



ISRAELI FORCES BATTLE HAMAS MILITANTS NEAR MAIN GAZA HOSPITAL

Riyadh communique demands UNSC action



The leaders of Arab and Islamic states pose for a group photo during the joint Arab-Islamic extraordinary summit hosted by Riyadh on Saturday, Nov 11.

KUNA photo

Event shows delicate balancing act UAE faces

Air chiefs summit avoids discussing strikes

DUBAI, Nov 12, (AP): As Israel unleashes one of the most-intense aerial bombing campaigns the Middle East has ever seen, leaders from the world's top air forces met Sunday in the United Arab Emirates to talk about almost anything that wasn't an airstrike.

The discussions at the Dubai International Air Chiefs' Conference, held ahead of the biennial Dubai Air Show this week, shows the delicate balancing act the federation of seven sheikhdoms faces. The UAE maintains diplomatic ties with Israel despite widespread and growing anger in the Arab world over the civilian casualties from Israel's offensive in the Gaza Strip against Hamas.

The Air Chiefs' Conference demonstrates how those ties continue, particularly as Rafael Advanced Defense Systems Ltd., an Israeli defense manufacturer, was a sponsor of the summit. And while the Dubai Air Show focuses primarily on commercial aircraft in a region crucial to East-West travel, there's a military component of the event as well.

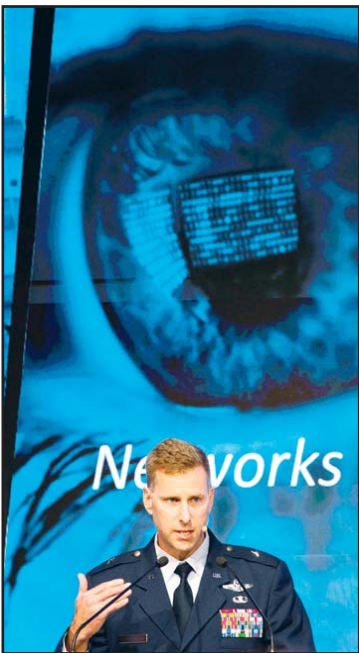
Listed among the show's exhibitors are both Rafael and Israel Aerospace Industries, which makes radars for its anti-missile systems and combat drones for the Israeli military.

"IAI stands shoulder to shoulder with the (Israeli military) to fully support all efforts, with fully operational systems," the company said in an online message. "We have a national duty and a profound responsibility to support the ... Israeli defense community, while continuing to deliver top-quality service and supplies to our partners worldwide."

The Israel-Hamas war began Oct. 7, when militants stormed into Israel, killing some 1,200 people and taking over 200 others back to the Gaza Strip as hostages. In the time since, the intense Israeli airstrikes on the Gaza Strip, followed up by a ground campaign with street-to-street combat still going on, have killed more than 11,000 Palestinians, two-thirds of them women and minors, according to the Hamas-overseen Health Ministry there.

For the arms industry, the Gulf Arab states long have been major clients. The nations, led by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, have spent billions of dollars on both sophisticated fighter jets and missile defense systems as tensions with Iran have risen and ebbed over the decades.

In the past 10 years alone, Saudi Ara-



U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. David A. Mineau speaks at the Dubai International Air Chiefs' Conference in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Nov. 12, 2023. (AP)

bia has spent more than \$28 billion on weapons imports, the second-highest in the world behind only India, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

Qatar has spent more than \$11 billion while the UAE has spent over \$10 billion as the sixth- and seventh-largest importers in the world respectively, SIPRI data shows.

Those systems have seen action with the Saudi-led war on Yemen's Iranian-backed Houthi rebels, a war that continues to grind on despite efforts to reach a peace deal. That coalition faced international criticism for airstrikes targeting schools and markets, killing civilians. Meanwhile, Houthi missile-and-drone attacks have reached deep into both Saudi Arabia and the UAE, at one point seeing U.S. forces based in the country fire their air-defense systems to defend Abu Dhabi in 2022.

The collapse of Iran's nuclear deal with world powers also saw an escalation in attacks attributed to Tehran as it now enriches uranium closer than ever to weapons-grade levels. And Israel's war on Hamas, which has seen punishing airstrikes level city blocks in the Gaza Strip, also has raised concerns of a regional war breaking out.

Worries about air pollution rise

Millions of Indians set Guinness world record celebrating Diwali

LUCKNOW, India, Nov 12, (AP): Millions of Indians celebrated Diwali on Sunday with a new Guinness World Record number of bright earthen oil lamps as concerns about air pollution soared in the South Asian country.

Across the country, dazzling multi-colored lights decked homes and streets as devotees celebrated the annual Hindu festival of light symbolizing the victory of light over darkness.

But the spectacular and much-awaited massive lighting of the oil lamps took place - as usual - at Saryu river, in Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh state, the birthplace of their most revered deity, the god Ram.

At dusk on Saturday, devotees lit over 2.22 million lamps and kept them burning for 45 minutes as Hindu religious hymns filled the air at the banks of the river, setting a new world Record. Last year, over 1.5 million earthen lamps were lit.

After counting the lamps, Guinness Book of World Records representatives presented a record certificate to the state's top elected official Yogi Adityanath.

Over 24,000 volunteers, mostly college students, helped prepare for the new record, said Pratibha Goyal, vice-chancellor of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Avadh University, in Ayodhya.

Diwali, a national holiday across India, is celebrated by socializing and exchanging gifts with family and friends. Many light earthen oil lamps or candles, and fireworks are set off as part of the celebrations. In the evening, a special prayer is dedicated to the Hindu goddess Lakshmi, who is believed to bring luck and prosperity.

Over the weekend, authorities ran extra trains to accommodate the huge numbers trying to reach their hometowns to join family celebrations.

The festival came as worries about air quality in India rose.

Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent Saturday a cable of thanks to Saudi King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud.

In the cable, His Highness Sheikh Mishal expressed great thanks and appreciation to the King for the warm reception and hospitality he and his accompanying delegation felt that stress deep-rooted, long, historic relations between the two brotherly countries and their peoples.

His Highness Sheikh Mishal added in the cable that Saudi Arabia's hosting of successful great international summits and conferences shows the Kingdom's outstanding status on international and regional levels in light of very complicated challenges facing the region and the whole world.

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In the cable, His Highness Sheikh Mishal expressed great thanks and appreciation to Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman for the warm reception and hospitality he and his accompanying delegation felt during the joint Arab-Islamic extraordinary summit that stress deep-rooted, long-decade, historic relations between the two brotherly countries and their peoples. (KUNA)

NEW DELHI: At least 36 Indian workers are trapped inside an under construction tunnel in the North Indian state of Uttarakhand after a portion of it collapsed on Sunday, Press Trust of India agency reported, citing security sources.

According to Uttarkashi Superintendent of Police, Arpan Yaduvanshi, portion of the tunnel between Silkyara and Dandagaon on the Brahmakhal-Yamunotri national highway in Uttarkashi district of the Himalayan state collapsed today morning trapping 36 workers inside. (KUNA)

SRINAGAR, India: A massive fire Saturday engulfed several wooden houseboats anchored in Indian-controlled Kashmir's popular Dal Lake and three charred bodies were recovered from the wreckage, officials said.

The three were tourists from Bangladesh who were staying on one of the gutted houseboats, the police said in a statement. (AP)



A metro train passes by the city skyline with Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest tower seen at center, in Dubai, Sunday Nov. 12, 2023. (AP)

Netanyahu dismisses ceasefire calls

RIYADH, Nov 12, (Agencies): The leaders of Arab and Islamic states have called on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to take a decisive and binding decision to stop the Israeli occupation aggression on Palestinians that violates international humanitarian law and international legitimacy's resolutions.

In the final communique issued at the end of the joint Arab-Islamic extraordinary summit hosted by Riyadh, the leaders called for lifting the blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip and allowing urgently the convoys of humanitarian aid, including food, energy, medicines, to get into the Strip.

They affirmed that they confront together this aggression and its humanitarian catastrophe, adding that they work to stop it and end all illegal Israeli practices that perpetuate the occupation and deprive Palestinian people from their rights,

especially their right to freedom and an independent state with sovereignty over its entire national territory, it noted.

They stressed all the importance of implementing the resolutions issued by the OIC and the League on the Palestinian issue and the occupied Arab territories, recalling the UN and other international organizations' resolutions regarding the Palestinian issue, the crimes of the Israeli occupation, and the rights of the Palestinian people to freedom and independence in all of its occupied territories since 1967, which constitute a single geographical unit.

The leaders stressed the need to enable international humanitarian organizations to play their role in providing humanitarian and relief aid to the Palestinian people, including United Nations organizations, especially the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), and to support its efforts in that regard.

They condemned all forms of hatred and discrimination, and proposals that perpetuate hate and extremism, warning against the disastrous consequences of the retaliatory aggression launched by Israeli occupation against the Gaza Strip, which amounts to a war crime.

The communique affirmed the centrality of the Palestinian issue and providing all kinds of support to the Palestinian people in their legitimate struggle to liberate all their occupied territories and fulfill all their inalienable rights, especially their right to self-determination and live in their independent, sovereign state on the borders of June 4, 1967, with Jerusalem as its capital.

They emphasized that the just, lasting and comprehensive peace, which is a strategic option, is the only way to guarantee security and stability for all the peoples of the region and protect them from the cycles of violence and wars.

They said this would not be achieved without ending the Israeli occupation and resolving the Palestinian issue on the base of the two-state solution.

The leaders called on countries to stop exporting weapons and ammunition to the Israeli occupation used by its army and terrorist settlers to kill Palestinian people, and destroy their homes, hospitals, schools, mosques and churches.

They also called on the Security Council to take an immediate decision condemning the barbaric Israeli occupation's destruction of hospitals in the Gaza Strip and preventing the entry of medicines, food and energy to it as well as cutting electricity, water and the internet as a collective punishment, which is a war crime in line with international law.

They stressed the need of requesting the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to complete investigation into war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by the Israel occupation against Palestinian people in all the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem, the communique said.



KUNA photo

The 18th Kuwaiti humanitarian plane set off on Sunday, laden with 40 tons of foodstuff and medical equipment bound for Gaza, loaded onboard by the dedicated team. — See Page 5

MP seeks clarity on Shaddadiya contract

Kuwait Budget Committee seeks fiscal transparency, discusses record surplus

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: Chairman of the parliamentary Budgets and Final Accounts Committee MP Osama Al-Zaid confirmed that the panel met with Minister of Finance Fahd Al-Jarallah on Sunday.

They discussed the committee's request for the Ministry of Finance to submit the report on the budget and financial status of the State one month earlier than the specified date. He disclosed the ministry used to send the report to the National Assembly on Jan 31 or two months before the fiscal year ends. He clarified that the committee asked the ministry to submit its report on Dec 31 in order to complete the panel's report quickly.

They also deliberated on the report about the public budget for fiscal 2022/2023, which included the following:

- Total revenues reached KD 28.800 billion;
- Total expenditures reached KD 22.300 billion;
- Budgetary surplus of KD 6.400 billion — the first time in six years (since fiscal 2014/2015);
- Non-oil revenues reached KD 2.080 billion;

- KD 12.900 billion spent on salaries and allowances;
- KD 4.300 billion spent on subsidies;
- KD 2.050 billion spent on development projects.

Al-Zaid said the amount spent on development projects is much lower than the budget due to the delayed implementation of several capital projects. He considers this wastage of potential revenues and job opportunities.

On non-oil revenues, he asserted the amount is very low; hence, the need to push for diversification of income sources.

He attributed the budget surplus to the increasing oil prices, which recorded an average of \$79 per barrel — higher than the previous years. He stressed this surplus is temporary and it is controlled by oil prices.

"After some years of suspending revenues deduction for the Future Generations Fund; the government informed the committee that one percent of the surplus will be transferred to the fund this year, while the rest will be for the State treasury and Public Reserve Fund," he added.

On the other hand, the Education, Culture and Guidance Affairs Committee on Sunday held a meeting in response to the request of Minister of Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research Adel Al-Manea to discuss the suspension of scholarship for Kuwaiti medical students in the universities in Egypt and Jordan.

Rapporteur of the committee MP Hamad Al-Elyan confirmed that they agreed on the cancellation of the decision, stressing this move does not compromise the quality of education. He said the committee asked if there are regulations on allowing scholarships for medical students in Egypt and Jordan, while ensuring the high quality of education.

He added the Ministry of Higher Education has been asked to find a solution for the medical students enrolled in Egyptian and Jordanian universities at their own expense for academic year 2023/2024.

He stressed the need to address the issue, because it is unfair to suspend the scholarships and allow the students to enroll in the same universities at their own expense.

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Prayer Timings			
Fajr	04:47	Asr	14:34
Sunrise ..	06:09	Maghrib ..	16:55
Zohr	11:32	Isha	18:14

Local

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

Municipality nods participation of foreign firms in billboards bidding process

MEW opens door for its staff to pursue studies within Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: The Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy has initiated a program for employees interested in pursuing university studies within Kuwait, enabling them to take advantage of the Civil Service Commission's directive allowing the integration of study and work within the country, reports Al-Rai daily.

According to reliable sources within the ministry, the Administrative Affairs Sector has devised a form for employees expressing a desire to continue their studies. It is mandatory for each employee intending to pursue university education to complete this form.

The sources further emphasized that the ministry's acceptance of applications aligns with the decisions made by the Civil Service Commission, highlighting that employee acceptance will adhere to the terms outlined in the decision issued last August, inclusive of specified conditions.

They clarified that employees opting to pursue studies will not experience any impact on their existing allowances, as the study period is scheduled to commence after the conclusion of official working hours.

Conversely, the sources revealed that the Ministry is actively pursuing discussions with the Civil Service Commission to amend regulations, allowing its employees to implement flexible working hours. They expressed concern that the bureau's inability to address this issue has, thus far, deprived over 35,000 ministry employees from benefiting from the flexible working arrangement.

Municipality nods ... : Engineer Saud Al-Dabbous, the Director of Kuwait Municipality, has affirmed that the municipality welcomes the participation of foreign companies in the bidding process for investment billboards, reports Al-Rai daily.

The Al-Rai daily has learned that this aligns with the stipulations outlined in the qualification brochure and Ministry of Finance Circular 1 of 2023. However, he emphasized the necessity for such companies to have a local agent.

Responding to a query from Municipal Council member Dr. Hassan Kamal regarding the enforcement of advertising regulations, Al-Dabbous highlighted that there is a total of 30 licensed television screens across all governorates. He clarified that the advertising licensing procedure involves the interested party submitting applications along with official documents.

Furthermore, Al-Dabbous specified that these screens should be located on commercial and industrial buildings, on the roofs of main buildings without annexes, and on the structures of central markets for cooperative societies.

Addressing the issue of electoral advertisements, he stated that such content is considered within the scope of permitted content in advertising auction contracts. However, he emphasized the obligation to refrain from publishing anything inconsistent with public morals in the advertising material.

Although these advertisements fall under the category of commercial advertisements, this classification does not conflict with the regulations outlined for election advertisements, whether based on location or quantity.

Al-Dabbous clarified that the provision of electricity for street advertising and television advertisements is facilitated through the Ministry of Electricity and Water. The calculation of electrical consumption is conducted in accordance with the established procedures and systems of the ministry.

'Terrorist, splinter groups threat'

Focus on modern perils, asymmetric wars



KUNA photo

Deputy Foreign Minister chairs the Border Committee meeting.

Deputy FM holds border cmte meeting

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, chaired on Sunday the Border Committee meeting, and discussed the developments related to the committee's work. (KUNA)

Arab Creative Students forum kicks off

'Turkiye-GCC trade to boost ties'

ISTANBUL, Nov 12, (KUNA): The Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council Jassem Al-Budaiwi stressed on Sunday that the economy and investment strengthens the relationship between the GCC and Turkiye.

This came in a statement to KUNA. Al-Budaiwi added that he was briefed on the numbers and statistics that prove that this relationship needs to have all the elements available to continue its success, strengthen it, and activate it.

He said that there are two important elements for that to be achieved, firstly; Resuming talks between Turkey and the GCC countries regarding the free trade agreement.

"Secondly, the sixth meeting of the strategic discussion between Turkey and the GCC countries, the last of which was held in 2016, and there is an initial agreement to hold the meeting in Istanbul in the first quarter of next year," he added.



Al-Budaiwi

Important

He noted that the first Turkish-GCC Economic Forum is an important forum that serves the relations between the GCC countries and Turkey at all levels, and there is regional coordination between the two sides on several matters.

The Turkish Gulf Economic Forum kicked off earlier today in Istanbul, with the participation of Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Oil and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investments Dr. Saad Al-Barak, and a number of officials and executives from the GCC.

The forum aims to strengthen the relations between GCC countries and Turkiye and expand commercial trades between the two sides.

Meanwhile, the 24th Arab Creative Students Forum organized by the Arab Council for the Training of Students of Arab Universities (ACTSAU) kicked off in Sohar University on Sunday.

In her opening speech at the event, Oman Minister for Higher Education, Research and Innovation Rahma Al-Mahrooqi stressed the importance of enhancing the task of Arab universities, which aim at improving the scientific research and boosting the level students capabilities in all scientific field.

For his part, Vice Chancellor of Sohar University Dr. Hamdan Al Fazari said that this year's forum will discuss

Grievances later

'Bonus in this week'

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: As Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Dr. Adel Al-Manea, directed the relevant sectors to expedite the disbursement of financial rewards to eligible employees of the Ministry of Education, the Acting Assistant Undersecretary for Financial Affairs, Matrouk Al-Mutairi, announced the sector continues to coordinate with the relevant departments of the Ministry to complete the procedures for disbursing excellent work awards to those entitled in the Hawalli and Jahra educational districts, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Al-Mutairi said in a statement that the award was given to those who met the conditions, in addition to some schools and names that were inadvertently dropped from the lists in all educational regions.

He confirmed that the amounts of excellent award bonuses for the rest of the beneficiaries would be deposited in the beneficiaries' accounts during the current week after obtaining approval by the Financial Control Authority.

He pointed out that the door for grievances will be opened in coordination with the administrative sector after the depositing the rewards for all those eligible.

the role of higher education institutions in economic development across various fields.

Furthermore, the forum serves as the final judging stage for the participating research papers and honors the winners, he added.

Director of the Arab Council for Student's Training and Creativity (AS-CTC) Dr. Fawaz A. Al-Zaghoul said that the Forum includes participation of 36 student research projects from 17 universities and six centers and institutes from eight different countries in the Arab world.

Sohar University, in collaboration with the Arab Council for Training and Student Creativity, prepared a comprehensive program for the forum that aims to provide participants with knowledge and experience, particularly in exploring the culture, landmarks, history, and civilization of the Sultanate of Oman, which extends back through many centuries.

CAIRO, Nov 12, (KUNA): The 27th symposium for heads of training bodies in the Arab Armed Forces commenced in Cairo on Sunday, organized by the League of Arab States and focusing on "The impact of modern threats and asymmetric wars on military operations and training." The State of Kuwait is actively participating in the symposium, which will run until November 16.

Ambassador Khalil Al-Thawadi, the Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the Arab Affairs Sector at the University, addressed the opening session. He highlighted the contemporary challenges posed by modern threats and asymmetric wars, emphasizing their impact on Arab countries and their armed forces. Al-Thawadi noted that terrorist groups and irregular armed organizations exploit scientific and technological advancements to create new destabilizing methods, underscoring the ease of obtaining such technology.

Necessity

Emphasizing the necessity to understand and study the dangers associated with these wars, Al-Thawadi stressed the importance of employing modern and intelligent educational methods to train armed forces in effectively confronting and preventing these evolving threats. The symposium aims to prepare a unified indicative study to enhance the skills of armed forces members and military college students, enabling them to navigate diverse circumstances.

Al-Thawadi highlighted the seminars' objective of boosting the capabilities of leaders responsible for training, fostering permanent and continuous research to develop modern methods and approaches, and unifying military doctrines across Arab countries. These efforts are anticipated to have a positive impact on armed forces personnel.

Major General Sultan Al-Aryani, the Chairman of the Meeting, lauded the Arab League's efforts in organizing such seminars to enhance military efficiency in Arab countries. He expressed hope that the symposium would yield recommendations beneficial for reinforcing joint Arab action in training.

Al-Aryani emphasized the importance of adapting military systems to technological advancements, calling for collaborative efforts among Arab countries to develop the training system and enhance joint Arab action. He commended the decision to hold the symposium, highlighting its significance in enriching the training process for Arab armed forces.

A Kuwaiti delegation, led by Major General Fahd Al-Turaiji and including Brigadier General Khaled Al-Arifan, Colonel Muhammad Al-Asousi, and Colonel Abdullah Al-Nouri, is actively participating in the symposium.



KUNA photo

Major General Fahd Al-Turaiji at the symposium.

'Be prepared for rain'

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: The Minister of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy and Acting Minister of Public Works Dr. Jassim Al-Ostad held a meeting with the rain committee yesterday morning in the presence of several government agencies.

According to sources from the Ministry of Public Works, Minister Al-Ostad listened to the parties participating in the committee and the preparations of each party. During the meeting, he directed all parties to ensure the readiness of the equipment and pumps on the roads to quickly deal with the rainy situation.

In a related context, the Director of the Kuwait Meteorological Department Abdulaziz Al-Qarawi highlighted the possibility of rain at the end of this week.

He explained that the country is affected by an extension of a surface depression that coincides with the presence of a depression in the upper layers of the atmosphere moving from the west of the country to the east, leading to the proliferation of low and medium clouds from Wednesday dawn to Friday dawn, interspersed with some cumulonimbus clouds, with chances of scattered rain with possibility of thunder, and heavy downpour in some areas. This will be accompanied by light to moderate winds that are active at intervals, especially on Thursday, with a chance of dust, a decrease in horizontal visibility in some areas, a rise in sea waves to more than 6 feet, and chances for fog to form in some areas.



KUNA photo
The Representative of His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince, meets with the Prime Minister of Pakistan on the sidelines of the joint Arab-Islamic summit in Riyadh.

HH Amir's Rep. receives Pakistani PM

Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Pakistani Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on the sidelines of the extraordinary Arab-Islamic Summit in Riyadh on Saturday.

Firm bilateral relations and ways of promoting them on all levels, along

with latest regional and international developments, were discussed during the reception attended by Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince's Office Director Jamal Al-Thiab and Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs in His Highness the Crown Prince's Office Mazen Al-Issa. (KUNA)



PayTally



PayTally service

KIB & Marina Home join forces, bring customers financial deals

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced a strategic partnership agreement with Marina Home, as part of its continuous commitment to providing top-tier financing deals on products and services while elevating the customer experience.

The new collaboration will offer customers from both parties flexible and exclusive financing deals with long-term credit facilities.

Commenting on the agreement, Abdulaziz Al-Shammari, Head of the Central Sales Unit - Retail at KIB, said: "KIB understands that buying furniture can be a significant investment. We are excited to collaborate with Marina Home to provide our customers with more convenient financing solutions. From now on, customers seeking to furnish their homes with style and comfort will have the opportunity to take advantage of our flexible financing offers to make the process more seamless."

Al-Shammari added: "KIB brings a wealth of experience in providing secure and customer-centric financial solutions. The financing offer comes with several benefits, including easy and flexible monthly payments, and convenient grace periods. More importantly, the offers



Al-Shammari

provided through the new partnership are a continuation of KIB's 'Best' financing program; the strongest program of its kind in Kuwait that aligns with customers' ever-evolving needs and aspirations."

Under the partnership, KIB customers can receive easy financing for a duration of up to five years. Customers wishing to shop from Marina Home will have the opportunity to access a financing package, offering a range from KD 300 to KD 25,000, with a maximum duration of up to 60 months.

To add more ease to the process, customers can make use of the financing offer by applying through KIB's innovative digital platform, PayTally, which offers a wide range of services and products provided by the Bank's retail and service partners. In addition, they can easily track their submitted requests. Customers can also visit Marina Home, get in touch with the Bank's call center, or pass by one of its many branches across the country to benefit from the offer.

It is worth noting that KIB spares no effort in establishing long-term relationships and partnerships that serve its customers' needs and meet their expectations, as it continues to live up to its slogan, 'Bank for Life'. These partnerships aim to achieve the Bank's main goals geared towards elevating its financing services and providing more comprehensive, integrated offers that suit customers' modern lifestyles.

