



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY GREENLIGHTS MINIMUM RETIREMENT PENSION HIKE

Commerce minister survives grilling motion



His Highness the Crown Prince receives Google Cloud CEO (left) and AFC president (right).



Crown Prince Diwan photos

Crown Prince receives Google Cloud CEO, AFC president

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Tuesday at Bayan Palace the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Google Cloud, Thomas Kurian, and his accompanying delegation on occasion of their visit to the country.

During the meeting, His Highness the Crown Prince was briefed with

digital transformation services that Google provides for Kuwait.

His Highness the Crown Prince also received the President of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Salman bin Ibrahim Al-Khalifa, and his Assistant Waheed Juma Al-Doy.

Several senior officials attended the meetings. (KUNA)

Al-Aiban decries 'fallacies'

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: Minister of Commerce and Industry and State Minister for Youth Affairs Muhammad Al-Aiban has survived the parliamentary grilling as the motion filed by MP Hamdan Al-Azmi failed to obtain the required 10 votes at the ordinary session of the National Assembly on Tuesday.

The grilling motion focused on the following points:

- Conflict of interests, abuse of power to cover fraud;
- Negligence and endangering national security;
- Administrative and financial violations, and squandering public funds;

- Misleading the State Audit Bureau (SAB) and dodging responsibility;
- Mismanagement of the National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprises and failure to address the financial problems of some beneficiaries of the fund;
- Failure to regulate prices and granting privileges to traders at the expense of citizens' interests.

During the session, Al-Azmi presented details of the case that Bour-sa Kuwait filed against 10 individuals including the minister who was accused of fraud and illegally obtaining profits through his private company. He said Al-Aiban took advantage of his ministerial position to avoid the accusations hurled at him. He added Al-Aiban endangered national security through the accumulation of trucks transporting flammable substances at Shuwaikh Port, stressing these substances could explode any time due to the

Day by Day

IN Kuwait, our attention is focused on developments in the Gulf countries and the broader region, even as the nation grapples with internal tensions and ongoing concerns among its citizens.

Following the recent address by His Highness the Amir, delivered by His Highness the Crown Prince during the commencement of the current session, it became evident that the authorities expressed dissatisfaction with the representatives.

However, as the saying goes, "Your uncle is deaf," indicating a lack of responsiveness or change. Time is passing swiftly, and we find ourselves in a state of inertia as events unfold in what could be described as our seventh sleep.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

Continued on Page 5

Opinion

Palestine needs liberation leadership, not profiteers

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

DESPITE all the Arab and Palestinian appeals, the Israeli voice is still dominant in the world. Many of the world leaders declared "Israel's right to defend itself" as a result of the attack of the "Al-Qassam Brigades" on the colonies and military bases adjacent to the Gaza Strip.

It is true that the barbaric Israeli aggression cannot be tolerated. However, what did the leaders of the Palestinian factions and the Arab and Islamic governments do other than condemn and denounce it?

In fact, even aid is still prevented from reaching the residents of the Gaza Strip, and in return, all we do is insult and distrust each other.

It is clear from the reports published in the media and social media, which is immersed in the game of insult and distrust, that what is required of the people of the Gulf Cooperation Council alone is to rise up for martyrdom, while the blood investors are amassing their wealth.

Irrespective of whether they are leaders of factions or countries, or parties that have dominated the media scene for years and portrayed themselves as a regional power, claiming that they are "ready to throw the Israelis into the sea", when the hour of truth came, they contented themselves with resonant speeches!

This has been the Arab reality for seven decades, as more than one million and one hundred thousand people were killed and about six million Palestinians were displaced in the diaspora.

There are factions and leaders still emerging on a daily basis. Since 1917, the Palestinian arena has witnessed dozens of those who led the resistance to defeat the "Balfour Project" and then liberate the occupied territories.

However, they used to and still continue to exploit the issue for their personal interests. Irrespective of the current situation, it is the result of historical consequences in which the issue was misunderstood, which led to it being wasted on the altars of regional and international interests.

We therefore ask the Palestinians - What do they expect from the Arab people when they see that the leaders of the factions have devoted themselves to serving Iranian interests?

This issue was a Libyan investment, during the days of Gaddafi, Saddam Hussein and before him Abdul Karim Qasim, the Iraqis, Syria and others. They carried out killings, assassinations and bombing in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the Emirates.

Today, they have sided with the Houthi group, the Iraqi militias, and the Lebanese "Party of Satan" in the aggression against Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Bahrain in response to Iran's orders.

All of this happened because the leaders of the Palestinian factions abused their cause and put their personal interests ahead of the interests of millions of their people.

Today, they are brazenly asking for more, not to save Gaza, but to exploit the suffering of its people in the hideous bidding market.

Let us say it openly - Israel, and the Western world should not have been silent about what happened on October 7, and what happened 17 years before that.

This reminds us of what the United States did when the Japanese "kamikaze" attacked Pearl Harbor in 1941. At that time, Japanese estimates were that Washington, which had not yet entered the war, could pose a threat in the future, so this was a major attack. However, retaliation was postponed until the United States possessed nuclear weapons. The response thus came four years later with the dropping of two atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which forced the emperor to announce defeat via the radio, and occupation of Japan.

The world did not remain silent despite the scenes of destruction and hundreds of thousands of deaths, because it considered what it did as "self-defense."

I cite this example to indicate that, when you are not in a position to realize the reaction to what you intend, you should not commit a destructive act, as happened in the "Al-Aqsa Flood." Therefore, there is no benefit now in crying over spilled milk.

What is required is to learn lessons, especially with regard to the Palestinian issue, whose leaders have done more harm than others, and to realize that "vinegar eel is in it and is part of it."

It remains to say that Palestine must have one capable authority that can make decisions without the interference of blood merchants and paid faction leaders.

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The National Assembly session began on Tuesday discussing the grilling motion submitted by MP Hamdan Al-Azmi against Minister of Commerce and Industry, Minister of State for Youth Affairs Muhammad Al-Aiban.

Kuwait deplores Israeli attack on Qatar aid center

US sanctions target money transfers from Iran to Gaza

WASHINGTON, Nov 14, (Agencies): The United States on Tuesday said it imposed a third round of sanctions on a group of Hamas officials, members of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad who work to transfer money from Iran to Gaza, and a Lebanese money exchange service that facilitates the transfers.

The Treasury Department sanctions, coordinated with the United Kingdom, come in response to the surprise Oct. 7 attack by Hamas on Israel that left roughly 1,200 people dead or kidnapped. The sanctions block access to U.S. property and bank accounts and prevent the targeted people and companies from doing business with Americans.

This and two previous rounds of sanctions against Hamas and its affiliates are aimed at protecting the international financial system from abuse by Hamas militants and their enablers, the Treasury Department said.

The State Department also is designating a Palestinian Islamic Jihad military leader for diplomatic sanctions.

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said in an emailed statement

that "together with our partners we are decisively moving to degrade Hamas's financial infrastructure, cut them off from outside funding, and block the new funding channels they seek to finance their heinous acts."

The White House has said it has yet to uncover information that Iran, the principal financial and military sponsor of Hamas, was directly involved in the multipronged Hamas operation against Israel.

However, the U.S. has conducted three strikes over the last two weeks against Iranian-tied weapons depots in Syria to retaliate for the more than 50 rocket and drone attacks that militant groups have launched since Oct. 7 against U.S. bases in Iraq and Syria, which have caused dozens of minor injuries among U.S. personnel.

President Joe Biden and other officials in his Democratic administration have traveled to the Middle East to show support for Israel and have tried to tamp down tensions in the escalating war between

Continued on Page 5

Iraq's Supreme Court removes Parliament Speaker Al-Halbousi

BAGHDAD, Nov 14, (AP): Iraq's top court ruled Tuesday to terminate the parliament speaker.

The Federal Supreme Court said in a statement it decided to terminate Mohamed Al-Halbousi's membership in Parliament along with that of Laith Al-Dulaimi. It did not give a reason.

Halbousi has been the highest Sunni official in Iraq. Under the country's sectarian power-sharing system, the parliament speaker is always Sunni, the prime minister Shiite and the president Kurdish.

The court decision came against the backdrop of a dispute between Halbousi and Dulaimi, also Sunni. Dulaimi had filed a lawsuit against Halbousi claiming that the speaker had forged Dulaimi's signature on a resignation letter.

Two Iraqi parliamentary officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to comment on the matter said the court decision cannot be appealed and the parliament will need to elect a new speaker.

NewsWatch

WASHINGTON: The US Special Envoy for Yemen **Tim Lenderking** is traveling to the GCC this week to advance ongoing UN-led peace efforts in Yemen and support regional coordination to reach a durable end to the conflict, said the State Department late Monday.

The State Department added in a statement "the United States is committed to securing a peaceful resolution to the Yemen conflict. We are working closely with our partners to support peace efforts under UN auspices and alleviate the immense suffering the conflict has caused." (KUNA)

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LONDON: Britain's cybersecurity agency said Tuesday that artificial intelligence poses a threat to the country's next national election, and cyberattacks by hostile countries and their proxies are proliferating and getting harder to track.

The National Cyber Security Center said "this year has seen the emergence of state-aligned actors as a new cyber threat to critical national infrastructure" such as power, water and internet networks. (AP)

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LUCKNOW, India: Rescuers are working around the clock Tuesday to remove debris to extract 40 workers who have been trapped for over two days after an under-construction tunnel collapsed in northern India.

A 2.5-foot (0.76 meter)-wide steel pipe will be pushed through an opening of excavated debris with the help of hydraulic jacks to safely pull out the stranded workers, authorities said. (AP)

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KATHMANDU: Nepal's government decided to ban the popular social media app TikTok on Monday, saying it was disrupting "social harmony" in the country.

The announcement was made following a Cabinet meeting. Foreign Minister **Narayan Prakash Saud** said the app would be banned immediately. (AP)



Palestinians mourn their relatives killed in the Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip, at a hospital in Khan Younis, Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2023. (AP)

Kuwait moves to reclaim soil quality post-invasion damage

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14, (KUNA): Improving the quality of Kuwaiti soil that had largely been contaminated as a result of crude spills caused by the 1990 Iraqi invasion is a significant part of environmental protection, the oil ministry said on Tuesday.

Such a measure will be instrumental in rectifying the damage inflicted on Kuwaiti soil more than three decades ago, the oil ministry's public relations chief Dr. Tamather Al-Sabah told a ministry-organized panel discussion on future environmental endeavors.

Iraqi forces had set more than 700 oil wells ablaze to trigger the "biggest environmental catastrophe" in history, according to Dr. Mohammad Al-Qahtani, who is in charge of the ministry's soil-related projects, most of which are being carried out in northern and southern areas, he said.

Numerous innovative techniques are utilized in these projects that aim to improve the quality of Kuwaiti soil, he underlined, citing biological treatment as one of many effective cleansing methods that go into such endeavors.

State-run Kuwait Oil Company's soil-related projects chief Muthana Al-Mumen listed a number of recent programs that have been completed, chief among them a "green cover project" that covers some 30 square kilometers, he said.

Prayer Timings			
Fajr	04:49	Asr	14:33
Sunrise ..	06:11	Maghrib ..	16:54
Zohr	11:33	Isha	18:13

Local

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

Kurian’s inaugural visit marks pivotal step in partnership with Kuwait gov’t

Google Cloud CEO joins Kuwaiti entrepreneurs, students at GenAI tech talks

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: Following Google Cloud’s announcement on the establishment of the Alliance Framework Agreement (AFA) with the Government of Kuwait earlier this year to lead the digital transformation roadmap of all government entities, CEO Thomas Kurian embarked on his inaugural visit to Kuwait.

Kurian met with distinguished dignitaries and the leaders of prominent Kuwaiti corporations, reaffirming Google Cloud’s commitment to supporting businesses and driving innovation in the region.

The visit to Kuwait included an insightful fireside chat at the GenAI Tech Talks at Kuwait University, where Kurian participated in a conversation moderated by Shaymaa Al Terkait, Kuwait Country Manager for Google Cloud. The session convened prominent tech entrepreneurs, startups, and students, providing them with insights into Google Cloud’s latest generative AI capabilities and emerging technology trends. Kurian also showcased two groundbreaking innovations: Duet AI in Workspace, an AI-powered collaborator that helps users write and refine content, organize data, create images from texts, and more, and the Student Admission AI Assistant, a custom-built Arabic virtual admissions officer for

Kuwait University, designed to streamline the admissions process for prospective students.

“The cloud is fundamentally changing how many businesses operate, fueling a new era of innovation that can benefit virtually every part of an organization,” said Thomas Kurian, CEO of Google Cloud. “By utilizing Google Cloud’s leading capabilities, from generative AI to security, businesses in Kuwait can unlock new insights, improve operations, and discover new ways to be more productive.”

With the announcement of the intent to open a new cloud region and obtaining a country office investment license by Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA), Google Cloud has reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the nation’s digital future and bolstering its position as a regional hub for innovation. Furthermore, Google Cloud launched a national skill-building program in partnership with the Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT), aiming to train 3,000 learners in AI and digital skills within its first year.

Google Cloud is committed to supporting public sector organizations and businesses of all sizes in their quest to accelerate digital transformation in Kuwait and the broader region.



CEO Thomas Kurian talking at the gathering.

Nod to self-funded students

Kuwaiti students enrollment in Egypt, Jordan put on hold

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: During its 25th meeting, chaired by the Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Dr. Adel Al-Manea, the National Bureau for Academic Accreditation and Educational Quality Assurance announced a temporary halt to the enrollment and registration of Kuwaiti students in medical specialties in Egypt and Jordan, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a statement following the meeting, Al-Manea elaborated that, based on the recommendations of the National Bureau’s Board of Directors, the decision was made to suspend registration and enrollment in medical specialties (human medicine, dentistry, and pharmacy) at universities specified in Ministerial Resolution No. 150/2022 in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Ministerial Resolution No. 151/2022 in the Arab Republic of Egypt.

He clarified that new students, who are self-funded and have academic admission for the academic year 2023/2024 in the aforementioned medi-



Dr. Adel Al-Manea

cal specialties in Jordan and Egypt, will be permitted to register within the direct delegation plan for medical specialties in accordance with subsequent ministerial decisions.

Al-Manea emphasized that students studying at their own expense and holding academic acceptance in the mentioned medical specialties can opt to join the ministry’s missions, provided they meet the inclusion conditions outlined in the mission regulations.

The reconsideration of the previous decision involved soliciting opinions from specialists in the Ministry of Higher Education and individuals in the academic and educational field. The goal is to arrive at a clear and comprehensive strategy that balances the preservation of education quality in Kuwait while prioritizing the public interest of Kuwaiti students.

Al-Manea affirmed collaborative efforts with relevant authorities and specialists in the Ministry of Higher Education and the Academic Accreditation Authority to explore alternative solutions for scholarships and delegations in these specialized fields. The aim is to broaden the options available to Kuwaiti students interested in studying medicine by sending medical delegations in preparation for opening and accrediting universities and establishing new scholarship programs in medical specialties.

Live ammo drill November end

Job lost for disobeying orders

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: The Misdeemeanor Court, presided over by Judge Abdul Rahman Al-Hurairi, ruled to remove the Secretary-General of the General Secretariat of Awqaf from his job and fine him KD 3,000 for refraining from implementing a million-dinar ruling in favor of a Kuwaiti citizen.

The citizen confirmed in his complaint that this crime was stipulated in article 58 (bis) of the Kuwaiti Penal Code, as follows: The penalty shall be imprisonment for a period not exceeding two years and termination of any competent public employee who intentionally abstains from implementing an enforceable judicial ruling 30 days after warning is issued.

Live ammo exercise: The Kuwaiti Army announced that the ground force will carry out the “Takamul/I” exercise with the participation of forces from the Gulf Cooperation Council (Peninsula Shield) countries at the end of this November using live ammunition, reports Al-Rai daily.

The Directorate of Moral Guidance and Public Relations of the Army stated that the activity will be centered around Al-Adiraa Square and Al-Abraq in the northwest of the country when the ground forces will participate with vehicles and armored vehicles.

The Directorate has called on all citizens and residents, not to approach or set up camps near the aforementioned areas during the announced period, out of concern for everyone’s safety.

Expected weather for the next 24 hours:
By Day: Mild, humid and partly cloudy to cloudy with light to moderate freshening at times southwesterly wind to southeasterly wind, with speed to 15-50 km/h with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times and a

Weather

chance for rising dust.
By Night: Mild, humid specially over coastal areas and partly cloudy to cloudy with light to moderate freshening at times southeasterly wind, with speed of 15-45 km/h with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	30	22
Kuwait Airport	30	17
Abdaly	31	17
Jahra	32	20
Salmiyah	29	24
Nuwaisib	31	18
Wafra	31	16

‘Kuwait eyes top health for all’

45th Kuwait conference on ENT kicks off

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: The Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi affirmed that Kuwait is striving to improve the provision of excellent health care services to all citizens and residents.

He stressed the keenness of the Ministry of Health to host specialized medical conferences, enhance cooperation, and exchange of experiences among specialists with the aim of improving methods of prevention and treatment of diseases of all kinds.

This was said in a speech delivered by the Assistant Undersecretary for Allied Medical Services Affairs Dr. Abdullah Al-Faras on behalf Dr. Al-Awadhi yesterday afternoon at the opening of the 45th Kuwait Conference on Ear, Nose and Throat Surgery.

The minister said, “The conference was attended by an elite group of specialized doctors from around the world, which enhances maximum benefit in the scientific and medical fields, as well as enhances cooperation to discuss matters of common interest.”

Dr. Al-Awadhi indicated that all of this is focused on developing medical performance and the medical care provided to service recipients. He explained that the annual ENT Conference involved discussions on micro-surgical ear surgeries, cochlear implants, diagnosis of snoring diseases and surgeries, and sleep apnea.

Operations

Discussions also revolved around some complex cases and conducting operations on the sidelines of the conference. There was an exchange of experiences with the participating international talents and the visitors. Dr. Al-Awadhi stressed the Ministry of Health’s interest in following up the topics discussed at the conference and other conferences, and following up the recommendations reached by the participants and researchers to work on transferring them on the ground until they come into effect, to support and enhance the Kuwait health system, “which we are proud of and those in charge of it”.



In addition, Director of Zain and Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Center, Chairman of the Cochlear Implant Committee, Chairman of the ENT Council and Chairman of the conference Dr. Mutlaq Al-Sayhan highlighted the constant endeavor to improve the health system by equipping, training and developing a group of distinguished surgeons capable of providing the best medical services.

In his speech, Dr. Al-Sayhan said, “The conference includes an elite group of the most prominent pioneers, experts and specialists from all over the world. We are confident that their participation will bring great enrichment and added value to the activities of this session of the conference.”



Kuwait was and continues to be a pioneer in hosting scientific and medical conferences as part of its continuous endeavor to develop its health system as one of the pioneering countries in providing advanced medical services based on the belief of its wise leadership that health care is an integral part of the comprehensive building of a modern, developed state.

The conference aims to raise community awareness and keep abreast of developments in various sciences in the field of ear, nose, throat, head and neck surgeries, and various fields related to this science, with the aim of increasing the dissemination of knowledge and expanding and developing the scope of services provided in our societies.

The activities of this session of the conference include lectures, live performances, and training workshops for doctors, trainees at the Kuwaiti Board, and audiologists and speech-language pathologists.”

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Open Awareness Day: The Dasman Diabetes Institute, which was established by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, organized its annual event on the occasion of World Diabetes Day for the 16th year in a row by holding an open awareness day at Al-Hamra Tower.

The Director General of the institute Dr. Qais Al-Duwairi said the institute is continuing its ongoing efforts through the peer-reviewed research it is conducting in full swing to reduce the increasing rate of diabetes in the country so that it can be one of the most important comprehensive centers for research, treatment and awareness in the field of diabetes.

In a statement issued on the sidelines of the event, Dr. Al-Duwairi affirmed that the aim of these activities is to shed light on this disease, deliver an awareness message to patients, and teach them methods and skills for peaceful coexistence with this disease, its risk factors, and ways to prevent it.

He revealed that a specialized research team from the institute was present at the event to explain the research conducted by the institute and encourage community members to participate in the various research projects to suit their health condition.

Dr. Al-Duwairi explained that the event was an open day filled with many health and awareness activities. It included medical check-ups such as measuring blood sugar and vital indicators, medical and nutritional consultations, exercises and advice related to physical fitness, and much more.



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received the visiting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Google Cloud, Thomas Kurian, and his accompanying delegation.

HH PM meets Google Cloud CEO

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received on Tuesday the visiting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Google Cloud, Thomas Kurian, and his accompanying delegation.

The meeting was attended by Director General of Kuwait Direct Investment Public Authority (KDIPA) Sheikh Dr. Mishal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Head of the Office of His Highness the Prime Minister Hamad Al-Amer and Assistant Director General of Investment Operations at KDIPA Sheikh Abdullah Sabah Al-Humoud Al-Sabah. (KUNA)

Sustainable development supported

WASD honors Kuwait envoy to UK

LONDON, Nov 14, (KUNA): The World Association for Sustainable Development (WASD) has honored Kuwait’s ambassador to the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland Bader Al-Awadhi for his pioneering contribution to achieving and supporting sustainable development in various parts of the world.

This came during the 20th annual World Association for Sustainable Development conference on Monday, held over two days in London with the participation of international researchers, policy makers, academics and experts.

WASD chose Al-Awadhi among the sustainability pioneers for his support of WASD programs during 2023 and his efforts in following the UN’s sustainable development agenda, in addition to various development projects around the world.

Head of the sustainable development department at Kuwait’s Technical College Dr Randa Bahman, and Assistant Professor at

Gulf University for Science and Technology Dr Omar Jibreel were also among the honorees that contributed to WASD program.

The UN set 17 sustainable development goals to achieve a better and more sustainable future by 2030, and the goals address global challenges, including poverty, inequality and climate change.

WASD aims to promote exchange of knowledge, experience, information and ideas among academics, scholars, professionals, policy makers, industry and students to improve the mutual understanding of the roles of science and technology in achieving sustainable development all over the world.



Al-Awadhi

OAPEC in COP28 preparatory talks

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14, (KUNA): The Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) said that OAPEC’s 30th meeting of environment and climate change experts discussed preparation and coordination of Arab negotiating positions during the annual meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP28) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which will be held in UAE at the end of this November.

OAPEC explained in a press statement Tuesday that the 30th meeting was held yesterday, Monday, at OAPEC’s headquarters of the General Secretariat in Kuwait, in which representatives of OAPEC’s member states and representatives of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States and the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE) participated.

The statement quoted OAPEC Secretary General Jamal Al-Loughani as saying that this second session of the meeting was devoted to discussing topics that require coordination, especially with regard to the work of the committees and working groups concerned with the Paris Agreement.

The four priorities of COP28 previously announced by its President Ahmad Al-Jaber are to accelerate the process of just, equitable and responsible energy transition, reduce emissions before 2030, transform the path of climate financing, in addition to mobilizing efforts and emphasizing the principle of shared responsibility, he added.

Al-Loughani underscored that the outcomes of COP28 will be consistent with the principles of the UNFCCC, Paris Agreement, as well as regional and national circumstances and priorities.



A group photo of trainees and officials.

People with disabilities trained for labor market

By Salman Al-Mutairi

The Public Authority for Disability Affairs’ (PADA) ‘Partners to Employ’ campaign continued on Tuesday to train and qualify people with disabilities for the labor market.

Over the past five years, the campaign has continued to promote the

vocational excellence of 258 trainees, thus strengthening the involvement in society in various governmental and private sectors including customer service, office management and information systems.

