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UN panel affirms Zionist genocide

Alarm over AI warfare • HRW slams Zionist war crimes • Gazans facing ethnic cleansing



GAZA: People gather as smoke rises from a UN school-turned-shelter after it was hit in a Zionist strike in the Rimal neighbourhood of Gaza City in the northern Gaza Strip on Nov 14, 2024. — AFP (See Page 5)

UNITED NATIONS: The Zionist entity's warfare in Gaza is consistent with the characteristics of genocide, a special UN committee said Thursday, accusing the country of "using starvation as a method of war". The United Nations Special Committee pointed to "mass civilian casualties and life-threatening conditions intentionally imposed on Palestinians", in a fresh report covering the period from Oct 7 last year through to July.

"Through its siege over Gaza, obstruction of humanitarian aid, alongside targeted attacks and killing of civilians and aid workers, despite repeated UN appeals, binding orders from the International Court of Justice and resolutions of the Security Council, (the Zionist entity) is intentionally causing death, starvation and serious injury," it said in a statement.

The Zionist entity's warfare practices in Gaza "are consistent with the characteristics of genocide", said the committee, which has for decades been investigating Zionist practices affecting rights in the occupied Palestinian territories. The Zionist entity, it charged, was "using starvation as a method of war and inflicting collective punishment on the Palestinian population".

A UN-backed assessment at the weekend warned that famine was imminent in northern Gaza. Thursday's report documented how the Zionist entity's extensive bombing campaign in Gaza had decimated essential services and unleashed an environmental

catastrophe with lasting health impacts. By February this year, Zionist forces had used more than 25,000 tons of explosives across the Gaza Strip, "equivalent to two nuclear bombs", the report pointed out.

"By destroying vital water, sanitation and food systems, and contaminating the environment, (the Zionist entity) has created a lethal mix of crises that will inflict severe harm on generations to come," the committee said. The committee said it was "deeply alarmed by the unprecedented destruction of civilian infrastructure and the high death toll in Gaza", where more than 43,700 people have been killed since the war began.

The staggering number of deaths raised serious concerns, it said, about the Zionist entity's use of artificial intelligence-enhanced targeting systems in its military operations. "The (Zionist) military's use of AI-assisted targeting, with minimal human oversight, combined with heavy bombs, underscores (the Zionist entity's) disregard of its obligation to distinguish between civilians and combatants and take adequate safeguards to prevent civilian deaths," it said.

It warned that reported new directives lowering the criteria for selecting targets and increasing the previously accepted ratio of civilian to combatant casualties appeared to have allowed the military to use AI systems to "rapidly generate tens of thousands of targets, as well as to track targets

Continued on Page 6

Commission strips Kuwaiti citizenship of 1,535 individuals

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The Supreme Commission for Nationality on Thursday decided to revoke the citizenship of 1,535 Kuwaitis, an official statement said, hiking the number of those who have been stripped of their nationality to close to 3,000 in just the past two weeks. The commission has been meeting weekly during the past two months and last week it revoked the citizenship of 930 Kuwaitis.

The interior ministry said in a statement on Thursday the decision was taken during a meeting presided over by Acting Premier and Interior and Defense Minister Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef Al-Sabah. The number of Kuwaitis who have been stripped of their citizenship since the drive began about six months ago is now well over 4,000, based on statements released by the interior ministry and Amiri decrees.

Normally, citizenship is revoked from those who got it by cheating, and then all their descendants automatically lose their citizenship. The commission's decisions become effective only after they are approved by the Cabinet. There were no reports that the Cabinet had rejected any of the commission's decisions. Since the end of August, the commission has decided to revoke the citizenship of over 3,500 Kuwaitis. Thursday's decision was the largest batch so far.

All those who got their citizenship revoked were naturalized Kuwaitis, as the law prohibits revoking the citizenship of original Kuwaitis, nationals who or their ancestors had been in Kuwait before 1920. The process started with very small numbers, but it gained momentum in

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Zionists hit Damascus and Beirut

DAMASCUS/BEIRUT: Fifteen people were killed in Zionist strikes on residential buildings in Damascus on Thursday, Syrian state media reported, and the Zionist entity claimed the attacks targeted military sites and the headquarters of the Islamic Jihad group. The buildings targeted were located in the suburbs of Mazzeh and Qudsaya, both in the west of the Syrian capital, SANA news agency reported, citing a Syrian military source. Commanders in Lebanon's Hezbollah

and Iran's Revolutionary Guards based in Syria have been known to reside in Mazzeh, according to residents who fled after recent strikes that killed some key figures from the groups. Mazzeh's high-rise blocks have been used by the authorities in the past to house leaders of Palestinian factions including Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

Meanwhile, a senior Lebanese official has signaled that Hezbollah is ready to pull its forces away from the Lebanese-Zionist border in any ceasefire, while rejecting the Zionist entity's demand for freedom to act against the group in Lebanon in the future. A Zionist minister indicated that a ceasefire was closer than at any point since the war began, though he said a sticking point was ensuring the Zionist entity

Continued on Page 6



BEIRUT: Smoke plumes rise after a Zionist airstrike on the Chouaifet neighborhood in southern Beirut on Nov 14, 2024. — AFP

800m+ diabetics worldwide as rate doubles in 30 yrs

PARIS: The percentage of adults suffering from diabetes across the world has doubled over the past three decades, the biggest rises coming in developing countries, a study said Wednesday. The serious health condition affected around 14 percent of all adults worldwide

in 2022, compared to seven percent in 1990, according to the new analysis in The Lancet journal.

Taking into account the growing global population, the team of researchers estimated that more than 800 million people are now diabetic, compared to less than 200 million in 1990. These figures include both main types of diabetes. Type 1 affects patients from a young age and is more difficult to treat because it is caused by an insulin deficiency. Type 2 mainly affects middle-aged or older people who lose their sensitivity to insulin. Behind the global numbers, national figures varied widely. The rate of diabetes stayed the same or even fell in some wealthier countries, such as Japan,

Canada or Western European nations such as France and Denmark, the study said. "The burden of diabetes and untreated diabetes is increasingly borne by low-income and middle-income countries," it added.

For example, nearly a third of women in Pakistan are now diabetic, compared to less than a tenth in 1990. The researchers emphasized that obesity is an "important driver" of type 2 diabetes — as is an unhealthy diet. The gap between how diabetes is treated in richer and poorer countries is also widening.

In 2022, there were around 828 million people aged 18 years and older with type 1 and type 2

Continued on Page 6

World's largest coral found near Solomon Islands

SYDNEY: Scientists say they have found the world's largest coral near the Pacific's Solomon Islands, announcing Thursday a major discovery "pulsing with life and color". The coral is so immense that researchers sailing the crystal waters of the Solomon archipelago initially thought they had stumbled across a hulking shipwreck. "Just when we think there is nothing left to discover on planet earth, we find a massive coral

made of nearly one billion little polyps, pulsing with life and color," marine ecologist Enric Sala said.

The standalone structure had been growing for some 300 years, the researchers said, formed from a "complex network" of tiny coral polyps. It was distinct from a coral reef, which is made from many distinct coral colonies, they explained. Measuring 34 m and 32 m long, the team said the "mega coral" was three times bigger than the previous record holder — a coral dubbed "Big Momma" in American Samoa.

"While Big Momma looked like a huge scoop of ice cream plopped down on the reef, this newly discovered coral is as if the ice cream

Continued on Page 6



This handout photo released on Nov 14, 2024 shows divers swimming over the world's largest coral located near the Pacific's Solomon Islands. — AFP



Zain employees embark on 20th annual Umrah trip

Company's staff strengthen bonds of faith at Holy Mosque in Makkah

KUWAIT: Zain organized its 20th annual Umrah trip to the Holy Mosque in Makkah, with a group of employees from various departments across the company joining the journey along with their families. The trip aimed to foster the spiritual aspect and strengthen bonds between employees beyond the workplace. Through such initiatives, Zain remains committed to supporting the wellbeing of its employees in all aspects of their professional and personal lives.

Under the umbrella of its internal communications strategy, the company presents a wide range of programs and initiatives throughout the year, including the annual Umrah trip. With this strategy, Zain focuses on key pillars such as health and sports, spirituality, academia and culture, recreation, and social activities, and more, to create a positive impact that caters to the wellness of its employees. The Umrah trip aims to strengthen the spirit of teamwork and cultivate a sense of belonging and unity among Zain employees.

Every year, the company witnesses enthusiastic participation from employees and their families, who praise the seamless organization and diverse activities of this trip. The company is dedicated to enriching direct and effective communication with its workforce both inside and outside the work environment through initiatives like spiritual journeys,



Participating employees and their families in a group picture.

Holy Quran recitation competitions, awareness campaigns, health programs such as vaccination drives, blood donations, regular check-ups, along with sports tournaments, cultural sessions, workshops, and much more.

From time to time, Zain also invites experts from a variety of fields to hold special talks for employees to widen their horizons and enrich their knowledge. The company believes that active and ongoing communication with its staff elevates

their workplace experience and positively impacts their productivity. Zain considers its workforce the main reason behind its success and leadership in the market and will always foster their growth and cater to their needs.

KNES students visit Kuwait Times and Kuwait News



KUWAIT: Kuwait National English School (KNES) students visited Kuwait Times and Kuwait News on Thursday to learn about journalism and how stories are selected, edited and prepared for both print and digital publications. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Minister launches GCC Secretariat Pavilion

KUWAIT: Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah inaugurated the GCC Secretariat Pavilion at the Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Cultural Center on Wednesday. The Pavilion's launch coincides for the first time, with the 45th GCC Summit, due in Kuwait on December 1. The Pavilion will play a crucial role in the Summit as a platform to showcase the Cooperation Council's achievements and initiatives.

The opening ceremony was attended by the Minister of Public Works and Head of the Supreme Committee on Preparation for the Summit, Dr Noura Al-Mashaan, Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment, Noura Al-Fassam, GCC Secretary General Jassem Al-Budaiwi, and Deputy Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, as well as ambassadors to the GCC member countries.

Minister Al-Mashaan said in her opening speech, that choosing Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Cultural Center as a leading cultural tower in Kuwait to be home to this distinguished exhibition reflects the deep belief in the importance of culture and knowledge in consolidating the values of unity and integration. This center is considered a civilized symbol that attracts visitors from inside and outside Kuwait, especially the young generation looking forward to exploring science, technology, and space.

Al-Mashaan added that the GCC pavilion completes this pioneering cultural system by embodying the journey of the



Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah and other senior officials inaugurate GCC Secretariat Pavilion. — KUNA photos

GCC, which the forefathers founded to be a beacon of Gulf solidarity, a shield that protects our countries from challenges, and a force that strengthens common ties between the peoples of the region. Since its establishment, the Cooperation Council has made significant strides in various fields, which Minister Al-Mashaan highlighted in her speech.

Today, we celebrate over four decades of fruitful cooperation, a testament to the wise directives of the leaders of the GCC countries. Al-Mashaan said. She explained that this exhibition proudly showcases the major development projects and cooperation initiatives, such as specific projects or initiatives, that have contributed to achieving growth and sustainability and raising the level of well-being for the Gulf citizens. It's a testament to our collective progress and a

reason for optimism about the future.

The exhibition also highlights the achievements of the GCC countries in terms of economy, infrastructure, transportation, education, environment, health, and other fields. "We are certain that this exhibition represents a new step that enhances awareness and understanding of the achievements of the Cooperation Council in a way that reflects our commitment to moving forward towards more joint work," the minister said.

She expressed appreciation for the sponsor of the ceremony, Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Mohammed Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, and the Amiri Diwan for their generous support and sponsorship of the Pavilion. Al-Mashaan also thanked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the members of the Supreme Committee for the Preparation



GCC Secretary-General Jassem Al-Budaiwi



Minister of Public Works and Head of the Supreme Committee on Preparation for the Summit Dr Noura Al-Mashaan

and Preparation of the GCC Summit for their sincere efforts in completing this event on time. She also expressed her heartfelt thanks to the Secretary-General of the Cooperation Council, Jassem Al-Budaiwi, and the General Secretariat team, who distinguishably organized and prepared this exhibition.

Their work celebrates the Cooperation Council's journey and achievements and embodies the shared vision that unites the GCC countries within a framework of cooperation and integration. Al-Budaiwi extended his highest thanks and gratitude to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah with his brothers and the leaders of the GCC. He expressed his pleasure that Kuwait will host the GCC pavilion during the 45th Gulf Summit, scheduled for early December. The pavilion initiative aligns with the leaders' directives to inform GCC citizens about the Council's achievements and progress in integration.

Since its establishment, the Cooperation Council has seen significant successes and projects that have enhanced prosperity and security for our people

and elevated the Council's status globally. Al-Budaiwi emphasized that the Pavilion's opening will coincide with the Gulf Summit, allowing citizens and residents to learn about the Council's progress and strengthening the mental image of Gulf cohesion and integration. He noted that the Pavilion will feature a comprehensive schedule of visits for different age groups, aiming to promote communication and awareness of joint Gulf efforts.

He hopes this inaugural pavilion will establish a special pavilion for the Cooperation Council at future Gulf summits, highlighting achievements and fostering unity among our people. He thanked the Amiri Diwan, represented by the Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Cultural Center, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for their support during the Pavilion's preparation. Walid Al-Hamoud, head of the pavilion team, provided an overview of its development, showcasing its value to Gulf citizens and the accomplishments of joint Gulf work. The Pavilion will be open until 13 December, offering insights into establishing the Cooperation Council and its achievements over the past four decades. — KUNA

Local

Kuwait marks World Diabetes Day

'Breaking Barriers and Bridging Gaps'

KUWAIT: Kuwait joins the world in celebrating World Diabetes Day, which falls on November 14 every year, under the slogan "Breaking Barriers, Bridging Gaps." The celebration aims to raise awareness of the pivotal role played by medical personnel in the lives of diabetics and to raise awareness of the nature of the disease and how to deal with it so as to confront the increasing numbers of infections and reduce the risk of complications.

According to statistics from the World Health Organization, one person is diagnosed with diabetes for every two minutes, and one in ten people has diabetes. Last year, 463 million people were diagnosed with diabetes, and the number is expected to rise to 578,000 by 2030. The same statistics stated that 50 percent of adults with diabetes are not diagnosed, most of whom have type 2 di-

abetes, and 80 percent of diabetics are under 65 years of age, while diabetes was responsible for 10 percent of total global spending on health care in 2019.

On this occasion, Consultant of Internal Medicine, Endocrinology, and Diabetes at Al-Amiri Hospital, Dr. Youssef Bou Abbas, told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that diabetes is a chronic disease that affects millions around the world, and unfortunately, Kuwait is one of the countries with the highest number of type 2 diabetes cases in the world. Bou Abbas added that according to the latest statistics, cases of type 2 diabetes have reached 25.5 percent, an increase from previous years when it was 17 percent, noting that about 90 percent of them are linked to obesity and overweight. 80 percent of Kuwaitis suffer from obesity or overweight.

He explained that the rate may in-

crease between 10 and 20 percent because there are people who have type 2 diabetes but do not know about it, in addition to what is called the pre-diabetes stage, where the cumulative sugar level is between 5.6 and 6.4. He stated that the increase in obesity among children, which has reached 50 percent according to reports issued by the Ministry, has led to an increase in the incidence rates and the emergence of a new phenomenon.

For his part, Consultant of Endocrinology and Pediatric Obesity at Al-Sabah Hospital, Dr. Zidan Al-Mazidi, spoke to KUNA about type 1 diabetes that affects children, saying that it is a chronic disorder that occurs when the pancreas does not produce enough insulin or stops producing it completely. Al-Mazidi added that insulin is the hormone responsible for regulating blood sugar

levels, and without it, glucose levels rise excessively in the blood, leading to serious complications.

Type 1 diabetes often appears in children and adolescents and may require careful management throughout life. Regarding the symptoms of the disease, he explained that they develop quickly and often over several weeks and include excessive thirst, frequent urination, excessive hunger, unexplained weight loss, fatigue, tiredness, blurred vision, irritability, mood swings, and recurrent infections such as skin, urinary tract, or fungal infections.

Type 1 diabetes is diagnosed through various blood tests to determine the sugar level and evaluate the function of the pancreas, including a random blood glucose test and after fasting, a glycosylated hemoglobin test, and an autoantibody test to determine the presence of

antibodies that attack pancreatic cells. Treating type 1 diabetes requires careful monitoring of blood sugar levels regularly using a glucose meter, doses of insulin given by injection or insulin pump, and proper nutrition.

He pointed out the need to follow a balanced diet that includes complex carbohydrates, healthy fats, proteins, and finally regular physical activity, and the need to follow up with a specialized medical team to provide the necessary support and guidance to parents and children to ensure effective management of the disease. Regarding the third type of diabetes, gestational diabetes, internal medicine and endocrinology consultant Dr. Amna Shaghoulhi said that gestational diabetes is diagnosed for the first time during pregnancy and only occurs during pregnancy and goes away completely after childbirth. — KUNA

Digital stockpile program reinforces food security, ensures sustainability

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Minister of Social Affairs, Family, and Childhood Affairs, Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah, has underlined the importance of the digital strategic stockpile program in supporting the state's efforts towards reinforcing food security and guaranteeing sustainability of essential resources. Speaking to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), Dr. Al-Huwailah mentioned that she presented the program to the Cabinet during its weekly meeting.

The program, she explained, aims to construct a comprehensive system linking co-ops and create a central database of food strategic stockpiles. This marks a step towards more transparency and efficiency in managing the strategic stockpile, remarked the Minister, as it accurately keeps track of levels and quantities and actively contributes to directing resources as proficiently as possible and enhancing decision-making in times of crisis.

The link between co-ops and the union allows for a constantly updated database, facilitating monitoring and identifying needs regularly, she added. It will be linked to a number of government bodies to ensure full integration and comprehensiveness, including the Cabinet, Interior Ministry, Civil Defense, Social Affairs Ministry, and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, as well as any relevant body, Dr. Al-Huwailah indicated.

