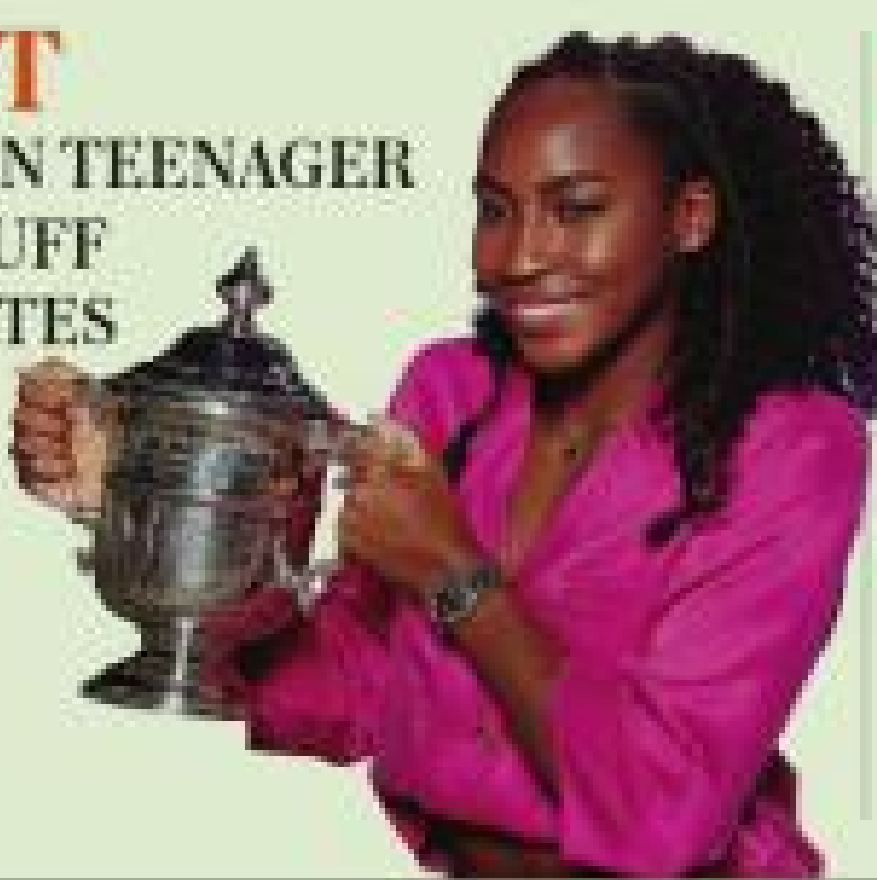


SPORT
AMERICAN TEENAGER
COCO GAUFF
CELEBRATES
US OPEN
VICTORY
Page 15



OPINION
US SHOULD REPLICATE
THE IRAQI AWAKENING
IN NORTHEAST
SYRIA
By Dr. Dania Kellelat Khatib
Page 9



SAUDI ARABIA
WINNERS OF NATIONAL CULTURAL AWARDS
SHINE IN RIYADH Page 6



& FINALLY
ROZ SPOTTED
AT NEW YORK
FASHION WEEK
Page 16



MONDAY, September 11, 2023
Safar 26, 1445
www.arabnews.com

ARAB NEWS

The Voice of a Changing Region

SINCE 1975

DIPLOMACY

Crown prince holds fruitful talks with world leaders at G20 summit

'You are amazing': Young Indians delighted to see how Saudi ties are growing under him



Rahaf Jambi New Delhi

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman held talks with several world leaders in New Delhi where the G20 summit drew to a close on Sunday.

After leading the Saudi delegation at the summit, the crown prince will embark on an official state visit to India at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The crown prince met Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and discussed developments in Saudi-Japanese relations.

The nations have enjoyed long-standing cooperation on energy, including hydrogen power.

High-ranking officials from both governments attended the talks.

The crown prince held talks with Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, during which he reiterated the Kingdom's commitment to bolstering relations with the South Asian nation.

The crown prince told of his satisfaction with Saudi Arabia's investments in Bangladesh, including the Patenga Container Terminal, the Port of Payra, and ACWA Power's solar projects across the country. Hasina formally invited the crown prince to visit Bangladesh.

Latin American leaders including Argentina's President Alberto Fernandez and Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva also held talks with the crown prince.

Later, the crown prince met Charles Michel, president of the European Council.

With Saudi Arabia in the lime-light, politicians as well as common Indians are noticing how fast their country is getting closer to the Kingdom.

Shri Sehgal, a young entrepreneur, told Arab News he has been hearing a lot about Saudi Arabia



Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman reiterated the Saudi commitment to boosting ties with Bangladesh during his talks with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. SPA

INSIDE

• Tightrope act in a divided world P3

• Building blocks of inclusive economies P4

• Brazil's priorities and challenges P5

• Arab guests at G20 summit put Global South at center stage P5

lately. "Right now, it's very amazing — our trade relations and even our respect for Prince Mohammed bin Salman ... we have huge respect for what he is doing for Saudi Arabia and how he's growing relationships with our country as well," he said.

"They are growing, especially the football, how the Cristiano Ronaldo's signing has changed the field of Saudi football, it's actually amazing and I hope the Vision 2030 project will become even stronger," he said.

"You are amazing. Keep it up. There's a huge future incoming for you guys, and I hope it's only going to get better."

Others, like Abhiraj Sharma, a sales representative, drew most of their knowledge about Saudi Arabia from the local media and India's own efforts to promote the ties.

"We've become close lately and the relation between us and Saudi is so good. And our prime minister also supports the Saudis," he told Arab News.

Raju John, a hospitality professional from Kerala, remembered how it all started and that connection brought sudden prosperity to his home state in the 1980s.

"Thanks very much for the economic boom 30-40 years ago," he said. (You were) giving us lots of job opportunities in your country," he said about Saudi Arabia.

"A few best things I heard about Saudis are their generosity, hospitality ... I feel very happy about the fast-improving relationship between India and Saudi Arabia."

MARKET TARGETED

46 killed, dozens injured in Sudan air raids

AFP Wad Madani, Sudan

Airstrikes killed at least 46 people and injured dozens Sunday at a Khartoum market, local activists said, one of the deadliest single attacks in Sudan's nearly five months of war.

The bombing in the south of Sudan's capital came about a week after another airstrike, also in southern Khartoum, killed 20 civilians on Sept. 2, according to activists.

The number of victims in Sunday's "Qouro market massacre" had risen to 46 by evening, said the local resistance committee, one of many groups that used to organize pro-democracy protests and now provide assistance during the war.

In its statement, the committee

FAST FACT

The hospital had issued an 'urgent appeal' for all medical professionals in the area to come and help treat the 'increasing number of injured people arriving.'

tee revised an earlier toll of 30 killed. It added there were "dozens wounded" and said casualties continued to pour into the nearby Bashair hospital.

"At about 7:15 a.m. (0515 GMT), military aircraft bombed the Qouro market area," the committee said.

A conservative estimate from the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project says nearly 7,500 people have been killed in the war that began on April 15 between army chief Abdel Fattah el-Burhan and his former deputy, Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, who commands the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces.

In early July an airstrike on a residential area of Omdurman, Khartoum's sister city, killed around two dozen people and drew condemnation from the UN.

DISASTER

Morocco rescuers scour rubble for survivors after quake kills 2,100

Spain, France, US, IMF, World Bank, African Union, European Commission pledge to help victims

AFP Tangier/Agadir

Using heavy equipment and even their bare hands, rescuers in Morocco on Sunday stepped up efforts to find survivors of a devastating earthquake that killed more than 2,100 people and flattened villages.

The first foreign rescuers flew in to help after the North African country's strongest-ever quake killed at least 2,122 people and injured more than 2,400, many seriously, according to official figures updated late on Sunday.

Friday's 6.8-magnitude quake — the strongest in the North African country's history — struck 72 km southwest of the tourist hub



of Marrakesh, wiping out entire villages. On Sunday an aftershock of magnitude 4.5 rattled already-traumatized residents in the same region.

Amid the debris, civilian rescuers and members of Morocco's armed forces searched for survivors and the bodies of the dead.

According to Moroccan pub-

lic television, "more than 18,000 families have been affected" by the quake in Al-Haouz.

Spain said an A400 airlifter took off from Zaragoza with 56 rescuers and four search dogs headed for Marrakesh to "help in the search and rescue of survivors."

French President Emmanuel Macron said his country has mobilized "all technical and security teams to be able to intervene, when the Moroccan authorities deem it useful."

Macron, along with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the heads of the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, African Union and European Commission, also pledged, in a joint statement, to

"mobilize our technical and financial tools and assistance" to help the people of Morocco.

The US said it also had search-and-rescue teams ready to deploy, and Pope Francis on Sunday again expressed support for those affected by the disaster.

The Brief

CHARITY PROJECT

The Tayf Aziz convoy, a project run by the Charitable Society of Autism Families, has reached the Madinah region as part of its Kingdom-wide journey. P6

LEBANON CLASHES

All efforts to secure a new ceasefire in between Fatah and the extremist groups in the Ain Al-Hilweh Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon have been halted following recent bloodshed. P7

HOUSING BOOM

Saudi Arabia is expected to witness a boom in the housing sector, with the government announcing projects worth over SR65 billion (\$17.3 billion). P12

2 Riyals • Vol. XLVIII
No. 279 • 16 pages



9 771319 833061

37 >

The economic corridor between India, the Middle East and Europe confirms the Kingdom's strategic geographical location linking the East and the West. The vision is global and the leadership is Saudi.

Salman Al-Dossary
Saudi media minister



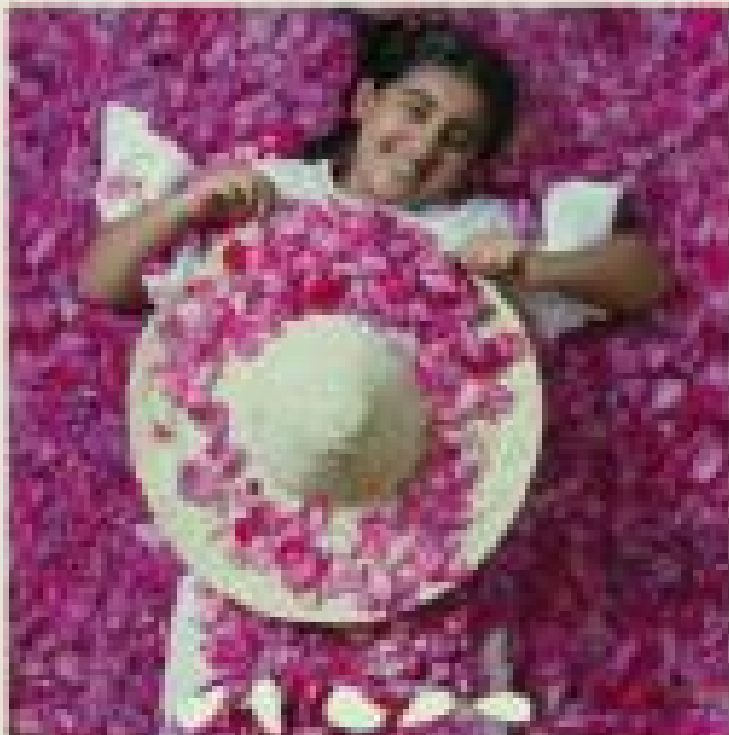
Radar

KSA today



Riyadh Pottery workshop

Moraj Ahmad will teach participants the basics of pottery in this workshop. Learn how to use a pottery wheel and mold clay to create mugs. For more details, visit experiences.suplift.com.



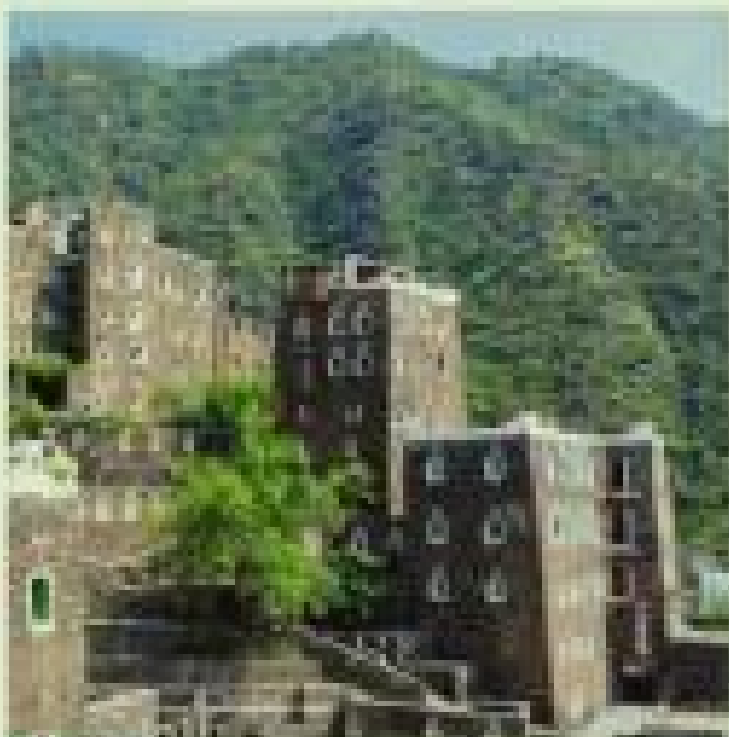
Taif Rich heritage

Experience the captivating Hawa Al-Taif Festival, which includes singing concerts, entertainment areas, markets, and the opportunity to visit picturesque rose farms nestled in the breathtaking mountains of Taif. Find more information on ticketingboxoffice.com.



Ithra Book exchange

The Kutubiah Exhibit, a book exchange fair held at Ithra Plaza, encourages readers to indulge in the gift of swapping reads. A great place to meet like-minded people. For more information, visit ithra.com.



Asir Heritage tour

Embark on an exciting three-day adventure exploring Abha, Al-Namas, Rijal Almaa, and other captivating destinations. Book through the Hala Yalla app.

The Register

THE PICTURES THAT MARK THE DAY



Saudi Minister of Economy and Planning Faisal bin Fadel Al-Ibrahim on Sunday met Swiss State Secretary for Economic Affairs Helene Budliger

Artieda in Riyadh. During the meeting, Al-Ibrahim and Artieda discussed strengthening economic relations and opportunities for trade and investment cooperation

between the two countries, and a number of issues of common interest. They also discussed the most prominent developments in regional and international arenas of mutual concern.

Today's Number

3.5m

The Red Sea Global landscape nursery has grown 3.5 million plants and distributed 500,000 more throughout its broad array of assets, reaching its maximum operational capacity.

Who's Who



Abdulrahman bin Mansour

Abdulrahman bin Mansour is a financial expert and leader, currently serving as the acting CEO of the Small and Medium Enterprises Bank. He is also the chairman of the board of directors of the Financing Guarantee Program known as Kafalah and holds a pivotal role as a member of the executive committee supervising SABIC's national initiative Nusaned. With more than two decades of experience in the financial industry, Mansour has demonstrated expertise in investment, financing and financial management. Throughout his career, Mansour has proven to be an expert in developing financial strategies, investment and project finance. His contributions have positively impacted numerous leading institutional investors and major projects, both locally and internationally. Mansour's financial capability extends to leading international joint ventures in various sectors, including the Alcoa projects, metals companies, and maritime industry projects of Saudi Aramco. His ability to navigate complex financial transactions has been instrumental in the success of these ventures. Mansour had previously served as vice president for finance and investment, overseeing the Qiddiya project. His work at the Saudi Arabia Industrial Investments Company, where he held the position of executive vice president of business, further added to his experience and leadership capabilities. He is a certified management accountant and earned a master's degree in business administration with a specialization in finance from the University of Manchester in the UK. He also obtained a certificate in executive financial education from both INSEAD College in France and University of London's business college.

What's Trending

Today's hot topics explained by Afshan Aziz



MIXED REACTIONS Kamala Harris

Kamala Harris recently showcased her dance moves at a White House party commemorating the 50th anniversary of hip-hop. However, it has sparked mixed reactions among viewers. The event featured appearances by influential pioneers and stars of the genre, including Common, Jeezy, MC Lyte, and Roxanne Shante. The genesis of the genre is often traced back to a party thrown by Clive and Cindy Campbell on Aug. 11, 1973, when Clive Campbell, also known as DJ Kool Herc, played hip-hop beats at the back-to-school party in his Bronx apartment in New York City. In videos that have been circulating, the US vice president was seen sporting hot pink slacks and a neon blouse reminiscent of the 90s. While dancing, she bopped with a stiff yet enthusiastic energy, nodding her head to the music. During the celebration, Harris expressed her admiration for hip-hop, proclaiming it as "the ultimate American art form" that significantly shapes every aspect of popular culture in America. Critics of the politician swiftly seized the opportunity to let their thoughts be known. @BeachbunnyMy posted: "What an embarrassment. I'm sure other countries are having a field day with her in this video." @JayneKBerry1 commented: "Her dance moves are on a par with her skill level in dealing with our border crisis." Meanwhile, @pinkdaisy914 said: "I think she's a Beautiful Woman! Great Moves, & she's looking great enjoying the nice party!"

RIOT ROSE MAYERS

Rihanna

Barbadian singer and songwriter Rihanna and her rapper partner A\$AP Rocky's second son's name has been revealed a month after his birth. According to the Blast, the couple has chosen to name their son Riot Rose Mayers. The rapper's recent track, titled "Riot" and featuring Pharrell Williams, could have been a nod to his son's distinctive name. The birth certificate, obtained by the publication, indicates that Riot was born on Aug. 1 at 7:41 a.m. in Los Angeles' Cedar Sinai Hospital. In keeping with their naming tradition, the couple have chosen a name starting with the letter "R" for their second child. Their firstborn, RZA Athelston Mayers, arrived in May last year. Rihanna's OB-GYN was noted as Thais Aliabadi. Aliabadi serves as the official OB-GYN for Hollywood celebrities such as Kylie Jenner and Khloe Kardashian and recently helped to deliver the son of Al Pacino and his girlfriend, Noor Alfallah, named Roman Alfallah Pacino.