PADA organized this campaign in cooperation with the Human Social Development Institute, Public Authority of Manpower and Ministry of Social Affairs. (KUNA)

‘Chronic crowds, odd work hours at MoH clinics cause for concern’

“Ensuring the highest level of performance in the government health sector, aligned with international standards, is imperative, especially in an oil-rich country like ours,” columnist Eng **Ahmad Abdel Hadi Al-Sadhan** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

“The availability of medical services should be seamless, accurate, and expeditious. Recognizing the pivotal role of the Ministry of Health in our society, responsible for all medical services, is crucial for maintaining health stability, combating epidemics, and overseeing the establishment of hospitals and medical centers.

“The commendable efforts of the medical and supportive staff during the (Corona) pandemic underscore their significant contribution.

“However, based on my perspective and firsthand experiences, this vital sector requires enhanced organization and arrangement. For instance, some emergency clinics in hospitals experience severe and chronic overcrowding.

“Another notable concern is the limited working hours of the clinic in Al-Siddiq area, which operates only in the morning despite the substantial local population. The absence of dental or laboratory specialization during that period necessitates residents to travel to the Al-Zahra’a area clinic, further burdening it and contributing to overcrowding. Similar challenges exist in various regions.



Eng. Al-Sadhan

“Additionally, the dental center affiliated with Jaber Hospital faces significant delays in dental implant appointments, spanning months. Attempting to contact the internal clinic number for inquiries or appointment modifications often proves nearly impossible, leading individuals to wait for confirmation.

“Some suggest resorting to the private sector for faster service, despite the associated costs. Engineering observations also reveal subpar finishes related to the flooring in some areas of Jaber Hospital and the new Farwaniya Hospital. These finishes should be of the highest quality, durable, and serve for decades, raising concerns about their current state.

“This message underscores the need to address engineering matters comprehensively. The Committee for Treatment Abroad requires development, and various topics and files within the Ministry of Health demand decisions and reforms.

“The collaboration of the government and the National Assembly is vital to advancing the medical sector, given its direct impact on people’s lives, illnesses, and pain. Timely and decisive action is imperative, and we seek the guidance and support of God Almighty in all circumstances.”

Also:

“At the recent meeting of the Interior Ministers of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, decisions were taken to address security issues and implement ambitious projects that will diversify sources of income to wean the nation from its dependence on oil,” columnist **Tariq Hamada** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

“Also, laying down a comprehensive Gulf strategy to combat drugs is extremely important at this stage. I have previously called for Gulf coordination to confront the drug scourge, especially in the presence of organized gangs trying various ways to pump huge quantities of narcotic substances into GCC countries.

“The unified security strategy could strengthen cooperation and integration. It relies heavily on the rapid exchange of information, expertise and the latest smuggling methods, all of which contribute to tightening control over innovative smuggling methods, drying up the sources of this scourge, and prosecuting perpetrators.

“In addition, the unified Gulf tourist visa project contributes to the smooth movement of residents and tourists between the six GCC countries. Undoubtedly, there will be a positive impact on the economic and tourism sectors, especially Kuwait, which is heading towards obtaining an important share of global tourism. This will play a role in saving hundreds of millions of Kuwaiti dinars that citizens spend annually on external tourism.

“Tourism is a major source of income for many countries. It is an industry with foundations and rules, hence, the need to prioritize it. The local tourism sector should be developed by promoting Kuwait’s winter weather to attract more tourists who want to enjoy the winter atmosphere that distinguishes the country.

“Linking traffic violations electronically has positive effects, because it has achieved traffic safety goals. It is a clear signal for any violator that he will be prosecuted when he violates the Traffic Law when he is in any Gulf country. He will pay the corresponding fine. If he is sentenced to jail, the sentence will be implemented even if he is in his home country, so there is no choice for anyone but to strictly comply with the Traffic Law.

“First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled caught my attention when he highlighted the cybercrimes committed by organized international gangs and professional hackers, as well as Kuwait’s efforts to establish a specialized center for cybersecurity.

“Transnational fraud crimes cannot be controlled alone, because they are often carried out in other countries – outside the countries where victims are residing. Gulf, regional and international cooperation is needed to confront and limit them. Kuwait started such confrontation by attracting national competencies armed with technological expertise and skills to form a wall against the repeated attempts of piracy gangs.”

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“Most members of our society are retirees. They do not benefit from certain privileges, considering the heavy pressure and obligations on their shoulders,” columnist **Dr Essa Al-Omairi** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

“Those who belong to this segment, which is dear to all of us, have served the State honestly and sincerely. They created and laid down foundations for the generations after them. They gave time and effort to this country and spent their lives serving it, so the State is obligated to do everything necessary for their benefit.

“In terms of monthly obligations, there have always been proposals to support retirees and make life easier for them. One of the important suggestions is to find an effective mechanism for alleviating the suffering of those who defaulted in their loan installments by canceling all or a large percentage of their unpaid loans or establishing a fund for insolvent retirees. The fund shall be responsible for retired members who are selected according to their work experience. It will be a distinctive gesture of real assistance for them.

“Most importantly, the State could benefit from appointing retirees to social insurance committees based on their experience and their salary could help them fulfill a large number of obligations.

“In this context, we thank the government for the good and positive initiative to increase the pension of retirees who are currently receiving less than KD1,000 a month. It is a commendable step. Once approved and implemented, it will improve the living conditions of this important segment in the country that deserves our appreciation and respect. They also deserve assistance and attention from the government, as a way of showing appreciation and gratitude for their valuable contributions to the nation.

“Also, we call on the government to take similar steps to improve the lives of other citizens. At the same time, we must not forget to emphasize the need for the government to monitor the economic movement and the consequences of the pension increment.”

□ □ □

“Every day, the Kuwaiti foreign policy records an honorable position and a school that many countries do not know, by taking firm measures and solid positions which are not hidden from anyone, because they operate in the sun and in front of everyone with transparency,” columnist **Dr Mubarak Al-Abdulhadi** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

“Perhaps, its position will be recorded in history as it confronts the Zionist entity’s malicious campaigns and distortion of facts about the brutal massacres in the Gaza Strip.

“Kuwait is small in size, but large in its stance. It is a country of humanity that always exerts tremendous efforts and utilizes its energy to provide all means to support its brothers. It records its adherence to the Palestinian cause and rejection of normalization of ties with the Zionist entity with a bright white testimony, while the records of those who support the Zionists by all means are filled with the stigma of shame and blackness.

“The tragic events and brutal massacres in Gaza revealed many owners of masks who wear them according to public mood, their whims, the poison of their thoughts and the extent of their beards that are full of malice.

“Do these people determine how we support our people in Gaza or how we express our sympathy? Do these people have hearts that do not know mercy? Do their religion hold different standards and duality in ideas that are determined only by their beliefs, of which we only know forms shaped according to the perspective of their interests, because they consider themselves the origin of determining our path, but do not realize that we live in an open and exposed world and the processes of monitoring situations are ongoing?

“We salute all the honorable people who forced their submissive countries to take a strong stance on what is happening in Gaza. There is no consolation for those who are still justifying, making excuses, and deluding themselves about their shame and the stigma that will haunt them, and will be a black record in their history. Is the peoples’ silence supposed to be reasonable? Is it Arab or Islamic?!

“I want to convey my message to those who refuse to boycott and attack the honorable people who have taken a position that traitors would not dare take: You have determined your identity and your path. This is your business and your shameful positions do not deserve attention, because you are not important. You are just trying to attract attention after being stripped of modesty.

“Whoever bears the standard of the word must speak out or he can be silent, which is better, because the spaces have been filled with their filth.”

— Mai Elsoukary

‘Need to serve Arab society as whole’

Kuwait bid to develop agriculture praised

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: The Secretary-General of the Arab Agricultural Engineers Union, Muhammad Makki, said, “The Union should develop its activities and interaction with the rest of the responsible authorities in the Arab agricultural sectors, so that it remains effective in its influence and is present in its proposals and recommendations,” reports **Al-Rai** daily.

Speaking during the 90th meeting of the Union of Arab Agricul-

tural Engineers, which was held at the Symphony Hotel in the presence of a member of the Kuwaiti Society of Agricultural Engineers, Engineer Meshal Al-Quraifa, he said, “the resources from the one Arab land must be integrated to serve the united Arab society with all its members, and that Arab governments must unify their vision and nations that speak multiple languages.”

For his part, the former Secre-

tary-General of the Union of Arab Agricultural Engineers, Yahya Bako, thanked the Kuwaiti Society of Agricultural Engineers for this invitation.

He praised the efforts made by Kuwait towards local agricultural development, as it “provides great support to everyone who wants to invest in the agricultural sector, as Kuwait was originally built on desert, so with this support it became green.”

Plan to shift private schools from housing areas in 3 yrs

Failaka tourism promotion eyed

By Enas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: The Municipal Council, during its meeting yesterday headed by Abdullah Al-Mahri, set a period of three years to evacuate and remove private schools in all private and model housing areas from the date of issuance of the decision.

It also approved the allocation of plot 38 in the diplomatic zone in West Mishref Block 1 to the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), and the use of the remaining area of 1,000 square meters for embassies and diplomatic bodies, provided that a contract is concluded with state properties and the Ministry of Finance.

Development of Failaka

The Municipal Council referred to the Technical Committee the vision presented by Kuwait Municipality for developing Failaka Island.

In its response to member Dr. Hassan Kamal’s question, the municipality explained that the development of the island was studied within the fourth structural plan. The study included a park affiliated with touristic projects, a passenger port, and some commercial activities that support tourism on the island.

Heritage Village

The Municipal Council also referred to the technical committee a question concerning the delay in the completion of the heritage village project in the Capital Governorate.

Dr. Hassan Kamal explained that the heritage village project is one of the projects that has been stalled for ten years. There were varying questions about it, and the municipality’s response was that the project is currently with the judiciary and there are rulings that have not been finalized.

He stated that the project has been under contract since 2004, and the vision is still ambiguous.

In turn, the municipality said, following the completion of the final judicial rulings, there will be coordination between Kuwait Municipality and the Ministry of Finance regarding the project.

Advertisements List

The Municipal Council has retained the question submitted by member Hassan Kamal regarding the application of the advertisement regulations. It referred to the Engineering Professions Committee the questions submitted by member Farah Al-Roumi regarding the procedures for issuing the letter “Ending the Supervision of an Engineering Office” and the role of engineering offices in supervising construction work.

A Municipal Council member Fahad Musaed Al-Abd Al-Jader merely responded to his question regarding the closed pedestrian bridges, demanding that he be provided with the report on them from 2021.

Technical Inspection

The Municipal Council approved updating the response to a question submitted by architect Sharifa Al-Shalfan regarding the role of the executive

Dead body found

Beware of ‘fraudsters’ operating from outside

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: The Ministry of Interior on Monday warned everyone of fraudulent operations that were recently carried out by some weak-minded individuals from outside the State of Kuwait by impersonating security personnel using phone numbers and electronic communication programs, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

In a statement, the General Administration of Security Relations and Media at the Ministry of Interior called on citizens and residents to be vigilant and wary of such activities and inform the competent authorities when they receive such suspicious calls.

The MOI added, these calls are being monitored and tracked by the relevant authorities in the Ministry to take necessary legal measures.

□ □ □

Dead body found: Earlier today, a person contacted Kuwait’s emergency line 112 to report the discovery of an individual lying behind the Al-Ahmadi crossing, according to Al-Seyassah daily.

Jail upheld for forgers

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: The Court of Cassation upheld the verdict issued by a lower court to arrest a Kuwait employee of the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) and two other citizens and imprison them for a period of four years after they were charged with forging the licenses of five fake hotel companies to obtain residence permits during the COVID-19 pandemic and tampering with the automated numbers of the real estate. It also upheld the verdict issued to imprison a Kuwaiti employee for four years, with the implementation of the sentence suspended.

The Public Prosecution had charged all of the defendants with forgery of official documents.

Job made easy

Customs authority, CBK automatic link activated

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: The General Administration of Customs has activated the automatic link with the Central Bank of Kuwait, as part of the development approach that will affect all customs sectors, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

The administration explained this step comes in accordance with the directives of the Director General of the General Administration of Customs, Abdullah Al-Sharhan in line with the the country’s aspirations towards digital transformation and linking government institutions.

The admin added that this link will facilitate procedures and enhance the customs supervisory role at all customs ports, through comprehensive development of import and export mechanisms for cash currencies and precious metals.

The regulatory processes for declaration and auditing have also been re-engineered and all their operations have been digitalized to enhance the effectiveness of the customs regulatory role in monitoring and auditing such operations, which contributes to communicating all customs data on the trade movement in exports and imports of currencies and precious metals.

These operational steps are also part of the development approach that will take place in all sectors of the General Administration of Customs, so that such projects will contribute to developing the economy and enhancing the competitiveness of trade across Kuwait’s borders.

branch of Kuwait Municipality in traffic planning and traffic studies.

It referred to the Jahra Governorate Committee a question submitted by member Abdullah Al-Enezi regarding the failure to complete the implementation stages of the project of the Ministry of Interior’s Technical Inspection Department in Jahra Governorate.

Safety Systems

The Municipal Council referred to the executive body a question submitted by member Alia Al-Farsi regarding safety regulations. It only responded to the question submitted by Al-Farsi regarding the country’s fourth structural plan.

It also referred to the executive body a question submitted by member Munira Al-Amir regarding the security and safety procedures followed during demolition and construction processes.

Mirqab and Sawaber

The Municipal Council referred to the Technical Committee a question submitted by member Dr. Hassan Kamal regarding the Kuwait Municipality’s vision for Mirqab and Sawaber areas in order to coordinate with the Structural Planning Department of Kuwait municipality and invite the concerned authorities to know their opinion regarding the two areas.

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Focus on key topics including sustainability, innovation, youth and social media

Kuwait participates in Abu Dhabi's Global Media Congress

Ambassador Palmelli launches ... Swiss-Kuwaiti business platform

‘Foreign Minister plans to visit Kuwait next year’

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: The Swiss Ambassador to the country, HE Tiziano Palmelli, confirmed the depth of bilateral relations between Kuwait and his country in various fields, and revealed the desire of the Swiss Foreign Minister to visit Kuwait next year, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Palmelli said on the sidelines of the launch of the “Swiss-Kuwaiti Business Platform (SKBP),” in the presence of Assistant Foreign Minister for European Affairs Ambassador Sadiq Marafi and a large crowd of Kuwaiti businessmen and representatives of Swiss companies, “There are no confirmations yet regarding the visit, but this desire comes from the standpoint of strong bilateral relations.” “And of course, the foreign ministers of the two countries are looking for any opportunity to visit each other in light of the busy global agenda imposed by the tragic events in Gaza.”

He pointed out that Kuwaitis obtaining a multi-entry Schengen visa for 5 years will contribute to enhancing popular exchange and will allow more Kuwaitis to visit Europe, noting that cooperation in



Officials cutting the ceremonial cake.

the health sector must go beyond medicines and medical equipment to shaping health policies through Swiss expertise.

Palmelli pointed out that food security is one of the most promising areas of joint cooperation, pointing to the Green Line company, which specializes in hydroponics in Kuwait and produces vegetables and healthy foods that are produced in Kuwait using Swiss technologies, explaining that the volume of exports from Switzerland to Kuwait in 2022 reached \$764 million.

Regarding the platform, he explained that it will be a non-profit voluntary group that brings together representatives of companies, businessmen and professionals from

companies and organizations in Kuwait and Switzerland, and its opening reflects the strength and durability of bilateral relations between the two countries and the extent of their keenness to support and strengthen them for a better future for the two friendly peoples.

For his part, Chairman of the Board of Directors and Managing Director of Ali Abdul Wahab Company, Faisal Al-Mutawa, praised the depth of the strong and solid relations between Kuwait and Switzerland in various fields, especially humanity, which is embodied in the cooperation between the Kuwaiti Red Crescent and the Swiss Red Cross.



Leonardo with one of his paintings.

Swiss envoy's son supporting Gaza with his paintings

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: With his tiny fingertips and spontaneous sketches that transcended barriers and borders, 5-year-old Swiss prodigy, Leonardo, harnessed the power of his innocent childhood imagination to convey solidarity and support for the Palestinian cause. Through his artistic contributions, he eagerly participates in a charity bazaar scheduled for December 9 at Al-Shaheed Park, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The initiative for the charity bazaar originated from an invitation extended by Sheikh Rima Al-Sabah, the wife of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and was announced by Tiziano Palmelli, the Swiss ambassador to Kuwait.

By Salem Al-Methen

ABU DHABI, Nov 14, (KUNA): Kuwait, represented by Kuwait News Agency's (KUNA) Director General Dr. Fatma Al-Salem, is taking part in the Global Media Congress in Abu Dhabi, which kicked off on Tuesday under the theme “shaping the future of media industry.”

Dr. Al-Salem -- also representing the Kuwaiti Ministry of Information -- will take part in a seminar titled “the future is now: using Artificial Intelligence AI in media”, while other media figures will take part in different kinds of sessions and events.

The three-day event sees the participation of experts from 172 countries and will focus on key topics including sustainability, innovation, sports media, youth, education and, journalism and social media.

The congress will also discuss tackling challenges facing global media agencies and topics related to funding radio and TV broadcast.

Moreover, it will discuss enhancing competitiveness between the internet, social media, journalism, radio and TV to develop the media field.

The congress is a great opportunity for companies to communicate with experts, to benefit from their experience in keeping up with the rapid changes in the media world.



KUNA photos
KUNA's Dr. Fatma Al-Salem during the Global Media Congress.

The event also includes an exhibition for the top international and local trademarks, presenting their recent services, technologies and products in the media field.

Meanwhile, the congress will discuss the role of global news agencies in facing growing challenges in the age of technology, social media and fake news. Among the event's topics is also means of boosting cooperation between the agencies and their syndicates and unions to resolve mutual issues and ensure a transparent and neutral news coverage.

Another topic is the impact of AI on media, the quality of AI-generated items and adding new media subjects to academic curriculums.



KUNA photo

The plane carrying 40 tons of food and medical supplies to Gaza Strip.

40 tons of food, medical supplies sent

Kuwaiti 19th Gaza relief aid airplane takes off to Egypt

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14, (KUNA): The 19th Kuwaiti humanitarian aid airplane took off from Abdullah Al-Mubarak Air Base to Al-Arish International Airport in Egypt on Tuesday, carrying 40 tons of food and medical supplies to Gaza Strip.

In a statement to KUNA, head of the public relations and media department at Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) Khaled Al-Zaid said that Kuwait started sending urgent humanitarian aid and ambulances to Gaza since the beginning of the Israeli aggression force's attacks.

This humanitarian aid is part of Kuwait's continuous support to the Palestinian cause, under direct orders from His Highness the

Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

He affirmed the need to deliver aid to Gaza Strip, as 2.3 million people are suffering lack of medical supplies, food, water and fuel.

A number of Gaza hospital went out of service after running out of fuel and electricity, he added.

KRCS is accepting donation to Gaza on its website, said Al-Zaid, noting that the current situation in the strip requires urgent aid from humanitarian organizations.

Focus on charitable, humanitarian work

Foundation to announce winners in Fine Arts Competition on Dec 6

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: According to the Ibrahim Taher Al-Baghli Foundation for Dutiful Child Award, it will announce the winners participating in the foundation's Fine Arts Competition on December 6 in preparation for honoring them during the closing ceremony, which will be organized in its 17th edition under the patronage of the Minister of Social Affairs Sheikh Firas Al-Sabah on December 18 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

The foundation highlighted the need to pay attention to charitable and humanitarian work and consolidate the pillars of volunteer work among individuals and institutions of civil and charitable society. Since the launch of the foundation in 2007, it has worked to promote positive values among all members of Kuwaiti society.

Sponsorship

During his sponsorship of the ceremony for distributing certificates to the artists who participated in the competitions, which was held by the Kuwait Society for Fine Arts the day before yesterday evening at its headquarters in Hawally, Head of the foundation Ibrahim Taher Al-Baghli said the foundation will continue to strengthen community partnership programs and work to organize many events that fall under the Al-Baghli Award for the Dutiful Child project for the year 2023.

He expressed his gratitude to the president and members of the foundation for their fruitful efforts to highlight and make the competition a success since 2014.

Meanwhile, President of the Kuwait Society for Fine Arts Abdul Rasul Salman highlighted the participation of 32 diverse artistic works, stressing that the artists' paintings came in different competitive styles and trends in addition to the diversity of ideas on topics.

He praised the sponsor of the Dutiful Child Award and his unlimited support in promoting the concept of honoring par-

ents among members of Kuwaiti society through various competitions in honor of the nation, parents and the elderly.

Salman explained that the Dutiful Child Competition witnessed a large turnout for participation in its activities, embodying a unique state of awareness and a sense of belonging to the homeland and family.

The paintings also depicted the features of children's love for their fathers and mothers, with a unique fine language and a fine vision.

Artistic

The participants presented artistic paintings from various fields of fine arts, drawing art, graphic art, and collage art.

The styles harmonized between the figurative and the abstract, evoking life symbols such as the father and mother, where the mother is a symbol of the earth and an icon of change and expression in a unique fine language as a tribute to fathers and mothers for what they have given to their children.

In addition, Head of the Supreme Committee in Mabarrat Ibrahim Taher Al-Baghli confirmed to the honorable son Ali Hassan that visual artists are an important segment of society because of their distinctive artistic works that have a great influence in Kuwaiti society.

He said the participation in the fine art exhibition reflected the artist's artistic sense, which is mixed with his sophisticated and pioneering sense of promoting the value of honoring one's parents.

Al-Baghli said, “The participants received the award from Almighty Allah by translating the virtue of honoring one's parents through the artistic works they created. In our eyes, all 41 participating paintings by the 32 participating artists won first place. However, the final word is up to the jury, which will determine six winners according to the terms of the award.”

He indicated that the artists took turns in their work and continued the journey of the artists who preceded them by competing for the Dutiful Child Award.

November

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NOW	NOW
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Promo period from 1st – 30th November 2023 Terms & conditions apply*

Commerce minister

Continued from Page 1

high temperature. He warned this could lead to a catastrophe like the incident at Beirut Port in Lebanon. He stated that several trucks transporting small rocks are allowed to leave the ports and enter the local market without inspection, which could pave way to the smuggling of drugs and weapons.

He also criticized the appointment of the chairman of Kuwait General Administration of Customs (KGAC) although the latter has nothing to do with KGAC and did not advance his career in the field, considering he worked in the private sector most of the time.

He accused the minister of trying to deceive the citizens by pretending to be pro-reform through the withdrawal of industrial plots from tenants. He argued this is a regular procedure followed by the minister's predecessors. He added the Public Authority for Industry Law states that the tenants whose plots were withdrawn have the right to complain and then reclaim their plots or address the violations.

He went on to say that the minister appointed consultants from other ministries, citing as an example a consultant from the Ministry of Finance and another who used to work as the driver of a senior official. He revealed an employee from the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) was appointed as manager of the Office of the Minister of Commerce and Industry. He pointed out that such appointments burden the public fund.

He said Al-Aiban violated the Civil Service Commission (CSC) regulation banning the secondment of employees. He revealed the minister obtained exceptions for certain individuals to be appointed as officials even if they did not meet the conditions.

On regulating the prices, Al-Hamdan asserted everyone feels the seasonal hike in the prices of various commodities; stating that fish prices usually increase in summer, school supplies at the beginning of every academic year and meat during Eid holidays.

