



Project set for rollout between 2024 and 2025

GCC states unanimously approve unified tourist visa

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: The Interior Ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries have unanimously given their approval for the implementation of the unified Gulf tourist visa project.

The unified Gulf tourist visa project is anticipated to become operational between 2024 and 2025, covering all six nations in the GCC. The primary goal of this system is to streamline travel processes and fortify continuous communication and coordination among the member states.

Furthermore, Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled highlighted the increasing focus on cybersecurity to protect the gains of digital transformation from piracy operations. This reflects a commitment to ensuring the security and integrity of digital systems in the face of emerging threats.

Opinion

O people of Gaza, don't lend your victory to Iran or others

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

WHILE observing the current Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip and recalling the previous events, we stop at a point where the course of history can be changed as long as such a point does not include political deals and the game of axes in the corridors of settlements, which were soon discovered to have resulted in increasing the injustice of the Palestinians.

Here we recall the first Intifada (uprising) that broke out at the beginning of the year 1987. It sparked from the Jabalia camp in Gaza Strip, and spread a few days later to Jerusalem, the West Bank, and all of the Palestinian territories, causing Palestinian casualties.

On that day, the Israelis became certain that the resolve of these people had not been broken even though 40 years have passed since their catastrophe. The deals that were concluded behind the scenes had not made them forget their cause. That is why the uprising continued for about six years. During that time, some Palestinian leaders were working on exploiting the breaking of the bones of young people and children who had stoned the Israeli army for their personal interests.

Despite this, Tel Aviv realized its fears, especially when its leaders saw that children were the fuel for this uprising, and that the "bone-breaking" policy had not worked.

As the world was watching the course of events at that time, a European and Western conviction prevailed that the hopes of the Palestinian people must be fulfilled.

It is true that this uprising ended with the Oslo Accords, and the nucleus of a Palestinian state that could strengthen and enhance the national presence in the liberated areas. However, what happened after that had confirmed the fact that the mentality of settlements is what controls the Palestinian leaders.

It was certain that these multiple groups would not agree on a single national stance, which led to vertical division between the factions that have put their own interests ahead of the national interest.

The liberation of Palestine became merely a card to be played in the intelligence corridors of Arab, Islamic, and international capitals. Some of them even boasted that they were guns for hire. Some of them kissed the hands of Iranian leaders, and some of them served Saddam Hussein. Here we do not forget the role of Yasser Arafat who harmed the cause of his people.

It was followed by the chorus of paid Iraqi militias, some of whom placed all the eggs of the issue either in the basket of Libya, or Syria and others, but the nascent state project disappeared in the jungle of investing in the blood of the Palestinian people.

In this regard, I would like to mention that the late Saudi King Faisal bin Abdulaziz, said in the early 1970s, "The Arabs do not have the weapons that Israel possesses. However, defeating it is not impossible, as there is an Arab proverb that means - "A person's courage is rendered powerless by the crowd". At that time, there were two million Palestinians in the occupied territories, and these people could have defeated Israel with sticks, if they had the intention to do so. Because what is important is that they regain their lands."

After about 17 years, King Faisal's prediction came true when the "Intifada of Stones" broke out today after seeing the besieged people of Gaza being killed along with their children, their homes being demolished on their heads, after which the survivors among them came out to say "He will not leave his land" in response to the plan to displace them to Sinai.

This will undoubtedly prevail in the end, provided that the devils of investing Palestinian blood do not poke their noses to conclude axis deals at the expense of the sacrifices of the people of Gaza.

Today, the world has started changing its position after all this killing of civilians and children. If the people of Gaza continue to bear it, they can put Israel in a fix and fulfill the wish of King Faisal bin Abdulaziz and all Arabs that it is necessary to pray in the liberated Al-Aqsa Mosque. Apart from that, Israel will remain, and so will the American and European power with it.

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Day by Day

WHAT a disgraceful person! Despite his claims of influence over prominent figures in his country, including the president and Major General Maher al-Assad, as well as the judiciary in certain Arab Gulf countries, and some businessmen and sheikhs in Kuwait. Now it has been revealed that he has been nothing but a fraud.

This deceitful person not only took away his furniture, his children but also exploited his divorced wife, using her name for his fraudulent activities. Eventually, he and his accomplices fled the country where they had lived their entire lives, leaving a trail of deceit, theft, and fraud behind them.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

ISRAEL OKs 4-HOUR DAILY PAUSES ARAB FM's PREP FOR SUMMIT

Mediators inch closer to brokering Gaza ceasefire



Alaa Jadelhaq bids a final farewell to her husband, Mohanad Jadelhaq, 29, as she takes a last glimpse at his body during his funeral in the West Bank city of Ramallah on Thursday, Nov 9, 2023. Jadelhaq was killed during an Israeli army raid in the occupied West Bank refugee camp of Amari, Palestinian ministry of health said. (AP)

Weapons storage facility linked to Iran hit

US launches airstrike in Syria in response to bases attacks

WASHINGTON, Nov 9, (AP): The U.S. launched an airstrike on a facility in eastern Syria used by Iranian-backed militias, in retaliation for what has been a growing number of attacks on bases housing U.S. troops in the region for the past several weeks, the Pentagon said.

Wednesday's strike by two U.S. F-15 fighter jets was on a weapons storage facility linked to Iran's Revolutionary Guard. "The President has no higher priority than the safety of U.S. personnel, and he directed today's action to make clear that the United States will defend itself, its personnel, and its interests," Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said in a statement.

This is the second time in less than two weeks that the U.S. has bombed facilities used by the militant groups, many operating under the umbrella of the Islamic Resistance in Iraq, which U.S. officials say have carried out at least 40 such attacks since Oct. 17.

That was the day a powerful explosion rocked a Gaza hospital, killing hundreds and triggering protests in a number of Muslim nations. The Israeli military has relentlessly attacked Gaza in retaliation for the devastating Hamas rampage in southern Israel on Oct. 7.

Israel denied responsibility for the al-Ahli hospital blast, and the U.S. has said its intelligence assessment found that Tel Aviv was not to blame. But the Israeli military has continued a ferocious assault on Hamas, with ground troops now deep inside Gaza City in a war that has a staggering death toll of more than 10,000 Palestinians, two-thirds of them women and children, according to the Health Ministry of the Hamas-run territory.

The latest U.S. strike was designed to take out supplies, weapons and ammunition in an effort to erode the abilities of the Iranian-backed militants to attack Americans based in Iraq and Syria. And it reflects the Biden administration's determination to maintain a delicate balance. The U.S. wants to hit Iranian-backed groups suspected of targeting the U.S. as strongly as possible to deter future aggression, possibly fueled by Israel's war against Hamas, while also working to avoid further inflaming the region and provoking a wider conflict.

Similar U.S. airstrikes on Oct. 27 also targeted facilities in Syria, and officials at the time said the two sites were affiliated with Iran's Revolutionary Guard. When asked why those locations in Syria were

Hostage release key

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip, Nov 9, (Agencies): Israeli strikes pounded Gaza City overnight into Thursday as ground forces battled Hamas militants in dense urban neighborhoods near a hospital where tens of thousands of Palestinians are sheltering.

Gaza's largest city is the focus of Israel's campaign to crush Hamas following its deadly Oct. 7 incursion - and the Israeli military says Hamas' main command center is located in and under the Shifa Hospital complex. The militant group and hospital staff deny that claim. Troops were around 3 kilometers (2 miles) from the hospital, according to its director.

Amid a drumbeat of international concern over dire conditions inside Gaza, mediators were closing in on a possible deal for a three-day ceasefire in exchange for the release of around a dozen hostages held by Hamas, according to two Egyptian officials, a United

Nations official and a Western diplomat. The deal would also allow a small amount of fuel to enter the territory, which is currently reliant on generators for electricity, for the first time since the war began.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said any temporary ceasefire would have to be accompanied by the release of hostages. Israel has said around 240 people are held captive, and their plight has galvanized Israeli support for the war despite growing international concerns.

French President Emmanuel Macron opened a Gaza aid conference on Thursday with an appeal for Israel to protect civilians as it fights Hamas, saying "all lives have equal worth" and that fighting terrorism "can never be carried out without rules."

Western and Arab officials gathered in Paris on Thursday to discuss ways of providing more aid to civilians in Gaza, a day after the Group of Seven wealthy democracies, which includes close allies of Israel, called for the "unimpeded" delivery of food, water, medicine and fuel, and for "humanitarian pauses" in the fighting.

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Last 12 months mark hottest period ever recorded: report

WASHINGTON, Nov 9, (AP): The last 12 months were the hottest Earth has ever recorded, according to a new report by Climate Central, a nonprofit science research group.

The peer-reviewed report says burning gasoline, coal, natural gas and other fossil fuels that release planet-warming gases like carbon dioxide, and other human activities, caused the unnatural warming from November 2022 to October 2023.

Over the course of the year, 7.3 billion people, or 90% of humanity, endured at least 10 days of high temperatures that were made at least three times more likely because of climate change.

"People know that things are weird, but they don't they don't necessarily know why it's weird. They don't connect back to the fact that we're still burning coal, oil and natural gas," said Andrew Pershing, a climate scientist at Climate Central.

"I think the thing that really came screaming out of the data this year was nobody is safe. Everybody was experiencing unusual climate-driven heat at some point during the year," said Pershing.



KUNA photo

Gaza receives ambulances provided by Kuwait Red Crescent Society.

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Prayer Timings

Fajr 04:45 Asr 14:35
 Sunrise .. 06:07 Maghrib .. 16:57
 Zohr 11:32 Isha 18:16

Local

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

Weather

Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

By Day: Rather hot and relatively humid over coastal areas with light variable wind to light to moderate southeasterly wind with speed of 08-28 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

By Night: Mild to rather cold and relatively humid over coastal areas with light to moderate southeasterly wind to light variable wind, with speed of 08-26 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

Station **Max Exp** **Min Rec**
 Kuwait City 32 22

Kuwait Airport 32 18
 Abdaly 32 16
 Jahra 32 20
 Salmiyah 30 23
 Nuwaisib 34 19
 Wafra 32 17

'IAEA lack of response to Israeli minister's comment using nukes surprising'

'World must press Israel to join NPT, imperative for security'

NEW YORK, Nov 9, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait calls on the international community to pressure the Israeli occupation into joining the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), a step imperative for the security of the world, said a Kuwaiti diplomat.

This came in a statement delivered by member of the Kuwaiti permanent delegation in the UN headquarters in New York, diplomatic attache Abdulaziz Al-Saeedi to a UNGA meeting discussing a report by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Al-Saeedi reflected Kuwait's bewilderment on the IAEA's lack of response towards an Israeli occupation minister's statements in regards to using nuclear weapons as an "option" against the Gaza Strip, saying that the statement reflected the occupation's "bloodthirsty" attitude, "ethnic cleansing" tendencies, and lack of re-

spect towards international laws and norms.

Al-Saeedi called on the global community to hold countries in the Middle East responsible to their action, stressing that respect of international laws concerning nuclear security matters was necessary.

He reiterated Kuwait's stance on clearing the Middle East from Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) in line with the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Kuwait had received experts from the IAEA last May, revealed Al-Saeedi who affirmed that the agency's delegation commended Kuwait's efforts setting measures to secure facilities from radioactive materials.

In line with the IAEA's slogan - Atoms for Peace and Development - Kuwait reaffirms its stance to cooperate with the global community to prevent all sorts of crises, said Al-Saeedi.

The diplomat revealed that Kuwait had several projects utilizing nuclear technologies in the medical, environmental, and power-generating fields.



Al-Saeedi



Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) and Abdullah Al-Salem University officials at the signing of the MoU.

KNPC, University ink joint cooperation MoU

Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) and Abdullah Al-Salem University seek to join hands to exchange know-how, scientific research and development, after the two sides signed a memorandum of understanding.

"This MoU sets the foundation for an important partnership with Abdullah Al-Salem University and plays a positive role in sci-

entific research and development," Wadha Al-Khateeb, KNPC CEO, said in a statement Thursday.

Scientific and Technological development required specialized academic expertise, she noted.

Dr. Moudhi Al-Humoud, Chairperson of Abdullah Al-Salem University's Constituent

Board, said cooperation with KNPC would serve common aspirations at different levels.

The MoU, signed yesterday by Al-Khateeb and Al-Humoud, would include field training for students, supervising post-graduate students, encourage innovation, register patents, holding conferences and workshops and visiting refineries. (KUNA)

KUNA photo



Vietnamese Ambassador to Kuwait, Thang Toan NGO, Dr. Qais Saleh Al-Duwairi, Director General of Dasman Diabetes Institute with other officials.

Vietnam envoy to Kuwait visits DDI

His Excellency the Vietnamese Ambassador to Kuwait, Thang Toan NGO, paid a field visit to Dasman Diabetes Institute (DDI), which was established by Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences. H. E. was met by Dr. Qais Saleh Al-Duwairi, Director General of Dasman Diabetes Institute. His Excellency's visit aimed at getting to know closely the important institutions in Kuwait and strengthening scientific cooperation.

During his visit to the institute, many scientific and research topics, and issues of common interest between the two sides, were discussed.

The ambassador was briefed about the institute's scientific progress, its importance, and its role in the service of scientific research in Kuwait, discussing ways to enhance joint research and scientific cooperation. In turn, H.E. praised the institute's impressive developments and achievements.

State Audit Bureau report on public sector

Many violations recorded in MoE

Unprecedented decline in MoC revenues

By Abdulrahman Al-Shemmari
 Al-Seyassah Staff /Arab Times

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: The State Audit Bureau (SAB) has recorded a number of violations uncovered in the Education Ministry for fiscal 2022/2023.

These violations include the lack of follow up and measures to protect the ministry's rights and granting projects to contractors without the approval of monitoring institutions.

According to the report, the ministry delayed the repair of 33 schools that have been closed for years, although some of them were established 30 years ago.

In addition, an elementary school for girls in Ishbiliya has yet to be completed although the construction work started 12 years ago at a cost of KD 2,230,000.

The bureau added that one contract for the supply, installation and maintenance of air conditioning units was divided into six in order to reduce the value of each contract - lower than the minimum amount which requires prior approval from monitoring institutions. This is a violation of Article 19 of Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) Law number 49/2016 and Article 13 of SAB Law number 30/1964. The total cost of the six contracts is KD 444,000. SAB sought clarification on the rationale behind dividing one contract into six.

Regarding online education, the report pointed out that the full benefit was not achieved as only 34,000 out of 629,276 Microsoft licenses were utilized or 5.4 percent of contract number 86 for fiscal 2022/2023. This contract is for the rental, installation, administration and maintenance of Microsoft licenses; as well as providing technical support and training. Due to the violations, the online education strategy did not yield the expected results and it did not serve its purpose. The violations include division of the contract for the supply and maintenance of computers in a bid to reduce the value of each contract to avoid the oversight of monitoring institutions. This contravenes Article 19 of CAPT Law number 49/ 2016 and Article 13 of SAB Law number 30/1964.

Also, 59 leadership positions remain vacant and some of which are occupied by acting officials. This has negatively affected the performance of the ministry and weakened self-monitoring of the concerned departments.

Following are other violations recorded by the bureau:

- Recruitment of employees for the Audit Department without the accreditation of their academic certificates - a violation of law number 78/2019, Civil Service Commission (CSC) decision number 40/ 2006 and SAB Circular number 4/ 2019, which ban hiring employees prior to the accreditation of their academic certificates;

- Paying a contractor that provided workers as per contract number 17 for fiscal 2022/2023 even if he committed violations and was not punished accordingly;

- Signing a contract - valid from October 2022 to January 2023 and valued at KD 325,000 - for the rental of 120 school buses for students in the Religious Institute and special needs schools even if it has no stipulation on protecting the ministry's rights;

- Deducting KD 22,000 - instead of KD 26,000 - from the contract valued at KD 5 million for the supply and installation of surveillance cameras in schools under the Hawally and Capital educational districts, because the contractor did not provide training.

SAB report on MoC

By Mohammad Ghanim
 Al Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: The State Audit Bureau (SAB) has criticized the remarkable decline in the revenues of the Ministry of Communications for fiscal 2022/2023 - KD18,470,000 lower than its revenues in the previous two fiscal years.

This revenue decline is attributed to the delayed collection of rent and fees for the issuance of ship licenses.

The bureau highlighted in its report the low expenditure on development projects, compared to the budget allocated for this purpose. It added that the ministry did not specify the plots and buildings, as well as the equipment and devices, under its ownership.

It disclosed that the uncollected payments reached KD105.102 million, while unpaid debts amounting to KD72 million were not recorded.

The ministry failed to recover embezzled funds estimated at KD6 million despite the issuance of a final court ruling in this regard. It also failed to collect fines estimated at KD1.3 million from companies and individuals proven to have damaged cables, while equipment that cost KD2.2 million have not been utilized.

This is an addition to the delay in filling up 112 supervisory positions - a violation of Civil Service Commission (CSC) decision number 25/2006.

The report cited several financial violations; such as failure to obtain approval from monitoring institutions to hold revenues estimated at KD17 million, instead of transferring the amount to the public treasury.

SAB report on MPW

By Mohammad Ghanim
 Al Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: The State Audit Bureau (SAB) spotlighted in its report the rising value of uncollected payments due to the failure of the Ministry of Public Works to collect fines estimated at KD 23.7 million from contractors who committed violations.

The bureau cited the delayed completion of the third phase of Terminal Two (T2) project at Kuwait International Airport; warning that this could delay the completion of the whole project by 1,104 days.

This is in addition to the delay in the completion of roads and services leading to T2, possibility of delayed completion of the car parking area by 620 days, and violation of articles Seven and Eight of the relevant law when the contractor was allowed to change the quality of the materials used to cover the ground at T2.

Other violations include the following:
 ■ The contractor's appointment of a consulting firm for the first stage (design) of Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port project even if the latter is not accredited for design work and this increased the cost of the project by KD46.630 million;

- Failure to take safety measures at the new building of the Government Center for Testing and Quality Control including the lack of surveillance cameras;

- Construction of footbridges without conducting feasibility studies and variation orders that increased the cost by KD1 million;

- Ignoring the recommendation to maintain Abdulrazaq Tunnel, which did not meet the conditions stipulated by SAB.

SAB report on MEW

By Mohammad Ghanim
 Al Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: The State Audit Bureau (SAB) reported on violations in the contract that the Ministry of Electricity and Water and Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) signed for the supply of sea water to Subbiya Power Plant and Subbiya Water Distillation Plant; in addition to the delayed collection of debts amounting to KD9.5 million that accumulated in recent years.

The report warned about the possibility of power shortage in the years 2023, 2024 and 2025 due to the delayed development projects; indicating this will cost the State almost KD30 million.

It also criticized the suspension of the legislative work on the establishment of the Public Authority for Electricity fully owned by the State, pointing out the bill has been with the ministry since fiscal 2015/2016 without any sign of progress.

It cited the slow movement towards sustainable and renewable energy, considering only one percent of the country's energy usage is renewable, while the ministry failed to collect fines estimated at KD10 million from contractors who delayed the implementation of vital projects.

The report touched on violations in upgrading, operating and maintenance of air conditioning units at the main power transmission stations in Jahra, Farwaniya and Capital Governorates and the cost increased by almost KD826 million due to variation orders.

SAB report on CSC

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: The State Audit Bureau (SAB) reported on violations of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) in following up and implementing the contract for the maintenance of integrated systems in public institutions valued at KD1.6 million.

The bureau enumerated the violations as follows:

- More than one year delay of payment for contractors;

- CSC continues to grant allowances to doctors and other medical practitioners on overseas scholarships, instead of the Ministry of Health;

- Failure to collect scholarship related debts estimated at KD692,000;

- Shouldered the cost of 10 contracts for the integrated systems of 48 public institutions without collecting the corresponding amount from the concerned institutions;

- The annual inventory for fiscal 2022/2023 violated Finance Ministry circular number 4/2022 on regulating petty cash and assets.

To be continued

'Regulate economic activity'

Call to up total development

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Oil, and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment, Dr. Saad Al-Barrak, called for advancing the concept of comprehensive development for humanity, noting that the slogan of economic development is free enterprise.

Al-Barrak added, during the 14th session of the Turkish-Arab Economic Forum, which was held in Istanbul under the slogan "A New Era of Partnership," that the role of countries lies in regulating the aspect of economic activity, with the necessity of working to adopt governance in business. He concluded by emphasizing that the model in which the state manages economic activity has repercussions on economic development and economic freedom, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Al-Barrak reviewed the capabilities that Kuwait possesses, and discussed the economic development plan in Kuwait, Vision 2035, which was updated under the name Vision 2040, which embraces economic openness, developing the investment climate, and modernizing laws, including the company law, stressing that this vision focuses on enhancing the growth of revenues and using them in developing the economy.

Al-Barrak discussed the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port development project, which aims to increase the number of containers to about 8 billion until the year 2035, while developing the oil industry, both at the level of exploration and production, requires an investment of about 300 billion dollars until the year 2040.

He believes that Kuwait is looking forward to benefiting from the huge revenues in the oil sector, to build partnerships with investors and the private sector in specific sectors, as is the case with health, education, and others, in a way that supports the non-oil economy.

On the other hand, Al-Barrak revealed in statements to Al-Sharq that Kuwait is currently growing at rates ranging between 3 to 4% of the country's economy over the next few years, hoping that there will be greater rates of diversification of the economy due to the presence of new promising markets,

Workshop held

Harms of fake goods

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: The participants in a workshop emphasized the life and legal risks associated with counterfeit products at an event organized by lawyer Muhammad Lafta Al-Shammari's office in collaboration with "Menassa Intellectual Property and Rights Management," and representatives from Mercedes-Benz cars, reports Al-Rai daily.

Rashid Al-Owaihah, the Trademark and Patent Controller at the Ministry of Commerce, highlighted the importance of protecting intellectual property through registration.

He emphasized that intellectual property protection benefits citizens, merchants, and society as a whole. Al-Owaihah pointed out that individuals harmed by counterfeit products can sue the sellers, and the original trademark owner can also take legal action against counterfeiters.

Mahmoud Hassan Mufarrej, the director of trademark protection at the organizing law firm, mentioned their extensive experience in trademark protection and collaboration with Mercedes' parent company. The workshop aimed to educate consumers about the dangers of counterfeit products, which can lead to life-threatening consequences.

Alaa Qaffaf, the Menassa company representative, stated that the workshop's goal is to help participants differentiate between genuine and counterfeit Mercedes car spare parts. Selling counterfeit products carries legal penalties, and such goods are destroyed due to the threat they pose to consumer safety.

especially in the energy and renewable energy markets and related markets.

Al-Barrak explained that the sources of funding come from oil resources and investments, as well as the use of international partners to participate in this process, stressing that partnership is the country's path to the future.

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Outsiders join Palestinians to beat Zionist entity in cyber warfare'

"The Al-Aqsa Flood War led by Hamas was not limited to the ground war only, but the Palestinian fighters chose to complete the war through the Al-Aqsa Cyber Flood as well, to be a deterrent to every electronic attack on them," columnist **Ali Al-Fayrouz** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

"The Al-Aqsa Cyber Flood has succeeded in penetrating more than one site in the Zionist enemy's devices, and has succeeded in monitoring all the enemy's movements and studying them in all their details.

