



Amir's health remains stable: Diwan

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30, (KUNA): The health condition of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah remains stable, said the Amiri Diwan Minister Thursday.

Amiri Diwan Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah expressed wishes of good health and rapid recovery for His Highness the Amir.

Opinion

All we want is eat grapes, not to fight with the guard

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah
Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

WE must extend our appreciation and gratitude to MP Muhallal Al-Mudhaf for his insistence on grilling His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. This is because the government was quick to implement a number of popular demands, which it had previously rejected, for reasons best known currently to it, but it submitted to the fear of the sword of accountability that was hanging over it.

In fact, the people of Kuwait "do not want to fight the guard, but rather eat the grapes". The executive authority was reluctant to achieve this, making it seem as if it wanted to further politically starve the people. However, on the eve of the grilling, it opened the door wide open. It issued an amnesty decree for prisoners and those in exile due to the flawed and unconstitutional cyber-crime law, even though it had been procrastinating on this matter for more than six months. In addition, it adjusted some salaries, even if it was not all that was required, but it proved that it is capable of doing so, without citing liquidity deficit as an excuse.

The fulfillment of these few demands is just the tip of the iceberg of what the people seek. It actually indicates two things – first, if the Council of Ministers wished to do something, it would do so. Second - the executive authority only works under pressure.

As a result of this policy, political and economic stability cannot be relied upon because it means not realizing how things would turn out if work continues under pressure.

Since no government in the world can act erratically, this indicates that first, it does not give weight to its program, and second, it is subject to the whims of influential people and some forces, which reveals its failure.

There is no doubt that the issue did not end with what was achieved by the grilling stick. People have many demands, which are all deserving, starting with loans - an issue that put pressure on a wide segment of citizens. They also include the housing problem, educational failure, and infrastructure, as well as the closure of the country, which made it a repellent of investments, and the lack of unified cadres for employees. Despite the popular outcry, the government is deaf.

All of this leads to pressure on the economy and the loss of more national product, which neighboring countries is keen on maximizing through many facilities, for which they seek the help of experienced experts, irrespective of whether they are citizens or foreigners. On the other hand, Kuwait is moving against the trend, as if it chooses to live in a closed box and does not want to look at its surroundings and the world.

In any country, when most of the leadership positions are by proxy, it means that it is not doing well and is unable to choose the appropriate people to fill those positions.

In fact, it is even more disastrous when someone who is not qualified is appointed to a leadership position, while competent people are intentionally excluded. This is what represents the major failure in projects, and indeed in all institutions.

This reality has paved the way for corruption to spread to such an extent that it can only be remedied through painful surgical operations, which cannot happen under the current political climate.

What happened prior to the grilling session of His Highness the Prime Minister confirms that the door is open for further parliamentary accountability of the Prime Minister and the ministers to achieve the demands of citizens.

However, this does not mean reform, but rather ruin. We therefore beg to ask – Has the position become so dear, even if it is at the expense of the nation?

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Day by Day

THE reprehensible person is among those who benefit from ill-gotten gains, and he will certainly not be happy with what he stole through trickery and fraud.

The money that was transferred have a documented trail, detailing how they reached their recipients, the identity under which they were transferred, and to whom they ultimately belonged. All this information is currently in the possession of the relevant authorities.

The dishonest person deceived both the president of his country and its leaders, as well as the leaders of the state in which he lived. His belly bloated with money, yet despite this, he betrayed his own family.

... Yet tomorrow is another day

Zahed Matar

MP questions gender-mixed sports training

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: The Interior and Defense Affairs Committee on Thursday discussed the government's bill on amending the Foreigners Residency Law with representatives of the Ministry of Interior.

The Public Funds Protection Committee discussed the reports of the State Audit Bureau (SAB) on the funds that Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) invested from 2018 to 2023. The representatives of the Ministry of Oil, KOC and SAB attended the meeting.

The committee also tackled its task to investigate the issues raised in the grilling motion that MP Dawoud Maarefi filed against former Minister of Public Works Amani Bugamaz. Chairman, members of the Board of Directors, secretary of the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART) and

representatives of SAB attended the meeting.

The Business Environment Improvement and Small Enterprises Committee held a meeting with representatives of the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Central Bank of Kuwait, Kuwait Banks Union and National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprises.

The Education, Culture and Guidance Affairs Committee discussed the bills on the establishment of Nawaf Al-Ahmad University for Applied Sciences and Sabah Al-Ahmad University, and transfer the supervision of the Basic Education College from the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) to Abdullah Al Salem University. This proposal includes restructuring departments in the Basic Education College to match those at Abdullah Al-Salem University and to

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Kuwait highlights renewable energy goals at COP28



Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development takes part in the 28th edition of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai on Nov 30. KFAED photo

Global leaders convene in Dubai

Kissinger dies

WASHINGTON, Nov 30, (AP): Former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, the diplomat with the thick glasses and gravelly voice who dominated foreign policy as the United States extricated itself from Vietnam and broke down barriers with China, died Wednesday, his consulting firm said. He was 100.

With his gruff yet commanding presence and behind-the-scenes manipulation of power, Kissinger exerted uncommon influence on global affairs under Presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford, earning both vilification and the Nobel Peace Prize.

Decades later, his name still provoked impassioned debate over foreign policy landmarks long past.

Kissinger's power grew during the turmoil of Watergate, when the politically attuned diplomat assumed a role akin to co-president to the weakened Nixon.

"No doubt my vanity was piqued," Kissinger later wrote of his expanding influence. "But the dominant emotion was a premonition of catastrophe."

US sanctions group tied to Iran oil sales

WASHINGTON, Nov 30, (AP): The U.S. on Wednesday said it imposed a new round of sanctions on a group of 20 people and firms allegedly involved in a financial facilitation network for the benefit of the Iranian military.

The Treasury Department sanctions impact firms and people spanning Hong Kong to the United Arab Emirates.

Included in the sanctions package are employees, brokers and purchasers from Iranian firm Sepchr Energy, which is also subject to sanctions.

ABU DHABI, Nov 30, (KUNA): The annual United Nations Climate Change Conference, known as the Conference of the Parties (COP28), kicked off on Thursday in Dubai Expo City, lasting until December 12.

COP is considered the primary decision-making body of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), with the participation of representatives of 197 countries which signed or are parties to the UNFCCC, and thousands of experts and journalists in the field of climate change.

UAE President Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan welcomed the international community for the start of COP28 in Dubai, through a post on social media platform known as X.

The conference aims to discuss ways to fight climate change, which increased and has a negative outcome on human rights, he added.

State of Kuwait has been reiterating commitment to the international agreements to cut gas emissions to building a system capable of addressing future challenges.

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Palestinians line up for food in Rafah, Gaza Strip, Nov. 30, 2023, during a temporary ceasefire between Israel and Hamas. (AP)

Other Voices

An open letter to COP28

Dear leaders, negotiators, and decision makers,

THIS year, "Unite-Act-Deliver" is the slogan of COP28, a pivotal event in the international endeavour to combat climate change. The increasing number of climate disasters in 2023, wherein severe weather phenomena have wreaked devastation on a global scale, shows the urgency of the need to act. The United States, Hong Kong, Greece, Libya, Turkey, Bulgaria, Spain, Taiwan, Pakistan and China were all affected by hurricanes, storms, droughts, and flooding. The floods that struck Libya and Pakistan were particularly devastating, resulting in substantial destruction of infrastructure and loss of life, and increasing sea levels and heat surges that have been felt globally have also occurred.

Furthermore, the adverse effects of climate change on food and water security on a global scale have impeded progress to-

wards attaining the Sustainable Development Goals. In particular, food systems are accountable for one-third of worldwide greenhouse gas emissions and have slowed agricultural productivity for the past five years which entails the transformation of food systems to achieve net-zero emissions.

COP28 also comes at a time of unprecedented regional wars on different fronts which cannot entirely be separated from the issue of climate justice. War exerts an adverse environmental impact on climate, as exemplified by the catastrophic environmental devastation and human suffering caused by military operations in countries such as Palestine and Ukraine. A recent report on the Russia Ukraine War estimates that in the first year alone, approximately 120 million metric tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions were produced showing substantial impact on climate change. Continued destruction from warfare and the efforts will also compound these emissions.

Al Habtoor Research Centre joins global bodies such as the International Panel on Climate Change, Greenpeace, World Wildlife Fund, Climate Action Network and Climate Policy Initiative in calling on leaders to take comprehensive and equitable measures to tackle climate change and its repercussions on natural and human systems. With this goal we emphasize the urgency of adopting a serious political will to address the following critical issues:

■ **Enhancing Adaptation Strategies Through Maximizing the Role of the Adaptation Fund:**

It is imperative that the

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Israel, Hamas extend truce

JERUSALEM, Nov 30, (AP): Israel and Hamas agreed at the last minute Thursday to extend their cease-fire in Gaza by another day. But any further renewal of the deal that has seen dozens of hostages and prisoners released could prove more daunting since Hamas is expected to set a higher price for many of the remaining captives.

International pressure has mounted for the truce to continue as long as possible after nearly eight weeks of Israeli bombardment and a ground campaign in Gaza that have killed thousands of Palestinians, uprooted more than three-quarters of the population of 2.3 million and led to a humanitarian crisis.

Israel has vowed to resume its offensive once the cease-fire expires.

And the talks appear to be growing tougher, with Hamas having already freed most of the women and children kidnapped during the deadly Oct. 7 on Israel that triggered the war. The militants are expected to make greater demands in return for freeing scores of civilian men and soldiers.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and other top officials on his third visit to the region since the start of the war, said he hoped the cease-fire could be extended and more hostages could be released.

"This process is producing results. It's important, and we hope that it can continue," he said.

Prayer Timings			
Fajr	05:00	Asr	14:30
Sunrise ..	06:24	Maghrib ..	16:49
Zohr	11:37	Isha	18:11

Local

BIOMETRIC/FINGERPRINT APPOINTMENT: <https://meta.e.gov.kw/En/>

Focus on regional issues, Palestinian cause: Al-Juma

'KJA presence in NATO meeting allows Kuwait to deliver message to world'

By Nawab Khan

BRUSSELS, Nov 30, (KUNA): Kuwait Journalists Association's (KJA) participation in the NATO Foreign Ministers meeting in Brussels is a unique experience allowing Kuwait to deliver its media message to the world, said a Kuwaiti journalist on Thursday.

Speaking to KUNA, Rabaa Maki Al-Juma – member of the KJA Board – affirmed that her participation in the NATO meeting was a unique opportunity to deliver Kuwait's views on important regional issues chiefly amongst them was the just Palestinian cause.

She affirmed that the meeting was held during a disturbing situation in the Middle East region as well as the continuous Russian military operations against the Ukraine with both crises causing the death of thousands of lives including those of children and women.



Al-Juma

Al-Juma stressed that journalists must take the opportunity to ask the NATO FMs about their stance on the humanitarian truce between Hamas and the Israeli occupation forces in the Gaza Strip, adding that questions should also revolve around the importance of implementing international law in Gaza and allowing humanitarian aid to enter the war-torn region.

However, Al-Juma indicated that the NATO FMs meeting focused on the war in the Ukraine, the organization's relation with China, the tension between Kosovo and Serbia, and Turkiye's demand to allow Sweden to join the organization.

She affirmed that there was a great interest in having Kuwaiti journalists present at the meeting, a preparatory step for the NATO summit to be held in Washington next year.

Al-Juma stressed that Kuwaiti journalists must highlight Arab causes during the future NATO summit via using the latest technologies and tools to reach a wider audience.

NATO is an integral global organization and Kuwait has a strategic relation it on the bilateral level and also through the NATO's Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI).

Bid to prevent traffic congestion

'Roads, bridges project 66.66% done'

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART) Eng Khaled Dhawi Al-Osaimi revealed that the percentage of completion of the contract for the establishment and maintenance of roads, bridges, rain drainage, sanitation and other services in South Surra, including Damascus Street, the Fifth Ring Road and King Faisal bin Abdulaziz Road reached 66.66 percent by the end of October 2023, reports Al-Anba daily.

Regarding the components of the project, Al-Osaimi stated that it includes six kilometers of ground road works with a width of six to 11 lanes, five car bridges above low-lying roads, six service bridges above low-lying roads, six low-lying roads, two car tunnels, five intersections, one overhead car bridge, 1.4 kilometer bridge slopes using mechanical reinforcement, a rainwater drainage network including ground rainwater tank, diversion, transfer

and protection works for various services, one pedestrian bridge, 11 bus stops, temporary traffic diversion works and environmental protection works.

Al-Osaimi added that the completion rate of the entire plan is 76.50 percent; indicating the project is located in South Surra includes the construction of high bridges, low-lying roads and closed tunnels with all related services and diverting the path of services which are in conflict with the new route, and that this contract is part of the development of roads leading to Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah Hospital.

He explained the project includes the development and provision of entrances and exits on the highways leading to the surrounding service roads towards Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah Hospital. He added the project aims to improve traffic movement in residential areas and to redistribute traffic to prevent traffic congestion.



Counterfeit goods stored in a basement of a building.

'Counterfeit items damage economy'

3 stores with fake goods sealed

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry's Commercial Control Department took action by shutting down three stores in Jahra for trading counterfeit products from international brands. Additionally, a significant warehouse in Farwaniya was closed down, with confiscated goods worth 120,000 dinars. These seized items were intended for distribution in Mubarakia, Salmiya, Al-Aqila and Farwaniya stores.

Al-Rai received information from sources indicating that the store licensee, whose name was disclosed, has been forwarded to the Public Prosecution, facing charges of law violation. The Ministry's commercial control inspectors obtained information pointing to a merchant engaging in the wholesale distribution of counterfeit goods from renowned international brands. The illicit activities encompass the sale of counterfeit clothing, bags, shoes, and accessories to various stores and central markets in Mubarakia, Salmiya, Egaila and Farwaniya. The sources emphasized that authorities in

the Commerce sector are actively combating counterfeit goods due to their failure to adhere to manufacturers' standards and regulatory tests. These illicit products pose a significant threat to the national economy, jeopardizing consumers, brand owners, and various stakeholders. Moreover, they contribute to the expulsion of foreign investment and hinder expenditures on innovation and development.

She mentioned that Kuwait successfully removed itself from the watchlist for intellectual property protection due to its ongoing and notable advancements in this domain. The Ministry's increased market monitoring efforts, particularly regarding counterfeit goods and commercial fraud, have played a crucial role in safeguarding the interests of the consumer public. Emphasizing the need for ongoing vigilance, she highlighted the commitment of inspectors in the "Trade" direction to uphold the country's classification and ensure compliance with legal specifications.

Diseases abundant in Jahra

'80K patients visit 12 skin clinics'

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: Head of the Dermatology Department at Jahra Hospital Dr. Muhammad Al-Otaibi announced that the department receives about 80,000 patients annually through 12 specialized clinics at the Jahra Hospital. They include three clinics for psoriasis patients, two hair and alopecia clinics, a contact dermatitis clinic, a hyperhidrosis clinic, two surgical clinics for diagnostic skin biopsies and the removal of some benign skin tumors, and three clinics in the laser treatment unit.

Dr. Al-Otaibi explained in a special press statement issued yesterday that the laser treatment unit, which includes three clinics, contains many modern devices, such as skin pigmentation removal laser, vascular laser, and excimer laser. The department also performs many different therapeutic procedures, including cold cauterization, hot cauterization, skin scraping, and therapeutic skin injections.

He said the annual report for the year

2023 of the hospital's dermatology department confirmed that the department is a training center recognized by the Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialties for doctors of the Kuwait Board of Dermatology and doctors of the Kuwait Board of Family Medicine. It also receives many visiting consultant doctors and organizes many scientific conferences and awareness activities such as World Psoriasis Day, World Vitiligo Day, Eczema Day and other activities.

Dr. Al-Otaibi affirmed that the department serves all citizens and residents of the Jahra Governorate, regardless of gender or age, adding that it provides its services to children and adults, and receives new patients from the dermatology clinic at the Jahra Health Center through referral and/or a prior electronic appointment from the clinic to which the patient belongs.

Regarding the repeated cases, he said they are received through a prior appointment from the clinic where the patient is followed up according to the case, adding that emergency cases are examined on the same day of the referral.

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

By Day: Mild, and partly cloudy with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speed of 08-30 km/h.

By Night: Rather cold to cold

Weather

with light variable wind to light to moderate northwesterly wind, with speed of 12-35 km/h.

Station **Max Exp** **Min Rec**
Kuwait City 24 14

Kuwait Airport	23	13
Abdaly	23	08
Jahra	23	12
Salmiyah	22	15
Nuwaisib	25	11
Wafra	23	11



Ambassador Talal Al-Fassam talking at UNIDO.

'Kuwait working on cutting pollution'

'Circular economy mulled over'

VIENNA, Nov 30, (KUNA): Kuwait is drawing up a plan to adopt circular economy in industrial process as part of the country's national vision for varied and sustainable economy, said Kuwait's Ambassador to Austria.

Ambassador Talal Al-Fassam, also Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the international organizations, made the statement during a speech he delivered before the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in Vienna.

Al-Fassam stressed that Kuwait takes into consideration the UN Sustainable Development Goals as part of the country's vision.

Kuwait is working on reducing waste and pollution in a way that enhances environment sustainability and shows abidance of industry to social responsibility, he noted.

Of the plan's goals are increasing the number of industrial facilities which adopt circular economy, reducing supply chain costs in the long term, improving export potential for local manufacturing industry products, and designing policies and incentives to push private manufacturers to adopt circular economy principles, he elaborated.

The ambassador indicated that Kuwait has approved the national industrial strategy, which will contribute to creating appropriate conditions in order to improve competitiveness in the industrial sectors, achieve diversification and raise the share of the industrial sector in the country's gross domestic product.

He went to say that Kuwait welcomes the organization's initiatives and activities on environment and circular economy like Vienna Energy Forum and the events organized by UNIDO during the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the Climate Conference.

Additionally, Al-Fassam underlined the importance of food security and deliver it to all people safely, stressing the organization's key role in achieving sustainable development.

Meanwhile, the ambassador touched upon the Israeli occupation on the Gaza Strip, which targeted infrastructure, and cut off power, water and food sources in the Strip.

He called on international community to allow humanitarian aid into the Strip, and hold the perpetrators accountable for their crimes committed against Palestinian people.

Ties strong: Al-Qatami

Kuwait, Egypt trade hits \$500mIn

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: Member of the Board of Directors of Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) Wafaa Al-Qatami has confirmed Kuwait's strong relationship with the Arab Republic of Egypt in all fields, especially the economic field, as the volume of trade exchange between the two countries reached \$500 million last year, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Al-Qatami made the statement during her recent meeting with a delegation from the Egyptian Embassy headed by Ambassador Osama Shaltout to review the projects of the National Service Agency of the Egyptian Armed Forces.

She affirmed that the chamber's aspiration for the Kuwaiti business sector is to enter into partnerships with the Egyptian side after reviewing the projects, as well as the incentives and investment facilities, offered to Kuwaiti investors to participate in the implementation of different projects; particularly the vital activities like investment, medical tourism, animal production, foodstuff, marble production and others.

On the other hand, Ambassador Shaltout said the meeting aims to introduce the Kuwaiti business community to the investment opportunities available in various economic sectors in Egypt. He disclosed that the volume of Kuwaiti investments in Egypt reached \$19 billion, as the volume of the export of Egyptian products to Kuwait increased by 37 percent in the past year compared to 2021. These exports varied between foodstuff, electrical appliances, stones, marble and electrical cables, he added.

Defense Attaché at the Egyptian Embassy Brigadier General of Staff Mohamed Ragab conducted a presentation of the projects of the National Service Agency of the Egyptian Armed Forces, which plays an effective role in development and serves as the basic pillar of the Egyptian economy.

Rajab stated that the program covers 63 companies operating in several sectors such as food security, heavy industries, specialized contracting services, internal and external trade, mining, oil and gas.

He added these areas consist of several



Al-Qatami

MPW Kuwaitization

283 expats sacked

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: According to informed sources in the Ministry of Public Works, the services of 283 non-Kuwaiti employees in the ministry were terminated from the beginning of March 2020 to August 17, 2023.

In this context, the sources revealed that the total number of non-Kuwaiti employees in the ministry is 242 at present.

They affirmed the ministry's commitment to implementing the provisions of Civil Service Council's resolution No. 11/2017 regarding the rules for the process of Kuwaitization of government jobs, stressing that it took several necessary measures to implement the Kuwaitization policy according to the rate determined for each job group, until the rate of Kuwaitization in the ministry and its subordinate agencies reached 100 percent.

The sources affirmed that non-Kuwaiti employees do not hold any supervisory or leadership position, based on the Cabinet's decision to not appoint non-Kuwaitis in any supervisory or leadership position.

Talk on bilateral ties

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received on Thursday a call from his Russian counterpart, Special representative of the Russian President to the Middle East and Africa, Mikhail Bogdanov.

During the call, both sides discussed ways to strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries and current issues of mutual concerns.

specialized companies, all of which are available to interested investors through partnership or full ownership.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: Experts have agreed that treating risk factors early may slow or stop high blood pressure and cholesterol causing atherosclerosis in young people, according to the New Atlas website, as reported by Al-Qabas Arabic daily.

A recent study discovered that high blood pressure and cholesterol have a significant impact on the development of atherosclerosis in people over 40 years old, compared to those over 48 years old. The results of the study indicated that intervention to address risk factors early may slow or stop the disease.

It added that despite advances in medicine, heart disease and blood vessels associated with atherosclerosis remain the main cause of death. Since atherosclerosis often begins early in life and develops without obvious symptoms; detecting the disease during its subclinical stage is essential for starting preventive measures in a timely manner to slow its progression, the experts explained.

The new study, conducted by scientists at the Spanish National Center for Cardiovascular Research (CNIC) and whose results were published in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology, investigated early sub-clinical atherosclerosis in middle-aged individuals without symptoms to determine the factors that affect it.

Bozja Ibanez, one of the researchers involved in the study, disclosed: "The results show that moderate increases in blood pressure and cholesterol have a more pronounced effect on the development of atherosclerosis in young people."

The study involved 3,471 participants with no history of cardiovascular disease. The participants – between the ages of 40 and 55 years – underwent three-dimensional ultrasound of the blood vessels (3DVUS, id jrkdm), which is an imaging technique that provides an accurate quantitative estimate of the plaque size of the carotid and femoral arteries. At three-year intervals, CT scans determined the participants' coronary artery calcium score (CAC), which is a measurement of calcified plaques in the walls of the heart's arteries.

Following are the most important points in the study:

- High blood pressure and cholesterol have a major impact on the development of atherosclerosis in people over 40 years old.
- Detecting atherosclerosis during its sub-clinical stage is important for initiating preventive measures to slow its progression
- Control of risk factors should begin early to prevent the development of atherosclerosis

Lifestyle and family history

At each visit, participants provided information on lifestyle factors such as smoking, daily meals, physical activity and sleep. A family history of diseases and cardiovascular diseases was also taken. Blood tests and physical examinations were performed, including blood pressure measurements. The primary outcome of the study was the development and regression of subclinical atherosclerosis from baseline to six years as measured by 3D ultrasound.

Over a period of six years, subclinical atherosclerosis developed in 327 middle-aged participants who did not show symptoms, while eight percent of the participants showed a decline in their atherosclerosis and the rest remained stable.

Among the participants, 465 had metastatic disease at enrollment and 535 did not. Among the stable participants, 397 had metastatic disease at enrollment and 603 remained disease-free throughout the study period.

The researchers said their findings have important implications for cardiovascular disease prevention and personalized medicine. This indicates that controlling risk factors, especially high blood pressure and cholesterol should be started early to prevent the development of atherosclerosis.

Vantin Foster, another researcher involved in the study, explained that "detecting subclinical atherosclerosis at an early age with strong control of risk factors can help reduce the global burden of cardiovascular disease."

The researchers added that the results also prove that "atherosclerosis can be treated through intervention in the early stages," noting that eight percent of the participants achieved complete recovery from plaques. They also speculated that this relatively small number could be increased by controlling risk factors.

They added: "Until now, the prevailing idea has been that atherosclerosis is a progressive disease, and efforts should be made to avoid its transition to clinical stages."

Tooth decay prevalent in kids; 79 pc in Kuwait

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: Dr. Sumant Mishra, a specialist in pediatric dentistry at the Amiri Hospital and Bneid Al-Gar Specialized Dental Hospital, says about 514 million children suffer from caries (decay) in their primary teeth, according to the World Health Organization.

In a special press statement, Dr. Mishra said the average prevalence of the Early Childhood Caries (ECC) around the world is estimated at 23.8 percent, and 57.3 percent of the children are under the age of three years.

He explained that a study conducted in Kuwait years ago revealed high caries rates in early childhood by up to 79 percent. Only about 19 percent of children were free of caries.

Caries in early childhood poses a major threat to children's oral health and their general well-being. ECC indicates the development of cavities or tooth decay in children who are six years or younger.

It primarily affects the baby (milk) teeth and can lead to pain, infections, difficulty in eating, and speech problems. In some cases, it may affect the permanent teeth and the child's overall development.