Nod to change in tents regulations

By Enas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: The Legal and Financial Committee of the Municipal Council, during its ninth meeting of the second session yesterday, approved the proposal submitted by the Deputy President of the Municipal Council Khaled Al-Mutairi to amend some provisions of the temporary event tents regulations.

It also approved the proposal submitted by Municipal Council member Sharifa Al-Shalfan for translating Kuwait Mu-

nicipality regulations into English, with the speedy completion of the translation project by the Information Department.

The committee, headed by member Fahad Al-Abd Al-Jader, reserved the proposal submitted by him to issue temporary licenses for some activities during the camping season.

The draft budget of Kuwait Municipality for the 2024/2025 fiscal year was presented to the Municipal Council, with member Ismail Behbehani abstaining from it, as well as the annual statistical report of 2022/2023.

diwaniya

كِيوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

‘Kuwaitis stress Gulf unity, express solidarity with Palestinian cause’

“THE competency of our politicians and veterans cannot be solely measured by the duration spent in parliamentary seats in the esteemed “Abdullah Al-Salem” hall named after the late Amir Abdullah Al-Salem, who, in 1962, played a pivotal role in the historical leap by ratifying the constitution, marking Kuwait as the first Gulf state to celebrate “Kuwaiti Constitution Day.” Had he foreseen future National Assembly members who failed in their responsibilities, he might have hesitated to approve it,” columnist **Badr Khaled Al-Bahr** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

“Concerning the recent speech delivered by the Speaker of the National Assembly at the closing session of the Gulf Cooperation Council’s legislative councils, there’s a notable reservation.

“It was hoped that any observations would be conveyed privately to the session’s chair, as it pertains to procedural matters of relatively minor significance.

“This is especially relevant since Kuwait’s stance on the Palestinian issue, as articulated by the Speaker, aligned with the joint statement of member states denouncing Israel’s actions against Palestinians and expressing solidarity with their cause.

“As Kuwaitis, we emphasize the need for Gulf unity, a unity demonstrated during the invasion and more recently at the foreign ministers’ meeting regarding the Durra field. It is anticipated that this unity will persist regarding Khor Abdullah and other imminent threats.

“On a different note, the Kuwait Society for Quality Education issued a statement condemning the deteriorating situation in the National Assembly regarding education, particularly the request from some members to reinstate scholarships to universities in Egypt and Jordan.

“These scholarships were halted due to professional reasons outlined in Resolution No. 183 of 2023. The association warns against politicizing education with baseless allegations and emphasizes that representatives should not interfere in scholarship management and evaluation. The arbitrary pressure on the minister and government represents a populist decision detrimental to Kuwait’s future.

“The association rejects the call to reconsider the decision to stop scholarships, citing reports from specialized delegations and the National Authority for Academic Accreditation and Educational Quality Assurance.

“Some representatives’ requests disregard these reports, jeopardizing the



Badr Al-Bahr

health security of citizens. The association vehemently opposes revisiting the decision to stop scholarships for the two aforementioned countries, urging the government to resist pressure that contradicts our aspirations for a scholarship plan that enhances the professional and clinical capabilities of our students, akin to global standards.

“Accordingly, we warn the government, through the Ministry of Education, against submitting to pressure from some representatives of the Council, regarding reconsidering the decision to stop scholarships for the two aforementioned countries, which is a violation of what we aspire to in terms of a scholarship plan that raises the professional and clinical level of our students, as is the practice in countries around the world.”

Also:

“We express gratitude for the transformative impact of the “Al-Aqsa Flood,” awakening not only the world but also our consciousness. The current distressing events in Gaza, marked by horror and criminality, were ongoing before, albeit in manageable increments. The flood condensed 75 years into a cinematic narrative with skillful direction and scripting,” columnist **Muzaffar Abdullah** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

“The behavioral and societal repercussions triggered by the “Al-Aqsa Flood” operation on both the Arab and international stages cannot be overlooked. Preceding this seismic event, the public had become accustomed to the Palestinian issue, partly due to delays and a rush toward normalization with an entity openly expressing intentions to unleash nuclear devastation on Gaza.

“The resulting behavioral uprising mirrors the societal adjustments experienced during the pandemic, translating into voluntary forms like boycotting companies supporting the Zionist cause or abstaining from shopping at particular establishments.

“This surge has found expression in various forms, including musical and artistic support for Palestine, large-scale demonstrations in influential capitals, and public statements from notable figures in sports, arts, and fashion condemning the enemy’s actions as war crimes and genocide.

“In terms of awareness, social media has played a pivotal role in unveiling the intricate details of the Palestinian issue to the younger generation. The “Al-Aqsa Flood” has redefined the Zionist narrative, shedding light on their historical objectives: the killing and displacement of Palestinians to occupy their land.

“It has also exposed the reluctance of major powers to intervene in the face of blatant violations of international and humanitarian laws, resulting in the

disproportionate suffering of innocent civilians in Palestine.

“The ongoing situation in Gaza and the West Bank, along with threats against Arab nations, encapsulates the essence of this entity. The global response to the “Al-Aqsa Flood” serves as a revealing cinematic portrayal, reflecting the doctrine of those governing this entity and their disdainful perspective on the Arab region.

“The flood, a catalyst for global awakening, not only spotlighted the current atrocities but also condensed decades of injustice into a compelling narrative.”

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“We have heard about the war on terrorism, but today, we witnessed real terrorism sponsored by countries that raised the slogan of the war on terrorism and justified the war on humans, children, women and innocent people in Gaza,” columnist **Mohammad Al-Ruwaiheil** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

“Such countries always talk about international law, human rights, democracy, freedom and rapprochement of religions and civilizations, yet they break and transgress the law, violate human rights, and justify the killing of children, women and innocent defenseless civilians whom they are crushing daily. For more than a month now, the Zionist military machine has been ignoring human rights organizations, humanity and the massive demonstrations of peoples around the world demanding an end to the aggression against Gaza.

“We did not know that the countries supporting the Zionist entity stand against the occupation and consider resistance an act of terrorism and barbarism. They justify the occupier’s violation of international and humanitarian laws. They have reached the point of supplying the Zionist entity with weapons and expertise, while traveling around the world to put pressure on other governments neither to interfere nor denounce this barbaric aggression that is claiming the lives of innocents. It demolishes homes, hospitals, schools and temples, and prevents humanitarian aid from reaching them, as if those it kills are not human beings.

“Toofan Al-Aqsa or Al-Aqsa Flood proved that this is a savage world supporting organized terrorism, that the governments of democratic countries do not care about their people, that their slogans are false and have nothing to do with reality, and that Israel is nothing but the satanic seed of regimes planted on land that has rejected the act for more than 70 years and has not borne fruit. They have nothing but the worst poisonous fruits that bring them more hatred and absence of peaceful coexistence.”

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary

Other Voices

The unjustified screen bonus

By Ahmad alsarraf

Representative Al-Obaid directed the following questions to the Minister of Education: Due to the change in the educational system during the Corona pandemic, and its transformation from an “attendance” system to a distance learning system (online), which required an increase in teachers’ use of computers, please provide the following:



alsarraf

1. What is the reason for not paying a screen allowance to teachers who worked during the Corona pandemic through the ‘teams’ application?
 2. Does the Ministry have a directive to disburse screen allowance? If the answer is yes, please provide me with the steps followed, the disbursement mechanism, and the method for determining those entitled to the allowance.
 3. Did the Ministry pay screen allowance to computer teachers for all educational levels?
- It can be concluded from the MP’s questions that he means “financial benefit” for some of his voters, and it does not matter if thousands of others get the same benefit, even if they are not among those who deserve it, for “your uncle’s money does not matter to you”!
- For the knowledge of the brother MP and the other brother, Minister Al-Mana, who is striving with great effort to send students back to Egypt and Jordan to study human medicine in unrecognized universities, in violation of his previous positions and opinions in this regard, which means that he is subjected to illogical and unfair parliamentary pressure.
- They know well the scientific and ethical risks surrounding the issue, because it is scientifically known that there is no harm in looking at a computer screen. All that looking at it for a long time causes is some dryness, which usually results from a lack of “eye blinking,” and this can be easily overcome.
- Also, the “harm” that comes from the computer screen must come with the same force from staring at the screen of a mobile phone, mobile device, or cell phone (whatever you call it), which has

a different name in every Arab country.

Therefore, how is it permissible in the first place to give teachers an allowance for looking at the screen, and deprive students of it? Why don’t we give all citizens an allowance for looking at a mobile screen?

It seems that the “screen allowance” is widespread in many government departments, as if there are risks from using it. If we assume that there is such a health risk to the eyes, does the amount of the allowance justify exposure to that risk?

In a study by the prestigious American Harvard University, published on May 1, 2019, it was scientifically shown that daily exposure to lights emanating from computer screens has no effect on the “retina,” which is a thin tissue at the back of the eye that is responsible for vision.

The amount of blue light emitted by electronic devices, including smartphones, tablets, LCD TVs and laptops, does not harm the retina or any other part of the eye.

Blue light is visible light with a wavelength between 400 and 450 nanometers. As its name suggests, it is scientifically considered blue light, even though we feel it is white or any other color.

The reason for doubting that blue light contains more energy per photon of light than other colors in the visible spectrum is mainly due to the fact that exposure to blue light, in very high doses, causes damage when it is absorbed by various cells in the body.

This cannot happen with current devices. Therefore, the Minister of Education can use this study to reject the slave member’s request, which is neither logical nor justified. He should also stop reconsidering the decision to stop sending students to study medicine at low standard universities. The government, which is almost detached from reality, should stop the unjustified screen bonus.

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Note: Today, I donated a truckload of medical supplies to the Kuwaiti Red Crescent to deliver them to the afflicted people of Gaza; had also previously donated cash to UNRWA for the same humanitarian purpose. We hope that those who are able will emulate this humanitarian gesture.

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282 illegal aliens held in raids

20 caught in drug-related cases

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: The Residence Investigation officers have arrested 282 residence violators in several areas and 20 suspects in 16 drug cases, reports Al-Rai daily.

In an official statement, the General Administration of Security Relations and Media announced that the rigorous inspection initiatives conducted by the General Administration of Residence Affairs Investigations, through its Research and Investigation Department, Supervision and Coordination Department, Financial and Administrative Services Department, Tripartite Committee, and Violators Follow-up Department, have yielded significant results in various areas, including Khaitan, Hawalli, Al-Dhajej, Kabb, Al-Salihiyah, Mahboula, Fahaheel, and Farwaniya markets.

These efforts led to the arrest of 282 individuals – violators of residency and labor laws. Additionally, two fraudulent offices dealing with domestic workers and an illicit massage parlor were raided. The statement highlighted that legal actions are being taken against the individuals, who are being referred to the appropriate authorities.

Furthermore, the statement elaborated on the proactive measures taken by the criminal security sector to enforce the law, enhance security presence, and apprehend criminals, particularly drug traffickers.

The General Administration for Narcotics Control successfully arrested 20 individuals of diverse nationalities involved in 16 cases. Seized from them were approximately 13 kilograms of various narcotics (Shabo, Hashish, chemicals, marijuana, cocaine), 29,100 pills of assorted psychotropic substances (Lyrica, Captagon, Xenex, Metadol), and undisclosed amounts of money from drug sales. Additionally, one of the suspects was found in possession of unlicensed ammunition.

The statement emphasized the relentless efforts of security personnel across all sectors in combating drug dealers and thwarting smuggling techniques. It urged the public to collaborate with security forces by reporting any suspicious activities through the emergency phone (112) and the General Administration for Drug Control hotline (1884141).

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Biker dies in accident: A motorcycle accident on the Arabian Gulf Street led to the death of a citizen. The Al-Rai daily said the accident happened on the Al Khaleej Street near Kuwait Towers. The motorcyclist died when his motorbike skidded off the road.

When the ambulance and security personnel moved to the place, the man had succumbed to his injuries.

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Huge traffic crackdown: Last week, the General Traffic Department issued 20,804 traffic citations, impounded 117 vehicles, seized 18 motorcycles, and referred to the traffic police 41 people who committed serious violations, says Al-Seyassah.

According to the weekly statistics of the General Traffic Department, 21 juveniles were caught driving vehicles without a driver’s license and were referred to the juvenile prosecution. Also, one individual was caught in possession of drugs, and two people were found to be in a disoriented condition that indicated their use of intoxicants. In addition, 144 wanted vehicles were seized, and 1,787 traffic accidents, including 303 serious accidents, were dealt with.

Court to hear ‘fashionista’s’ appeal on Jan 11 next year

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: The Court of Appeals set the session of January 11, 2024 for the appeal filed by the “fashionista” who was sentenced to three-year imprisonment and the withdrawal of her driver license for a year after she was convicted of causing the accident, which has been dubbed as Al-Sour Accident.

The court convicted her of the death of two people and the injury of others in the tragic accident she caused, and of crossing the red signal and driving above the legal speed limit.

Her defense team had requested in its appeal to cancel the three-year prison sentence filed against her for accidentally killing others in a traffic accident. It was also announced that a request would be submitted to the court to release her at any bail amount that the court deems appropriate.

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MP forgery case delayed: The Criminal Court adjourned a forgery case filed against a current National Assembly member who was accused of forging the transfer of residency permits for expatriates without the sponsor’s knowledge prior to winning parliamentary seat. The court adjourned the case until his immunity is lifted by the National Assembly.

During the court session, MP was present but was not questioned because there was a legal impediment preventing the court from questioning him until his parliamentary immunity was lifted.

Expats nabbed in flat

Liquor store raided in Fahaheel

By Mansour Al-Sultan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: Acting on intelligence that an apartment in the Fahaheel area was operating as an illicit liquor store, a team from the Fahaheel police station conducted a raid. Inside the premises, the authorities discovered four expatriates and confiscated 100 bottles of imported booze, 1,000 bottles of locally-produced wine, along with barrels used to make raw material, and specialized tools and equipment for alcohol production.

According to a security source,

the expatriates admitted to importing empty liquor bottles and preparation supplies from abroad, selling them under the guise of imported liquor. Brigadier General Muhammad Mutlaq, the Director General of Ahmadi Security, upon receiving this information, promptly ordered legal measures to be taken. He directed Brigadier General Ghoneim Al-Atl, the region’s commander, to get permission from the Prosecution and initiate the raid.

The four individuals involved in the operation and the seized items were subsequently handed over to the relevant authorities for further action.

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Lebanon arrests suspect

800kg Kuwait-bound drugs seized

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12, (KUNA): The Ministry of Interior announced on Sunday the interception of a shipment containing 800 kilograms of hashish intended for the State of Kuwait. The drugs were expertly concealed in a shipment, showcasing a high level of sophistication in the smuggling operation. The Ministry’s General Department of Security Relations and Media, in a press statement, highlighted the successful joint security efforts involving the criminal security sector, particularly the General Department of Drug Control in Kuwait, and collaborating with security authorities in the sisterly Lebanese Republic.

The coordinated action resulted in the prevention of the 800-kilogram hashish shipment from reaching its destination. This collaboration reflects the ongoing commitment to cooperation and joint coordination among drug control agencies. It emphasizes the exchange of crucial information regarding the smuggling of narcotics and psychotropic substances at regional, Arab, and international levels.

These efforts aim to curb the proliferation of this dangerous menace and cut off its smuggling sources to safeguard the well-being of all.

The statement outlined that upon receiving information from the General Administration of Narcotics in Kuwait, coordinated efforts were initiated with the Customs Administration of the Beirut Sea Port. The focus was on a shipment of narcotic hashish, meticulously hidden inside wooden artistic models within a bullet-proof box to evade detection by inspection devices. Subsequently, the relevant security services in the Republic of Lebanon successfully intercepted the shipment before it could be exported to Kuwait.

The Ministry of Interior in Lebanon apprehended one of the suspects involved in the incident. The captured individual, along with the seized items, has been handed over to the competent authorities. Intensive investigative searches are underway to apprehend the remaining individuals involved in the smuggling operation.

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Camping period negatively hits desert environment, says KSEP

Municipality announces 14 sites for spring camps

By Abdul Nasser Al-Aslami and Inass Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: The Kuwait Society for Environmental Protection (KSEP) says the camping season does not create the appropriate conditions for the growth of plants and the flourishing of vegetation, in consideration of the natural conditions of the soil, its characteristics and composition.

It attributed this to natural reasons, namely the fragility of the soil and its lack of organic materials, the presence of a layer of turf in some areas, its disintegration, ease of erosion and deterioration.

The society described the vegetation in Kuwait as “poor and limited in productivity” due to the harsh climatic conditions.

Coinciding with the approaching start of the camping season in mid-November, Nawaf Al-Mawwal, a member of the Kuwait Society for Environmental Protection, explained that the wild environment in the State of Kuwait is witnessing the “desertification phenomenon” represented by land degradation, loss of productive capacity and vegetative cover, decreased soil fertility, salinization and hardening, and increased rates of erosion.

Al-Mawwal affirmed that the camping period negatively affects the desert environment through human uses, as it leads to the break-



Photo by Rizk Taufiq

A file photo of some of the tents.

ing of the protective gravel surface layer and the erosion of the fine sediments underneath by the wind.

Deterioration

He stressed the need to stop the deterioration of natural environments resulting from the encroachments and transgressions witnessed during the camping season, which in turn affect the components of wildlife and the vegetation that protects the soil.

Al-Mawwal stated that the area of degraded land in the terrestrial environment in Kuwait, as confirmed by a member of the society and a member of the Kuwait National Committee to Combat Desertification Dr. Raafat Misak, amounts to 11,330 square kilometers, equivalent to 72 percent of the terrestrial environment, based on the committee’s estimates for the year 2014.

He stressed the importance of a sustainable program for the development and management of soil resources, including a special program for soil maintenance and de-

velopment, salinity treatment and rehabilitation, as well as a sustainable program for land uses.

Al-Mawwal said the plans must include a sustainable program for developing and managing vegetation cover, either natural or cultivated (green belts), and a sustainable program for preventing creeping sand and alleviating dust.

Strategy

He highlighted the importance of developing a long-term strategy for camping to preserve the desert environment, achieve sustainable development goals, and reduce the pressure that the camping season places on the desert environment annually.

Al-Mawwal said, “The damage caused by the camping season extends throughout the year due to the various types of waste it leaves behind such as organic food scraps, plastic plates and spoons, and bags abandoned along the streets. The desert environment suffers from harsh weather factors, climate change, and severe weath-

er, in addition to many encroachments that have affected its natural and living resources. Combating desertification in Kuwait must be a priority for future development projects. It is an issue that is on the rise regionally, especially since local control over man-made activities in the area.”

He shed light on “the most important technical requirements and camping controls that everyone who visits wild areas, either for the purpose of setting up camps or for any other purpose, as well as the concerned authorities that carry out any activities in the wild environment must adhere to.”

Meanwhile, the Kuwait Municipality, in a special post on its social media accounts, revealed 14 camping sites in the north and south of the country, in one of which is permissible to apply for a camp license from Wednesday, November 15.

These camping sites are Khairan, Subbiya, Kazma camps, Jahra camps, Naayem camps, Kabd camps, Sulaibiya camps, Umm Al-Hayman camps, Sabah Al-Ahmad camps, Rajm Khashman camps, Seventh Ring Road camps, Mutlaa Kilo 8 camps, Mutlaa Kilo 14 camps, and Arifjan - Umm Safaq-Rahal.

The municipality recently announced on its social media accounts the regulations for holding spring camps. The process for applying for a camping site will start on Wednesday, November 15, by visiting the official website of Kuwait Municipality, entering the personal data of the camp owner, and agreeing to the stipulated terms and conditions, reserving the site by entering the coordinates, and paying a fee of KD 50 and a deposit of KD 100 via Knet.



KUNA photo

Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber meeting the Kenyan ambassador.

Deputy FM meets Kenya ambassador

Kuwait’s Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah met on Sunday with Ambassador of Kenya to Kuwait

Haleema Mahmoud, and discussed bilateral relations between the two friendly countries, and ways to boost them in various fields. (KUNA)



KUNA photo

Kuwait’s Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah met on Sunday with Ambassador of Italy to Kuwait Carlo Baldocci on the occasion of the end of his tenure as representative of his country to the State of Kuwait. (KUNA)

Minister inspects Mutlaa health centers

Amiri Hospital opens pediatric intensive care unit: Dr Al-Ateqi

By Marwa Al-Bahravi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: The Amiri Hospital inaugurated a pediatric intensive care unit to provide therapeutic care services for critical cases. This is a qualitative addition to the pediatric department in the hospital, which is provided by a medical team specialized in pediatric intensive care.

In this regard, Head of the pediatric department at the Amiri Hospital Dr. Wafaa Al-Ateqi explained that the unit has received about 20 children so far with critical conditions that require admission to intensive care. These include cases that suffer from difficulty in breathing such as allergic asthma, severe infections, and some other diseases. Work is underway to increase the unit’s capacity during the second operational phase.

She praised the level of equipment that includes the latest medical devices and equipment.

Support

Dr. Al-Ateqi highlighted the support of the Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadi, and Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health Dr. Abdul Rahman Al-Mutairi, as well as the management of the Amiri Hospital to start operating the unit.

She expressed full confidence in the medical team of specialized doctors, nurses, pharmacists, technicians, and others from the allied medical professions.

Meanwhile, the Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadi held an inspection tour of the Mutlaa Health Center in the N11 suburb, and the Mutlaa Specialized Health Center in the N10 suburb, to review the progress of work and determine the completion rates, in preparation for receiving them soon from the implementing agency, which is the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW).

The minister’s inspection tour of the aforementioned healthcare centers was aimed at ensuring that the operating requirements and equipment of the centers have been made available, and their needs for

health teams and medical supplies are met.

Meanwhile, Head of the Council of Ear, Nose and Throat Departments, and Head of the Kuwait Ear, Nose and Throat Conference Dr. Mutlaq Al-Sihan announced the launch of the 45th session of the conference on Tuesday, which will be held for three days under the patronage of the Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadi.

Conference

In a press statement issued yesterday, Dr. Al-Sihan explained that the conference will witness the participation of international consultants from the United States, England, Canada, Austria, Italy, Turkey, and India, and Arab countries such as: Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, and Bahrain. Also, distinguished national cadres will participate to talk about the latest technologies in ear surgeries, cochlear implants, and implantable hearing devices, in addition to nasal surgeries, sleep diseases, snoring, and sleep surgeries.

Workshops will be held to discuss various topics, including reconstructive and cosmetic surgeries for the head, neck and face, hearing diseases and methods of treating them, and rehabilitation of cochlear implant patients. This includes a workshop on speech pathology, and a workshop for Kuwaiti board doctors at the Zain Center laboratory for training on microscopic ear surgeries.

He stated that the conference aims to learn about everything new in the various fields of nose, ear, and reconstructive and plastic surgeries for the head, face, and neck, affirming that this achieves the goals of the Ministry of Health by refining local expertise and raising the scientific and surgical level of Kuwaiti doctors.

Dr. Al-Sihan said the conference grants participants 24 continuing medical education points, adding that he is expecting extensive participation from ear, nose and throat doctors, audiologists and balance doctors, and speech-language pathologists in the public and private sectors.

Agenda includes bicycle paths development

Supreme Traffic Council discusses effect of ‘flexible working hours’ on congestion

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: Lieutenant General Anwar Al-Barjas, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior and Chairman of the Supreme Traffic Council, presided over the eighteenth Supreme Traffic Council meeting, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The meeting was attended by key figures such as Eid Al-Rashidi, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Works; Dr. Salman Al-Lafi, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education; Dr. Engineer Nasser Muhaisen, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Information; Eng. Khaled Al-Osaimi, Director of the General Authority for Roads and Land Transport; Brigadier General Khaled Mahmoud, Deputy Director General of the General Traffic Department; Dr. Fahd Al-Rukaibi, Director of the Center for Transport and Traffic Safety at Kuwait University; and Brigadier General Salem Al-Ajmi, the Secretary of the Council.

During the meeting, Al-Barjas emphasized the imperative to exert continuous efforts in seeking solutions to both present and future traffic challenges. Ensuring the safety of road users and streamlining vehicle movement were highlighted as key objectives. Al-Barjas stressed the importance of collaborative endeavors to develop both practical and scientific solutions for addressing traffic-related issues.

The Council delved into various aspects of traffic and regulations. Discussions included the perspectives of government agencies and an assessment of the Civil Service Commission’s experience in implementing flexible working hours for employees of governmental entities. The effectiveness of these measures in achieving smooth traffic flow was a focal point.

