braga. He was met at the club's Carrington training complex by chief executive Omar Berrada, and was also welcomed by sporting director Dan Ashworth and technical director Jason Wilcox.

The former Portugal international is United's sixth permanent appointment since the end of Alex Ferguson's trophy-filled 27-year-reign in 2013. United are 13th in the Premier League table after a poor start to the season but are only four points off the top four.

Amorim's first match in charge will be away at struggling Ipswich on November 24, following the current international break. The new boss, who transformed Sporting's fortunes during his four-and-a-half-year spell at the club, said he was aware of the scale of the task awaiting him at Old Trafford.

"I feel ready for the new challenge," he said after his farewell match with Sporting. "I'm not naive, I know that it's going to be very, very different, very tough but I feel that I'm ready." — AFP

Draw for inaugural FIFA Club WCup set for December 5

LAUSANNE: The world's best football clubs will discover their group stage opponents for the inaugural 32-club FIFA Club World Cup at the draw on December 5 in Miami. The date was highly anticipated as many questions still surround this competition, whose revenues and benefits for the clubs remain a mystery — its TV broadcasters are not yet known and only one sponsor has been announced: Chinese electronics manufacturer Hisense.

The draw will kick off at 1800 GMT to determine the eight groups of four teams who will compete in the tournament in the United States from June 15 to July 13. The 16 clubs finishing in the top two places in each group will qualify for the knockout phase, from the round of 16 to the final, without a match for third place.

The last edition of the Club World Cup featured seven teams but the new version will be considerably bigger with 32 sides including Real Madrid, Manchester City and Bayern Munich. The expanded tournament has come under fire for the extra workload it will place on players and football's governing body is yet to announce any broadcast deals.

FIFA president Gianni Infantino recently announced that Lionel Messi's Inter Miami will kick off the club competition at Hard Rock Stadium, home of the NFL's Miami Dolphins, on June 15. FIFA plan to hold the expanded tournament every four years. No host as yet to be chosen for the 2029 edition. — AFP

Kuwait's shooters win medals in Arab competitions

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Competitions of HH the Crown Prince Annual Shooting Championship continued at Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex as Kuwait shooters had notably outstanding results. In the Arab Shotgun Championship, which is being held alongside HH the Crown Prince Tournament, Kuwait's Nasser Al-Miqldid took the gold medal in the trap competition, while Abdulrahman Al-Faihan also from Kuwait won the silver medal and Oman's Hussein Al-Shuhoumi won the bronze.

Kuwait's national team of Nasser Al-Miqldid, Talal Al-Rashidi and Abdulrahman Al-Faihan won gold, Oman's Hussein Al-Shuhoumi, Buti Al-Shibly and Saud Al-Khatiri won silver and the bronze went to Qatar's team of Mohammad Al-Rumaihi, Rashid Al-Athba and Ali Al-Athba.

In the ladies trap event Sarah Al-Hawal from Kuwait won gold, Bahrain's Marwa Buarki and Marian Al-Sulaiti took second and third place. Meanwhile, Bahrain's ladies team secured the gold medal by Mariam Al-Sulaiti, Marwa Buarki and Fatima Nasrallah, while Kuwait's team of Sarah Al-Hawal, Shahad Al-Hawal and Reem Al-Zamanan won silver and Qatar's Maitha Al-Binali, Khuloud Al-Khalaf and Amina Al-Abdullah won bronze.

As for HH the Crown Prince tournament, which was exclusively for Kuwaitis Abdulrahman Al-Faihan won gold in the trap competition, Abdulaziz Al-Daihani silver and Khalid Al-Mudhaf bronze. In the ladies competition Sarah Al-Hawal won gold, Shahad Al-Hawal silver and Reem Al-Zamanan won bronze.

In the 10 meter air pistol competition Hamad Al-Namshan won gold, Ali Al-Mutairi silver and bronze was won by Saad Al-Ajmi. In the women's competition Ghazlan Ali won gold, Athari Al-Beloushi silver and Israa Bahman bronze.



Group photo with the winners and officials.