"Al-Aqsa's cyber flood was able to penetrate dozens of Israeli surveillance cameras, and among them it was able to monitor the homes of Israelis, their places of residence, their streets, their hideouts, and even private and public companies within Israeli territory. It also monitored the gardens of their homes, guard points, and officials' control rooms.

"The Al-Aqsa Cyber Flood revealed "Live" videos from private homes and governmental and private institutions within the Zionist entity, showing how skillfully they control the Zionist sites that were hacked by this team. Not only that, the Palestinian hackers' control over their smart home systems was shown -- distinctive shots of child mujahedeen on the intercoms of the homes of foreign Zionist officials.

"Yes, they are the cyber flood of Al-Aqsa, the heroes wearing the black hats with the Palestinian keffiyeh, who sent a cyber message to address the Zionist entity in their backyard, to say to them: "We are here with you, we hear you and we see you, so leave our occupied land, for victory is ours and victory for Gaza is near, God willing."

"There are groups of hackers who are the most dangerous in the world, and they have joined alongside their brothers in Palestine and are fully prepared to fight cyber battles against Zionist companies that are characterized by precision, but the hacker groups who cooperated with their brothers in Palestine have technology and experience in the Microsoft, Twitter, and Pay Pal process, and this has been proven.

"In the attack directed against Israel, the cyberattack was not only carried out by the Anonymous Sudan team, but there were also other groups of Arab hackers with them, such as the Ghosts of Palestine hacker team and Anonymous of Morocco. Then the surprise was when foreign hackers entered the defense line to announce their support for Palestine.

"In these successful cyber steps, we notice that terror has entered the hearts of the Zionists, led by the Israeli cyber security forces. Israel's enemies have become in the form of multiple cyber groups, all united in one row, for one goal.

"Among them was a hacker team called the famous Cyber Avengers, who through their experience were able to acquire the high level of penetration of the Israeli electricity operator's network, in addition to the Israeli Electricity Company, and also the Electronic Tiger Unit team, which was able to target the Israeli intelligence service known under the name "Mossad" during the past days.

"From there, we stop going into the finer details due to the limited space of

the article ... We will see you soon to present the rest of the Palestinian cyber attacks and their details next week.

Also:

"Last Sunday, Anthony Blinken, the US Secretary of State, visited Iraq and met with Muhammad Al-Sudani, the Prime Minister of Iraq, and only one day later, Monday morning, Al-Sudani set off to visit Iran and meet with its leaders," columnist Dr. **Khaled Al-Saleh** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

"The media office of the Iraqi Prime Minister stated that Al-Sudani began an official visit to Iran, to discuss bilateral relations between the two countries and discuss the most prominent regional issues of common interest, most notably the Palestinian issue. The media office concluded its statement by saying: This visit is the beginning of a tour for the Prime Minister of Iraq, but he did not specify the countries he will visit after Iran.

"That previous media statement is just a political camouflage of the obvious, as the US Secretary of State assigned the Prime Minister of Iraq to deliver a message to Iran quickly. This is an important message, in my opinion, in light of the pragmatic US policy, which is similar to Iranian policy.

"And based on America's keenness on Israel and the Democratic Party's keenness to get through this battle with the least losses in its upcoming electoral battle, and on the other hand, in light of the relationship between some Hamas leaders and Iran, and also in light of Iran's control over the Lebanese Hezbollah.

"Based on all of the above, it can be expected that the message that the Sudan brought to the Iranian leadership was a message that the Iraqi Prime Minister was enthusiastic about and was quick to convey that he, the Iraqi President, would not convey a warning message to Iran from America not to expand the scope of the war, which some expected.

"The speed of Sudani visit to the Iranian leadership after the American minister's visit means that there is a message of a deal that America is presenting to Iran.

"Iran is interested in two main issues, the first of which is manufacturing a nuclear bomb. Second, its continued influence, especially inside Syria and Lebanon, and it seems that America promised Iran to ease the restrictions on its nuclear program if it refrained its followers from strong participation in the war, strong participation and not skirmishes aimed at supplying the resistance front with what they need to defend Hezbollah and Iran.

"This explains the strong reaction of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the statements of the Israeli Minister of Heritage, Amichai Eliyahu, about dropping a "nuclear bomb" on the Palestinian Gaza Strip.

"Saudi Arabia is fully aware of the American and Iranian mentality and expects the deals that will come at the expense of the blood of our people in Gaza. Saudi Arabia also knows that Iran's leaders will not emerge from this war empty-handed.

"Therefore, Saudi Arabia has demanded that the region be free of nuclear weapons, and its first path is that strong condemnation that will be followed by action to neutralize Israeli nuclear weapons and prevent Iran from acquiring them.

"Our people in Gaza, as usual, their blood has become a game of balance between America and Iran, and today Iran is trying to benefit from the results

of this war. If Israel aims to get rid of Hamas, which is its greatest benefit, Iran will not leave empty-handed, as it has lost a lot with the support of Hezbollah and Hamas has weapons for such moments.

"All GCC countries, without exception, must align with Saudi Arabia's positions and work with every effort to stop this unjust war on our people in Gaza. And an attempt to distance Hamas from Iranian politics, as the events of this war revealed the true Iranian goals that are far from slogans.

"Strong collective action is necessary to eliminate nuclear armament in the region and neutralize the Israeli nuclear weapon, taking advantage of the statements of that reckless minister to provide evidence of the possibility of Israel using nuclear weapons.

"Coordination with Egypt is very necessary in this regard, as the Gulf and Egypt have a lot to defend Palestine and Arab national security."



The Kuwaiti National Assembly emerged victorious for Palestine through the approval of 13 recommendations. The Kuwaiti government and people denounced the Zionist crimes, and then sent humanitarian aid for the Palestinians," columnist **Talal Al-Arab** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

"Kuwait raised its voice against the massacres and forced displacement of Palestinians in international forums. It demanded for immediate end to the war on Gaza. Kuwait made these vital demands without hesitation and pressure. Enough is enough.

"Kuwait is a small country, but the representatives with different backgrounds and orientations reached an agreement despite the contradictory interests. They tied it up with recommendations that Kuwait, the Arabs or even the whole world cannot do. Only America can do so.

"These recommendations lack the voice of reason as some were overcome with emotion. They were controlled by bidding and exaggeration at the expense of homeland security. The race to record positions blinded them.

"Some of the recommendations are constructive, general and repetitive. Many countries made the same calls through the media, but they are merely wishes that will not be fulfilled unless America approves. The problem is that the representatives, who clearly exaggerated Kuwait's ability to implement the recommendations, made certain recommendations.

"They recommended that the president of the Zionist entity and his military and political leaders should be pursued as war criminals in international forums, the International Criminal Court and the world's parliaments. These are the demands of America and the West, and only they have the authority and capability to achieve such demands.

"Some MPs still believe that Kuwait is at war with Israel. Brothers, the war between Israel and the so-called countries of steadfastness and confrontation ended 50 years ago. Peace and normalization treaties were signed by Israel, the belligerents and boycotters, so be rational.

"Your categorical rejection of any form of normalization with the Zionist entity is now emotionally understandable, but political interests and situations change day after night."

— Compiled by **Mai Elsoukary**

Other Voices

'To the honorable Kuwaiti people ... my dear people'

By **Ahmad alsarraf**

It is clear that I have sought and continue to seek to provide all the means of prosperity and reassurance to our dear country in secret and in public. I still hear things that I do not like to hear about some young people who do not appreciate the consequences of things and do not take long views, but I avoid upsetting them, hoping that they will take care of themselves or listen to the advice of rational people.



alsarraf

I have warned time and time again about disturbing relations between us and all our Arab friends and brothers, as required by the country's interest. There is no benefit for us in upsetting relationships that must be maintained as good as possible, but these young people have set their heads high and turned a blind eye to the public interest, to the point where their ignorance has reached the point of neglecting me personally in societies, despite the well-being and good things known about my era, for which we thank God and for which we are greatly envied.

"As for the mistakes and criticisms that they see as existing in some circles, they are mistakes that no country is free of, no matter how civilized and organized it is, and they are cases that will be subject to amendment and reform in the near future, God willing. I have instructed to deter these people from continuing in their ignorance, hoping that this will fill a gap through which a wind that we do not want might come to us."

"As it was said: And among the intoxicating poisons is medicine I ask all members of the dear people to take care of the improvement of their own affairs, and my door is open to anyone who comes forward with a correct suggestion, complaint, or statement, for this involves correct cooperation between the ruler and the ruled and sincere patriotism. As for ignorance, its consequences are known. May God guide everyone" -- Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah.

These words were said 64 years ago, so today is nothing like yesterday!

Despite all the love and respect that we all have for our respected rulers, the late Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem had his own flavor, and he was unique, even with his white headband, and for what he accomplished during his relatively short rule (1950-1965).

In an interview with the journal-

ist Nayla Tuani with the great poet and thinker Adonis, and I am one of his biggest admirers, he described the Arabs as lazy, as they look for easy things and avoid research and reading. He said that he had never found, despite all his readings, a single Arab ruler who sought power and asked himself how to build a free and just society. Rather, his concern was to continue ruling and benefit materially from his exceptional situation!

I do not blame our great thinker for not knowing the personality of the late Abdullah Al-Salem, who was a phenomenon not in Kuwait but in its surroundings as well, with the necessity of putting matters in their time frame and historical context.

I also wish for him, and for the rest of the nation's thinkers, despite their rarity, to abandon their superior feelings towards the Gulf Arabs, as we actually have things that cause us to be proud, but they often did not know about them, or seek to know them!

Since the 1930s, oil exploration concessions, in all countries of the region, have been between the ruler and American and European companies. That is, the oil company pays the ruler's full share of the oil it extracts, so he can dispose of it in his own way. Only Abdullah Al-Salem, on his own initiative, and with the asceticism and wisdom he was famous for, ceded his "right" to the state and directed all revenues to it, after the state's constitution was approved, and the general budget became approved by Parliament and subject to the scrutiny of regulatory authorities.

He also ceded his personal account balances in British banks, which had been collected from oil revenues, to the state, and that money formed the beginning of our investments abroad, which today exceed 750 billion dollars, and all of this thanks to his "self-denial."

He also agreed that the annual allocations of the Amir of the country would be determined by law, and this is what has continued to be implemented until today.

He also, on his own initiative, abdicated his absolute powers as ruler, placed the matter in the hands of the nation, and made it the source of authority.

During his reign, the state's lands were organized, vast areas of them were withdrawn from the hands of influential people, and the constitution was approved, which was adopted without making any amendment to any of its articles, and other achievements that we still enjoy, and which our great thinkers may not have heard of.

Abdullah Al-Salem will remain an eternal symbol.



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'Health minister keen to hold scientific awareness-raising events for workers'

MoH marks World Day for Radiation Protection & Medical Physics

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: Under the auspices of the Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi, a celebration was held to mark the World Day for Radiation Protection and Medical Physics, in the presence of the Undersecretary Dr. Abdul Rahman Al-Mutairi, Assistant Undersecretary for Public Health Affairs Dr. Mundhir Al-Hasawi, and Director of the Radiation Protection Department Elham Al-Fares.

The chief nuclear medicine specialist and head of the organizing committee for the Awareness Day on Radiation Protection and Medical Physics Dr. Hanan Al-Dousari announced the launch of the department's official Instagram account coinciding with the celebration of World Day for Radiation Protection and Medical Physics.

In a press statement issued on the sidelines of the celebration, Dr. Al-Dousari affirmed the keenness of Minister Al-Awadhi and his constant encouragement to hold such scientific awareness-raising events to benefit workers and the public about this important specialty.

She expressed her deep gratitude for Minister Al-Awadhi's approval of the efforts of the department and the national cadres working in this rare specialty, highlighting his emphasis on the necessity of adhering to applicable laws in this field, and staying informed about the latest relevant global laws and policies.

Dr. Al-Dousari revealed the keenness of the department to participate with countries around the world in celebrating the World Day for Radiation Protection and Medical Physics, which falls on November 7 every year, in appreciation and respect for the Polish scientist Marie Curie, who won two Nobel Prizes for Chemistry for her discovery of the elements radium and polonium, making her the first person to receive two Nobel Prizes in two different fields.

Exhibition

She explained that an awareness exhibition was held on the sidelines of the celebration at the ministry's headquarters. It provided a detailed explanation to introduce the department and its four departments. They are:-

1. The Department of Environmental Protection from Radiation, which specializes in taking samples of soil, water, and air to test and ensure that the air is free of pollution.
2. The Calibration and Radiation Exposure Measurement Department, which specializes in measuring radiation doses for employees working with radiation on a monthly basis, and ensure that the employee is exposed to the internationally permissible radiation limit.
3. The Ionizing Radiation Licensing and Inspection Department, which seeks to obtain licenses for all private and public establishments that work in the field of radiation, and licenses for workers in this field.
4. The Department of Non-Ionizing Radiation Licensing and Inspection, which specializes in inspection campaigns to ensure radiation safety, implements all laws and principles of radiation safety, control devices, and ensures that they are fit for use.

She went on to explain that the awareness day this year includes many topics such as awareness about radiation and ways to protect from it, awareness of the importance of specializing in medical, radiation and nuclear physics and their fields, and the importance of radiation protection management and the services it provides to workers in the Ministry of Health, health and industrial facilities, factories, private hospitals, and others.

There are two types of radiation - natural radiation, which comes from the universe in the form of food, soil, and other things, and man-made radiation, which is used in the medical and industrial fields and other fields.

As for medical physics, it includes many types, such as radiation therapy physics, nuclear medicine physics, diagnostic radiology physics, magnetic resonance physics, health physics, ultrasound physics, and others.



KUNA photo
Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi inspecting the components of the ambulance.

Minister opens Mutla'a center

'80 new ambulances by 2024'

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9, (KUNA): Eighty newly acquired ambulances will be in service by 2024, as part of government's efforts to reinforce the national health system as a whole and the emergency medicals services in particular, stated Minister of Health, Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi on Thursday.

The Minister's statement came after the inauguration of emergency response center in Al-Mutla'a area.

The center will be operating at capacity of six ambulances and six technicians, working round the clock in support of Al-Jahraa medical area, and new Jahraa hospital, explained Dr. Al-Awadhi adding that

four new medical centers are to be inaugurated in the area.

The Minister further asserted that they are determined to expedite execution process as life begins to grow in the area housing some 28,000 residential plots.

He added that they are working on developing emergency response via air and sea as well.

Dr. Ahmad Al-Shatti, Chief of Emergency response services, mentioned that nine emergency response centers had been inaugurated within a year, taking total to 86 center as part of developmental expansion plan.

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HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister send greetings

HH the Amir congratulates Cambodian King on National Day

MEW collects KD 3.5m worth dues from expats in October

Ministry eyes e-interface to collect dues for treated water

By Mohammed Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: According to informed sources in the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, approximately KD 3.5 million were collected from expatriates through various outlets in the month of October, bringing the total collection since the electronic interface with the Ministry of Interior at the beginning of September to KD 8.4 million.



Dr Jassim Al-Ostad

The sources stressed the keenness of the government to collect its records from others in the various sectors and services it provides.

They affirmed that the doors of the Ministry of Electricity and Water are open to everyone, either through its various sites for collecting debts, or through the Sahel application, or through the customer service offices spread throughout the country.

On the other hand, the sources revealed the ministry's intention to launch an electronic interface with the Ministry of Public Works to collect dues for treated water, as the launch of the electronic system for collecting its debts for the various other services it provides.

They highlighted that coordination is underway between the Ministry of Electricity and Water and the Ministry of Public Works for launching the interface, indicating that it will take days to finish

connecting the systems to each other.

The sources affirmed the keenness of the Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Dr. Jassim Al-Ostad to avoid notices of late collection of MPW's debts from others.

They explained that the collection will begin with those who wish to deliver the quadrilateral water service to farms, pens, or other plots that need treated water. For the receipt, it is required that the service applicant obtain a release of liability to pay his debt to electricity.

For those who already have treated water service, a mechanism will be put in place to continue its access to their farms after collecting their debts to the Ministry of Electricity and Water or other state agencies.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Thursday a cable to King of Cambodia, Norodom Sihamoni, congratulating him on the country's National Day.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-

Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable to King Norodom Sihamoni, congratulating him on the country's National Day.

Also, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a cable to King Norodom Sihamoni, congratulating him on the country's National Day.



KUNA photo

Health authorities in Gaza receive ambulances provided by Kuwait Red Crescent Society.

Health authorities receive 5 ambulances

Kuwait's 17th aid plane to Gaza takes off with 32 tons of supplies

By Salman Al-Mutairi

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9, (KUNA): The 17th plane within the Kuwaiti relief air bridge took off Thursday, heading to the Egyptian city Al-Arish, carrying 32 tons of necessities, to be delivered to Gaza Strip.

The aid plane comes in line of a campaign launched to aid Palestinian in Gaza initiated by the Kuwait Society for Relief (KSR), General Secretariat of Endowments, Kuwait Zakat House, the Public Authority for Minor Affairs and Myfatorah company.

Dr. Ibrahim Al-Saleh, Chairman of Board of Kuwait Society for Relief told KUNA prior to departure that (KSR) is continuing its humanitarian aid to the people of Palestine in Gaza after the vicious and continuous bombardment of the occupation Israeli army.

The plan contains 32 tons of supplies and medical necessities in addition to 3 ambulances, two of which have Intensive Care Units (ICU) equipment, Al-Saleh added.

Director General of the Zakat House of Kuwait Dr. Majed Al-Azmi told KUNA that Kuwait is striving to prevent any harm against the Palestinian in the Gaza Strip and will continue their aid for as long as it needed.

Meanwhile, official at the Public Authority for Minor Affairs Bashayer Al-Idan said that the authority role is to aid all those in need especially in Gaza in these difficult times.

She added that the authority held many aid campaigns before to help the needy as it did after the earthquakes in Turkiye and Morocco in addition to the floods in Libya and Pakistan.

Acting Director of the Public Authority for Minor Affairs Nasser Al-Hamad said that the authority assistance to (aid Palestine) campaign reached KD 500,000 most of which is in medical assistance, ambulances and food supplies.

For his part, Abdullah Al-Dabbous, founder and managing director of Myfatorah said that his company's USD 250,000 participation is the first in this

campaign and expressed his appreciation and gratitude to all those who helped in delivering aid to the people of Palestine.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's 16th air bridge plane loaded with 10 tons of medical supplies arrived Wednesday at Egypt's Al-Arish Airport intended to reach people in the Gaza Strip.

Director of the Volunteer Department at the Kuwait Red Crescent Society, Ahmad Al-Faqan, told KUNA that the 16th plane from the Kuwaiti Air Bridge was carrying 10 tons of medical aid to the Gaza Strip, provided by the Kuwaiti Red Crescent.

The Kuwaiti humanitarian relief aid that has arrived at Al-Arish Airport since the beginning of the humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip until today amounts to 399 tons, including various food aid, medical equipment and supplies, 16 ambulances and drilling equipment.

The Kuwaiti humanitarian aid to Gaza comes based on Kuwait's historical and firm position in supporting the Palestinian cause.

In the meantime, the health authorities in Gaza announced Wednesday that they received five ambulances to the Strip, provided by the Kuwait Red Crescent Society.

In remarks to KUNA, Head of the Aid Receipt Committee at the Ministry of Palestinian Authorities in Gaza, Dr. Mahmoud Hammad, said that the State of Kuwait is the first country to bring ambulances into the Gaza Strip since the start of the Israeli aggression.

The Palestinian official thanked Kuwait, the Amir, the government, the people, the Kuwait Red Crescent Society, and the charitable societies, stressing that Kuwait was the first to respond to the distress call of the Palestinian Ministry of Health.

Kuwait had announced sending 15 planes loaded with relief and medical materials as part of the Kuwaiti air bridge to relieve the brothers in the Gaza Strip, under the guidance of the political leadership and the support of the Kuwaiti people.

Transportation, energy sectors

Kuwait facing challenges in boosting infrastructure projects investments

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: According to MEED magazine, Kuwait is facing challenges in boosting investments in infrastructure projects across transportation, energy, and construction sectors, reports Al-Anba daily.

The magazine added, project contracts since 2018 have only amounted to \$20 billion, a stark contrast to \$83 billion in Qatar and \$223 billion in the United Arab Emirates during the same period, reports Al-Anba daily.

The magazine highlighted well-known obstacles, including political and bureaucratic issues that hinder project implementation. The absence of a centralized decision-making structure indicates that internal changes are unlikely.

To address this, Kuwait signed 7 memorandums of understanding with China in September, focusing on major projects. The agreements cover various sectors such as housing development, renewable energy, water treatment, recycling, and ports.

Stakeholders in Kuwait's project sector hope these agreements will stimulate the market, which has been sluggish. Chinese contractors are particularly interested in solar energy and public housing, where they have achieved success in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

MEED noted that given China's dominance in the global solar PV industry, the MOUs could pave the way for a solar power plant, addressing short-term challenges and helping Kuwait reach its renewable energy target of 4,400 MW. This might be the country's most viable option due to its limited production capacity.

'Postal Affairs'

Al-Hamida named as acting asst undersec

By Mohammed Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: The Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Communication Affairs Fahad Al-Shoula issued a decision to assign the Director of the Public Services Department in the Financial and Administrative Affairs Sector Abdullah Muhammad MUSAED Al-Hamida to carry out the duties and tasks of the Assistant Undersecretary for Postal Affairs in the Ministry of Communications, in addition to his work.

The minister also issued a decision to terminate the assignment of Khaled Mufareh Al-Qasba from acting as the assistant undersecretary for Postal Affairs.

In the public housing sector, challenges persist with over 90 thousand citizens on the waiting list in 2022, potentially reaching 100 thousand in 2023. The average waiting period exceeds 10 years. The Chinese-Kuwaiti agreement could facilitate direct Chinese investment in developing public housing, offering a solution to Kuwait's housing crisis alongside the renewable energy deal.

Move aims at increasing awareness about cybercrime dangers

Cybercrime, Juvenile Protection Dept hosts school pupils

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: The General Department of Criminal Investigation, through its Cybercrime Department and Juvenile Protection Department, welcomed students from various middle schools for boys, reports Al-Anba daily.

This initiative was aimed at increasing awareness about the dangers of cybercrime and tan-

gible violent offenses, emphasizing their significant impact on enhancing social communication and culture.

The objective of the Ministry of Interior is to protect and educate both Ministry personnel and school students about the perils of cybercrime and violence.

The Ministry emphasized that

hosting students aligns with its commitment to enhance social responsibility, fostering cooperation and coordination with the Ministry of Education on educational aspects.

The initiative aims to promote values, principles, loyalty to the homeland, and the rejection of violence. The Ministry seeks to

educate students about cybercrimes through various awareness channels, including field visits to its sectors.

The statement urged schools interested in organizing such visits to contact the General Administration of Relations and Security Media for coordination with the relevant Ministry sectors.

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LOCAL



Al-Rai photo

Sheikh Faisal Al-Hamoud meeting with Artificial Intelligence of Association's President Sheikh Muhammad.

Association reflects Kuwait's interest in tech development

Sheikh Faisal Al-Hamoud, Advisor to the Amiri Diwan, affirmed that the establishment of the Artificial Intelligence of Association underscores Kuwait's commitment to technological advancement, reports Al-Rai daily.

Al-Hamoud said this when he

met with the association's president, Sheikh Muhammad Ahmad Al-Faisal Al-Malik Al-Sabah, and its board members, including Dr. Ayed Salman, Yousef Al-Mutairi, Saqr Al-Harbi, and Dr. Ali Al-Faili, during the association's announcement emphasizing Kuwait's dedication

to staying abreast of technological developments.

