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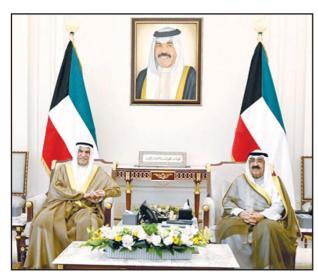
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16 PAGES

150 FILS

MP to disclose Ministry of Commerce wrongdoings on Tuesday session

Committee weighs raising minimum pension to KD 1,000



Crown Prince Diwan photo His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives National Assembly Speaker Ahmad Al-Saadoun.

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah recently met with

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh

the National Assembly officials at Bayan Palace to discuss Present at the meeting were Assembly Speaker Ahmed Al-Saadoun, the Assembly Office members, Deputy Speaker Muhammad Al-Mutair, Secretary Osama Al-Shaheen, Observer MP Falah Al-Hajri, Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee Chairman MP Muhannad Al-Sayer, Financial and Economic Affairs Committee Chairman

MP Shuaib Al-Muwaizri, Parliamentary Priorities Com-

mittee Chairman MP Abdullah Fehad and Secretary Gen-

On the other hand, the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee on Monday discussed the bill on increasing the minimum pension amount to KD1,000.

Member of the committee MP Hamad Al- Elyan confirmed that the government has approved the bill and it has no objection to increasing salaries to more than KD 1,000 provided the legal retirement age is increased as well. He explained the retirement age increase will be slight and gradual, starting after a number of years to ensure it is not applied on most of the current employees. He said the government justified this procedure, stating that the allocation of funds for this increment necessitates the amendment of the law on establishing the Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS).

He said the government asked for the assistance of the

Assembly in providing cash for this purpose through the issuance of laws on developing non-oil revenues and imposing taxes like selective and major companies taxes. He added the government affirmed that those receiving high salaries in the public or private sector will not be covered by the proposed increment.

Meanwhile, MP Hamdan Al-Azmi urged the citizens to attend the session scheduled for Tuesday to witness deliberations on his grilling motion against Minister of Commerce and Industry and State Minister for Youth Affairs Muhammad Al-Aiban. He said the grilling motion will reveal violations and crimes at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, which have had a negative impact on the Assembly and the reputation of Kuwait.

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Battles leave patients, babies and medics stranded in Gaza

Opinion

Prime Minister, lead or go

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

ARTICLE 50 of the Kuwait Constitution stipulates that, "The system of Government is based on the principle of separation of powers functioning in cooperation with each other in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. None of these powers may relinquish all or part of its competence specified in this Constitution.'

I chose to start with this article to highlight the extent of the political and administrative rift between the government and the National Assembly, and how the latter has encroached on the powers of the former, which, for three decades, has not been able to perform its duty to the full-

This is because it allowed the parliamentarians to interfere in the core of its work. The ministers even underestimated this text when they allowed the parliamentarians to decide what they should do.

This does not exist in any other country. It is in fact a strange situation that some successive governments have adopted, either because their boss was weak or tainted with errors or corruption due to which he was unable to confront them, or because the minister's electoral and personal agenda differs from the program of the Council of Ministers, or because of the absence of solidarity.

Therefore, it was not objectionable for a parliamentarian or a parliamentary committee to request the presence of the minister and the university director and impose on them demands that contradict the Constitution, and for the minister to submit to them as if nothing had happened. Meanwhile, the Prime Minister did nothing, other than implement the "infamous" decision away from any financial, social and cultural considerations and losses in relation to the co-education system in Kuwait University.

Also, when the minister was asked to cancel his decision regarding medical scholarships in Egypt and Jordan and when he did not yield to the parliamentarians, the government forced him to resign. His successor then canceled that decision and reinstated scholarships to these two

Undoubtedly, this indicates the fact that the Council of Ministers takes into account the concerns of the parliamentarians, and even a group of them, in order to provide support that did not satisfy some of the ministers or its head, or that it was infiltrated. Therefore, something that was not taken into account occurred.

Here is an interpellation awaiting the Prime Minister, and the Minister of Commerce and Industry accepted it, as he did not receive a group of parliamentarians due to which accountability was awaiting him.

In all of this, the game of deals began. This happened from the first moment the interpellation was announced. Today Kuwaitis must wait to see the birth of benefits for the parliamentarians, and the further weakness of the government, while the people lament their luck.

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MoH shuts 12 private medical facilities in first eight months

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi, the Minister of Health, disclosed that the private medical sector comprises 20 hospitals, with an additional 82 human medicine centers, 163 dental centers, and 89 clinics operating beyond regular working hours, reports Al-Rai daily.

Furthermore, he went on to say 522 full-time clinics are affiliated with the same sector, while responding to a query from MP Hamad Al-Obaid. Al-Awadhi reported 549 violations were recorded against clin-

ics and medical centers from January 1, 2023, to September 1, 2023, resulting in the complete closure of 12 private medical facilities during the same period.

Al-Awadhi clarified that the private medical sector employs 3,680 doctors, 1,592 dentists, and 13,524 support medical profes-

Regarding the monitoring mechanism, he outlined the involvement of specialized technical, engineering, and administrative committees from the Ministry of Health, who conduct periodic

Violations, he said, are addressed in response to complaints, requests from legal authorities, or joint committee initiatives in collaboration with government agencies.

The identified violations are then submitted to the Health Licensing Department for verification of issued licenses before being forwarded to the Ministry for subsequent action by competent legal

authorities and the medical liability agency. In terms of financial control over clinics and medical centers, Al-Awadhi emphasized the approval of price lists by the Health Licensing Department, ensuring conformity with officially approved prices. Complaints about conflicting prices are reported to the Ministry, and the Medical Liability Authority investigates the matter.

Shifa toll rises

eral Khalid Saad Busleeb.

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip, Nov 13, (Agencies): Battles around hospitals have forced thousands of Palestinians to flee from some of the last shelters in northern Gaza while stranding critically wounded patients, including newborns, and their caregivers with dwindling supplies and no electricity, health officials said Monday.

The Israeli military has urged Palestinians to flee south on foot through what it calls safe corridors. But its purported drive to separate civilians from Hamas militants has come at a heavy cost, with more than two thirds of the territory's population of 2.3 million having already fled their homes.

As Israeli troops encircled Gaza's Shifa Hospital over the weekend, thousands fled, while hundreds of patients and displaced people remained, according to officials. World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said Shifa "is not functioning as a hospital anymore.

Another hospital City, Al-Quds, was forced to shut down Sunday because it ran out of fuel. The Palestinian Red Crescent, which operates the facility, said Israeli forces are stationed nearby and that preparations are being made to evacuate some 6,000 patients, medics and displaced people.

Both sides have seized on the plight of hospitals, particularly Shifa's, as a symbol of the larger war, now in its sixth week. The fighting was triggered by Hamas' unprecedented Oct. 7 surprise attack into Israel, and Israel's response has brought unseen levels of death and destruction to Gaza.

For Palestinians, Shifa evokes the suffering of civilians. Thousands of people displaced by airstrikes that have destroyed entire city blocks have sought shelter in its darkened corridors. Doctors running low on supplies perform surgery there on war-wounded patients, including children, without anesthesia. One medic shared a photo showing nine premature babies in a shared crib.

Israel says Hamas shields itself among civilians and the hospital, Gaza's largest, is a prime example of that, claiming that the militants have a command center in and beneath the medical compound. Israel has not provided photos or videos to back up the Shifa claims, though it has shared footage of militants operating in

Continued on Page 5



Palestinians line up for food during the ongoing Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip in Rafah on November 13, 2023. (AP)

Migrant boat capsizes off Yemen, 49 missing

SANAA, Nov 13, (AP): A migrant boat capsized off the coast of war-torn Yemen, leaving dozens of people, mostly from the Horn of Africa, missing, Yemeni officials said Monday.

Khalid al-Subeihi, an official with the Yemeni coast guard in the coastal city of Mocha, said the boat with 75 migrants on board capsized Sunday.

He told The Associated Press that 26 people survived but at least 49 others re-

main missing. Another coast guard official, Lt. Co. Olwan al-Qameri, said the search was

still underway Monday. Citing an unnamed coast guard official, Yemen's state-run SABA news agency reported that the boat capsized due to strong winds and that all those on board - including women and children - fell into

The shipwreck was the latest sea disaster involving African migrants seeking a better life in oil-rich Gulf countries.

Zain Group 9-month

net income KD 172m Details Page 9 —



The 18th edition of Dubai Expo for Aviation 2023 kicked off on Monday, Nov 13, with the participation of more than 1,400 participants from 148 countries and more than 300 specialists in the field of aviation, defense and space. — See Page 9

US strikes hit Iran-linked facilities

Newswatch

VIENNA: In October, the OPEC Reference Basket (ORB) fell by USD 2.82, or 3.0 percent, to an average of USD 91.78/b, the or-

ganization said on Monday. The ICE Brent front-month contract fell by USD 3.89, or 4.2 percent, to USD 88.70/b, and the NYMEX WTI contract fell by USD 3.96, or 4.4 percent, to average USD 85.47/b, it said in its periodical report.

The ORB steepened on concerns over geopolitical tensions in the Middle East. (KUNA)

WASHINGTON: The US Department of Defense announced Sunday the death of five US special operations forces in a helicopter crash in the Mediterranean Sea. "We mourn the tragic loss of

five US service members during a training accident in the Mediterranean Sea late Friday evening, the Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III said in a statement

"While we continue to gather more information about this deadly crash, it is another stark reminder that the brave men and women who defend our great nation put their lives on the line each and every day to keep our country safe." (KUNA)

QUETTA, Pakistan: Pakistan

on Monday opened three new border crossings to expedite the deportation of Afghans living in the country illegally, officials

Nearly 300,000 Afghans have left Pakistan in recent weeks since authorities started arresting and deporting foreign nationals without papers after the Oct. 31 deadline for migrants without legal status to leave the country voluntarily. (AP)

airstrikes on two locations in eastern Syria involving Iranianbacked groups, hitting a training location and a weapons facility, according to the Pentagon and U.S. officials. It marks the third time in a bit more than two weeks that the U.S. has retaliated against the militants for what has been a growing number of attacks on bases housing U.S. troops in Iraq and Syria.

In a statement, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said the strikes targeted sites near Abukama and Mayadin and were used by Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps as well as Iranbacked militias. "The President has no higher priority than the safety of U.S.

personnel, and he directed today's action to make clear that the United States will defend itself, its personnel, and its interests," Austin said.

A U.S. official said one site also included weapons storage. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss details of a military operation.

The militant groups, many operating under the umbrella of the Islamic Resistance in Iraq, have carried out nearly 50 attacks

since Oct. 17 on bases housing U.S. personnel in Iraq and Syria.

Gov't fires Braverman

Cameron makes shock return as UK's new foreign secretary

LONDON, Nov 13, (AP): Former British Prime Minister David Cameron made a shock return to high office on Monday, becoming foreign secretary in a major shakeup of the Conservative government that also saw the firing of divisive Home Secretary Suella Braverman.

Cameron, who led the U.K. government between 2010 and 2016, was appointed by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak in a Cabinet shuffle in which he sacked Braverman, a divisive figure who drew anger for accusing police of being too lenient with pro-Palestinian protesters.

She was replaced by James Cleverly, who had been foreign

Cameron's appointment came as a surprise to seasoned politics-watchers. It's rare for a non-lawmaker to take a senior government post, and it has been decades since a former prime minister held a Cabinet job.

The government said Cameron was being appointed to Parliament's unelected upper chamber, the House of Lords. The last foreign secretary to serve in the Lords, rather than the elected House of Commons, was Peter Carrington, who was part of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government in the 1980s.

Cameron, 57, said Britain was "facing a daunting set of international challenges, including the war in Ukraine and the crisis in the Middle East."

Expected weather for the next

By Day: Rather hot and relatively humid specially over coastal areas with light variable wind, to light to moderate southeasterly wind, with speed of 06-28 km/hr and some scattered clouds will appear later on.

By Night: Mild to rather cold, humid specially over coastal areas and clouds will increase gradually with light to moderate southeasterly wind to southerly wind,

with speed of 08-30 km/hr with a

chance for scattered rain.

Weather

Station **Max Exp** Min Rec **Kuwait City** Kuwait Airport 31 18 17 20 24 20 Abdaly Jahra Salmiyah Nuwaisib Wafra

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

25.5 pc in Kuwait suffer from diabetes: Dr Al-Duwairi

'Balanced exercise-nutrition regimen lowers diabetes risk'

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13, (KUNA): Following a healthy lifestyle -- based on research, medical protocols, and a balanced exercise-nutrition regimen -- lowers the risk of diabetes, said health experts on Monday.

Speaking to KUNA a day ahead of the World Diabetes Day on November 14, Dasman Diabetes Institute Director Dr. Qais Al-Duwairi indicated that diabetes research in Kuwait had reached a point where numerous medical disciplines were put together to better counter diabetes providing hope for many who suffer from this illness.

New research, which began in 2022,

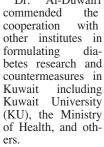
focused on the chemical, immune, and genetic factors diabetes, causing Al-Duwairi, said noting that finding early signs of the illness helped individuals to better assess the situation and implement viable countermeasures.



Dr. Al-Mazidi

Dr. Adel Redha

fered from diabetes unknowingly could also benefit from the Dasman Institute's research, he indicated, adding that studies on the matter were published in 93 scientific articles. Al-Duwairi Dr.



The Dasman Institute is the only organization in the Middle East that

provided the DAFNE (DDI) program, a mechanism geared towards the nutritious and insulin needs of those suffering from type-1 diabetes, he noted.

The official touched on the impact of education in the battle against diabetes, revealing that in 2022, there was a decrease by 60 percent in type-1 diabetic cases as well as a reduction by eight percent in accumulative sugar levels for those suffering from this type.

He affirmed that 50 percent of patients following the 2022 Dasman Institute diabetes protocol managed to decrease dependency on medication by 50 percent.

Dr. Al-Duwairi also pointed out that the percentage of diabetic patients in Kuwait had reached 25.5 percent according to recent statistics.

On his part, an endocrinology consultant at Sabah Hospital Dr. Zaidan Al-Mazidi said that diabetes amongst children was on the rise, indicating that 41 out of 100,000 cases annually were diagnosed with diabetes, especially amongst children under 14.

Type-1 diabetes, which is dependent on insulin, is rampant among children and unfortunately, there are high numbers of children suffering from that in Kuwait, said Dr. Al-Mazidi.

He indicated that several factors led to type-1 diabetes amongst children including genetics and sometimes, certain

He added that symptoms of the disease included extreme thirst, frequent need to urinate, hunger, severe weight loss and fatigue, behavioral shifts, and fruitysmelling breath, which are all indicators that parents should take their children and get them checked.

Diabetes could lead to cardiovascular disease, nerve damage, kidney failure, eve problems, immune deficiency, and Osteoporosis, he indicated.

Dr. Al-Mazidi's colleague and endocrinology consultant Dr. Adel Redha spoke about gestational diabetes, which occurs during pregnancy.

If left without supervision and medication, women could develop type-2 diabetes, he said, stressing that it was important to maintain a healthy lifestyle during and after pregnancy to avoid this ailment.

According to WHO estimation and data, the number of diabetics increased from 108 million in 1980 to 422 million in 2014. Early deaths due to diabetes increased by three percent in 2000-19. The number of deaths in 2019 reached two



eration between the GCC states

KUNA photo Chiefs of Staff of the Arab Gulf states discuss enhancing the process of joint coop-

GCC discuss military cooperation

Chiefs of Staff of Armed Forces of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries held their meeting Monday in Muscat, the Sultanate of Oman.

An official statement to KUNA said that Acting Chief of the General Staff, Major General Engineer Dr. Ghazi Shemmeri headed the Kuwaiti delegation. The top military officers discussed topics related to strengthening the cooperation process between the six GCC countries and topics on their agenda related to matters of mutual interest

The meeting is part of efforts aimed at exploring means of consolidating joint cooperation among GCC states in military fields.

It was preceded by a meeting of the GCC Preparatory Committee of Assistant Chiefs of Staff for Operations and will be followed by the GCC Joint Defense Council comprising defense ministers of member states.

The GCC consists of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Oman. (KUNA)

'Markaz' strategic partner in second MoneyTech summit

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz" participated in the second edition of the MoneyTech Summit as a "strategic partner", reinforcing its position as a leading provider of innovative investment solutions that serve its growing client base . Organized by Al-Jarida Summits on 12 November, 2023 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Kuwait City, the event brought together renowned experts from the fintech, banking, telecommunications, and other related industries.

Building on last year's success, the various sessions throughout the Summit explored the latest technology-driven trends in the financial sector, including digital banking innovations, the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on Kuwait's financial services sector, and the intricacies of Shari'ah-compliant fintech solu-

Commenting on Markaz's participation as a strategic sponsor, Mr. Abdullatif W. Al-Nusif, Managing Director, Wealth Management and Business Development at Markaz, said: "Supporting the MoneyTech summit for the second consecutive year stems from Markaz's commitment to raising awareness of emerging trends and nurturing innovation in Kuwait's financial sector.

This sponsorship also enforces our key CSR pillars of building human capacity, aligning the business environment with sustainable development principles, and promoting good governance in the business environment.

"As the fields of technology and finance continue to converge, our aim at Markaz is to play an active role in initiatives that shed light on the latest market developments and showcase the opportunities in the ever-evolving financial technology landscape, in order to empower clients and investors to make informed investment decisions by leveraging the knowledge shared." Al-Nusif added.

The Summit provided a platform for thought leaders, innovators, and industry experts to share their insights and foster partnerships to shape the future of fintech locally, regionally, and on a global scale.



Dasman Diabetes Institute marks World Diabetes Day.

KUNA photo

Gulf countries 'top' world in type-2 diabetes, say experts

'Rate high in Kuwait; disease leads to multiple organ failure'

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: Dr. Walid Al-Dhahi, an endocrinology and diabetes consultant and the Chairman of the Kuwait Diabetes Society, highlighted the dangers of the high rate of diabetes in the country.

In a press statement issued yesterday on the sidelines of the Kuwait Diabetes Society's celebration of the World Diabetes Day with the cooperation of the Endocrinology Unit of Farwaniya Hospital, Dr. Al-Dhahi said the Gulf countries are first in the world in terms of type 2 diabetes, and second in type 1 after European countries.

He explained that Kuwait needs a national program supported by a package of laws adopted by the National Assembly to confront this disease. There are similar successful national programs in many countries of the world, such as Australia.

There are many challenges faced by the state and relevant institutions to combat this disease at various levels, as according to World Health Organization's estimates, rates of infection are expected to double in the next thirty years, due to which it has become necessary to combine efforts to confront this great challenge.

Diabetes is linked to many other diseases, such as high blood pressure, cholesterol, and atherosclerosis.

Dr. Al-Dhahi warned that irregular blood sugar levels lead to weak immunity, which has recently been observed in the spread of COVID-19 infection rates among diabetic patients

Meanwhile, Head of the Internal Medicine Department at Farwaniya Hospital and the Treasurer of the Kuwait Diabetes Society Dr. Naila Al-Mazidi said the celebration includes many activities and events to educate the public about the importance of maintaining blood diabetes levels through healthy eating habits, exercising, and following a healthy lifestyle.

She highlighted the distribution of awareness brochures to the public and the provision of free medical consultations as well as check-ups for patients suffering from diabetes, blood pressure, and cumulative blood sugar, through the doctors, pharmacists and nutritionists participating in the event.



Albanian ambassador



Greek ambassador

Two envoys take post

Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Monday a copy of the credentials of Greece's new ambassador to Kuwait loannis Plotas.

The Foreign Minister wished the new ambassador good luck in his diplomatic work and further cooperation between the two friendly countries. During the meeting, they dicussed the latest regional and international developments. The Minister of Foreign Affairs also received on Monday a copy of the credentials of Albania's new

Ambassador to Kuwait.
The Foreign Minister wished the new ambassador good luck in his diplomatic work and further cooperation between the two friendly countries. During the meeting, they discussed the latest regional and international developments. (KUNA)



KUNA photo

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah receives Sheikh Salman bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa, President of the Asian Football Confedera-

HH PM meets AFC president

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received President of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Sheikh Salman bin Ibrahim Al-Khalifa and his accompanying delegation in Bayan Palace on Monday

in the presence of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Ahmad

Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. The meeting was attended by head of the office of His Highness the Prime Minister Hamad Al-Amer. (KUNA)

Robotics, science subjects in course

Support for talented Kuwaitis

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: The Public Authority for Youth was quoted as saying the Youth Creativity League project organized by the Authority for the fifth season aims to support talented and creative Kuwaiti youth and develop them to reach the path of success and excellence, reports Al-Rai daily. Acting Deputy Director General of the

Authority for the Youth Development Sector, Dr. Mishaal Al-Janoubi, said in a press statement today, on the occasion of the start of the project activities, that the fields included in this season are the Holy Qur'an, robotics,

the scientific journal, scientific research. mathematics. and drawing, in addition to

youth debates. Al-Janoubi pointed

Dr. Al-Janoubi out that the preliminary qualifiers in the field of mathematics, for training in the field of debates workshops have already begun,

with competitions for the rest of the fields to be held one after the other in youth centers. He singled out the great demand from young people to register in the league this season in various fields, saying they are divided into three levels -- beginners (from

7-10 years), intermediate (from 11-14 years), and advanced (from 15-18) years. He added this is one of the national proplan and clearly focuses on encouraging

grams within the country's development creativity and technological production for young people based on scientific foundations, noting the distinguished cooperation between the Authority and a number of state agencies related to youth work to make the project activities successful, most notably the Ministry of Education.

Al-Janoubi said that the Creativity League proved to be a great success, as evidenced by the Kuwaiti school debate team winning first place in the sixth international

Killer term hiked

From 7 to 10 years

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: The Court of Appeals increased the imprisonment term of a Kuwaiti citizen, who was accused of killing a young man using a knife during a

quarrel in Raqqa, from seven years to ten years. According to the case file, officers from the General Department of Criminal Investigations had arrested the suspect following his quarrel with the victim, during which he

a knife and killed him. During investigations, the suspect insisted that he stabbed the victim in self-defense during the quarrel, and had not intended to

stabbed the latter in the heart using

stab him to kill him. During the court session, he had denied the charge of premeditated

school debate championship in the Arabic language, which was held in Qatar last September, in addition to its remarkable contribution to building and refining the personalities of students.

He called on young Kuwaitis to register in the rest of the youth league areas they wish to, via the Public Authority for Youth website (www.youth.gov.kw) and to follow the Authority's platforms via the social media to learn about the places and times of qualifiers, all of which are free.

diwaniya والنية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Toothless summits, muted calls for Gaza ceasefire have exposed all'

"GAZA has exposed all, democratic and monarchical regimes and governments, its sisters, organizations, and even some peoples, including some of us as well," columnist Khawla Matar wrote for Al-Jarida daily.

"Didn't some of them tell you, "Can't you tolerate a different point of view?". after providing many lengthy introductions about Hamas' violation of humanitarian and international law before saying that civilians everywhere is a red line? On the thirty-fifth day of the Zionist war of genocide against Gaza, Arabs and Muslims gathered. Yes, history will be recorded after more than 35 days of genocide and shells that chased innocent lives even in the intensive care rooms of hospitals or in the garden of the hospital that was turned into a new shelter, after all.

"The leaders were called to an "emergency" meeting!! And in a hurry too!! Perhaps the concepts and meanings of these words have changed, even the Arabic ones too?

"A summit like all its predecessors has no taste or smell, to say the least, but criticism of the summits seems to have no room now, for as the previous ones said, "beating the dead is forbidden"!! All eyes were on the Arab leaders and governments, then the Muslims, and after the screams of that woman emerging from under the rubble of her house, screaming, "Where are you, Arabs?"

"Everyone turned to clinging to any lifeline that would save another Palestinian child, a woman, an old man, a young man, and a man from the death that haunts them wherever they are displaced and wherever they seek refuge, and wherever they settle in a temporary camp, which turns into permanent shelter, or a garden, or a room in a hospital, or even a

vacant lot under an olive tree before hands uproot it and their shells dismantle it. "We are tired of saying that the war of Israel, the Zionist occupying state, is not only against the Palestinian people, but also against the entire region, just as Gaza dropped the masks one after another, even those that were already fallen, but they made an effort to preserve some face, if there was even a drop of it left!

"So everyone turned to international humanitarian, development, and feminist organizations and those specialized in human rights and childhood, and all the details of trees, animals, and people. That woman sitting in front of her shop in one of the crowded areas in Beirut said to me, "Where do you work?" and when I revealed to her that I was at the United Nations, she revolted.