Among the agenda items was a visual presentation submitted by the Council’s secretariat regarding a proposal to develop dedicated bicycle paths. The meeting also featured presentations from the Council Secretary on the reports submitted by the Council’s committees, namely the Committee for Reviewing the Executive Regulations of the Traffic Law and the Traffic Awareness Campaign Committee. The latter includes representatives from the ministries of Interior and Information.

In conclusion, Al-Barjas underscored the significance of collective efforts in devising practical and scientific solutions to address traffic challenges. He indicated that the outcomes of the studies and proposals discussed, along with the recommendations and decisions reached, would be presented to the first deputy prime minister and minister of interior.



November

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Company showcases its tech innovation use cases for oil & gas industry

Zain shares innovation and leadership insights with KNPC staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: Under the umbrella of its Innovation Nation initiative to empower creativity in the community and upskill national talents, Zain has hosted a workshop for employees from the Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) – a subsidiary of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC). During the workshop, Zain shared its insights and expertise in corporate innovation and leadership success, while also showcasing its use cases for tech innovation in drones and digitization solutions for the oil, gas, and energy industries.

This workshop came as part of the 4th cycle of the KNPC Talent Management Program, through which employees visit some of the biggest private and public sector organizations to upskill and prepare them for future

leadership roles.

Zain was keen on being among the first destinations of this program, given that it enjoys the leadership position in the local ICT sector. The Talent Management Program is one of the strategic pillars of KNPC's 2040 human resources vision, where opportunities are presented for top-performing employees to grow and excel.

The workshop was hosted at the Zain Innovation Campus (ZINC), where the company shared insights, notable success stories, and rich experiences from implementing a solid and inclusive corporate innovation strategy. Zain's innovation umbrella focuses on utilizing advanced tech tools to redesign traditional workflows, investing early in digital infrastructures, maintaining open partner-

ships, outlining long-term goals for sustainable growth, and more. Zain also stressed on the importance of innovation as a driving force for success in today's highly competitive, fast-paced markets.

Zain also took this opportunity to showcase some of its top digital tools, drone solutions, and cloud applications offered to oil, gas, and energy companies. The company highlighted how it uses tech innovation to serve the unique needs of oil companies, paving the way for them to embrace digitization, while also stressing on the importance of upskilling human resources in tech and digital skills to make the most out of these solutions.

This step came as part of Zain's Innovation Nation initiative, under which all of Zain's innovation and entrepreneur-

ship programs fall, especially within science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) areas. The initiative mainly targets the youth, and centers around a number of pillars, including upskilling digital capabilities, entrepreneurship, investment, startup acceleration, supporting inventors, fostering innovation, and more.

Zain offers a plethora of digital tools to oil & gas companies, including migrating infrastructures to more agile ones on the cloud; where 5G technologies play a big role, as well as a wide range of reliable, secure, and efficient datacenter, cloud, and connectivity solutions. The company also covers an extensive range of cybersecurity solutions and rig connectivity tools through its drones division.



'KNPC staff at the Zain Innovation Campus.'



'Zain showcased solutions for oil & gas sector.'



'From the workshop.'

Kuwait sends 18th relief planeload

100 Indonesians staying in Kuwait 'donate blood' in support of Gaza

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12, (Agencies): While Indonesia's Ambassador to Kuwait HE Lina Mariana, praised Kuwait's strong and supportive position for the Palestinian people and the aid that Kuwait continues to provide through the daily air bridge to the Palestinians in Gaza about 100 Indonesian residents in Kuwait donated blood in support of Gaza, reports Al-Qabas daily.

This came in her statement on the sidelines of the blood donation event organized by the embassy, under the title "Be a Hero and Save Lives," at the blood bank located in Shuwaikh at the Sheikhia Salwa Center on the occasion of Indonesia's "Heroes' Day," which her country celebrates on the tenth of November every year.

She pointed out that this initiative came from the Indonesian Nurses Union in Kuwait, noting that "about 100 Indonesian citizens donated blood."

The Indonesian envoy said, "We wanted to participate in the humanitarian initiative launched by the Kuwaiti government, and we hope that our blood will go to the people of Gaza who are suffering because of the war there."

She indicated that her country stands with the Palestinian people and defends them, pointing out that "we have an Indonesian hospital in the Gaza Strip, and

our government sent a very advanced ship, equipped with a hospital, to the sea opposite the Gaza Strip, and this ship is equipped to perform the most important surgical operations, in addition to the presence of hospital wards on board, and we also sent many relief and medical supplies."

Meanwhile, the 18th Kuwaiti humanitarian plane departed Sunday on its way to Gaza through Al-Arish airport. The plane is carrying some 40 tons of foodstuff and medical equipment onboard.

This was organized by Al-Salam Charity Society in cooperation with International Islamic Charity Organization (IICO) and in coordination with ministries of Defense and Foreign Affairs.

Chief of the Islamic Organization, Dr. Abdullah Al-Maatouq, told KUNA that as of this day the organization had allocated more than USD three million for humanitarian projects in Gaza, saying that they have been receiving draft projects from partners within Palestine to be considered and implemented.

As for Al-Salam Charity Chief of board of directors, Dr. Nabeel Al-Aoun, he affirmed readiness of both charities to organize more relief loads with a capacity of 200 tons to be sent in upcoming trips to Gaza.



Indonesia's Ambassador Mariana during the blood donation in support of Gaza. Al-Qabas photo

Kuwait Budget

Continued from Page 1

Meanwhile, MP Dawoud Maarefi asked Minister of Health Ahmed Al-Awadhi if there is any regulation prohibiting doctors, who occupy the department head position in public hospitals, from engaging in private practice. If yes, he requested for the list of such doctors and copies of the licenses of their clinics. He inquired if general medicine practitioners are allowed to own and manage private clinics, if there are clinics providing services that are not in line with the academic and scientific criteria, requirements for medical practitioners to have or work in clinics, and if these requirements include holding health related certificates like doctors or nurses.

MP Adel Al-Damkhi asked Minister of Commerce and Industry and State Minister for Youth Affairs Muhammad Al-Aiban to provide him with a copy of the contract for infrastructure works at Shaddadiya Industrial Area, value and term of the contract, completion rate of the project compared to the timetable stipulated in the contract, if the contract was terminated and another contractor was assigned to complete the works because the first contractor was proven incapable of carrying out the task, and if the first contractor was given extra time to finish the project or not.

MP Fahd Bin Jame'e asked Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Dr Jasem Al-Ostad about the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR). He wants to know if consultants were hired to work at PAAAFR, if these consultants came from institutions not affiliated to the ministry, their qualifications, experience, allowances and job description.

He also forwarded queries to Minister of Finance Fahd Al-Jarallah about the damages and consequences of the hacking incident on Sept 18, 2023. He asked if the ministry signed contracts with national or international companies to provide protection for its electronic systems, if any data were lost due to the hacking, role of the Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority in dealing with the consequences of hacking, if the hacker was identified, if the hacker is supported by certain foreign governments, if the systems were recovered after the hacking, and strategy to prevent recurrence of the hacking.

Riyadh communique

Continued from Page 1

They tasked the OIC and the League's secretariats to follow up establishing two legal monitoring units specialized in documenting the Israeli occupation crimes committed in the Strip since October 7.

In this regard, the communique affirmed the importance of supporting Palestine's legal and political initiatives to hold the officials of the Israeli occupation authorities accountable for their crimes against the Palestinian people.

The summit also tasked the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, Qatar, Turkey, Indonesia, Nigeria, Palestine as well as any interested country and the OIC and League's secretaries-general to initiate immediate international action on behalf of all member states of the two blocs to stop the war on Gaza, and press for a serious and real political process in order to achieve lasting and comprehensive peace, in accordance with approved international references.

The summit deplored the displacement of about 1.5 Palestinians from the north of the Gaza Strip to its south, considering it a war crime in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and its annex of 1977.

It called on the states parties to the convention to take a collective decision condemning Israel for this step, and called on all United Nations organizations to confront the attempt of the colonial occupation authorities to normalize this inhuman and miserable reality and the emphasis on the necessity of the immediate return of these displaced people to their homes and areas.

The leaders expressed their complete and absolute rejection of any attempts of collective or individual forced displacement, exile or deportation of the Palestinian people, whether inside the Gaza Strip or the West Bank, including Jerusalem, or outside its territory to any other destination, whatever it may be, considering this a mistake and a war crime.

They called for the release of all prisoners, detainees and civilians, and condemned the abhorrent crimes committed by the occupation authorities against thousands of Palestinian prisoners.

In addition, they stressed the need for Israel to implement its obligations as the occupying power and stop all its illegal measures, especially the construction and expansion of settlements, the confiscation of lands, and the displacement of Palestinians from their homes.

They also called on all concerned countries and international organizations to put pressure to stop these crimes and prosecute their perpetrators.

Moreover, they deplored the killing of journalists, children and women, and the targeting of paramedics as well as the internationally banned white phosphorus bombs used by the Israeli occupation on the Gaza Strip and Lebanon. They condemned the repeated Israeli statements and threats to return Lebanon to the "Stone Age" and the need to prevent the expansion of the conflict, calling on the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to investigate the Israeli occupation's use of chemical weapons.

They said that Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) is the only legitimate representative of Palestinian people, calling on all Palestinian factions and powers to unify under the umbrella of the PLO.

They called for holding an international conference for peace as soon as possible through which a reliable peace process is launched based on international law, international legitimacy's resolutions and the principles of "Land for Peace", within a specific time framework and with international guarantees leading to the end of the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967, including East Jerusalem, the occupied Syrian Golan, Shebaa Farms, the Kafr Shuba hills, and the outskirts of the Lebanese town of al-Mari, according to the communique. They finally called for implementing a two-state solution. (end)

Meanwhile, Israeli strikes pounded Gaza City overnight and into Sunday as ground forces battled Hamas militants near the territory's largest hospital, where health officials say thousands of medics, patients and displaced people are trapped with no electricity and dwindling supplies.

In a televised address on Saturday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu rejected growing international calls for a ceasefire unless it includes the release of all the nearly 240 hostages captured by Hamas in the Oct. 7 rampage that triggered the war, saying Israel was bringing its "full force" to the battle.

Israel has vowed to end Hamas' 16-year rule in Gaza and crush its military capabilities, while blaming the militants for the war's heavy toll on the 2.3 million Palestinians

Some photos of the ambassadors planting the mangroves.

comply this mission.

He stated that mangroves are of great importance in reducing carbon dioxide, and are natural habitats for fish, crustaceans, and birds. They are also natural buffers against coastal erosion because they stabilize the soil and enhance the concept of ecotourism. In some Gulf countries, there are forests of mangrove plants. Mangrove cultivation is in line with several international

agreements, including the Convention of the Conference of the Parties on Climate Change, the Convention on the Conservation of Biodiversity, and the Convention on the Conservation of Wetlands.

Dr. Al-Zaidan expressed gratitude to the Gulf countries for their efforts, especially by the Emirati Ambassador to Kuwait Dr. Matar Hamid Al-Neyadi, in rehabilitating mangrove plants in Kuwait.

trapped in the besieged territory. But it has come under mounting international pressure over the plight of civilians.

In Gaza City, residents reported heavy airstrikes and shelling overnight, including in the area around Shifa Hospital. Israel, without providing evidence, has accused Hamas of concealing a command post inside and under the hospital compound, allegations denied by Hamas and hospital staff.

"We spent the night in panic waiting for their arrival," said Ahmed al-Boursh, a resident taking shelter in the hospital. "They are outside, not far from the gates."

The hospital's last generator ran out of fuel on Saturday, leading to the deaths of three premature babies and four other patients, according to the Health Ministry in Hamas-ruled Gaza. It says another 36 babies are at risk of dying because there's no electricity.

Health Ministry Undersecretary Munir al-Boursh said Israeli snipers have deployed around Shifa, firing at any movement inside the compound. He said airstrikes had destroyed several homes next to the hospital, killing three people, including a doctor.

"There are wounded in the house, and we can't reach them," he told Al Jazeera television in an interview from the hospital. "We can't stick our heads out of the window." It was not clear if he was related to the other man with the same surname.

Israel's military said there was a safe corridor for civilians to evacuate from Shifa to southern Gaza, but people sheltering in the hospital said they were afraid to go outside. The military said troops would assist in moving babies on Sunday, and that it was in contact with hospital staff.

It was not possible to independently ascertain the situation in and around the hospital.

The Health Ministry says there are still 1,500 patients at Shifa, along with 1,500 medical personnel and between 15,000 and 20,000 people seeking shelter. Thousands have fled Shifa and other hospitals, but physicians said it's impossible for everyone to get out.

The Palestinian Red Crescent rescue service said another Gaza City hospital, Al-Quds, is "no longer operational" because it has run out of fuel. Gaza's sole power plant was forced to shut down a month ago, and Israel has barred any fuel imports, saying Hamas would use them for military purposes.

'Mangroves help absorb carbon dioxide gas in large quantities'

Kuwait committed to Framework Agreement for Climate Dev: EPA

By Abdul Nasser Al-Islami

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: Director General of the Environment Public Authority (EPA) Engineer Samira Al-Kandari stressed the importance of planting mangroves as they absorb carbon dioxide gas in large quantities.

In a statement she issued to reporters on the sidelines of the mangrove planting event that took place in the Jahra Reserve with the cooperation of the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates and in the presence of representatives of 40 diplomatic missions, Al-Kandari affirmed that Kuwait is committed to the Framework Agreement for Climate Development.

She said, "Kuwait began planting it in 2018, and today we planted nearly 1,000 seedlings, in coordination with diplomatic missions. Our plan is to plant 18,000 seedlings until 2035.

EPA is preparing for the climate summit that will be held in the United Arab Emirates. Kuwait is committed to submitting its national reports and projects to reduce emissions. One of these projects is the use of natural gas instead of fossil fuels."

Meanwhile, the Deputy Director General of the Technical Affairs Sector at EPA Dr. Abdullah Al-Zaidan said, "We have the first Kuwaiti production of mangrove seeds. This is the result of the five years of work that we did with great efforts to reach this result. We now



Photos by Mohammad Morsi

World News Roundup

Europe

‘We want her back’

Migration campaign ‘issue’ in Dutch poll

TER APEL, Netherlands, Nov 12, (AP): It is a familiar sight in this remote rural town: a migrant in a headscarf and thick winter coat carrying her belongings to the overcrowded reception center as a storm brews over the flat landscape.

For many here and across this nation once known as a beacon of tolerance, it is too familiar.

“Immigration is spiraling out of control,” Henk Tapper said while visiting his daughter in Ter Apel two weeks before the Netherlands votes in parliamentary elections on Nov 22.

Candidates across the political spectrum are campaigning on pledges to tackle migration problems that are crystallized in Ter Apel, just over 200 kilometers (120 miles) northeast of Amsterdam. Once mostly known for its monastery, the town has now become synonymous with Dutch struggles to accommodate large numbers of asylum-seekers.

In the summer of 2022, hundreds of migrants were forced to sleep outside because the reception center was full. The Dutch branch of Doctors Without Borders sent a team to help the migrants, the first time it was forced to deploy within the Netherlands.

The center still is overcrowded and locals complain of crime and public order problems blamed on migrants who wander in small groups through the village.

It is not only asylum seekers, though. Political parties also are pledging to crack down on labor migrants and foreign students, who now make up some 40% of university enrollments.

Tapper said he plans to vote for lawmaker **Geert Wilders**’ Freedom Party which advocates a halt in asylum seekers and opting out of EU and United Nations agreements and treaties on refugees and asylum.

The migration debate in the Netherlands echoes across Europe, where governments and the European Union are seeking ways to rein in migration. Italy recently announced plans to house asylum seekers in Albania.

Polish nationalists hold march: Tens of thousands of people walked through Warsaw on Saturday in a march organized by nationalist groups as Poland celebrated its Independence Day holiday, 105 years after the nation regained its statehood at the end of World War I.

Participants carried Poland’s white-and-red flag and some burned flares as they marched along a route leading from the city center to the National Stadium.

While many patriotic events take place across the nation of 38 million on Nov 11, the yearly Independence March has come to dominate news coverage because it has sometimes been marred by xenophobic slogans and violence.

This year’s event was attended by some 40,000 and passed off peacefully, the Warsaw mayor, Rafal Trzaskowski, said.

It came as nationalist forces have seen their worldview rejected by voters. In a national election last month, voters turned out in huge numbers to embrace centrist, moderate conservative and left-wing parties after eight years of rule by a nationalist conservative party that was at odds with the European Union.

Somber bugles, bells mark Armistice Day: With somber bugles and bells from Australia to western Europe’s battlefields of World War I, people around the globe on Saturday remembered the slaughter and losses just over a century ago that was supposed to be “the war to end all wars.”

Yet the rumble of tanks and the screeching of incoming fire from Ukraine to Gaza pierced the solemnity of the occasion and the notion that humankind could somehow circumvent violence to settle its worst differences.

“This time last year, our thoughts were focused on Ukraine. Today, our minds are full with the terrible images emerging from Israel and Gaza. These are just two of the more than 100 armed conflicts in the world today,” said Benoit Mottrie, the head of the Last Post Association in western Belgium’s Ypres, where some of the fiercest and deadliest World War I battles were fought.

During a ceremony with Prime Minister Alexander De Croo and dozens of dignitaries, Mottrie expressed the sense of powerlessness that so many feel that the lessons of the past cannot automatically be translated into peace today.

Croatia’s defense minister sacked: Croatia’s defense minister was sacked on Saturday after he apparently caused a traffic collision in which one person died and he was also seriously injured.

Defense Minister Mario Banozic was overtaking a truck in bad weather when he crashed into a van coming from the opposite direction, authorities said. The van driver died in the crash and Banozic was hospitalized with serious injuries.

“I have removed Minister Banozic from duty of the defense minister, considering the extraordinary circumstances,” Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic said shortly after initial findings were published about the crash in eastern Croatia.

The accident happened around 6 am on Saturday. Banozic, 44, was driving his personal car and was traveling on his own.

“We are expressing our condolences to the family of the person who was killed,” government spokesman Marko Milic said earlier on Saturday on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Journo’s husband appeals for release: This wasn’t how Pavel Butorin expected to celebrate his anniversary this week, with his wife of 21 years in a Russian prison and barely any communication available.

Russian-American journalist, Alsu Kurmasheva - who works as an editor for US government-funded Radio Free Europe - has been detained in Russia for almost a month and charged with failing to self-register as a “foreign agent.”

“Alsu should be celebrating this anniversary with me and our children at home, not in a Russian prison,” Butorin told The Associated Press in an interview in Prague on Friday. “We want her back. Alsu must be released as soon as possible,” he said, visibly shaken.



US President Joe Biden pauses as he lays a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va., on Nov 11, as Vice President Kamala Harris, Veterans Affairs Secretary Denis McDonough and Maj Gen Trevor Bredekamp, commanding general of the Joint Task Force-National Capital Region and the US Military District of Washington, watch (AP)

Biden says America’s veterans ‘the steel spine of this nation’

US President Joe Biden said America’s veterans are “the steel spine of this nation” as he marked Veterans Day during a visit to Arlington National Cemetery.

In remarks at the Memorial Amphitheater, the commander in chief recounted famous battles fought by US troops and said those deployments of soldiers are “linked in a chain of honor that stretches back to our founding days. Each one bound by a sacred oath to support and defend.

Not a place, not a person, not a president, but an idea, to defend an idea unlike any other in human history. That idea is the United States of America.”

Nov. 11, once known as Armistice Day, is the anniversary of the armistice that ended World War I in 1918. Biden said that was “unlike any war the world had ever seen before.”

The ceremony was personal for Biden and first lady Jill Biden.

Biden’s son Beau enlisted in 2003 in the Delaware Army National Guard and deployed to Iraq in 2008 for a year as a member of the 261st Theater Tactical Signal Brigade. A captain, he earned the Legion of Merit and Bronze Star. Beau Biden later served two terms as the state’s attorney general. He died in 2015 of brain cancer.

“We miss him,” the president told the crowd, recounting how he pinned the bars on his son on the day he joined the National Guard. (AP)

Politics

Bid to avoid partial government shutdown

House GOP looks to pass 2-step package

WASHINGTON, Nov 12, (AP): US House Speaker Mike Johnson unveiled his proposal on Saturday to avoid a partial government shutdown by extending government funding for some agencies and programs until Jan 19 and continuing funding for others until Feb 2.

The approach is unusual for a stop-gap spending bill. Usually, lawmakers extend funding until a certain date for all programs. Johnson decided to go with the combination approach, addressing concerns from GOP lawmakers seeking to avoid being presented with a massive spending bill just before the holidays.

“This two-step continuing resolution is a necessary bill to place House Republicans in the best position to fight for conservative victories,” Johnson said in a statement after speaking with GOP lawmakers in an afternoon conference call. “The bill will stop the absurd holiday-season omnibus tradition of massive, loaded up spending bills introduced right before the Christmas recess.”

The bill excludes funding requested by President Joe Biden for Israel, Ukraine and the US border with Mexico. Johnson said separating Biden’s request for an emergency supplemental bill from the temporary, stopgap measure “places our conference in the best position to fight for fiscal responsibility, oversight over Ukraine aid, and meaningful policy changes at our Southern border.”

Hardline conservatives, usually loathe to support temporary spending measures of any sort, had indicated

they would give Johnson some leeway to pass legislation, known as a continuing resolution, or CR, to give Congress more time to negotiate a long-term agreement.

But some were critical in their reactions following the conference call.

“My opposition to the clean CR just announced by the Speaker to the @HouseGOP cannot be overstated,” Rep Chip Roy, R-Texas, tweeted on X. “Funding Pelosi level spending & policies for 75 days - for future ‘promises.’”

The White House, meanwhile, panned the plan as “unserious,” unworkable and a threat to national security and domestic programs.

Proposal

“This proposal is just a recipe for more Republican chaos and more shutdowns-full stop,” said press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre, pointing to opposition from members of both parties. “House Republicans need to stop wasting time on their own political divisions, do their jobs, and work in a bipartisan way to prevent a shutdown.”

The federal government is operating under funding levels approved last year by a Democratic-led House and Senate. Facing a government shutdown when the fiscal year ended Sept. 30, Congress passed a 47-day continuing resolution, but the fallout was severe. Kevin McCarthy was booted from the speakership days later, and the House was effectively paralyzed for most of the month while Republicans tried to elect a replacement.

Republicans eventually were unanimous in electing Johnson speaker, but

his elevation has hardly eased the dynamic that led to McCarthy’s removal - a conference torn on policy as well as how much to spend on federal programs. This past week, Republicans had to pull two spending bills from the floor - one to fund transportation and housing programs and the other to fund the Treasury Department, Small Business Administration and other agencies - because they didn’t have the votes in their own party to push them through the House.

Also:

RICHMOND, Virginia: Virginia’s state House will soon have its first Black speaker in its more than 400-year history after the chamber’s incoming Democratic majority on Saturday chose Del. **Don Scott** to serve in the post.

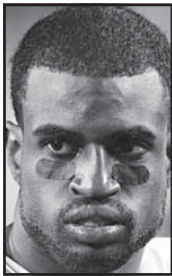
Scott was unanimously elected speaker-designee by the House Democratic Caucus, the group said in a news release. The full House of Delegates will vote to officially confirm him on the first day of the 2024 legislative session.

“Virginia voters sent a resounding message on Tuesday that they wanted a Commonwealth that moved forward and that is exactly what I intend to do as your next Speaker,” Scott said in a statement.

Democrats not only flipped control of the House of Delegates in Tuesday’s legislative elections but also held their majority in the state Senate, dashing Gov. **Glenn Youngkin** and fellow Republicans’ hopes of securing a GOP trifecta.



Britain’s King Charles unveils a statue of Queen Elizabeth II as he arrives to attend The Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance at Royal Albert Hall, London, on Nov 11. (AP)



Hayden



Henderson

America

Fire closes major highway in LA: A major highway near downtown Los Angeles was closed in both directions Saturday after a fire raged through storage lots underneath it.

The fire sent towering flames into the night sky early Saturday morning. Daybreak revealed twisted guardrails and blackened, chipped concrete at an Interstate 10 overpass in an industrial zone.

The California Department of Transportation sent personnel to inspect the highway, with detours established to ease snarled highway traffic. Interstate 10, which runs east-west, was closed near downtown Los Angeles for at least 24 hours into Sunday, authorities said. The cause of the fire hasn’t been disclosed.

Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency and directed the state Department of Transportation to request assistance from the federal government.