The program also carries economic importance as efficiency in managing resources allows for decreasing financial waste and better allocation of investments, she clarified. Furthermore, it contributes to stabilizing essential commodity prices as coordination of distribution balances supply and demand and diminishes the probability of inflation. The Minister hailed the efforts of all those involved in what is considered a turning point in the mechanism of supervising the strategic stockpile. — KUNA

Cancer awareness campaign targets men at 50, above

KUWAIT: As part of the "At fifty" campaign for cancer awareness on prostate cancer, being held under the patronage of Health Minister Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi, a lecture was organized at Mishref Diwaniya for male patrons. Dr. Khalid Al-Saleh said the campaign targets the elderly and seeks to confirm the importance of having the prostate-specific antigen (PSA) test when men reach the age of 50. This is a blood test that reveals the signs of a tumor if the rate is high.

He said that since the launch of the campaign, "we have been working on intensifying awareness about prostate cancer, and it is being held every November each year—coinciding with the world awareness month and in partnership with Kuwait Urology Society." The campaign announced that it will have several activities that aim at reaching the largest number of the targeted age group. The rate of cases among Kuwaitis is up—51 new cases each year—which is about 8.7 percent of cancer cases for Kuwaitis. For non-Kuwaitis, the rate reached 40 new cases per year.



KUWAIT: Medical experts, security officials and emergency medical heroes are pictured during the event. — KUNA photos

Experts promote health awareness, first aid culture

KUWAIT: Director of the Medical Emergency Department at the Ministry of Health, Dr. Ahmad Al-Shatti, has stressed the importance of spreading health awareness and the culture of first aid to save



SAKHIR: Visitors look at a US Air Force B-52 aircraft at the Bahrain International Airshow in Sakhir on Nov 13, 2024. — AFP photos



SAKHIR: US soldiers inspect a Fairchild Republic A-10 Thunderbolt aircraft at the Bahrain International Airshow in Sakhir.

Kuwait underscores the significance of navigation fairs

MANAMA: The visiting President of Kuwait's Directorate General for Civil Aviation, Sheikh Humoud Mubarak Al-Humoud Al-Sabah has affirmed that participation in international and regional fairs, where expertise in transport and aviation can be swapped to boosts the efforts for lifting the sector to higher levels. Sheikh Humoud was speaking to KUNA as he visited the pavilion of Kuwait Airways at the Bahrain International Air-

show (BIAS) that kicked off on Wednesday.

The exhibition is held at Sheikh Isa Air Base in Al-Sakhir, with the participation of major global aviation, defense, and space companies. The DGCA has recently made diligent efforts to "open new horizons for cooperation between Kuwait and all states of the world in the sector of air navigation, thus bolstering its status at various quarters and enriching its strategic relations," he said.

He lauded the broad participation in the exhibition and expressed admiration and congratulations to King Hamad bin Issa Al-Khalifa for organizing the successful event. For his part, (Capt) Abdulmohsen Al-Fegaan, the Kuwait Airways Chairperson, said the national carrier's participation in the fair enabled it to present its achievements, namely the enlargement of its fleet. — KUNA



President of Kuwait's Directorate General for Civil Aviation Sheikh Humoud Mubarak Al-Humoud Al-Sabah



Public Environment Authority officials participate in COP 29. — KUNA

International efforts needed to counter climate change: EPA

KUWAIT: The international community must drum up efforts to counter climate change for the sake of the future of the planet, Acting Di-

rector General of the Environment Public Authority (EPA) Samira Al-Kandari, said on Thursday. Speaking at the 29th Conference of Parties on Climate Change (COP29), held in Baku, Azerbaijan, on Nov 11-22, Al-Kandari, who heads Kuwait's technical delegation, said that Kuwait was keen on contributing to this just environmental cause.

She indicated that the framework agreement on climate change aimed at subsiding harmful gas emissions, noting that Kuwait was commit-

ted to this venture via a clear commitment to the 2050 low-carbon strategy as stated in the Paris agreement.

Kuwait's delegation to COP29, headed by the EPA, gathered the "creme de la creme" of national institutes dedicated to renewable energy and the environment. She indicated that the COP29 would come out with resolutions in favor of efforts to decrease climate change as well as forcing industrial countries to stick with their commitment towards the environment. — KUNA



the Boulevard and Promenade Malls, respectively, for two days each. Then it moved to North Kuwait in Jahra Governorate for two days at the Jahra Mall; then moved to Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate at the 360 Mall. The event was concluded in the Capital Governorate at Mubarakkiya Market.

He expressed his thanks to all the malls' administrations and sponsors who made the idea a useful reality to serve Kuwait through cooperation and encouragement. He also thanked the heroes of medical emergencies for their passion and commitment. For his part, Ambulance Supervisor Abdullah Al-Nafees

praised the great role of the heroes of medical emergencies who participated in these events and who spared no effort in spreading the culture of first aid and raising community awareness.

Al-Nafees pointed out that the Ministry of Health in general and the Medical Emergency Department in particular consider this culture an important approach among its curricula. He also praised the role of the emergency medical heroes in evacuating Al-Ahmadi Hospital recently and the great effort and high professionalism in dealing with major accidents. — KUNA

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Kuwait participates in ARADO Executive Council meeting

RABAT: Kuwait participated in the meeting of the Executive Council of the Arab Administrative Development Organization (ARADO) in its 118th session, held in Rabat during the period from November 11 to 13. Head of the Kuwaiti delegation and Chairman of the Civil Services Commission (CSC) Dr Essam Al-Rubaiaan said, in a statement to KUNA, that the meeting discussed a number of proposals aimed at developing and modernizing administration in Arab countries to rise to the levels of challenges, including the use of information technology.

He pointed to the proposal submitted by ARADO on governance of the strategic plan management for digital transformation 2023-2027, as well as reviewing the initiatives and projects included in the plan, stressing the importance of this plan in building capacities, developing performance, and achieving efficiency.

Al-Rubaiaan noted the efforts made by ARADO in developing effective administrative practices in Arab countries, improving services provided to beneficiaries, raising performance and efficiency through digital transformation, and raising the efficiency of human cadres in the administrative fields. The Arab Administrative Development Organization was established in 1961 as one of the specialized organizations emanating from the Arab League in order to achieve administrative development in the Arab countries. - KUNA



NBK Run inspires healthy lifestyles, sports and community engagement

Al Baqer: Event is not just about physical activity but about bringing people together

KUWAIT: NBK is organizing a Sports Day on Saturday at Kuwait Towers, on November 23, 2024, from 6 am to 7 pm to encourage the community to engage in sports and prepare for the upcoming NBK Run, scheduled for December 14, 2024. The event will feature various training sessions led by specialized fitness trainers to help participants get ready for race day. Several booths from NBK's strategic partners will also be present during the event.

Commenting on the event, NBK Public Relations Senior Manager Yaqoub Al Baqer said: "At NBK, we view this annual run as an important initiative to inspire healthy lifestyles and community engagement. This event is not just about physical activity but about bringing people together and supporting causes that uplift society, including our focus this year on Para athletes, in collaboration with EQUATE."

Al Baqer added: "A group of trainees from various sports disciplines will be present at different times throughout the day with the aim of working with those interested in participating across various types of physical and mental sports, as well as proper breathing techniques during exercise, to ensure they are fully prepared for the competition on December 14."

The NBK Run will begin on December 14, 2024, at



Yaqoub Al Baqer

8:30 am with two distance options, both starting and finishing at Kuwait Towers. The 10 km race will head toward Souq Sharq, turn back along the Gulf Road to 200 meters before the Green Island intersection, and loop back to Kuwait Towers. The 5 km race will follow a similar route, reaching the Officers' Club before returning to Kuwait Towers. Prizes will be awarded to the top three male and female finishers in both races. The 10 km race offers KD 1,000, KD 700 and KD 500 for the top three finishers, while the 5 km race will reward KD 500, KD 400 and KD 300.

The event's closing ceremony will include a special raffle for all registered participants. Al Babbain Group will raffle off a 2024 Nissan X-Trail, and Ooredoo will offer a KD 5,000 Platinum Line. Touristic Enterprises Company will provide 18,000 entry tickets to its parks, including Winter Wonderland and South Sabahiyah Park, to all participants. Ali Abdulwahab Al Mu-

tawa will also offer prizes from their "Intersport" and "Joe & The Juice" brands, and CHIP will give Apple devices to two lucky winners.

These exciting prizes, provided by NBK's strategic partners, will be raffled off under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, along with additional surprises and fun activities. This year's event includes a special collaboration with EQUATE Petrochemicals, which will sponsor the Para athletes category. This category welcomes wheelchair users, the visually impaired, and those with prosthetics, with cash prizes awarded to the top five finishers in both men's and women's 5 km categories. The prizes are KD 500, KD 400, KD 300 and two additional awards of KD 100. Ooredoo, another strategic partner, will provide iPhones, Apple Watches, and "Shamel" packages to the top three winners in both categories. Participants can still register until all spots are filled, with race kits available for pick-up from December 12 to December 13, between 1:00 pm and 9:00 pm, next to Kuwait Towers. The NBK Run is part of the bank's long-standing commitment to social responsibility, reflecting its dedication to organizing a variety of social, humanitarian, charitable, educational, sports, and environmental initiatives to support and enhance the community.



A delegation from the Ministry of Education participating in the Olympiad. - KUNA photos

Kuwait's Al-Saheli wins bronze medal at Arab Mathematics Olympiad

DOHA: Kuwaiti student Fajer Al-Saheli won on Thursday a bronze medal in the Fourth Arab Mathematics Olympiad 2024 held in Doha, Qatar. In a statement for KUNA, head of the Kuwaiti delegation, first technical mentor at the Ministry of Education Shaikha Al-Hajraf expressed her joy over Al-Saheli's positive achievement in the Olympiad. She said that all Kuwaiti students that participated in the Olympiad went through a training program at the beginning of the school year to achieve such positive results amidst strong competitiveness between Arab countries.

She mentioned that two Kuwaiti students, Marwa Al-Azmi and Sarah Al-Humaidi, were honored with a certificate for best performance during the closing ceremony of the Olympiad. The Fourth Arab Mathematics Olympiad 2024 kicked off on Sunday in Doha until November 14. The Olympiad is organized by the Qatari Ministry of Education and Higher Education in partnership with the Arab League Educational, Cultural, and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) and the Qatar National Commission for Education, Culture and Science. - KUNA



Kuwaiti student Fajer Al-Saheli honored.



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Kuwait's associations raise prostate cancer awareness campaign

KUWAIT: As part of Kuwait campaign to raise awareness of prostate cancer for people aged 50, a sports day was launched - engaging cases of special challenges. The event was organized by leading personnel from the Cancer Awareness National Campaign (CAN), Kuwait Urological Association in cooperation of peers from Warba Sport Club for the Disabled. Participants, including special needs cases, enjoyed their time in friendly sports games and earned rewards. - KUNA photos





Thousands flee as Typhoon Usagi hits north Philippines

COP29 host tries to calm waters



People gather as smoke rises from a UN school-turned Shelter after it was hit in a Zionist entity strike, in the Rimal neighbourhood of Gaza City on November 14, 2024. — AFP

HRW: Zionist entity committing 'war crime of forcible transfer' in Gaza

Report amasses evidence of ethnic cleansing in Palestinian territory

JERUSALEM: Human Rights Watch said in a report released Thursday that Zionist entity's repeated evacuation orders in Gaza amount to the "war crime of forcible transfer", and to "ethnic cleansing" in parts of the Palestinian territory. "Human Rights Watch has amassed evidence that Zionist entity officials are... committing the war crime of forcible transfer," the report said.

"Zionist entity's actions appear to also meet the definition of ethnic cleansing" in the areas where Palestinians will not be able to return, HRW added. Nadia Hardman, an HRW researcher, noted the 172-page report's findings are based on interviews with displaced Gazans, satellite imagery, and public reporting conducted until August 2024. Although Zionist entity says the displacement is justified for civilians' safety or by military imperatives, Hardman said that "Zionist entity

cannot simply rely on the presence of armed groups to justify the displacement of civilians".

"Zionist entity would have to demonstrate in every instance that displacement of civilians was the only option", to fully comply with international humanitarian law. According to the United Nations, 1.9 million Palestinians were displaced in Gaza as of October 2024. Before the start of the war on October 7, 2023, the official population figure for the territory was 2.4 million inhabitants.

"Systematically rendering large parts of Gaza uninhabitable... in some cases permanently... amounts to ethnic cleansing," Ahmed Benchemsi, spokesman for HRW's Middle East division said in a press briefing. The HRW report pointed in particular to the Philadelphi and Netzarim corridors, running along the Egyptian border

and cutting Gaza along its east-west axis respectively, which have been "razed, extended, and cleared", by Zionist entity's army to create buffer zones and security corridors.

Zionist entity Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has repeatedly insisted that Zionist entity forces must retain long-term control over the Philadelphi Corridor. Hardman said Zionist entity forces have turned the central Netzarim corridor, between Gaza City and Wadi Gaza, into a buffer zone four kilometers (2.5 miles) wide mostly cleared of buildings.

The report excludes developments in the war since August 2024, particularly an intense Zionist entity offensive in northern Gaza since early October 2024. The operation has forced the displacement of at least 100,000 people from the Palestinian territory's far north to Gaza City and surrounding areas,

UN Palestinian refugee agency spokeswoman Louise Wateridge told AFP.

Ragheb Al-Rubaiya, a 63-year-old Palestinian from north Gaza's Jabalia Camp, said to AFP that he had been driven from his home after "bombing started from the air and the tanks, and they drove us out against our will". "They're destroying everything in Jabalia, and the goal is clear even to the blind: to wipe out the north and cut it off from Gaza," he added.

HRW's report argued "the actions of the Zionist authorities in Gaza are the actions of one ethnic or religious group to remove Palestinians, another ethnic or religious group, from areas within Gaza by violent means". It pointed to the organized nature of the displacement, and the intention for Zionist entity forces to ensure affected areas will "remain permanently emptied and cleansed of Palestinians". — AFP



US President-elect Donald Trump (top) and Mayor of London Sadiq Khan. — AFP

British-Pakistani girl's father admits killing her but denies intent

LONDON: The father of a 10-year-old British-Pakistani girl on Wednesday admitted that he killed his daughter but maintained he had not meant to harm her, even as he beat her when she lay dying.

Sara Sharif was found dead in her bed in Woking, southwest of London, on August 10, 2023, with extensive injuries including broken bones, burns and bite marks.

Her father, Urfan Sharif, 42, had fled to Pakistan a

day before her body was found, with his wife Beinaash Batool, 30, and the girl's uncle, Faisal Malik, 29. All three adults deny murder and a separate charge of allowing the death of a child. Giving evidence at the Old Bailey court in central London, Urfan Sharif had previously blamed Batool, Sara's stepmother, and said she had forced him to confess to killing her.

But under questioning from his wife's lawyer on Wednesday the taxi driver said he took "full responsibility" for what had happened, but that he had not intended to hurt Sara.

Asked if he killed Sara by beating, he replied: "Yes, she died because of me." He also admitted causing multiple fractures in the weeks before Sara's death, using a cricket bat on her as she was bound with packaging tape, throttling her with his bare hands and breaking the hyoid bone in her neck.

"I can take full responsibility. I accept every single thing," he said, also accepting that he badly beat Sara on August 8 when she had collapsed and was dying. He maintained however that he was not guilty of the murder charge. "I did not want to hurt her. I didn't want to harm her," he told the jury.

Sara's body was discovered in her bed on August 10. Her father phoned British police after arriving in Islamabad and said he had beaten his daughter "too much".

A written confession was found beside her. A post-mortem examination found she had suffered multiple injuries, including at least 25 broken bones. She also had burns and human bite marks on her body but Urfan Sharif denied making them. The defendants were arrested on September 13 when they flew back to the UK. — AFP

Russian woman jailed for posts urging to kill Putin

MOSCOW: A Russian military court on Thursday sentenced a woman to eight years in jail for criticizing the Ukraine offensive online and calling for the assassination of President Vladimir Putin, state media reported.

Moscow has opened hundreds of criminal cases against those who oppose the Ukraine campaign under strict censorship laws ushered in at the start of the conflict.

Russia's second western district military court found Anastasia Berezhinskaya, 43, guilty of spreading "false information", "discrediting" the armed forces and "justifying terrorism" over a series of posts on Russian social media platform VK. Berezhinskaya, a theatre director, had railed against Russia's actions in Ukraine, saying Moscow's soldiers were killing civilians and destroying cities in a naked land grab.

Referring to Putin, Berezhinskaya wrote: "Destroy that bastard. Wipe him

off the face of the Earth."

She also posted accounts of atrocities carried out by Russian soldiers in Bucha, a town occupied by Russian forces for the first month of the conflict. In April 2022, the bodies of dozens of civilians, some with their hands tied, were found in the Kyiv suburb after a month-long occupation by Russian forces.

The Kremlin has denied targeting civilians throughout its near three-year campaign and accused Ukraine of staging the scenes at Bucha. The United Nations has verified more than 11,000 civilian fatalities since the start of the conflict, though they believe the real number is likely much higher.

According to a counter on VK, some of Berezhinskaya's posts had been viewed just 60-130 times as of Thursday. Russia has blocked access to her page inside the country. The independent Mediazona site reported she has two children, aged eight and 10.

She has also been diagnosed with a personality disorder, according to case materials cited by Mediazona. In court she pleaded partially guilty, denying that her comments on Putin were a genuine call to murder the Kremlin leader, it reported. — AFP

Iranian activist kills himself after seeking release of prisoners

PARIS: Human rights campaigners on Thursday paid tribute to an Iranian activist who killed himself hours after warning he would do so if four inmates seen to be political prisoners were not freed.

Kianoosh Sanjari, an opponent of the Islamic republic's clerical authorities, warned in a message on X late Wednesday that he would commit suicide if the release of the two men and two women did not take place. He then took his own life, according to multiple rights campaigners and organizations.

