



3 Reducing plastic waste key to realizing Kuwait's SDGs



10 US consumer prices surge 9.1%, a new 40-year high



13 Mattel unveils Jane Goodall Barbie, complete with chimp



14 Africa's fastest man Omanyala on a sprint mission for Kenya



Call to boost local production for food security, low prices

Ministerial committee submits urgent recommendations to Cabinet



KUWAIT: The full buck supermoon rises near the Liberation Tower in Kuwait City on July 13, 2022. The July full moon is the largest supermoon of 2022. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

KUWAIT: The ministerial committee for food security has prepared a wide-ranging report that includes a roadmap and presented it to the Cabinet. The report is the first after two months since its formation, with requests and recommendations the next government must execute immediately to obtain the desired results to shield the country from global food price fluctuations during crises.

The committee emphasized supporting local agricultural production and diversifying production, while increasing yield and improving marketing. The committee prepared a schedule with dates to boost self-sufficiency in many food items within three years. It called for opening up agricultural land ownership and hold violators who disregard the production output mentioned in their contract.

The plan has new stipulations for allocation of new plots to achieve the goals of vertical expansion through modern agricultural techniques, save water and increase production to meet consumption demands. The

report calls for ensuring a local supply of meat through follow up and supervision of products livestock farmers send to the local market, which has resulted in shortages and a dire need for imports, which led to a rise in prices.

The committee said the same recommendations apply to poultry and egg companies to avoid repeated crises. The recommendations applicable to animal husbandry also include fish farms and fish stocks. It added fish farming sites must be increased, as the infrastructure in Kuwait is ready for such projects, calling on fish farmers to supply all varieties of fish all year round at lower prices.

The committee advised coordination between the interior ministry, customs department and ports authority should reach the maximum level to ease the transport of products to stores and warehouses. It called to quickly build new multipurpose warehouses, while emphasizing the role of cooperative societies in maintaining food security.

Global economic outlook 'darkened significantly': IMF

WASHINGTON: The global economic outlook has "darkened significantly" and could deteriorate further, the IMF's managing director said Wednesday, citing Russia's war in Ukraine and the rapid inflation it has caused, threatening widespread hunger and poverty. The warning comes just months after the IMF already cut its global growth forecast for 2022 and 2023.

The Ukraine war hit as the world was struggling to recover from the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and has caused an acceleration of inflation that endangers the gains of the past two years. The international crisis-lender is "projecting a further downgrade to global growth" in 2022 and 2023, Kristalina Georgieva said in a blog post published ahead of the meeting of G20 finance ministers and central bankers, scheduled for Friday and Saturday in Bali.

"It is going to be a tough 2022 - and possibly an even tougher 2023, with increased risk of recession," she wrote. The IMF is due to release its updated World Economic Outlook later this month, which Georgieva said will further downgrade the estimate for global growth from the April estimate of 3.6 percent. "We warned this could get worse given potential downside risks. Since then, several of those risks have materialized-and the multiple crises facing the world have intensified," she said.

The outlook remains "extremely uncertain", and Georgieva warned that the poorest will be hit the hardest. The risk of "social instability" was also increasing due to food and energy prices rising. After a decade of low inflation, prices worldwide have surged amid strong demand for goods that outstripped supply as economies began to return to normal, but the Russian invasion of Ukraine in late February and the sanctions imposed on Moscow pushed fuel and food prices up sharply.

Continued on Page 6

Abu Akleh kin invited to US as Biden visits

JERUSALEM: US President Joe Biden's administration has invited relatives of slain Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh to Washington, an American official said Wednesday, as Biden arrived in the Zionist entity. Secretary of State Antony Blinken "has invited the family to the United States to be able to sit down and engage with him directly", Biden's National Security Advisor Jake

Sullivan told reporters aboard Air Force One.

Abu Akleh, a Palestinian-American, was killed while covering a Zionist army raid in the occupied West Bank in May. The United Nations has concluded the Palestinian-American journalist was killed by Zionist fire. Washington has agreed this was likely, but also said there was no evidence the killing was intentional.

Abu Akleh's family has voiced outrage over the Biden administration's "abject response" to her death. Lina Abu Akleh, Shireen's niece, confirmed she had spoken to Blinken on Wednesday. "We got a call a few hours ago, around noontime and we

Continued on Page 6



JERUSALEM: Lina Abu Akleh, the niece of slain Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, watches on TV the speech of US President Joe Biden upon his arrival in Tel Aviv on July 13, 2022. — AFP

Sri Lanka PM office stormed as prez flees

COLOMBO: Protesters in Sri Lanka defied tear gas, water cannon and a state of emergency to storm the prime minister's office on Wednesday after the president fled overseas, with the crowd demanding both men step down in the face of an economic crisis. In a televised statement Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said he had instructed the military and police to do "what is necessary to restore order".

But footage showed armed security personnel standing by in the grounds of his office as protesters, some holding national flags, milled and took pictures. Other demonstrators at one point broke into state television studios, as the country's months-long political and economic crisis appeared to be moving towards a climax.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa promised at the weekend to resign on Wednesday after escaping his own official residence in Colombo just before tens of thousands of protesters overran it. As president, Rajapaksa enjoys immunity from arrest, and he is

Continued on Page 6



COLOMBO: Demonstrators shout slogans and wave flags during an anti-government protest inside the office building of the prime minister on July 13, 2022. — AFP

Superfood puts healthy burgers on UAE menus

DUBAI: A hardy plant grown using salt water is thriving in the UAE's desert farms and helping create "healthy" burgers, showing sustainable agriculture's potential in the toughest conditions. Salicornia, a succulent, is already being used as a salt replacement in burger patties - a rare farming success in the oil-rich United Arab Emirates, which imports nearly all of its food. The asparagus-like plant reduces sodium content by 40 percent in the company's healthy burgers, which also contain chicken, quinoa and kale. Native to parts of North America, Europe, South Africa and South Asia, the plant is ideal for the UAE's inhospitable climate, and contains anti-bacterial and anti-inflammatory properties.

Agriculture produces less than one percent of GDP in the UAE, a country on the frontline of climate change with temperatures regularly topping 50 degrees Celsius and rising rapidly. Salicornia cultivation began last year in a number of farms across the UAE as part of an experiment using brine run-off from desalination plants by the Dubai-based International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA). — AFP (See Page 11)