“The state is mobilizing resources and taking steps to ensure any necessary repairs are completed as soon as possible to minimize the impact on those traveling in and around Los Angeles,” Newsom said. (AP)

Man arrested in killing: Police have arrested a Los Angeles man in connection with the discovery of the torso of a dismembered female body and the disappearance of his wife and her live-in parents.

The Los Angeles Police Department confirmed Saturday the arrest of 35-year-old Samuel Haskell. He has been jailed on suspicion of murder while police attempt to identify the torso, which was found within a bag in a dumpster on Wednesday.

The arrest was supported by evidence from a search of Haskell’s home in the Tarzana area where he lived with his wife, in-laws and three children, police said.

Haskell’s 37-year-old wife, Mei Li Haskell, has gone missing along with her parents. (AP)

Crash kills 6 people: A crash at a red

light killed six people including former NFL cornerback **D.J. Hayden** in downtown Houston early Saturday.

The two-vehicle crash occurred about 2 am when a Chrysler 300, apparently “going very fast, high velocity,” ran the red light

and collided with an SUV, Houston Police Assistant Chief Megan Howard said.

Five men and one woman died, including Hayden, the Houston Chronicle reported.

Four people were pronounced dead at the scene. Those killed included the driver of the Chrysler and a man who appeared to be homeless, Howard said.

Four people were taken to the hospital and two of them died, Howard said, while one female passenger was in critical condition with life-threatening injuries. (AP)



Los Angeles firefighters mop up damage from a fire that severely damaged a freeway at an Interstate 10 overpass in an industrial zone near downtown Los Angeles on Nov 11. Authorities say firefighters have mostly extinguished a large blaze that burned trailers, cars and other things in storage lots beneath a major highway near downtown Los Angeles, forcing the temporary closure of the roadway. (AP)

Police officer, suspect killed: A Texas police officer was killed early Saturday in a shooting that left the shooter dead and a second officer wounded, authorities said.

Two other people were later found dead inside a home in Austin, according to interim Police Chief **Robin Henderson**.

An emotional Henderson, who paused often during a news conference and appeared to be choking back tears, said officers were called to the home shortly before 3 a.m. Saturday by a woman screaming that she was being stabbed.

One person escaped the home before officers arrived, Henderson said, and told police the man in the home was armed with a knife.

Police then tried to enter the home and were met with gunfire, but did not return fire, retreated and called for a SWAT team, said Henderson, who did not take questions and was surrounded by about 10 other officers during her comments. (AP)

Africa

More than 800 dead

Kids in SAfrica still walk miles to class

DUNDEE, South Africa, Nov 12, (AP): On weekdays, 14-year-old Luyanda Hlali gets up before dawn to fetch firewood and cow dung to start a fire and boil some water before her four siblings and parents wake up.

The mornings are a hive of activity in the Nhlangothi home, in the tiny village of Stratford in South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal province. Once her chores are done, Luyanda embarks on a 10-kilometer (6-mile) walk to her school.

There are no school buses. There is only the long, dusty road where thieves and bad men can accost her.

Luyanda is one of tens of thousands of children in South Africa's poorest and most remote rural communities who still face long walks to the nearest public school, nearly 30 years after the nation ushered in democratic change.

The hardships underscore the children's unequal access to education; the lack of government-funded school transportation has exacerbated myriad dangers.

Girls face the threat of assault and robberies are rampant. Parents, local leaders and activists say the situation perpetuates already existing inequalities in a country described by the World Bank as the most unequal in the world.

In KwaZulu-Natal, campaigners and activists are pressing authorities to provide transport for over 200,000 schoolchildren like Luyanda - kids who have to walk 3 kilometers or more to school.

That distance, under President Cyril Ramaphosa's government policy, requires authorities to provide transportation for the students. But with poverty soaring and unemployment in the country of 56 million people at over 25%, school buses are low on the list of priorities.

Lack

Psychologist Melinda du Toit says the lack of school transportation is indicative of the socio-economic realities of South Africa and its inherent inequality. Those who cannot afford to live in urban areas will continue to lack basic services.

A 2020 Amnesty International report said children's experience in South Africa "still very much depends on where they are born, how wealthy they are, and the color of their skin."

South Africa's education system, the report said, "continues to be dogged by stark inequalities and chronic underperformance that have deep roots in the legacy of apartheid, but which are also not being effectively tackled" by the government.

In KwaZulu-Natal, where more than 30% of the province's 12.4 million people are unemployed and on welfare, many say they have to choose between buying food or paying 350 South African rands, roughly \$19, a month for public transport.

"Sometimes these children go to school without eating breakfast," said Bongive Nhlangothi, Luyanda's grandmother. She says she fears the most when her grandchildren are on the road.

"There are drug addicts around here, when they come across the children in the early hours of the morning, they rob them of their phones, threaten them with knives and try to rape them," Nhlangothi said.

A school principal in a village located about 50 kilometers (31 miles) from the coalmining town of Dundee, recounted his struggle to get more school buses approved after some of his students, girls, were raped by local thugs. "The bus was full and they had to walk to school," the principal said, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisal.

Fears

The school has two old buses but they can only take about 65 children - and he has more than 400 students in his school. The principal said he fears one of the buses could permanently break down - or crash.

In September 2022, 18 students were killed in the province when their overcrowded minivan crashed on the way to school in the town of Pongola.

Matthew Ngcobo, a councilman in the municipality of Endumeni, took The Associated Press to a ravine where children have to cross a shallow but rapid river on foot.

"This place is very dangerous," Ngcobo said. "The last time when it rained heavily, a motorist had to be rescued after his car was swept away."

"Imagine children having to go through this daily to get access to education," he added.

Some parents have resorted to boarding their children to live closer to their schools - but that can be costly and leaves them without precious help at home.

Bayanda Hlongwane, a ninth grader at the Ebusi Combined School in the village of Wasbank, said he was often late and "the teachers would not let me in."

Activist Tebogo Tshesane who works for Equal Education, a nonprofit organization, says the campaign for better school transportation across KwaZulu-Natal started back in 2014, sparked by letters from students who were walking for up to two hours to school.

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Fighters from a paramilitary force and their allied Arab militias rampaged through a town in Sudan's war-ravaged region of Darfur, reportedly killing more than 800 people in a multiday attack, doctors and the UN said.

The attack on Ardamata in West Darfur province earlier this month was the latest in a series of atrocities in Darfur that marked the monthslong war between the Sudanese military and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, RSF.

Sudan has been engulfed in chaos since in mid-April, when simmering tensions between military chief Gen Abdel-Fattah Burhan and the commander of the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, Gen. Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, exploded into open warfare.

The war came 18 months after both generals removed a transitional government in a military coup. The military takeover ended Sudan's short-lived fragile transition to democracy following a popular uprising that forced the overthrow of longtime strongman Omar al-Bashir in April 2019.

In recent weeks the RSF advanced in Darfur, taking over entire cities and towns across the sprawling region, despite the warring parties' return to the negotiating table in Saudi Arabia late last month. The first round of talks, brokered by the US and Saudi Arabia, failed to establish a cease-fire.

The dayslong attack in Ardamata came after the RSF took over a military base in the town after a brief fighting on Nov 4 with troops there, said Salah Tour, head of the Sudanese Doctor's Union in West Darfur. He said the military withdrew from the base, adding that around two dozen wounded troops fled to Chad.



US Navy's F-35C stealth fighter jet and crew prepare ready for a takeoff for a flight demonstration during the Annulex 23 joint naval exercise, from aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson off the Japanese coast on Nov 11, involving about 30 vessels and 40 warplanes from the United States and its allies Japan, Australia and Canada and the Philippines participate amid China's growing assertiveness in the regional seas. Inset: Navy officials from the four main participants of the Annulex 23 joint exercise pose for a group photo after a news conference aboard a US Navy aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson.

Diplomacy

US renews warning it will defend its treaty ally

Philippines joins Japan-led naval drills

ABOARD THE USS CARL VINSON, Nov 12, (AP): Japan led an annual multinational naval exercise that included the Philippines as an observer for the first time, as Filipino coast guard vessels are increasingly harassed by China in the disputed South China Sea.

The Annulex exercises that began Saturday off Japan's coast also included the United States, Australia and Canada. Their aim is to demonstrate and increase ways the navies can work together, and show their presence and commitment to defend a "free and open" Indo-Pacific, which the allies say is hampered by China's growing ambitions that include sweeping territorial claims.

On Saturday, a selected group of journalists, including The Associated Press, flew on an V-22 Osprey aircraft to the USS Carl Vinson aircraft carrier to observe takeoffs and landings of F-35C "Lightning" stealth fighters, as well as F/A-18 Super Hornet jets and E/A-18 Growlers. The Japanese destroyer Hyuga showed its presence next to the carrier.

The exercise comes in the wake of the latest confrontation between the Philippines and China in the South China Sea on Friday, adding to the territorial disputes that risk turning into a more serious armed conflict.

The Philippines accused a Chinese coast guard ship and accompanying vessels of dangerous maneuvers and blasting a Philippine supply ship with a water cannon, while China defended its action as appropriate.

Conflicts

Territorial conflicts in the South China Sea involving China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei have long been regarded as a potential flashpoint and a delicate fault line in the U.S.-China rivalry.

"The Philippines is an extremely important country for Japan, and we hope to cooperate with the Philippine navy at every opportunity in the future," Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Commander-in-Chief Akira Saito said. He added that the drills are not targeting any specific nation and that the Philippines' participation was decided before its latest encounter with China.

About 30 navy ships and 40 warplanes from the four countries, as well as Philippine navy personnel,

are participating in the joint exercises that also address new threats such as cyber, space and information warfare, Saito said.

US Seventh Fleet Commander Vice Adm. Karl Thomas said that the vast majority of nations in this part of the world are like-minded and share ideas about maritime security and prosperity, and "the more our navies work together, more multilateral our exercises are, the greater the security for this region."

Thomas said the US Navy deploys two aircraft carriers, the USS Carl Vinson and the USS Ronald Reagan, in the Pacific despite "unfortunate situations happening in other parts of the world."

Japan and the United States have stepped up defense cooperation and also expanded it to include Australia and the Philippines. The allies share concern about China's growing assertiveness and tensions over self-ruled Taiwan, which China claims as its own to be united by force if necessary.

Pact

In early November, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. agreed to start negotiations on a key security pact that would allow their troops to enter each other's territory for joint military exercises. Japan also pledged a provision of surveillance radars to the Philippine navy under a new military grant.

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As a US Navy surveillance plane flew in circles, keeping a close watch, dozens of Chinese coast guard and accompanying ships chased and encircled Philippine vessels in the latest confrontation in one of the most dangerous flashpoints in the South China Sea.

At the height of Friday's four-hour faceoff in the high seas, a Chinese coast guard ship blasted a water cannon toward a Philippine motorboat delivering food and other supplies to Filipino forces on a marooned, rusting warship that serves as the country's fragile territorial outpost at Second Thomas Shoal.

China has steadfastly stood by its claim to virtually the entire strategic waterway, clashing with its smaller neighbors and drawing in the United States, Manila's treaty ally and China's main rival in the Asia-Pacific region.

Washington and its allies have deployed navy ships and fighter aircraft to promote freedom of navigation and overflight, build up deterrence and reassure allies like the Philippines.

There are fears that the recurring confrontations at Second Thomas Shoal, which lies within the UN-sanctioned Philippine exclusive economic zone but is claimed by China and surrounded by its flotilla, could ignite an armed conflict pitting the US against China. Philippine officials said Saturday they would never take any step that could ignite a larger conflict but would not be deterred in defending the country's sovereign rights in the South China Sea.

Deliver

Despite the Chinese blockades and coercive maneuvers, the Philippine contingent managed to deliver supplies to the handful of Filipino marines aboard the BRP Sierra Madre and left without incident. The slightly listing Philippine warship, donated by the US, has been crumbling with age but is still actively commissioned, meaning an armed attack would be considered by Manila as an act of war.

Two Associated Press journalists and several other members of the media who were invited on board three Philippine coast guard ships securing two supply boats witnessed the dangerous cat-and-mouse maneuvers in rough waves. It's part of a shame campaign Philippine officials said they would press on to expose China's growing aggression in one of the world's most important trade routes.

Filipino forces would continue to adhere to the rule of law and would not be provoked by China's strong-arm tactics, Philippine coast guard Commodore Tarriela said.

"Regardless how dangerous the maneuver that they're going to throw at us, whether they use water cannon, whether they use military-grade laser, we are not going to allow them to make Philippine coast guard personnel on board our vessels to escalate the tensions," Tarriela said.

At least 38 Chinese ships were spotted in Second Thomas Shoal's vicinity on Friday, including a Chinese navy fast assault craft and a hospital ship, the Philippine coast guard said.

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directing subordinates to issue passports to companies at their request, accepted bribes and failed to ensure that financial rules and regulations were followed for the staff welfare fund of the home affairs ministry. (AP)

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Australia offers to help Tuvalu: Australia on Friday offered the island nation of Tuvalu a lifeline to help residents escape the rising seas and increased storms brought by climate change.

At a meeting of Pacific leaders in the Cook Islands, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced a plan that will initially allow up to 280 Tuvaluans to come to Australia each year. Tuvalu has a population of 11,000, and its low-lying atolls make it particularly vulnerable to global warming.

"We believe the people of Tuvalu deserve the choice to live, study and work elsewhere, as climate change impacts worsen," Albanese said. "Australia has committed to provide a special pathway for citizens of Tuvalu to come to Australia, with access to Australian services that will enable human mobility with dignity."

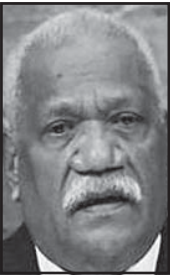
Albanese described the new agreement as groundbreaking, and said the day would be remembered as significant, marking an acknowledgment that Australia was part of the Pacific family. (AP)



Luyanda Hlali, (left), and her friend Mimi Dubazane embark on their routine 2 hour-long walk from the village of Stratford to their school in Dundee, South Africa on Oct 26. Thousands of children in South Africa's poorest and most remote rural communities still face a miles-long walk to school, nearly 30 years after the country ushered in democratic change. (AP)



Suu Kyi



Vurobaravu

Asia

'Dissolve parliament': Government ministers in the Pacific nation of Vanuatu are asking the president to dissolve parliament, adding to political disarray after lawmakers introduced a no-confidence against the prime minister, local media said Saturday.

National elections would be held if President **Nikenike Vurobaravu**, the largely ceremonial head of state, dissolved the parliament and the government headed by Prime Minister Charlot Salwai.

Vanuatu, which gained independence in 1980, has had three prime ministers since August and Salwai would be removed if legislators adopted the no-confidence motion filed earlier in the week. The stability of the government is increasingly important as China and the United States jockey for influence in the region. (AP)

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Military jet crashes in Myanmar: A Myanmar military jet fighter crashed Saturday in a combat zone in the eastern state of Kayah, a military officer and a member of an anti-military resistance organization said. The resistance group said the plane had been shot down, but its claim could not immediately be confirmed.

A spokesperson for the ethnic armed group, the Karenni Nationalities Defense Force, said it had shot down the plane during heavy fighting near Loikaw, the capital of Kayah state, which is also known as Karenni.

However, an officer in Myanmar's military, while confirming that one of its aircraft crashed somewhere in Kayah, said he did not know whether it was shot down or crashed due to technical failure.

The officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to release information, said a search for the crashed aircraft and two pilots was underway.

Loosely organized resistance groups have sprung up around Myanmar since the army seized power in February 2021 from the elected government of **Aung San Suu Kyi**. (AP)

□ □ □

Gen gets 5 yrs for corruption: A military court in Myanmar has sentenced a general who until recently was a senior member of the country's ruling council to five years in prison for abusing his authority and taking bribes, state-run media reported Saturday.

Lt. Gen. Soe Htut, who was home affairs minister as well as a member of the



Visitors line up to take a photo in front of Tokyo Shibuya's iconic statue of Hachiko in a bedroom as it is unveiled to the public one day only to mark its 100th birthday, in Tokyo on Nov 12. (AP)

Burgan Bank to sell 52% of Burgan Turkey

Burgan Bank agreed to sell 52 percent stake in Burgan Bank - Turkey (BBT) to Rawabi Holding company, owned by Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) KIPCO.

In an announcement published on Boursa Kuwait's website on Sunday, the bank said it will continue control over BBT operations, hence consolidating BBT in its financial results.

The bank expects this deal to have a definite positive impact on capital and limit the effect of unstable lira exchange

rates on the bank's financial statements.

The transaction received the approval from the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) and Turkey's Banking Regulation and Supervision Agency (BRSA), and is expected to be concluded within the next few weeks, the bank added in a statement.

Burgan Bank was founded in 1975 and was enlisted in boursa Kuwait in 1984 with a capital of KD 400m (about USD 1.2b). (KUNA)

Sheikha Hessa champions economic empowerment for Arab women

Chairwoman of Council of Arab Businesswomen (CABW) and Ambassador of the Arab Region for the International Federation of Businesswomen Sheikha Hessa Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah confirmed efforts to empower women economically, improve their opportunities to participate in the labor market, and spread the culture of entrepreneurship among women.

In a press statement on Sunday, Sheikha Hessa commended the active participation of the delegation from the Kuwaiti Federation of Professionals and

Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the regional conference for Asia-Pacific countries that was recently held in Bahrain entitled "Economic Empowerment of Women and Young Entrepreneurs," in collaboration with the International Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW International).

Women around the world still face obstacles that prevent them from succeeding as entrepreneurs, however there are growing positive changes in the Middle East and North Africa region,

represented by some reforms aimed at accelerating the pace to achieve gender equality, and this is what is being working on, Sheikha Hessa said.

Kuwait and the world need women to work with men as equal partners to overcome the challenges that the future holds by enhancing the economic empowerment of women and increasing the opportunities available to them as an incentive towards the establishment of a more sustainable society in which economic growth benefits everyone, she explained. (KUNA)

Market Movements

12-11-2023

	Closing pts	Closing		Change	Closing pts
↑			Saudi Egypt	-7.12	10,833.64
↓			Tadawul EGX 30	-402.26	23,910.66

Business

ECB commits to elevated interest rates

Global banks exercise caution amidst Fed's rate hike consideration

By National Bank of Kuwait

North America Fed Speakers

Federal Reserve Governor Christopher Waller lamented the recent surge in treasury yields, describing it as an "earthquake." 10-year treasury yields have climbed over 100 bps since the end of July, breaking through the 5% level for the first time since 2007. Over the past week however, a rally in the bond market eased the 10-year yield to 4.58%, although still remaining elevated from previous levels. "Since the end of July, this thing has gone way up, almost a full percentage point. In central bank terms, in financial markets, that's an earthquake", Waller said. The rise in yields comes at a time when investors are evaluating the state of the US economy and government spending. So far, the labor market and consumer spending remain resilient, adding to inflationary pressures following a 3rd quarter GDP blowout. Meanwhile, the US government keep issuing bonds and borrowing at high interest rates, adding to their deficit while their interest payments surge. Earlier this year, Fitch downgraded the US credit rating to AA+, as multiple credit rating agencies warn about the unsustainable path of spending, and political turmoil prior for decisions regarding the debt ceiling and budget. A month ago, Congress barely averted a government shutdown, approving a stopgap bill that would keep funding until November 17. Furious House Republicans then ousted Speaker Kevin McCarthy for approving the bill, indicating that political turmoil worries still remain as the deadline approaches.

Federal Reserve chair Jerome Powell spoke on Thursday, in what was meant to be a hawkish tone. Powell maintained that the current pause in interest rate hikes is merely a pause and is not the end. Powell stated that "We know that ongoing progress toward our 2% goal is not assured: Inflation has given us a few head fakes," before adding that "If it becomes appropriate to tighten policy further, we will not hesitate to do so." However, it seems that financial markets are generally not buying Powell's claims.

The US Dollar index closed the week at 105.861.

Europe ECB Speakers

European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde

Highlights

- US Federal Reserve chair Jerome Powell maintains his stance that additional rate hikes are still possible.
- The ECB to maintain high interest rates.
- The British economy failed to grow in the July-to-September period barely managing to avoid the beginning of a recession.
- Australia's central bank lifts its cash rate to a 12-year high of 4.35%.
- China re-entered disinflationary territory with the CPI index coming in at -0.2% in October.

spoke on Friday regarding the current situation in the Euro zone. Lagarde believes that maintaining rates where they currently are should be able to bring down inflation to the ECB's 2% target, and that has been aided by last month's fall in inflation to 2.9%. However, the ECB believes that the 2% target may not be seen until late 2025. Lagarde was quoted saying that "We are at a level where we believe that, if kept long enough, - and this long enough is not trivial - will take us to the 2% medium-term target," signaling that even if inflation does pick up, there might not be a need to hike interest rates again, hinting that the rate hike cycle in the Euro zone might have finally come to its end.

The EUR/USD currency pair ended the week at 1.0681.

United Kingdom Construction Industry

In Britain, the construction industry suffered a second month of shrinkage as house-builders suffered from higher borrowing costs. The UK construction Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) improved only marginally to 45.6 from September's 45.0, which had marked the lowest reading since Britain was under COVID lockdown in 2020. Meanwhile the all-sector PMI - which includes surveys for services and manufacturing, inched up to 48.4 from September's 48.2, its lowest reading since January 2021. The data clearly illustrates that the construction sector has suffered the hardest from the Bank of England's run of interest rate hikes.

Rates - 12th November, 2023

Currencies	Previous Week Levels				This Week's Expected Range		3-Month
	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	Forward
EUR	1.0727	1.0654	1.0756	1.0681	1.0600	1.0850	1.0727
GBP	1.2366	1.2184	1.2428	1.2222	1.2100	1.2400	1.2230
JPY	149.35	149.23	151.60	151.50	150.00	152.00	149.25
CHF	0.8988	0.8952	0.9045	0.9027	0.8900	0.9100	0.8940

Gross Domestic Product

The latest GDP news has come in from the UK. On a month-to-month basis, GDP grew by 0.2%, as opposed to the expected 0% growth. On the contrary, the British economy failed to grow in the July-to-September period barely managing to avoid the beginning of a recession. The result of the vicious rate hike cycle has evidently taken its toll on the British economy, meaning that the Bank of England will have to wait further than anticipated in order to start cutting interest rates.

The GBP/USD currency pair closed the week at 1.2222.

Asia Pacific Australian Cash Rate

Australia's central bank resumed raising interest rates in a widely anticipated move, lifting its cash rate to a 12-year high of 4.35%. The central bank's decision ended a four-meeting pause following stronger than expected inflation data, suggesting there is more room to restrain prices. Currently, annual inflation rate is running at 7%, and the RBA still sees inflation topping its 2-3% target into 2025, keeping the door open to further tightening. The central bank has implemented a slower pace of hikes compared to the US as it attempts a soft landing, remaining mindful of the impact on Australia's borrowers who are mostly on floating rates (unlike the US's fixed mortgages). Expectations for a 25 bps hike in December are currently at 34%.

China CPI

China re-entered disinflationary territory in October according to data that revealed both consumer and producer inflationary figures contracted. The consumer price index came in at -0.2% in October, while it was expected to be at -0.1%. Meanwhile, the producer price index has now shrunk for the 13th consecutive month coming in at -2.6%, slightly better than expectations for a drop of -2.7%. The current weak inflation figures indicates that Beijing will likely have to do more to support local economic activity.

The Chinese Yuan weakened against the U.S Dollar, with the pair closing at 7.2891.

Commodities Crude Oil

Oil prices fell to the lowest level since July, with Brent Crude last trading around \$81.43 per barrel. The fall comes amid worries about China's economy, after data showed that exports declined 6.4% y/y while imports only rose 3% y/y for the world's largest oil importer, in addition to the fact that China's CPI has dropped to disinflationary territory. Russia and Saudi Arabia reinforced that their cuts would remain until year-end, as markets worry more about demand destruction than a supply shortage.

Kuwait Kuwaiti Dinar

USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30880.

Kuwait's construction financing decline amounts to KD 34.3 mln

Central Bank reports 5.7% annual decrease

By Ahmad Fathi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: The construction sector in Kuwait has undergone significant financial shifts, with the first nine months of 2023 witnessing a 2.6 percent decline in pooled financing by local banks, amounting to 34.3 million dinars. This downturn, observed in the monthly statistics provided by the Central Bank of Kuwait for September, represents a reduction from 1.319 billion dinars in the corresponding period of 2022 to 1.285 billion dinars in 2023. The decline in construction financing is further emphasized by a 4.5 percent monthly drop and a 5.7 percent annual decrease in September 2023.