In the mixed doubles trap results

Bahrain's team of Ali Saeed and Marwa Buarki won gold, Kuwait's team of Abdulrahman Al-Faihan and Sarah Al-Hawal won silver and Qatar's Mohammad Al-Rumaihi and Khuloud Khalaf and Oman's Hussein Al-Shuhoumi and Shamsa Al-Maliki, both teams won bronze.

In the 10m air rifle competition

Mariam Irzouqi won gold, Ritaj Al-Ziyadi won silver and Al-Jouri Mansour Al-Hashash won bronze. President of the Asian Shooting Confederation Honorable President of KSSC Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah said both championships are witnessing outstanding participation by the most important Kuwait, Gulf and Arab shooters and lauded the major achievements of Kuwait and Gulf shooters in this major Arab gathering.

He said the success of HH the Crown Prince, and Arab Shooting Competitions, is in the large participation and distinguished scores so far. Meanwhile, KSSC Secretary General Obaid Al-Osaimi said Kuwait's shooters winning (6) medals in the Arab competition, along with having record numbers is a



Sarah Al-Hawal

notable achievement and a continuation for Kuwait's shooters' outstanding performance.

A-Osaimi thanked HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah for his patronage of the tournament and hoped for Kuwait to win more medals in the remaining competitions.

Lineker to leave Match of the Day after 26 years

LONDON: Former England football captain Gary Lineker will step down as host of the BBC's flagship Match of the Day highlights show at the end of the season, the broadcaster confirmed on Tuesday. But the BBC said Lineker — the broadcaster's highest-paid presenter earning £1.35 million (\$1.7 million) a year — would remain at the corporation after both parties "agreed in principle to a contract extension through to the 2026 World Cup".

"After 25 seasons Gary is stepping down from MOTD," said Alex Kay-Jelski, director of BBC Sport. "We want to thank him for everything he has done for the show, which continues to attract millions of viewers each week.

"He'll be hugely missed on the show but we're



Gary Lineker

so happy he is staying with the BBC to present live football." Lineker, who will have held the post for 26 years when he leaves at the end of the Premier League season in May 2025, said: "I'm delighted to continue my long association with BBC Sport and would like to thank all those who made this happen."

Former BBC director general Greg Dyke told BBC

radio that Lineker was "the outstanding sports presenter of his time", but added: "Life moves on, presenters don't stay forever." The 63-year-old Lineker took over as host of the Saturday night programme in 1999.

In March last year, Lineker was briefly taken off air by bosses after comparing the language used to launch a British government asylum policy to the rhetoric of Nazi-era Germany on social media. In solidarity with Lineker, a number of fellow presenters and pundits including Alan Shearer and Ian Wright refused to appear on the programme, meaning an episode was reduced to 20 minutes and aired without its host, pundits and commentary.

Lineker was reinstated just over a week later. The BBC launched an independent review of its social media guidelines, which recommended that high-profile presenters should be able to express views on political issues but should stop short of campaigning on party politics or for activist organizations. The former Leicester, Everton, Tottenham and Barcelona forward has hosted refugees in his home and has often criticized government policies, particularly on immigration. — AFP

Rams playoff hopes fade after Dolphins defeat

LOS ANGELES: The Los Angeles Rams' hopes of forcing their way into the playoff picture suffered a blow on Monday after the team was beaten 23-15 by the struggling Miami Dolphins. The Rams went into the game with a 4-4 record and looking for a win to stay in touch with NFC West divisional leaders Arizona (6-4) and the second-placed San Francisco 49ers (5-4).

But the Rams' offense never managed to get on top of a dogged Dolphins defense, with quarterback Matthew Stafford being sacked four times on a miserable night for the home team at Sofi Stadium. Miami moved into an early 10-0 lead after a Malik Washington rushing touchdown was followed by a 50-yard Jason Sanders field goal early in the second quarter. Los Angeles hit back with two Joshua Karty field goals to trim the lead to 10-6 at half-time. — AFP

Classifieds

Clinics

Clinics

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

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

Change of Name

I, Mohana Dusani, holder of Indian Passport No. M8399420 having permanent address as 8-140-A Konda Venuka Pali, Korthikota, Ananthapur Andhra Pradesh Pin 515571 in Kuwait at present do hereby change my name to Dusani Mohan (as given name) Reddy (as surname) for all purposes. I will henceforth be known in the name Dusani Mohan Reddy and I also undertake to carry out this name change in all my documents. (#6193-13/11/2024)