"She screamed and repeated, "Don't you say to anyone in the neighborhood," or to anyone. She added that Gaza and Palestine will liberate us even from relying on a bag of flour or a box of medicine, and as soon as the shells come to hit innocent lives, they will leave and be left behind.

"Of course, what is known in such organizations as "local employees", and there is a vast difference between the employee who is a citizen of the country and the one coming from abroad with grades, ranks and allocations, and as soon as the sky opens its doors to the hell of war or fighting, the "international" employees are deported, and the local employee remains struggling with his people and his family and on the land of his homeland, to the point that UNRWA employees in Gaza have become prey to Zionist hatred without there being more than denunciation and statements here and there, and shedding some tears!!!

"Western circles have long informed us of what they called the Arab Spring,

which occurred in some Arab countries through directed waves that took advantage of the economic and political situation that these countries suffer from," columnist Dr Abdullah Sahar wrote for Al-Rai daily.

"In Egypt, Syria, Libya, Yemen, Sudan, Tunisia, and some other Arab countries, new situations arose, most of which turned out to be worse than before.

"Some Western countries, especially the United States, played a role in directing, managing, and dispersing these Arab revolutions, which were led by segments of youth through technological means of communication. Demonstrations broke out and violence broke out, some of which were not without military interventions, as happened in Syria and Libya, in addition to intelligence interventions in all of these experiences.

These experiences have revealed the power of technological means, groups. and non-governmental organizations to advance and challenge governmental and elitist mechanisms directed by the engines of the dominant political and economic elites.

These groups succeeded in employing technological media tools, such as Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter, Snapchat, and Tiktok, to mobilize public opinion against the engines of the official media and those allied with it, and to reveal a narrative other than the one launched by the official and traditional elite circles.

"But, unfortunately, these "techno-youth" groups were not organized to carry out tasks after the fall of the regimes, and they were not able to gather under one umbrella, as they were infiltrated by traditional parties and intelligence, and their ends were directed to other than their intended goals, spreading chaos and destruction in most of these experiences.

"The US and many Western countries are facing today, after the Zionist violations of Gaza, the same spring, but in a somewhat different form. These countries, through their institutional, intelligence, and political departments, along with the traditional economic and media elite allied with them, were unable to cover the facts to satisfy their official Zionist-programmed narrative, so large demonstrations took place in all important Western capitals, in their universities, and on their electronic platforms.

"Intelligent audiences have been able to employ technological means to convey the true story of the killing of innocents and the sinful assault launched by Zionist gangs on children, women, men, civilian facilities, homes, hospitals, schools, and places of worship.

"Therefore, some of the official institutions of these countries were disrupted

through the emergence of opposition opinion that expressed itself publicly and reasoned resignations in a way that led to these institutions losing their credibility and true legitimacy.

"Through the demonstrations and activities of intelligent masses across borders, a global public opinion was formed against global Zionism, which is led by capitalist and imperialist engines, causing the weapons of cultural hege-mony, represented by most of the major media houses with their visual, written and digital institutions, to fall from their hands.

"This was reflected for the first time in public opinion polls in these countries regarding the Gaza tragedy, where the majority that had supported the usurping entity turned into a minority, which indicates that these Zionist-programmed regimes have become mere tools that usurp the freedom of thought and expression in the conviction of the popular majorities.

"In the general perspective, it no longer takes into account the national interests of its people or the human values that it used to raise its slogans.

"As a result, US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken appeared shaky and disconnected from reality during his turbulent statement in Japan, as his expressions were filled with contradictions and ideas that were not connected to each other, rather than being inconsistent with his previous statements and the facts of the political and military theater.

This turmoil is primarily due to the popular and political pressures and protests that erupted even among the ranks of the Democratic Party, as one poll showed that only 33% of this party's youth support Biden's policy towards supporting what Israel is doing in Gaza, while 53% of Democrats believe that weapons and military equipment must not be sent to Israel.

"Ânother poll also showed that 58% of Democrats believe that Israel has gone too far in its reaction, compared to 7% who believe that it should increase its military campaign, and 31% believe that military operations are proportional to the reaction. This is considered a major decline among the ruling party, which is presided over by Biden.

"It is no wonder that America and some Western countries are witnessing a "hot" spring as a result of the fall of all the humanitarian slogans and democratic values that were promoted and praised by official institutions, as they were completely exposed before the scenes of intelligent peoples and audiences, generating a new critical awareness against the global Zionist narrative.'

"There is a parliamentary-governmental consensus on 29 priorities distributed over 17 sessions... This means, God willing, if cooperation continues and results in the approval of the priorities and their immediate implementation within seven months, this is a very positive indicator. The question remains: Will the priorities be approved?" columnist Dr Turki Al-Azmi wrote for Al-

"Let us be optimistic and cautious, as the political arena may not achieve the desired consensus unless there is a balanced and wise group that follows the implementation of priorities and blocks those who push us back to square one.

'After reading the priorities, I was surprised that there was no news about fighting corruption and recovering stolen funds, or any sense about the digital government that we aspire for in order to eliminate 'wasta', in addition to the Bedoun Law.

"Sometimes, you disagree with a lawmaker, a minister or even a colleague, but the level of respect remains at the personal level.

'We may witness future interrogations and the use of the interrogation tool is an absolute right for any lawmaker once all means of inquiry, advice and parliamentary questions are exhausted. No minister should be alarmed by any interrogation that may be presented, nor should it affect the agreedupon priorities.

"I read the priorities. It was mentioned that there are 15 parliamentary and 14 governmental priorities. If you look closely at many of the issues, you would find that they are at the core of the work of the executive authority (the government)... This means they can be accomplished without returning to the council through the administrative reform window. The government possesses all the information and dozens of studies have been conducted on many issues, especially with regard to increments and services such as health, education, roads and so on.

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary

Other Voices

'Let country be more positive'

By Ahmad alsarraf

"When ignorance is bliss, in a society, it is foolish to be wise." Thomas Gray (1716–1771)

This is what I felt with several tweets, the most recent of which was related

to my opposition to boycotting certain goods, as it received 2.2 million views, in a society where the number of Twitter activists is supposed to not exceed 100,000!

I did not write in defense of the companies that boycotwere ted, as they know

very well that they are exposed to loss and profit, but I defend logic, which is completely absent. The Gaza tragedy unmasked many things. So where were those who attacked me, for 70 years, regarding the issue of the Palestinian who

is humiliated, displaced, and killed? His cause and the tragedy of the people of Gaza are not alleviated by stopping drinking a cup of coffee, but rather by supporting it positively, but we are a nation that believes in words, because it does not cost anything.

The idea of boycotting Israel began at the initiative of the Syrian government seventy years ago, with its office subsequently becoming affiliated with the Arab League, and becoming a force that greatly harmed Israel, before the boycott gradually lost its momentum, with corruption penetrating the corners of the office in Damascus, after repeatedly imposing a boycott on companies, for flimsy reasons and removing it from others, for more flimsy reasons, so that countries would lose confidence in its decisions, and for the office to lose its importance over time, de facto, especially with some Arab countries signing peace agreements that prevent them from boycotting, such as Egypt, Jordan, and the PLO other countries also boycotted the boycott of their own free will, and Kuwait may have remained alone in the field, and its role was doubled, to include monitoring even the products that come to it from "sister" countries for fear that they are Israelimade goods smuggled through them!

Refusal to buy a product, deal with a company, or boycott an entire country is a legitimate act or means of expressing rejection of this or that party. The boycott may be comprehensive, as happened with the South African system, or it may be limited to focusing on a product that usually has a painful material and moral impact.

But parties and individuals, perhaps only us, and often due to lack of resourcefulness, decided to boycott specific products, putting their "freedom" or anger into them, and they were chosen randomly with no relation to the true positions of their owners on the Palestinian issue, currently and historically!

The heckler will return very soon from his boycott, and often with greater eagerness, as happened in previous cases, especially since the one affected was the local agent, and not the party we wanted to punish, which is America, for its unlimited support for the Israeli aggression against the people of Gaza.

It would have been more effective to direct our anger into positive action, as the pain and tragedies of the people of Gaza, and their need for water, food and medicine, cannot be alleviated by abstaining from drinking a cup of coffee, nor starting a fight with a Filipino worker who works in a store selling them, but rather by heading to the Red Crescent Society, for example, and donating even ten dinars, to support the steadfastness of the people of Gaza and alleviate their suffering.

I repeat what I mentioned in yesterday's article about my donation of a truckload of medical supplies to the Kuwaiti Red Crescent, to deliver them to the needy in Gaza, hoping that those in power will emulate what I have done. What is happening there is a humanitarian catastrophe, the likes of which has never been known in our region, and it also represents an embodiment of the struggle of the Palestinian people to achieve their full rights.

e-mail: a.alsarraf@alqabas.com.kw



One of the accused was found in possession of drugs, pills, and proceeds from the sale.

Fake cops rob expats

By Mansour Al-Sultan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff Patrol officers affiliated with the Jahra Security Directorate

have arrested three individuals who specivalized in robbing expatriates posing as detectives in the Subbiya region. When the trio was arrested police found in their possession a "flasher" typically used by detectives, narcotics, and

According to a security source, the operations room of the Ministry of Interior received several reports from expatriates, indicating that three individuals in a white "American-made" car, equipped with a "flasher," had intercepted them, falsely claiming to be CID personnel looking for outlaws and robbed them of their money and cell phones.

In response to the reports, patrol officers supporting the Jahra Security Directorate swiftly set a trap for the suspects and took them in custody after sealing all escape routes. Upon searching the suspects, the authorities discovered narcotic pills, bags of hashish, shabu, and drugrelated paraphernalia in their possession.

During the initial interrogation, the defendants confessed to robbing more than 12 expatriates after claiming

Kuwait committed to development: KFAED

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) emphasized Kuwait's longstanding commitment to development, citing substantial efforts through initiatives led by the political leadership and collaborations with the international community and organizations in fostering economic growth and global development, reports Al-Rai daily.

Responding to a parliamentary inquiry by MP Shuaib Shaaban, Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah, in an attached memorandum to the Fund, highlighted Kuwait's utilization of the Kuwait Fund for Development as the economic arm of its foreign policy, contributing significantly to global development. The document revealed that advertising expenditure from 2020

to October of the current year amounted to 1.668 million dinars.

The memorandum underscored the role of media as a mechanism to showcase Kuwait's positive development achievements worldwide. This involves employing various media tools, including international channel advertisements, producing short television messages, and selecting top shows on influential channels across numerous countries.

The primary objectives include introducing Kuwait's role, fostering cooperation, strengthening economic ties and friendships, and garnering support for Kuwait's issues and

Control 'toughened' to improve co-ops output

Bid to prevent shareholders rights

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: The Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Child Affairs, Sheikh Firas Al-Malik, has issued a ministerial decision on the work of cooperative societies inspection teams, within the framework of supporting and developing the cooperatives sector, with the aim of improving their performance, organizing work, tightening supervision, and protecting the rights of shareholders.

The Director of the Public Relations and Media Department, the spokesman for Ministry of Social Affairs, Ahmed Al-Anzi, explained that in accordance with the ministerial decision, the Director of the Cooperative Oversight and Inspection Department will form inspection teams from among the department's employees specialized in the field of administrative and financial

The maximum number of 5 employees will form the team whose task will be to carry out inspection of the work and the activities of cooperative societies, according to a schedule of tasks set by the aforementioned administration periodically at the beginning of each month, provided that the schedule is approved by the Assistant Undersecretary for Cooperatives Affairs.

The duration of the team's work does not exceed one week, which can be extended

Al-Enezi pointed out that the decision

includes the right of

the inspection team to move to the headquarters of the cooperative society concerned with the inspection, review all aspects of its activity, check on its work and accounts, and audit its financial and administrative situation, including the coordination it requires

Sheikh Firas with the cooperative observers working in the society.

He stated that the team can ask the coop to provide it with all the data necessary to carry out the inspection mission, and when necessary, take the testimony of the members of the Board of Directors and the association's employees, each within his/her jurisdiction, and record those statements in official books.

He added that the decision also includes that the team submit a report after the end of the inspection mission with observations and a statement of the violations that were monitored, if any, and the measures proposed to be taken against the association concerned with the inspection.

The association must also facilitate the team's task and provide it with all the data and documents it requests, and in the event of its failure to cooperate, the concerned party will be held accountable and necessary legal measures will be initiated in accordance with the applicable decisions and



Maids transfer now on Sahel app

Fall seen in 'iqama' law violators KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: A well-informed ministry's ongoing crackdown on violators,

security source disclosed a significant decrease in the number of residency law violators, with approximately 30,000 fewer expatriates found in violation. The most recent statistics on residency affairs indicate that the count of violators has dropped to 121,174, reports Al-Anba daily.

The source affirmed that the concerted efforts of various Ministry of Interior agencies, in line with the directives of the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled, have played a significant role in achieving this success. It is noteworthy that just a few months ago,

the number of violators exceeded 150,000.

The source emphasized that managing and bringing under control such substantial figures necessitated sustained efforts spanning several years.

Moreover, granting violators a grace period to rectify their status, coupled with the is anticipated to further diminish this figure to below 100,000.

Residence transfer service: The Ministry of Interior announced the launch of the residence transfer service "for domestic workers from one sponsor to another" through the unified government application (Sahel), in cooperation between the General Administration of Information Systems and the Nationality and Residence Affairs Sector in the Ministry, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Ministry's General Department of Security Relations and Media said in a press statement that this service will initially be specific to domestic workers, Article (20) females, and then it will be completed in the next stage to transfer the residency of workers, Article (20) males.

Al Omar: KFH continues its leadership in supporting education and attracting national talents

KFH signs collaboration agreement with American Int'l University

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has signed a collaboration agreement with the American International University (AIU) as part of its social responsibility and commitment to promoting education, students, and youth.

The signing ceremony was attended by KFH Group Chief Human Resources and Transformation Officer, Zeyad Abdullah Al Omar, Mr. Nael Al Awadhi, a member of AIU's Board of Trustees, and other attendees from both parties.

Al Omar affirmed, in a press release, that KFH remains committed to supporting and assisting public and private academic institutions in their efforts to qualify the nation's youth. He noted that this aligns with KFH's focus on supporting and developing young national talents, as well as KFH's strategy in education, development, and training.

Al Omar pointed out that such agreements contribute to the development of society and introduce ambitious young people to the importance of self-development, in addition to enhancing efficiency, promoting academic attainment, and working in the private sector. He added that the private sector is an appealing atmosphere for individuals aspiring to grow their skills and excel in their

Al-Omar emphasized KFH's interest in training and Kuwaitization of the workforce. He noted that KFH provides integrated and advanced

programs in collaboration with the largest international academic institutions

He added that KFH endorses the endeavors of universities to channel the students' potential towards enhancing their creativity through specialized activities and programs pertaining to behavioral, professional, technological, and accounting skills associated with Islamic economics and banking practices. Additionally, leadership programs and other advanced comprehensive programs are designed in accordance with the latest market demands and aligned with international educational and development standards.

Mr. Nael Al Awadhi, a member of AIU's Board of Trustees, stressed that the main goal of education is to improve society in all fields.

He explained that:"The American International University believes that one of its most important responsibilities is to promote the nationals and help them gain the best skills and capabilities that will elevate Kuwait to the rank of developed countries."

"The university believes that this advancement should be in academic and professional collaboration with the private and public sectors, which are the main artery of the country's economy," he added.

Al Awadhi stressed that the signing of the collaboration agreement with KFH is a real breakthrough for training and educating and for the exchange of information and expertise.



Zeyad Al-Omar and Nael Al-Awadhi exchange the partnership agreement.

Move to set up postal company

MoC completes preparing draft law: official

By Mohammed Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: The acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Communications Dr. Ahmad Al-Mijren says the ministry has completed preparing a draft law to establish the Kuwait Postal Company.

In a press statement issued Sunday, Dr. Al-Mijren explained that the Council of Ministers approved the draft law establishing the Kuwait Postal Company, which the ministry finished preparing in coordination with the Fatwa and Legislation Department, which reviewed it and made comments on its first version until it was finalized in its final form.

On October 31, decision No. 218 of 2023 was issued for referring the draft law to the National

The company will be a public Kuwaiti shareholding company wholly

state, with a

capital of KD

personality. It

will carry out

and achieve

activities

million

legal

owned by the and will enjoy an independent

Dr Al-Mjren

purposes in accordance with the provisions of this law and its statute, and will be managed on a commercial and investment basis and supervised by the competent minister.

The company's purpose is to carry out all work related to postal services and related services inside and outside the country and to manage facilities and related businesses. The law specifies the company's capital with all its components, the number of shares and the value of the share, in accordance with what will be stated in the company's bylaws.

This company will replace the postal sector in the Ministry of Communication within six months from the date of issuance of its statute.

All of the rights of the postal sector shall be transferred to it, including the right to usufruct, rent, and the applicable contracts and agreements concluded by the sector with third parties.

It bears all obligations of the sector and is fully responsible for them, and all transfer procedures are binding on all, after the Council of Ministers approves the evaluation of real estate assets.

The purpose of this project is to develop postal services of all kinds, in addition to regulating the work of companies working in the field of mail by granting licenses to local companies to practice work in the field of mail in all its

Dr. Al-Mijren said the adoption of this law will help in the future to facilitate the follow-up of the work of companies operating in the field of mail, as well as ensure the ability to evaluate the quality of the services they provide to customers in accordance with the law and regulations issued by the concerned minister in order to implement the general policy of the postal facility in order to provide these services to the satisfaction of the beneficiaries.

'Authority working on more projects'

PAHW's investment projects witness progress: Al-Hulaila

By Abdul Nasser Al-Islami Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: The Acting Deputy Director General for Investment Affairs and Private Sector Projects at the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) Eng. Anwar Al-Hulaila said the investment projects carried out by PAHW, the tenders it offers, and the contracts it provides are witnessing progress in their completion with the cooperation of the private sector and relevant government agencies.

In a press statement, Eng. Al-Hulaila explained that PAHW is working to launch more investment projects based on an organized methodology in application of investment and bidding regulations in a manner that commensurate with the nature of the private sector's work. This is done by preparing the necessary studies for each investment

Work is underway to complete the implementation of infrastructure and road works and to begin building construction work for the investment opportunity S2 located in Sabah Al-Ahmad City by the project company on an area of 1.28 million square meters, which includes service and craft spaces in addition to storage spaces and labor housing.

Opportunities

Regarding the investment projects in Jaber Al-Ahmad City, the investment opportunities J2 and J3 located in the city are witnessing progress in the implementation of site works.

The J2 project contains a commercial center consisting of office space and exhibitions with a total area estimated at 148 thousand square meters

The J3 project includes a commercial complex as well as 21 residential buildings containing 204 apartments of different sizes and adjacent villas for rent through the project investor on an area of 217,000 square meters.

The sector is working through the relevant committees on an evaluation of the investment opportunity S5, which includes developing three public parks for commercial uses in suburbs A, C, and D of the Sabah Al-Ahmad residential city on a total area of more than 35,000 square meters.

In addition, it is also working on the evaluation work related to the investment opportunity Q1 located in Qairawan, which contains a commercial complex and a health club on a total area of 6.920 square meters and for a specific investment period of 22



Eng Anwar Al-Hulaila

PAHW has managed 47 contracts for leasing gas stations in its projects with the Kuwait Oil Company on areas of 357,000 square meters, with a return of up to KD 1.47 million annu-

Benefit

It is working in coordination with Kuwait Oil Company to establish a main gas station located on Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah Road adjacent to the residential city of Al-Mutlaa, on an area of 60,000 square meters, which includes the station, commercial facilities, restaurants, parking and rest services for trucks, and green spaces.

PAHW has concluded seven contracts to benefit from land to establish branches for banks in its projects, with total revenues amounting to KD 291,000 annually. Work is underway to complete the procedures for offering four other sites in the residential city of Wafra, Northwest Sulaibikhat, and West Abdullah Al-Mubarak.

PAHW is in the process of concluding usufruct contracts for three sites to establish car repair and maintenance centers with the winning bidders in Saad Al-Abdullah City, West Abdullah Al-Mubarak, and Jaber Al-Ahmad Residential City, on an area of 180 square meters for each site and annual revenues amounting to KD 441,000

Eng. Al-Hulaila announced that the total capital costs of the projects that were awarded and supervised by the investment sector and whose contracts were concluded to be financed by investors amounted to KD 424 million, with total revenues throughout the contracted investment periods exceeding KD 281 million.

Kuwaiti smart application hailed

Swiss network to study Kuwaiti dust storms in cooperation with Al-Ujairi

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: The Director General of the Al-Ujairi Scientific Center, Engineer Yousef Al-Ujairi, said there is cooperation with the Swiss network (meteoblue) concerned with weather sciences and weather conditions to monitor and follow the weather situation via satellites and carry out studies on the atmosphere of Kuwait and link it to the seasons.

He pointed out that "the center and the network have completed a study on the dust that visited Kuwait this year, and work is underway to link it with the amount of rain observed and explain the state of the connection between them in light of the efforts made to combat desertification and increase the size of agricultural cover, in addition to another study to measure the level of rain during the past years and then link it with the current season, reports Al-Rai daily.

Regarding the free Kuwaiti smart application that the center recently launched, Al-Ujairi said, "It is considered the first electronic application for astronomy, monitoring weather conditions, prayer times, services for the state of the sea, the moon, the sun, and other information in Kuwait and the Middle East," noting that "the center has introduced new developmental steps to support astronomy." And

monitoring astronomical phenomena, weather conditions, and prayer times through the use of smart phone applications, whether via the (Apple or Android) system." He stated that "the application can

be used in both Arabic and English and the aim is to provide data on astronomical phenomena and seasons to all segments of society, as it can provide calendar services to non-Arabic speak-He explained, "It allows users to learn about prayer times and the re-

maining time, in addition to Kuwait's mosques, their geographical locations, and the spatial proximity of users to them, in addition to providing services for viewing the Al-Ujairi calendar and what happened on this day, in addition to the state of the tide and sea from the north of Kuwait to its south, and knowing Official holiday dates.

He stated, "The application also shows information related to astronomy, the agricultural calendar, and planting and harvesting dates for vegetables and fruits in Kuwait. It provides calendar data and information for years to come, as users can search using it for seasons, Hijri dates, the calendar, events, and official holidays according to the electronic calendar it



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PM chairs weekly meeting

Kuwait Cabinet reviews outcomes of extraordinary Arab-Islamic Summit

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13, (KUNA): The Kuwait Cabinet on Monday reviewed the extraordinary Arab-Islamic Summit, recently concluded in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, expressing utmost support for its outcomes, especially the unequivocal stance in support of the Palestinian people.

During its weekly meeting chaired by His Highness Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the Cabinet also reviewed speech of His Highness the Amir's Representative to the Summit, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who branded "indescribable" crimes committed against the Palestinian people in Gaza as the Israeli occupation is leading an unjustified collective punishment that goes to all relevant international and humanitarian

While addressing Arab and Muslim leaders, His Highness Sheikh Mishal called on the international community, specially the UN Security Council, to shoulder its responsibility facilitating an immediate halt of the bloodshed and provide international protection for the Palestinian people, welcoming at the same time the UN General Assembly's decision to call for a humanitarian truce; reflective of the magnitude of the crisis in Gaza.

In this vein, Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdulla Al-Jaber Al-Sabah briefed the Cabinet with the Summit's final communique, which stressed the importance of implementing resolutions issued by the OIC and the League in that regard while emphasizing the rights of the Palestinian people to freedom and independence based on the June 4, 1967 border and East Jerusalem as the capital of a Palestinian state.

National Assembly upcoming sessions and the State Audit Bureau 2022-2023 report were also of the key topics discussed during the meeting, according to Deputy Premier, Minister of State for Cabinet and National Assembly Affairs

PAM inks co-op deal with AMIDEAST

Move aims to launch English language program, develop skills in the aviation industry

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13, (KUNA): The Public Authority for Manpower signed a cooperation agreement with the American Middle East Institute (AMIDEAST) to launch an English language program and develop technical skills in the aviation industry

The authority said in a press statement on Monday that the program will be through Boeing Airlines and targets job seekers who hold a diploma as a minimum and are interested in working in the aviation field.

She added that the program will start on December 10 and continue until March 7,

It is available free of charge to male and female citizens who wish to work in the field of aviation and apply for it through the link (www.tinyurl.com/CareerSkillsAE).

Its duration is 90 training hours, including 60 hours in the field of English and 30 hours in the field of vocational rehabilitation.

She explained that the signing of this agreement comes as a continuation of the authority's procedures for coordination and cooperation with civil society institutions and the private sector in adopting development initiatives and contributions to prepare national cadres and qualify them professionally to work in the private sector.