In tandem with this, the new credit facilities experienced a 2.45 percent decrease, declining from 17.474 billion dinars in the initial nine months of 2022 to 17 billion dinars in the same period of 2023. Particularly noteworthy is the substantial 32.5 percent decrease in personal monthly facilities provided by banks, totaling 1.3 billion dinars.

A closer examination of the trends in construction financing throughout 2022 reveals a remarkable 57.4 percent increase, reaching a total of 1.741 billion dinars. The construction sector displayed fluctuations in 2023, with a peak in March at 217.9 million dinars and a subsequent decline in April. The cumulative balance of construction financing provided by local banks exhibited an annual upswing of 16.3 percent, reaching its pinnacle at 2.527 billion dinars in September 2023, marking the highest level in two years. Zooming out to encompass the broader financial landscape, the balance of total cash credit facilities provided by banks witnessed a modest 0.7 percent growth during the first nine months of 2023, reaching 52.828 billion dinars by the end of September. This balance experienced a monthly increase of 0.4 percent, reflecting ap-



MoneyTech summit with participation of various sectors.

MoneyTech summit in Kuwait launches with engagement of 300 professionals

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12, (KUNA): The second edition of the MoneyTech summit kicked off Sunday in Kuwait, organized by Al-Jarida newspaper, with the participation of over 300 professionals in the business, trade and financial technology sectors, and a huge group of owners of large and emerging companies to learn about the latest developments in technology.

Editor-in-Chief of Al-Jarida Khaled Al-Mutairi said in the opening speech that the economic summits have become a commitment from Al-Jarida, which has great appreciation for its leadership in development and support for the national economy, in addition to standing behind the youth of Kuwait and embrace their innovations.

The summit focuses on the complex details of money technology, which constitute one of the most important innovative paths that have quickly made their way into the world of the

modern economy, most notably digital banking innovations and the impact of artificial intelligence on the services sector, he added.

He expressed happiness that this summit will have speakers from the largest leading companies sharing with the attendees their experiences in the transformations the world is witnessing and what they are anticipating in the upcoming years, so that this summit becomes a platform in which today's participants draw the future of fintech in the country.

MoneyTech 2023 summit is being held in collaboration with Talabat and with the participation of many strategic partners, including the Direct Investment Promotion Authority, National Bank of Kuwait, Kuwait Finance House, Kuwait Financial Center, Kamco Invest, Rasameel Investment Company, Al Mulla Group, NCM Investment and Tap Payments.

proximately 218.5 million dinars, compared to 52.61 billion dinars at the close of August. On an annual basis, the balance increased by approximately 1.36 billion dinars from 52.1 billion dinars in September 2022.

Amidst these financial dynamics, the construction sector in Kuwait grapples with several challenges. Notably, there has been a decrease in the offering and awarding of projects, as well as delays

in government payments to contractors over the past five years. Additionally, the sector faces the exacerbating dilemma of escalating construction costs due to labor shortages, leading to an unprecedented rise in wages. This, in turn, has adversely impacted the cost and progress of building residential plots, placing an increased financial burden on citizens, particularly given the significant surge in the prices of building materials.

Potential surge in oil production in '24

KSA's non-oil sector thrives with 5.3% growth

By National Bank of Kuwait

Non-oil private sector to drive growth in 2024

Despite higher interest rates, non-oil economic growth remained solid, standing at 5.3% in 1H2023 following a 4.8% expansion in 2022. The private sector (+5.7% in H1) remained the main growth driver, although the government sector's expansion strengthened to 3.7%. Sector-wise, trade, restaurants, and hotels contributed the most to GDP growth, expanding by 8.7% in H1 supported by the strong focus on boosting tourism. In terms of expenditure on GDP, private investment continued to contribute the most to GDP growth, expanding by 8.5% in H1 while government investment was the fastest growing at 21%, both indicating a solid expansion in production capacity, which bodes well for future growth.

The favorable growth dynamics are expected to be sustained in the remainder of 2023 and 2024, despite elevated interest rates. Consumer spending remains strong with the value of POS transactions up around 10% y/y through October, though softening from +18% in 2022. Despite tighter liquidity in the banking sector, credit growth, although moderating, remains in double digits at around 10% y/y through September driven by corporate credit (+12%) and, although softening, mortgage lending (+13%). PMI levels continue to indicate strong growth, averaging 57.2 in Q3, but lower than the multi-year high of 59.2 in Q2. Given all that, we forecast the non-oil sector's growth to finish 2023 at 4.7%, moderating to a still strong 4.5% in 2024 driven by north of 5% expansion in the private sector.

This constructive growth outlook is driven by the government's ongoing reforms as well as by an expansionary fiscal policy. The 2024 pre-budget statement has government spending in 2024 and 2025 13% higher than previously budgeted as the government switched to an expansionary fiscal policy, projecting fiscal deficits in these two years after previously forecasting surpluses. The role of the Public Investment Fund and the National Development Fund in terms of enabling that growth is crucial with the former, for example, creating more than 560k direct and indirect jobs since 2016. Meanwhile, given a 5.25% increase in the US federal funds rate since March 2022, SAMA has hiked its policy rates by a similar 5%, and together with ongoing tight liquidity in the banking sector (given a faster growth in credit than in deposits) drove interbank rates to multi-decade highs of north of 6%. Nevertheless, the tightening cycle is close to being done with current market-implied expectations pointing to US rate cuts commencing in the second half of 2024, which will alleviate some pressure on Saudi interbank rates, and hence drop the cost of borrowing, which will be positive for credit expansion and non-oil growth.

As for the oil sector, growth was negative in H1 (-1.5%) given the production cuts, which have deepened since July, resulting in a projected 8.7% plunge in 2023. Given our house view on oil market dynamics, Saudi oil production is expected to increase from current levels, but growth to remain slightly negative (-1%) for 2024. However, KSA will likely continue to take a very proactive and nimble role in affecting the global oil supply, which could result in a steep deviation with our oil

Saudi Arabia

Non-oil economic growth remained solid at 5.3% in 1H2023 led by the private sector (+5.7%) as investment spending continued to be the main growth driver. Despite elevated interest rates, we project ongoing solid non-oil growth of 4.7% and 4.5% in 2023 and 2024, respectively, driven by the private sector. Inflation will likely continue to soften while the expansionary fiscal policy should result in only limited public deficits in 2023 and 2024 given solid non-oil revenues and higher dividends from Aramco. The main upside risk is higher-than-forecast oil production in 2024, while the major downside risk is a steeper-than-expected softening in non-oil growth driven by elevated interest rates and geopolitical tensions.

Table 1: Key economic indicators					
		2021	2022	2023f	2024f
Nominal GDP	\$ bn	869	1,108	1,053	1,102
Real GDP	% y/y	3.9	8.7	-0.7	2.4
- Oil	% y/y	0.2	15.4	-8.7	-1.0
- Non-oil	% y/y	5.7	4.8	4.7	4.5
Inflation (average)	% y/y	3.1	2.5	2.3	2.0
Fiscal balance	% of GDP	-2.3	2.5	-2.1	-1.7
Government debt	% of GDP	28.8	23.8	25.9	26.4
Current account	% of GDP	5.1	13.6	4.9	4.7

production assumption for 2024. All in all, total GDP is forecast to drop by a limited 0.7% in 2023 pressured by the oil sector, then grow by 2.4% in 2024 driven by the non-oil sector.

Inflation to soften, unemployment touching record lows

Inflation continued to soften, standing at 1.7% y/y through September with housing rentals (+9.8% y/y) nearly the sole driver of price pressures over the past year. Nevertheless, housing rentals are likely beyond their peak y/y increase, relieving pressure on the overall inflation rate going forward, which we project at an average of 2.3% this year and 2% in 2024. Solid non-oil growth and ongoing Saudization initiatives dropped the unemployment rate among Saudis to 8.3% in Q2, down from 9.7% one year before and nearly half the post-Covid high of 15.4% recorded in mid-2020.

Limited fiscal deficits despite expansionary fiscal policy

A 12% increase in spending in 9M2023 and a 24% drop in oil revenues resulted in an estimated 1.5% of GDP fiscal deficit as non-oil revenues expanded by a solid 22%. We project limited deficits of 2.1% and 1.7% of GDP in 2023-2024, despite the higher levels of government spending, mainly due to ongoing solid increases in non-oil revenues and higher dividends from Aramco, given the newly-adopted performance-linked dividends. Hence, debt levels should remain contained, below 27% of GDP by 2024. A main upside risk is higher-than-forecast oil production in 2024, leading to stronger GDP growth, while the major downside risk is a steeper-than-expected softening in non-oil growth driven by elevated interest rates and geopolitical tensions.

Where do unions stand today?

From Hollywood to auto work, organized labor flexing its muscles

NEW YORK, Nov 12, (AP): Once again, U.S. labor unions are flexing their muscles in the national spotlight.

In Hollywood, the actors union reached a tentative deal with major studios late Wednesday to end a months-long strike. Las Vegas hotel workers also scored breakthrough agreements with Caesars Entertainment and MGM Resorts International this week - and last month, United Auto Workers celebrated victories on many of key demands that led to its six-week waves of walkouts against the Detroit Three.

But despite historic strikes and record contract deals seen this year, there's a lot stacked against labor organizers today - particularly for those who aren't part of larger, more established unions in sectors with stronger organizing roots. Union membership rates in the U.S. have also been falling for decades due to changes in the economy, employer opposition, growing political partisanship and persisting legal challenges.

"Even though we're seeing stronger support for unions, (with) the highest popularity of union favorability in polls since at least the 1960s, translating the worker desire for representation into actual representation is really hard under our current system," Alexander Colvin, dean of Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations, previously told The Associated Press.

Still, some labor advocates see growing momentum. Here's where things stand. Across the U.S., hundreds of thousands of workers have participated in strikes this year. Labor activism has surged in tandem with soaring costs of living and rising inequality, particularly the growing pay gap between workers and top executives. Those inequities only became more glaring during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly as some large coporations raked in record profits during sky-high inflation. "It's kind of a perfect storm, (so) you see a lot of union movement these days," said Eunice Han, an assistant professor at the University of Utah specializing in labor economics.

The tightest U.S. labor market in decades is also giving workers leverage to challenge their employers.

The unemployment rate in the U.S. is close to 50-year lows and there are now about 1.5 open jobs for every unemployed person, according to recent government data.

Open jobs means American workers are quitting in higher numbers because they are confident of landing a better paying job. The unemployment rate 3.8%, further signaling leverage for workers.

Success or partial victories in high-profile union fights can also inspire organizing efforts across industries and different types of workers.

"One thing that's really important is that solidarity still pays off," said Adam Seth Litwin, associate professor in Cornell University's School of Industrial and

Labor Relations. "When you can actually see workers in other sectors benefiting from unionization, that's incredibly powerful for organizers."

Leaders of Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists treated the actors strike as a watershed moment from the start, coming as it did amid wider labor fights across work sectors. Within the entertainment industry, that included the writers strike - marking the first time the two unions had been on strike together since 1960.

The simultaneous strikes "increased the power of both unions," Litwin added - pointing to actors and writers supporting each other on picket lines.

The studios and Writers Guild of America reached a deal that brought their strike, which began two months prior to the actors' work stoppage, to an end back in September. The writers union also applauded SAG-AFTRA's tentative agreement Wednesday.

Declining

While pickets lines seem to be everywhere this year, union membership rates have been declining for decades. Only 6% of U.S. private-sector workers belong to unions today, a sliver of the 35% that were union members in 1953.

Todd Vachon, an assistant professor in the Rutgers School of Management and Labor Relations, points to the post-World War II Taft-Hartley Act, which restricted the power of labor unions - as well as factors like relocating manufacturing jobs overseas and an uptick in anti-union stances from both employers and lawmakers that grew in the 70s and 80s.

Vachon notes one pivotal moment in particular, when President Ronald Reagan fired all striking air traffic controllers in 1981.

"That sent a really clear signal to the business community that it's A-OK to be completely anti-union and to be so in a very belligerent way, because even the president of the United States is doing it," he told The AP last month.

Separately, with the rise of the gig economy, some large companies have recategorized employees as "contractors," making it harder for them to unionize. And growth in industries that haven't had a strong history of union membership, such as technology, has also contributed to the decline in unionization.

Last year, the number of both public- and private-sector U.S. workers belonging to unions actually grew by 273,000, according to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. But the U.S. workforce grew at an even faster rate, meaning the percentage of those belonging to unions fell slightly.

The National Labor Relations Act of 1935 granted private-sector employees the right to unionize. A 1961 executive order from President John F. Kennedy allowed federal employees to organize. That came around the same era that states also began to pass labor laws for their own public workers.



SAG-AFTRA President Fran Drescher, center, joined with National Executive Director and Chief Negotiator Duncan Crabtree-Ireland, and the TV/Theatrical Negotiating Committee members in celebration at the SAG-AFTRA offices in Los Angeles on Friday, Nov. 10, 2023. (AP)

Some states in the South and lower Midwest "will allow police and firefighters to collectively bargain, but not state employees. Or they'll let state employees bargain, but they can only bargain over wages," Vachon said. "That shows you how important the labor law is. It really sets the framework for which workers can either organize a union successfully or not."

A handful of states also have "right to work" laws which, in unionized workplaces, require unions to represent everyone regardless of whether individuals choose to pay dues or formally join. Such legislation has been criticized for undermining the financial resources and bargaining power of unions. Attitudes towards unionization have become increasingly partisan, too, and also divided geographically. Politically "blue" states tend to have higher unionization rates than "red" states. Several states have also dialed back on union protections in recent years, Han said.

Unionization efforts have expanded but many are taking place where there is little history of organized labor, creating a higher bar for workers.

Colvin points to Starbucks workers who have seen union drives clipped in the last year. Starbucks has been accused of chilling organization by closing unionized stores and firing pro-union workers.

Worried Chinese shoppers scrimp

HONG KONG, Nov 12, (AP): Shoppers in China have been tightening their purse strings, raising questions over how faltering consumer confidence may affect Saturday's annual Singles' Day online retail extravaganza.

Singles Day, also known as "Double 11," was popularized by e-commerce giant Alibaba. In the days leading up to the event, sellers on Alibaba and elsewhere often slash prices and offer enticing deals.

Given prevailing jitters about jobs and a weak property market, it's unclear how this year's festival will fare. A Bain & Company survey of 3,000 Chinese shoppers found more than three-quarters of those who responded plan to spend less this year, or keep spending level, given uncertainties over how the economy is faring.

That includes people like Shi Gengchen, whose billiard hall business in Beijing's trendy Chaoyang district has slowed.

Shi said the economy was in a bad condition and had affected his business. "There are fewer customers than before," he said, adding that his sales are just 40% of what they were before the pandemic.

"I don't spend a lot," he said. "Of course, everyone has a desire to spend, but you have to have the money to spend."

Chinese consumers were much more eager to splurge before COVID-19 hit in 2020. Shoppers spent \$38 billion in 24 hours on Alibaba's e-commerce platforms during Singles' Day in 2019.

But the Chinese have become much more cautious over splashing out on extras, analysts say.

"The hype and excitement around Singles' Day is sort of over," said Shaun Rein, founder and managing director of Shanghai-based China Market Research Group. "Consumers have over the last nine months been getting discounts on a steady day-to-day basis so they aren't expecting major discounts on Singles' Day except for consumables," he said.

Rein said shoppers will likely be keener to pick up deals on daily necessities like toothpaste, tissue paper and laundry detergent, rather than high-end cosmetics and luxury brands.

Hu Min, a convenience store employee in Shijiazhuang city in northern China's Hebei province, said that she no longer spends on anything except daily necessities.

"I just feel that people don't spend as much as before, possibly because they don't have much to spend," she said. In Beijing, Gao Di, 28, said although she did not feel much effect from the economic slowdown, she would not buy things just because of the festival anymore. But if she wants to get some products around the time of Singles' Day, she will wait and place her orders during the event.

"Perhaps it's because my mindset has changed," said Gao, who works in the insurance industry.

E-commerce platforms are emphasizing low prices for this year's festival, hoping to attract value-conscious customers looking for good deals. For the 2023 campaign, Alibaba's Tmall boasts "Lowest prices on the web," while e-commerce platform JD.com's tagline for its Singles' Day campaign is "Truly cheap." Rival retailer Pinduoduo's is "Low prices, every day."

Some of their business strategies helped boost sales.

JD.com said Sunday its transaction volume, order and user numbers during the festival all hit another high, without providing specific figures. It said more than 60 brands have recorded over 1 billion yuan (\$137 million) in sales and that nearly 20,000 brands saw their transaction volume surge more than three times from the same period last year. Earlier, the retailer said its new merchants saw their number of orders jump more than five times compared to the same period last month.

Lu Fei, senior researcher at JD.com's Consumption and Industry Development Research Institute, said the company's sales figures showed there was still an "obvious" growth in consumption.

Progress on big public works projects may hinge on outcome of '24 vote: Biden's team

'Occupant of the Oval Office increasingly matters'

A fragile global economy is at stake as US, China seek to cool tensions at APEC meet

WASHINGTON, Nov 12, (AP): The United States and China are the two global economic heavyweights. Combined, they produce more than 40% of the world's goods and services.

So when Washington and Beijing do economic battle, as they have for five years running, the rest of the world suffers, too. And when they hold a rare high-level summit, as Presidents Joe Biden and Xi Jinping will this week, it can have global consequences.

The world's economy could surely benefit from a U.S.-China détente. Since 2020, it has suffered one crisis after another - the COVID-19 pandemic, soaring inflation, surging interest rates, violent conflicts in Ukraine and now Gaza. The global economy is expected to grow a lackluster 3% this year and 2.9% in 2024, according to the International Monetary Fund.

"Having the world's two largest economies at loggerheads at such a fraught moment," said Eswar Prasad, senior professor of trade policy at Cornell University, "exacerbates the negative impact of various geopolitical shocks that have hit the world economy."

Hopes have risen that Washington and Beijing can at least cool some of their economic tensions at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, which starts Sunday in San Francisco. The meeting will bring together 21 Pa-



U.S. President Joe Biden, right, stands with Chinese President Xi Jinping before a meeting on the sidelines of the G20 summit on Nov. 14, 2022, in Bali, Indonesia. When Washington and Beijing do economic battle - as they have for five years now - the rest of the world suffers, too. And when they hold a top-level summit - as Biden and Xi will this week - the rest of the world pays attention. (AP)

cific Rim countries, which collectively represent 40% of the world's people and nearly half of global trade.

The marquee event will be the Biden-Xi meeting Wednesday on the sidelines of the summit, the first time the two leaders will have spoken in a year, during which time frictions between the two nations have worsened. The White House has sought to tamp down expectations, saying to expect no

breakthroughs.

At the same time, Prasad suggested that the threshold for declaring a successful outcome is relatively low. "Preventing any further deterioration in the bilateral economic relationship," he said, "would already be a victory for both sides."

The U.S.-China economic relationship had been deteriorating for years before it erupted in 2018, at the instiga-

tion of President Donald Trump, into an all-out trade war. The Trump administration charged that China had violated the commitments it made, in joining the World Trade Organization in 2001, to open its vast market to U.S. and other foreign companies that wanted to sell their goods and services there.

In 2018, the Trump administration began imposing tariffs on Chinese imports to punish Beijing for its actions in trying to supplant U.S. technological supremacy. Many experts agreed with the administration that Beijing had engaged in cyberespionage and had improperly demanded that foreign companies turn over trade secrets as the price of gaining access to the Chinese market. Beijing punched back against Trump's sanctions with its own retaliatory tariffs, making U.S. goods more expensive for Chinese buyers.

When Biden took office in 2021, he kept much of Trump's confrontational trade policy, including the China tariffs. The U.S. tax rate on Chinese imports now exceeds 19%, versus 3% at the start of 2018, before Trump imposed his tariffs. Likewise, Chinese import taxes on U.S. goods are up to 21%, from 8% before the trade war began, according to calculations by Chad Bown of the Peterson Institute for International Economics.

NerdWallet

Avoid these 3 business mistakes during the holiday season

By Randa Kriss
NerdWallet

A broken website. Sold-out items. Shipping delays. These conditions can be detrimental to small businesses during the holiday season, arguably the busiest time of year for retail sales.

"We see some of our clients in one weekend - like over Black Friday, Cyber Monday - make more money that weekend than they do for the entire year. It's a huge opportunity," says Sharon Lee Thony, founder and CEO of SLT Consulting, a boutique digital marketing agency, and a Verizon Small Business Digital Ready instructor.

Small-business owners may not be able to plan for every contingency, but identifying some of the more likely (and costly) possibilities, as well as having plans to prevent them, can help position businesses for success.

Here are three of the most common mistakes small businesses make leading up to and during the holiday shopping season, and tips to avoid them.

1. Failing to plan ahead
Planning ahead is key to running a small business, but it's even more important during the holiday season

when you're anticipating an influx of sales.

This means having things in place operationally to be able to handle the greater volume of traffic to your e-commerce website or foot traffic in your stores, Thony says.

She recommends preparation strategies such as:

■ Making sure you have enough inventory.

■ Hiring additional, temporary staff.

■ Checking that your website is optimized and links are working.

■ Creating competitive promotions that offer value to customers.

If you have it, use historical data to anticipate your seasonal needs and guide planning decisions. In order to make sure you'll have enough inventory, for example, you can create a sales forecast or inventory demand plan, says Hannah Shr, senior program manager at ICA Fund, a small-business accelerator based in California.

Performing these analyses ahead of time can help ensure that you're not scrambling as the holidays approach, nor leaving "money and opportunities on the table," Shr says.

2. Forgetting the customer experience

joked about Trump holding "infrastructure week" events during his presidency but never managing to sign an infrastructure law.

"This is something that all of us experience every day," White House chief of staff Jeff Zients said. "We

go to the airport, get on Amtrak, hear about lead pipes in communities ... kids going to McDonalds parking lots to get internet access."

Ben argues that the public works projects and other legislative accomplishments show how Washington can

improve the daily lives of people in the United States. Like Trump, however, many other Republicans vying for their party's 2024 presidential nomination say the White House's policies have actually hurt the economy.

"I'm going to take all the execu-

tive orders, the regulations, everything involving Bidenomics, I'm going to rip it up and I'm going to throw it in the trash can where it belongs," Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said Wednesday during the latest GOP primary debate.

ENERGY

Business Plus



Cancellations amid high interest rates, failure to obtain desired tax credits

Scrapped nuclear project blow to Biden’s clean energy agenda



Land-based wind turbines spin in Atlantic City, N.J. on July 20, 2023. Wind developer Orsted scrapped the project on Oct. 31, 2023, citing supply chain problems and high interest rates. (AP)

While not every project is guaranteed to succeed, DOE remains committed to doing everything we can to deploy these technologies to combat the climate crisis and increase access to clean energy

WASHINGTON, Nov 12, (AP): A project to build a first-of-a-kind small modular nuclear reactor power plant was terminated Wednesday, another blow to the Biden administration’s clean energy agenda following cancellations last week of two major offshore wind projects.

Oregon-based NuScale Power has the only small modular nuclear reactor design certified for use in the United States. For its first project, the company was working with a group of Utah utilities to demonstrate a six-reactor plant at the Idaho National Laboratory, generating enough electricity to power more than 300,000 homes.

The project was to come online starting in 2029 and was supposed to replace electricity from coal plants that are closing. When combined with wind and solar, the advanced nuclear technology was intended to help municipalities and public power utilities in several

western states eliminate planet-warming greenhouse gas emission from the power sector.

Instead, NuScale and the Utah utilities announced Wednesday they’re terminating the project after a decade of working on it. The cancellation comes as two large offshore wind projects in New Jersey were canceled amid supply chain problems, high interest rates and a failure to obtain the desired tax credits.

The announcement by Danish energy giant Orsted was the latest in a series of setbacks for the nascent U.S. offshore wind industry and a blow to President Joe Biden’s goal to have 30 gigawatts of offshore wind power by 2030, enough to power 10 million homes.

A spokeswoman for the Energy Department called the cancellation “unfortunate news,” but said first-of-a-kind deployments are often difficult. Officials believe the work accomplished to date on the project

will be valuable for future nuclear energy projects.

“We absolutely need advanced nuclear energy technology to meet (the Biden administration’s) ambitious clean energy goals,” spokeswoman Charisma Troiano said.