Sheikh Muhammad Al-Sabah expressed gratitude to Sheikh Faisal Al-Hamoud for his ongoing support of youth initiatives and his commitment to fostering the aspirations of the younger generation.

7 phones, Captagon pills seized from drugs pusher

Corpse of expatriate who 'fell' from seventh floor referred to Forensics

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: The body of an expatriate born in 1987 has been sent for forensic examination to ascertain the cause of death after the body was found in the compound of a residential building where the victim was staying, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to security sources, the caretaker of the building heard a 'thud' sound and when he went out to check on the source of the sound, he found the victim sprawled on the floor with blood oozing from his mouth and nose and probably with broken limbs.

It remains unclear whether the expatriate fell from his seventh-floor apartment in Salmiya or if someone threw him from inside the apartment.

The Deputy Public Prosecutor ordered the registration of a suspicious criminal case, and detectives were assigned to probe the circumstances



Al-Rai photo

Captagon pills seized from the drugs pusher.

of the death. The body was referred to Forensic Medicine to determine if the individual was stabbed before

falling.

Forensic officers also removed all traces from inside the apartment.

Captagon pills seized: The Jahra security forces have arrested a citizen known for promoting Captagon and discovered in his possession a quantity of pills valued at 20,000 dinars, reports Al-Rai daily.

According to security sources, the mobile patrol led by Brigadier General Saleh Oqla and Brigadier General Muhammad Taher apprehended the suspect who is believed to be his forties with a stash of Captagon pills with a market value of 20,000 dinars.

Additionally, the accused was found in possession of 7 phones used for communication with customers. The confiscated items were seized, and the accused has been referred to the General Administration for Drug Control for legal action.

0 people

Continued from Page 1

As for the Arabs and Palestinians, they will curse each other, and the Muslims will be with them.

It is true that the price is very high, and today we do not know whether what happened on October 7 was right or wrong, but the Palestinians must realize how to invest in their victory, and not lend it to Tehran or others.

Mediators inch

Continued from Page 1

The possible ceasefire deal is being brokered by the United States, Egypt and Qatar, an Arabian Gulf country that mediates with Hamas.

A senior U.S. official said the Biden administration has suggested Israel tie the length of a pause to a certain number of hostages being released in a formula that could be used for additional pauses. All the officials spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of impacting the delicate, ongoing negotiations.

Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen declined to elaborate on any emerging deal in an interview with army radio, saying "I'd recommend not talking about what we've agreed to - it hurts the negotiations."

In latest development, the White House said Israel has agreed to put in place four-hour daily humanitarian pauses in its assault on Hamas in northern Gaza starting on Thursday, as the Biden administration said it has secured a second pathway for civilians to flee fighting.

President Joe Biden had asked Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to institute the daily pauses during a Monday call.

U.S. National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said that the first humanitarian pause would be announced Thursday and that the Israelis had committed to announcing each four-hour window at least three hours in advance.

Biden also told reporters that he had asked the Israelis for a "pause longer than three days" during negotiations over the release of some hostages held by Hamas, though he ruled out the chances of a general cease-fire.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken had warned Israel last week that it risked destroying an eventual possibility for peace unless it acted swiftly to improve humanitarian conditions in Gaza for Palestinian civilians as it intensifies its war against Hamas.

In a blunt call for Israel to pause military operations in the territory to allow for the immediate and increased delivery of assistance, Blinken said the situation would drive Palestinians toward further radicalism and effectively end prospects for any eventual resumption of peace talks to end the conflict.

Elsewhere, Arab Foreign Ministers held Thursday a preparatory meeting for the extraordinary Arab Summit, due in Riyadh on Saturday, with Ku-

wait represented by Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

The top diplomats would discuss means of ending the Israeli occupation's aggression on Gaza Strip, which killed over 10,000 people and injured many more.

The meeting aims at preparing one draft resolution about the Israeli occupation aggression on Gaza and would be submitted to the Arab leaders, Husam Zaki, Arab League Assistant Secretary General, said in a statement.

He said Arab leaders would have a united position regarding the Israeli aggression, and how the Arab countries act to stop it, as well as condemning the Israeli occupation's crimes against the Palestinian people.

Today's meeting was chaired by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan and attended by Arab Foreign Ministers, and Arab League Secretary General Ahmad Abul Gheit.

Meanwhile, Israeli ground forces battled near Gaza's largest hospital, Shifa, where people fleeing the fighting are sheltering alongside patients, according to the hospital's general director, Mohammed Abu Selmia.

The Israeli military says the complex is a Hamas command center and senior militant leaders are hiding there, using the facility as a shield. Hamas and hospital staff say the military is creating a pretext to strike it.

Scores of wounded people were rushed to Shifa overnight, Abu Selmia told The Associated Press on Thursday. "At dawn, a shell landed very close to the hospital, but thank God only a few people had minor injuries," he said.

"The conditions here are disastrous in every sense of the word," he said. "We're short on medicine and equipment, and the doctors and nurses are exhausted. ... We're unable to do much for the patients."

International journalists who entered the north on a tour led by the Israeli military on Wednesday saw heavily damaged buildings, fields of rubble and toppled trees along the Mediterranean shoreline.

The trickle of aid entering Gaza from the south is largely barred from going north, which has been without running water for weeks. The U.N. aid office said all the bakeries there have shut down for lack of fuel, water and flour. Hospitals running low on supplies are performing surgeries without anesthesia.

More than two-thirds of Gaza's population of 2.3 million have fled their homes since the war began, with many heeding Israeli orders to flee to the southern part of the besieged enclave.

But the conditions there are also dire. Israel has continued to strike what it says are militant targets all across the territory. New arrivals from the north are squeezing into homes with extended family, or into U.N. schools-turned-shelters.

The World Health Organization said a lack of clean water and bathing facilities in shelters across Gaza has fueled the spread of infectious diseases, including scabies, lice, chickenpox, skin rash and respiratory illness. It has logged over 33,000 cases of diarrhea since mid-October - more than half

among children under 5.

Still, the exodus from Gaza City and surrounding areas in the north has accelerated in recent days. The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said 50,000 people fled south on Gaza's main highway on Wednesday during a daily, hours-long window announced by the Israeli military.

There are clashes and shelling near the road, and evacuees reported seeing corpses alongside it, the U.N. office said. Most are traveling on foot with only what they can carry, many holding children or pushing older relatives in carts.

The Hamas-run Interior Ministry, which has urged Palestinians to stay in their homes, has told media outlets not to circulate footage of people fleeing.

A month of relentless bombardment in Gaza since the Hamas attack has killed more than 10,500 Palestinians - two-thirds of them women and minors, according to the Health Ministry in the Hamas-run territory. More than 2,300 others are believed to have been buried by strikes that in some cases have demolished entire city blocks.

US launches

Continued from Page 1

chosen - since many of the attacks have happened in Iraq - officials said the U.S. went after storage sites for munitions that could be linked to the strikes on U.S. personnel.

The U.S. has often avoided bombing sites in Iraq in order to lessen the chances of killing Iraqis or angering Iraq's leaders.

While officials have said the strikes are meant to deter further attacks, they have not had that effect. Rocket and drone attacks have occurred almost daily, although in nearly all cases they have resulted in little damage and few injuries.

According to the Pentagon, a total of 45 personnel have been injured and all of those were in attacks on Oct. 17 and 18. Of those, 32 were at al-Tanf garrison in southeastern Syria, with a mix of minor injuries and traumatic brain injuries, and 13 were at al-Asad air base in western Iraq, with four cases of traumatic brain injury and nine of minor injury. One person was injured at Irbil air base in Iraq.

The Pentagon has faced repeated questions about whether deterrence against Iran and its proxies is working because the attacks have only increased.

At the same time, the department has moved a number of air defense systems and other forces into the region to beef up protection for U.S. forces. And on multiple occasions, the systems have intercepted incoming strikes. According to a U.S. official, the number of ships in the Middle East has more than doubled, the number of Patriot air defense missile systems has about tripled, a few more fighter jet squadrons have been added and hundreds of additional troops have been deployed to the region. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss force numbers not yet made public.

Tuesday's Assembly session to discuss grilling against Al-Aiban

MP plans to suspend grilling against justice minister

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: The National Assembly will discuss the following in its regular session scheduled for Tuesday:

■ Grilling motion of MP Hamdan Al-Azmi against Minister of Commerce and Industry and State Minister for Youth Affairs Muhammad Al-Aiban on various issues like the conflict of interests, abuse of power in dealing with fraud crimes, negligence, exposing national security to risks, financial and administrative violations, misleading the State Audit Bureau (SAB) to dodge responsibility, mismanagement of the National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprises, failure to control prices and granting special privileges to some traders;

■ Report of the Committee for Responding to the Amiri speech;

■ Reports of the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee on the proposed amendment of the Civil Service Law issued as per Amiri Decree number 61/1976 and Central Agency for Public Tenders Law number 49/2016, as well as the bill on increasing social allowance;

■ Reports of the Housing Affairs Committee on real estate agencies and regulating the use of vacant plots;

■ Report of the Disabled Affairs Committee on the proposed amendment of Disabled Affairs Law number 8/2010;



Hamdan Al-Azmi



Meteb Al-Raathan

■ Reports of the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee on the proposed amendment of Penal Code number 16/1960 and National Assembly Law number 12/1963;

■ Report of Oil Affairs Committee on the proposed establishment of Kuwait Shareholding Company for Advanced Oil Industries;

■ Report of the Interior and Defense Affairs Committee on the proposed amendment of the Traffic Law.

Meanwhile, MP Meteb Al-Raathan decided to suspend the grilling motion he was planning to file against Minister of Justice and State Minister for Housing Affairs Faleh Al-Raqaba. He disclosed that he met with Al-Raqaba recently, in coordination with Deputy Assembly Speaker Muhammad Al-Mutair, during which the minister promised to address the issues included in the grilling motion; especially the rejection of some public prosecutor ap-

plicants due to their citizenship category. He affirmed that Al-Raqaba is keen on rectifying mistakes, which threaten the national fabric and social unity.

In another development, Assembly Secretary MP Osama Al-Shaheen and three members of Parliamentarians for Quds recently met with five parliamentary blocs at the Turkish Grand National Assembly with Speaker Numan Kurtulmus in attendance. They discussed ways to intensify actions and unify positions to push for ceasefire in Gaza.

The meeting was the initiative of the Parliamentarians for Quds, in which Al-Shaheen occupies an executive position.

The delegation included Parliamentarians for Quds Chairman Yemeni MP Abdullah Al-Ahmar, as well as MPs from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan and members of the Palestinian Legislative Council.

Change in article tied to cash disbursement over 'leave'

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: The Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs, and Acting Chairman of the Civil Service Council Essa Al-Kandari issued a decision to replace Article 2 of Civil Service Council's resolution No. 22/2022 regarding the rules, conditions and controls for entitlement and disbursement of cash allowance for

the balance of periodic leaves during service.

Article 2 of the decision stipulates that the disbursement of the cash allowance for the balance of periodic leave during service requires the availability of controls, and that the disbursement of the cash allowance during service is only for Kuwaitis.

The cash allowance must be disbursed only once every ten years. The results of the last three performance evaluations obtained by the employee before the date of issuance of the de-

cision to disburse the cash allowance must be at least "Very good".

The employee must have spent at least three years in the same government agency after being appointed there or transferred to it, prior to the date of issuance of the decision to disburse the cash allowance.

The employee must not have been subjected to any disciplinary penalty unless it is erased according to the legally prescribed period before the decision to disburse the cash allowance is issued.



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World News Roundup

Europe

Royal pomp planned for SKorea prez visit to UK: King Charles III immersed himself Wednesday in London's vibrant Korean scene before the state visit later this month of South Korean President **Yoon Suk Yeol**.

During the state visit, the South Korean leader and his wife will receive Britain's traditional royal pomp and ceremony as well as commemorating the sacrifice of British soldiers during the Korean War.

Charles and Queen Camilla will formally welcome the president and his wife, Kim Keon Hee, on Nov 21 during a ceremony at Horse Guards Parade in London, where the South Korean leader will inspect a guard of honor, Buckingham Palace said on Wednesday.

The president and first lady will later take part in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Korean War Memorial to mark the 70th anniversary of the end of the war. They will then visit Westminster Abbey, where the president will lay a wreath at the grave of the Unknown Warrior.

During the state visit, the South Korean leader will also address members of both houses of Parliament before attending a state banquet at Buckingham Palace.

Yoon will also attend a business forum on Nov 22, and then hold talks with Prime Minister Rishi Sunak at No. 10 Downing Street.

Before the visit, Charles spent the afternoon in New Malden, southwest London, which is home to one of the largest Korean communities in Europe.

Charles was welcomed to the area by schoolchildren waving Union Jacks and South Korean flags, and he watched a Korean choir sing a traditional song. (AP)



Yoon

Ukraine claims responsibility for killing official: Ukraine's intelligence agency claimed responsibility for a car bombing Wednesday that killed a member of the Russia-backed authority in the illegally annexed Luhansk region.

Mikhail Filipenko was a member of the local legislature and previously served as police chief. He had survived a car bombing on Feb. 21, 2022, three days before Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Local officials announced Filipenko's death. Filipenko had organized and participated in the torture of prisoners of war and civilians, the Main Intelligence Directorate of the Ministry of Defense said on Telegram.

It said that the killing was a warning that "traitors to Ukraine and collaborators with terrorist Russia in temporarily occupied territories ... will receive just retribution! The hunt continues!"

The agency said that members of the resistance movement helped carry out the killing.

Ukraine received good news, meanwhile, on its bid to join the European Union. The EU's executive branch recommended it should be permitted to open membership talks once it's addressed shortfalls that include corruption. (AP)

Ukrainian POWs used to fight homeland: Russia is sending Ukrainian prisoners of war to the front lines of their homeland to fight on Moscow's side in the war, the Russian state news agency RIA Novosti reported.

The news agency said Tuesday the soldiers swore allegiance to Russia when they joined the battalion, which entered service last month.

The Associated Press could not immediately confirm the authenticity of the report or videos released by the news agency, or whether the POWs were coerced into their actions. Both Ukrainian military and human rights officials as well as the Russian Defense Ministry did not immediately respond to requests for comment from the AP.

Experts say such actions would be an apparent violation of the Geneva Conventions relating to the treatment of POWs, which forbids them from being exposed to combat or from working in unhealthy or dangerous conditions - coerced or not.

"Russian authorities might claim they are recruiting them on a voluntary basis but it's hard to imagine a scenario where a prisoner of war's decision could be taken truly voluntarily, given the situation of coercive custody," said Yulia Gorbunova, senior researcher on Ukraine at Human Rights Watch. (AP)

'8 yrs jail term for artist, musician': Russian authorities on Wednesday demanded an eight-year prison term for an artist and musician who was jailed after speaking out against Moscow's war in Ukraine.

Sasha Skochilenko was arrested in her native St. Petersburg in April 2022, on charges of spreading false information about the military after replacing supermarket price tags with anti-war slogans decrying the invasion.

Her arrest took place about a month after authorities adopted a law effectively criminalizing any public expression about the war in Ukraine that deviates from the Kremlin's official line. The legislation has been used in a widespread crackdown on opposition politicians, human rights activists and ordinary Russians critical of the Kremlin, with many receiving lengthy prison terms.

Skochilenko is on trial, and the prosecution delivered closing arguments Wednesday, asking the court to convict her and sentence her to eight years in prison. Independent Russian news site Mediazona cited Skochilenko as saying that she was "in shock" over the severity of the sentence being sought.

The 33-year-old has been held in pre-trial detention for nearly 19 months. She has struggled due to several health problems, including a congenital heart defect, bipolar disorder and celiac disease, requiring a gluten-free diet, her partner, Sofya Subbotina, has told The Associated Press. (AP)

Kosovo setting up an institute: Kosovo is setting up an institute to document Serbia's crimes against its population in the 1998-1999 war, the country's prime minister said Wednesday.

Albin Kurti said the institute would document the war crimes so "the Kosovar Albanians' tragic history suffered at the hands of criminal Serbia is more widely known."

The war between Serbia and Kosovo killed more than 10,000 people, mostly Kosovo Albanians. It ended after a 78-day NATO bombing campaign that compelled Serbian forces to withdraw from Kosovo.

Kosovo declared independence in 2008 - a move Belgrade refuses to recognize.

"Wounds are still fresh," said Kurti, adding that more than 1,600 bodies are still missing. He accused Serbia of burying them in unmarked graves and refusing to share their whereabouts.

Fourteen years after the end of the war, tensions between Kosovo and Serbia remain high, raising fears among Western powers of another conflict as the war in Ukraine rages on. (AP)

Indi's parents lose battle to bring her home: A judge at Britain's High Court ruled Wednesday that life support for a terminally ill 8-month-old baby should be withdrawn in a hospice or hospital, despite efforts by the infant's parents and the Italian government to transport her to Italy for further treatment.

The parents of baby Indi Gregory, who has a rare metabolic disorder known as mitochondrial disease, have fought legal battles in a bid to continue life support for their child. But a judge has ruled that doctors can lawfully limit life-supporting invasive treatment, because continuing with the treatment would not be in the child's best interests.

The legal tussle is the latest in a series of similar cases in Britain that saw doctors and parents spar over the treatment of terminally ill children and the respective rights and responsibilities of parents and medical professionals.

In a written ruling, Justice Robert Peel said he accepted the evidence of medical specialists at the Queen's Medical Center in Nottingham arguing that treatment for Indi should be withdrawn in a hospice or hospital. (AP)



US Republican presidential candidates from left, former New Jersey Gov Chris Christie, former UN Ambassador Nikki Haley, Florida Gov Ron DeSantis, businessman Vivek Ramaswamy and Sen Tim Scott, R-S.C., listen during a Republican presidential primary debate hosted by NBC News on Nov 8, at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County in Miami. In the foreground are moderators Hugh Hewitt, Kristen Welker and Lester Holt. (AP)

Politics

Trump rallies supporters

Foreign policy takes spotlight at GOP debate

WASHINGTON, Nov 9, (AP) - As they face an increasingly urgent task to emerge as a clear alternative to former President Donald Trump, five Republican presidential candidates gathered Wednesday for the party's latest debate.

Trump, the overwhelming front-runner in the race, skipped the event, as he has the first two, citing his polling advantage. There was no shortage of noteworthy confrontations on stage, as the participants debated the Israel-Hamas war, the future of abortion rights and Trump himself.

But with the Jan. 15 Iowa caucuses approaching, it seemed unlikely that the debate fundamentally changed the presidential nomination fight.

Wednesday marked the first time the presidential candidates gathered on a debate stage since war broke out between Israel and Hamas, resulting in a sharper foreign policy conversation compared to previous forums.

The contenders were unified in offering robust support for Israel and bemoaned antisemitism, especially on liberal college campuses. But they said virtually nothing about protecting Palestinian civilians in Gaza.

Exchanges

The GOP's familiar foreign policy split, however, resurfaced when the exchanges veered into the war in Ukraine, the possibility of China confronting Taiwan and how to handle Venezuela's oil market.

Former United Nations Ambassador Nikki Haley, South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott and former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie all sounded traditional GOP notes, backing military aid to Ukraine, calling for vastly increased investment in the military and linking all the global conflicts.

Biotech entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy tried to set himself apart, claiming the rest of the stage was part of a bipartisan foreign policy establishment that blundered into repeated disasters in foreign wars. A longtime critic of aid to Ukraine, he followed up his condemnation of antisemitism by calling that country's Jewish president "a Nazi."

Ivanka Trump denies involvement in her dad's 'financial statements'

NEW YORK, Nov 9, (AP) - Ivanka Trump didn't want to testify. But on the stand Wednesday in her father's civil fraud trial, she took the opportunity to contend the family business has "overdelivered," even as she kept her distance from financial documents that New York state says were fraudulent.

Former President Donald Trump's elder daughter capped a major stretch in the lawsuit that could reshape his real estate empire. She followed her father and her brothers Eric and Donald Trump Jr. to the witness stand, and the New York attorney general's office rested its case after her testimony. The defense gets its turn now.

Ivanka Trump has been in her father's inner circle in both business and politics, as an executive vice president at the family's Trump Organization and then as a senior White House adviser. But she testified that she had no role in his personal financial statements, which New York Attorney General Letitia

James claims were fraudulently inflated and deceived banks and lenders.

"Those were not things that I was privy to," beyond having seen "a few documents and correspondence" that referred to them, Ivanka Trump said.

The ex-president and Republican 2024 front-runner denies any wrongdoing. He insisted in court Monday that his financial statements actually greatly underestimated his net worth, that any discrepancies were minor, that a disclaimer absolved him of liability anyway and that "this case is a disgrace."

In even-tempered testimony that provided a counterpoint to her father's caustic turn on the stand, Ivanka Trump touched on some of the same notes that the ex-president has hammered inside court and out - portraying the Trump Organization as a successful developer of big-dollar projects that satisfied its lenders.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis seemed like he was straddling the divide. At one point, he dodged a question about Ukraine and China by talking about boosting security on the southern border and suggesting he'd deport immigrants from the Middle East.

The candidates all talked tough. But the party divide over the Ukraine war ran subtly through the night and it's not clear they'd each act the same should they actually make it to the Oval Office.

All of the candidates are trying to overtake Trump, who is the dominant front-runner in the primary. But for the most part, they've spent the primary campaign avoiding any opportunity to take on the former president.

Meanwhile, Trump's debate counter-programming tour continued Wednesday

in South Florida before a friendly crowd about a half-hour's drive from where his rivals for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination were engaged in their third debate.

Trump's event was intended to upstage the other candidates, continuing a practice he has pursued now through three GOP debates. He has cited his commanding lead in the polls as the reason he hasn't been participating directly, but he has looked for ways to draw attention to himself with distinctive, simultaneous events.

Wednesday's rally was an opportunity to showcase support among Latino voters in the Miami suburb of Hialeah, a community with a strong Cuban-American population where Trump remains popular enough that a City Council candidate used his image on campaign signs.



Sasha Skochilenko, a 33-year-old artist and musician, walks escorted by officers to the court room for a hearing in Vasileostrovsky district court in St Petersburg, Russia, on Oct 19. Skochilenko was arrested in April 2022 on the charges of spreading false information about the army after replacing supermarket price tags with ones decrying what the Kremlin insists on calling a 'special military operation' in Ukraine. (AP)



Carnahan



Olivarez

America

Maryland new FBI HQ: The Biden administration has chosen a location for the new FBI headquarters in Maryland, the General Services Administration confirmed Wednesday, as the suburban Washington location was selected over nearby Virginia following a sharp competition between the two states.

The site is planned for Greenbelt, about 13 miles (20 kilometers) northeast of Washington.

"GSA looks forward to building the FBI a state-of-the-art headquarters campus in Greenbelt to advance their critical mission for years to come," **Robin Carnahan**, the GSA administrator, said. "Thank you to everyone at GSA, DOJ, FBI, Congress, and others who helped reach this important milestone after a comprehensive, multi-year effort."

The GSA also noted that Greenbelt was determined to be the best site because it came at the lowest cost to taxpayers, provided the greatest transportation access to FBI employees and visitors, and gave the government the most certainty on a project delivery schedule. (AP)

Jury finds man not guilty: A federal jury on Wednesday found a man not guilty of assaulting a woman at a US research station in Antarctica in a case that drew attention amid reports of harassment and assault at the station.