The formal announcement of his death, which is swiftly published by families in Iran when a relative dies, was also widely shared on social media. Sanjari had demanded the release of veteran campaigner Fatemeh Sepehri, Nasreen Shakarami, the mother of a teenager killed during 2022 protests, rapper Tomaj Salehi and civil rights activist Arsham Rezaei.

"If they are not released from prison by 7 pm today, Wednesday, and the news of their release is not published

on the judiciary news site, I will end my life in protest against the dictatorship of (supreme leader Ayatollah Ali) Khamenei and his accomplices," he said. He later added: "No one should be imprisoned for expressing their opinions. Protest is the right of every Iranian citizen."

"My life will end after this tweet but let's not forget that we die and die for the love of life, not death," he added. It was not immediately clear how he killed himself. Sanjari had late Wednesday posted an image that appeared to have been taken looking down on the street from the upper floor of a Tehran tower block.

Figures from across the opposition spectrum expressed grief, saying the suicide was indicative of the climate in the Islamic republic due to the crackdown that followed the 2022-2023 nationwide protests which shook the authorities. Activists said Sanjari had been repeatedly arrested and summoned in Iran since returning to take care of his elderly mother in 2015 after a stint working in the US for Voice of America. "His death is a warning to all of us of how heavy the price of silence and indifference can be," said campaigner Arash Sadeghi, who endured a lengthy spell in jail during the protests. — AFP

London mayor: Trump attacks due to my ethnicity and religion

LONDON: London Mayor Sadiq Khan has accused Donald Trump of repeatedly criticizing him because of his "ethnicity" and Muslim faith, in comments likely to renew his long-running feud with the US president-elect. The pair became embroiled in an extraordinary war of words during Trump's first presidency, initially sparked by Khan speaking out against a US travel ban on people from certain Muslim countries.

Trump then accused Khan—the first Muslim mayor of a Western capital when he was first elected in 2016 -- of doing a "very bad job on terrorism" and called him a "stone cold loser" and "very dumb".

The mayor in turn allowed an unflattering blimp of Trump dressed as a baby in a nappy to fly above protests in Parliament Square during his 2018 visit to Britain. Speaking on a podcast recorded before Trump's re-election on November 5 and released earlier this week, Khan, a son of Pakistani immigrants to Britain, said he viewed the past targeting of him as "incredibly personal".

"If I wasn't this color skin, if I wasn't a practicing Muslim, he wouldn't have come for me," he told the High Performance podcast, which interviews prominent people in different sectors. "He's come for me because of, let's be frank, my ethnicity and my religion." Khan added that during this period he was "speaking out against somebody whose policies were sexist, homophobic, Islamophobic, racist" and that he has "a responsibility to speak out".

His latest comments on Trump are in stark contrast to those of his colleagues in Britain's Labour party, which swept to power in July. Several Labour MPs now in senior government posts, including Foreign Secretary David Lammy, were critical of Trump while they were in opposition during his first White House term. In 2018, Lammy labelled him a "woman-hating, neo-Nazi sympathizing sociopath". But Britain's now-top diplomat last week dismissed the remarks as "old news". — AFP

International

COP29 host tries to calm waters

Turmoil as French minister cancels trip to summit, Argentina pulls out delegation

BAKU: Host Azerbaijan tried to bring down the diplomatic temperature in Baku on Thursday after a French minister cancelled her trip to the UN climate talks and Argentina withdrew its delegation.

While negotiators work behind closed doors at the COP29 talks to thrash out a climate finance deal, the spotlight has been largely stolen by diplomatic turmoil. France's Environment Minister Agnes Pannier-Runacher said Wednesday she would not travel to Baku after Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev accused Paris of colonial "crimes" and "human rights violations" in its overseas territories.

Pannier-Runacher called his speech "unacceptable... and beneath the dignity of the presidency of the COP." Attempting to calm the waters on Thursday, COP29 lead negotiator Yalchin Rafiyev insisted that Azerbaijan had fostered "an inclusive process".

"We have opened our doors to everybody to come to engage in very constructive, fruitful discussions," he told reporters. Relations between Paris and Baku have long been tense over France's support for Azerbaijan's arch-rival Armenia. Azerbaijan defeated Armenia in a lightning offensive last year when it retook the breakaway Armenian-populated region of Nagorno-Karabakh - leading to an exodus of more than 100,000 Armenians.

Aliyev has hailed the victory in remarks to delegates and also raised eyebrows by insisting natural resources including carbon-emitting fossil fuels were a "gift from God". The EU's climate commissioner said the climate talks "should be a place where all parties feel at liberty to come and negotiate."

"The COP Presidency has a particular responsibility to enable and enhance that," Wopke Hoekstra posted on X. Compounding the diplomatic turmoil, Argentina's delegation was abruptly pulled from the talks. An environment ministry source confirmed the departure but declined to offer more detail.

Argentina's anti-establishment President Javier



French Minister for Ecological Transition, Energy, Climate, and Risk Prevention Agnes Pannier-Runacher

Milei has made no secret of his skepticism of climate change and is an ally of newly reelected former US president Donald Trump. While Argentina's delegation was small, its departure "is unprecedented in the country's diplomatic history", said Oscar Soria, an Argentine environmental activist and director of the Common Initiative.

Rafiyev declined to be drawn on the departure. "We hope that all who are attending here have only one intention, to come to join us in this collective effort to get an outcome that is positive," he said.

But progress on the key goal of the talks - a new climate finance deal - is proving grindingly slow. The main fault line is clear: how much should developed countries pay to help poorer nations adapt to climate change and transition away from fossil fuels. Rich nations are reluctant to increase the \$100-billion a year already committed, conscious of domestic publics angry about inflation and stuttering economies. But developing countries warn they need at least \$1 trillion to defend against the ravages of climate change and meet commitments to reach net-zero emissions. Sources described ongoing discussions as diffi-



An environmental group onboard a wooden boat stage a demonstration along Manila Bay in Baseco, Manila on November 14, 2024. — AFP

cult, with negotiators struggling to wrestle a draft text into a reasonable form before ministers arrive in a few days to start nailing down a deal. The EU's lead negotiator Jacob Werksman said he was "very worried" about the slow process.

"We are way off a landing ground." Hanging over proceedings is the question of what role the United States will play on climate action and funding after Trump returns to the White House in January.

He has pledged to again withdraw from the land-

mark Paris agreement, raising questions about what US negotiators can deliver in Baku. "I think it's fair to say that there's some uncertainty in the next administration," conceded Jake Levine, the White House's senior director for climate and energy.

But the need to "project American values" would be a powerful driver for continued climate funding and action, he added. "We cannot cede the playing field to China, to our competitors... So I think that you will see a continued American presence." — AFP

King Charles turns 76 after year of little celebration

LONDON: Britain's head of state King Charles III turned 76 on Thursday, after a torrid year in which both he and his daughter-in-law Catherine, Princess of Wales, have battled cancer. Ceremonial gunfire rang out across the British capital to mark the occasion after Charles spent the morning visiting a surplus food distribution centre in south London.

His wife, Queen Camilla, 77, did not join him at the Coronation Food Hub in Deptford as she was recovering from a chest infection that prevented her from attending last weekend's Remembrance events for Britain's war dead.

Senior royals wished him happy birthday with William, his elder son and heir, sharing a photo online of his father wearing sunglasses and a floral garland. William has described the last 12 months as a "brutal" year because of the health issues affecting his wife and father that forced both to step back from royal duties.

The king's cancer diagnosis was announced in February but two and a half months at the end of April he was back at work. "The problem is trying to stop him," Camilla has said several times since.

Last month, the couple visited Australia then Samoa for a Commonwealth heads of government meeting. Charles paused his cancer treatment during the trip. According to those close to him, Charles returned "invigorated" from the 11-day trip, while one palace official said the king intended to return to a "normal" schedule of overseas trips next year. His



Britain's King Charles III (center) flanked by Mayor of London Sadiq Khan (third right), poses for a group photo as he visits the Coronation Food Project hub, located at the Deptford Trading Estate, in London, on November 14, 2024. — AFP

desire to fulfil his public duties may be influenced by the fact when he succeeded his mother Queen Elizabeth II, he was the longest-serving heir apparent in British history at 70 years.

Upon ascending the throne on September 8, 2022 when Elizabeth died, Charles pledged to perform his constitutional role "throughout the remaining time God grants me". Last Sunday, he led the nation in a two-minute silence to honor

Britons killed in battle since 1914 at the Cenotaph memorial in London, one of the most important dates in the royal calendar. The previous evening, he joined William and Kate, as Catherine is widely known, who recently completed chemotherapy for her own cancer diagnosis this year - at the Royal Albert Hall for a commemorative concert.

On Tuesday he hosted the king of Bahrain, then on Wednesday held a reception at Buckingham

Palace for the British film and TV industry, before attending a screening of "Gladiator II" to mark its global release. Members of the public on Thursday greeted him at the Coronation Food Hub, a project he launched on his 75th birthday last year to tackle food waste and support people in need.

Charles' late mother remains at the top of YouGov's royal popularity rankings, followed by Kate, his sister Princess Anne, and William. Charles is at fifth place. The king remains estranged from his younger son Prince Harry and wife Meghan, and has seen both his and William's finances scrutinized in a recent documentary. In Samoa, he faced direct calls for slavery reparations stemming from Britain's colonial rule, adding to concerns about his health.

Royal officials have not disclosed what type of cancer he and Kate were diagnosed with.

Kate, 42, announced the end of her chemotherapy on September 9, in a widely praised video posted on social networks. Earlier this month, William described the twin diagnoses as "dreadful". "It's probably been the hardest year of my life," he told reporters on a visit to South Africa.

"I'm so proud of my wife. I'm proud of my father, for handling the things that they have done. But from a personal family point of view, it's been, yeah, it's been brutal," he added. Despite the better news, the health of senior royals is still being closely watched. A doctor accompanied the king and queen to Australia and Samoa. The king and queen then spent three days at a wellness retreat in Bangalore, India, on their way back to "help break" the long journey, a palace spokesperson said.

A few days later, Camilla suspended a week of engagements because of a lung infection while Charles, a longtime devoted environmentalist, did not travel to Baku in Azerbaijan for the COP29 climate summit. — AFP

Zionists hit Damascus...

Continued from Page 1

retains freedom to act inside Lebanon should any deal be violated. Pressing its offensive, the Zionist entity launched airstrikes on Beirut's Hezbollah-controlled southern suburbs on Thursday, keeping up its unusually intensive bombardment of the area for a third consecutive day. Hezbollah has kept up rocket fire into the Zionist entity and its fighters have been battling Zionist troops on the ground in the south.

A World Bank report estimated the cost of physical damage and economic losses due to the conflict in Lebanon at \$8.5 billion - a massive price for a country still suffering the effects of a financial collapse five years ago. Senior Lebanese official Ali Hassan Khalil, speaking to Al Jazeera late on Wednesday, said Lebanon was ready to "precisely" implement UN Security Council resolution 1701, which ended a 2006 war between the Zionist entity and Hezbollah.

Its terms require Hezbollah to remove fighters and weapons from areas between the border and the Litani River, which runs about 30 km from Lebanon's southern border. Asked whether Hezbollah had informed him of a readiness to withdraw to the Litani, Khalil - a close Hezbollah ally and top aide to

Lebanon's parliament speaker - said the group had expressed its commitment to Resolution 1701.

Earlier this week, White House envoy Amos Hochstein, who has led several fruitless attempts to broker a ceasefire, told Axios he thought "there is a shot" at a truce in Lebanon soon. It points to a last-ditch effort by the outgoing US administration to seal a Lebanon deal, with diplomacy to end the Gaza war adrift. Khalil said that Lebanese negotiators had reached agreement on "a certain text" with Hochstein during his last visit to Beirut.

Plumes of smoke rose over the southern Beirut suburbs known as Dahiyeh, where the Zionist entity's latest strikes destroyed five buildings, sources familiar with the damage said. Zionist raids on the area have largely been taking place at night but this week have been happening in the morning too. The Zionist military said its fighter jets carried out a series of attacks in the southern Beirut area, targeting weapons warehouses, military headquarters and other infrastructures used by Hezbollah. "We say God help us ... because it seems that things are developing, it is getting worse, and I don't even know if there is a solution now," said Ayat, a 33-year-old Lebanese woman. Lebanon's National News Agency (NNA) said five people were killed in airstrikes on the towns of Bazourieh and Jmaimeh in southern Lebanon. Lebanon's health ministry said a Zionist airstrike in Baalbek killed another three people. — Reuters

ed of a crime related to honor, trust, state security or abusing the Almighty, prophets or HH the Amir.

Meanwhile, the criminal court on Thursday heard a case of a Kuwaiti citizen who added a Syrian boy to his nationality file claiming the boy was his son. The man confessed in court that the boy was a Syrian citizen and a close relative of his wife, adding that he brought the boy to Kuwait in early 1990s when he was just two months old.

Separately, the Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) referred supervisors and employees at the ministry of health to the public prosecution on suspicion of embezzling public funds. Nazaha confirmed, on its X account on Thursday, that it would continue efforts to collect evidence and investigate all well-founded information at its disposal to fight corruption and protect public funds.

800m+ diabetics worldwide as rate...

Continued from Page 1

diabetes worldwide, the study found. Three out of five people aged 30 years and older, 445 million, or 59 percent of them, were not receiving treatment, the authors said. India alone was home to almost a third of that number. In sub-Saharan Africa, only five to 10 percent of adults with diabetes received treatment in 2022.

Some developing countries such as Mexico are doing well in treating their population - but overall the global

gap is widening, they said. "This is especially concerning as people with diabetes tend to be younger in low-income countries and, in the absence of effective treatment, are at risk of life-long complications," said senior study author Majid Ezzati of Imperial College London. Those complications include "amputation, heart disease, kidney damage or vision loss - or in some cases, premature death," he said in a statement.

WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a statement that the rise documented in the study was alarming. "To bring the global diabetes epidemic under control, countries must urgently take action," he said, including with policies supporting healthy diets and physical activity, as well as health systems that can prevent, detect and treat the condition. — Agencies

World's largest coral found near...

Continued from Page 1

started to melt, spreading forever along the seafloor," said lead scientist Molly Timmers. It was longer than a blue whale and was thought to be "so colossal" that it could "be seen from space". The coral was discovered at the southeastern tip of the Solomon Islands in an area known as the Three Sis-

ters. It was spotted by a National Geographic team embarking on a scientific expedition in the region.

Hotter and more acidic oceans have drained the life from corals in many of the region's tropical waters, including Australia's famed Great Barrier Reef. But this latest discovery offered a small glimmer of hope, the research team said. "While the nearby shallow reefs were degraded due to warmer seas, witnessing this large healthy coral oasis in slightly deeper waters is a beacon of hope," said coral scientist Eric Brown. The lush rainforests and pristine waters of Solomon Islands have long been celebrated for their ecological diversity. — AFP

UN panel affirms Zionist genocide...

Continued from Page 1

to their homes, particularly at night when families shelter together". The committee stressed the obligations of other countries to urgently act to halt the bloodshed, saying that "other States are unwilling to hold (the Zionist entity) accountable and continue to provide it with military and other support".

Meanwhile, Human Rights Watch said in a report released Thursday that the Zionist entity's repeated evacuation orders in Gaza amount to the "war crime of forcible transfer", and to "ethnic cleansing" in parts of the Palestinian territory. "Human Rights Watch has amassed evidence that

(Zionist) officials are... committing the war crime of forcible transfer," the report said.

"(The Zionist entity's) actions appear to also meet the definition of ethnic cleansing" in the areas where Palestinians will not be able to return, HRW added. Nadia Hardman, an HRW researcher, noted the 172-page report's findings are based on interviews with displaced Gazans, satellite imagery, and public reporting conducted until Aug 2024.

"The (Zionist) military has bulldozed entire areas ... In those areas, (the Zionist entity) has committed ethnic cleansing," Adam Coogle, HRW's Deputy Director of the Middle East and North Africa Division told Reuters in Amman. "Systematically rendering large parts of Gaza uninhabitable... in some cases permanently... amounts to ethnic cleansing," Ahmed Benchemsi, spokesman for HRW's Middle East division said in a press briefing. — Agencies

Commission strips Kuwaiti citizenship...

Continued from Page 1

October and November during which the citizenship of almost 3,185 Kuwaitis was revoked.

The interior minister said in press statements in September that none of those citizens appealed against the withdrawal of citizenship because the commission had strong evidence. The government has in the meantime tightened the screws of laws governing naturalization by amending the 1959 nationality law. The amendments also stipulate revoking the citizenship of naturalized Kuwaitis if convict-

International

Thousands flee as Typhoon Usagi hits north Philippines

Brutal wave of weather disasters has already killed 159 people

MANILA: Typhoon Usagi slammed into the Philippines' already disaster-ravaged north on Thursday, as authorities rushed to evacuate thousands of people from flood-prone areas. The fifth storm to strike the country in just three weeks, Usagi made landfall in the town of Baggao in Cagayan province at 0530 GMT, packing winds of 175 kilometers (109 miles) an hour, the national weather service said.

The brutal wave of weather disasters has already killed 159 people and prompted the United Nations to request \$32.9 million in aid for the worst-affected regions.

The national weather agency had initially raised its highest storm alert, but downgraded to its second-highest as Usagi made landfall. It weakened to 165 kilometers an hour as it ploughed north to the municipality of Gonzaga and open waters beyond it. Baggao police said no casualties or substantial damage were immediately reported, while 28 residents of a village were evacuated amid concern it would get flooded.

"It was weaker than we expected," a relieved police officer, Karen Ibarra, told AFP by phone.

President Ferdinand Marcos, visiting storm-affected areas to dole out emergency cash aid, urged residents to comply with evacuation orders. "We know that it is difficult to leave your homes and possessions, but sheltering could save lives," he told residents of Mindoro island south of the capital Manila, according to an official transcript of his speech. "While we cannot prevent typhoons from hitting the country, we can take steps to reduce their impact," he said, calling for better infrastructure to cope with worsening storm effects he blamed on climate change.