“While not every project is guaranteed to succeed, DOE remains committed to doing everything we can to deploy these technologies to combat the climate crisis and increase access to clean energy.”

Timothy Fox, vice president at ClearView Energy Partners, a Washington-based research firm, called NuScale’s announcement “a substantial setback” for small nuclear power, but said there is still “a lot of interest out there” in developing the technology at other sites. It was not yet clear whether other projects under development face similar obstacles, he said.

“This was the frontrunner, and the frontrunner has now faltered,” Fox said..

The Energy Department under three presidents has provided more than \$600 million since 2014 to support the design, licensing and siting of a small modular reactor power plant near Idaho Falls, Idaho at the Energy Department’s Idaho National Laboratory.

In 2020, the Trump administration approved up to \$1.4 billion for the project, known as the Carbon Free Power Project. The agreement serves as a funding vehicle and is subject to future appropriations by Congress.

The cancellation of the Idaho project reminded some critics of the earlier failure of Solyndra, the California solar company that went bankrupt soon after receiving a federal loan from the Obama administration more than a decade ago, costing taxpayers more than \$500 million.

NuScale and the Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems said it was unlikely the project will have

enough subscriptions from local power providers to continue. The power system serves 50 members, mostly municipalities and public power utilities in Utah and other Western states.

Most prospective subscribers were unwilling to take on the risks associated with developing a first-of-a-kind nuclear project, the Utah group said.

Costs have increased more than 50% in the last two years to \$89 per megawatt hour, the company said. Small reactors are seen as an alternative to more costly, traditional nuclear power that includes large reactors and cost billions of dollars and takes decades to complete.

NuScale President and Chief Executive Officer John Hopkins said the company will continue working with domestic and international customers to bring its technology to the market. The design that was certified by federal regulators is for a 50-megawatt, advanced light-water small modular nuclear reactor. The company is currently seeking certification for an upgraded 77-megawatt design.

NuScale said it can use power plant design plans and the regulatory progress from the cancelled project for other customers and is working to transfer materials with long lead times to other projects.

The Utah power system said it will focus on non-nuclear resources in the near term, and will need additional renewables, primarily solar and wind, as well as new natural gas.

The Nuclear Energy Institute, the industry’s trade association, called the cancellation “very disappointing,” but said it was understandable because of the difficulties inherent in developing new technologies.

NuScale has a design that will deploy and bring clean and reliable energy in the future as the demand for clean energy grows globally, the institute said in a statement.

Ken Cook, president of the Environmental Working Group, an advocacy organization that opposes nuclear power, said the Energy Department under three successive administrations has wasted more than half a billion dollars in taxpayer money.

“It’s about time the plug was pulled on this small modular reactor disaster,” Cook said in a statement. “What a colossal waste of hundreds of millions in taxpayer dollars, which could have been spent on existing, safe and renewable sources of energy like solar and wind.”

While no other small modular reactor or advanced design has been submitted to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission for certification, the agency said Thursday that other companies are close to applying and there’s a great deal of activity within the industry.

Environmentalists argue California has adequate power without reactors

California nuke plant faces disputes over safety, financing

Nuclear power doesn’t produce carbon pollution like fossil fuels, but it leaves behind waste that can remain dangerously radioactive for centuries

LOS ANGELES, Nov 12, (AP): More than a year after California endorsed a proposal to extend the lifespan of its last nuclear power plant, disputes continue to swirl about the safety of its decades-old reactors, whether more than \$1 billion in public financing for the extension could be in jeopardy and even if the electricity is needed in the dawning age of renewables.

Late last month, a state judge tentatively approved the blueprint to keep the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant operating for an additional five years, until 2030. The proposal, which could get finalized later this month, imposed several conditions, including that federal nuclear safety regulators greenlight the longer run and that a state loan supporting the extension is not canceled.

The twin reactors, located midway between Los Angeles and San Francisco, began operating in the mid-1980s. They supply up to 9% of the state’s electricity on any given day.

Environmentalists argue California has adequate power without the reactors and that their continued operation could hinder development of new sources of clean energy. They

also warn that long-delayed testing on one of the reactors poses a safety risk that could result in an accident, a claim disputed by operator Pacific Gas & Electric.

Public Utilities Commission Administrative Law Judge Ehren D. Seybert’s proposed ruling did not directly address yet another question: Whether a past felony conviction against PG&E might pose an obstacle to the government financing for the extension.

California is the birthplace of the modern environmental movement and for decades has had a fraught relationship with nuclear power. In 2016, PG&E, environmental groups and plant worker unions reached an agreement to close Diablo Canyon by 2025. But the Legislature voided the deal last year at the urging of Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom, who said the power is needed to ward off blackouts as climate change stresses the energy system.

PG&E says it wants to keep the plant open to “ensure statewide electrical reliability and combat climate change” at the direction of the state. But the plant has to clear a series of state and federal regulatory hurdles, and it remains in dispute

how much ratepayers will ultimately have to pay to keep it open.

On Tuesday, the same day that PG&E submitted its application to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to keep the reactors running, supporters and critics clashed in a state utilities commission hearing over whether the plan is a sound investment or a financially reckless gamble. The utility is seeking a 20-year extension, typical in the industry, but emphasized the state would control how long the plant runs.

Matthew Freedman, an attorney with the advocacy group The Utility Reform Network, told regulators that PG&E was looking for a “blank check” from ratepayers.

The fight is playing out as the long-struggling nuclear industry sees a potential rebirth in the era of global warming. Nuclear power doesn’t produce carbon pollution like fossil fuels, but it leaves behind waste that can remain dangerously radioactive for centuries.

In September, environmental and anti-nuclear groups called on federal regulators to shut down one of Diablo Canyon’s reactors. Friends of the Earth and Mothers for Peace said in a petition filed with the NRC

that tests and inspections have been delayed for nearly 20 years on a pressure vessel in the Unit 1 reactor. They also argued that the steel wall in Unit 1 might be deteriorating from sustained exposure to radiation and is becoming susceptible to cracking, a condition technically known as embrittlement.

The pressure vessels are thick steel containers that hold nuclear fuel and cooling water in the reactors. The NRC took no action on the request and instead asked agency staff to review it.

PG&E has maintained the plant is safe, an assessment endorsed by the NRC.

PG&E was expected to begin embrittlement testing on the vessel last month, with the plant shut down for refueling. But it told legislators that workers couldn’t remove samples inside the vessel because they did not have the correct equipment to access them.

PG&E has said workers would try again during the next refueling period, which could be as much as two years away. Once removed, evaluating the material can take another year. Under that scenario, it’s possible that information might

not be available until after state reviews are completed and the NRC has considered the utility’s request for extended licenses.

State Sen. Robert Laird and Assemblymember Dawn Addis, both Democrats, urged PG&E to determine if alternative testing can be used. In a letter to the utility, they lamented the lost opportunity to answer “allegations that the vessel is dangerously embrittled.”

Financing questions also have emerged.

In 2016, a federal jury found PG&E guilty of multiple felonies for failing to properly inspect gas pipelines before a 2010 blast that incinerated a neighborhood in San Bruno, south of San Francisco, killing eight people. Federal rules generally prohibit the government from entering into a contract with any corporation with a federal felony conviction, though exceptions can be made.

The Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility, an anti-nuclear group, has alleged that PG&E failed to disclose its conviction before it received conditional approval from the U.S. Department of Energy last year for \$1.1 billion in funding for the extension.

editor’s choice



'Pop culture material offers immediate relatability'

Classes on Swift, Ross engage N-Gen of law students

DES MOINES, Iowa, Nov 12, (AP): A South Dakota law professor typically teaches about dense topics like torts and natural resources. But next semester, he and his fearless students are shaking things up by turning their attention to Taylor Swift.

Sean Kammer wanted his legal writing course to draw on music and art to help his students reconsider legal language and craft persuasive arguments. The self-described "Swiftie" thought a focus on the cultural icon was also a way to connect with his students.

Never in his wildest dreams did Kammer expect the attention that the announcement generated - the class filled up quickly and jealous alumni even reached out.

"The reaction from students has been exciting," he said. "If we can have fun while we're exploring some of these complex theoretical problems or issues, I believe students will be inspired to think deeper and to push themselves further."

Swifties at the University of South Dakota Knudson School of Law aren't the only ones having fun. Law professors across the country are increasingly drawing on popular culture and celebrity-dom - sometimes with the help of celebrities themselves - to engage a new generation of students and contextualize complicated concepts in the real world.

Courses on Swift, Rick Ross and Succession supplement traditional law school courses with fun and accessible experiences that professors say they often didn't have themselves.

Students at the Georgia State University College of Law were hustlin' everyday to get to class - especially on Tuesday when they got to hear directly from Ross for the final day of a course that

chronicled the legal intricacies of the rapper, record executive and Wingstop franchise owner's life.

Moraima "Mo" Ivory, director of the school's entertainment, sports and media law program, wants her students to see for themselves what goes into the albums, television shows and movies they enjoy. She chooses a star each year and invites guest speakers from their world, along with the title character themselves, to bring legal deals, defenses and drama to life.

"We're talking about critical legal principles, but we're watching them as they happen and as they happened," she said. "It really just turns that lightbulb on for law students."

Ivory said she could've heard a pin drop in one class about mix-tapes that featured guest DJ Drama.

"It was never my experience that I walked out of a law school classroom excited about what I had learned," Ivory said.

For third-year law student Luke Padia, the experience makes concepts feel more tangible than reading a textbook or case law, he said.

Attention

"No knock on the other courses," the 26-year-old from Lawrence, Kansas, said. "I just find that my attention is more easily grabbed when I'm sitting in class listening to Steve Sadow talk about how he was able to get Rick Ross out of jail as opposed to sitting in constitutional law or torts or whatever it may be."

Frances Acevedo, a 25-year-old from Pembroke Pines, Florida, in her third year of law school, said she's walked away from the

class with an understanding of how important a team is to an artist's success - a message Ross emphasized.

"I can sit at the table and talk money with multibillionaires," Ross said to students, faculty and guests gathered for the course finale. "But when it's time for me to move forward, I sit down with my team."

Courses on A-list celebrities have captivated undergraduate and graduate students across the country for years, increasingly in courses analyzing race and gender. The attention on female artists and artists of color is a sign of growing respect for them and for different modes of artistic expression, said Kinitra Brooks, an English professor at Michigan State University.

Brooks' course on Beyonce's Lemonade album and Black feminism was so popular that she published a reader that other professors can use. The pop culture material offers "immediate relatability," which Brooks thinks makes students more likely to participate, allow their ideas to be challenged and be willing to challenge the artist, too.

Bella Andrade, a junior at Arizona State University, looks forward to her class on the psychology of Taylor Swift every week. The self-proclaimed "huge Swiftie" has been listening to her music for "forever and a day," but the class includes a range of fans. There are "10 out of 10" Swifties, along with people who barely know her music, which "leads to some really great conversations," she said.

"I think I've developed a much deeper understanding of different topics in social psychology," said Andrade, who is from Minneapolis.

Variety



This image released by Disney shows Brie Larson, (left), and Iman Vellani in a scene from 'The Marvels.' (AP)

Film

Powerful women, new villains, and action galore

Vellani elevates low-stakes 'The Marvels'

By Lindsey Bahr

The stakes feel immensely low in "The Marvels," and it's not because this is a movie that spends a fair amount of time following cats or has an out-of-nowhere musical number. It's possibly because somewhere along the way, Marvel movies just stopped feeling like events. And this galactic trifle from director Nia DaCosta does not seem to be the one to make them again feel like a must for anyone who has not kept up with all their Disney+ series and who has forgotten what phase the MCU is in and why it matters.

Yes, Iman Vellani (as Ms. Marvel/Kamala Khan) gets her big moment on the big screen and nails it, as does Teyonah Parris (Monica Rambeau). Yes, there is a new villain, and it's a woman (Zawe Ashton as Dar-Benn) with a powerful new toy. Yes, Captain Marvel (Brie Larson) will have to face her past to move forward. And, yes, there is plenty of action, butt-kicking, wormhole jumping, glowing eyes and smashing of concrete walls.

But this is also a movie that teases danger, like a bad guy who appears to be knocked down reaching for another weapon, only to cut away. Granted, this happens in the middle of a hectic sequence involving the three leads fighting three fights in three different locations and switching with one another. Not that it really mattered what that guy was reaching for anyway - it never felt like anyone was in peril. It's also not quite funny either, but does introduce the crutch that Monica, Carol and Kamala can switch places in a flash. They'll try to explain why this is happening to you several times, each getting more confusing.

This is sort of a movie about a new team forming, sort of about fandom, sort of about accepting responsibility. But there is little doubt that

these three will figure out a way to work together. There's some unresolved hurt between Monica and Carol but they're also both professionals, for goodness' sake. And Kamala just has to stop fangirling over Captain Marvel. These three are not given enough downtime to really enjoy whatever chemistry is there, perhaps because the movie seems more interested in the Khan family FaceTiming with their daughter and the goings-on in Nick Fury's (Samuel L. Jackson) oddly chaotic ship.

DaCosta, working with Marvel for the first time, keeps the energy up and the story moving at a quick clip, though.

Change

Those fretting about all the three-hour films in cinemas at the moment should be happy to hear that this is kept to a tight 105 minutes. And it is a colorful, vibrant affair, too, a very welcome change from "Ant-Man 3," helped no doubt by Oscar-nominated cinematographer Sean Bobbitt, mostly known for working with Steve McQueen.

And Vellani is the real standout star, a refreshingly human presence in stark contrast to Larson's cool and unflappable Captain Marvel. As Kamala/Ms. Marvel, you see in her someone who is excited and overwhelmed, in over her head and learning on the go. I wish they'd gone further with a conflict between her and her idol that is too quickly resolved. There is a warm sitcom tidiness to most of the conflicts here, right down to the Khan family shaking their heads at their daughter after a near-death incident as though she'd just borrowed the car without permission.

It's supposed to be a big deal that this movie has all women fighting a villain who's a woman, but as is often the case with Marvel's girl power attempts, it feels a little pandering in all the wrong

places and doesn't really engage with any specific or unique female point of view. When our three heroes suit up, they do so off screen and come out with fresh hairdos and makeup. They look like their best selves and will continue looking like their best selves throughout a harrowing battle, which leaves some of their uniforms torn but not an eyelash out of place. I thought we'd reached a pro-hair tie place with our female superheroes, but these women, including Dar-Benn, are defiantly against the convenience; instead, they're constantly flipping their locks out of their eyes during fights, despite seeming more practical than that.

Also poor Ashton, who is such a splendid actor, has been saddled with one of the more forgettable and generic villain arcs. She gets to snarl a few one-liners and stomp around with tyrannical purpose in fantastically detailed costumes, but it seems to be a missed opportunity to not develop her more.

Bringing "Endgame"-like event hysteria back to Marvel was never going to be in the cards for "The Marvels," or "Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania." At least this movie seems to be enjoying itself (sometimes a little too much) with moments of whimsy and weirdness and at least one deranged and amusing gift for cat lovers everywhere.

Maybe it's just those pesky stakes again. This seems designed to be a minor Marvel - a fun enough, inoffensive, largely forgettable stepping-stone - a get-to-know-them brick on a path only Kevin Feige has the blueprints for. And maybe it'll be something great, eventually.

"The Marvels," a Walt Disney Co. release in theaters Friday, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association for "action/violence and brief language." Running time: 105 minutes. Two stars out of four. (AP)

OXFORD, England: Fans of Philip Pullman have been waiting almost five years for the final instalment in the author's sextet of books about his intrepid heroine **Lyra** and her adventures in multiple worlds. They won't have to wait too much longer.

Pullman says he has written 500 pages of a 540-page novel to conclude the "Book of Dust" trilogy, and it should be published next year -- though he still doesn't know what it's called.

"I haven't got a title yet," Pullman told The Associated Press in his home city of Oxford, where he was honored Thursday with the Bodley Medal. "Titles either come at once or they take ages and ages and ages. I haven't found the right title yet - but I will."

The medal, awarded by Oxford University's 400-year-old Bodleian Libraries, honors contributions to literature, media or science. Its previous recipients include World Web creator **Tim Berners-Lee**, physicist **Stephen Hawking** and novelists **Hilary Mantel**, **Kazuo Ishiguro**, **Zadie Smith** and **Colm Toibin**.

Pullman, 77, was recognized for a body of work that includes the "Northern Lights" trilogy and its sequel, "The Book of Dust." The saga is set in an alternative version of Oxford -- ancient colleges, misty quadrangles, enticing libraries -- that blends the retro, the futuristic and the fantastical. In Pullman's most striking act of imagination, every human has an inseparable animal soul mate known as a daemon (pronounced demon).

The stories are rollicking adventures that take Lyra from childhood into young adulthood and tackle humanity's biggest questions: What is the essence of life? Is there a God? What happens when we die? They are among the most successful fantasy series in history. Pullman's publisher says the first trilogy has sold 17.5 million copies around the world. A BBC- and HBO-backed TV series that ran for three seasons starting in 2019

won even more fans. (AP)



LOS ANGELES: The Daytime Emmys are back on after being postponed by the Hollywood writers' strike.

The 50th annual ceremony honoring talk shows and soap operas will air Dec. 15 live on CBS and



Pullman



Frazier

be livestreamed on Paramount + and will be hosted by **Kevin Frazier** and **Nischelle Turner** of "Entertainment Tonight."

It will be the first major awards show since the writers and actors went on strike. The Daytime Emmys, originally set for June 16, were postponed in May because of the strike by the

Writers Guild of America. That walkout ended Sept. 26. The actors union joined the writers' strike on July 14 and ended their labor action late Wednesday.

Soap actor **Susan Lucci** will receive her lifetime achievement award at the ceremony at the Westin Bonaventure hotel in downtown Los Angeles.

"We know the loyal fans of daytime television have waited patiently to properly honor and recognize all of the deserving nominees and we look forward to the celebration we have all been waiting for," said **Adam Sharp**, president and CEO of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences. (AP)

People & Places

Music

Greatest hits album

Rossdale marks Bush 30 years with ‘Loaded’

NEW YORK, Nov 12, (AP): Putting together a collection of Bush’s greatest hits was relatively easy. Convincing frontman **Gavin Rossdale** to do it was a bit harder.

“I never really wanted to do one because I always thought it was like, a bit of a farewell, like a sayonara, a swan song,” the lead singer and songwriter says. “And I couldn’t be more swimming against that tide. I’m enjoying the music and the band so much that it feels like we never stopped.”

Rossdale relented and that’s why we have “Loaded: The Greatest Hits 1994-2023,” a 21-song set that includes such Bush classics as “Glycerine,” “Machinehead,” “Comedown” and “Everything Zen.”



Rossdale

“Every book, when you read it for a second time or a third time, you start seeing more details and start hearing it or reading in different ways. And so I hope it’s a bit like that,” says Rossdale.

The collection includes hits from each of the band’s nine studio albums, as well as a cover of the Beatles’ “Come Together” that the band often

plays live and had a very limited release in 2012. “They have a real big future ahead if they stick at it,” Rossdale jokes about the Fab Four.

It’s an album that shows an evolution of sound from a band that was born during the heat of grunge but found its own musical way, from radio-friendly pop to heavy guitars to detuned, weirder stuff.

“It’s a really easily accessible thing for people who are getting into Bush. There’s kind of the blueprint, so to speak,” says Rossdale, who will hit the road with Bush on headlining dates this November.

“It just made me feel nostalgic to look at those song lists and think of all those journeys. Songs are just like snapshots of time in our life, in my life. And so just seeing all that come together, it made me think of my whole history.”

Underrated

Rossdale started the Grammy Award-nominated band outside London in 1992 with guitarist Nigel Pulsford, joined later by bassist Dave Parsons and drummer Robin Goodridge. The current lineup is Rossdale, Chris Traynor on guitar, Corey Britz on bass and Nik Hughes on drums.

Blessed with a heartthrob with high cheekbones as its lead singer, Bush’s debut “Sixteen Stone” dropped eight months after Nirvana’s Kurt Cobain’s suicide in late 1994. The band went on to earn 23 Top 40 hit singles on the Modern Rock and Mainstream Rock charts, six of them making it to No. 1.

“Loaded” - with underrated gems like “This Is War,” “Bullet Holes” and “The Chemicals Between Us” - reminds listeners that the band can veer from an U2-adjacent vibe to the metal-punk of Bring Me the Horizon.

“I always think there are too many songs in the world, but there’s never enough great songs. That’s always kind of the goal. I can’t always achieve that, and obviously people have varying opinions whether I’ve ever achieved it, but that’s the goal,” Rossdale says.

Rossdale’s manager requested one new song for the album to try to sum up the collection, and the band responded with “Nowhere To Go But Everywhere,” a thoughtful lookback with the line, “I wish I knew myself better.”

“It was a weird assignment because it was like trying to herd a rabble of spirited, rowdy dogs or something like that. How do you sum it up? These songs have really changed my life forever and given me a life,” Rossdale says. “It was fun to write a song that could straddle all the records and not be sort of an outlier.”

Choosing the hits was easy, but the new one makes Rossdale a little nervous: “We don’t know if, ironically, that will be a hit. Could be the only non-hit on the greatest hits. You know, life can be cruel.”

Rossdale says he relinquishes ownership of Bush’s songs as soon as they enter the world, letting them change and drift as life moves on.

“You have to realize that if I write a song, as soon as I’ve written it and you hear it, it’s as much your song as mine,” he says. “If I want to sing ‘This Is War,’ I can be referencing Charlottesville and what went on there, but I can be referencing any particular struggles that have been going on that people are going through.”

Rossdale has lately been more vocal about social issues, joining Artist for Action to Prevent Gun Violence alongside such stars as Billie Eilish, Peter Dinklage and Sheryl Crow.

“One of the best things about getting older for me is you shed degrees of selfishness,” says Rossdale. “It just feels good to be to do something worthwhile and to be part of with a great bunch of musicians.”

The repeal of Roe v. Wade also sparked Rossdale to write “More Than Machines,” with the lyrics: “Girls, you’re in control/Not the government/Not the government.”

“At a certain point, enough is enough. If you don’t take responsibility for some things, to a certain extent, you can be complicit in things. Silence is being complicit.”

Also:

LOS ANGELES: Britney Spears’ “The Woman in Me” remained the country’s top-selling book in its second week of publication, although the pace of sales fell substantially.

The singer’s memoir sold just over 132,000 copies last week, according to Circana, which tracks around 85% of hardcover and paperback sales. The week before “The Woman in Me” sold more than 400,000 physical copies.

Thanks to the popularity of the audio edition, read by Oscar-nominated actor **Michelle Williams**, “The Woman in Me” is already a million seller, Gallery Books announced last week. Critics have praised Spears for a compelling account of her troubled life and career, with The New York Times observing that “It’s nearly impossible to come out of it without empathy for and real outrage on behalf of Spears.”



This image released by ABC News Studios shows Bob Woodruff on a balcony overlooking the Al-Sadriyah marketplace in Baghdad, Iraq. Woodruff has returned to the Iraqi roadside where a bomb nearly killed him while on assignment for ABC News in 2006. ‘After the Blast: The Will to Survive,’ which airs on ABC Friday at 8 p.m. Eastern and begins streaming on Hulu a day later. (AP)

Media

ABC newsman faces mental struggle in docu

Woodruff revisits Iraq blast site

NEW YORK, Nov 12, (AP): The physical pain of nearly dying when shrapnel from a roadside bomb in Iraq tore through his head 17 years ago was hard enough for ABC newsman Bob Woodruff.

Mentally, it was even worse.

That’s evident in talking to Woodruff and watching as he takes television viewers on a journey to where his life changed in an instant on Jan. 29, 2006. His first time back to Taji, Iraq, is chronicled in “After the Blast: The Will to Survive,” which airs on ABC Friday at 8 p.m. Eastern and begins streaming on Hulu a day later.

At age 44, Woodruff had reached the top of a competitive TV business. He had just been named co-anchor of ABC’s “World News Tonight” and was sent to Iraq at the height of the war there to report on its progress.

Riding in a patrolling Iraqi tank, he poked his upper body out to narrate a report when the improvised explosive device exploded. A couple of inches either way, Woodruff was told, and he would have been killed instantly.

As it was, he was in a medically-induced coma for 36 days. When he awoke, he couldn’t remember the names of two of his four children, only a small part of what he had to relearn. Much of it came back and he recovered quickly during the first two years after his traumatic brain injury.