The statement quoted Acting Director General (Manpower) Marzouq Al-Otaibi as



Officials signing the cooperation agree-

praising the members of AMIDEAST and the important role of training programs in developing professional skills and qualifying Kuwaiti youth and recent graduates to

work in the private sector. In turn, the Regional Director of the AM-IDEAST Institute, Samar Khalif, expressed, according to the statement, her thanks and gratitude for the efforts made by the authority in supporting Kuwaiti youth and honing their skills through specialized training courses, expressing the institute's readiness to harness its energies for community service in the State of Kuwait.

Panel agrees with minister to solve problems of 300 medical students

Need to remedy discrimination and inequality: Al-Olayan

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: During a meeting today, the Education, **Culture and Guidance** Committee **Affairs** called for addressing the negativities of the decision to stop sending medical specializations to some countries and to stop transferring the specialization and scholarship headquarters to their respective universities, in order to limit its effects, reports Al-Anba daily.

The head of the committee, MP Hamad Al-Olayan, said in a statement to the National Assembly media center that the committee has agreed with the Minister of Education and Higher Education to quickly address the problem of 300 male and female students studying medical specialties in Egyptian and Jordanian universities by including them on scholarships.

Solutions

Al-Olayan indicated that the meeting was held at the request of the minister of higher education to develop solutions to address some of the problems and observations from the previous

He stated that the minister and the competent authorities clearly listened to the committee's opinion, which was conveyed by the consensus of its members who emphasized the need for solutions so that the quality of education does not suffer, calling it a red line for all members.

Al-Olayan stated that the committee unanimously in-



Deputy FM Sheikh Jarrah Jaber chairing the preparatory meeting for the 20th session of the joint Kuwaiti-British steering group.

Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chaired on Monday a pre-paratory meeting of the 20th edition of the Kuwaiti-British Steering Group due in London next December. Sheikh Jarrah Al-Sabah will head the Kuwaiti delegation in

Deputy FM chairs Kuwaiti-British steering group meet

the 20th meeting, while Minister of State for Middle East Lord Tariq Ahmad will represent the British side. (KUNA)

formed the minister that the previous decision taken to stop scholarships in medical specialties in Egypt and Jordan lacks equality by preventing those on scholarship, while allowing people who study at

their own expense. He called "this is discrimination and inequality that must be remedied," noting that the decision resulted in the deprivation of 300 scholarship students who were approved for admission and study at these universities.

He said that the committee agreed on a vision to allow the 2023-2024 batch of students studying in medical specialties in Egypt and Jordan to be sent directly and included in foreign missions according to the conditions approved before the decision was taken.

He explained that the committee asked the minister to search for other alternatives and expand into Gulf universities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of Qatar, saying the minister has promised to look into this issue.

problem

Al-Olayan indicated that the minister's request to hold a meeting with the committee came from his feeling that

there was a problem that must be solved, pointing out that the minister promised to convey the committee's vision in a close meeting to the Academic Accreditation Authority and reach a decision to treat these cases of students in Kuwait, and take the decision next Thursday. Al-Olayan said, "We in-

formed the minister at the conclusion of the meeting that if a decision is not issued before the end of next Thursday, the committee will call for another meeting next week to follow up on this matter and inquire about the reasons for not issuing this

Prime Minister,

Continued from Page 1

Regarding questionable certificates that were issued by Egypt or Jordan or Greece or the Philippines, or even the United States and some other countries, and the many scandals in this regard, announcements were issued by a number of Egyptian representatives during one of the sessions of the People's Assembly about the discovery of the sale and forgery of certificates in medicine, engineering, and law. The same was announced by the Jordanian representatives.

However, this did not stop some of the parliamentarians who benefited electorally from this matter, and they pressed for the cancellation of the deci-

sion to prevent scholarships.

Here we can only say, "May Almighty Allah protect Kuwait from internal invaders when those with fake certificates become doctors, or supervise construction projects.'

What is even worse in this regard is when some parliamentarians pushed to force Sharia graduates to be appointed to the judiciary and public prosecution. There is no doubt that these people will become judges and prosecutors. This is one of the wonders that were invented in Kuwait.

In this regard, it must be said that there are parliamentarians who intend to change Kuwaiti social and cultural behavior. In doing so, they will surpass the Taliban and ISIS, as the government, which is supposed to be an independent executive authority, submits to them without the slightest resistance as if it were robbed of its will.

Just for historical purposes, there are ministers who did not agree to indulge in the game of exchanging interests, such as one of the ministers of Electricity and Water who refused to appoint an engineer whose certificates were questionable, or another who assumed political responsibility for a fire incident in a hospital room while others actually refused to assume this position to preserve their reputation. Unfortunately, they were punished politically and electorally. It was expected that the condition of the rest of the ministers would be like this, and that the Prime Minister would be able to take on the challenge.

However, all this did not happen because the majority of the ministers or their prime minister, irrespective of whether they were in the current government or some successive governments, did not fully understand the meaning of Article 50 of the Constitution, and so they gave up their powers in a bid to seek safety that did not come through. This is due to the fact that National Assemblies are known to operate on the principle of "give and take" even if that is at the expense of the people and the state. That is why Kuwait is experiencing this political confusion.

In some countries, the government was dismissed several times. In Italy, for example, 56 governments were formed within 30 years. In Jordan, par-

liaments were dissolved many times until the state system stabilized.

Therefore, we beg to ask - Why does Kuwait not benefit from the experiences of others, even if the National Assembly was dissolved 40 times, or the government was dismissed 60 times? Isn't Kuwait worth the sacrifice? Or are people's interests above all considerations, even if it comes at the expense of the nation's fate?

We hope that the Prime Minister will re-read the lofty speech in the current session, and realize the messages contained between its lines, so that he will either lead or go.

Committee weighs

Continued from Page 1

In addition, MP Dawoud Maarefi forwarded queries to Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Jaseem Al-Ostad about the employees who were granted judicial arrest power. He wants to know if these employees are qualified for such a task, if they were trained to write legal minutes, if they completed legal studies and training courses, if the list of nominated employees was submitted to the Civil Service Commission (CSC) for assessment and approval prior to the issuance of recruitment decisions, criteria for the appointment of the team leader of employees with judicial arrest power, if the team leader is from any department at the ministry, list of employees granted such power as per decision number 278/2023, their qualifications, jobs, years of experience, departments, and number of violations recorded from 2010 to 2023 including the total amount of fines imposed by

In other news, Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah affirmed Kuwait's commitment to the Amiri Decree issued in 1967 regarding the war against the Zionist entity, denying the entry or reception of any official Zionist person or delegation in the ceremony hall at the Kuwait Airport, reports Al-Rai

He said this in response to a parliamentary query from MP Dr. Hamad Al-Matar, regarding "the validity (of report) of the entry of a delegation from the Zionist entity into the country on October 3, 2023, and its reception in the ceremony hall at Kuwait Air-

The minister explained that "Kuwait was, is, and will continue to be committed to what was stated in The Amiri Decree issued in 1967 declaring the establishment of a defensive war between the State of Kuwait and the Zionist gangs in occupied Palestine, and its absolute belief in the legitimacy of the Palestinian cause and the rights of the brotherly Palestinian people, and its firm commitment to supporting the Palestinian Arab right to confront the Israeli occupation, and to stand by the brotherly Palestinian people and support their choices and support all efforts aimed at reaching a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian

He pointed out that "after reviewing the entry and exit records at the Kuwait International Airport on October 3, 2023, it became clear that no Zionist person or official delegation entered or was received at the ceremony hall on

Battles leave

Continued from Page 1

residential neighborhoods and positioning rockets and weapons near schools and mosques.

Both Hamas and the hospital staff at Shifa deny the Israeli allegations. A U.N. health official said many dis-

placed families and patients with moderate injuries fled the hospital over the weekend. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief reporters, said most of the remaining patients could only be relocated with ambulances and other special procedures. Mohammed Zagout, the director of

hospitals in Gaza, said those who remain include about 650 patients, 500 medical staff and around 2,500 displaced Palestinians sheltering inside hospital buildings. That's down from more than 20,000 people reported to be at the hospital on Saturday by the Health Ministry in Hamas-ruled Gaza. The ministry said 32 patients, in-

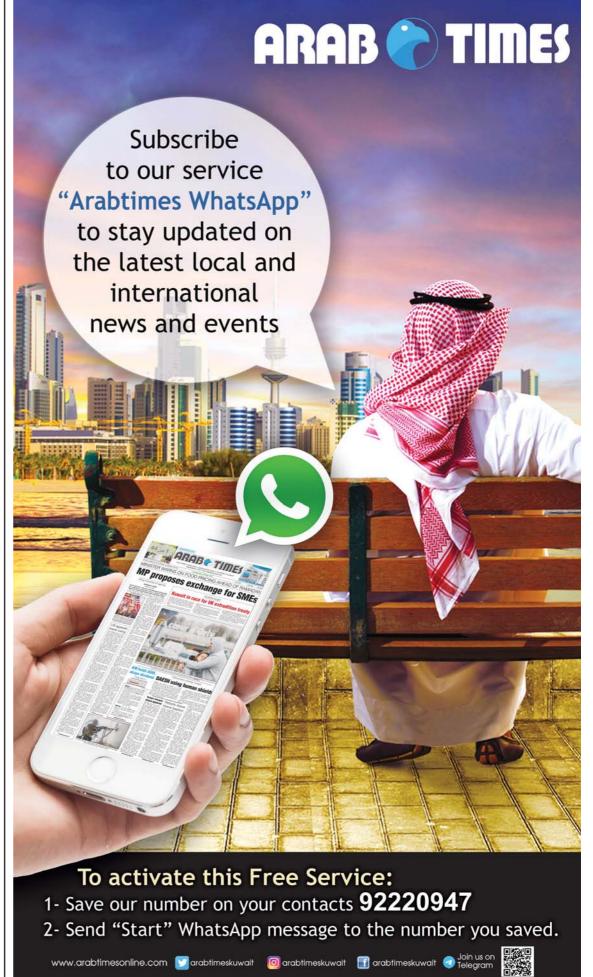
cluding three babies, have died since the hospital's emergency generator ran out of fuel on Saturday. It said 36 babies, as well as other patients, are at risk of dying because there is no way to power life-saving medical equip-The death toll due the Israeli occu-

pation forces besiegement and interruption of health services in Al-Shifa Hospital had increased to 20 as seven new fatalities were announced, the Gaza Strip's health authorities said on Gaza Health Ministry Spokesman

Ashraf Al-Qidra said in a press statement that seven Palestinian patients were killed due to oxygen depletion, which raised the number of deaths inside the hospital three days ago to 20 There has been no food for the rest

of the patients, medical staff, and displaced people for three days, he added. Since last night, the Israeli occupation forces escalated its violent raids on the cities of Khan Yunis and Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip, targeting several residential homes, which resulted in the death of dozens of Pales-

tinians and dozens of injuries. Medical Aid for Palestinians, a U.K.-based charity that has supported Shifa's neonatal intensive care unit, said transferring critically ill infants is complex. "With ambulances unable to reach the hospital ... and no hospital with capacity to receive them, there is no indication of how this can be done safely," CEO Melanie Ward said. She said the only option was to pause the fighting and allow in fuel.



World News Roundup

Europe

Army training efforts for Ukraine hit milestones: Battle cries pierce the smoke and rat-a-tat-tat of gunfire as Ukrainian soldiers fight through and take enemy trenches and dugouts that hide gruesome, bloody remains.
"Grenade!" one screams in Ukrainian. Another yells: "Let's

go, let's go, let's go!'

This time, no lives or limbs were lost. Because this time, the rounds fired were blanks and the "enemy" troops were, in fact, French soldiers whose intention was not to kill the Ukrainians

but instead to help shape them into better, more lethal warriors.

But soon, the war games these troops played in the mud in France will become all too real, when the Ukrainians return home and are sent to the front lines against Russia's forces.

As the Russian invasion grinds into a second winter and casualties - already estimated in the hundreds of thousands continue to mount on both sides, combat training programs provided by Ukraine's allies are helping it hold out and its odds of eventual victory. By continuing to prepare Ukrainian troops

for battle even as the Israel-Hamas war diverts global attention, Ukraine's backers also are making concrete their promises to stick with it for the long haul.

France is on course to have trained 7,000 Ukrainians this vear - some in Poland, others at French bases - as part of a European Union military assistance mission for Ukraine that launched a year ago this week.

The EU mission's initial goal was to train 15,000 soldiers, but it has far exceeded that target and now expects to hit 35,000 by the end of this year. All but three of the EU's 27 member countries, plus non-member Norway, have provided training courses or instructors, the EU Commission says. President of the European Commission is Ursula von der Leyen. (AP)

Russia ramps up attacks in eastern Ukraine: Russian forces have ramped up attacks in eastern Ukraine in an attempt to gain ground near two key front line cities, Ukrainian military officials said Sunday

Moscow's troops have begun a push to regain territory near Bakhmut, the eastern mining city that was the site of the war's bloodiest battle before falling into Russian hands in May, the head of Ukraine's ground forces wrote on the Telegram mes-

saging app.
Ukrainian troops had recaptured the heights over Bakhmut and made some advances west, north and south of the city since Kyiv launched its summer counteroffensive.

'Toward Bakhmut, the Russians have become more active and are trying to recapture previously lost positions. ... Enemy attacks are being repelled," Col Gen Oleksandr Syrskyi wrote in a Telegram update on Sunday afternoon.

A Russian Defense Ministry spokesman said Sunday that Russian forces over the previous day repelled five Ukrainian attacks near Klischiivka and Kurdyumivka, two small settlements lying south of Bakhmut. Lt Gen Igor Konashenkov

made the claim at the latest of regular press briefings.

Ukraine's long-awaited counteroffensive has so far resulted in only incremental gains and heavy losses, with Ukrainian troops struggling to punch through Russian lines in the south.

'Aid for Ukraine will be massively expanded': Germany's aid for Ukraine will be "massively expanded" next year, the foreign minister said Monday as Kyiv heads into its second winter since Russia launched its full-scale invasion.

Germany has become one of Ukraine's top military suppliers since the war started in February 2022, sending material that includes tanks, armored personnel carriers, air defense systems and Patriot missile systems.

Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said as she arrived Monday at a meeting with European Union counterparts that, even as Europe grapples with the war between Israel and Hamas, it's still important to "face the geopolitical challenge

She said that will include helping Ukraine through the coming winter months and "our support will be massively expanded for next year.'

Over the weekend, the Bild am Sonntag newspaper reported that Chancellor Olaf Scholz's governing coalition wants to increase Germany's military aid for 2024 from the 4 billion euros initially planned to 8 billion euros (\$8.5 billion). It said parliament's budget committee will need to sign off on the plan later

Indi Gregory dies: A terminally ill baby at the center of a legal battle involving her parents, British health officials and the Italian government has died, a group supporting her family

Christian Concern said Indi Gregory died in a hospice on Monday morning after her life support was withdrawn on Sun-

day.

The 8-month-old baby had suffered brain damage as the result of a rare condition known as mitochondrial disease. Her doctors said her life support should be removed to allow

her to die at a hospital or hospice. Her parents, Dean Gregory and Claire Staniforth, fought to continue life support in hopes that experimental treatments might prolong her life. The Italian government had sought permission for her to be treated at Bambino Gesu Children's Hospital in Rome and even granted the baby Italian citizenship.

Doctors argued that Indi had no awareness of her surroundings and was suffering and should be allowed to die peacefully. Repeated legal attempts, backed by Christian Concern, were rejected by British judges.

The case is the latest in a series of legal wrangles in the UK between parents and doctors over the treatment of terminally ill children. British judges have repeatedly sided with doctors in cases where the best interests of the child take precedence, even if parents object to a proposed course of treatment. (AP)

Poland's parliament meets for 1st time: The Polish

parliament is meeting for the first time on Monday after an election last month heralded a change of course for the Central European nation at a time of war across the border in Ukraine. Following a choreography determined by the constitution, President Andrzej Duda will address the ceremonial opening

of the newly elected legislature. The lawmakers will take their oaths and elect a speaker. The outgoing prime minister, Mateusz Morawiecki. must

resign with his government, though he is expected to remain as a caretaker premier, perhaps for weeks, because Duda has delayed the transition of power.

The 460 lawmakers elected to the lower house of parliament,

the Sejm, will gather at noon. The 100-seat Senate will follow with its first session later in the afternoon. Both bodies have been chosen for a four-year term. All of the lawmakers were chosen in an election on Oct 15

collectively won by pro-EU parties ranging from conservatives to the left. They ran separately but promising to work together to restore democratic norms after eight years of rule by Law and Justice, a nationalist conservative party that was in conflict with the European Union. (AP)

Greece's oppn Syriza party splits: Greece's main opposition party suffered a split Sunday when a left-wing faction announced it was breaking away, accusing the party's recently elected leader of abandoning its core ideology for a sort of "right-wing populism."

Umbrella, a faction led by Euclid Tsakalotos, a former Finance Minister during Syriza's government of 2015-19, announced its departure with a blistering statement that accused party leader Stefanos Kasselakis of "Trumpian practices (and) right-leaning populism."

The once-dominant party has been in disarray ever since its resounding defeat by conservative New Democracy in double

elections in May and June. Already in opposition since 2019, Syriza had hoped to regain power. Instead, it was roundly disavowed, falling in the most recent election to 17.8%, compared to New Democracy's 40.6%, a result that led longtime leader Alexis Tsipras to announce his resignation. (AP)



Britain's Prince William, center right, King Charles III (second right) and Princess Anne (right) during the National Service of Remembrance at The Cenotaph in London, on Nov 12. Every year, members of the British Royal family join politicians, veterans and members of the public to remember those who have died in combat.

Charles leads nat'l memorial service honoring those who died serving UK

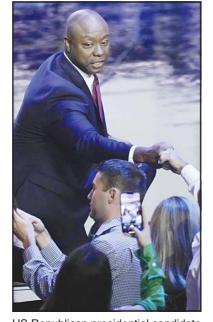
King Charles III on Sunday led a national memorial service honoring those who died serving the United Kingdom - an event that passed without incident despite fears that tensions surrounding the Israel-Hamas war might disrupt the ceremony.

London's Metropolitan Police Service deployed more than double the usual number of officers to safeguard the event and put a 24-hour guard around the national war memorial, known as the Cenotaph, to ensure it wasn't defaced.

The annual service, during which thousands of veterans paraded past the Cenotaph, came after a week of debate over calls to cancel a massive pro-Palestinian march on Saturday out of respect for the weekend's memorial events. While the march was largely peaceful, police clashed with far-right coun-

ter-protesters who tried to disrupt it. Police on Saturday arrested about 120 people They described them as mostly soccer "hooligans" from around the UK who spent the day confronting officers trying to keep them away from the march. Nine officers were injured, including two who were hospitalized.

"Recent events have served as a stark reminder that we cannot take the hard-earned peace we live in for granted, which is why I am honored to lay a wreath on behalf of the nation in the memory of all those that have lost their lives defending our country and the values we hold so close," Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said in a prepared statement. (AP)



US Republican presidential candidate Sen Tim Scott, R-S.C., greets people after a Republican presidential primary debate hosted by NBC News on Nov 8, at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County in Miami. (AP)



America

Shooting kills 1, 4 hurt: Two children and three other people were shot at a Texas flea market Sunday evening and one child later died at a hospital, police said.

Officers responded to a call of shots fired at Cole's Flea Market in the Pearland area at 5:34 pm, the Pearland Police Department posted on X, formally known as Twitter. The victims were transported to hospitals.

The shooting happened after an argument between two people who did not know each other, Officer Chad Rogers said in an evening news conference. The two people exchanged gunfire inside the market, police said. (AP)

Officer in stable condition: A Virginia State University police officer was in stable condition Sunday after being critically wounded in a shooting near campus, university officials said.

The shooting happened at about 1:30 am when an on-duty VSU police officer responded to a disturbance at the campus in Petersburg, Virginia, according to Chesterfield County police.

The suspect, who remains at large, ran off campus before shots were fired, injuring the Chesterfield police Chief Col Jeffrey

Katz said in a social media post that Vir-

ginia State Police and the FBI are assisting in the investigation. (AP)

Dozens evacuated from fire: Two people have been arrested in connection with a fire that damaged an Atlanta apart-

Politics

Biden sees hopeful signs for re-election in Dems wins

Sen Scott abruptly ends presidential bid

COLUMBIA, SC, Nov 13, (AP): US Republican presidential candidate Tim Scott abruptly announced late Sunday that he was dropping out of the 2024 race, a development that surprised his donors and stunned his campaign staff just two months before the start of voting in Iowa's leadoff GOP caucuses.

The South Carolina senator, who entered the race in May with high hopes, made the surprise announcement on Fox News Channel's "Sunday Night in America" with Trey Gowdy, one of his closest friends. The news was so unanticipated that one campaign worker told The Associated Press that campaign staff found out Scott was dropping out by watching the show.

I love America more today than I did on May 22," Scott said Sunday. "But when I go back to Iowa, it will not be as a presidential candidate. I am suspending my campaign. I think the voters who are the most remarkable people on the planet have been really clear that they're telling me, 'Not now, Tim.'

Scott's impending departure comes as he and the rest of the GOP field have struggled in a race that has been dominated by former President Donald Trump. Despite four criminal indictments and a slew of other legal challenges, Trump continues to poll far ahead of his rivals, leading many in the party to conclude the race is effectively over, barring some stunning change of

Scott, in particular, has had trouble gaining traction in the polls, despite millions spent on his behalf by highprofile donors. In his efforts to run a

ment complex and led to more than a hun-

fire happened Friday night. Firefighters

Atlanta news outlets reported that the

dred evacuations.

positive campaign, he was often overshadowed by other candidates - particularly on the debate stage, where he seemed to disappear as others sparred. It was unclear whether Scott would qualify for the upcoming fourth debate, which will require higher polling numbers and more donors.

Scott is the second major candidate to leave the race since the end of October. Former Vice President Mike Pence suspended his campaign two weeks ago, announcing at a Republican Jewish Coalition gathering in Las Vegas that "This is not my time." Pence, however, was polling behind Scott and was in a far more precarious financial position.

Scott said he wouldn't immediately be endorsing any of his remaining Republican rivals.

Endorse

"The voters are really smart," Scott said. "The best way for me to be helpful is to not weigh in on who they should endorse.'

He also appeared to rule out serving as vice president, saying the No. 2 slot "has never been on my to-do list for this campaign, and it's certainly not there now. Scott's departure leaves Nikki

Haley, Trump's first United Nations ambassador and the former South Carolina governor, as the sole South Carolinian in the race. As governor, Haley appointed Scott - then newly elected to his second US House term - to the Senate in 2012, and the fact that both were in the 2024 race had created an un-

Investigators believe the fire may have

been caused by fireworks being ignited on

comfortable situation for many of the donors and voters who had supported them both through the years. Scott's team was so surprised by his

exit that just 13 minutes before he announced his departure, his campaign sent out an email soliciting supporters for donations to further Scott's "strong leadership and optimistic, positive vision to lead our country forward.

Surrounded by dozens of Democratic donors at a glass art gallery space in Chicago last week, US President Joe Biden urged them to look beyond negative poll numbers and feel assured their donations were not being wasted.

Then Biden joked to the crowd: "I could still screw up.'

The attendees at his campaign fundraiser laughed. Yet many Democrats are fearful there is a serious disconnect between the popularity of Biden's agenda and the man himself, as the president's approval ratings remain stubbornly low and voters continue to register concerns about his age.

Some of those worries were tempered by the results of Tuesday's election, when Democrats romped to victory in Kentucky, Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania. Inside the White House, the Democrats' big night was a bright spot in an otherwise dim week as it grapples with the response to two wars and tries to minimize the president's flagging poll numbers. Just 38% of adults approve of Biden's job performance, according to a November Associated Press-NORC poll.



out hotspots.

the roof, police said.

Ukrainian infantrymen train with French soldiers to learn combat skills, in France on Nov 7. With the full-scale war grinding into a second winter, and casualties already counted in the hundreds of thousands continuing to mount on both sides, the training has become crucially important for Ukraine's chances of victory. (AP)

smoke inhalation as a result of the blaze at the Reserve at LaVista Walk apartments.

Illinois hunter dies: An Illinois hunter has died after being shot in the face by someone in his hunting party, an official with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources said Saturday.

The department said in a written state-

ment that its law enforcement arm is investigating the shooting death of Seth Egelhoff, 26, of Chesterfield, Illinois. Someone called 911 around 1 p.m.