I, Arshad holder of Indian passport No. X8048440 having Permanent address as

R/O Karawara, Teh. Kherwara, Dist. Udaipur, Rajasthan-313804 residing in Kuwait at present do hereby change my name to Arshad (as given name) Makrani (as surname) for all purpose. I will henceforth be known in the name Arshad Makrani and I also undertake to carry out this name change in all my documents. (#6191-12/11/2024)

I, Ali Hussain, holder of Passport No. N7013272, do hereby change my name to Ali Hussain (as given name) Daruwala (as surname) for all purposes. I will henceforth be known in the name Ali Hussain Daru-

wala and I also undertake to carry out this name change in all my documents. (#6192-12/11/2024)

I, Kutbuddin Kaid Johar, holder of Indian Passport No. Z4826008 having permanent address as Bohra Bakhai, Chadni Chowk Ratlam (MP) residing in Kuwait at present do hereby change my name to Kaid Johar (as given name) Kutbuddin (as surname) for all purpose. I will henceforth be known in the name Kaid Johar Kutbuddin and I also undertake to carry out this name change in all my documents. (#6190-11/11/2024)



KUWAIT: Players in action at the Premier Padel P1 tournament on Nov 12, 2024. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Intense competition at padel showcase

Top global players compete as Kuwait debuts on the Premier Padel world stage

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: The Premier Padel Kuwait P1 tournament, hosted by BNK Holding, has reached the thrilling round of 32, with competition heating up as top-tier players battle for the prestigious €470,000 prize. Players are relishing their experience in Kuwait, lauding the tournament's seamless organization, with accommodations conveniently close to The Arena at 360 Mall and Rafa Nadal Academy, making it easy for them to move between matches and enjoy the city.

In the women's competition, Alejandra Salazar Bengoechea and Jessica Castello Lopez claimed victory over Sofia Saiz Vallejo and Marta Lobo, while Tamara Icardo Alcorisa and Carolina Jensen Sirvent defeated Katerina Sharifova and Marta Marrero Marrero. Barbara Caldera Sanchez and Lucia Rufo Ortiz overcame Ana Martinez and Alix Collombon, with Lucia Sainz Prelegri and Patricia Llaguno Zielinski prevailing against Giorgia Marchetti and Carolina Pappacena. Marta Talavan and Julia Bidahorria triumphed over Marta Calvo Santamaria and Sandra Pujals Perez, and Veronica Virseda and Aranzazu Osoro Ulrich advanced after beating Marta Guinart Espana and Veronica Iglesias Segador.

In the men's matches, Javi Diestro and Christian Gutierrez emerged victorious over Miguel Lamperti and Adrian Santigosa Sastre. Fran Guerrero and Javier Bautista moved forward by defeating Juan Ruiz

and Victor Ruiz, while Gonzalo Rubio and Pablo Lijo won their contest against Anton Chozas and Lucas Augsburger.

BNK Holding, led by Chairman Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi, has positioned this inaugural Premier Padel event as a major moment in Kuwait's sporting history. Drawing over 150 elite global padel athletes, the tournament marks Kuwait's entry onto the world padel stage, with BNK striving to foster a connection between local audiences and the international padel community, creating a lasting impact in the region's sports landscape.

Padel, a sport originating in 1969 with Enrique Corcuera of Acapulco, Mexico, has seen rapid growth in popularity in Kuwait and the Middle East. This dynamic game, blending elements of tennis and squash, is played on an enclosed court surrounded by glass walls, where strategic play often outweighs sheer power. Known for its social aspect, padel is typically played in doubles and has an accessible learning curve, appealing to a broad age range. The sport follows a best-of-three-sets format, with scoring similar to tennis and an option for a "Golden Point" to settle deuce situations, keeping play engaging and competitive. As the Kuwait P1 tournament heads toward its final rounds, players and fans alike are captivated by the skill and intensity on display, highlighting padel's growing influence in the sports world.