Stephen Tyler Bieneman pulled tissues from a box on the defense table and cried as each juror was polled and said they found him not guilty of misdemeanor assault in connection with an incident last November at McMurdo Station. Jurors deliberated for 1-1/2 hours after a day in which Bieneman testified that he didn't initiate the incident or harm the woman.

The verdict came amid increased scrutiny of McMurdo. An Associated Press investigation in August uncovered a pattern of women at McMurdo who said their claims of sexual harassment or assault were minimized by their employers, often leading to them or others being put in further danger. Last week, the watchdog office overseeing the National

Science Foundation said it was sending investigators to McMurdo as it expands its investigative mission to include alleged crimes such as sexual assault and stalking. (AP)

Eight dead in crash: Eight people died



Britain's King Charles III arrives at the New Malden Methodist Church and speaks with Korean Ambassador to the UK, His Excellency Yeocheol Yoon and members of the community groups to hear about Korea's culture and cuisine in New Malden, England on Nov 8. (AP)

Wednesday when the driver of a car suspected of carrying smuggled migrants fled police and smashed into an oncoming vehicle on a South Texas highway.

The crash happened around 6:30 am when the driver of a 2009 Honda Civic tried

to outrun deputies from the Zavala County Sheriff's Office and attempted to pass a semi truck, the state Department of Public Safety said. The Civic collided with a 2015 Chevrolet Equinox, which caught fire.

Everyone in both vehicles was killed, according to DPS. That includes the 21-year-old driver of the Civic, who was from Houston, and his five passengers. Some of the passengers were from Honduras, department spokesman **Christopher Olivarez** said in a statement. The two people in the Equinox were from Georgia. (AP)

Funeral home owners arrested: The owners of a Colorado funeral home were arrested Wednesday in Oklahoma on charges linked to the discovery of 190 sets of decaying remains at one of their facilities, including some that apparently had been languishing there for four years.

Investigators entered the Return to Nature Funeral Home building in the Rocky Mountain town of Penrose in early October to find "abhorrent" conditions with dozens of stacked bodies, according to a federal affidavit that's under seal in Colorado but available in Oklahoma.

Some bodies had 2019 death dates, according to the document. "Law enforcement now knows the cremains each family was given could not have been their loved one," reads the documents alleging funeral home owners Jon and Carrie Hallford had fled Colorado to avoid prosecution. (AP)

Lat/Am

'Bank heist inside job'

Angolan king visits Brazil's 'quilombo'

RIO DE JANEIRO, Nov 9, (AP): Residents danced and chanted Wednesday in a community descended from runaway slaves in Rio de Janeiro as they welcomed the visiting monarch of the Bailundo kingdom in Angola where many of the residents trace their ancestry.

King Tchongolola Tchongonga Ekuikui VI visited the community of Camorim as part of a trip to Brazil that began three weeks ago. Camorim dates back to 1614 when it would have been forested land and is Rio's oldest "quilombo," or community descended from escaped slaves. Nearly 100 people live there today, maintaining their traditional religion and medicinal plants.

"This visit has been on the agenda for a long time," the king told the crowd. "Our ancestors told us: 'Go, because there you will find your brothers.'"



Ekuikui VI

King Ekuikui VI arrived in a traditional black-and-white robe and hat, both featuring his kingdom's emblematic eagle. He is his nation's most important king, representing the largest Angolan ethnic group. While Bailundo is a non-sovereign kingdom, he holds political importance and is regularly consulted by Angolan authorities.

Residents of Camorim received him with traditional drums, chants and dances, and they served him feijoada, a typical Brazilian dish made of black beans and rice that some say slaves created. "The people here in this quilombo are from Angola," said resident Rosilane Almeida, 36. "It's a bit like if we were celebrating to welcome a relative that came from afar."

Trace

On Tuesday, the king visited Rio's Valongo Wharf, a UNESCO world heritage site where as many as 900,000 slaves made landfall after crossing the Atlantic Ocean, and which the international organization considers "the most important physical trace of the arrival of African slaves on the American continent."

Of the 10.5 million Africans who were captured, more than a third disembarked in Brazil, according to the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database. Some experts place that number higher, saying as many as 5 million Africans landed in the country.

And Brazil was the last country in the Western Hemisphere to abolish slavery in 1888. The communities of formerly enslaved people persisted, but it was not until a century later that a new constitution recognized their right to the lands they occupied.

Brazil's most-recent census of 2022 found quilombos in almost 1,700 municipalities; they are home to 1.3 million people, or about 0.6% of the country's population.

Almeida, the Camorim resident, said she was looking to hearing how her community's culture compares to that of their root country. She and others showed King Ekuikui VI the quilombo's archeological site, where centuries-old ceramics are still being excavated, and its garden of medicinal plants.

"I look to the south, I look to the north, and at the end of the day we are not lost," he told them. "We are here, and there are a lot of people who look majestic."

Also:

MEXICO CITY: About 3,000 migrants from Central America, Venezuela, Cuba and Haiti on Wednesday blocked traffic on one of Mexico's main southern highways to demand transit or exit visas to reach the U.S. border.

The caravan of migrants set out on foot from the city of Tapachula, near the Guatemalan border, on Oct 30, walking north toward the US.

The contingent, including many women and children, later stopped walking at Huixtla, another town in the southern state of Chiapas, where they tried to get temporary travel documents to cross Mexico.

On Wednesday, the migrants blocked highway inspection booths just outside Huixtla.

Activist Irineo Mújica, one of the organizers of the march, said the blockade would continue, because migrants are afraid of criminals, smugglers and extortionists who could prey on them if they continue walking. Many migrants would also prefer to take buses, but are often prevented from doing so if they don't have papers.

"We know we are causing discomfort for Mexicans, and we apologize," Mújica said. "But the drug cartels are kidnapping us, killing us."

Honduran migrant Herson Fernández was traveling with his wife and three children; sobbing, he said they had run out of money.

"They (authorities) won't give us an answer, they won't give us documents," Fernández said. "The idea is to get to the United States because there is a better future for the children, the truth is that we are doing it for them."

But the Mexican government's Refugee Aid Commission issued a statement late Tuesday pointing out that it does not issue transit visas.

The current caravan was among the largest since June 2022. Migrant caravans in 2018 and 2019 drew far greater attention. But with as many as 10,000 migrants showing up at the U.S. border in recent weeks, the Oct. 30 march is now just a drop in the bucket.

In the past Mexico's tactic was largely to wait for the marchers to get tired, and then offer them rides back to their home countries or to smaller, alternative processing centers.

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica: Little by little an employee of Costa Rica's National Bank took advantage of a surveillance blindspot to slip more than \$6 million worth of currency into envelopes and casually walk out of the country's largest bank, authorities said Wednesday.

First announced last month, it was the largest bank heist in the country's history. Police carried out 11 raids and arrested eight bank officials Wednesday.

The 3.3 billion colon (US\$6.1 million) robbery that apparently went unnoticed and unreported for weeks caused much finger-pointing in the Central American nation.

There were no lack of distressing details. For example, while one employee, a treasurer, took the cash out of the bank, several others allegedly covered it up. Authorities are still trying to determine if they were in on the robbery or just didn't want to take the blame when it was discovered the money was missing.

Also, the last physical accounting of the bank's cash was made in 2019. And investigators are looking into whether the bank's legal director issued an order to delay a report about the missing money.

But perhaps most likely to cause head shaking bemusement was the allegation that one of those involved suddenly began spending as much as \$6,000 a day on lottery tickets.



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken (left), meets with South Korean Foreign Minister Park Jin at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Seoul, South Korea on Nov 9. (AP)

Diplomacy

Putin calls for closer Russia-China cooperation on military sats

US, South Korea close ranks on global issues

SEOUL, South Korea, Nov 9, (AP): The United States and South Korea closed ranks behind common approaches to North Korea, Russia and China on Thursday, vowing to continue to support Ukraine against Russia's invasion and boosting humanitarian aid to Palestinian civilians in Gaza caught in Israel's war against Hamas.

In talks with South Korea's leadership, including President Yoon Suk Yeol, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken discussed the growing threat posed by North Korea and its alleged provision of military equipment and munitions to Russia to help it wage war on Ukraine, the State Department said. They also spoke of the importance of US-South Korea cooperation on global challenges, including China's assertiveness and the instability in the Middle East.

"They shared concerns about the DPRK's provocations in the region and strongly condemned the provision of military equipment and munitions by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the Russian Federation for use in its war against Ukraine," the State Department said of Blinken's meeting with Yoon, referring to North Korea by its formal name. The Blinken-Yoon meeting also covered improving relations between South Korea and Japan as well as the importance of three-way cooperation between Washington, Tokyo and Seoul, the State Department said.

Intensify

At a news conference later with South Korean Foreign Minister Park Jin, Blinken said they discussed unspecified further actions the countries could take to intensify pressure on Moscow not to transfer military technology to North Korea in violation of multiple U.N. Security Council resolutions.

North Korea has been supplying artillery shells and other munitions to Russia in recent months to fuel its war efforts in Ukraine, US and South Korean officials have said, and they suspect that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un could be seeking Russian technologies and other assistance in return to upgrade his own military.

"We're seeing a two-way street. We're seeing the DPRK provide military equipment to Russia for its

brutal aggression against Ukraine but we're also seeing Russia provide technological support to the DPRK for its own military programs and that's a real concern for the security of Korea," Blinken said.

Blinken also criticized North Korea's ramped up missile testing activity in recent months, which included events it characterized as simulated attacks on South Korea involving tactical nuclear weapons, saying the North is "increasingly engaged in threatening irresponsible rhetoric."

"We've seen the DPRK missile launches, pursue weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile capabilities all of which are in violent violation of multiple U.N. Security Council resolutions. They're also dangerous and destabilizing," he said.

Behavior

Park urged China - North Korea's main ally and economic lifeline - to take a greater role to pull the North back from destabilizing behavior, saying that the potential arms alignment between Moscow and Pyongyang would go against Beijing's interests.

He also addressed concerns that North Korea could consider providing weapons and other assistance to Hamas, a possibility that has been raised by South Korean officials in recent weeks.

North Korea, which has blamed the United States for the violence in Israel and Gaza, has a history of selling weapons to Hamas. South Korea's military told reporters last month that North Korean-made rocket-propelled grenades and other weapons were likely used by Hamas during their Oct 7 assault on Israel.

During a closed-door briefing to lawmakers last week, South Korea's main spy agency said it believes that Kim, the North Korean leader, instructed officials to "comprehensively support" the Palestinians and that the North could be considering selling weapons to militant groups in the Middle East, according to Yoo Sang-bum, one of the lawmakers who attended.

"If any relationship between North Korea and Hamas is revealed then North Korea should be condemned accordingly," Park said. "This crisis that is unfolding in the Middle East is related potentially to the situation

on the Korean Peninsula."

Also:

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin told a senior Chinese military official Wednesday that Moscow and Beijing should expand their cooperation on military satellites and other prospective defense technologies - a statement that signaled increasingly close defense links between the allies.

Putin spoke in televised remarks at the start of his meeting with Gen. Zhang Youxia, who is China's second-ranking military official and vice chairman of the Central Military Commission. The Russian leader emphasized the importance of developing closer military links, noting that cooperation in high-tech spheres now takes priority.

"I mean space, including high-orbit assets, and new prospective types of weapons that will ensure strategic security of both Russia and the People's Republic of China," Putin said without elaboration.

He emphasized that while "Russia and China aren't building any military alliances based on Cold War patterns," their cooperation is a "serious factor in stabilizing the international situation."

Putin has previously said that Russia has been sharing highly sensitive military technologies with China that helped significantly bolster its defense capability.

In October 2019, he mentioned that Russia was helping China to develop an early warning system to spot ballistic missile launches - a system involving ground-based radar and satellites that only Russia and the US had.

Beijing declared last year that it had a "no-limits" friendship with Russia. China has denounced Western sanctions against Moscow, and accused NATO and the United States of provoking Russia's military action in Ukraine even as it tried to project itself as neutral in the Ukrainian conflict.

Russia, in turn, has continuously voiced support for Beijing on issues related to Taiwan.

Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping have developed strong personal ties to bolster a "strategic partnership" between the former Communist rivals as they both face soaring tensions with the West.



This photo provided by the South Korea Gyeongsangnam-do Fire Department shows the interior of a vegetable packaging plant after a robot's deadly crush with a worker was reported, in Goseong, South Korea on Nov 8. (AP)



Albanese



Plate

Asia

Robot crushed worker to death: An industrial robot grabbed and crushed a worker to death at a vegetable packaging plant in South Korea, police said Thursday, as they investigated whether the machine was defective or improperly designed.

Police said early evidence suggests that human error was more likely to blame rather than problems with the machine itself. But the incident still triggered public concern about the safety of industrial robots and the false sense of security they may give to humans working nearby in a country that increasingly relies on such machines to automate its industries.

Police in the southern county of Goseong said the man died of head and chest injuries Tuesday evening after he was snatched and pressed against a conveyor belt by the machine's robotic arms.

Police did not identify the man but said he was an employee of a company that installs industrial robots and was sent to the plant to examine whether the machine was working properly.

South Korea has had other accidents involving industrial robots in recent years. In March, a manufacturing robot crushed and seriously injured a worker who was examining it at an auto parts factory in Gunsan. Last year, a robot installed near a conveyor belt fatally crushed a worker at a milk factory in Pyeongtaek. (AP)

Ex-min gets 15 years for graft: Indonesia's anti-graft court on Wednesday sentenced a former Cabinet minister to 15 years in prison after finding him guilty of corruption linked to the construction of mobile phone transmission towers in remote parts of the country.

Johnny G. Plate, former communication and information technology minister, was arrested in May after being questioned as part of an investigation by the attorney general's office in Jakarta. He was detained with five other suspects, including three from the private sector, after some 60 people were questioned about the procurement process.

The court also ordered Plate to pay a fine of 1 billion rupiah (\$63,765) - or spend an additional six months in prison - and to also reimburse the state for losses of 15.5 billion rupiah (\$988). (AP)

New island emerges: An undersea volcano erupted off Japan three weeks ago, providing a rare view of the birth of a tiny new island, but experts say it may not last very long.

The unnamed undersea volcano, located about 1 kilometer (half a mile) off the southern coast of Iwo Jima, which Japan calls Ioto, started its latest series of eruptions on Oct 21.

Within 10 days, volcanic ash and rocks piled up on the shallow seabed, its tip rising

above the sea surface. By early November, it became a new island about 100 meters (328 feet) in diameter and as high as 20 meters (66 feet) above the sea, according to

Yuji Usui, an analyst in the Japan Meteorological Agency's volcanic division.

Volcanic activity has increased near Iwo Jima and similar undersea eruptions have

occurred in recent years, but the formation of a new island is a significant development, Usui said.

Volcanic activity at the site has since subsided, and the newly formed island has somewhat shrunk because its "crumbly" formation is easily washed away by waves, Usui said. (AP)

South Pacific leaders to meet: South Pacific leaders are heading to the stunning beautiful island of Aitutaki to discuss climate change and other regional concerns.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese was among the leaders who traveled to the Cook Islands this week for the annual Pacific Islands Forum. The forum culminates in a leaders' retreat Friday on Aitutaki, renowned for its picturesque lagoon.

Among other Pacific concerns is the release of treated radioactive wastewater from a nuclear power plant in Japan that was crippled by a 2011 tsunami.

Albanese told reporters that Australia had gotten a positive reception in a region where climate change looms as an existential threat for many low-lying islands.

"There's a recognition that my government is committed to climate action and that we're playing a positive role, not just with our commitment to reduce our emissions by 43% by 2030 and to reach net zero by 2050, but that, importantly, we are playing a role in the region, and indeed, around the globe," Albanese said. (AP)



In this photo released by Russian Defense Ministry Press Service, Gen Zhang Youxia, vice chairman of China's Central Military Commission (right), and Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu (center), attend an official welcome ceremony prior to their talks in Moscow, Russia on Nov 8. (AP)

Company joins Kuwait Dive Team's beach cleanup campaign for schoolchildren

Zain's initiative fosters environmental awareness and action



From the campaign's kick-off.



Al Khashti, Al Fadhel, and Al Ansari at the press conference.



Initiative aims to foster positive change.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: Under its strategic partnership with the Kuwait Dive Team, and in a step to foster more environmental awareness and action, Zain has joined the team's recently launched 9th beach cleanup campaign. The weekly initiative targets schoolchildren from the elementary and middle school levels, and is held in partnership with the Youth Public Authority.

The company recently participated in a press conference to announce the campaign's kick-off, attended by Zain Kuwait Chief Corporate Affairs and Relations Officer Waleed Al Khashti, Kuwait Dive Team Director Waleed Al Fadhel, and Volunteer Work Department Manager at the Youth Public Authority Waleed Al Ansari.

Zain was present at the campaign's debut session at Sulaibikhat beach, joined by enthusiastic girls from a local elementary school. Before the cleanup, the girls were introduced to the Kuwait Dive Team's mission, goals, and achievements, then shown an outline of the day's plan. The productive session was supervised by the school's teachers, Kuwait Dive Team's members, and Zain's team.

This campaign continues weekly and is joined by hundreds of schoolchildren who are eager to make positive change. It aims to introduce young people to volunteer work from an early age, while fostering a sense of environmental sustainability through action. The campaign covers key local beaches, and is joined by companies, nonprofits,

and government agencies.

This initiative falls under Zain's long-term strategic partnership with the Kuwait Dive Team, which continues this year for over 25 years. As part of this partnership, the company recently presented a fully equipped boat to aid the team's marine protection operations in Kuwait. This was the fourth boat presented by Zain to the team during their partnership that started back in 1997.

Zain's boat is used by the team's volunteers to run and maintain hundreds of marine protection missions, resulting in the removal of thousands of tons of harmful waste, and the protection of tens of thousands of sea creatures.

Operations conducted using the boat include installing and maintaining marine cleats, removing discarded fishing nets, debris, and other harmful waste, and protecting sea creatures, shipping lanes, and coasts from pollution. The boat is also used to monitor coral reefs, preserve and rehabilitate coastlines, and document Kuwait's rich marine environment.

Zain puts environmental sustainability at the forefront of its priorities. The company's social message seeks to create a culture of sustainability within the community by advocating practices like reducing consumption, recycling, using renewable sources of energy, preserving the marine environment, and more.

How your brain stores, retrieves words

Your mental dictionary part of what makes you 'unique'

By Nichol Castro
University at Buffalo

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

The days of having a dictionary on your bookshelf are numbered. But that's OK, because everyone already walks around with a dictionary - not the one on your phone, but the one in your head.

Just like a physical dictionary, your mental dictionary contains information about words. This includes the letters, sounds and meaning, or semantics, of words, as well as information about parts of speech and how you can fit words together to form grammatical sentences. Your mental dictionary is also like a thesaurus. It can help you connect words and see how they might be similar in meaning, sound or spelling.

As a researcher who studies word retrieval, or how you quickly and accurately pull words out of your memory to communicate, I'm intrigued by how words are organized in our mental dictionaries. Everyone's mental dictionary is a little bit different. And I'm even more intrigued by how we can restore the content of our mental dictionaries or improve our use of them, particularly for those who have language disorders.

Language is part of what makes humans special, and I believe everyone deserves the chance to use their words with others.

While a physical dictionary is helpful for shared knowledge, your personal mental dictionary is customized based on your individual experiences. What words are in my mental dictionary might overlap with the mental dictionary of someone else who also speaks the same language, but there will also be a lot of differences between the content of our dictionaries.

You add words to your mental dictionary through your educational, occupational, cultural and other life experiences. This customization also means that the size of mental dictionaries is a little bit different from person to person and varies by age. Researchers found that the average 20-year-old American English speaker knows about 42,000 unique words, and this number grows to about 48,000 by age 60. Some people will have even larger vocabularies.

By now, you might be envisioning your mental dictionary as a book with pages of words in alphabetical order you can flip through as needed. While this visual analogy is helpful, there is a lot of debate about how mental dictionaries are organized. Many scholars agree that it's probably not like an alphabetized book.

One widely rejected theory, the grandmother cell theory, suggests that each concept is encoded by a single neuron. This implies that you would have a neuron for every word that you know, including "grandmother."

While not accepted as accurate, the aspect of the grandmother cell theory suggesting that certain parts of the brain are more important for some types of information than others is likely true. For example, the left temporal lobe on the side of your brain has many regions that are important for language processing, including word retrieval and production. Rather than a single neuron re-

sponsible for processing a concept, a model called parallel distributed processing proposes that large networks of neurons across the brain work together to bring about word knowledge when they fire together.

For example, when I say the word "dog," there are lots of different aspects of the word that your brain is retrieving, even if unconsciously. You might be thinking about what a dog smells like after being out in the rain, what a dog sounds like when it barks, or what a dog feels like when you pet it. You might be thinking about a specific dog you grew up with, or you might have a variety of emotions about dogs based on your past experiences with them. All of these different features of "dog" are processed in slightly different parts of your brain.

One reason why your mental dictionary can't be like a physical dictionary is that it is dynamic and quickly accessed.

Your brain's ability to retrieve a word is very fast. In one study, researchers mapped the time course of word retrieval among 24 college students by recording their brain activity while they named pictures. They found evidence that participants selected words within 200 milliseconds of seeing the image. After word selection, their brain continued to process information about that word, like what sounds are needed to say that chosen word and ignoring related words. This is why you can retrieve words with such speed in real-time conversations, often so quickly that you give little conscious attention to that process.

Until... you have a breakdown in word retrieval. One common failure in word retrieval is called the tip-of-the-tongue phenomenon. It's the feeling when you know what word you want to use but are unable to find it in that moment. You might even know specific details about the word you want, like other words with similar meaning or maybe the first letter or sound of that word. With enough time, the word you wanted might pop into your mind.

These tip-of-the-tongue experiences are a normal part of human language experience across the life span, and they increase as you grow older. One proposed reason for this increase is that they're due to an age-related disruption in the ability to turn on the right sounds needed to say the selected word.

For some people, though, tip-of-the-tongue experiences and other speech errors can be quite impairing.

This is commonly seen in aphasia, a language disorder that often occurs after injury to the language centers of the brain, such as stroke, or neurodegeneration, such as dementia. People with aphasia often have difficulty with word retrieval.

Fortunately, there are treatments available that can help someone improve their word retrieval abilities. For example, semantic feature analysis focuses on strengthening the semantic relationships between words. There are also treatments like phonomotor treatment that focus on strengthening the selection and production of speech sounds needed for word production. There are even apps that remotely provide word retrieval therapy on phones or computers.

The next time you have a conversation with someone, take a moment to reflect on why you chose the specific words you did. Remember that the words you use and the mental dictionary you have are part of what make you and your voice unique. (AP)

Collaboration aims to engage a larger youth audience in Kuwait

AIU's Film Festival returns in partnership with Cinescape

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: After a very successful event just last year, the AIU Film Festival returns to the American International University campus in Kuwait from November 5 to November 11, and it promises to be a cinematic extravaganza once again, full of excitement and creative energy. The countdown has certainly begun for film enthusiasts as they gear up for an immersive experience which is not only a showcase of films, but a celebration of storytelling, visual artistry and the magic of the silver screen.