Saturday to report that Egelhoff had been shot while hunting waterfowl in the Bays Branch Wildlife Area, just north of Panora, according to the statement. (AP)

'Take public transport': Los Ange-

les motorists should expect traffic snarls during the Monday commute as crews assess how much damage was caused by a raging fire over the weekend that closed a major elevated interstate near downtown, officials said.

Hazardous materials teams were clearing burned material from underneath Interstate 10 to make way for engineers who will ensure the columns and deck of the highway can support the 300,000 vehicles that typically travel that route daily, Gov Gavin Newsom said at a news conference Sunday. (AP)

Africa

Kenya important player

Nations to thrash out plastic pollution treaty

NAIROBI, Kenya, Nov 13, (AP): Efforts to create a landmark treaty to end global plastic pollution advance Monday in Nairobi as most of the world's nations, plus petrochemical companies, environmentalists and others affected by the pollution gather to discuss draft language for the first time.

It's the third gathering in a compressed five-meeting schedule intended to complete negotiations by the end of next year.

Power dynamics and positions became clear in the first two rounds of talks in Paris and Punta del Este, Uruguay and echo some of the same positions as in international climate talks, and with good reason - many of the players are the same. Plastic is largely made from crude oil and natural gas, giving oil-producing

countries and companies a large stake in any treaty.



Global negotiators last met in Paris in June and agreed to produce initial treaty text before reconvening in Nairobi. The draft was published in early September. The UN Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution is charged with developing the first international, legally binding treaty on plastic pollution on land and at sea.

Nairobi is a significant location to host this third session, as the East African country is a global leader in fighting plastic pollution. In a groundbreaking move in 2017, Kenya banned the manufacture, sale and use of single-use plastic bags, which were hugely popular for carrying things but were also strewn across the landscape. In what is one of the strictest bans on the products, lawbreakers face fines and up to four years in jail.

Renewable

Two years later, Kenya banned single-use plastic like cutlery, straws and PET bottles from parks, forests, beaches and other protected areas. Kenya under the government of William Ruto is also an important player in environmental matters as home to United National Environment Programme headquarters. Kenya generates more than 70% of its electricity from renewable sources.

Church leaders throughout Africa issued an open letter this month through the charity Tearfund saying that Africa faces "mountains of plastic pollution, dumped or burnt," and called on their delegates to continue to speak out boldly "for a treaty which delivers change for our most vulnerable brothers and sisters.

In Nairobi, Norway and Rwanda are leading a "high ambition coalition" of governments that want to end plastic pollution by 2040 by cutting production and limiting some chemicals used in making plastics.

Saudi Arabia, on the other hand, is leading a group of countries that have large petroleum industries and prefer to focus on recycling and waste management. This coalition wants nations to set their own action plans instead of across-the-board limits.

Can Idi Amin be rehabilitated?: The question is animating some in this East African country two decades after the death of one of Africa's most infamous leaders.

Amin, who took power by force in Uganda in 1971 and ruled until he was removed by armed groups of exiles in 1979, died in Saudi Arabia in 2003. His passing was barely acknowledged in Uganda, and some of Amin's supporters over the years have unsuccessfully lobbied for his remains to be returned home, underscoring his tainted legacy.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, whose rebel group was among those that ousted Amin with the help of Tanzanian troops, regularly dismisses Amin, and once even described him as "a primitive dictator." There are no monuments to Amin in Kampala, the capital, where not even a street is named after him.

But some Ugandans want to change that - not to emphasize Amin's tyrannical rule but to highlight any positive aspects of it, including what they say was his commitment to local industry as well as African solidarity. They have incited fierce debate over Amin's legacy at a time when many Ugandans are hungry for political change after nearly four decades of Museveni's presidency. Museveni, in power since 1986, has not said when he would retire.

The effort to memorialize Amin is led by a former lawmaker from Amin's home region who asserts that Amin was defamed by international reporters who sometimes falsified stories about him. He says Amin deserves a more balanced verdict but he faces resistance from those who say Amin should just be forgotten.

EU condemns escalation of violence in Darfur: The European Union Sunday condemned the recent "dramatic escalation of violence in Darfur."

According to credible eyewitness reports more than a thousand members of the Masalit community were killed in Ardamta, West Darfur, in just over two days, during major attacks carried out by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and its affiliated militias, said EU High Representative Josep Borrell in a statement.

These latest atrocities are seemingly part of a wider ethnic cleansing campaign conducted by the RSF with the aim to eradicate the non-Arab Masalit community from West Darfur, and comes on top of the first wave of large violence in June," he said.

The EU is working together with the International Criminal Court and other international partners to monitor and document human rights violations in order to ensure accountability of the perpetrators and contribute to ending the culture of impunity in Sudan, said Borrell.

Floods kill at least 31 in Somalia: Floods caused by torrential rainfall have killed at least 31 people in various parts of Somalia, authorities said Sunday.

Since October, floods have displaced nearly half a million people and disrupted the lives of over 1.2 million people, Minister of Information Daud Aweis told reporters in the capital Mogadishu. They have also caused extensive damage to civilian infrastructure notably in the Gedo region of southern Somalia, he said.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, or OCHA, which has given \$25 million to help mitigate the impact of flooding, warned in a statement Thursday of "a flood event of a magnitude statistically likely only once in 100 years, with significant anticipated humanitarian impacts.'

"While all possible preparatory measures are being pursued, a flood of this magnitude can only be mitigated and not prevented," OCHA said, recommending "early warning and early action" to save lives as "largescale displacement, increased humanitarian needs and further destruction of property remain likely.'



Former Philippine Senator Leila de Lima issues a statement to reporters after she goes out of the Muntinlupa City trial court on Nov 13, 2023 in Muntinlupa, Philippines. (AP)



In this photo provided by the South Korea Defense Ministry, US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, (left), and his South Korean counterpart Shin Won-sik shake hands for a photo ahead of the 55th Security Consultative Meeting (SCM) at the defense ministry in Seoul, South Korea, Monday, Nov. 13, 2023. (AP)



Lat/Am

'Road blockades to be suspended': Indigenous anti-mining protesters that have paralyzed Panama's key roadways for weeks said they will temporarily suspend blockades for 12 hours Monday as a show of good faith to citizens affected by the demonstrations.

Demonstrators are demanding the Panamanian government annul a contract allowing the Canadian mining company First Quantum Minerals to continue operating an open-pit copper mine in a richly biodiverse

Roads will be opened from 6 am to 6 pm Monday, at least in northern Panama, to allow people to access fuel and food, after shortages in many regions caused by the blockades, said Juan de Dios Camaño, secretary general of the Association of Chiricano Educators

"The war isn't the people against the people. The war is against these criminals we have in the government," he said in a video posted to the group's Instagram account. He said the protest would resume in full force after the 12-hour suspension.

The protests erupted late last month over the contract allowing the mine to keep operating for the next 20 years, with the possibility of the company extending it for a further 20 years. (AP)

Party names candidates: Mexico's ruling party on Saturday named its candidates for eight governorships and the mayorship of Mexico City.

But after ruling out the most popular candidate for the capital, questions remain about whether the party can avoid deser-

For the moment, former capital police chief Omar García Harfuch - who won polls on the city race but was knocked out by a gender quota requiring a female candidate told local media he had no plans to leave

the party.
"We will always respect the gender quotas and the decision of our party," García Harfuch wrote in his social media accounts.

The Morena party, founded by charismatic President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, is made up of disparate elements united only by López Obrador's outsized personality, but he cannot be reelected and leaves office in ten months.

Morena already announced its nominee for the presidential race: former Mexico City mayor Claudia Sheinbaum, who is seen as an unquestioningly faithful follower of the president.

García Harfuch gained fame as a tough and effective Mexico City police chief after he survived a 2020 ambush attack by the

Asia

80 people freed from Australian migrant centers

Long-jailed Philippine ex-sen granted bail

MANILA, Philippines, Nov 13, (AP): A Philippine court on Monday ordered the release on bail of a former senator jailed more than six years ago on drug charges she said were fabricated to muzzle her investigation of then-President Rodrigo Duterte's brutal crackdown on illegal drugs. Two other non-bailable drug cases against her have been dismissed.

The European Union Parliament, some American lawmakers and United Nations human rights experts have long demanded the release of Leila de Lima, who was detained as an opposition senator in February 2017 in what they say was political persecution by Duterte and his allies and a major blow to Philippine democracy.

Duterte, whose stormy six-year term ended in June last year, insisted on her guilt, saying that witnesses testified that she received payoffs from imprisoned drug lords.

Regional Trial Court Judge Gener Gito reversed an earlier decision Monday and granted de Lima's request for bail while being tried in a final drug

Dozens of de Lima's supporters cheered after the decision was announced by the court in suburban Muntinlupa city in the capital, where armed police escorts brought her from detention in a security convoy.

"It's really an indescribable feeling. I'm starting from zero the life that they tried to destroy," de Lima told The Associated Press shortly after her bail was approved. Lawyers said they hoped she could return home on Monday.

"It's a long human rights nightmare that has ended," Catholic priest Fr Robert Reyes, a key de Lima supporter, said at the court. "But there is still a lot of work to do to exact accountability for what happened to her."

As the chief of the country's Commission on Human Rights in 2009, de Lima led an investigation into widespread killings of drug suspects under then-Mayor Duterte in southern Davao city. She failed to find any witnesses who were willing to testify publicly against the local leader. She then served as the country's justice secretary.

In 2016, Duterte won the presidency by a wide margin on an anti-crime platform and de Lima was elected to the Senate and pursued an investigation into his campaign against illegal drugs. Authorities moved early to build cases against her, obtaining tes-

Jalisco drug cartel on a street in the capital.

The brazen attack left him with three bul-

let wounds, while his two bodyguards and a

bystander were killed. (AP)

US, SKorea sharpen deterrence plans over NKorean nuke threat

SEOUL, South Korea, Nov 13, (AP): The United States and South Korea on Monday updated a bilateral security agreement with the aim of more effectively countering North Korea's evolving nuclear and missile threats.

The move followed high-level military talks in Seoul, where the allies also discussed enhancing threeway defense exercises with Japan and improving information-sharing on North Korean missile launches.

US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin was in Seoul for annual security talks with South Korean military officials, including Defense Minister Shin Won-sik, which were focused on boosting nuclear deterrence against North Korea. They also talked about how the allies could coordinate over broader geopolitical issues, including Russia on Ukraine and China's regional assertiveness, Austin said.

Tensions between the Koreas are at their highest point in years as the pace of both North Korea's weapons tests and South Korea's combined military exercises with the United States have intensified in a cycle of tit-for-tat.

During their Security Consultative Meeting, Austin and Shin signed a new version of their countries' Tailored Deterrence Strategy agreement, which was revised for the first time in a decade to address the growing threat of the North's mili-

tary nuclear program.
Shin said the new document spells out that the United States would mobilize its full range of military capabilities, including nuclear ones, to defend the South in the event of a North Korean nuclear attack. He also said the document will provide a template for the allies to strategize how South Korea could assist US nuclear operations in such events with its conventional capabilities but didn't elaborate fur-

"Our deterrence commitment to the ROK remains ironclad - that includes a full range of our nuclear. conventional and missile defense capabilities," Austin said at a news conference, referring to South Korea's formal name, the Republic of

Austin said the US deployments of major military assets to South Korea in recent months, which included a US nuclear ballistic missile submarine, a nuclear-capable B-52 bomber and aircraft carriers, demonstrated the US commitment to defense of the South. He said another US aircraft carrier battle group will travel to the region soon in a further show of force.

timonies from imprisoned drug lords, and then placed her under arrest.

According to police records, more than 6,000 mostly poor suspects were killed under Duterte's drug crackdown as president. Human rights groups say the death toll was considerably higher. The International Criminal Court has been investigating the killings in what an ICC prosecutor said could be a case of crimes against humanity.

Also:

CANBERRA, Australia: Eighty people, including convicted criminals considered dangerous, have been released from Australian migrant detention centers since the High Court ruled last week that their indefinite detention was unconstitutional, the immigration minister said Monday

A member of Myanmar's persecuted Rohingya Muslim minority won freedom Wednesday when the court outlawed his indefinite detention.

Australia has been unable to find any country willing to resettle the man, identified only as NZYQ, because he had been convicted of raping a 10-year-old boy, and authorities consider him a danger to the Australian community. The court overturned a 2004 High

Court precedent set in the case of a Palestinian man. Ahmed Al-Kateb. that found stateless people could be held indefinitely in detention.

Immigration Minister Andrew Giles said NZYQ is one of 80 people

who had been detained indefinitely and have been freed since Wednesday's

Dentist fatally shot patient: A surgical dentist in Puerto Rico fatally shot a patient who entered his office Friday and allegedly assaulted the dentist and his secretary, police said



Pakistani laborers, mostly women, sort through empty bottles at a plastic recycling factory in Hyderabad, Pakistan, April 30. Efforts to create a landmark treaty to end global plastic pollution advance on Nov 13 in Nairobi as most of the world's nations, plus petrochemical companies, environmentalists and others affected by the pollution gather to discuss draft language for the first time. (AP)

The 41-year-old victim was reportedly upset about recent dental work he had done, a police statement said.

The incident occurred in the north coastal town of Manati, which is west of San Juan, the capital of Puerto Rico.

No further details were immediately available. Police said the case was under investiga-

tion and no charges had been filed. (AP)

Poor medical care in women's jail: A women's prison in Mexico plagued by

food poisoning and poor medical care has now been hit by a wave of eight suicides in the last 4 1/2 months, authorities confirmed. The federal prisons bureau confirmed the suicides in a statement, and said it was taking steps to improve the situation at the

women's prison in the state of Morelos, south of Mexico City.

The office said it had changed prison managers and increased sports, cultural and handicraft activities for the prison's approx-

imately 1,000 inmates. Reports from earlier this year found that conditions were harsh at the prison, with inmates often served rotting food. The governmental National Human Rights Commission said 400 inmates suffered food poison-

ing in outbreaks in 2022. That report said the women were not given appropriate medical care after falling ill; many were not given medications because none were available. (AP)

bonds

The Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) announced most recent issues of CBK Bonds and related Tawarruq at a total value of KWD (240) millions for (6) months with Rate of Return (4.500%).

KOC valve issue impacts output

The Kuwait Integrated Petro-leum Industries Company (KI-PIC) announced Sunday that a sudden interruption of fuel gas supplies to the Zour Refinery due to a technical problem in one of the main valves of the Kuwait Oil Company led to an almost total halt of production

operations at the refinery. In a press statement, the KI-PIC pointed out that technical teams at the refinery are working to restart operation of the productions units gradually. It will take approximately ten

days to return to the previous

production levels, it expected. The KIPIC affirmed that it is taking all necessary measures to ensure supplies of low-sulfur fuel to power generation stations and water desalination plants as well as the refinery products exportation would not be affected. (KUNA) Aramco has been recognized on the world stage for its adoption of Internet of Things (IoT) and Artificial Intel-

ligence (AI) technology.

The company's A'amer platform, which revolutionized the management of residential and commercial facilities and services at the company's Dhahran headquarters, won the Infrastructure & Building Award at the World Smart City Awards in Spain.

The awards event took place at the Smart City Expo World Congress on Wednesday, November 8, in Barcelona. Aramco's award for A'amer, which elevates urban living through integrated citywide services, was collected by the company's Community Services

Aramco wins global award

Talal Al Marri, Aramco Senior Vice President of Community Services, said: "We are thrilled to be recognized on the world stage for our work in smart city development, which is essential to meet the changing needs and expectations of urban communities. Our aim is to provide not only basic services like transportation and utilities but also a range of amenities and services that enhance people's quality of life. As our understanding of cities evolves, so too must their infrastructure to reflect an increasingly interconnected, technology-driven and more sustainable way of living." (Business Wire)

Market Movements 13-11-2023

Change Closing pts UAE +13.65 - Nikkei JAPAN +17.00 **EGYPT** - EGX 30 +44.30 **PAKISTAN** - KSE 100 +1,127.05

3,982.93 32,585.11 23,954.96 56,526.71

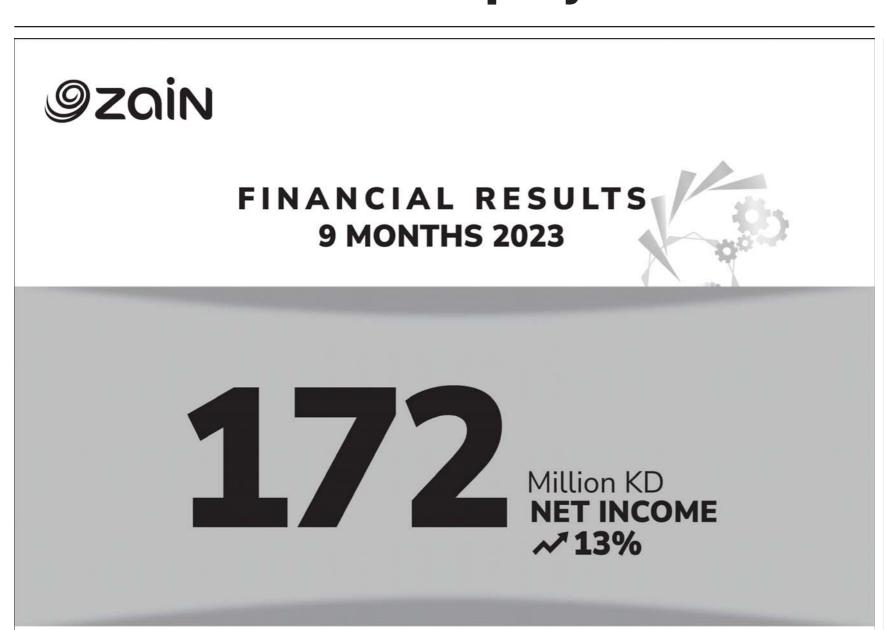
SAUDI - Tadawul PHILLIPINES - PSEi

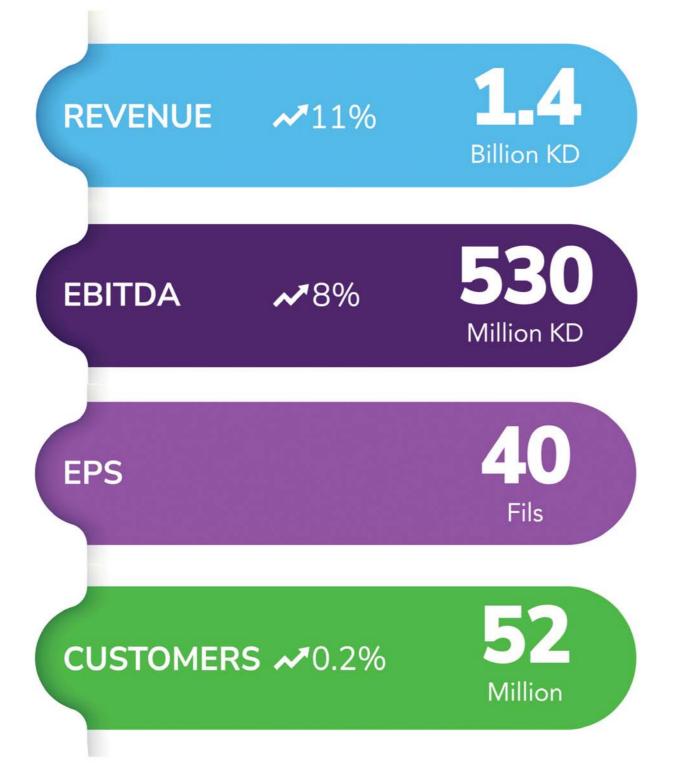
Change Closing pts -43.89 10,789.75 6,116.14

Business

Operating profit up by 64.6% to reach KD 6.4 million

Kuwait Insurance Company achieves KD10.7 mln profit





KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: Kuwait Insurance Company announced the financial results for the first nine months of the current year, where the profit for the current period amounted to KD 10.7 million (USD 34.7 million), with Earnings Per Share of 57.8 fils (US Cents 18.8). Upon applying the new accounting standard IFRS 9, the net profit for the current period is KD 9.6 million (USD 31.2 million) as shown in

(USD 3.6 million) which is ings for the current period, compared to KD 9.5 million (USD 31.2 million)

with Earnings Per Share of 51.8fils (US cents 16.8) for

Sami Sharif, CEO the same period last year. Retained earnings for the current period increased to KD 77.5 million (USD 251.6 million) compared to KD 74.7 million(USD 242.5 million) for the same period last year, which shows an increase of 3.7% and

the income statement, in addition to KD 1.1 million

shown in the retained earn-

the company has zero debt. The Gross Written Premium for the current period amounted to KD 42.4 million (USD 137.7 million) compared to KD 39.7 million (USD 128.8million) for the same period last year, which shows an increase of KD 2.7 million (USD 8.8 million), equal to 6.8%.

Insurance and reinsurance expenses decreased to KD 25.9 million (USD 84.1 million) for the current period from KD 26.7 million (USD 86.8 million) for the same period last year, which shows a decrease of 3%.

The Operating Profit for the current period amounted to KD 6.4 million (USD 20.8 million) for the current period compared to KD 3.9 million (USD 12.7 million) for the same period last year, which shows an increase of KD 2.5 million (USD 8.1 million), equal to 64%

Mr. Sami Sharif, CEO, stated that,to make them comparable, the new accounting standard IFRS 17 has been applied to the results of the first nine months of this year, as well as, to the results of the first nine months of last year, retrospectively, so that they are comparable. Mr. Sharif, who is also an actuarial expert, added that the implementation of the new accounting standard may lead to the fluctuations in profit that may be positive or negative, during the first two years, and these fluctuations will decrease and gradually nor malize by the end of the second year of its implementation.

Mr. Sharif also said that, the successes we are achieving are the results of the huge effort made in the previous years to build the foundation, which has enabled us to enjoy the sustainable growth in profits and in premiums. The company has won the award for the "Most Financially Stable Insurance company" in Kuwait for the year 2023, from the "The Global Economics" magazine, the institution specialized in issuing annual classifications in the fields of economics and business. In addition to this, the "International Finance" magazine awarded the company as the "Best Company in General Insurance" for the year 2023.

Mr. Sharif mentioned that in addition to the sales and profits, the company still maintains the Credit Ratings from AM Best and Moody's credit rating agencies as A- (Excellent) and A3 respectively, both with a stable outlook and we are proud in continuing with these ratings as we lead among the various local and regional companies of the insurance sector.

We still look forward to accomplishing a lot in the coming period to enable the company to face the challenges in the future that may arise from regional and global developments. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed in achieving our goals, including the Board of Directors, the shareholders, and the company's

Modest increase of 0.1%

Gold nears three-week low on dollar strength

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: On Monday, gold prices approached a three-week low, influenced by the strengthening dollar, while investors eagerly awaited U.S. inflation data to glean further insights into the future trajectory of interest rates in the world's largest economy, reports Al-Seyassah

The detailed price movements unfolded as follows: **Gold Spot Transactions:**

Gold saw a modest increase of 0.1 percent in spot transactions, reaching \$1,938.12 per ounce by 07:14 GMT. The incremental rise reflected the cautious sentiment prevailing in the market ahead of key economic indicators. U.S. Gold Futures:

U.S. gold futures experienced a more noticeable 0.3 percent uptick, reaching \$1,942.50. This futures market movement hinted at a degree of optimism or positioning among

traders amid the prevailing uncertainties. **Weekly Gold Performance:** Last week's gold performance was notable, with a 2.8 percent decline marking its poorest weekly showing in over a month. The slump was primarily attributed to statements by U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome

Powell, which tempered expectations of potential interest rate reductions. **Analyst Insights:**

Nicholas Vrabel, a representative of ABC Refinery, emphasized the market's current focus on whether the forthcoming Consumer Price Index (CPI) data would influence the Federal Reserve to either pause or raise interest rates. Consequently, he noted that market movements remain relatively subdued as investors await this pivotal

Upcoming Consumer Price Data:

The eagerly anticipated release of consumer price data in the United States is scheduled for tomorrow, Tuesday. This economic indicator is expected to provide crucial insights into inflation trends, which could, in turn, influence the Federal Reserve's monetary policy decisions.

A Wonderful World zain.com

Zain Group 9M 2023 net income up 13% to KD 172m

Revenues up 11% to reach KD 1.4 bn (USD 4.6 bn)

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: Zain Group, a leading provider of innovative technologies and digital lifestyle communications operating in eight markets across the Middle East and Africa, announces its consolidated financial results for the nine-month (9M) and third-quarter (Q3) periods ended 30 September, 2023, serving 52 million custom-

For 9M 2023, Zain generated consolidated revenue of KD 1.4 billion (USD 4.6 billion), up 11% year-on-year (YoY), while consolidated EBITDA for the period reached KD 530 million (USD 1.7 billion), up 8% YoY, reflecting an EBITDA margin of 37%. Consolidated net income increased 13% YoY, amounting to KD 172 million (USD 561 million). Earnings per share amounted to 40 fils (USD 0.13) for the nine-month period.