Poor oral hygiene is one of the most important causes of tooth decay in early childhood. Not brushing and flossing teeth adequately can lead to the accumulation of plaque, which is a sticky layer of bacteria that attacks tooth enamel, as well as frequent consumption of sugary foods and drinks.

Vertical transmission of bacteria also leads to childhood caries, as the transfer of cavity-causing bacteria can occur from parents or caregivers to children by sharing tools, kissing, or any other oral contact.

Lack of access to dental care and infrequent visits to the dentist represent an obstacle in the early detection and intervention of ECC.

Regarding the prevention of caries at this stage, Dr. Mishra called for good oral hygiene practices by teaching children proper techniques for brushing teeth, and ensuring that they brush their teeth at least twice a day when the first tooth emerges, and use dental floss, as well as following healthy eating habits particularly a balanced diet that is low in sugary foods and drinks.

diwaniya

ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

‘Gulf Arabs going to West don’t know about a dazzling China in East’

“YEARS AGO, when we wanted to belittle the quality of a product, we used to call it ‘Chinese’, but allow me now, after spending 4 months in China, to acknowledge and admit that we were very wrong. The Chinese product is not bad, but some merchants were taking it lightly. They brought products of low quality,” columnist **Asrar Jowhar Hayat** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

“We recently completed the program of the Chinese International Media Cooperation Center under the supervision of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the time came to leave China, after a cultural, educational, practical and tourist trip, and I must confirm that the program has changed a lot in me, refined my personality, and taught me something new.

“First, I got to know China closely. I saw how these people were able to build an economic empire, so to speak, out of nothing, simply by relying on Chinese human resources, which I must register my admiration for, their perseverance, and their hard work in continuous work.

“And how these people, despite their lack of a language to communicate with the world, were able to reserve for them a luxurious economic seat among major and super-powers, and even politically, they became a major player in many issues and files.

“I cannot deny that the Chinese people have impressed me. They want to achieve and move forward, rushing towards the future, even though there are other peoples who are still trying to arrange their present, and others who are still living in their past.

“The four months I spent in China were enough to give me an important and fundamental lesson, which is that the will of the people creates economic, urban, and developmental miracles. China today is advanced in stages and at speed, after decades ago it was a simple country, thanks to the perseverance of its people.

“In addition, the program greatly refined my personality, as it taught us how to communicate, even with the absence of a language, and how to work hard through the opportunities it provided us, and taught us how the Chinese seek to market their worthy achievements to citizens of other countries and contribute to development.

“In addition, the program, which included participants from 96 different countries, some of whom were from countries that we might hear about for the first time, was an opportunity to learn about new cultures and peoples, and even to practice new languages, especially since proficiency in English was never a condition for joining the program, so if you want to communicate, you must find an ideal way to do so.

“I return after four months in China, after an enriching trip. We, Gulf Arabs in general, who are accustomed to going West, did not know that in the East, there is a dazzling China that is creating an economic miracle.

“I return to Kuwait, full of longing for my beautiful country, loaded with a lot of information and insights into different cultures, and I confirm that what is made in China is made with quality, perseverance, and determination.”



Asrar Hayat

Note:

“I extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to the entire family of the Kuwaiti Embassy in China, and I especially mention His Excellency the Minister Plenipotentiary, Assistant Al-Shraida, formerly of the Kuwaiti Embassy in Beijing, and the Kuwaiti Consul in Shanghai, Mishaal Al-Shamali, who was a good brother to me when I was abroad, and Faisal Fleiteh, First Secretary at the Kuwaiti Embassy.”

Also:

“Those familiar with Abu Ubaida’s speeches, particularly from the initiation of the “Al-Aqsa Flood” operation until today, will observe a notable evolution in the content of these addresses,” columnist **Dr. Abdul Latif bin Nakhi** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

“To illustrate this transformation, I’ll highlight a significant shift in his military-political discourse between two specific speeches: the first delivered on October 9, just two days after the “Al-Aqsa Flood,” and the second presented last Thursday.

“In the initial speech, Abu Ubaida, serving as the military spokesman for the Al-Qassam Brigades, issued a threat to execute a hostage for each new targeting of civilian homes in Gaza by the occupation forces, without warning.

“This announcement, promising to broadcast the executions with both audio and video clips, caused panic in Western diplomatic circles and media outlets.

“It led to comparisons between Hamas and the Islamic State, as the speech defied international agreements, treaties, and charters, notably international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions on armed conflicts.

“In response to the Western reactions and both public and covert Arab and Islamic appeals for withdrawal from the threat, there were even reports of demands for retreat from within the Hamas movement itself.

“Consequently, the Al-Qassam Brigades refrained from carrying out the threat, and Abu Ubaida ceased to reference it in subsequent speeches.

“Instead, amidst continued Israeli bombings of unarmed civilians, the Brigades took the initiative to unilaterally release an elderly Israeli woman and her two children. This strategic move shifted the narrative in the media.”

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“My dear homeland, then the citizens. Yes, we criticize the government and the Parliament. We criticize the practices and violations of citizens. Our projects are stalled or delayed. It is clear that we lag behind our neighbors, but Kuwait remains a shining name that no one can deny,” columnist **Sheikh Ali Al-Jaber Al-Ahmad** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“It is a country that attracts decent living due to its security and safety. It is a country on whose land various nationalities live.

“Kuwait’s political, economic, sporting, artistic, and even social history cannot be forgotten inside and outside our Arab surroundings.

“This country is protected by God Almighty. He gives but does not take, heals but does not wound, excuses but does not become stubborn, forgives but does not become arrogant.

“Kuwait is life, light, happiness and pleasure. If its children complain about

it, they do not stay away from its atmosphere, as its heat is the degree of our love for it and its coldness makes us feel the warmth of its embrace.

“So, preserve your homeland -- may God protect you, and work hard for it -- may God help you. Kuwait is my beloved and Kuwait is your beloved.

“Unless the government is able to prevent imaginary tournaments in front of the microphone at Erada Square, it must protect this part of the Kuwaiti piece of land from the statements and speeches of non-Kuwaitis, which may negatively affect the security of the country, because of some of those who lost their origins and live on this good land.

“The microphone is not a pot of water for passersby. Everyone knows that the space is wide enough to allow the entry of those with long tongues and golden throats who love chants. We do not need an audience that encourages what it hears, but does not understand what is being said.

“May God protect Kuwait and its people from all forms of evil and harm.”

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“Reconstruction of Gaza ... Very soon, our government’s primary concern will be the reconstruction of Gaza. We are considered fully responsible for the reconstruction of everything that was destroyed by the Zionist enemy army in Gaza based on Arab duty, brotherly commitment, chivalry and altruism!” columnist **Talal Al-Saeed** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“This is not the first time, and it will not be the last. Every time a war breaks out between the people of Gaza and the Zionists, and Gaza is bombed, we take on the issue of reconstruction, as we are the best ones to fulfill our fraternal duty towards our brothers, even if this is met with ingratitude that we do not deserve!

“Here, we would like to remind our wise government to reconstruct Kuwait’s roads, which are suffering from comprehensive destruction, not as a result of aggression or bombing, but as a result of negligence, corruption, dodging responsibility, and a policy of profiteering that has made pebbles fly, while potholes and collapses are increasing in the absence of accountability!

“We carefully thought about the idea of international companies, and then the idea evaporated, and the international companies turned out to be three offices in one of the states of America, to which a huge tender had never been awarded. Then, we were engaged in a continuous struggle with the ways of the State of Kuwait -- internal and external. There is no solution on the horizon. The acting minister complains about the weight of the legacy and the absence of a decision. The resigned minister says that the reason for not starting reform is the members of the National Assembly, and she hints without declaring that the conflict was over the ‘cake’. We are impatiently awaiting the solution.

“Now, we give good news to the Kuwaiti people that the excuse is ready for the wise government. The budget for road reconstruction will go with a thousand ‘salams’ (peace) for the reconstruction of Gaza. We must get used to dealing with worn-out roads and work among ourselves like a ‘cat’ filling the potholes and each one repairs his car.”

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary

Other Voices

‘Halal makeup’ in the market

By Ahmad alsarraf

A report related to cosmetics and some tools stated that the market value of these materials is close to \$800 billion, with a significant increase in the production of ‘halal’ products.

The description halal is often used for chickens and livestock slaughtered according to Islamic law, but the “halal market” has come to include many things, from clothing, banking and preparations free of alcohol and pork derivatives.

For example, there is halal nail polish that is completely devoid of forbidden substances, as its manufacturers claim. It is characterized by its ability to breathe, as water can penetrate it and reach the nails, allowing Muslim women to perform ablution and perform prayer, without the need to remove the polish. And who can believe what the manufacturer of this type claim say? He chose what suits and comforts him, and he does not necessarily have to be sure of its authenticity.

In Western countries, in particular, there is also a trend that rejects the use of cosmetics of animal origin on ethical grounds, due to their desire not to harm animals and make them a subject for experiments. However, they do not oppose, for example, the use of cosmetics that contain alcohol for known reasons.

Large Asian countries, such as India, Pakistan, and Malaysia, which have huge numbers of Muslims, have dominated this industry, which is now finding some popularity even in European countries, and it now includes lipsticks, eyelashes, creams, and various dyes, in addition to various types of nail polish.

In order for any company to declare that its product is “halal,” it must obtain a halal certificate from “accredited organizations” authorized to do so, but what is the guarantee that it has not been compromised or corrupt? Especially since a large percentage of these products are sold “online”?

In the same context, the Chamber of Commerce announced some time ago the organization of a course or symposium related to halal cosmetics, and this reminded me of an article I wrote years ago, mainly related to the extent of our ignorance about the materials that go into producing pig-derived products.



alsarraf

Scientific research, carried out by the Dutch woman Christien Meindertsma, revealed what happens to the pig after it is slaughtered, as she discovered that its meat, skin, hair, blood, bones, and all of its internal organs are involved in the manufacture and production of “hundreds” of materials, and it is the only animal that is fully utilized, even to the last drop of blood, or a piece of skin or bone.

Pork products are used in making steel molds, which are used in pressing and manufacturing aluminum containers and pots, which are often used to preserve foods. It is also included in almost everything we use in the bathroom, including soap, shampoo, conditioner, anti-wrinkle creams, skin moisturizing lotions, toothpastes, which we rinse our mouths with daily, and almost all cosmetics.

It is also used in all types of sweets, especially cheesecake, chocolate and tiramisu. It is also used in the dough of many types of bread, and in the manufacture of butter, especially low-fat ones. Its materials also have a close relationship with the manufacture of light construction bricks, in Chinese porcelain vessels, and in the production of the best types of industrial paints, paint brushes, and of course toothbrushes. It is also used in the manufacture of glue and some alcohols.

Pig products are also used in the production of hemoglobin, which is extracted from pig blood and in the manufacture of cigarette filters. The funny thing is that the basic substance in the collagen formula, which is used in all cosmetic surgeries, for women and even for men, in our religious East, is extracted from pork products, because the human body accepts it easily. “Pig” materials are also used in heart surgery.

It was also found that weapons factories use pork products in the manufacture of bullets, and its remains are used in the production of renewable energy and in dozens of other uses, especially medicines and foods.

So where is the escape, why we are so backward and industrially weak?

Note:

It was rumored that there was an intention to receive the wounded from the Israeli aggression on Gaza and provide them with treatment! Despite the great humanitarian aspect of this matter, caution is required, as these people will most likely not be able to return to Gaza in the near future.

□ □ □

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Fortune lost, dreams shattered

Elderly man falls prey to expat’s scam

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: In a rather amusing turn of events, an elderly man fell prey to a scam orchestrated by an expatriate, reports Al-Anba daily.

The unsuspecting senior handed over 23,000 dinars, thinking he was investing in a garage and receiving assistance for his marriage plans with a young woman. However, the outcome was quite different from his expectations, as he found himself without the promised garage and any progress toward marriage.

According to details provided by a security source, a man in his sixties filed a report at a Hawalli Governorate police station recounting his experience of fraud and deceit.

He described how he had entered into an agreement with an expatriate to jointly venture into a car repair garage, providing the individual with an initial sum of 13,000 dinars. To compound the deception, the expatriate later proposed a matrimonial arrangement for the elderly man, demanding an additional 10,000 dinars.

Trustingly, the victim handed over the money, only to have the accused disappear after pocketing the substantial sum and disconnecting the phone. The source added police are looking for the suspect.

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SAB deputy quits: Deputy Director of the State Audit Bureau (SAB) Adel Al-Saraawi has submitted his resignation to Speaker of the National Assembly Ahmad Al-Sa’adoun, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Al-Saraawi served as deputy director of the bureau since May 2014.

Two get 20,15 years jail for killing youth

By Jaber Al-Hamoud
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: The Criminal Court yesterday sentenced two individuals to prison terms of 20 years and 15 years respectively after convicting them of killing a young Kuwaiti citizen by causing the latter’s vehicle to overturn after colliding with it in Subbiya.

According to the case files, the family of the young man who died in a traffic accident on Subbiya Road had presented pictures that he had taken with his phone before the collision, which showed the driver of a Jeep Wrangler and his friend stealing his vehicle.

The victim’s brother stated to the security authorities that he found pictures on his brother’s phone, specifically within the “Snapchat” application, which revealed that the incident began in front of the mobile grocery stores located at the end of the Jaber Causeway.

They also proved that the victim’s vehicle was stolen, and he was subjected to an intentional collision.

His brother explained that the victim went to one of the grocery stores, leaving his vehicle running.

He then saw a person getting inside his car and stealing it. He immediately stopped another vehicle and asked its driver to help him chase the thief.

The driver of the car in pursuit followed the accused until the latter realized that he was being followed. He immediately stopped by the road side, stepped out of the stolen vehicle, waved a knife at them before he got into another car in which he was before stealing the car of the victim, and left.

The victim then took his vehicle and went on his way, but the suspect returned. He headed towards him and harassed him on the road.

The victim then took the road in the opposite direction to go to the nearest security point, and made two calls to the Control Room. However, the suspects insisted on chasing him and intentionally crashing into his vehicle several times in a dangerous place, causing it to overturn, which led to his death.

‘More Kuwaitis must work in private sector’

By Fares Al-Abdan
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: According to informed sources, the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) conducted a study on the rate of national workers in the private sector in the various economic sectors and the extent of the ability to meet their needs for Kuwaiti cadres in light of the link with educational outcomes. It will be a basis for determining the rate included in the decision for each sector, in addition to updating the data that was relied upon and classifying the sectors according to the activities listed.

The sources said PAM has finished developing a new draft of the decision issued by the Council of Ministers regarding determining the rate of national workers in non-governmental agencies to replace the decision currently in effect.

They indicated that it will be presented to the Civil Service Council for consideration in application of the provisions of the law.

The sources highlighted that the decision aims to increase the proportion of national workers in the private sector and organize the creation of opportunities for Kuwaiti youth in various sectors.



The firemen at the site of fire.

Tire dump on fire

The firefighting teams from the Jahra and Al-Jahra Al-Harfi fire stations rushed to Bar Al-Rahiya and controlled fire to old tires, on Wednesday morning. The incident did not result in any injuries, reports Al-Rai daily.

The cause of the fire is being investigated.

Border security officers honored

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior for Ports and Border Security Affairs, Major General Mansour Al-Awadhi, has honored a number of officers and individuals for their excellence in performing their work, reports Al-Anba daily.

The daily added, the officers were also responsible for arresting five people who attempted to enter the country illegally by hiding in the boot of the car.

The woman who was behind the wheel, and is believed to be a Kuwaiti, has been referred to the Public Prosecution.

Meanwhile, a series of traffic campaigns in Wafra and Sulaibiya resulted

in the impounding of three vehicles and referral of the drivers to the Traffic Police Unit for reckless driving, reports Al-Anba daily.

This is in preparation for referring the reckless drivers to the Traffic Court.

The Capital Governorate Traffic Department issued 70 direct citations for various traffic violations and impounded seven vehicles due to annoying noises in the recently concluded traffic campaigns along the Second Ring Road and Damascus Street.

All the involved vehicles were impounded and the necessary legal measures were taken against the drivers

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Kuwait’s leadership send congratulations to Barbados on National Day

HH the Amir congratulates newly-elected president of Ecuador

Bid to unify customs procedures, digitize joint work in GCC states

KGAC chief heads Kuwait's delegation to Riyadh meeting

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: Director General of Kuwait General Administration of Customs (KGAC) Abdullah Adel Al-Sharhan headed the country's delegation to the sixth meeting of the Board of Directors of the Customs Union Authority at the headquarters of the Secretariat General of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia recently, reports Al-Anba daily.



Al-Sharhan

dures and policies in member states, to digitize joint customs work, and directly supervise the implementation of the executive plan in accordance with the timetable for the establishment of the Gulf Customs Union. Al-Sharhan confirmed that he is personally following up the mechanism for overcoming challenges in the implementation of the plan and related projects, as well as the preparation of the electronic platform that requires strong coordination between government agencies to keep pace with the work of member states in order to achieve the goals. It is not possible to delay the unification of procedures and systems that will be

applied in the first stage to address the current situation and narrow the gaps that affect free movement of goods between the GCC countries, he explained. During the meeting, the customs directors general stressed the need for a written and transparent mechanism for addressing trade exchange issues encountered by importers, exporters and all business partners in customs administration. They urged the technical committees to expedite the completion of their tasks, such as finalizing the amendments to the Unified Guide for Customs Procedures in a way that is consistent with the amended Unified Customs Law, its executive regulations, and the explanatory memorandum to be more flexible and keep pace with developments in customs work, the procedural and technical guide for direct automatic transfer mechanism of customs duties, and publishing a database for the integrated customs

tariff. This is in addition to approving lists of prohibited, restricted and individual goods and their transportation mechanism, unified measures for customs clearance for the authorized economic operator, unifying forms, developing a unified transit system, providing facilities for holders of the TIR card, and laying down a plan to confront challenges related to various requirements and security and safety standards for ports through risk management implementation. Al-Sharhan also highlighted the request of the customs directors general to expedite the approval of the authority's draft detailed budget by the concerned entities in the GCC countries in order to complete the operation of major projects like those related to the future strategy of the Customs Information Center for technical integration between the authority's systems and the customs administrations in member states.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Thursday a cable to President of Ecuador Daniel Noboa, expressing his sincere congratulations on being elected as president and taking the constitutional oath. In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished President Noboa good health and wellbeing, and further development of relations between the two countries. Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable to President Daniel Noboa, expressing his sincere congratulations on being elected as Ecuador's new president and taking the constitutional oath. His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah also sent a cable to newly-elected President of Ecuador Daniel Noboa, expressing his sincere congratulations.

In the meantime, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad sent on Thursday a cable to President of Barbados Sandra Mason, expressing his sincere congratulations on the occasion of her country's National Day. In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished President Mason good health and wellbeing, and for the Republic of Barbados and its people more prosperity and progress. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad sent a cable of congratulations to President Sandra Mason, on the occasion of her country's National Day. In the cable, His Highness the Crown Prince wished President Mason good health and wellbeing. Also, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf sent a cable to President Sandra Mason, congratulating her on the occasion of her country's National Day.



KUNA photos

The kids pavilion decorated with colorful children's characters.

KCCI to receive membership renewal requests Sunday

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) has announced that it will start receiving applications for renewal of membership for 2024 on Sunday; in addition to authenticating the approval signatures addressed to governmental and private departments and agencies after coordinating with them, reports Al-Anba daily.

The chamber explained this measure is part of its commitment to save the time and effort of its members, and to facilitate the work procedures of government agencies. It advised all concerned parties to visit its branches in Jaber Al-Ali and Jahra Governorate (Jahra Division) from 8:00 am until 1:30 pm, while the Liberation Tower branch will

operate in two shifts -- from 8:00 am to 1:30 pm and from 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm. The working hours in the main building of the chamber along Abdulaziz Hamad Al-Saqr Street in Qibla will be from 8:00 am to 1:30 pm in order to better serve its members and ensure the speedy completion of their transactions. The chamber called on its mem-

bers to take advantage of the electronic services provided through its website where they can apply for membership, renew the annual subscription, obtain the annual registration certificate (affiliation), authenticate signatures electronically and make amendments to all types of commercial licenses issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.



Children's characters used as storytellers.



KUNA contributes to young readers section.

Pavilion dedicated to children

Kuwait 46th Book Fair celebrates literary journey of young readers

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30, (KUNA): Amidst the bustling energy of Kuwait's 46th International Book Fair, a dedicated pavilion stands as a beacon for young readers. This specially crafted space by organizers of the book fair, with the help of Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, the Environmental Voluntary Founda-

tion, Kuwait News Agency and others, has been designed to lure children away from their iPads and immerse them in the captivating world of books. It also aims to ignite the spark of curiosity and learning among the young audience, fostering an environment where the joy of reading takes center stage.

KIB names winners of 4th 'Surprises for Every Season' prize for Visa cardholders

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) recently conducted the fourth draw of its 'Surprises for Every Season' campaign designed for its Visa cardholders. The Bank revealed the 31 winners of three different spectacular prizes designated for the October campaign period. Meshaal Abdulatif Ammash received two all-inclusive tickets for the Formula 1 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, while another eight winners, Hussain Maad, Dheyaa Khaled Almazyad, Latifah Ayesha Hajji, Abdullah Faisal Al-Sultan, Mohammad Ezzat Ibrahim, Mohammad Falah Al Rasheedi, Saad Fahad Alshammari, and Mohammad Ahmad Almusallam, were awarded the new iPhone 15 Pro. In addition, 22 winners were each gifted a cash prize of KD 150. The lucky customers included Marzouq Qead Alotaibi, Osman Hassan Ismail, Ahmad Yousef Khader, Abdullah F M Abdullah, Ibrahim F Th Alkhashti, Loai Atef Mohsen, Naser Mubarak Alhajri, Adel Faleh Alazmi, Abdullah Bandar Alotaibi, Alanoud Mohammad Albuti, Mohamed Ismail Ismail, Malak Saud Alqahs, Mneef Selseef Almutairi, Qutaibah A M Alrahmani, Basma Ahmad Abu Qurs, Anas Yaquob Althuwaini, Abdulhaleem A A Zaidan, Omar Rashed Alazmi, Adnan Yousef Almeer, Mubarak Ahmad Alenezi, Fares Abdulrahman Alfaresi and Turki Atallah Alenezi. Stemming from the Bank's commitment to elevating its customers' banking experience, the campaign aims to constantly reward KIB's Visa Credit, Prepaid and Debit Cardholders with exceptional offers, benefits and prizes that exceed their expectations all year long. The campaign is in partnership with global digital payments leader, Visa, while its monthly draws are conducted under the supervision of representatives from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Khalid Al Hulaibi, Segments Manager at KIB, said: "On behalf of the Bank, I am very pleased to congratulate the 31 lucky winners of the latest draw held under our special 'Surprises for Every Season' campaign. Over the past few months, the campaign has been received well by KIB customers eager to enter the draws for a chance to win valuable seasonal prizes. Month after month, we remain committed to continue rewarding our customers with even bigger prizes designed

to suit their daily needs and modern lifestyles as part of our efforts to enhance their banking experience." He added that KIB has a special prize lined up for its eligible Visa cardholding customers for the upcoming draw, which will be based on transactions conducted between the 1st and 30th of November 2023. Six lucky winners will each receive an all-inclusive trip for two to Winter Wonderland London, with a five-night stay in the capital. On his part, Ali Hinnawi, Visa's Business Development Lead for Kuwait, said: "We are delighted to support KIB with their latest initiative to offer Visa cardholders in Kuwait with unique offers and experiences. The promotion was a great way to reward the bank's customers when they use their Visa card both at home and abroad, and to help businesses in Kuwait. Congratulations to all the winners and I look forward to more valuable partnerships with KIB that support the Kuwait government's efforts to promote digital commerce in the country." The 'Surprises for Every Season' campaign launched with new prizes every month enables all customers who carry KIB Visa credit, prepaid, or debit cards to qualify for the draws automatically without the need to sign up. They become instantly eligible and get a chance to win when they spend a minimum of KD 250 using their KIB Visa Credit or Prepaid Card within or outside Kuwait during each promotional period. Visa Debit Cardholders can also become eligible when they spend at least KD 500 outside Kuwait. Customers holding KIB's Visa credit or prepaid cards will get one chance to enter the draws for every KD 10 spent locally, and two chances for every KD 10 spent internationally. Additionally, for the first time, Visa debit cardholders will also be qualified in the monthly draws, getting one chance for every KD 10 spent internationally. It is worth noting that KIB continues to encourage its customers to follow its accounts on digital platforms to remain updated on the various seasonal prizes the Bank will launch throughout the year. The accounts also keep customers informed on the Bank's various exclusive products and services that are designed to cater to their needs.