'Forced evacuations'

Elsewhere in Cagayan, officials worked in driving rain Thursday to evacuate residents along the coasts and on the banks of already swollen rivers. "Yesterday it was preemptive evacuations. Now we're doing forced evacuations," local disaster official Edward Gaspar told AFP by phone hours before landfall, adding 1,404 residents were sheltering at a municipal gym in Gonzaga.

Cagayan's civil defense chief Rueli Rapsing said he expected local governments to take 40,000 people to shelters, roughly the same number that were removed from their homes ahead of Typhoon Yinxing earlier this month. He said more than 5,000 Cagayan residents were still in shelters following the previous storms because the Cagayan river, the country's largest, remained swollen from heavy rain that fell in several provinces upstream.

After Usagi, Severe Tropical Storm Man-yi is forecast to strike the densely-populated capital Manila on Sunday.

This was similar to the path of last month's Severe Tropical Storm Trami, which accounted for most of the deaths tallied in the recent swarm of weather disasters to hit the country. Local officials were ordered to convince residents of flood- and landslide-prone communities in Man-yi's path to move to shelters on Friday ahead of its landfall, the civil defense office said. "Typhoons are overlapping. As soon as communities attempt to recover from the shock, the next tropical storm is already hitting them again," said Gustavo Gonzalez, the UN's humanitarian coordinator in the Philippines.

"In this context, the response capacity gets exhausted and budgets depleted."



Rescuers ferry stranded residents from their flooded houses at a village in Ilagan town, Isabela province of the Philippines. — AFP

A UN assessment of the past month's weather disasters said 207,000 houses had been damaged or destroyed, and nearly 700,000 people were seeking temporary shelter. Many families were without even essentials like sleeping mats, hygiene kits, and cooking supplies, and had limited access to safe drinking water, it said. The storms destroyed thousands of hectares of farmland and persistent flooding is likely to delay replanting efforts and worsen food supply

problems, the report added.

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

Brazil looking for motive after bid to bomb SC

BRASILIA, Brazil: Authorities in Brazil on Thursday were searching for the motive of a man who apparently tried to bomb the Supreme Court, killing himself in the process. The Wednesday night attack comes just days before a G20 summit in Rio de Janeiro and Chinese leader Xi Jinping's upcoming visit to Brasilia, the capital where the bombing took place.

The man attempted in vain to enter the court building before setting off an explosion outside its doors, authorities said. There were no other injuries. While a motive has not yet been determined, the bombing immediately evoked memories of last year's attack on Congress, the Supreme Court and the presidential palace in the wake of then-president Jair Bolsonaro's defeat at the polls.

There were two blasts on Wednesday, one from a vehicle, then "right after, the citizen approached the Supreme Court, where he tried to enter the building and was unable to," said Federal District Vice Governor Celina Leao. The second explosion "happened right there at the door."



Brazilian Federal Police forensics stand on November 14, 2024 by the body of man carrying explosives who died in a blast in Brasilia on November 13. — AFP

Leao called the death a "suicide," based on preliminary information, and said it was possible the man acted as a "lone wolf."

The GloboNews channel, citing police documents, reported that the man, named as Francisco Wanderley Luiz, was the owner of the car that exploded. He was a candidate in local elections in 2020, running as a member of far-right Bolsonaro's Liberal Party. In a post on social media, Attorney General Jorge

Messias "vehemently" condemned "the attacks against the Supreme Federal Court and the Chamber of Deputies."

The court, Congress and presidential palace all sit on the same square, Praca dos Tres Poderes, in the Brazilian capital. Police would investigate the incident "with rigor and speed," Messias said, adding: "We need to know the motive for the attacks, as well as restore peace and security as quickly as possible."

President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva was not at the palace at the time of the attack, according to the presidency.

Bolsonaro on Thursday called for dialogue toward an "environment of unity," writing on social media that "it is high time for Brazil to once again cultivate an environment suitable for different ideas to confront each other peacefully." Denouncing the violence, he called it an isolated incident, and made an "appeal to all political parties and the leaders of national institutions to take the necessary steps to advance national peace at this time of tragedy."

On January 8, 2023, the seats of power in Brasilia were hit by an insurrection a week after Lula defeated Bolsonaro at the polls. Thousands of Bolsonaro supporters angry over his defeat stormed the government buildings, causing major damage before authorities managed to reimpose control.

Alexandre de Moraes, a powerful Supreme Court justice who has drawn ire from the right, is leading the investigation into the apparent coup attempt, which resembled the storming of the US Capitol by supporters of Donald Trump on January 6, 2021. Wednesday's incident did not cause any injuries or deaths beyond the apparent attack—though police had to tread carefully in the aftermath as the body was fitted with explosives and a timer. — AFP

Sri Lanka president expects 'strong majority' after poll

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's new president Anura Kumara Dissanayake was confident of a victory as polls closed in Thursday's snap legislative elections. Dissanayake took power in September presidential elections on a promise to combat graft and recover the country's stolen assets, two years after an unprecedented economic meltdown, when then-president Gotabaya Rajapaksa was ousted.

On Thursday, the 55-year-old said he expected "a strong majority" in parliament to press ahead with his platform. "We believe that this is a crucial election that will mark a turning point in Sri Lanka," Dissanayake told reporters after casting his ballot at a polling station in the capital.

"At this election, the NPP expects a mandate for a very strong majority in parliament," he said referring to the National People's Power coalition in which his JVP, or the People's Liberation Front (JVP) is the main constituent. Police said the nine-hour voting period passed without any incidents of violence, unlike most ballots of recent years, but three election workers including a police constable had died due to illness while on duty.

Voter turnout figures were not immediately available but election officials said participation appeared to be less than presidential polls, when nearly 80 percent of Sri Lanka's eligible voters cast a ballot.

"I expect a new country, a new government that is friendly towards the people," 70-year-old pensioner Milton Gankandage, who was among the first to vote in Colombo's Wellawatte district, told AFP.

"Previous rulers deceived us. We need a new set of rulers who will develop the country," Dissanayake had been an MP for nearly 25 years and was briefly an agriculture minister but his NPP coalition held just three seats in the outgoing assembly.

He stormed to the presidency after successfully distancing himself from establishment politicians blamed for steering the country to its worst economic crisis in 2022. His JVP party led two insurrections in 1971 and 1987, leading to at least 80,000 deaths,



Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake shows his inked finger as he leaves a polling station after casting his ballot to vote in Sri Lanka's parliamentary election in Colombo on November 14, 2024. — AFP

but Dissanayake was sworn in after an election described as one of the island nation's most peaceful.

University academic Sivalogadasan, who goes by one name, said Dissanayake needed more time to deliver his promises. "Some things have started to change... but you can't expect immediately," the 52-year-old told AFP.

There were 8,880 candidates vying for the parliament's 225 seats. Voting closed at 4:00 pm (1030 GMT). Despite previous promises to renegotiate a controversial \$2.9 billion International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailout secured by his predecessor Ranil Wickremesinghe, Dissanayake has chosen to maintain the agreement with the international lender.

The country's main private sector lobby, the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, is tacitly supporting Dissanayake and his program. "Continuing reforms... could encourage both investor confidence and fiscal discipline, setting a foundation for sustainable growth," CCC secretary Bhuwanekabahu Perera told AFP. An IMF delegation is due in Colombo on Thursday to review economic progress before releasing the next \$330 million tranche of the bailout loan.

Opposition leader Sajith Premadasa, who had campaigned to take part in a coalition government, vowed in his final campaign rally to "put pressure" on Dissanayake to honor promised tax cuts. — AFP

Greece outlines defense shakeup, drone plans

ATHENS: Greece said Thursday that it would shake up its defense forces to economize funds and sideline older weapons in favor of drones after lessons drawn from Ukraine. Defense Minister Nikos Dendias told a parliamentary defense committee that the military would introduce four different drone systems, merge army units and boost its cyberwarfare potential.

Greece has to deal with a "different reality" and "quickly" upgrade its forces for 21st-century requirements, he said. "Every army unit will have anti-drone capabilities," he said.

Government spokesman Pavlos Marinakis said the reform was the "greatest ever in the history of the Greek state in the field of national defense."

Greece's air force aims to have about 200 aircraft, mainly French-made Rafales and US-made F-16 Vipers and F-35s. It will be "the strongest air force Greece has ever had," Dendias said.

Greek frigates will be equipped with a Greek-made anti-drone system that has already seen action against Houthi rebels in the Red Sea, he added. Older Greek warships and submarines are being modernized, and the navy is working with the United States on new Constellation-class frigates and the European Union on a new patrol corvette. Greek naval shipyards stand to gain up to seven billion euros (\$7.4 billion) in military orders over the next decade, he said.

The minister said Greece had over 800 army camps, more than the United States, even though there were units in the border region with Turkey at just 30 percent capacity. The ministry will also cut down on the number of military tribunals, which on average handle just five cases a year, when a civil court judge sees 25 cases a day, Dendias said. The goal is to save two billion euros over 10 years, he said, with full details of the plan to be revealed after the Christmas break. Greece spends around three percent of its annual output on defense, higher than most EU states, mainly because of long-running tension with historic rival Turkey. — AFP

News in Brief

HK bomb plot 'mastermind' jailed for almost 24 years

HONG KONG: Seven Hong Kong men involved in a thwarted 2019 bomb plot to murder police officers were jailed on Thursday, with the plan's "mastermind" receiving a sentence of almost 24 years. Prosecutors said the men intended to lure officers into an ambush by ransacking shops during a pro-democracy rally, before detonating bombs and shooting them. Ng Chi-hung, a 28-year-old former engineer, was given a total of 23 years and 10 months over the bombing offence and another charge of possessing firearms with the intent to endanger life. — AFP

Russian beaten by Chechen strongman's son on trial

MOSCOW: A young Russian went on trial Thursday for alleged "treason" after being jailed for supposedly burning the Quran and suffering a controversial prison beating from the son of Chechnya's strongman leader. Rights groups have slammed the case against Nikita Zhuravel, 20, who was first arrested in May 2023 in the southern city of Volgograd for allegedly desecrating the Muslim holy book. In an unprecedented move, he was transferred to the Muslim-majority Chechnya region—ruled by notorious ex-warlord Ramzan Kadyrov—and sentenced to three-and-a-half years for "insulting the feelings of believers." — AFP

Nine tons of methamphetamine seized in Turkey in two weeks

ISTANBUL: Turkish officials have seized nearly nine tons of methamphetamine, half of it at the Iranian border, in the last two weeks, the interior minister said on Thursday. Ali Yerlikaya said 4.16 tons of methamphetamine were seized during this period, including 3.5 tons in Istanbul and the rest in other cities including Izmir in the west and Hakkari near the border with Iran and Iraq. More than 4.5 tons had been found at the beginning of November in three trucks crossing into Turkey from Iran, according to Turkish customs. — AFP

Tajikistan lost 1,000 glaciers in three decades: Minister

DUSHANBE: More than 1,000 glaciers have disappeared in Tajikistan over the last three decades, the Central Asian nation's energy minister said on the sidelines of the COP29 climate conference in Baku. The thousands of glaciers across mountainous Central Asia are crucial to the region's food and water security, typically draining fresh water into rivers to replenish them during arid periods. "Over the past 30 years, out of 14,000 glaciers in Tajikistan, more than 1,000 glaciers of vital importance to the entire region have disappeared," Daler Juma, Tajikistan's energy and water resources minister said, according to a statement published by the ministry on Wednesday. — AFP

Spain's Vanguardia daily to stop posting on X

MADRID: Spanish newspaper La Vanguardia on Thursday announced it would cease publishing its reports on Elon Musk's social media platform X, which it said had become a "disinformation network." The decision by the Barcelona-based daily comes a day after Britain's The Guardian also said it would quit promoting its journalism on X, formerly Twitter, citing "often disturbing content" on the site. — AFP

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2024

Tech's green wave hits choppy waters

Current focus on innovation is dividing experts and investors



Agility Robotics' robot named "Digit", the first human-centric multi-purpose robot made for logistics work, is pictured at the Web Summit at Parque das Nações in Lisbon, on November 13, 2024. — AFP

LISBON: Tech entrepreneurs have spent years selling the dream that we can save the planet without changing our ways, but the current focus of innovation is dividing experts and investors. The tech industry loves splashy world-saving ideas and spends billions on the hunt for new energy sources, often clashing with calls from activists and experts simply to use less energy.

The Web Summit in Lisbon this week, one of Europe's biggest tech events, gave top billing to a Californian firm called Twelve that claims to be able to make sustainable jet fuel out of the carbon dioxide in the air. "In a lot of ways we're mimicking trees and plants," Twelve cofounder Etosha Cave told the audience, describing a process that takes carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and converts it into fuel.

Cave painted a picture of a future where her company's tech could power long-haul flights and even help exploit mineral wealth on Mars - a utopian vision that has helped her firm raise some \$650 million. The interviewer on stage with Cave told her it "sounds like magic".

Climate expert Mike Berners-Lee, a professor at the University of Lancaster in the UK, told AFP

that world-changing claims about sustainable fuel or new energy sources needed to be viewed skeptically. "Everyone's looking for a silver bullet that would mean we wouldn't have to do anything difficult," he said. More broadly, the green wave in tech is entering a tricky period. While Twelve and other major startups are attracting massive investment, Bloomberg recently reported that funding for climate tech was on track to fall 50 percent this year compared with last year.

And climate tech has long been subject to the whims of politics and global economic trends.

The current green wave is the second this century. The first - now called Clean Tech 1.0 - was fostered by US politician Al Gore, whose calls for funding were met with an estimated \$25 billion of investments. The period ended in 2011 after the global financial crisis ended cheap loans and China ramped up its solar panel output, wiping out most US startups and roughly half of investors' cash.

But those investments were not wasted. They led to an era of inexpensive solar and wind power and laid the foundations for the electric vehicle revolution. Clean Tech 2.0 began around 2018 as

companies and governments committed to net-zero carbon targets laid out by the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement.

However, the US has re-elected Donald Trump as president with support from many leaders in the tech industry. Trump - an avowed climate-change denier whose campaigning slogan on fossil fuels was "dig baby dig" - withdrew the US from the agreement in his first term and analysts believe he will do the same again. And the global fight against climate change is still fraught, with national leaders meeting for the UN's COP29 climate summit in Azerbaijan this week divided on the idea of phasing out fossil fuels, the main driver of global warming.

All this leaves climate tech in a precarious moment, and startups without world-saving narratives are scrambling to get funding from a smaller pot. Web Summit hosted dozens of them, hawking everything from blockchain-backed "virtual power plants" to smart widgets for stopping household leaks.

While some experts are cynical about the utility of these "shark tank" style events, Elisabeth Gilmore, a professor of environmental engineering at Carleton University in Canada, said she had no problem with

young entrepreneurs making big claims. "These innovations should be eyebrow-raising," she told AFP.

She said events like the Web Summit could focus minds, but cautioned that entrepreneurs must look beyond the profit motive and make products that help communities.

Berners-Lee questioned whether some of the most eye-catching ideas could be as good as they sounded. "If these are real solutions that are ready to go, if they're as good as they look, they would be scaling up like crazy," he said. Sustainable jet fuel, he said, was one of the toughest nuts to crack and would need major breakthroughs in storage and power usage. Cave conceded on stage that Twelve needed "utility-level" renewables as well as power from the grid for her firm's plants, though she said it used far less land and energy than biofuels. More broadly, Berners-Lee questioned whether the search for new power sources should even be an aim for humanity.

"I would have severe reservations about giving humanity an unlimited energy supply beyond carbon - we're causing enough damage with the energy we've already got," he said. — AFP

Activist: 'Terrible' AI has given tech an existential crisis

LISBON: Technology firms are ceaselessly promoting new AI products, but climate activist Sage Lenier says AI is useless, unsustainable and has given the industry an existential problem.

"AI has no benefit to society," she told AFP on the sidelines of the Web Summit tech conference in Lisbon. The CEOs who have become enraptured by a "useless" product class have smashed the idea of tech as an essential utility. "And now they have an existential problem," she said. Lenier first garnered attention as a 19-year-old student in 2018 when she founded and led a course at the University of California, Berkeley, titled "Solutions for a Sustainable & Just Future".

She has said students like her were sick of the kind of climate education that offered no hope - she wanted to focus on the solutions not just the problems. Hundreds joined the course at Berkeley over the years and eventually hundreds more online, and Lenier has since built a nonprofit around it and now hopes to launch a documentary series.

The California native, who now lives in New York, said she was largely positive about tech.

But her climate focus makes her an outsider at the Web Summit - "I'll keep coming if they want me to shout at them," she said. Last year, she told the crowd: "Some of you could be considered directly responsible for architecting the ecological crisis."

She implored tech bosses to embrace the circular economy, which relies on reusing and recycling rather than creating products that end up being junked. But one year on, Microsoft, Google and others have unleashed an endless stream of energy-gobbling AI products. They have rushed to reopen nuclear plants, pledged to build many more data centers - and crashed through their climate targets.

Yet AI, Lenier said, "has a million negatives". "It is terrible for the planet. It's terrible for every community that you're running data centers in. And it's useless. I think it's just a waste of emissions," she



Climate activist Sage Lenier, founder and executive director of Sustainable & Just Future, during an interview at the Web Summit in Lisbon, on November 13, 2024. — AFP

said. She points out that it was not always this way in the tech sector.

"It was the only industry, at least in America, where for years and years they tried to portray themselves as clean, green and pro-future," she said. "Bill Gates has written multiple books on climate change." The CEOs really want the image, and succeeded in dodging the kind of scrutiny put on the fashion and automotive industries.

"Then the moment they got an opportunity, with AI, to increase shareholder returns... every single one of them slammed the red button," she said. Although Lenier came to prominence by focusing attention on the solutions to the climate crisis, she sees a bleak future coming within a generation.

"It is going to get so bad so fast. The food chain is going to break. We will see mass malnourishment if not mass starvation," she said. The power grid, too, will break down. Against this background, products like cars and new clothes are superfluous.