This event is bigger, better and even more captivating than its predecessor, which was a very successful inaugural event last year. This year includes seasoned professionals who will take part in the screenings, workshops, and lectures until November 9.

Cinescape has joined efforts with AIU as a strategic partner in the Film Festival, helping to enhance the festival's scope and reach by hosting screenings at their venues in Assimah Mall and 360 Mall. This collaboration aims to engage a larger youth audience in Kuwait. Cinescape's experts will also serve as speakers, sharing valuable industry insights to elevate the festival's quality and reach. In addition to Cinescape, AIU have also partnered with several esteemed sponsors - Debenhams, Weyay and Ali Alghanim & Sons - who have all generously supported the festival and demonstrated their commitment to the promotion of culture and arts, within Kuwait and beyond.

The speakers include award-winning Director, Dr. Zeyad (Z) Alhusaini, Deputy General Manager of Programs and Marketing at the Kuwait National Cinema Company, Ghaila Hayat, Director at the Bustop Creative Agency, Tarek



Speakers at the AIU Film Festival.

Jammal, Director of Photography at Ethos, Aida Alzanki, Director Maryam Alabbad, Screenwriter Mohammed Al-Mayahi, and Executive Director Maryam Faisal AlOmani. It also includes Creative Director, Costume and Set Designer Fay Faisal Al-Homoud, Producer, Director and Musician, Sayood and Co-Founder of Sinbad Pictures, Faisal Al Agel.

The first four days of the Festival are bound to be exciting with lectures that are sure to keep everyone excited and on the edge of their seats. It begins with Dr. Zeyad (Z) Alhusaini as he speaks about his popular film, 'How I Got There' and the process he went through from script to film on November 5. If you're interested in how producing a film works and all the intricacies of it, then make sure to take part in Faisal Al Agel's

lecture, "How to Produce a Film" taking place on November 6.

The next day is bound to be busy with two lectures as Aida Al Zanki takes the stage to give tips on "How to Get Into the Industry" before Mohammed Al Matahi speaks about "The Art of Storytelling". November 8 will also see two speakers as Tarek Jammal talks about "Framing the Emotions" while Maryam Al Abbad tackles a critical topic focused on "Women in the Industry". Last but not certainly not least is Sayood and he speaks about what made him the person he is today with the "Art of Animation".

Throughout the festival week, the AIU Film Festival will of course, be showing screenings of films daily from 9:30-10:30 AM and from 12:30-1:30 PM. "The Moon Follows Me", "Night",

"Aalish", "Traffic", "The Mist" and many more captivating films await the screen, so be sure to join in, immerse yourself, and actively engage in the full experience.

This year's film festival received an overwhelming response from filmmakers worldwide, with over 3,000 films submitted from over 114 countries. The selection process was rigorous, resulting in the showcasing of over 40 outstanding films that will be shown throughout the festival, which encompasses a wide spectrum of genres and styles, promising to captivate audiences and spark meaningful conversations.

What makes this festival particularly thrilling is the convergence of emerging talents and seasoned veterans all under one roof to exchange ideas, learn, and find various ways to grow. The screenings are not just about watching a film, it's a shared exploration of the art form and the different ways storytelling can be effective.

The festival is planned to be concluded with an Award Ceremony taking place on November 11 to close the curtains on an educational, fun and engaging week.

The AIU Film Festival is one that no one should miss as it promises to be a hub of artistic exchange, workshops, discussions and interactive sessions that delve deeply into the intricacies of filmmaking. It's an opportunity for attendees to deepen their understanding of the craft, learn from established professionals, and perhaps even discover the spark that ignites their own creative journey.

For more information, please visit the official festival website www.aiu.edu.kw/film-festival, or follow AIU on social media @aiu_kw for updates and highlights. Be part of a cinematic celebration that promises to be bigger, bolder, and more inspiring than ever before.



Photos (AP) during the AIU Film Festival.

IMA Ladies Wing to hold Online Webinar on Cancer Awareness

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: Indian Muslim Association Ladies Wing In coordination with Indian Doctors Forum, Kuwait invite All to Online Webinar on Cancer Awareness focusing on Cervical and Breast Cancer. This informative and engaging event is designed to shed light on this critical aspect of women's health and promote early detection and prevention.

Webinar Highlights:

■ Insights from leading expert in the field

■ Tips for early detection and self-examinations

■ Q&A session to address your queries

11-Nov-2023
3:00PM (Kwt Timings)
Platform: Online Webinar
Zoom ID: 811 0769 0190 Password: 473059

Zoom Link: <http://bit.ly/3QDhlyi>

Don't miss the opportunity to learn from Expert, Ask Questions & Gain valuable insights into cancer prevention and early intervention. Together, we can make a difference in the fight against cancer.

Feel free to share this with your



IMA LW Webinar-Cancer Awareness poster.

friends and family. Let's prioritize our health together.

For further details and queries, please refer attached flyer
Visit: www.imakuwait.org

oil down

The price of Kuwaiti oil barrel dropped USD 2.24 to reach USD 85.83 per barrel (pb) on Wednesday, compared with USD 88.07 pb on Tuesday, reported Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Thursday.

In international markets, Brent crude oil went up USD 2.07 to USD 79.54 pb, while West Texas Intermediate dropped USD 2.04 to stand at USD 75.33 pb. (KUNA)

Dubai launches \$136 mln VC fund designed to finance technology startups

Under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, the Dubai Integrated Economic Zones Authority (DIEZ) announced the launch of a venture capital (VC) fund worth US\$136 million.

Launched in the presence of His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Second Deputy Ruler of Dubai, the fund is designed to finance technology startups and supports the economic objectives outlined in the Dubai

Economic Agenda, D33 by promoting SMEs growth in various emerging sectors.

The new fund was launched on the sidelines of the Dubai Business Forum, which was organised by Dubai Chambers under the patronage of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. The fund is the first investment programme launched under the name of Oraseya Capital, the venture capital arm of DIEZ specialising in venture investment operations in startups. It will play a pivotal role in supporting startups from the pre-seed stage, and extending all the way

to the Series B investment stage.

The launch of Oraseya Capital and the creation of a US\$136 million VC fund for technology startups represents a strategic move that aligns with the directives of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum to support the growth of the Dubai's digital economy sector.

H.H. added: "This qualitative strategic initiative supports the efforts of DIEZ to enhance its contribution to Dubai's economy and the growth of the SME sector, which is a vital segment of the economy and serves

the overarching goal of achieving comprehensive and sustainable development. This will ensure the continued sustainability and progress of Dubai's economy in the decades to come."

"The establishment of this VC fund serves as a major boost for accomplished companies looking to build a global presence. It will play a pivotal role in strengthening Dubai's status as a nurturing ground for the most innovative, advanced and creative enterprises worldwide," H.H. concluded. (BusinessWire)

Market Movements

09-11-2023

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts
JAPAN - Nikkei	+479.98	32,646.46	SAUDI - Tadawul	-88.00	10,840.76
EGYPT - EGX 30	+326.36	24,312.92	UAE - DFM	-35.80	3,929.41
PHILIPPINES - PSEI	+33.19	6,188.22			

Business

'Market faces challenges amid high valuations & funding costs'

Kuwait real estate market remains subdued in Q3, with hints of stabilization

By National Bank of Kuwait

Real estate activity remained muted in Q3, amid elevated residential valuations and higher borrowing costs, though sales did log their first quarterly increase since the final quarter of last year. Price increases in general have slowed over the last year, even turning slightly negative year-on-year in Q3 for the first time since 2018. More stable sales in the past two quarters suggest market activity may be bottoming out, though any pick-up going forward is unlikely to be a vigorous one. The prospects for a stronger 2024 would improve in the event that policymakers prioritize implementation of already-tabled housing initiatives.

Real estate sales saw a small uptick in Q3 2023, coming in at KD678 million (+0.9% q/q), helped by an increase in investment sales (+6.1% q/q), while residential sales continued to decline, albeit at a moderating pace (-0.9% q/q). (Chart 1.) On a year-on-year (y/y) basis, real estate sales were still down 16.3%, but the pace of decline has slowed across all segments. Continued subdued sales activity reflects high valuations in the residential sector and higher funding costs—growth in installment (i.e. home) loans to individuals and loans to property firms has slowed sharply this year. Activity has also been weighed down by investment shifts driven by higher interest rates and the uncertain pace of housing sector reforms and initiatives to improve the residency law and the supply of housing (outstanding housing applications reached 91K in September), for example.

Residential sales continued to trend lower at KD354 million in Q3 2023 (-0.9% q/q; -18.4% y/y), declining for a third consecutive quarter, though the rate of decline appears to be easing. (Chart 2.) Residential sector demand has been subdued amid high house prices and more circumspect purchaser appetite against a backdrop of higher borrowing costs. On the supply side of the market, there have been further housing distributions by the Public Authority for Housing Welfare. This includes distributions in the South Saad Al-Abdullah city, comprising 24,509 housing units (22,153 residential plots), with a total of 6,992 citizens already assigned units (applicants until December 2006), easing some pressures on the housing waiting list estimated at around 91k by the end of September 2023. Alongside this, state-run Ku-

wait Credit Bank approved loans of KD186 million in Q3, the highest since Q2 2022, under the government's housing program, while loans disbursements picked up 4.3% q/q to KD115 million.

Investment sales (i.e., individual apartment units and apartment buildings) came in at KD212 million in Q3 (-15.6% y/y; +6.1% q/q), with September seeing the lowest level of monthly activity in both value and volume since December 2020. For investors weighing up the risk-return, the higher interest rate environment has increased the appeal of fixed income and deposits at the expense of real estate. Investors may also be unclear about demand from expatriates since they are a key driver of apartment usage in the investor sector. Having said that, with expatriate inflows on the rise so far in 2023, the prospects appear better than they were last year.

Lastly, commercial sales growth remained volatile, with sales at KD111.4 million during Q3 2023, slightly lower than the previous quarter's sales despite double digit growth in transaction volumes, supported by renewed strong sales in the Sabah Al-Ahmad coastline area, which has benefitted over the last two quarters from the shift in attention to the Al-Ahmedi governorate from the inner-city areas (Kuwait City and Hawalli).

Real estate price index logs first yearly decline since Q1 2018

Real estate price growth has trended lower in 2023, according to NBK's real estate price index, which is based on Ministry of Justice weekly transaction data. (Chart 4.) In Q3, year-on-year price growth turned slightly negative (-0.7% y/y), a first decline since Q1 2018, on the back of lower investment sector real estate prices (-1.7% y/y), while residential prices saw an uptick on a quarterly basis on higher home and plot prices in the inner areas (especially in Kuwait City and Hawalli). In fact, the increase in residential valuations helped push the overall real estate price index up on a quarterly basis (+2.8% q/q), offsetting essentially no change in the investor segment index.

Subdued market activity likely to continue near term
Real estate sales activity is expected to remain subdued in the near term, amid continued high residential valuations

Chart 1: Real estate Sales

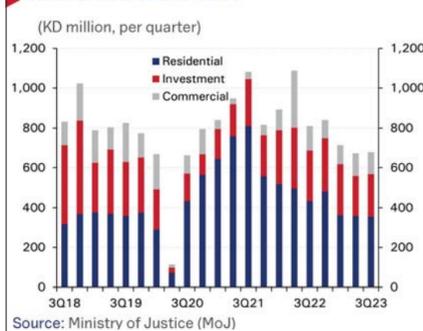


Chart 2: Residential sales

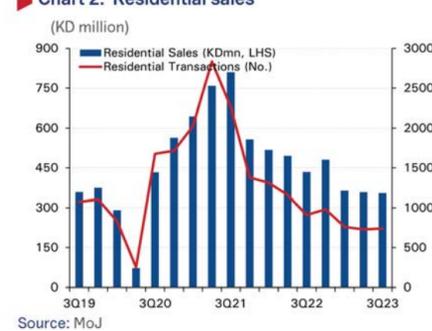


Chart 3: Business credit to the real estate sector

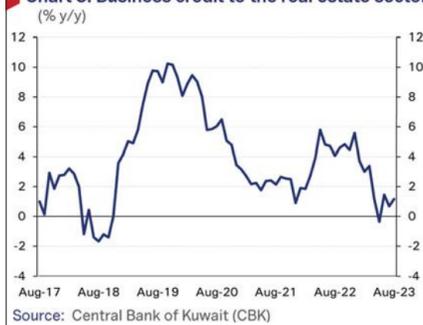


Chart 4: NBK real estate price index



and borrowing costs. However, prospects for a turnaround are better than they were a year ago, with sales more stable recently following steep declines previously. Meanwhile, the current interest rate tightening cycle looks at or close to its peak—a US Fed rate cut could also materialize before the end

of 2024—potentially spurring credit demand, while possible government/parliamentary moves to pass the draft mortgage law, amend the residency law and accelerate the disbursement of plots/houses (and reduce the backlog of housing applicants) would positively affect the real estate market.

Table 1: Real estate sales

	Quarterly Average		Quarterly Sales/ Transactions					Change in 3Q23, %	
	2021	2022	3Q22	4Q22	1Q23	2Q23	3Q23	q/q	y/y
Sales (KD million)	921	907	810	840	714	672	678	0.9	-16.3
Residential	692	482	434	480	363	358	354	-0.9	-18.4
Investment	188	275	252	269	254	200	212	6.1	-15.6
Commercial	40	151	124	91	96	114	111	-2.3	-10.4
Number of transactions	2415	1473	1,272	1,368	1,085	1,029	1,045	1.6	-17.8
Residential	2124	1091	911	982	760	729	740	1.5	-18.8
Investment	271	342	331	364	306	280	254	-9.3	-23.3
Commercial	19	40	30	22	19	20	51	155.0	70.0
Average transaction Value (KD '000)	381	616	637	614	658	653	649	-0.6	1.9
Residential property	326	442	477	489	478	491	479	-2.4	0.5
Investment	694	803	760	738	831	715	836	17.0	10.0
Commercial	2098	3745	4145	4142	5061	5704	2185	-61.7	-47.3

Table 2: NBK real estate price index*

	Weight (100=2019)	q/q					y/y				
		3Q22	4Q22	1Q23	2Q23	3Q23	3Q22	4Q22	1Q23	2Q23	3Q23
RE price index	100	4.8	-3.3	0.5	-0.6	2.8	10.5	5.2	4.7	1.3	-0.7
Investment	45.5	5.5	-3.4	2.1	-0.5	0.1	3.8	0.3	0.3	3.5	-1.7
Apartment	7.2	0.7	4.9	-1.1	-1.0	2.5	1.0	3.4	3.9	3.5	5.4
Building	69.9	5.2	-4.1	2.7	-0.5	-1.1	6.4	-1.7	-1.6	3.0	-3.1
Plot	22.9	8.5	-3.5	0.9	-0.2	4.3	-5.0	8.4	7.3	5.4	1.3
Residential	54.5	4.4	-3.2	-0.7	-0.6	4.8	16.1	9.2	8.4	-0.3	0.2
Home	62.4	4.8	-1.0	0.3	-1.9	3.9	15.4	11.8	15.5	2.2	1.2
Plot	37.6	3.9	-5.5	-2.0	0.9	6.0	16.9	6.4	1.1	-3.0	-1.1

Kamco Invest reports KWD 11.2m total revenues for 9-month period

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: Kamco Invest, a regional non-banking financial powerhouse with one of the largest AUMs in the region, announced its financial results for the period ended 30 September 2023. Total revenues for the 9-month period amounted to KWD11.2mn (9M 2022: KWD17.0mn), with 84% attributed to fees and commissions. The Company incurred a loss of KWD1.4mn (EPS:-4.08 fils) compared to KWD3.8mn profits (EPS: 11.16 fils) for the same period in 2022.

The Company's revenue was impacted by reduced business activity stemming from negative market sentiments, elevated interest rates, rising inflation, and concerns about a possible recession, in addition to capital market performance.

Assets under management grew by 3.1% to reach USD14.2bn as of 30 September 2023, attributed to new money raised in various products and services during the period. Equity funds and managed portfolios continued to outperform their respective benchmarks. Managed equity funds sustained their rankings amongst the best performing equity funds in Kuwait. The Kamco Investment Fund received three awards from Refinitiv Lipper for 2023 in recognition of the fund's exceptional performance and risk-adjusted returns.

The Private Equity team continued to undergo plans to exit legacy assets held by the private equity funds and work on new initiatives and products. The team is also building a transactions pipeline for private equity deals and is evaluating a healthy pipeline of deal flows which resulted in the Company's participation in the Pre-IPO Series C investment round raised by Flowward.

the issuance of a Kuwaiti-denominated bond for a real estate company and Kuwaiti-denominated sukuk for a holding company. In recognition of its performance within Investment Banking, Kamco Invest was awarded the prestigious "Best Debt Bank in the Middle East" by Global Finance.

First Securities Brokerage Company, Kamco Invest's brokerage arm, continued to strengthen its competitive position and attracted new clients through its online trading platforms. The decrease in liquidity on Boursa Kuwait was reflected in the company's trading value and commission income during the period in comparison to 2022.

Regional offices continued to expand their presence in their markets by improving their services and contributing more to the company's core businesses, particularly in asset management. The Company made two significant announcements in Saudi Arabia during the first quarter, which included the appointment of a new Chief Executive Officer to spearhead the expansion efforts in the Saudi market, as well as plans to relocate its offices to the prestigious King Abdullah Financial District (KAFFD) in Riyadh.

Total assets as of 30 September 2023 stood at KWD126.9mn, whereas shareholders' equity stood at KWD57.7mn. The Company also enjoys a strong financial position and a "BBB" long-term credit rating and "A3" short-term rating with stable outlook by Capital Intelligence in their latest review in May 2023.

Commenting on the results, Faisal Mansour Sarkhou, Chief Executive Officer, said, "We operate in an exceptionally challenging political and economic environment globally characterized by instability, geopolitical conflicts, rising interest rates, inflation, and concerns of a potential economic downturn, all of which have negatively impacted investors' confidence. Nevertheless, during crises, investment opportunities arise across different markets, sectors, and asset classes. We believe that it is the right time to thoroughly study and seize such opportunities for long-term investors."

Sarkhou added, "Our growth in assets under management and the performance of our funds and managed portfolios reflect our ongoing pursuit of effective client-centric strategies. As we move forward, our focus remains firmly on leveraging our core strengths and expertise to overcome market challenges and deliver sustainable growth for all our stakeholders."

Interest rates on Kuwaiti Dinar deposits rise as demand grows

Govt deposits totals up to 11.9 bln dinars

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: There is a growing demand among banks for government deposits in dinars. This surge in demand has led to an increase in the interest rates offered on these funds compared to the previous period, maintaining an upward trend since the beginning of the year. The Central Bank of Kuwait's regulatory decisions in 2023 has supported this momentum, reports Al-Rai daily.

Multiple banks have recently offered interest rates of up to 5.5 percent on deposits for government agencies, with a significant portion coming from the Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS). This pricing represents the highest interest recorded on government funds since 2008. Most deposit terms currently range from 3 to 6 months, indicating a banking push for these funds.

As of July 31, 2023, government deposits totalled approximately 11.9 billion dinars, encompassing ministries, government departments, agencies, bodies with budgets attached to the state budget, and the Credit Bank.

The sources reveal that the competition for government deposits does not involve all banks, but the increased demand from some has intensified the attractiveness of these funds, leading to higher prices. The variation in offered prices reflects different needs among banks, with market prices no longer being the sole indicator.

Banks typically increase fund rates in their deposit portfolios in the last quarter of each year for various reasons, including accounting considerations and arrangements related to treasury conditions. This period sees higher pricing rates than market trades, not necessarily due to overall liquidity scarcity but often accounting for the maturity scale arrangement according to the Central Bank of Kuwait's approved standards.



KUNA photo
Deputy Prime Minister, Oil Minister participates at the 14th edition of the Turkish Arab Economic Forum.

Arab-Turkish trade reaches \$45 bln

Kuwait min hails Arab-Turkish relations leap

ISTANBUL, Nov 9, (KUNA): Deputy Prime Minister, Oil Minister and Minister of State for Economic and Investments Affairs, Saad Al-Barak, marked the significant leap in Arab-Turkish relations, particularly in Kuwait, driven by numerous investment initiatives.

Al-Barak's statement to KUNA came after his participation at the 14th edition of the Turkish Arab Economic Forum in Istanbul, titled "New Era for Partnership".

The Minister described investments opportunities as "promising" especially in tourism and construction fields, and highlighted the experience of Kuwait Finance House experience as successful endeavor.

Chief of Turkish Presidency Investments Office, Burak Daglioglu, spoke during the launch of the forum saying that Turkiye, under the leadership of President Erdogan, has been on the right path of cooperation with Arab states since 2003.

Trade between Turkiye and Arab States 20 years ago comprised about 10 percent of total Turkish exports, stated Daglioglu, while today it amounts to more than USD 45 billion, taking up 20 percent of total exports.

Chief of Turkish Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges, Rifat Hisarciklioğlu, took note of the critical stage the world is currently in, a stage that requires international cooperation and solidarity.

Dollar deposit pricing is determined by global demand and the U.S. Federal Reserve's decision at 5.5 percent. Banks actively compete to attract

deposits, especially in the last three months of the fiscal year, leading to a collective banking movement that raises prices.

Chinese auto sales surged 10% year-on-year in Oct

Sales of passenger cars rose 10.2% in October over a year earlier, an industry association said Wednesday, as makers ramped up promotions and customers opted for electric and hybrid vehicles.

Sales of electric and hybrid vehicles climbed 37.5% from a year earlier, accounting for 767,000 of the 2.03 million vehicles sold in October, the China Passenger Car Association said.

Exports of passenger cars jumped nearly 50% to 391,000 units in October and have risen 66% this year, to just over 3 million units.

The robust improvements partly reflect slow growth a year earlier, when China was grappling with factory shutdowns and other disruptions from the COVID-19 pandemic. Demand for vehicles also tends to be stronger in September and October, which are

dubbed the "nine silvers and 10 golds," the report said.

So far this year, auto sales in China have climbed 3.2% to just under 17.3 million units.

The report said Tesla delivered 47,164 Model Y vehicles and 24,951 Model 3s made at its Shanghai plant. Chinese automaker BYD led sales of new energy battery of electric vehicles by far, with 63,965 Song model sedans its best seller. (AP)

Saudi-Arab-African Economic Confab kicks off

The Saudi-Arab-African Economic Conference kicked off on Thursday, with the participation of leaders, business and investment pioneers from public and private sectors and international organizations.

In the opening speech at the event, Saudi Minister of Finance Mohammad Al-Jadaan said that Saudi Arabia was one of the first countries to demand that the African Union (AU) would perma-

nently join G20. The kingdom also supports the AU's extra seat at the Executive Council of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Saudi Arabia shares strong partnerships with African countries in fields like energy, mining and agriculture, said the minister.

Al-Jadaan noted that the Saudi Ports Authority is working on facilitating ships movement in the Red Sea and connecting African ports.

He added that the Saudi Fund for Development played an important role in funding the development of infrastructure in Africa, including roads, dams, hospitals and schools, while also supporting over 400 projects in the continent. The fund will sign a number of agreements with African countries during the conference, to execute developmental projects worth over SAR two billion, the minister also said. (KUNA)

AP Analysis

'There's outsized influence'

Fossil fuel interests have large, yet often murky, presence at climate talks

The badges said they were there to participate in negotiations to curb climate change. They stated affiliations like the government of Brazil, Indigenous organizations of the Amazon, the Climate Registry. But in reality, the livelihoods of these participants were more aligned with what's keeping the problem going: fossil fuels.