In Q3 2023, Zain generated consolidated revenue of KD 485 million (USD 1.6 billion), up 10% YoY. EBITDA for the quarter reached KD 183 million (USD 594 million), an increase of 7% YoY, reflecting a 38% EBITDA margin. Net income for the three months amounted to KD 60 million (USD 196 million), a 11% increase YoY. Earnings per share for Q3 amounted to 14 fils (USD 0.05).

The robust consolidated results for the 9M 2023 is mainly attributable to the strong performances of all operations; the gains achieved from the sale and leaseback of towers in key markets; successful groupwide cost optimization initiatives and price revamp programs; the monetization and growth of consumer digital and fintech services; as well as ZainTECH and B2B initiatives building on strategic partnerships and exploiting the investments made in ICT entities, 4G, 5G and Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) expansion and upgrades.

Key Operational Notes for 9M 2023

1. The interim cash dividend of 10 fils totaling KD 43.3 million (USD 140 million) was distributed in September

2. The 9M period highlighted by net income increases of 38% YoY in Zain Kuwait; 234% YoY in Zain Saudi Arabia; 561% YoY in Zain Iraq; 14% YoY in Zain Jordan and 8% YoY in Sudan

3. Data revenue grew 8% YoY to reach USD 1.8 billion representing 39% of consolidated revenue

4. Zain invested USD 275 million in CAPEX, mainly in FTTH; spectrum fees; 4G and 5G upgrades

5. Zain entered exclusive negotia-

tions with Ooredoo Group and UAE based TASC Towers Holding to combine approximately 30,000 telecom tower assets in Qatar, Kuwait, Algeria, Tunisia, Iraq, and Jordan into a jointly owned independent tower company in a cash and share deal

6. The tower infrastructure sale and leaseback deal in KSA, Kuwait and Iraq generated net gains totaling USD 217 million for the nine-month period. 7. ZainTECH enters agreement to acquire STS, a leading digital transformation solutions provider

8. Digital services including Dizlee API platform witness revenue growth of 10% for 9M

9. Digital operators 'Yaqoot' in KSA, 'oodi' in Iraq record revenue growth of 93% & 275% respectively

10. Zain KSA in partnership with Red Sea Global, launched the world's first zero-emission 5G network in The Red Sea powered entirely by renewable energy

11. Launch of Thought Leadership Report entitled 'Building Inclusive Societies Through Connectivity

Chairman of the Board of Directors of Zain Group, Mr. Osamah Al Furaih said.

"Our operations have shown great resilience in overcoming many headwinds as the board continues to work closely with management on all facets of the business, including the development of new business verticals in the digital space and vast network upgrades. In parallel, our focus on implementing comprehensive ESG practices is complementing our mission to enhance sustainable shareholder value."

"On the back of these robust results combined with our strong balance sheet and financial solvency, and in accordance with our declared 35 fils per share minimum dividend policy for three years starting 2023, on September 14th, we distributed 10 fils per share as interim dividends for the third consecutive year to shareholders. This amounted to KD 43.3 million (USD140m).'

"We are mindful of the challenges faced by our operation in Sudan with the ongoing social unrest. We are supporting the local management team to safeguard our people and commercial operations to ensure the community stays connected, and hope that the conflict will end soon. Furthermore, through our internal BE WELL mental well-being program, we are supporting our people emotionally impacted by the ongoing regional conflict by providing various resources including professional therapy, creation of a communication platform offering advice and well-being checks from our Mental Health First Aiders team.'

"With distinct merit, we recognize the various government authorities in Kuwait and across our markets for creating a conducive environment that supports the telecom sector and empowers Zain to provide meaning-ful connectivity and drive systemic



Osamah Al Furaih - Chairman of the Board of Directors of Zain Group



Bader Al-Kharafi - Zain Vice-Chairman and Group CEO

	Group Key Performance Indicators (KD and USD) for third-quarter (Q3) 2023		
	Consolidated Revenue	KD 485 million - USD 1.6 billion	
	EBITDA	KD 183 million - USD 594 million	
	EBITDA Margin	38%	
	Net Income	KD 60 million - USD 196 million	
	EPS	14 fils - USD 0.05	

change across the communities, businesses, and governments we serve."

Zain Vice-Chairman and Group CEO, Bader Al-Kharafi commented,

Despite the many socio-economic and competitive challenges across our markets, the impressive 9M financial performance reflects the implementation of our value-creative '4Sight' strategy in propelling efficiencies, digital transformation and revenue growth. The remarkable operational performance of all our key markets s very gratifying and testament to the coherence between the Group and local management teams in driving synergies and growing the business

through multiple initiatives.' "Zain is witnessing the maturing of its ZainTECH and B2B arm, digital operators in KSA and Iraq, fintech operations and digital services across various markets, which are developing to become compelling businesses in their own right, as monetization from these strategic activities is significantly

"In Kuwait, we are very optimistic of the potential of marketing partnership with Red Bull Mobile, bringing together Zain's superior telecom expertise with the adventurous world of Red Bull. Targeting the youth, we are offering appealing options for prepaid voice and internet services. We will foster this partnership and our other digital operators in KSA (Yaqoot) and Iraq (oodi), as we continue to stay ahead of the digital curve, offering the latest innovative technologies and services to customers.'

"Our exclusive negotiations with Ooredoo and TASC Towers Holding into a jointly owned independent tower company are continuing. This is a milestone development that raises the notion of collaboration and regionali-

zation to an entirely new level. "The establishment of 'Zain Omantel International' (ZOI), is revolutionizing the telecommunications

wholesale landscape serving regional operators, international carriers, and global hyperscalers. The team is innovating and creating new growth opportunities, with Zain and Omantel customers benefiting from quality internet connectivity, voice, roaming, and messaging. We are very enthusiastic of ZOI's strategic growth roadmap in creating value for all stakeholders.

"ZainTECH's spectacular debut at GITEX 23 last month was very instrumental in firmly placing the fastgrowing entity on the regional ICT enterprise map. The agreement to acquire Jordan headquartered STS, comes 20 years after Zain's first regional expansion into the Kingdom. The STS talented team, years of expertise and impressive customer base, will amplify ZainTECH and Zain B2B teams' capabilities to provide clients with cutting-edge and comprehensive digital transformation solutions, solidifying our position as leaders in the industry and driving digital transformation across the region.

"Zain FinTech, our financial services arm agreement with Al Ansari Financial Services sets the stage for an exciting partnership that will leverage the strengths of both companies to drive innovation, harness technologies and transform financial services delivery to cater to our evolving customer needs. We aim to expand our fintech service offerings to advance the region's digital ecosystem and will continue pushing the boundaries, leveraging on the vast network of strategic partners in each of our markets."

Operational review of key markets for the nine months ended 30 September, 2023

Kuwait: Maintaining its market leadership in all areas, Zain Group's flagship operation saw its customer base grow by 1% to serve 2.6 million customers. The Group's most profitable operation saw its 9M 2023 reve-



Zain HQ building

Group Key Performance Indicators (KD and USD)			
for the	for the first nine months (9M) 2023		
Consolidated Revenue	KD 1.4 billion	- USD 4.6 billion	
EBITDA	KD 530 million	- USD 1.7 billion	
EBITDA Margin	37%		
Net Income	KD 172 million	- USD 561 million	
EPS	40 fils	- USD 0.13	

nue grew 2% to reach KD 264 million (USD 859 million), EBITDA grew 26% to reach KD 124 million (USD 405 million), representing an EBITDA margin of 47%. Net income grew 38% to reach KD 84 million (USD 275 million), mainly due to the successful number range fees litigation of KD 24.68 million (USD 80.3 m). Data revenue represents 38% of total revenue.

Saudi Arabia: For the 9M 2023, Zain KSA revenue grew 10% to reach USD 2.0 billion, EBITDA for the period grew 5% and reached USD 627 million, reflecting an EBITDA margin of 32%. Net income for the nine months grew 224% to reach USD 259 million. Data revenue rose by 2% to represent 40% of total revenue and customers served stood at 8.9 million, a growth of 4%. The impressive net income is attributed to the increase in revenue driven by the growth in B2B, Yaqoot, TAMAM, and 5G revenues as well as the gain from the sale of its Tower network to the Kingdom's PIF.

Iraq: Zain Iraq's 9M 2023 revenue grew by 19% to reach USD 713 million and EBITDA grew by 11% to reach USD 268 million, reflecting EBITDA margin of 38%. Net income increased six-fold to reach USD 64 million for 9M 2023 driven by increased revenues and sale of its Tower network. The operator's customer base stood at 18 million customers, maintaining its market leading position.

Sudan: For 9M 2023, Zain Sudan generated revenue of USD 435 million (up 28%), with EBITDA amounting to USD 215 million (up 20%), reflecting an EBITDA margin of 49%. Net income reached USD 189 million, an 8% increase in USD terms. Data revenue grew 41% YoY and represented 35% of total revenue, while the operator's customer base reached 15.6 million, maintaining its market leadership.

Jordan: For 9M 2023, Zain Jordan revenue increased by 3% to USD 394 million, EBITDA reached USD 162 million, reflecting a healthy EBITDA margin of 41%, with net income reaching USD 58 million, an increase of 14% YoY. With the ongoing expansion of 5G services across the country, data revenue represented 50% of total revenue. Zain Jordan served 4 million customers (up 4%) maintaining its market leading position.

Bahrain: Zain Bahrain generated revenue of USD 143 million for 9M 2023 (7% growth). EBITDA reached USD 44.3 million, reflecting an EBIT-DA margin of 31%. The company reported a net income of USD 12 million, for 9M 2023.

About Zain Group: Zain is a leading telecommunications operator across the Middle East and Africa, serving 52.0 million active customers as of 30 September 2023. With a commercial presence in 8 countries, Zain provides mobile voice and data services in: Kuwait, Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and South Sudan. Headquartered in the UAE, ZainTECH, the Group's one-stop digital and ICT solutions provider, is playing a key role in the transformation of enterprise and government clientele across the MENA region. Also UAE based, Zain Omantel International (ZOI) is revolutionizing the international telecommunications wholesale landscape as the premier wholesale powerhouse serving regional operators, international carriers, and global hyperscalers. In Morocco, Zain has a 15.5% stake in 'INWI', through a joint venture. Zain is listed on the Boursa Kuwait (stock ticker: ZAIN). We recommend the Investor Community to download the "Zain Group Investor Relations" Mobile App. For more, please email info@zain.com or visit: www.zain.com; www.facebook.com/ zain; www.twitter.com/zain; www. voutube.com/zain; www.instagram. com/zaingroup; www.linkedin.com/ company/zain

Aviation bounces back after groundings

Emirates opens Dubai Air Show with \$52 billion Boeing purchase

DUBAI, Nov 13, (AP): Long-haul carrier Emirates opened the Dubai Air Show with a \$52 billion purchase of Boeing Co. aircraft, showing how aviation has bounced back after the groundings of the coronavirus pandemic, even as Israel's war with Hamas clouds regional security.

Its low-cost sister airline, Fly-Dubai, followed up with an \$11 billion order of 30 Boeing 787-9 Dreamliners, the first wide-body aircraft in its fleet. Both sales together marked a significant win for the Virginia-based Boeing Co. out of the gates on the first day of the air show, as airlines appear poised for even more billiondollar deals this year.

Emirates made the announcement witnessed by the crown prince of Dubai, Sheikh Hamad bin Mohammed Al Maktoum, at a news conference Monday afternoon. Emirates CEO and Chairman Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum said the deal would see the carrier purchase 90 Boeing 777 aircraft, 55 of them its 777-9 variants and 35 of them 777-8s.

Emirates will also add an additional five aircraft 787 Dreamliners to a previous order of 30 aircraft, Sheikh Saeed said.

"This is a long-term commitment that supports hundreds of thousands of jobs, not only at Boeing but also throughout the global aviation supply chain," he said. "The 777 is at the center of Emirates' strategy to connect cities on all continents nonstop to Dubai.'

Stan Deal, an executive vice president at Boeing, praised the deal.

"All these products point to the fu-

ture of Emirates," Deal said. Emirates officials stressed that FlyDubai's order was separate from the long-haul carrier. It represents a major change for FlyDubai, which to this point has only flown Boeing 737 single-aisle aircraft on shorter distances

Both Deal and Sheikh Saeed left the news conference without taking questions, which represented a departure from previous Dubai Air

The air show this year comes amid the Israel-Hamas war, as well as Russia's war on Ukraine, which will likely influence the five-day show at Al Maktoum Airport at Dubai World Central. It is the city-state's second airfield after Dubai International Airport, which is the world's busiest



for international travel and the home base for Emirates.

While commercial aviation takes much of the attention, arms manufacturers also have exhibitions at the show. Two major Israeli firms - Rafael Advanced Defense Systems Ltd. and Israel Aerospace Industries had been slated to participate.

But the IAI stand, bearing the slogan "Where Courage Meets Technology," was roped off and empty Monday morning as people poured into the show. A stand for Rafael handed out coffee, though there were no salespeople there. A request for comment left with an attendant there was not immediately returned.

Rafael also sponsored a meeting of air force commanders Sunday at a luxury Dubai hotel, highlighting the balancing act being struck by the UAE amid anger in the Arab world over the Israel-Hamas war.

The UAE, a federation of seven sheikhdoms, established diplomatic relations with Israel in 2020.

The firm Russian Helicopters had listed their staff would be on hand for the air show after appearing at the Abu Dhabi arms fair earlier this year despite being sanctioned by the U.S. and others over Moscow's attack on Ukraine. ROSCOSMOS, the Russian state space company, is also at the

Meanwhile at the show, an Associated Press journalist saw Gen. Khalifa Hifter, who leads the self-styled Libyan National Army and controls that north African nation's east and

Global aviation is booming after the coronavirus pandemic saw worldwide lockdowns and aircraft grounded - particularly at Al Maktoum Airport, which served for months as a parking lot for Emirates double-decker Airbus 380s.

Air traffic is now at 97% of pre-COVID levels, according to the International Air Transport Association. Middle Eastern airlines, which supply key East-West routes for global travel, saw a 26.6% increase in September traffic compared to a year earlier, IATA says.

Emirates, a main economic engine for Dubai amid its booming real estate market, announced record halfyear profits of \$2.7 billion Thursday. That is up from \$1.2 billion for the same period last year, potentially putting the airline on track for another record-breaking year. The airline says it has repaid some \$2.5 billion of the loans it received during the height of the pandemic to stay afloat.

Also in the market for aircraft is Riyadh Air, a new Saudi carrier being created as part of trillions of dollars worth of spending planned in the kingdom. In March, the airline announced an order of up to 72 Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner jetliners and has further plans to expand.

Turkish Airlines may also make a record-shattering purchase of 355 aircraft from Airbus, including 250 A321neo aircraft, according to the state-run Anadolu news agency.

By Monday afternoon, Boeing Co. announced that SunExpress, an airline jointly owned by Turkish Airlines and Lufthansa, made a commitment to purchase up to 90 singleaisle Boeing 737 MAX aircraft. The deal includes 28 Boeing 737-8s and 17 Boeing 737-10s models, as well as the opportunity for another 45 Boeing 737 MAX aircraft. The companies did not offer a dollar figure for

France's poorest island is 'parched' because of drought, underinvestment

MAMOUDZOU, Mayotte, Nov 13, (AP): Drop by disappearing drop, water is an ever more precious resource on Mayotte, the poorest place in the European Union. Taps flow just one day out of three in this French territory off Africa's eastern coast, because of a drawn-out drought compounded by years of underinvestment and water mismanagement.

Diseases like cholera and typhoid are on the rebound, and the French army recently intervened to distribute water and quell tensions over supplies. The crisis is a wakeup call to the French government about the challenges and cost of managing human-caused climate change across France's far-flung territories.

Racha Mousdikoudine, a 38-yearold mother of two living in Labatoir, washes dishes with bottled water, when she can get it. When the water taps run, she says, "I have to choose between taking a shower or preserving my wa-

"This shortage will be global in a few years. This is an opportunity for all French people to stand in solidarity with us. To be with us, to find solutions and make visible the situation happening in Mayotte," she said. "Because this can

happen in all French departments." She is helping coordinate a protest movement called "Mayotte is Thirsty" that is demanding accountability for alleged embezzling, leaks and lack of investment in sustainable water supplies. At one recent protest, residents sang, shouted and banged empty plastic bottles as they marched into the Mayotte water management company.

The government is pinning its hopes on the upcoming rainy season, though residents say it won't be enough to fix the deep-seated water problems. On a crisis visit last week, France's minister for overseas territories thanked the people of Mayotte for "accepting the unacceptable.

The water taps determine the rhythm of life in Mayotte, an island territory of about 350,000 people northwest of Madagascar.

Once every three days, water flows between 4 p.m. and 10 a.m. Families rush to prepare food, wash dishes, clean their homes and anything else involving water. Those living in Mayotte's poorer neighborhoods without plumbing line up at public taps with paint buckets, plastic jerrycans, reused bottles - anything to collect water.

Then for 48 hours, they're dry again. "It is important to keep talking with the authorities, but we are not going to sit idly by," said Mousdikoudine. "If we stay at home, politicians will still say that the population is resilient, that we can manage this situation. But we cannot do it, lives are at stake, our physical and mental health, as well as our children's lives."

The most disadvantaged communities are hit the hardest by the water crisis in Mayotte, where the population is majority Black and many are struggling migrants from neighboring Comoros facing a new government crackdown.

Previously, water was among Mayotte's rare riches. The mountainous and forested district of Combani, in central Mayotte, is full of springs and interspersed with rivers. The reservoirs of Combani, and Dzoumogne further north, provide 80% of the water distributed on the island.

Now the bare banks of the reservoir at Combani are cracked by the sun. Its capacity is 1.75 million cubic meters, but it now stands only 10% full. The Dzoumogne reservoir is at 6.5% capacity.

Mayotte is in its sixth year of drought, and just had its driest year since 1997, according to the national weather service. Scientists say humaninduced climate change has made drought more frequent and extreme in some parts of the world.

But even without drought, Mayotte's water system wasn't capable of fulfilling local needs.

Overseas Affairs Minister Philippe Vigier said during a visit last week that 850 leaks have been spotted since September. Residents regularly film facilities of water network management company Smae, a subsidiary of big French utility Vinci, spewing water into the void and share them online.

And only one new water borehole, delivering a few hundred cubic meters per day, has been put into service so far as part of an ambitious "Marshall Plan" for water announced in September.

The local water union blames the water rationing on lack of production capacity, not lack of water.

The central government is promising emergency work on drilling for new springs, the renovation of a desalination plant, and extending state distribution of bottled water to all residents and not just the most vulnerable.

Residents worry it won't come fast enough, and have heard such promises before. The desalination plant has already faced years of delays, missed deadlines and allegations of pocketed

It doesn't have to be this way.

In the neighboring Comoros, with a similar volcanic terrain and wet and dry seasons, the U.N. Development Program has a \$60 million water management project aimed at better capturing rainwater and tracking usage.

What's On

Event well-organized and first of its kind in Kuwait

Rhetorics celebrates 1st-year anniversary with public speaking competition

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: Rhetorics - Public Speaking Academy in Kuwait commemorated their firstyear anniversary by organizing a Public Speaking Competition for their students on 10th November at Contemporary Art Platform auditorium in Shuwaikh. Eighty-five people, including parents, students, and well-wishers, attended the inaugural tournament and the event was well-organized & first of its kind in Kuwait.

Students participated in 5 Categories – Story Telling for Kids aged 6 to 7 years, Prepared Speeches for Tweens aged 8 to 10 years, Prepared Speeches for Teens aged 11 &above, Impromptu Speaking & Debate Competition for mixed age groups.

Awareness

Most of the topics were related to 17 UN Sustainable Goals -Creating awareness for Poverty, Hunger etc. Winning Speeches in Tweens Category (aged 8 to 10 years) was Miss Rua Iyer who spoke about the Impact of Poverty while in Teens Category (aged 11 & above), Miss Ishanvi won the first place for her speech about facing our F.E.A.R.

Miss Amanda won the first place in Storytelling category, Mr. Jayden won the first place in Impromptu Speech category while Mr. Aditya & Mr. Rehan won the first place in Debate Category.

Ms. Amreen Bano was the Master of Ceremony, and she engaged the audience throughout the evening with her energy and enthusiasm.

The founder of Rhetorics, Mr. Raajesh Venugopal, gave the welcoming speech. He focused on the value of fostering confidence, ex-



Participants of the public speaking competition pose for a group photo during the awarding ceremony.

pressing emotions, and the benefits of public speaking for improving students' educational experiences.

The Contemporary Art Platform's excellent auditorium and appealing culture complemented the hard work

of all the participants who produced a high-caliber performance. Rhetorics is a Public Speaking

academy based in Kuwait that specializes on teaching children and teenagers between the ages of five ing.

and seventeen how to effectively communicate through public speak-

3,368 children took part in the competition

Kala (Art) Kuwait holds NIRAM 2023 Children's Day Painting Competition on Online Platform 4 reasons teens take part

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: Kala (Art) Kuwait conducted "NIRAM 2023" Children's Day Painting Competition on Online Platform, on Friday, 10th November 2023 at 2 pm. Students from more than 26 Indian Schools in Kuwait have taken part in the painting

"NIRAM-2023" the popular painting competition conducted on the occasion of Children's Day celebration by marking the 134th birthday of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the First Prime Minister of India. Kala (Art) Kuwait is delighted to celebrate its 19th Anniversary of "NIRAM" Painting Competition which was opened for all students of Indian Schools in Kuwait. There were 4182 online entries out of which 3,368 children took part in this competition.

In view of the recent announcement by the Kuwait Ministry regarding halting all celebrations and concerts until further notice, students were participated in the competition from their own homes using the current technologies. The competition was held in four groups in drawing and painting. Each group was notified the subjects one hour before the competition starts through Kala (Art) Kuwait's website and the contestant's emails, and each group was given until 5 pm to upload the completed drawing to the designated emails. Clay Modeling Competition also conducted for 7thto 12th Standard Students.

The results of the Competitions will be announced by the organizing committee as well as the judging committee on 1st December 2023 through leading news Medias and also Websites. Kala (Art) Kuwait announce exclusive prizes for the winners as first place with gold coin & gold medal, second place with silver medal and third place with bronze medal along with memento, certificate & special gifts. Besides the 1st, 2nd, & 3rd, there will be 75 participants to Merit Prizes and Ten (10) percent of the participants will be awarded with consolation









prizes. Participation Certificates also will be provided to all participants. The organizers proudly express their

satisfaction on the successful comple-

Couple plans to visit 80 countries in 2 years

South Korean world traveler couple reaches Kuwait





Some of the entries in the competition

tion of the competition and take this opportunity to thank all Children, Parents, Management and Teachers of all Indian schools in Kuwait and all our





Sponsors for their active participation and wholehearted support for making the program a grant success. Kala(Art) Kuwait has once again proved beyond doubt that it upholds the interests of all Art lovers in Kuwait and will continue its support for promotion of Art (Kala), according to the officials of Kala (Art) Kuwait, Mr. Jaison Joseph. President, Mr. Ragesh P. D, General Secretary, Mr. Ashraf Vithura, Treasurer and Mr.Mukesh V. P., Media Secretary.

For International Islamic Art Day, For International Islamic Art Day, what will inspire your creation? First you'll visit the *Home of Kind Words* exhibition (created by children), and then, using designs that you saw, you'll create your own Amricani Cultural Centre ore information or to register, emai mricanieducation@gmail.com

The Conversation

Psychology of participation

in social media challenges

By Kapil Chalil Madathil & Heidi Zinzow Clemson University

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

ocial media challenges are wide-Dranging - both in the stunts they involve and the reasons why people do

But why do young people take up challenges that pose a threat to health, well-being and, occasionally, their very lives?

We are an engineering professor who specializes in understanding how humans interact with computers and a psychology professor with expertise in mental health, specifically traumatic stress and suicide.

Together with our research team, we conducted a series of studies to try to understand what motivates teens and young adults to participate in different challenges.

For these studies, from January 2019 to January 2020, we interviewed dozens of high school and college students in both the United States and south India who had participated in social media challenges. We also analyzed 150 news reports, 60 public YouTube videos, over a thousand comments on those YouTube videos, and 150 Twitter posts - all of which were specifically about the blue whale challenge. This challenge, popularized in 2015 and 2016, was reported to involve progressively risky acts of self-harm that culminate in suicide.