"You can't have cars in the long term. It doesn't matter if they're electric or not. They're unsustainable," she said. "We can't be producing 80 billion garments of clothing a year in a low carbon future." A year ago, she said she might have argued that tech was something different.

"It's a piece of our infrastructure, we built our societies around it," she said. But with AI, "they've given themselves their own little fast fashion". — AFP

COP29 climate talks grapple with trillion-dollar task

BAKU: Developing countries need at least \$1 trillion per year by the end of the decade to cope with climate change, economists told UN talks in Baku, where early efforts to reach a finance deal risk being overshadowed by diplomatic disputes. Money is a focus at COP29 whose success is likely to be judged by whether it can agree a new target for how much richer countries, development lenders and the private sector must provide each year to help developing countries finance the transition to greener energy and protect against extreme weather.

Reaching a deal is likely to be especially hard at a summit where the mood has been soured by public disagreements and pessimism about shifts in global politics. Donald Trump's presidential election win has cast the United States' future role in climate talks into doubt and tension between developed and developing nations has bubbled to the surface on the main stages and in negotiating rooms.

"Parties must remember that the clock is ticking," COP29 Lead Negotiator Yalchin Rafiyev told a news conference. "They must use this precious time to talk to each other directly and take ownership of building bridging solutions."

A previous finance goal of \$100 billion per year, which expires in 2025, was met two years late in 2022, the OECD said in May. Much of it was in the form of loans rather than grants, something recipient nations say must change. Setting the tone at the start of Thursday, a report from the Independent High-Level Expert Group on Climate Finance said the target annual figure would need to rise to at least \$1.3 trillion a year by 2035 if countries fail to act now.

"Any shortfall in investment before 2030 will place added pressure on the years that follow, creating a steeper and potentially more costly path to climate stability," the report said.

Behind the scenes, negotiators are working on draft texts, but so far early-stage documents published by the United Nations climate body reflect the

huge range of views around the table.

Some negotiators said the latest text on finance was too long to work with, and they were waiting for a slimmed-down version before talks to shape a deal could begin. Any deal is likely to be hard fought given a reluctance among many Western governments - on the hook to contribute since the Paris Agreement in 2015 - to give more unless countries including China agree to join them.

The likely withdrawal of the United States from any future funding deal will raise pressure on delegates to find other ways to secure the needed funds.



Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni gives a speech during the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) in Baku on November 13, 2024. - AFP

Among them are the world's multilateral development banks such as the World Bank, funded by the richer countries and in the process of being reformed so they can lend more.

Ten of the largest have said they would plan to increase their climate finance by roughly 60% to \$120 billion a year by 2030, with at least an extra \$65 billion from the private sector.

On Thursday Zakir Nuriyev, head of the Association of Banks of Azerbaijan, said the country's 22 banks would commit nearly \$1.2 billion to finance projects that help Azerbaijan transition to a low-carbon economy. — Reuters

NBK Wealth named 'Best Private Banking Services in Kuwait 2025'

Recognition at Global Finance's annual private banks awards

KUWAIT: Leading magazine Global Finance, recognized for its focus on financial markets and investment banking, has presented NBK Wealth Group with the prestigious Best Private Banking Services Award in Kuwait. This accolade was unveiled during the tenth edition of the magazine's annual awards, which celebrate the World's Best Private Banks 2025.

Global Finance announced the winners across various regional categories, drawing on comprehensive evaluations by the magazine's editorial team. The selection process incorporated insights from hundreds of banking experts, officials, analysts, senior advisors, and executives worldwide, alongside independent research. This year's rankings considered both objective and subjective factors, assessing performance from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024.

NBK Wealth received this prestigious accolade based on several key criteria, primarily its excellence in delivering private banking services. The award recognizes the Group's ability to meet the needs of high-net-worth clients while adapting to their evolving aspirations through innovative solutions.

The award underscores the strength of NBK Wealth brand, the largest wealth management group in Kuwait and one of the largest in the region. This recognition is bolstered by the legacy of NBK Group, a leading in-

- This recognition highlights the Group's effective strategy in delivering comprehensive private banking solutions
- The award acknowledges NBK's exceptional ability to meet the needs of high-net-worth clients, addressing their evolving aspirations through innovative approaches



stitution both regionally and globally, known for its long history of achievements and international accolades in the banking sector. The award also highlights NBK Wealth Group's distinctive strategy in providing an extensive array of comprehensive private banking solutions. These include financial planning, wealth management, and investment advisory services, all supported by a global network of integrated operations spanning nine cities across five countries worldwide.

NBK Wealth serves as a vital pillar of the NBK Group and stands as one of the leading wealth management companies in the Middle East. With over \$20 billion in Assets Under Manage-



ment (AUM) as of the end of 2023, it boasts a broad geographical presence across nine cities in five countries. The group provides a comprehensive range

of services, including private banking, financial planning, asset management, and advisory services. Adopting a customized, solution-focused approach, NBK Wealth is dedicated to addressing the individual needs of each client, ensuring alignment with the unique financial goals of high-net-worth individuals and institutions.

NBK Wealth Group is committed to addressing the financial and investment needs of high-net-worth individuals by offering comprehensive and tailored solutions designed to meet their unique requirements. The Group focuses on delivering results that align with each client's ambitions while considering their individual risk profile and financial objectives. The Group's mission extends beyond merely aiming to enhance its customers' wealth; it aims to be the premier and trusted choice in wealth management. This is achieved by delivering innovative, specialized, and comprehensive solutions that evolve with customers' needs. The Group is dedicated to creating added value, making a positive impact, and aiming to support clients building legacies that will endure across generations.

Global Finance magazine, established in 1987 and based in New York, is a highly regarded publication focused on the finance and economics sectors. With a readership exceeding 50,000 executives and strategic de-

cision-makers in financial institutions across 193 countries, the magazine plays a crucial role in the industry. Each year, it conducts numerous surveys on innovation and profitability among banks and financial institutions worldwide, culminating in the selection of the best performers at both regional and global levels.

NBK Wealth is a brand registered

NBK Wealth stands as the preferred and trusted partner, offering pioneering services designed to aim to support our clients in building legacies for themselves and generations to come

under the name of National Bank of Kuwait SAKP ("NBK"), for use by the Asset Management business of, among other NBK group entities, Watani Investment Company KSCC, a leading investment firm and its affiliates worldwide, combined with the Private Banking services of NBK worldwide, which is one of the largest and oldest financial institutions in the region.

Russian farmers rush to sell grain as oil prices fall

MOSCOW: Russian farmers appear to be changing their habit of withholding excess grain for better times amid low global prices, as high interest rates make it attractive to cash in and deposit money in banks at home, analysts said. The Russian central bank hiked its key interest rate to 21 percent last month, the highest level in more than 20 years, as

it fights inflation in the overheated economy. Many banks are now offering short-term deposits with interest rates of up to 25 percent.

"It is easier to sell grain right away, put it in a bank at over 20 percent, and forget about it," Dmitry Rylko, head of the IKAR agriculture consultancy, said. "No one is holding anything back here, quite the opposite. This year, we have no incentives to hold on to it, which is why we had such a large export," he added. In analysts' view, the possibility of further hikes in wheat export duty in recent weeks, on top of recent sharp rises, also outweighed the benefits of holding back stocks.

While in many regions of the world, farmers are reluctant to sell grain at current prices, Russian sales are proceeding at a near-record pace, with domestic


stocks falling and firms turning to state auctions to buy more grain for exports.

According to Sovecon consultancy, current Russian wheat stocks were down 14 percent to 38.7 million metric tons as of Oct 1, compared with last year? The stocks were up 21 percent year-on-year in the second quarter. "The wheat reserves have sharply decreased compared to the previous quarter due to low production levels of Russian wheat and active exports," the consultancy said.

Russia's seaborne grain exports rose 11 percent year-on-year in October to 6.3 million metric tons, and so far this year are up 2.1 percent on the same period of 2023, according to shipping data obtained by Reuters. Analysts estimate that Russia has al-

ready shipped about 45 percent of its grain export potential for the current season, which is estimated officially at 55-57 million tons.

The agriculture ministry forecasts this year's grain harvest at 130 million tons, following months of bad weather. This figure represents a 12 percent decrease from 148 million in 2023 and an 18 percent reduction from a record 158 million tons in 2022. Earlier this year, when early spring frosts and then drought inflicted heavy losses on the Russian harvest, some farmers considered holding back sales until global prices rebound. "Poor harvest years in agriculture occur periodically, so to get through them, a rise in prices is needed. We are waiting," Konstantin Yurov, a farmer from the Krasnodar region, said in August.— Reuters



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KUWAIT BOURSA WEEKLY REPORT

WEEK ENDED ON 14 NOVEMBER 2024

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No.	Ticker	Sector	Price Movement & Performance										Valuation Multiples *				
			Open Price	Close Price	Week High	Week Low	Range	Volume	WTD Change	WTD %	YTD %	Support Level	Resistance Level	P/E	P/B	Yield	Beta
101	National Bank of Kuwait	Banking	856	870	873	855	18	26,646,457	13	1.52%	2.18%	860	870	12.8	1.63	3.9%	1.04
102	Gulf Bank	Banking	311	322	325	311	14	38,197,032	9	2.88%	20.32%	321	325	21.5	1.50	3.5%	1.28
104	Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait	Banking	276	273	276	272	4	5,558,698	-5	-1.80%	23.03%	273	279	13.3	0.97	3.1%	1.00
106	Kuwait International Bank	Banking	189	192	193	187	6	38,791,942	3	1.59%	31.84%	186	193	13.2	0.68	2.5%	1.09
107	Burgan Bank	Banking	182	182	183	180	3	18,786,773	0	0.00%	11.10%	176	185	17.7	0.64	3.2%	1.32
108	Kuwait Finance House	Banking	726	743	748	726	22	68,165,499	18	2.48%	11.55%	740	745	20.3	2.14	2.6%	1.10
109	Boubyan Bank	Banking	561	570	572	561	11	17,664,892	10	1.79%	0.70%	567	585	27.4	2.29	1.3%	1.16
201	Kuwait Investment	Financial Services	167	180	180	164	16	12,694,253	14	8.43%	41.73%	178	187	8.0	0.79	5.7%	2.04
204	National Investments	Financial Services	253	258	266	252	14	27,318,265	4	1.57%	7.95%	257	262	17.4	1.08	5.8%	2.04
205	Kuwait Projects	Financial Services	101	105	107	101	7	67,285,413	4.1	4.06%	0.00%	104.0	107	NM	0.59	0.0%	0.96
212	Arzan Financial Group	Financial Services	219	220	229	217	12	80,076,084	2	0.92%	8.95%	215	228	13.6	1.13	0.9%	1.29
222	Aayan Leasing and Investment	Financial Services	157	162	164	157	7	21,230,571	4	2.53%	-6.90%	160	163	9.0	1.09	4.6%	1.61
252	Al Imtiaz Investment	Financial Services	49.1	49.3	52.0	48.9	3.1	13,314,983	-0.2	-0.40%	-12.74%	49.1	51.9	NM	0.36	0.0%	1.34
401	Kuwait Real Estate	Real Estate	239	236	241	234	7	10,174,538	-3	-1.26%	22.03%	229	237	18.5	1.35	1.6%	1.15
404	Salhia Real Estate	Real Estate	429	422	430	419	11	5,034,422	-8	-1.86%	3.29%	416	424	17.5	1.38	3.4%	0.57
413	Mabaneer	Real Estate	825	815	839	814	25	9,347,219	-9	-1.09%	2.48%	811	825	17.2	1.76	1.6%	0.92
418	The Commercial Real Estate	Real Estate	147	147	149	144	5	12,032,135	2	1.38%	47.00%	144	150	14.7	0.90	2.7%	0.68
501	National Industries	Financial Services	241	248	248	239	9	46,736,517	7	2.90%	27.65%	246	252	12.2	1.10	1.9%	1.60
505	Gulf Cable	Industrials	1,610	1,594	1,628	1,550	78	1,344,753	-16	-0.99%	21.68%	1,522	1,600	17.2	1.31	4.1%	1.13
506	HEISCO	Industrials	806	815	839	792	47	4,208,093	18	2.26%	-0.61%	793	815	18.1	2.06	3.7%	0.93
514	Boubyan Petrochemical	Basic Materials	662	664	669	658	11	2,702,708	-1	-0.15%	13.50%	655	677	16.0	1.50	9.0%	0.93
603	Aglity	Industrials	259	269	289	257	32	121,126,590	13	5.08%	-47.15%	268	274	8.7	0.78	7.4%	1.61
605	Zain	Telecommunications	460	472	472	458	14	22,157,448	14	3.06%	-6.90%	468	473	11.3	1.76	7.5%	0.53
623	Human Soft Holding	Industrials	2,619	2,595	2,630	2,588	42	429,903	-22	-0.84%	-19.84%	2,583	2,628	8.6	3.15	12.8%	0.62
642	ALAFCO	Industrials	514	533	540	510	30	972,872	19	3.70%	-68.90%	529	538	3.4	0.23	172.7%	1.23
654	JAZEERA	Consumer Discretionary	1,110	1,141	1,178	1,097	81	1,811,128	31	2.79%	-17.85%	1,100	1,204	34.5	6.32	2.5%	1.38
813	GFH Financial Group	Financial Services	104	106	109	104	5	85,000,268	1	0.95%	38.93%	105	108	10.9	1.24	4.8%	1.32
821	Warba Bank	Banking	193	198	199	190	9	36,340,581	5	2.59%	12.84%	195	199	24.9	1.04	0.0%	1.07
822	Kuwait Telecommunications	Telecommunications	548	552	555	547	8	3,690,163	3	0.55%	-1.95%	548	555	16.6	2.35	6.4%	0.72
823	Mezzan Holding	Consumer Staples	965	901	971	898	73	1,187,226	-72	-7.40%	56.70%	879	949	20.4	2.53	2.2%	0.45
824	Integrated Holding	Industrials	508	496	517	492	25	3,656,994	-17	-3.31%	-2.75%	485	499	26.0	2.14	3.9%	0.74
827	Boursa Kuwait	Financial Services	2,204	2,140	2,281	2,053	228	1,515,193	-90	-4.04%	24.13%	2,125	2,180	24.5	6.76	3.4%	1.34
830	AL GHANIM	Consumer Discretionary	1,070	1,036	1,076	1,033	43	2,361,552	-33	-3.09%	-1.89%	1,033	1,069	9.8	3.42	6.7%	0.82
831	Beyout Investment	Financial Services	398	406	412	395	17	4,480,896	12	3.05%	#VALUE!	400	410	16.0	2.38	0.0%	NULL

* As of end of week closing

Business

As Trump returns, African exporters are torn between hope and horror

AGOA renewal in doubt amid the threat of 10% tariff on imports to US

JOHANNESBURG: Citrus growers in South Africa are among the businesses most nervous that duty- and quota-free exports to the United States could be scrapped next year when Donald Trump returns to the White House. The fruits are among 1,800 products across 32 African countries benefitting from preferential market access under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), with companies in South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria and Ghana reaping the most dollars in profits.

But with president-elect Trump having vowed to impose at least a 10-percent tariff on all imports to the United States, there is no certainty that AGOA will be renewed. Analysts say the legislation, passed in 2000 and set to expire next year, could be modified if not withdrawn altogether, with potential negative ramifications for companies and jobs across Africa.

"We need this competitive edge," Justin Chadwick, CEO of the Citrus Growers' Association of Southern Africa (CGA), which also represents Zimbabwe and Swaziland-based orchards, told AFP.

"Should South Africa be removed from AGOA, thousands of rural jobs could be impacted, as well as over a billion rand (\$55.5 million) in export revenue could be lost," he said. Another South African citrus company told AFP on condition of anonymity that if AGOA were not renewed, it would "kill" their business, which employed more than 3,000 people and exported an average of 350 containers of sorbet products per year to the United States.

The automotive sector could also feel the heat if AGOA is shelved, although some companies are betting that US consumers might accept higher prices. "I don't foresee any major changes in the buying patterns of Americans around the products that we supply," said Ken Manners, managing director at SP Metal Forgings Group, a South African company that exports vehicle parts to the United States.

Even if tariffs were imposed, "it certainly wouldn't be life-changing in terms of our ability to supply competitively," he told AFP. "The product base that we supply in the US is very difficult

to source anywhere else, so ultimately even if the US put higher tariffs, the US consumer would end up paying for it." Whether AGOA is renewed or not, it should not have much impact on the broader South African economy, analysts said, though companies should still prepare for changes.

"On the whole of the economy we're not even talking one percent," said Johannesburg-based economist Dawie Roodt. In any case, "it won't be business as usual," said Ronak Gopaldas of the London-based consultancy Signal Risk. "The reality is that Trump and his economic policies are unpredictable, volatile and erratic." "So I would say an effective strategy is to expect the worst and hope for the best," he said.

'AGOA-lite'

Companies in Ghana, Kenya and Lesotho also benefit significantly from AGOA, especially in the textile industry. Mukhisa Kituyi, a Kenyan politician who served as secretary-general of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, said he believed the next US administration could push for a renegotiated AGOA rather than a withdrawal.

The United States wanted stricter "third country rules of origin" to prevent, for example, companies from bringing textiles from China or India, stitching them in Africa, and selling them as African clothes. "If they tighten the rules of origin, particularly on textiles and cars — as Trump is obsessed with the manufacturing of particular cars — we can see a diluted AGOA-lite going forward," Kituyi said.

For Lesotho, losing AGOA "would deal a massive blow, potentially leading to the near collapse of the textile and apparel industry", which is the kingdom's second largest employer, trade ministry official Litsenko Fiee said. However, the government is optimistic the deal will be renewed and possibly even extended, he said. Another question mark surrounds exports of critical minerals from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia and Angola.