Fans eagerly anticipate the release of the first public images of Riot, especially considering that Rihanna had previously shared snapshots of her first son seven months after his birth. Rihanna announced her second pregnancy by proudly displaying her baby bump during the Super Bowl halftime show in February earlier this year. The name given to their first-born son is a tribute to the de facto leader of the hip-hop group Wu-Tang Clan, RZA, also known as Robert Fitzgerald Diggs. It also incorporates A\$AP Rocky's middle name. With the arrival of Riot, an insider revealed to PEOPLE that Rihanna feels her family is complete and hinted that there may not be plans for further additions. Motherhood has been a transformative experience for Rihanna, as she shared in a March interview with British Vogue: "Having a kid honestly unlocks another side of life where you're now in the matrix with the people who've already had kids. You come to have a different respect for moms and dads."



TheRegion

The Middle East Roundup

Arab News Jeddah

• Machete, a rock band renowned for emotionally charged lyrics and captivating melodies, will be performing hits like "Tenderness" in Dubai on Monday. The musical extravaganza promises to create a lively party ambience, perfect for a night out with friends. Held at the Ritz-Carlton, Jumeirah Beach Residence, in Dubai, it starts at 7 p.m.

• Learn the art of linocut print-making, which involves creating prints on linoleum, at a four-part workshop. Attendees will discover how to transfer their compositions onto the linoleum block, while exploring the concept of negative and positive spaces. Led by Noor Qasbi, the workshop will also provide an opportunity to learn about the Museum of Islamic Art's collection. It runs until Sept. 13, from 4 p.m. to

6 p.m., at the Museum of Islamic Art in Doha, Qatar.

• A complimentary bus tour around Diyar Al-Muharraq in Bahrain will provide a memorable Saudi National Day celebration. The bus will be adorned with the Saudi flag for the occasion and there will be multiple stops throughout the city. You can take the tour until Dec. 31.

Prayer Times in Saudi Arabia

Sept. 11	Fajr	Sunrise	Dhuhr	Asr	Maghreb	Isha
Makkah	4:50	6:06	12:18	3:44	6:29	7:59
Madinah	4:48	6:05	12:19	3:47	6:32	8:02
Riyadh	4:19	5:37	11:51	3:19	6:03	7:33
Abha	4:43	5:56	12:08	3:30	6:17	7:47
Dammam	4:04	5:22	11:37	3:07	5:51	7:21

India has truly consolidated G20 members from the Global South.

Sergey Lavrov
Minister of foreign affairs of
the Russian Federation



Spotlight

G20 SUMMIT 2023



The G20 summit in New Delhi, whose closing session, main, took place on Sunday, saw the entry of the African Union to a club that accounted for 80 percent of global economic output and 75 percent of international trade. AFP

ANALYSIS

Tightrope act in a divided world

From advocating for the Global South to achieving consensus on joint statement, India wins praise for its G20 stewardship

Sanjay Kumar New Delhi

Heads of government and international organizations paid their respects to Indian Independence leader Mahatma Gandhi as the 18th summit of the G20 came to a close, marking the end of a year-long Indian presidency.

India handed over the baton on Sunday to Brazil, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi calling for a virtual meeting in November to review progress on the policy suggestions and goals announced over the weekend.

"It is our responsibility to look at the suggestions that have been made to see how progress can be accelerated," he said.

Under India's presidency, which officially runs until November, the group addressed the major agenda items on the first day of the annual leaders' two-day summit, having admitted the 55-member bloc African Union as a permanent member and adopted a leaders' declaration that had earlier been a matter of contention.

The declaration came as a surprise owing to the known deep divisions within the G20 over Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Apparently, consensus was reached on Saturday after delegates from the world's most economically important countries reportedly found a compromise on language used in reference to the war.

In the 37-page document, the G20 avoided condemning fellow member Russia for the war but highlighted the human suffering caused by the conflict as it called on all states not to use force to grab territory.

"We will unite in our endeavor to address the adverse impact of the war on the global economy and welcome all relevant and constructive initiatives that support a comprehensive, just, and durable peace in Ukraine ... today's era must not be of war," it said.

With those major items taken care of, several G20 heads of government visited the Rajghat memorial site in New Delhi on Sunday, where they shook hands and posed for

Accompanied by Narendra Modi, several Western and East Asian leaders paid their respects at the Mahatma Gandhi memorial, right and below, in New Delhi on Sunday. Bottom: The Indian prime minister greeted Azali Assoumani, the African Union chairman and president of the Comoros, on his arrival at the G20 summit venue on Saturday. AFP



photos with Modi. Each was given a shawl made of khadi, a handspun fabric Gandhi had promoted during India's independence movement against British rule.

In a customary show of respect, most of the leaders, including Indonesian President Joko Widodo and British Prime Minister Rishi

Sunak, walked barefoot to the site where Gandhi was cremated following his assassination in 1948.

The G20 earlier comprised 19 states and the EU, and accounted for more than 80 percent of global economic output, 75 percent of international trade and about two-thirds of the world's population.

FASTFACT

During the summit in New Delhi, the G20 adopted a consensus declaration that made commitments on food and energy security, climate change and global debt vulnerabilities, among other issues.

For Sanjay Kapoor, editor of the English fortnightly Hard News, the recent summit stood out for several "significant" accomplishments.

"India managed to walk the tightrope without causing embarrassment to world leaders who were absent from the gathering," he told Arab News.

The leaders of China, Russia, Spain and Mexico did not attend the summit in New Delhi.

"G20, which was being challenged by an empowered and enlarged BRICS, has revived after the Delhi summit."

BRICS, which includes Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, recently invited another six countries to join: Saudi Arabia, Iran, Ethiopia, Egypt, Argentina and the UAE. BRICS has been accelerating its push to reshuffle a world order many see as outdated, challenging the G20's position as the premier forum for international

economic cooperation.

Harsh V. Pant, vice president of Observer Research Foundation in New Delhi, believes the 18th G20 summit has created "a new template for reform multilateralism."

"By putting the Global South, or the developing world, at the core of its G20 agenda, India has certainly tried to make a case for a new kind of multilateralism that is more dynamic, more forward-looking, and more responsive to the challenges of our times," Pant told Arab News.

According to him, the AU's entry into the G20 is a concrete example of a more inclusive multilateral process that India has touted since the beginning of its presidency, which is pushing countries to think more creatively on how to solve global challenges.

"India also has framed the global governance agenda around the Global South, and that means that all future endeavors in multilateralism will have to in some ways demonstrate their adaptability to the Global South agenda," Pant said.

On the sidelines of this year's summit, India made other breakthroughs, including an international partnership to establish the ambitious India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor, which saw Saudi Arabia, the EU, India, UAE, France, Germany, Italy and the US sign a memorandum of understanding.

"The IMEC is expected to stimulate economic development through enhanced connectivity and economic integration between Asia, the Arabian Gulf

and Europe," the MoU reads.

IMEC also seeks efficiency and cost reduction, while promoting economic unity in the hopes of generating jobs and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Separately, India launched the Global Biofuel Alliance initiative, which is aimed at fostering global collaboration for the advancement and widespread adoption of biofuels.

These efforts are seen by many observers as indicative of a sincere attempt to offer solutions to pressing global issues.

"I think there is an attempt to articulate concrete solutions to global problems rather than just words," Pant said, referring to the accomplishments made by India during its G20 presidency in general and the summit in particular. "The outcome has been very concrete and, in some ways, very target-oriented."

The general consensus of analysts is that India's stewardship of the G20 has solidified its reputation on the international stage.

"India has been able to demonstrate its credentials as a global leader. There have been times in the past when it has been questioned, whether India can lead, but with this G20 India has shown it is willing and able to lead on global governance," Pant said.

His view was seconded by Aditya Ramanathan, a research fellow with the Takshashila Institution in Bengaluru, who said India has been able to elevate its international diplomatic standing through its G20 presidency.

"It is clearly a triumph of Indian diplomacy and a testament to India's position in the world today," he told Arab News.

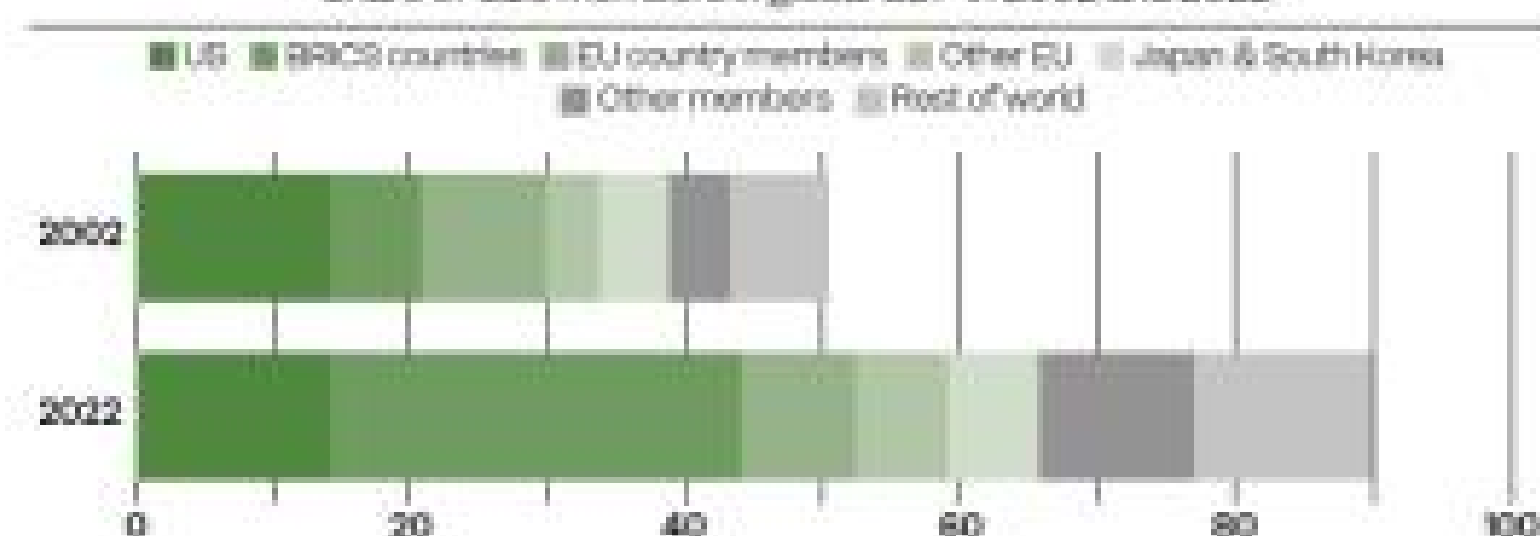
"What we're seeing is India very consciously raising its diplomatic stature and demonstrating that it can lead as well as shape complex multilateral negotiations."

"India has thus far been successful at leveraging its position in a divided world. However, this is a tricky game and India will need to play its cards cleverly to maintain and expand its diplomatic influence in the future."



HOW THE G20 POWER DYNAMIC SHIFTED

Share of G20 members in global GDP in 2002 and 2022



The EU added 13 new members between 2004 and 2013

EU-direct members: France, Germany, Italy (UK until Jan. 2020), all others represented through EU Commission membership

Source: World Bank, Statista

ARAB NEWS

DIPLOMACY

A series of fruitful bilateral meetings

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman holds talks with assembled world leaders on margins of the G20 summit

Arab News New Delhi

On the sidelines of the G20 leaders' summit in the Indian capital New Delhi, which drew to a close on Sunday, Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman held bilateral talks with several world leaders and their representatives.

The crown prince was in the city to lead the Kingdom's delegation at the summit before embarking on an official state visit at the invitation of India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which will take in trade talks and a business forum.

The crown prince met Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Saturday, the parties discussing developments in Saudi-Japanese relations. The nations have enjoyed long-standing cooperation on energy, including hydrogen power.

High-ranking officials from both governments attended the talks, including the Kingdom's Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan; National Security Adviser Dr. Musaed Al-Aiban; Minister of Commerce Dr. Majid Al-Qasabi; Minister of Investment Khalid



Al-Falih; and Minister of Finance Mohammed Al-Jadaan.

The crown prince held talks with Sheikh Hasina, the prime minister of Bangladesh, on Sunday morning, during which he reiterated the Kingdom's commitment to bolstering relations with the South Asian nation, according to the Saudi Press Agency.

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman held bilateral meetings in New Delhi with a number of world leaders. Clockwise from top left: European Council President Charles Michel; Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina; Japanese PM Fumio Kishida; Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva; Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan; and Argentina's President Alberto Fernandez. SPA/Twitter

The crown prince told of his satisfaction with Saudi Arabia's many investments in Bangladesh, including the Patenga Container Terminal, the Port of Payra, and ACWA Power's solar projects across the country. Hasina formally invited the crown prince to visit Bangladesh.

Latin American leaders also sat

down with the crown prince on Sunday, including Argentina's President Alberto Fernandez, and Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

The crown prince also held talks with Charles Michel, president of the European Council.

Throughout India's presidency of the G20, Saudi Arabia's delegations

have proactively participated in various meetings covering a wide range of topics, from energy and finance to culture, youth, and women's empowerment.

India concluded its G20 presidency on Sunday after hosting

INNUMBERS

18,000

The number of delegates from more than 115 different nationalities who attended more than 220 meetings across 60 Indian cities.

the leaders and representatives of the 19 permanent members alongside those of nine guest nations and three regional organizations. Brazil is now poised to assume the G20 presidency for 2024.

Upon accepting the ceremonial gavel, Brazil's President Lula said on Sunday his country's presidency would prioritize social inclusion and the fight against hunger, along with energy transition, sustainable development, and the reform of global governance institutions.

INTERVIEW

The building blocks of inclusive economies

G20 Empower Alliance works to advance the rights and participation of women, says Saudi 'sherpa' Sheila Al-Rowaily

Lama Alhamawi Riyadh

Economies squander a wealth of talent and experience when they deny women the same opportunities as men to study, work, start businesses, and rise to positions of leadership. That is why the G20 has made women's empowerment a key feature of its program.

During its presidency of the Group of 20 largest economies, India assumed leadership of the G20 Empower Alliance, an initiative devoted to advancing reforms related to women's social and economic rights and their inclusion in top decision making.

Such reforms range from enhancing financial inclusion, expanding opportunities for quality and gainful employment, fostering education and skills development, especially in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, and promoting women's leadership.

"The remarkable work undertaken by the G20 Empower Alliance empowers women to confront future challenges through avenues such as economic empowerment, digital inclusion, gender equality, education and training, especially in STEM fields, and networking and mentorship," Sheila Al-Rowaily, vice president of the private sector delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, told Arab News on the fringes of the G20 leaders' summit in New Delhi.

Al-Rowaily was last year appointed as the first woman in the history of the Kingdom to serve on the board of directors of the Saudi Central Bank.

Launched during the 2019 summit in Osaka, Japan, the alliance, formally known as the G20 Alliance for the Empowerment and Progression of Women's Economic Representation, entrusts each year's presidency with the responsibility of spearheading its initiatives.

These initiatives are tailored to focus on specific pillars and objectives determined by the host country. During Indonesia's G20 presidency in 2022, for example, the focus was



The alliance, above, performs remarkable work promoting digital inclusion, says Sheila Al-Rowaily, bottom. Supplied

on promoting women's economic empowerment and gender equality.

India's G20 presidency centered on three core objectives — education, promoting partnerships, and fostering women's economic empowerment and entrepreneurship through access to technology and digital skills.

Under India's leadership, significant progress was made in advancing gender equality and in empowering women across various sectors, including labor force participation, financial inclusion, education, health, and leadership.

The G20 Empower Alliance leverages partnerships between governments and business leaders in member countries to accelerate the promotion of women to leadership roles in the private sector.

Collaboration with the private sector brings invaluable expertise, resources, and perspectives to



the table, driving inclusive growth and gender equality. It is designed to equip women with the tools, resources, and support systems necessary to confront the challenges of the future.

During Saudi Arabia's G20 presidency in 2020, the Kingdom hosted conferences, workshops, dialogues, and capacity-building programs dedicated to advancing gender equality and women's economic empowerment.

The three main pillars of Saudi Arabia's focus included legal and policy reforms to eliminate discriminatory practices against women across different sectors; efforts to enhance access to financial services; and improvements to labor market participation by addressing challenges related to skills development, training, employment opportunities, and work-life balance.

Under India's G20 presidency,

INDIA G20 EMPOWER ALLIANCE OUTCOMES

- **Women's Labor Force Participation:** The G20 countries committed to reducing the gender gap in labor force participation by 25 percent by 2025. This commitment aimed to increase women's access to quality employment opportunities and remove barriers to their entry and retention in the workforce.
- **Financial Inclusion:** The G20 Empower initiative focused on enhancing women's financial inclusion by promoting access to financial services, digital payments and entrepreneurship opportunities. This aimed to empower women economically and enable them to take part fully in economic activities.
- **Education and Skills Development:** The G20 countries emphasized the importance of education and skills development for women and girls. Efforts were made to enhance access to quality education, vocational training and lifelong learning opportunities for women, ensuring their equal participation in various fields.
- **Health and Well-being:** The G20 Empower initiative recognized the importance of women's health and well-being. It aimed to improve access to healthcare services, including sexual and reproductive health services, as well as address gender-based violence.
- **Women's Leadership:** India encouraged greater representation of women in leadership positions across sectors through mentorship programs, capacity-building initiatives and promoting inclusive policies.

member countries committed to reducing the gender gap in labor force participation by 25 percent by 2025, with the aim of increasing access to quality employment opportunities and breaking down barriers that hinder women accessing the workplace.