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COP28 prioritize the enhancement of adaptation strategies in order to safeguard ecosystems and vulnerable communities against the detrimental impacts of climate change. This includes enhancing early warning systems, constructing resilient infrastructure, and safeguarding biodiversity. This can be accomplished through the Adaptation Fund, aiding adaptation efforts in developing countries, requires improvements in several areas:

– The expansion of the Adaptation Fund’s projects scope to address a more extensive array of consequences stemming from climate change, such as those affecting infrastructure, human health, and livelihoods. In addition, the fund should prioritize initiatives that integrate adaptation with other sectors of development and foster climate-resilient development.

– Supporting initiatives that primarily benefit the most vulnerable communities should be given precedence, while also increasing assistance for the development of local institutions and communities’ capabilities to design, implement, and oversee adaptation projects. This includes granting access to information and resources, training, and technical support.

– Strengthened monitoring and evaluation systems to ensure that initiatives are providing tangible benefits to communities and accomplishing their intended results.

– Increased financial resources to address the escalating need for adaptation in developing countries; this can be achieved by soliciting greater contributions from established countries and investigating innovative financing mechanisms.

■ Mobilizing Climate Finance through the Loss and Damage Fund:

A major outcome of COP27 was the establishment of the Loss and Damage Fund to aid severely affected developing nations. COP28’s focus should be operationalizing this fund for effectiveness, equity, and responsiveness to climate change impacts. Key considerations include:

– Transparent governance to ensure clarity, transparency, and inclusivity for developing countries and marginalized communities in decision-making and resource allocation.

– Establish clear eligibility standards that define criteria based on vulnerability, financial need, and nature of loss for qualifying countries and communities.

– Establish strategies to allocate financial resources to developing nations via novel financing mechanisms such as direct grants, loans, insurance products, or similar initiatives.

– Establish a resilient, adaptable monitoring system ensuring resource efficiency and responsiveness to evolving needs.

– Involve diverse stakeholders, including civil society organizations, developing nations, and climate finance experts to address the needs of highly impacted individuals beyond existing mechanisms.

■ Transforming Food Systems

Climate change impacts both the availability and accessibility of food posing a substantial risk to global food security. Agricultural production is being disrupted by extreme weather, rising temperatures, and shifting precipitation patterns, resulting in increased food insecurity, price volatility, and food shortages. Consequently, the focus of COP28 be should the transformation of agricultural systems through:

– Incorporating food system actions into global climate agreements (e.g., the Sharm el-Sheikh Joint Work and National Adaptation Plans), endorse declarations such as the “Emirates Declaration on Resilient Food Systems, Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Action”, and sign agreements encouraging countries to prioritise food systems in their climate strategies.

– A new report by the Institute for Environment and Development shows that billions of dollars are spent by small-scale farmers globally to adapt to climate change because of the inaccessibility to climate finance. Producing one third of the world’s food, smallholder farmers are the backbone of global food security and must be supported to ensure stability and resilience worldwide. We recommend the development of actionable plans to remedy the existing flaws of current climate adaptation financing mechanisms before or in addition to establishing new mechanisms.

■ Strengthening Stakeholders’ Involvement

While consensus building is necessary to reach agreements within the context of time- constrained negotiations, this should not come at the cost of the meaningful inclusion of the perspectives of those most affected by climate change:

– We emphasise the importance of going beyond stakeholder “engagement” to enabling different stakeholders access to decision making processes. This includes the participation of different interest groups, not only country-level participation.

– A stakeholder-centric perspective is essential for one climate issue in particular: the phasing out of fossil fuels. Leaders of COP28 negotiations must use the momentum and the presence of all stakeholders to negotiate potential scenarios for the phasing out of fossil fuels. Although some leaders are beginning to acknowledge the inevitable need to phase out fossil fuels there is still a clear hesitation to discuss the process in practical terms. This COP28 must take advantage of the presence of diverse stakeholders to different practical and viable pathways towards a fossil fuel phase out and set clear deadlines.

It is worth noting that climate change is an intricate and diverse issue that is producing an extensive array of consequences on a global scale. Adapting to and mitigating the effects of climate change is crucial for safeguarding the economy, human health, and the environment. This is especially true in light of the alarming situation described in a recent report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which indicates that the Earth is approaching a critical threshold in global warming within the next decade. We are likely to surpass a 1.5- degree Celsius increase in average global temperatures if we continue to burn fossil fuels at the current rate. Beyond this threshold, managing catastrophic consequences such as extreme heat waves, floods, droughts, crop failures, and species extinction becomes considerably more difficult.

Finally, we urge leaders to not take for granted the importance of maintaining accountability especially towards youth, to who we owe a sustainable future. Global youth movements have demonstrated their capacity to disrupt businesses and the flow of life in order to pressure leaders to take actions on issues that have been neglected due to political and economic interests as well as a status quo that arguably relies on a passive neutrality of citizens. This trend is visible both within the climate movement, with the emergence of new disruptive tactics among youth activists, as well as within social justice movements which are

«Mujezat Al-Shifa»: Bee venom promotes relief of atopic dermatitis

The nutrition consultant at Mujezat Al-Shifa Company explained that atopic dermatitis is a chronic skin disorder,

noting that bee products are the most commonly used for this purpose, especially bee venom, because of its effective and powerful effects as an antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, anti-microbial, and immunomodulatory.



She added: Scientists decided to take advantage of the properties of bee venom to alleviate this disease, by applying an ointment mixed with bee venom to the skin of 68 patients for a period of 28 days. The experiment showed that the area of skin infection decreased and the itching and manifestations of skin inflammation disappeared, which indicates that producing an ointment mixed with bee venom is a safe and effective ointment for patients. Allergic dermatitis.

more frequently leveraging transnational pressure, such as the global movement for Palestinian liberation. Protestors calling for a ceasefire in Gaza and an end to the Israeli occupation have disrupted public transportation, shut down the offices of arms manufacturers, delayed weapon shipments, barricaded themselves on university campuses and occupied parliament buildings.

At the moment COP conferences are the only available mechanism for the international community to reach agreements on climate action goals. Failure to make more serious commitments to climate goals and set clear action plans to tackle the most persistent barriers to progress could result in more serious efforts by civil society organisations and countries most affected by climate change to delegitimize the UNFCCC and seek alternative means to achieve reparations and climate justice, a shift that would undermine climate action and potentially destabilise global markets and food security.

Al Habtoor Research Centre

Kuwait highlights

Continued from Page 1

Kuwait is also moving forward to achieving New Kuwait Vision by insuring that 15 percent from the local electricity is renewable energy by 2030.

Kuwait’s Minister of Electric, Water and Renewable Energy Jassem Al-Ostad had affirmed to KUNA that His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, made clear instructions to construct renewable energy stations in order to provide clean and cheap energy on one hand, and honor Kuwait’s commitment in the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 on the other hand.

He added that Kuwait will face power shortage in the coming years so that the planned approach is to invite corporates or consortiums to establish clean energy stations in what is known as the Independent Power Provider (IPP), adding that these companies would be building solar energy stations that provided clean and cheap electricity.

For his side, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Oil Nimer Al-Malek Al-Sabah stressed the importance of Kuwait’s participation in COP28 and other ministerial meetings before the conference to unite the international efforts regarding climate change.

These meetings are of great importance because it shows the international community’s ability to achieve and deliver a clear message on protecting the climate and looking into related important issues, Sheikhh Nimer Al-Sabah said to KUNA in a previous statement during his participation in the COP28 preliminary meeting.

He expressed aspiration for fruitful valuable discussions in the conference, amid the participation of world leaders to enhance efforts to reduce emissions from the current energy system and cooperate to build a system capable of keeping pace with future requirements and challenges.

COP28 is scheduled to witness the first global assessment of the ongoing efforts for two years to determine the extent of progress made by the concerned authorities in implementing climate action plans, to face global warming and other environmental issues.

The world has been witnessing outbreaks of forest fires and their spread to cities that are experiencing extreme heat, leading to drying up agricultural lands and storm-swept coasts, in addition to the increasing concentration of greenhouse gases in the Earth’s atmosphere, resulting mainly from burning fossil fuels, is leading to serious consequences.

Furthermore, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has recently warned that about 3.5 billion people are already living in places prone to climate change, expecting that by 2050 more than one billion people living on small islands and in low-lying coastal population centers are to be exposed to the risk of sea level rise and extreme weather conditions.

Climate change increases social and economic inequality in terms of endangering the less fortunate’s lives, or causing loss of resources and may increase poverty.

In March 2023, IPCC, the leading authority in climate science, confirmed that global temperatures were rising to record levels, warning of the consequences of countries not taking adequate measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The panel urged countries to reduce emissions by disposing fossil fuels gradually, stopping deforestation, and expanding the scope of renewable energy.

Also:

DUBAI: Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development is taking part in the 28th edition of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP28), set to be held in Dubai from November 30th to December 12th, 2023, as part of continuing its efforts to support global environmental initiatives.

The Fund’s participation stems from the State of Kuwait’s commitment to Gulf, regional, and international resolutions and initiatives. It is also based on the New Kuwait’s Vision 2035, which utilizes the sustainable living principle as a foundation for achieving environmental sustainability, and honoring the Fund’s commitments to the international community.

Committee examines

Continued from Page 1

offer a variety of courses to meet the demands of students and the labor market demands as one way of addressing the demographic imbalance issue.

Present at the meeting were Minister of Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research Adel Al-Manea, senior officials at the Ministry of Higher Education, the chairman of PAAET, the chairman of the founding board of Abdullah Al-Salem University and representatives of the Civil Service Commission (CSC).

The New and Remote Residential Areas Development Committee talked about its task to follow up the development of infrastructure works in new and remote residential areas.

On the other hand, MP Shuaib Al-Muwaizri asked Minister of Health Ahmed Al-Awadhi why his ministry has not taken the necessary procedures to address the financial and administrative violations recorded by the State Audit Bureau (SAB). He said he received several complaints from citizens and employees at the ministry concerning the financial and administrative violations; calling on Al-Awadhi to take action in order to fulfill his constitutional oath, especially regarding Article 17 of the Constitution, which states the public fund is preserved and every citizen is duty-bound to protect it.

MP Mubarak Al-Tasha asked Minister of Commerce and Industry and State Minister for Youth Affairs Muhammad Al-Aiban if it is true that some sports clubs allow male and female athletes, including members of Kuwait Swimming National Team, to train together in one swimming pool. If the answer is yes, he wants to know the justification for such practice; which contravenes national customs, traditions and Islamic rules. He asked if there are regulations prohibiting both genders from using the same swimming pool.

MP Fahd Al-Masoud forwarded queries to the health minister, pointing out he raised the same queries for the second time, because the answers he received are unsatisfactory. He asked if the ministry advertised the vacant administrative and financial posts in overseas health offices, period of publishing the advertisement, procedures adopted to determine the qualified applicants, measures taken to nominate the chairman and members of the permanent delegation of Kuwait to the United Nations in Geneva, and number of patients sent abroad for treatment since Al-Awadhi assumed office including the countries where they were treated.

MP Mehalhal Al-Mudhaf forwarded the same queries to all ministers. He wants to know the number of fact-finding committees currently operating including the reasons behind the formation of such committees if any, date of forming every fact-finding committee, number of members and their term, and budget allocated for every committee, and reasons behind the delayed issuance of reports for more one year if any.

MPW team to prep documents to present maintenance deals

‘Need to submit report, recommendations’

By Mohammed Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: According to informed sources in the Ministry of Public Works, the Minister of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy and the Acting Minister of Public Works Dr. Jassem Al-Ostad issued a decision to form a work team headed by the undersecretary of the Ministry of Public Works to prepare documents for the maintenance contracts to be presented.

They explained that the decision specified the team’s terms of reference in preparing and processing integrated maintenance contracts – miscellaneous, general maintenance and networks - to be presented in accordance with the decisions of the Council of Ministers. It also includes amending data and documents, provided that they are in accordance with the integrated maintenance contracts, with contractual and technical review, and any observations in the technical terms and conditions of current tender contracts are corrected.

The decision assigned the team to review the estimated values, verify the prices of the work items and the total value of those contracts, and determine the necessary conditions and specifications in the contracts in accordance with the observations of the regulatory authorities. It must also coordinate with the relevant technical sectors to determine the contract work areas according to the quality of the roads, in addition to preparing documents for the maintenance contracts to be tendered.

The decision includes the jurisdiction to address the concerned authorities regarding the maintenance contracts that are to be proposed. Among the team’s powers is to establish the system that it deems appropriate to carry out its tasks. In order to accomplish its tasks it may

Scientific Law Society holds symposium

‘Palestine Principles, Values ...’

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: Under the patronage of acting Dean of the College of Business Studies Dr Fares Al-Ajami, the Scientific Law Society organized a symposium entitled, “Palestine Principles, Values and Conscience,” at the Seminar Hall of the College of Business Studies for Girls on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.



Dr Al-Mutairi

and training staff and female students at the college, as part of the Palestinian Solidarity Exhibition, reports Al-Anba daily.

Al-Awadi stressed that participating in the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People is a valuable duty. “In Kuwait, we are conditioned to stand with any grievance or violated right, pointing out that the Palestinian issue is a subject of agreement among Arabs and Muslims and that it is the first central issue which deserves victory, support and mobilization,” he added.

He pointed out that “the recent events and the war on Gaza raised awareness among the public in general, and among the students in particular, through their interaction and by responding to the repeated question: What should we do? This confirms that we have a conscience, not just a feeling, but also contribution and participation,” he asserted.

He stressed the need to hold such seminars and raise awareness among students, as they are the remaining assets and wealth of the nation.

Meanwhile, Head of the Law Department at the College of Business Studies Dr Yousef Al-Mutairi highlighted the importance of holding such seminars to raise awareness among students on the Palestinian right to self-determination and to live in an independent and secure State, as well as to shed light on the crimes committed against the defenseless people. He added that the current situation in Gaza necessitates holding a series seminars to fully explain the crimes happening there.

Also:

‘Gaza Ship’ campaign: Kuwait Relief Society is set to launch a campaign under the slogan “Gaza Ship” with a load of 1,200 tons of necessary relief aid for Palestinians, with the participation of 30 Kuwaiti charity societies, in cooperation with the Turkish Red Crescent.

The Society’s Deputy Director General and General Supervisor of the “Gaza Ship” campaign **Omar Al-Thuwaini** told KUNA Thursday that the campaign affirms Kuwait’s human values and is an embodiment of the concepts of Islamic and Arab solidarity and brotherhood between the Kuwaiti and Palestinian people.

He explained that the campaign aims to collect KD 800,000 (about USD 2.6 million), which will contribute to supporting and providing relief to the wounded and displaced in Gaza Strip, due to the Israeli occupation’s aggression, in addition to providing support to hospitals, schools and shelter centers.

The “Gaza Ship” will depart from Turkish ports towards the Egyptian port of Al-Arish before mid-December and aims to fill the severe shortage in medical and food supplies and shelter, Al-Thuwaini added.

He noted that the ship campaign comes as a continuation of the previous campaign, delivering as much aid from Kuwait into the Strip. (KUNA)

seek the assistance of whomever it deems appropriate with experience and specialization.

The decision calls on all concerned sectors and departments to facilitate the team in accomplishing its tasks.

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World News Roundup

Europe

Russian missile strikes in Ukraine kill 1: Russian missiles tore through apartment buildings in eastern Ukraine’s Donetsk region, local officials said Thursday, killing at least one person and burying families under rubble as the Kremlin’s forces continued to pound the fiercely contested area with long-range weapons.

Russian military units simultaneously launched six S-300 missiles during the night, according to Ukrainian Internal Affairs Minister **Ihor Klymenko**.

The missiles struck three Donetsk cities - Pokrovsk, Novohrodivka and Mymohrad, he said. The cities lie 25-40 kilometers (15-25 miles) from the front line.



Klymenko

Emergency workers pulled the body of a 62-year-old man from the wreckage of a destroyed multi-story building in Novohrodivka. Four more people may be under the rubble, including a child, authorities said.

In Pokrovsk, the strikes destroyed a multi-story building, nine houses, a police office and cars. Emergency crews helped rescue a man with a 6-month-old baby, covered in blood, in his hands, officials said.

The head of the city administration, Serhii Dobriak, said it was fourth time Pokrovsk came under attack in the past month.

He urged people to evacuate because “the intensity of strikes is increasing.”

All three of the targeted cities are close to Avdiivka, a city where a fierce battle has taken place in recent months.

Avdiivka is a gateway to parts of the Donetsk region still under Ukrainian control.

Ukrainian officials said recently that Russian forces have ramped up attacks in eastern Ukraine in an attempt to gain ground near Avdiivka and around Bakhmut, another key front-line city. (AP)



‘No sign of NATO war fatigue’: Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba insisted on Wednesday that NATO allies are showing no sign of war fatigue and remain committed to helping Ukraine defend itself against Russia and take back occupied territory.

Speaking to The Associated Press, Kuleba also said that President Vladimir Putin is miscalculating if he sees any value in keeping his forces in Ukraine at least until presidential elections in the United States in a year’s time, which could usher in a new administration.

“I heard a clear ‘no’ to any reference to fatigue, and I heard (a) clear ‘yes’ to increased support to Ukraine,” Kuleba said after meeting NATO counterparts in Brussels. He said that some allies had made fresh offers of support, but he declined to provide details.

More than 650 days into the war, fighting between Russia and Ukraine has bogged down, with neither able to make significant gains. NATO believes that Russia has suffered around 300,000 casualties, but officials decline to speculate about the toll on Ukraine. (AP)



Sunak ramps up criticism of Greek leader: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak escalated his war of words with the leader of Greece on Wednesday, accusing Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis of trying to “grandstand” over the disputed Parthenon Marbles and breaking a promise to the UK government.

Mitsotakis, meanwhile, said the dispute had helped draw international attention to Greece’s longstanding claim to the artifacts, part of a 2,500-year-old frieze that was taken from Athens in the early 19th century by British diplomat Lord Elgin. The artifacts are on display in the British Museum.

The two European allies with center-right governments have been at loggerheads since Monday, when Sunak called off a scheduled meeting with Mitsotakis hours before it was due to start.

During the British prime minister’s weekly question period in the House of Commons on Wednesday, Sunak said “it was clear that the purpose of the meeting was not to discuss substantive issues for the future, but rather to grandstand and re-litigate issues of the past.” (AP)



Finland closes crossing point: Finland closes last crossing point with Russia NATO member Finland on Wednesday closed its last remaining border crossing with Russia after the government decided to seal the entire border with its eastern neighbor amid rising political tensions.

The Cabinet of Finnish Prime Minister Petteri Orpo decided to temporarily close the entire 1,340-kilometer (830-mile) border between the two countries a day earlier over concerns that Moscow was using migrants to destabilize the Nordic country in an alleged act of “hybrid warfare.”

The Raja-Jooseppi crossing point in Finland’s Arctic Lapland region, located some 250 kilometers (155 miles) from the northern Russian city of Murmansk, closed at 2 p.m. Wednesday, according to the checkpoint’s normal November schedule.

Ville Ahtiainen, a deputy commander with the Finnish Border Guard in Lapland, told reporters that the remote border crossing, located in the middle of rugged wilderness, was quiet during the four hours it remained open Wednesday, with a handful of vehicles passing through on their way to and from Russia. (AP)



Court clears France’s justice minister: A special court cleared France’s justice minister of conflict of interest on Wednesday, ruling that he was not guilty of having used his office to settle personal scores, the first such trial of a French government minister while still in office.

Eric Dupond-Moretti had denied wrongdoing and refused to resign before or during his two-week trial, defying what had been an unwritten rule until recent years that members of government quit when put under investigation.

Wednesday’s verdict was a political victory for him and his allies.

Dupond-Moretti, speaking on France 2 television, said “this trial was an ordeal for me and at the same time a relief because I’d been waiting ... for over 3 years to explain myself.” (AP)



Three teenagers injured in knife attack: A teenage student attacked classmates with a knife at a high school in northeastern Poland and injured three of them on Wednesday, police said.

The attack took place during lessons at the high school in the town of Kadzidlo, local police spokeswoman Katarzyna Kucharska said.

Two of the teenage victims - one female and one male - were hospitalized in serious condition, and the other one was treated on the spot, Kucharska said.

The 18-year-old attacker has been apprehended and the police and prosecutors are investigating, said Elzbieta Lukasiewicz, a prosecutor in the nearby city of Ostroleka.

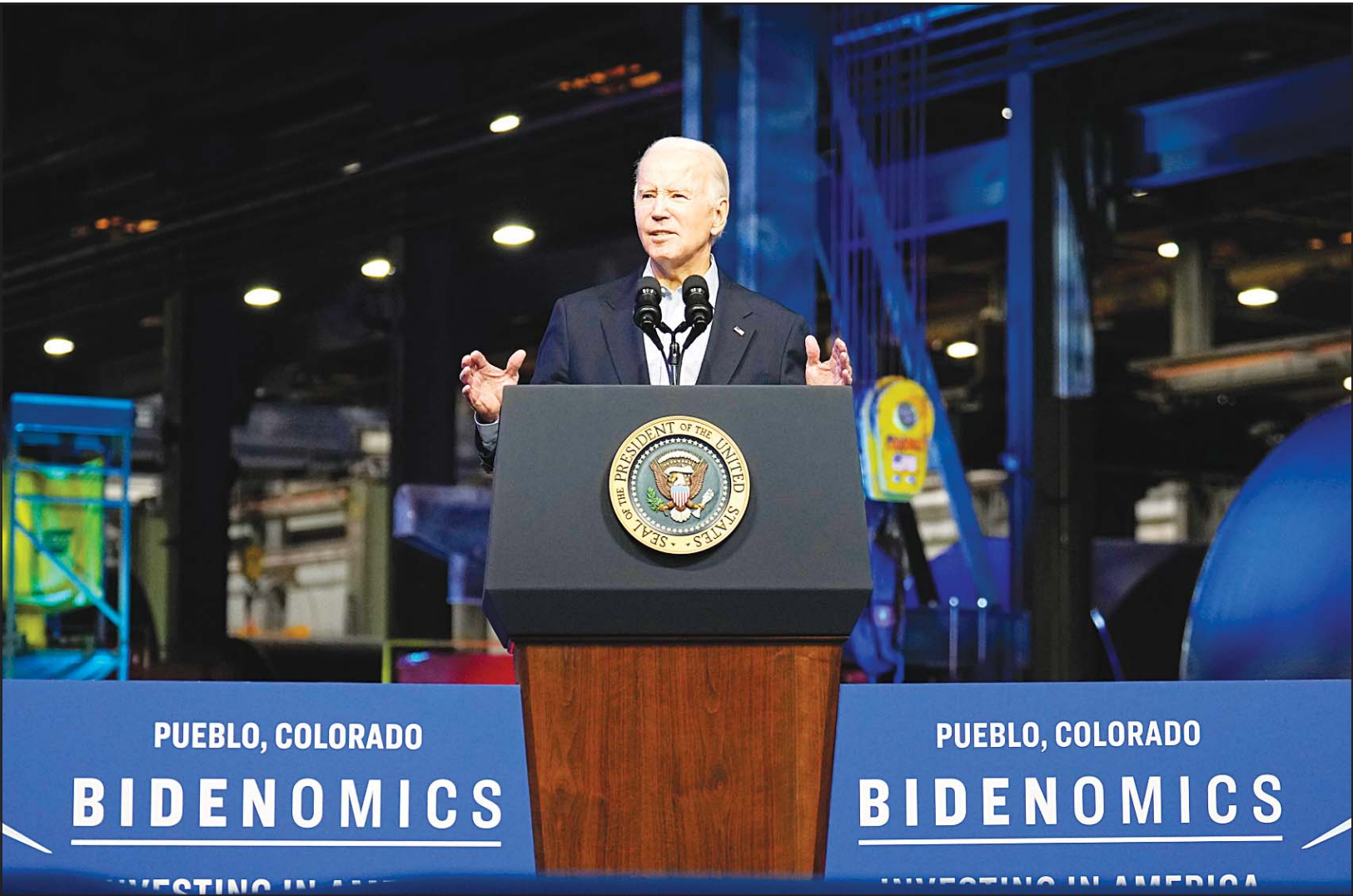
School attacks are very rare in Poland. (AP)



Protesters in Kosovo use flares, tear gas: Opposition protesters in Kosovo on Wednesday used flares and tear gas to protest against a senior war crimes court official in the capital. Opposition leftist Social Democratic Party members tried to enter a hotel in Pristina, where Kosovo Specialist Chambers court President Ekaterina Trendafilova was holding a meeting with members of civil society. The demonstrators used tear gas to cross a police cordon.

“There is no transparency at that court which holds closed trial sessions, that does not show where it has found the evidence,” protester Nol Nushi said. The court is “unfair and that is why we are protesting today.”

Local media reported five arrests among the protesters. (AP)



US President Joe Biden speaks at CS Wind on Nov 29 in Pueblo, Colorado. (AP)

Politics

GOP demands border changes

Congress eyes immigration limits

WASHINGTON, Nov 30, (AP): As record numbers of migrants surge at the southern US border, many seeking asylum, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas has told Congress the country’s “broken” immigration system is in need of a top-to-bottom update.

But rather than undertake a comprehensive immigration overhaul, Congress is scrambling in a few short weeks for a deal that would greatly restrict the asylum and humanitarian parole process used by thousands to temporarily stay in the US while their claims are being processed in the backlogged system.

Pushed to the negotiating table by Republicans, the Biden administration is considering the long-shot effort as the price to be paid for the president’s \$106 billion year-end request for Ukraine, Israel and national security needs. It comes as Mayorkas, the face of the administration’s immigration policy, bears down the threat of impeachment proceedings from House Republicans over what they view as failed border policies.

Secure

“We’re not going to try to secure other countries and not secure ours,” said Republican Sen James Lankford of Oklahoma, as he rolled out the Senate GOP’s border effort earlier this month.

“We’re at a point for three years we’ve been saying, ‘When are we going to secure the country? When are we going to do this?’ And every year it’s gotten worse.”

A core group of senators, Republicans and Democrats, has been eying a deal that would provide money for the wars overseas in exchange for changes to the asylum process and in particular humanitarian parole, which has been a go-to tool by the Biden administration to manage the swell of migrants at the border, but is being challenged in court.

Negotiating behind closed doors, the senators have discussed making it tougher for migrants to pass initial screening used by asylum officers to decide whether a person can stay in the country to pursue their asylum case.

The idea is to raise the threshold during what’s known as the initial

credible fear interview for asylum claims from a “significant possibility” of success before an immigration judge to “more likely than not,” according to those familiar with the private talks and who were granted anonymity to discuss them.

While an overwhelming majority of asylum-seekers clear the initial interviews, the final approval rate is much lower. That’s fueling critics’ complaints that the screening standard is too low and allows many asylum-seekers to remain in the country for years while their cases wind through backlogged courts and eventually fail.

Additionally, the senators are discussing ways to restrict Biden’s ability

publicans who increasingly appear to be Trump’s closest challengers is testing the practical and legal limits of modern-day presidential campaigns. And with less than two months before the Iowa caucuses, neither candidate has shown the ability to disrupt Trump as he appears on a glide path to another presidential nomination.

Also:

PUEBLO, Colorado: US President Joe Biden used a backdrop of the world’s largest facility for wind tower manufacturing to sharpen his criticism of Republicans, saying the company’s expansion validates an environmental agenda his political opponents want to undo.

The company that Biden visited, CS Wind, is on the home turf of Rep **Lauren Boebert** of Colorado, who has described the president’s climate policies as “a massive failure.”

“Did you all know that you’re part of a massive failure?” Biden said to the workers and local officials gathered for his speech as he touted hundreds of new jobs fueled by tax incentives for clean energy initiatives. “None of that sounds like a massive failure to me. How about you?”

to tap a historic Eisenhower-era law he and other presidents have relied on to admit people temporarily into the country under humanitarian parole - from the Vietnamese, Cambodians and Laotians in the late 1970s to Iraqi Kurds who helped the US in the 1990s Gulf War and Cubans who fled their country at various times, according to data from the Cato Institute.

Biden tapped the parole program for Ukrainians fleeing after Russian President Vladimir Putin’s invasion in 2022 and has also used it to allow Afghans and Cubans, Venezuelans, Haitians and Nicaraguans to remain temporarily in the US without threat of deportation.

inside the executive mansion that she said were designed to help visitors experience the “magic, wonder and joy” of the holidays as they did when they were kids.

The 50-by-70-foot (15.2-by-21.3-meter) rink will operate throughout December, but the White House did not specify days and hours. Washington, DC-area schoolchildren and children from families with service members, frontline workers, first responders and teachers will be invited to skate. (AP)



Activists decry assaults: A man protesting against China’s ruling Communist Party at the recent Asia-Pacific economic summit in San Francisco shared details Wednesday of an attack by pro-China supporters, saying he was left unconscious and that police should take action against his assailants.

Kaiyu Zhang, who moved from Shanghai to Los Angeles in March, told reporters he and two other demonstrators were assaulted Nov 17 by a group of young men wearing red headbands or arm bands after leaving a protest at the city’s international airport as leaders were departing the city.

His remarks came a day after bipartisan leaders of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China condemned efforts to silence critics of the Chinese Communist Party, known as the CCP. (AP)



The Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree stands lit during the Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree lighting ceremony on Nov 29 in New York. The 80-foot tall, 12-ton Norway Spruce from Vestal, NY, is covered with more than 50,000 multi-colored, energy-efficient LED lights. The lit tree will be on display through January 13, 2024. (AP)



Biden



Landry

America

Rosalynn Carter eulogized: Her frail husband a silent witness, Rosalynn Carter was celebrated by her family and closest friends Wednesday in the same tiny town where she and Jimmy Carter were born, forever their home base as they climbed to the White House and traveled the world for humanitarian causes.

The former first lady, who died Nov. 19 at the age of 96, had her intimate funeral at Maranatha Baptist Church in Plains, where she and her husband spent decades welcoming guests and where a wooden cross Jimmy Carter fashioned in his woodshop is displayed. Earlier tributes were held in nearby Americus and in Atlanta.

The former president, now 99 and in hospice care, sat in a wheelchair next to Maranatha’s front pew, wearing a dark suit and tie to say goodbye to his wife of 77 years.

The Carter family later accompanied her casket to the burial plot she’ll one day share with her husband, who also attended a Tuesday memorial where two other presidents and all the living first ladies joined the extended Carter family before Wednesday’s hometown funeral. Her grave is within view of the front porch of the home where the 39th American president still lives. (AP)



Gov appoints new police chief: Throughout his election campaign, Republican Gov-elect **Jeff Landry** promised to prioritize fighting crime in Louisiana, a state that in recent years has had one of the highest homicide rates in the country.

On Wednesday, he took steps that he said would help fulfill that promise, appointing a new state police chief and other statewide safety and security leadership positions. Landry said he also plans to call the legislature into a special session to address crime once he’s in the governor’s office.

Currently the state’s attorney general, Landry said an integral part of his plan as Louisiana’s chief executive is to improve safety in New Orleans, which has often been in the national spotlight for violent crime.

The governor-elect remarked during a news conference that he will bring “as much of a law enforcement presence” as necessary to keep New Orleans safe. (AP)



Biden brings ice rink to WH: Jill Biden extended her holiday theme of “Magic, Won-

der and Joy” to the White House grounds with an ice rink on the South Lawn for children to skate and play hockey in December.

“Who’s ready to skate?” she said, after

several ice skating performances by Brian Boitano, a 1988 Olympic gold medalist, and the comic-strip dog Snoopy, among others. Earlier this week, she unveiled decorations



Britain’s Prime Minister Rishi Sunak (centre), meets with teachers and trainee nurses during a visit of a medical training centre at the University of Surrey in Guildford, southern England on Nov 30. (AP)

Africa

Algeria passes law

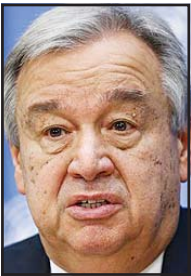
Somali maritime police intensify patrols in sea

BOSASO, Puntland, Nov 30, (AP): Somalia’s maritime police force on Thursday intensified patrols in the Red Sea following a failed pirate hijacking of a ship in the Gulf of Aden earlier this week.

The commander of the maritime force in the semi-autonomous region of Puntland, Abdullahi Mohamed Ahmed, told The Associated Press that patrols in the waters had doubled and were on a 24-hour rotation to deter pirates.

“Here now we have many challenges. We had initially dealt with the pirates and stopped their activities, but recently on top of al-Shabab and IS we have had to look out for them again,”

On Sunday, the US military said it had captured five men who had attempted to hijack an Israeli-linked tanker off the coast of Yemen



Yemeni Houthi rebels have conducted recent attacks on commercial vessels on the Gulf of Eden, seen as part of a rise in violence in the region due to the Israel-Hamas war. But the Pentagon said this latest attempt was carried out by Somali nationals.

That is the first in many years and has led the Somali government to appeal for International support to deter a resurgence of piracy in the Horn of Africa.

“Puntland State is all alone in this security effort. No assistance from the African Union Mission in Somalia, the European Union or any international assistance. But we are doing our best,” Mohamed said.

Somalia had for years been blighted by piracy, with the peak being 2011, when the UN says more than 160 attacks were recorded off the Somali coast. Secretary-General of the United Nations is **Antonio Guterres**.

The incidents have declined drastically since then, however, largely due to the presence of American and allied navies in international waters.

Algeria passes law to protect media freedom: Algeria’s National Council passed a new media law that officials hailed as a major victory for the country’s journalists as concerns about press freedoms have plagued President Abdelmajid Tebboune’s first term in office.

The new law repeals the country’s “press offense” law and enshrines new protections for journalists to ensure they will not face arrest or imprisonment for doing their jobs. However, two prominent journalists remain behind bars and the laws that authorities have used to prosecute journalists - including one banning foreign funding for media outlets - remain on the books.

Still, the law’s author, Algerian Minister of Communications Mohamed Laagab, called it “the best law in the history of independent Algeria regarding the journalism industry.” He said it was a directive that came from President Tebboune.

Many journalists hailed the law passed Tuesday as major progress. Some responded with more caution.

Retired journalist and veteran political activist Ahmed Khezazana said he welcomed the law but wondered why Tebboune’s administration had decided to champion it now, after years of imprisoning journalists including Khaled Drareni and Ihsane El Kadi.

“I don’t think it’s a conviction on the part of those in power, who don’t fundamentally believe in press freedom. It’s just that the prospect of the presidential election is approaching, so they need to look after their image,” Khezazana said.

The overtone to Algeria’s once vibrant, now fledgling journalism sector comes a year before Tebboune campaigns for reelection.

The two cases Khezazana referenced garnered Algeria international condemnation.

Mali’s govt to probe Tuareg rebel leaders: Mali’s military government has announced an investigation into the Tuareg rebel leaders who signed a peace agreement in 2015 and now accuse the government of failing to comply with it, as experts worry that the deal crucial to establishing a measure of stability in the country’s north is collapsing.

The public prosecutor at the Bamako Court of Appeal on Tuesday ordered the probe into the rebel leaders who at times have sought to create the independent state of Azawad and have attacked Mali’s security forces in recent months.

The government of the West African nation has referred to the rebels as a “terrorist group.”

The developments could mean more violence in a region already under threat from fighters linked to al-Qaeda and where both UN peacekeepers and French forces have withdrawn in recent months.

The Tuareg rebellion in Mali’s north has been a source of conflict for decades. More than a decade of instability has followed their rebellion in 2013, though in 2015 the Tuareg rebel groups signed the peace deal with the government that was welcomed by the United Nations.

At least 40 civilians killed by rebels: At least 40 civilians were killed last weekend by al-Qaeda-linked rebels trying to take control of a besieged town in Burkina Faso’s hard-hit northern region, the United Nations’ rights office said, calling the attack a war crime.

In one of the largest clashes in recent years in the West African nation under threat from fighters linked to al-Qaeda and the Islamic State group, a large number of fighters tried to take control of Djibo near Mali’s border.

The town, located 210 kilometres (130 miles) from the capital, Ouagadougou, has been under blockade by rebels for more than a year, often struggling to provide essential services.

The militants in the latest attack, which happened on Sunday, also wounded 42 people and set fire to three camps for internally displaced people, UN Human Rights Office spokesperson Seif Magango said in a statement on Tuesday that blamed the attack on JNIM, an umbrella coalition of armed groups aligned with al-Qaeda.

“Deliberately targeting civilians or individuals not taking direct part in hostilities constitutes a war crime,” the UN department said, citing reports from its workers on the ground.

The Associated Press couldn’t reach witnesses or survivors in the area, which has frequent internet cuts and where the military government is known to crack down on civil society.



Japanese coast guard helicopter and patrol vessel conduct search and rescue operation in the waters where a US military Osprey aircraft crashed into off the coast of Yakushima Island, Kagoshima prefecture, southern Japan on Nov 30. Inset: Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa, (left), meets US Ambassador to Japan Rahm Emanuel, (right), at the foreign ministry in Tokyo Thursday. (AP)

Japan suspends its Osprey flights after fatal crash of US Air Force aircraft

Japan suspended flights by its Osprey aircraft Thursday, officials said, the day after a US Air Force Osprey based in Japan crashed into the sea during a training mission.

Tokyo has also asked the US military to ground all Ospreys operating in Japan except for those searching for victims of the crash.

A senior Defense Ministry official, Taro Yamato, told a parliamentary hearing that Japan has suspended flights of Ospreys beginning Thursday until details of the crash and safety are confirmed.

The US-made Osprey is a hybrid aircraft that takes off and lands like a helicopter but can rotate its propellers forward and cruise much faster, like an airplane, during flight.

Ministry officials said a planned training flight Thursday at the Metabaru army camp in the Saga prefecture in southern Japan was canceled as part of the grounding of all 14 Japanese-owned Ospreys

deployed at Japan’s Ground Self-Defense Force bases.

Japan also asked the US military to fly Ospreys deployed in Japan only after “their safety is confirmed,” except for the purpose of joining the ongoing search and rescue operations at the crash site, Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno told reporters. One US Osprey has joined the rescue operation since the crash, Japanese defense officials said. (AP)

Asia

Seoul military calls for readiness against Pyongyang

North Korea rejects talks with US

SEOUL, South Korea, Nov 30, (Agencies): The powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on Thursday dismissed US calls for a return to diplomacy and lambasted its condemnations of the North’s recent spy satellite launch, vowing more launches in violation of UN bans.

During a UN Security Council meeting earlier this week, the US ambassador to the United Nations, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, called the North’s satellite launch a “reckless, unlawful” action that threatens its neighbors. But she reiterated the US offer for dialogue without any preconditions, saying North Korea “can choose the timing and topic.”

Kim’s sister and senior official, Kim Yo Jong, rejected the US overture and threatened more satellite and other weapons launches.

“The sovereignty of an independent state can never be an agenda item for negotiations, and therefore, (North Korea) will never sit face to face with the US for that purpose,” Kim Yo Jong said in a statement carried by state media.

“(North Korea) will continue to make efforts to develop everything belonging to its sovereign rights and continue to exercise the sovereign rights, enjoyed by all the member states of the UN, in a dignified manner without being restricted in the future, too,” she said.

Multiple UN Security Council resolutions ban North Korea from performing any launches using ballistic technology, such as satellite liftoffs and missile tests. But the North has argued it has sovereign rights to launch spy satellites and test-flight ballistic missiles to cope with what it calls US-led military threats. It views major US-South Korean military drills as invasion rehearsal and often reacts with its own weapons tests.

Also:
TOKYO: South Korea’s new Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen **Kim Myung-soo** called Thursday for robust military readiness against North Korean provocation as he visited guard posts on the eastern front of the heavily fortified border, Yonhap

US arms sales to Taiwan turning island into a ‘powder keg’: China

BEIJING, Nov 30, (AP): China’s defense ministry said Thursday that the US should stop interfering in both Taiwan and the South China Sea, saying US arms sales to Taiwan are making the situation more dangerous.

Taiwan’s ruling Democratic Progressive Party is “turning Taiwan into a weapons depot and a powder keg,” said Senior Col Wu Qian, the defense ministry’s top spokesperson.

He spoke less than two months ahead of a presidential election in which Taiwan voters will choose between the ruling party, which favors a stronger defense and close ties to the US, and opposition parties that advocate improving ties with China as the best way to reduce tensions.

“Taiwan’s security depends on the peaceful development of cross-strait relations instead of a few pieces of US-made weapons,” Wu said at a monthly news conference. The 160-kilometer (100-mile)-wide Taiwan Strait runs between Taiwan

and China’s east coast.

China claims the self-governing island as its territory and says it must come under its control. The US government does not support formal independence for Taiwan but is bound by its own laws to provide the island with the means to defend itself.

“We request that the US side acts in accordance with its words and takes concrete steps to honor its commitment not to support Taiwan independence, stops arming Taiwan and stops undermining China’s core interest,” Wu said.

Some American lawmakers are calling for stepped-up support in response to threatening military drills by China.

Wu also criticized the US for supporting the Philippines in the latter’s territorial disputes with China in the South China Sea. Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has sought US assistance, including a recent joint patrol conducted by their militaries.

News Agency reported.

In his first inspection since taking office Saturday, Kim visited front-line units in the Demilitarized Zone separating the two Koreas as **Pyeongyang** has recently forward-deployed forces and weapons to the border region following the suspension of a 2018 inter-Korean military tension reduction agreement.

Kim urged the troops to closely monitor North Korea’s movements to counter any possible manipulative or surprise attacks and retaliate in an “immediate and decisive” manner if provoked. North Korea has been reinstalling guard posts and placing heavy arms in the zone after it vowed to restore all military measures halted under the 2018 agreement.

The latest move came after South Korea partially suspended the deal to resume surveillance near the border in protest of the North’s Nov 21 spy satellite launch.

Meanwhile, Pyongyang denounced Seoul on Thursday over the partial suspension of the 2018 agreement, saying the South has “pulled the last remaining safety pin with its own hands.”

In an editorial carried by the official Korean Central News Agency, the North said it is “clear” that a “dismal consequence” will await the South, noting that the North’s Defense Ministry has declared it will “never be bound” by the agreement.



Somalia maritime police from PMPF patrol in the Gulf of Aden off the coast of semi-autonomous Puntland State in Somalia on Nov 26. Somalia’s maritime police force on Nov 30 intensified patrols in the Red Sea following a failed pirate hijacking of a ship in the Gulf of Aden earlier this week. (AP)



Lat/Am

7 immigration agents abducted: Suspected drug cartel members abducted seven Mexican immigration agents in Cancun at gunpoint Wednesday, beat them and threatened to kill them before they were freed, authorities said.

The brazen mass kidnapping occurred near Cancun’s bustling airport and illustrates the degree to which Mexico’s cartels and criminal gangs have become involved in migrant smuggling and kidnapping.

Federal forces later located the house where the agents were being held in the Caribbean resort city. The forces - apparently marines and National Guard, along with local police - engaged the kidnappers in a gun battle and freed the agents. They did not say whether anyone was wounded in the confrontation.

The agents said after they were released that the gunmen threatened to kill them unless they allowed migrants to be smuggled through the airport and other parts of the coastal state of Quintana Roo.

It was the first such mass abduction of immigration agents in Mexico, and the National Immigration Institute, INM, said it began in a dramatic fashion. (AP)

5 journos shot in one day: Mexico’s president said Wednesday that two of four news photographers who were shot Tuesday are in serious condition, as prosecutors confirmed that a fifth journalist was shot and wounded the same day.

The four photojournalists were shot near a military barracks in the southern Guerrero state after they returned from a crime scene. They had been covering one of the many homicides that occur on a near-daily basis in the violence-wracked city of Chilpancingo.

President **Andrés Manuel López Obrador** said “we must regret this,” referring to the shooting, but did not offer any information on a possible motive in the attack.

Another shooting Tuesday in the neighboring state of Michoacan wounded reporter Maynor Ramón Ramírez, bringing the number of victims to five and marking one of the largest one-day tolls of media workers in a decade.



Dog farmers struggle with police officers during a rally against the government-pled dog meat banning bill in front of the presidential office in Seoul, South Korea, on Nov. 30. Earlier this month, government and ruling party officials agreed to introduce legislation by the year’s end that would ban the centuries-old practice. Individual lawmakers have submitted similar anti-dog meat bills in the past, but this would be the first time for the government to back such legislation. (AP)

oil price up

The Kuwaiti oil price rose 13 cents to USD 84.93 per barrel on Wednesday, as opposed to USD 84.80 on Tuesday, said the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) Thursday.

In international markets, Brent crude went up by USD 1.42 to USD 83.10 pb, while West Texas Intermediate rose USD 1.45 to stand at USD 77.86. (KUNA)

Kuwait's oil exports to Japan down 51.1%

Kuwait's crude oil exports to Japan in October fell 51.1 percent from a year earlier to 3.81 million barrels, or 123,000 barrels per day (bpd), for the first decline in two months, government data showed Thursday.

As Japan's third-biggest oil provider, Kuwait supplied 5.3 percent of the country's total crude imports, compared with 9.2 percent in the same month of last year, the Japanese Natural Resources and Energy Agency said in a preliminary report.

Japan's overall imports of crude oil in October shrank 15.3 percent from a year earlier to 2.31 million bpd, down for the fourth straight month. Shipments from the Middle East accounted for 92.0 percent of the total, down 2.7 percentage points from the year before. By country, Saudi Arabia returned to the top spot, although imports from the kingdom decreased 3.9 percent from the year before to 978,000 bpd, followed by the United Arab Emirates with 934,000 bpd, down 14.5 percent.

Kuwait's exports to China stand at USD 1.874b

In October, the exports of the Gulf countries, including Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Oman, Kuwait, Qatar, and Bahrain, to China saw a 14.2% decrease, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

These exports declined to \$18.206 billion, contrasting with \$21.223 billion during the same period the previous year.

Meanwhile, the Gulf countries' imports from China totaled around \$9.762 billion, down from \$10.82 billion. The trade surplus between the countries amounted to \$8.443 billion in favor of the Gulf nations for Octo-

ber, compared to a surplus of \$10.402 billion in the corresponding period in 2022.

Official data from the Chinese government reveals that Kuwait's exports to China reached \$1.874 billion, exhibiting a slight decline of 19% compared to the exports during the same period in 2022, which amounted to \$2.311 billion.

Concurrently, the value of Kuwait's imports from China stood at approximately \$434.2 million, compared to \$454.97 million in the corresponding period of the preceding year, as reported by "Mubasher."

Market Movements 30-11-2023

		Change	Closing pts			Change	Closing pts
SAUDI	Tadawul	+74.43	11,177.48	UAE	DFM	-7.22	3,992.36
JAPAN	Nikkei	+165.67	33,486.89	EGYPT	EGX 30	-23.77	24,735.39
PAKISTAN	KSE 100	+27.81	60,526.77	PHILLIPINES	PSEI	-41.41	6,223.73

Business

OPEC discord deepens as oil prices ‘plummet’

Oil price drop aids US drivers

LONDON, Nov 30, (AP): The OPEC oil cartel led by Saudi Arabia and allied producers including Russia will try to agree Thursday on cuts to the amount of crude they send to the world, with prices having tumbled lately despite their efforts to prop them up.

That’s been a good thing for U.S. drivers, who have been able to fill their gas tanks for less money in recent months and whose costs at the pump can be sensitive to moves by the OPEC+ coalition. But it’s bad news for OPEC+ countries whose oil income props up their economies and who have faced setbacks in keeping prices up despite initial fears that the Israel-Hamas war could affect oil flows.

Now, they are struggling to come to a consensus on production cuts, analysts say, on the same day the U.N. climate conference kicks off in the United Arab Emirates, an OPEC member.

The group postponed its meeting originally set for Sunday by four days, indicating that a new agreement will prove to be challenging, said Jorge Leon, senior vice president of oil market research for Rystad Energy.

“Despite the challenges, we still expect OPEC+ to reach an agreement to reduce production,” he said in an analyst note. That’s because “every member country acknowledges the need to reduce output to support prices into 2024.”

The question is how to split it among the 23 member countries, some of whom already accepted lower production targets at the last OPEC+ meeting in Vienna in June.

Another big question is whether Saudi Arabia and Russia will extend their additional voluntary cuts of 1 million barrels per day and 300,000 barrels per day, respectively, into 2024.

Russia wants more oil revenue as it faces Western sanctions but seeks to pour energy earnings into its war chest against Ukraine. The Saudis have to earn nearly \$86 per barrel to meet their planned spending goals, according to the latest estimate from the International Monetary Fund.

The Saudis are trying to fund an ambitious overhaul of the kingdom’s economy, reduce its dependence on oil and create jobs for a young population.

But the international benchmark Brent crude has stayed in the low- to mid-\$80 range in recent weeks, reflecting concerns about oversupply in a weakening global economy, which could weigh on the thirst for oil for travel and industry.

Early Thursday, Brent rose 8 cents to \$82.96 a barrel, while U.S. crude rose by 11 cents to \$77.97 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Lower oil prices have allowed U.S. gas prices to fall or stay steady since Sept. 19, AAA said. Gas is averaging just below \$3.25 a gallon, the motor club said, down about 7% from a month ago.

But that’s still higher than when President Joe Biden



The logo of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is seen outside of OPEC’s headquarters in Vienna, Austria, Thursday, March 3, 2022. The OPEC oil cartel led by Saudi Arabia and allied producers including Russia will try to agree Thursday, Nov 30, 2023 on cuts to the amount of crude they send to the world, with prices having tumbled lately despite their efforts to prop them up. (AP)

took office in January 2021, when prices were averaging about \$2.40 a gallon. High inflation has been a political challenge for Biden going into the 2024 election, prompting him to say Monday that efforts to improve supply chains and reduce price pressures are a priority.

White House national security spokesman John Kirby declined to address the possibility of OPEC+ reducing oil production.

“The president is going to keep focusing, as he has been, on a healthy global market that’s properly balanced and that can continue to bring the price of gasoline down here in the United States,” Kirby told reporters at a briefing Monday.

U.S. oil production has hit records as OPEC+ has cut back, with producers outside the group expected to keep leading global growth in oil supply next year, the International Energy Agency said in its November oil report.

For instance, daily production in the U.S. averaged 13 million barrels a day in August, an increase of more than 1 million barrels from a year ago, according to the latest monthly figures from the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Now, the risk is growing that Saudi Arabia’s production cuts could reduce OPEC’s influence over oil supplies as other countries boost their output.

“The kingdom is balancing the desire to keep prices high by limiting supply with the knowledge that doing so will lead to a further drop in overall market share,” Leon said.

Meanwhile, fears the conflict between Israel and Hamas might spread throughout the region, creating a shock to the oil market, have not materialized, with the IEA noting that “there has been no material impact on oil supply flows from the war.”

Steady job growth continues despite cooling trends

US economic growth revises up to 5.2% annual rate

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30, (AP): Shrugging off higher interest rates, America’s consumers spent enough to help drive the economy to a brisk 5.2% annual pace from July through September, the government reported Wednesday in an upgrade from its previous estimate.

The government had previously estimated that the economy grew at a 4.9% annual rate last quarter.

In the current fourth quarter, though, economists say growth is likely slowing sharply from the cumulative effects of higher borrowing rates on consumer and business spending. TD Economics, for example, expects growth in the October-December period to come in at a 1.8% annual rate.

Wednesday’s second estimate of growth for the July-September quarter confirmed that the economy sharply accelerated from its 2.1% rate from April through June. It showed that the U.S. gross domestic product - the total output of goods and services - grew at its fastest quarterly rate in nearly two years.

Consumer spending, the lifeblood of the economy, rose at a 3.6% annual rate from July through September - still healthy but a downgrade from the previous estimate of 4%. Private investment surged at a 10.5% annual pace, including a 6.2% increase in housing investment, which defied higher mortgage rates.

The economy also received a lift from companies building inventories in anticipation of future sales, which added 1.4 percentage points to quarterly growth. Also driving the third quarter growth was an uptick in spending and investment by governments at all levels - federal, state and local.

The U.S. economy, the world’s largest, has proved resilient even as the Federal Reserve has raised its benchmark



Workmen dig on a street in Waukegan, Ill., Nov. 6, 2023. On Wednesday, the Commerce Department issued its second of three estimates of how the U.S. economy performed in the third quarter of 2023. (AP)

interest rate 11 times since March 2022 to fight the worst bout of inflation in four decades. Those higher interest rates have significantly increased consumer and business borrowing costs. But they have also helped ease inflationary pressures: Consumer prices rose 3.2% last month from 12 months earlier, a marked improvement from the 9.1% year-over-year inflation recorded in June 2022.

The U.S. job market is cooling from the red-hot levels of the past two years. But it’s still healthy by historical standards: Employers are adding an average of 239,000 jobs a month this year. And the unemployment rate has come in below 4% for 21 straight months, the longest such streak since the 1960s.

The combination of easing inflation and resilient hiring has raised hopes the Fed can manage a so-called soft landing - raising rates just enough to

cool the economy and tame price increases without tipping the economy into recession.

“We continue to forecast ongoing expansion in economic activity, but the pace should slow quite significantly” in the current fourth quarter, said Rubeeela Farooqi, chief U.S. economist at High Frequency Economics. “We anticipate a deceleration in household spending, not only on payback for an unusually strong third quarter but also from the cumulative effects of monetary policy tightening.”

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development forecast Wednesday that the U.S. economy will expand just 1.5% in 2024, down from 2.4% in 2023, as the Federal Reserve’s interest rate increases - 11 of them since March 2022 - continue to restrain growth.

SCPD chief highlights ‘economic impacts’ of Fourth Industrial Revolution at Kuwait forum

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30, (KUNA): The fourth Kuwaiti Knowledge Economy Forum and the 25th meeting for GCC technical officials for planning and development will explore venues for cooperation and review development visions in the region, said a top Kuwaiti development official.

Speaking to KUNA after the events, General Secretary of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development (SCPD) Dr. Khaled Mahdi said that the meetings aimed to review and exchange the most prominent experiences and establish economic cooperation between the GCC countries regarding best practices in the field of preparing national plans and future development visions.

Mahdi revealed that the aforementioned fourth Kuwait forum discussed the economic, situational and social impacts of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

He expressed his gratitude for the presence of Gulf countries’ delegations and the GCC’s General Secre-

tariat.

The participants presented, during the meeting, their countries’ development visions, he indicated, adding that there was an overlap among countries in their respective development plans.

At the opening of the fourth Kuwaiti Knowledge Economy Forum and the 25th meeting for GCC Technical Officials, Mahdi said, the meetings were “held in line with a decision of the ministerial committee for Planning and Development of the GCC”.

During their meeting, held under patronage of Deputy Premier and Defense Minister Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, technical officials from the GCC countries discussed measures to implement plans for development and economic growth in the region.

The fourth Kuwaiti Knowledge Economy Forum and the 25th Technical Officials meetings are held at Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Centre (JACC) and will last until November 30.

Columbia River salmon stocks decline

US prepares replacement energy projects amid dam breach issues

SEATTLE, Nov 30, (AP): The U.S. government is willing to help build enough new clean energy projects in the Pacific Northwest to replace the hydropower generated by four controversial dams on the Snake River, according to a leaked Biden administration document that is giving hope to conservationists who have long sought the removal of the dams as a key to restoring depleted salmon runs.

Still, Congress would have to agree before any of the Lower Snake River dams in Washington state are removed, and that’s unlikely to happen in the near future.

The document is a draft agreement to uphold 168-year-old treaties with four tribes in the Pacific Northwest that preserved their right to harvest fish in the river, among other things.

The Columbia River Basin was once the greatest salmon-producing river system in the world, with at least 16 stocks of salmon and steelhead, according to the document. But today, four are extinct and seven are listed under the Endangered Species Act. Conservationists say dams built in the basin are primarily to blame.

Conservation groups and tribes sued the federal government in an effort to save the struggling fisheries, and both sides notified the court earlier this fall they were close to reaching an agreement that could put the the lawsuit on hold. They have until mid-December to submit an agreement.

Amanda Goodin, a lawyer for the

environmental group Earthjustice, which is representing a coalition of environmental, fishing, and renewable energy groups in the litigation, said their goal throughout the mediation has been to prevent the extinction of salmon, restore the ecosystem and replace the energy provided by the dams.

“We hope to be able to say on Dec. 15 we’ve achieved that goal, but if we can’t reach that goal or discussions fall apart, we will be prepared to resume litigation on Dec. 15,” she said in a statement. Due to confidentiality rules, she said they would not discuss the specifics of the draft agreement.

In civil cases, mediation talks are generally confidential, but Washington state Rep. Dan Newhouse, a Republican, included a link to the draft agreement in a press release Wednesday. Newhouse has opposed breaching the dams, saying they are essential for agriculture, flood control and transportation as well as electricity.

“It is imperative that our constituents, whose livelihoods depend on the Columbia River System, have a comprehensive understanding of this document’s contents so they can anticipate and prepare for the wide-ranging impacts that will inevitably be felt across the region should the commitments detailed in this document be realized,” Newhouse and three other Republican representatives — Cathy McMorris Rodgers of Washington, Cliff Bentz of Oregon,

and Russ Fulcher of Idaho - wrote to President Joe Biden.

The draft agreement says the government will help plan and pay for tribes in the Pacific Northwest to develop enough clean energy resources to serve as replacement power for the lower Snake River dams, whether or not Congress authorizes dam removal.

The draft also includes billions of dollars in funding for analyzing the region’s energy needs, improving transportation infrastructure, making the power grid more resilient and restoring salmon, steelhead and other native fish runs in the Columbia River basin. Oregon and Washington would be partners in the effort along with the four tribes and the federal government.

There has been growing recognition across the U.S. that the harms some dams cause to fish outweigh their usefulness. Dams on the Elwha River in Washington state and the Klamath River along the Oregon-California border have been or are being removed.

The Yakama Nation and the Nez Perce Tribe declined to comment on the document, while the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation was not immediately available for comment and Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs did not respond to a request for comment.

Alyssa Roberts, spokesperson for the White House Council on Environmental Quality, said the negotiations are ongoing.

Water utilities vulnerable to hackers after Penns attack

Hackers are targeting industrial control systems widely used by water and sewage-treatment utilities, potentially threatening water supplies, the top U.S. cyberdefense agency said after a Pennsylvania water authority was hacked.

The U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency issued the warning Tuesday evening, three days after hacktivists shut down a piece of equipment

at the Municipal Water Authority of Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, just outside Pittsburgh.

The hack effectively idled pumping equipment in a remote station that regulates water pressure for customers in two nearby towns. Crews switched to manual backup, officials said.

The attackers likely accessed the device by exploiting cybersecurity weaknesses, including poor password security and exposure to the internet, U.S. officials said.

The Aliquippa water authority did not respond to messages Wednesday.

The equipment identified as vulnerable is used across multiple industries, including electric utilities and oil and gas producers. It regulates processes including pressure, temperature and fluid flow, according to the manufacturer. (AP)

Nigeria’s leader presents \$34b spending plan

Nigeria’s leader on Wednesday presented a 27.5 trillion naira (\$34.8 billion) spending plan for 2024 to federal lawmakers, with a focus on stabilizing Africa’s largest but ailing economy and tackling the nation’s deadly security crisis.

The primary objective next year is to sustain the “robust foundation for sustainable economic development” that the new government has set in motion, President Bola Tinubu said in Abuja, the capital. Now lawmakers will deliberate and vote on the plan.

Tinubu projected that the economy would grow by at least 3.76% next year and listed infrastructure and social welfare programs among the government’s priorities to reduce hardship in the country of more than 210 million people.

In his six months in office, Tinubu introduced economic reforms that the government said would grow the economy and attract more foreign investment.

Those reforms - including the removal of costly gas subsidies - have instead worsened the hardship for many in the West African nation where surging inflation of 27.3% is already squeezing families. (AP)

The Conversation

Challenge looms over COP28 proceedings

The path to net-zero emissions runs through industry

By Morgan Bazilian, Colorado School of Mines, Benjamin K. Sovacool, University of Sussex, and Steven Griffiths, Khalifa University

The Conversation is an independent and nonprofit source of news, analysis and commentary from academic experts.

As government leaders and climate negotiators gather in Dubai for the COP28 United Nations climate conference, an enormous challenge looms over the proceedings: decarbonizing the global industrial sector.

Industry has accounted for over 30% of total greenhouse gas emissions in recent years. It is the single largest emitting sector when accounting for its electricity use and heat generation.

For countries to meet their goals to cut greenhouse gas emissions, stopping emissions from carbon-intensive industries like steel, cement and chemicals is imperative.

There are promising technologies and innovations that can drive decarbonization in industry: green hydrogen fuel made from clean electricity and water, energy efficiency measures across supply chains, and carbon capture, use and storage to name a few.

However, these solutions have yet to be deployed at the speed and scale required to slow global warming.

Global industrial emissions will need to fall by 25% by 2030 for the world to be on track to reach net-zero emissions by 2050 - a target espoused by many of the world’s largest economies. That’s an extremely steep decline of 3% per year, and it will require a massive mobilization of money, technology and political will.

The positive news is that many countries are taking steps in the right direction. The U.S. Inflation Reduction Act, signed in 2022, includes approximately US\$80 billion per year for climate initiatives from 2022-27, with provisions to spur clean technology deployment and incentivize emissions reductions across industrial sectors.

Consumer Reports releases findings

EVs less reliable, on the average, than conventional cars and trucks

DETROIT, Nov 30, (AP): Electric vehicles have proved far less reliable, on average, than gasoline-powered cars, trucks and SUVs, according to the latest survey by Consumer Reports, which found that EVs from the 2021 through 2023 model years encountered nearly 80% more problems than did vehicles propelled by internal combustion engines.

Consumer Reports said EV owners most frequently reported troubles with battery and charging systems as well as flaws in how the vehicles’ body panels and interior parts fit together. The magazine and website noted that EV manufacturers are still learning to construct completely new power systems, and it suggested that as they do, the overall reliability of electric vehicles should improve.

“This story is really one of growing pains,” said Jake Fisher, senior director of auto testing at Consumer Reports. “It’s a story of just working out the bugs and the kinks of new technology.”

Still, Consumer Reports noted that lingering concerns about reliability will likely add to the issues that give many buyers pause when considering a switch to the new technology, joining concerns about higher costs, too few charging stations and long charging times.

The growth of electric vehicle sales has slowed sharply since last year. In June 2022, EV sales were growing about 90% year over year. By June of this year the 12-month growth rate had slowed to about 50%, and automakers have become increasingly fearful that the pace will weaken further.

Reflecting that concern, about 3,900 U.S. auto dealers this week signed a letter to President Joe Biden, asking him to rethink what the dealers called

unrealistic fuel economy and emissions requirements that could require electric vehicles to reach 67% of total U.S. vehicle sales by 2032.

Consumer enthusiasm for EVs, their letter warned, has stalled.

“They are not selling nearly as fast as they are arriving at our dealerships, even with deep price cuts, manufacturer incentives and generous government incentives,” the letter said.

The Consumer Reports survey also concluded that plug-in hybrids, which can travel on battery power before a gas-electric powertrain kicks in, are more power-prone than fully electric vehicles. Plug-ins, Fisher pointed out, contain two separate and complex power systems in which glitches can arise. He also noted that brands that over time have proved less reliable, in general, such as Jeep and Volvo, have started mass-producing plug-in hybrids.

But tried-and-true integrated gas-electric hybrid systems are more reliable than gasoline vehicles, largely because they have been in use for about a quarter-century and the bugs have mostly been worked out, Fisher said.

Consumer Reports derived its survey data from subscribers who owned EVs from the 2021 through 2023 model years and compared them with other vehicle types. In calculating a vehicle’s average problem rate, the organization assigned extra weight to serious problems such as battery or engine failures.

EVs from the 2021 and 2022 model years overall had more than twice the problem rates of internal combustion vehicles. The rates were more closely aligned in the 2023 model year: Those EVs had only 21% more problems than gasoline vehicles, Fisher said.

GM says strike cost \$1.1 bln, but it can ‘absorb’ rising labor costs

Company raising its dividend

DETROIT, Nov 30, (AP): General Motors says pretax earnings took a \$1.1 billion hit this year due to production lost during a six-week strike by autoworkers, but the company expects to absorb the costs of a new contract and is even raising its dividend.

The Detroit automaker on Wednesday reinstated its full-year earnings forecast that was withdrawn after the United Auto Workers began targeting the factories of Detroit automakers with strikes on Sept. 15. Those strikes continued at GM until Oct. 30.

The company now predicts full-year net income of \$9.1 billion to \$9.7 billion, down from its previous outlook of \$9.3 billion to \$10.7 billion. But GM expects to generate more cash for the full year. It expects free cash flow of \$10.5 billion to \$11.5 billion, an increase from a previous forecast of \$7 billion to \$9 billion.

Slowdown

To get there, GM expects to cut capital spending, including a in spending on electric vehicles and at Cruise, its troubled autonomous vehicle unit. California regulators revoked the San Francisco-based subsidiary’s robotaxi license last month after one of its vehicles dragged a pedestrian to the side of a street after the person was hit by another car.

Barra wrote that GM expects the pace of Cruise’s expansion to cities outside of San Francisco to be more deliberate when driverless taxi operations resume “resulting in substantially lower spending in 2024 than in 2023.”

GM had big plans for Cruise, which it bought eight years ago. The Detroit automaker had been expecting annual revenue of \$1 billion from Cruise by 2025 - a big jump from the \$106 million last year. During the first nine months of this year Cruise posted pretax losses of \$1.9 billion.

GM says it will raise its dividend 33% to 12 cents per share starting in January. It’s also planning to buy back \$10 billion of its shares.

Shares of GM rose 8.6% before Wednesday’s opening bell, but remain down about 27% in the past year.

The company said new contracts with the UAW and Canadian autoworkers will cost \$9.3 billion during the next four years and eight months, with \$200 million more coming this year and \$1.5 billion next year. The deals will increase costs per vehicle by \$500 in 2024, but analysts say competition will limit automakers’ ability to increase prices.

Canada says Google will pay \$74m annually to Canadian news industry under new online law

TORONTO, Nov 30, (AP): Canada’s government said it reached a deal with Google for the company to contribute \$100 million Canadian dollars annually to the country’s news industry to comply with a new Canadian law requiring tech companies to pay publishers for their content.

The agreement removes a threat by Google to block the ability to search for Canadian news on Google in Canada. Facebook and Instagram parent company Meta already has been blocking Canadian news since earlier this year.

“Google has agreed to properly support journalists, including local journalism,” Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said. “Unfortunately Meta continues to completely abdicate any responsibility towards democratic institutions.”

Pascal St-Onge, the minister of Canadian heritage, said that Google will contribute \$100 million Canadian (\$74 million) - indexed to inflation - in financial support annually for a wide range of news businesses across the country.

“It’s good for the news sector. If

there is a better deal struck elsewhere in the world, Canada reserves the right to reopen the regulation,” St-Onge said at a news conference.

“This shows that this legislation works. That it is equitable. And now it’s on Facebook to explain why they are leaving their platform to disinformation and misinformation instead of sustaining our news system,” she said.

Canada in late June passed the Online News Act to require tech giants to pay publishers for linking to or otherwise repurposing their content online. Meta responded to the law by blocking news content in Canada on its platforms. Google’s owner Alphabet previously had said it planned to do the same when the law takes effect in December.

Meta has said the Online News Act “is based on the incorrect premise that Meta benefits unfairly from news content shared on our platforms, when the reverse is true.”

Meta’s change means that people in Canada are not able to view or share news on Facebook and Instagram - including news articles, videos and audio posted by outlets inside or outside

of Canada. Links posted by Canadian outlets are still visible in other countries. St-Onge has called Meta’s move “irresponsible.”

“With newsrooms cutting positions or closing entirely, the health of the Canadian news industry has never been more at risk,” she said in Wednesday’s statement.

Kent Walker, president of global affairs at Google and Alphabet, thanked the minister in a statement and said Google would continue sending valuable traffic to Canadian publishers.

Earlier this year, Canada’s government said it would stop advertising on Facebook and Instagram, in response to Meta’s stance.

Meta has taken similar steps in the past. In 2021, it briefly blocked news from its platform in Australia after the country passed legislation that would compel tech companies to pay publishers for using their news stories. It later struck deals with Australian publishers.

Trudeau said the deal is going to resonate around the world as countries deal with the same challenges that Canada’s media landscape is facing.

Tech to be tested & perfected

New tech installed beneath a Detroit street can charge EVs

DETROIT, Nov 30, (AP): Crews have installed what’s billed as the nation’s first wireless-charging public roadway for electric vehicles beneath a street just west of downtown Detroit.

Copper inductive charging coils allow vehicles equipped with receivers to charge up their batteries while driving, idling or parking above the coils.

The quarter-mile segment of 14th Street will be used to test and perfect the technology ahead of making it available to the public within a few years, according to the Michigan Department of Transportation.

Demonstrations were held Wednesday at Michigan Central innovation district, a hub for advancing technologies and programs that address barriers to mobility. The district also is where Ford Motor Co. is restoring the old Michigan Central train station to develop self-driving vehicles.

The technology belongs to Electreon, an Israel-based developer of wireless charging solutions for electric vehicles. The company has contracts for similar roadways in Israel, Sweden, Italy and Germany. The pilot

initiative in Michigan was announced in 2021 by Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

“Alongside Michigan’s automotive expertise, we’ll demonstrate how wireless charging unlocks widespread EV adoption, addressing limited range, grid limitations, and battery size and costs,” said Stefan Tongur, Electreon vice president of business development. “This project paves the way for a zero-emission mobility future, where EVs are the norm, not the exception.”

When a vehicle with a receiver nears the charging segments, the coils beneath the road transfer electricity through a magnetic field, charging the vehicle’s battery. The coils only activate when a vehicle with a receiver passes over them.

Tongur told reporters the roadway is safe for pedestrians, motorists and animals.

The state Department of Transportation and Electreon made a five-year commitment to develop the electric road system. The DOT is expected to seek bids to rebuild part of busy Michigan Avenue, where inductive charging will also be installed.

Sri Lanka says it has struck a deal with its creditors

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, Nov 30, (AP): Sri Lanka said Wednesday that it has reached an agreement in principle with a group of creditors including India and Japan on debt restructuring, a crucial move toward unlocking a second instalment of a \$2.9 billion bailout package from the International Monetary Fund.

The agreement with the Official Creditor Committee covers approximately \$5.9 billion of outstanding public debt and consists of a mix of long-term maturity extension and reduction in interest rates, a statement from the country’s Finance Ministry said.

It also said the agreement will facilitate a swift approval by the IMF Executive Board of the review of Sri Lanka’s IMF-supported program, allowing for the next tranche of IMF financing of about \$334 million to be disbursed. The IMF said in September Sri Lanka’s economy was recovering, but it needed to improve its tax administration, eliminate exemptions and

crack down on tax evasion.

Sri Lanka declared bankruptcy in April 2022 with more than \$83 billion in debt - more than half of it to foreign creditors. Its economy was plunged into crisis, with severe shortages of food, fuel and other necessities. Student public protests led to the ouster of then-President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. The IMF agreed in March to a \$2.9-billion bailout package, releasing the first payment shortly thereafter.

Sri Lanka needed financial assurances

from its bilateral creditors in order to receive the second bailout installment.

The ministry said the debt treatment terms will be further detailed and formalized in a memorandum of understanding between Sri Lanka and the creditor committee, which is co-chaired by India, Japan and France and includes 17 countries. The memorandum will be “implemented through bilateral agreements with each OCC member in accordance with their laws and regulations,” it said.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Business Plus



Survey reveals challenges in bringing employees back to office post-COVID

Employers seek solutions amid hybrid work trend



People work at the Yelp office in San Francisco on Feb. 14, 2023. The COVID-19 pandemic upended the work habits of people around the world, with millions working from home, at least part of their week. Workers have returned in waves back to the office on some days, but navigating that transition is a significant hurdle for employers and workers alike. (AP)

Once workers discovered that remote work could be less expensive and... make their life a little easier, they just wanted to keep doing it, even once the pandemic began fading away ,

NEW YORK, Nov 30, (AP): Justin Ryan Horton has two jobs. When he’s not putting in 24-hour shifts as a firefighter, the 22-year-old is working as an administrative assistant for a local community college from his home in Colorado Springs.

Firefighting is, of course, not a work-from-home kind of job. So when the community college position gave Horton the choice to clock in remotely, he took it.

“I’m gone a lot being a firefighter,” Horton said. “Instead of coming home and then seeing my family for a few minutes before leaving to go to my other job... I feel like I have just more time with (them) when I work from home.”

The COVID-19 pandemic upended what working looks like for millions of people all around the world. While many jobs can only be done in person, swaths of employers shuttered their physical doors and moved their workplaces increasingly online.

Workers have since begun to

return to the office in waves, at least for part of the week, and navigating that transition is an ongoing and significant hurdle for employers and workers alike. And many simply cannot fathom a return to the pre-COVID status quo, changing how companies approach their staffing needs.

Retaining employees who don’t want to work in person is an issue for companies, but relatively few employers (13%) have introduced new incentives that would make employees more satisfied with it, according to a newly released poll conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago.

About 3 in 4 human resources representatives say that retaining employees who don’t want to work in the office is a problem - including 19% who call it a “major problem.” Another 54% of HR representatives call it a minor problem. And only about one-third of HR professionals say employees at their workplace are “extremely” or “very” happy about

returning to the workplace.

“Once workers discovered that (remote work could be) less expensive and... make their life a little easier, they just wanted to keep doing it, even once the pandemic began fading away,” Marjorie Connelly, senior fellow with NORC’s Public Affairs & Media Research department, told The Associated Press.

In both the HR survey and a separate poll of U.S. adults, researchers found that the top factors behind employees’ desire to work from home include their prioritization of flexibility and work-life balance. Other HR representatives and employees who work from home cite the length and costs of commuting as key.

Those are some of the main reasons that Megan Homis, 33, prefers remote work. As a senior account executive for an advertising and marketing firm in Southern California, Homis goes into the office once a month.

“With traffic, it’s about an hour and 45 minute drive each way into the of-

ice,” she said. “And on top of that, I have two little kids - so just wrangling childcare for them with drop off and pick up is a lot.”

Homis said that the ability to work remotely will continue to be a priority for her down the road. She would consider potentially going into the office more if an employer offered sufficient incentives and support for in-person work, but hasn’t seen opportunities that would sway her in that direction yet.

Bill Castellano, a professor in the Rutgers School of Management and Labor Relations, notes that flexibility is key - particularly in giving employees agency for scheduling their work.

“Employees really value more of when to do work vs. where to do work,” Castellano, who was not involved in the NORC surveys, said. He added that this is a key benefit for many remote workers today - and could be duplicated in physical offices with the right policy, such as having

flexible start times.

There are some initiatives that could incentivize more employees to work in-person - or at least increase their satisfaction about already going into the office - the poll shows. Most hybrid workers (55%) say paying employees more for their in-office work would provide “a lot” of encouragement for them to work in-person more often.

Additional pay topped the list across respondents whether they were working in-person, remotely (44%) or in hybrid (50%) roles. However, just 4% of HR representatives whose companies have introduced new policies to get employees back to the workplace say that higher compensation is among them.

Employees who are already going into the office - either entirely or part-time - indicated that other incentives such as commuter benefits, in-office childcare, free food and social gatherings could also add at least “some” more satisfaction with returning to the office.

Those in-office perks had less sway among solely remote workers, Connelly noted - particularly social gatherings. “For example, I work hundreds of miles away from the main office, so they can have a pizza party (and) all the pizza parties they want, but I’m not going to be affected by it,” she said.

Regardless, many U.S. employees have returned to in-person work, or had never left. Most paid employees report that they work in person per NORC’s survey, and three-quarters of those in-person employees say they are required by their employer to do so. About 1 in 10 indicate that they could work remotely but prefer working from the office.

Meanwhile, about one-third of paid employees surveyed work remotely or in hybrid positions. The majority cited convenience and work-life balance, as well as a lack of in-office requirements, as reasons to do so.

The number of people working remotely has fallen significantly since the peak of COVID-19 - but is still far higher than pre-pandemic levels.

Estimates are mixed, but according to a Pew Research Center survey published in March, 35% of workers with jobs that can be completed remotely were working from home all of the time. That’s down from 43% in January 2022 and 55% in October 2020. Still, that’s much higher than the mere 7% recorded before the pandemic.

This coincides with dwindling work-from-home options from employers. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 72.5% of private-sector establishments, for example, had little to no telework in mid-2022 - up from 60.1% a year earlier.

“I would think that this trend downward will continue, but I don’t think it’s going to go down to zero... (or) where we were pre-pandemic,” Castellano said, adding that he believes the hybrid model will grow in popularity. “The question is, what kind of schedule will that be?”

‘Good thinker involves recognizing one’s possible ignorance’

Intellectual humility associated with multiple positive outcomes

By Eranda Jayawickreme
Wake Forest University

The Conversation is an independent and nonprofit source of news, analysis and commentary from academic experts.



Being a good thinker involves possessing multiple traits, including intellectual humility, but also intellectual firmness, love of knowledge, curiosity, carefulness and open-mindedness ,

What does it mean to be a good thinker? Recent research suggests that acknowledging you can be wrong plays a vital role.

I had these studies in mind a few months ago when I was chatting with a history professor about a class she was teaching to first-year students here at Wake Forest University. As part of my job as a psychology professor who researches character - basically, what it means to be a good person - I often talk to my colleagues about how our teaching can develop the character of our students.

In this case, my colleague saw her class as an opportunity to cultivate character traits that would allow students to respectfully engage with and learn from others when discussing contentious topics. Wanting to learn about and understand the world is a distinctive human motivation. As teachers, we want our students to leave college with the ability and motivation to understand and learn more

about themselves, others and their world. She wondered: Was there one characteristic or trait that was most important to cultivate in her students?

I suggested she should focus on intellectual humility. Being intellectually humble means being open to the possibility you could be wrong about your beliefs.

But is being humble about what you know or don’t know enough? I now think my recommendation was incorrect. It turns out good thinking requires more than intellectual humility - and, yes, I see the irony that admitting this means I had to draw on my own intellectual humility.

One reason for my focus on intellectual humility was that without acknowledging the possibility that your current beliefs may be mistaken, you literally can’t learn anything new. While being open to being wrong is generally quite challenging - especially for first-year university students confronting the limits of their understanding - it is arguably the key first step in learning.

But another reason for my response is that research on intellectual humility has exploded in the past 10 years. Psychologists now have many different ways to assess intellectual humility. Social scientists know that

possessing a high level of intellectual humility is associated with multiple positive outcomes, like having more empathy, more prosocial behavior, reduced susceptibility to misinformation and an increased inclination to seek compromise in challenging interpersonal disagreements.

If you want to focus on one trait to promote good thinking, it seems that intellectual humility is hard to beat. Indeed, researchers, including those in my own lab, are now testing interventions to promote it among different populations.

However, was I right in recommending just a single trait? Is intellectual humility by itself enough to promote good thinking? When you zoom out to consider what is really involved in being a good thinker, it becomes clear that simply acknowledging that one could be wrong is not enough.

To provide an example, perhaps someone is willing to acknowledge that they could be wrong because “whatever, man.” They didn’t have particularly strong convictions to begin with. In other words, it’s not enough to say you’re mistaken about your beliefs. You also need to care about having the right beliefs.

While part of being a good thinker involves recognizing one’s possible

ignorance, it also requires an eagerness to learn, curiosity about the world, and a commitment to getting it right.

What other traits, then, should people strive to cultivate? The philosopher Nate King writes that being a good thinker involves possessing multiple traits, including intellectual humility, but also intellectual firmness, love of knowledge, curiosity, carefulness and open-mindedness.

Being a good thinker involves confronting multiple challenges beyond being humble about what you know. You also need to:

- Be sufficiently motivated to figure out what’s true.
- Focus on the pertinent information and carefully seek it out.
- Be open-minded when considering information that you may disagree with.
- Confront information or questions that are novel or different from what you’re generally used to engaging with.
- Be willing to put in the effort to figure it all out.

This is a lot, but philosopher Jason Baehr writes that possessing good intellectual character requires successfully addressing all these challenges.

So, I was wrong to say that intellectual humility was the silver bullet that can teach students how to think well. Indeed, being intellectually

humble - in a way that promotes good thinking - likely involves being both curious and open-minded about new information.

Focusing on a single characteristic such as intellectual humility rather than the totality of intellectual character ends up promoting lopsided character development, similar to that of a bodybuilder focusing their efforts on one bicep rather than their whole body.

My lab’s current work is now attempting to address this issue by defining the good thinker in terms of multiple intellectual traits. This approach is similar to work in personality science that has identified key traits of people who are psychologically healthy as well as those whose patterns of thinking, feeling and behaving cause enduring distress or problems. We hope to further understand how good thinkers function in daily life - for example, their personality, the quality of their relationships and their well-being - as well as how their intellectual character influences their thinking, behavior and sense of identity.

I think this work is vital in order to understand the key characteristics of good thinking and to learn more about how to build these habits in ourselves and others. (AP)

editor’s choice



Music

LOS ANGELES, Nov 30, (AP): It's her, hi - Taylor Swift is Spotify's 2023 most-played artist.

According to Spotify Wrapped, Swift was 2023's most-streamed artist globally, raking in more than 26.1 billion streams since January 1. That means the pop powerhouse has dethroned Puerto Rican reggaeton star Bad Bunny, who held the coveted title for three years in a row beginning in 2020.

He's in the number two slot in 2023, followed by The Weeknd in third, Drake in fourth, and regional Mexican musician Peso Pluma in fifth.

It's not such bad news for Bad Bunny, however: his 2022 album "Un Verano Sin Ti" was Spotify's most-streamed album for the second year in a row, raking in 4.5 billion global streams. In that category, Taylor Swift's "Midnights" trails in second, with SZA's "SOS" in third. All three albums were released last year.

The top five is rounded out with The Weeknd's 2016 album "Starboy" and Karol G's "Mañana Será Bonito," the only 2023 release to reach the peak.

Miley Cyrus' empowerment anthem "Flowers" is Spotify's most-streamed song of the year with 1.6 million streams globally.

"Kill Bill" by SZA is the second most-streamed song of the year, while Harry Styles' "As It Was," BTS member Jung Kook featuring Latto's "Seven," and Eslabon Armado and Peso Pluma's "Ella Baila Sola" came in third, fourth and fifth, respectively.

Bad Bunny's 3-year reign ends

In the U.S., Swift's dominance continued - she was the most streamed artist on the platform, followed by Drake and country star Morgan Wallen. Wallen's "Last Night" was the most streamed song, and his full-length "One Thing at a Time" was the most streamed-album.

On Tuesday, Apple Music announced Wallen's "Last Night" topped its global song chart in 2023. It has been a banner year for the song, which also stayed atop the Billboard Hot 100 for 16 weeks, tying Luis Fonsi & Daddy Yankee feat. Justin Bieber's "Despacito" for the title of second-longest reign in the Hot 100's 65-year history.

Playlists

That the biggest artists, globally, earned top spots on Spotify Wrapped should come as no surprise - they're featured prominently across the streaming service, including on its highly influential playlists, in addition to boasting loyal, dedicated fanbases. For independent artists who may appear on an individual listener's Wrapped, accessing a top spot on the global list would require billions of streams.

According to Business Insider, artists make around \$.003 and \$.005 per stream, though Spotify itself does not pay per stream. Instead, they pay per "streamshare," a figure that is determined by adding up how many times music owned or controlled by a particular rights holder is streamed, divided by the total number of streams in the market it is streamed in each month.

Last month, Spotify announced a new policy regarding royalty pay-

ments, eliminating payment for songs with less than 1,000 annual streams starting in 2024.

Also:

LOS ANGELES: Singer-actor **Dove Cameron** drops her debut album "Alchemical: Volume 1," which contains six new songs and two previous hits, "Boyfriend" and "Breakfast." One of the new songs is "Lethal Woman," a club banger about a woman "sharp as a knife under the table" that includes sounds of banging on a door, a gun being cocked and heavy production elements. The lyrics include the playful rhyme: "Game recognizes game/By the way, what's your name?" Cameron has had a heady few years, winning new artist of the year honors at the 2022 American Music Awards and being named Best New Artist at the 2022 VMAs. She also was scene-stealer in season two of "Schmigadoon!"

Meanwhile, **Elvis** will be honored with a starry special "Christmas at Graceland," featuring **Post Malone, Alanis Morissette, John Legend, Kacey Musgraves, Kane Brown, Lainey Wilson, Lana Del Rey** and The War and Treaty. It's set to air live on Wednesday on NBC and simulcast on Peacock. "Christmas at Graceland" - airing right after NBC's "Christmas in Rockefeller Center" - is the first televised concert from the estate and Presley's granddaughter, **Riley Keough**, will make special appearances.

Variety



This image released by Neon shows Anne Hathaway, (left), and Thomasin McKenzie in a scene from 'Eileen.' (AP)

Film

LONDON: **Elton John** has urged British lawmakers to do more to fight HIV and AIDS, saying the UK can be the first country in the world "to defeat this awful virus."

The British star spoke to lawmakers and campaigners in the grand Speaker's House of Parliament on Wednesday evening at an event honoring his dedication to fighting HIV in the UK and beyond.

"I implore you not to waste your allotted time as political leaders," John urged dozens of lawmakers packed into the ornate gold-trimmed room. "Take action and push things a little further than might feel comfortable. And as you do, I can promise you this: I will be there with you."

John set up his AIDS Foundation in 1992 and has helped raise millions of dollars to prevent HIV infections and reduce stigma.

"This evening I was privileged to welcome Sir Elton John and acknowledge his exceptional contribution to the global fight against HIV and AIDS - personally and through the Elton John AIDS Foundation," Commons Speaker **Lindsay Hoyle** said on X, formerly Twitter.

"His work embodies the solidarity and kindness that defines our shared humanity," he added.

John welcomed the "truly wonderful news" that the UK government has decided to extend a pilot program to test people visiting hospital emergency rooms for HIV, which officials say has discovered hundreds of undetected cases of the virus.

Under the program, which was recently introduced in London and other cities with a high prevalence of HIV cases, anyone 16 years old or older who has their blood tested in an emergency room will also get tested for HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C, unless they opt out of the testing.

"Automatic testing gets to people earlier, which means less HIV transmission, less illness, less death and by the estimate of health economists, 50 million pounds (\$63 million) saved for the NHS," Britain's health service, John said.

Health officials confirmed that the program would be scaled up to 46 more emergency departments across **England**, helping reach the estimated 4,500 people in England

A coming-of-age novel becomes a oddball film

Moshfegh's 'Eileen' loses its original bite

By Mark Kennedy

Something strange has happened to Eileen Dunlop, and we don't just mean the plot of "Eileen." The adaptation of novelist Otessa Moshfegh's delicious coming-of-age heroine has had a weird birth onto film.

The plot and setting haven't changed: It's late 1964 in a frigid coastal town in Massachusetts. "Everybody's kind of angry here - it's Massachusetts," Eileen explains in one of her best lines. She works as a clerk at a juvenile corrections facility, goes home to an alcoholic dad and repeats. Her whole world is a prison.

In print, she is dark and self-obsessed and deliciously willing to poke into every squeamish horror, even her own "folds and caverns." On celluloid, she is just a plain, anti-social Jane. In print in one scene, she scratches her nether regions and pointedly uses the unwashed fingers to shake hands with a boss. In the film, she just walks away. Eileen has been neutered.

It's not clear what has happened since Moshfegh - along with Luke Goebel - is a screenwriter as well as a producer. Moshfegh's original creation is a "fabulous shoplifter" who keeps a dead field mouse in the glove box of her smoky Dodge Coronet and loves National Geographic issues that feature unusual, painful tribal rituals. None of that made it to the film. That leaves her too inert, too passive - wide-eyed without the naughty.

"Eileen" was always going to be a hard book to adapt, especially since it's so internal. It's really a character study for most of the way, then events get jolted by an unexpected outsider - a real deus ex machina - and then it evolves into a low-stakes noir thriller, right down to the film's too heavy Hitchcockian end credits.

Thomasin McKenzie playing the titular character has a lot to do and she does it admirably, appearing mouse-ish from the outside, pulling pubic hair out

of a bar of soap with delightful glee and taking the occasional flight of fancy by dreaming of executing her dad or having a hot and heavy tryst with a guard. "Get a life, Eileen. Get a clue," says her unamusing dad.

The deus ex machina here is Anne Hathaway as the glamorous Harvard-trained psychiatrist Rebecca Saint John, who drinks, smokes furiously - "It's a nasty habit. That's why I like it" - dances alone in bars and doesn't buy any '50s conventions. "I don't get what's popular," she says. Hathaway could have pulled back the throttle a little, often overawing McKenzie's mouse.

Character

Hathaway's sophisticated character is the key to unlocking Eileen, and the young woman begins mimicking the older, often wearing her dead mother's clothes as she smokes or drinks. They have a sort of flirtation - game recognizing game. "You really think you're a normal person?" the psychiatrist asks Eileen.

While director William Oldroyd often gets lost in the heavy darkness of noir, the screenwriters have some fabulous lines, like when Saint John tells Eileen: "You remind me of a girl in a Dutch painting. You have a strange face. It's plain but fascinating - with a beautiful turbulence."

Or when gin-soaked dad - a great Shea Whigham - calmly destroys his daughter: "Some people, they're the real people. Like in a movie. They're the ones you watch, they're the ones making moves. And other people, they're just there, filling the space," he says. "That's you, Eileen. You're one of them."

And that's the fate of "Eileen," too, unfortunately. By sanding off all the dark human quirks from their deeply human heroine, the filmmakers have left us a film that's just filling the space.

"Eileen," a Neon release in theaters Dec. 1, is rated R for "violent content, sexual content and lan-

guage." Running time: 97 minutes. Two stars out of four.

Also:

LOS ANGELES: **Harrison Ford**'s last hurrah as Indiana Jones swings onto Disney+ on Friday, Dec. 1. "Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny" had a mixed reception when it launched over the summer. Ford was feted in **Cannes**. Reviews were mixed. Box office was lackluster. But "Dial of Destiny," directed by **James Mangold** (taking over from **Steven Spielberg**), co-starring **Phoebe Waller Bridges** and featuring a poignant scene with **Karen Allen**, has a lot going for itself. In her review, Bahr acknowledged it's no "Raiders" or "Last Crusade," "but it's solid, swashbuckling summer fare and a dignified sendoff to one of cinema's most flawless castings."

Meanwhile, **Matthew Heineman**'s "American Symphony" captures a whirlwind year for Jon Batiste. The film covers the pianist winning the 2022 Grammy for album of the year, winning an Oscar for co-creating the score to "Soul" and a triumphant concert at Carnegie Hall - all while his wife, **Suleika Jaouad**, battled leukemia. "American Symphony" is currently streaming on Netflix.

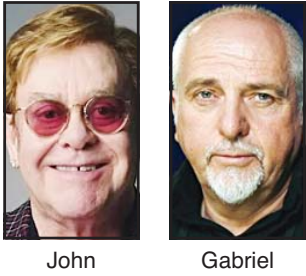
Are you and your home entertainment system prepared? After making nearly \$950 million at the box office, **Christopher Nolan**'s three-hour "Oppenheimer" is finally be available to watch in your living room. There's a UHD streaming version available to purchase for \$19.99, as well as 4K Ultra HD and Blu-Ray options with over 3 hours of extras, with everything overseen by Nolan. AP Film Writer **Jake Coyle** wrote in his review that, "There are times in Nolan's latest opus that flames fill the frame and visions of subatomic particles flitter across the screen - montages of Oppenheimer's own churning visions. But for all the immensity of 'Oppenheimer,' this is Nolan's most human-scaled film - and one of his greatest achievements." (AP)

who could be living with undiagnosed HIV. (AP)

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BEIRUT: At the beginning of every fall season, Lebanese housewives prepare winter ration (Mouna) in the face of the cold winter as a cultural tradition.

The winter ration is a home-



made food that consists of dried fruits, vegetables, pomegranate molasses, wheat, kashk, honey, jams, rose water, olive oil, pickles, and dairy. It is popular and loved across the country for its nutritional values and relevance to Lebanese heritage. (KUNA)

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LOS ANGELES: **Peter Gabriel**'s sonic teasing is almost over. After releasing 10 singles during 2023 - coinciding with each month's full moon - the singer-songwriter finally will drop the album they all come from on Friday, Dec. 1, "i/o." The album is available in two distinct mixes: The Bright-Side Mix by **Mark "Spike" Stent** and the Dark-

Side Mix by **Tchad Blake**. "Tchad is very much a sculptor building a journey with sound and drama. Spike loves sound and assembling these pictures, so he's more of a painter," says Gabriel. "i/o" includes contributions from **Brian Eno**, regular collaborators **Richard Chappell, Oli Jacobs, Katie May** and **Richard Evans**. (AP)

People & Places

People

Majors' assault trial

Hall accuses Oates of partnership betrayal

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Nov. 30, (AP): **Daryl Hall** has accused his longtime music partner John Oates of committing the “ultimate partnership betrayal” by planning to sell his share of the Hall & Oates duo’s joint venture without the other’s permission, Hall said in a court declaration supporting his lawsuit to keep the transaction paused.

In the declaration filed Wednesday in a Nashville chancery court, Hall also lamented the deterioration of his relationship with and trust in his musical partner of more than a half-century. The joint venture in question includes Hall & Oates trademarks, personal name and likeness rights, record royalty income and website and social media assets, the declaration states.

A judge has issued a temporarily restraining order blocking the sale of Oates’ share of Whole Oats Enterprises LLP to Primary Wave IP Investment Management LLC while legal proceedings and a previously initiated arbitration continue.

A court hearing is scheduled Thursday in the case. Hall is seeking further court action to keep the transaction on hold.

“While falsely contending over the last several months that the Oates Trust wanted to maintain ownership in WOE, John Oates and the Co-Trustees engaged in the ultimate partnership betrayal,” Hall said in a declaration. “They surreptitiously sought to sell half of the WOE assets without obtaining my written approval.”

Derek Crownover, an attorney representing Oates, has previously said the musician’s “team will work toward a resolution that makes sense for all involved, but for now we plan to let the facts, law and courts play this one out.”

He said Wednesday that the legal team will file a declaration by Oates soon as well.

A Nashville chancery court judge issued the temporary restraining order on Nov. 16, the same day Hall filed his lawsuit, writing that Oates and others involved in his trust can’t move to close the sale of their share until an arbitrator in a separately filed case weighs in on the deal, or until the judge’s order expires - typically within 15 days, unless a judge extends the deadline. Hall’s declaration was initially filed in the arbitration case.

Lawsuit

The lawsuit contends that Hall opened an arbitration process on Nov. 9 against Oates and the other defendants in the lawsuit, Oates’ wife, Aimee Oates, and Richard Flynn, in their roles as co-trustees of Oates’ trust. Hall was seeking an order preventing them from selling their part in Whole Oats Enterprises to Primary Wave Music.

Primary Wave has already owned “significant interest” in Hall and Oates’ song catalog for more than 15 years.

The lawsuit says Oates’ team entered into a letter of intent with Primary Wave Music for the sale, and alleges further that the letter makes clear that the music duo’s business agreement was disclosed to Primary Wave Music in violation of a confidentiality provision. Additionally, Hall said in his declaration he would not approve such a sale and doesn’t agree with Primary Wave’s business model.

Hall said he was blindsided by Oates’ plan to sell his part of Whole Oats Enterprises.

“I am deeply troubled by the deterioration of my relationship with, and trust in, John Oates,” Hall said in the declaration.

Hall said in his declaration that the ordeal has unfolded while he’s been on tour throughout the US West Coast, Japan and Manila. Hall said he believes Oates timed the sale “to create the most harm to me.”

Hall accused Oates of becoming “adversarial and aggressive instead of professional and courteous” toward him in the last several years. As part of a proposed “global divorce,” Hall said he was entertaining Oates’ idea to dissolve their touring entity and a separate partnership related to their musical compositions and publishing, while Hall raised the idea of dissolving Whole Oats Enterprises.

Daryl Hall and John Oates got their start as Temple University students before signing with Atlantic Records in 1972. In the decades since, they have achieved six platinum albums and many more Top 10 singles with their unique approach to blue-eyed soul. Hall & Oates was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 2014 and the duo’s latest album, “Home for Christmas,” was released in 2006. The pair continued to perform as of last year.

“We have this incredibly good problem of having so many hits,” Oates told The Associated Press in 2021, just before resuming a national tour that had been delayed because of the coronavirus pandemic. “Believe me, it’s not a chore to play those songs because they are really great.”

Also:

NEW YORK: The actor **Jonathan Majors** appeared in court in New York on Wednesday for the start of jury selection in a trial in which he is accused of injuring his then-girlfriend during an argument last spring.

The trial could wind up playing a big role in what happens next with Majors, who had emerged as a breakout star with major roles in films including “Creed III” and who was being set up as the next great supervillain in the Marvel multiverse.

The 34-year-old actor entered a Manhattan courtroom alongside his current girlfriend, the actress **Meagan Good**, carrying a Bible and one of his signature coffee cups. He did not speak during the start of the proceeding.

Majors was arrested in March over a confrontation between the actor and **Grace Jabbari**, his girlfriend at the time, during a car ride in Manhattan.

Prosecutors said Jabbari had grabbed a phone out of the actor’s hand after seeing a text, presumably from another woman, saying “Wish I was kissing you right now.” Majors tried to snatch the phone back.

Jabbari said the actor pulled her finger, twisted her arm behind her back and hit her face. After the couple’s driver stopped the car and the pair got out, Jabbari said Majors threw her back into the vehicle. Police said Jabbari was treated at a hospital for minor injuries.

Majors’ attorneys have maintained that Jabbari was the aggressor during the fight and had scratched and hit him. They alleged on Wednesday that police who responded to the scene did not interview Majors and that Manhattan prosecutors have refused to review evidence showing he was the victim.

Jabbari was also briefly arrested by New York City police last month after Majors filed a cross complaint against her, but the district attorney’s office dropped all charges against her the next day.



Actress Frances Sternhagen attends the premiere of ‘Julie & Julia’ in New York, on July 30, 2009. Sternhagen, the veteran character actor who won two Tony Awards and became a familiar maternal face to TV viewers later in life in such shows as ‘Cheers,’ ‘ER,’ ‘Sex and the City’ and ‘The Closer,’ has died. She was 93. (AP)

Obituary

A familiar maternal face on TV

Tony-winning actor Sternhagen dies

NEW YORK, Nov. 30, (AP): Frances Sternhagen, the veteran character actor who won two Tony Awards and became a familiar maternal face to TV viewers later in life in such shows as “Cheers,” “ER,” “Sex and the City” and “The Closer,” has died. She was 93.

Sternhagen died peacefully of natural causes Monday her son, John Carlin, said in a statement posted to Instagram on Wednesday. “Fly on, Frannie,” he wrote. “The curtain goes down on a life so richly, passionately, humbly and generously lived.” Sternhagen’s publicist confirmed the death and said it occurred in New Rochelle, New York.

Sternhagen won a Tony for best featured actress in a play in 1974 for her role in Neil Simon’s “The Good Doctor” and a second one in 1995 for a revival of “The Heiress.” Her last turn on Broadway was in “Seascape” in 2005.

She was nominated for Tonys four other times, for starring or featured roles in “The Sign in Sidney Brustein’s Window,” “Equus,” “Angel” and “Morning’s at Seven.” In 2013, she played Edie Falco’s mother in the off-Broadway play “The Madrid.”

“I have been very fortunate,” Sternhagen told the Daily Breeze of Torrance, California, in 2002. “And I think a lot of that is because I’m considered a character actor - which really means you can do a variety of things. It doesn’t mean that you can’t do leading parts, because I have. But you’re not limited to playing yourself.”

In a 2005 review of “Steel Magnolias,” then-Associated Press drama critic Michael Kuchwara called Sternhagen “one of the treasures of New York theater, able to invest any role she plays with considerable sympathy. Here, she turns what could be a throw-away part into one that provides much laughter - and applause.”

She kept up a flourishing career

while at the same time raising six children. She always said her family came first - commuting from her suburban home in New Rochelle while acting on Broadway - but admitted that touring and movie and TV work sometimes took her away from home.

“I remember telling my older daughter when she was about 13 that sometimes I felt terribly guilty that I wasn’t home all the time,” she told a Gale Group reporter. “And my daughter said, ‘Oh, Mom, you would have been impossible if you were home all the time. I’m sure she was right.’”

TV viewers knew her as played the rich grandmother of Dr. John Carter (Noah Wyle) in the long-running “ER.” On “Cheers” she was the know-it-all mother of postman Cliff Clavin (John Ratzenberger). “She was just impossible and great fun to play,” she told The New York Times. The role brought her two Emmy nominations.

Presence

More recently, she had a recurring role in “Sex and the City” as Bunny MacDougal, the strong-minded mother-in-law of Charlotte (Kristin Davis), which brought her her third Emmy nomination, and played Kyra Sedgwick’s mother in “The Closer.” Soap opera fans in the 1960s knew her in “Love of Life” as Toni Prentiss Davis, who carried a gun and went mad.

Playwright Paul Rudnick on Wednesday called her “a wonderful actress, capable of the highest comedy and deeply moving drama.” She was, he wrote on X, formerly Twitter, “an indelible presence.”

In “Equus,” in 1974, she originated the role of the mother of the troubled youth whose shocking act of violence against horses sets the drama in motion.

In 1979, she appeared in the original Broadway production of “On Golden Pond” in the role of Ethel Thayer that Katharine Hepburn won an Oscar for

in the film version. “I feel very close to Ethel,” Sternhagen told the Times. “She reminds me of my mother and I took to her immediately.”

Sternhagen was one of three actors to handle the title role over the long off-Broadway run of “Driving Miss Daisy,” another stage role that became an Oscar-winner on screen, this time for Jessica Tandy.

She made her film debut in “Up the Down Staircase” in 1967. Among her other movies: “Hospital,” “Two People,” “Fedora,” “Bright Lights Big City,” “Misery,” “Doc Hollywood,” “Raising Cain” and “Curtain Call.”

Sternhagen was born in 1930, in Washington, D.C., where her father was a tax court judge. As a child she loved to perform - she recalled herself as “a shameful show-off” - but she never considered an acting career. She entered Vassar as a history major, but a friendly teacher suggested another direction: acting.

“Even though I was acting in college,” she told the New York Daily News, “it hadn’t occurred to me to major in drama.” But when it was noted that she was doing “C” work in history, Sternhagen switched to drama.

After graduation she taught drama, modern dance and singing outside Boston, earning \$2,000 for the year before deciding to pursue work in the theater.

“I thought I would try it, see if I liked it, and then get out,” she told the Times in 1981. “But you never get out. It’s an addiction, because it touches your emotions, because it’s where you want to live. ... I think those of us who can stay in it are just plain lucky.”

She met her husband, actor Thomas A. Carlin, while appearing in a production in Maryland. He died of heart failure in 1991.

She didn’t let her pregnancies interfere much with her work schedule, explaining that as an only child, “I always longed for a big family.”



Julia Roberts, left, and director Sam Esmail arrive at the screening of the film ‘Leave The World Behind’ on Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2023 in London. (AP)



Izzard



Franklin

Variety

NEW YORK: Eddie Izzard is returning to a New York stage this winter for an ambitious version of “Hamlet.” It’s ambitious because the actor-comedian will be the only one on stage.

Izzard will play all the **William Shakespeare** parts in a one-person staging adapted by Izzard’s brother, **Mark**, and directed by **Selena Cadell**. Performances at Greenwich House Theater run from Jan. 25-March 3.

“It’s a great challenge but there is no point living and not going for challenges,” Izzard tells The Associated Press on the eve of the play’s announcement. “You’re just at the edge of your skill set and pushing out even further.”

This “Hamlet” will ask Izzard to play noblemen, women, ghosts, soldiers, courtiers, lovers and fools. “I want it so that 10-year-old kids can grab this. I want it for the people who don’t find Shakespeare easy, like I didn’t when I was a dyslexic kid.”

“Hamlet” sees Izzard reunited with her brother and Cadell after all three worked on a one-person adaptation of **Charles Dickens’** “Great Expectations,” which played at Greenwich House and in **London’s West End** last year.

Izzard is returning with a dithering Prince of **Denmark**. “He was an accidental hero. I call him that because he really doesn’t get things done. And then in the end he does. But he takes five acts to get there,” she said.

“Hamlet” is being produced by West-Beth Entertainment, Mick Perrin Worldwide, and **John Gore**.

Izzard’s career includes the Emmy Award-winning stand-up “Dressed to Kill,” the FX series “The Riches,” the film “Victoria & Abdul” opposite **Judi Dench** and the Broadway shows “A Day in the Death of Joe Egg” and “Race.” (AP)

DETROIT: A judge overseeing the estate of **Aretha Franklin** awarded real estate to the late star’s sons, citing a handwritten will from 2014 that was found between couch cushions.

The decision Monday came four months

after a Detroit-area jury said the document was a valid will under **Michigan** law, despite scribbles and many hard-to-read passages. Franklin had signed it and put a smiley face in the letter “A.”

The papers will override a handwritten will from 2010 that was found at Franklin’s suburban Detroit home around the same

time in 2019, the judge said.

One of her sons, **Kecalf Franklin**, will get that property, which was valued at \$1.1 million in 2018, but is now worth more. A lawyer described it as the “crown jewel” before trial last July.

Another son, **Ted White II**, who had favored the 2010 will, was given a house



Kelly Clarkson performs before the lighting of a Christmas tree at Rockefeller Center in New York, Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2023. (AP)

in Detroit, though it was sold by the estate for \$300,000 before the dueling wills had emerged.

“Teddy is requesting the sale proceeds,” **Charles McKelvie**, an attorney for **Kecalf Franklin**, said Tuesday.

Judge **Jennifer Callaghan** awarded a third son, **Edward Franklin**, another property under the 2014 will.

Aretha Franklin had four homes when she died of pancreatic cancer in 2018. The discovery of the two handwritten wills months after her death led to a dispute between the sons over what their mother wanted to do with her real estate and other assets.

One of the properties, worth more than \$1 million, will likely be sold and the proceeds shared by four sons. The judge said the 2014 will didn’t clearly state who should get it.

“This was a significant step forward. We’ve narrowed the remaining issues,” McKelvie said of the estate saga. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: A documentary short called “Eddy’s World” follows **Eddy Goldfarb**, a now 102-year-old toy maker, who has created more than 800 toys (including the Yakity-Yak chattering teeth) and holds more than 250 patents. His story is a lesson that work isn’t work if you love what you do. “Eddy’s World” will be Broadcast on PBS Stations available on PBS.org and the PBS App beginning Saturday, Dec. 2. (AP)

‘Surge in infection rates makes it a source of global concern’

Kuwait proposes Sept 7 as DMD Awareness Day: Amb. Al-Bannai



KUNA photo
Kuwait's permanent representative to UN, Ambassador Tariq Al-Bannai addressing the United Nations General Assembly.

NEW YORK, Nov 30, (KUNA): Kuwait's proposal to consider September 7th of each year as a day to raise awareness of Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD) is a step forward in serving those affected by rare diseases worldwide, said Kuwait's Permanent Representative to UN, Ambassador Tariq Al-Bannai.

This came in Ambassador Al-Bannai's speech late Wednesday during a meeting held by the General Assembly (125) concerned with global health and foreign policy, in which Kuwait received 128 countries' sponsorship of its decision.

Decision

Ambassador Al Bannai said: "Our decision is more than just a campaign, but rather a pledge to support the dignity and rights of every child with this condition and to leave no one behind in our quest to achieve a more compassionate and inclusive world."

Al-Bannai also stressed that the adoption of this decision will provide hope and encouragement to individuals living with the DMD, their families, and medical professionals who are facing this condition.

Further, Ambassador Al-Bannai warned of the constant infection rates, which makes it a source of global concern that requires international attention, noting that DMD is still not recognized and has not been adequately researched, despite its global impact and life-limiting nature.

Ambassador Al-Bannai pointed out that the decision is consistent with the goals of sustainable development by calling for health and well-being and supporting comprehensive education, as well as seeking to reduce inequality for those who suffer from rare diseases.



CAN prostate cancer awareness campaign participants pose for a photo.

Dr. Al-Mujalham highlights diverse surgical options

CAN concludes fruitful ‘Get Screened’ prostate cancer awareness campaign

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30, (Agencies): The National Cancer Awareness Campaign (CAN) concluded its prostate cancer awareness drive with the theme "Get Screened." The event took place at the Bahra Hall of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Dr. Ahmed Al-Mujalham, a senior specialist in urology, laparoscopic surgery, minimally invasive surgery, and surgical robotics, highlighted the diverse surgical options available for prostate cancer treatment. He specifically emphasized the groundbreaking

nature of robotic surgeries, noting their distinctive characteristic of being conducted through small surgical incisions. Al-Mujalham underscored the precision of these operations, attributing it to the surgical robot's ability to produce high-quality 3D images and enhance the accuracy of the surgeon's movements during robotic surgery.

Notably, Al-Mujalham mentioned that the presence of surgical robots is not uniform across all hospitals in Kuwait. He expressed hope for the widespread adoption of this technology in

all healthcare facilities to enhance the quality of treatment services for patients.

He further emphasized that the application of surgical robots extends beyond prostate cancer surgeries, encompassing various surgical procedures involving the kidneys, liver, colon, and pancreas. Al-Mujalham pointed out that approximately 5 million surgical operations worldwide have utilized robotic technology since 2005, highlighting its role in improving the precision of surgeries.



A photo from the Kuwait Medica exhibition.

‘Burjeel Medical City’ on display

Burjeel presents cutting-edge healthcare at Kuwait Medica

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: Burjeel Holdings, one of the largest healthcare services providers in the MENA region, is poised to exhibit its exceptional medical and complex care capabilities at Kuwait Medica, the largest medical tourism exhibition in the country, from November 29-30. During the event, Burjeel Holdings will underscore its commitment to bringing pioneering treatments to the region at Booth A4, Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel. Highlighting the flagship facility Burjeel Medical City (BMC), through the theme 'Pioneer in Healthcare' the Group puts a spotlight on the efforts in complex care areas, emphasizing advanced orthopedic care, advanced gynecology care, fetal medicine, radiation oncology, physical therapy and rehabilitation, and robotic surgery.

The exhibition provides an ideal platform for the Group to demonstrate its state-of-the-art facilities, cutting-edge medical technologies, and the unwavering dedication of its skilled medical professionals.

Complex

BMC offers treatments for complex conditions catering to patients from across the GCC, Asia, MENA, Africa, and Eastern Europe. BMC is known for its groundbreaking collaborations with esteemed international partners, marking a significant stride in offering high-quality healthcare. The hospital is home to the Advanced Gynecology Institute,

Kypros Nicolaides Fetal Medicine and Therapy Center, and The Paley Middle East Clinic. Additionally, the departments specializing in Radiation Oncology and Robotic Surgery at BMC contribute to the accessibility of specialized care.

"Burjeel Holdings is proud to be part of Kuwait Medica, where our showcase will underscore our expertise in oncology and complex care. Our commitment to excellence combined with our cutting-edge technological capabilities position us as a pioneer in providing comprehensive healthcare solutions in the region. We look forward to connecting with the medical community and other stakeholders at this prestigious event," said Mr. John Sunil, CEO of Burjeel Holdings.

The Burjeel Holdings delegation at the exhibition includes Dr. Michael Uglow, Director of Paley Middle East Clinic, Dr. Maha Feda, Consultant Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, and Dr. Shahin Fattahi, Head of the Department of Medical Physics and Administrative Director of the Department of Radiation Oncology, among other distinguished professionals.

Visitors to the Burjeel Holdings booth can anticipate gaining insights into the latest advancements in oncology treatments, specialized care for complex medical conditions, and the holistic approach that distinguishes Burjeel Holdings in the healthcare landscape.

The Conversation

New study sheds light on ‘toxic stress’

Childhood trauma ups COVID death risk

By Jamie Hanson

University of Pittsburgh

The Conversation is an independent and non-profit source of news, analysis and commentary from academic experts.



Adults who faced adversity during childhood were significantly more likely to die from or be hospitalized because of COVID-19. That's the key finding of my team's recent study, published in the Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health.

The study of 150,000 adults in the United Kingdom found those reporting the most childhood trauma had a 25% greater likelihood of death associated with COVID-19, as well as a 22% increase in hospitalization after contracting COVID-19. These figures held up even after accounting for demographics and health conditions.

Childhood trauma includes physical, emotional or sexual abuse, neglect, household dysfunction and what many call "toxic stress."

Our study relied on the UK Biobank, a large biomedical database with more than 500,000 volunteers ages 40 to 69 throughout the United Kingdom. Close to one-third of those volunteers provided information about their childhood. Our team took that data and then searched medical records for participants who died or were hospitalized because of COVID-19. Though more research is needed, these initial results highlight the lasting impacts of childhood stress and the need to provide psychological support early on to

mitigate lifelong health risks.

COVID-19 had killed nearly 7 million people worldwide as of November 2023. This underscores the importance of understanding all of the risk factors leading to pandemic-related hospitalization and death.

Prior research has examined the demographic risk factors for COVID-19, including age, race, ethnicity, income and education. But this is the first study to link childhood experiences to adult COVID-19 outcomes.

The striking findings of the study suggest that early childhood trauma should be added to the list of risk factors for illness - not only for COVID-19 but perhaps for other diseases as well.

The study also suggests that communities disproportionately affected by adversity and trauma may be particularly vulnerable to negative health outcomes. This includes communities where there are high levels of neighborhood violence, stress and poverty.

Problems

Our research was prompted by a growing body of work that has found an association between adverse childhood experiences and health problems in adulthood. Adults experiencing significant childhood abuse have an increased risk for chronic conditions, including heart disease, lung disease, cancer and premature death.

Researchers are still trying to understand how childhood adversity contributes to negative health outcomes in adulthood. It could be primarily bio-

logical in nature. For instance, adversity has been linked to excess inflammation. Inflammation is normally a protective response from the body, triggered by harmful stimuli such as pathogens, damaged cells or toxins. However, excessive inflammation is related to strokes, heart attacks and other health conditions and can lead to more negative COVID-19 outcomes.

In contrast, the links between early adversity and poorer health could be behavioral in nature. Adversity is associated with having less money or education as an adult.

These factors could, in turn, be associated with less access to and subpar medical care. Studies have shown that people with lower incomes and lower-paying jobs were exposed to COVID-19 in the workplace more often. Adversity is also associated with depression and challenges to emotion regulation. This in turn could result in downstream changes in biology and behavior.

Our team plans to continue investigating large population studies - that is, at least 30,000 to 50,000 participants - to determine whether adverse childhood experiences relate to other health outcomes, like long COVID.

It's becoming increasingly clear that learning more about how childhood trauma becomes embedded in the body could inform our understanding of possible interventions and long-term health outcomes, including those potentially connected to COVID-19.

The Research Brief is a short take on interesting academic work. (AP)

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Alcaraz and Rune seal ATP Finals spots, altering competitors' eligibility

Fils, Medjedovic maintain winning starts at Next Gen Finals



North Carolina forward Jalen Washington, center, drives against Tennessee guards Dalton Knecht, left, and Jahmai Mashack (15) during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2023, in Chapel Hill, N.C. (AP)

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia, Nov 30, (AP): Arthur Fils and Hamad Medjedovic maintained their winning starts in the round-robin stage of the Next Gen Finals on Wednesday.

The top-seeded, 19-year-old French player Fils defeated Italian player Flavio Cobolli 4-1, 4-2, 4-2, and Medjedovic defeated Fils' compatriot Luca Van Assche 4-2, 2-4, 4-3 (7), 4-1.

The Next Gen Finals are played using special rules, with a best-of-five-sets format in which each set goes to the player who is first to four games, with a tiebreak at 3-3.

Fils now leads the green group with two wins from two. Dominic Stricker defeated Luca Nardi 4-1, 4-1, 4-2 in the same group for his first victory.

In the Medjedovic-led red group, Jordanian player Abdullah Shalbayh defeated Alex Michelsen of the United States 4-2, 1-4, 4-0, 4-0.

It's the sixth edition of the tournament for the top eight ATP



Fils

TENNIS

Tour players aged 21 or under. It's being held in Saudi Arabia for the first time after being staged in Milan ever since the inaugural edition in 2017.

Other changes to the usual tennis rules include shorter changeovers and less time on the shot clock for some points.

Fils is the only one of the players in the draw ranked in the top 50. Of the players ranked above him who would be eligible by age, Carlos Alcaraz and Holger Rune are exempt because they qualified for the ATP Finals, while Ben Shelton is out for medical reasons and Lorenzo Musetti withdrew on personal grounds.

Davis stars as North Carolina overpowers Tennessee in thrilling ACC/SEC showdown

Arkansas tops Duke

CHAPEL HILL, N.C., Nov 30, (AP): RJ Davis scored 27 points while No. 17 North Carolina built a huge lead and then held off a second-half push by No. 10 Tennessee for a 100-92 win on Wednesday night in the inaugural ACC/SEC Challenge.

Armando Bacot added 22 points and 11 rebounds for the Tar Heels (6-1), who dominated the opening 20 minutes to lead by as many as 23 and score 61 points by halftime.

The Volunteers (4-3) flirted with a comeback behind a huge performance from Northern Colorado transfer Dalton Knecht. The 6-foot-6 guard scored 22 of his career-best 37 points after halftime, though he was injured while being fouled on a drive with 1:39 left. He did not return.



Brazile

BASKETBALL

Josiah-Jordan James added 20 points for Tennessee, which shot 56% for the game while making 8 of 16 3s after halftime to get back in this one. Harrison Ingram added 20 points for North Carolina, which made 32 of 38 free throws compared to 13 of 16 for Tennessee.

Arkansas 80, Duke 75

In Fayetteville, Ark., Trevon Brazile had 19 points and 11 rebounds, Khalif Battle scored 21 off the bench and Arkansas held on to beat Duke.

The Razorbacks stayed in the game early with defense, ultimately limiting Duke to 36% shooting. But it was a scoring run midway through the second half that finally broke things open.

Preseason All-American Kyle Filipowski was held to three points for the Blue Devils (5-2) in the first half. He played a key role in the late rally, though, finishing with 26 points and 10 rebounds.

Chandler Lawson had seven points, eight rebounds and six blocks for Arkansas (5-3).

Texas overwhelms Oral Roberts 112-74

Wolfpack women remain unbeaten

RALEIGH, N.C., Nov 30, (AP): San-iyu Rivers scored 22 points as No. 5 North Carolina State topped Vanderbilt 70-62 on Wednesday night in the ACC/SEC Challenge.

Rivers shot 8-of-14 from the floor and grabbed eight rebounds as the Wolfpack (8-0) remained unbeaten while handing the Commodores (7-1) their first defeat. River Baldwin added

12 points and nine rebounds for N.C. State, Aziaha James chipped in 14 points, and Zoe Brooks had 10 points, four assists and four steals. Jordyn Cambridge powered Vanderbilt with 15 points, while Sacha Washington added 14 points and seven boards.

Texas 112, Oral Roberts 74

In Austin, Texas, Taylor Jones had career-bests 27 points and 16 rebounds in 24 minutes and No. 10 Texas defeated Oral Roberts 112-74 to continue its undefeated start to the season.

Jones, a 6-foot-4 senior, converted all 11 shots from the field. Freshman Madison Booker scored a season-best 17 points in 21 minutes for Texas (8-0). Shaylee Gonzales added 16 points for Texas, hitting 7 of 10 from the field. Sophomore Taleyah Jones led Oral Robert (4-3) with career-high 23 points.

Notre Dame 74, Lady Vols 69

In Knoxville, Tenn., Maddy Westbeld had 15 points and 11 rebounds, Natalija Marshall added 15 points and nine rebounds, and No. 18 Notre Dame rallied from a 16-point deficit to beat No. 20 Tennessee 74-69 in the ACC/SEC Challenge.

Notre Dame trailed 45-29 with 7:03 remaining in the third quarter. The Irish went on a 15-3 run to get within 50-48 before Tennessee guard Jasmine



North Carolina State's Mallory Collier (42) attempts a shot as Vanderbilt's Khamil Pierre (12) defends during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game in Raleigh, N.C., Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2023. (AP)

Virginia 59, Texas A&M 47

In Charlottesville, Va., Andrew Rohde scored 13 points and Virginia took command with a 17-2 run spanning the halves to beat Texas A&M.

Rohde, a transfer from St. Thomas and the Summit League's top freshman last year, made three of Virginia's nine 3-pointers, including one he banked in to beat the shot clock during the surge. All five starters for Virginia (6-1) scored in double figures, with Reece Beekman, Ryan Dunn and Jake Groves all scoring 12. Henry Coleman III led Texas A&M (6-2) with 16 points and

14 rebounds. The Aggies' point total was their lowest this season; they arrived averaging 79.3.

St Joseph's 78, Villanova 65

In Villanova, Pa., Erik Reynolds II scored 24 points, Xzayvier Brown added 16 to lift Saint Joseph's over Villanova.

Rasheer Fleming had 12 points and 11 rebounds and Lynn Greer III scored 15 for St. Joe's (5-2), which advanced to the first-ever Big 5 Classic championship game on Saturday night. The Hawks will play the winner of Wednesday's contest between La Salle and Temple.

Powell closed the frame by completing a three-point play with 1.7 seconds left for a five-point lead entering the fourth. Powell finished with 14 points for Tennessee (4-3). Destinee Wells added 13 points, Jewel Spear had 11 and Karoline Striplin 10. Rickea Jackson did not play.

Louisville 64, Ole Miss 58

In Oxford, Miss., Kiki Jefferson scored 16 points, Nina Rickards added 15 and No. 22 Louisville held off No. 19 Mississippi State 74-68 in the ACC/SEC Challenge.

The Cardinals led 57-52 after Sydney Taylor drained a 3-pointer with six minutes to play but they didn't hit another field goal. Louisville only made 7-of-10 free throws but the Rebels made just 2 of 6 from the field and 2 of 9 from the foul line. Snudda Collins scored 22 points for Ole Miss and Marquesha Davis had 12.

Miami 74, Mississippi St 68

In Starkville, Miss., Lemyah Hylton scored 16 points off the bench, Jasmine Roberts added 15 and Miami defeated No. 21 Mississippi State 74-68 in the ACC/SEC Challenge.

A late 9-0 run, with four players scoring, including Hylton with a 3-pointer, was the difference as the Bulldogs went more than four minutes without a field goal.

The Hurricanes (6-0), who gave coach Katie Meier her 349th victory, made 4 of 5 3-pointers in the fourth quarter to finish 11 of 22 for the game.



Fraser Bullock (left), president and CEO of the Salt Lake City-Utah Committee for the Games and Salt Lake City Mayor Erin Mendenhall celebrate at City Hall, Wednesday, Nov 29, 2023, following the announcement by the International Olympic Committee of Salt Lake City as a 'preferred host' of the 2034 Olympic Games following an IOC live broadcast from Paris. (AP)

Salt Lake City for 2034 edition

IOC lines up French Alps to host 2030 Winter Olympics

PARIS, Nov 30, (AP): Salt Lake City being preferred as a shoo-in to host the 2034 Winter Olympics was expected. The surprise was the IOC favoring the French Alps bid for the 2030 edition on Wednesday.

Aiming to finalize back-to-back Winter Games hosts next year, the International Olympic Committee executive board has decided to enter exclusive talks with Olympic officials in France and the United States for Salt Lake City.

Salt Lake was alone in the 2034 race to bring the games back to Utah, which hosted the 2002 Winter Games, and the American bid's support from all levels of government up to President Joe Biden was praised Wednesday.

A French bid uniting the snowy Alps region and the French Riviera resort Nice came together only in the past few months to compete with Sweden and Switzerland for the IOC's support.

The IOC also has now pointed the Swiss bid toward the 2038 Olympics with "privileged dialogue" status.

By mapping out a Winter Olympics future for almost two decades, the next opportunity for Asia to host looks to be in 2042 - perhaps in Sapporo, Japan or even Saudi Arabia, which is creating the Trojena ski resort to stage the 2029 Asian Winter Games. The IOC last month aimed to make a double award picking the 2030 and 2034 hosts together in July when about 100 members meet in Paris on the eve of the Summer Games.

France's partial win Wednesday



Bach

day is a full victory for its national Olympic committee leader David Lippart, the president of cycling's governing body.

Lippartient worked to build close ties with IOC president Thomas Bach even before last year when he became one of the about 100 IOC members.

It would be the fourth time France has hosted a Winter Olympics, after Chamonix in 1924, Grenoble in 1968 and Albertville in 1992.

The modern way of picking Olympic hosts leaves IOC members to rubber stamp a single option presented by the executive board

OLYMPICS

chaired by Bach.

The 2030 Winter Games is barely six years away, already making it the latest Olympic hosting decision taken in recent decades. A decision next July would be just over 5½ years before the scheduled opening ceremony.

Longtime 2030 favorite Sapporo faded then was formally withdrawn last month as Japan's feeling for the Olympics soured amid investigations of bribery linked to preparing the Summer Games in Tokyo held in 2021.

Vancouver, the 2010 Winter Games host, also dropped out and Salt Lake City's focus switched to 2034. That was to avoid a clash to the United States hosting back-to-back Olympics after the 2028 Los Angeles Summer Games.

With the IOC seeming to have few options in January, Swedish Olympic officials were approached about making a ninth bid for the Winter Games. The most recent loss was with Stockholm in 2019 when IOC members chose Italy's Milan-Cortina d'Ampezzo for 2026.

Change Name

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Kuwait intensify training for Asian Championship

10 teams gear up for the handball refresher tournament

By Khaled El Anzi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: The inaugural week of the handball refresher tournament is set to kick off tomorrow, featuring the participation of 10 clubs: Al-Arabi, Al-Qadsia, Burgan, Al-Qurain, Al-Tadamon, Kazma,

HANDBALL

Al-Sulaibkhat, Al-Nasr, Al-Sahel, and Al-Salmiya. Notably, the teams of Kuwait, Yarmouk, Khaitan, Fahaheel, and Al-Shabab will not be partaking in the tournament. Additionally, Al-Jahra has withdrawn from public tournaments across handball, volleyball, and basketball for this season.

During the first week, four matches are scheduled, starting with Ghadan Al-Salmiya facing Khaitan at five in



A file photo of Kuwait handball team player in action.

the evening. Following this, at seven in the evening, Al-Nasr will compete against Sulaibkhat. On Sunday, Kazma will take on Al-Tadamon, and Al-Qurain will clash with Burgan. All matches will unfold in the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex.

Meanwhile, the national handball team intensifies its daily training at the Martyr Fahd Al-Ahmad Center in preparation for the 21st Asian Championship for men's teams, also serving as the 2025 World Cup Qualifiers. The championship is scheduled to take place in the Kingdom of Bahrain from January 11-25.

The tournament draw places Kuwait in the first group alongside Qatar, Oman, and Chinese Taipei. The competition comprises four groups, with the top team from each group advancing to the semi-finals, and the top four teams securing a spot in the 2025 World Cup finals.

The subsequent stage of preparation involves a European camp in

Croatia, Slovenia, and Hungary, featuring test matches for the team.

In local training, under the guidance of Algerian coach Saeed Hegazy, the focus is on enhancing the physical factor, elevating physical fitness levels, and building muscle mass and endurance.

Assistant coach Muhammad Masoudan emphasizes the pride-worthy players and talents within the Kuwaiti team, advocating for patience and proper development of young players without undue pressure. Acknowledging the challenging nature of the Asian task, Masoudan expresses confidence in the players' abilities.

Team director Abdulaziz Al Zaabi commends the collective efforts of players and the technical-administrative staff, highlighting the overarching goal of advancing to the World Cup and bringing joy to Kuwaiti handball fans.

Al-Qadsia looking for strong start in HH Crown Prince Cup

Al-Salmiya take on Burgan

By Hassan Musa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: This evening marks the culmination of the preliminary round of the His Highness the Crown Prince Cup Championship for the 2023-2024 sports season, featuring two exciting matches. The first clash between Al-Qadsia and Al-Fahaheel is scheduled for 4:00 pm at the Friendship and Peace Stadium. Subsequently, the second match will see Khaitan facing off against Al-Sahel at 7:15 pm at Al-Shabab Stadium.

On Saturday, two more matches are set to unfold. Burgan will compete against Al-Salmiya at Moham-

med Al-Hamad Stadium at 4:00 pm, while Sulaibkhat takes on Al-Tadamon at Abdullah Al-Khalifa Stadium at 7:15 pm.

The anticipated showdown between Al-Kuwait and Al-Nasr has been rescheduled for December 18. Additionally, the defending champion, Al-Arabi, is exempted from participating in this round, awaiting the winner between Al-Shabab and Yarmouk.

Today's first encounters see Al-Qadsia aiming for a strong start to contend for a title absent from its grasp since the 2017-2018 season. Winning this coveted title would mark a significant achievement, breaking the tie with Al-Kuwait and Al-Arabi, both having secured the championship nine times each. Despite Al-Qadsia's commendable performance in the Zain Premier League, securing the second spot with 16 points, some fans express dissatisfaction, particularly following a recent 1-1 draw with Al Salmiya in the league's eighth round.

Conversely, Al-Fahaheel is grappling with a decline in performance and seeks redemption in today's match. The last encounter between these two teams

SOCCER



An attacker dribbles past an opponent.

Abdel Karim takes charge of Al-Arabi

Al-Qadsia maintain top spot in basketball league

By Khaled El Anzi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: Nidal Ben Abdel Karim, the newly appointed coach of Al-Arabi Club's first basketball team, has arrived in the country to take charge of the squad in the ongoing season. This follows the termination of Serbian coach Degan's contract due to the team's sub-par performance, currently holding the sixth position in the general league standings. Prior to Ben Abdel Karim's arrival, Mohamed Al-Shatti, the technical director of the Green Basket, assumed leadership responsibilities.

Before joining Al-Arabi, the Tunisian coach gained experience coaching the Tunisian senior national team and overseeing Al-Qurain Club from 2019 to 2022.

In recent league action, the Al-Qadsia basketball team secured a decisive victory over Al-Sulaibkhat with a scoreline of 102-77, maintaining their lead in the league standings after the



Al-Arabi and Al-Tadamon players vie for the ball.

Best of the Rest

Morocco realizes WC dream:
The Kingdom of Morocco at last had realized its dream to host the FIFA World Cup, achieving this dream after years of presenting its file with no avail in 1994, 1998, 2006, 2010, and 2026.

On October fourth, FIFA announced that Morocco, alongside Spain and Portugal, will be hosting the 2030 FIFA World Cup, an announcement met with joy from the highest authorities in Morocco to the common folks in the street.

With this development, Morocco became the second Arab country to host the prestigious tournament after Qatar in 2022, a tournament, which was highly touted by football fans from across the globe.

Morocco is the second African country to host the tournament af-

ter South Africa in 2010.

Morocco's sport infrastructure is amongst the best in the African continent and the kingdom has hosted several international tournaments including the FIFA Club World Cup in 2013, 2014, and 2022 in addition to the African Cup back in 1988 and the upcoming African tournament in 2025. (KUNA)

□ □ □

Stokes undergoes surgery:
England test captain Ben Stokes has undergone surgery on his left knee.

Stokes posted on his social media accounts a picture of himself on crutches outside Cromwell Hospital in London, saying in a caption Wednesday that he had the operation and "rehab starts now." (AP)

efforts to mount a comeback in the third quarter, with Alexander contributing 24 points, Al-Qadsia maintained their lead, finishing the quarter with a 19-point dif-

ference at 80-61. Al-Qadisiyah further solidified their dominance in the last quarter, ultimately securing a 102-77 victory.

Leverkusen up next

Dortmund gaining confidence in Bundesliga after CL success

BERLIN, Nov 30, (AP): Borussia Dortmund's success in the Champions League is giving them confidence they can recover their faltering Bundesliga campaign.

Dortmund defeated AC Milan 3-1 away on Tuesday to reach the knockout stage of Europe's premier competition despite a poor start to what many regarded as the toughest group with big-spending Paris Saint Germain and Newcastle.

The German team lost 2-0 at PSG in their first game, followed up with a scoreless draw with Milan at home, but recovered with back-to-back wins over Newcastle before Tuesday's win in Italy.

"It's a real statement to qualify from the group already in the fifth match-day," Dortmund sporting director Sebastian Kehl said. "Not many believed we could do it."

Part of the reason for that is Dortmund's patchy form in the Bundesliga so far this season. The team ended a run of three games without a win in the league last weekend with a 4-2 victory over Borussia Mönchengladbach, but had looked set for more disappointment after finding itself 2-0 down after 28 minutes.

Instead, hopes are high again after two consecutive wins including Tuesday's success in Milan.

But Dortmund next face a trip to unbeaten Bundesliga leaders Bayer Leverkusen on Sunday - a team that has averaged more than three goals a game so far and are already 10 points clear of Dortmund after



Alonso

just 12 rounds.

Leverkusen lead 11-time defending champions Bayern Munich by two points. Bayern can move provisionally top on Saturday with a win at home over struggling Union Berlin - a team that hasn't won any of its last 15 games across all competitions.

Leverkusen faced Swedish team Håcken away in the Europa League on Thursday.

Before that game, Leverkusen had won every match across all competitions this season with one exception - a 2-2 draw at Bayern in

SOCCER

the fourth round of the league.

Since Xabi Alonso took charge of the team in October last year, Leverkusen has only failed to score in its own stadium once - against Dortmund last season in a 2-0 loss in January. That defeat ended Leverkusen's five-game winning run.

But Alonso's team seems to have more resilience this season - Leverkusen has the second-best defense in the league with 10 goals conceded compared to Bayern's nine. Both teams are the only unbeaten sides after 12 rounds.

"I think we are more mature as a team this season, both with the ball and without the ball," Leverkusen's Ivorian defender Odilon Kossounou said, looking ahead to Dortmund's visit. "It will be an open game. We will play the same way we have all season. I think if we stick to our strengths and respect the challenge, we can pick up a positive result."

Impressive turnout for Kuwait Show Jumping Equestrian League

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: The kick-off for the initial phase of the third installment of the Kuwaiti Show Jumping Equestrian League is slated for 8:30 am at the Al-Masila Equestrian Club in the Subhan area. An impressive gathering of male and female riders from diverse local clubs is set to partake in the event, generously sponsored by Zain Company.

Today's competitions will unfold at varying heights, ranging from 90 cm to 135 cm. The action will persist tomorrow, Saturday, commencing at 10:30 am. Four rounds are scheduled, featuring heights of 110 cm, 120 cm, and 130 cm, culminating in the grand prize round at a height of 140 cm. Participants securing the top spot in the initial round stand to win substantial cash prizes, with a total of 10,000 dinars allocated for the winners.

Sheikh Yousef Mishal Al-Sabah, a member of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Equestrian Federation, ex-

EQUESTRIAN

pressed optimism about the continued success of the league. He emphasized the federation's dedication to supporting and advancing Kuwaiti equestrian sports, with a keen aspiration to elevate the country's standing on the global equestrian stage.

Yousef Al-Sabah revealed that the league championship encompasses a total of 8 rounds, with the kickoff today and the tournament's conclusion slated for May 4. Each round spans two days, and the league also includes the organization of two- and three-star international tournaments.

Heading the tournament's refereeing committee is Nadhar Al-Mustafa, supported by committee members Raghad Al-Dabbous, Ibtisam Al-Arouri, and Dalal Al-Obaid. The track design is entrusted to Philip Schwinder, with assistance from Yaqoub Al-Nasrallah, and arena referees Sami Al-Barak and Badr Al-Haifi.



Sheikh Yousef Mishal Al-Sabah, a member of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Equestrian Federation.



Bangladeshi cricket captain Najmul Hossain Shanto bats during the third day of the first test cricket match at Sylhet, Bangladesh. (AP)

Shanto century helps Bangladesh take 205-run lead vs New Zealand

SYLHET, Bangladesh, Nov 30, (AP): Najmul Hossain Shanto became the first Bangladeshi cricket to hit a century on his debut as captain as the hosts tightened its grip on the first test against New Zealand on Thursday.

Shanto's 104 helped Bangladesh extend its lead to 205 runs by reaching 212-3 at stumps on Day 3. Mushfiqur Rahim was batting on 43, after adding 96 runs with Shanto for the fourth wicket.

The captain helped his team regain the upper hand on a spin-friendly track after Bangladesh lost two openers in quick succession to leave them on 26-2.

Left-arm spinner Ajaz Patel got the better of Zakir Hasan (17) for the second time in the match, with a delivery that spun sharply to rap him in front of leg-stump.

Mahmudul Hasan, who top-scored for Bangladesh with 86 in the first in-

nings, was run out in unluckiest manner as a drive from Shanto touched bowler Tim Southee's palm on the followthrough to hit his stump.

The two wickets in two overs brought the Black Caps back into the game but Shanto and Mominul Haque added 90 runs for the third wicket to give Bangladesh the edge.

Mominul survived a leg-before shout as New Zealand reviewed in vain but appeared to be confident against his favorite opponent, against which

CRICKET

he has averaged a whopping 55.61. He was run out on 40 after hitting four boundaries from 68 balls.

Unlike his aggressive first-innings 37, Shanto stayed clam throughout the day to frustrate the New Zealand bowlers. He raised his fifth test hundred off 192 balls and his third in the last four innings, pushing a fuller delivery of Patel past extra cover from a single.

He then hit a boundary in the last ball of that over, his 10th in 193 balls as bad light forced stumps for the third consecutive day.

New Zealand had resumed the day on 268-8 and was bowled out for 317, in reply Bangladesh's 310 in the first innings. Captain Tim Southee Southee played the key role, scoring 35 off 62 with three fours while Kyle Jamieson added 23 off 70.

With the main bowlers failing to make any breakthrough, Shanto introduced occasional bowler Mominul who wrapped up New Zealand's innings, dealing a double blow. He trapped Jamieson leg-before to end a 52-run ninth-wicket partnership and, four balls later, also got the better of Southee to finish on his career-best 3-4.



Australia's Cameron Davis lines up his putt on the 18th green during the first round of the Australian Open Golf Championship in Sydney, Australia. (AP)

Sports

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Rachel tied for lead at Australian Open

SYDNEY, Nov 30, (AP): Teenage amateur Rachel Lee was almost late to the first tee but finished the first round of the Australian Open in a tie for the lead with American Jenny Shin.

The 16-year-old Lee had to hurry to start her round Thursday after getting the times confused, and she carried momentum to a 6-under 67 at The Lakes Golf Club in a tournament that has men's and women's fields and a two-venue format.

GOLF

"I was putting and my coach says, 'Rachel, you're on the tee,'" Lee, who attends a Sydney high school, explained. "So I just ran out there. I've learned my lesson."

Jenny Shin was also 6 under after a 66 at The Australian Golf Club. The pair had a one shot lead over two-time major winner Jiyai Shin of South Korea.

Ashleigh Buhai of South Africa and local Stephanie Kyriacou were in fourth place at 4 under.

Cameron Davis led the men's field by a stroke at 9 under after an opening 63 at The Lakes. The 2017 champion had an eagle at the par-5 14th and seven birdies to finish one ahead of American Patrick Rodgers.



Salwa Al Sabah Club captain receives the Super Cup from Dr. Jaber Al-Marri, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Volleyball Federation.

Salwa Al-Sabah Club win volleyball Super Cup

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: In a commanding display, Salwa Al-Sabah Club's women's volleyball team secured the Women's Super Cup championship title by defeating Al-Fatah Club in a resounding three-game victory. The final match, held at the Al-Ittihad Hall in the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex, concluded with a scoreline of "25-16, 25-22, 25-19." This remarkable achievement marks Salwa Al-Sabah's girls' inaugural title in the women's volleyball competitions for the new 2023-2024 season.

The Women's Super Cup's decisive match, which determined the crowned champions, witnessed the presence of Dr. Jaber Al-Marri, the Chairman of the Board of Directors

of the Volleyball Federation, and Nayef Al-Khamili, a Board Member.

Al-Fatah Club had previously secured their place in the Super Cup final by triumphing in the preliminary

VOLLEYBALL

round against Al-Ayoun girls.

Looking ahead, the general league championship for women is set to kick off next Sunday. The competition will feature participation from Al-Ayoun, Al-Fatah, and Salwa Al-Sabah girls' clubs, extending until March 20. The Super Cup victory provides Salwa Al-Sabah with a strong start to the season as they prepare for the upcoming league battles.

Arsenal 'advance' to round of 16, Man United in danger

Real Madrid finish atop Group C

GENEVA, Nov 30, (AP): Arsenal scored six to advance in the Champions League as a group winners and Manchester United stayed last in their group despite again scoring three times away from home.

Arsenal's 6-0 rout of Lens ensured second-place PSV Eindhoven also advanced from Group B to the round of 16. PSV's second-half rally to win 3-2 at Sevilla was clinched by United States forward Ricardo Pepi in stoppage time.

SOCCER

There are now 12 confirmed teams in the round of 16 draw on Dec. 18 and Man United are in serious danger of missing out.

The three-time European champions led by two goals after 18 minutes at Galatasaray and 3-2 early in the second half but were pegged back again in a wild 3-3 draw.

United only do topsy-turvy road games in Europe this season after 4-3 losses at group winners Bayern Munich and second-place Copenhagen.

"As a team, we have to learn from it because we are conceding too many goals and it is unnecessary and avoidable," United manager Erik ten Hag said.

A hat trick of three-goal games on their travels has brought just a single point back for ten Hag's players, who need to beat Bayern at Old Trafford in



Arsenal's Gabriel Jesus (second left), duels for the ball with Lens's Mas-sadio Haidara (left), during the Champions League Group B soccer match between Arsenal and Lens, at Emirates stadium, in London. (AP)

two weeks' time.

Only four other Champions League teams this season have scored more than United's 12-goal total and they all top their groups and have advanced to the knockout phase.

Real Madrid are one of them after a 4-2 win over second-place Napoli ensured the record 14-time champions will finish atop Group C.

Teams that top their standings are seeded in the round of 16 draw on Dec. 18 and avoid other group winners like defending champions Manchester City. Teams also cannot be drawn against opponents from their own country.

Bayern drew 0-0 with Copenhagen, one of two games with no goals on a night when the other six games deliv-

ered 31.

Real Sociedad were held 0-0 by Salzburg to set up a last-game showdown with second-place Inter Milan at San Siro for the top spot in Group D. Both Sociedad and Inter already advanced three weeks ago.

Inter produced the night's other second-half fightback in a 3-3 draw at Benfica, which wasted a three-goal lead at halftime earned by João Mario's hat trick against his former club.

Braga drew 1-1 with Union Berlin and can still advance by winning at Napoli on Dec. 12.

Jude Bellingham was a standout again for Real Madrid in what is becoming the 20-year-old England star's routine excellence this season.

Bellingham scored Madrid's second goal against Napoli to make it four goals in four Champions League games for his new club and provided an assist for Joselu in stoppage time.

"Bellingham is a gift to football, not just this club," Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said. "The world's delighted to see a guy with this talent, potential, promise and hopefully, he'll just continue as he is."

Bellingham now has scored 15 goals in his first 16 matches with Madrid wearing the No. 5 shirt of the great Zinedine Zidane.

"Bellingham has surprised everyone. No one could have expected this," Ancelotti said. "He's got to improve his Spanish but as I always say - nobody's perfect."

Andre Onana's goalkeeping errors have cost Manchester United in losses at Bayern and at home to Galatasaray, and almost led to another defeat in Istanbul.

For each of Hakim Ziyech's two goals from free kicks, Onana's positional play or handling could be faulted.

"We win and lose together," Ten Hag said when asked about Onana who he also coached at Ajax. "He is OK. As I said, it is not about individuals. Of course, individual errors in football can make a difference and you take responsibility for it but it is always about the team."

Third place in a Champions League ensures European games into the new year, albeit in the second-tier Europa League.

The eight third-place teams when group play ends in two weeks' time enter the knockout playoff round against runners-up in Europa League groups. Those pairings are drawn on Dec. 18.

Nuggets down Rockets

Lakers hand Pistons 15th straight loss, bouncing back from blowout

DETROIT, Nov 30 (AP): D'Angelo Russell scored a season-high 35 points, Anthony Davis had 28 and LeBron James 25, helping the Los Angeles Lakers beat Detroit 133-107 on Wednesday night for the Pistons' franchise-record 15th straight loss.

James, coming off a career-high 44-point loss at Philadelphia, and his teammates were very loose during pregame warmups, perhaps sensing it would be an easy night to bounce back. And, they were right.

The Lakers led 38-24 after the opening quarter, shooting 60% to Detroit's 36%.

Even though there were three quarters left, the outcome seemed certain against an offensively challenged team that doesn't play stingy defense and is a league-worst 2-16.

Detroit broke the franchise record after sharing it with three teams that had 14-game skids during the 2021-22, 1993-94 and 1979-80 seasons.

Nuggets 134, Rockets 124

In Denver, Nikola Jokic had 32 points, 15 assists and 10 rebounds, Michael Porter Jr. scored a season-high 30 points and Denver rolled past Hou-



Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James (23) dunks during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Detroit Pistons, in Detroit. (AP)

Williamson cashed in on the 7-foot Embiid's absence, dominating around the basket as he made 11 of his 12 shots. He also hit 11 of 12 free throws, grabbed eight rebounds and added six assists. That production gave Williamson at least 26 points and five assists in each of his past six games.

Raptors 112, Suns 105

In Toronto, Scottie Barnes scored 23 points, Pascal Siakam had 22 and Toronto ended Phoenix's winning streak at seven.

Kevin Durant scored 11 of his 30 points in the fourth quarter for Phoenix after missing two games because of a sore foot, while fellow star Devin Booker had only eight points. The Suns lost for the first time since Nov. 12 at home against Oklahoma City.

Clippers 131, Kings 117

In Sacramento, Kawhi Leonard had 34 points and seven assists, James Harden scored 26 points and Los Angeles overcame a big game by De'Aaron Fox to beat Sacramento.

Paul George added 19 points and seven assists for the Clippers, who defeated the Kings for the first time since October 2022.

Magic 139, Wizards 120

In Orlando, Franz Wagner scored 31 points, Cole Anthony added 25 and Orlando beat Washington for its eighth straight victory.

Jalen Suggs had 22 points for the Magic, who were eliminated from the NBA's inaugural In-Season Tournament by a tiebreaker Tuesday night. Their win streak is one short of the franchise record set in 1994 and matched twice in this century.

BASKETBALL

ston in Jamal Murray's return from a hamstring injury.

Murray scored 16 points after missing Denver's past 11 games. After starting 6-1 with Murray available, the Nuggets were just 6-5 without their point guard.

It was the third consecutive win for the NBA champion Nuggets, who had lost four of five before their current streak.

Jokic, who was sidelined with a lower back injury in a win Monday at the Los Angeles Clippers, recorded his seventh triple-double of the season. Entering the night, all other NBA players had combined for just eight triple-doubles.

Pelicans 124, 76ers 114

In New Orleans, Zion Williamson scored 33 points and New Orleans beat a Philadelphia squad playing without All-Star center Joel Embiid.

Embiid was ruled out shortly before tip-off because of an illness, forcing Philadelphia to manage without its leading scorer, who is averaging 32 points this season and also gives the Sixers a formidable defensive presence in the paint.

Clash of titans as Al-Hilal and Al-Nasr renew rivalry

RIYADH, Nov 30: The spotlight is on the Riyadh derby as Al-Hilal and Al-Nasr gear up for a monumental showdown at King Fahd International Stadium, Riyadh, in the 15th round of the Roshan Saudi Professional League.

The Riyadh derby, renowned as one of the fiercest Arab derbies, holds a unique allure with significant media and public attention. The match features international stars such as Cristiano Ronaldo and his counterparts in Al-Hilal – Sadio Mane, Taliska, and Brozovic, as well as Mitrovic, Ruben Neves, and Moroccan goalkeeper Yacine Yono in the ranks of Al-Nasr.

Regarded as one of the most expensive derbies in the Arab region this season, the market value of players involved in the Al Hilal and Al Nasr clash stands at an impressive 415 million euros, according to Transfer Market.

Al-Hilal takes the lead with a squad worth 233 million euros, surpassing Al-Nasr, whose players

boast a total value of 182 million euros. Brazilian Neymar, valued at 50 million euros, claims the title of the

SOCCER

most expensive player in the Al Hilal and Al Nasr roster.

Technically, this highly anticipated encounter carries immense significance in both teams' pursuit of the league title this season. Al-Hilal currently leads the standings with an undefeated record of 12 wins and 2 draws, accumulating 38 points. Meanwhile, Al-Nasr sits in second place with 34 points, having won 11



Cristiano Ronaldo watches after making a goal attempt.

matches, drawn 1, and lost 2.

Al-Hilal aims to secure victory and avenge their loss to Al-Nasr in the Arab Championship final. Coach Jorge Haisous' squad seeks to widen the gap in the Roshan standings, potentially reaching 41 points, thereby maintaining a substantial lead over Al-Nasr.

Al-Hilal boasts the most formidable attacking line in the Roshan League, having scored 43 goals in 14 rounds, closely followed by Al-Nasr with 39 goals. Additionally, Al-Hilal showcases the strongest defense, conceding only 8 goals, while Al-Nasr ranks fifth with 15 goals against them.

Cristiano Ronaldo, a global football icon, leads the goal-scoring charts with 15 goals, followed by Al Hilal's Serbian striker Mitrovic with 11 goals and Brazilian forward Malcolm with 9 goals. Al-Nasr received a morale boost with Ronaldo's return to training, recovering from a neck injury just in time for the highly anticipated derby match.