Meanwhile, Al-Aiban stated that the motion consisted of fallacies and wrong information; stressing Al-Azmi went beyond the law, Constitution and traditions when he described him as a thief and a swindler. He pointed out the lawmaker alleged that the salary of a consultant is KD 6,000 per month; emphasizing this is absolutely wrong. He urged the lawmaker to prove his allegations, including the supposed appointment of a driver as consultant. He clarified that the consultant he appointed was an official at PACI, while the one from the Ministry of Finance served as a consultant at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry only after resigning from his previous job. He added that he asked the CSC to reduce this consultant's salary -- lower than his salary at the Ministry of Finance. He affirmed all the consultants in his ministry are dedicated Kuwaitis who are highly qualified in the field of combating corruption.

On the increasing number of trucks transporting flammable substances at Shuwaik Port, the minister pointed out this is the result of the hard work of KGAC employees who are keen on preventing the smuggling of diesel. He disclosed the number of trucks at the port has increased from 120 to 470, indicating he asked Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) to address the issue.

About the accusation that he disrupted meetings of the Board of Directors of the Public Authority for Industry, Al-Aiban said the regulations state that four meetings per year are enough; yet he had eight meetings in the first quarter of 2023 alone.

On misleading SAB, he asserted that all the grilling points are based on the reports of SAB before he assumed office; so it seems Al-Azmi tried to grill another minister. He explained there is a big difference between recording violations and comments; as the latter are open for discussion, correspondence and exchange of information.

On the mismanagement of the National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprises, he disclosed that he issued a directive to postpone the collection of loan installments from beneficiaries facing financial difficulties, and formed a committee tasked to study the high risk enterprises to stop the fund from approving them and look for safer and more profitable projects in the interest of the beneficiaries and the public treasury. He added it is unacceptable to be questioned about issues that the fund has been facing in the last 10 years as he assumed office only six months ago.

Regarding the failure to regulate prices, Al-Aiban asserted all the accusations in this regard are baseless. He pointed out the number of citations issued against traders proven to have committed violations and the number of establishments which were closed due to unjustified price hikes are much higher than the figures recorded last year; confirming some of those who committed violations were referred to the Public Prosecution. He revealed the revenues of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in the first half of 2023 reached KD4 million -- higher than the previous year.

Then, Assembly Speaker Ahmed Al-Saadoun allowed one MP to speak in support of the grilling motion and another in support of the minister. MP Khalid Al-Tamar, who supports the grilling motion, said the citizens have been complaining about the unjustified price hikes, which negatively affected families. He argued the minister is obligated to issue decisions and follow up the implementation, warning that the pension and salary increments might lead to a remarkable increase in prices.

MP Badr Al-Mullah, who spoke in support of the minister, clarified that he supported the previous grilling motions of Al-Azmi; but this time, he is against the motion. He pointed out that as an eyewitness, he confirmed the minister was referred to the Public Prosecution when Boursa Kuwait filed a case after his ministerial appointment. "In April 2023, Al-Aiban assumed office and decided to reform Boursa Kuwait in May 2023. In June 2023, Boursa Kuwait reported him to the prosecution for accusations related to his work in a private company 10 years ago. The fact that Boursa Kuwait took such a step only after all those years means it is due to the minister's reform decision," the lawmaker added.

Speaking about the diesel trucks in his

capacity as former Minister of Oil, Al-Mullah revealed the KGAC employees complained about the accumulation of trucks transporting flammable substances. He emphasized the need for HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to interfere in order to address the issue, protect the ministers and support their decisions. He added that during his term as oil minister, he received many requests from individuals to establish thinner factories and he found out that they purchased subsidized kerosene to sell the product to Jabal Ali or Jordan at international prices. He said this harms the public treasury; as certain individuals earn very high profits by purchasing a shipment of kerosene for KD 60,000 and then sell it for KD250,000 the following month without exerting any effort.

After this, Al-Saadoun announced that he did not receive any no-confidence motion; so he decided to tackle other items in the agenda.

The National Assembly approved Tuesday in its first deliberation, the amendment to Article 19 of the Amiri Decree 61 (1976) issuing the Social Security Law regarding increasing the minimum retirement pension.

Finance Minister Fahad Al-Jarallah confirmed Tuesday that based on the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and the decision of the Council of Ministers, the minimum pensions will be increased.

This came in Al-Jarallah's remarks after the National Assembly's regular session to discuss the report of the Parliamentary Financial and Economic Affairs Committee. This law works to improve living standards, starting with the segment of retirees who have the minimum pension, in accordance with the government parliamentary consensus, he said.

This law will not affect the continued disbursement of the annual increase of KD 20, he said, pointing out the government's keenness to complete its studies connected to improving the lives of citizens before the end of this year and referring them to the Parliamentary Financial and Economic Committee.

He underlined the government's endeavor to achieve justice and equality for retirees, and one of the foundations of that justice is not to increase one segment and leave another segment.

National Assembly Speaker Ahmad Al-Saadoun announced Tuesday parliament's approval of amending article (19) of the Amiri order (61) for the year 1976 regarding social insurance, to raise the minimum pension wage.

The amendment was agreed upon by all 63 attendants of the ordinary session, in both first and second deliberations and was referred to the government.

The national assembly's session had moved on to discuss financial and economic parliamentary committee report on amendments proposed by government on social insurance law.

The first article stipulated that minimum pension wage for those supporting seven children and more is KD 1,615.

The second article specified raising retirement wages to a minimum of KD 1,000 or a 10 percent increase as those with a previous salary near KD 1,000 would not stand to benefit from the amendment as much as those with lesser salaries thus prompting the addition of the 10 percent clause.

As for retirees with wage between KD 1,000 and maximum wage, the amendment grants them a five percent increase, to ensure gain to all pensioners.

US sanctions

Continued from Page 1

Israel and Hamas. But those efforts have faced massive setbacks.

More than 11,000 Palestinians, two-thirds of them women and children, have been killed since the war began, according to the Health Ministry in Gaza, which does not differentiate between civilian and militant deaths.

The shadowy leader of Hamas' military wing, Mohammed Deif, said the Oct. 7 assault on Israel was in response to the 16-year blockade of Gaza. Israeli raids inside West Bank cities over the past year, increasing attacks by settlers on Palestinians and the growth of settlements, among other reasons.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who declared Israel to be at war, said its military would use all of its strength to destroy Hamas' capabilities. "All the places that Hamas hides in, operates from," he said, "we will turn them into ruins."

In other news, Kuwait condemned an attack by Israeli occupation forces on the headquarters of Qatar's Committee for the Reconstruction of Gaza, slamming the incident as another "crime" against Palestinian civilians and their facilities.

The attack by Israeli forces on a Qatari committee meant to provide aid for the Palestinians typifies Israel's "aggressive tendencies" towards the Palestinians, said a foreign ministry statement.

These actions are "gross violations" of international laws and principles, the statement underlined, urging the international community to intervene and put an end to "Israeli transgressions," it said.

Elsewhere, Palestinian authorities proposed a Red Cross-supervised evacuation of a hospital beset by fighting in Gaza on Tuesday, as health officials warned that the only way to save three dozen newborns trapped there would be to call a cease-fire and transport them out of the besieged territory.

After days of battles with Palestinian militants, Israeli forces have encircled Shifa Hospital, where hundreds of patients, medical staff and displaced people are trapped with dwindling supplies and without electricity to run incubators and other equipment.

Gaza's largest hospital has emerged as a symbol of Palestinian suffering in the war between Israel and Hamas that extends far beyond its walls. Only one hospital in the territory's north is still capable of receiving patients, and about 200,000 Palestinians have streamed out of the area toward worsening conditions in the south in recent days, the U.N. humanitarian office said Tuesday.

77pct delay cited for 2023/'24 plan projects implementation

'Total challenges facing authorities reach 674'

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: The annual plan follow-up report 2023/2024 during the period from April to last September monitored 13 projects that have not been started yet, while the percentage of delays in projects behind the schedule reached 77 percent, and the total challenges facing the authorities in implementing their projects reached 674, however, about 76 percent of them have been overcome and resolved, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The report outlined that the annual plan for 2023/2024 in alignment with the State of Kuwait's vision for 2035 is structured around key pillars aimed at achieving sustainable development goals. These pillars are designed to create a dynamic human capital capable of addressing development challenges in line with international indicators. The focal points include:

- Effective Government Administration: Targeting the reform of public sector management systems



Deputy FM meeting with Abdullah Dashti.



Deputy FM meeting with Dr Ameerah Alhassan.

Deputy FM meets UN official & Head of UN-Habitat GCC Office

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14, (KUNA): Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah met on Tuesday with United Nations Coordinator for the Black Sea Grain Initiative Abdullah Abdul Samad

Dashti on the occasion of his visit to the country. Meanwhile, Sheikh Jarrah Jaber also met on Tuesday with Head of the UN-Habitat GCC Office Dr Ameerah Alhassan.

The two officials discussed aspects of cooperation between the State of Kuwait and the UN-Habitat GCC Office in fields of human settlements and sustainable development.

to enhance transparency, accountability, and overall government apparatus effectiveness.

- Sustainable Diversified Economy: Aiming to empower the private sector, diversify the production base, and promote knowledge industries with advanced technology, subsequently facilitating their market presence.
- Advanced Infrastructure: Seeking to develop and modernize infrastructure in accordance with international standards, with a particular emphasis on supporting the production capacity of electrical energy.
- Sustainable Living Environment: Focused on rationalizing

the consumption of natural resources to sustain resources, reducing environmental pollution rates, and enhancing high-quality healthcare services in both public and private sectors.

- Creative Human Capital: Aiming to develop individuals in society through education and training, ultimately increasing their productive and competitive capabilities.

Additionally, the plan seeks to establish a distinguished international standing for the State of Kuwait on the global stage in diplomacy, economics, culture, and humanitarian work, structured around nine comprehensive pro-

grams.

The annual development plan for 2023/2024 comprises a total of 130 projects distributed across nine programs. The sixth program, dedicated to constructing a cohesive infrastructure, holds the largest number of projects, totaling 36.

The second general privatization program incorporates two projects, with implementation shared between government agencies and public-private partnerships. Of the total projects, 46 percent are in the implementation phase, with 114 ongoing projects and 16 new projects. However, there are 13 projects that have not yet commenced.



King Charles III with HH Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad.



Dashti briefs British ambassador and others on the pictures.

Special personal exhibition of King Charles, Queen Camilla's visit opens

'Exhibition of King Charles's visit to Kuwait a good reminder'

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: The British Ambassador to Kuwait Belinda Lewis affirmed that the exhibition of King Charles's visit to Kuwait is a good reminder of the number of times he visited Kuwait, which is eight times, adding that the pictures displayed in the exhibition are from his fifth visit, and Queen Camilla's first visit to Kuwait.

In a press statement issued on the sidelines of the opening of the special personal exhibition of King Charles and Queen Camilla's visit to Kuwait in 2007, the ambassador said there are many things related to Kuwait that led His Majesty the King to come here eight times, adding that it would be wonderful to see him one day during his visit.

She revealed her pleasure in looking at all the different photos of His Majesty, His Princes, and Queen Camilla.

Ambassador Lewis highlighted that it was truly amazing to see how relaxed Queen Camilla was when she was interacting with the children, blowing bubbles, and sharing some special moments with different people in Kuwait, which is actually a symbol of the strong boundaries of friendship that exist and connecting the two countries.

Meanwhile, a researcher in Kuwaiti-British relations Essa Dashti revealed that November 14 marks the birthday of King Charles, due to which the exhibition was hosted under the sponsorship of the National Council for Culture and the Kuwait Library.

He said a total of 40 pictures were displayed in the exhibition, most of which are being made public for the first time.

Furthermore, the Assistant Secretary-General for the Culture Sector at the National Council for Culture, Arts and Literature (NC-CAL) Aisha Al-Mahmoud said, "We are attending an exhibition held by researcher Essa Dashti who monitors the history of Kuwaiti-British relations. He presented many distinguished books and publications regarding these relations."



JOINT OPERATIONS WAFRA

SAUDI ARABIAN CHEVRON INC. (SAC) - KUWAIT GULF OIL COMPANY



Joint Operations (Saudi Arabian Chevron Inc. / Kuwait Gulf Oil Company), announces the under-mentioned Public Tenders for procurement of materials.

Kuwaiti and Saudi Merchants, registered with either Company wishing to participate in any of the under-mentioned Tenders are invited to collect the Tender documents from Purchasing Section, Purchasing & Logistic Division, Administration Building, Ground Floor, Joint Operations, Wafra, during the official working hours from **15 NOV 2023** up to **11 DEC 2023** for a non-refundable fee mentioned against each tender. Tender Fees to be deposited in the National bank of Kuwait (NBK) Account No. 1001132057. Saudi Suppliers can collect the tender documents from Saudi Arabian Chevron office in Al-Khobar Telephone No.: (013) 8645104 - Fax No.: (013) 8985436

The closing date for the following Tender will be on **Monday, 18 DEC 2023 @ 09:00 AM.**

S.NO.	TENDER NO.	MATERIALS	FEES (KD)
1	008260	VALVES (GATE - BALL - CHECK)	5
2	009052	TRANSMITTER, ASHCROFT, WIKA, ABB OR EQUIVALENT	5
3	009054	SLEEVES, CCB INTERNATIONAL, TUBOSCOPE - VECTO INTERNATIONAL	35
4	009058	INSTRUMENT CABLES	15
5	009059	SHUTDOWN AND BLOWDOWN VALVES	100
6	009062	FLOWMETERS, CAMERON, WIKA, MCCROMETER OR EQUIVALENT	25
7	009064	PIPES & BENDS	100
8	2885607 - R1	GAS SCRUBBER	100
9	2885946 - R1	PIPES INTERNALLY COATED	5

Notes: Gate Passes are required for Suppliers entering JO-Wafra Administrative Offices to collect the tender document and gate pass processing time is 48 hours. Please fill request for gate pass along with legible copies of Authorization letter, Civil ID, Car Registration, Supplier Registration (KGOC or SAC) to e-mail HBJH@chevron.com and ZIQB@chevron.com at least 48 hours prior to arrival.

For additional information, you may contact: Tel No.: **23983639** - Ext. : **2502 - 3477**

World News Roundup

Europe

Navalny associate jailed

Charles marks b'day with a 'full' schedule

LONDON, Nov 14, (AP): At an age when many of his contemporaries have long since retired, **King Charles III** is not one to put his feet up.

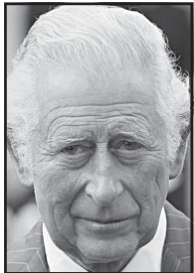
The marks his 75th birthday on Tuesday by busily highlighting causes close to his heart.

With Queen Camilla at his side, Charles will visit a project that helps feed those in need by redistributing food that might otherwise go to landfills. Then he'll host a party for 400 nurses and midwives, saluting the National Health Service's own 75th birthday. For good measure, the king appears on the cover of this month's Big Issue, which gives marginalized people the opportunity to earn money by selling the magazine on the street.

It's the sort of day that's been typical of the king's first 14 months on the throne.

After the seven-decade reign of his late mother, Queen Elizabeth II, Charles has rushed to show that the monarchy remains relevant in modern British society. He's made three overseas visits, pledged to open the royal archives to researchers investigating the crown's links to slavery and expressed "sorrow and regret" for "abhorrent and unjustifiable acts of violence" committed against Kenyans during their struggle for independence.

Charles's reign has gotten off to a steady start, but he still needs to set out a clear vision for the future, said Ed Owens, an historian and author of "After Elizabeth: Can the Monarchy Save Itself?"



Charles

Concerns

Charles' long apprenticeship meant he was a grey-haired septuagenarian when he finally took the throne, fueling concerns he would have a hard time connecting with a country that no longer takes deference to the monarchy for granted.

But all those decades also gave him more training and experience to draw upon than his mother, who was just 25 when she became queen.

While Elizabeth, like all British monarchs before her, was educated by tutors, Charles was bundled off to Hill House School in London before his eighth birthday to begin experiencing the world outside the palace.

As Prince of Wales, the future king founded a charity that helps young people get jobs and training.

But it is his heir, Prince William, who is now focused on the younger generation, seeking a leading role in the environmental movement with his Earthshot Prize, a global competition to find ways to combat climate change.



Spain parliament to vote on PM's re-election: The investiture debate and vote to reelect acting Socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez will take place later this week, Spain's Parliament speaker said Monday.

Speaker Francina Armengol said Sanchez's candidacy will be discussed by party leaders Wednesday and the vote will take place after the debate Thursday.

Sánchez, who has been in office since 2018, is expected to be voted in with no problems given that his Socialist party has reached deals with a bunch of small parties to ensure he has the backing of 179 legislators, three more than the 176 majority required in Parliament in a first vote.

Spain's July 23 inconclusive elections left all parties without a clear path to form government.



Poland's parliament choses speaker: Poland faced a contentious and protracted transition of power on Monday as the president designated the outgoing prime minister to lead the new government in a caretaker capacity, angering a pro-European Union alliance with a strong majority in the new parliament. The chamber overwhelmingly chose a speaker from the alliance that must wait longer to lead.

Political opponents accused President Andrzej Duda, who is allied with Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki's right-wing Law and Justice party, of acting against the will of voters by giving Morawiecki up to four more weeks to lead. They accused Morawiecki's conservative government, in power for eight years, of hanging on to appoint allies to state positions.

Morawiecki had offered his conservative government's resignation as required after his party lost its parliament majority in last month's election, but Duda withdrew in hours redesignated him as prime minister candidate.



Envoys shoot back at Western criticism: Western countries on Monday repeatedly called on Russia to end domestic repression of dissident voices and end its war in Ukraine - and human rights violations related to it - as Russia came under a regular review at the UN's top rights body.

A delegation from Moscow, led by State Secretary and Deputy Justice Minister Andrei Loginov, defended Russia's right to ensure law and order by restricting some forms of protest or voices that might threaten domestic security. He also said Russia's "special military operation" in Ukraine had "no relation to the subject matter" at issue in the review.

Monday's 3 1/2-hour hearing in Geneva was part of an exercise known as the universal periodic review, or UPR, which all UN member states face about every four or five years in connection with the U.N.-backed Human Rights Council.



Russia jails an associate of Navalny: A court in the Siberian city of Tomsk on Monday jailed an associate of imprisoned opposition leader Alexei Navalny pending trial on extremism charges, according to an ally, part of an unrelenting crackdown on Russian political activists, independent journalists and rights workers.

Ksenia Fadeyeva, who used to run Navalny's office in Tomsk and had a seat in a local legislature, was placed in pre-trial detention several months after her trial began.

According to her ally Andrei Fateyev, who reported the development on his Telegram channel, Fadeyeva was placed under house arrest three weeks ago over an alleged violation of restrictions imposed on her earlier. The prosecutor later contested that ruling and demanded she be put in custody, a move the judge supported, Fateyev said.

The activist has been charged with running an extremist group and promoting "activities of an organization that infringes on people's rights."



The Michigan Capitol is seen, May 24, 2023, in Lansing, Mich. A legislative session in Michigan that began with Democrats passing legislation at a historic pace will abruptly conclude on Nov 14, as Democratic divisions and a newly deadlocked state House led lawmakers to adjourn nearly a month early and delay key legislation until next year. Inset: US Republican presidential candidates from



left, former New Jersey Gov Chris Christie, former UN Ambassador Nikki Haley, Florida Gov Ron DeSantis, businessman Vivek Ramaswamy and Sen Tim Scott, R-S.C., stand on stage before 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)

Politics

Mich Dems adjourn legislature to ensure primary date
2024 GOP presidential field rapidly shrinking

COLUMBIA, SC, Nov 14, (AP): The Republican Party's once-crowded 2024 presidential primary field has suddenly shrunk to just a handful of viable candidates.

But a day after Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina stunned many of his own staff by suspending his campaign, it's unclear whether the GOP is any closer to coalescing behind a clear alternative to former President Donald Trump. Instead, the fight between Nikki Haley and Ron DeSantis for a distant second place appears to be intensifying. And some lower-tier candidates insist on battling for relevance, despite growing pressure to bow out of the race altogether.

Meanwhile, Trump's team is cheering on the muddle for second place with Iowa's Jan. 15 kickoff caucuses just two months away.

Signs

Still, there were new positive signs on Monday for Haley, Scott's South Carolina rival, who had been rising in the Republican contest even before the senator's sudden announcement.

Billionaire investor Stanley Druckenmiller, who had given money to Scott, pledged his support for Haley during a Monday interview as he spoke publicly about the 2024 race for the first time. He emphasized the need for the GOP to coalesce behind the former United Nations ambassador before primary voting begins.

"Now I'm hoping the field clears and it's Nikki Haley one-on-one with the former president," Druckenmiller told The Associated Press. "As long as the field is cleared before the actual primaries, I think that's what's important."

But DeSantis is showing no signs of going away as he narrows his focus on Iowa's leadoff caucuses.

The Florida governor's spokesperson, Andrew Romeo, says he has a new opportunity in Iowa with Scott and former Vice President Mike Pence out of the race. He pointed to Iowa's influential group of religious conservatives who have warned to DeSantis' strong opposition to abortion as part of

his aggressive "war on woke."

Just last week, DeSantis scored the biggest endorsement of the 2024 campaign by nabbing the backing of Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds, who promises to lend the Florida governor her folksy charm - and her statewide political machine.

"Tim Scott and Mike Pence were surging resources in Iowa, looking to attract evangelical supporters, and unlike Nikki Haley, Ron DeSantis is making headway with those voters," Romeo said. "In the coming weeks, these voters will see that Nikki Haley's record and values don't match her rhetoric."

Feud

The prominence of the Haley-DeSantis feud underscores just how quickly the 2024 Republican field has winnowed compared to the last time Trump was on the ballot.

At this time in the 2016 primary season, 13 Republican presidential candidates were still competing on the debate stage across two nights. The 2024 primary season opened with eight Republicans in the opening debate this August, while no more than four are expected to qualify for next month's debate in Alabama: Haley, DeSantis, conservative entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy and former New Jersey Gov. Christie.

North Dakota Gov Doug Burgum and former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson failed to qualify for the last debate, although they're still in the race. Pence, who would not have qualified for the last debate, suspended his campaign last month facing a similar dilemma.

Trump's team is cheering on the feud between Haley and DeSantis, who are largely focused on tearing down each other, while the former president remains the overwhelming GOP front-runner.

Privately, Trump's allies believe that Haley will see the biggest short-term polling bump as a result of Scott's departure. But they also believe that Trump, who has a substantial lead, is likely to extend his already huge advantage.

Also:

LANSING, Mich: Michigan Democrats who were passing legislation at a historic pace will abruptly end their session Tuesday as they grapple with internal divisions and a temporarily deadlocked state House.

Lawmakers are adjourning nearly a month early and delaying key legislation until next year to ensure that new legislation will take effect making Michigan the fifth state to hold its presidential primary on Feb 27.

The decision to end early also comes after two Democratic state representatives won mayoral races, erasing the House's slim Democratic majority. The chamber is split 54-54 until special elections can be held in several months.

Michigan Democrats had worked at a record pace at the start of the year after regaining full control of the Legislature while already holding the governor's mansion last year for the first time since 1983. They passed a number of pent-up policy priorities, such as a gun safety package and abortion rights. They also repealed a union-restricting law known as "right to work."

But party unity has wavered in recent months and Democrats were unable to pass several key pieces of legislation before the end of the year that would have implemented paid family and medical leave, lowered prescription drug costs and increased auto insurance reimbursement rates. Gov **Gretchen Whitmer** had called on the Legislature to pass paid leave in her "What's Next Address" in August.

Democrats were facing a Nov. 29 deadline to finish the session or miss out on becoming one of the states that will kick off the party's presidential primary starting next year. The legislation that moved the state's primary will not take effect until 90 days after the Legislature adjourns.