We identified four key factors that motivate young people to participate in a challenge: social pressure, the desire for attention, entertainment value and a phenomenon called the

contagion effect. Social pressure

Social pressure typically comes when a friend encourages another friend to do something, and the person believes they will achieve acceptance within a particular social group if they

We found that participation in challenges that promote a good cause, such as the ice bucket challenge, often resulted from direct encouragement. Ice bucket challenge participants, for example, would complete the challenge and then publicly nominate others to do the same.

Meanwhile, young adults who engaged in riskier challenges primarily wanted to feel included in a group that had already participated in such a challenge. This was true for the cinnamon challenge, where participants rapidly consumed cinnamon and sometimes experienced lung damage and infection. For example, 38% of research participants who engaged in the cinnamon challenge acknowledged that they were seeking peer acceptance, rather than being directly encouraged to participate.

"I think I did it because everyone I was going to school with did it at the time," said one student who saw the challenge as popular among their peers. "And I figured there has to be something about it if everyone was doing it."

Seeking attention A form of attention-seeking behavior exclusive to participants of the ice bucket challenge was a wish to be recognized for supporting a commendable cause.

However, the attention-seeking behavior we observed among teens and young adults often led to participants innovating a more hazardous ersion of a challenge. This includ enduring the associated risks longer than others

For example, one participant in the cinnamon challenge swallowed powdered cinnamon for a period longer than their peers. "It was definitely peers, and like I said, you know, the attention," they said. "Seeing other friends posting videos and who could do the challenge longer.'

Entertainment

Many young adults participated in these challenges for amusement and curiosity. Some were intrigued by the potential reactions from people who

witnessed their performance. "It seemed like fun, and I personally liked the artist who sings the song," said one participant about the Kiki challenge. The challenge involves dancing next to a moving car after stepping out of it to Drake's song "In My Feelings."

Others were interested in experiencing the sensations associated with executing the challenge. They wondered if their responses would mirror the other individuals they had observed doing it.

One participant said it was "mostly curiosity" that motivated them to do the cinnamon challenge: "Just because, seeing other people's reactions, I kind of wanted to see if I would have the same reaction.'

Contagion effect

Challenges, even those that are seemingly benign, can spread quickly across social media. This is due to the contagion effect, where behaviors, attitudes and ideas spread from person to person. How content creators depict these challenges on digital media platforms also contributes to the contagion effect by encouraging others to partici-

After analyzing digital media content related to the blue whale challenge, we found YouTube videos about this challenge often violated the Suicide Prevention Resource Center's nine messaging guidelines. This means the posts exhibited risk factors for promoting contagion of harmful behaviors

Specifically, of the 60 YouTube videos we analyzed regarding the blue whale challenge, 37% adhered to fewer than three guidelines, categorizing them as primarily unsafe. The most commonly violated guidelines involved failure to avoid detailed or glorified portrayals of suicide and its victims, to describe help-seeking resources, and to emphasize effective mental health treatments.

Our research also explored how participants viewed challenges after doing them. Half of those who engaged in a risky challenge indicated that if they had understood the physical danger or potential risk to their social image, they might have opted not to do the challenge. (AP)



The South Korean world traveler couple pose for a photo-

By M. Irfan Shafiq

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: With God's protection and guidance, we should be able to conquer our fears and live a life full of determination. It is God that commands us to have courage! This phrase fits true on a Korean couple Park Hyeon Min and Shin Hwa Seon who set out on a world trip in their car. In the journey, the couple is on their way to destination and has reached

After the successful planning of two months, Park Hyeon Min from South Korea and his wife Shin Hwa Seon set off on a world tour for the past six months and started their journey from Russia. So far, they have traveled to 13 countries, while the couple plans to visit 80 countries in 2 years.

In a special conversation with the media, they said that what cannot be done if a person tries. Traveling the world is our dream and we will achieve this goal in two years.

McDonald finds creative freedom with 'Juicy Scoop' podcast

LOS ANGELES, Nov 13, (AP): When "Chelsea Lately" aired its final episode on E! in 2014, Heather McDonald, a staff writer and regular panelist on the show, needed a new gig. As a stand-up comedian, her performance schedule wasn't as consistent as a full-time job - then she heard about a fellow comic who launched a podcast to get his name out there and sell more tickets.

"I was like, 'If a podcast can help do that, I'm going to do that," McDonald says.

She launched "Juicy Scoop with Heather McDonald" in 2015. Now, nearly 800 episodes later with more than 200 million downloads, it regularly ranks among the top comedy podcasts on Apple's charts.

Twice a week, McDonald releases a free episode sharing the latest celebrity gossip and pop culture headlines, TV recaps, and anecdotes. She bounces topics off guests and interviews people with

McDonald strives to avoid anything truly divisive - like politics. But despite her best efforts, she found herself in the middle of a debate about the coronavirus vaccine after she collapsed during a 2022 standup set in Arizona. Footage of her fainting was used in a video compilation that peddled misinformation about vaccine side effects.

Before she collapsed, McDonald had joked that she'd never contracted the virus.

"I fainted right after that. And I have never fainted before or after,"

she says calling the timing "unbelievable." For the record, she says, she still hasn't had the coronavirus and is indeed vaccinated.

She's still not sure why she fainted and a variety of tests have indicated that there's nothing wrong. But despite being debunked, the video of her collapse still goes viral every few months, she says.

"It has done nothing but hurt my career because the pro-vaccination people think that I am like a puppet for the anti-vaxxers. And the antivaxxers call me names for getting vaccinated," McDonald says. "I say everyone make their decisions for themselves and I have no say in the

Exclusive

What she does have say in is the creative direction of her podcast, a freedom that McDonald says is rare.

"I love working for myself. I love saying whatever I want to say and knowing that if I never get hired to do another TV job, it doesn't really matter," she says.

The free episodes are also recorded on video and uploaded to You-Tube. With her job security, McDonald likes to keep some of her opinions within a tighter, paying circle. There are exclusive "Juicy Scoop" episodes available via subscription through Patreon for options ranging from \$5 to \$50 per month.

"When you have a TV show, even if you wrote and created and

starred in it, it can still get canceled. When you have something like this, it just doesn't," she says of podcasts as a medium.

The show is about fun, not hard facts, she maintains.

"I am a comedian with an opinion. I do not have a journalistic background. I do as much research as I find interesting. I screw up names, things pop in my head in the moment, so they're not thought out," she

Spencer Pratt is one of McDonald's popular guests. A former cast member on MTV's "The Hills," he is willing to play up a villainous side on reality TV. On "Juicy Scoop," he's charming and funny.

Pratt said people approach him now to bring up his "Juicy Scoop" appearances.

"It's why I keep driving out to the Valley," he joked (that's where McDonald records her podcast.)

McDonald fosters an intimacy with her guests and fans alike, book-marking her stories with directives like "Don't tell anyone this" or "Keep this between us" to solidify the closeness she says she feels to her subscribers.

"They say, 'I feel like you're my friend.' I'm from a generation of women that we really did talk on the phone a lot," she says. "It comes naturally for me to talk, be a storyteller.'

McDonald does still tour and perform comedy gigs - even if it's not her main job anymore.

Variety



This image released by A24 shows Nicolas Cage in a scene from 'Dream Scenario.' (AP)

Film

Nicolas Cage transforms from drab to disturbingly comic

Strange fame paradox in 'Dream Scenario'

By Jocelyn Noveck

Quick: What's a good adjective for Nicolas Cage's screen presence? Mercurial, perhaps? Volcanic? Volatile?

How about mundane, schlubby, average? Not the page we'd think to turn to in our Roget's Thesaurus. Yet here Cage is, channeling his inner drabness to chillingly comic effect in Kristoffer Borgli's "Dream Scenario." As Paul Matthews (heck, even the name is drab), a college professor at nowhere famous, he performs his job with perfect mediocrity, and seems a fairly mediocre husband and dad, too. With his graying beard, wire-rimmed specs and shiny bald

spot, Cage's Paul is the guy in the room you ignore. Until, suddenly, you can't. Because something weird starts happening. Paul starts appearing in people's dreams. Everyone's dreams.

The premise is delicious - and precarious. It recalled for me the setup in a very different movie, "Yesterday," where only one guy on Earth remembers the Beatles. It makes for a fantastic beginning, but you immediately worry how they'll manage to

But Borgli, the Norwegian writer-director making his English-language debut here (Ari Aster coproduces), is aiming for a broader statement about the nature of fame. And while the topic, which he's broached before, may not be original, it's ripe for exploration in the right hands - especially with an actor as inventive and unpredictable as Cage. Fame can be intoxicating, this film is saying, but it can and probably will turn on you in an instant, unless you're Taylor Swift (OK, we added that

We begin on an autumn day by a suburban swimming pool, where Paul is raking leaves near his teen daughter. Scary things start dropping from the heavens, and suddenly the girl is grabbed by an unknown force and lifted, screaming, into the sky. Dad? He does nothing to help.

It's only the girl's dream. But then there are more. Paul and his patient wife, Janet (Julianne Nicholson, reliably excellent) run into someone at the theater, and she too has dreamed about Paul. At a dinner party, several guests discover to their shock that they've been dreaming about the same person. Yep, Paul.

What's happening? On campus, Paul's students, who mostly chat among themselves during his unremarkable lectures on evolutionary biology, start listening - they're dreaming about him, too.

In many of these dreams, Paul stands by, inexplicably, as others experience peril - slithering alligators, for example. But in real life, for once, Paul has the floor - a man who until now seethed with frustration over his unrealized ambitions as others succeeded. Now, everyone is interested in him.

Development

Borgli never stops to analyze the science of this bizarre development, and frankly, Paul doesn't either. He takes a meeting with a snarky group of branding experts (led by Michael Cera, perfectly cast) who want to market him up the wazoo. They can get him a Sprite commercial! Well, Paul doesn't want that he just wants a book deal for his biology research. But his ears perk up at the idea of an endorsement from Barack Obama. ("I know Malia," one of these young professionals says.)

One young woman even lets on to Paul that in her dreams, the two have great sex. This is too stunning for the schlubby Paul to ignore, especially when she invites him home to recreate the dream. Needless to say, it doesn't go as well in real life. In fact, the dénoument is utterly, agoniz-

ingly humiliating. And then, everyone's dreams change. Suddenly Paul is the one causing harm. His students, terrified,

don't want to see him anymore. He gets sent home from a dinner with friends. He can't even sit in a coffee shop and read a book without a fellow diner

spitting on his food. As for the branding consultants, well, they inform Paul that Obama is off the table - but hey, they could get him time with Joe Rogan or maybe Tucker Carl-

We won't spoil the ending, but let's just make the obvious point that Borgli is not making a rom-com - is there a word for "horror-com"? We walk away from this funny, sad, scary film acutely reminded that if fame has two sides, one of them is pretty darned horrible.

And perhaps, as you walk home from the multiplex this time, you might even revel in the fact that nobody's paying attention. Obscurity can be underrated.

"Dream Scenario," an A24 release, has been rated R by the Motion Picture Association "for language, violence and some sexual content. "Running time: 102 minutes. Three stars out of four.

Also:

LOS ANGELES: A powerhouse performance by Colman Domingo fuels the Netflix drama "Rustin," streaming Friday Nov. 17, about the civil rights pioneer and March on Washington architect Bayard Rustin. The film, directed by George C. Wolfe, chronicles the run-up to the indelible 1963 march where Rev. Martin Luther King delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech. "Rustin," the first narrative feature from Barack and Michelle Obama's production company Higher Ground, is a portrait of grassroots activism and of the often under-sung Rustin, an openly gay man combating injustice on numerous fronts. In his review, the AP's Mark Ken**nedy** praised Domingo's "debonair, frisky, droll, passionate and utterly captivating" performance. (AP)

\$200 million-plus sequel to a billion-dollar blockbuster. It was also an exceptional Marvel release in numerous ways. The film, directed by Nia DaCosta, was the first MCU release directed by a Black woman. It was also the rare Marvel movie led by three women — Larson, Teyonah Parris and Iman

NEW YORK: Since 2008's "Iron Man," the Marvel machine has been one of the most unstoppa-

ble forces in box-office history. Now, though, that aura of invincibility is showing signs of wear and tear. The superhero factory

hit a new low with the weekend launch of "The Marvels," which

opened with just \$47 million,

according to studio estimates

Sunday.
The 33rd installment in the

Marvel Cinematic Universe, a sequel to the 2019 **Brie Larson**-

led "Captain Marvel," managed

with before ultimately taking in

Land, aren't supposed to fall off a cliff. Yet "The Marvels'

debuted with more than \$100

million less than "Captain Mar-

vel" opened with - something no sequel before has ever done.

David A. Gross, who runs the

movie consulting firm Franchise

Research Entertainment, called it

The previous low for a Walt

Disney Co.-owned Marvel

movie was "Ant-Man," which

2015. Otherwise, you have to go

outside the Disney MCU to find

sal's "The Incredible Hulk" with

such a slow start for a Marvel

movie - releases like Univer-

\$55.4 million in 2008, Sony's

in 2022 or 20th Century Fox's

"Fantastic Four" reboot with

But "The Marvels" was a

\$25.6 million in 2015.

"Morbius" with \$39 million

bowed with \$57.2 million in

"an unprecedented Marvel box-

office collapse.'

Sequels, especially in Marvel

\$1.13 billion worldwide.

less than a third of the \$153.4 million its predecessor launched

Reviews weren't strong (62% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes) and neither was audience reaction. "The Marvels" is only the third MCU release to receive a "B" CinemaScore from moviegoers, following "Eternals" and "Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantama-

"The Marvels," which added grosses Sunday.

But with movie screens and



streaming platforms increasingly crowded with superhero films and series, some analysts have detected a new fatigue setting in for audiences. Disney chief executive Bob Iger himself has spoken about possible oversaturation for Marvel.

"Over the last three and a half years, the growth of the genre

has stopped," Gross wrote in a newsletter Sunday.

Either way, something is shifting for superheroes. The boxoffice crown this year appears assured to go to "Barbie," the year's biggest smash with more than \$1.4 billion worldwide for Warner Bros.

Marvel has still produced

recent hits. "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3" launched this summer with \$118 million before ultimately raking in \$845.6 million worldwide. Sony's "Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse" earned \$690.5 million globally and, after rave reviews, is widely expected to be an Oscar contender. (AP)

\$63.3 million in overseas ticket sales, may go down as a turning point in the MCU. Over the years, the franchise has collected \$33 billion globally — a point Disney noted in reporting its

People & Places

Television

Longest-tenured team

Buck & Aikman break NFL broadcast record

NEW YORK, Nov 12, (AP): Joe Buck and **Troy Aikman** were nicknamed "The A Team" when they joined Cris Collinsworth to form Fox's top NFL broadcast crew in 2002.

There were even promotional ads shot featuring Aikman dressed as Mr. T.

Buck and Aikman have long outlived that and have added something else neither could have imagined. In their 22nd season together, they have become the NFL's longest-tenured broadcast team. The first 20 years were at Fox before they moved to ESPN's "Monday Night Football" last year.



Aikman

Buck and Aikman surpassed the legendary duo of Pat Summerall and John Madden, who worked together for 21 years on CBS and Fox. Summerall and Madden split up after the 2001 season when Summerall went into semi-retirement and Madden moved to "Monday Night Football."

"It means a lot to me because my dad (the late Jack

Buck) was a partner to both Pat and John. I knew them when I was a kid," Buck said. "I know there was a lot of respect there. It's just the years just kind of fly by and somebody goes, 'Oh, by the way you are passing Madden and Summerall.' That was surprising to me."

The Buck-Aikman-Collinsworth booth lasted for three seasons (2002-04) before Collinsworth left for NBC in 2005 after it got the rights to "Sunday Night Football." Aikman thought he would only be doing games for a couple of seasons before moving on to something else.

sons before moving on to something else.

"The fact that I'm still doing it 23 years later is shocking to me, but I think there's a lot of good fortune and luck that goes into that," Aikman said. "There's some other great broadcast teams that, for various reasons that had nothing to do with themselves, weren't able to continue. So the fact that even recently ESPN regarded our work that they wanted both of us just means a lot."

Retired

Aikman and Buck hardly knew each other when they were paired together. Buck was hired by Fox when it started doing NFL games in 1994 and split time between regional games and working in the studio the first eight seasons. When Aikman retired from the Dallas Cowboys after the 2000 season, he was hired by Fox and was assigned to the network's No. 2 team with Dick Stockton and former Cowboys teammate Daryl Johnston.

It didn't take long though for the two to strike up a friendship, similar to what Buck did with Tim McCarver and John Smoltz, who were his baseball partners at Fox.

"I think you need to put as much work on the personal relationship as you do the professional. I don't know that everybody does that," Buck said. "I know a lot of stories of broadcast partners that have been together for a nice chunk of time that didn't really enjoy being with each other. I just can't imagine being in that situation in this kind of a job when you're relying on each other in front of millions of people live."

The Buck-Aikman move to "Monday Night Football" has also boosted what can still be considered one of the premier packages in sports.

This season's average of 15.4 million viewers is up 14% over last season. Part of the bump can be attributed to nearly the entire schedule also airing on ABC due to the writers strike delaying the fall television season.

Through nine weeks, the NFL is averaging 17.2 million viewers per game, a 7% increase over last season. It is also the league's highest average viewership at this point since 2015.

Both noted that doing the Thursday night games on Fox from 2018 to 2021 was great preparation for Monday night. It also means seeing more of the league compared to the same teams multiple times.

"You have a good feel for what the importance is for the teams that you're covering that night and where they fit into the bigger picture along with two or three of the hottest stories in the

league," Buck said.

It's also clear the move to "Monday Night Football" has energized both, especially Aikman, who said his memories of watching football weren't from Sundays but from Monday

"To be a part of that history and lineage is really special. But in addition to that, ESPN paid a lot of money for us to be there in that booth and call the games. And so we didn't want to disappoint anybody or let anybody down. We wanted to live up to what the expectations were of us and why we were brought over.

"So it was good. And it continues to be good."

Also:

LOS ANGELES: Season 21 of "NCIS" is delayed due to the actors' strike but fans can get their fix with the franchise's first international spin-off, "NCIS: Sydney." Debuting Tuesday on CBS, the series follows a task force of US and Australian law enforcement investigating naval crimes in waters connecting the Indian and Pacific oceans known as Indo Pacific. Episodes will also stream on Paramount+.

Meanwhile, the new limited series "A Murder at the End of the World" has a "Knives Out" vibe but with **Emma Corrin** as the detective. When a reclusive billionaire (Clive Owen) hosts a retreat in a remote location and one of the guests ends up dead, Corrin's character Darby launches an investigation. The show also stars **Brit Marling**, who co-created, wrote and directed the series with **Zal Batmanglij**. The first two episodes drop Tuesday on FX on Hulu.



Taylor Swift performs at the Monumental stadium during her Eras Tour concert in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Thursday, Nov. 9. (AP)



This cover image released by Warner UK shows 'Heaven Knows' by Pinkpantheress. (AP)



Variety

CANDAD: Peter Nygard, who once led a women's fashion empire, was found guilty of four counts of sexual assault in a Canadian court on Sunday but was acquitted of a fifth count plus a charge of forcible confinement.

Nygard

The jury handed down the verdict on the fifth day of deliberations following a six-week trial in **Toronto**.

Nygard, 82, had pleaded not guilty to all charges, which stemmed from allegations dating back from the 1980s to the mid-2000s.

Five women - whose identities are protected by a publication ban - had testified that they were invited to Nygard's Toronto headquarters under pretexts ranging from tours to job interviews, with all encounters ending in a top-floor bedroom suite where four of them were sexually assaulted.

Multiple complainants told the jury similar stories of meeting Nygard on a plane, at an airport tarmac or at a nightclub and then receiving invitations to come to headquarters. All five women said their meetings or interactions with Nygard ended with sexual activity that they did not consent to. (AP)

NEW YORK: English-language editions of a Vietnamese novel set everywhere

from Saigon to Paris and of the latest publication of poetry by Egypt's Iman Mersal are this year's winners of National Translation Awards.

The awards were announced Sunday by the American Literary Translators

by the American Literary Translators Association.
Thuân's novel "Chinatown," translated

rom the Vietnamese by **Nguyn An Lý**, won in the category for prose. The
poetry prize was given to Mersal's "The
Threshold," translated from the Arabic
by **Robyn Creswell**.

The winning translators will each receive \$4,000.

"ALTA is incredibly proud to recognize Nguyn An Lý and Robyn Creswell for their masterful translations from Vietnamese and Arabic respectively, in this



Cat Power replicates Dylan's 1966 concert

PinkPantheress provides IRL charms

LOS ANGELES, Nov 13, (AP): How do you become introduced to PinkPantheress?

Is it the viral, UK garage-sampling TikTok hits "Break It Off" or "Pain"? Or is it more recent - an inescapable song of the summer, "Boy's a Liar Pt. 2," featuring Ice Spice? Or "Angel," her contribution to the Mark Ronson-produced "Barbie" soundtrack? Or something else entirely?

something else entirely?

There are countless ways in, but the destination is the same: sugary hooks that satiate, her sweet soprano carrying an addictive chorus above hybrid production. And as of Friday, it's culminated in "Heaven Knows." The debut full-length record from the UK star, who keeps her real name hidden, features 13 tracks she also co-produced.

"Heaven Knows" is sometimes hyperpop, sometimes ornamented with the sound of pan flutes ("Blue"), sometimes 2000s emo-by-way-of- My Chemical Romance -inspired church organs (that's "Another life," featuring the Nigerian artist Rema of "Calm Down" fame), and sometimes something else entirely.

thing else entirely.

Any kind of momentum after virality is rarer than the initial 15 minutes of fame. PinkPantheress is an exception because of the tools she wields: Her songs, up until this point, have been remarkably short - a minimalistic sensibility born from her understanding of what works on TikTok, often crafting snippets of a track, seeing if it works on the platform, and building them out from there. It's sharpened her ability to identify a hook that works in a song about failed adventures in love (or romance, more specifi-

the 25th year of the National Translation

Award," Elisabeth Jaquette, executive

director of the translators association,

cally, which she name checks on "The aisle" and throughout "True Romance") as well as death.

The latter is apparent on "Ophelia," which begins with harps and finds its coda in the sound of a bubbling brook, a direct reference to the demise met by the doomed noblewoman in Shakespeare's "Hamlet."

In the middle of "Heaven Knows" is "Internet Baby (interlude)," led by a memorable hook and the repeated refrain of "I am not your internet baby." In the context of the song, it is a declaration to a needy love interest, but in the context of the album, it is a reminder that PinkPantheress ' online successes have offline resonance.

"Cat Power Sings Dylan: The 1966 Royal Albert Hall Concert" is a faithful song-by-song recreation, without the boos, of **Bob Dylan**'s infamous concert – from the tour where he played electric guitar for the first time.

Unlike Dylan's divisive 1966 shows, no one seeing singer-songwriter Cat Power in 2022 when this was recorded – also at the famed Royal Albert Hall – was likely so angered or surprised by what they heard that they felt compelled to walk out or hurl insults. Her acoustic first set, followed by second set complete with a full, plugged-in band, is rightfully met with thunderous applause.

Back in 1966, when Dylan angered folk music traditionalists by plugging in and playing his new songs backed by a band, fans stomped their feet, jeered and walked out. In Manchester, England, one attendee was so an-

Previous winners include Peter Con-

stantine's translation from the Russian

of stories by **Anton Chekhov**, **Martin**

gered that he famously yelled "Judas!" at Dylan just before he launched into "Like a Rolling Stone."

The moment gained fame on bootlegs that wrongly attributed perhaps the most famous heckle in rock history to the Royal Albert Hall concert in London.

Of course, Cat Power, otherwise known as **Chan Marshall**, returns not to the Manchester Free Trade Hall but to the Royal Albert Hall for this live recreation of the famous show. But it's not a copy. She puts her own stamp on the material while not deviating from Dylan's 1966 arrangements.

She delivers the first set solo acoustic just as Dylan did, alone with harmonica and guitar. She serves up spine-tingling versions of some of Dylan's best work including "Visions of Johanna," "Desolation Row" and "Mr. Tambourine Man."

Then she returns in the second set with a full band to deliver purer Dylan: "Ballad of a Thin Man," "Just Like Tom Thumb's Blues" and closing, just as Dylan did, with "Like a Rolling Stone," one of the greatest rock songs ever written.

Unlike the original Dylan show, which he released in full in 1998, Cat Power's electric set is more of a celebration than a tussle with the audience.

Cat Power could never replicate that combative energy, but she doesn't have to. While remaining faithful to the songs and the live arrangements, she shines a light on Dylan's genius and the beauty of the music nearly 60 years after the original concert, while leaving her own mark.

of **Karl Ove Knausgaard**'s "The Morning Star" and **D.M. Black**'s translation from the Italian of Dante's "Purgatorio." (AP)

ROCHESTER, N.Y.: Fans have pushed the Fisher-Price Corn Popper into the National Toy Hall of Fame, elevating it from perpetual finalist to 2023 inductee, alongside baseball cards, Cabbage Patch Kids and NERF foam toys, the Hall of Fame announced Friday.

The Fisher-Price push toy that encourages babies to walk was chosen by fans, who were invited to celebrate the Toy Hall of Fame's 25th anniversary by voting for one of five toys that had made it to the finals more than once but were passed over. The rest of the so-called "Forgotten Five" included the pogo stick, My Little Pony, PEZ dispensers and Transformers.

Baseball cards, Cabbage Patch Kids and NERF toys were voted in in the usual way from among a field of 12 finalists, with input from a panel of

The winners are on permanent display at the National Toy Hall of Fame, which is located inside The Strong National Museum of Play in Rochester, New York. (AP)



Mexican singer Peso Pluma performs in concert at the Foro Sol in Mexico City, Saturday, Nov. 11. (AP)

Environmental pollution among key risk factors for cancer

Thyroid cancer takes second spot in cancer prevalence among women

Cancer cell immortality

Gene mutation allows cancer cells to defy replication limits

By Pattra Chun-On and Jonathan Alder

University of Pittsburgh

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

A defining characteristic of cancer cells is their immortality. Usually, normal cells are limited in the number of times they can divide before they stop growing. Cancer cells, however, can overcome this limitation to form tumors and bypass "mortality" by continuing to replicate.

Telomeres play an essential role in determining how many times a cell can divide. These repetitive sequences of DNA are located at the ends of chromosomes, structures that contain genetic information. In normal cells, continued rounds of replication shorten telomeres until they become so short that they eventually trigger the cell to stop replicating. In contrast, tumor cells can maintain the lengths of their telomeres by activating an enzyme called telomerase that rebuilds telomeres during each replication.

Telomerase is encoded by a gene called TERT, one of the most frequently mutated genes in cancer. TERT mutations cause cells to make a little too much telomerase and are thought to help cancer cells keep their telomeres long even though they replicate at high rates. Melanoma, an aggressive form of skin cancer, is highly dependent on telomerase to grow, and three-quarters of all melanomas acquire mutations in telomerase. These same TERT mutations also occur across other cancer types.

Tumors

Unexpectedly, researchers found that TERT mutations could only partially explain the longevity of telomeres in melanoma. While TERT mutations did indeed extend the life span of cells, they did not make them immortal. That meant there must be something else that helps telomerase allow cells to grow uncontrollably. But what that "second hit" might be has been unclear.

We are researchers who study the role telomeres play in human health and diseases like cancer in the Alder Lab at the University of Pittsburgh. While investigating the ways that tumors maintain their telomeres, we and

our colleagues found another piece to the puzzle: another telomere-associated gene in melanoma.

Our team focused on melanoma because this type of cancer is linked to people with long telomeres. We examined DNA sequencing data from hundreds of melanomas, looking for mutations in genes related to telomere

We identified a cluster of mutations in a gene called TPP1. This gene codes for one of the six proteins that form a molecular complex called shelterin that coats and protects telomeres. Even more interesting is the fact that TPP1 is known to activate telomerase. Identifying the TPP1 gene's connection to cancer telomeres was, in a way, obvious. After all, it was more than a decade ago that researchers showed that TPP1 would increase telomerase activity.

We tested whether having an excess of TPP1 could make cells immortal. When we introduced just TPP1 proteins into cells, there was no change in cell mortality or telomere length. But when we introduced TERT and TPP1 proteins at the same time, we found that they worked synergistically to cause significant telomere lengthening.

Factors

To confirm our hypothesis, we then inserted TPP1 mutations into melanoma cells using CRISPR-Cas9 genome editing. We saw an increase in the amount of TPP1 protein the cells made, and a subsequent increase in telomerase activity. Finally, we returned to the DNA sequencing data and found that 5% of all melanomas have a mutation in both TERT and TPP1. While this is still a significant proportion of melanomas, there are likely other factors that contribute to telomere maintenance in this cancer.

Our findings imply that TPP1 is likely one of the missing puzzle pieces that boost telomerase's capacity to maintain telomeres and support tumor growth and immortality.

Knowing that cancer use these genes in their replication and growth means that researchers could also block them and potentially stop telomeres from lengthening and make cancer cells mortal. This discovery not only gives scientists another potential avenue for cancer treatment, but also draws attention to an underappreciated class of mutations outside the traditional boundaries of genes that can play a role in cancer diagnostics. (AP)

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: Dr. Khaled Al-Saleh, the Secretary-General of the Gulf Federation for Cancer Control, highlighted that thyroid cancer disproportionately affects women, securing the second position in cancer prevalence among women in Kuwait after breast cancer.

During a press statement at the "Thyroid Cancer and its Relationship to Environmental Pollution"

workshop, organized by the Gulf Union for Cancer Control secretariat, Dr. Al-Saleh shared alarming statistics. Between 2014 and 2019, Kuwait recorded 587 cases of thyroid cancer among Kuwaiti women and 455 cases among non-Kuwaiti women. Among men, there were 115 cases among Kuwaitis and 158 cases among non-Kuwaitis.

Dr. Al-Saleh emphasized that the incidence of thyroid cancer in the Arab world is 6.2 per 100,000 for men and 13.2 for women, which is comparatively lower than the



Dr. Khaled Al-Saleh

global rate of 6.5 for men and 14.2 for women. Remarkably, Kuwait reports rates of 1.2 for men and 6.6 for women, marking the lowest figures among Gulf countries.

He underscored the diverse factors influencing cancer rates, with environmental pollution being a significant contributor. The workshop aimed to raise awareness about the imperative need to prevent environmental pollution, considering its potential impact on thyroid cancer rates and overall public health.

Wearable technology in space

Innovative sensory augmentation training could prevent disorientation of astronauts

By Vivekanand Pandey Vimal Brandeis University

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

When landing on the surface of the Moon, astronauts can become spatially disoriented, which is when they lose sense of their orientation they might not be able to tell which way is up. This disorientation can lead to fatal accidents.

Even on Earth, between 1993 and 2013, spatial disorientation led to the loss of 65 aircraft, US\$2.32 billion of damages and 101 deaths in the US.

Could wearable technology augment the senses of astronauts, allowing them to overcome the limitations of their biological sensors? And what type of training could build a deeper bond between the astronaut and the wearable technology, so that astronauts would be able to rely on the technology when they can't trust their own senses?

I am a research scientist in the Ashton Graybiel Spatial Orientation Lab at Brandeis University. With my collaborators, Alexander Panic, James Lackner and Paul DiZio, I study sensory augmentation and spatial disorientation, which is when astronauts and pilots lose the sense of which way they are oriented.

In a paper published in November 2023 in Frontiers in Physiology, we determined whether vibrotactors - small vibrating devices placed on the skin - could enhance the performance of participants put in a disorienting condition that mimicked spaceflight.

We also studied what type of training could enhance the connection between the human and the device.

Vibrotactors communicate information through the touch receptors of the somatosensory system instead of the visual system. They have previously helped pilots flying helicopters and airplanes.

When pilots are disoriented, their visual system often gets overwhelmed with information. Vibrotactors can help because they send touch signals rather than visual signals.

For our first experiment, we wanted to figure out whether using vibrotactors would improve a participant's ability to stabilize themselves in a disorienting spaceflight condition.

Device

We strapped participants into a multi-axis rotation device, which is a machine containing a chair that's programmed to behave like an inverted pendulum. Like a pencil falling left or right as you try to balance it on your fingertip, the multi-axis rotation device tilts to the left or right. Participants used a joystick to try to balance themselves and keep the chair upright.

We blindfolded the participants, because spatial disorientation often occurs when pilots can't see - like when they fly at night or through clouds.

On Earth, tiny organs in the inner ears called otoliths help people keep their balance by sensing how far the body is tilted away from an upright position, also called the gravitational vertical. In space and especially during gravitational transitions, such as while landing on a planet or the Moon, the gravitational information detected by

the otoliths is very different than on Earth. This can cause disorientation.

Additionally, long-duration spaceflight will change how the brain interprets the signals coming from the otoliths. This can also lead to disorientation when landing.

Gravitational

In our Earth analog condition, which was meant as a control to compare against the spaceflight condition we tested, participants sat in the multi-axis rotation device and used a joystick to stabilize themselves around the balance point. The balance point was at an upright position, or the gravitational vertical.

Because the otoliths can sense tilt from the gravitational vertical, participants always had a good sense of their orientation and the location of the balance point. We called this the Earth analog condition because they could use gravitational cues to do the task. Every participant learned and improved their performance on this over

Then, in the spaceflight analog condition, we had the multi-axis rotation device pitch the participants back by 90 degrees. The balance point was still in the center, and the multi-axis rotation device was programmed to tilt to either the left or right while participants were on their back.

In the Earth condition, the balance point was lined up with the upright, so it was easy to use the otoliths to determine how much one was tilted. However, in the spaceflight condition, participants no longer tilted relative to the gravitational vertical, because they were always on their back. So even

though the balance point they were trying to find was the same, they could no longer use gravity to determine how much they were tilted from the balance point.

Similarly, astronauts have minimal gravitational cues when initially landing. In our spaceflight condition, the participants showed very poor performance and had high rates of losing control.

For each of the 13 participants in the experimental group, we attached four vibrotactors on each arm. The farther a participant titled from the balance point, the more vibrotactors vibrated on the same side.

We found that vibrotactile feedback

helped performance in the disorienting spaceflight condition. But it also led to a feeling of conflict between a participant's incorrect perception of their orientation and their actual orientation, as indicated by the vibrotactors.

Because of this conflict, the participants' performance in the spaceflight condition was not as good as it was in the Earth condition.

Surprisingly, even knowing that they were disoriented and reporting high levels of trust in the vibrotactors was not enough to allow people to continue learning and improving their performance. This suggests that cognitive trust, or their self-reported level of trust, may differ than their gut-level trust - and cognitive trust alone does not ensure people will be able to rely on the vibrotactors when disoriented.

Previous research in sensory substitution has found that allowing participants to freely explore and play around with the device during training builds a bond between the human and the device. (AP)

Political schism fuels surge

US childhood vaccination exemptions reach highest level ever

NEW YORK, Nov 13, (AP): The proportion of US kindergartners exempted from school vaccination requirements has hit its highest level ever, 3%, US health officials said recently.

More parents are questioning routine childhood vaccinations that they used to automatically accept, an effect of the political schism that emerged during the pandemic around COV-ID-19 vaccines, experts say.

ID-19 vaccines, experts say.

Even though more kids were given exemptions, the national vaccination rate held steady: 93% of kindergartners got their required shots for the 2022-2023 school year, the same as the year before, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said in a report Thursday. The rate was 95% in the

years before the COVID-19 pandemic.
"The bad news is that it's gone

"The bad news is that it's gone down since the pandemic and still hasn't rebounded," said Dr. Sean O'Leary, a University of Colorado pediatric infectious diseases specialist. "The good news is that the vast majority of parents are still vaccinating their kids according to the recommended schedule."

All US states and territories require that children attending child care centers and schools be vaccinated against a number of diseases, including, measles, mumps, polio, tetanus, whooping cough and chickenpox.

All states allow exemptions for children with medical conditions that prevents them from receiving certain vaccines. And most also permit exemptions for religious or other nonmedical reasons.

In the last decade, the percentage of kindergartners with medical exemptions has held steady, at about 0.2%. But the percentage with nonmedical exemptions has inched up, lifting the overall exemption rate from 1.6% in the 2011-2012 school year to 3% last year.

Last year, more than 115,000 kindergartners were exempt from at least one vaccine, the CDC estimated.

The rates vary across the country.

Ten states - all in the West or Midwest - reported that more than 5% of kindergartners were exempted from at least one kind of required vaccine. Idaho had the highest percentage, with

12% of kindergartners receiving at least one exemption. In contrast, 0.1% had exemptions in New York.

The rates can be influenced by state laws or policies can make it harder or easier to obtain exemptions, and by local attitudes among families and doctors about the need to get children vaccinated.

Infectious

"Sometimes these jumps in exemptions can be very local, and it may not reflect a whole state," said O'Leary, who chairs an American Academy of Pediatrics committee on infectious dis-

Hawaii saw the largest jump, with the exemption rate rising to 6.4%,

nearly double the year before.

Officials there said it's no

Officials there said it's not due to any law or policy change. Rather, "we have observed that there has been misinformation/disinformation impacting people's decision to vaccinate or not via social media platforms," officials at the state's health department said in a statement.

Connecticut and Maine saw significant declines, which CDC officials attributed to recent policy changes that made it harder to get exemptions.

Health officials say attaining 95% vaccination coverage is important to prevent outbreaks of preventable diseases, especially of measles, which is extremely contagious.

The US has seen measles outbreaks

begin when travelers infected elsewhere came to communities with low vaccination rates. That happened in 2019 when about 1,300 measles cases were reported - the most in the U.S. in nearly 30 years.

CDC officials say it's because there are actually three groups of children in the vaccination statistics. One is those who get all the shots. A second is those who get exemptions. The third are children who didn't seek exemptions but also didn't get all their shots and paperwork completed at the time the data was collected.

"Last year, those kids in that third group probably decreased," offsetting the increase in the exemption group, the CDC's Shannon Stokley said.



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Villegas ends nine-year drought with emotional win in Bermuda

Vu tops LPGA event to return to No. 1 in world

SOUTHAMPTON, Bermuda, Nov 13, (AP): Camilo Villegas ended a long and emotional drought when he came up with key birdies down the stretch Sunday for a 6-under 65 to win the Butterfield Bermuda Championship, his first victory since losing his 22-month-old daughter to cancer in 2020.

Villegas went shot for shot with Alex Noren for five hours until all he had left was a tap-in for par for his first PGA Tour title since 2014. More than go-

without winning,

Villegas and his

wife coped with

the death of Mia,

who died of brain cancer in the

summer of 2020.

Villegas was lost

on the course and

finished last year

at No. 654 in the



world. Now he has a two-year exemption and returns to the Masters and PGA Championship for the first time since

Villegas finished at 24-under 260 to win by two shots over Noren, who never recovered from two mistakes around the turn and closed with a 68.

Matti Schmid of Germany had to make two late birdies for a 67 to finish alone in third, which should go a long way in giving him a PGA Tour card for next year. Schmid moved to No. 120 in the FedEx Cup. The top 125 after the final event of the season next week get full cards.

GOLF

In Belleair, Florida, Lilia Vu seized momentum early with three birdies and closed with a 4-under 66 to win The Annika for her fourth victory of the year, which allowed the American to regain the No. 1 world ranking and close in on LPGA player of the year.

Vu started the final round at Pelican Golf Club three shots behind Emily Kristine Pedersen, opened with three birdies in six holes and then pulled away with crisp approach shots that set up back-to-back birdies to pull away.

Vu is now 27 points ahead of Celine Boutier for LPGA player of the year going into the season finale next week. Boutier's only chance is to win next week and have Vu finish eighth

It was a devastating end for Pedersen, the Dane who went from trying to capture her first LPGA Tour title to seeing her season finish abruptly. She didn't make a birdie in her round of 74 and made double bogey on the last hole that knocked her out of the top 60 to advance to the CME Group Tour Championship.

In Sun City, South Africa, Max Homa shot a 6-under 66 to win the Nedbank Golf Challenge for his first victory abroad.

Homa finished at 19 under for the tournament, four shots ahead of Nicolai Hojgaard to add to his six PGA Tour career titles.

Homa secured the win with a final round that included six birdies, an eagle and two bogeys. He pulled away at the top after consecutive birdies on the 15th and 16th holes. Hojgaard - who played against Homa at the Ryder Cup - had four birdies in a bogey-free final

Fellow Danish player Thorbjorn Olesen finished third after a 3-under

Justin Thomas, who like Homa was playing on an invitation, finished at 12 under for the tournament in fourth place after a 6-under 66 on Sunday. He also had a 66 on Friday, but shot evenpar 72 both Thursday and Saturday to see his title chances diminished.



Lilia Vu hits from the fourth fairway during the final round of an LPGA golf tournament, Sunday, Nov. 12, 2023, in Belleair, Florida. Inset: Vu poses with the first place trophy after winning an LPGA golf tournament. (AP)

Texas Southern routs Alcorn State 44-10

HOUSTON, Nov 13, (AP): LaDarius first of three touchdowns - a 10-yard Texas Southern led 35-7 at halftime. vards rushing, Texas run - and the Tigers were up by 14 Southern erupted for 35 points in the first half, and the Tigers surprised Alcorn State 44-10 on Sunday.

Alcorn State needed a win to clinch a share of the SWAC West Division championship, but the Braves fell be-

hind early and could not recover. The Tigers struck first with a 67yard touchdown pass from Jace Wilson to Trenton Leary with 10 minutes left in the first quarter. Leary added his

Rory McIlroy won the Race to

Dubai for the fifth time. He didn't play

the tournament, but clinched it when

Adrian Meronk didn't finish high

enough that next week's season finale

In Phoenix, Steven Alker had to get

up-and-down for par on the last three

holes for a 1-under 70 that allowed

him to hang on and win the Charles

Schwab Cup Championship and a pay-

Steve Stricker clinched the season

points list before the postseason be-

gan. By winning at Phoenix Country

Club, Alker finished second in the

Schwab Cup for a \$500,000 bonus.

The 52-year-old from New Zealand

won \$528,000 for the tournament, his

seventh title on the PGA Tour Cham-

Els, who opened with five birdies in

in Dubai will matter.

off of just over \$1 million.

FOOTBALL In the second quarter, Leary took

looking for just their second confer-

ence win of the season.

a turn throwing a pass and connected with C'ing Blanton for a 15-yard touchdown, Jacorey Howard and Ow-

ens both scored on the ground and eight holes to get in the mix, was one

shot behind on the par-5 18th when his 5-iron leaked just enough to the right to bounce off the side of the hill and into the water. He had to scramble for a par and a 65.

Ames, a four-time winner this year, birdied the 18th for a 65.

Alker laid up on the par-5 18th, hit wedge over the green and chipped to just inside 3 feet for his par putt to win by one. He finished at 18-under 266.

Stricker, whose six victories this year included three majors, had to withdraw at the start of the week because his father was hospitalized in Wisconsin. He still claimed the \$1 million bonus with a year so dominant he didn't play a single Schwab Cup play-

Els finished third in the Schwab Cup and earned a \$300,000 bonus, fol-

The game was played on Sunday because the Houston Dynamo used Shell

for 288 yards and Leary caught six

passes for 137 yards. The Tigers (3-7,

2-5 SWAC) had 499 yards of total of-

Aaron Allen was 19-of-40 passing for 259 yards for Alcorn State (6-4,

Energy Stadium for a Major League Soccer playoff match on Saturday.

lowed by Padraig Harrington in fourth (\$200,000) and Bernhard Langer get-

ting \$100,000 for finishing fifth. Ben Campbell of New Zealand holed a 15-foot birdie putt on the final hole for a 4-under 66 and a oneshot victory over Cameron Smith in the Hong Kong Open on the Asian Tour. ... Shugo Imahira closed with an even-par 70 and won the Visa Taiheiyo Masters by one shot over Taiki Yoshida on the Japan Golf Tour. ... Kerry Mountcastle made it through a 10-man playoff to reach the final 24 players in medal match play, and then beat Jake McLeod in the final six-hole match to win the Gippsland Super 6 on the PGA Tour of Australasia. ... Mao Saigo closed with a 4-under 68 for a three-shot victory over Ayako Kimura in the Itoen Ladies on the Japan LPGA.

lowa women rout Northern Iowa

Smith scores 21 points as LSU hammers MVSU

BATON ROUGE, Nov 13, (AP): Sophomore forward Sa'Myah Smith had 21 points and 11 rebounds, freshman guard Mikaylah Williams scored a career-high 20, and No. 1 LSU hammered Mississippi Valley State 109-47

It was Smith's third straight game for the Tigers (2-1) in which she tied or established a career high. William hit 5 of 6 3-pointers.

Returning first-team All-America forward Angel Reese had 14 points and 10 rebounds. Annesah Morrow contributed 14 points and Hailey Van Lith scored 11 for the defending national champion Tigers. They won their second straight game after being stunned in a seasonopening 92-78 loss to No. 20 Colorado in last Monday's Hall of Fame Series game in Las Vegas.

Guard Sh'Diamond McKnight MVSU (0-2) with 21 points. No other MVSU player scored more than 4 points as LSU held the Devilettes to 24.3 percent from the field (17 of 70) while outrebounding them 59-33.



Iowa 94, Northern Iowa 53

In Cedar Falls, Iowa, Caitlin Clark became Iowa's all-time career scoring leader and finished with the 12th triple-double of her career as the No. 3 Hawkeyes beat Northern Iowa 94-53.

Clark had 24 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds, joining Sabrina Ionescu as the only NCAA Division I players to record triple-doubles in four different seasons.

Gabbie Marshall had 17 points

and Hannah Stuelke added 16 for the Hawkeyes (3-0), who were coming off an 80-76 win over No. 8 Virginia Tech on Thursday night.

UCLA 113, Bellarmine 64

In Los Angeles, Gabriela Jaquez had career highs of 30 points and 12 rebounds for her first double-double, Lauren Betts and Charisma Osborne also had double-doubles and No. 4 UCLA rolled to a 113-64 win over

over Bellarminey. Betts, a 6-foot-7 sophomore transfer from Stanford, added 22 points, a careerhigh, and 11 rebounds and Osborne had six 3-pointers for 24 points plus 10 rebounds. The Bruins (3-0) had a dominating 56-24 rebounding advantage

Londynn Jones had five 3s and 21 points for UCLA. Kiki Rice, the fifth starter, had eight points and 11 assists. Claire Knies scored 23 points for the Knights (0-2) and Cam Browning

S. Carolina 114, Maryland 76 In Columbia, S.C., Chloe Kitts had career-highs of 13 points and 10 re-

added 13.

bounds and helped fuel a game-changing 17-4 burst right before halftime as No. 6 South Carolina posted its most points ever against a ranked opponent, running past No. 14 Maryland 114-76.

Kitts, who joined the program as a freshman midway through last season, got her first college double-double in front of her former teammates, "The Freshies:" Aliyah Boston, Zia Cooke

and Brea Beal, who were on hand to receive their Final Four rings from a

Sophomore Ashlyn Watkins added 13 points, 11 rebounds and five of South Carolina's 10 blocks. Te-Hina Paopao, an Oregon transfer, had 14 points.

Ohio State 108, IUPUI 58

In Columbus, Ohio, Cotie McMahon scored a team-high 22 points and six Buckeyes reached double figures as No. 7 Ohio State beat IUPUI 108-58.

Ohio State forced 28 turnovers, including 20 in the first half, and took a 59-31 halftime lead. The Buckeyes led by as many as 54 points in the fourth quarter. IÚPUI's Katie Davidson recorded a

game-high 23 points. She also had five rebounds and two assists.

Ohio State took a 13-2 lead in the opening four minutes, thanks to a 9-0 run that featured consecutive baskets by Taylor Theirry.

The Buckeyes scored a game-high 35 points in the second quarter, led by 10 points from McMahon.

Taiyier Parks and Thierry each scored 12 points, Jacy Sheldon and Celeste Taylor had 11 points apiece and Rebeka Mikulasikova recorded 10 points in the home opener.

Stanford 96, Indiana 64
In Stanford, Calif., Cameron Brink had 20 points and 17 rebounds to help No. 15 Stanford rout ninth-ranked Indiana 96-64, dominating an early-season matchup between two ranked teams, and Kiki Iriafen both had double-doubles and No. 15 Stanford beat No. 9 Indiana 96-64 on Sunday, dominating an early-season matchup between two ranked teams.

BASKETBALL

The Cardinal (2-0) jumped out to a double-digit lead in the first quarter and more than doubled up on the Hoosiers (1-1) with a 54-26 lead by halftime, controlling the game both in the paint and from the outside.

Kiki Iriafen added 20 points and 11

rebounds for the Cardinal

Notre Dame 104, NJIT 57

In Newark, N.J., Hannah Hidalgo scored 26 points and tied the Notre Dame record for steals with 12 as the No. 10 Irish routed NJIT 104-57.

It marked the second straight outstanding game for Hidalgo, the 2023 Gatorade New Jersey Player of the Year. She scored 31 points in a 100-71 season-opening loss to No. 6 South Carolina on Nov. 6. It marked the most points ever scored by an Irish freshman - male or female - in their Notre Dame debut. The game against NJIT from the

America East Conference was arranged as a "homecoming" to highlight five of Notre Dame's players who are from the New York-Philadelphia area. Sonia Citron (Eastchester, N.Y.), Hidalgo (Haddonfield, N.J.), Nat Marshall (Queens, N.Y.), Olivia Miles (Phillipsburg, N.J.) and Kylee Watson (Linwood, N.J.) are from within 115 miles of the NJIT campus. In addition, NJIT head coach Mike Logan is a 1996 Notre Dame graduate.

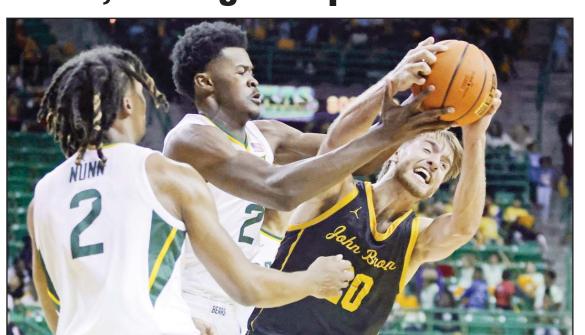
Citron also scored 26 points.



LSU guard Hailey Van Lith (11) shoots against Mississippi Valley State guard Jaylia Reed (2) during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game, Sunday, Nov. 12, 2023, in Baton Rouge, La. (AP)

Walter, Nunn rally No. 20 Baylor past Gardner-Webb 77-62

Bacot, Davis get 22 points each to lift No. 19 North Carolina over Lehigh



John Brown guard Malachi Reeves, (right), battles Baylor center Yves Missi for a loose ball in the first half of an NCAA college basketball game, Thursday, Nov. 9, 2023, in Waco, Texas. (AP)

CHAPEL HILL, N.C., Nov 13, (AP): Armando Bacot's 22-point, 20-re-bound effort and RJ Davis' 22 points led No. 19 North Carolina to a 90-68 win over Lehigh on Sunday.

Harrison Ingram added 14 points for the Tar Heels, who broke away after Lehigh came within three points about seven minutes into the second half. North Carolina (2-0) outscored the Mountain Hawks 23-3 on free throws.

Bacot produced the seventh game of his career with 20-20 numbers. He sat out the last four minutes. Keith Higgins Jr. scored 14 of his 16

points in the first half and Tyler Whitney-Sidney had 10 points for Lehigh (0-3).

Baylor 77, Gardner-Webb 62 In Waco, Texas, Ja'Kobe Walter scored 14 points, Jayden Nunn added 12 and Baylor ran away from Gardner-Webb in the second half. Baylor (3-0) won despite not making a 3-point basket (0-for-9) for the first time since a game against Texas Tech in 1990, ending a streak of 1,032 games with at least one.

RayJ Dennis finished with nine points for Baylor, ending a 51-game streak of scoring in double figures.

Julien Soumaoro led Gardner-Webb (1-2) with 16 points and DQ Nicholas had 10.

Weber State 61, Saint Mary's 57 In Moraga, Calif., Dillon Jones scored a career-high 29 points and had 10 rebounds, and Weber State rallied from 14 down in the second half to stun Saint Mary's 61-57.

BASKETBALL

Jones, a unanimous preseason pick to be MVP in the Big Sky, had nine points as part of a 23-4 run midway through the second half that erased a 49-35 deficit and put the Wildcats (2-0) ahead to stay after they trailed the entire first half. Aidan Mahaney and Harry Wessels each scored 11 points to pace the Gaels (2-1).

With several NBA scouts in attendance, Jones picked the perfect night to have his career game. He shot 11 of 20 and overcame five turnovers to lead the Wildcats to the win.

Nevada 83, Washington 76 In Seattle, Kenan Blackshear scored and Nick Davidson added 13 points apiece and Nevada beat Washington

Blackshear made 12 of 22 from the field and finished with six rebounds and five assists.

Tre Coleman, who finished with eight points and nine rebounds, threw down a dunk to open the scoring 20 seconds into the game and Nevada (2-0) led the rest of the way.

Montana 78, UC Davis 65

In Missoula, Mont., Dischon Thomas had 23 points in Montana's 78-65 win over UC Davis. Thomas added five rebounds for the

Grizzlies (2-1). Laolu Oke added 15

points while shooting 6 of 7 from the field and 3 for 4 from the free-throw line, and grabbed six rebounds. Josh Vazquez shot 4 for 4, including 3 for 3 from beyond the arc to finish with 13 points. The Aggies (2-1) were led by Elijah

Pepper, who recorded 23 points and six rebounds. Leo DeBruhl added 11 points and two steals for UC Davis. In addition, Ade Adebayo finished with eight points and six rebounds.

'Dressage represents the pinnacle of horse training'

Equestrian dressage gains popularity in Kuwait: Sheikha Fajr Badr

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: The equestrian discipline of horse dressage, officially introduced in Kuwait in November of the previous year (2022) through three local championships at the Hunting and Equestrian Club and the Kuwait Equestrian Center, has witnessed a surge in participation during the ongoing 2023-2024 season. This growth is attributed to the backing and acknowledgment provided by the Kuwait Equestrian Federation for this artistic form of equestrian



Sheikha Fajr Badr Al-Sabah

Sheikha Fajr Badr Al-Sabah, an accomplished expressed her gratitude in a press statement, highlighting the pivotal role played by Sheikh Sabah Mubarak Al-Sabah in establishing the Dressage Academy. Sheikh Sabah, known for his profound passion for horses and his role as a breeder and owner of racehorses in the United Kingdom and Ireland, has been instrumental in promoting and enhancing various equestrian disciplines globally.

Sheikha Fajr Al-Sabah emphasized that horse dressage is a sport rooted in the art of horsemanship, teaching horses specific movements to be executed with precision and

EQUESTRIAN

without resorting to violence. According to the International Equestrian Federation, dressage represents the pinnacle of horse training, with both rider and horse executing a sequence of predetermined movements committed to memory.

She expressed her gratitude to Sheikh Sabah Al-Mubarak, the founder of this sport in Kuwait, who has organized five tournaments thus far to bolster and nurture the growth of this novel equestrian pursuit in the country.

Cricket World Cup takeaways

India dominate, England flop, Afghans arrive & Kohli shines



India's Virat Kohli bowls a delivery during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup match between India and Netherlands in Bengaluru, India. (AP)

NEW DELHI, Nov 13, (AP): After 39 days and 45 matches, the long group stage of the Cricket World Cup is over and four teams remain in the running

It's India vs. New Zealand and South Africa vs. Australia in the semifinals this week.

Before that, it's time to have a look at the big storylines to emerge from the tournament:

Home advantage

Playing at home has never been so important in 50-over World Cups. The nation that was host or co-host has won the last three tournaments - India in 2011, Australia in 2015 and England in 2019 - and the Indians have swept through the group stage of this edition with nine straight wins in front of their own fans. They knew the conditions the best, they

are most aware of the benefits of batting first or chasing in all venues, and are most comfortable in the environment. Before 2011. only once had a host nation won the event - Sri Lanka in the



1996 tournament it co-hosted with Pakistan and India, and the Sri Lankans only staged two games in total amid security concerns.

England need revamp The English arrived as the premier team in white-ball cricket, given their status as the World Cup holders in the Twenty20 and 50-over formats. The team that helped to revolutionize the ODI game with an ultra-aggressive approach has grown old, though, and English cricket authorities have taken their eye off the 50-over game in favor of focusing on a red-ball reset of the test team and introducing The Hundred, a contentious new domestic tournament. Together with the players maybe believing their own hype, as well as an unlikely downturn in form, England has put in one of the worst title defenses imaginable, winning three games and finishing in seventh place. England moved out of last spot by winning theirlast two games. So it's back to the drawing board for the English, who'll need to develop a fresh young team for the 2027 World Cup.

Afghanistan arrive

Looking at the big picture, the story of this World Cup has to be the coming-of-age displays of Afghanistan, for so long an easy-beat in international cricket and now a team widely admired because of their journey to the elite. Beating England in week two shook the tournament but wins over Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Netherlands have proved that it was no fluke, and a sensational victory over Australia appeared to be on the cards before Glenn Maxwell's astonishing exploits. This, remember, is a team that has come a long way quickly in the face of many challenges such as security threats, ruined infrastructure and persistent poverty. It's an inspirational story in a sport that can often cut off access for low-ranking teams to the top events and a sixth-place finish will be cel-

Enduring Kohli

No cricketer plays with more pressure on his shoulders than former India captain Virat Kohli. You wouldn't know it from his performances at this World Cup. This might ultimately go down as Kohli's World Cup, with 'The King" - as he is sometimes referred - hitting two unbeaten hundreds and five half-centuries, including a 95 against New Zealand that saw him fall going for a match-clinching six. He averaged 99 and led the scoring list with 594 runs in the group stage and that takes in a duck against England. He even took a wicket - his first in ODIs since 2014 - in the last league game against Netherlands. At 35, approach-

taincy, Kohli might never have been so good and that's saying something for a player selected by the ICC as the best men's cricketer of the 2010s. Watch out Sachin Tendulkar - your record for most runs in ODIs (18,426) is not safe.

Star Performers

Aside from Kohli, there have been a number of star performers. South Africa opener Quinton de Kock has been the most devastating batter with 591 runs, 23-year-old New Zealand allrounder Rachin Ravindra has been a revelation as the first batter to score three centuries and 565 runs on his World Cup debut and Maxwell's tournament-high 201 not out to lead Australia to victory over Afghanistan last week might be the greatest innings in any World Cup. Of the bowlers, Adam Zampa's spin has been a comfort blanket for the Australians after a slow start, especially in his 3-21 against England, and he led the wicket tally with 22. For India, paceman Jasprit Bumrah has taken 17 wickets and Mohammed Shami has snared two five-wicket hauls and comfortably the best average among specialist bowlers

ing 300 ODIs and freed from the cap-**CRICKET**

under the guidance of Algerian coach Saeed Hegazy, initiated physical assessments focusing on fitness and strength for the first-team players at the commencement of local training for Kuwait. This training serves as part of the preparations for the 21st Asian Championship, a crucial event doubling as the 2025 World Cup qualifiers, set to take place in the Kingdom of Bahrain from January 11 to 25

ations for the players.

Al-Bakoush emphasized that the primary objective of these tests is to safeguard the players' health. Conducting these assessments plays a crucial role in preventing the recurrence of muscle injuries that some players have faced in previous periods, both before and after their involvement with the Blue Club in various tournaments.

HANDBALL

Crew advance to East semifinals

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Nov 13, (AP): Columbus scored three goals in the first 33 minutes and the Crew advanced to the Eastern Conference semifinals with a 4-2 victory over Atlanta United in the rubber match of a first-round MLS Cup series on Sunday night.

Columbus (17-9-9) upped its unbeaten streak at home in all competitions to 17, but the third-seeded Crew will hit the road for a semifinal matchup with No. 2 seed Orlando City on Nov. 25. Top-seeded FC Cincinnati will host the fourth-seeded Philadelphia Union in the other semifinal, also

The Crew hit the ground running against Atlanta United, grabbing the lead in the 9th minute on an unassisted goal by Darlington Nagbe. It was Nagbe's third career postseason goal and his second with the Crew.

Defender Malte Amundsen pushed the lead to 2-0 eight minutes later, using an assist from Aidan Morris to score his first career goal in the playoffs. Alexandru Matan made it 3-0 in the 33rd minute with his first career postseason netter. Diego Rossi and Cucho Hernández notched assists.

Pinto praises competitive spirit in training, Kuwait gear up for India



Players take a break during a training session.

Blues in search of replacement for Al-Dhafiri

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: The technical staff of Kuwait, under the guidance of Portuguese coach Rui Pinto, is actively seeking a substitute for the injured player Ahmed Al-Dhafiri. Al-Dhafiri has been officially ruled out due to injury and will not be able to participate in the upcoming match against India, scheduled for the day after tomorrow in the opening round of the joint qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup

finals in the United States of America and Mexico, as well as the 2027 Asian Cup in Saudi Arabia.

Rui Pinto is currently considering three players – Abdulaziz Wadi, Athbi Shehab, and Badr Tariq - to take Al-Dhafiri's place. Wadi, returning to the national team after a lengthy absence due to injury, seems to be the frontrunner for this position. In today's training session, Pinto is emphasizing specific technical and tactical strategies for the upcoming match and focusing on how to approach the Indian team. He is also closely monitoring the players who will be in the starting lineup, ensuring they execute the instructions precisely while keeping a watchful eye on the opponent's key players. Pinto is pleased with the high morale of all

In the goalkeeping department, there is a competition between Suleiman Abdel Ghafour, Abdel Rahman Kamil, and Abdel Rahman Al Majdali to secure the team's defense. Pinto has praised the com-

SOCCER

petitive spirit in training, particularly due to its positive impact on the team. The odds of Abdul Ghafour returning as the national team's goalkeeper seem to be strong, given his experience.

Meanwhile, the Indian team will conduct their training at Mohammed Al-Hamad Stadium in Al-Qadisiyah Club this evening and will conclude the training at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium tomorrow, Wednesday, where the match is scheduled to take place.

In a separate development, Kuwait Olympic team coach Emilio Peixe addressed the players before the start of the team's first training at their camp in the Emirate of Sharjah on Saturday. Peixe urged the players to give their maximum effort in both training and the upcoming matches against the UAE and Tajikistan, scheduled for the 16th and 19th of this month. The training camp is in preparation for the AFC U-23 Cup finals, which will be held in Qatar from April 15 to May 3 next year and serves as a qualification for the 2024 Paris Olympics. Daily training sessions involve all selected players under Peixe's supervision.

'Goal is to minimize the risk of injuries'

Kuwait handball team undergo physical testing

By Khaled El Anzi Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: The technical team of Kuwait national handball,

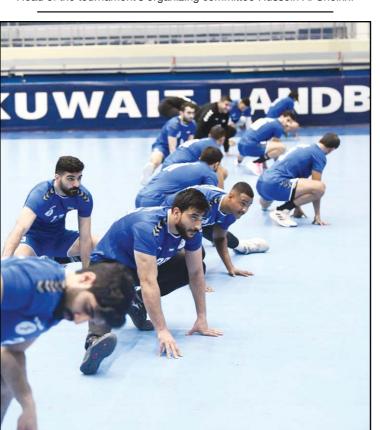
Assisting coach Mohamed Masoudane and physical therapist Mahdi Al-Bakous actively participated in conducting the physical fitness evalu-

He further explained, "Our goal is to minimize the risk of injuries, adequately prepare the players, and enhance their physical development so they can be fully prepared for the upcoming matches.'

A remarkable triumph for Inspire Kuwait



Head of the tournament's organizing committee Hussein Al-Sheikh.



Kuwait handball intensify their training.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: The Inspire Kuwait International Championship for cars and motorcycles concluded at the Kuwait City Motor Sports Circuit in the Arifjan area, featuring 250 participants from Kuwait, the Gulf, and various Arab countries. The winners in the car category were Ahmed Al-Anazi (Class 180), Firas Al-Rifai (Class 200), Mohammed Al-Abdullah

MOTOR RACING

(Class 220), Yousef Al-Hindi (Class 240), Yousef Al-Sayegh (Class 270), and Fahd Al-Ibrahim in the electric car category. In the motorcycle competitions, top honors went to Ahmed Al-Attar (cc1000 category), Muhammad Al-Abad (cc1300 category), Muhammad Burashid (Extreme Bike), and Sadiq Al-Tamimi secured the

first place in the classic car category. Expressing delight, Dr. Falah Al-Mahawish, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Inspire Sports Club for cars and motorcycles, commended the tremendous success of the tournament and expressed hope for continued success in future events.

Hussein Al-Sheikh, the head of the tournament's organizing committee, affirmed that the competition proceeded smoothly without any protests from the participants. He remarked, "The competitions were thrilling and intense at every stage, witnessing the establishment of world records.

Prince William & Alex attend Bobby 'funeral'

MANCHESTER, England, Nov 13, (AP): Prince William headed the list of dignitaries who attended the funeral of Manchester United and England great Bobby Charlton on Monday.

The future king of England attended the service at Manchester Cathedral in his role as president of the Football



Malmo FF team members celebrate after winning in the Allsvenskan's last round between Malmo FF and IF Elfsborg in Malmo, Sweden

SDOFTS

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Al-Qassar, Al-Kharafi, and Behbehani standout performers

Kuwait gymnastics team return home with 6 medals

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: The Ku-Second Baku International Junior -4 silver and 2 bronze. waiti girls' rhythmic gymnastics team

Women's Championship, returning concluded their successful stint at the home adorned with a total of 6 medals

The standout performers contributing to Kuwait's achievement were

Bahrain team join Kuwait Hockey League

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: Bahrain Ice Hockey Club team marked their debut in the Kuwaiti Local League Championship for the 2023-2024 season, engaging in a match against the league leaders, the Warriors.

Fahid Al-Ajmi, President of the Kuwaiti Winter Games Club, the organizing body for this local tournament. highlighted that Bahrain's team, participating since the 2018-2019 season, is pivotal for laying the groundwork for a consistent Gulf league in this

ICE HOCKEY

Winter Olympic sport.

Al-Ajmi further pointed out that Bahrain's involvement in the championship would foster the exchange of experiences, thereby elevating the technical proficiency of the players. He noted that the robust technical standards of the tournament motivated the Bahraini team to join the competition alongside five other local teams. Al-Ajmi warmly welcomed the



The Bahrain team in action.

Bahraini team, expressing appreciation for their visits to Kuwait and their

adherence to the tournament schedule

Raya Al-Qassar, Nabila Al-Kharafi, and Talia Behbehani. Raya secured a bronze medal with the hoop, while Nabila claimed 3 silver medals in the general individual, freestyle performance, and mace categories. Talia earned a silver in freestyle performance and a bronze in the mace category. Meanwhile, Sarah Al-Bannai and Lian, while not medaling, demonstrated commendable performances, with Behbehani securing a fifth position in the overall singles competition.

GYMNASTICS

Abdul Latif Murad, the Secretary General of the Kuwait Gymnastics Federation, expressed heartfelt gratitude to the parents of the players for their efforts in managing the team's delegation and shouldering the challenges of travel. He also acknowledged their sponsorship of all expenses for the tournament participation. Murad highlighted the Federation's commitment to its plan and program for preparing the girls' team.

Emphasizing that their participation in this significant tournament was part of a streamlined approach, with reduced external engagements and approval from the General Sports Authority to participate in key events such as the Baku Championship.



Some of the winners with their coaches.

Kuwait College of Science and Technology win title



Faisal Al-Magseed, President of the School Sports and Higher Education Federation honored as the finalists celebrate on the podium.

Kuwait Technical College secure third place

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: The Kuwait College of Science and Technology team won the Warba Bank Volleyball League title in the third Higher Education Sports after beating Kuwait University 26-24, 23-25, 25-27, 27-25, 15-8 in thriller at the Gulf University Hall. Meanwhile.The **Kuwait Technical College** team secured the thirdplace position by defeating the Public Authority for Applied Education with a score of 3-0.

The event was attended by Faisal Al-Maqseed, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait School Sports Federation and Higher Education, Hamad Musaed Al-Sayer, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Warba Bank, and Hamed Al-Hazeem, Deputy Director General of the Public Authority for Sports for the Sports Sector, along with officials from various participating universities.

Faisal Al-Maqseed, President of the School Sports and Higher Education Federation, emphasized the federation's commitment to promoting sports activities in the Ministry of Education's schools and universities. The aim is to foster sports awareness and provide students with opportunities to

develop their athletic talents, encouraging them to reach professional levels and engage with local and international clubs. Al-Magseed expressed satisfaction with the technical and physical prowess displayed in the final match, celebrating the Kuwait College of Sci-

VOLLEYBALL

ence and Technology's achievement of the "Warba Bank League" title in the third edition.



Alaves' Abdel Abqar jumps for the ball with Barcelona's Robert Lewandowski during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between Bar-celona and Alaves at the Montjuic stadium in Barcelona, Spain. (ÁP)

Atletico win record 15th game in a row

MADRID, Nov 13, (AP): Atletico Madrid came from behind to defeat Villarreal 3-1 with a goal and an assist by Antoine Griezmann. It was the 15th straight league home win for Atletico, surpassing the run of 14 victories in a row at the Vicente Calderon Stadium between May 2012 and February

Atletico fell behind when Villarreal striker Gerard Moreno scored in the 20th, but the hosts rallied with goals by Axel Witsel in first-half stoppage time, Griezmann in the 80th and Samuel Lino in the 85th.

It was the seventh goal in six matches for Griezmann who, along with Álvaro Morata, is leading an attack that has scored 29 goals in 12 league matches.

Atletico was coming off a 6-0 rout of Celtic at home in the group stage of the Champions League. It is unbeaten in 12 games in all competitions, with 10 wins and two draws. Atletico won all of its six games at home this season. plus the last nine from last season to set the new club record at the Metropolitano stadium.

"It's always a plus to play in front of these fans," Griezmann said. "They always give us an extra boost.

Timberwolves overpower Warriors

Maxey has career-high 50 pts, 76ers edge Pacers for 8th straight win

PHILADELPHIA, Nov 13, (AP): Tyrese Maxey scored a career-high 50 points, Joel Embiid had 37 points and the Philadelphia 76ers improved to 8-1 with their eighth straight victory, beating the Indiana Pacers 137-126 on Sunday night.

Maxey was 20 for 32 from the field and had seven rebounds, five assists and three blocks in the first of two straight games in Philadelphia between the teams. His previous high was 44 against Toronto on Oct. 28, 2022.

Rockets 107, Nuggets 104

In Houston, Fred VanVleet scored 26 points, Alperen Sengun added 23 and Houston beat Denver for its sixth straight victory, its longest winning streak since taking seven straight in January 2021.

Nikola Jokic had his fourth tripledouble of the season for Denver, finishing with 36 points, 21 rebounds and 11 assists. The defending champion Nuggets dropped to 8-2.

Timberwolves 117, Warriors 110

In San Francisco, Anthony Edwards scored 33 points and Minnesota overpowered Golden State for its sixth straight victory.

Karl-Anthony Towns added 21 points

and a season-best 14 rebounds for Minnesota in the first of two straight games between the teams in San Francisco.

Mayericks 136, Pelicans 124

In New Orleans, Kyrie Irving made 7 of 10 3-pointers and scored 35 points, Luka Doncic had 15 of his 30 points in a 42-point third quarter and Dallas beat short-handed New Orleans.

In the first of two straight games between the teams in New Orleans, the Mavericks shot 20 of 53 from long range. Dallas iced it in the third quarter, making 8 of 13 3-pointers and outscor-

BASKETBALL

ing the Pelicans 42-31.

Lakers 116, Trail Blazers 110

In Los Angeles, Anthony Davis had 30 points and 13 rebounds, Rui Hachimura scored eight of his 19 points in the final 3:43 and Los Angeles overcame LeBron James' injury absence to beat Portland.

James missed a game for the first time this season, sitting out because of a bruised left calf. The leading scorer in NBA history injured his shin in a collision with Kevin Durant during the first quarter in Phoenix on Friday night.

Grizzlies 105, Clippers 101 In Los Angeles, Desmond Bane

scored 27 points and Memphis won for the second time this season, beating reeling Los Angeles.

Memphis improved to 2-8 while waiting for All-Star guard Ja Morant to return from a 25-game suspension next month.

Thunder 111, Suns 99

In Phoenix, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 35 points, Jalen Williams had 31 and Oklahoma used a big fourth quarter



Golden State Warriors forward Andrew Wiggins (left), reaches for the ball next to Minnesota Timberwolves guard Anthony Edwards during the first half of an NBA basketball game in San Francisco. (AP)

and the Thunder shot 49%. The Suns shot 38%, making 2 of 21 shots in the fourth quarter. Nets 102, Wizards 94

Gilgeous-Alexander and Williams

combined to make 24 of 38 shots (63%)

to beat Phoenix.

In New York, Mikal Bridges had 27 points and 13 rebounds and Brooklyn recovered to beat Washington and after blowing a 17-point lead.

Rookie Bilal Coulibaly, Victor Wembanyama's teammate last season in France, had a season-high 20 points for

Knicks 129, Hornets 107

In New York, Julius Randle had 23 points, five rebounds and five assists and New York scored a season high in its victory over Charlotte.

R.J. Barrett scored 24 points, Jalen Brunson had 23 points and Immanuel Quickley had 17 points. The Knicks shot a season-high 54% to win their third straight game.

Heat 118, Spurs 113

In San Antonio, Duncan Robinson scored 26 points, Bam Adebayo added 24 points and 11 rebounds and Miami beat San Antonio for its fifth straight

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