G20 countries this year also addressed issues related to gender-based violence, women's health services, and access to education and training.

In a significant move designed to expand educational opportunities for women, India launched TechEquity, a digital inclusion platform offering more than 90 courses benefiting 1 million users in 120 languages. Additionally, India spearheaded the G20 Mentorship Program.

Al-Rowaily said the G20 Empower Alliance brings governments together to coordinate and align policies, reduce conflicts, and promote stability in the global financial markets, leading to more efficient and effective policy responses to economic challenges, ultimately benefiting national economies.

The initiatives led by the G20 Empower Alliance directly impact policy coordination, economic growth, financial stability, development assistance, and international cooperation.

The alliance creates an enabling environment for economic growth by promoting investment, innovation and infrastructure development through agreements on trade liberalization.

While progress in empowering and advancing women's economic representation has been significant, Al-Rowaily said that there are still areas requiring attention and improvement.

"By sharing best practices, knowledge exchange, and joint problem-solving approaches through G20 Empower Alliance initiatives, nations can benefit from each other's experiences and expertise to improve their own economic performance," Al-Rowaily said.



G20 PRESIDENCY

Brazil clear-eyed about its priorities and challenges

Latin American country expected to continue giving voice to concerns of emerging economies

Sanjay Kumar New Delhi
Natalia Laskowska Warsaw

One of the world's fastest growing economies, celebrated for its vibrant culture, sporting prowess, spectacular biodiversity and immense resource wealth, Brazil is a nation that many expect to define the century ahead.

Despite these many strengths, however, Brazil is also a country on the front line of the climate crisis, fighting deforestation in the Amazon Basin. It is also a nation that is home to communities riven by hunger and poverty.

With both of these aspects in mind, the Latin American giant is an ideal choice to take on the G20 presidency for 2024 and host the next leaders' summit, when representatives of the world's biggest economies come together to address the shared challenges of the day.

Marking the conclusion of the G20 leaders' summit in New Delhi on Sunday, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi officially handed over the ceremonial gavel to Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who thanked India for giving voice to the concerns of emerging economies throughout the year.

"I thank India for its efforts," Lula told assembled delegates. "We want greater participation of the emerging countries in the decision-making process of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. The unbearable foreign debt of the poorest countries needs to be addressed."

This year's summit saw the addition of a new permanent member — the 55-member African Union. Leaders also reached agreements around global debt, reforms to multilateral institutions such as the World Bank, climate financing and the adoption of a global "green development pact," with the latter two expected to be key features of the G20 presidency in 2024. In a world where sustainable



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared the end to the G20 summit by passing on a ceremonial gavel to Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva during the third working session in New Delhi on Sunday. AFP

development is threatened and millions of people still go hungry, Lula said that the international community looked to the G20 with "hope" and a desire for leadership. Indeed, the bloc accounts for 85 percent of global economic output, 75 percent of international trade and about 60 percent of the world's population.

"Therefore, the Brazilian presidency of the G20 has three priorities," Lula told delegates. "The first one is social inclusion and the fight against hunger, energy transition and sustainable development ... and

thirdly the reform of global governance institutions.

"All these priorities are part of the Brazilian presidency motto, which says: 'Building a fair world and a sustainable planet.' Two task forces will be created — the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty and the Global Mobilization Against Climate Change."

Known for his programs designed to eradicate hunger in Brazil and significantly reduce extreme poverty, the Brazilian president, who returned to office in January this year, also has ambitious

FASTFACT

The 19th G20 summit is scheduled to take place in Rio de Janeiro on Nov. 18-19 in 2024, the first such meeting to be held in Brazil.

climate action goals.

"For example, he reversed (former-president) Jair Bolsonaro's massive Amazon-deforestation policies and now deforestation is 50 percent lower in Brazil than last year," Dr. Agus Sari, CEO of environmental advisory Landscape Indonesia and a former senior adviser to the UN Development Program, told Arab News.

"Deforestation is the most strategic sector in Brazil's climate and emissions profile, and it affects the world. The Amazon is 'the lung of the world,' and after having been destroyed by Bolsonaro, Lula had the responsibility, but also the willingness, to fix it. And he is doing it." Sari expects that under Brazil's presidency, pressure on rich countries to step up climate action and commitments will be

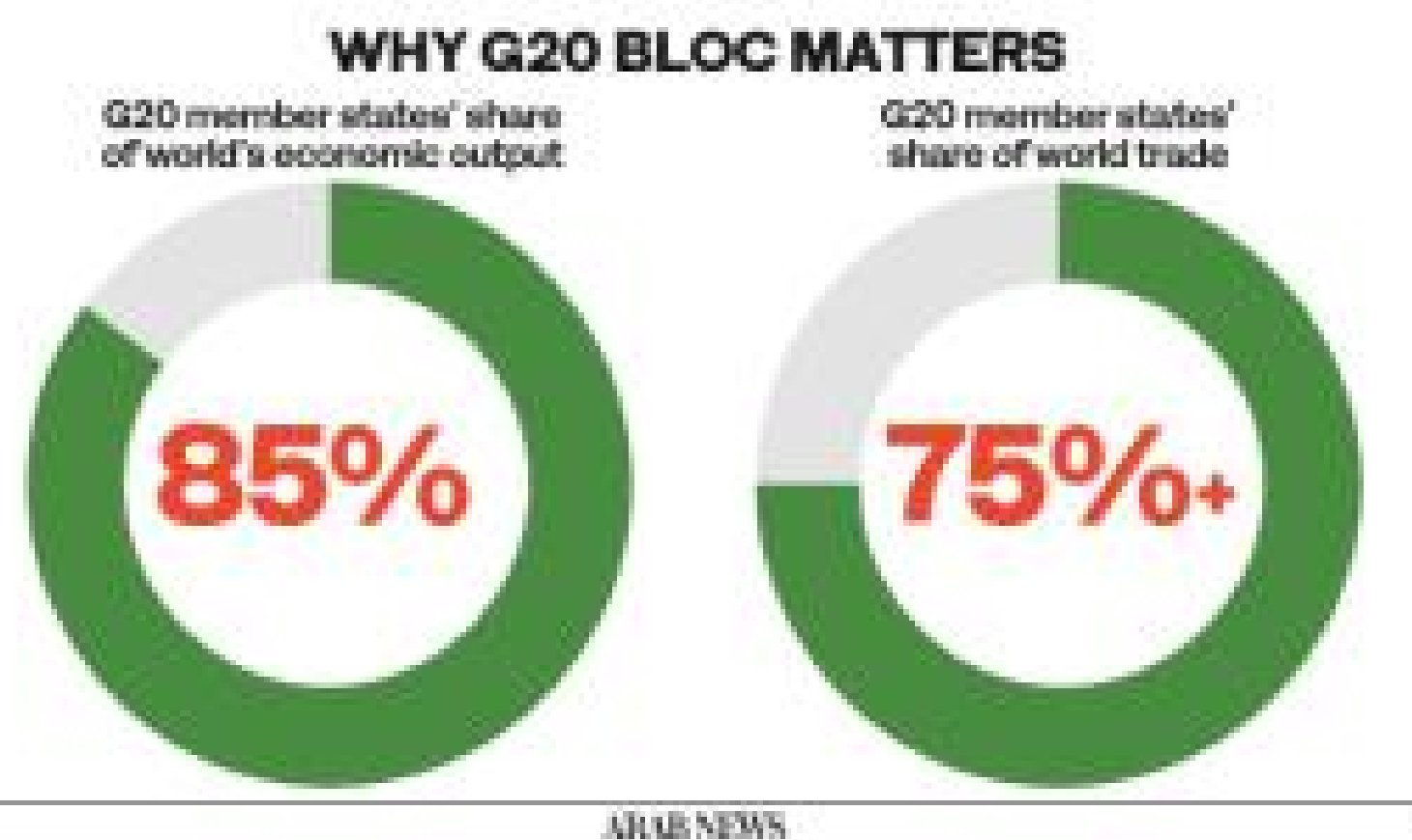
stronger. "Brazil is also a respected country in the world of climate diplomacy. In some ways, they are a balancing voice against the western countries, especially the US," he said.

"The Amazon will be the key factor in the world's fight against climate change, and cooperation between forested countries — especially Brazil, Indonesia and the Congo Basin — will be stronger."

Brazil's G20 presidency is likely to see a continuation of the priorities defined by India in 2023 and by Indonesia in 2022.

"Brazil's presidency is important because it will continue the commitment of the G20 members in overcoming crucial issues, particularly health, climate change and sustainable development," Dr. Luthfi Assyaukanie, an international relations lecturer at Paramadina University in Jakarta, told Arab News.

"I think the next G20's agenda will be not much different from the last two venues held in Indonesia and India. It will revolve around global health, digital transformation and sustainable energy."



Arab guests at G20 summit put the Global South center stage

ZAID M. BELBAGI

It is often hard to find consensus across large diplomatic groups, and the G20 is no exception. However, the members of this group of the world's 20 largest economies, though often lacking in commonalities, do together drive the world economy. Very much a creation of the 21st century, the G20 club of countries rose in importance after the 2008 financial crisis.

The group's growth in prominence provides a forceful addition to the role of the post-Second World War Bretton Woods institutions, which are less reflective of the balance of power in the world today. India's invitations to the UAE, Oman and Egypt to attend this weekend's summit, alongside members Saudi Arabia and Türkiye, put the Middle East at the forefront of the considerations of the Global South, following years of a perceived American disengagement from the region.

A fortnight after an unprecedentedly large BRICS meeting that saw the admission of the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Iran to the club of large developing economies, the G20 this weekend reinforced the trend that rapidly growing economies from the developing world seek to restructure the international system based on their disenchantment with the postwar global order.

The COVID-19 pandemic created major economic inequalities and exposed the unbalanced nature of an international system that is increasingly perceived to ignore the interests of the developing world. With the growing clout of these nations allowing them to

increasingly promote their vision of the world, especially their own conditions for trading in the global economy, it is little surprise that India is using its G20 moment to reinforce these arguments.

Since 2004, when Canada surpassed Saudi Arabia as the largest single oil exporter to the US, the Middle East region has gradually strayed from the focus of US policymakers. Though the US remains a major trading partner of Saudi Arabia, the latter's trade with China is almost double.

A surge in oil and gas exports from the UAE to China also makes Beijing its largest trading partner. Significant and importantly growing trade with India, Egypt, Pakistan and Türkiye, among others, highlight the increased importance of South-South trade and thereby the efforts of BRICS and India to integrate new actors.

Though Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Oman and Egypt have different levels of development, they are united in their strategic importance and indeed their potential for growth. Despite their position as energy producers, they will also play a role in the future of energy.

Oman and Saudi Arabia will play a role in hydrogen production and Egypt will be a significant producer of the "transitional fuel" of gas during the global energy shift that will inevitably take place. Together occupying the Suez Canal and the straits of Hormuz and Bab Al-Mandab, these countries are integral to global supply chains and ripe for a project akin to the International North-South Transport



Zaid M. Belbagi is a political commentator and an adviser to private clients between London and the GCC. Twitter: @Moulay_Zaid

Corridor that connects India, Iran and Russia.

It is little surprise, therefore, that central to India's outreach to Western Asian nations for the G20 summit is transport. Aside from New Delhi's increased foreign policy focus on the future centers of global trade through the auspices of the G20, it has already been building its ties in the Middle East.

The UAE's first ever comprehensive

economic partnership agreement was signed with India in February last year. A dirham-rupee trade agreement has also come into force to encourage increased bilateral trade between the UAE and India, with a target of \$100 billion in non-oil trade by 2030.

Alongside the strategic partnership that exists with Saudi Arabia, India has sought to expand its ties with the Kingdom beyond oil, focusing on the growing digital and innovation economy.

A rail and port infrastructure deal that would better connect the Middle East with India, though endorsed by the US under its "Partnership for Cooperation," is very much indicative of India's growing clout. The plans for a far-reaching, multinational ports and railways deal are a direct counter to China's Belt and Road Initiative global infrastructure network, which also has the Middle East in its sights.

Though President Vladimir Putin's continued absence from the G20 is significant, as British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak stated, he is "the architect of his own diplomatic exile."

More significant for the Arab attendees was Chinese President Xi Jinping's decision not to attend the G20 summit in New Delhi. Though seen by some as a snub toward the Western



Alongside the strategic partnership that exists with Saudi Arabia, India has sought to expand its ties with the Kingdom beyond oil, focusing on the growing digital and innovation economy.

Though India's role has been hitherto economic, the recent military exercises conducted with Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Oman and Egypt, alongside increased diplomatic initiatives, could be seen as a challenge to China, which so recently sought to bring Iran and Saudi Arabia together in a major diplomatic coup.

Looking ahead, Arab nations must make sure that an apparent great-power vacuum does not force them to impossibly straddle the growing global geopolitical divide.

CROWN PRINCE VISIT

What young Indians think about a changing Saudi Arabia

Rahaf Jambli New Delhi

Saudi-Indian ties began to see engagement at a high level in 2019 when Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman undertook his first official trip to India.

Now that he has begun his second state visit, not only Indian politicians but also the nation's people have noticed how close relations between the two countries have steadily become.

Arab News spoke to several young Indians in New Delhi.

Shri Sehgal, a young entrepreneur, said: "It's amazing — our economic and trade relations and our respect for Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman."

"We have a huge amount of respect for what he is doing for Saudi Arabia and how he is growing the relationship between Saudi Arabia and India."

He added that he had been impressed by the projects underway in Saudi Arabia as part of Vision 2030 and noted that footballing star Cristiano Ronaldo's decision to sign for Al-Nassr last year.

"The arrival of Ronaldo has changed the face of Saudi football. I hope Saudi Vision 2030 will gain further momentum going forward."

"You guys are amazing. Keep it up. There's a great future awaiting Saudis," Sehgal said.

Abhiraj Sharma, a sales representative, said he had been following local media coverage of India's efforts to further cement ties with Saudi Arabia.

"We've become close lately and the relation between us and Saudi Arabia is very good. And our prime minister is supportive of the Saudis," he added.

While Saudi Arabia had recently been promoting the country's tourist attractions to Indian travelers, Sharma hoped Saudis would visit India too.

He said: "To make the relationship, the bond, stronger, we want Saudis also to come here. My message to Saudis would be to come and explore India."



Minister of Culture Prince Badr bin Abdullah bin Farhan presented the awards to the winners in Riyadh. SPA

HONORING EXCELLENCE

Winners of National Cultural Awards shine in Riyadh

Minister celebrates the exceptional talents that enrich Saudi Arabia's cultural landscape

Ghadi Joudah Riyadh

The winners of the third National Cultural Awards were honored in a ceremony held in Riyadh on Saturday. The event was a night dedicated to celebrating cultural creativity and promising ambition.

Minister of Culture Prince Badr bin Abdullah bin Farhan presented the awards to the winners in the presence of Minister of Education Youssef Al-Benyan and Minister of Media Salman Al-Dossary. The ceremony was also attended by a distinguished group of intellectuals, writers and media figures.

The National Cultural Awards, an annual initiative by the Ministry of Culture, aims to recognize and showcase the talents of individuals within the country.

The awards also serve to promote their cultural products both locally and internationally, while providing financial and moral support to encourage their continued growth and success.

The winners were nominated for awards in 16 different categories, covering a range of areas including

literature, music, architecture and design, nonprofits and film.

Prince Badr said: "We are happy to honor innovators in our beloved capital," adding that the initiative aims to "shed light on talents, celebrate achievements, honor innovators and encourage cultural production."

HIGHLIGHT

Author Abu Abdulrahman Al-Dhaheeri received the cultural pioneer award for his extensive contributions to literature and culture. He has produced a diverse collection of publications in languages, literature, philosophy, art, Shariah sciences and history.

Author Abu Abdulrahman Al-Dhaheeri received the cultural pioneer award for his extensive contributions to literature and culture.

Businessman Abdulrahman bin Mahfouz won the business owner award for supporting cultural activity. The International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas received the

international cultural excellence award.

In addition, Lubna Al-Khamis, a Saudi Journalist, won the youth cultural award. The cultural institutions award was given to the Saudi Research and Media Group in the private sector and the Abdulrahman Al-Sudairy Cultural Center in the nonprofit sector.

The ceremony also recognized winners in other cultural sectors. Mohammed Ibrahim Yaacoub, a poet, received the literature award, and Adab Publishing won the publishing award.

Maha Al-Faleh was honored with the translation award, and Charmaleena Jewellery received the fashion award. Dr. Abdullah Al-Masri, a historian, won the national heritage award, and Bateel International was recognized with the culinary arts award.

Artist Manal Al-Dowayan was given the visual arts award, and the Riyadh Band received the theater and performing arts award.

Abdulrahman Mohammed won the music award, while Ibrahim Al-Hsawi won the film award. Kholoud Attar was recognized with the architecture and design award.

BRINGING HOPE

Tayf Aziz convoy supports families of autistic people in Madinah region

Arab News Jeddah

The Tayf Aziz convoy, a project run by the Charitable Society of Autism Families, has reached the Madinah region as part of its Kingdom-wide journey. Its primary objective is to offer aid and support to families with members affected by autism spectrum disorder and behavioral disorders.

The convoy has embarked on a tour across three locations in the Madinah region: Madinah city, Al-Mahd, and Yanbu.

Starting from the Madinah headquarters, the convoy journeyed to Al-Hijrah Walk. In the Mahd Al-Dahab governorate, it proceeded along Al-Mahd Walk. The convoy will conclude its tour on Monday in Yanbu governorate.

Anwar Al-Nu'man, the manager of the convoy, said that the project is designed to be an integrated clinic equipped with the latest equipment

and advanced technologies.

The convoy also enables visitors to communicate concerns with doctors and specialists via a digital questionnaire.