While the products are not eligible under AGOA, central African countries have received



Secondhand clothes for sale are displayed at the Kantamanto market in Accra, Ghana. — AFP

particular attention and investment under President Joe Biden. "Are these relations going to persist... or will we see a walking back, a radical overhaul, on some of the gains made?" Gopaldas said. Trump will probably "ignore Africa", according to Roodt, unless countries "get his attention for good or bad reasons". A determining factor would likely be whether countries are seen as geopolitically aligned with the United States.

This could be an issue for African governments that have shown support towards Russia and China or criticized Zionist entity. Having accused Israel of "genocide" in Gaza at the UN's top court, South Africa in particular will have to "walk a tightrope," Gopaldas said, "if the US becomes more explicit about being 'with us or against us'." — AFP



A general view of the logo of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) seen on the first day of the 20th AGOA summit in Johannesburg on November 2, 2023. — AFP

Independent central bank 'fundamental' for good policy: Fed

WASHINGTON: An independent central bank is "fundamental" to getting good economic outcomes, a senior Federal Reserve official said Thursday, shortly after Donald Trump won the US presidential race.

The Fed has a dual mandate from Congress to act independently to tackle both inflation and unemployment — primarily by raising and lowering interest rates. Anything that undermines the Fed's independence could spook traders in the financial markets, who might come to question if it could effectively tackle inflation over the longer term.

Fed governor Adriana Kugler's speech in the Uruguayan capital, Montevideo, comes just over a week after the election of Trump — who has previously questioned the Fed's independence and suggested he would like "at least" a say over setting interest rates. Kugler did not name the Republican president-elect during her prepared remarks, in which she said controlling inflation required a commitment to accept the "tradeoffs and sacrifices" often needed to restore price stability.

"It has been widely recognized — and is a finding of economic research — that central bank independence is fundamental to achieving good policy and good economic outcomes," Kugler said. "It is not sufficient by itself to achieve those goals, but, over time, it is almost always necessary," added Kugler, who is among the seven most important monetary policy officials in the United States.

During the US presidential election race, Trump criticized Fed Chair Jerome Powell — whom he first nominated to run the US central bank — and suggested he would not look to reappoint him once his term expires in 2026. Powell's replacement as chair will play a significant role in setting interest rates, but will still be constrained somewhat by the Fed's decentralized system, which gives regional Federal Reserve banks a say over the level of interest rates. — AFP

Russia's growth dips as inflation weighs on economy

MOSCOW: Russia's growth slowed in the third quarter, official statistics published Wednesday showed, with high inflation caused by the Kremlin's massive spending on the Ukraine offensive weighing on the economy.

Moscow has militarized Russia's economy since it launched its full-scale offensive of Ukraine in February 2022, with huge outlays on soldiers and weapons powering its economy, but causing prices in the shops to rise fast. Growth in the third quarter was 3.1 percent year-on-year, the Rosstat federal statistics agency said, down from a rate of 4.1 percent in the second quarter.

Inflation, meanwhile, came in at 8.5 percent in October, down from 8.6 percent a month earlier, but still well above the state's official 4.0-percent target. The Kremlin

Climate talks urged to find \$1tn a year for poorer countries

BAKU: Pay now to help poorer countries cope with climate change or pay more later, negotiators were warned on Thursday as experts said poor states need at least \$1 trillion per year by the end of the decade to move to greener energy and protect against extreme weather. Money is a central focus of the COP29 climate talks being held in Azerbaijan and the success of the summit is likely to be judged on whether nations can agree a new target for how much richer nations, development lenders and the private sector must provide each year to developing countries to finance climate action.

A previous goal of \$100 billion per year, which expires in 2025, was met two years late in 2022, the OECD said earlier this year, although much of it was in the form of loans rather than grants, something recipient countries say needs to change. Setting the tone at the start of the day, a report from the Independent High-Level Expert Group on Climate Finance said the target annual figure would need to rise to \$1.3 trillion a year by 2035, or potentially more if countries drag their feet now.

"Any shortfall in investment before 2030 will place added pressure on the years that follow, creating a steeper and potentially more costly path to climate stability," the report said.

"The less the world achieves now, the more we will need to invest later." Behind the scenes, negotiators are working on draft texts of a deal, but so far early-stage documents published by the United Nations climate body only reflect the huge range of different views around the table, with little sense of where the talks will end up. Some negotiators said the latest text on finance was too long to work with, and they were waiting for a slimmed-down version before talks to hammer out a deal could begin.

Any deal is likely to be hard fought given the reluctance among many Western governments — on the hook to contribute since the Paris Agreement in 2015 — to give more unless countries including China agree to join them. The likely withdrawal of the United States from any future funding deal by incoming President Donald Trump has also overshadowed talks, raising pressure on delegates to find other ways to secure the needed funds.

has boasted of defying the West's attempts to collapse Russia's economy through sanctions, pointing to rapid growth since it ordered troops into Ukraine. Experts say the government's massive spending on the military campaign that is spurring the economy, leaving many parts of the civilian sector behind.

The International Monetary Fund recently raised its forecast for Russia's 2024 growth to 3.6 percent. But it said the economy would slow next year to just 1.3 percent amid mounting problems.

Russia's spending on defense and security will account for 8.7 percent of GDP in 2024, President Vladimir Putin said earlier this year. That is the highest level since the end of the Cold War.

Moscow is set to hike defense expenditure by another 30 percent next year, according to official budget plans. The booming expenditure has shielded Russia's economy from predictions it could face a years-long recession after it ordered troops into Ukraine and was hit with Western sanctions.

But it has also triggered inflation and massive labor shortages at home. Hundreds of thousands of men have been called up to fight, fled the country or been



Cows graze in front of the lignite-fired power station operated by German energy giant RWE in Niederauessem, western Germany. — AFP

Among them are the world's multilateral development banks such as the World Bank, bankrolled by the richer countries and which are in the process of being reformed so they can lend more.

A group of 10 of the largest have already flagged a plan to ramp up their climate finance by roughly 60 percent to \$120 billion a year by 2030, with at least an extra \$65 billion from the private sector.

A push to raise fresh money by taxing polluting sectors such as aviation, fossil fuels and shipping, or financial transactions, received a boost as more countries said they would consider it, but any agreement is unlikely this time around. On Thursday Zakir Nuriyev, head of the Association of Banks of Azerbaijan, announced a commitment by the country's 22 banks to commit nearly \$1.2 billion to finance projects that help Azerbaijan transition to a low-carbon economy.

Three days in, the conference has already included a handful of diplomatic spats. French climate minister Agnes Pannier-Runacher on Wednesday cancelled her trip to COP29, after Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev accused France of "crimes" in its overseas territories in the Caribbean.

"The voices of these communities are often bru-

tally suppressed by the regimes in their metropolis," Aliyev told the conference. France and Azerbaijan have long had tense relations because of Paris' support of Azerbaijan's rival Armenia. This year, Paris accused Baku of meddling and abetting violent unrest in New Caledonia.

"Regardless of any bilateral disagreements, the COP should be a place where all parties feel at liberty to come and negotiate on climate action," European Union climate commissioner Wopke Hoekstra said in response, in a post on X. "The COP Presidency has a particular responsibility to enable and enhance that," he said. That came after Aliyev used his opening speech at the conference on Monday to accuse the United States and EU of hypocrisy for lecturing countries on climate change while remaining major consumers and producers of fossil fuels.

Meanwhile, Argentina's government has withdrawn its negotiators from the COP29 talks, two diplomats at the event told Reuters, although neither knew the reason for the decision. Argentina's embassy in Baku declined to comment. Argentina's President, Javier Milei, has previously called global warming a hoax. — Reuters

recruited by weapons makers — leading to a cycle of spiraling wages and prices that the central bank has warned undermines stability.

Putin admitted last week the country faced a "large labor deficit," with unemployment at a record low and several sectors struggling to recruit. The Central Bank also warned this week that inflation was staying stubbornly high even after it hiked interest rates to 21 percent, their highest level in more than two decades. "If we look at the picture for the last month or two, this is a picture of quite stable, fast price growth. It is difficult to see any significant change in inflation dynamics so far. Inflation is still at a high level," Alexei Zabolotkin, the bank's deputy governor said.

Rising prices for household staples like butter and sunflower oil have become national headline news inside Russia in recent week — reminiscent of a panic over rising egg prices last year. Russian society is particularly sensitive to high inflation and volatile food prices, given the country's history of economic crises and, during the Soviet Union, food shortages and rationing. Despite raising interest rates to bring down price rises, Central Bank Governor Elvira Nabiullina has repeatedly said they are



MOSCOW: People walk past a currency exchange office in Moscow. — AFP

a less effective tool because of the government's massive spending surge. Higher borrowing costs work to cool demand by making it more expensive for businesses and individuals to take out loans, and more profitable to save. But government spending, especially on the Ukraine campaign, is not swayed by higher borrowing costs. — AFP

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2024

Weekender

Multi-talented maverick mixes comedy, culture and philosophy

From satirical videos to fine art, **Zahra Almahdi's** work pushes boundaries, making people laugh - and think - about life's deeper questions



By Sahar Moussa

M eet Zahra (Zouz) Almahdi - a Kuwaiti artist, writer, filmmaker, musician and standup comedian whose work is a vibrant blend of humor, philosophy and culture. With a background in literature and philosophy, Zahra has explored a range of creative forms, from her satirical "Haltouma" videos that tackle cultural and philosophical topics, to her film projects and art exhibitions. Each medium serves as an outlet for her sharp wit and deep insights, all unified by her commitment to challenging perceptions and exploring the world from fresh angles. In an interview with Kuwait Times, Zouz discusses her creative philosophy, the inspiration behind her work, and her approach to finding meaning - and humor - in life's challenging moments.



Kuwait Times: You work across so many creative mediums - film, music, comedy, writing. How do you weave all these forms into your work?

Zahra Almahdi: These forms might seem separate, but they all come from the same place for me. Creative work begins with an idea. That idea determines the form it takes. So being a "one-woman band" is necessary to execute complex ideas.

KT: Is there a medium you prefer? Why?

Almahdi: It's impossible for me to choose, but if I had to, it would be filmmaking. Filmmaking has the capacity to incorporate all other mediums.

KT: Your "Haltouma" videos on Instagram are a unique blend of your skills. How did the idea for this series come about? Do you draw inspiration from real-life observations, cultural trends, or a mix of both?

Almahdi: I initially created a travel show exploring topics of common interest with historical and philosophical perspectives. When the show didn't take off, I condensed those scripts into 4-6-minute videos for social media. It allows me to practice various forms, like filmmaking, in a simpler, digestible way.

KT: "Haltouma" is humorous yet often explores deeper questions. How do you incorporate meaningful ideas into comedy without it feeling heavy?

Almahdi: Comedy is actually more difficult to produce than drama or documentary because good comedy is inherently deep, sensitive, and effective. Comedy has a direct link to philosophy, which is why comedians can be more provocative than political writers. Essentially, the deeper you want to go, the funnier you have to be.

KT: Comedy often reveals truths that serious discussions can't. What's the most surprising thing you've learned about people through making them laugh?

Almahdi: I've learned that people will listen to almost anything if it's funny - even if it's about them, against their beliefs, or something they'd otherwise avoid. I've found the same for myself; I'll accept a joke about me if it's well-made. I actually prefer intelligent criticism over praise.

KT: Do you aim to convey a specific message through "Haltouma," or is it more about sharing your creative perspective?

Almahdi: Each "Haltouma" repeats the same message: "Everything exists in language." What we think of as natural, how we experience life - it's all constructed and can be broken down. That's what makes life beautiful.

KT: As a Kuwaiti artist, do you feel a responsibility to represent your culture, or is it just naturally woven

into your work?

Almahdi: I don't see it as a responsibility, but the way I express my ideas resonates with a large demographic here. So whether I see it as a duty or just a pastime, my work reflects my culture and where I'm from.

KT: Congratulations on participating in the dar.nour exhibition! Can you tell us about the work you showcased?

Almahdi: I started as a painter in



2009, and fine art was my first professional outlet. I stepped away from galleries after my solo exhibition in 2016 because I'd lost faith in fine art. Then Nur AlZabin encouraged me to return with work that reflects who I am now. I feel ready for that return.

KT: If you could choose a philosophical quote or idea that reflects your creative philosophy, what would it be?

Almahdi: "I take my silliness very seriously. And the only thing I take seriously is silliness."

KT: Whether you're writing scripts, jokes, or creating content, what message or feeling do you hope to leave with your audience?

Almahdi: Meaning is always clearer in hindsight. If you're struggling now, trust that it'll "mean something" later. The worst moment today can be the best joke tomorrow.



Zahra Almahdi

Thespian alchemy

Exploring the micro-dynamics of acting

Dr Methil Devika performs in 'Silappathikaram'.



By Sajeev K Peter

India's renowned dance exponent Dr Methil Devika captivated a group of theater enthusiasts by demonstrating how classical dance elements can be skillfully woven into contemporary theater, enriching its dramatic impact and elevating the production's aesthetic allure. "As a dance performer, I can see that the dance itself is getting dramatized these days. As a matter of fact, there have never been boundaries between theatre and dance. In all my works, there are a lot of theatrical elements that not only complement the art form but embellish it."

Speaking to Kuwait Times on the sidelines of an acting workshop titled "The Thespian Alchemy" organized jointly by Future Eye Theater and Future Eye Film Club, Kuwait, Devika said a practitioner of classical dance cannot venture into dance without getting at least an introduction to classical theatre. While practitioners of classical dance often study "the Natya Sastra, a Sanskrit treatise on the performing arts", the treatise in fact is actually the

classical theatre forms such as 'Koodiyattom' and 'Kathakali'. The concept, derived from 'Natya Sastra', is used as an integral part of all Indian classical dance styles. Acting has four interrelated aspects: the body (angika), the voice (vachika), aaharya (costumes, make-up and backdrop), and expression of mental states (sattvika), she said.

Dr Devika has a master's degree in performing arts from Rabindra Bharati University

son could seamlessly amalgamate classical theatre elements into the modern theatre, he/she can come up with something quite innovative, she said.

When asked about her feature film debut with the Malayalam film 'Kadha Innuvare', she said: "It was an area that I was comfortable with and wanted to explore further, and something that has not been quite explored so far." Cinema is a medium that can create



Foraying into the techniques of fine expression in acting, Indian classical dancer Dr Methil Devika seeks to explore the nuances of the physical, gestural and verbal realms of performance with special attention to learning to act with the eyes.

study of drama, and not dance, she said.

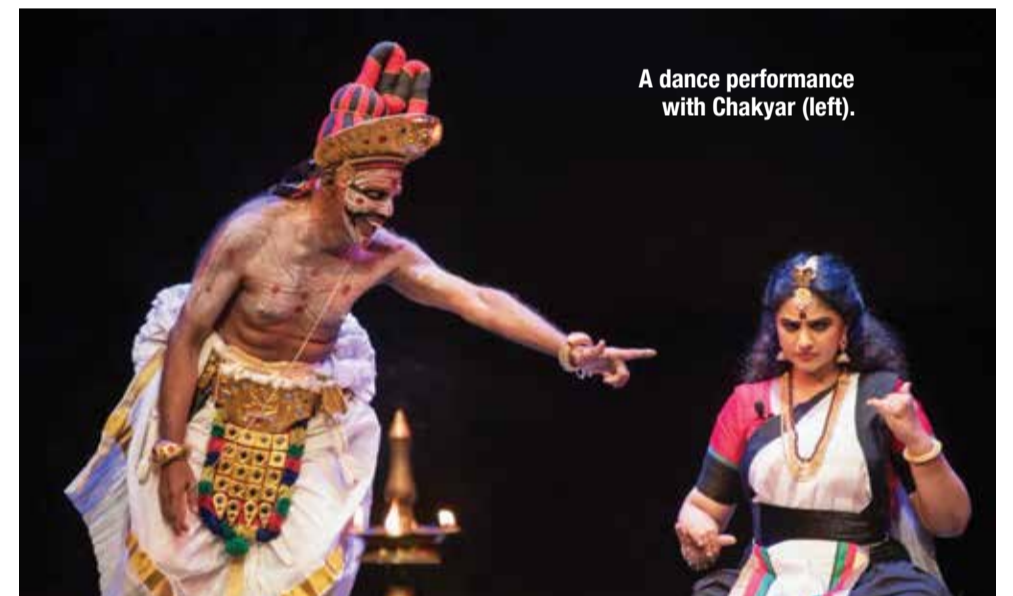
More than 50 theatre enthusiasts attended the two-day interactive workshop which was held at Dolphin Continental, Salmiya. Encouraging the wholesome participation of the members, she helped them regain a feeling of self-confidence among them as they engaged in lively sessions while exploring the macro and micro-dynamics of acting. The workshop was a foray into the techniques of fine expression that melded the nuances of the physical, gestural and the verbal realms of performance with especial attention to learning to act with the eyes.

"For me, dance is a small term. As you know, Indian dance forms are adopted from

with a first rank and gold medal. She completed her PhD in Mohiniyattam from Bharathidasan University as well.

"Right now, as you see today, dance has a lot of theatre in it. Particularly the art form 'Mohiniyattam', the dance form I pursue. You can see the theatrical devices employed in Kerala performing arts are clearly evidenced in all my works," Devika explained. By incorporating classical elements, one can actually create a passionate artistry in theatre.

"While an actor grows from non-verbal communication techniques and moves into organic theater, he/she will begin to know how to suspend emotions in time. That should be the focus," she elaborated. If a theatre per-



A dance performance with Chakyar (left).

magic if you are able to incorporate elements that could be appealing to masses, she said. "I don't know if I would act again in movies or not, but definitely I would consider conceiving something for the screen," she pointed out.

Thespian Alchemy director Shemej Kumar said the workshop offered a rare insight into the practical aspects of Indian classical theater. "For theatre practitioners, it was a new experience where we could see a wonderful harmony of dance, drama and music with the accompaniment of traditional Indian percussion instruments such as 'chenda', 'idaka', 'maddalam', 'chengila', 'ilatalam' etc," he said.



Devika holds a practical session on rhythm in acting with the accompaniment of idakka percussion.



Acting sessions during the workshop in Kuwait.