Michigan is also one of the only states where the Legislature and governor's office are not open to records requests, shielding lawmakers from "sunshine" laws that give the public insight into what they do.



Co-leader of Third Way coalition Szymon Holownia gives his first speech as the new Speaker of Parliament, during the first session of the newly elected Polish parliament in Warsaw, Poland on Nov 13. (AP)



Barry



Pelosi

America

'Fire was likely arson': Arson was the cause of a massive weekend fire that charred and indefinitely closed a vital section of a Los Angeles freeway, causing major traffic headaches for hundreds of thousands of commuters, California authorities said.

Gov Gavin Newsom said investigators were trying to determine if one person or more were involved. He gave no other details.

"I have to stress that we have determined what started the fire," Newsom told reporters Monday.

The fire erupted Saturday in two storage lots under Interstate 10 where construction materials combust quickly and the fire grew. It left many columns charred and chipped and the deck guardrails twisted. Crews shored up the most damaged section for the safety of workers clearing the debris. It's still unclear what structural damage, if any, the blaze caused to the freeway. (AP)



Paul Pelosi testifies: Paul Pelosi recounted publicly for the first time Monday what happened the night he was attacked by a man in the San Francisco home he shares with former US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, recalling how shocking it was to see a man standing at his bedroom door, then how the man whacked him in the head with a hammer.

"It was a tremendous sense of shock to recognize that somebody had broken into the house and looking at him and looking at the hammer and the ties, I recognized that I was in serious danger, so I tried to stay as calm as possible," Pelosi told jurors as he testified in the trial of David DePape, who is shown on video carrying out the attack.

Prosecutors say DePape bludgeoned Pelosi in the early hours of Oct. 28, 2022, just days before the midterm elections, and that he had rope and zip ties with him. (AP)



Maryanne Trump Barry dies: Maryanne Trump Barry, a retired federal judge and former president Donald Trump's oldest sister, has died at age 86 at her home in New York.

Until her retirement in 2019, Barry was a senior judge on the 3rd US Circuit Court of Appeals, a level below the Supreme Court.

The NYPD confirmed that officers were sent to Barry's Manhattan home just before

4:30 a.m. and discovered a deceased 86-year-old woman. The cause of death was not immediately clear. Her death was confirmed by a judicial official who spoke on condition of anonymity because the news hadn't been announced publicly by either

the court or Trump's family.AP)



Trump Jr lauds dad's estate exploits: Donald Trump Jr. returned to court Monday as something of a character witness for his



Riot police detain a demonstrator during a protest against mobilization in Moscow, Russia, on Sept 21, 2022. Western countries on Nov 13 repeatedly called on Russia to end domestic repression of dissident voices and end its war in Ukraine and human rights violations related to it, as Russia came under a regular review at the UN's top rights body. (AP)

father's real estate empire, waxing exuberantly about the former president's "incredible vision" and portfolio of "great, iconic projects" at the New York civil fraud trial now threatening his company's future.

The namesake son made an encore appearance at the Manhattan trial as defense lawyers started calling their own witnesses. Trump Jr. first testified two weeks ago, called in by New York State Attorney General Letitia James' office, which is suing the Trump family business.

"I'd say it's good to be here, your honor, but I have a feeling that the attorney general would sue me for perjury if I said that," he joked Monday before embarking on a detailed and rosy history of the family's Trump Organization. (AP)



NYC mayor ducks questions: New York City Mayor Eric Adams kept a busy public schedule Monday, but sidestepped questions about the FBI investigation that prompted agents to seize his phones and raid the home of his chief campaign fundraiser.

Speaking at Manhattan heliport where an air taxi company was demonstrating electric aircraft, Adams laughed, then walked away, when a reporter asked whether anyone else on his team had had their phone seized by the FBI.

"We're talking about helicopters," the Democrat said, smiling. Later, he indicated he might answer questions during his next scheduled news briefing on Tuesday, but not until then. (AP)

Asia

Japanese vice min quits

Ex-Philippine senator De Lima ‘free’ on bail

MANILA, Philippines, Nov 14, (AP): A Philippine court on Monday freed on bail a former senator jailed more than six years ago on drug charges she said were fabricated to silence her investigation of then-President Rodrigo Duterte’s brutal crackdown on illegal drugs.

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 called 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 witnesses testified she received payoffs from imprisoned drug lords.

Regional Trial Court Judge Gener Gito on Monday reversed a decision earlier this year and granted the request of de Lima and four co-accused for bail while being tried in a final drug case. Two other non-bailable drug cases against her have been dismissed.

Dozens of de Lima’s supporters cheered outside after the decision was announced 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. “This is freedom. It’s so precious.”

EU Ambassador Luc Veron said freeing de Lima from detention was “a significant step for the rule of law in the Philippines” and expressed hope that the resolution of the remaining charges would be accelerated.

The US State Department welcomed de Lima’s release “after nearly seven years of detention on politically motivated drug charges.” Noting that two cases already were dropped against her, spokesman Matthew Miller said the US urged the Philippines to resolve the remaining case “in a manner that is consistent with its international human rights obligations and commitments.”

De Lima immediately called her ailing 91-year-old mother and, with her voice breaking, told her she was coming home.

Facing a throng of cameras, de Lima later thanked her family, lawyers, supporters, the judge and the administration of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. “for respecting the independence of the judiciary and the rule of law.”

Japanese vice min resigns over tax scandal: A Japanese vice finance minister stepped down on Monday, amid criticism from Prime Minister Fumio Kishida’s Cabinet, after admitting his company’s repeated failures to pay taxes, a further setback to Kishida’s unpopular government.

Deputy Finance Minister Kenji Kanda, in charge of government bonds and monetary policy, is the third member of Kishida’s Cabinet to resign within two months following a Cabinet shuffle in September.

Kishida later told reporters that he takes responsibility for the appointment of Kanda. “I must apologize to the people that a vice finance minister had to resign soon after he assumed his position,” Kishida said. “I’m determined to concentrate on our work more seriously, as I believe that’s the only way to regain the people’s trust.”

3 candidates OK’d for presidential poll: Indonesia’s Election Commission announced Monday that it has approved all three presidential candidates for next February’s election, including a former special forces general whose vice-presidential running mate is the son of outgoing President Joko Widodo.

The commission said all of the candidates had passed the legal requirements. Last month, the Constitutional Court in a controversial 5-4 ruling allowed Widodo’s son, 36-year-old Gibran Rakabuming Raka, to run despite not meeting the minimum age requirement of 40 for presidential and vice-presidential candidates.

The court, headed by Widodo’s brother-in-law, said it granted an exception for Raka because he is currently mayor of Surakarta. Pro-democracy activists criticized the decision as nepotism that undermined the democratic process. The chief justice was later dismissed after the court’s ethics council found him guilty of a serious violation.

Myanmar army faces a new challenge: Myanmar’s military government faced a fresh challenge Monday when one of the armed ethnic groups in an alliance that recently gained strategic territory in the country’s northeast launched attacks in the western state of Rakhine.

The Arakan Army launched surprise assaults on two outposts of the Border Guard Police, a paramilitary force, in Rakhine’s Rathedaung township, according to independent online media and area residents. The attacks took place despite a yearlong cease-fire with Myanmar’s military government.

Khaing Thukha, a spokesperson for the Arakan Army, told The Associated Press that two military security outposts in Rathedaung were seized by his group and more than 20 police officers from a station in another township, Kyauktaw, had laid down their weapons.

“Some officers of Myanmar’s army have been arrested,” Khaing Thukha said by phone.

Local media outlets reported fighting between the Arakan Army and the military in Minbya, Maungdaw, Mrauk-U and Kyauktaw townships.

3 murderers freed in Australia: Three murderers are among 81 foreigners recently released in Australia after the High Court ruled their indefinite detention in migrant centers was unconstitutional, the immigration minister said on Tuesday.

The court hasn’t released the reasons behind its ruling last week that overturned a 2004 precedent that stateless people could be detained indefinitely.

The Melbourne-based Human Rights Law Center reported last month that 127 people had been detained more than five years. The average was 709 days.

Australia’s center-left government had argued against the release of the foreign and stateless detainees whom Australia does not want to resettle and other countries are reluctant to accept.



US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, (tenth from right), and South Korean Defense Minister Shin Won-sik, (ninth from right), attend a welcome ceremony before their Defense Minister meeting of the South Korea-United Nations Command (UNC) Member nations at the Defense Ministry in Seoul, South Korea, on Nov 14. Inset: US President Joe Biden and South Korea’s President Yoon

Suk Yeol stand for the national anthems during a State Arrival Ceremony on the South Lawn of the White House April 26 in Washington. Yoon says he will discuss international cooperation in response to the purported North Korean-Russian weapons deal during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in San Francisco this week. (AP)

Diplomacy

Yoon slams Moscow-Pyongyang arms deal

SKorea, UNC states warn NKorea over N-threat

SEOUL, South Korea, Nov 14, (AP): Senior defense officials from South Korea, the United States and other nations on Tuesday warned North Korea over its nuclear ambitions and threats, vowing an unspecified collective response to any war-like aggression by the North toward its rival.

Their joint statement came after a meeting in Seoul involving US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, South Korean Defense Minister Shin Won-sik and officials from 16 other countries under the US-led United Nations Command (UNC), which provided combat or medical forces in support of the South during the 1950-53 Korean War.

The meeting came a day after Austin and Shin held annual defense talks where the allies updated a bilateral security agreement with the aim of more effectively countering North Korea’s evolving nuclear and missile threats.

In the statement, the defense ministers and other representatives of the UN Command’s member states strongly condemned North Korea’s “unlawful” nuclear and ballistic missile programs which violate multiple UN Security Council resolutions and called for Pyongyang to recommit to diplomacy aimed at defusing the nuclear standoff.

a North Korean sneak attack on the South in June 1950. The North was backed by forces from the newly formed People’s Republic of China, which was aided by the then-Soviet Union’s air force.

South Korea, the United States and troops from various countries under the direction of the United Nations fought to push back the invasion before the fighting was halted by an armistice in 1953, leaving the Korean Peninsula in a technical state of war. The UN Command has since remained in the South to enforce and maintain the armistice.

Before Tuesday’s meeting, North Korea’s Foreign Ministry condemned the event as reflecting a “dangerous scheme to ignite a new war of aggression.” The North’s state media also criticized the visits by Austin and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who traveled to Seoul last week, calling them “warmongers” bringing a “new war cloud” to Asia.

Concerns

US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin on Tuesday expressed concerns over North Korea’s growing nuclear and cyber threats, and its expanding military cooperation with Russia for its war in Ukraine, Yonhap News Agency reported.

Animosity between the Koreas has spiked in recent months after Kim ramped up his weapons demonstrations, including events he described as simulated nuclear attacks on the South. He also authorized his military to launch preemptive nuclear strikes against enemies if it perceives Pyongyang’s top leadership to be under threat.

South Korea has responded by expanding its combined military exercises with the United States as well as trilateral security cooperation with Japan. Seoul has also been seeking stronger public assurances from Washington that the United States would swiftly and decisively use its nuclear weapons to protect the South in case of a North Korean nuclear attack.

Austin and Shin on Monday signed a new version of the Tailored Deterrence Strategy agreement, which was revised for the first time in a decade

to address the growing threat of the North’s nuclear program.

South Korean President **Yoon Suk Yeol** slammed the purported illicit arms deal between North Korea and Russia, saying he’ll emphasize its far-reaching security implications and discuss international response during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in San Francisco this week.

In written responses to questions from The Associated Press ahead of the APEC meeting, Yoon also said that North Korean provocations will invite immediate retaliation by South Korea and U.S. forces. There are concerns that North Korea might miscalculate and make a move against the South while the world is focused on the conflicts in the Middle East and Ukraine.

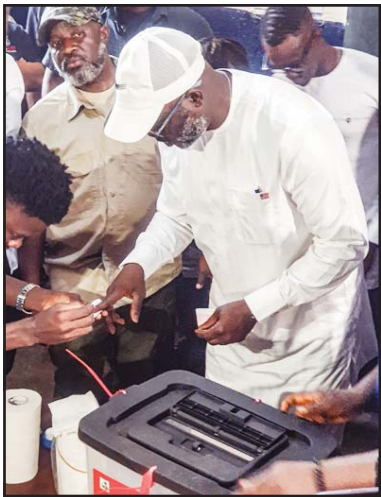
Prevent

“An effective way to prevent North Korea from miscalculating is to demonstrate our robust deterrence capabilities and determination towards North Korea based on the solid ROK-U.S. joint defense posture,” Yoon said, using the initials of South Korea’s formal name, the Republic of Korea.

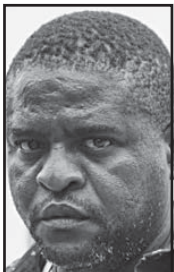
“North Korea’s provocations will not only fail to achieve its intended goal but also result in immediate and strong retaliation from the ROK-U.S. alliance,” he said.

There are concerns that Russia’s protracted war on Ukraine and the raging conflict between Israel and Hamas are adding to complexities and uncertainties over the security situation on the Korean Peninsula.

Some experts say North Korea’s reported pursuit of sophisticated Russian weapons technologies in return for its supply of conventional arms for Russia’s war in Ukraine could help the North modernize its nuclear-capable missiles targeting South Korea and the U.S. The experts also worry that Washington’s preoccupation with Ukraine and Israel might prompt North Korea to conclude that the U.S. security posture on the Korean Peninsula has weakened and launch surprise attacks or other provocations against South Korea.



Liberian President George Weah casts his ballot in the second round of presidential elections in Monrovia, Liberia on Nov 14. Weah faces a tight runoff election as he seeks to defeat Joseph Boakai, a repeat challenger, and earn a second term in the West African nation. (AP)



Chérizier



Ebrard

Lat/Am

Gang leader killed: A powerful and feared gang leader in Haiti who was once a math and physics teacher was killed in a neighborhood within a sprawling seaside slum that he controlled for years, local media reported on Monday.

The death of Iskar Andrice, who also has been identified as Iscar Andris, raised concerns that already rampant gang violence could spike further in the vacuum his death created.

Andrice ruled the Belekou community within the Cite Soleil slum where he died, former mayor Esaie Beauchard told Radio Galaxie FM.

“It’s regrettable that this guy had to be involved in gang activity, because he’s a very intelligent man,” Beauchard said.

It wasn’t immediately clear what day Andrice died.

Jean-Frédérique Islain, the current mayor of Cite Soleil, declined to comment when contacted by The Associated Press.

The gang that Andrice led was involved in murder, robbery, extortion, rape and the hijacking of goods and trucks, according to a recent UN report. He later joined forces with renowned gang leader **Jimmy Chérizier**, known as Barbecue, who formed the “G9 Family and Allies” alliance, Haiti’s biggest and most powerful gang group.

Media interviews granted by Chérizier first had to be approved by Andrice.

The UN said that Andrice, like other gang leaders, created a social foundation in 2015 known as the Siloé Foundation to win over the community he controlled and present a positive image of himself. (AP)

Sailor asks family to pray for him: During the first minutes of Oct. 25 when Hurricane Otis roared into Acapulco Bay with 165 mph winds, sailor Ruben Torres recorded a 10-second audio message from a yacht called the Sereno.

“All things considered I’m alright, but it’s really horrible, it’s really horrible,” he said over the howling wind and the boat’s beeping alarms. “Family, I don’t want to exaggerate, but pray for us because it’s really awful out here.”

The Sereno was one of 614 boats - yachts, ferries, fishing boats - that according to Mexico’s Navy were in the bay that night and ended up damaged or on the ocean floor. Of those aboard the Sereno, one person survived, while Torres and the boat’s captain remain missing.

Otis killed at least 48 people officially, most drowned, and some 26 are missing.

Sailors, fishermen and their families believe there are many more.

Sailors in the region typically board their boats during a storm rather than stay

on land where they’d be safe, so that they can bring the boats to sheltered parts of Acapulco Bay instead of leaving them where a storm could slam them against

docks and do damage.

But Otis was no normal storm. When sailors went to sea that day no one expected that the tropical storm would strengthen to a Category 5 hurricane in 12 hours and make a direct hit on Acapulco, leaving no part of the bay safe. (AP)



Minister for Immigration Andrew Giles during Question Time in the House of Representatives at Parliament House in Canberra on Sept 12. Australia’s immigration minister said on Nov 13, that 80 people including convicted criminals who are considered dangerous have been released from Australian migrant detention centers since the High Court ruled last week that their indefinite detention was unconstitutional. (AP)

Party dodges possible desertions:

Mexico’s ruling party appeared Monday to have dodged the possibility of large-scale desertions of disappointed hopeful candidates in the run-up to the country’s 2024 elections.

Former Foreign Affairs Secretary **Marcelo Ebrard** announced he would not leave President Andrés Manuel López Obrador’s Morena party.

Ebrard had wanted the party’s nomination for president in the June elections but lost to former Mexico City Mayor Claudia Sheinbaum amid what he claimed was improper polling and campaigning.

But Ebrard said Monday he had reached “a political understanding” with Sheinbaum and would continue working as “the second force” within Morena.

“We can form part of a coalition of forces,” he said.

The party was at risk of falling apart because it was built around López Obrador’s outsized personality. He cannot run for reelection and will leave office in 10 months, and there is little else to hold its disparate membership together. (AP)

ORB down

OPEC Reference Basket (ORB) fell by USD 2.82, or 3.0 percent, to an average of USD 91.78/b, the organization 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. (KUNA)

Kuwait Airways shines bright in Dubai Airshow 2023

Amidst vast participation from more than 148 countries in the Dubai Airshow 2023, Kuwait Airways shined bright through highlighting their newest fleet of brand new airplanes. The national carrier of Kuwait topped the participants list in this international event through showing the company's latest technologies and providing a prototype of the airplane's entertainment unit where passengers can enjoy a unique travel experience by high quality screens and sound surround system.

Kuwait Airways seeks to strengthen its position in the global market and expand its relationship network with leading companies in the



Kuwait Airways shines bright in Dubai Airshow 2023. (KUNA)

Market Movements					14-11-2023				
		Change	Closing pts			Change	Closing pts		
↑	SAUDI	-	Tadawul	+67.35	10,857.10	↓	EGYPT	-	EGX 30
	JAPAN	-	Nikkei	+110.82	32,695.93		PHILIPPINES	-	PSEi
	PAKISTAN	-	KSE 100	+117.87	56,644.58		UAE	-	DFM
								-5.26	6,110.88
								-9.72	3,973.21

Business

‘Gross external debt in GCC set to triple, reaching \$660 bln annually’

Kuwait banks expected to reduce share in external liabilities

By S&P Global Ratings

S&P Global Ratings expects Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries will need to roll over more gross external debt in the coming years, with banks accounting for a large proportion as they support government plans to accelerate nonhydrocarbon economic activity.

We expect short-term external funding, mainly in the form of interbank and nonresident deposits (including intra-GCC liabilities), to account for an average of just over 70% of combined GCC banking sector external debt in 2023. While regulators and individual banks try to lengthen the tenor of these facilities, we expect GCC banking systems' external liability growth to push combined national rollover requirements to nearly \$700 billion per year by 2025, with the United Arab Emirates (UAE; not rated) and Qatar (AA/Stable/A-1+) together comprising over half of the total. The \$660 billion is equivalent to roughly 40% of estimated combined 2023 current account receipts and usable reserves, compared to the \$250 billion in 2013, which was about 14% (Brent oil prices averaged \$108 per barrel that year, compared to an average of close to \$82 per barrel through 2023 so far).

In our calculations, we assume the majority of interbank and nonresident deposits are short term. We typically view this type of funding as less stable and more confidence-sensitive, raising rollover risks. However, most systems' external liquidity profiles are solid and in substantial net external asset positions. We note that the overall system may not be representative of the liquidity positions of individual banks. However, even in stressed situations, we expect most banking systems to meet external funding outflows under their own resources (see Page 10 "What A Regional Escalation Could Mean For MENA Banks' External Funding," published Nov. 13, 2023, on RatingsDirect).

Furthermore, even as bank-driven external liabilities increase, we expect most regional governments will remain in a position to prevent and, if needed, cover any outflows. In this, their capacity to do so is linked to the underlying sovereign rating.

Banks' External Balance Sheet Growth Is Increasing National Rollover Requirements

Combined, we calculate GCC banking systems' external liabilities coming due within the year will total \$465 billion in 2023, more than two-thirds of national requirements. We forecast this will increase toward \$500 billion by 2025.

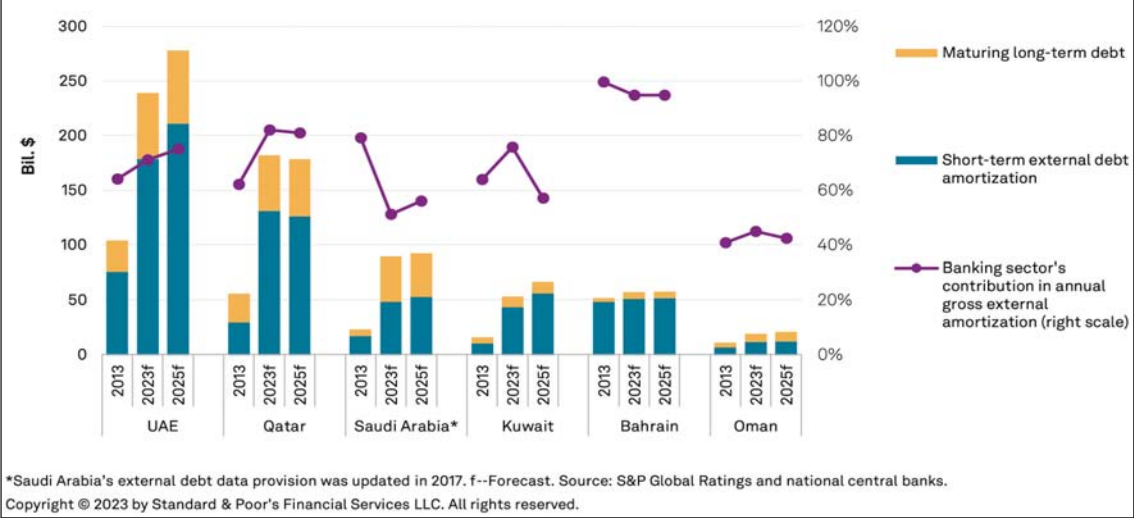
Notably, banks' external balance sheets have not developed at the same pace across the board. The UAE and Qatar display by far the largest net external balance sheet expansion, which is mostly concentrated on specific banks, with government-backed national champions predominating. In Qatar, the build-up of external debt was mainly channeled to finance large domestic projects. In the UAE, it was predominantly recycled in high quality external assets.

However, the situation is evolving, and we expect the greatest increases in banking system external rollover requirements to be in the UAE and Saudi Arabia (unsolicited A/Stable/A-1). For the latter, we expect bouts of relatively tight domestic liquidity and the need to fund Vision 2030 projects to increase foreign-funded bank credit. We expect the UAE will continue attracting external deposits, alongside oil-driven domestic liabilities being placed abroad. On the other end of the scale, we expect Kuwait's (A+/Stable/A-1) banks to reduce their contribution to the country's overall external liabilities in the next few years, with public sector external debt increasing.

Strong Net External Positions Can Mitigate Tighter Liquidity

While banks are driving annual national financing needs, regional economies' net external positions are mostly still dominated by formidable, and expanding, fiscal reserves. Moderate to low levels of gross external debt characterize most—but not all—economic sectors. Apart from Qatar, banking systems are also in net external asset positions, implying an ability to cover outflows of external liabilities without government support in a stressed scenario, depending on the liquidity of the external asset.

However, we note the region's strong and supportive governments have a track record of extending financial aid to



*Saudi Arabia's external debt data provision was updated in 2017. f--Forecast. Source: S&P Global Ratings and national central banks. Copyright © 2023 by Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC. All rights reserved.

entities, or even entire industries including banking systems, before funding strains become problematic. This remains our working assumption for all GCC systems aside from Bahrain (B+/Positive/B) and Oman (BB+/Stable/B), due to their more modest levels of government assets.

We expect gross and net external asset growth to continue for most sovereigns, reflecting large hydrocarbon-revenue-driven external surpluses, which are invested abroad. Our oil price assumptions are steady at \$85 per barrel over the next three years (see "S&P Global Ratings Has Raised Its Henry Hub Natural Gas Price Assumptions For 2024 And 2025," published Nov. 7, 2023).

Most Governments Can Cover External Liability Outflows In Our Hypothetical Scenario

Using our hypothetical stress scenario from "What A Regional Escalation Could Mean For MENA Banks' Ex-

ternal Funding", we compared stressed banking sector liability outflows to liquid government assets. We found all systems, apart from Bahrain's retail banking sector, had very comfortable coverage. In other words, government assets (which include our estimates of external sovereign wealth fund assets) account for multiple times the stressed liability outflows.

Regional banking systems are driving up national gross external debt and we expect related rollover risks to banks and sovereigns will naturally increase as a result. However, most regional governments have liquid assets well exceeding hypothetical outflows and, if ever required, we expect sovereign resources would be rapidly deployed to reinforce confidence. Additionally, our hypothetical stress test highlights regional banking systems are well positioned to meet these requirements without presenting a direct claim on fiscal resources.

NREC posts net profit of KD 2.3mn in Q3/'23

Total assets stood at KD 572 mln

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: National Real Estate Company (NREC) reported its financial and operational results for the periods ended September 30,2023. The Company announced a net profit attributable to the owners of the Parent Company of KD 2.3 million and an EPS of 1.3 fils, in Q3 2023, compared to a net profit of KD 6.2 million and an EPS of 3.5fils for the comparative 3-month period in 2022.



Al-Essa

The Company's operating revenue came in at KD 3.1million, a decrease of 31.7% compared to the same period in 2022. Total assets stood at KD 572 million, as of September 30, 2023.

For 9M 2023, the Company reported a net loss of KD 1.5 million, or a loss per share of 0.83 fils, and an operating revenue of KD 9.8 million.

Commenting on the Company's results, NREC Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Faisal Jamil Sultan Al-Essa, said: "The profitability in Q3 2023 is attributed to the continual progress in delivering units within the Company's Grand Heights' project in Egypt, coupled with an increase in the share of results from our associate company, Agility."

Sultan added: "We are taking measures to navigate through challenges, manage risks

effectively, and progress towards a more prosperous future."

Updates about Reem Mall – Abu Dhabi

Sultan stated: "As of the end of Q3 2023, we had over 130 actively trading units in Reem Mall, and we hold a positive outlook on the mall's future performance, given the favorable impact of Abu Dhabi's thriving business environment."

Benefits from Reem Island being under the jurisdiction of the Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM) as a free zone

Sultan said: "Reem Island has recently joined the Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM) as a free zone, presenting numerous benefits to Reem Mall, its activities, and its tenants. Among the key advantages is the provision of a business-friendly environment characterized by streamlined regulations and procedures, thereby enhancing the overall operational efficiency of Reem Mall."

"The collaboration between ADGM and Reem Island is poised to create substantial value to the island, fostering a favorable business landscape that creates abundant opportunities for growth."

"Businesses on Reem Island will experience a multitude of advantages, including global recognition, enhanced international market access, competitive tax rates, innovation support, efficient and internationally recognized dispute resolution, access to a substantial financial services hub with diverse institutions and investment opportunities, as well as networking opportunities within the ADGM ecosystem", added Sultan.

Established in 1973 and listed in Boursa Kuwait, National Real Estate Company (NREC) is a real estate investment, development and property manager based in the Middle East and North Africa. The Company's portfolio comprises a mix of retail, commercial and residential properties in the region.

NEW YORK, Nov 14, (AP): In 2022, Brazilian oil and gas company Petrobras had 68 places staked out for oil exploration off the South American coast, searching for new reserves while spending \$6.9 billion in oil development projects. About the same time, Algeria-based Sonatrach proclaimed its ambition to ramp up production to become a top five national oil company by 2030. And Abu Dhabi National Oil Co. opened 68 new gas stations in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, noting in its 2022 annual report that there were now more than 500 across the UAE.

All these companies, along with 33 others focused on oil and gas, sent delegations to Egypt for last year's annual climate summit, known as COP27, aimed at moving the world away from the burning of fossil fuels like oil and gas. Many will likely be at the upcoming conference, COP28, being hosted in the UAE, which appointed Sultan al-Jaber, chairman of the nation's oil company, as president of the summit.

Faced with criticism about their presence at negotiations, leaders of such companies argue they are part of the transition to renewable energies, an argument that negotiators like U.S. Climate Envoy John Kerry have cautiously endorsed. But an Associated Press review of how much these companies invest in green energies, along with the priorities laid out in their annual reports, cast doubts on genuine commitments to transition.

Most companies only have small, if any, investment in solar or wind power, the most established green technologies. Most of their investments, billions of dollars, are in further exploration, extraction and refining of oil - with plans laid out in some cases over the next decades. That's long beyond when scientists say the world must move away from fossil fuels.

"These are companies with enormous profits at present, enormous engineering capabilities and have been producing oil and gas for a very long time," said Jason Bordoff, director of the Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University. "It is reasonable to expect leadership in how quickly they lead and move and develop new technologies and drive the cost down" of renewables.

The companies at last year's summit don't look to be making such efforts in any big way. Many that publish annual reports have sections entitled "sustainable" or "green" that do include some renewables. However, in such sections they also include biofuels, hydrogen development and carbon capture, all things that at best have long-term potential to reduce emissions. Many also tout natural gas which, while cleaner-burning than fuels like coal, still emits significant amounts of methane, a potent greenhouse gas.

Almost all the companies focus on reducing emissions in their operations, and don't address the emissions that will result when customers use their products to power cars, heat homes, move ships and planes, and so forth.

Those emissions are known as "Scope 3" and they are commonly seen as both the biggest share of a company's emissions and the most difficult to solve, with many companies arguing they are out of their control. (Scope 1 refers to a company's direct emissions, and

Scope 2 are indirect emissions that come from production of the energy a company acquires to use in its operations.)

Amir Sokolowski, global director of the Climate Change Team at CDP, a nonprofit that asks companies to disclose their climate impact, said fossil fuel companies are reluctant to take on emissions from their products after they're out the door.

But that reluctance isn't rational "because the point is that oil and gas cause most of the combustion in the world in terms of emissions," Sokolowski said.

Petrobras, majority-owned by the Brazilian government, specializes in deep water exploration, drilling and extraction. Its 2023-27 strategic plan earmarks \$4.4 billion in investments "to strengthen our low carbon position." Petrobras' planned investments in crude oil exploration and production for the period are more than 10 times higher than its low-carbon investments, according to the World Benchmarking Alliance, which tracks companies on sustainability goals.

Meanwhile, the company's commitment toward those core products is clear. The scores of exploratory leases and billions invested in searching for new oil deposits fit a strategy that expects oil and gas production "will still be necessary to guarantee the energy security of Brazil and the world in the coming decades," the company says on its website.

Sixteen of the oil companies that went to last year's climate summit have publicly responded in recent years to questionnaires prepared by CDP, which invites companies and countries to be transparent about what they're doing on carbon and the climate. One question was how much of their spending was aimed at helping with the global goal to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius since pre-industrial times, which scientists warn is necessary to stave off the worst impacts of climate change, like increasing extreme weather events.

Equinor, a Norway-based oil and gas company, answered in 2022 that 11% of its capital spending could be classified this way, with a goal of 30% by 2025. Notably, Equinor was also one of a minority of companies with a plan to tackle Scope 3 emissions -- those caused by consumers' use of its products - to get to net zero emissions by 2050.

Equinor's plan includes a big focus on renewables. The company is building out the world's largest offshore wind farm, aimed at powering 6 million British homes one day. But the plan also depends on carbon capture and carbon offsets, or the equalizing of emissions by paying to capture them somewhere else. Equinor also says it will be necessary to continue to produce oil and gas "for the foreseeable future," in part to avoid global shocks.

Al-Jaber's company, ADNOC, earlier this year began using drones to scatter mangrove seeds across Abu Dhabi, part of what it touted as a sustainability effort to plant some 2.5 million of the carbon-storing plants. Yet the company's investment in low-carbon projects amounts to just 10% of its reported plans for \$150 billion in capital spending through 2027.

ADNOC, Petrobras, Equinor and Sonatrach declined or did not respond to interview requests to talk about their energy transition plans.

Some companies in developing nations underscored the tension between the impor-

Capuava oil refinery owned by Petrobras sits in Maui, on the outskirts of Sao Paulo, Brazil, Monday, Nov. 6, 2023. Petrobras specializes in deep water exploration, drilling and extraction. (AP)

Targets production by '27

Exxon Mobil dives into lithium

LITTLE ROCK, Nov 14, (AP): Exxon Mobil on Monday announced it's drilling for lithium in southern Arkansas, with the oil giant expected to begin production of the critical material for electric vehicles by 2027.

Exxon in early 2023 acquired the rights to 120000 gross acres (48562 gross hectares) of the Smackover formation in southern Arkansas, considered one of the most prolific lithium resources of its type in North America. Exxon said that by 2030 it aims to produce enough lithium to supply the manufacturing needs more than 1 million electric vehicles.

"Lithium is essential to the energy transition, and ExxonMobil has a leading role to play in paving the way for electrification," Dan Ammann, president of ExxonMobil Low Carbon Solutions, said in a news release.

Exxon didn't disclose how much it's spending on the project, which is expected to be a boost for a part of Arkansas that has a history as an oil and gas producer.

"I'm not being dramatic when I say this has the potential to transform our state," Arkansas Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders said at a news conference with Exxon and local officials about the project.

Columbia County Judge Doug Fields said the county has already been working with Exxon to ensure roads to the well are prepared.

"Just seeing some of this come in like it is, it's going to be a big pick me up for the area," Fields said.

The announcement comes as the U.S. faces a greater need for lithium to meet its clean energy goals, with production of electric vehicles rising.

Exxon said it will use conventional oil and gas drilling methods to access lithium-rich saltwater from reservoirs about 10000 feet (3.05 kilometers) underground. It will then use "direct lithium extraction" technology to separate lithium from the saltwater, and convert saltwater onsite to battery-grade material.

The remaining saltwater will be re-injected into the underground reservoirs. Exxon Mobil said its extraction process produces fewer carbon emissions than hard rock mining and requires significantly less land.

Zain first and only operator in Kuwait to win three major awards from Ookla® Speedtest®

‘Fastest 5G’, ‘Best 5G Video Experience’, and ‘Fastest Internet’

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: Raising the bar yet again with an impressive achievement that reaffirms its leadership position in the local telecom & ICT industry, Zain announces that it has become the first and only operator in Kuwait to win three major awards in the same year from Ookla Speedtest, the renowned global leader in connectivity intelligence, for Q2-Q3 2023.

The three prestigious accolades, ‘Fastest 5G Network’, ‘Best 5G Video Experience’, and ‘Fastest Internet’, came after Zain’s network successfully topped the extensive analysis carried out by Ookla on hundreds of thousands of user-initiated tests made by consumers in Kuwait. The tests were carried on all of Kuwait’s major networks throughout the previous months, and Zain deservedly scored the highest results in the above three categories.

Commenting on the occasion, Zain Kuwait Chief Executive Officer Eaman Al Roudhan said: “We’re proud to announce this unmatched achievement, which affirms the fact that Zain is Kuwait’s number one network. Once again, we have proven that we are the market leader, and have further solidified our position in the telecom and ICT industry.”

Al Roudhan continued: “Our ongoing investment in upskilling our employees and cultivating our human resources is key to realizing Zain’s vision and continuing its leadership journey. In addition, we will always strive to elevate our customers’ experience because it is the real guarantee for growing our powerful brand and it drives us to invest more in 5G networks and innovative digital tools.”

The CEO added: “As a responsible organization that takes its social and economic commitments seriously, we continue to work eagerly and passionately to empower Kuwait’s vision to build a digital infrastructure, increase digital maturity in our community, and achieve our sustainable goals. Looking forward, we strive to continue our leadership with the rollout of 5.5G technology, opening up entire new horizons for our customers and community.”

Stephen Bye, President and CEO of Ookla, a division of Ziff Davis, commented: “After conducting an in-depth analysis of consumer-initiated tests taken with Speedtest®, Zain has been named the Fastest 5G Network, Fastest Internet, and Best 5G Video Experience in Kuwait by Ookla’s Speedtest® Awards.”

“This award is given to network operators that demonstrate exceptional speed and performance in comparison to other major networks in the market for Q2-Q3 2023. We are thrilled to acknowledge Zain for this achievement, which is the result of their unwavering focus on delivering a superior network experience to their customers.” Bye continued.

Ookla® is the global leader in network intelligence and connectivity insights. For almost two decades, Ookla has set the industry standard for both fixed and mobile network testing and analysis. From its world-renowned Speedtest® and Dnwdetector® platforms to an accompanying and growing suite of end-to-end enterprise solutions, Ookla’s mission is to make the internet better, faster, and more accessible for everyone.

Ookla’s enterprise solutions combine first-party crowdsourced data and scientifically controlled testing with tools that provide actionable insights across a network’s lifecycle and customer experience. Ookla’s insights empower operators,



Zain Ookla Speedtest Awards 2023



Eaman Al Roudhan, Zain Kuwait Chief Executive Officer



Stephen Bye, President and CEO of Ookla

businesses, government agencies, nonprofits, and more to analyze, optimize, and publicize networks around the world.

Ookla is part of Ziff Davis (NASDAQ: ZD), a vertically focused digital media and internet company whose portfolio includes leading brands in technology, entertainment, shopping, health, cybersecurity and martech. Ookla’s headquarters is located in Seattle, WA, USA with additional offices around the world.

To learn more about Ookla’s methodology, visit speedtest.net/awards.

‘Fastest 5G Network’ Speedtest Award™

Ookla compared over 200,000 user-initiated 5G tests taken on the Speedtest® iOS and Android mobile apps from all the major mobile carriers in Kuwait during the award period to determine who showed the fastest mobile network speeds.

Zain’s network topped the results with a Speed Score™ of 332.81, with a download median speed of 405.32 Mbps, and an upload median speed of 31.99 Mbps. The final score is based on several factors, with emphasis on the download speeds and median speeds as those represent what most customers will experience on a day-to-day basis.

This award directly reflects Zain’s unwavering efforts to bring the biggest and most powerful 5G network in the nation to its customer base. In 2019, Zain led the market by being the first operator to commercially launch 5G services, setting a new

precedent in the local and regional telecom industries. Since then, more successes have followed in adapting 5G technologies to overhaul customers’ digital journeys.

Zain continues to heavily invest in its 5G infrastructure with world-class technologies, achieving the highest speeds and best operational efficiency levels. The company seeks to meet the increasing demand on data, while exploring new ecosystems only possible by this

revolutionary technology, with the ultimate goal of serving all needs of consumers, businesses, and government agencies.

‘Best 5G Video Experience’ Speedtest Award™

Ookla compared over 6,000 tests taken on the Speedtest® iOS and Android mobile apps and while connected to a 5G mobile network. Zain’s network topped the results by scoring 80.32 on the Video

■ Eaman Al Roudhan: “Enhancing customer experience, cultivating human resources, and investing in 5G infrastructure fuels the growth of our powerful brand.”

■ Stephen Bye: “We’re thrilled to acknowledge Zain for this achievement, which is the result of their unwavering focus on delivering a superior network experience.”

■ Ookla is a global leader in connectivity intelligence.

■ Zain’s network deservedly achieved the highest scores for Q2-Q3 2023.

Score™, with the results being based on five components, each measuring a different aspect of consumer video experience.

Zain offers its customers the biggest library of entertainment content through its expansive ecosystem of strategic partnerships with MENA and the world’s largest content providers. The company brings tens of thousands of hours of entertainment and sports content on its biggest 5G network, ensuring customers have the best video experience to watch whatever they like, anytime and anywhere they are.

‘Fastest Internet’ Speedtest Award™

Ookla compared over 1,000,000 user-initiated tests that were taken on various Speedtest applications connected to a fixed network, including tests taken on mobile phones over a Wi-Fi connection.

Zain’s network topped the results with a Speed Score™ of 162.81, with a top download speed of 473.23 Mbps, and a top upload speed of 83.58 Mbps. The final score is based on several factors, with emphasis on the download speeds and median speeds as those represent what most customers will experience on a day-to-day basis.

Fixed networks offer superfast speeds with low latency times, making them ideal for gaming enthusiasts. With its powerful, nationwide network, Zain offers a variety of plans for gamers to serve their unique needs and give them the best online experience. The company also offers a wide range of gaming products, like the latest gaming PCs and consoles, original accessories, and much more.



Zain Kuwait HQ



ABK Capital appoints Ali Abdulmohsen Al Fulaij as Deputy CEO

ABK Capital, the investment arm of Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK), announced the appointment of Mr. Ali Abdulmohsen Al Fulaij as the Company's Deputy Chief Executive Officer starting 12 November 2023.

On this occasion, Dr. Husayn Shahrur, CEO of ABK Capital, said: "The appointment of Mr. Ali Al-Fulaij will add value and leadership experience to the company's management team. He will be instrumental in boosting the company's performance and achieving its goal of becoming one of the leading investment companies in the State of Kuwait."

The appointment of Al-Fulaij comes as part of an integrated transformation plan, within the framework of the Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait Group, focusing on investing in human capital and expertise, leveraging the customer experience and the investment solutions platform, and developing the company's systems infrastructure.

Al-Fulaij said: "I am delighted to be on board. In my tenure, I will leverage my experience to add value to ABK Capital's management team and work towards accelerating the ascension of ABK Capital to becoming one of the top investment firms in the region by enhancing the company's distinguished services, products and global partnerships. We will also strive to increase our client base, enrich their experience in managing their wealth and enable them to make well-informed investment decisions."

Some countries excluded from sample

What a regional escalation could mean for MENA banks’ external funding

By S&P Global Ratings

The latest Israel-Hamas war has brought investor risk perceptions of the Middle East, including regional banks, back into focus. The situation is rapidly evolving, with uncertain outcomes. However, currently S&P Global Ratings believes that the economic and credit impacts are likely to be contained to Israel and its neighboring countries.

Against this backdrop, we have designed a hypothetical stress test to quantify the resilience of some rated Middle Eastern banking systems—including those in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, Jordan, and Egypt—to external funding outflows. For this, we use assumptions on the liquidity of external assets and outflows of external liabilities based on the most recent numbers published by regional central banks.

Under our standardized assumptions, external funding outflows could reach about \$220 billion, or about 30% of the tested systems’ cumulative external liabilities. However, banks have sufficient external liquidity to cover these outflows in most cases.

Based purely on the quantitative results, Qatar, Egypt, and to a much lesser extent Jordan, display an external funding deficit. For Egypt, this relates to the recent build-up of external debt in the banking system. For Jordan, it is due to banks’ activities in the Palestinian territories, which could prove resilient in the current context because any unexpected escalation may prompt more Palestinians to transfer their money to Jordan. For Qatar, it is due to the banking system’s significant external debt and a shift in composition toward interbank deposits, although we note the strong track record of government support.

While other systems look resilient, it is important to note that this depends on the capacity to liquidate their external assets abroad in a timely fashion and with manageable haircuts.

Why Were Some Countries Excluded?

We have excluded Tunisia and Morocco’s banking systems from our sample due to the limited external debt of these systems, which are dominated by nonresident deposits from nationals. We have also excluded Türkiye’s banking system, despite its significant external debt, because of our view that the system is more sensitive to domestic events and investor confidence has been tested several times over the past five years. Moreover, a substantial portion of Turkish banks’ foreign-currency-denominated assets are placed with the central bank.

Our Adverse Scenario Of External Funding Outflows

Under our base-case scenario, we assume that the war will remain centered in Israel and Gaza, but there are risks that it spreads. If there is a wider regional escalation (for example, through proxy conflicts), investors’ risk perception of the Middle East may prompt some confidence-sensitive funds to leave, as seen during previous stress.

We note that banking system external debt has increased in some sample countries over the past few years. However, in most cases, this external debt was recycled into external assets, leaving the system in a net external asset position. Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Egypt, and Jordan have recycled some external debt into domestic assets, such as lending to the local economy or investments in local assets. For Egypt, in particular, this shift is very recent.

To assess the potential implications of the recent escalation of geopolitical risk, we have examined the impact of external funding outflows under the following assumptions:

- Outflows of external liabilities: A 50% outflow of interbank liabilities because these are generally more volatile than nonresident deposits—except for those due to banks’ head offices and branches, for which we used an outflow rate of 20%. For nonresident deposits, an outflow of 30%. Furthermore, for capital market liabilities, an outflow rate of 10%, since these are mainly medium- to long-term instruments. No outflows in other liabilities. Where the breakdown of liabilities was not granular, an outflow of 50%, which was the case for Egypt and Jordan.
- Liquidation of external assets: A haircut of 10% on interbank deposits—20% for those due to head offices and branches since we assume that banks will keep some liquidity there. Regional banks tend to place their money with highly rated institutions. A haircut of 20% on investment portfolios abroad, typically held for liquidity management and mostly fixed-income instruments with good credit quality. Furthermore, a 100% haircut on loans to nonresidents and other assets, which we assume will be much more difficult to liquidate in a stress scenario. We applied these haircuts because we assume that banks may incur some reduction in the value of their assets if they want to liquidate them prematurely.

Selected banking systems’ gross external debt

How much could be at risk?

Country	2021	2022	2023*
Oman	10	10	10
Jordan	10	10	10
Egypt	10	10	10
Kuwait	10	10	10
Bahrain (onshore)	10	10	10
Saudi Arabia	10	10	10
Bahrain (offshore)	10	10	10
Qatar	10	10	10
UAE	10	10	10

*Aug. 2023 except for Egypt: June 2023; Kuwait: Sept. 2023; and the UAE and Jordan: July 2023. Sources: S&P Global Ratings and central banks. Copyright © 2023 by Standard & Poor’s Financial Services LLC. All rights reserved.

Hyundai joins Honda and Toyota in ‘raising’ wages

UAW members voting on new contracts

SEOUL, Nov 14, (AP): South Korean automaker Hyundai has joined Honda and Toyota in raising factory worker wages after the United Auto Workers union reached new contract agreements with Detroit automakers.

Hyundai said Monday it will raise factory worker pay 25% by 2028, matching the general wage increase won by the UAW during that period. Toyota raised factory pay 9% to 10% starting in January, while Honda said it will increase wages 11% during the same period.

Labor experts say the increases are at least in part aimed at thwarting UAW President Shawn Fain’s strategy of trying to organize U.S. auto plants run by foreign automakers and Tesla in order to increase the union’s bargaining power. Fain said terrified auto executives at nonunion plants are raising wages, and he called Toyota’s pay increase the UAW bump.

“UAW, that stands for ‘You Are Welcome,’” he said.

About 146,000 UAW members are voting on new contracts with General Motors, Ford and Jeep maker Stellantis that give them 25% general wage increases over the next four years and eight months. When cost of living wages are factored in, workers will get about 33% raises, with the top assembly line employee making about \$42 per hour.

Toyota and Honda also accelerated the time it takes for a starting employee to reach the top pay rate, also matching or coming close to the time period in the new UAW contracts.

Harry Katz, a professor of collective bargaining at Cornell University, said it’s likely the UAW settlement contributed to the raises at the nonunion factories.

“There’s also a strong labor market, the companies are doing very well,” Katz said. “They’ve always wanted to stay nonunion, and they try to stay close to the Detroit top-tier wages.”

In announcing its factory pay increases, Hyundai wouldn’t say how much the hourly wage is at its factory in Montgomery, Alabama, or how much it will pay at an electric vehicle factory under construction near Savannah, Georgia. By early next year the company said it will have increased factory worker pay 14% in the past year.

Katz estimated that Hyundai now pays around \$25 per hour, and he says the nonunion plants’ retirement, health care and other benefits are typically not as good of as what UAW workers get.

“Hyundai continuously strives to maintain competitive wages and benefits commensurate to industry peers,” Jose Munoz, Hyundai’s chief operating officer, said in a statement.

With its increases, Toyota’s top

The Hyundai company logo is displayed Sept. 12, 2021, in Littleton, Colo. Hyundai has joined Honda and Toyota in raising factory worker wages after the United Auto Workers union reached new contract agreements with Detroit automakers. Hyundai said Monday, Nov. 13, 2023 that it will raise factory worker pay 25% by 2028. (AP)

Talks on a landmark treaty to end global plastic pollution are advancing in Nairobi

NAIROBI, Kenya, Nov 14, (AP): Efforts to create a landmark treaty to end global plastic pollution advanced Monday in Kenya’s capital as nations, plus petrochemical companies, environmentalists and others affected by the pollution gathered to discuss draft language for the first time.

The gathering in Nairobi is the third in a compressed five-meeting schedule intended to complete negotiations by the end of next year.

“The urgency of addressing plastic pollution cannot be overstated,” said Gustavo Adolfo Meza-Cuadra Velasquez, chair of the negotiating committee, at the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi. “To bring a difference at the scale required, we must work collectively.”

Kenya’s President William Ruto called the treaty “the first domino” in a shift away from plastic pollution.

But the negotiations have been strained by concerns over delays in discussing the plastics issue at hand. In the last round of talks in Paris, talks stalled for about two days as some

countries hampered discussions.

The power dynamics and positions of different delegations became clear in the first two rounds of talks in Paris and Punta del Este, Uruguay. They 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 U.N. Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution is charged with developing the first international, legally binding treaty on plastic pollution on land and at sea.

Kenya is a global leader in fighting plastic pollution, and in 2017, the country banned the manufacture, sale and use of single-use plastic bags. In what is one of the strictest bans on the products, lawbreakers face fines and up to four years in jail.

Two years later, Kenya banned single-use plastic like cutlery, straws

and PET bottles from parks, forests, beaches and other protected areas. Kenya is also an important player in environmental matters as home to UNEP’s headquarters. The country generates more than 70% of its electricity from renewable sources.

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.

The two countries issued a ministerial joint statement this month calling for an ambitious and effective treaty to protect human health and the environment from plastic pollution by addressing the full life cycle of plastics. They expressed “deep concern” about significant increases in plastic production, plastic litter and greenhouse gas emissions. Plastic production is forecast to triple by 2060, according to UNEP.

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.

El Salvador slaps a \$1,130 fee on African and Indian travelers

El Salvador’s government has begun slapping a \$1,130 fee on travelers from dozens of countries connecting through the nation’s main airport, amid U.S. pressure to help control migration flows to its southern border.

Since the end of October, citizens of 57 largely African countries and India have had to pay the fee, according to El Salvador’s aviation authority.

Aviation officials did not say whether the measure was aimed at reducing migration and have described the tariff as an “airport improvement fee,” but El Salvador’s government acknowledged an uptick in travelers from those countries this year.

Also, the U.S. has been pressuring Central American countries to curb migration flows to its border with Mexico. U.S. authorities say they stopped migrants there more than 2 million times during the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30.

El Salvador’s aviation authority said most passengers who have to pay the fee are headed to Nicaragua on the commercial airline Avianca. Because of its lax visa requirements, Nicaragua is a transit point for migrants from Haiti and Cuba, as well as from Africa, who are trying to reach the U.S.

Earlier this year, for example, U.S. officials were surprised by an increase in Mauritanian migrants arriving at the southern border. No natural disaster, coup or sudden economic collapse could explain it. Rather, travel agencies and social media influencers were promoting a multileg trip that took migrants from the west African nation to Nicaragua.

A flight itinerary of one Senegalese migrant seen by The Associated Press showed the migrant passing through Morocco, Spain and El Salvador before landing in Managua. The last two legs were aboard Avianca flights.

El Salvador’s aviation authority and immigration agency both said they did not have data on how many migrants from the listed countries had transited the country this year.

A U.S. embassy spokesperson declined to say whether the U.S. had requested the fee. But the ability to help the U.S. control migration could be a political boon for El Salvador President Nayib Bukele as he seeks reelection despite a constitutional prohibition and faces scrutiny for his human rights record.

During President Donald Trump’s administration, U.S. policy toward El Salvador prioritized reining in migration above all else and Bukele heard no public criticism from the U.S. as he began to consolidate power. Under President Joe Biden, the U.S. has been openly critical of Bukele’s record on democracy and human rights.

The U.S. State Department alleged that Bukele’s war against

powerful street gangs has resulted in “torture and other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment, and other related abuses” to tens of thousands of people detained. His government has also gone after journalists, activists and critics.

But migration now appears to be back at the top of the bilateral agenda for the two countries as Biden also seeks reelection.

While the Biden administration has said Central American nations “need to step up and do more” to control migration, not all of them have received the request with open arms.

“Most governments have recognized that what is of clear interest to the United States is migration and so therefore it becomes a bargaining chip,” said Pamela Ruiz, Central America analyst for International Crisis Group. “They will either become partners or adversaries on this issue.”

Guatemala, Costa Rica, Colombia and Ecuador have worked with the U.S. to open centers for migrants looking to request asylum, apply for family reunification or temporary work permits.

On the other hand, Nicaragua has opened its doors to hundreds of charter flights carrying tens of thousands of U.S.-bound Cuban and Haitian migrants in recent months.

The flights - which one analyst described as Nicaragua “weaponizing migration as a foreign policy” - were met by a fierce warning from the Biden administration.

“We are exploring the full range of possible consequences for those who facilitate this form of irregular migration,” wrote U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs Brian A. Nichols in a post on X, formerly Twitter, this month. Haiti’s government announced the charter flights were being temporarily suspended.

As Bukele again came under criticism in recent weeks as he registered to seek reelection in 2024, the Biden administration was cautious in its remarks.

“There has to be a broad debate about the legality and legitimacy of the election, but it is a debate for Salvadorans,” Nichols said during a recent visit to El Salvador and ahead of a meeting with Bukele.

The comments were a sharp contrast to condemnations of “anti-democratic behavior” in neighboring Guatemala’s elections months earlier.

Bukele “is willing to cooperate on immigration by banning certain nationalities by charging them a ridiculous fee in order to not get critiqued on the international level,” said Ruiz, of Crisis Group. “Part of me wonders ... we will not critique the Bukele administration as much because it’s supposedly reducing the levels of migrants?” (AP)



Entertainment

Monica Gunnella ...

unveiling layers of a multifaceted talent

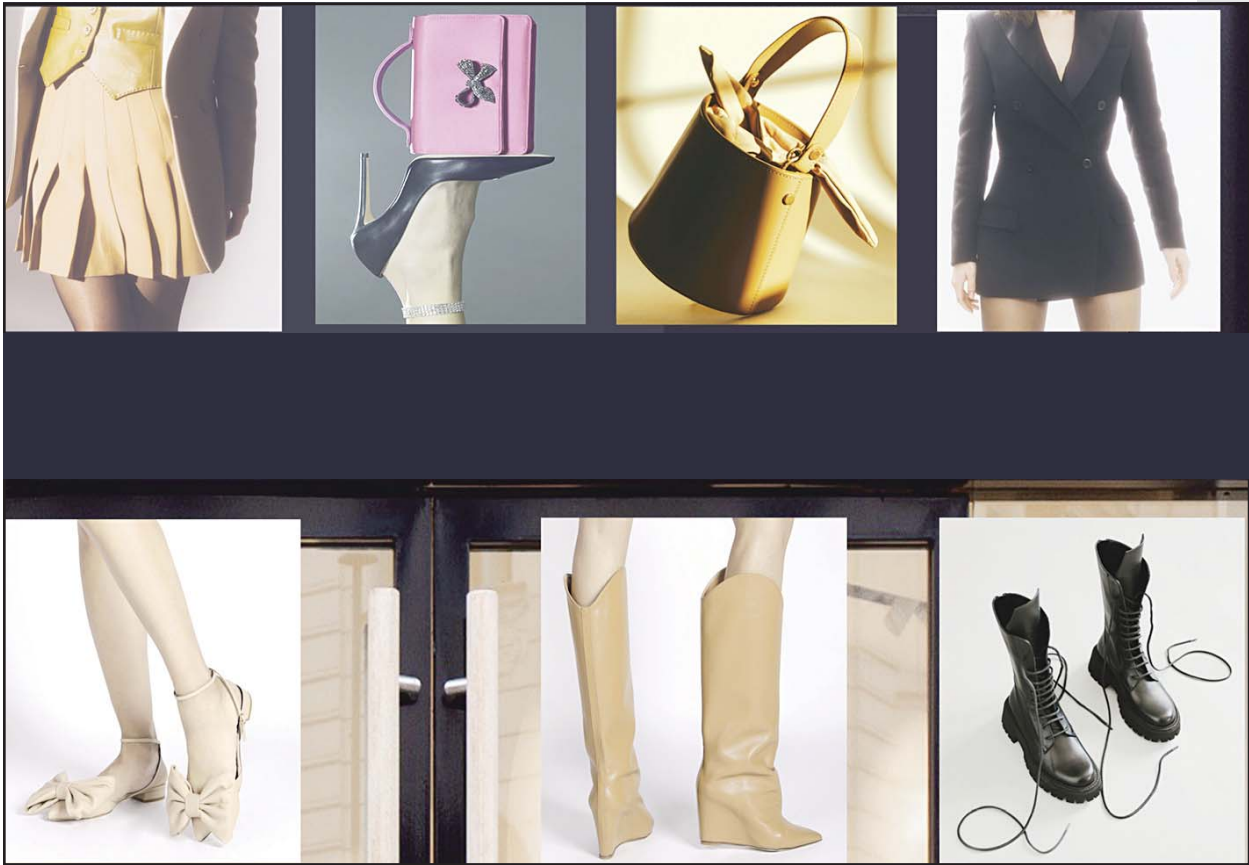
Celebrity

Features

ARABO TIMES
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2023



Monica Gunnella



FASHION ICON & ENTREPRENEUR EXTRAORDINAIRE

editor's choice



By Paul Francis X. Fernandes
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

In the kaleidoscope of fame, where stars often specialize in a single constellation of talent, Monica Gunnella emerges as a radiant polymath, seamlessly weaving her influence across the realms of modeling, fashion design, and entrepreneurship. All in all, she is a captivating enigma -- a celebrity whose allure extends far beyond the glamorous facade of her brilliance.

Monica Gunnella has graced the covers of the most prestigious fashion magazines and renowned designers. Her ethereal presence and innate ability to embody the essence of any couture have made her a muse for some of the most celebrated names in the fashion world. But her journey doesn't stop at being a canvas for high-end creations; instead, it unfolds into the design studios where her own creativity takes center stage.

Monica Gunnella is an artist in her own right, carving her niche as a distinguished fashion designer. Her collections are a manifestation of her distinctive style, a harmonious blend of sophistication and innovation that reflects her keen understanding of the ever-evolving pulse of the fashion industry. Each piece carries the imprint of her artistic vision, inviting admirers to step into a world where clothing is an expressive art form.

Intricate

Yet, her story transcends the runway and design studios, venturing into the boardrooms where she has established herself as a shrewd businesswoman. Her entrepreneurial prowess has seen her navigate the intricate landscape of the fashion industry with finesse, turning her brand into a global phenomenon. The synthesis of talent and business acumen positions her not only as a trendsetter in fashion but also as an influential figure in the entrepreneurial sphere.

Join us as we delve into the captivating tapestry of Monica Gunnella's life -- a narrative woven with threads of modeling elegance, design innovation, and entrepreneurial acuity. In this exploration, the Arab Times uncovers the layers of her multifaceted brilliance, discovering a luminary whose impact extends far beyond the glitz and glamour -- a true icon for the modern era.

Born on September 10, 1990, she is a Instagram Star and an Instagram model who has become famous for her glamorous selfies as well as her depictions of high-society Italian fashion, food, and nightlife. She is known to have posted her first Instagram picture, a photo of a fruit plate, in May 2013.

Monica Gunnella's zodiac sign is Virgo and according to astrologers, Virgos always pays attention to the smallest details and their deep sense of humanity makes them one of the most careful signs of the zodiac.

The methodical approach to life ensures that Virgos leave nothing to chance, and although they are often tender, their heart might be closed for the outer world. This is a sign often misunderstood, not because they lack the ability to express, but because they won't accept their feelings as valid, true, or even relevant when opposed to reason.

The symbolism behind the name speaks well of the nature, born with a feeling they are experiencing everything for the first time. Virgos are energetic, self-reliant, money-wise, and they enjoy traveling, love and intimacy. They're great at seducing, sharp-witted, impatient and sometimes seen as a drifter.

An entirely artisanal Italian brand, from conception to realization, following strict and high quality standards, respecting the dictates of a company that aspires to become excellence, Monica Gunnella whose brainchild enterprise is Mon Roi Roma says, "Each of our products is finished with care and passion by the skilled hands of our craftsmen, using materials and leathers with high environmental compatibility, guaranteeing natural and sustainable processes. Attention to detail wants to be our distinctive trait, because the woman who wears a Mon Roi shoe, for example, seeks perfection for details and a unique style.

The company's ambition is to become a global icon of the Made in Italy footwear sector, without losing sight of quality, elegance and social responsibility, with the aim of making all women who wear Mon Roi shoes happy and satisfied.

Monica Gunnella was always passionate about the world of art and fashion, even before graduating, in the second academic year, realized her dream and created her first shoe collection, inspired by the France of Louis XIV.

She graduated from the Academy of Costume and Fashion in Rome, and launched her brand Mon Roi with the R ve d'Hiver collection in 2019. With his collections she wanted to emphasize feminine beauty and sensuality, highlighting their fertile and creative strength.

Mon Roi is the name that proudly embellishes handcrafted women's shoes of great value, capable of combining the heritage of the Italian artisan tradition with the choice of the most refined and precious materials, in the rigor of an unparalleled style and elegance.

The name "Mon Roi" aims to underline the total dedication to shoes and collects in its meaning, "My King", the adoration and obsession for luxury footwear.

Originality

"Since I was a child," she says, "I grew up among the roses, between those that my father constantly gave to my mother and those of our family rose garden.

The rose represents for me romance, courtship, but above all it represents my mother and the constant love she has always received, which is why it is my favorite flower and I wanted it to be the symbol of my company.

The choice of the name, on the other hand, is entirely dedicated to my father, she says.

"I remember when with my mother they were called "Mon Roi" and "Ma Reine". I grew up a little obsessed with these epithets and seeing how my father always wooed my mother, the choice was not difficult.

Mon Roi is the one who gives roses, the one who woos. We as a company create roses so that our customers feel like "queens" courted with our creations."

A modern and timeless style that emphasizes strength, elegance and femininity, exclusivity and originality are the basis of every design by designer Monica Gunnella, who has always wanted to create something unique, seductive and precious that enhances the female silhouette.

The elegant details of the brand, instilled with a contemporary touch, are at the heart of her collections permeated by strong charisma and sensuality. Collections that are always made impeccably by expert hands. The Mon Roi Roma brand evolves around three key values: quality, charm and perfection.

Each fine leather, fabric, crystal or stud is carefully selected by our experts artisans who by the stylist Monica Gunnella herself, who has a vision of integrity for the company, of innovation and sustainability.

For this reason, the utmost care is taken in choosing the highest quality materials as in the craftsmanship that defines each silhouette. In the Mon Roi Roma company, everything is perfected by a scrupulous process in which all the details are thoroughly studied, so as to be able to infuse a soul into every exclusive creation.

The sustainability processes in the Maison Mon Roi Roma are very important and the designer Monica Gunnella is particularly keen to ensure that each product is made in a sustainable way, without being harmful to humans and the environment.



MONROI
ROMA

People & Places

Music

Prince's items auction

Dylan visits '78 Tokyo shows with flute & all

LOS ANGELES, Nov 14, (AP): **Bob Dylan** with flute and saxophone isn't for everyone.

But that's what you get with "The Complete Budokan 1978," a deluxe box set presenting two live shows at Tokyo's Nippon Budokan Hall, from a tour that has been derided in some corners as "Dylan going Vegas."

The extravagantly packaged four-disc set expands upon the 1979 "Bob Dylan at Budokan" live record that caught Dylan in Japan on just the second week of his 1978 world tour that would run for 10 months.

The tour started after the widely acclaimed Rolling Thunder guerilla tours across the United States in 1975 and 1976, and just before Dylan's conversion to Christianity in 1979.



In fact, Dylan has pointed to a fan throwing a small silver cross on stage in November 1978 as helping to spur his conversion. But that's a story for another time, and one that was explored deeply in the "Trouble No More" box set released in 2017.

"The Complete Budokan 1978" includes full concerts from Feb. 28 and March 1, 1978 with Dylan breaking out dramatically reworked versions of his well-known songs complete with backing singers, violin, flute and saxophone. Even today, 45 years later, the arrangements are striking for how far afield they are from the recorded versions.

A chipper, violin-heavy instrumental version of "A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall" opens both concerts and sets the mood.

On "Mr. Tambourine Man," Dylan speeds up the tempo with the flute front and center. And on "I Threw it All Away," the backing singers are given a prominent role as Dylan tinkers with the lyrics. If you ever wanted to hear "All Along the Watchtower" with flute, now is your chance.

It can be jarring for those not already well-versed with the original 1979 live release. But for Dylan fans who have eschewed this period of his career, there are hidden gems here worth uncovering.

"The Man in Me," in just its sixth time played live and with new lyrics, is beautifully delivered, complete with a saxophone solo. "One of Us Must Know (Sooner or Later)," from 1966's "Blonde on Blonde" also shines under a dramatic reworking, with the backing singers and sax giving the song new dimensions.

The packaging is top notch, with an expansive 12-by-12 inch photo book, liner notes and a box of memorabilia that includes two posters, replicated tour program, tickets and flyers.

Not quite dark pop, not quite techno, not quite any genre at all, Poppy's fifth studio album, "Zig," is rather a mix of several different styles and an example of how far she's come since her debut five years ago.

"Zig" strays far from Poppy's old bubblegum pop sound for those who remember her 2017 debut, "Poppy.Computer," which followed her earliest introductions to the cute-but-strange, pseudo-AI Poppy character - first discovered via surreal performance art YouTube videos in 2015. The bleach-blonde android is nowhere to be seen in "Zig," but that's not a surprise - she's been gone for some time now.

Poppy's style and sound started to shift with her second album, 2018's "Am I a Girl?" which started to take a heavy metal turn, followed by the even darker "I Disagree" in 2020. She scaled it back for the more alternative "Flux," and now she's back with "Zig," the evolved combo of her past works.

Backed by synths and electric beats, the sugary-sweet vocals of the 28-year-old singer-songwriter, born **Moriah Rose Pereira**, are heard on "Zig" in several different forms, from heavy metal screaming to soulful serenading. She may still be figuring out her sound, but there's a confidence to "Zig" that implies she knows exactly what she is doing.

Highlights of the album can be found in "Knock-off," a bumping pop-ish anthem, and "Motorbike," a zooming description of a free spirit on a motorcycle. ("Girl on a motorbike/No one can confine her/Epitome of freedom/I'm following behind her," she sings.)

The duds lie in the songs with lackluster, repetitive lyrics like "1s + 0s," and, disappointingly, namesake "Zig," the chorus of which goes as follows:

"When you zig I zag/When you zig I zag/I zig zag." Huh?

It's especially dumbfounding when other tracks' lyrics are nothing but pure poetry. Take these lines from the lovely "Linger," for example: "In the whites of your eyes/I can see my next life/Smell the lilies at night/Tell me what you will remember me by."

"Zig" is overall an interesting, experimental mix that demonstrates how Poppy has grown over the years. Since it blends so many different genres, this album just might have a song for everyone, so it's definitely worth a listen.

Also:

BOSTON: Fans of **Prince**, who was known nearly as much for his extravagant wardrobe as for his chart-topping hits, will have a chance to bid on some of the late musician's sartorial splendor in an online auction this week.

The collection, including more than 200 lots up for sale, was assembled by a French collector who initially hoped to open a museum celebrating the musician but later scrapped the plan, according to RR Auction of Boston, which is overseeing the sale.

The collector had reached out to individuals who worked closely with Prince to gather the items, believing that the trendsetting artist, who died in 2016, was not only a musical virtuoso but also a fashion icon, according to the auction house.

One of the highlights of the auction is a white ruffled shirt worn by Prince during his 1985 American Music Awards performance of the song "Purple Rain."

The auction house estimated its value at \$15,000.

The auction traces Prince's evolution in music and fashion from his "Purple Rain" era through to his death, according to Bobby Livingston of RR Auction.

"What this auction really does is it shows the influence and legacy of Prince with his fashion choices and how it relates today, when you see all these artists on tour, you know, different costumes, different outfits, reinventing themselves for each tour," he said.

Also up for auction is the outfit Prince wore from "Under the Cherry Moon," a 1986 film starring Prince that also marked his debut as a director. The auction house placed an estimated value on the outfit of \$45,000.



Italian Chef Luigi Frassanito at Dai Forni of Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait at Burj Alshaya.

Food

Enjoy authentic taste of Italy at Four Seasons' Dai Forni

Chef Luigi elevates truffle delights

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: This autumn and winter, Chef Luigi Frassanito and his team of culinary maestros at Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait at Burj Alshaya are taking "la golosita del tartufo" - the delights of truffles - to new heights with a special menu dedicated to one of the world's most coveted ingredients at 21st floor Italian restaurant, Dai Forni.

Between 6pm and 11pm until December 30, guests will be transported to the heart of Italian gourmet cuisine via the magical allure and opulent flavours of natural gems from the incredible Alba white truffle - "the diamond of the kitchen" - to the rich black Perigord truffle. From Pollo Croccante to Insalata Tartufata, Chef Luigi Frassanito has drawn on his southern Italian roots to create a seasonal menu of truffle-inspired masterpieces.

"There's no doubting the elegance and sophistication that truffles add to the culinary experience," comments Chef Luigi, whose self-styled cucina libera ("free cuisine") is dedicated to "conveying the authenticity of Italian cuisine." "Luxurious, exceptionally fragrant and with a distinctive complex flavour all on their own, truffles are, in my opinion, Italy's greatest gift to global gastronomy and I am looking forward to sharing their wonders with the diners of Kuwait."

The signature dishes on Dai Forni's exclusive truffle menu include:

■ **Tortino Tartufo (Truffle Torte)** This unusual creation is inspired by Chef Luigi's lunches at a

chalet while working in Piedmont - a region in Italy famous for truffle and polenta. While his favourite dish there was Polenta Concia, he always brought a piece of truffle along with him to "complete my plate".

■ **Il Tesoro Dei Burger (Treasure Burger)**

Created with the intention to "deliver luxurious Italian taste in every bite", this divinely flavourful burger comes in a home-made bun and features Alba black truffle, Piana del Sele rocket, stracciatella from Lecce, and portobello mushroom from Prealpi Bergamasche.

Thanks to excellent contacts in his homeland, Chef Luigi is able to source some of Italy's finest truffles exclusively for Dai Forni guests. And his passion for each variety is contagious. "The undisputed queen of the truffles is the white Alba truffle," he enthuses. "It is one of the most expensive ingredients in modern cuisine on account of its brief seasonal appearance - October to December - only in the forests of Piedmont."

Another star of the Dai Forni seasonal truffle menu is the highly prized black Perigord truffle. "It blooms for slightly longer than the Alba white truffle at the roots of oak, beech, birch and poplar trees," explains Chef Luigi, "but is just as sought after by truffle hunters and chefs due to its earthy almost nutty flavour."

Divine Drink Pairings

Beautifully complementing each

artisan mouthful, a truffle-inspired mocktail menu adds extra Italian flamboyance to the experience. Tortino Tartufo is paired with Truffle on the Rocks - a zingy combination of Lyre's Italian Spritz, grapefruit, apple and lime juice and basil syrup with a cheeky truffle twist, while the elegant Tartufo Giallo sets off Il Tesoro Dei Burger with smoky Lap-sang, pineapple juice, homemade rosemary syrup, lemon juice and a spritz of truffle oil.

Every day from November 6 to December 30, 2023, Chef Luigi's Dai truffle menu will complement the existing authentic Italian delights at Dai Forni - served in a bright and buzzy atmosphere centred around the huge copper-sheathed wood-burning ovens that give the restaurant its name. Guests can also take home some of the magic from Dai's Forni's 'Truffle Presentation in Al Banco' (at the table) where exclusive items like truffle salt, truffle oil, award-winning Mono-Cultivar Coratina extra virgin olive oil, and pure truffles are available to purchase from a seasonal display area.

Served with a side of expansive city views from the restaurant's Mediterranean-style outdoor terrace, truffle season at Dai Forni offers a unique chance to experience one of nature's most dazzling delicacies at the hands of one of the country's most astounding Italian maestros.

To celebrate truffle season with Chef Luigi at Dai Forni at Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait at Bury Alshaya, please contact 2200 6200.



Singer Olivia Rodrigo poses at the Los Angeles premiere of the film 'The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes,' Monday, Nov. 13, 2023, at the TCL Chinese Theatre. (AP)



Biden



Batiste

Variety

LOS ANGELES: **Jon Batiste**, the Grammy- and Oscar-winning musician and former bandleader for "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert" will embark on his first North American headlining tour in support of his latest album. The expansive "World Music Radio," featuring his signature rich blend of R&B, hip-hop, swing, jazz and pop, was released earlier this summer.

The tour news arrived Monday, on the heels of the 2024 Grammy nominations announcement: Batiste is up for six Grammys, including album, song, and record of the year.

The "Uneasy Tour: Purifying the Airwaves for the People" will kick off Feb. 16 in **Portland, Oregon**, and take Batiste across the **US and Canada**. The tour wraps in **Miramar Beach, Florida**, on April 27.

Along the way, he'll hit numerous cities including **Seattle, San Francisco, Detroit, Philadelphia, New York and Atlanta**.

"I'm into numbers, so: 20 theaters and 24 performances to bless the pivotal year 2024. For my first solo run I wanted to play in smaller venues and curate experiences that let me really feel the people while I play. Think of these 24 shows less as a tour and more as a series of 24 not to be missed experiences, each being one-of-a-kind," Batiste told The Associated Press in an exclusive statement. (AP)

WASHINGTON: **Jill Biden** paid tribute to the power of poetry as she honored the 2023 class of National Student Poets on Monday at the White House, saying poetry "feeds our spirit."

"In so many moments throughout my life, I turned to poetry," the first lady said, citing her dark nights and brighter days or moments of unbridled joy or unbearable heartbreak. "Poetry has been a refuge, a soothing companion that gives voice to emotions I can't always

articulate on my own."

"Poetry feeds our spirit when we're hungry for something more," she added.

The five students, each representing a different region of the **United States**, read their work before an audience of classmates who joined remotely from their respective hometowns and parents and other relatives seated in the White

House auditorium. (AP)

BANGKOK: The son of a Spanish film star has pleaded not guilty in Thailand to most charges related to the death of a Colombian surgeon whose dismembered body was found on a popular tourist island, officials said Monday.



From left: Luke Goebel, Thomasin McKenzie, Ottessa Moshfegh and William Oldroyd pose for the photographers upon arrival at the screening of the film 'Eileen' in London, Monday, Nov. 13. (AP)

Daniel Sancho Bronchalo, 29, was indicted by prosecutors last month over the death of **Edwin Arrieta Arteaga**, whose remains were found stuffed in plastic bags at a landfill on **Ko Pha Ngan**, an island famous for its rave-style "full moon parties." The indictment laid out the charges of premeditated murder, concealment of the body and destruction of other people's documents.

The Ko Samui Provincial Court and the local prosecutor said Sancho pleaded not guilty to two of the charges. The Spanish news agency EFE reported that sources close to his family said he pleaded not guilty to the murder and destruction of documents charges but pleaded guilty to the charge of hiding the victim's body. (AP)

TORONTO: Author **Sarah Bernstein** won the Scotiabank Giller Prize on Monday for her novel "Study for Obedience." The Montreal-born, **Scotland**-based author accepted the \$100,000 award remotely from Scotland, where she had a baby just 10 days ago.

Her novel is about a young woman moving to the remote north where after her arrival, a series of inexplicable events occur.

The 100,000 Canadian dollar (\$72,000 US) Giller prize honors the best in Canadian fiction. Past winners have included **Margaret Atwood, Mordecai Richler** and **Alice Munro**.

Just as Bernstein's name was called at the gala, a protester interrupted the live telecast with anti-Israel war slogans, forcing organizers to repeat the announcement. (AP)

The Conversation

Logic of vulture brain remedies and bloodletting lives on today

Modern medicine has its scientific roots in the Middle Ages

By Meg Leja
Binghamton University, State University of New York

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

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Nothing calls to mind nonsensical treatments and bizarre religious healing rituals as easily as the notion of Dark Age medicine. The “Saturday Night Live” sketch Medieval Barber Theodor of York says it all with its portrayal of a quack doctor who insists on extracting pints of his patients’ blood in a dirty little shop.

Though the skit relies on dubious stereotypes, it’s true that many cures from the Middle Ages sound utterly ridiculous - consider a list written around 800 C.E. of remedies derived from a decapitated vulture. Mixing its brain with oil and inserting that into the nose was thought to cure head pain, and wrapping its heart in wolf skin served as an amulet against demonic possession.

“Dark Age medicine” is a useful narrative when it comes to ingrained beliefs about medical progress. It is a period that stands as the abyss from which more enlightened thinkers freed themselves. But recent research pushes back against the depiction of the early Middle Ages as ignorant and superstitious, arguing that there is a consistency and rationality to healing practices at that time.

Innovation

As a historian of the early Middle Ages, roughly 400 to 1000 C.E., I make sense of how the societies that produced vulture medicine envisioned it as one component of a much broader array of legitimate therapies. In order to recognize “progress” in Dark Age medicine, it is essential to see the broader patterns that led a medieval scribe to copy out a set of recipes using vulture organs.

The major innovation of the age was the articulation of a medical philosophy that validated manipulating the physical world because it was a religious duty to rationally guard the body’s health.

The names of classical medical innovators like Hippocrates and Galen were well known in the early Middle Ages, but few of their texts were in circulation prior to the 13th century. Most intellectual activities in northern Europe were taking place within monasteries, where the majority of surviving medical writings from that time were written, read, discussed and likely put into practice. Scholars have assumed that religious superstition overwhelmed scientific impulse and the church dictated what constituted legitimate healing - namely, prayer, anointing with holy oil, miracles of the saints and penance for sin.

However, “human medicine” - a term affirming human agency in discovering remedies from nature - emerged in the Dark Ages. It appears again and again in a text monks at the monastery of Lorsch, Germany, wrote around the year 800 to defend ancient Greek medical learning. It insists that Hippocratic medicine was mandated by God and that doctors act as divine agents in promoting health. I argue in my recent book, “Embodying the Soul: Medicine and Religion in Carolingian Europe,” that a major innovation of that time was the creative synthesis of Christian orthodoxy with a growing belief in the importance of preventing disease.

Establishing an intellectual framework for medical study was an accomplishment of early medieval scholars. Doctors faced the risk of being lumped together with those who dealt in sorcery and pagan folklore, a real possibility given that the men who composed the Greek medical canon were pagans themselves. The early medieval scribes responsible for producing the medical books of their age crafted powerful arguments about the respectability and piety of the doctor. Their arguments manifest in illustrations that sanctified the human doctor by setting him parallel to Christ.

This sanctification was a crucial step in including medicine as its own advanced degree program at the first universities that were established around 1200 in Europe. Thus began the licensing of healers: the elite “phiscici” - the root of the English word “physician” - trained at the university, along with empirical practitioners like surgeons, herbalists and female healers who claimed a unique authority to treat gynecological illnesses.

Today, religious dogmatism is often equated with vaccine hesitancy and resistance to basic scientific truths like evolution. But deeply religious thinkers of the past often saw rational medicine as an expression of faith, not something endangering it. Herbal remedies were scribbled into the margins of early medieval works on theology, history, church sacraments and more. This suggests that book owners valued such knowledge, and people of all classes were actively exchanging recipes and cures by word of mouth before writing the most useful ones down.

Though the Dark Ages is a period from which no case histories survive, we can still form a picture of an average healing encounter. Texts from that period emphasize the need for the doctor to be highly learned, including being well read in philosophy, logic, arithmetic and astronomy. Such knowledge enabled healers to situate their observations of sick bodies within the rules that governed the constant transformations of nature.

There was no way to perceive the internal state of the body via technology - instead, healers had to be excellent listeners and observers. They sought to match the patient’s description of suffering with signs that manifested externally on the body. The inside of the flesh could not be seen, but the fluids the body excreted - sweat, urine, menstrual blood, mucus, vomit and feces - carried messages about that invisible realm to the outside. The doctor’s diagnosis and prognosis relied on reading these “excreta” in addition to sensing subtle changes in the pulse.

Medieval people were detailed investigators of the natural world and believed the same forces that shaped the landscape and the stars operated inside bodies formed from the same four elements of earth, water, air and fire. Thus, as the moon’s waxing and waning moved the ocean tides, so did it cause humors inside the body to grow and decrease.

The way the seasons withered crops or provoked tree sap to flow might manifest in the body as yellow bile surging in the summer, and cold, wet phlegm dripping in the winter. Just as fruit and meats left untouched began to rot and putrefy, so did dregs and undigested material inside the body turn poisonous if not expelled. Standing water in ponds or lakes generated slime and smell, and so were liquids sitting stagnant in the body’s vessels seen as breeding grounds for corrupt vapors.

Seasons

In this sense, the menstrual cycle was representative of all bodies, undergoing internal transformations according to seasonal cycles and periodically purged in order to release pent-up fluids.

According to this logic, health depended above all on maintaining the body’s relationship to the physical environment and ensuring that substances were passing through their proper transformations, whether it was food turning into humors, blood disseminating throughout the body, or excess fluids and wastes leaving the body. Bloodletting was a rational therapy because it could help rebalance the fluids and remove toxins. It was visible and tangible to the patient, and, to the extent that we now better understand the placebo effect, it may well have offered some kind of relief.

Fasting, purging, tonics and, above all, monthly dietary regimens were also prominent tools healers used to prevent and relieve sickness. Several medical books, for instance, specified that consuming drinks with cinnamon in November and pennyroyal in August could recalibrate the body’s temperature in winter and summer because one drink was warming while the other was cooling.

Some medieval remedies - such as one produced from wine, cow bile, garlic and onion to heal eye infections - were later proven to be likely effective in treating sickness. But whether these remedies worked isn’t the point. For medieval doctors, vulture brains and cow bile operated according to the same logic that continues to inform research today: Nature operates in mysterious ways, but rational deduction can unlock the hidden mechanisms of disease. The M.D. has direct roots in the Dark Age elevation of “human medicine.”

Before mocking medieval doctors, consider how popular juice cleanses and detox regimens are in the 21st century. Are we really so far from humoral medicine today? (AP)



Vesta Terminals holding oil is reflected in Tallinn, Estonia, Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2023. (AP)

Nations make minor progress on climate action

UN chief calls for an ‘ambition supernova’

NEW YORK, Nov 14, (AP): Countries’ climate action plans are still far behind what’s needed to curb human-caused warming and limit the devastating effects of extreme heat, storms and droughts, but some nations have taken marginal steps toward slashing emissions, a United Nations analysis of national plans found Tuesday.

The report looked into the climate plans of 195 countries and found that emissions from the burning of coal, oil and gas will go up 9% by 2030 compared to 2010 levels, but will be 2% lower than 2019 levels because of some climate action from countries switching to cleaner energy. But climate scientists warn that the world needs to spew around 45% less by then.

“The world is failing to get a grip on the climate crisis,” United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in a statement. “Inch by inch progress will not do. It is time for a climate ambition supernova in every country, city, and sector.”

He called for “net-zero” - when countries only spew as much carbon into the atmosphere as they can take back out - in developed countries to happen by “as close as possible” to 2040, and 2050 for developing nations.

The UN climate chief, Simon Stiell, urged that upcoming international climate talks in Dubai become a “turning point” where governments can get on track with plans to cut emissions in line with capping warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit), as agreed by nations in Paris in 2015.

“Governments must not only agree what stronger climate actions will be taken but also start showing exactly how to deliver them,” Stiell said in a press statement. He said that billions around the world expect governments to act on climate change.

Sultan al-Jaber, president of the COP28 climate talks in Dubai and chief of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, said the report shows “there is simply no time left for delays.”

Extreme weather events charged by the warming atmosphere are increasing in magnitude and frequency around the world. The last 12 months were the hottest yearlong period ever recorded, according to a recent analysis. Many recent droughts, floods and storms were found to have fingerprints of human-cause climate change, according to attribution scientists.

When countries meet in Dubai, they’ll review their climate action for the last three years as part of what’s been called a “global stock-

take.” Negotiators plan to use this report and discussions later this year to figure out what nations need to do next to fight climate change.

Climate activists said the report is just one more reason why global leaders should be held accountable for their inaction at the talks.

“It’s already hell for a lot of people,” said Disha Ravi, an Indian activist with the youth climate group Fridays for Future, of current extreme weather. “I sometimes wonder if they (leaders) care about lives at all.”

Leaders have continued prioritizing profits over the health and safety of our planet and its inhabitants,” she said. “We cannot continue this way.”

The world is off track in its efforts to curb global warming in 41 of 42 important measurements and is even heading in the wrong direction in six crucial ways, a new international report calculates.

Warming

The only bright spot is that global sales of electric passenger vehicles are now on track to match what’s needed - along with many other changes - to limit future warming to just another couple tenths of a degree, according to the State of Climate Action report released Tuesday by the World Resources Institute, Climate Action Tracker, the Bezos Earth Fund and others.

On the flip side, public money spent to create more fossil fuel use is going in the wrong direction and faster than it has in the past, said study co-author Kelly Levin, science and data director at the Bezos Earth Fund.

“This is not the time for tinkering around the edges, but it’s instead the time for radical decarbonization of all sectors of the economy,” Levin said.

“We are woefully off track and we are seeing the impact of inaction unfold around the world from extensive wildfire fires in Canada, heat-related deaths across the Mediterranean, record high temperatures in South Asia and so on,” she said.

Later this month, crucial international climate negotiations start in Dubai that include the first time world negotiators will do a global stocktake on how close society is to meeting its 2015 climate goals. In advance of the United Nations summit, numerous reports from experts are coming out assessing Earth’s progress or mostly the lack of it, including a United States national assessment with hundreds of

indicators. Tuesday’s 42 indicators offers one of the grimmest report cards, detailing multiple failures of society.

The report looks at what’s needed in several sectors of the global economy - power, transportation, buildings, industry, finance and forestry - to fit in a world that limits warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) over pre-industrial times, the goal the world adopted at Paris in 2015. The globe has already warmed about 1.2 degrees Celsius (2.2 degrees Fahrenheit) since the mid 19th century.

Six categories - the carbon intensity of global steel production, how many miles passenger cars drive, electric buses sold, loss of mangrove forests, amount of food waste and public financing of fossil fuel use - are going in the wrong direction, the report said.

“Fossil fuel consumption subsidies in particular reached an all-time high last year, over \$1 trillion, driven by the war in Ukraine and the resulting energy price spikes,” said report co-author Joe Thwaites of the Natural Resources Defense Council environmental group.

Another six categories were considered “off track” but going in the right direction, which is the closest to being on track and better than the 24 measurements that are “well off track.” Those merely off track include zero-carbon electricity generation, electric vehicles as percentage of the fleet, two- and three-wheel electric vehicle sales, grazing animal meat production, reforestation and share of greenhouse gas emissions with mandatory corporate climate risk reporting requirements.

People should be worried that this report is one of “too little, too late,” said Arizona State University climate scientist Katharine Jacobs, who wasn’t part of the report but praised it for being so comprehensive.

“I am not shocked that at a global scale we are not meeting expectations for reducing emissions,” Jacobs said in an email. “We cannot ignore the fact that global commitments to (greenhouse gas) reductions are essentially unenforceable and that a number of major set-backs have taken a toll on our progress.”

When trying to change an economy, the key is to start with “low-hanging fruit, i.e., the sectors of the economy that are easiest to transition and give a big bang for your buck,” said Dartmouth climate scientist Justin Mankin, who isn’t part of the report. But he said the report shows “we’re really struggling to pick the low-hanging fruit.”

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stc sponsors ‘Flare Festival’ for fourth consecutive year



Danah AlJasem and Ahmed Al-Nowaibet with the organizing committee, trainers and participants in the festival.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: Kuwait Telecommunications Company – stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, sponsored the 8th ‘Flare Festival’. The 3 days event, which took place from November 9th till November 11th at the Marina Crescent, strongly aligns with stc’s corporate social responsibility (CSR) framework. The strategic alliance with Flare Fitness under the Weyak umbrella that focuses on supporting Kuwaiti SMEs and start-ups as well as young entrepreneurs, now in its fourth year, reflects stc’s dedication to nurturing the fitness community in Kuwait.

Flare Festival, considered one of the largest events of its kind in Kuwait, witnessed an impressive turnout, where a significant number of spectators came to see athletes compete for different championship titles. The festival saw participation from 3,000 competitors across all tournament events, with a total of over 20,000 attendees over the course of three days.

In recognition of its continuous support and primary sponsorship, stc, represented by Danah AlJasem, General Manager of Corporate Communications and Ahmed Al Nowaibet, Public Relations and Social Media Manager at stc, was honored during the closing ceremony in the esteemed presence of Sheikh Fahad Naser Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, the president of the Kuwait Olympic Committee. The Company expressed gratitude towards all the individuals and teams whose contributions were integral to the festival’s success. stc’s participation reflects its sustained initiative to encourage healthy living among all age groups, especially the youth.

The festival provided athletes with a prestigious platform to compete in their chosen sports, with tournaments including The Heat, The Hindrance Race, The Student Competition, The Barbell, The Gravity, The Padel, The Sea-Master, and the Knockout. It also welcomed athletes and guests from the region, fostering a sense of community and sportsmanship.

Additionally, stc in collaboration with Gamestore, hosted a FC24 PS5 tournament on November 10th with the participation of 64 teams where the 1st and 2nd place winners received special prizes from stc, while attendees were presented with gifts from stc. In line with previous years, stc also encouraged its employees to participate in the event as part of its ongoing commitment to promote a culture of health and teamwork.

Danah AlJasem, General Manager of Corporate Communications at stc, said, “We are proud to sponsor the Flare Festival for the 4th consecutive year. stc strongly supports such initiatives that bring the sports community together to compete and show true sportsmanship. Flare Festival has become one of the most anticipated fitness events in Kuwait and the core values behind our CSR framework, especially focusing on the area of health, fitness, and well-being.”

AlJasem highlighted that Flare Festival included several tournaments and competitions for athletes and attendees, in line with the strategic vision of stc’s CSR program that embraces health, sports, youth empowerment, and community.

Al Shaya added, “stc’s partnership is instrumental in making this possible, reflecting their dedication to fostering a vibrant, healthy, and connected community. Their support extends beyond the festival, touching lives and empowering our youth to lead active, healthy lifestyles.”

Having said that, at Flare Fitness, we are committed to empowering the local sports community by providing an inclusive and dynamic environment that nurtures athletic talent and promotes a culture of health and fitness for all.”



AlJasem and Al Nowaibet honoring STC in the presence of Sheikh Fahad Naser Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, the President of the Kuwait Olympic Committee.

environment, education and supporting entrepreneurs. She then thanked Flare Fitness, and all those who played a role in organizing the festival, which turned out to be a great success.

She added, “stc has always been a strong supporter of local sports and the empowerment of the younger generation. When it comes to supporting local initiatives, we are dedicated to backing the growth of SMEs under the Weyak initiative that focuses on supporting Kuwaiti young entrepreneurs as part of our commitment to the community. As a key player in Kuwait’s market, stc works closely with various organizations, both government and private, to create long-lasting partnerships. These efforts aim to bring benefits to the community and provide opportunities that have a positive impact on individuals. By sponsoring sports events like the Flare Festival, stc helps bring the community together, promote healthy living, and support the spirit of teamwork and achievement.”

Managing Partner at Flare Fitness, Yousef Ahmad Al Shaya, said “We would like to thank stc once again for their unwavering support as a main sponsor of Flare Festival for the fourth year running. Their commitment plays a crucial role in the success of this festival, which has grown over the years to become a key event in the local and regional sports community. The Flare Festival welcomes participants from all over the region, and serves as a celebration of health, fitness, and community spirit. It provides a platform for athletes to shine and for families to come together in the spirit of sportsmanship and wellness.”

Al Shaya added, “stc’s partnership is instrumental in making this possible, reflecting their dedication to fostering a vibrant, healthy, and connected community. Their support extends beyond the festival, touching lives and empowering our youth to lead active, healthy lifestyles.”

Having said that, at Flare Fitness, we are committed to empowering the local sports community by providing an inclusive and dynamic environment that nurtures athletic talent and promotes a culture of health and fitness for all.”



stc pavilion at Flare Festival.

Tennessee outlasts Memphis in OT

Watkins scores 35 points as USC women sinks Le Moyne

LOS ANGELES, Nov 14, (AP): JuJu Watkins scored 35 points, hitting six 3-pointers, and No. 10 Southern California (3-0) routed Le Moyne 93-42 on Monday night.

Watkins has totaled 83 points in her first three college games, including 32 in the Trojans’ season-opening victory over then-No. 7 Ohio State last week. She was named Pac-12 freshman of the week for her performances.

Rayah Marshall added 12 points and

seven rebounds for the Trojans. As the tallest player on the floor at 6-foot-4, Marshall dominated in the paint against the shorter Dolphins, who have no one over 6-1 on their roster.

Lytoya Baker scored 14 points to lead the Dolphins (0-4), whose roster includes seven freshmen and sophomores.

Tennessee 84, Memphis 74, OT
In Knoxville, Tennessee, Sara Puckett scored a career-high 24 points and Tennessee closed out overtime with a 9-0 run to beat Memphis.

Puckett made 9 of 19 shots with two 3-pointers, adding eight rebounds for Tennessee (2-1). Jewel Spear finished with 19 points and 12 rebounds for her fourth career double-double. Jasmine Powell scored 17 with six boards. Jillian Hollingshead totaled 14 points, nine rebounds and three steals.

BASKETBALL

Kai Carter had 18 points to lead the Lady Tigers (1-2). Madison Griggs had 16 points and three steals. Ki’Ari Cain scored 11 and grabbed five rebounds off the bench. Smith totaled 10 points, five rebounds and three assists.

Tennessee has won 20 straight in a series that dates to 1974, but it was the first meeting since 2001. The Tigers lone win was 79-75 during the 1978-79 season.



Southern California guard JuJu Watkins (12) controls the ball against Le Moyne guard Leah Middleton (25) and forward Brianna Williams (44) during the second half of an NCAA college basketball game in Los Angeles, on Nov. 13, 2023. (AP)

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Houston dominates Stetson as Miami holds off FIU

TUCSON, Arizona, Nov 14, (AP): Keshad Johnson scored a career-high 17 points and No. 3 Arizona used a 17-0 run spanning half-time to pull away for a 97-59 win over Southern on Monday night.

The Wildcats (3-0) trailed by five midway through the first half before outscoring the Tigers 60-18 over the next 20 minutes.

Motiejus Krivas and KJ Lewis had 12 points each and were among six Wildcats to score in double figures. Arizona has gotten 10 or more

points from at least five players in each game this season.

Tai’Reon Joseph led the Tigers (1-2) with 22 points on 8-of-20 shooting, while the rest of his team was 12 of 41.

Houston 79, Stetson 48

In Houston, L.J. Cryer scored 21 points, Damian Dunn added 15 points and Houston defeated Stetson.

Mylik Wilson scored 11 points, and Terrance Arceneaux had 10 points for Houston, which leaned on its defense forcing 23 turnovers and turning it into 39 points. The Cougars (3-0) had 17 steals. Houston shot 53% and were 9 of 20 on 3-pointers.

Alec Oglesby and Jalen Blackmon each scored 11 points to lead Stetson (1-2). The Hatters shot 44% and were 9 of 18 on 3-pointers.

Miami 86, FIU 80

In Coral Gables, Florida, Matthew Cleveland scored 23 points, Bensley Joseph and Wooga Poplar each added 18 and Miami rallied from a 12-point second-half deficit to beat neighboring FIU.

Nigel Pack scored 17 points and Norchad Omier had 11 rebounds for the Hurricanes (3-0), who won a game with wild back-and-forth momentum swings.

Arturo Dean scored 19 for FIU (0-3), while Dashon Gittens added 14 and Javaunte Hawkins had 11.

The Panthers fell to 0-25 all-time against ranked opponents - and, playing a road game nine miles from their own campus, had a big chance to change that.

Arkansas 86, Old Dominion 77
In Fayetteville, Arkansas, El Ellis scored 15 of his 17 points in the second half, and Arkansas held off Old Dominion.

BASKETBALL

Devo Davis scored a season-high 16 points for Arkansas (3-0), Makhi Mitchell had 15 points and 10 rebounds, Khalif Battle scored 13 points and Trevon Brazile scored 11.

Chaunce Jenkins scored 21 points for Old Dominion (1-2), which went 11 of 24 on 3-pointers and got within three points in the second half. Devin Ceaser added 18 points on 8-of-12 shooting for the Monarchs, and R.J. Blakney scored 14 points, going 3 of 4 on 3s.

Penn 76, Villanova 72

In Philadelphia, Tyler Perkins scored 22 points and Penn trailed for only 53 seconds in a victory over Villanova at the Palestra that ended with students from the Ivy League underdog mobbing the court for a wild celebration.

Penn students tossed the traditional Big 5 streamers, and many paused to snap photos of the scoreboard. The Quakers stuck around to help sing the fight song with cheerleaders and fans.

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GR Yaris: A pure sports car with the DNA of motorsports

Al Sayer announces Toyota Gazoo Racing Yaris Cup in Kuwait



Faisal Bader Al Sayer, Chairman with other officials after the launch of Gazoo Racing (GR) Yaris Cup.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: Embarking on a historic journey for the development of motorsport in the State of Kuwait and encourage young and affluent drivers to come forward and participate in unique events, Mohamed Naser Al Sayer & Sons Est Co. has announced the launch of Gazoo Racing (GR) Yaris Cup supported by Toyota Motor Corporation in association with Kuwait Motor Town and Suffix Sports.

The event was attended by Faisal Bader Al Sayer Chairman, Bengt Schultz COO, Martin Aherne Senior Business Director Toyota Group Sales, Hamad Al Fouzan Senior Manager Toyota Sales Administration, Group Business Heads and Senior Manager, representatives from the sponsoring brands in the presence of members of the press and media.

The Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) certified event will be the first grass root level one-make race initiated by an automotive distributor in the region and will feature 10 Kuwaiti racing drivers backed by a strong track record of achievements in the field of motorsports.

According to Martin Aherne Senior Business Director Toyota Sales "We are excited to introduce a thrilling new season for all the racing enthusiasts with GR Yaris Cup. Toyota and AlSayer are reaching out to support aspiring Kuwaiti racers who are looking forward to accelerating their racing career, winners of Karting competition progressing towards rally and circuit racing. For the debut season, we are fortunate to have 15 top class drivers with us for the first edition. Our vision is to make this a regional championship in the future with the support of other Toyota distributors. Further we are also planning to branch out this championship to other GR models in the coming years".

Ahmad AlMajed Chief Operating Officer Suffix Sports said "Suffix is proud to be involved in the event with AlSayer, a collaboration that seeks to redefine the realm of motorsports awareness, extending it beyond conventional sports boundaries. SUFFIX and AlSayer are committed to elevating motorsports into a lifestyle, culture, and passion. By fusing their expertise into the event as it aims to bridge the gap between motorsport enthusiasts and newcomers, delivering unprecedented international standard results. This groundbreaking initiative underscores SUFFIX's dedication to pioneering concepts and their ambition to be part of remarkable endeavors".

The inaugural race of the GR is scheduled will be held during 16th to 18th November at Kuwait Motor Town followed by races during the months of December, January, February, and the final race scheduled in March. Visitors will be treated with a unique spectacle by experiencing a thrilling atmosphere at the venue. Additionally, each event will also feature a GR village which



GR Yaris Drivers.

GR Yaris Cup 2023 Drivers are as follows:		
●Mohammad Al Abdulrazzaq●Ali AISabah & Jaber AISabah		
● Mohammad Al Kazemi ● Mohammad Al Sabah		
●Ahmad Al Humaidhi & Nasser Al Ali●Ahmad Al Ghanem		
●Ahmad Al Kandari		
● Mohammad Al Nusif & Salem Al Nusif		
●Mohammad Al Sayer & Ahmad Khaled Mohammed Saleh		
●Mohammad Al Mannaie & Abdullah Al Sayer		

GR YARIS SPECIFICATIONS		
Engine	Engine	In-Line 3-Cylinder Intercooler
	Type	G16E-GTS (10.5:1 compression ratio) Turbo boost is set between 1.4 and 1.81 bar
	Displacement	1,618cc
	Maximum Output (KW[PS])	220 [272]
Maximum	Torque (KW[PS])	370 (37.7) /3,000~4,600
	Transmission	6-Speed manual transmission (MT)
Transmission		Drive system
		Four-Wheel drive

will showcase the latest GR models in addition to unique Toyota models such as the Mirai, GR Corolla, BZ4X, Rav4 PHEV.

Motorsports enthusiasts will get a chance to interact with the Chief Engineer of the GR Yaris and the Chief Manager from TGR All Japan Rally Team for the round 2 race which will be held in December along with a unique drift session by a leading GR World Rally Championship driver.



GR Yaris.

Morale high, Kuwait wrap up training ahead of India clash

Blues eye maximum points

By Khaled El Anzi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: The Kuwaiti national team are set to conclude their training this evening in readiness for the upcoming face-off against the India, Thursday, in the opening of Asian qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup and the 2027 Asian Cup.

The recent training sessions have been characterized by enthusiasm and optimism, with players' morale on the rise as they gear up to deliver a standout performance. The objective is to secure three points and establish a strong start in the group stage, which also features teams from Qatar and Afghanistan. Coach Rui Pinto, the Portuguese tactician, has emphasized implementing tactical strategies and playing styles to ensure the national team performs at its best.

SOCCER

In a related development, the Indian national team delegation arrived and are scheduled to conduct their essential training today at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium.

Additionally, a special press conference for the match between the Kuwaiti and Indian national teams is scheduled for 12 noon today, Wednesday. The conference will feature a coach and a player from each team.

Furthermore, the technical meeting for the match is slated for 11: 00 am, Wednesday, in the meeting room at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium. The session will be attended by the match observer, referees' evaluator, referees' crew, team managers and administrators, media coordinator, representatives of the Football Association, and other relevant parties. Discussions will cover technical instructions, administrative details, and agreements on various aspects related to the match.

Unbeaten India start as favorites in semis

MUMBAI, India, Nov 14, (AP): After winning nine straight games to finish atop the standings, India face fourth-place New Zealand at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium on Wednesday in the first Cricket World Cup semifinal.

Based on the hosts' perfect record going into the semifinal, and the parochial home crowd, New Zealand will have to rise above expectations to advance to Sunday's final against either Australia or South Africa.

As the historic stadium gets ready to host the match, the tournament's promotional tag line comes in to play. "It takes one day" - the slogan has been everywhere since the World Cup went into a marketing overdrive a few months ago - in television and digital promotions, on merchandise and memorabilia, and at the tournament venues. At the Wankhede, it is hard to miss the same banners adorned everywhere.

The context is fitting.

In pursuit of their third title, India set the benchmark - it easily beat Australia and Pakistan, then trounced England and South Africa. Perhaps their biggest challenge came from New Zealand at Dharamsala, but Virat Kohli's 95 helped navigate past it.

India changed their combination when allrounder Hardik Pandya was ruled out with an ankle injury, and it ploughed on unbeaten. This was achieved through dominant performances with both bat and ball and playing in nine venues.



Hassan Hamdan and Mubarak Al-Fanini enjoying training session.

Kuwait Padel Club launches The FIP Rise Championship

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: The Kuwait Padel Club has officially announced the initiation of the FIP Rise Padel Championship, a groundbreaking event set to take place in Kuwait from November 15 to 19. Featuring the participation of 64 teams comprising boys and girls across various age groups, hailing from 12 different countries, the tournament boasts substantial financial prizes exceeding 4,000 Kuwaiti dinars.

PADEL

The tournament's action will unfold at the Play Padel Academy courts in the Kaifan area, generously sponsored by Kuwait Steel Company and Kuwait Finance House. Expectations are high for the championship to stand out with a remarkably professional level of organization, management, and supervision, all overseen by the Kuwait Padel Club.

Walid Al-Saqabi, the Head of Public Relations and Official Spokesperson for the Kuwait Padel Club, expressed confidence in the tournament's electric atmosphere, attributing it to the outstanding professional levels and skills of the participating teams. He pointed to the previ-



Walid Al-Saqabi, the Head of Public Relations and Official Spokesperson for the Kuwait Padel Club.

ous tournaments organized by the Kuwait Padel Club, emphasizing that they showcased the genuine progress of this sport.

A notable feature of the FIP Rise Championship is its introduction of a points accumulation system, a first for Kuwait. This system will contribute to the world rankings of each participant, as the tournament holds approval from the International Padel Federation in Kuwait.

Oly Charter, disputes & doping workshop 'conducted' by Kuwait Olympic Committee

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: The Kuwaiti Olympic Committee organized informative workshops for all sports entities. The sessions covered an overview of the Olympic Charter, anti-doping regulations, sports arbitration procedures, and the Code of Ethics Committee. The event was attended by key figures such as the Vice President of the Kuwaiti Olympic Committee, Muhammad Jaafar, Olympic Committee member Fatima Hayat, and the General Director of the Committee, Muhammad Khalfan. Presidents, administrators, coaches, and referees from various sports bodies were also present.

Representatives from the Kuwait Anti-Doping Agency, the National Authority for Sports Arbitration, and the Ethics Committee of the Olympic Committee actively participated in these workshops.

Mohammed Khalfan, Director of the Kuwaiti Olympic Committee,

emphasized the importance of such workshops for educating athletes, including administrators, players, and technical staff. Topics covered included insights into the Olympic Charter, anti-doping regulations, and the potential pitfalls that athletes should avoid. The sessions also delved into sports arbitration, addressing complaint cases and providing guidance on managing arbitration chambers. Khalfan underscored the significance of the Ethics Committee for sports bodies.

He stated, "The workshop attendance was positive, marking a good start. Even those who missed these workshops may have the opportunity to participate in future sessions, aiming to reach the widest possible number of athletes."

OLYMPICS

Significant participation 400 shooters
HH the Crown Prince Shooting Champ'ship set for Thursday

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: The His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Shooting Championship is set to kick off on Thursday, with significant participation. Duaij Al-Otaibi, President of the Kuwaiti Shooting Club and head of the tournament's organizing committee, announced in a press conference held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel that the event will see around 400 male and female shooters from Kuwait and Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

SHOOTING

Expressing honor in hosting this prestigious tournament, Al-Otaibi highlighted its significance as the launch of the club's sports season (2023/2024). The competition, hosted at the Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Ranges Complex, will feature various Olympic shooting categories, including skeet and trap, pistol and rifle shooting, as well as compound and Olympic bow and arrow shooting, encompassing both men's and women's divisions.

Acknowledging the crucial support from His Highness the Crown Prince, Al-Otaibi noted the tournament's elevation to one of the most important sporting events after the Emir's Grand International Shooting Championship. He emphasized the consistent backing

from the political leadership and the role of the Public Authority for Sports, ministries, and state institutions in supporting the tournament.

Al-Otaibi underscored the championship's significance as a vital preparatory step for Kuwaiti shooters gearing up for upcoming international and continental tournaments, particularly those leading to the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. He expressed hope in securing a substantial number of qualifying tickets for the Olympics, citing recent successes in the Asian Games and the qualification of shooters Khaled Al-Mudhaf and Mohammed Al-Daihani for the World Champions Shooting Championship in Qatar.

Obaid Al-Osaimi, the club's secre-

tary and tournament director, assured reporters that the organizing committee is fully prepared for the event, with the club's fields in optimal condition. Kuwaiti arbitration teams will oversee the tournament, and Al-Osaimi called on fans to follow the competitions, which commence with trap and pistol events and run successively until the tournament's conclusion on Saturday.

Additionally, Al-Osaimi mentioned a special rifle competition on the sidelines of the tournament, featuring male and female shooters from the Kuwaiti and Japanese federations, alongside the distinguished participation of shooters with disabilities affiliated with the Paralympic Committee from both countries.



Al-Otaibi and Al-Osaimi with the organizing committee of the tournament.



Toronto Raptors forward Pascal Siakam (43) drives past Washington Wizards forward Kyle Kuzma, right, during the second-half NBA basketball game action in Toronto. (AP)

Sports

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Waha High School clinch league title

Youssef Al-Athbi High School claim 3rd spot

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: Al-Waha High School edged Mohammed Abdullah Al-Muhaini High School 1-0 to clinch the Warba Bank Soccer League title for the secondary stage in the Jahra region at the Sulaiyikhat Arena. Meanwhile, Youssef Al-Athbi High School secured third place by defeating Sabah Al-Nasser 2-1.

Mutaib Al-Mutairi, the first director of physical education for the Jahra region, highlighted that the secondary stage league

SOCCER

involved the participation of 8 schools in a knockout format spanning four days, culminating in the final that crowned Al-Waha as the champions. He emphasized the significance of reviving the secondary stage league after a hiatus of four years, underscoring the positive impact on students who engaged in competitive sports. Al-Mutairi expressed gratitude to the school union, general guidance, and Warba Bank for their commendable efforts.

In the realm of Warba Bank women's volleyball competitions, the second round of the first group is set to unfold today, featuring two matches. The first contest features the previously defeated Kuwait University facing off against Box-hill College, while Gulf University, holding the lead, clash with the American University in the pursuit of extending their winning streak and claiming the top spot in the standings in the second match.

Italy need strong 'finish' to qualify

GENEVA, Nov 14, (AP): The final rounds of European Championship qualifiers sees defending champions Italy needing a strong finish to clinch a spot at the tournament, while Albania and Slovenia can secure surprising group victories.

Romania are another unlikely team controlling their own Euro 2024 destiny, although Israel still have an outside chance to secure direct advancement from that group.

Slovenia top Group H ahead of Denmark, but could still be overtaken by an even lower-ranked team - Kazakhstan.

Twelve teams will secure advancement in the next week to the tournament hosted by Ger-

SOCCER

many. Eight teams already qualified last month: France, England, Spain, Belgium, Portugal, Austria, Scotland and Turkey.

The Netherlands, Hungary and Serbia are best placed to confirm their qualification.

Three more teams will advance from a 12-team playoffs in March. Among those in danger of not qualifying directly are Croatia, a finalists and semifinalists at the past two World Cups, and Italy, which failed to reach either of those tournaments.

Italy faces a high-stakes game against Ukraine on Monday, likely for second place behind England in Group C.

Ukraine will host Italy in Germany - at the stadium of Bundesliga leader Bayer Leverkusen - because they cannot play international games at home for security reasons during the military invasion by Russia. Russia was banned from Euro 2024 qualifying.

Al-Kuwait, Al-Qadsia advance to Super Cup final

Khaled El Anzi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: Kuwait Club and Al-Qadsia successfully advanced to the final of the local volleyball Super Cup for the 2023-2024 season, emerging victorious over Al-Arabi and Kazma in the semifinals.

In the initial encounter, Kuwait demonstrated dominance, securing a decisive victory over Al-Arabi with a scoreline of 3-0, achieving set wins of 25-17, 32-30, and 25-19.

In the subsequent match, Al-Qadsia exhibited a strong performance, triumphing over Kazma with a clean sweep of 3-0, marked by set victories of 25-22, 25-22, and 25-18.

The championship's ultimate showdown is scheduled to

take place next Thursday at the local federation hall, where Kuwait and Al-Qadsia will compete for the coveted title.

The Super Cup tournament, now in its ninth edition, commenced in the 2014-2015 season, with Al-Qadsia emerging as the champions in the inaugural edition. Subsequent seasons saw Kazma securing the title in 2015-2016, followed by Al-Kuwait claiming the next three titles.

The 2018-2019 season did not witness the tournament, leading to another victory for Al-Qadsia. The following three titles, spanning from the 2019-2020 season to 2021-2022, were secured by Kazma, with the last season in 2022-2023 seeing them as the reigning champions.



The victorious Waha High School captain raises the championship trophy.

Gymnastics team amass total of 13 medals

Kuwait end Horizon Cup in Athens on a high note



Kuwaiti junior artistic gymnastics team with officials.

ATHENS, Nov 14: The Kuwaiti junior artistic gymnastics squad concluded their impressive participation in the Horizon International Cup in Athens on a high note, amassing a total of 13 medals, including 7 golds, 3 silvers, and 3 bronzes.

The Kuwaiti team secured gold in the junior team competition, with gymnast Abdullah Behbehani earning two silver medals in the parallel apparatus and vault table. Meanwhile, athlete Mohammed Al-Hatem clinched two bronze medals in the vault and parallel bars categories for the youth division.

GYMNASTICS

als in the all-around, vault, and horizontal bars, along with a silver in the parallel apparatus.

Musa Al-Sahhaf contributed to the medal tally with 3 golds in the horizontal bar, parallel bars, and vault table, in addition to a bronze in the all-around. Rashid Al-Kandari earned two silver medals in the parallel apparatus and vault table. Meanwhile, athlete Mohammed Al-Hatem clinched two bronze medals in the vault and parallel bars categories for the youth division.

The team's first-day performance yielded 5 medals, with Abdullah Behbehani securing 3 golds, and Al-Kandari, Hussein Dashti, and Muhammad Al-Hatem each earning a silver.

Fahd Al-Soula, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Federation, expressed pride and delight in these remarkable achievements in a competitive tournament featur-

ing advanced artistic gymnastics teams from 10 European countries. Al-Soula extended congratulations to the head of the delegation, Muhammad Al-Daihani, the athletes, and the technical and administrative staff, acknowledging the emerging players' demonstration of their capabilities and responsibility in representing Kuwait with honor at the international event.

Celtics beat Knicks

Kings down Cavaliers as Brown 'earns' 400th win

SACRAMENTO, Calif., Nov 14, (AP): De'Aaron Fox had 28 points and six assists in his return after missing two weeks with an ankle injury, and the Sacramento Kings gave coach Mike Brown his 400th career victory with a 132-120 win over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Monday night.

Domantas Sabonis added 23 points, 10 assists and nine rebounds for the Kings, who swept the Cavs a season ago.

Keegan Murray had a season-high 25 points with five 3-pointers.

DONOVAN Mitchell led the Cavs with 22 points despite going scoreless in the first quarter.

Caris LeVert had 21 points and Max Strus scored 19.

Sacramento had six players in double figures but the night belonged to Fox, who was repeatedly serenaded with "MVP! MVP!" chants in the second half.



Fox

Celtics 114, Knicks 98

Boston, the Boston Celtics were missing a lot of 3-point shots. They missed a bunch of layups, too.

Coach Joe Mazzulla would have been happy to make adjustments, but his options were limited.

Jayson Tatum scored 17 of his 35 points in the fourth quarter, when the Celtics turned a 91-88 lead into a run-away. After missing seven of his first

eight 3-point attempts, he hit four straight down the stretch - including a contested one that led to a four-point play after the Knicks cut the deficit to three points.

Jaylen Brown added 22 points and Kristaps Porzingis had 21 against the team that drafted him.

Bucks 118, Bulls 109

Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo had 35 points and 11 rebounds and Bobby Portis also had a double-double in the Milwaukee Bucks' 118-109 vic-

BASKETBALL

tory over the Chicago Bulls.

Milwaukee's Damian Lillard returned to action after missing two games with a calf injury, though he shot just 3 of 17 while scoring 12 points. The Bucks lost both games they played without the seven-time all-NBA guard.

The Bulls were playing for the second straight night after beating the Detroit Pistons 119-108 at home on Sunday.

Raptors 111, Wizards 107

Toronto, Pascal Siakam scored a season-high 39 points and the Toronto Raptors overcame a 23-point deficit to beat the Washington Wizards.

Siakam sparked Toronto's comeback with 22 points in the third quarter. He finished with 11 rebounds.

Washington's Kyle Kuzma scored a season-high 34 points but turned the ball over out of bounds after Siakam's late basket gave Toronto its first lead since the opening quarter.

Kuwait deaf futsal team advance to World Cup quarters



Kuwaiti deaf futsal team.

SAO PAULO, Nov 14, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti deaf futsal team secured a spot in the quarterfinals of the Futsal World Cup in Brazil. Emerging at the top of the third group with seven points, the team's goal difference outshone Switzer-

land, and settling for a 2-2 draw with Switzerland, Aman explained. Up next, Kuwait are set to face Thailand in the quarterfinals on Wednesday. A victory in this match would pave the way for a semi-final encounter against the winners of the Iran vs Czech Republic matchup, Aman added.

Commencing last Friday in Sao Paulo, the tournament is scheduled to conclude on November 19, featuring the participation of 14 national teams. Prior to the competition, the Kuwait team underwent intensive training in Granada, Spain, where they played a 2-2 draw against the Spanish team, the reigning champions, and suffered a narrow 3-2 defeat in a subsequent match.

FUTSAL

land, marking a historic achievement for the Kuwait Deaf Sports Club, as stated by coach Salem Aman to KUNA on Tuesday.

The team exhibited a strong performance, defeating Denmark 5-2, achieving a similar victory against the