Close to 400 people connected in some way or another to fossil fuel industries attended last year's United Nations' climate talks in Egypt, a grouping that was larger than all but two of the national delegations sent by countries, according to a data analysis of the more than 24,000 participants by The Associated Press.

As United Nations leaders, scientists and others called for an eventual elimination of coal, oil and natural gas, various delegations included attendees who in some way owed part or all of their paychecks to fossil fuel burning. Many of these same people, and possibly even more connected to fossil fuels, will likely be at this year's official climate talks, known as Conference of Parties or COP, being hosted by the United Arab Emirates, a major oil producing country.

"There's outsized influence," said Center for Biological Diversity's Jean Su, who sits on the board that represents civil society and environmental groups at these meetings. "These COPs are often winning-and-dining fests for fossil fuel corporations that want to profit off of climate."

While the presence is palpable—such as oil countries and companies with huge, flashy stands in the trades pavilions—the influence is hard to quantify because much of the negotiating is done behind closed doors.

These annual meetings, which have occurred since 1995, convene in different cities each year. The host city runs the event and sets the agen-

da. Because the upcoming summit, COP28, is in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates got to choose the president, picking the CEO of its national oil company, Sultan al-Jaber.

As to be expected at a summit focused on the environment, there are many environmental activists, more than 750 last year, by AP's count. But they say their voices are not being heard, and instead the lobbying of fossil fuel interests are why climate talks have yet to produce an agreement to phase out coal, oil and natural gas, as scientists have repeatedly said must happen to stave off the worst impacts of climate change, like extreme weather events.

Wide range of affiliations

The AP analyzed the affiliations of attendees of COP27, reviewing details they offered on their badges. Those details were checked against lists of operators and owners of coal mines, oil fields and natural gas plants, as well as manufacturers of carbon-intensive materials like steel and cement.

Attendees in 2022 included top executives of BP, Shell, Equinor and TotalEnergies. The head of the world's largest oil and gas firm, Saudi Aramco, was at the site on a "sideline" event. And al-Jaber, chief of Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, was also there and will be in charge of this year's climate negotiations. The operations and products of those companies and others are huge contributors to climate change.

It wasn't just fossil fuel giants that showed up. Take Mercuria Energy. The Switzerland-based firm calls itself "one of the world's largest energy traders," with 69% of their 2022 traded volumes in oil and natural gas. The firm is also a part-owner in Vesta Terminals, which operates storage terminals that hold crude oil, petroleum

products and other liquids, as well as a marine fuels company called Minerva Bunkering.

Mercuria sent six people to the COP in Egypt. Its chief trader, Magid Shenouda, went as part of the Coordinating Body of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin. Others from Mercuria went as members of delegations for the Brazilian government, the International Chamber of Commerce, the International Emissions Trading Association and Winrock International, a nonprofit that works to help poorer countries with social, environmental and agricultural issues.

Alden Meyer, who has been to all but one COP and is an analyst for the European think-tank E3G, says the big numbers of attendees connected to fossil fuels show these industries see this "either a threat or maybe an opportunity or both for their business," but the system isn't set up to tell motives and lobbying efforts.

Meyer says the fossil fuel interests have huge influence over the event, but the influence begins ahead of the talks.

Last year, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Global Energy Institute sent four employees to the summit. Marty Durbin, the institute's president and former executive of the American Petroleum Institute, says the institute is a "huge" supporter of natural gas and the industry should have a voice in the talks.

"I don't know why we're trying to push people away instead of saying, 'Come in and let's all work on this together,'" said Durbin, speaking from an oil and gas conference in October in Abu Dhabi.

Su disagrees, saying: "It's the fox guarding the henhouse and they should not be at the table when it's governments who have the jurisdiction to regulate." (AP)

SoftBank 'hit' with a \$6.2b quarterly loss

TOKYO, Nov 9, (AP): Japanese technology company SoftBank Group Corp. racked up a huge loss in the July-September quarter as its technology investments, most notably office-sharing company WeWork, went sour.

Tokyo-based SoftBank loss totaled 931 billion yen (\$6.2 billion) in the last quarter, a reversal from the 3 trillion yen profit it posted in the same period a year earlier.

SoftBank has a sprawling investment portfolio and tends to have erratic financial results that fluctuate with market trends.

That has been highlighted by the troubles at WeWork, which filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection this week amid turmoil in the U.S. commercial real estate market after the pandemic sent vacancies soaring in major cities like New York and San Francisco.

SoftBank holds a nearly 80% stake in WeWork.

SoftBank's chief financial officer, Yoshimitsu Goto, sought to allay investor's worries, stressing in an online news conference that the company was still going strong overall, making cautious investment decisions and plans to keep growing.

Regrettable

He said WeWork's troubles were "regrettable." SoftBank will study what went wrong and try to do better with its future Vision Fund investments, Goto said.

SoftBank's financial damage related to WeWork in the July-September quarter totaled 234 billion yen (\$1.5 billion), according to the company, which was the first telecoms operator to bring the iPhone to Japan.

Goto gave as an example of a hopeful development the recent IPO on Nasdaq of British semiconductor and software design company Arm, which SoftBank acquired in 2016.

The listing did not directly affect SoftBank's earnings results, but a gain of \$47 billion was recorded as a capital surplus.

SoftBank's quarterly sales were little changed, edging up to 1.67 trillion yen (\$11 billion) from 1.61 trillion yen. The company does not give full year forecasts.

SoftBank used to own significant stakes in Amazon, Facebook and Alphabet but sold them a couple of years ago. SoftBank has also sold its stake in Uber to ride out hard times, and dramatically reduced its stake in Alibaba, the Chinese e-commerce and technology company.

SoftBank Group Corp. shares rose 1.1% Thursday on the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

Finance ministers opening talks to lay the groundwork for Biden-Xi meeting

Analysts say expectations should be kept low

WASHINGTON, Nov 9, (AP): Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and her Chinese counterpart will meet in San Francisco on Thursday for two days of talks aimed at making progress on a slew of economic issues at a time when competition has markedly intensified between the two countries.

Yellen's talks with Vice Premier He Lifeng are designed to help lay the groundwork for an expected meeting between President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping next week on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in San Francisco, which would be their first engagement in nearly a year.

The White House is not expecting the face-to-face meeting to result in major changes to the relationship between the two nations, according to a person familiar with the planning, although it hopes to see some signs of progress.

Analysts say expectations should be kept low, given the competitive nature of the countries' relationship.

Nicholas Szechenyi, deputy director for Asia at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said at a preview event for the APEC summit that "it seems difficult for the United States to credibly emphasize themes such as inclusiveness, interconnectedness - the themes of this year's APEC summit - when the primary driver for U.S. economic strategy in the Indo-Pacific is not economic cooperation, necessarily, but rather economic competition."

Competition

"U.S. strategy is very much focused on economic competition with China," he said.

In August, Biden signed an executive order designed to regulate and block high-tech U.S.-based investments going toward China, a move the administration said is based on protecting national security. And last year, the U.S. moved to block exports of advanced computer chips to China.

Earlier this year, U.S. lawmakers held hearings over data security and harmful content with TikTok CEO Shou Zi Chew, contemplating whether to ban the hugely popular app due to its Chinese connections.

And tensions between the countries heightened earlier this year when a Chinese surveillance balloon was spotted traveling over sensitive U.S. airspace. The U.S. military shot down the balloon off



US President Joe Biden, (right), stands with Chinese President Xi Jinping before a meeting on the sidelines of the G20 summit meeting, Nov. 14, 2022, in Bali, Indonesia. Ahead of an expected meeting between Biden and Xi Jinping this month, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng convene in San Francisco to try and make progress on a slew of economic issues. (AP)

Advisor to bloc's top court issues legal opinion

Apple hits setback in dispute with EU over tax case

LONDON, Nov 9, (AP): Apple might end up on the hook after all for billions of euros in back taxes to Ireland in the latest twist in a longrunning European Union dispute, following a legal opinion Thursday from an adviser to the bloc's top court.

A lower court's decision that the U.S. tech giant doesn't have to repay the 13 billion euros (\$13.9 billion) in taxes "should be set aside," Advocate General Giovanni Pitruzzella told the European Court of Justice, according to a press release summarizing his opinion.

late last month, when Beijing's top diplomat came to Washington for talks with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan.

Xi similarly met with Blinken in June when the secretary of state traveled to Beijing for talks with Wang.

Yellen has met with a host of Chinese officials throughout this

The case drew outrage from Apple when it was opened in 2016, with CEO Tim Cook calling it "total political crap." Then-U.S. President Donald Trump slammed European Commissioner Margrethe Vestager, who spearheaded the campaign to root out special tax deals and crack down on big U.S. tech companies, as the "tax lady" who "really hates the U.S."

In its 2020 ruling, the European Union's General Court disagreed with the European Commission, the bloc's executive branch, which had accused Apple of striking an illegal

tax deal with Irish authorities so that it could pay extremely low rates.

Pitruzzella advised the European Court of Justice that it should "set aside the judgment and refer the case back to the General Court for a new decision on the merits."

The General Court "committed a series of errors in law" and that it needs to "carry out a new assessment," the press release said.

The ECJ's opinions aren't legally binding, but are often followed by the court. The Court of Justice is expected to come up with its legally binding decision next year.

year. In January, she had her first face-to-face meeting with former Vice Premier Liu He in Zurich. She traveled to China in July to discuss economic policies between the nations and urged Chinese government officials to cooperate on climate change and other global challenges and not let sharp disagreements about trade and other irritants derail relations.

She said at a July 8 news con-

"We thank the court for its time and ongoing consideration in this case," Apple said in a prepared statement. "The General Court's ruling was very clear that Apple received no selective advantage and no State aid, and we believe that should be upheld."

The European Commission declined to comment. Its tech crackdown has since expanded to include antitrust investigations into Apple's payment platform and its App store as well as stricter scrutiny under new digital rules aimed at making competition fairer.

reference, "I do not see the relationship between the U.S. and China through the frame of great power conflict. We believe that the world is big enough for both of our countries to thrive."

In September, the U.S. Treasury Department and China's Ministry of Finance launched a pair of economic working groups in an effort to ease tensions and deepen ties between the nations.



Francesca Fagnani

Francesca Fagnani

charismatic TV presenter and storyteller

In a world where information and entertainment converge, there exists a unique breed of individuals who have mastered the art of the televised interview. These are the TV presenters and anchors who grace our screens, captivating audiences with their charisma and eloquence. But what lies beyond the spotlight and beneath the glossy veneer of fame for a TV presenter who has interviewed well-known personalities.

We take you through a captivating journey into the life of one such TV presenter, Francesca Fagnani, whose exceptional ability to draw out the untold stories of the world's most famous faces has made them a household name.

Behind the glamorous façade of red carpets, studio lights, and exclusive interviews, discover the personal challenges, professional triumphs, and the relentless pursuit of truth that shape the life of this charismatic storyteller. This is a tale of curiosity, connection, and the relentless chase of the spotlight – the story of a TV presenter who has shared the stage with legends.

Graduated from the “Sapienza” in Modern Literature with a doctorate in Dante’s philology, she joined Rai in 2001, at the branch office in New York where, together with Giovanni Floris, she witnessed the attack on the Twin Towers on 11 September, 2001. She returned to Rome, to make her debut as a television journalist in Annozero, by Giovanni Minoli and Michele Santoro.

One of her first programs was The Price, in which she interviewed young people in juvenile prison for crimes related to organized crime. At the same time, she wrote articles in La Repubblica always linked to crime and the mafia.

Underworld

Since 2018 she has been the host and author of the Belve broadcast, first on Nove (three seasons 2018-2019), then on Rai 2 from 2021, which has ranked among the most followed programs on Rai.

Since 2019 she has been a recurring commentator on Quarta Repubblica on Rete 4 and Non è l’Arena on LA7, especially on the topic of Rome’s underworld.

On November 30, 2021 she hosted an episode of Le Iene with Nicola Savino. In 2022 she replaced Geppi Cucciari for a short period on the radio show Un giorno da pecora

on Radiouno.

On 8 February 2023 she was co-host of the second evening of the Sanremo Festival. From the following February 21 Belve aired in prime time, again on Rai 2. On June 24 of the same year she hosted the Italia Loves Romagna charity concert on Rai 1. In 2023 she received the America Award from the Italy USA Foundation at the Chamber of Deputies.

Francesca Fagnani is very ready to conclude the new season of Belve with a truly special guest. The most uncom-

fortable interviews on Italian television strike again and this time the ratings also reward Francesca Fagnani’s program.

As always, Belve hosts famous people who talk about themselves without veils and among the most followed interviews of this new season it is impossible not to mention the names such as Fabrizio Corona, Stefano De Martino and Patty Pravo.

Francesca Fagnani was born on November 25, 1978 in Rome. When in 2001 she found herself in New York during the attack on the Twin Towers she developed the desire to become a journalist.

Opportunity

She returned to Italy and obtained a doctorate in Dante’s philology, but she returned to the Big Apple where she had the opportunity to do an internship for Rai.

Despite working over the years with personalities of the caliber of Michele Santoro and Giovanni Minoli, Fagnani’s name began to be known to a larger audience when in 2018 she began hosting the “Belve” program, first on Nove and then, from 2021, on Rai 2.

In that year she began a relationship with the journalist and director of Tg LA7 Enrico Mentana. Some rumors say that the divorce between the journalist and his ex-wife Michela Rocco di Torrepadula was caused precisely by the acquaintance between the man and Fagnani.

Francesca Fagnani and Enrico Mentana have had an excellent relationship ever since, living well away from the cameras. The two are not married and have no children together, although the journalist has a good relationship with Mentana’s four children - Stefano, Alice, Giulio and Vittoria - born from the man’s previous relationships.

Fagnani has an official Instagram profile where she mainly posts photos relating to her work. She loves to cook very much and she owns a dog, a Cavalier King named Nina.

When Francesca Fagnani works she is much focused and she doesn’t want interruptions or distractions. In the Rai “Fabrizio Frizzi” studios in Via Romagnoli in Rome, where the program is broadcast, Francesca had a soft, feline walk. She is elegant like a panther. Between one guest and another you have tight, hectic times.



Francesca Fagnani

CHASING THE SPOTLIGHT WITH UNTOLD STORIES

editor's choice



People & Places

Film

Light, camera, action

Hollywood 'back' in action as strike ends

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 9. (AP): Missed your favorite actors? After nearly four months of striking, they're coming back.

Wednesday's deal between striking actors and studios and streaming services won't immediately restore filming to its full swing. That will take months.

But the tentative agreement - which both sides say include extraordinary provisions - means that more than six months of labor strife in the film and television industries is drawing to a close. Soon, tens of thousands of entertainment sector workers could get back to work. And popular franchises, like "Deadpool," "Abbott Elementary" and "The Last of Us," will be a step closer to returning to screens.

Hollywood loves a happy ending. The actors strike might provide that, though there's still the chance of strike sequels in the months ahead.

Here's some of what will happen next:

Picket lines are suspended and the only rallies on the horizon are celebratory ones that the actors union is promising will happen.

There are a couple of steps that need to happen before the deal becomes official. On Friday, the national board of the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists will review the agreement and could approve it. Then, the agreement's details will be released and the guild's full membership will vote on it.

But when striking screenwriters - who started picketing May 2 - reached their deal in September, their guild allowed writing work to resume before full ratification of the contract was complete.

While it's possible those votes scuttle the deal, the union's negotiating committee unanimously approved the deal and called off picketing.

The exact terms of the deal won't be released until later this week, but a few highlights are known.

The union says the deal is worth more than a billion dollars and they've "achieved a deal of extraordinary scope" that includes compensation increases, consent protections for use of artificial intelligence and actors' likenesses and includes a "streaming participation bonus."

Negotiation

The negotiation arm of the studios also says the deal includes historic provisions. The Association of Motion Picture and Television Producers said Wednesday the "tentative agreement represents a new paradigm."

It said the companies are giving "SAG-AFTRA the biggest contract-on-contract gains in the history of the union, including the largest increase in minimum wages in the last forty years; a brand new residual for streaming programs; extensive consent and compensation protections in the use of artificial intelligence; and sizable contract increases on items across the board."

Duncan Crabtree-Ireland, SAG-AFTRA's executive director and chief negotiator, told The Associated Press the gains made the long strike worth it.

"It's an agreement that our members can be proud of. I'm certainly very proud of it," Crabtree-Ireland told The Associated Press in an interview.

The strike put an immediate stop to "Deadpool 3" with **Ryan Reynolds** and Hugh Jackman, as well as Ridley Scott's "Gladiator" sequel. Those are likely among the first films that will resume production.

The resolution of the writers strike allowed script work to resume on shows like "Abbott Elementary," "The White Lotus" and "Yellowjackets." That head start might help those productions get back on the air sooner once their stars are cleared to work.

Television moves faster than movies, which once filming ends still face a lengthy editing and promotional process.

In recent weeks more shows and movies announced delays - Kevin Costner's final episodes of "Yellowstone" won't air until next November and the next "Mission: Impossible" film also delayed its release.

Actors, lots more actors, will be talking about their work again. Splashy premieres will resume with their stars, as well.

Movies like "Killers of the Flower Moon" and this week's big release, "The Marvels," have been without their stars to promote the film. Strike rules forbid actors from promoting work done for the major studios, which kept Leonardo DiCaprio, Brie Larson and many other actors from doing interviews.

That's prevented many performers, like "Killers of the Flower Moon" breakout Lily Gladstone, from having some big celebratory moments.

Some projects have gotten exemptions, such as Michael Mann's upcoming racing drama "Ferrari." That freed stars Adam Driver and Patrick Dempsey to attend the Venice Film Festival - and also allowed Dempsey to do an interview with People when it named him its Sexiest Man Alive.

Awards

But as Hollywood heads into its award season, expect to see more glamorous red carpet shots and interviews with stars.

Well, it's back on, and it'll be supercharged.

One of the actors strike ripple effects was to push the Emmy Awards from September into January. It'll now join the Grammys, the Screen Actors Guild Awards and the Oscars in Hollywood's traditional awards season. Those shows will all air between Jan. 15 and March 10.

Plans for the Emmys, and the SAG Awards, which will appear on Netflix, were in jeopardy as the strike got closer to 2024.

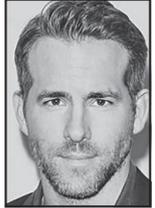
Still in limbo is the Golden Globe Awards, which is trying to reinvent itself after years of scandal, but doesn't yet have a US broadcast partner.

Another actors strike - this one by video game performers - is possible. Negotiations for that contract are ongoing, but a strike has been authorized.

Actors who work on video games range from voice performers to stunt performers. They, too, have expressed concerns about the use of AI in their industry.

The studios in 2024 will also be negotiating with set workers and their guild, the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees. From building sets to controlling the lighting and even creating effects, IATSE members are crucial to film and television production. They've been severely impacted by the filming shutdown and have joined the picket lines in the writers and actors strikes.

One of the key elements of the actors and writers strikes has been how much streaming has upended the industry, which could also be a key point in the set worker negotiations.



Reynolds



Lainey Wilson poses with the awards. (AP)



Luke Combs poses with the award for single of the year. (AP)



Jenee Fleenor poses with the award for musician of the year. (AP)



Chris Stapleton, (left), and Carly Pearce perform at the CMA Awards. (AP)



Jelly Roll poses with the award for new artist of the year in the press room at the 57th Annual CMA Awards on Wednesday, Nov. 8, at the Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tenn. (AP)

Variety

NEW YORK: Robert De Niro looked on Wednesday as a lawyer for a woman who worked for him for over a decade urged a jury in closing arguments to award her millions of dollars for emotional distress and reputational harm because the actor discriminated and retaliated against her.

Attorney **Brent Hannafan** argued on **Graham Chase Robinson's** behalf in **Manhattan** federal court after De Niro's lawyer, **Richard Schoenstein**, told jurors that Robinson was a disloyal employee who stole \$85,000 worth of airline miles and owes De Niro damages.

"This is a civil rights trial," Hannafan said. "Your verdict will have meaning when you return it, again, not just for Ms. Robinson, but for all civil rights litigants."

He urged jurors to award Robinson "significant damages" of at least seven figures and "possibly up to eight figures," a request consistent with her \$12 million claim asserting gender discrimination and retaliation.

Schoenstein said De Niro, 80, was the victim of a woman who caused "drama and conflict" at his company and lashed out with a lawsuit when he didn't meet her



Lainey Wilson performs 'Wildflowers and Wild Horses' at the 57th Annual CMA Awards on Wednesday, Nov. 8 at the Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tenn. (AP)



Luke Combs performs 'Where the Wild Things Are' at the 57th Annual CMA Awards. (AP)



Tanya Tucker, (center), Kimberly Schlapman and Karen Fairchild of Little Big Town perform 'Delta Dawn' at the 57th Annual CMA Awards. (AP)



Jelly Roll, (left), and Wynonna Judd perform at the CMA Awards. (AP)



Kenny Chesney, (left), and Mac McAnally perform a tribute to Jimmy Buffett. (AP)



HARDY, (left), and Morgan Wallen perform at the CMA awards. (AP)

Music

'Fast Car' brings award for Combs

Wilson wins top honors at CMAs

NASHVILLE, Nov. 9. (AP): Lainey Wilson took home five trophies including entertainer of the year Wednesday night at the Country Music Association Awards.

The 31-year-old Louisiana singer was the undisputed star of the night at Nashville's Bridgestone Arena, where she also was named female vocalist of the year, won album of the year for "Bell Bottom Country" and Wilson gave a fiery rendition of her song "Wildflowers and Wild Horses" that looked like it came from a classic Hollywood Western.

"This is all I've ever wanted to do, it's the only thing I know how to do," Wilson said through tears as she accepted entertainer of the year. "It finally feels like country music is starting to love me back."

Wilson came into the night the top nominee with nine nods, and had won one award before the ABC telecast even started as she and HARDY were named as winners in the musical event of the year category, for "Wait in the Truck."

It was also another major Nashville night for rapper-turned-singer Jelly

Roll, who earlier this year topped the CMT Music Awards.

He opened the show with a performance of his hit "Need a Favor," along with surprise guest Wynonna Judd, then closed it in a duet with K. Michelle on "Love Can Build a Bridge," Judd's classic song with her late mother Naomi.

In between, Jelly Roll won best new artist.

Favorite

"There is something poetic about a 39-year-old man winning new artist of the year," he said from the stage. "What's in front of you is so much more important than what's behind you."

Luke Combs, winner of entertainer of the year the previous two years, took home single of the year Wednesday night for his cover of "Fast Car" by Tracy Chapman, who became the unlikely winner of song of the year for a tune she wrote in 1988.

"I want to thank Tracy Chapman for writing one of the greatest songs of all time," the 33-year-old North Carolina singer said as he accepted award. "It's

the first favorite song I ever had."

Chapman, who won two Grammys for "Fast Car" in 1989, was not at the ceremony, but said in a statement that it's "truly an honor for my song to be recognized 35 years after its debut."

Luke Bryan and Peyton Manning hosted the ceremony, which featured a musical tribute to the late singer-songwriter Jimmy Buffett that included Kenny Chesney, the Zac Brown Band, Alan Jackson and Mac McAnally, a longtime member of Buffett's band.

The group made a beach party of a medley of Buffett's hits, beginning with "A Pirate Looks at Forty" and ending with "Margaritaville" as Chesney shouted "Thank you Jimmy!" to Buffett, who was always beloved among country artists.

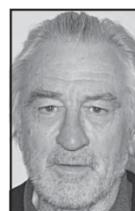
In what is becoming a series of CMA traditions, Chris Stapleton won male vocalist of the year for the seventh time, Old Dominion won vocal group of the year for the sixth time, and Brothers Osborne won duo of the year for their sixth time.

"We're shocked, honestly, every year this happens," T.J. Osborne said.

demands to continue paying her \$300,000 salary after she quit in April 2019 at the height of a feud with De Niro's girlfriend.

"This trial is the ultimate version of drama and conflict," he said. (AP)

NEW YORK: Antonio "L.A." Reid, the Grammy-winning music executive who influenced the career of artists including Pink, Usher and Mariah Carey, was



De Niro



Reid

sued by a former music executive who says he sexually assaulted her and derailed her career.

Drew Dixon filed the lawsuit Wednesday in a New York federal court. Dixon, who worked for Reid when he was chief executive of Arista Records, alleges that Reid sexually assaulted her twice in 2001 and later cut her budget and sidelined artists when she rebuffed his continuing advances. (AP)

'All adults should be tested for diabetes'

Majority of adults with diabetes have type 2, half undiagnosed

CLEVELAND, Nov 9: People with type 2 diabetes can lead healthy, regular lives, but it is important to diagnose and manage the condition before glucose fluctuations damage blood vessels, which could lead to serious complications, says an expert from global health system Cleveland Clinic, speaking ahead of World Diabetes day (November 14).

Diabetes is a condition marked by high blood glucose, or sugar, and is classified into several types. In the case of diabetes type 2, the body does not respond normally to insulin, or is insulin resistant, which makes it appear that the body does not make enough insulin. According to estimates from the International Diabetes Federation, which organizes World Diabetes Day, of the 1 in 10 adults globally who have diabetes, more than 90% have type 2, and nearly half are not yet diagnosed.



Lansang

"Diabetes can damage both small and large blood vessels, causing acute and chronic complications," says Cleveland Clinic endocrinologist M. Cecilia Lansang, MD, MPH.

"Acute complications can include episodes of very low or high blood sugar, while chronic complications include damage to the nerves, heart, eyes and gut, which can have serious consequences including limb amputation, a kidney transplant, or blindness."

Symptoms

Dr. Lansang says common symptoms of diabetes include increased urination and thirst, among others.

"The body excretes the excess sugar through urine, leading to frequent urination, which in turn can lead to dehydration," she says.

"The removal of the excess sugar can also mean reduced calorie absorption and, therefore, weight loss. However, this is more common in people with type 1 diabetes and patients with type 2 diabetes tend more often to fall into the category of overweight or having obesity."

In addition, glucose fluctuations can lead to tiredness and fatigue, blurred vision, tingling in the feet, and individuals might notice that wounds heal slowly.

Dr. Lansang points out, however, that blood sugar levels can increase gradually over time, with the body adapting so that people do not feel any difference in their wellbeing. "In fact, individuals might not have any symptoms until damage has already occurred, which is why it is important for individuals to be screened for diabetes regularly," she says.

Screening recommendations vary between different health bodies, and some individuals are at higher risk for type 2 diabetes than others, so Dr. Lansang recommends people to talk to their healthcare provider about how often they need screening. In general, she says, it is recommended that people aged 35 and above have a baseline screen and if the results are normal, be screened every subsequent three years.

People found to have elevated blood sugar, on the other hand, will need to be tested more frequently as will those who are at higher risk, which includes people with overweight or obesity, high blood pressure, low HDL ('good') cholesterol, a family history of diabetes, and women with polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS) or a previous diagnosis of gestational diabetes.

The good news, Dr. Lansang says, is that there are lifestyle changes individuals can adopt to prevent, delay or in some cases, even reverse a diagnosis of diabetes type 2.

These include achieving and maintaining a healthy weight; eating a balanced diet that include vegetables, protein, good fats and carbohydrates; and exercising regularly.

Treatment can also entail taking prescribed medications such as metformin. "In particular, weight reduction can have a positive effect on insulin resistance, and even a modest reduction of 5-10% of body weight has been found to reduce glucose levels," she adds.

Treatment

In addition to metformin, many new diabetes treatment options have recently become available and some of these also help address comorbidities associated with the condition, although not all are covered by health insurance, says Dr. Lansang.

"People diagnosed with diabetes should speak to their physicians about newer therapies, and which options or combination of therapies would work best for them. The treatment plan will be based on personal circumstances and the presence of comorbidities such as weight issues, coronary artery disease, heart failure, and chronic kidney disease," she says.

"The process might involve trial and error as sometimes medication may need to be reduced to avoid falls in the elderly, or to avoid dangerous acute complications such as hypoglycemia, which is very low blood sugar."

Dr. Lansang concludes, "World Diabetes Day is a great opportunity to remind people of measures such as screening, making healthy lifestyle choices and exploring various treatment options, so they can prevent, delay, reverse or effectively manage diabetes and avoid serious complications from this prevalent

'Combine therapy with exercise and low-cal diet'

FDA approves 'new version' of diabetes drug Mounjaro for weight management

NEW YORK, Nov 9, (AP): A new version of the popular diabetes treatment Mounjaro can be sold as a weight-loss drug, US regulators announced Wednesday.

The US Food and Drug Administration approved Eli Lilly's drug, named Zepbound. The drug, also known as tirzepatide, helped dieters lose as much as 40 to 60 pounds in testing.

Zepbound is the latest diabetes drug approved for chronic weight management, joining Novo Nordisk's Wegovy, a high-dose version of its diabetes treatment Ozempic. Both are weekly injections.

The FDA approved Lilly's drug for people who are considered obese, with a body mass index of 30 or higher, or those who are overweight with a related health condition, like high blood pressure, high cholesterol or diabetes. The drug should be paired with a reduced-calorie diet and regular exercise, the FDA said.

Studies

In the US, at least 100 million adults and about 15 million children are considered obese.

The drugs tirzepatide in Zepbound and semaglutide in Wegovy and Ozempic work by mimicking hormones that kick in after people eat to regulate appetite and the feeling of fullness. Both imitate a hormone called glucagon-like peptide-1, known as GLP-1. Tirzepatide targets a second hormone, called glucose-dependent insulinotropic polypeptide, or GIP.

FDA's approval was based on two large studies: More than 2,500 participants got different strengths of Zepbound and nearly 1,000 people got dummy shots over 16 months. Participants without diabetes who received the highest dose lost about 18% of their weight, or about 41 pounds (19 kilograms), compared to placebo.



This image provided by Eli Lilly on Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2023 shows packaging for their new drug Zepbound. (AP)

Those with diabetes, who have a harder time losing weight, cut about 12%, or nearly 27 pounds (12 kilograms), the FDA said.

In another recent study, the drug helped people lose up to a quarter of their weight, or 60 pounds (27 kilograms), when combined with intensive diet and exercise.

Overall, Zepbound appears to spur greater weight loss than Wegovy. Approved for weight loss in 2021, Wegovy helped people lose about 15% of their weight or 34 pounds (15 kilograms), according to study results.

"This would be the most highly efficacious drug ever approved for the treatment of obesity," said Dr. Fatima Cody Stanford, an obesity medicine expert at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.

Touted by celebrities and on social media, semaglutide and tirzepatide drugs have already been in such demand that their manufacturers have struggled to keep up. Both have been listed on the FDA's drug shortage site for months. All strengths of tirzepatide are currently listed as available, but a com-

pany spokesperson said that could vary by location and demand.

Side effects of the new weight-loss drug include vomiting, nausea, diarrhea, constipation and other gastrointestinal problems. In the most recent published trial, about 10% of people taking tirzepatide dropped out of the study because of such problems, compared to about 2% of people taking dummy shots.

While experts lauded approval of Zepbound, they worried that it wouldn't necessarily mean greater access to the drug, which has been prescribed "off-label" to help people pare pounds.

"Most patients won't be able to afford Zepbound without insurance coverage and many health plans exclude obesity care," said Dr. Katherine Saunders, an obesity expert at New York's Weill Cornell Medicine and co-founder of company focused on obesity treatment.

Eli Lilly and Co. said the list price will be about \$1,000 a month, the same as Mounjaro. The drug is expected to be available in the US by the end of the year, the company said. Dosing strengths are the same for Zepbound and Mounjaro.

Kelly Burns, 50, of St. Petersburg, Florida, lost nearly 100 pounds (45 kilograms) using tirzepatide after joining a study of the drug to treat obesity in 2021. When testing ended and she no longer had access to the medication, she struggled, but eventually lost another 50 pounds (23 kilograms).

"My whole life is completely different," she said. Her health measurements improved and her confidence soared. Now that is approved for weight loss, Burns plans to ask her insurance company about coverage.

"It would be ridiculous not to," she said, adding: "I want to stay this way as long as I possibly can."

Health officials suggest more testing

Syphilis cases in US newborns skyrocketed in 2022

NEW YORK, Nov 9, (AP): Alarmed by yet another jump in syphilis cases in newborns, US health officials are calling for stepped-up prevention measures, including encouraging millions of women of childbearing age and their partners to get tested for the sexually transmitted disease.

More than 3,700 babies were born with congenital syphilis in 2022 - 10 times more than a decade ago and a 32% increase from 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Tuesday. Syphilis caused 282 stillbirth and infant deaths, nearly 16 times more than the 2012 deaths.

The 2022 count was the most in more than 30 years, CDC officials said, and in more than half of the congenital syphilis cases, the mothers tested positive during pregnancy but did not get properly treated.

The rise in congenital syphilis comes despite repeated warnings by public health agencies and it's tied to the surge in primary and secondary cases of syphilis in adults, CDC officials said. It's also been increasingly difficult for medical providers to get benzathine penicillin injections - the main medical weapon against congenital syphilis - because of supply shortages.

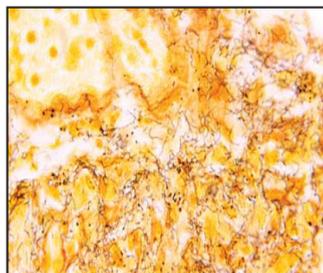
"It is clear that something is not working here, that something has to change," the CDC's Dr. Laura Bachmann said. "That's why we're calling for exceptional measures to address this heartbreaking epidemic"

The federal agency wants medical providers to start syphilis treatment when a pregnant woman first tests positive, rather than waiting for confirmatory testing, and to expand access

to transportation so the women can get treatment. The CDC also called for rapid tests to be made available beyond doctors' offices and STD clinics to places like emergency rooms, needle-exchange programs and prisons and jails.

Federal officials again advised sexually active women of childbearing age and their partners to get tested for syphilis at least once if they live in a county with high rates. According to a new CDC map and definition, 70% of US adults live in a county with high rates. That's likely tens of millions of people, according to an Associated Press estimate based on federal data.

The CDC's recommendations are just that;



This 1966 microscope photo made available by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows a tissue sample with the presence of numerous, corkscrew-shaped, darkly-stained, Treponema pallidum spirochetes, the bacterium responsible for causing syphilis. (AP)

there is no new federal money going out to state and local health departments to bolster testing or access. Some state health departments have already said they're stretched thin when it comes to treatment and prevention, though Illinois announced last week it was starting a phone line for health care providers to help with record searching, consultation and assistance with mandatory reporting.

Syphilis is a bacterial infection that for centuries was a common but feared sexually transmitted disease. New infections plummeted in the US starting in the 1940s when antibiotics became widely available and fell to their lowest mark in the late 1990s. By 2002, cases began rising again, with men who have sex with other men being disproportionately affected, though the STD is spreading among several demographics.

Malformed

In congenital syphilis, moms pass the disease on to their babies, potentially leading to death of the child or health problems for the child like deafness, blindness, and malformed bones. Case rates have been rising across racial and ethnic groups.

Dr. Mike Saag, an infectious diseases expert at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, said syphilis can be "a silent infection" in women because it's tricky to diagnose without a blood test - not everyone gets painless sores, wart-like lesions or other visible symptoms.

The CDC has long recommended that all pregnant women should be tested for syphilis at their first prenatal visit, but poor access to prenatal care - largely in rural areas of the US - can make that difficult. Nearly

40% of last year's congenital syphilis cases involved mothers who didn't have prenatal care, the CDC said.

If syphilis is diagnosed early in a pregnancy, the threat of passing it to the baby can be removed by a single penicillin shot. But experts say the later you get into pregnancy, the more likely you'll need multiple shots, and they have to be completed at least 30 days before delivery.

"I have had patients who have been on (a three-shot) regimen who then miss a shot," said Dr. Nina Raganathan, an OB/GYN at the Delta Health Center in Mound Bayou, Mississippi. "So they are trying to get their shots, but if they don't get the three in a row, because of transportation issues, because of job issues, child care issues, any number of reasons that prevent them from coming back, they don't complete their treatment."

Plus, the shortage of shots makes the task of getting syphilis numbers down difficult, health officials across the US told the AP. Patients who are not pregnant can use the antibiotic doxycycline to treat syphilis, but health officials are concerned that the 14- to 28-day timeline of treatment is difficult to complete, leaving infected people uncured.

Pfizer is the nation's sole supplier of the penicillin shot. Earlier this year, company officials said it was in short supply because of increased demand. Pfizer also said the shortage may not be resolved until next year.

The CDC said the shortage didn't affect the 2022 congenital syphilis case numbers and that, despite the shortage, it isn't aware of patients not getting their needed shots.

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Amos has 118 yards, 2 TDs, Miami blanks Akron

Toledo beats Eastern Michigan to clinch MAC West Division title

TOLEDO, Ohio, Nov 9, (AP): Dequan Finn threw for 407 yards and three touchdowns, Penny Boone rushed for three touchdowns, and Toledo beat Eastern Michigan 49-23 on Wednesday night to clinch the Mid-American Conference West Division title.

Toledo (9-1, 6-0) has won nine straight games, following a 30-28 loss at Illinois, for the first time in 40 years. The Rockets secured a return trip to the MAC championship game in Detroit on Dec. 2. Toledo was a co-West champion with Eastern Michigan last year but went to the MAC title game thanks to its win over the Eagles.

Toledo led 35-3 at halftime behind Finn's 275 yards passing and three touchdowns. Jac-

quez Stuart and Boone each had a touchdown run in the half, and Junior Vanderross III caught two touchdown passes. Finn's third touchdown extended the Rockets' lead to 49-9 with 10:48 left in the fourth quarter.

Boone had 52 yards rushing on 11 carries and he also caught four passes for 116 yards. Newton added 108 yards receiving on six catches. Jaylor Jackson had 74 yards rushing with a touchdown for Eastern Michigan (4-6, 2-4). Running back Samson Evans threw a 28-yard scoring pass to Elijah Jackson-Anderson.

Eastern Michigan was held to nine first downs in the first half and 106 total yards. The Eagles finished with 255 yards, compared to 508 for Toledo.

Miami 19, Akron 0

In Oxford, Ohio, Rashad Amos ran for 118 yards and two touchdowns and Miami (Ohio) defeated Akron 19-0.

FOOTBALL

The Redhawks (8-2, 5-1 Mid-American Conference) had trouble getting untracked on offense. They came in averaging 29.8 points and 357.6 yards - they finished with 236 total yards - but the defense was more than up to the task.

In picking up their second shutout of the season they held the Zips (2-8, 1-5) to 212 yards.

Amos carried six times on the game-opening 75-yard drive, including a 40-yard burst, and scored on a 1-yard plunge. He had a 30-yard touchdown run in the third quarter.

Jeff Undercuffler was 20 of 36 for 156 yards and two interceptions for Akron and when he went out with an injury late in the first quarter reserve Tahj Bullock went 2 of 6 for 20 yards. The Zips netted 36 yards rushing.

Bowling Green 49, Kent State 19

In Kent, Ohio, Ta'ron Keith went over 100 yards in both rushing and receiving, scoring touchdowns both ways, and Bowling Green de-

feated Kent State 49-19 for the Falcons' fourth straight win that made them bowl eligible.

With leading rusher Terion Stewart out with a leg injury suffered last week in a win over Ball State, Keith came through with career highs of 130 yards receiving and 103 rushing.

Connor Bazalak was 13-of-19 passing for 188 yards and a score for the Falcons (6-4, 4-2 Mid-American Conference). Camden Orth completed his only four passes for 98 yards and a touchdown and had two short rushing TDs. Harold Fannin added 92 yards receiving with a score. Odieu Hilaire, with 29 yards, went over 1,000 yards receiving. Tommy Ulatowski, in his second career start, was 23-of-39 passing for 284 yards and a score and an interception for Kent State.

Exhausted Jokic scores 35 points, Nuggets hold off Curry, Warriors

Embiid, Maxey lead 76ers to 6th straight win over Celtics

DENVER, Nov 9, (AP): An exhausted Nikola Jokic had 35 points and 13 rebounds in more than 36 minutes of action to help the Denver Nuggets hold off the Golden State Warriors 108-105 on Wednesday night.

Reggie Jackson, filling in for an injured Jamal Murray, added 20 points to help the defending champion Nuggets improve to an NBA-best 8-1 overall and 6-0 at home.

Jokic played the entire third quarter in an effort to help out a struggling bench unit. He also exerted energy trying to fend off Warriors big man Kevon Looney. Jokic had a chance to wrap up the win at the free throw line with 15 seconds left and the Nuggets up 107-105, but missed both.

76ers 106, Celtics 103

In Philadelphia, Joel Embiid had 27 points and 10 rebound and Philadelphia beat Boston for its sixth straight victory after a season-opening loss.

Tyrese Maxey added 25 points for the Eastern Conference-leading 76ers. Kristaps Porzingis led Boston (5-2) with 29 points.

Knicks 126, Spurs 105

In New York, Victor Wembanyama's first game at Madison Square Garden was one of the worst of his young career, with the San Antonio rookie managing



Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokic, right, shoots over Golden State Warriors forward Kevon Looney in the first half of an NBA basketball game, Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2023, in Denver. (AP)

just one basket in the first three quarters in New York's victory.

The 7-foot-3 Wembanyama missed his first seven shots and had more air-balls (2) than field goals through three quarters, when the Knicks led by as much as 30 points.

Bucks 129, Pistons 118

In Milwaukee, Damian Lillard scored 34 points, Bobby Portis added 18 and Milwaukee rallied to beat Detroit in a game in which Bucks star Giannis Antetokounmpo was ejected midway through the third quarter.

Antetokounmpo was ejected from the game minutes left after picking up his second technical foul for apparently taunting a defender after scoring on a dunk.

Suns 116, Bulls 115, OT

In Chicago, Jusuf Nurkic powered to the basket for a layup with 7.3 seconds left in overtime and Phoenix outlasted Chicago in Bradley Beal's Suns debut.

Grayson Allen scored 26 points, hitting a career-high eight 3-pointers, and Kevin Durant added 25 points to help the Suns win their second straight. Nurkic had 20 points.

Nets 100, Clippers 93

In New York, Lonnie Walker came off the bench to score 21 points and Brooklyn beat Los Angeles.

Former Nets star James Harden had 12 points and eight rebounds in his second game with Los Angeles since being acquired from Philadelphia on Oct. 30. Paul George led the Clippers with 24 points.

Thunder 128, Cavaliers 120

In Oklahoma City, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander had 43 points and Oklahoma City beat Cleveland.

Gilgeous-Alexander made 15 of 22 field goals and 12 of 13 free throws. He fell one point short of his career high and scored at least 40 for the eighth time. He also had seven rebounds and six assists.

Heat 108, Grizzlies 102

In Memphis, Tenn., Bam Adebayo had 30 points and 11 rebounds and Miami held off Memphis for its first road victory of the season.

Adebayo had 16 points in the fourth as Miami weathered a pair of Memphis rallies. The Grizzlies cut it to 105-102 on Santi Aldama's 3-pointer with 35.5 seconds left, but Miami rookie Jaime Jaquez Jr. countered with a 3 with 18.4 left to seal it.

Rockets 128, Lakers 94

In Houston, Jalen Green scored 28 points in three quarters and Houston never trailed against Los Angeles.

The Rockets have won four straight after dropping their first three games this season. They've won four in a row for the first time since winning seven consecutive games in late 2021, fourth with the game out of hand.

Raptors 127, Mavericks 116

In Dallas, Pascal Siakam had 31 points and 12 rebounds, OG Anunoby scored 26 and Toronto beat Dallas to complete a two-game sweep in Texas. Luka Doncic

BASKETBALL

scored 31 points and Kyrie Irving had 22 for the Mavericks, who lost for the first time in four home games this season.

Timberwolves 122, Pelicans 101

In Minneapolis, Anthony Edwards scored 26 points and had a season-high eight assists and Minnesota beat short-handed New Orleans.

Karl-Anthony Towns scored 23 points on 9-of-12 shooting and Rudy Gobert had 17 points and 20 rebounds to help Minnesota win its fourth straight game.

Kings 121, Trail Blazers 118, OT

In Sacramento, Calif., Domantas Sabonis had 27 points, 11 rebounds and nine assists, Malik Monk made two critical free throws with 13 seconds left in overtime and Sacramento beat Portland.

Pacers 134, Jazz 118

In Indianapolis, Aaron Nesmith scored 24 points and Benedict Mathurin and Myles Turner each added 22 to help Indiana beat Utah.

Tyrese Haliburton scored all 16 of his points in the second half and finished with 13 assists. Jalen Smith had 16 points and 11 rebounds.

Wizards 132, Hornets 116

In Charlotte, N.C., Kyle Kuzma scored 33 points and Washington made 18 3-pointers to beat Charlotte and snap a four-game losing streak.

Daniilo Gallinari and Delon Wright each added 18 points and Landry Shamet had 15 as Washington's reserves outscored Charlotte's 72-23. LaMelo Ball had a season-high 34 points for the Hornets.

Change Name

I, SYED ABDUL ALEEM (OLD NAME), R/O. D.NO.2-46, MIDDILI (ST),OBILI, PENAGALUR (M), ANNAMAYYA (DT), A P, HEREBY CHANGED MY NAME AS SHAIK ABDUL ALEEM (NEW NAME) S/O. SHAIK ABDUL ROUF

Texas crushes Southern 80-35

No. 2 UConn routs Dayton in Bueckers return for Huskies

HARTFORD, Conn., Nov 9, (AP): Aaliyah Edwards scored 23 points and Paige Bueckers made her long-awaited return from injury as No. 2 UConn opened its season Wednesday with a 102-58 rout of Dayton.

It was Bueckers' first game since the Huskies loss to South Carolina in the 2022 national championship game. She scored eight points in 21 minutes while on a coach-imposed minutes restriction. She also had seven rebounds, four assists and a steal.

Azzi Fudd had 13 points for UConn (1-0). Aubrey Griffin added 12, Qadence Samuels scored 11 and Nika Muhl and Caroline Ducharme each added 10.

Ivy Wolf had 16 points to lead Dayton (0-1). The Flyers are coached by former UConn star Tamika Williams-Jeter, who won two national titles playing for the Huskies in 2000 and 2002.

Texas 80, Southern 35

In Austin, Texas, Taylor Jones had 19 points and 12 rebounds, Amina Muhammad added 14 points

BASKETBALL

and 14 boards, and Texas began its season with a victory over Southern.

Rori Harmon, who was picked by the conference coaches as the Big 12 preseason player of the year, had eight points, seven rebounds and nine assists for Texas (1-0), which has won its last 11 home openers. Madison Booker, selected as the Big 12 preseason freshman of the year, added seven points, seven rebounds and seven assists.

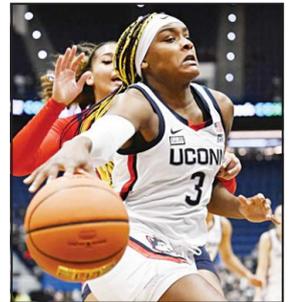
Southern (0-1) finished 14 of 48 from the field (29%), including 2 of 12 from 3-point range, with 22 turnovers. Ten Jaguars played, but none scored more than seven points.

Stanford 87, Hawaii 40

In Stanford, Calif., Kiki Iriafen had career highs of 23 points and 13 rebounds to lead Stanford to a win over Hawaii in the season opener for both teams.

Freshman Nunu Agara added 18 points in her debut while Brooke Demetre had 12 and Elena Bosgana 10 as the Cardinal (1-0) won their 25th straight home opener.

Hawaii (0-1) shot 22% and



UConn forward Aaliyah Edwards (3) drives toward the basket as Dayton forward Mariah Perez defends in the first half of an NCAA college basketball game, Wednesday, Nov 8, 2023, in Storrs, Conn. (AP)

Brooklyn Rewers scored eight points.

N. Carolina 102, Gardner-Webb 49

In Chapel Hill, N.C., Indya Nivar had 17 points and 11 rebounds to lead a trio of transfers with impressive debuts and North Carolina beat Gardner-Webb in the season opener for both teams.

Joining Nivar with a double-double was Alyssa Ustby, who had 12 points, 12 rebounds, six assists and four steals.

Lexi Donarski, a graduate transfer from Iowa State, and Maria Gakdeng, a junior who came from Boston College, scored 14 and 13 points, respectively. All five North Carolina (1-0) starters scored in double figures with Deja Kella adding 14. Sophomore Paulina Paris had 15 points off the bench.

Micahia Funderburk led the Bulldogs (0-1) with 16 points and Ashley Hawkins had 14.

Colorado 97, Le Moyne 38

In Boulder, Colo., Maddie Nolan and Frida Formann scored 15 points apiece, Aaronette Vonleh added a 13 points and 11 rebounds and Colorado (2-0) followed up its season-opening win over No. 1 LSU with a rout of Le Moyne.

Sarah-Rose Smith, a senior transfer from Missouri, came off the bench to score 10 points for Colorado. Lytoya Baker scored 18 points for the Dolphins (0-2), who went 3 of 19 from 3-point range and shot 30% overall.



Canada's Marina Stakusic returns the ball to Spain's Rebeka Masarova during their group stage tennis match between Spain and Canada on the second day of the Billie Jean King Cup finals at La Cartuja stadium in Seville, southern Spain, Wednesday, Nov 8, 2023. (AP)

Italy tops France

Teenager Stakusic leads Canada to defeat host Spain in BJK Cup Finals

SEVILLE, Spain, Nov 9, (AP): Teenager Marina Stakusic got the biggest win of her career to help Canada defeat host Spain 3-0 in Group C of the Billie Jean King Cup Finals on Wednesday.

The 18-year-old Stakusic, ranked No. 258 in the world, defeated No. 65 Rebeka Masarova 6-3, 6-1 to give Canada the first point of the day at La Cartuja Stadium.

Stakusic's previous career-best victory had been against No. 152 Jaimee Fourlis in 2022. She had never beaten a top 100 opponent.

"This is such a special feeling and makes me believe that I belong here," Stakusic said. "It is also super special to win in front of all the Canadians who I have worked with for a long time. What a feeling - it is the most meaningful win for me so far - and it will give me so much confidence going forward."

Leylah Fernandez gave Canada the

second point by edging Sara Sorribes Tormo 7-6 (8), 7-6 (7).

In the doubles, Eugenie Bouchard and Gabriela Dabrowski beat Sorribes Tormo and Masarova 6-2, 7-5.

In Group D, Italy defeated France 2-1 with early victories in the singles matches. Martina Trevisan rallied to defeat Alize Cornet 2-6, 6-2, 6-2 and

TENNIS

Jasmine Paolini beat Caroline Garcia 7-6 (6), 5-7, 6-4.

France came from behind to win the doubles match with Garcia and Kristina Mladenovic defeating Elisabetta Cocciaretto and Trevisan 5-7, 6-2, 10-6.

The 12 teams in the BJK Cup Finals compete in four round-robin groups and the winners will advance to the semifinals this weekend.

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KBL champions Team 5.30

Team 5.30 defend KBL title

ISA runners-up in thrilling finale

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: The Indian Badminton Association Kuwait (IBAK) successfully conducted the 8th edition of Kuwait Badminton League at its Salwa Gym (Saad Al Awzi School) on 26th, 27th Oct and 3rd Nov 2023. Team 5.30 were victorious for the 2nd consecutive year. Team ISA turned runners-up, while the journey of USC and Royal Stars were ended in the semi-finals.

In a hard-fought Final, Team 5.30 edged Team ISA (3-2). The competition offered a visual treat for the spectators while top class players showcased their talents.

During the final battle while Team ISA took lead by winning the Professional Men's Doubles, Team 5.30 leveled the score by winning the Open Men's Doubles. The third match of the final tie, the Advance Men's Doubles

was won by Team ISA. Team 5.30 fought back to win the Above 50 Men's doubles. Team 5.30 sealed victory by winning the decider match of the tie, the Mixed Doubles.

IBAK KDD KBL is the premier and only professional badminton league in

Kuwait. Indian Badminton Association Kuwait (IBAK) had conceived the idea of a league in 2015, and this was the 8th consecutive year in which the league was held. Kuwait Danish Diary (KDD) was the title sponsor of the Kuwait Badminton League for all these years.

BADMINTON

The KDD KBL 2023 prize distribution was done by V.V. Subramanian VP, Business Integration KDD, in the presence of Dr Manimara Chozhan - Chairman IBAK, Aneesh Abraham - President IBAK along with other IBAK committee members.

During his speech, Mr Subramanian stressed the need for healthy living which is in tune with the vision of KDD and reiterated the commitment of KDD on supporting badminton in Kuwait. He also reiterated that KDD is planning for something special in the 10th edition of KBL.

Top 98 players who practice across different clubs in Kuwait were auctioned into 6 different teams during the second week of October 2018. KDD-KBL was a fantastic opportunity

for players where senior/international players of Kuwait helped and played with junior players and the experiences and expertise was shared across the board.

The KDD KBL 2023 consisted of 6 teams -Thanjai Ninjas, Team 5.30, USC, KKR, Royal Stars and ISA. Each tie had 5 matches, 1 Professional Men's Doubles, 1 Open Men's Doubles, 1 advanced Men's Doubles, 1 Above 50 Men's Doubles and a Mixed Doubles.

The tournament was much applauded by Badminton lovers of Kuwait for presenting world class quality games. Chairman of IBAK, Dr. Manimara Chozhan thanked IBAK's members, tournament organizing committee, badminton lovers of Kuwait, players and teams participated in the tournament and our sponsors for making the tournament a grand success.

IBAK is committed to improve to badminton in Kuwait. As part of this efforts, IBAK will be concluding the year 2023 by conducting inter school badminton tournament in the month of December. IBAK can be reached on www.ibakwt.org or ibakcommittee@gmail.com



Some of the players in action.



Runners-up ISA



Officials addressing participants during the closing ceremony.

Referees suspended

Volleyball Federation orders Al-Qadsia, Kazma replay

By Khaled El Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: The dispute between Al-Qadsia and Kazma in the Al-Ittihad Volleyball Championship has taken a new turn. Following Al-Qadsia's official protest over the participation of Kazma's Abdul Rahman Al-Mut'a, who had received a disqualification in a previous match, the Volleyball Federation has accepted the protest. As a result, the match for third and fourth places, initially won 3-0 by Kazma, will be replayed today.

Al-Qadsia alleged that Al-Mut'a violated rules by participating in the match and have urged that Kazma be declared the losers with a score of 0-3. However, Kazma have objected to this decision, expressing reservations and demanding the approval of the initially recorded result.

The tension may escalate if Kazma chose not to participate in the rematch scheduled for this evening at Al-Ittihad Hall in the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex.

In response to the controversy, the Volleyball Federation accepted the letter has taken a temporary measure by suspending the referees and observer involved in the semi-final match between Kazma and Burgan. An investigation is underway to determine the responsible party and impose appropriate sanctions.

Union sweep Revs to 'advance' to last four

FOXBOROUGH, Mass., Nov 9, (AP): Chris Donovan scored in the 79th minute and goalkeeper Andre Blake recorded his third career playoff clean sheet as the Philadelphia Union beat the 10-man New England Revolution 1-0 on Wednesday night.

Philadelphia (16-9-10) swept the best-of-three series with New England (15-10-10) to advance to the Eastern Conference semifinals against Supporters' Shield winner Cincinnati.

Donovan, who entered in the 67th minute, redirected Jack McGlynn's free kick for the game winner. Blake made three saves.



A file photo of Al-Qadsia and Kazma players in action.



Al-Kuwait is challenged by Fox defender.

Al-Kuwait lose to Fox Berlin

Draw for 21st Asian Handball Championship set to take place in Bahrain; Kuwait resume training

By Khaled El Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

MANAMA, Nov 9: The draw for the 21st Asian Handball Championship is set to take place in Manama, Bahrain. The championship, scheduled from January 11-22 in Manama, will feature 16 teams divided into four groups, following the regulations of the Asian Handball Confederation. The participating teams, categorized by levels designated by the "AFC," include Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Iran in the first group; Kuwait, South Korea, Iraq, and the Emirates

in the second group; Sultanate of Oman, Hong Kong, and India in the third group; and Japan, China, Taipei, New Zealand, and Kazakhstan in the fourth group. The top four teams at the end of the Asian Championship will secure qualification for the 2025 Handball World Cup finals in Croatia, Denmark, and Norway.

On a disappointing note, Al Kuwait lost to Germany's Fox Berlin 28-37 in the Club World Cup Handball Championship. Despite the loss, they secured second place in the group, two points behind leaders Berlin with four points, while Argentin-

an Fernando remained without credit. The first-place finisher from the four groups qualifies for the semi-finals.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti national handball team resumed training today at the Al-Ittihad Hall in Daiya. This marks the first preparation stage ahead of their participation in the 21st Asian Championship. The team's training will continue until December 7, the date of their departure for the European training camp, which includes Slovenia, Croatia, and Hungary. Notably, the national team secured third place and a bronze medal at the World Championships in China last September and participated in the 2024 Paris Olympics qualifiers, where they finished seventh. Algerian coach Saeed Hegazy, assisted by Mohamed Masoudan, leads the team. Players currently engaged in the World Cup Championship and those in the Doha camp, along with injured players Mohamed Amer and Abdulaziz Yassin, will be absent from the training.

HANDBALL

On the club level, Al-Qadsia Club's handball team drew 32-32 with the Qatar reserve team in a friendly match during their training camp in Qatar. Their next friendly match is against Qatar's Al-Gharafa before returning to Kuwait.

The team are gearing up for the 26th Asian Club Championship, hosted by Al-Qadsia from 17-27 of this month at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex in the Sabah Al-Salem suburb.

The draw placed "Yellow" in the second group, competing against teams from India, Qatar, Iraq, Lebanon, and the UAE. The team have also welcomed new signings, including Argentine Lucas Muscarello and Tunisian goalkeeper Aseel Namli, along with Japanese player Kosyoko Yasuhira.

Wins for Al-Kuwait, Al-Nasr



Al-Kuwait player dribbles as Al-Arabi player defends.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: Kuwait Club's basketball team secured a victory against Al-Arabi with a score of 91-66.

BASKETBALL

114-103 in the third round of the basketball league.

The game took place at Al-Ittihad Hall in the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex. Simultaneously, Al-Nasr triumphed over Al-Tadamon with a score of 91-66.

The tournament will follow a two-part merger league system, ultimately sending the top four teams to the semi-finals.

250 participants as Inspire Kuwait International Champ'ship kicks off

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: The "Inspire Kuwait" International Championship for Motorcycles and Cars kicks off today at 4:00 p.m., featuring 250 participants from Kuwait, the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, and other Arab nations at the Kuwait City Motor Sports Circuit in the Arifjan area.

Organized by the Kuwaiti Inspire Sports Club for motor cars and motorcycles, the tournament will run until 10:00 p.m. tomorrow, culminating in the crowning of the top three winners in the 400-meter/quarter-mile "Roll Race" at the Kuwait City Motor Sports Circuit.

Hussein Al-Sheikh, leading the organizing committee of the "Inspire Kuwait" tournament, has planned exciting surprises for fans, including in-kind prizes, gifts, and various awareness and sports competitions throughout the two-day event.

Dr. Ahmed Falah Al-Mahawish, a Board member and treasurer of the Kuwaiti Inspire Sports Club for cars and motorcycles, expressed that the organizing committee spared no effort to ensure the success of the tournament on techni-



Board member and treasurer Ahmed Al Mahawish.

cal and administrative fronts. He highlighted the thorough preparations made by the Board of Directors and all organizing committees to guarantee success, welcoming the participation of top-notch contestants from Kuwait, the Gulf, and the Arab world. The venue is equipped in compliance with internationally approved technical standards, with hopes for a prosperous and successful event for all involved.



Real Madrid's Brahim Diaz, (right), duels for the ball with Braga's Vitor Carvalho during the Champions League Group C soccer match between Real Madrid and Braga at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid, Spain. (AP)

Sports

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Man United again fall in wild loss



Kuwait rhythmic gymnastics delegation.

Kuwait gymnastics team take 'part' in Baku Championship

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: The Kuwaiti girls' rhythmic gymnastics team embarked on their journey to the Azerbaijani capital to take part in the Second Baku International Championship for Girls. The championship is scheduled from the 9th to the 13th of this month and will see the participation of six players in the junior category: Sarah Al-Bannai, Nabila Al-Kharafi, Amina Al-Kandari, Raya Al-Qassar, Talia Behbehani, and Layan Behbehani. The team are accompanied by Ukrainian coaches Irina Kovalchuk and Victoria Vsyuk, with only the players' parents joining the delegation.

The Kuwait Gymnastics Federation clarified that the expenses for this significant tournament will be covered by the gymnasts' parents. Despite the importance of the Baku International Championship in the team's preparation for upcoming competitions, the General Sports Authority, having reviewed the program, declined participation in this particular event. The federation, in

collaboration with the team's coach Irina, designed a preparation plan that involved participation in various tournaments of diverse strength and level. This strategic approach aims to consistently elevate the skill level of the female players and foster their continuous development.

GYMNASTICS

The federation expressed gratitude to the parents of the gymnasts players for shouldering the trip costs, acknowledging their commitment to implementing the federation's plan successfully. This support is seen as instrumental in enhancing the gymnasts' abilities and creating a team capable of representing Kuwait with honor on the international stage.

In a parallel development, the junior artistic gymnastics team set off for the Greek capital, Athens, to partake in the International Horizon Cup. The competitions for this event are scheduled to take place from November 9 to 13.

Bahrain hosts Brave Int'l Fight Week

MANAMA, Nov 9: The international press conference for Brave International Fight Week 2023 took place in the Bahraini capital, Manama.

MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

The event is scheduled to run from December 5 to 16 at the Khalifa City Sports Hall, under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, President of the General Sports Authority, and President of the Bahrain Olympic Committee.

Muhammad Shahid, the head of the Brave Organization, expressed that the Kingdom of Bahrain is set for a historic global sporting event as it hosts the largest edition of the Brave

International Fighting Week, coinciding with the National Holidays of Bahrain in December. Bahrain will host three editions of the BRAVE CF professional mixed martial arts tournaments: BRAVE CF 77 on December 5, BRAVE CF 79 on December 8, and BRAVE CF 80 on December 15. The event will also feature the fourth edition of the Asian Mixed Martial Arts Championships for amateur mixed fighting.

Shahid highlighted Bahrain's significant role in combat sports, attributing it to the vision of His Highness Sheikh Khalid bin Hamad. The Kingdom has solidified its prestigious position on the global sports map, achieving success in mixed martial arts at regional, continental, and international levels. Shahid affirmed that the Brave organization aims to maintain its success and set new records through this tournament.



Officials addressing the media.

Impressive Real reach round of 16

GENEVA, Nov 9, (AP): On a royally good evening for standout Spanish teams, Manchester United fell in another wild loss in the Champions League.

Real Madrid and Real Sociedad advanced to the round of 16 with two games to spare after impressive home wins over Portuguese opponents, respectively 3-0 against Braga and 3-1 over Benfica.

Bayern Munich and Inter Milan also won and will be in the knockout phase after getting key late goals from their talismanic strikers, Harry Kane and Lautaro Martínez.

Kane scored in the 80th and 86th minutes in a 2-1 win over Galatasaray and Inter's 1-0 win at Salzburg was sealed by Martínez's penalty in the 85th.

Man United almost never have straightforward games in the English giants drama-filled season on and off the field. United slumped to last place on three points, one fewer than Copenhagen and Galatasaray with two games left. United head to Galatasaray next knowing a defeat will mean elimination from the Champions League with one game to spare.

"We have a mountain to climb, so we must climb," United captain Bruno Fernandes said. "We have two games, and we have to win those two games."

A 4-3 loss at Copenhagen - the same result as United's opening game at Bayern - after twice letting leads slip left coach Erik ten Hag's team last in Group A.

The three-time European champions seemed in total control with a two-goal lead after 28 minutes earned by \$80



Real Sociedad's Robin Le Normand (left), heads the ball as he holds Benfica's Petar Musa during a Group D Champions League soccer match between Real Sociedad and Benfica at the Real Arena stadium in San Sebastian, Spain. (AP)

million forward Rasmus Højlund, returning to face his former club.

A red card for United forward Marcus Rashford in the 42th sparked the chaos to follow, which saw Copenhagen level the score in 13 minutes of first-half stoppage time because of two pauses in play, including a protester on the field.

United led again when Bruno Fernandes scored from the penalty spot in the 69th but could not hang on. Lukas Lerager leveled in the 83rd before 17-year-old substitute Rooney Bardghji won it in the 87th.

SOCCER

The Kuwait-born, Sweden under-21 winger scored with a bouncing shot to lift the Danish champion into second place in the group standings, though with just four points. Galatasaray also have four points before hosting United, which have three, next on Nov. 29.

Arsenal took a four-point lead in Group B by comfortably beating Sevilla 2-0 while PSV Eindhoven rose from last place to second with its first win, 1-0 at home to Lens.

In Madrid's group, Napoli have a grip on second place despite failing to extend Union Berlin's losing run in all competitions to 13 games. Napoli wasted a lead in a 1-1 draw that Union earned when David Datro Fofana, a forward on loan from Chelsea, scored in the 52nd for his first goal in almost a year.

Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti plans included resting breakout star Jude Bellingham in what was a vibrant game with Braga for the record 14-time European champions.

Not in the plan was selecting Ukraine goalkeeper Andriy Lunin, who got a late call when first choice Kepa Arrizabalaga was unable to warm up because of a leg muscle injury.

Just six minutes into his third game of the season for Madrid, and first since August, Lunin saved a penalty from Braga's Alvaro Djaló.

Brahim Díaz had a goal disallowed before he gave Madrid a first-half lead and Brazil teammates Vinicius Júnior and Rodrygo added goals in a three-minute spell around the hour mark.

Real Sociedad threatened to sweep aside Benfica in the first half of a 3-1 win that saw i their three goals all scored by the 21st and a penalty missed minutes later.

In their first Champions League campaign for 10 years, Real Sociedad and long-serving coach Imanol Aguirre are impressing with a largely homegrown group of players from the Basque region.

Al-Mutairi secures gold

Kuwait shine in Asian Karate Championship with 5 medals



The winner and officials display the national flag as they celebrate.

ASTANA, Nov 9: Kuwait's Karate team clinched a total of five medals, including one gold, two silver, and two bronze, at the conclusion of the Asian Junior and Youth Championship in Kazakhstan, as announced by Fayed Al-Daihani, the Head of the Kuwaiti Karate Federation.

In the martial arts category of the seven-day tournament, Musa Al-Mutairi secured the gold medal by claim-

ing the top spot in the under 61-kilogram competition.

KARATE

Adding to the team's success, Sami Al-Ibrahim and Fahd Al-Azmi earned silver medals, securing second place in the under 57 kg and over 70 kg competitions, respectively. Additionally,

Haidar Hashem and Jassim Bafaqeer secured bronze medals by reaching the semi-finals in the over 84 kg and under 52 kg competitions.

Al-Daihani emphasized the federation's commitment to nurturing the skills of national team players through their participation in significant tournaments, aiming to achieve outstanding results in international, continental, and regional sports arenas.

Sri Lanka hopes of securing qualification for Champions Trophy dealt a blow

NZ edge closer to semifinal with clinical win

BENGALURU, India, Nov 9, (AP): Fast bowler Trent Boult picked up 3-37 as New Zealand beat Sri Lanka by five wickets on Thursday to edge closer to the last remaining semifinal spot at the Cricket World Cup.

CRICKET

Boult, who had previously picked up 10 wickets in eight games, roared back to form at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium as Sri Lanka were bowled out for 171 in 46.4 overs after being put into bat.

Fit-again paceman Lockie Ferguson claimed 2-35 in 10 overs, including two maidens, while left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner bagged 2-22 as the Black Caps made easy work of a must-win game.

In reply, New Zealand hurried to 172-5 in 23.2 overs thanks to Devon



New Zealand's Rachin Ravindra plays a shot during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup match between New Zealand and Sri Lanka in Bengaluru, India. (AP)

Conway (45), Rachin Ravindra (42) and Daryl Mitchell (43).

The victory means New Zealand is fourth with 10 points from nine games and a net run-rate of plus-0.743. Pakistan and Afghanistan can still overtake the Black Caps but will need to win their final league games against England (Nov. 11) and South Africa (Nov. 10) respectively.

The big winning margin, especially chasing down the total with 26.4 overs to spare, virtually eliminates Afghanistan, which have a net run-rate of minus-0.338. Pakistan need another big winning margin against England in Kolkata to upset the apple cart on the league stage's penultimate day.

India, South Africa and Australia have already qualified for the knockout stages as the top three sides in the table. New Zealand seem likely to face hosts India in the first semi in Mumbai on Nov. 15 while South Africa plays Australia in the second semi in Kolkata on Nov. 16.

Sri Lanka's hopes of securing qualification for the 2025 Champions Trophy were dealt a blow. They needed a win to boost its chances of finishing in the top eight at the World Cup but finished ninth after completing their nine league games.

Sri Lanka are equal on four points with England, Bangladesh and Netherlands but only ahead of the Dutch on run-rate, and will now depend on the last matches of those three sides. The top eight teams in this World Cup - including hosts Pakistan - will qualify for the Champions Trophy.

Earlier, Boult struck two important early blows by removing skipper Kusal Mendis for six and in-form Sadeera Samarawickrama for one.

Sri Lanka slid to 32-3 before Kusal Perera counter-attacked with 51 off 28 balls, including nine fours and two sixes.