The anticipation for cooler weather is growing as we reach the middle of November (it feels so close, but so far away!). And if you're like me, you're probably craving the comforting, warm dishes that are often associated with this time of the year. I've rounded up some of my favorite fall-winter recipes in this weekender edition. If enough of us make them, maybe we'll get a cold winter? (That's today's dose of wishful thinking).

GINGERBREAD LATTE

My favorite winter drink has to be the gingerbread latte, which I always anticipated in November when my go-to coffee chain would bring it back, complete with a tiny gingerbread man on top. Living in a country where the chain didn't operate meant I went without for years, so I eventually learned to make it myself. Now, with some boycotting Western establishments in Kuwait in solidarity with Palestine, you may crave this drink too. Here's a recipe to satisfy that craving.

- Ingredients**
- 1 tsp maple syrup
 - 1 tbsp molasses
 - 1/8 tsp ground ginger
 - 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
 - 1 shot of espresso (or 1/4 cup strong brewed coffee)
 - 3/4 cup milk (dairy or non-dairy)
 - Whipped cream (optional, for topping)
 - Ground cinnamon (optional, for garnish)



Instructions

1. Steam the milk: Warm milk in a small saucepan over low-medium heat or microwave until warm (not boiling).
2. Froth the milk (optional): Whisk vigorously for a smooth, bubbly texture, or use a milk frother.
3. Prepare the coffee: Brew a shot of espresso or strong coffee.
4. Assemble the latte: In a cup, mix the coffee, cinnamon, ginger, molasses, and maple syrup. Add the steamed/frothed milk. Top with whipped cream (add vanilla extract if whipping at home) and sprinkle with cinnamon.



Pumpkin is often overlooked in Arab cuisine, especially in savory dishes. I love it in Lebanese pumpkin kibbe, and have tried it in tajine and couscous. Inspired by its ubiquity where I lived in North America, I created this comforting pumpkin and beef stew. The pumpkin's sweetness contrasts beautifully with the hearty beef broth, and pomegranate molasses, cilantro and garlic bring delicious Arabic flavors.

- 5 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 small pumpkins or butternut squash, peeled and chunked
- 3 cups beef broth
- 2 tsp each of seven spices mix, cinnamon, and ground coriander
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Bunch of cilantro, finely chopped
- 1 tbsp pomegranate molasses

INGREDIENTS

- For the beef broth**
- 500g stew beef chunks
 - 1 onion
 - 2-3 bay leaves
 - 10 black peppercorns
 - 1 tsp salt
 - 2 cinnamon sticks
 - 5 crushed cardamom pods
 - 6 cloves
 - 2 tsp cinnamon powder
 - 2 tsp seven spices mix
 - 2 liters cold water
- For the stew**
- 2 tbsp oil
 - 1 large onion, chopped

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Make the broth: Brown beef in oil, cover with water, bring to a simmer, skim impurities and add onions and spices. Simmer on low for 1-8 hours, then strain.
2. Prepare the pumpkin: Preheat oven to 425°F, cube pumpkin, toss in oil and salt, and bake for 20 minutes, tossing halfway.
3. Assemble the stew: Sauté onion in oil until softened, then add pumpkin, beef and spices. Pour in broth, simmer for 10 minutes until pumpkin softens.
4. Add cilantro and garlic: Sauté garlic in oil, add cilantro and cook until wilted. Stir into the stew with pomegranate molasses, then serve with rice.

CUSTARD APPLE PIE

Fall nights call for warm apple pie, even if it's not exactly cold out. As the year winds down, my family and I crave the flaky, spiced sweetness of this dessert. Pair it with vanilla ice cream to make it feel like a cozy, chilly night.

INGREDIENTS

- For the crust**
- 250g all-purpose flour
 - 1 egg
 - 125g cold, cubed butter
 - 1 tsp salt
 - 1 tbsp vanilla
 - 2 tbsp neutral oil
 - 2 tbsp icing sugar

FOR THE FILLING

- Custard**
- 2 large eggs
 - 3/4 cup whole milk
 - 1/2 cup heavy cream
 - 1/4 cup + 2 tsp granulated sugar
 - 1 tsp vanilla extract
 - 1/8 tsp each of salt and nutmeg

Apples

- 2 tbsp unsalted butter
- 6-8 Granny Smith apples, sliced
- 1/4 cup each granulated and brown sugar
- 2 tsp lemon juice
- 1/2 tsp cinnamon
- 1/8 tsp salt

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Prepare the crust: Combine flour and salt, cut in butter until crumbly, mix in oil, icing sugar, and egg until smooth. Chill for 30 minutes. Roll out dough, transfer to a 9-inch pie dish, and freeze for 15 minutes.
2. Blind bake the crust: Preheat oven to 375°F, line with parchment, fill with pie weights and bake for 7-8 minutes.
3. Prepare filling: Sauté apples in butter with sugar, cinnamon, lemon juice and salt. Arrange apples in pie crust.
4. Custard filling: Whisk custard ingredients, pour over apples and top with remaining apples. Bake at 400°F for 35-45 minutes until set. Cool and refrigerate.



WHAT'S ON IN KUWAIT

Event: Premier Padel Kuwait P1
Location: Rafa Nadal Academy
Date: November 14-17, 2024

Event: AIU Kuwait International Film Festival
Location: AIU, Cinescape 360 Mall
Date: November 14-16, 2024

Event: IXIR Expo
Location: Kuwait International Fairgrounds
Date: November 15-16, 2024

Event: Charity Market
Location: Al Andalus
Date: November 15-16, 2024

Event: Winter Wonderland
Location: Shaab
Date: Daily

Event: Al-Farsi kite flying
Location: Bneidar Road 258
Date: Every Friday

Event: Kuwait University Marathon
Location: Sabah Al-Salem University City
Date: November 16, 2024

Event: Camel Race
Location: Kuwait Camel Racing Club
Date: November 16, 2024

Event: Sip and Shop Fall Expo
Location: AUK
Date: November 16, 2024

Event: Almikshat opening
Location: Northern Island, Jaber Causeway
Date: November 16, 2024

Event: Korean Clubs Orientation
Location: Madang
Date: November 16, 2024

Event: KFH Kids Walkathon
Location: KFH Auto Showroom
Date: November 16, 2024

Sports

Australia dominate Pakistan in truncated T20I series-opener

Bartlett and Nathan Ellis claim three wickets apiece

BRISBANE: Veteran batter Glenn Maxwell returned to form before quicks Xavier Bartlett and Nathan Ellis claimed three wickets apiece as Australia downed Pakistan by 29 runs in a truncated T20I series-opener in Brisbane on Thursday. The match was reduced to a contest with seven overs per side after a delayed start due to heavy rain and lightning. After Maxwell's blistering 43 off 19 balls powered a shorthanded Australia to an imposing 93-4, Pakistan's batting-order crumbled under lights to finish well short on 64-9. Ellis and Bartlett, who both enjoyed successful comebacks to the side after recent injuries, led an aggressive attack.

It was a resounding performance from an Australia side missing several top players, who are preparing for the upcoming blockbuster Test series against India. "We almost had our bags packed because we thought we wouldn't get a game in," Maxwell said. "We certainly had a lot of fun out there." The series shifts to the Sydney Cricket Ground on Saturday before the finale in Hobart on Monday. "It's difficult to keep things normal in this type of match because it went very fast," Pakistan captain Mohammad Rizwan said.

Under the revised playing conditions, bowlers were not allowed to bowl more than two overs each in a match that started more than two hours after schedule due to thunderstorms that have lashed Brisbane in recent days. Pakistan had been buoyed

after a surprising recent 2-1 ODI series victory ended a 22-year drought against the Australians in Australia. But after new T20 captain Rizwan elected to bowl, Pakistan's in-form fast bowlers were under siege against Australia's aggressive batters going for broke. Openers Jake Fraser-McGurk and Matt Short set the tone by smashing 16 runs off the first over.

Fraser-McGurk (9) fell off the first ball in the second over by quick Naseem Shah before Maxwell took over with four boundaries in his first six deliveries faced. Maxwell's trademark inventiveness came to the fore as he smashed in-form quick Haris Rauf, his tormentor in the ODI series, for a huge six over deep midwicket. The 36-year-old appeared headed for a half-century before holing out to paceman Abbas Afridi in the sixth over. Allrounder Marcus Stoinis finished Australia's innings strongly with an unbeaten 21 off seven balls.

In reply, Pakistan opener Sahibzada Farhan signaled his intent with consecutive boundaries off left-arm quick Spencer Johnson to start the innings. But he fell two balls later after miscuing a pull short and Pakistan's chase quickly nosedived. Rizwan fell for a second ball duck off Bartlett, who later in the second over dismissed Usman Khan. When talisman Babar Azam (3) holed out second ball to Ellis, Pakistan crashed to 16-4 and they never were in the hunt despite late hitting from Abbas, who top-scored with an unbeaten 20 off 10 balls. — AFP



BRISBANE: Australia's paceman Spencer Johnson bowls as Pakistan's batsman Mohammad Rizwan (right) looks on during the first Twenty20 international cricket match between Australia and Pakistan at The Gabba in Brisbane on Nov 14, 2024. — AFP

Osaimi hails Crown Prince and shooters

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah Shooting Championship will come to a close on Friday. Secretary General of Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federations Obaid Munahi Al-Osaimi expressed his satisfaction towards the success of the championship, which witnessed the participation of a large number of shooters from Kuwait, the Gulf, and Arab countries.

Al-Osaimi thanked HH the Crown Prince for his patronage. This, he said, motivated shooters to compete and record their desired achievements. He said competitions were very strong. Al-Osaimi congratulated Kuwait shooters for being at the top of the standings and wished them more success.

The results of Thursday's events were as follows: In the women's skeet competition, Eman Al-Shamma took the first position, followed by Afrah Adel (second) and Fatima Al-Zaabi (third). In the men's skeet, Mohammad Nasser Al-Awad grabbed the first position, followed by Dhari Al-Daihani (second) and Saud Al-Kandary (third). In the 25-meter rapid pistol, Hassan Al-Failakawi secured first place; Talal Al-Shimmari (second) and Abdulwahab Al-Mulla (third).

Meanwhile, in the Arab Shotgun tournament that is being held alongside the HH the Crown Prince tournament, Kuwait grabbed first in the skeet event, followed by Qatar (second) and Bahrain (third). As for the men's skeet event, Kuwait's Saud Al-Kandary took first, Kuwait's Abdulaziz Al-Saad (second), and Bahrain's Tammam Al-Wutah (third). As for the team event, Kuwait grabbed the first position, Bahrain



Obaid Munahi Al-Osaimi

Controversial 20-minute red card vote deferred

DUBLIN: A decision to extend trials for the controversial 20-minute red card in rugby union has been deferred until after the November Tests, the sport's governing body World Rugby said on Thursday. World Rugby trialed the change in the Rugby Championship earlier this year, allowing a team to replace a red-carded player after 20 minutes in the sin bin. It will also be used in the November Tests, much to the chagrin of the French and the Irish unions, the former arguing that at a time where concussion is a burning issue it could incite dangerous play.

National unions in South Africa, Australia and New Zealand back the proposal. The measure has drawn different responses from the two favorites to replace Bill Beaumont as World Rugby chairman in an election later on Thursday. Australia's Brett Robinson is strongly in favor while France's Abdelatif Benazzi is firmly opposed. "With cross-hemisphere international matches having only just begun, in line with the recommendation, the Council decided to delay consideration of the 20-minute red card trial until the conclusion of the Autumn Nations Series to enable further feedback and full data analysis to be considered," World Rugby said in a statement. The French players' union, Provale, claimed there was insufficient evidence to continue with the idea.

The French have argued only 60 percent of the teams to have received a red card across a sample of 480 games in the Top 14 and international games went on to lose the match. Four other laws did get passed for further trials from next year, in an effort to speed up the game and make it more spectator friendly. A 60-second conversion limit is to be imposed to align with penalties and improve game pace - which will be managed by a shot clock where possible. There will be a 30-second setup for lineouts which will match time for scrums to reduce downtime and will be managed on-field by the Match Officials. — AFP

UAE honors chairperson of Kuwait Women's Sports Federation

ABU DHABI: The United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Wednesday bestowed the Arab Sports Pioneers Award on Sheikhha Naima Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Chairperson of the Kuwait Women's Sports Federation and Honorary Chairwoman of the Organizing Committee for Women's Sports in the GCC. Sheikhha Naima expressed her gratitude in a press conference following the Fatima Bint Mubarak Women Sports Award 2024 ceremony held in Abu Dhabi.

She also thanked Sheikhha Fatima bint Mubarak, the "Mother of the Nation," Chairwoman of the General Women's Union (GWU), President of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, and Supreme Chairwoman of the Family Development Foundation (FDF). The award is an honor for Sheikhha Naima Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in recognition of her prominent role in raising the status of women's sports in the State of Kuwait and the Gulf region.

The ceremony also featured awards presented to Sana bint Hamad Al-Busaidi, Chairwoman of the



Oman Women's Sports Committee and Advisor to the Minister of Education, for her pioneering role in women's sports in the Sultanate of Oman and her leadership in numerous influential initiatives.

During the ceremony, Maryam Ahmed Abdullah Al-Zeyoudi from the UAE was awarded Best Paralympic Athlete; Marwa Al-Amri from Tunisia was honored as Best Female/Male Coach; Nahla Nabil

Bouzid Al-Maghribi from Sudan received the award for Best Sports Media Personality; and Latifa Mohammed Khalifa Al-Falasi from the UAE was recognized as Best Youth Athlete. The Zamalek Women's Volleyball Team from Egypt was awarded Best Team after winning the African Tournament trophy, and "Best Sports Mother" was given to Ruqayya Ahmed Abdullah Al-Zaabi from UAE. — KUNA

Wembanyama hits another milestone with 50-point game

MIAMI: Victor Wembanyama became the fourth-youngest player to score 50 points in an NBA game when the 20-year-old Frenchman led the San Antonio Spurs to a 139-130 win over the Washington Wizards on Wednesday. The first overall pick in last year's draft rattled up his career-high 50 points in just 26 minutes and ended the game with 18-29 shooting with eight three-pointers - also a career high. The Spurs center, whose previous highest-scoring game was 40, was at a loss to explain his incredible performance.

"I'd love to tell you that you wake up a certain way or you feel really smooth during warm-ups, but at the end of the day, in NBA games we got one game every other day," he said. "So every time we struggle to warm up, we have pain, you know, we sweat, we bleed on the court, so it's really a minute-to-minute thing, it comes to 48 minutes every game," he added. It was the third straight game in which Wembanyama had hit six-plus three-pointers. The three players who scored 50 points at a younger age than the Frenchman were Brandon Jennings, LeBron James and Devin Booker, all of whom were also aged 20.

The Spurs again won the game without head coach Gregg Popovich. The team said on Wednesday that he had suffered a mild stroke earlier this month but is expected to make a full recovery. Wembanyama wasn't the only player to break the 50-point mark on Wednesday. Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 59 as the Milwaukee Bucks beat the Detroit Pistons 127-120 in overtime. The Greek star shot 21 of 34 and had 14 rebounds and seven assists in what was the highest point performance by a player so far this season. "As a leader I keep reminding guys, don't take moments for granted. No matter who plays we don't give up and always have to find ways to win the game," said Antetokounmpo.

All Blacks fly-half Barrett returns from concussion against France

PARIS: New Zealand head coach Scott Robertson said on Thursday it was a difficult choice to start Beauden Barrett over Damian McKenzie at fly-half for this weekend's game with France in Paris. Barrett, 33, missed last week's win over Ireland with a head injury he suffered in the victory against England on November 2. The two-time World Rugby player of the year replaces McKenzie in the number 10 shirt, in five changes made by coach Robertson from the success in Dublin last Friday.



SAN ANTONIO: Victor Wembanyama #1 of the San Antonio Spurs scores his 50th point during the game against the Washington Wizards on Nov 13, 2024 at the Frost Bank Center in San Antonio, Texas. — AFP

Cavs roll on

The unbeaten Cleveland Cavaliers made it 13 straight wins in the NBA with a 114-106 victory at the Philadelphia 76ers. With the win the Cavs became just the sixth team to start a season with a 13-0 record and the first since the Golden State Warriors in the 2015-16 season. Darius Garland top-scored for Cleveland with 25 points while Donovan Mitchell put up 23 points along with nine assists and 13 rebounds. Mitchell ended the game on fire, scoring 11 points in a 1:35 spell in the fourth quarter. Cleveland trailed 54-48 at the half but turned it on in the third quarter. Yet it was a tight game until Mitchell made a 29-foot three-pointer with 2:52 remaining to open up a seven-point lead.

Mitchell conceded that the 13th game in 22 days had been a battle. "We all fought. Biggest thing is, obviously, we played a lot of games and it's going to test you." The streak is going to test you. These

games are going to test you. "We kept pushing, just continued to fight, continued to battle and we all did a great job," he said. Philadelphia's injury-plagued star center Joel Embiid, who made his first appearance of the season on Tuesday after nine games out with a knee issue, sat out the game and the 76ers were also without Paul George.

Rookie Jared McCain stepped up with 34 points for Philadelphia, who are 2-9 on the season. The Boston Celtics continued their strong start to the season. Their 139-114 win at the Brooklyn Nets extended their record to 10-3. Jayson Tatum put up 36 points, made 10 assists and grabbed eight rebounds as the reigning champion Celtics enjoyed a convincing victory. After a defeat to Atlanta in the NBA Cup on Tuesday, the Celtics trailed by two after the first quarter but grabbed a five-point lead by the half and dominated from then on. — AFP

"It was a very tough decision," former All Blacks back-rower Robertson told reporters before Saturday's encounter at the Stade de France where the All Blacks lost the World Cup final to South Africa a year ago. "It's a great discussion to have when you've got two 10s in form and both good tacticians, both kicking well. "Damian is probably the best player off the bench in the world, we believe. "That's his role when he comes on, he can change the game," the 50-year-old added.