But as is common for those with aphasia, a disorder that affects the ability to communicate, he plateaued. Recovery was not complete. He still has trouble recalling words and particularly names, although, truthfully, that was barely noticeable in an interview with The Associated Press.

“I have lost, without question, my abilities compared to what it was before,” he said. “It’s never going to be perfect. I say sometimes that it’s not my disability but a different ability.”

He is upfront about the mental challenges of recovery.

“The challenge is to finally admit, to confess almost, that you’re not able to do what you’re used to do,” he said. “Most people want to hold a grip on it and never give it up - I WILL be back

to normal. Really, the goal and hope is that you will just realize that you are on a different path and to figure out the way to go down that path.

“I think that’s finally happened,” he said. “It took me a couple of years.”

He still works as a journalist for ABC and other Disney properties, but his days of live TV reporting are over. That’s too tough. He concentrates on long-form stories, like a special on fantasy last year, an upcoming trip to the Arctic he took with military veterans and “Rogue Trip,” an adventure travel series he does with his son Mack.

He has constant contact with veterans through the Bob Woodruff Foundation, which raises money for military families. Bruce Springsteen performs regularly at their annual benefits, including on Monday despite an illness that has kept him off the road.

Miracle

Woodruff is “a walking miracle of determination, of resilience, and of absolute dedication to reporting the story, whatever and wherever it is,” said David Westin, who was ABC News president in 2006.

“He’s an inspiration to us all,” Westin said. “And, in the end, it’s made him into a different - and in many ways better - reporter than he was before, reaching millions with stories we otherwise may never have known.”

This time, when he drove into Taji, it was in the back of a white SUV.

He had several motivations to return, including guilt. Like some injured veterans, he shared the feeling of having to leave before completing the job he was sent to do - despite a reasonable excuse. So he spent part of his journey reporting on how Iraq had changed, even visiting an ice cream shop that he had been to 17 years earlier.

“I wanted to finish the work,” he said. “I wanted to see this country that had been a huge part of my life and I wanted to really say goodbye to it. To some degree, I wanted to prove to those who detonated that IED that they really couldn’t stop us from coming back. We were not defeated.”

As he rides in the SUV, Woodruff

tries to describe his emotions. “I go both ways on this one,” he said. “It’s been my dream to come back and at least finally see the place and tell those who were there and witnessed it that we’re OK.”

Then he stops. The tears flow, and he covers his face in his hands.

Part of the emotion, he explained later, was that the man filming him was Mack. His son was only 14 in 2006 when he waited with his mother, Lee, and three sisters to learn whether their father would live or die.

“In some ways my son had been my therapist for so many years, and there he was going to the same spot,” Woodruff said. “What kind of irresponsible father would I be if something happened again while we were there?”

A dirt road when Woodruff had been in the tank, the Mosul highway is now a busy paved thoroughfare. That allowed for some gallows humor when Woodruff and Magnus Macedo, the sound technician on Woodruff’s 2006 trip, tried to cross it.

“Don’t get hit this time,” Woodruff told him.

Woodruff reunited with Saad Al-Dulaimi and Ghassan Al-Mohammadawi, Iraqi military men who had accompanied him in 2006. “We told you to duck down,” Al-Mohammadawi, who lost two fingers in the blast, reminded Woodruff.

Not everyone shared the desire to go back. Cameraman Doug Vogt, who was injured filming the 2006 report, declined an invitation to accompany Woodruff again. And while Lee gave the go-ahead, you get the sense that his family wasn’t unanimous that this was a good idea. Some rough memories resurface.

“I live in a world that I didn’t even know about before,” Woodruff said. “I didn’t even know what a traumatic brain injury was. I didn’t know what TBI stood for. I certainly didn’t, like most Americans, have a relationship with military units, people who served over there.”

“Now I do,” he said, “and that has been an incredible trip for me.”

conservative Muslims marched in Indonesia’s capital on Friday, calling for the cancellation of Coldplay’s upcoming concert over the British band’s support for the LGBTQ+ community.

Coldplay is renowned for interlacing its values with its shows, such as the

band’s push for environmental sustainability. Lead singer **Chris Martin** has been known to wear rainbow colors and wave gay pride flags during performances.

The Asian leg of Coldplay’s “Music Of The Spheres World Tour” includes a



Alexander Payne sits in a seat at Film Streams Dundee Theater before the premiere of his film, ‘The Holdovers,’ in Omaha, Neb., Saturday, Nov. 11. (AP)

Nov. 15 concert at Jakarta’s Gelora Bung Karno stadium. More than 70,000 tickets were scooped up in less than two hours when sales opened in May.

Jakarta is one of the band’s top streaming hubs with 1.6 million fans in the city.

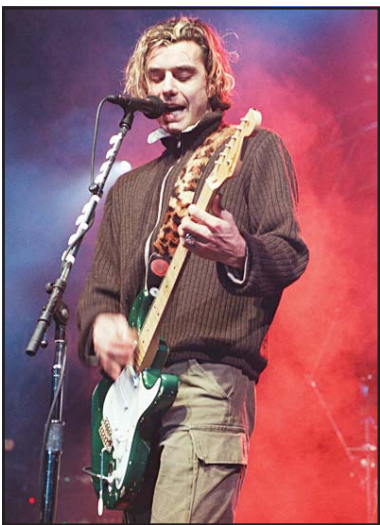
Critics say Coldplay’s show is suggestive, and that the band’s support for the LGBTQ+ community threatens to undermine Indonesia’s moral fiber and corrupt its youth.

Nearly 100 demonstrators, many holding banners and signs, filled a major thoroughfare in Jakarta after Friday prayers.

The protesters - organized by Islamist group the 212 Brotherhood Alumni, whose name refers to the Dec. 2, 2016 mass protests against the polarizing Christian politician **Basuki Tjahaja Purnama** - chanted “... is Great” and “We reject Coldplay” as they marched to the heavily guarded British Embassy in Jakarta.

“We are here for the sake of guarding our young generation in this country from efforts that could corrupt youth,” said **Hery Susanto**, a protester from **West Java**’s city of **Bandung**. “As Indonesian Muslims, we have to reject the Coldplay concert.”

PK Entertainment, founded in 2015, has succeeded in bringing a number of world class musicians such as **Ed Sheeran**, **Shawn Mendes**, The Backstreet Boys, and **Justin Bieber** to Indonesia. (AP)



Gavin Rossdale, of the English grunge band ‘Bush’, performs at the Bockenheimer Depot in Frankfurt, Germany on February 9, 1997. The band released, ‘Loaded: The Greatest Hits 1994-2023,’ a 21-song set that includes such Bush classics as ‘Glycerine,’ ‘Machinehead,’ ‘Comedown’ and ‘Everything Zen.’ (AP)



Sheeran



Martin

Variety

JOHANNESBURG: Niger fashion designer **Alia Bare** took center stage at the Joburg Fashion Week with a collection that she hopes will spread a positive image of her troubled country, suffering from instability and economic sanctions that followed a military coup earlier this year.

Bare is one of several African designers that descended on Johannesburg, **South Africa**, this week for the Joburg Fashion Week, a key feature of Africa’s fashion and entertainment calendar.

Bare, who has lived in **Senegal** and **India**, on Thursday showcased an elegant collection, which drew from her experiences living in different countries.

Speaking to The Associated Press at the event, Bare said Niger has long been associated with political strife by the rest of the world, an image that she says does not fully represent the beauty of her country.

“When people talk about Niger they always talk about conflict, they talk about poverty and death, they talk about negative things,” she said.

“I know most people associate fashion with superficiality. But I think that fashion, through culture, can help to send a good message outside, an image of the country that is positive.”

Bare’s collection, called DNA, is a blend of influences from around the world including symbols from Niger and graphic design by a South African graphic designer.

“It is a very important collection for me because it represents what I am in terms of my culture, my background. I’m from Niger and I’m from different ethnic groups, and I wanted to show that in this collection,” Bare said.

Precious Moloi-Motsepe, executive chairperson of Africa Fashion International, which hosts the fashion event, said Thursday evening that Joburg Fashion Week aims to create a platform for African creatives to flourish.

“We believe we provide a blank canvas for our creatives and designers to express their creativity,” said **Moloi-Motsepe**. (AP)



JAKARTA, Indonesia: Dozens of

HEALTH

Doctors, specialists to provide consultations, answer medical queries

DDI to hold Diabetes Open Day at Al Hamra Centre on Nov 14

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12, (KUNA): Dasman Diabetes Institute, one of the centers of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, announced the organization of an event on World Diabetes Day next Tuesday at Al Hamra Commercial Complex and Tower in Kuwait City.

Tarek Abdullah Aleryan, Director of Public Relations and Media at the Institute, told the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) today, Sunday, that the event includes awareness and entertainment activities, examinations, and medical consultations on an open day starting from 11 am until 8 pm.



(KUNA photo)
Tarek Abdullah Aleryan, Director of Public Relations and Media at the Dasman Diabetes Institute.

He added that the celebration includes conducting diabetes tests and measuring vital indicators, in addition to providing medical guidance and instructions on healthy lifestyles and proper nutrition, along with organizing activities for children.

He explained that under the slogan "Empowering Global Health" for this year, announced by the International Diabetes Federation, Dasman Institute for Diabetes continues its efforts to reduce the prevalence of this disease and confront it in the country. The institute is working hard to achieve this through re-

search, prevention programs, training, and education.

Aleryan called on the community in its various categories to attend to gain the necessary knowledge that would provide important means of prevention from type 2 diabetes. There will be a team of doctors and specialists to answer medical questions.

He emphasized that the institute is keen to organize this event annually to highlight diabetes and convey an awareness message to the public, disseminate healthy living habits, and reveal ways to prevent it.

Experts hope new findings to change treatment guidelines

Obesity drug cuts serious heart risk by 20%

NEW YORK, Nov 12, (AP): The popular weight-loss drug Wegovy reduced the risk of serious heart problems by 20% in a large, international study that experts say could change the way doctors treat certain heart patients.

The research is the first to document that an obesity medication can not only pare pounds, but also safely prevent a heart attack, stroke or a heart-related death in people who already have heart disease - but not diabetes.

The findings could shift perceptions that the new class of obesity drugs are cosmetic treatments and put pressure on health insurers to cover them.

"It moves from a kind of therapy that reduces body weight to a therapy that reduces cardiovascular events," said Dr. Michael Lincoff, the study's lead author and a heart expert at the Cleveland Clinic.

Wegovy is a high-dose version of the diabetes treatment Ozempic, which already has been shown to reduce the risk of serious heart problems in people who have diabetes. The new study looked to see if the same was true in those who don't have that disease.

Experts have known for years that losing weight can improve heart health, but there hasn't been a safe and effective obesity medication proven to reduce specific risks, said Dr. Francisco Lopez-Jimenez, a heart expert at the Mayo Clinic. He expects the new findings to change treatment guidelines and "dominate the conversation" for years to come.

Tested

"This is the population who needs the medicine the most," said Lopez-Jimenez, who had no role in the study.

In the US, there are about 6.6 million people like those tested in the study, experts said.

The results were published Saturday in the New England Journal of Medicine and presented at a medi-



This image provided by Novo Nordisk in January 2023, shows packaging for the company's Wegovy medication. According to a study published Saturday, Nov. 11, in the New England Journal of Medicine, the popular weight-loss drug reduced the risk of serious heart problems by 20%, and could change the way doctors treat certain heart patients. (AP)

cal conference in Philadelphia. Novo Nordisk, the maker of Wegovy and Ozempic, has asked the US Food and Drug Administration to include the heart benefits on Wegovy's label, like on Ozempic's.

The new study, paid for by the company, included more than 17,500 people in 41 countries. Participants were age 45 and older, had a body mass index of 27 or higher and were tracked for more than three years on average. They took typical drugs for their heart conditions, but they were also randomly assigned to receive weekly injections of Wegovy or a dummy shot.

The study found that 569, or 6.5%, of those who got the drug versus 701, or 8%, of those who received the dummy shot had a heart attack or stroke or died from a heart-related cause. That's an overall reduction of 20% in the risk of those outcomes, the researchers reported.

The drop appeared to be fueled primarily by the difference in heart attacks, but the number of serious health complications reported were too small to tell whether the individual outcomes were caused by the drug or by chance.

Study volunteers who took Wegovy lost about 9% of their weight while the placebo group lost less than 1%.

The Wegovy group also saw drops in key markers of heart disease, including inflammation, cholesterol, blood sugars, blood pressure and waist circumference, noted Dr. Martha Gulati, a heart expert at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. Changes in those markers began early in the study, before participants lost much weight.

"It means to me that it's more than just weight loss, how this drug works," said Gulati, who had no role in what she called a landmark study.

Still, "it remains unclear" how much of the results were a benefit of

losing weight or the drug itself, an editorial accompanying the study noted.

About a third of all study volunteers reported serious side effects. About 17% in the Wegovy group and about 8% in the comparison group left the study, mostly because of nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and other stomach-related problems.

Nearly three-quarters of participants were men and nearly 84% were white. Gulati and others said future research needs to include more women and racial and ethnic minorities.

Promising

Wegovy is part of a new class of injectable medications for obesity. On Wednesday, the US Food and Drug Administration approved Eli Lilly's Zepbound, a version of the diabetes drug Mounjaro, for weight control.

Both carry high price tags - monthly costs are about \$1,300 for Wegovy and about \$1,000 for Zepbound. And both have been in shortage for months, with manufacturers promising to boost supplies.

The medications are often not covered by private health insurance or subject to strict preauthorization requirements. Medicare, the government health plan for older Americans, is prohibited from covering drugs for weight loss alone. But drugmakers and obesity treatment advocates have been pushing for broader coverage, including asking Congress to pass legislation to mandate that Medicare pay for the drugs.

Results from the latest study and others that show the obesity drugs have a direct effect on costly health problems could be a factor in shifting the calculus of coverage, said Dr. Mark McClellan, former chief of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the FDA. In 2006, Medicare was allowed to cover weight-loss surgery to treat the complications of severe obesity, if not obesity itself, he noted.

That approach "may end up being relevant here," he said.



A flyer of the Dasman Diabetes Institute's 'Empowering Global Health - World Diabetes Open Day' event at the Al Hamra Shopping Center on Nov 14.

'Lead healthy lifestyle'

Type 2 diabetes cannot be cured but can go into remission: expert

By Dr Jibin John Thomas MD, Registrar Internal Medicine

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: November 14 is celebrated as World Diabetic Day and in 2023, which focuses on raising awareness on diabetes, symptoms, treatment and how to prevent the disease. This article will focus on Type 2 diabetes and the importance to know risk of type 2 diabetes to help delay or prevent the condition and highlighting the impact of diabetes-related complications. Type 2 diabetes is a life-long, chronic disease in which the body either does not produce enough insulin or the cells in body doesn't respond to insulin correctly. Because of these two problems, there isn't enough insulin to move the glucose from the blood into the cells. When glucose builds up in the blood instead of going into cells, the body's cells can't function properly.

Reversed

Type 2 diabetes used to be known as adult-onset diabetes, but both type 1 and type 2 diabetes can begin during childhood and adulthood. Type 2 is more common in older adults. But the increase in the number of children with obesity has led to more cases of type 2 diabetes in younger people. Type 2 diabetes is more likely to occur in people who are above the age of 40, due to overweight, or having a family history of diabetes. Certain ethnic and racial groups also have higher risk for type 2 diabetes.

Can Type 2 diabetes be reversed? The very simple answer to this Question is Yes. But it's better to say type 2 diabetes can go into remission. To be in remission, your blood sugar levels must remain normal for at least three months without using glucose-lowering medications. As type 2 diabetes is a chronic disease, we cannot say that type 2 diabetes is cured but it's in remission.

Type 2 diabetes cannot be cured, but individuals can achieve remission, which may involve their glucose levels returning to non-diabetic or pre-diabetic ranges. Remission is typically accomplished through significant weight loss. It is important to note that we refer to remission rather than a cure because it is not permanent. The beta cells are usually damaged, and the genetic factors contributing to diabetes susceptibility remain unaffected. Over time, the disease may reassert itself, leading to continued destruction of the



Dr Jibin John Thomas

beta cells. Environmental factors, such as weight gain, can trigger symptomatic glucose intolerance.

In some cases, patients may enter remission if they were initially glucose toxic before treatment, which can temporarily inhibit insulin production by the beta cells. When glucose levels are reduced, the beta cells regain functionality. This situation is often observed in individuals with untreated diabetes for an extended period and significantly elevated A1c levels. They may initially require insulin, but once glucose levels are lowered, and the beta cells recover, they can often transition to oral medications or lifestyle management.

Complications

Gastric bypass is typically considered for individuals with a high BMI and medical conditions putting them at risk of serious health complications. However, for most people, managing type 2 diabetes can be achieved through behavior modification, often combined with medications and lifestyle changes. Excess weight contributes to insulin resistance, so even a modest weight loss of 7 to 10 percent can improve the body's ability to respond to insulin.

The best method to detect insulin resistance prior to being a diabetic is checking your blood HOMA IR levels. An experienced physician can evaluate your chance and risk for becoming a diabetic by assessing certain blood tests and physical examination. Family history, sedentary lifestyle, obesity, gestational diabetes, metabolic syndrome (high blood pressure, high blood sugar, excess body fat around the waist, and abnormal cholesterol levels) are the major risk factors for diabetes.

'Around the clock service'

Amazon takes another shot at healthcare with virtual care

NEW YORK, Nov 12, (AP): Amazon is taking another shot at becoming a regular health care source for customers with the launch of a service centered on virtual care.

The e-commerce giant says its Prime customers can now get quick access to a health care provider through a program that costs \$9 a month or \$99 annually.

The announcement this week arrives less than a year after Amazon announced the \$3.9 billion acquisition of the membership-based primary care provider One Medical, which has medical offices in more than 20 markets.

The company has made a number of attempts to incorporate healthcare into its platform and has started building momentum after some initial setbacks.

The company announced in August that it was adding video telemedicine visits in all 50 states to a virtual clinic it launched last year.

Yet Amazon shut down a virtual health care service last year that it spent years developing, and it was part of a high-profile but failed push to address health care costs in a partnership with two other major companies, Berkshire Hathaway and

JPMorgan.

Through the new service, patients will be able to connect virtually around the clock with care providers through its Prime One Medical membership program. The service includes video chats and an option to make in-person visits if there are One Medical locations near by.

The company said Wednesday that its membership fee covers the cost for the virtual visits. But customers would have to pay for any visits they make to the company's One Medical primary care offices. They can use insurance for that.

Virtual care grew popular during the COVID-19 pandemic, and many health care providers have since expanded their telemedicine offerings. It has remained popular as a convenient way to check in with a doctor or deal with relatively minor health issues like pink eye.

While virtual visits can improve access to help, some doctors worry that they also lead to care fragmentation and can make it harder to track a patient's overall health. That could happen if a patient has a regular doctor who doesn't learn about the virtual visit from another provider.

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SPORTS

Banchero and Wagner brothers power Magic to win over Bucks

Brown, Tatum lead Celtics to easy victory over Toronto

ORLANDO, Florida, Nov 12, (AP): Paolo Banchero had 26 points and 12 rebounds, Orlando's Wagner brothers combined for 43 points and the Magic dealt the Milwaukee Bucks their second straight loss, 112-97 on Saturday night.

Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo had 35 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists, two nights after a 54-point effort in Thursday's loss at Indiana.

The Bucks played a second game without Damian Lillard, who has a sore left calf.

Franz Wagner scored 24 for the Magic and Mo Wagner came off the bench with 19 points and four rebounds. Jalen Suggs hit 4 of 8 3-point shots and added 20 points.

BASKETBALL

The loss broke Milwaukee's 14-game win streak against the Magic and marked the Bucks first loss in Orlando since March 14, 2018.

Celtics 117, Raptors 94

In Boston, Jaylen Brown scored 29 points, Jayson Tatum had 27 and Boston cruised past Toronto.

Kristaps Porzingis added 21 points and seven rebounds in 28 minutes for the Celtics, who won their second straight after a 14-point victory over Brooklyn in their first NBA In-Season Tournament game on Friday night.

Pascal Siakam led the Raptors with 17 points and seven rebounds. Dennis Schroder had 14 points and Jakob Poeltl 12.

Toronto, which had won its last two games - both on the road - shot just 10 for 37 on 3-point attempts.

Heat 117, Hawks 109

In Atlanta, Bam Adebayo had 26 points and 17 rebounds and rookie Jaime Jaquez Jr. added a career-high 20 points as short-handed Miami beat Atlanta for its fourth straight win.

Miami was playing its first game since leading scorer Tyler Herro sprained his right ankle in Wednesday



Boston Celtics' Jaylen Brown (7) shoots against Toronto Raptors' Pascal Siakam (43) during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023, in Boston. (AP)

night's 108-102 win at Memphis. Herro is expected to miss at least two weeks. Another top scorer, Jimmy Butler, missed the game against Atlanta for personal reasons.

The Heat showed off their depth to find scoring from different sources.

Kyle Lowry scored 17 points and Josh Richardson had 16, also a season high. Duncan Robinson scored 11 points in his first start of the season.

Trae Young led Atlanta with 27 points, including 14 in the fourth quarter, and 11 assists. Dejounte Murray had 23 points.

Cavaliers 118, Warriors 110

In San Francisco, Donovan Mitchell got the best of Golden State and Draymond Green, finishing with 21 points, seven rebounds,

five assists and a pair of steals for Cleveland in a game in which Green was ejected.



Orlando Magic forward Paolo Banchero, (left), is defended by Milwaukee Bucks guard AJ Green during the second half of an NBA basketball game Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023, in Orlando, Florida. (AP)

Stephen Curry scored 30 points to lead the Warriors, who lost fiery forward Green at the 6:23 mark of the third quarter with eight points, five rebounds and four assists.

Green pushed Mitchell with his shoulder and sent him out of bounds as Cleveland's Caris LeVert drove for a layup. Then, as Green brought the ball across midcourt moments later, Mitchell chased him down and instigated a heated interaction - and Mitchell was called for a personal foul.

LeVert scored 22 points, and Darius Garland contributed 19 points, six rebounds, four assists with five steals. Evan Mobley added 19 points and two more of his team's season-high 13 steals in one of the most balanced performances by Cleveland yet this season.

Michigan grinds past Penn State

No. 1 Georgia routs No. 10 Ole Miss to punctuate another SEC East title

ATHENS, Ga., Nov 12, (AP): Carson Beck threw for 306 yards, Kendall Milton ran for 127 yards and Brock Bowlers made a triumphant return for No. 1 Georgia, which punctuated its return to the Southeastern Conference championship game with a 52-17 rout of No. 10 Mississippi on Saturday night.

The Bulldogs (10-0, 7-0 SEC, No. 2 College Football Playoff) turned in their most impressive performance of the season on a cool, rainy night in Georgia, seemingly peaking at just the right time to make a run at their third straight national title.

Georgia scored touchdowns on its first four possessions, building a 28-14 halftime lead against Ole Miss (8-2, 5-2, No. 9) and cruising the rest of the way to its 27th consecutive victory.

Michigan 24, Penn State 15

In State College, Pa., With Jim Harbaugh banned by the Big Ten Conference, J.J. McCarthy, Blake Corum and No. 2 Michigan played unfazed by a scandal that has hounded the program for weeks - and their toughest opponent yet - grinding past No. 9 Penn State 24-15.

Corum ran for 145 yards and two

FOOTBALL

touchdowns, McCarthy made a few key plays with his arm and legs and the Wolverines (10-0, 7-0, No. 3 CFP) improved to 3-0 since it was revealed the program was under NCAA investigation for a sign-stealing scheme.

The struggles in big games continued for coach James Franklin and Penn State (8-2, 5-3, No. 10 CFP), which scored a combined 27 points in losses to Big Ten East rivals Ohio State and Michigan this season.

Ohio State 38, Michigan State 3

In Columbus, Ohio, Marvin Harrison Jr. caught two of Kyle McCord's three touchdown passes and rushed for another score, helping No. 3 Ohio State pound Michigan State 38-3.

McCord threw for a career-high 335 yards for the Buckeyes (10-0, 7-0 Big Ten, No. 1 CFP), who overwhelmed the Spartans (3-7, 1-6) with touchdowns on five of their six first-half possessions.

Ohio State's defense, missing several key players due to injuries, held Michigan State to 182 total yards and two third-down conversions on 14 attempts.

Florida State 27, Miami 20

In Tallahassee, Fla., Trey Benson ran for two touchdowns, Keon Coleman hauled in a score and No. 4 Florida State held off rival Miami 27-20 to maintain its hold on a College Football Playoff berth.

The Seminoles (10-0, 8-0 Atlantic Coast Conference), like they have several times this season, rallied in the second half to win their 16th consecu-



Georgia running back Roderick Robinson II (0) is forced out of bounds by Mississippi safety Daijahn Anthony (3) during the second half of an NCAA college football game, Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023, in Athens, Ga. (AP)

tive game. This one wrapped up the program's 10th perfect mark in ACC play.

Miami (6-4, 2-4) controlled both lines of scrimmage and played turnover-free football for most of the game. It still wasn't enough to overcome FSU, which has won three in a row in the series and 10 of the last 14.

Alabama 49, Kentucky 21

In Lexington, Ky., Jalen Milroe had a career-high six touchdowns, three each rushing and passing, and No. 8 Alabama cruised past Kentucky 49-21 to clinch the Southeastern Conference West Division title.

A week after rushing for a career-best four touchdowns in a 42-28 victory over LSU, the sophomore quarterback used his arm and his feet to surpass that total and guide the Crimson Tide (9-1, 7-0 SEC, No. 8 CFP) to an eighth consecutive victory and third conference championship appearance in four seasons.

Milroe passed for his three of four TDs by halftime, including strikes of 26 and 40 yards to Amari Niblack and Kobe Prentice.

Texas 29, TCU 26

In Fort Worth, Texas, Quinn Ewers threw for 317 yards and a touchdown in his return from a shoulder injury, helping No. 7 Texas edge TCU 29-26.

The Longhorns also got a big lift from Jonathon Brooks, who rushed for 104 yards and two TDs and set up another score with a 73-yard gain on a short pass before getting hurt late.

Ewers, a sophomore quarterback who missed two games after he got hurt on Oct. 21, completed 22 of 33 passes. He had 244 yards by halftime, and his biggest play of the second half was a 35-yard completion to Adonai Mitchell on third-and-12 from the Texas 13 in the final 2 minutes.

Houston eases past Texas A&M-Corpus Christi 82-50

No. 6 UConn overwhelms Stonehill College

HARTFORD, Conn., Nov 12, (AP): Tristen Newton scored 22 points to lead No. 6 UConn to a 107-67 rout of Stonehill College on Saturday.

Freshman Stephon Castle had 17 points, eight rebounds and five assists for the defending national champions, who have won 19 consecutive nonconference games, which includes last season's run through the NCAA Tournament.

Donovan Clingan added 17 points in 17 minutes; Alex Karaban scored 15 points; and Cam Spencer added 12 for the Huskies (2-0).

BASKETBALL

Jackson Benigni had 22 points to lead Stonehill (1-2), which is in its second year of Division I basketball.

Houston 82, Texas A&M-CC 50

In Houston, J'Wan Roberts had 17 points and nine rebounds and L.J. Cryer added 15 points to lead Houston over Texas A&M-Corpus Christi.

Cryer had 12 points in the first half, and Roberts scored 11 first-half points to drive Houston to a 14-point halftime lead.

Ja'Vier Francis scored 13 points and Emanuel Sharp had 11 points for Houston (2-0), which shot 42%, including 6 of 22 on 3-pointers. Houston forced 17 Islanders turnovers, which they converted into 19 points.

Creighton 89, N. Dakota St 60

In Omaha, Neb., Trey Alexander scored 21 points and Baylor Scheierman added 17 in Creighton second straight win to open the season.

Ryan Kalkbrenner scored 11 of his 13 points during a 16-0 run to open the second half that put away the Bluejays' opponent from the Summit League.

Creighton (2-0) shot 60% from the field, made 12 of 28 3-pointers and committed just four fouls while running its record to 12-0 in the series with the Bison (2-1).



UConn's Stephon Castle, (left), and Tristen Newton, (right), pressure Stonehill's Shane O'Dell in the second half of an NCAA college basketball game, Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023, in Hartford, Conn. (AP)

Karlen, King lead Marquette women to 71-67 victory over No. 23 Illinois

Humbert wins first ATP title since 2021

METZ, France, Nov 12, (AP): Ugo Humbert claimed his first ATP tour title since 2021 by beating Alexander Shevchenko 6-3, 6-3 on Saturday in the final of the Moselle Open.

Humbert was born in the French city of Metz which hosted the indoor tournament. He will finish the season as the top-ranked French player, at a career-high No. 20 in the rankings.

Humbert saved the only break point he faced in the final and dropped just four points on his first serve.

Samoa men, Fiji women qualify for Paris Olympics at Oceania Sevens

BRISBANE, Nov 12, (AP): Samoa will play in the men's sevens rugby tournament at next year's Paris Olympics after beating Papua New Guinea 24-0 in a qualifying final at the Oceania Sevens tournament on Sunday.

Double Olympic champion Fiji, New Zealand and Australia already had qualified for the Olympics after securing top placings along with host France and Argentina during the last Sevens World Series.

New Zealand beat Fiji for a place opposite Samoa in Sunday's Oceania Sevens final, though Samoa's win over PNG sealed its Olympic place.

Papua New Guinea and fifth-place Tonga still have a chance of reaching the Olympics through the final qualifying tournament next year.

The Fiji women's team also confirmed its place at the Paris Olympics with a 54-0 win over Papua New Guinea in the final qualifying match. Fijiana were bronze medalists at the Tokyo Olympics four years ago.

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Youssef Al-Athbi and Sabah Al-Nasser High School in 3rd place matchup

Al-Waha High School and Mohammed Abdullah Al-Muhaini High School vie for title

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: Today marks the conclusion of the Warba Bank League competitions for the secondary stage in the Jahra region, featuring the highly anticipated final match between Al-Waha High School and Mohammed Abdullah Al-Muhaini High School at Jahra Square. The competitions, which gathered 8 schools in a knockout system, have showcased intense competition, with the third-place match set between Youssef Al-Athbi and Sabah Al-Nasser High School.

Ahmed Al-Dalmani, the director of physical education for the Jahra region, highlighted the fierce competition witnessed among the participating teams. This competition is crucial for players aiming to secure a spot on the region's national team roster, slated to compete in the final qualifiers for the Warba Bank League title. Al-Dalmani

noted that the technical staff, led by Adel Saeed Al-Anzi and assisted by Khaled Shaman Al-Mutairi, closely monitored all matches to identify talented players who can represent the region effectively in the league.

Acknowledging the support from the General Directorate for Physical Education, headed by Walid Ayesh, and the Kuwait School Sports and Education Federation, led by Faisal Al-Maqseed, Al-Dalmani expressed satisfaction with the success of the educational regions league. He emphasized that the league has provided a valuable platform to assess and select the best players, offering them opportunities to showcase their skills and catch the attention of the national team's technical staff.

SOCCER



Players preparing for the final.

Kiptoo wins 40th Athens Marathon

ATHENS, Greece, Nov 12, (AP): Kenya's Edwin Kiptoo has won the 40th Athens Marathon in a course-record time of 2 hours, 10 minutes and 34 seconds.

The 30-year-old Kiptoo gradually shook off his main challengers, most of them his compatriots, over the second half of the course, running the last 10 kilometers alone.

As Kiptoo was crossing the finish line, about a 100 people in Athens' Panathenaic stadium unfurled a banner saying "Free Palestine" and waved Palestinian flags. Some spectators also held and waved Palestinian flags along the course.

Kenya's Rhonzai Lokitam Kilimo came in second at 2:12:36 and Felicien Muhitira of Rwanda was third in the same time, his late charge just failing to edge out Lokitam.

Kuwait face setback as Al-Dhafiri ruled out for a crucial India clash



Kuwait soccer players preparing for the World Cup and Asian Cup qualifier against India.

Indian team set to arrive for WC, Asian Cup qualifiers

By Khaled El Anzi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: Kuwait faced a setback as Ahmed Al-Dhafiri is ruled out of the upcoming match against India, a crucial fixture in the joint Asian qualifiers for the World Cup 2026 and the Asian Cup 2027. Due to an injury, Al-Dhafiri's absence from the technical team's plans is confirmed, with hopes pinned on his potential return for the match against Afghanistan later this month.

Despite this setback, the rest of Al-Azraq's squad remained injury-free and fully prepared for the opening match, aiming to secure victory and earn three valuable points in the group stage.

SOCCER

Training at the Friendship and Peace Stadium in Kazma Club showcased the team's emphasis on speed and efficient ball movement, with Coach Rui Pinto focusing on transitioning quickly from attack to defense.

As Kuwait ready themselves, the Indian team are set to arrive tomorrow, according to a letter from the Indian Football Association. The team will adhere to FIFA regulations, conducting training upon arrival and further sessions at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti Olympic team, currently in a training camp in the Emirates, under the guidance of Portuguese coach Emilio Peixe. The team's second training session aimed to prepare players for the AFC U-23 Cup, a crucial step toward qualification for the 2024 Paris Olympics. The team's itinerary includes friendly matches against the Emirates and Tajikistan later this month, with Coach Peixe keen on providing ample opportunities for players to gain exposure to diverse football styles.

Al-Kuwait play Al-Arabi

Super Volleyball Cup tournament kicks off

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: Today marks the commencement of the highly anticipated "Super" Volleyball Cup tournament, now in its ninth edition for the 2023-2024 sports season. The action kicks off with an exciting match between Kuwait and Al-Arabi, followed by a clash between Al-Qadsia and Kazma at the Al-Ittihad Hall in the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex. The winners from these matches will advance to the final showdown scheduled for next Thursday, while the losing teams will compete for third and fourth places on the same day.

Following the tournament system, four teams vie for supremacy in the Volleyball Super Cup, comprising the league champions and runners-up, as

well as the Cup champions and runners-up. The current edition features Kuwait, Al-Qadsia, Kazma, and Al-Arabi based on their performance in the previous season.

Having seen eight successful iterations since its inception in the 2014-2015 season, Al-Qadsia secured the

VOLLEYBALL



Kazma and Al-Qadsia players vie for the ball.

last season in 2022-2023.

Preparations for the tournament were bolstered through participation in the Al-Ittihad "refresher" tournament, recently concluded with Kuwait clinching the title, followed by Burgan in second place, Al-Qadsia in third, Kazma in fourth, and Al-Arabi in fifth.

Al-Kuwait are led by Turkish coach Taner Atik, along with Iranian professional Wilner Rivas and Brazilian Degalma Moreira. The "orange" squad, Al-Qadsia, is under the guidance of coach Jawad Shamami, with Russian professional Artem Sushko and German player Igor. Lastly, the Tunisian "green" team are coached by Niaz Salam, with Dominican professional Santos Alves and Tunisian Mohamed El-Arabi contributing to their lineup.

Boos as Napoli 'lose' to Empoli

MILAN, Nov 12, (AP): Defending champions Napoli fell to their third loss of the season in Serie A to pile the pressure on coach Rudi Garcia as a stoppage-time goal saw lowly Empoli win 1-0 at the Stadio Diego Armando Maradona on Sunday.

Viktor Kovalenko scored with a stunning strike late on for Empoli, which had lost eight of their previous 11 matches, and the boos rang out in Naples.

All three of Napoli's losses have come in front of its own fans and it has only won one match at home since the end of August. It lost just two matches at home on its way to the title last season under Luciano Spalletti.

Napoli remained fourth.

Napoli's matches immediately after the international break are against Atalanta, Real Madrid, Inter and Juventus.

Vihova fails to finish her second

Shiffrin takes slalom for 89th World Cup victory

LEVI, Finland, Nov 12, (AP): American skier Mikaela Shiffrin won a women's World Cup slalom Sunday after first-run leader Petra Vihova looked set for a clear victory until straddling a gate and not finishing her final run.

Vihova extended her big lead of 0.76 seconds over Shiffrin from the opening leg to more than a second when the Slovakian failed to clear a gate in the steep section midway down the Levi Black course.

Shiffrin finished 0.18 ahead of Leona Popovic of Croatia, who earned her second career podium result, and 0.30 ahead of third-placed Lena Duerr of Germany.

SKIING

"Petra and her team, they earned this victory today. Actually, that was really bad luck for her," Shiffrin said. "It's a little bittersweet. I'm really happy with the victory, but I have to give her the credit. She earned it, probably a second and a half by the bottom, at least."

Shiffrin's win followed a week in which the American had to reduce her time on snow after bruising a bone in her left knee in a training crash.

The result marked the first top-three result of the season for Shiffrin and her record-extending 89th career World Cup win.

The American won 14 races last season and her fifth overall title. Shiffrin started the new campaign with a sixth place in a giant slalom in Austria two weeks ago.

Shiffrin finished fourth in Saturday's race on the same hill, when Vihova posted the fastest time in both runs to win by a big margin of 1.41 seconds over Duerr.

"It was amazing to watch her ski these two days," Shiffrin said of Vihova.

It was Shiffrin's record seventh win in Levi, where no skier other than her or Vihova has won the traditional season-opening slalom in Finnish Lapland since 2016.

Meanwhile, more heavy snowfalls



United States' Mikaela Shiffrin celebrates winning an alpine ski World Cup women's slalom race, in Levi, Finland. (AP)

and strong winds at the Matterhorn mountain made a men's World Cup downhill impossible to race Sunday, wiping out the weekend program for the second straight year at the sport's newest venue.

Race organizers said the cancellation also was forced by the forecast for strong winds throughout Sunday at what is the highest altitude course on the World Cup circuit.

There has still yet to be a downhill race at the Gran Becca course which starts in Switzerland at 3,700 meters (12,100 feet) and crosses the border to finish in Italy. It is intended to be an early-season start for speed racers at a potentially iconic venue.

Last year, the Gran Becca designed by 2010 Olympic men's downhill champion Didier Defago was to be inaugurated with back-to-back weekends for men's and women's downhill racers that all were lost because of a lack of snow.

Two women's downhills are scheduled next weekend at the course near storied Swiss resort Zermatt.

TGR clinches podium finish

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: TOYOTA GAZOO Racing (TGR) World Rally Team's (WRT) Kalle Rovanperä and co-driver Jonne Halttunen have secured their second consecutive FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) titles after finishing second in the No. 69 GR YARIS Rally1 Hybrid Electric vehicle in the penultimate round of the 2023 season, the Central European Rally.

After being crowned the youngest-ever World Rally Champion in 2022 while driving the No.69 GR YARIS Rally1 Hybrid Electric vehicle, 23-year-old Rovanperä has now become the sixth driver to achieve consecutive titles in the history of the WRC.

It's the fifth year in a row that a TGR crew has won the drivers' and co-drivers' championship, and also completed a third straight hat-trick of titles after Toyota clinched the manufacturers' championship during the previous Rally Chile.

Akio Toyoda, TGR-WRT Chairman, commented, "Kalle, Jonne, congratulations on winning your second consecutive drivers' and co-drivers' championship titles! Kalle steadily accumulated points and started to lead the drivers' standings from the middle of the season, showing us what a strong champion is like. I also would like to thank Elfyn Evans a lot for his aggressive driving and for not giving up until

the end. His driving with the strong desire to win was impressive. The 2023 season is not over yet. Elfyn and Scott missed something in Japan last year. I hope they will collect it this year and let me stand on the podium next month in Japan."

Rovanperä made a strong start of the inaugural cross-border Central European Rally, which began in Prague and continued across the Czech Republic, Austria and Lower Bavaria in Germany. He won four out of six stages on demanding wet asphalt roads in the Czech Republic to lead by 36.4 seconds. Rovanperä's perseverance and determination kept him firmly among the top contenders in the rally, despite the numerous challenges posed by the routes in Austria.

A calculated approach throughout the last stretch of the rally allowed him to achieve his seventh podium of the season, one in which he has already secured three victories and, crucially, finished in the top four in all but one of the 12 rounds held.

The 2023 season will conclude on home roads for TGR at Rally Japan on November 16-19. The event returned to the WRC calendar last year across tough asphalt roads in the mountains of the Aichi and Gifu prefectures, around the service park in Toyota City near Nagoya.



TGR drivers celebrate on the podium



Palestinian supporters hold Palestinian flags inside the Panathinaic Stadium during the 40th Athens Marathon, in Athens, Greece. (AP)
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Sports

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Kuwait gymnasts dazzle in Athens with 3 gold



Kuwait gymnasts display the national flag as they celebrate their victories.

Behbehani leads way

ATHENS, Nov 12: The Kuwaiti junior artistic gymnastics squad showcased their prowess on the inaugural day of the Horizon Cup International competitions in Athens, Greece, securing a total of 5 medals, including 3 gold and 2 silver.

Muhammad Al-Deehani, the head of the delegation and assistant treasurer of the Gymnastics Federation, revealed that the standout performer, Abdullah Behbehani, clinched two gold medals in the floor and ring apparatus. Additionally, Rashid Al-Kandari contributed to the team's success by securing a gold medal in the floor apparatus. The remaining silver

medals were earned by Hussein Dashti and Muhammad Al-Hatem in the pommel horse competition.

Al-Deehani emphasized the exceptional confidence and competence displayed by the Kuwaiti team. Despite facing competition from 160 players representing 11 countries, including Bulgaria, Switzerland, Albania, Cyprus,

GYMNASTICS

the Czech Republic, Britain, Kosovo, Macedonia, Hungary, and Greece, the Kuwaiti gymnasts proved their mettle. He noted that the team's champions demonstrated responsibility and fearlessness, successfully competing against their counterparts from advanced nations and bringing commendable accolades to Kuwaiti gymnastics.

Girona stay top

Vinícius, Rodrygo lead Real's 'rout' of Valencia

BARCELONA, Spain, Nov 12, (AP): Michel Sánchez soaked up the applause after his Girona team, the surprise leaders of the Spanish league, won again.

This time, however, the cheers came from Rayo Vallecano fans following Girona's 2-1 comeback win.

Girona stayed two points ahead of Real Madrid, which routed Valencia 5-1 with Brazilians Vinícius Júnior and Rodrygo getting two goals each.

Michel played most of his career as a midfielder for Rayo, and he returned as a coach for the modest Madrid-based club. The Rayo faithful greeted him with signs bearing his name and chants of "Michel! Michel!"

Michel, who goes by his first name in Spain, returned to coach Rayo for two seasons before eventually making it to northeast Catalonia to take over at Girona in 2021.

Now, he has turned Girona into one of the sensations of European soccer.

Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said that he expects Girona to stay in the title race.

Girona clicked once again at Vallecas Stadium. Ukraine striker Artem Dovbyk was set up by countryman Viktor Tsyhankov in the 42nd minute for his team-high seventh goal of the season. That canceled out Alvaro García's sixth-minute opener for Rayo.

Dovbyk used his big frame to brush off his marker and turn while receiving a squared pass from Tsyhankov before he fired home from the center of the box.

The two Ukrainians played a part in Sávio's go-ahead goal in the 65th as well. After Daley Blind recovered the ball, Tsyhankov again found Dovbyk in the area. Goalkeeper Stole Dimitrievski did well to get his leg on Dovbyk's shot, but Sávio was there to put in the rebound.

Girona, which two seasons ago was in the second division, is partly



Real Madrid's Vinícius Junior (left), and Valencia's Thierry Correia challenge for the ball during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between Real Madrid and Valencia at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid, Spain. (AP)

Mbappe stars as PSG bounce back

PARIS, Nov 12, (AP): Kylian Mbappe scored a hat trick and Gianluigi Donnarumma made six decisive saves to send Paris Saint-Germain to the top of the French league with a 3-0 win at Reims.

Four days after a Champions League loss to AC Milan, it was a hard-fought win for PSG, which were second best for long spells in the Champagne city but was opportunistic and clinical in converting its chances.

Reims, one of the most attack-oriented teams in Ligue 1, had many chances to score but Donnarumma was unbeatable.

The fifth straight league win moved PSG one point above Nice, with Reims in fourth place, seven points off the pace.

Third-place Monaco lost ground to PSG after drawing 0-0 at Le Havre and lag three points behind PSG.

After an uneventful 90 minutes, Le Havre were awarded a penalty with only a few seconds left to play when Edan Diop stepped heavily on Emmanuel Sabbi's foot. After

SOCCER

a VAR check, the referee pointed to the penalty spot. Samuel Grand-sir's attempt was poor and saved by goalkeeper Philipp Kohn.

In Reims, PSG did not take long to break the deadlock when Ousmane Dembele accelerated down the right flank and delivered a superb cross to the far post. Mbappe volleyed the ball from inside the box to fire a right-footed shot past Reims goalkeeper Yehvann Diouf into the opposite corner after just two minutes.

League earlier this week.

Right back Dani Carvajal put Madrid ahead just three minutes after kickoff when he volleyed a shot from outside the area.

Dashti claims triathlon gold

Kuwait dominate Asian Championship podium

RIYADH, Nov 12: Kuwait triathlon team secured impressive victories at the Asian Triathlon Championship held in Al-Khobar, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, within the 25-35 age groups. The team clinched a gold medal, two silver medals, and three bronze medals in a remarkable display of skill and determination.

Ali Dashti claimed the gold medal, while Fi. Al-Mulla and Fatima Al-Ghanem earned the two silver medals. The bronze medals were secured by Jassim Al-Rujaib, Mubarak Jumaa, and Noura Al-Barrak. This outstanding performance garnered praise from Rashid Al-Kandari, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Club and the Kuwait Triathlon Federation.

Al-Kandari congratulated the triumphant athletes, emphasizing the significance of their achievement in the Asian Championship. He commended

TRIATHLON

the team for elevating Kuwait's name and flag on the international stage, expressing confidence in the continued success of Kuwaiti athletes in the world of triathlon.

Highlighting the commitment to excellence, Al-Kandari affirmed, "It is not surprising for the people of Kuwait to attain such remarkable feats. We will persist in our efforts at the club and the Kuwaiti Triathlon Federation to secure more titles in the realm of sports, proudly representing Kuwait."

Tom wins interim heavyweight title

NEW YORK, Nov 12, (AP): Tom Aspinall sat in the locker room in the hours before a UFC title fight that came together in a matter of weeks and really only had one thought: "What am I doing," Aspinall asked himself.

Aspinall could say it now, he pulled a muscle in his back and didn't have much of a training camp. The Englishman in New York - he walked out to the Sting hit song - had visa issues. Aspinall even had to cancel a planned vacation with his family.

So what was Aspinall doing? Try winning a championship in only his eighth UFC fight.

Alex Pereira used a series of elbows to Jiri Procházka's head to win the vacant UFC light heavyweight championship and Aspinall became the first British heavyweight to win gold in the UFC 295 title fights Saturday night at Madison Square Garden.

Al-Qadsia wrap training camp in Qatar

Kuwait Club secure 7th spot at Club World Cup

Khaled El Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

RIYADH, Nov 12: In the recently concluded 16th Club World Cup, "Saudi Super Globe 2023," the Kuwait Club clinched the seventh position by defeating the Bahraini team with a score of 29-24 in the match determining the seventh and eighth places. The first half ended with a score of 15-12, and

goalkeeper Hassan Safar from the "White" team was honored as the best player in the match.

Despite falling short in the final standings, "Al-Kuwait" showcased a strong performance throughout the tournament. They secured victory against San Fernando, the South and Central American champions, with a score of 41-29 but faced a defeat

against the German team FOX Berlin with a score of 28-37. This placed them in the second position in their group, earning two points.

In other results, Al-Ameed, the Arab champion, faced a defeat against Al-Ahly of Egypt with a score of 25-35, and Al-Najma fell to Al-Khaleej of Saudi Arabia with a score of 24-27 in matches determining positions from 5 to 8. Al-Noor of Saudi Arabia secured the ninth position

HANDBALL

by defeating Cal Heat of the United States with a score of 29-24, while San Fernando claimed the 11th place by defeating the University of Queensland in Australia with a score of 39-28.

Meanwhile, the handball team of Al-Qadsia Club wrapped up their camp in Doha, Qatar, with a draw against Al-Gharafa of Qatar, concluding their preparations for the upcoming Asian Club Championship. In the tournament's "first" group, Al-Qadsia will face tough competition from Indian Sai, Qatari Al-Arabi, the Iraqi Army, Lebanon's Sidon Youth, and the UAE's Al-Sharjah.



Players in action.

He also extended gratitude to the General Sports Authority and the Kuwaiti Olympic Committee for their unwavering support, acknowledging

their pivotal role in enhancing the skills and performance of the club's athletes, leading to positive outcomes in international competitions.



Winners with officials after the awarding ceremony.