Al-Nu'man added: "The convoy aims to support families of autistic

HIGHLIGHT

In partnership with the Tayf Aziz Center for Autism Spectrum Disorder and Neurodevelopmental Disorders, the convoy will visit 53 cities, governorates, and villages in 13 regions across the Kingdom.

individuals by providing them with multiple services, including outreach programs, to raise awareness among families and society.

"It also aims to detect autism at an early stage using advanced technical means, conduct

effective tests and measures, and deliver health services through care service providers based on geographic location.

"Additionally, the convoy provides direct consultations by specialists, either in person or remotely, in equipped clinics."

The convoy assisted hundreds of people in the Northern Borders region, specifically in Arar, Rafha, and Turuf, before arriving in the Madinah region.

It includes a custom-built bus equipped with cutting-edge technology. Its main objective is to help visitors' understanding of autism by directly addressing their inquiries through an electronic platform. It also provides visitors with a virtual experience to give them some idea of what it is like to live with autism. The convoy will travel approximately 12,000 km across the Kingdom during its four-month journey.

TheSpace

Riyadh hosts world's largest real estate gathering

BASIL M.K. AL-GHALAYINI



A few weeks ago I wrote an article about innovation in housing in the Kingdom. Housing is undoubtedly a crucial pillar of the country's vision. On Sunday, Cityscape launched its largest convention ever, in partnership with the Ministry of Municipal, Rural Affairs and Housing. The event aims to become the most significant global real estate gathering the world has ever seen.

Cityscape is widely recognized as the premier international property investment and development event, bringing together visionaries from around the world to shape the future of urban landscapes.

With its influential platform and strong commitment to sustainable development, Cityscape serves as a catalyst for innovation and growth in the real estate sector.

The event provides industry professionals, investors, and thought leaders with a unique opportunity to participate in meaningful discussions, gain valuable insights, and establish strategic partnerships.

With a wide range of networking opportunities, informative panel discussions, and interactive exhibits, Cityscape showcases the latest trends and innovations in the real estate industry.

While driving to the conference venue, I noticed that it is located on the outskirts of Riyadh, which allows for accommodating the expected traffic of approximately 200,000 delegates.

These participants include global stakeholders from across the entire real estate ecosystem. The four-day conference will host numerous master

developers, including the notable giga-project NEOM. Additionally, there will be B2B sessions involving developers, architects, proptech, consultants, and contractors.

I have received at least six invitations from friends who are active developers, showcasing their latest innovations and technologies.

One of the international companies taking part in Cityscape is Planet Smart City. I had the opportunity to meet their leadership at BMG's Economic Forum held at the London Stock Exchange last July. Planet Smart City caught my attention due to their focus on developing affordable residential real estate projects

in countries where demand significantly exceeds supply. Their units are typically aimed at low-income workforce communities.

During the opening show, I witnessed an update on King Salman Park. As someone who resided near Hyde Park in London for many years, I am eagerly anticipating the unveiling of this iconic landmark, which is considered the finest gift to the city of Riyadh.

I must admit that the Ministry of Municipal, Rural Affairs and

Housing is putting in commendable efforts to expedite the growth of the housing ecosystem in the country.

Having attended previous Cityscape shows, I can confidently say that this gathering is truly magnificent. Even the Cityscape Vice President Chris Speller declared it as the most significant event in Cityscape's history and the world's largest real estate gathering.

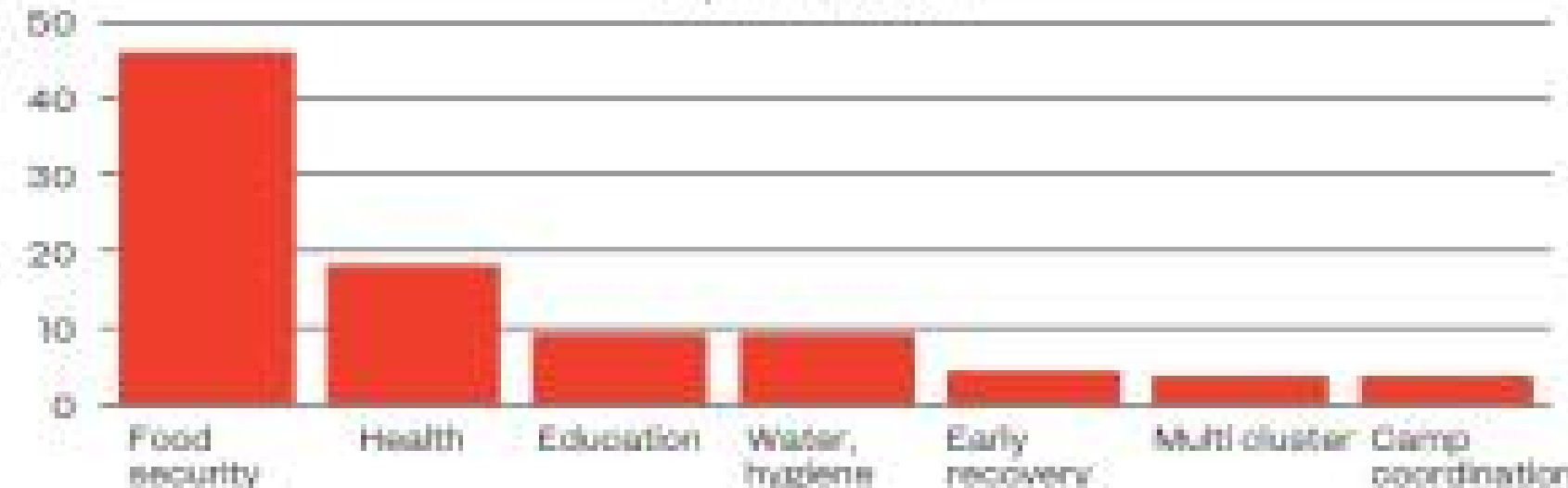
Basil M.K. Al-Ghalayini is the chairman and CEO of BMG Financial Group

The Day's FIGURES

Source: Ksrelief

KSRELIEF PROJECTS IN SOMALIA

September 2023



Briefs

THE BEST OF THE REST

Technical skills

Film program to support emerging composers

The Red Sea Labs has announced a new "Music for Film" program to support and develop emerging composers by providing them with a customized course led by globally renowned, award-winning musicians and experts.

The seven-day program targets Saudis and Saudi residents, giving them the opportunity to learn how to compose music for film.

The Kingdom has many talented musicians, but few have the knowledge, skills, and background to score for the screen. The Red Sea Labs aims to bridge this gap by offering a program that combines theoretical knowledge and practical tasks. Composers can apply what they have learned and receive immediate feedback from on-site tutors.

Participants will learn techniques for synchronizing music to visual cues and composing for specific scenes. The program takes place from Oct. 9-15. **AN Riyadh**

Empowerment

Mawhiba program to nurture gifted students

The King Abdulaziz and his Companions Foundation for Giftedness and Creativity has announced the opening of registration for public and private schools interested in participating in the Mawhiba Classes program. The registration period will continue until Oct. 17.

The program aims to create an enriching educational environment specifically designed for exceptionally gifted students, ranging from the fourth grade of primary school to the third year of secondary education. It offers advanced, globally recognized curricula in addition to the high-quality curricula endorsed by the Ministry of Education.

The program's reach has expanded, with 152 schools from 13 different cities in the Kingdom currently participating and a 12 percent increase compared to the previous year. The number of students enrolled in Mawhiba Classes has reached 8,600. **AN Jeddah**

Humanitarian mission

OIC chiefurges support for quake-hit Morocco

Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Husein Ibrahim Taha on Sunday urged member states, humanitarian organizations, and the international community to support rescue work being led by authorities in earthquake-hit Morocco.

More than 2,000 people are thought to have died and thousands of others have been injured after a huge quake rocked an area around 72 km southwest of Marrakesh.

Praising Moroccan King Mohammed VI's swift response to the disaster, Taha passed on his condolences to the families of those killed or still missing.

Friday's 6.8-magnitude quake, the strongest ever recorded in the North African country, has destroyed entire villages in the Atlas Mountains.

On Sunday, Moroccans turned out in their numbers at hospitals in Marrakesh to donate blood. **AN Riyadh**



Follow Arab News Briefs all through the day @ArabNews

News Middle East

DIPLOMACY

Egypt and Turkiye leaders vow to increase cooperation

Analyst claims two nations can help promote political stability in Libya

Menekse Tokyay Ankara

The leaders of Turkiye and Egypt on Sunday met formally for the first time in more than a decade, on the sidelines of the G20 summit.

The meeting in the Indian capital New Delhi between Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his Egyptian counterpart Abdel Fattah El-Sisi marked an historic milestone in a recent thawing of relations.

In July, the two countries appointed respective ambassadors to Cairo and Ankara, effectively ending years of tensions that had strained diplomatic ties.

During Sunday's talks, Erdogan and El-Sisi highlighted the importance of rejuvenating economic cooperation, including on energy, while promoting cultural exchanges.

Erdogan pointed out Turkiye's keen interest in rekindling links in vital sectors such as liquefied natural gas and nuclear energy.

The reconciliation process has been a gradual one, with both countries taking measured steps to pave the way for diplomatic re-engagement.

Over recent years, Turkiye has shown its commitment to improving relations in several ways, including by ceasing the broadcast of Egyptian opposition TV channels, and detaining Egyptian dissidents using social media to support anti-government protests in Egypt.

Also, the Muslim Brotherhood-affiliated Egyptian satellite TV channel, Mekameleen TV, last year relocated its operations from Turkiye.

Dalia Ziada, director of the Cairo-based MEEM Center for Middle East and Eastern Mediterranean Studies and a member of Diplomeds — The Council for Mediterranean Diplomacy, told Arab News that the Egyptians were pre-concerned by cooperation on regional problems.

"That was clearly expressed in the official statement by the Egyptian presidency which emphasized the importance of enhancing regional cooperation as a solid strategic approach to maintaining security and stability in the Eastern Mediterranean," she said.

However, she noted that the two delegations had yet to agree on holding a presidential summit in one of their capital cities.

"That is crucial to engage the public citizens in the reconciliation process in order to ensure its sustainability in the long term," Ziada added.

Dr. Pinar Akpinar, assistant professor with the Gulf Studies Program at Qatar University's College of Arts and Sciences, told Arab News that the

Turkish-Egyptian rapprochement could lead to sustainable results in the short term by focusing on economic collaboration, regional cooperation, energy partnerships, security ties, and civil society engagement.

"Engaging the public and shifting away from red lines such as political ideologies toward shared interests are also critical components for success," she said.

Akpinar pointed out that energy projects could be a focal point for collaboration between the two countries, particularly in renewable energy initiatives such as solar and wind farms.

"There is potential for private-sector investments in energy infrastructure and the creation of a geo-economic triangle involving Egypt, Israel, and Turkiye to attract European investments in the energy sector," she added.

Akpinar said the rapprochement had the potential to bolster regional dynamics by enhancing energy security, stabilizing markets, and promoting economic interdependence.

"Collaborative efforts in renewable energy projects and infrastructure development can provide both countries with diversified energy sources and greater resilience against supply disruptions, positively impacting neighboring nations as well."

"Furthermore, their joint involvement in regional energy initiatives can position Egypt and Turkiye as influential actors in regional negotiations and conflicts, contributing to diplomatic stability and conflict mitigation while addressing shared energy needs in the region."

"They could also leverage their relations with Gulf countries in this regard," she added.

Also a member of Diplomeds, Akpinar recently co-authored a policy paper with Ziada.

In it they noted that improved Egyptian-Turkish relations could enable the countries, "to build on their successful economic cooperation, revive military collaboration, and focus on future projects that support bilateral and regional well-being."

Ziada warned about the need for stabilizing Libya to ensure stability in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Libya, she said, was "a bleeding wound in this economically critical region. Egypt and Turkiye can perfectly cooperate to ensure political stability in Libya due to their strong connections with and influence on the conflicting parties inside the country."

The rapprochement process has also been supported by recent civil initiatives such as Diplomeds, a nonprofit policy group. Prominent experts from the Mediterranean region have been working since 2022 to advance Egypt-Turkiye rapprochement and improve ties between

Mediterranean countries by advancing peace and promoting regional cooperation.



Smoke rises during Sunday's clashes in the Palestinian refugee camp of Ain Al-Hilweh near the southern port city of Sidon, Lebanon. AP

CONCERN

Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon remains tense amid confusion over ceasefire efforts

Najla Housseini Beirut

All efforts to secure a new ceasefire in the Ain Al-Hilweh Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon have been halted following recent bloodshed.

Clashes escalated on Sunday between Fatah militants and extremist groups represented by Jund Al-Sham and Al-Shabab Al-Muslim, also known as Muslim Youth.

Shells and bullets hit the perimeter of the camp, the city of Sidon, and the highway to the south, killing at least nine people.

The Muslim Youth group on Sunday afternoon unilaterally declared "a ceasefire and a halt to all military actions from one side."

A Palestinian leader in the camp told Arab News: "Any ceasefire agreement that might be reached is liable to collapse if it does not

address the root of the problem, which is the extradition of those involved in the assassination of Fatah leader Al-Armoushi at the end of July."

The leader added: "On Saturday, the Fatah movement repeated its attack on the Hattin neighborhood and achieved great progress toward clearing the area and forcing the militants to retreat."

A Palestinian security source said:

"The extremist groups opened a parallel battle on Fatah positions in Jabal Al-Halib and the supporters of these groups, who live in the areas controlled by Fatah, known as sleeper cells, opened fire from the rooftops on Fatah's rear."

The source added that the Hamas movement had communicated with the extremist groups and proposed transferring its militants to Syria, but they had refused.

DAMASCUS TALKS

UN envoy urges donor support for Syria

AP Damascus

The UN special envoy for Syria has urged donors not to reduce their funding as the war-torn country's economic crisis spirals.

Syrian President Bashar Assad's decision last month to double public sector wages and pensions further skyrocketed inflation and fueled ongoing protests that shook the southern Druze-majority province of Sweida and nearby Daraa.

Initially sparked by deepening economic misery, angry residents in greater numbers began to call for the fall of Assad, similar to that of the country's 2011 uprising that turned into an all-out civil war.

The UN estimates that 90 percent of Syrians in regime-held areas live in poverty and that over

The situation inside of Syria has become even worse than it was economically during the height of the conflict.

half the country's population struggles to put food on the table.

As the conflict reached a stalemate, Syrian regime reclaimed large swaths of lost territory.

With international donor support dwindling, UN agencies have been cutting programs due to budget cuts for years.

The UN estimates that some 300,000 civilians died during the first decade of the uprising, while half of the pre-war population of 23 million were displaced.

"The situation inside of Syria has become even worse than it was economically during the height of the conflict," UN special envoy for Syria, Geir Pedersen, said in Damascus following a meeting with Syrian Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad.



HIWARAAT CONFERENCE SERIES

THE INVASION OF IRAQ: REGIONAL REFLECTIONS

SEPTEMBER 14-16, 2023

FOUR SEASONS HOTEL DOHA - QATAR

cirs.qatar.georgetown.edu/iraq

Keynote Speaker



His Excellency Dr. Barham Salih
Former President of the Republic of Iraq

Twenty years on, the geopolitical legacy of the US-led invasion of Iraq endures. Join us as scholars and experts analyze the profound impact of this pivotal event on regional security, international relations, and the emerging global order.

This conference is convened by Dr. Salwan Masri, Dean of Georgetown University in Qatar and the Center for International and Regional Studies.

Be a part of the **DIALOGUE**.

Be a part of **HIWARAAT**.

qatar.georgetown.edu/conferences



*With live Arabic translation

President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi



جامعة جورجتاون قطر
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY QATAR



A teacher helps students practice their handwriting at the Djurgårdsskolan elementary school in Stockholm, Sweden, on Thursday. AP

BACK TO BASICS

Sweden brings more books, handwriting practice back to its tech-heavy schools

Experts believe overuse of screens during school lessons may cause youngsters to fall behind in core subjects

AP Stockholm

As young children went back to school across Sweden last month, many of their teachers were putting a new emphasis on printed books, quiet reading time and handwriting practice and devoting less time to tablets, independent online research and keyboarding skills.

The return to more traditional ways of learning is a response to politicians and experts questioning whether the country's hyper-digitalized approach to education, including the introduction of tablets in nursery schools, had led to a decline in basic skills.

Swedish Minister for Schools Lotta Edholm, who took office 11 months ago as part of a new center-right coalition government, was one of the biggest critics of the all-out embrace of technology.

"Sweden's students need more textbooks," Edholm said in March. "Physical books are important for student learning."

The minister announced last month in a statement that the government wants to reverse the decision by the National Agency for Education to make digital devices mandatory in preschools.

It plans to go further and to completely end digital learning for children under age 6, the ministry also told The Associated Press.

Although the country's students score above the European average for reading ability, an international assessment of fourth-grade reading levels, the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study, highlighted a decline among Sweden's children between 2016 and 2021.

In 2021, Swedish fourth graders averaged 544 points, a drop from the 555 average in 2016. However, their performance still placed the

country in a tie with Taiwan for the seventh-highest overall test score.

In comparison, Singapore — which topped the rankings — improved its PIRLS reading scores from 576 to 587 during the same period, and England's average

FASTFACT

The return to more traditional ways of learning is a response to politicians and experts questioning whether the country's hyper-digitalized approach to education, including the introduction of tablets in nursery schools, had led to a decline in basic skills.

reading achievement score fell only slightly, from 559 in 2016 to 558 in 2021.

Some learning deficits may have resulted from the coronavirus pandemic or reflect a growing

number of immigrant students who don't speak Swedish as their first language, but an overuse of screens during school lessons may cause youngsters to fall behind in core subjects, education experts say.

"There's clear scientific evidence that digital tools impair rather than enhance student learning," Sweden's Karolinska Institute said in a statement last month on the country's national digitalization strategy in education.

"We believe the focus should return to acquiring knowledge through printed textbooks and teacher expertise, rather than acquiring knowledge primarily from freely available digital sources that have not been vetted for accuracy," said the institute, a highly respected medical school focused on research.

The rapid adoption of digital learning tools also has drawn concern from the United Nations' education and culture agency.

TECHNOLOGY

German circus replaces live animals with holograms

AFP Lubeck

The smell of sawdust and popcorn fills the air. The clowns, acrobats and magicians are all in place.

As the audience are guided to their seats inside the big top, all the classic elements of the circus are there — except one. The live animals have been replaced by holograms.

Due to concerns over animal welfare, Germany's Roncalli circus stopped using lions and elephants in its shows in 1991.

But it went further in 2018 and completely removed live animals from its program.

"It is no longer appropriate for Roncalli to show real animals in the ring," circus boss Patrick Philadelphia, 49, told AFP.

Over the last years, circuses have found themselves increasingly

constrained by space.

"If you're setting up in the middle of a marketplace in the center of town, there is no space for outdoor enclosures for animal runs," said Philadelphia.

The nomadic character of circus life was also a strain for animals like horses which had to be loaded onto wagons and then driven to the next town.

"This no longer made sense for an animal-protecting circus," said Philadelphia.

As Roncalli looked for ways to preserve the magic of animals for children, a show in which Justin Timberlake "collaborates" with a hologram of the late Prince triggered the idea to turn to 3-D imagery.

"If you can project someone who's no longer living onto a holographic screen, why can't you

do it with an animal, a horse, an elephant? So that's where the idea came from," said Philadelphia.

In Lubeck, a steam train circling the ring kicks off the show to the sound of "Sunday Morning" by Nico and The Velvet

FASTFACT

Due to concerns over animal welfare, Germany's Roncalli circus stopped using lions and elephants in its shows in 1991.

Underground, before a bright green parrot appears.

The bird gives way to an elephant and her baby, who stomp and trumpet at the audience, only to be chased by a herd of galloping horses.

Designing the visual illusion

was a technical challenge, as the circus seats its audience in a circle, unlike a theater where the public sits in front of the stage.

Using 11 cameras, arranged on the ceiling of the big top around the ring, the high-resolution images are projected onto a fine-mesh netting which surrounds the performance space.

When the lights go down, the netting becomes almost invisible, but the images pop out.

While live animals gave a thrill, the new technology also makes it possible for Roncalli to do something unexpected.

"Whatever you can imagine, it can be created by an animator, by a graphic designer, then it can also be shown up in a circus show," said Toni Munar, the technical director of the circus.

Briefs

THE BEST OF THE REST

Tough race

Maldives top candidates return to polls on Sept. 30

Maldivians will return to the polls on Sept. 30 to vote in a runoff election between the top two candidates in the country's presidential race after neither secured more than 50 percent in the first round, the elections commission said on Sunday.

Main opposition candidate Mohamed Muiz managed a surprise lead with more than 46 percent of votes, while the incumbent President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, who was seen as the favorite, got only 39 percent.

The election on Saturday has shaped up as a virtual referendum over which regional power — India or China — will have the biggest influence in the Indian Ocean archipelago state. The vote was to choose the country's fifth freely elected president since Maldives became a multi-party democracy in 2008. Solih is perceived as pro-India, facing off against his main rival Muiz, who is seen as pro-China. AP

New posts

Japan PM Fumio Kishida will soon reshuffle Cabinet

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Sunday said he will reshuffle his Cabinet as early as Wednesday.

The conservative leader, on a visit to New Delhi to attend the G20 summit, also said he planned to issue a fresh economic package to help families deal with inflation.

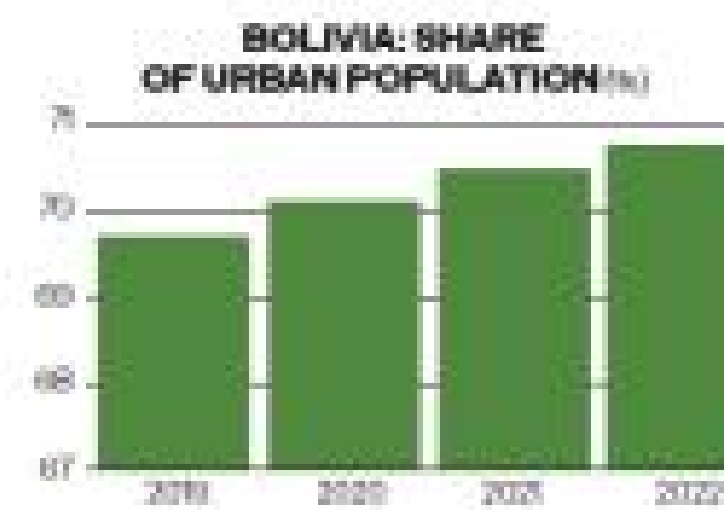
"After I return to Japan early Monday, I will coordinate with relevant individuals and will carry out personnel appointments for the (ruling) party's leadership positions and ministerial posts," Kishida told a televised press conference in the Indian capital.

"I want to protect people's lives from rising prices while energizing the trend of wage increases and expanded investment," he added.

"I want to implement a bold economic package, backed by a necessary budget, to do that. We need to do this very urgently," AFP

The Day's FIGURES

Source: Statista



What We Are Reading Today

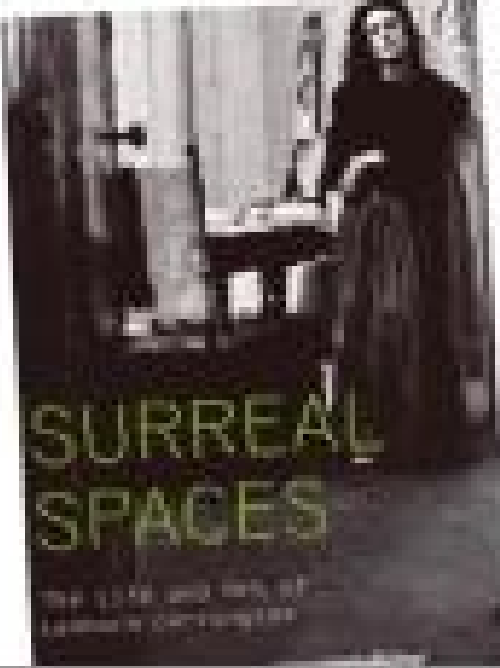
FROM AROUND THE WEB & IN PRINT

'Surreal Spaces'

JOANNA MOORHEAD

The British-born artist and writer Leonora Carrington (1917–2011) is one of the vanguards in the history of women artists and the history of Surrealism. The interests of this visionary — feminism, ecology, the arcane and the mystical, the interconnectedness of everything — are now shared by many. Challenging the conventions of her

time, Carrington abandoned family, society, and England to embrace new experiences and forge a unique artistic style in Europe and the Americas. In this evocative illustrated biography, writer and journalist Joanna Moorhead traces her cousin's footsteps, exploring the artist's life, loves, friendships, and work.



Upcoming elections

Madagascar president resigns ahead of polls

Madagascar's President Andry Rajoelina has resigned after he was officially confirmed as a candidate in the Indian Ocean Island nation's presidential elections scheduled for November 9, according to the country's constitutional court.

Madagascar's constitution requires a sitting head of state who wants to contest a presidential election to first resign.

Rajoelina sent his resignation letter to the court on Saturday following confirmation of his candidature in the elections, the High Constitutional Court said in a statement late on Saturday.

The president of the senate is supposed to assume presidential powers when the head of state resigns but the court said the senate head, Herimanana Razafimahefa, had declined to take over. Reuters

Unusual situation

Swiss plane arrives in Spain without luggage

A plane flying from Zurich to Spain this weekend arrived without a single piece of luggage onboard, unbeknownst to the passengers, media reported Sunday, as the airline blamed ground staff shortages.

Passengers on the Swiss airlines flight to the northern Spanish city of Bilbao Saturday evening waited for the conveyor belt for their luggage to appear for over two hours, in vain, the Blick daily reported.

Swiss airlines spokesman Kevin Ampalman confirmed that the plane, which Swiss had operated on behalf of Edelweiss airlines, had taken off with 111 passengers but no baggage onboard.

"There was a shortage of ground staff," he said, adding that the crew had waited for the situation to be rectified. AFP

لي حيلة فيمن ينمّ وليس في الكذاب حيلة
من كان يخلق ما يقول فحيلتي فيه قليلة
(محمود بن مروان بن أبي الجنوب)

YOUR DAILY ARABIC PROVERB

I can handle a gossip, but not a liar. I can do little with he who fabricates what he says.

Mahmoud bin Marwan bin Abi Al-Janoub
(Arabic poet)

Opinion

US should replicate the Iraqi awakening in northeast Syria

DR. DANIA KOLEILAT KHATIB



Dr. Dania Koleilat Khatib is a specialist in US-Arab relations with a focus on lobbying. She is president of the Research Center for Cooperation and Peace Building, a Lebanese nongovernmental organization focused on Track II.

Syria's northeast — the area to the east of the Euphrates — is witnessing an uprising of Arab tribes. This was perhaps expected due to American policies that favored one faction over the other. The uprising is not the result of one incident — the arrest of Abu Khawla, as the Syrian Democratic Forces claims — but rather the outcome of an accumulation of grievances that have built up over the years. A similar situation existed in Iraq following the 2003 American invasion, leading to spiraling violence. The situation was stabilized when Gen. David Petraeus was entrusted with the troop surge in 2007. Despite the fact that the SDF last week vowed to meet tribal demands, the US needs to have a major correction in northeast Syria similar to the surge in Iraq.

Startled by the rise of Daesh, the Americans needed a quick fix. They were also suffering from the failure of their training program for “moderate” rebels, as some US-trained fighters cooperated with extremists. The Kurds were seen as a safe bet. In Washington's perception, they were a faction that was not prone to indoctrination. Hence, they would not turn their weapons against their benefactors.

Though the SDF is supposed to be composed of Arabs and Kurds, the PYD, which is affiliated with the terrorist PKK, is the main force. And though there are elected local

councils running the affairs of people in the northeast, it is the “kadros,” or members of the PYD, who run the show.

The Americans always look for quick fixes. Empowering the Kurds at the expense of the Arabs was the quick fix needed to fight Daesh. But is this *deja vu*? Following the invasion of Iraq, the US started supporting Shiites over Sunnis. From a pragmatic perspective, the Shiites were the most likely to support the Americans, as they had liberated them from the cruelty of Saddam Hussein. As for moral justification, the US perceived that the Shiites, who were a majority, had been subjugated by Saddam and the Sunni minority, meaning it was their time to rule. By this simplistic logic, the US ruled Iraq.

They made the situation worse with their misguided de-Baathification policy. At the stroke of a pen, 400,000 Baath Party members became outlaws. While Shiites were granted exemptions and were allowed to keep their jobs, the Sunnis were not. This created grievances, from which the fundamentalists greatly benefited.

The American invasion led to a revival of Al-Qaeda. Violence was escalating. However, the US administration realized it was doing something wrong; this was when Petraeus was tasked with the surge that stabilized Iraq. Petraeus realized that empowering one faction over another would not lead to

stability — on the contrary, it would feed existing sectarian tensions. He realized that the key to stability was to address people's grievances. He engaged with the Sunnis through the “awakening.” This was the most effective way to dry out the social incubator of Al-Qaeda.

When members of the Sunni community started refusing to give Al-Qaeda fighters refuge, they had nowhere to go. They became isolated. The awakenings were working well. This was only reversed due to the premature American exit from Iraq and after Nouri Al-Maliki took advantage of this ill-advised withdrawal to renege on all the promises and guarantees given to the Sunnis by the Americans.

Today, we see the same scenario in northeastern Syria. The Arab tribes, which feel subjugated by the SDF, are rising up. The only way to solve this problem is to adopt a more balanced policy between the Arabs and the Kurds. The US should engage with the Arab tribes the same way it engaged with Sunnis in Iraq.

The biggest American concern in Syria is Daesh. Creating grievances from which Daesh will benefit is certainly not the logical way to fight the terrorist group. The best way to fight it is to get to the root of the problem: the grievances that push people to support it. Drying up the social incubator is the most effective and sustainable way to fight terrorism. So, a similar policy to the

awakenings should be applied by the coalition in the northeast of Syria.

The US should not fall for the false accusations of the SDF, which is claiming that the Arab tribes are connected with the regime and the Iranians. This is untrue. Deir Ezzor was one of the first provinces that fought Bashar Assad and that suffered from the regime's brutality.

This definitely does not mean abandoning the Kurds. It means adopting a more balanced policy between the two ethnic components of the community. Adopting such a policy would lead to reconciliation and social cohesion between the Arabs and the Kurds. Assad has been benefiting from Arab-Kurdish tensions.

Now, the US has an opportunity to correct this. Instead of helping the SDF suppress the Arab tribes, soft diplomacy is required. The US should send delegates to engage with the Arab tribes. In parallel, it should put in place governance structures that are representative of the communities, as opposed to today, where the kadros are in control. This is a golden opportunity for the US to win over the Arab tribes and to eradicate terrorism in a sustainable manner.

America needs to reconcile with the Arab tribes that feel disenfranchised in order to make them part of the solution, rather than part of the problem. It is time to revisit the awakening in Iraq, learn lessons from it and apply them in northeast Syria.

Empowering the Kurds at the expense of the Arabs was the quick fix needed to fight Daesh. But is this *deja vu*?

COURTESY: AHMAD MUSA AL-HANAY AL-JABART



It is difficult to explain why international peacekeepers could not find a conciliatory way to solve such a minor issue

Cooperation resolves Cyprus' storm in a teacup

YASAR YAKIS



Yasar Yakis is a former foreign minister of Turkey and founding member of the ruling AK Party. Twitter: @yakis_yasar

Tensions rose in Cyprus last month in the village of Pyla, on the border between the Turkish and Greek parts of the island. Pyla is inhabited by about 500 Turkish Cypriots and 850 Greek Cypriots.

The origin of the conflict goes back to UN Security Council Resolution 186 of March 4, 1964, which authorized the introduction of the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus, known as UNFICYP. The hope that the two parts of the island may eventually be reunited is fading away with each passing day. Former UK Foreign Secretary Jack Straw last week wrote for Politico that a two-state solution was the only reasonable way to solve the Cyprus problem.

On Aug. 18, a tiny piece of land measuring just 2 sq. km adjacent to the village Pyla became the scene of physical clashes between the UNFICYP and Turkish Cypriot security forces. The area accommodates four different sovereign territories or claims: Turkish Cyprus, Greek Cyprus, the UN-controlled buffer zone and the British sovereign base area.

Pyla was given special status because of its mixed population, thus constituting an exemplary cohabitation of the two communities. So far, there have been no major incidents that have caused intercommunal clashes in this village.

There are two Turkish Cypriot villages close by, Beyarmudu and Yigitler. Beyarmudu is connected to Pyla by a relatively good quality road, but it crosses the sovereign British base. Therefore, passengers who want to travel from Beyarmudu to Pyla have to go through checkpoints, which causes delays and congestion for two reasons. One is the number of foreign tourists who want to cross the border and visit the Turkish Cypriot side. The other is the Greek Cypriots who travel to the Turkish part of Cyprus to buy cheaper gasoline.

In order to alleviate this congestion, Turkish Cypriot authorities have for decades been asking the UNFICYP for authorization to improve the road that would allow them to circumvent the British base when traveling from Beyarmudu to Pyla. This request has been rejected each time.

The area looks like a wide corridor and several dairies operate there. Most of the island's special cheese, halloumi, which is a protected trademark for the Turkish Cypriots and a major export item, is manufactured in this corridor. The majority of the dairies are owned by Turkish Cypriots.

The UNFICYP claims that this corridor is under its control and that Turkish Cypriot authorities should not be allowed to carry out construction work there. The latter contests this argument and uses the existence of a checkpoint at the end of this corridor as a sign

to prove that it is part of the Turkish Cypriot-controlled zone.

After the requests of the Turkish Cypriots repeatedly fell on deaf ears, they eventually decided to cut their own umbilical cord and started construction of the road from Yigitler to Pyla. The UNFICYP blocked the construction work.

This is nothing but a storm in a teacup. Even if the area was a contested zone, the UNFICYP should be expected to mediate, as the improvement of the road was going to relieve a transport problem for Turkish Cypriots, Greek Cypriots and foreigners alike.

This incident was blown up and physical clashes took place between the Turkish Cypriot security forces and UN peacekeepers. Some peacekeepers were taken to hospital for minor injuries and some UN cars were damaged. The UN released a statement blaming Turkish Cypriots.

It is difficult to explain why international peacekeepers could not find a conciliatory way to solve such a minor issue. At the end of the day, it was a question of improving the standard of a road that Turkish Cypriots, Greek Cypriots and foreigners could all use.

Fortunately, the Pyla crisis was eased two weeks later through silent diplomacy. Colin Stewart, UN special representative for Cyprus and head of the UNFICYP, visited Tahsin Ertugruloglu, the Turkish Cypriot foreign

minister. Teamwork was conducted on the basis of approved maps. It was agreed how the checkpoints would be managed once the road from Yigitler reached the village of Pyla. Their agreement will be reflected in a document that will be finalized soon. The land in this corridor will be promoted by the common accord of Turkish and Greek Cypriots. Another meeting is scheduled with the participation of the mayors and headmen of the villages.

Now enters the EU. There is another problem that may arise because of the involvement of the EU in the Cyprus conflict. During Türkiye's military action in 1974, a belt of 180 km — going all the way from the east end of the island to the west, covering an area of 346 sq. km — was left under the jurisdiction of the UNFICYP as a buffer zone (a sort of no man's land) between the Turkish and Greek parts of the island. After the accession of the Greek Cypriots to the EU in 2004, the EU adopted a document called “Protocol 10,” which considers the Turkish part of Cyprus as well as the buffer zone to be part of the Republic of Cyprus, but outside the scope of the “acquis communautaire.”

We have to wait and see whether the thaw in relations between Türkiye and Greece will play a positive role in the improvement of relations between the Turkish and the Greek parts of Cyprus.

We, at ROSHN, follow a strategy aimed at building diverse partnerships based on deep Saudi expertise and global excellence.

David Grover
CEO of ROSHN



Business



According to the FAO report, the decrease was observed across price indices for dairy products, vegetable oils, meat, and cereals, while the sugar price index saw moderate growth. Reuters

COMMODITIES

Global food prices ease over 2% in August

FAO Food Price Index records 24 percent drop from its peak in March 2022

Arab News Riyadh

Global food commodity prices witnessed a 2.1 percent decline in August, with the index standing at 121.4 points compared to July. This downturn, as outlined in the latest report from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, also known as FAO, was primarily driven by falling prices of essential food items, excluding rice and sugar.

The FAO Food Price Index, which monitors fluctuations in world-wide prices of internationally traded food products, recorded a significant 24 percent drop from its peak in March 2022.

This decrease was observed across price indices for dairy products, vegetable oils, meat, and cereals, while the sugar price index saw moderate growth.

In August, the FAO Vegetable

Oil Price Index experienced a 3.1 percent drop, or 125.8 points, primarily due to reduced global prices for palm, sunflower, soy, and rapeseed oils.

Global sunflower oil prices plummeted by nearly 8 percent, driven by reduced demand for imports and ample supply from major exporting nations. Similarly, soy and rapeseed oil prices fell due to improved soybean harvest conditions in the US and abundant global supply, respectively.

The Dairy Price Index decreased by 4 percent compared to July, attributed to a surplus of whole milk powder from Oceania and a slowdown in imports by China. Skim milk powder prices also reached their lowest point since mid-2020 due to reduced import demand and sluggish market activity linked to European summer holidays.

Additionally, the FAO Meat Price Index fell by 3 percent from July and 5.4 percent from the previous year,

HIGHLIGHTS

• In August, the FAO Vegetable Oil Price Index experienced a 3.1 percent drop, or 125.8 points, primarily due to reduced global prices for palm, sunflower, soy, and rapeseed oils.

• The Dairy Price Index decreased by 4 percent compared to July, attributed to a surplus of whole milk powder from Oceania and a slowdown in imports by China.

• The FAO Meat Price Index fell by 3 percent from July and 5.4 percent from the previous year, primarily due to increased export availability, particularly in Australia, and weaker demand from China.

primarily due to increased export availability, particularly in Australia, and weaker demand from China.

The Dairy Price Index decreased by 4 percent compared to July, attributed to a surplus of whole milk powder from Oceania and a slowdown in imports by China. Skim milk powder prices also reached their lowest point since mid-2020 due to reduced import demand and sluggish market activity linked to European summer holidays.

Additionally, the FAO Meat Price Index fell by 3 percent from July and 5.4 percent from the previous year, primarily due to increased export availability, particularly in Australia, and weaker demand from China.

Furthermore, the FAO Cereal Price Index declined by 0.7 percent compared to July, with international wheat prices dropping by 3.8 percent in August amid higher seasonal availabilities from leading exporters. Global coarse grain

prices also fell by 3.4 percent due to abundant maize supplies from Brazil's record harvest and the upcoming maize harvest in the US.

On the other hand, the Sugar Price Index increased by 1.3 percent compared to July and was 34.1 percent higher than its value from a year ago. This rise was driven by concerns about the impact of the El Niño phenomenon on sugarcane crops, alongside below-average rainfall and ongoing dry weather conditions in Thailand.

However, factors like the significant sugar crop harvested in Brazil, lower ethanol prices, and the depreciation of the Brazilian Real helped mitigate upward pressure on global sugar prices.

In another market development, the Rice Price Index surged by 9.8 percent from July, reaching its highest level in 15 years. This was a consequence of disruptions in the rice trade following India's ban on exporting India white rice, the world's largest

COLLABORATION

Saudi-Swiss symposium explores opportunities

Arab News Riyadh

Saudi Arabia's National Industrial Development and Logistics Program held a Saudi-Swiss symposium in Riyadh, Saudi Press Agency reported on Sunday.

The event aimed to shed light on the essence of the economic transformation in the Kingdom and pursue investment opportunities between the two countries to seek new capabilities and promising opportunities.

It also aims to enhance international trade and economy, improve bilateral communication and establish partnerships of mutual economic values and benefit.

The conference discussed the positive effects of the Kingdom's Vision 2030 and its goal to become a leading industrial power and global logistics center.

It also discussed the role of NIDLP in facilitating investors' dealings with companies and ministries in the Kingdom to get rid of investment risks and increase their returns in a sustainable way.

A number of Saudi and Swiss speakers carried out presentations at the conference and representatives of various ministries reviewed promising

FAST FACT

Non-oil Saudi exports to Switzerland amount to approximately SR3.5 billion (\$0.93 billion) while total imports from Switzerland to the Kingdom amount to approximately SR8 billion.

investment and economic growth opportunities.

Non-oil Saudi exports to Switzerland amount to approximately SR3.5 billion riyals (\$0.93 billion) while total imports from Switzerland to the Kingdom amount to approximately SR8 billion.

The symposium, titled "The power of now," was attended by the Minister of Transport and Logistics Services Saleh Al-Jasser, the Deputy Minister of Industry and Mineral Resources for Mining Affairs Khalid bin Saleh Al-Mudaifer, the director of the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs Helene Badiger Artieda, and representatives of more than 140 Saudi and Swiss companies.

Artieda met with Minister of Economy and Planning Faisal bin Fadel Al-Ibrahim on Sunday and the two discussed strengthening economic relations and opportunities for trade and investment cooperation between their countries.

PROMOTING COOPERATION

Russia's economic forum begins with a falconry event

Salam Al-Obalady Vladivostok

The opening day of the eighth Eastern Economic Forum began with the first Falcon Day International Forum on Sunday in Vladivostok, Russia.

The forum aims to raise awareness about these birds of prey and address issues related to their conservation. According to the organizers, the launch of the eighth economic forum with an event related to birds, known for their speed, symbolizes a rapidly changing world.

The falcon forum will focus on ways to preserve and bolster

the populations of gyrfalcons, peregrine falcons, saker falcons, and other species.

"One of the primary objectives of the event is the adoption of the Framework Declaration of Intent for the Conservation of the Gyrfalcon Population by the range states," the forum's official website says.

The gyrfalcons have been brought to the event from the Kamchatka Falcon Center. Opened in 2022, it is Russia's first center for the conservation and reproduction of rare species of birds of prey.

A falcon auction will also be organized, which will be attended by representatives of various Arab



Delegates from more than 50 countries will attend the forum. Supplied

Gulf countries.

Talking to Arab News on the sidelines of the forum, the founder and CEO of the Saudi-based 60 Minutes Consultation, Mubarak Swilim Al-Swilim, said the falcon forum reflects the importance that is given by different countries to the preservation and multiplication of rare species of falcons, like the gyrfalcon. He said it will serve as a platform to promote falconry and discuss the relevant issues. "This is not only about sport and hunting, it is really good for the economy, especially for the dynamically developing Far East," Al-Swilim added.

Observers may recall that Russian President Vladimir Putin presented King Salman with a Kamchatka gyrfalcon during his visit to Riyadh in October 2019.

The theme of this year's economic forum is "On the way to Cooperation, peace, and prosperity."

Delegates from more than 50 countries are scheduled to attend the economic forum, which begins at the conclusion of the G20 Summit in New Delhi. Putin is also expected to speak at the forum.

North Korean Leader Kim Jong-un is also expected to visit Russia and hold a meeting with Putin.

CITYSCAPE

KSA announces housing projects worth \$17.3bn at real estate event

Exhibition features projects related to Vision 2030, discussions on urban transformations

Arab News Riyadh

Saudi Arabia is expected to witness a boom in the housing sector, with the government announcing projects worth over SR65 billion (\$17.3 billion) on the opening day of the Cityscape Global exhibition at Riyadh's Exhibition and Convention Center.

This four-day event, themed "The Future of Living," is being led by Majid Al-Hogail, the minister of municipal and rural affairs and housing, the Saudi Press Agency reported.

It has drawn participants from over 170 nations and 350 exhibitors from 21 countries, all looking to explore investment opportunities in the Saudi real estate sector.

During the exhibition, more than 250 international and local speakers will share their views and experiences.

The event will feature projects related to Saudi Vision 2030 and panel discussions on urban transformations, real estate opportunities, and innovations in architecture, design, and city planning.

Moreover, the exhibition will include major developments shaping the Kingdom's real estate, attracting thousands of potential buyers, sector experts, and over 2,000 investors.

Speaking on the occasion, Al-Hogail pointed out that Saudi Arabia is witnessing rapid urban growth that has surpassed the whole world.

Highlighting the projects under construction in Saudi Arabia, the minister said that a big dream will soon come true in NEOM, adding that the population of The Line will be 9 million by 2045.

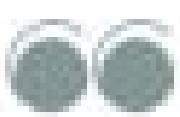
As for AIUla, he said its development plan focuses on



The event has drawn participants from over 170 nations and 350 exhibitors from 21 countries, all looking to explore opportunities in the Saudi real estate sector. SPA

infrastructure and tourist facilities, taking into account the preservation of the environment and its historical sites.

Highlighting the Masar Destination in Makkah and the Central Jeddah project, the minister pointed out that the former will improve the experience of the visitors to the holy city by preserving the city's spiritual and cultural nature;



Saudi Arabia will witness an expansion in the construction of residential suburbs throughout the country in the coming years.

Majid Al-Hogail
Minister of municipal and rural affairs and housing



while the latter will put the coastal city on the global heritage map.

As for The Red Sea and AMAALA projects, Al-Hogail emphasized that the two destinations aim to establish a sustainable tourism sector, and will attract people from around the world.

The minister added that many development projects are also underway in Riyadh and one of those is the Sports Boulevard, which will attract pedestrians, cyclists, and horsebackriders along with art enthusiasts, intellectuals,

and environmentalists.

Al-Hogail said that Saudi Arabia will witness an expansion in the construction of residential suburbs throughout the country in the coming years, with the participation of global real estate developers.

He further said that Cityscape will see the launch of quality projects and the signing of many agreements to activate promising partnerships.

In addition, the Cityscape Innovation Challenge will allow

startups to pitch their ideas toward creating a more innovative future.

King Salman Park Foundation launches its first project

Worth SR4 billion, the King Salman Park Foundation announced the launch of the King Salman Park Real Estate Development Fund, a mixed-use real estate development project that focuses on the development of the first real estate investment plot of land within the park.

According to a press release by KSPP, the Shariah-compliant fund will undertake the development of the first real estate investment site in King Salman Park, covering an area of more than 290,000 sq. meters.

NHC launches over SR42bn projects

With the aim of enhancing the quality of life, the National Housing Company launched three residential projects in the suburbs of Al-Forsan and Khuzam, providing 86,000 housing units worth more than SR42 billion.

Al-Forsan project, one of the largest residential projects in the suburb of Khuzam will be built on an area of 10 million sq. meters and will provide 27,750 housing units with various options.

The NHC also announced an integrated business project in the Khuzam suburb, called the Khuzam Business Center. It will be constructed on an area of over 500,000 sq. meters. The project also provides all basic facilities and services, in addition to sports clubs, playgrounds, and green spaces that support community participation.

In the Khuzam area also, the NHC announced a huge sports project, called "Khuzam Sports City," which will extend over a total area of 135,000 sq. meters.

EXCLUSIVE

KAUST's new strategy to boost Kingdom's sustainability drive

Arab News Riyadh

The King Abdullah University of Science and Technology's new strategy is expected to accelerate Saudi Arabia's journey toward sustainability, thus contributing to the Kingdom's renewable goals, a top official said.

In an exclusive interview with Arab News, Ian W. Campbell, interim vice president, innovation and executive director of special prospects at KAUST, said that the new strategy for the university clearly aligns with the goals and aspirations of Saudi Arabia.

"KAUST's new strategy aligns very clearly with the research outcomes of the goals and aspirations for the Kingdom; the more

sustainable use of environmentally sensitive commodities takes technology from a very early stage and scales it, and also provides our inputs to global challenges at the same time," said Campbell.

He added: "KAUST has huge aspirations to reduce our demand for oil and gas and begin to replace that with 50 percent renewable energy by 2040. We want to be net-zero by 2060. The Saudi Green Initiative talks about how we convert from today's technologies to reduce our carbon footprints and contribute to the overall net goal of the G20."

Campbell highlighted that KAUST is privileged to work with Saudi Arabia's \$500-billion megacity NEOM as its partner in

developing the Shushah Island in the Red Sea area, which will become the world's largest coral garden on completion.

"It is our pleasure to work with NEOM on Shushah Island. Going beyond that, we have collaboration with NEOM in climate and livability, on energy, and on how we plan the livability on NEOM when The Line is complete," said Campbell.

It was on Aug. 21 that Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman unveiled the new strategy for KAUST. Under the new plan, the Kingdom allocated a SR750 million (\$200 million) fund for early investment in local and international high-tech companies.

FASTFACTS

- It was on Aug. 21 that Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman unveiled the new strategy for KAUST.
- Under the new plan, the Kingdom allocated a SR750 million (\$200 million) fund for early investment in local and international high-tech companies.
- Wayakit, KAUST's biotech spinout, has partnered with Saudi Ground Services Co. to provide sustainable cleaning solutions for the airline industry.

"The new strategy builds on KAUST's scientific and academic achievements and represents a new era for the university to become a beacon of knowledge and a source of inspiration and innovation in line with Vision 2030 aspirations for the betterment of the Kingdom and the world," said the crown prince after the launch of the new strategy.

Meanwhile, according to a press statement, Wayakit, KAUST's biotech spinout, has partnered with Saudi Ground Services Co. to provide sustainable cleaning solutions for the airline industry.

KAUST said that the partnership will significantly reduce hazardous and toxic materials used for hygiene maintenance in

the airline industry.

"Working with SGS solidifies Wayakit's commitment to developing effective ecological products that aid in achieving the goals of Saudi Vision 2030 and the Saudi Green Initiative," said KAUST in a press statement.

Wayakit offers cleaning solutions that use natural ingredients to provide the fastest disinfectant and cleaner in the market.

"We have seen Wayakit's growth, and we are proud of being the incubator of this impact-focused technology that now is revolutionizing airplane cleaning in Saudi Arabia — and hopefully soon the world," said Kevin Cullen, special adviser to KAUST President Tony Chan.

EXPORT

Saudi Arabia issues over 36k certificates of origin in August

Arab News Riyadh

In a move to bolster the export sector, Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Industry and Mineral Resources issued 36,293 certificates of origin in the month of August, up from 34,926 in July, according to the ministry's monthly bulletin.

The initiative is seen as a part of the ministry's efforts to boost exports across various sectors.

Certificates of origin serve as a pivotal document in international trade, validating that the exported goods are of a national

origin or have met the criteria to be deemed so.

The latest data reveals this service is not limited to large corporations or industrial conglomerates but encompasses a broad array of economic actors, including but not limited to farmers, fishermen, individual entrepreneurs, and local craftsmen.

Furthermore, the ministry's issuance system offers four distinct models of the certificate of origin, catering to a wide range of export scenarios.



The initiative is part of the Kingdom's efforts to boost exports. File

The models include a specific version for products being exported to Gulf Cooperation Council countries and another for goods headed to other Arab countries.

A preferential standard model is also available for GCC exports to countries and economic blocs with which free trade agreements are in place.

For countries that do not offer preferential treatment, a certificate in both English and Arabic languages is also provided by the ministry.

Business News



The tripartite memorandum outlines various initiatives to foster growth and sustainability in the financial markets, both domestically and internationally. File

PARTNERSHIP

Qatar, Malaysia sign deal to strengthen financial markets

Cooperation aims to uplift Doha's bonds and sukuk market

Arab News Riyadh

In a move aimed at fortifying Qatar's financial landscape and positioning it as a global finance player, the country's Financial Centre Regulatory Authority and stock exchange have entered into a strategic agreement with the Malaysian Rating Corp. Berhad.

According to a report by the Qatar News Agency, the tripartite memorandum outlines various initiatives to foster growth and sustainability in the financial markets, both domestically and internationally.

This cooperation aims to promote knowledge exchange and build the necessary capacities to uplift Qatar's bonds and sukuk market.

The agreement seeks to develop the financial market's infrastructure, enhance standards in sustainability, and foster best

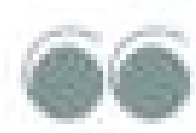
practices in capital markets.

"The agreement embodies the common vision that brings us together with MARC, which is to strengthen the infrastructure of the financial sector, stimulate market growth and explore new horizons for mutual benefit and future cooperation," Yousuf Al-Jalida, CEO of the Qatar Financial Centre, said.

He added: "This step confirms the QFC's ongoing commitment to strengthening the financial system in the state of Qatar. By cooperating with a prestigious institution like MARC, we will be in a better position to leave an influential mark and enhance our role in setting high standards and stimulating the growth of the financial market."

Abdelaziz Al-Emadi, the CEO of the Qatar Stock Exchange, highlighted the partnership as a crucial step toward achieving close cooperation among all three parties.

Additionally, Datuk Nasir, CEO of MARC, noted that the strategic



This step confirms the QFC's ongoing commitment to strengthening the financial system in the state of Qatar.

Yousuf Al-Jalida
CEO, Qatar Financial Centre

cooperation is another milestone in the financial services and credit rating agency's transformation and growth journey.

"Through cooperation with the QFC and QSE, we look forward to achieving excellence in the bond and sukuk markets, enhancing sustainability and developing the financial system in Qatar and beyond," Nasir stated.

The deal also underscores Qatar's efforts to become a significant financial hub in the Middle East, capable of influencing financial trends and standards on a global scale.

The cooperation is expected to unfold within the legal and regulatory frameworks of all involved parties, based on the principle of reciprocity.

The tripartite agreement is seen as a model for collaborative ventures in the region, setting the stage for future partnerships and alliances that contribute to a robust and resilient financial ecosystem.

BizBriefs

THE BEST OF THE REST

Top job

EU opens race to run its investment bank

Five candidates have come forward for the post of president of the huge European Investment Bank, Belgian Finance Minister Vincent van Peteghem said on Friday, the first of several top EU jobs which member governments will haggle over in the next 12 months.

The government-owned EIB calls itself the world's biggest multilateral financial institution by assets and will be a key player in funding Europe's ambitious transition toward a net-zero-carbon and more digitized economy.

EU countries also decide next year who will head the bloc's top three institutions — the Commission, Council and Parliament — plus its foreign policy chief. Choices for one post affect others due to the need to maintain balance on gender, political affiliation, nationality and country size in the appointments. **Reuters**

Real estate

3 Chinese cities lift curbs on buying houses

At least three major Chinese cities last week removed restrictions on home buying, as the Asian giant gradually rolls back a crackdown on the property sector in a bid to revive its economy.

Dalian and Shenyang, two of the most populous cities in the northeastern province of Liaoning, separately announced they will no longer restrict the number of properties residents can buy in most parts of the city, while offering subsidies for buyers and tax relief for sellers.

Nanjing, the provincial capital of affluent Jiangsu province, said it would let people buy flats without proof of eligibility in four districts, effectively easing its last restrictions on home purchases.

These announcements come on the heels of a series of nationwide support measures for the property sector. **Reuters**

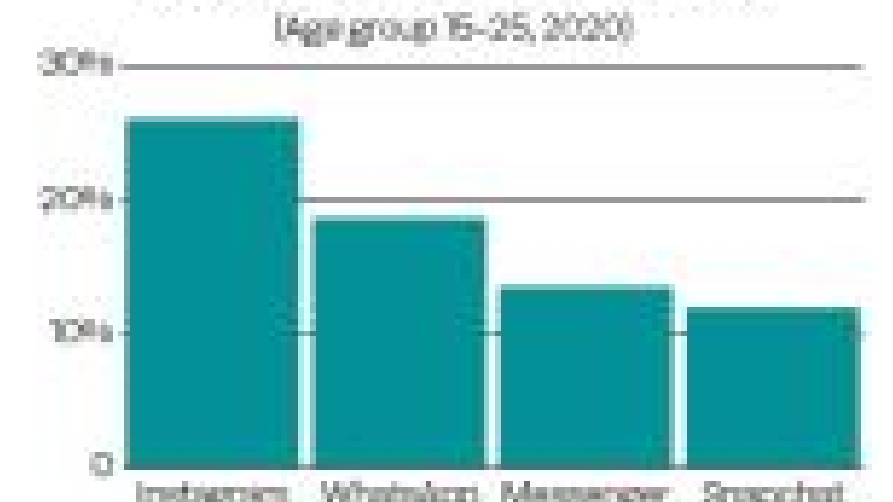
Chart of THE DAY

Based on a survey run in the UK during the third quarter of 2020, the most popular mobile app among 15 to 25-year-olds was Instagram.

Source: Statista

MOST POPULAR APPS IN UK

(Age group 15-25, 2020)



What We're Reading

FOR THE TRAIN OR ON THE PLANE

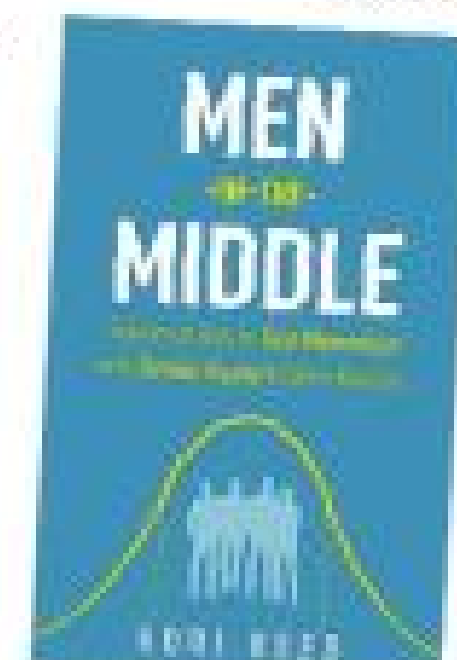
Men-in-the-Middle

KORI REED

In "Men-in-the-Middle," author Kori Reed interviews men across corporate America about gender equity in the workplace, says a review published on goodreads.com. his is a topic men can influence, as they hold nearly 75 percent of C-suite positions, but they

don't talk about it at the office. As it turns out, men have a lot to say! They are aware of the issues and

the impacts and, at the same time, unsure of what to do. Reed seeks to provide a framework to understand this "silent majority" and shine the light on new perspectives.



Inflation

Italian PM targets tight 2024 budget

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni is tightening the budgetary screws to show that Rome can balance its books, even if it means delaying electoral promises.

By the government's own admission, the room for maneuvering is extremely limited due to lower tax receipts from a slowing economy that risks deficit forecasts being revised upward.

"Waste must be reduced, the few resources we have must be spent in the best possible way," Meloni has repeatedly said as her government draws up its 2024 budget to send to Brussels.

The Brothers of Italy leader took office at the helm of a coalition in October with promises of tax cuts and help for families and businesses struggling with high inflation.

Her government has also opened the door to new privatizations. **AFP**

Policy

BoJ signals chance of ending negative rates

Bank of Japan Gov. Kazuo Ueda said the central bank could end its negative interest rate policy when achievement of its 2 percent inflation target is in sight, the Yomiuri newspaper reported on Saturday, signaling possible interest rate hikes.

The central bank could have enough data by year-end to determine whether it can end negative rates, Ueda told the paper in an interview on Wednesday.

"Once we're convinced Japan will see sustained rises in inflation accompanied by wage growth, there are various options we can take," Ueda was quoted as saying.

"If we judge that Japan can achieve its inflation target even after ending negative rates, we'll do so," he added.

The BoJ currently guides short-term interest rates at -0.1 percent under its negative rate policy. **Reuters**

ECONOMY

Egypt's headline inflation rises to 39.7%

Arab News Riyadh

The rise in food prices pushed Egypt's annual headline inflation to an all-time high of 39.7 percent in August, in line with analysts' expectations, data from the country's statistics agency CAPMAS revealed.

This increase far exceeds the headline inflation rate of 38.2 percent reported in July and marks a significant surge from 15.3 percent recorded in August 2022.

Food and beverage prices in the country in August rose 71.9 percent compared to the same month last year, reported CAPMAS.

Moreover, a 44 percent surge in the prices of fabrics led the clothing and footwear prices to increase by 23.6 percent on an annual basis.

In addition to this, according to CAPMAS, Egypt's Consumer Price Index touched 184 points in August 2023, recording a 1.6



Food and beverage prices in the country in August rose 71.9 percent compared to the same month last year. Reuters

percent increase over July 2023.

The rise in CPI is mainly attributed to a respective rise in the prices of the fish and seafood group by 0.3 percent as well as the dairy, cheese, and eggs group by 3 percent.

This comes despite an overall

decrease in the prices associated with the cereals and bread group by 1.4 percent as well as the meat and poultry group by 3.2 percent.

"We expect inflation to average 32 percent in 2023, with possible upside on the continuation of the

implementation of deeper fiscal reforms, including possible higher electricity tariffs and approving new telecom tariffs," Sara Saada of CI Capital told Reuters in August.

In recent months, the central bank has tried to contain inflation, raising its primary interest rate and devaluing the local currency.

In June, the World Bank revised Egypt's projected real gross domestic product for the fiscal year 2023-2024 to 4 percent from 4.8 percent in its global economic prospects report.

Moreover, on Thursday, the Finance Ministry stated that the weakening of the Egyptian currency against the US dollar is expected to increase the debt-to-GDP ratio to 95.6 percent for the financial year 2022-23.

"The decline in the value of the pound against the dollar led to an increase in the value of government debt by EGP 1.3 trillion or 13.1 percent of GDP," the ministry said.

We are delighted to work with Stellantis, one of the world's leading automakers, to assess the performance of our fuel formulations that are designed to represent expected eFuel characteristics in its existing vehicle engines.

Amer Amer
Transport Chief Technology Officer, Aramco



Corporate

PRESS RELEASES FROM THE WORLD OF BUSINESS AND COMMERCE



MENA ISC 2023 is poised to ignite discussions and reveal insights on the pressing challenges and opportunities in the realms of artificial intelligence-driven cybersecurity. Supplied

PAYMENT SERVICES

MENA ISC 2023 to ignite insightful discussions on cybersecurity

The eagerly anticipated Middle East and North Africa Information Security Conference 2023 is poised to ignite discussions and reveal insights on the pressing challenges and opportunities in the realms of artificial intelligence-driven cybersecurity. Set to take place on Sept. 12 and 13 at Hilton Riyadh, this year's conference promises to be an unmissable event for professionals, innovators, and enthusiasts alike.

Among the leading keynote speakers from the cybersecurity industry will be Karim Hejazi, founder of VigiloCity and managing director of SCP and CO; Ayman Al-Fadhel, head of cybersecurity at Salam Telecommunications; and Anton Ivanov, chief technology officer at Kaspersky.

"Saudi Arabia's dedication to advancing cybersecurity initiatives is of paramount importance, especially as AI and cognitive infrastructure

continue to evolve and integrate into the fabric of its society," Hejazi said. "These factors, among many others, create an asymmetric challenge that will give rise to a new breed of both cybercriminals and nation-state adversaries. Saudi Arabia is not only poised to deliver the next generation of thought leadership, innovation, and execution in this regard, but also has the opportunity to define a world-class standard of cyber excellence."

Al-Fadhel, who will be speaking on the topic, "Cybersecurity in Our Everyday Lives," said: "The changing regulations led by Saudi Arabia's National Cybersecurity Authority show a stronger emphasis on cybersecurity, data protection, and infrastructure security. This indicates a dedication to countering digital threats and creating a safe ecosystem that aligns with the country's Vision 2030."

MENA ISC 2023 contributes to the Kingdom's commitment to maintaining its leadership and excellence as the world's top nation with the best AI strategy.

Samir Omar
CEO of VirtuPort

He also highlighted the increased activity in the sector and how it could lead to massive breakthroughs. "Local cybersecurity companies and startups in the Kingdom are growing due to increased demand for solutions, fueled by major tech projects. This trend could foster innovation and collaboration in the sector," he added.

Bringing together not only the Kingdom's trend-setters from the cybersecurity industry but also bridging the gap between international players to facilitate international collaboration, the conference also includes Ivanov among its keynote speakers, who presented interesting insights on critical infrastructure within the region.

"Kaspersky Industrial Control Systems Cyber Emergency Response Team registered attempted attacks on almost 38 percent of industrial control systems globally over the last year. In the Middle East, the figure is just over 42 percent, which highlights the fact that the local threat landscape is ever evolving and is continuously being targeted," he said, adding: "Kaspersky's mission is to bring cybersecurity in government bodies and organizations to a whole new level using our expertise and technology.

This will make the process of digital transformation in Saudi Arabia safer."

Samir Omar, a consultant and technical expert for numerous companies and sectors, as well as CEO of VirtuPort, said: "MENA ISC 2023 presents an amazing opportunity with the participation of a distinguished group of international cybersecurity and AI experts to gather and facilitate constructive discussions. It's a step forward in achieving a secure economy built upon AI-based cybersecurity solutions, shifting the industry's stance from reactive to predictive, and to realize the digitally advanced economic goals and their protection according to Vision 2030. Additionally, it contributes to the Kingdom's commitment to maintaining its leadership and excellence as the world's top nation with the best AI strategy."

SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY

Aramco and Stellantis collaboration indicates eFuel compatibility with European engines

Global automaker Stellantis has concluded that 24 engine families in European vehicles sold since 2014, representing 28 million vehicles on the road, are ready to use advanced drop-in eFuel without any powertrain modification, following months of testing at its technical centers across Europe. The tests were conducted using surrogate eFuels provided by Aramco, one of the world's leading integrated energy and chemicals companies.

Low-carbon eFuel is a drop-in synthetic fuel made by reacting CO₂ captured either directly from the atmosphere or from an industrial facility, with renewable hydrogen. The use of low-carbon eFuel has the potential to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from existing internal combustion vehicles by at least 70 percent on a lifecycle basis, compared to conventional fuels.

Ned Curic, Stellantis chief engineering and technology officer, said: "Our priority is providing zero-emission mobility for all with a focus on electrification, while our collaboration with Aramco is an important and complementary step in this journey for existing fleets on the road. We are exploring all solutions to reinforce our ambitious strategy of becoming a carbon net-zero company by 2038.

Drop-in eFuels can have a massive and almost immediate impact on reducing the CO₂ emissions of the existing vehicle fleet, offering our customers an easy and economically efficient option to reduce their carbon footprint — one as simple as choosing a different fuel pump at the station, with no additional modification to their vehicles."

Amer Amer, Aramco transport

FASTFACT

The use of low-carbon eFuels in up to 28 million of Stellantis' European vehicles could reduce up to 400 million tons of CO₂ in Europe between 2025 and 2050.

chief technology officer, said: "We are delighted to work with Stellantis, one of the world's leading automakers, to assess the performance of our fuel formulations that are designed to represent expected eFuel characteristics in its existing vehicle engines. The results of the testing reinforce our view that synthetic fuel can be a drop-in solution in existing vehicles, and when produced via a low-carbon pathway it can play an important role in reducing carbon emissions in the transport sector and supporting an orderly energy transition."

DIGITAL GIFT CARD PROGRAM

E-gifting platform YOUNGotaGift announces partnership with eXtra

YOUNGotaGift, the pioneers of digital gift cards in the Middle East, has launched a new omni-channel gift card processing solution called "YOUProcess," in partnership with eXtra, Saudi Arabia's leading consumer electronics and home appliance retailer.

Amongst the first in the Kingdom to utilize this innovative new gift card processing solution, eXtra will be launching a new branded gift card program. This partnership marks YOUNGotaGift's entry into the gift card processing and program management market in Saudi Arabia, bolstering the company's offering alongside its existing gift card distribution network capabilities.

The YOUProcess gift card program will allow customers to purchase and redeem gift cards across merchants' online and offline channels, creating a convenient, seamless omni-channel shopping experience.

The partnership was officially announced at Seamless Saudi 2023, in the presence of Husain Makiya, CEO of YOUNGotaGift, and Ahmed Mostafa Kamal of eXtra. It is the first-of-its-kind in Saudi Arabia and reflects YOUNGotaGift's commitment to the Saudi market.

Makiya said: "We are delighted



The partnership was officially announced at Seamless Saudi 2023, in the presence of Husain Makiya, CEO of YOUNGotaGift, and Ahmed Mostafa Kamal of eXtra.

to strengthen our strategic partnership with eXtra, the leading electronics retailer in Saudi Arabia, with the launch of its new gift card program using our latest YOUProcess solution. With a solid focus on the Saudi market, and a deep commitment to the region, we have extended our tech stack to offer end-to-end gift card processing and program management solutions to top retailers like eXtra. YOUProcess is a state-of-the-art open and closed loop omni-channel gift card issuance solution, delivering a highly effective and

adaptive program, which enables brands to bring their gift programs to market swiftly. Thanks to our long-standing relationships with top regional retailers over the years, our solution design is highly merchant-centric and applies the very latest technologies and best-in-class service delivery."

Meanwhile, Kamal said: "We are excited to offer this service to our customers. YOUNGotaGift is a trusted gift card partner offering a seamless omni-channel processing solution, and we are already seeing positive feedback from our customers as well as growth thanks to this partnership. We are definitely benefiting from YOUNGotaGift's growing distribution network across top banks, telcos and major corporations in the Kingdom."

Corporate Briefs

THE BEST OF THE BEST

Direct Marketing

Alamar onboards MoEngage for customer engagement

Alamar Foods, a Saudi-based quick service restaurant operator, has partnered with MoEngage, a marketing automation and customer engagement platform, to drive personalized communication with its customers.

Alamar is pursuing an omnichannel strategy with a customer-centric approach. "In our endeavor toward direct marketing, engaging, and rewarding our customers based on their individual preferences, we have tied up with MoEngage. Through this program we aim to positively influence our customers' loyalty with the brands we operate in the region," said Shobhit Tandon, group chief digital and technology officer, Alamar Foods.

To achieve this and analyze the impact of personalized communication, Alamar Foods will leverage MoEngage's capabilities as a centralized customer engagement system for all communications. Furthermore, the brand will also leverage MoEngage's capabilities to identify key customer segments that require dedicated action.

Inspiring Students

British Council campaign promotes educational excellence

The British Council — the UK's international organization for cultural relations and educational opportunities — has launched "Life Lessons," a new regional campaign in the Middle East, aimed at supporting teachers, parents and students to improve the educational outcomes for learners. The campaign includes influencers sharing their exam hacks for students when preparing for their back-to-school exams, Q and A sessions for parents to ask for more information on key topics as well as stories from British Council partner school alumni to inspire students in their future career paths.

The campaign also features notable celebrity spokespeople, including Jordanian actress and producer Saba Mubarak, Syrian actress Kinda Alloush, and revered Egyptian child and teen psychologist Amina Diab.

Technology

Sharp launches cutting-edge 420W M10 PV panel

Sharp has unveiled the latest addition to its half-cut cell portfolio, the all-black NU-JC420B, a 420W n-Type TOPCon monocrystalline silicon photovoltaic panel. The panel features a black backsheet and a black frame, making it ideal for both long and short frame side clamping. It is specifically designed for residential, small-scale commercial, and industrial rooftop installations.

The NU-JC420B module stands out with its low weight, compact dimensions, and exceptional mounting flexibility, ensuring easy handling, installation, and seamless system integration.

The NU-JC420B boasts an efficiency of 21.51 percent. Its advantageous low temperature coefficient of -0.300 percent/°C enhances its performance significantly at elevated ambient temperatures, which is an increasingly vital feature because of the impact of climate change and the subsequent temperature increases.

The sacking of German coach Hansi Flick was unavoidable after the team's recent run of disappointing results, a top official said.



Sport News

TENNIS

Williams sisters paved way, says Gauff after US Open win

AFP New York

Coco Gauff said tennis icons Serena and Venus Williams paved the way for her breakthrough US Open triumph on Saturday after the American teenager captured her first Grand Slam title.

The 19-year-old from Florida battled to a 2-6, 6-3, 6-2 defeat of Aryna Sabalenka at the Arthur Ashe Stadium — where as a child she had watched the Williams sisters dominate.

The win ensured Gauff will have her name etched into tennis history alongside other Black American women to lift the title such as the Williams sisters, Althea Gibson and Sloane Stephens.

"It's crazy, I mean, they're the reason why I have this trophy today, to be honest," Gauff said of

the Williams sisters.

"They have allowed me to believe in this dream growing up. You know, there wasn't too many just Black tennis players dominating the sport. It was literally just them that I can remember when I was younger.

"Obviously more came because of their legacy. So it made the dream more believable. But all the things that they had to go through, they made it easier for someone like me to do this."

Gauff referenced the Williams sisters' 14-year boycott of the prestigious Indian Wells

Coco Gauff received congratulatory messages from former Barack Obama and President Joe Biden. AFP

tournament — due to alleged racist heckling and Venus Williams' push for equal pay for women at major championships.

"You look back at the history

with Indian Wells, with Serena, all she had to go through, Venus fighting for equal pay," Gauff said.

"Words can't describe what (Serena and Venus Williams) meant to me. I hope another girl can see this and believe they can do it and hopefully their name can be on this trophy too."

Gauff's breakthrough victory will catapult her to a new level in the hierarchy of American sport.

Hollywood celebrities and sports stars such as NBA greats Kevin Durant and Jimmy Butler were on hand to witness Saturday's triumph.

She was soon bombarded with congratulatory messages from former US President Barack Obama and current President Joe Biden.

"Congratulations to US Open champion, @CocoGauff," Obama wrote on X, the platform formerly known as Twitter.

"We couldn't be prouder of you on and off the court — and we know the best is yet to come."

As the dust settled on Saturday's victory, video footage of Gauff dancing in the crowd as a fan at the US Open rapidly went viral.

Asked what message she would send to her younger self, she replied: "I would tell her don't lose that dream."

"That little girl, like she had the dream, but I don't know if she fully believed it," Gauff said. As a kid, you have so many dreams. You know, as you get older sometimes it can fiddle away ... I would tell her don't lose the dream. Keep having fun."



Basketball World Cup Germany beat Serbia 83-77 on Sunday to win the Basketball World Cup for the first time. The Germans, who went unbeaten through the tournament and were appearing in their first final, broke clear of Serbia in the third quarter in Manila.

Reuters

HUMILIATING DEFEAT

Germany sack coach Flick ahead of Euro 2024

The Germans were thoroughly outclassed by the Samurai Blue on home soil in Wolfsburg

AFP Berlin

Germany have sacked coach Hansi Flick just nine months from hosting Euro 2024 after Saturday's humiliating 4-1 defeat by Japan, the German FA announced on Sunday.

Flick became the first and only Germany head coach to be sacked since the position was created in 1926.

Sporting director Rudi Voeller, who coached the side to a 2002 World Cup final against Brazil, will take over on an interim basis, with a successor to be announced at a later date.

German FA boss Bernd Neuendorf said the sacking was "unavoidable" after the team's recent run of "disappointing" results.

In a statement, Neuendorf said "with a view toward the European championships in our own country, we need a spirit of optimism and confidence," saying the decision was one of his "most difficult so far."

The Germans were thoroughly outclassed by the Samurai Blue on home soil in the friendly in Wolfsburg, with only some acrobatic keeping from Marc-Andre ter Stegen preventing the score from eclipsing 2001's 5-1 loss to England in Munich.

Germany have now lost four of their six matches since their early exit from the World Cup in December. Euro 2024 kicks off in Germany in June 2024.

The home fans booed the German team at half-time, with some chanting "Hansi out" at the end of the match.

Germany have been historically reluctant to make drastic changes to the coaching position, with none of Flick's predecessors sacked.

Appointed in May 2021 after Joachim Loew's 15-year tenure ended, Flick was Germany's 10th head coach since World War II.

Fresh off taking Bayern Munich to seven trophies in just 18 months in charge, Flick was victorious in his first eight matches as Germany boss.

Since then he has won just four



Germany have now lost four of their six matches since their early exit from the World Cup in December. Euro 2024 kicks off in Germany in June 2024. AFP

of 17 matches and presided over a group stage exit at the Qatar World Cup.

Flick was bullish after Saturday's latest loss, telling reporters he "was convinced of what we are doing" and "wanted to continue"

in the top job.

On Sunday at a training session following the Japan rout, Flick told fans "I'll keep fighting," but admitted to AFP subsidiary SID "many things are difficult to predict" in football.

Voeller said after the match emotions were running too high to make an immediate call on Flick's future.

"I suggest we collect ourselves and sleep on it" Voeller said, explaining "we are all a little in shock ... a defeat like that hurts."

Taking over as interim boss in 2000, Voeller coached Germany to the final of the 2002 World Cup where they lost 2-0 to Brazil.

His first match as caretaker coach is on Tuesday, in a friendly in Dortmund against World Cup runners-up France.

Elsewhere, in English football, Manchester United winger Antony has been allowed a leave of absence in order to address allegations of domestic abuse, the Premier League club announced Sunday.

The 23-year-old was withdrawn from the Brazil squad on Monday over accusations made by his ex-girlfriend Gabriela Cavallin, which he denies.

United said in a statement: "Manchester United acknowledges the allegations made against Antony."

Sport Briefs

THE BEST OF THE REST

Asia Cup

Rain forces Pak-India match into reserve day

Rain on Sunday forced a blockbuster clash between India and Pakistan into a reserve day after just 24.1 overs of play in the Super Four stage of the Asia Cup.

India will resume at 147-2 on Monday in the 50-over contest, after rain disrupted their innings following Pakistan's decision to bowl first in Colombo.

An extra day was a last-minute addition to the Super Four clash — the only game to get the advantage other than the final — after a previous group meeting between the two teams was washed out due to rain in Pallekele.

Separately, Sri Lanka Cricket slashed ticket prices for the Asia Cup by up to 95 percent on Sunday after costs were hiked 40-fold and matches were played in near-empty stadiums. AFP

Rugby

Chile makes World Cup debut as Japan wins

Japan won the game. Chile won the occasion. Chile's debut at the Rugby World Cup went better than anyone expected even though it lost to Japan 42-12 on Sunday.

Los Condores were willing and able and gave Japan, a quarterfinalist at the last World Cup, a hard time in an entertaining match. They even had sizeable support at Stadium de Toulouse judging by all of the red jerseys.

Captain Kazuki Himeno was a late withdrawal to a calf injury but Japan still started with nine players with World Cup experience and bagged the bonus point win from six converted tries. AP



MotoGP

Martin completes perfect weekend at Misano

Jorge Martin further closed the gap on championship leader Francesco Bagnaia after cruising to victory in Sunday's San Marino MotoGP to complete a perfect weekend at Misano.

Spaniard Martin is now 36 points behind world champion Bagnaia after claiming the third Grand Prix win of his career, from pole position and well over a second ahead of Marco Bezzecchi.

The 25-year-old took maximum points after also winning the sprint race on Saturday, but injured Bagnaia limited the damage to his overall lead with a superb third place which delighted the home supporters at the Italian track. Martin was on pole after also smashing the lap record by nearly half a second in qualifying on Saturday morning. AFP

Follow Arab News Briefs all through the day @ArabNews

Yorgos Lanthimos's 'Poor Things,' starring Emma Stone, took home the Golden Lion award at the 80th Venice International Film Festival.



& Finally

TheSix

Festival picks

Here are six films from the MENA region set to screen at the 67th BFI London Film Festival, to be held between Oct. 4 - 15.



'Terrestrial Verses'

Co-directed by Alireza Khatami and Ali Asgari, the film follows a series of vignettes capturing Iranians in their daily life which gradually builds into a compelling portrait of societal realities.



'Celluloid Underground'

The poetic documentary film manifests Ehsan Khoshbakht's intense and multifaceted relationship with cinema.



'Behind The Mountains'

In Tunisian director Mohamed Ben Attia's film — backed by Saudi Arabia's Red Sea Fund — a father tries to reconnect with his son and show him a fascinating discovery in a social drama that revels in magical realism.



'Bye Bye Tiberias'

Lina Soualem's deeply personal and joyful exploration of her relationship with her mother, the acclaimed actor Hiam Abbass, explores the latter's decision to leave her village to pursue a film career in Paris.



'Animalia'

French Moroccan director Sofia Alaoui's quietly powerful feature debut, featuring a breakout central performance by Oumaima Barid, takes aim at Morocco's wealthy elite.



'Shayada'

An Iranian woman in Australia attempts to cut her abusive husband out of her life and retain custody of their daughter in Noora Niasari's compelling drama.

CLOSE UP

Model Roz spotted at New York Fashion Week

Arab News Dubai

Saudi social media influencer Model Roz gave her 15.3 million Instagram fans a sneak peek of New York Fashion Week as she attended a number of events in the city, including the Prabal Gurung show.

"Bracing the rain for @prabal-gurung," she wrote on Instagram alongside a photograph in which she can be seen clutching an umbrella before the show in the Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms State Park on Roosevelt Island.

Celebrity guests at the runway event included Maddie Ziegler, Awkwafina and Lori Harvey. Roz was also spotted at the Smart Tox kick-off event with Vogue last week, which celebrated the beginning of New York Fashion Week.

The Saudi model's trip to the Big Apple comes after a summer spent in sunny Montenegro.

The social media heavy-weight traveled to the Balkan country in August and went on to share picture perfect snapshots and videos from her trip.

The Jubail-born Riyadh-raised model, who prefers to go by her social media name, is based in Los Angeles but hopped on a flight to explore the country's natural offerings.

"Drenched in awe and wonder, chasing waterfalls above Budva, Montenegro. This amazing adventure was a true gem and easily one of the best experiences of my life," she posted

alongside a clip of her traversing a range of mini waterfalls in Budva, a town on the Adriatic Sea.

"Had great experience today to visit Lady of the Rocks. This is a manmade island in Boka Bay. For over 200 years men brought stones and sunken ships and threw them on the same spot to build this island. Absolutely magical! (sic)" she shared in another post, detailing her visit to an islet in the Bay of Kotor.

Roz shot to fame in 2019 when she modeled for a Victoria's Secret's Pink campaign, showing off the label's sportswear in a sun-drenched video.

She moved to the US in 2013 to pursue a degree in interior design, but her hopes of becoming a model pushed her to give it a shot.

"Ever since I was young, becoming a model was always a dream of mine. It was a bit difficult for me as a Saudi woman ... but to me nothing is impossible" Roz previously told Arab News.

Challenging stereotypes proved to be one of the major hurdles Roz had to face, but "with my persistence, I was able to prove to brands that I am not just famous ... I am also influential to many people," Roz said.

The model's Instagram feed is littered with photographs of her various advertising campaigns, as well as visits to many a product launch party — from NYX Cosmetics events to TikTok gatherings.



Model Roz was spotted at the Prabal Gurung show at New York Fashion Week, right, and also attended a launch party in the city. Getty Images/ AFP



DANNY MASTERSON

Ashton Kutcher, Mila Kunis apologize for character letters

Arab News Dubai

Actors Ashton Kutcher and Mila Kunis took to social media to apologize for writing character letters on behalf of their "That '70s Show" co-star Danny Masterson in the rape cases against him.

"We are aware of the pain that has been caused by the character letters that we wrote on behalf of Danny Masterson," Kutcher said on Instagram.

"We support victims. We have done this historically through our work and will continue to do so in the future," Kunis added.

Kutcher and Kunis' apology comes shortly after their character letters for Masterson were made public, following his sentencing of 30 years to life in prison for raping two women in 2003.



Mila Kunis and Ashton Kutcher

FILMMAKER

Tim Burton shares his thoughts on AI

Arab News Dubai

Filmmaker Tim Burton, who is known for films like "Edward Scissorhands" and "Beetlejuice," shared his thoughts on artificial intelligence and its threat to animation in a recent interview with The Independent.

The filmmaker was asked about a BuzzFeed story published in July that used AI to show what Disney movies would look like if they were directed by Burton.

"They had AI do my versions of Disney characters!" he said. "I can't describe the feeling it gives you. It reminded me of when other cultures say, 'Don't take my picture because it is taking away your soul.'"

"What it does is it sucks something from you," he added. "It takes something from your soul or psyche; that is very disturbing, especially if it has to do with you. It's like a robot taking your humanity, your soul."

REVIEW

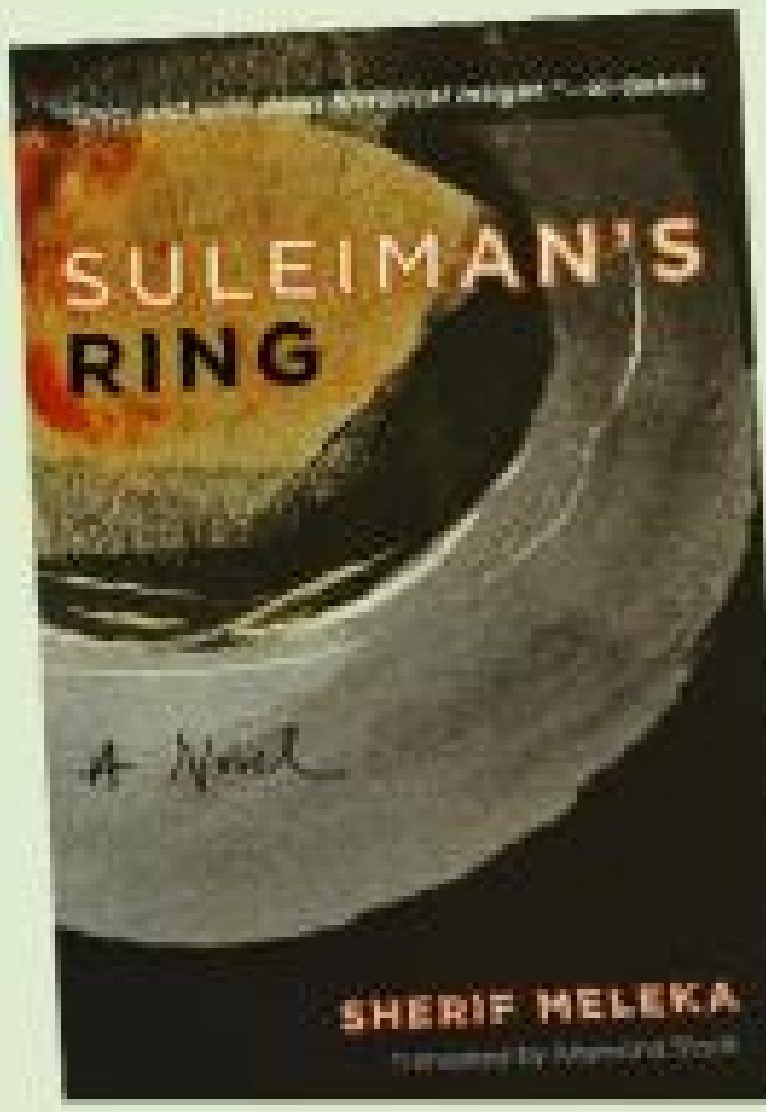
Sherif Meleka's 'Suleiman's Ring' pays homage to vibrant Egypt

Manal Shakir Chicago

The year is 1962 and the Free Officers revolution in Egypt is gaining momentum in Sherif Meleka's historical novel "Suleiman's Ring." In Alexandria, Daoud Abdel Malek, an old player with a magical ring, and Sheikh Hassanein al-Basri, a wedding promoter, meet with Lieutenant Colonel Gamal Abdel Nasser who asks for their support in a revolution to bring about Egypt's independence. The men embark on a journey that transforms the country as well as themselves. Translated into English by Raymond Stock, Meleka takes readers on an

adventure through momentous historical events that lead to the destiny of Egypt and Egyptians.

Readers first meet Daoud Abdel Malek walking along the corniche in Moharram Bey in Alexandria, wearing a red scarf and Egyptian fez. The middle-aged man walks the same streets and neighborhoods as his father and grandfather before him. This is where Daoud's life has taken shape, and where he is forced to face the notion of leaving because of his religious beliefs. Daoud's best friend, Sheikh Hassanein, questions Daoud's loyalty to Egypt as a Jew when political tensions between Egypt



and Israel rise. With his feet deeply rooted in Alexandrian soil and a magic ring that can change a man's destiny, Daoud remains steadfast in his love of Egypt and its diverse people and traditions.

In Meleka's Alexandria, Muslims, Jews, and Christians tend to do everything together except marriage, worship and burial, which they keep within their own communities. But the birth of a revolution and the idea of independence has implications and a resounding effect on all citizens of Egypt, no matter their differences. However, as the country moves into the future, overwhelmed by

external political conflict, relationships are tested. Sheikh Hassanein is picked up by the secret police for affiliations with the Muslim Brotherhood, and it is Daoud who attempts to save him.

This story is not only about a revolution, but about the evolution of a country and its people. There is wealth gained and losses suffered, love and loyalty questioned while hateful thoughts cause irrationality. But there is power when people on opposite sides come together for a common cause. Meleka's Egypt does not come to independence from a singular path, but multiple paths moving toward the same goal.