Winger Sevu Reece, scrum-half Cam Roigard, flanker Samipeni Finau and hooker Codie Taylor are also the new faces as New Zealand eye a first win over France since 2018. Reece replaces the injured Mark Tele'a, Roigard comes in for Cortez Ratima and Taylor stands in for Asafo Aumua. Finau is in at blindside as Robert-

son re-shuffles his back-row due to Sam Cane's concussion as Ardie Savea moves to openside and Wallace Sititi is at No 8.

The 25-year-old Finau starts having played just 12 minutes off the bench against England and Ireland. "He's match fit, he's been in and around the group," Robertson said. "He's had a couple of cameos at the end of games but he's grown through the year," the former Crusaders coach added. Experienced lock Patrick Tuipulotu is set to win his 50th cap off the bench, a decade after making his Test debut. "It's been a bit of a long road for Patrick over the last 10 years to get to this point," Robertson said of the 31-year-old. "He's getting better with age. He's performed every time he's had the opportunity this year, so we're really pleased for him," Robertson added. — AFP

Sports

For profit or for all? Argentine clubs red-card Milei reforms

Debate rages over the soul of football

BUENOS AIRES: A debate over the soul of football is raging in World Cup holders Argentina, pitting defenders of the social role of the beautiful game against the government of libertarian President Javier Milei, who wants to turn clubs into for-profit companies. Argentina, which gave the world Diego Maradona and Lionel Messi, is home to some of the world's most devoted football fans - a fact attributed by supporters like Gabriel Nicosia to the clubs' community outreach. Nicosia is a lifelong supporter of San Lorenzo, a more-than-century-old first division club based in the working-class Buenos Aires neighborhood of Boedo where he grew up.

Several times a week he crosses town to have a coffee or work out in the club of which Argentina-born Pope Francis is a fan. "When I come here I meet my childhood friends. It's a fundamental pillar of everyday life," says the 50-year-old accountant, one of 80,000 members of a club whose stadium can only seat 48,000. Membership can be acquired for a modest 22,000 pesos (\$21) a month and comes with a vote on the club's management and tickets to local games. The club's role as the glue that binds the community is underscored by the 300 scholarships it awards each year to young people from a nearby shantytown.

The recipients get to indulge their own dreams of fame and fortune by hanging out close to the training grounds of millionaire players. Advocates of the not-for-profit model fear that this outreach could become a thing of the past if Milei manages to impose his free-market vision on the clubs. The president, an ardent defender of deregulation in all spheres of society, wants to change the statutes of the country's several thousand football clubs to allow them to become privately-owned for-profit companies.

'No-one cares' about owners

During campaigning for president last year, Milei



EZEIZA: Argentina's midfielder #05 Leandro Paredes (left), goalkeeper Geronimo Rulli (center) and forward #10 Lionel Messi practice during a training session in Ezeiza, Buenos Aires province. — AFP

cited Buenos Aires' famous Boca Juniors, of which he is a fan, in arguing: "No-one cares who the owner is if you beat (arch-rivals) River Plate 5-0 and you win the Club World Cup." The alternative, he said, was to "live with the misery that is Argentine football, which is deteriorating by the day." He has pointed to Europe's top clubs, several of which are owned by Gulf states or, were previously, by Russian oligarchs as a model for his country. But many Argentine clubs are

firmly opposed to any change of ownership.

Court setback for Milei

"Our club belongs to its people, its members and its partners who make it greater each day," was Boca Juniors' rejoinder. Argentine Football Association (AFA) president Claudio Tapia, who has one World Cup (2022) and two Copa America (2021, 2024) titles under his belt, has also made no secret of his opposition to the reforms. It's "not our football model,"

Tapia, whose re-election to another four-year term in October was seen as a rebuke to Milei's reform, told an AFA assembly in August. The president, a self-described "anarcho-capitalist", has forged ahead regardless. In August, his government ordered the AFA to amend its statutes to allow for-profit clubs to join. The decree was suspended by a court in September pending the outcome of a legal challenge by the AFA.

Following Brazil's lead

In Latin America, the pressure on clubs to open up to private investors is not unique to Argentina. In 2021, Brazil changed its laws to allow for-profit clubs and Argentina's neighbor Uruguay has also adopted the model. Some clubs see outside investment as a way to grow, attract new talent and ensure their funding into the future. Membership fees "are not enough" to cover a club's costs, San Lorenzo director Martin Cigna said, adding that without TV rights and transfer fees his club would be running "a million-dollar deficit." Former Argentine international Juan Sebastian Veron, who is president of another venerable club, Estudiantes, said they were preparing for a change to a "hybrid" model that would combine a "social" role with private funding.

Sports sociologist Veronica Moreira warned that a for-profit model would jeopardize club's non-commercial activities, with investors likely to "close anything that does not make a profit." The ball is still up in the air but tensions are rising between the AFA and Milei. The president has vowed to investigate "irregularities" at the AFA, whose leadership he has compared to that of authoritarian Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro. But for the moment, football fans are on the AFA's side. A poll carried out by the sports think tank Tactica showed 60.2 percent of Argentines interested in the sport opposed a change in the clubs' ownership. — AFP

Japan eye World Cup spot, expect a tough test

JAKARTA: Japan coach Hajime Moriyasu said Thursday he expects a tough test against an Indonesian team filled with European-born players when the two sides clash in World Cup qualifying in Jakarta. Japan are the leading team in Asia at 15th in the FIFA rankings and top qualifying Group C, with an unbeaten record after three wins and a draw. A potential victory over Indonesia in front of 78,000 fans in the country's capital puts an eighth straight World Cup berth within reach.

Indonesia are clear underdogs for Friday's match, sitting in fifth out of six teams in their qualifying group, but they have earned spirited draws against Australia, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. "Tomorrow's game will be very hard because the Indonesian players will be very defensive... so we have



Japanese national team coach Hajime Moriyasu

to play very aggressively," said Moriyasu. "Our goal is to be the champion. Tomorrow we will fight very hard." The top two from the three groups in the third stage of Asian qualifying will automatically reach the 2026 World Cup in the United States, Mexico and Canada, with third and fourth going into another qualifying stage.

Japan made it to the last 16 of the 2022 World Cup, where they lost to Croatia on penalties, while

Indonesia has only qualified once when it competed as the Dutch East Indies. Japan captain and out-of-favor Liverpool midfielder Wataru Endo said there was not an issue with his lack of playing time for his club, despite being used sparingly by new boss Arne Slot. "There is no problem because I try very hard, so my condition is okay," said the 31-year-old midfielder. "I will do my best 100 percent tomorrow."

Indonesia's South Korean coach Shin Tae-yong said the Red and Whites want to cause an upset against the Asian giants. "All the players and me are planning for a match without regrets," he said. "Nobody can anticipate or expect tomorrow's result." Shin said Australia and Saudi Arabia playing out a 0-0 draw on Thursday gave them extra hope. "The result is... actually an advantage for us. Except for Japan, all the other teams are just fighting each other," he said. "So I really think energy and luck is coming to us." Indonesia hope their new strategy of plucking Dutch-born players for its national team will pay dividends - with recent squads including as many as 10 - after it recently sparked an uptick in their performances. "The Indonesian national team is very different from before," said Moriyasu. — AFP



Referee David Coote

UEFA launches investigation into EPL referee Coote

LONDON: UEFA has appointed an ethics and disciplinary inspector to investigate Premier League referee David Coote after a video emerged of him allegedly snorting a white powder during Euro 2024. It comes after English referees body PGMOL (Professional Game Match Officials Limited) said it was taking fresh allegations about Coote "very seriously".

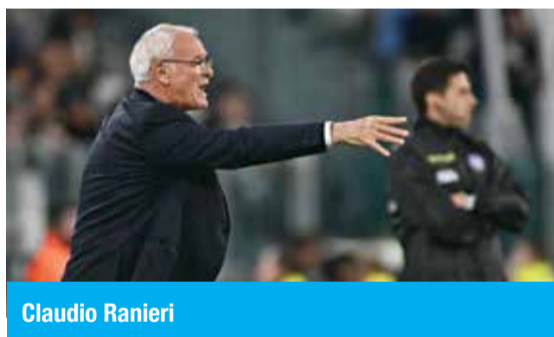
The 42-year-old was suspended by the PGMOL on Monday after different video footage was posted on social media appearing to show him making disparaging remarks about former Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp. Coote's comments about the German are also being investigated by the Football Association. On Wednesday another video appeared on the Sun newspaper's website which it said showed Coote snorting a white powder during Euro 2024 in Germany, where he was officiating. European football's governing body UEFA, which had already suspended Coote, has now opened an investigation into his conduct.

"A UEFA ethics and disciplinary inspector has been appointed to evaluate a potential violation of the UEFA disciplinary regulations by the referee Mr David Coote," it said in a statement. "Further information regarding this matter will be made available in due course." A PGMOL spokesman said on Wednesday that the organization was aware of the second video. "We are aware of the allegations and are taking them very seriously. David Coote remains suspended pending a full investigation," said a PGMOL spokesman. "David's welfare continues to be of utmost importance to us and we are committed to providing him with the ongoing necessary support he needs through this period. We are not in a position to comment further at this stage." — AFP

Ranieri comes out of retirement to lead hometown club Roma

MILAN: Claudio Ranieri took charge of his hometown team Roma on Thursday, coming out of retirement to become the Serie A club's third coach of a troubled season. Roma said that Ranieri, who won the Premier League title with Leicester City in 2016, has signed a deal until the end of the season. The 73-year-old will then "transition into a senior executive role, where he will be an adviser to the ownership on all sporting matters at the club". "The search for a future coach will proceed over the next months. Claudio will have input in that decision as well," added Roma.

Ranieri agreed to coach Roma for the third time following negotiations in London on Wednesday, after which he was mobbed by fans at Rome's Fiumicino airport. He replaces Ivan Juric, who was hired in September following the dismissal of former club captain Daniele De Rossi, but was sacked after Sunday's 3-2 home defeat at the hands of Bologna. Juric's short spell in charge was a disaster, with four wins from 12 matches in all competitions, and the former Croatia international left Roma 12th in Serie A, just four points above the relegation zone.



Claudio Ranieri

Ranieri announced the end of his club management career after guiding Cagliari to safety last season. He told Sky in Italy at the time that he would be interested in a national team job but he has made a comeback to help dig Roma out of a deep crisis. Ranieri returns to lead Roma out of a crisis for the second time after replacing the sacked Eusebio Di Francesco in March 2019 and helping to secure Europa League qualification.

But he is held in great affection by his fellow Roma fans primarily for his first spell in charge which began a decade before. He took over from Luciano Spalletti early in the 2009-10 season and led Roma on a thrilling league title challenge with Jose Mourinho's Inter Milan which went to the last day of the campaign. Ranieri has a baptism of fire as his team travel to Napoli after the international break before then facing Tottenham Hotspur in London and Atalanta at home. — AFP

Ski star Vonn targets competitive return

PARK CITY: Former Olympic and world champion Lindsey Vonn said Thursday she will rejoin the US ski team aged 40 in a bid to return to competitive skiing five years after retiring. Vonn left the sport in 2019, saying she was "broken beyond repair" after a series of major injuries but she has been free of pain since a partial right-knee replacement in April. "Getting back to skiing without pain has been an incredible journey," said Vonn in a US team statement. "I am looking forward to being back with the Stifel US Ski Team and to continue to share my knowledge of the sport with these incredible women."

Vonn was the most decorated female skier with 82 World Cup victories when she retired. Her mark has since been eclipsed by fellow American Mikaela Shiffrin. "Vonn's decision to try and return to ski racing comes after careful consideration following successful knee surgery earlier this year," the US ski team said. "She has been able to get back to training and test her knee over the past couple of months and will be continuing her progression with the Stifel US Ski Team in Colorado and beyond, representing a new exciting chapter in her already storied career." Vonn recorded her first World Cup victory in 2004 and won three Olympic medals—including downhill gold in 2010. — AFP

Classifieds

Clinics & Hospitals

Clinics

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

Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401

Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300

Change of Name

I, Nabila Tarannum, holder of Indian Passport No. U0749508 having permanent address J117, Garden Reach Road, Ram Nagar Lane, West Bengal, 700024, India, residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as Nabila (given name) and Arman Malik (surname). (#6193-13/11/2024)

my name will be read as Asia (given name) and Arman Malik (surname). (#6193-13/11/2024)

I, Asiya Tarannum, holder of Indian Passport No. V5158155 having permanent address J117, Garden Reach Road, Ram Nagar Lane, West Bengal, 700024, India, residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare that henceforth

I, Mohana Dusani holder of INDIAN passport No. M8399420 having Permanent address as 8-140-A Konda Venuka Palli, 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 purpose. 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. (13/11/2024)



KUWAIT: BNK Holding Chairman Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi chats with players and officials during the Premier Padel Kuwait P1 tournament. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Padel players try to secure top spots

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: The Premier Padel Kuwait P1 tournament, sponsored by BNK Holding, continues as the competition heats up. Padel players are trying to secure top spots in the upcoming rounds, aiming for the prestigious title and a share of the tournament's impressive €470,000 prize pool. Padel is a game of excitement and quickness, and it is picking up popularity in various parts of the world, including Kuwait. There are various clubs and training establishments for players and fans in Kuwait.

BNK Holding has seized the moment as it realized the potential of such a socially accepted game and organized the first "Kuwait City Premier Padel P1 Tournament." The event attracted a large number of elite world players who are seeking to win prize money and more trophies. The results of Thursday's tournament were as follows:

In the men's draw, P Cardona and F Mavarro defeated J Garcia and J Barahona in three sets (4-6, 6-1, 6-3), and A Chingotto and A Galan beat J Diestro and C Gutierrez in two sets (6-3, 7-6). Also, I Jofre and J Tello secured their place after defeating J

Gonzalez and E Alonso in three sets: 4-6, 7-5, 6-3. F Stupaczuk and M Yangusas overpowered L Camagnolo and J Leal in three sets, 6-7, 6-1, 6-4.

In the women's draw, the team of T Icardo Alcorisa and C Jensen Sirvent defeated A Blanco Rojo and S Ruize Soto 6-1, 6-1, while B Caldera Sanchez and L Rufo Ortiz triumphed over L Sainz Pelegri and P Liaguno Zielinski 6-2, 6-4. Also, G Triay Pons and C Fernandez Sanchez beat M Merino Saez and E Carnicero Marin 6-3, 6-2. In other matches, A Salazar Bengoechea and J Castello Lopez defeated L Martinez Gomez and C Mesa Salazar 6-2, 7-5; M Ortega Callego and S

Araujo beat M Barrera De La Fuente and M Caparros Maldonado 6-2, 6-2; A Sanchez Fallada and P Josemeria Martin dominated R Eugenio and M Fassio Goyeneche 6-1, 7-6, while V Virseda and A Osoro Ulrich crushed M Talavan and J Bidahorria 6-2, 6-0.

Under the leadership of BNK Holding Chairman Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi, the Premier Padel Kuwait P1 tournament has drawn over 150 top-ranked global players to Kuwait, marking the country's significant entry into the Premier Padel circuit. The tournament (scheduled from November 9-17) is taking place at The Arena, 360 Mall, and the Rafa Nadal Academy.



Players are pictured during the match.



South Korea beat Kuwait 3-1 in World Cup qualifiers

By Abdellatif Sharaa and Agencies

KUWAIT: Kuwait football team on Thursday lost the match against South Korea 3-1 in the matches of the second group for the 2026 World Cup qualifiers. South Korea now holds 16 points, while the Kuwaiti team remains with three. It will play in the 6th round against Jordan, on Tuesday, at the International Jaber Al-Ahmad Stadium. Kuwait's coach had a formation of mostly young players at the start of the match, but it was not enough to face the attacking strength of the Koreans.

Son Heung-min scored a landmark 50th goal for his country to put South Korea a step closer to the World Cup on Thursday as Australia and Saudi Arabia cancelled each other out. Spurs and South Korean skipper Son missed last month's qualifiers with injury but celebrated his return with a first-half penalty in a 3-1 win at Kuwait. Victory left South Korea comfortably top of Group B with four wins and a draw after five matches and on course for the 2026 World Cup in North America.

The top two teams in each of the three Asian qualifying groups will reach the showpiece in the United States, Canada and Mexico. With this phase of qualifying approaching a halfway point, South Korea took

a 10th-minute lead in Kuwait when striker Oh Se-hun rose highest to powerfully head home. Nine minutes later it was 2-0 to the visitors after Son - playing in his 130th game for South Korea - won the penalty and then picked himself up to bury it with minimum fuss. Mohammad Daham struck on the hour to halve the deficit with a delicious half-volley.

But substitute Bae Jun-ho, who had replaced Son, made the game safe for South Korea with their third 14 minutes later when he refilled in at the near post. In Group C, Saudi Arabia had a goal disallowed in added time in a 0-0 draw against Australia in Melbourne that did neither side any favors in their bid to qualify. In his first game back in charge following the sacking of Roberto Mancini, Herve Renard thought his visitors had snatched a late winner when Sultan Al-Ghannam fired home from just inside the box in the 93rd minute. But the flag went up with one of his Saudi teammates offside.

"We had some good opportunities but we have to go give our opponent credit. First half we didn't play very well," said Socceroos coach Tony Popovic. "We were not very good with the ball while they were sharp and energetic. "We improved significantly in the second half, which is good," he added. It left Australia and Saudi Arabia level on six points in their scrap for second place in the group. China joined them with the same number of points after scoring in the 91st-minute for a crucial 1-0 win at Bahrain. Zhang Yuning prodded home just minutes after Bahrain had what they thought was a winner of their own ruled out by VAR for offside.

Japan can extend their lead at the top of Group C when they meet Indonesia in Jakarta on Friday.



KUWAIT: South Korea's midfielder #10 Lee Jae-sung controls the ball ahead of Kuwait's forward #09 Salman Al-Awadhi during the 2026 FIFA World Cup Asian qualification football match between Kuwait and Korea at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium on November 14, 2024. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat