



basketball

Page 16



0 005587 745481



tennis

Page 14

FRIDAY-SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17-18, 2023 / JUMADA AL AWWAL 3-4, 1445 AH

emergency number 112

NO. 18447

16 PAGES

150 FILS

MP AL-MUDHAF FILES GRILLING MOTION AGAINST PRIME MINISTER

‘No residency transfer for govt sector expats to private work’

By Munaif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: The Ministry of Interior has issued a decision to stop transferring the Article 17 residency permits of expatriates working in the government sector to the private sector as Article 18 residency permits.

According to security sources, the decision to stop the transfer will be applied to those whose services ended when they reached the legal age or to those who resigned from their job.

They revealed that there is a trend among state ministries to replace expatriates with citizens due to which employment contracts are not renewed for those who have reached the legal age for work or who have reached the age of 60 years, with the aim of reducing the number of expatriates in these ministries and replacing them with citizens.

Kuwait army urges ‘caution’ for hikers

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: The Kuwaiti Army Ground Force Engineering has issued a vital warning directed at hikers and individuals participating in grazing activities. This advisory underscores the critical importance of exercising extreme caution and refraining from approaching or touching any unidentified foreign objects encountered during such activities, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In the event of discovering any foreign object, the advisory strongly recommends that individuals take immediate action by contacting the emergency number 112.

Kuwait battles greed, targets price gougers

Harsh penalties await shop owners

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: Minister of Commerce and Industry Mohammad Al-Aiban instructed Thursday ministry teams to impose fines against owners of shops who practice price gouging.

Al-Aiban, also Minister of State for Youth Affairs, said during a meeting with executives at the commercial supervision

and consumer protection departments, that inspectors should impose the toughest penalty against shop owners who violated the law and increase prices just because of recent raise in pensions.

“You are the first line of defense who protect citizens from the greedy merchants,” he was quoted by a ministry statement as saying. “We will not allow the abuse of pay raise,” he added.

Al-Aiban said this measure was a prevention against possible price gouging after the parliament had recently approved the increase of pensions.

In other news, MP Mehalhal Al-Mudhaf has filed a grilling motion against HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on the following issues:

- Failure to implement the directives in the Amiri speech that HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah delivered in June 2022, such as the need to improve the citizens’ standard of living and ensure national prosperity;
- Confusing governmental strategy;
- Not responding to parliamentary queries under the pretext that they are unconstitutional.

Al-Mudhaf pointed out that instead of implementing the Amiri directives, the government granted exceptional allowances and privileges to some senior officials and ministers. He said this contradicts the supposed objective of the government to stop the squandering of public funds.

On the confusing strategy of the government, he said the government’s program focused on financial and economic reforms; while ignoring the procedures for providing a suitable political environment. He added two ministers resigned at the beginning of the term of this government, which indicates the current government is following in the footsteps of its predecessors.

He argued the government could have immediately taken decisions to control prices and lay down clear regulations on appointing senior officials based on their competence, instead of wasting time on meetings of committees.

On the other hand, MP Majed Al-Mutairi has submitted a proposal for the Commerce, Industry and Interior ministries to coordinate their efforts toward the resumption of the issuance of licenses for the establishment of insurance and brokerage companies.

Continued on Page 5

NewsWatch

VIENNA: Iran has further increased its stockpile of uranium enriched to nearly weapons-grade levels, according to a report by the United Nations’ nuclear watchdog seen by The Associated Press on Wednesday.

The International Atomic Energy Agency also said that Iran has pushed back against the agency’s objections to Tehran’s ban on some of its inspectors designated to monitor the country’s nuclear program. (AP)

□ □ □

BERLIN: German police raided 54 locations across the country on Thursday in an investigation of a Hamburg-based organization suspected of promoting the Iranian leadership’s ideology and possibly supporting activities of Hezbollah in Germany, the government said.

The Interior Ministry said the Islamic Center Hamburg, or IZH, has long been under observation by Germany’s domestic intelligence agency. (AP)

□ □ □

TOKYO: Death toll has risen to 26 after a fire broke out on Thursday at a coalmine company building in north China’s Shanxi Province, state-run Xinhua News Agency, reported citing rescuers.

The fire ripped through the second floor of the five-story building located in Lyuliang City, according to the report. (KUNA)

□ □ □

THE HAGUE: A Dutch court on Wednesday ruled that a company must pay compensation to five Iranian victims of chemical weapons attacks by Iraq in the 1980s after the company did not show up in court to defend itself against civil claims it supplied raw materials for poison gas. (AP)

Opinion

We hope the increase is not a sedative bribe

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

WE will not go into the interpellation of the Minister of Commerce and Industry and the Minister of State for Youth Affairs Muhammad Al-Aiban, because what was said in the session between the supporters and opponents is enough.

However, it must be emphasized that grilling based on personal reasons no longer receives the momentum it used to have. Kuwaitis “do not want to kill the gatekeeper of the vineyard, rather to eat the grapes.”

Therefore, a parliamentarian who has sworn to protect the Constitution cannot go on a path that the other MPs and the popular majority believe leads nowhere.

The two authorities wasted time in this grilling, in which the MP could have directed his question to the minister and received the answer. Instead, the parliament could have devoted itself to matters that are of concern to the people.

Kuwait can no longer tolerate the loss of opportunities, and it cannot endure parliamentary or ministerial adventures, because it suffers from a number of problems that must be solved quickly and without mistakes.

It is good if deals are not concluded during the grilling of the Minister of Commerce and Industry like the way it happened with the Minister of Education, who retracted a decision that was rightful for his predecessor, and issued another that carries many risks to the Kuwaitis, something that appears when students graduate from universities that have question marks.

This setback is an insult to the state as a whole, as the Minister of Education should have followed in the footsteps of Al-Aiban and insisted on the decision, instead of yielding to the demands of MPs who only care about their electoral interests.

It is not in the interest of Kuwait. Anyone who monitors what is published on social media and the media will realize that nothing is hidden in the country, either about medical errors, or anything else in other vital areas.

In the grilling session of the Minister of Commerce, which ended without the minister losing his job, and the subsequent approval of laws, there are many indications that can be built upon.

If the government had the intention to address the problems in the manner it used with regard to increasing and approving salaries, there would have been consensus on other matters that benefit the Kuwaitis, and thus expediting the passing of laws.

Here it must be pointed out that amending the salary law is not all that is desired, as the increase must be paid in return for revenues, which is what we did not hear either from the Minister of Finance or the ministers concerned.

There are many demands that the people believe are right, and work must be done to meet them. In the near future, if revenues are not enhanced, things will deteriorate. It is not possible to rely on fees and their increase alone.

Rather, there must be a deliberate process of revitalizing the national economy, starting with opening the country, facilitating procedures for investors - both citizens and foreigners - like the rest of the world, creating industries, and ending with securing conditions for food security.

Undoubtedly, this cannot be achieved with a limited vision based on novels, as decisions are not issued in this way, but rather take into account the interests of the country and the citizens.

In the past three decades, Kuwait has missed many opportunities, but its government continues to treat problems with sedatives, instead of eradicating the causes of the disease.

That is why we hope that the salary increase will not be a bribe or a sedative pill.

Email: ahmed@aljarallah.com

Follow me on:

facebook



ahmedaljarallah@gmail.com



Kuwaiti relief representatives, alongside airport cadres, gather for a group photograph as the 21st relief aid plane destined for the Gaza Strip takes off from Kuwait to Al-Arish city, Egypt.

Israel signals wider offensive in south

‘Supplies alone won’t save Gaza patients’

Other Voices

Oman-Kuwait: Strengthening economic and cultural bonds

By Dr Saleh Amer Al-Kharusi

Ambassador of Oman

On the occasion of the annual celebration of the blessed renaissance of the Sultanate of Oman, which began under the leadership of the late Sultan Qaboos bin Said in the year 1970, we would like to talk about this



Al-Kharusi

renaissance that is taking place today under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said in accordance with his vision and sound directives from the year 2020 towards clear and specific goals that will advance our thriving country in various fields, which are considered an essential reference for the planning work related to the Oman 2040 vision.

The most prominent aspect of this vision is the national strategy for zero carbon neutrality and the energy transformation that the Sultanate of Oman seeks to achieve with the aim of assuming a leadership position among the countries producing green hydrogen in the world depending on the availability of the main components of its production, which are solar energy, wind energy, extended lands, and human resources.

Indeed, the Sultanate of Oman was able to take important fundamental steps to accelerate the procedures for regulating the hydrogen sector, develop the necessary legal frameworks and policies for its growth, and allocate appropriate sites for its production in order to enhance investment avoidance,

work to localize this technology, and prepare the necessary studies for it in order to keep pace with global transformations towards reducing carbon emissions.

This is due to the fact that hydrogen has wide uses that contribute to diversifying energy sources, reducing carbon emissions, and promoting economic growth.

In this regard, it is important for us to pay tribute to the close and distinguished historical bilateral relations that exist between the Sultanate of Oman and the State of Kuwait, which have come a long way for more than half a century and have included all forms of cooperation in various fields of social, diplomatic, economic, media, cultural and wealth.

This is under the special patronage and royal directives of His Majesty the Sultans Haitham bin Tariq and his brother His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

The first visit made by His Majesty the Sultan, after assuming the reins of power in January 2020, to the State of Kuwait was a significant indication of the extent of the close connection between the leaderships of the two brotherly countries.

Among the mechanisms for activating bilateral relations is the Omani-Kuwaiti Joint Committee, which was established in 2003. It held nine sessions, the last of which was in Muscat in March, headed by the ministers of Foreign Affairs of the two countries, His Excellency Sayyid Badr Hamad Al-Busaidi and His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah. It resulted in many understandings that would contribute to opening broader horizons of cooperation.

Continued on Page 5

LONDON, Nov 16, (AP): As concerns grow for patients stranded inside Gaza’s biggest hospital, experts warned that transporting vulnerable people, including babies, is a perilous proposition under even the best circumstances.

On Tuesday, Palestinian authorities proposed a supervised evacuation of Shifa Hospital, a sprawling complex that runs several city blocks in the heart of Gaza City. Hours later, Israeli forces raided the facility - further complicating the picture.

Dr. Irwin Redlener of Columbia University in New York said that moving newborns and premature babies with health problems is fraught but possible with trained personnel, proper equipment and a transportation plan.

“Babies in incubators have complex health needs and there needs to be temperature control, hydration, medication for infections and breathing support,” said Redlener, a pediatrician and disaster response expert, who spoke before the raid.

Redlener said that when hospitals in New York were evacuated due to Superstorm Sandy in 2012, medical workers walked down numerous flights of stairs carrying babies to waiting ambulances and there were no known tragedies - at least among the infants.

The storm, which hit the most populous metro area in the U.S.,

killed dozens of other people after devastating coastline communities, knocking out power and setting neighborhoods ablaze.

“They were able to do that because they had time to plan for that and all the proper resources were available,” he said. “It’s completely the opposite in Gaza right now.”

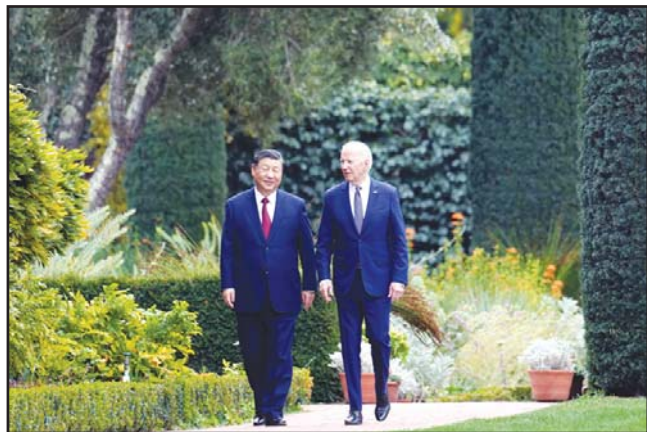
Shifa is the largest and best-equipped hospital in the strip with over 500 beds, an intensive care unit and services like dialysis. Since the war between Israel and Hamas erupted several weeks ago, the hospital has acted as a shelter for tens of thousands of residents fleeing their homes as the conflict escalated.

Now, however, the hospital is a central focus in the war. Israel says the facility is used by Hamas for military purposes and released video of weapons it said it found there. The Associated Press could not independently verify the claims. Gaza health officials and Hamas deny them.

Hundreds of people - including medical workers, premature babies and other vulnerable patients - are trapped inside with dwindling supplies, no electricity and an uncertain path out.

Israeli forces raided the complex early Wednesday. The military said soldiers were accompanied by medical teams and had

Continued on Page 5



US President Joe Biden and China's President Xi Jinping walk in the gardens at the Filoli Estate in Woodside, California on Nov 15 on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation conference. (AP) - See Page 7

THE thief who stole the plane, and looted the proceeds from advertising, and propagated falsehoods now faces charges of betraying trust.

The Interpol is actively involved in pursuing these cases, targeting not only the perpetrator but also his accomplices, including his children and former spouse. Legal proceedings aim to bring them back to the country from which money belonging to others has been misappropriated.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

Prayer Timings			
Fajr	04:50	Asr	14:32
Sunrise ..	06:12	Maghrib ..	16:53
Zohr	11:33	Isha	18:13

Local

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

Expected weather for the next 24 hours:
By Day: Mild with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speed of 06-26 km/h.

By Night: Mild to rather cold with light to moderate northwest-erly wind to light variable wind, with speed of 06-26 km/h.
Station **Max Exp** **Min Rec**
Kuwait City 29 21

Weather

Kuwait Airport	28	19
Abdaly	27	18
Jahra	29	19
Salmiyah	29	23
Nuwaisib	29	18
Wafra	29	18

Oman to celebrate 53rd National Day on Saturday, November 18



Zain staff and family members who are on Umrah Trip.

Zain employees visit Holy Mosque in Makkah

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: Continuing its annual tradition of fostering spiritual growth and strengthening bonding beyond the workplace, Zain successfully organized the 19th Umrah trip for its staff.

This special journey to the Holy Mosque in Makkah was joined by many employees and their family members. The trip served to reinforce the Zain family's sense of unit and deepen the bonds of belonging and affection among its members.

This trip, which comes for the 19th year, falls under Zain's internal communications strategy, which caters to a wide range of personal and professional aspects of employees' lives.

The solid strategy encompasses a plethora of programs and initiatives that center around many pillars, such as health and sports, spiritual and cultural, and recreational and social programs.

Commitment

This initiative returns annually to reflect Zain's unwavering commitment towards its human resources. Every year, the company receives positive feedback and high interaction from employees who participate in the Umrah trip, with praise from them and their accompanying family members for the smooth journey and spiritually rich experience.

The company continues to work on identifying and implementing the best initiatives and programs to interact with employees in and outside of the workplace environment.

These programs include spiritual and religious visits, Holy Quran recital competitions, awareness campaigns, and cultural programs.

Other initiatives include health-oriented campaigns like seasonal vaccination drives, blood drives, periodic checkups, sports competitions, as well as cultural sessions, informative workshops, and much more. From time to time, Zain brings the best experts from a wide variety of fields to hold special talks for employees to widen their horizons and enrich their knowledge.

The company believes that active and ongoing communication with its staff elevates their workplace experience and positively impacts their productivity levels. Zain considers its workforce the main reason behind its success and leadership in the market and will always foster their growth and cater to their needs.

New US envoy expected to reach Kuwait Nov 26

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: Karen Hideoke Sasahara who has been appointed new US Ambassador to Kuwait is expected to arrive in Kuwait on November 26.

Karen Sasahara has served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for North Africa since November 2020; prior to that she served as Chargé d'Affaires, a.i. at the U.S. Embassy in Amman from March 2019 to August 2020. She served as Consul General in Jerusalem from August 2018 to March 2019, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Before that, she was Senior Advisor/ Division Chief in the Bureau for Intelligence and Research Office for the Analysis of Terrorism, Narcotics, and Crime. Prior to that she served as an assessor on the Board of Examiners from 2015-2017, as Deputy Chief of Mission in Sana'a, Yemen from July 2013 to June 2015, and as Foreign Policy Advisor to the Commanding General of Special Operations Command Central at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida from 2012-2013.



Sasahara

'Charities play vital role in global SDGs agenda'

Peace, prosperity eyed for all

By Abdul Nasser Al-Aslami

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: The Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs Sheikh Firas Al-Malik inaugurated the Insan International Forum for the Governance of Charity Work, organized by the Insan Charity Association, on Wednesday, November 15.

The aim of the forum was to research the tools for developing institutional charitable work, the method of developing them, learning about the experiences of some charity work institutions around the world, and transferring these experiences to other charity institutions.

In this regard, Sheikh Firas explained that achieving the 2030 Global Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals depends on cooperation and work with all partners in a practical manner in order to make the right choices to improve life in a sustainable way for future generations. Hence, charity organizations play an increasingly prominent role in supporting the international sustainable development agenda.

One of those goals, which were set by the United Nations, is to achieve the vision of eliminating poverty and ensuring that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by the year 2030.

The private sector plays a major role in solving the climate, water, food and poverty crises, because the most important characteristic of these goals is that they focus on the inclusion of all, as the state cannot work alone to achieve social and economic growth, but rather everyone must join hands to ensure the goals are achieved and sustained.

Sheikh Firas said, "We hope that this forum will yield the desired benefit and

that its lectures, presented by a group of scholars and local and international experts, will be of benefit."

Meanwhile, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Insan Charity Association Sheikh Dr. Othman Al-Khamis said the launch of the work of the Insan International Forum for the Governance of Charity Work comes out of belief in the importance of the governance of charity work, adding that its institutions are still new to governance standards.

He highlighted that addressing its institutional requirements and the most important international experiences that have been applied in some Islamic countries with distinguished experiences in institutional charity work is considered one of the scientific priorities of the association.

Al-Khamis expressed his hope that the Insan Charity Association would collect these experiences in this forum, discuss them, and learn about the details of their application, and then work on collecting these experiences in a single scientific publication in Arabic and English, and publish it to the charity work institutions.

He explained that the general framework of the Insan International Forum for the Governance of Charity Work consists of two main axes. The first is the theoretical foundations, such as the concept of the governance of charity work, the terms related to the principles of its governance, and the factors influencing it.

As for the second axis, it is the international experiences that give a general overview of the supervisory body and charity work in the country that is chosen, the instructions of the supervisory body regarding its governance, and the impact of those instructions on religious commitment in it and its future.



Sheikh Firas

THE SULTANATE OF OMAN will celebrate the 53rd glorious National Day this Saturday, November 18, 2023, marking milestone accomplishments made in all aspects of life under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq.

The Royal speech of His Majesty the Sultan at the opening of the first annual sitting of the 8th term of the Council of Oman constituted a new future approach that strengthens the existing efforts made by various State institutions.

The Sultanate of Oman considers that the Council of Oman and its integration with institutions of the State harness the main factors for implementing approaches aimed at achieving accomplishments that benefit citizens.

His Majesty the Sultan's audience to the chairmen of the State Council and Shura Council—separately, in December 2022—underscores the fact that partnership in shaping the country's present and future constitutes a basic pillar of national action in strengthening this integration in a way that serves its future directions and policies aimed at pressing ahead with the comprehensive development march. It also underlines the need to unify efforts and advance the supreme interest of the State, secure the sustainability of development and safeguard the country's gains and accomplishments.

Last month (October 2023), the Sultanate of Oman conducted the Shura Council's 10th Term Elections during which Omani citizens cast their votes for the first time via "Antakhib" electronic app.

Security

The app, which was used for the first time in the elections of municipal councils, boasts high security and confidentiality standards. Its use requires the availability of a smartphone equipped with the NFC feature, a valid ID card and enrolment in the electoral register. The participation rate via this app stood at 65.07 percent, and the voters selected 90 members to the Shura Council.

The Royal interest in the advancement of this homeland and its honourable people was demonstrated through many achievements, most notably the promulgation of the Social Protection Law, which guarantees the implementation of Oman's vision and policy of adequate insurance coverage for various segments of society.

His Majesty the Sultan expressed this attention during his Royal speech at the opening of the first annual sitting of the 8th Term of the Council of Oman, as His Majesty said, "We envisage that the Social Protection System, recently introduced, will be comprehensive, extending its benefits to all segments of society, thereby guaranteeing a dignified life for all".

Among other duties, the Social Protection Fund encompasses a number of programmes, which will be implemented next January 2024. Most of these programmes do not require social research, like endorsing cash benefits for the elderly, children, people with disabilities, orphans and widows.

The scheme also includes family income support, social insurance programmes that secure support for the elderly, cases of disability, death, work-related injuries, occupational diseases and job security, in addition to maternity, sick, and unscheduled leaves.

The Social Protection Law achieves well-being for the people of Oman in accordance with the provisions of the Basic Law of the State and the goals of Oman Vision 2040 that pertain to social aspects.

Since the outset of its blessed renaissance, the Sultanate of Oman has advocated the view that education constitutes the edifice that secures and fortifies nations' present and future. Therefore, Oman accorded top importance to education so that it could tap its benefits and reap its fruits.

To this effect, Oman proceeded with bolstering education by introducing the latest instruments and methods to expand its scopes. Oman Vision 2040 gives priority to "education, learning, scholarly research, and national capabilities". Acting within the context of the vision's first theme titled "Man and Society", Oman embarked on implementing comprehensive education, sustainable learning and scholarly research that leads to the evolution of a knowledge-based society and competitive national human resources.

The Royal philosophy stems from the fact that educational institutions, research, and cultural centres at all levels constitute the foundation of society's scientific and intellectual advancement, and act as drivers for our technological and industrial progression.

The overall approach is to continue empowering the education sector, linking educational curricula to the requirements of economic growth and broadening opportunities for our youth to help them engage in scientific expertise, and immersing themselves in the broad realms of science and knowledge. The youth of Oman are encouraged to utilize their cognitive and intellectual abilities for contesting creative and innovative endeavours, thereby laying a robust groundwork for authentic investment and establishing themselves as leaders in economic growth.

This approach was evidenced by the issuance of the School Education Law in May 2023. The law states that "The greatest goal of school education in the Sultanate of Oman is to achieve comprehensive and integrated development of the learner's personality in terms of mental, emotional, spiritual and physical aspects."

The law also establishes the advancement of the teaching profession and the necessity of enhancing the status of the teacher. It recognizes the teacher's effective role in grooming

the generations of this nation. This was emphasized by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, when he chaired the Council of Ministers meeting in February 2023.

The Council of Ministers approved the allocation of an annual day titled "Omani Teacher's Day", which falls on 24 February every year. It is an official holiday for all teachers and related jobs in public and private schools.

The Council of Ministers gave directives for the implementation of an advanced vocational and technical education system to enable students in 11th and 12th school grades to choose their preferred educational tracks. The educational system offers a host of professional and technical specializations, including engineering and industrial specializations.

The Cabinet also approved new educational channels and curricula prepared to keep pace with the requirements of sustainable development and future skills. The new vocational and technical education system began to be applied in the current school year (2023-2024) in a number of schools.

Since Oman has placed the development of national human resources among its priorities, the Council of Ministers approved a programme to consolidate the foreign scholarship programme for the years (2023-2027). The move includes the grooming of graduates who are capable of assuming leadership roles in economic sectors. It comprised the endorsement of 150 scholarships in innovative specializations in the best international universities over a period of five years, starting from 2023. The programme, which cost RO 36 million, seeks to empower the academic educational process.



Sultan

His Majesty the Sultan also accorded attention to preserving the national identity and demonstrating pride in the Omani culture. His Majesty the Sultan cautioned against the challenges facing society and their unacceptable impacts on the moral and cultural system. In this context, His Majesty stressed the need to confront these challenges and enhancing society's ability to address them, notably by invigorating the national identity, inculcating authentic values and principles and promoting the role of the family.

In this context, His Majesty the Sultan said, "It is imperative to accord paramount attention to the family, the cornerstone of our society, which acts as a bulwark in safeguarding our progeny from harmful ideologies that are in direct opposition to the tenets of our venerable religion and core values. Such detrimental trends also conflict with our Omani traditions, which are deeply ingrained in our history and national character".

His Majesty the Sultan also urged families to provide extra support to their children and raise them well, bearing in mind the changes posed to their behaviour in terms of negative concepts pervading the world. These include the exploitation of human rights principles and other justifications to impose visions, programmes and behaviours that are not consistent with the prevailing tenets and principles.

Regarding the Royal support to youth, His Majesty gave directives to begin procedures for establishing project to set up an integrated sports city that attracts and hosts tournaments and competitions at the regional and global levels.

He also gave directives to study projects for investment in sports labs and extend incentives to investors, deemed partners in sports development. In this context, His Majesty the Sultan stressed the need to advance the sports sector and finalize a sports strategy that is being prepared to ensure furnishing facilities for young people and exploring their skills, right from the early school stages.

Employment

Oman also accords great importance to the employment of national human resources, training them and honing their skills to enable them to enter the labour market and explore the business environment. This attention reflected in legislations and laws, including the Labour Law, that provides a safe business climate by defining rights and duties and stabilizing the relationship between production parties.

While chairing the Council of Ministers in January 2023, His Majesty the Sultan urged the authorities concerned to take necessary measures to establish a proper environment that encourages citizens to take up all types of work. He laid emphasis on the importance of educating young people about global work culture and entrepreneurship.

Oman attaches importance to the development of national administrative leaders, both in the public and private sectors. In this context, His Majesty the Sultan presided over the opening of the Royal Academy of Management, which enjoys the honourary patronage of His Majesty the Sultan.

Oman also accorded priority to sustainable development in governorates and cities, considered as pillars of Oman Vision 2040. The approach focuses on the development of local administration, based on decentralization. It resulted in the issuance of the Governorate System and the Municipal Councils Law, aimed to empower the people of Oman in each governorate and enable them to contribute to the nation-building process.

Continued on Page 3

Kuwaiti, Omani FM's hold talks

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16, (KUNA): Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Thursday received his Omani counterpart Bader Al-Busaidi, holding talks on bilateral relations and efforts to propel ties to greater levels.

Amid the talks, both top diplomats agreed that bilateral relations have made tremendous headway as of late, proving equally beneficial to the Gulf Arab neighbors, according to a foreign ministry statement.

Current happenings around the world were among the topics discussed, chief among them the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,

while the ministers collectively underlined the need to provide the Palestinians with maximum protection at a time where Israeli occupation forces have stepped up their "acts of aggression," they said.

Kuwait and Muscat are "equally" committed to ensure that the Palestinians fulfill their rights to statehood, based on the 1967 borderlines with East Jerusalem as the capital of an independent Palestinian state, added the statement.

The talks also yielded a number of new bilateral deals running the gamut from environment and trade to education, it said.

diwaniya

كewanية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

‘It’s not personal Assembly, govt must jointly work for people’s good’

“WHAT happened during the past few days among some members of the National Assembly, with all regret, shows a clear deviation from the legislative path, and a quick glance at some of the interrogations that have been filed against ministers show that some are still thinking about electoral interests,” columnist **Abdulaziz Al-Kandari** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

“If a member of the National Assembly has the right to file a grilling request, which is primarily aimed at keeping in check the government performance, why are accusations made without evidence? What is the benefit of this level of dialogue and accusing people?

“What is happening shows that the majority of the proposals of some representatives are invalid, and also the behavior of some as if the elections are just around the corner, ‘so you find unrealistic proposals that would not be presented by a person studying politics in the first year’, and everyone who wants to enter into political arena must realize that it is not a place for individual action and imposition of ideas on others.

“Rather, it is to serve the people and help them minimize their sufferings, especially if there is an agreement and a legislative map that benefits the country and the people, then collective action is the basis of politics.

“We were happy after the National Assembly elections and the formation of the parliamentary government committee to coordinate efforts, especially since the government did not interfere in the elections or in the National Assembly committees out of good intentions and the beginning of a new page.

“Currently, a new legislative map has been developed for the sessions of the National Assembly, and the Chairman of the Committee, Abdullah Fahhad, announced that the map includes the distribution of legislation over 17 sessions, and that the legislative work map for the current session is the result of lengthy meetings of the Parliamentary Coordination Committee, the Parliamentary-Governmental Coordination Committee, and the Priorities Committee during the summer period and the parliamentary recess.”

“Any agreement requires parliamentary-government consensus and avoidance of personal strife, because people look at achievements rather than quarrels, and if some MPs continue with this behavior, the ministers will prevail over the representatives of the people.

“Today, the government and parliamentarians are counting on the Minister of Commerce to appear in a public session and not to disrupt the session due to interrogation as was the case in the past, and to approve a law for retirees in consensus and a list of priorities and this is what we want in the coming days.”

Also:

“The ongoing conflict between two political groups continues to erode our democratic practices. A notable instance of this decay occurred during the 2020 Council session when a request to postpone planned interrogations of the former Prime Minister was approved,” columnist **Dr. Abdul Latif Bin Nakhi** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

“While the first party and the government at the time are blamed by the second party for the parliamentary failure, the latter shares responsibility for pushing the



Al-Kandari

government into failure by excessively utilizing the constitutional option of questioning the voluntarily resigned president, as per parliamentary precedents another stage of deterioration was the establishment the planned parliamentary precedent, documented in the March 30, 2021 session and subsequent records.

“The tripartite interrogation, spearheaded by the second team, held the former prime minister accountable for the Council of Ministers’ failure to declare the illegality of the “planned” request. Oddly, this neglect persisted even when the current prime minister headed a different government.

Political observers argue that MP Muhalhal Al-Mudhaf’s announced intention to hold the Prime Minister accountable for refusing to answer questions is a crucial step toward urgent political reform. The interrogation includes 21 questions, focusing on various pivotal issues.

“To prevent the potential burial of parliamentary questions regarding the government’s general policy, I urge the Parliamentary Coordination Committee to endorse and promote the desired political reform in Al-Mudhaf’s interrogation. Immediate action should be taken to convince the Governmental Coordination Committee of its priority and necessity before the scheduled interrogation session.”

“First, we must agree on the basic rules for boycotting due to the complex interconnection between commercial companies and their individual and government owners, as well as the overlapping of the components of their products and services, some of which come from companies supporting the Zionists,” columnist **Dr Abdulaziz Al-Turki** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

“This is in addition to the distinction between international companies that officially declared support for the Zionists and their major owners who support the Zionist entity with their money coming from the profits of their shares in these companies.

“Although the official support of companies is disclosed in their annual financial reports, particularly the special section for social responsibility (CSR), let it be known to everyone that majority of these companies pay taxes to their governments which support the Zionist wars. This means they contribute indirectly to supporting the Zionist entity!!

“It is shocking information that companies providing technological products and services to governments, other companies and individuals, and which are difficult to boycott partially or completely due to countries’ and peoples’ reliance on their smart systems and applications, are currently supplying the Zionist entity with advanced systems and technical services without asking them for a guarantee that they will not be used for oppression, killing and genocide purposes!!

“Companies such as Google and Apple stopped the GPS and map services in Gaza at the direct request of the Zionist entity’s army!! As for the Meta company, which owns Facebook and Instagram, it blocks video clips of horrific crimes against Gaza’s children, women and hospitals, with the aim of concealing the crimes of the Zionist enemy and beautifying its image in front of the world’s cameras.

“As for Amazon, it provides security services to the Zionist entity, and provides thousands of job opportunities for settlers with unlimited support and full sympathy from its leaders towards the usurping entity!! How can we boycott them?

“We must distinguish between the founding shareholder of the entity and someone who is forced to deal with it through a sympathetic intermediary who does not care about the victims. We must differentiate between the one who recognizes the entity and supports its economy based on the bodies and skulls of Palestinians. We must recognize everyone who provides job opportunities for the Zionists and settlers on the land being usurped without any regard for the rights of landowners whose homes, properties and lives were confiscated.”

“The government system in the State of Kuwait suffers from weakness and inefficiency in terms of the performance of most administrative officials,” columnist **Dr Mohammad Al-Duwaihees** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

“Administrative officials mean the undersecretaries, assistant undersecretaries, general directors and deputy general directors in government agencies, institutions and departments.

“This is due to several reasons, the first of which is the way administrative officials are selected. Some of them are not nominated based on competence and merit, as they are rather nominated based on kinship, acquaintances, and tribal, family, partisan and sectarian considerations.

“The second reason is the lack of specialization in the technical and other related fields where these officials are assigned. Third is the poor training and qualification of officials before, during and after assuming the leadership position.

“Some view seniority as the years of experience!! This view is incomplete, incorrect and does not represent reality!! As some years of seniority do not entail acquiring new experience and skills, they are merely a repetition of previous years without learning or acquiring a new skill, behavior or experience!

“In addition, some of those appointed to leadership positions do not develop and qualify themselves by reading, studying and attending training courses and local, regional and international conferences to learn about the latest methods and techniques in their fields of specialization!

“Also, some administrative officials are preoccupied with daily routine or operational work that consumes most of their effort and time due to the poor job descriptions for most leadership positions in ministries and government agencies.

“Add to the above the lack of a clear vision for the government system and the speed of change in government formations. The rate of change in government formations reached less than four months in some cases, which affects job security and stability of officials!!

“Last, but not the least, is the weakness of administrative and financial follow-up and oversight, as well as the lack of accurate, clear and transparent standards through which the performance of administrative officials can be measured periodically and effectively.

“Therefore, I see the importance of establishing a center or institute for the development of government administrative officials. The latest scientific, administrative and modern technological methods should be utilized in managing the center in order to contribute to the preparation of administrative officials for the government system.”

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary

Oman to celebrate

Continued from Page 2

His Majesty the Sultan encouraged Omani governorates to demonstrate the capabilities that they possess. He urged them to compete to present the best proposals for development projects that can be implemented in each wilayat. Those projects would be evaluated according to specific terms and conditions, and the first three winning ones receive funding in a bid to enhance the governorates’ economic activities. The governorates of Dhofar, Musandam and South Al Batinah won such competitions during 2023.

The Sultanate of Oman also seeks to boost the social and economic prosperity through Oman National Spatial Strategy, which is the prime driver of the development sectors. It targets seven main goals, themed as: “Developing cities and communities that are suitable for living”, “Preserving Omani identity”, “Responding to climate change and the need to adapt to it and alleviate its impacts”, “Promoting growth and economic diversity based on the components of each governorate”, “Sustainable use of resources, the production of power and the management of renewable resources”, “Water and waste management”, “Protection of the environment through control of impacts on environmentally-delicate areas” and “Developing a sustainable transport system and the creation of transport alternatives that include walking and use of bicycles”.

In this context, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik presided over the inauguration of Sultan Haitham City. The city, which occupies an area of 14,800,000 square metres, has been planned to reflect sound and sustainable urban planning based on the utilization of green spaces on an area of 2,900,000 square metres. It is designed to house 100,000 people and it will have 20,000 housing units ranging between separate villas, semi-attached villas, townhouses and flats. The new city translates 12 international criterions of luxury and welfare—ranging between affordable cost, integrated utilities and sustainable systems—all of which played a role in drawing out the city’s masterplan.

The Sultanate of Oman continues to implement economic plans, financial and investment programmes within the framework of the tenth five-year plan (2021-2025), guided by the priorities of Oman Vision 2040. The outcomes of these plans have contributed to enhancing the GDP growth, raising financial and economic indicators, improving credit ratings, and achieving some financial surpluses that were directed to economic and social priorities.

Economy

The economy of the Sultanate of Oman witnessed a growth in fixed prices by 2.1 percent during the first half of 2023. Oman managed till the first half of 2023 to reduce public debt to RO 16.3 billion, thanks to rationalizing and raising the efficiency of spending, as well as the increase in public revenues as a result of the rise in oil prices. It was also attributed to the financial measures taken to increase non-oil revenues, in addition to managing the lending portfolio by repurchasing some sovereign bonds at less than their issuance value, repaying high-cost loans and replacing them with lower loans, and issuing local bonds for trading on Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) at a relatively low cost.

Meanwhile, the contribution of the tourism sector to the GDP reached RO 1.070 billion in 2022. It is hoped that it will reach 2.75 percent during the next

two years, compared to 2.4 percent at the end of last year (2022).

Foreign direct investments (FDI) recorded a 23.3 percent increase at the end of the first quarter of 2023, to stand at RO 21.27 billion.

Oman strives to attract investments for projects in various fields, including renewable energy and clean hydrogen, as many land plots were allocated for this purpose. In this framework, two agreements were inked last June 2023 with an investment value of approximately USD 10 billion, to develop two new projects for the production of green hydrogen in the Governorate of Al Wusta, as the total expected production will reach 250 metric kilotons of green hydrogen, equivalent to 6.5 gigawatts of renewable energy capacity.

Within the same context, HH Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth met with some CEOs of global companies who participated in Duqm Economic Forum last month (October 2023). During the meeting, HH Sayyid Theyazin highlighted the investment opportunities available in the fields of renewable energy and clean energy, such as green hydrogen and green ammonia. These sectors come in line with Oman’s approach towards zero carbon neutrality by 2050. The meeting also spotlighted the incentives offered to investors and the investment milieu in Oman.

At the behest of His Majesty the Sultan, a fund named “Oman Future Fund” was launched last May 2023 with a capital of RO 2 billion.

The fund is aimed at enhancing economic activity and encouraging the private sector to enter into partnerships or finance feasible investment projects in the sectors of economic diversification targeted by Oman Vision 2040.

The Sultanate of Oman accords a priority to digital economy to be a contributor to the national economy. To this end, His Majesty the Sultan gave instructions in this regard to design a national programme to implement and localize artificial intelligence (AI) technologies, and to accelerate the devising of legislation to position these technologies as basic enablers and catalysts for these sectors.

The National Digital Economy Programme works to build and develop a prosperous digital economy in the Sultanate of Oman based on several principles that include establishing national industries in the digital economy, enhancing in-country value (ICV), and generating sustainable opportunities.

The Sultanate of Oman seeks to maximize the benefit of its geographical location through the special economic zones and free zones. It also strives to utilize the maritime transport routes to connect markets in the GCC, Europe, Asia and Africa. For this purpose, Oman has established Khazaen Economic City that includes two free zones in the Governorate of South Al Batinah. The city has managed to attract local and foreign investments worth RO 300 million.

Khazaen Economic City and the rest of economic zones and free zones in Sohar, Duqm, Salalah and Al Mazunah are regulated by legislations and systems that encourage investment and offer low taxes and advanced infrastructure.

This economic mobility in the Sultanate of Oman and the subsequent positive results towards improving financial and economic indicators and reducing the state’s public debt made credit rating institutions raise and modify their credit outlook for Oman. Standard & Poor’s raised the credit rating for Oman to “BB+” with a stable future outlook, Fitch raised the credit rating of Oman to “BB+” with a stable outlook last September, and Moody’s

raised the credit rating of Oman to the level of “Ba2” while maintaining a positive outlook.

Meanwhile, the Sultanate of Oman has made progress in several global indicators, as it ranked 56th globally and 5th in the Arab world in the Industrial Competitive Performance Report for 2023, issued by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). Oman also advanced 10 places in the Global Innovation Index for 2023 to obtain the 69th rank globally, out of 132 countries.

Partnership

During visiting audience to businesspersons and owners of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), His Majesty underscored the importance of building an effective partnership between the government and private sectors. This partnership will empower the private sector in setting up projects and investments to support targets of economic diversification, growth of gross domestic product (GDP) and generating job opportunities for citizens.

The aforementioned affirmation is consistent with the Royal orders to augment Oman Development Bank’s (ODB) maximum lending limit from RO 1 million to RO 5 million. The Royal directives allow an increase in this limit for development projects that contribute to augmenting added value. They also stipulate increasing the percentage of contribution towards financing the cost of projects, expanding the list of activities and fields funded by Oman Development Bank, while offering additional incentives for projects established outside Muscat Governorate within the framework of investment plans in the governorates and creating job opportunities there.

Meanwhile, the foreign policy of the Sultanate of Oman, under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, continues to provide a global role-model, based on mutual respect, common interests and benefits, non-interference in the internal affairs of countries, respect for international conventions and laws, and upholding the principles of peace, humanity, dialogue and tolerance. In this context, His Majesty the Sultan said, “We reassert our firm political tenets, solidly anchored in the principles of good neighborliness and non-interference in the internal affairs of other sovereign nations. Our position is further rooted in a steadfast belief in the establishment of a just and equitable system for mutual benefit and exchange of interests, aimed at establishing solid foundations for stability and peace, and to make a positive contribution towards these noble objectives”.

Therefore, these principles and values pursued by the Sultanate of Oman in its foreign policy have made it a source of trust and appreciation for international units and organizations to play active roles and achieve security, peace and stability in a number of regional and international issues. These principles and values stress that the approach of peace and cooperation is the only path and the safest ideal model for the region and the world at large.

In this regard, the Sultanate of Oman has pointed out that it follows a preventive media policy to protect society from sources of extremism and radicalism that lead to terrorism. This is achieved by consolidating values of tolerance, harmony, unity and rapprochement among its members, avoiding inciting sectarian strife in all local media means, and pursuing a policy of positive neutrality in dealing with news, especially those related to civil and sectarian conflicts in some countries of the region.

Life-term upheld for expat in murder of 2 colleagues

Asian still in custody in double murder probe

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: The Court of Appeals presided over by Judge Nasr Al-Heid upheld the verdict by a lower court which issued life imprisonment for an Egyptian expatriate who murdered his two colleagues, and then attempted to murder one more in a “shawarma” restaurant.

During the investigations, the defendant, who killed his two Syrian colleagues inside a restaurant in Fintas, admitted that he committed the crime because the two victims were accustomed to insulting him and belittling him. He denied that he had planned to commit the crime.

He explained that what happened was a temporary matter, as a disagreement at work had developed into an argument. Without thinking, he took a knife and stabbed the two victims deeply, which led to the death of one of them minutes after he was referred to the hospital, and of the other after about 18 hours inside the ICU.

The Criminal Court had earlier ruled that the defendant should be imprisoned for life. The Court of Appeals reviewed the case and referred him to psychiatry. It then established his responsibility for his actions, and ruled to uphold the life sentence.

Zour refinery fire in control

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16, (KUNA): Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Company (KIPIC) said that the fire, which erupted in United 12 at Al-Zour refinery on Thursday morning, was extinguished, affirming that production operations would continue as usual.

KIPIC, in a statement, indicated that operations to transport Ultra-low-sulfur fuel transportation to the electrical power units and other facilities were uninterrupted. No injuries were reported.

Meanwhile, one person died as a result of a collision that occurred on the Al-Artal Road Wednesday afternoon, reports Al-Rai daily.

The incident was dealt with by the Jahra Al-Harfi Center fire brigade dealt with the collision. The collision was between two cars and a result of which two other people were seriously injured and were taken to hospital.

5-year jail for woman: The Court of Appeals, presided over by Judge Nasr Salem Al-Heid, sentenced a Kuwaiti woman, who is a former MP’s secretary, to five-year imprisonment and fined her KD 21,000.

The accused had scammed several citizens after promising them that she could facilitate allocation of properties belonging to the Amiri Diwan, citizenship, farms, guest houses, and chalets. She also forged the identities of the Amiri Diwan, the Council of Ministers, and the National Assembly, and fraudulently obtained KD 43,000 from victims.

Indian in double murder probe: The detention renewal judge decided to extend for 14 more days pending investigation the detention of an Indian expatriate who was accused of killing two Asian expatriates in Qashaniya due to some disputes between them.

When the Ministry of Interior’s Operations Room received information that the bodies of two expatriates were found with signs of stab wounds inside a room in Qashaniyah, and that these stab wounds caused bleeding and their death, securitymen rushed to the location and arrested the Indian expatriate.

Jail for drug-runners: The detention renewal judge ordered the renewal of the detention of 22 defendants, including Kuwaiti citizens, who have been accused of drug abuse and trafficking, until November 30.

He also decided to release on bail of KD 200 a 20-year old woman who was caught using drugs in the parking lot of a mall by security officers.

Ruling set for 29th: The Criminal Court has deferred the pronouncement of the verdict in the case involving a pharmacist accused of selling medicines worth 600 dinars to a citizen under the false claim that they were a remedy for gangrene, reports Al-Rai daily.

The victim’s condition worsened, ultimately leading to the amputation of his foot. The court is set to deliver the ruling on the 29th of this month.

Investigations revealed that the medications, purportedly for treating gangrene, were actually wound-cleaning agents. The accused visited the victim at home, deceiving him by falsely representing the substances as German treatment.

The accused denied impersonating a treating doctor. He explained that, while at a car wash station, he overheard a young man discussing his brother’s gangrene condition on the phone. Expressing concern, the accused offered to provide the appropriate treatment, convincing the victim’s brother to pay 600 dinars for the medications. Subsequently, the accused administered the medication over several days, worsening the victim’s condition. The heightened temperature prompted the victim’s transfer to the hospital, where medical staff determined that amputation was necessary.

Upon consulting specialists and presenting the medications used, it became evident that they were merely detergents and sterilizers. A complaint was subsequently filed against the pharmacist.

Meanwhile, the Jahra security authorities have forwarded an unidentified individual to the Jahra Governorate Search and Investigation Department for questioning after discovering him in possession of sharp tools (sword, spear, knife), as well as hashish and imported alcohol, reports Al-Anba daily.

Celebrate in Style

A PLACE TO MAKE UNFORGATTABLE MEMORIES

MUGHAL MAHAL FAHAHEEL

AL-RAYAN FAMILY LOUNGE & FUNCTION HALL

WEDDINGS

SEMINARS

CONFERENCES

CELEBRATIONS

SEA VIEW | AMPLE CAR PARKING

For more enquires Call: 23911174 / 23911175 / 97644421

Email: fahaheel@mughalmahal.com | info@mughalmahal.com

@mughalmahalkuwait | www.mughalmahal.com



Pakistani Ambassador Farooq with Ambassador Johar Hayat, Dr AlJasser, Dr Ameera AlHassan, Mishari Al-Saqabi and others during the unveiling of the Truck Art Mural.



Embassy unveils vibrant, intricate Pakistani Truck Art Mural at Mishref Co-op

‘MEW gets Fatwa’s nod to purchase 1,500 MW power from private firm’

Step taken to be able to cover electricity needs by 2024

By Mohammed Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: The Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy has finally obtained the approval of the Fatwa and Legislation Department regarding contracting with a company specialized in the supply

of electrical energy, through direct orders.

Informed sources in the ministry told Al-Seyassah that the company had previously submitted an initiative to supply the ministry with 1,500 megawatts, with the main contractor being one of the international companies. The sources indicated that the ministry took this step to be able to cover the country’s electricity needs by 2024, in

anticipation of any shortage in productivity during the coming summer, in light of the current production that does not guarantee the safety and security of the ministry’s network, especially during peak consumption times. The sources described the step as an “initial measure,” considering it a new form of cooperation with external parties to purchase electrical energy as a result of the delay in production projects due to the

documentary cycle, and the unavailability of large budgets allocated to building stations over the past more than five financial years. The sources said the ministry had earlier obtained the approval of the Ministry of Finance to allocate 30 million dinars for the current fiscal year to purchase electrical energy from the Gulf interconnection or from companies, if it needs additional quantities during the summer.

Artistic endeavor showcases deep cultural ties

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: In an official ceremony, the Embassy of Pakistan unveiled the vibrant and intricate Pakistani Truck Art Mural at Mishref Cooperative Society on November 15. Malik Muhammad Farooq, Ambassador of Pakistan to the State of Kuwait alongside Ambassador Sameeh Essa Johar Hayat, Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs, Dr. Mohammed Khaled AlJasser Secretary General National Council of Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), Head of UN Habitat GCC Office Dr. Ameera AlHassan and Mr. Mishari Al Saqabi, Chairman of Mishref Cooperative Society unveiled the Pakistani Art Mural. The ceremony was attended by a distinguished gathering of ambassadors, Kuwaiti dignitaries and Pakistani community members. The attendees appreciated the artistic projection of cultural ties between the two countries. The unveiling of Pakistani Truck Art Mural at Mishref Cooperative Society marked the successful completion of the visit of Pakistani artists to Kuwait in bringing touch of Pakistani cultural richness to the heart of Kuwait. Two Pakistan artists, renowned for their skillful art of Truck Painting, embarked on their journey of immersing vibrant colors and intricate designs onto the walls of Souq Mobarakia (the heart of Kuwait) and Mishref Cooperative Society.

Supported by the Kuwait Voluntary Works Center and Mishref Cooperative Society, the artists brought the iconic Truck Art to life, infusing the heart of Kuwait with a kaleidoscope of colors and patterns. Souq Mobarakia, a bustling marketplace, and Mishref Cooperative Society, a vital community center, now exhibit themselves as canvases reflecting the rich legacy of Pakistani Truck Art, serving as a lasting symbol of the enduring friendship between Pakistan and Kuwait. This artistic endeavor, as part of the Pakistan Cultural Week, was organized in collaboration with the NCCAL to showcase deep cultural ties between Pakistan and Kuwait while celebrating the rich cultural heritage of Pakistan and fostering a deeper understanding between the people of Pakistan and Kuwait. In his remarks, the ambassador conveyed his appreciation to the Kuwait Ministry of Foreign Affairs and NCCAL, Kuwait Voluntary Works Center, UN Habitat, Mishref Cooperative Society and the people of Kuwait for their support in making the Pakistan artists visit and the Pakistan Cultural Week a resounding success. Calling the artistic gesture a celebration of shared values and traditions, the Ambassador affirmed that the Pakistani Truck Art adorning the walls of Souq Mobarakia and Mishref Cooperative Society would serve as a visual testament to the long-lasting cultural bonds between the two nations. The Pakistan Cultural Week, including the Truck Art exhibition / display was part of the series of events organised throughout the year 2023 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Kuwait.



Pakistani ambassador with some of the guests.

CBK announces 15th Harvard school program for banking, financial execs

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16, (KUNA): Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) Governor Basel Al-Haroon announced Thursday launching the 15th cohort of the Harvard Business School Program, designed to develop executives in GCC banks and financial institutions. This comes, according to a CBK statement, in light of changes in the business world, and the needs of the banking and financial sectors. The program titled “Navigating the Future: Leading Financial Institutions in an Era of Innovation and Transformation” will cover two primary themes: Financial Markets Strategy and Leadership. The program will focus on the crucial role of leadership and management in setting and implementing financial, technical and leadership strategies suitable for combating the emerging challenges, and help keep pace with the accelerated advancements of digital transformation in the financial sector. Relevant case studies related to the financial and banking sectors in addition to other sectors will be provided to enhance analytical skills of the participants and provide them with the tools, techniques and methodologies that boost performance, innovation and organizational culture,” Governor Al-Haroon, also Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Institute of Banking Studies (IBS) hosting the program, said. He added that the program targets executive managers or the equivalent, and will run over six days from January 13-18, 2024. Upon completion, participants will receive a certificate of attendance from the

Harvard Business School. The Governor explained that this program is one of the Kafa’a initiative programs launched by CBK in collaboration with local Kuwaiti banks and organized and managed by KIBS to develop cadres and executives in different sectors in general, and the financial and banking sector in particular. While highlighting the productive and ongoing cooperation between Harvard Business School and the KIBS, the Governor indicated that cooperation with Harvard began in 2009, and was first introduced in the State of Kuwait in 2010, to offer the first custom designed program offered by Harvard Business School in GCC countries. Al-Haroon also explained that this program is held in GCC countries alternately, whereby the 14th cohort was held in Kuwait. However, this year, the program will hold its 15th cohort in the United Arab Emirates. Additionally, he pointed out that CBK and Kuwaiti banks are keen to continue offering the program given the rapidly changing business environment. Al-Haroon stressed that strengthening the performance of the national workforce will remain a top strategic priority of CBK, given their crucial role in achieving sustainable growth of the banking and financial sector. He also reiterated keenness to continue this cooperation between Kuwaiti and GCC banks and financial institutions in areas of shared interest such as creating new initiatives to maximize the benefits of training and knowledge exchange.

Kuwait’s 21st Gaza aid plane heads to Egypt

By Salman Al-Mutairi

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16, (KUNA): The 21st relief aid plane for the Gaza Strip departed Kuwait to Al-Arish city, Egypt, carrying 40 tons of medical aid and necessities. Some 22 charitable societies contributed to the current batch of the relief aid campaign for Palestine. Deputy Director General of the Kuwaiti relief aid society and general coordinator of the support for Palestine campaign Omar Al-Thuwaini said that donors and official

state entities had contributed immensely to the relief aid air bridge launched by Kuwait since the early days of the current brutal Israeli occupation aggression against the Gaza Strip. The current flight includes a variety of relief aid materials in addition to four ambulances to be delivered to the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, said Al-Thuwaini who added that the Egyptian Red Crescent Society would be handling the delivery of material to the Palestinians partners within Gaza.



November

Room Promotion



Weekdays (Saturday - Wednesday)	
Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.
NOW	NOW
BHD 57.173/-net	BHD 128.000/-net
Weekends (Thursday & Friday)	
Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.
NOW	NOW
BHD 61.000/-net	BHD 136.198/-net

Promo period from 1st – 30th November 2023

Terms & conditions apply*

Tel: +973 17701201 - Ext. 351

Email: reservation@albander.com

www.albander.com

@albanderhotelandresort

Kuwait’s permanent mission to UN organizes seminar

Sept 7 annual Duchenne muscular dystrophy awareness day: Al-Bannai

NEW YORK, Nov 16, (KUNA): Kuwait’s permanent envoy to the United Nations, Ambassador Tariq Al-Bannai relayed the General Assembly’s intent on naming the September 7 World Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD) day, to raise awareness on the disease.

This was during seminar organized by Kuwait’s permanent mission to the UN late Wednesday in its headquarters in New York, with the attendance of specialists in rare diseases.

Al-Bannai stated that this initiative is a signifier of the collective commitment to facing one of the rarest diseases affecting children all over the world.

This is not merely an awareness campaign, asserted the ambassador, but it is vow of protecting the integrity and rights of all infected children, indicating that around 20,000 cases are diagnosed annually.

The Kuwaiti diplomat pointed out that the initiative corresponds to sustainable development goals through

as it pursues bridging inequality for those with rare illnesses.

The initiative aims to bolster communities with mitigating abilities, via a curriculum that brings together health, education, economic stability, equality, and sustainable societal development towards a more comprehensive world.

Al-Bannai expressed his gratitude for the World Health Organization (WHO) as its partnership is instrumental to transcending national borders and cultural gaps.

He further added that the attendance of rare disease specialists is an invaluable opportunity to gain from their knowledge and expertise that made tangible changes in people’s lives.

Ambassador Al-Bannai reaffirmed the UN General Assembly’s commitment to human rights for all, including the 300 million people infected with rare illnesses via guaranteeing equal opportunities and unrestrained participation in society.

1st woman in Arabian Gulf to occupy post

KUNA chief elected FANA’s VP

ABU DHABI, Nov 16, (KUNA): Dr. Fatma Al-Salem, Director General of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), was elected Wednesday as Vice President of the Federation of Arab News Agencies (FANA) to be the first woman in the Arabian Gulf to occupy this post.

This came during the 50th General Assembly meeting of FANA in Abu Dhabi under the theme of “the impact of artificial intelligence on news agencies action” in which Al-Salem took part.

The assembly witnessed the handing over of the federation’s rotating presidency from Saudi News Agency (SPA) to the UAE’s WAM.

The conferees stressed the importance of cooperation between the Arab and international news agencies to enhance communication, and share expertise and knowledge mainly in light of increasing use of artificial intelligence and its broad applications.

During the meeting, the conferees reviewed the latest techniques and methodologies as well as concepts at news agencies, in addition to the 2023-24 report on FANA’s activities and training courses offered to the FANA staff.

Additionally, Directors General of FANA shared ideas and views on how to



KUNA photo
KUNA Director General Dr Fatma Al-Salem.

reach a joint mechanism of cooperation as well as information to improve media and journalism, in addition to discussing proposals to promote relations between the Arab and global news agencies.

They underlined the importance of upgrading the professionalism level of news agencies’ staff and offering news in a credible and transparent way mainly those related to Arab causes.

The conferees are set to continue the Assembly’s meeting Thursday to review the activities of the FANA Secretariat General and training courses as well as proposals, awards, memos and others.

Barbecuing permitted on five sites

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: Faisal Al-Otaibi, the Director of the Cleaning and Road Occupations Department at the Hawalli Governorate Municipality Branch and Chairman of the Spring Camps Committee, has identified five sites designated for tourism projects where barbecuing is permitted, reports Al-Rai daily.

Three of these sites, located on Al-Blajat Street, will be identified by the company at a later time, while the remaining two sites are enclosed areas – one on Beach Al-Aqila and the other in the Al-Khiran Park.

Al-Otaibi said the open sites will be free of charge, but the closed sites will impose an entry fee to be determined by the com-

pany. He emphasized that individuals barbecuing outside the designated sites may face fines ranging from 500 to 2,000 dinars.

The committee has put in place certain conditions, including prohibiting barbecues on sand or grass, requiring special containers for charcoal ash, ensuring elevated transporters, and installing surveillance cameras at the sites. Additionally, specific hours for barbecuing will be enforced, after which the site must be vacated.

Speaking of smoking shisha at these locations, Al-Otaibi mentioned that the committee has not yet discussed this issue but will be on the agenda for the upcoming meeting.

Kuwait battles

Continued from Page 1

Al-Mutairi pointed out that the two ministries have been accusing each other of causing the suspension of the issuance of licenses for the establishment of the abovementioned companies. He warned that such suspension encourages monopoly, prompting the existing companies to manipulate the clients and impose extra fees due to the absence of competition. He said encouraging monopoly is a crime as per law number 72/2020, adding that the suspension of the issuance of licenses for insurance companies violates law number 125/2019 and its executive regulations.

Meanwhile, Chairman of the Environment, Food and Water Security Affairs Committee MP Hamad Al-Matar disclosed that the committee on Thursday met with representatives of the Environment Public Authority (EPA), Public Authority for Industry (PAI) and Ministry of Interior. He said they discussed the country’s lack of a system for tracking the trucks and tankers transporting solid and liquid waste; thereby, exposing national security and the environment to grave danger. He stressed the need to install GPS devices in these vehicles, because most of them dump waste in inappropriate places including the sea; causing high level of pollution in the soil, sea water and air.

He added the committee will meet again next Wednesday with the ministers of Oil, Commerce, Industry, Health, Municipal Affairs and Public Works in attendance to conclude an effective system for monitoring waste trucks and tankers. He asserted that the issue is extremely serious as no one knows if the waste tankers and trucks are transporting nuclear, radioactive substances or mercury which are fatal for individuals.

Moreover, MP Dawoud Maarefi asked Minister of Justice and State Minister for Housing Affairs Faleh Al-Raqaba about the members of the Board of Directors of the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT), their experience, tenure, if any of them are still in office despite the end of their tenure, tasks of the Technical Department at CAPT as per Article Seven of Tenders Law number 49/ 2016, number of employees in the department, their qualifications and experience, number of tenders that the department has scrutinized so far, if the estimated value of any tender exceeded the offered amount, number of such tenders if any, list of winning companies, and number of tenders advertised outside Kuwait as per Article 14 of the aforementioned law if any.

Maarefi asked Minister of Finance Fahd Al-Jarallah about the decision of Kuwait Airways to change the planes for its New York route from Airbus to Boeing, cost of such move, period of using Airbus, copy of the decision of the previous Board of Directors directors at Kuwait Airways on using Airbus, copy of the study upon which

the recent decision was based, and if there is conflict of interests favoring the chief executive officer of Kuwait Airways.

‘Supplies alone

Continued from Page 1

brought medical supplies and baby food as well as incubators and other equipment.

But health officials say supplies and extra equipment are not enough to save patients and ongoing fighting makes it almost impossible to safely move patients.

Meanwhile, Israeli forces dropped leaflets warning Palestinians to flee parts of southern Gaza, residents said Thursday, signaling a possible expansion of their offensive to areas where hundreds of thousands of people who heeded earlier evacuation orders are crowded into U.N.-run shelters and family homes.

And soldiers continued searching Shifa Hospital in the north, in a raid that began early Wednesday. They displayed guns they say were found hidden in one building, but have yet to release any evidence of the central Hamas command center that Israel has said is concealed beneath the complex. Hamas and staff at the hospital, Gaza’s largest, deny the allegations.

Broadening operations to the south - where Israel already carries out daily air raids - threatens to worsen an already severe humanitarian crisis in the besieged territory. Over 1.5 million people have been internally displaced in Gaza, with most having fled to the south, where food, water and electricity are increasingly scarce.

It’s not clear where else they could go, as Egypt refuses to allow a mass transfer onto its soil.

The war, now in its sixth week, was triggered by a wide-ranging Hamas attack into southern Israel on Oct. 7 in which the militants killed over 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and captured some 240 men, women and children. Israel responded with a weeklong air campaign and a ground invasion of northern Gaza, vowing to remove Hamas from power and crush its military capabilities.

More than 11,200 Palestinians have been killed, two-thirds of them women and minors, according to Palestinian health authorities. Another 2,700 have been reported missing, with most believed to be buried under the rubble. The official count does not differentiate between civilian and militant deaths, and Israel says it has killed thousands of militants.

The war has inflamed tensions elsewhere. On Thursday, gunmen shot and wounded four people at a checkpoint on the main road linking Jerusalem to Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank.

The three attackers were killed, according to police, who said the assailants had assault rifles, handguns and

hatchets, and were preparing a large-scale attack in Jerusalem.

Israeli troops stormed into Gaza’s largest hospital Wednesday, searching for traces of Hamas inside and beneath the facility, where newborns and hundreds of other patients have suffered for days without electricity and other basic necessities.

Troops searched the underground levels of the hospital on Thursday and detained technicians responsible for running its equipment, the Health Ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said in a statement.

The military said its soldiers were accompanied by medical teams bringing in incubators and other supplies.

After encircling Shifa for days, Israel faces pressure to prove its claim that Hamas used the patients, staff and civilians sheltering there to provide cover for its fighters. The allegation - which the U.S. has said it has intelligence to support - is part of Israel’s broader accusation that Hamas uses Palestinians as human shields.

Oman-Kuwait:

Continued from Page 1

The number of agreements signed between the two countries from 1974 until the current year reached 32.

In the economic field, we are working to increase the rates of trade exchange between the two brotherly countries, and there are many positive indicators and opportunities in this regard.

Regarding the distinguished strategic partnership in the Duqm Economic Zone, in which the volume of investments reached more than \$ one billion in the energy sector, it is considered one of the largest Gulf investments in the region.

There is cooperation and investments in multiple other sectors. The Omani and Kuwaiti private sectors are also looking forward to establishing more partnerships through large-scale and small projects, which is what Oman 2040 vision and Kuwait 2035 vision agree with.

We also look forward to strengthening the position of the Sultanate of Oman as a tourist destination for Kuwaiti citizens and residents of its land due to the tourism environments and capabilities that the Sultanate of Oman enjoys.

Regarding the cultural and wealth aspects, there are many programs, joint activities, agreements, and understandings between the two countries in the field of higher education, training, and the exchange of scientific and student experiences, as well as scholarships.

In conclusion, we hope for further progress and development for the bilateral Omani-Kuwaiti relations under the directives of the wise leadership in the two brotherly countries. We also ask Almighty Allah to spread progress and prosperity throughout the world. May the peace, mercy and blessings of Allah be upon you.

Traffic jams witnessed on streets ... in the first test of rainy season

General Fire Force says its operations room on alert

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: In the first test of the rainy season, the country witnessed traffic congestion on the main roads and interior streets in some parts of the country, literally paralyzing to vehicular movement for few minutes, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The Ministry of Interior exerted tremendous efforts to regulate the traffic and ensure discipline on the roads. Some open areas in residential areas were also flooded as the heavy rains accompanied by lightning and thunderstorms kept pouring rekindling the memories of what happened during previous years.

The Minister of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy and Acting Minister of Public Works, Dr. Jassim Al-Ostad, stressed raising the state of full readiness for all sectors in the ministry.

The minister and MEW officials continued monitoring the situation from the ministry’s operations room.

The minister issued instructions to the ministry officials and affiliated agencies and teams to coordinate intensively with the relevant authorities, such as the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Electricity and Water, the Ministry of Oil, the



Photo by Mahmoud Jadeed

Vehicles seen moving in one of the flooded streets.

General Fire Force, the National Guard, and the General Administration of Civil Aviation in this regard, and to confront emergencies.

Meanwhile, the emergency teams continued to deploy in the areas to confront rain water accumulations of monitor the mechanism of rainwater drainage in the

tunnels.

The Ministry of Interior patrols were deployed in the main streets and roads and within residential areas to regulate traffic and enhance discipline.

The General Traffic Department stated that the security deployment of traffic sector patrols and operations included various

regions of the country, and traffic engineering teams quickly dealt with reports.

For its part, the General Fire Force explained that its operations room is on alert and monitors the situation in cooperation and coordination with the Meteorological Department and the Central Operations Room.

ARAB TIMES

Subscribe to our service “Arabtimes WhatsApp” to stay updated on the latest local and international news and events





To activate this Free Service:

1- Save our number on your contacts **92220947**

2- Send “Start” WhatsApp message to the number you saved.

www.arabtimesonline.com

 [arabtimeskuwait](https://twitter.com/arabtimeskuwait)

 [arabtimeskuwait](https://www.instagram.com/arabtimeskuwait)

 [arabtimeskuwait](https://www.facebook.com/arabtimeskuwait)

 Join us on Telegram



World News Roundup

Europe

UK Foreign Sec Cameron meets Zelenskyy: British Foreign Secretary David Cameron met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Thursday in his first overseas trip in his new job and pledged to continue providing military support for Ukraine's war effort for "however long it takes."

Cameron, a former prime minister who returned to government in a surprise appointment Monday in a Cabinet shuffle, said he wanted to make the trip to Kyiv his first diplomatic visit.

"I admire the strength and determination of the Ukrainian people," he told Zelenskyy, according to a video posted by the president.



Cameron

Cameron said the UK would continue to provide moral and diplomatic support "but above all, the military support that you need not just this year and next year but however long it takes."

Zelenskyy thanked Cameron for visiting. Zelenskyy has tried to keep the world's focus on Ukraine's fight as attention has turned to the Middle East and Israel's war against Hamas.

"A good meeting," Zelenskyy wrote on Telegram. "Weapons for the front, strengthening of air defense, protection of our people and critical infrastructure. I am grateful to the UK for its support!"

The UK has been one of the strongest supporters of Ukraine in defending itself from Russia.

As of last month, the UK said it was second to the US in providing military funds to Ukraine, giving 4.6 billion pounds (\$5.7 billion) worth of assistance and training 30,000 Ukrainian troops on British soil. (AP)

□ □ □

Plan unlawful, says UK top court: Britain's Supreme Court ruled Wednesday that the government's contentious plan to send some migrants on a one-way trip to Rwanda is illegal, striking a major blow to a key policy of Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's government that has drawn international attention and criticism.

Five justices on the country's top court ruled unanimously that asylum-seekers sent to Rwanda would be "at real risk of ill-treatment" because they could be returned to the home countries they'd fled.

Sunak, who has pledged to stop migrants reaching Britain in small boats across the English Channel, said the ruling "was not the outcome we wanted."

But he added, "we have spent the last few months planning for all eventualities and we remain completely committed to stopping the boats." (AP)

□ □ □

Spain's leader defends amnesty deal: Spain's acting Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez defended his controversial amnesty deal for Catalonia's separatists in parliament on Wednesday, a day before the Socialist leader seeks the endorsement of the chamber to form a new government.

Sánchez has the support of six smaller parties to ensure that he can reach the absolute majority of 176 deputies needed to reestablish his minority coalition government with the left-wing Sumar (Joining Forces) party.

The formation of a new government would end a period of political uncertainty since inconclusive national elections on July 23 left a highly fractured parliament. The Popular Party received the most votes in the elections, but it failed to get enough support to form a government in September because of its alliances with the far-right Vox party.

Controversy has erupted over deals signed with two Catalan separatist parties that included a commitment to pass an amnesty law that would wipe the slate clean for hundreds of Catalan separatists who ran afoul of the law for their roles in the wealthy northeast region's illegal 2017 secession bid that sparked Spain's biggest crisis in decades. (AP)

□ □ □

Albania proposes draft law: The Albanian government on Wednesday put forth a draft law on a contentious deal with Italy to jointly process some asylum applications of migrants arriving in Italy by sea.

Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama and Italian counterpart Giorgia Meloni earlier this month announced a five-year deal in which Albania agreed to temporarily shelter up to 36,000 migrants a year while Rome fast-tracks their requests for asylum in Italy.

Albania's draft law will be debated and voted on in the 140-seat parliament where Rama's governing Socialists have 74 seats. It is not clear when the parliament will vote.

Albania's opposition is against the plan, while Albanians are divided. Rama considers the deal as a gesture of reciprocity to Italy, which in 1991 welcomed thousands of Albanians fleeing poverty after the fall of communism.

Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani told journalists the agreement would not go through the Italian parliament, as it is not a treaty. (AP)

□ □ □

'Ukraine gains foothold on left bank': A top Ukrainian official said its troops have established a beachhead on the eastern bank of the Dnieper River near Kherson, an important advance in overcoming one of Russia's most significant strategic barriers in the war.

Andriy Yermak, head of the president's office, provided no details but confirmed the development that had been widely discussed in military forums over the past month. "Against all odds, Ukraine's defense forces have gained a foothold on the left bank," he told the Hudson Institute, a Washington think tank, in a speech Monday.

Ever since Russian forces left the city of Kherson and the territory around it in November 2022, the only area they controlled on the west bank of the Dnieper, the river became a natural dividing line along the southern battlefield, preventing Ukrainian troops from advancing further towards Russian-annexed Crimea.

The barrier also allowed Russia to concentrate more troops in the heavily mined and fortified Zaporizhzhia region and eastern Ukraine. Crossing the river could allow Ukraine to outflank Russia without having to break through the Zaporizhzhia region and take the most direct land route to Crimea. (AP)

□ □ □

Sweden appeals businessman's acquittal: Sweden's prosecution authority on Wednesday appealed a ruling that acquitted a Russian-born Swedish businessman who had been accused of collecting information for Russia's military intelligence service for almost a decade.

On Oct. 26, the Stockholm District Court said advanced technology had been acquired and delivered to Russia but that Sergey Skvortsov's activities were "not aimed at obtaining information concerning Sweden or the United States that may constitute espionage."

"The man has been a procurement agent for Russian military intelligence in Sweden for almost 10 years," prosecutor Henrik Olin said in a statement. "Both the district court and I have found that behavior proven. I think there is room for the legislation on illegal intelligence activities to be interpreted a little more extensively than the rather cautious district court reached in its ruling." (AP)

□ □ □

Suspected anti-govt extremist convicted: A suspected anti-government extremist was convicted of attempted murder in Germany on Wednesday for firing at police who had come to search his home for an unauthorized weapon.

The Stuttgart state court sentenced the 55-year-old German citizen, whose name it didn't release, to 14 1/2 years in prison. He was convicted of several counts of attempted murder, along with attacking and resisting officers and bodily harm.

The court said the defendant had for years been writing letters to authorities that were typical of the Reich Citizens scene, which rejects the legitimacy of Germany's postwar constitution and has similarities to the Sovereign Citizens and QAnon movements in the United States. (AP)



Rioters loyal to President Donald Trump stand on vehicles and the steps of the US Capitol on Jan 6, 2021, in Washington. Jason Donner, a former Fox News producer says in a lawsuit filed on Nov 13, 2023, he was targeted and fired for pushing back against false claims about the riot at the US Capitol on Jan 6. Donner said he was part of a 'purge' of employees who refused to report information that would please Trump and his supporters. Donner was inside the Capitol during the riot and pressed his complaints about the networks coverage for months. (AP)

Politics

'This year, there will be no government shutdown'

Congress OKs temporary funding thru holidays

WASHINGTON, Nov 16, (AP): Ending the threat of a government shutdown until after the holidays, Congress gave final approval Wednesday night to a temporary government funding package that pushes a confrontation over the federal budget into the new year.

The Senate met into the night to pass the bill with an 87-11 tally and send it to President Joe Biden for his signature one day after it passed the House on an overwhelming bipartisan vote. It provides a funding patch into next year, when the House and Senate will be forced to confront – and somehow overcome – their considerable differences over what funding levels should be.

In the meantime, the bill removes the threat of a government shutdown days before funding would have expired.

"This year, there will be no government shutdown," Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said at a news conference after the bill's passage.

Splits

The spending package keeps government funding at current levels for roughly two more months while a long-term package is negotiated. It splits the deadlines for passing full-year appropriations bills into two dates: Jan 19 for some federal agencies and Feb 2 for others, creating two deadlines where there will be a risk of a partial government shutdown.

"Everybody is really kind of ready to vote and fight another day," Republican Whip John Thune, the No. 2 Republican, said earlier Wednesday.

The two-step approach was not favored by many in the Senate, though all but one Democrat and 10 Republicans supported it because it ensured the government would not shut down for now. Sen. Patty Murray, the Washington Democrat who chairs the Senate Appropriations Committee, voted for the bill but said it would eventually "double the shutdown risk."

The spending bill also does not include the White House's nearly \$106 billion request for wartime aid for Israel and Ukraine, as well as humanitarian

Trump would destroy US democracy if he wins 2nd term as president: sen

CHARLESTON, W.Va., Nov 16, (AP): West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin, days removed from announcing he won't seek reelection, said Wednesday that if the nation's voters give former President Donald Trump another term in the White House, "he will destroy democracy in America."

Manchin, whose home state voters overwhelmingly backed Trump in the last two presidential elections, made the comment on a press call with West Virginia-based reporters amid speculation that Manchin himself might be weighing a third-party run for president.

The moderate West Virginia Democrat said Wednesday that he would never want to be a "spoiler" who contributed to getting any other candidate elected. But he said he would do what he had to in order to save the country.

"If they said, 'You're the only person to do it,' I'll do whatever I can to save this nation," he said. Manchin had harsh words for

how the two-party system is currently functioning.

"These parties have taken over to where they weaponized us against each other," he said. "And that's wrong."

But Manchin reserved his harshest comments for Trump, who won every one of West Virginia's 55 counties in both 2016 and 2020, making it one of the former president's most loyal states. Manchin said it would be "dangerous" to give Trump another term.

"You can't have this visceral hatred spewing out of every time you give a speech, denigrating Americans," he said. "And the only good American is the one that likes you and supports you; the only fair election is the one you win; the only laws pertain to everybody but you."

Manchin also critiqued Democratic President Joe Biden on Wednesday, saying he has been pushed too far to the left during his term in office.

ian funding for Palestinians and other supplemental requests. Lawmakers are likely to turn their attention more fully to that request after the Thanksgiving holiday in hopes of negotiating a deal.

House Speaker Mike Johnson, who crafted the plan, has vowed that he will not support any further stopgap funding measures, known as continuing resolutions. He portrayed the temporary funding bill as setting the ground for a spending "fight" with the Senate next year.

The new speaker, who told reporters this week that he counted himself among the "arch-conservatives" of the House, is pushing for deeper spending cuts. He wanted to avoid lawmakers being forced to consider a massive government funding package before the December holidays — a tactic that incenses conservatives in particular.

But Johnson is also facing pushback from other hardline conservatives who

wanted to leverage the prospect of a government shutdown to extract steep cuts and policy demands.

Many of those conservatives were among a group of 19 Republicans who defied Johnson Wednesday to prevent floor consideration of an appropriations bill to fund several government agencies.

GOP leaders called off the week's work after the vote, sending lawmakers home early for Thanksgiving. It capped a period of intense bickering among lawmakers.

"This place is a pressure cooker," Johnson said Tuesday, noting that the House had been in Washington for 10 weeks straight.

The House GOP's inability to present a united front on funding legislation could undercut the Louisiana congressman's ability to negotiate spending bills with the Senate.

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass and California Gov Gavin Newsom are now under pressure to not only reopen the section of Interstate 10 as fast as possible, but to find out who started the fire and what oversight the state had on the property. (AP)

□ □ □

Gov eases lockdowns at prisons: Lockdowns at two of Wisconsin's oldest and most understaffed prisons are being eased, the governor announced in a move that comes less than a month after inmates filed a federal lawsuit alleging that the conditions at one of the prisons amount to cruel and unusual punishment.

Gov Tony Evers' announcement Tuesday about the eased lockdowns at the Waupun and Green Bay prisons, as well as a host of other efforts meant to increase safety at all Wisconsin prisons, comes amid calls from advocates and families of inmates who say the current conditions are inhumane.

The Waupun, Green Bay and Stanley prisons have been under lockdown for months as the state grapples with deteriorating buildings and a worker shortage. Waupun's lockdown began in March, Green Bay's began in June, and Stanley's lockdown, although less restrictive, began in early 2023.

The Wisconsin Department of Corrections has said the prisons are in "a state of modified movement." (AP)



Kate, Princess of Wales, arrives at the Shaping Us National Symposium at the Design Museum to co-host the event with the Royal Foundation Centre for Early Childhood, in London on Nov 15. (AP)



Evers



Bass

America

'Student beaten to death': A 17-year-old high school student in Las Vegas was beaten to death in an alleyway around the corner from campus by 10 of his classmates between the ages of 13 and 17, a prearranged fight that authorities said broke out over a pair of headphones and a vape pen.

But police homicide Lt. Jason Johansson said that detectives think the victim wasn't originally supposed to be involved in the brawl, which the students agreed would take place after classes were done for the day at Rancho High School in eastern Las Vegas.

Jonathan Lewis Jr walked to the alleyway with his friend, whose headphones and vape pen had been stolen, Johansson said.

The deadly beating on Nov. 1 was captured on cellphone video and widely shared on social media. Johansson described the footage as "very vivid of humanity." (AP)

□ □ □

Video shows cop striking woman: A video circulating on social media shows a North Carolina police officer repeatedly striking a Black woman during an arrest while several other officers hold her down, and although the department contends that the officer was "intentional" about where he hit the woman to get her to comply, the police chief acknowledged Wednesday that he understands "the outrage."

At a news conference Wednesday, Charlotte-Mecklenburg police Chief Johnny Jennings said that when officers approached a man and woman who were smoking marijuana at a bus stop Monday and began arresting the man, the woman interfered, an officer tried to stop him and a struggle ensued.

The woman hit an officer multiple times, according to Lt. Kevin Pietrus. During the struggle, an officer who responded as backup struck the woman several times to get her to allow police to take her into custody, which is consistent with his training, Pietrus told reporters. (AP)

□ □ □

LA hit for homelessness handling: The fire erupted after midnight where 16 people were living under the Los Angeles freeway, including a pregnant woman who was only weeks from giving birth.

As the flames engulfed the storage yard and the inferno's heat melted some of the

thoroughfare's steel guardrails and concrete pillars, rescue crews were able to get everyone out safely. But the disaster has brought renewed criticism over officials'

inability to get homeless residents off the street, leaving tens of thousands living in perilous locations across the nation's second-largest city.



People protest during the investiture debate a day before the Socialist leader seeks the endorsement of the chamber to form a new government at the nearby Spanish Parliament in Madrid Spain on Nov 15. Demonstrators are protesting Spain's Socialist's deal to grant amnesty to Catalan separatists in exchange for support of new government. Signs read 'Felon. Dictator', 'For sale, the Spanish constitution' and 'For sale, the rule of law'. (AP)

Africa

US to resume food aid

‘Zimbabwe going in dangerous direction’

HARARE, Zimbabwe, Nov 16, (AP): Zimbabwe’s opposition leader warned Wednesday that the country is “heading into a dangerous direction” as his party mourned an official abducted while campaigning for upcoming elections and later found dead.

Tapfumaneyi Masaya, 51, was part of a team of Citizens for Change Coalition activists campaigning Saturday in Harare’s Mabvuku township when he was seized by unidentified people and bundled into a vehicle, said Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights, which is giving legal representation to his family.

Masaya’s body was dumped near a park on the outskirts of the capital and taken to a morgue where it was identified by his family and fellow party activists Monday. Police confirmed the body had been identified.



Masaya

“The callous politically motivated abduction and murder of Tapfumaneyi Masaya is a tragic and ugly turn of politics in Zimbabwe,” Nelson Chamisa posted on X, formerly Twitter.

The opposition has accused the ruling ZANU-PF party and security agencies of leading the harassment of its activists and Masaya’s death.

A ruling party spokesman, Farai Marapira, accused the opposition of “seeking political mileage from an unfortunate death,” denying his party’s involvement. Police said they are investigating the abduction and killing.

There has been growing international condemnation of deteriorating human rights in Zimbabwe.

The US Embassy said on X it was “alarmed” by Masaya’s case and called for a full investigation.

Amnesty International in a statement called on authorities to “immediately address the escalating cases of abductions, arbitrary detention, torture and killing of parliament members, opposition political activists and human rights defenders.”

Supporters and relatives gathered at Masaya’s home Wednesday to mourn a man they described as peaceful. They sang political songs, beat drums, danced and vowed to fight on despite intimidation.

□ □ □

Minibus crash leaves 22 dead: A minibus taxi crashed head on with a truck in southwestern Zimbabwe, killing 22 people, police said Wednesday.

Two others were injured and taken to a hospital after the accident on Tuesday night, police spokesman Paul Nyathi said. The accident occurred on a highway linking the country’s second-largest city, Bulawayo, with Beitbridge, a town bordering neighboring South Africa, Nyathi said in a statement.

Many people in Zimbabwe, a country of 15 million whose economy has been battered by a yearslong currency crisis and high inflation, frequently travel to South Africa to buy goods for resale or personal use. Many also travel to visit family or for work.

Road accidents are common in Zimbabwe, where some drivers overload their vehicles and exceed the speed limit. The poor condition of Zimbabwe’s roads has also been blamed for contributing to crashes, despite government efforts to pave some major highways in recent years.

□ □ □

US to resume food aid to mlns across Ethiopia:

The lead US development agency plans to restart food aid deliveries for millions of people across Ethiopia in December, five months after it took the extraordinary step of halting its nationwide program over a massive corruption scheme by local officials.

US Agency for International Development officials on Wednesday described wide-ranging new reforms in handling of food aid to the East African country to try to prevent a repeat of what they have said may have been the largest theft of food aid in history.

These anti-theft measures will be tested for one year, USAID spokesperson Jessica Jennings said, adding that they “will fundamentally shift Ethiopia’s food aid system and help ensure aid reaches those experiencing acute food insecurity.”

Ethiopia is Africa’s second-most populous country and one of the largest recipients of US humanitarian aid due to droughts, conflict and other factors disrupting food supplies. About one-sixth of Ethiopians received food aid before discovery of the food theft early this year.

□ □ □

Kenya parliament OKs police deployment: The Kenyan parliament on Thursday approved the deployment of 1000 police officers to Haiti to help deal with rising gang violence in the Caribbean nation.

The national assembly backed a motion tabled by parliament’s Committee on Administration and Internal Security approving the government request for sending the security officers as violence escalated in Haiti.

The heated debate saw opposition legislators rejecting the government plans for Kenya to lead a multinational policing team in Haiti, saying it violated the country’s constitution. Supporters of the motion said Kenya had a moral obligation and duty to aid Haiti.

The planned deployment was blocked by the High Court in Nairobi in October. On Thursday, the court was due to rule on a case by former presidential candidate Ekuru Aukot who said the mission, backed by the United Nations, “was a mistake and a suicide mission.”

Burundi, Chad, Senegal, Jamaica and Belize have all pledged troops for the multinational mission which could cost Kenya more than \$230 Million.

□ □ □

Senegalese oppn leader sent back to jail: Senegalese opposition leader Ousmane Sonko has returned to prison after weeks of undergoing medical treatment in the hospital during a hunger strike to protest his detention on charges he says are politically motivated.

The announcement comes just days before Senegal’s Supreme Court is due to rule on whether Sonko can take part in the upcoming February election despite being struck from the country’s voter rolls after his conviction on charges of corrupting youth earlier this year.

Prison authorities said Sonko’s transfer back to Cap Manuel prison in Dakar on Tuesday took place as “the result of a recommendation by his attending physician.”

“Wherever he is detained, the result is the same: President Ousmane Sonko remains a favourite candidate in the presidential election, arbitrarily detained and deprived of his rights by his political opponents,” said El-Malik Ndiaye, the press officer for Sonko’s opposition party.



US President Joe Biden and China’s President President Xi Jinping walk in the gardens at the Filoli Estate in Woodside, Calif on Nov 15 on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperative conference. (AP)

Asia

‘Planet Earth big enough for 2 countries to succeed’

Xi-Biden meet seen as putting ties back on course

TAIPEI, Taiwan, Nov 16, (AP): Perhaps just shaking hands and sitting down together can be enough sometimes.

At their meeting Wednesday, US President Joe Biden and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping didn’t resolve any of the major geopolitical issues dividing the world’s two largest economies and chief rivals for influence, particularly among developing nations.

But it did seem to put a floor beneath a relationship that had been in free-fall over issues from trade to investment to US support for Taiwan, along with human rights in regions from Tibet to Sichuan and the Asian financial hub of Hong Kong, which China administers as a semi-autonomous region while gutting its civil liberties handed over from the former British administration.

The two leaders spent four hours together at a northern California country estate, holding meetings, lunching and taking a garden stroll that seemed intent on showing the world that while they are global competitors they’re not locked in a winner-take-all faceoff.

“Planet Earth is big enough for the two countries to succeed,” Xi told Biden.

Taiwan’s Foreign Ministry appeared to welcome the warming of relations, noting the US had again laid down the bottom line that China must use peaceful means in dealing with the island it claims as its own territory. Taiwan “affirms Biden’s insistence that there can be no unilateral changes in the status quo in the Taiwan Strait and that differences must be worked out peacefully,” spokesperson Jeff Liu said.

“We express our affirmation and welcome for President Biden again making use of the venue of a meeting with the leader of China to again openly press the strict US position insisting on peace in the Taiwan Strait,” Liu said.

South Koreans watched the meeting with a mixture of hope and skepticism, wondering whether the talks would meaningfully soften an intense rivalry that has left Seoul squeezed between its crucial military and diplomatic ally the US and largest trade partner China.

Facing growing North Korean nuclear threats, South Korea has been

Duterte ‘summoned’ by prosecutor for allegedly threatening lawmaker

MANILA, Philippines, Nov 16, (AP): Former Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, known for his crack-down on illegal drugs that left thousands of suspects dead, has been summoned by a prosecutor to answer a separate allegation that he recently threatened a female lawmaker with death, the complainant said Wednesday.

It was the first known subpoena for a criminal complaint issued to Duterte since his stormy six-year presidential term ended in June last year.

Rep. France Castro, who filed the criminal complaint against the former president, said in a statement that she and Duterte were jointly ordered to appear before a government prosecutor in suburban Quezon city in the capital region on Dec. 4 and 11 to submit their statements at the start of an investigation into her complaint.

There was no immediate comment from Duterte, 78, who has retired from politics and now lives mostly in his hometown, Davao city.

Castro said the former president spoke in a TV show from Davao last month about a request by his daughter, Vice President Sara Duterte, to Congress for intelligence funds which drew criticism from left-wing groups and legislators, including Castro.

Castro said the ex-president sug-

gested to his daughter that the intelligence funds should be used to target communists, mentioning the name France, and added that he wanted them killed.

She said that even though Duterte only mentioned her first name, he was clearly referring to her.

Castro told reporters that she feared for her life given Duterte’s continuing influence.

Also:

TAIPEI, Taiwan: Taiwan’s two main opposition parties, both of which have vowed to restart talks with China, announced a joint presidential ticket for January’s election in a deal that could bring a major political upset in the self-ruled island democracy.

The agreement would bring together **Hou Yu-ih**, the presidential candidate for the Kuomintang, one of Taiwan’s two major political parties, and **Ko Wen-je**, of the independent Taiwan People’s Party.

Up until now, both Hou and Ko have trailed in polls behind front-runner **William Lai**, the Democratic Progressive Party’s candidate who currently serves as vice president.

Lai and incumbent President **Tsai Ing-wen** have both been criticized by Beijing as separatists who should be blamed in the event a war erupts across the Taiwan Strait.

on computer chips and other technology products for jobs and exports has also created unease about broadening US-China tensions that also include a trade war over technology.

The Biden administration’s steps since last year to restrict the sales of advanced chip technologies to China set off furious lobbying by the South Koreans to minimize the impact on South Korean semiconductor makers like Samsung and SK Hynix. Seoul breathed a sigh of relief when Washington decided last month to allow those companies to send chipmaking equipment to their Chinese plants without special approvals.

However, officials said the most recent blast occurred at a shop that was licensed and inspected by Mexico’s Defense Department, which is responsible for regulating the industry.

Fireworks feature prominently in local festivals, which use everything from firecrackers and roman candles to powerful rockets. (AP)

□ □ □

‘Press ahead with referendum’: Venezuela’s vice president has vowed that her country will press ahead with a referendum on the future of a large tract of mineral-rich territory that it claims in a long-running dispute with neighboring Guyana.

Vice President **Delcy Rodríguez** was speaking on the second day of hearings into a request by Guyana for the United Nations’ top court to order a halt to parts of a consultative referendum in December on the future of the Essequibo region, which makes up some two-thirds of Guyana.

“Venezuela reaffirms its categorical rejection of Guyana’s audacious action to interfere in its internal affairs. Nothing will prevent the referendum scheduled for Dec 3 from being held,” Rodríguez told judges at the International Court of Justice.

She added that her appearance at the court’s headquarters in the ornate Peace Palace in The Hague “in no way implies recognition of the jurisdiction of this honorable court over the territorial dispute concerning Guyana.” (AP)



A man casts his vote in the presidential election in Antananarivo, Madagascar Nov 16. Madagascar’s President Andry Rajoelina is pushing ahead with a presidential election Thursday, that could give him a third term, even as opposition protests roil the country and the majority of candidates have announced a boycott. (AP)



Rodriguez



Skippings

Lat/Am

USCG searches for crew member:

The US Coast Guard (USCG) was searching Wednesday for a crew member who apparently fell from a cruise ship northwest of Puerto Rico, officials said.

The unidentified 30-year-old man of Indian nationality was aboard the MSC Seascapes when someone apparently saw him tumble more than 30 feet (9 meters) into the Atlantic Ocean on Tuesday night, the Coast Guard said.

The incident happened as the cruise ship was traveling from Puerto Rico to the Dominican Republic.

The Coast Guard said the cruise ship threw a lifeline and three life rings and launched a rescue boat to search for the man.

Authorities said the search is ongoing and that the cruise ship has continued its voyage.

A spokesperson for MSC Cruises did not immediately respond to a request for comment. (AP)

□ □ □

US tourist dies in Bahamas:

A US tourist died in the Bahamas after a catamaran carrying more than 100 people sank while traveling to a private island, police said Wednesday.

Chief Superintendent **Chrislyn Skippings** told The Associated Press that the unidentified 74-year-old woman was from Broomfield, Colorado and was on a five-day vacation with her family when the catamaran sank late Tuesday morning.

The rest of the passengers and crew members were rescued. Two other unidentified people were taken to a medical facility, police said, but their conditions were not immediately known.

It wasn’t immediately clear how the 74-year-old woman died.

Police said in a statement that the woman was found unresponsive as they helped pull the passengers and crew members from the water. They said she was given CPR and then taken to a dock where she was declared dead.

Life vests were available, and those aboard were wearing them, according to authorities. (AP)

□ □ □

Fireworks workshop explosion kills 4:

The explosion of a fireworks workshop near Mexico’s Gulf coast left at least four men killed, authorities in the central state of Puebla said Wednesday.

The blast occurred Tuesday in the township of Xiutetelco, Puebla, near the border with the neighboring state of Veracruz.

Three of the men, including the owner of the workshop, died at the scene, according to the Puebla State Interior Department. Another man died of his injuries at a local hospital, and a fifth victim was severely injured.

Four of the five victims were in their 20s.

Fireworks explosions occur with depressing regularity in Mexico, often at unlicensed workshops with few safety precautions.



An Ethiopian woman scoops up portions of wheat to be allocated to each waiting family after it was distributed by the Relief Society of Tigray in the town of Agula, in the Tigray region of northern Ethiopia on May 8, 2021. The United States Agency for International Development will restart food aid deliveries across Ethiopia in December, five months after it halted its nationwide program over a massive corruption scheme by local officials. (AP)

What's On



Top and above: Photos during the Korean Cooking Class, hosted by the Embassy of the Republic of Korea, in collaboration with Han-Ku Cultural Diwaniya.

Event showcases blend of cultural exchange, culinary expertise

Korean Embassy hosts unforgettable cooking class in Kuwait

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: The Embassy of the Republic of Korea, in collaboration with Han-Ku Cultural Diwaniya, hosted an unforgettable Korean Cooking Class on Monday, Nov 13, 2023, showcasing a splendid blend of cultural exchange and culinary expertise.

This vibrant event, attended by esteemed members of the Diwaniya, featured a hands-on cooking session led by Chef Junhyuck Lee from the renowned Ki:wa Korean Restaurant in Salmiya.

Iconic dishes

Chef Lee, an expert in Korean culinary arts, guided participants in preparing iconic dishes such as Tteokbokki (spicy rice cakes), Bulgogi (marinated beef), and Kimchi Jeon (kimchi pancake), offering a genuine taste of Korean cuisine.

In his welcoming remarks, HE Chung Byung-ha, the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Kuwait, underscored the event's significance as a cultural bridge and emphasized the importance of cultural exchange. He expressed gratitude to the participants and collaborators for contributing to the event's resounding success.

The Korean Food Promotion Institute played a vital role in supporting the event by providing Korean food



H.E. Chung Byung-ha, the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Kuwait

meal-kits. These kits not only facilitated the cooking process but also introduced participants to traditional Korean ingredients and flavors, enhancing the authenticity of the experience.

This cooking class marked a pivotal moment in the ongoing cultural exchange between Kuwait and Korea, transcending a mere cooking lesson to become a celebration of friendship, culinary art, and mutual respect between the two cultures.

The Embassy of the Republic of Korea and Han-Ku Cultural Diwaniya expressed their eagerness to continue this tradition of cultural sharing and learning in the years ahead.

Han-Ku Cultural Diwaniya, boasts over a thousand Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti members, is a local cultural gathering of Korean culture enthusiasts dedicated to fostering cultural understanding and exchange between Kuwait and Korea.

KIB promotes banking culture among Assima Mall visitors

Bank introduces its services and products

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) recently set up a booth at Assima Mall to raise banking awareness and promote financial culture among a wide segment of society. The Bank aimed at introducing mall goers to its services, products, and latest promotional offers. This step comes as part of its continuous efforts to support the 'Let's Be Aware' (Diraya) financial awareness campaign, which was launched by the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) and the Kuwait Banking Association (KBA) in co-operation with local banks.



Alwayel

and duties, as per CBK's recommendations. They also discussed the protection of personal data and bank accounts, and the safe usage of banking cards, especially amid the rapid developments that financial and banking services are witnessing. KIB's representatives also raised awareness around the increasing risk of fraud customers have been experiencing lately."

Alwayel highlighted that KIB launched numer-



KIB booth at Assima Mall.

ous initiatives to achieve the goals of the 'Let's Be Aware' campaign. To this end, the Bank has been choosing distinctive strategic locations to set up its booths, like Assima Mall, that attract a large number of visitors from different segments of society daily. This helped with the Bank's aim to promote financial and banking culture on a wide scale, as well as to understand customers' banking needs by directly communicating with

them. It is worth noting that KIB is committed to its leading role in raising social awareness, which it regards as a basic pillar of its advanced social responsibility program. The Bank is keen on launching initiatives that help promote financial literacy on a wide scale, and to participate directly and effectively in activities that support the 'Let's Be Aware' campaign.

Empowering girls and cybersecurity awareness in Kuwait

Young Minds India organizes 'Maayavalai' event

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: Young Minds India recently organized a special awareness event called 'Maayavalai' in Kuwait, bringing together students and guests to raise awareness and share expertise. The event was an informative talk that left everyone inspired.

The event began with a beautiful rendition of the Kuwaiti National Anthem, followed by 'Tamilthai Vazhthi,' the state anthem of Tamil Nadu, reminding us of the importance of diversity and harmony.

Respected guest Dr. Sivabalan addressed the audience, focusing on the topic of "Empowering Girls to Face Life's Challenges with Confidence and Resilience." He shared valuable insights on the importance of building confidence and resilience in young girls, encouraging them to overcome life's challenges with determination and courage.

IPS officer Dr. Ravi discussed "Cybercrime and Cybersecurity," highlighting the growing threats in

the digital world and the importance of staying safe online.

Adding to the event's international flavor, Mr. Abdul Haleem, representing the Sri Lankan Embassy, emphasized the importance of fostering friendly relations among neighboring countries and communities. His presence underscored the significance of interactions and diplomacy.

Dr. Binumon, representing the Indian Community School of Kuwait, joined the event, demonstrating his support for educational initiatives. His presence showcased the importance of educational institutions in promoting understanding.

The event's charm was further enhanced by the participation of esteemed guest Mr. Anis Ahmed - Salmiya Indian Model School. His support and participation were greatly appreciated, and his presence contributed significantly to the event's overall success.

Mr. Ravi, the Principal from Delhi Public School, played a pivotal role in the event, ensuring the program's success and highlighting the school's commitment to educational and cybersecurity awareness initiatives.

The event was hosted by Mohita and Shruthika, both students from the Indian Community School, and welcomed and introduced by Delhi Public School student Srinithi. Their contributions added a personal touch to the event, making it a memorable and engaging experience for everyone in attendance.

In conclusion, 'Maayavalai' in Kuwait provided an opportunity to empower and educate young minds. Dr. Sivabalan, Dr. Ravi, Mr. Abdul Haleem, Dr. Binumon, and Mr. Anish, along with Mr. Ravi Ayanoli, reminded everyone of the importance of diversity and knowledge exchange. Young Minds India continues to inspire and educate the youth, making a positive difference in the world.



Photos during the special awareness event called 'Maayavalai', organized by Young Minds India in Kuwait.

Are report cards telling enough?

Many parents don't know when their kids are behind in school

NEW YORK, Nov 16, (AP): Nearly nine out of 10 parents believe their child is performing at grade level despite standardized tests showing far fewer students are on track, according to a poll released Wednesday by Gallup and the nonprofit Learning Heroes.

Report cards, which many parents rely on for a sense of their children's progress, might be missing the whole picture, researchers say. Without that knowledge, parents may not seek opportunities for extra support for their children.

"Grades are the holy grail," said Bibb Hubbard, founder and president of Learning Heroes. "They're the number one indicator that parents turn to to understand that their child is on grade level, yet a grade does not equal grade-level mastery. But nobody's told parents that."

Grade level

In the Gallup survey, 88% of parents say their child is on grade level in reading, and 89% of parents believe their child is on grade level in math. But in a federal survey, school officials said half of all U.S. students started last school year behind grade level in at least one subject.

In a report examining grade point averages and test scores in the state of Washington over the past decade, researchers found grades jumped during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many districts had eased their grading policies to account for the chaos and hardship students were experiencing.

Some of that leniency could still be in place, masking gaps in learning that are showing up in standardized tests, but not in grades, said Dan Goldhaber, a co-author of the report and the director of the Center for Analysis of Longitudinal Data in Education Research.

Districts across the U.S. have invested federal pandemic relief money in programs to get students back on track academically, from inten-

sive tutoring to summer academic programs. But often far fewer students show up than the district had planned, Goldhaber said.

For programs like summer school or online tutoring, where the family chooses whether to participate, "what we see is that it's only a fraction of the students that are invited or eligible to that are actually participating," he said.

The Gallup poll findings underscore that trend, pointing to families who may not realize their child should take action about their child's academic performance.

In the poll of more than 2,000 parents of K-12 students, half the respondents say they've discussed their child's academic progress with a teacher. But among parents who know their child is behind grade level in math, the percentage skyrockets: 74% have spoken with the teacher.

Report cards generally don't convey enough information, said Sarah Carpenter, director of The Memphis Lift, a parent advocacy organization in Tennessee.

"A report card is really tricky in our opinion, because you're just looking at A's and B's and C's," Carpenter said. Nowhere on the report card does it say "what reading level your baby's on, and that's what's throwing parents for a loop."

By talking to parents about issues like literacy and the nuances of grading, families are better able to advocate for their children in the school system and work in partnership with educators, said Trenace Dorsey-Hollins, a parent and founder of the advocacy group Parent Shield Fort Worth in Texas.

"Knowledge is power," she said. "Parents don't know what they don't know. So we don't want them to blame themselves. But now that you have the information, use the information to demand better and ensure that your child and all children get exactly what they need."

oil down

The price of Kuwaiti oil went down by nine cents to USD 86.31 per barrel on Wednesday as opposed to USD 86.40 pb the day before, said the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Thursday.

The Brent crude and West Texas Intermediate in the global markets fell each by USD 1.29 and USD 1.60 to settle USD 81.18 per barrel and USD 76.66 per barrel respectively. (KUNA)

Kuwait’s trade surplus with Japan down

Kuwait’s trade surplus with Japan in October narrowed 17.0 percent from a year earlier to JPY 102.6 billion (USD 678 million), down for the first time in two months due to weak exports, government data showed Thursday.

Meanwhile, Kuwait stayed in black ink with Japan for 15 years and nine months, as exports still offset imports in value, the Finance Ministry said in a preliminary report.

Imports from Japan rose 10.1 percent to JPY 25.1billion (USD 141 million), up for the 17th month in a row.

Overall exports from Kuwait to Japan slid 12.2 percent year-on-year to JPY 123.9 billion (USD 819 million) for the first decline in two months, while imports from Japan grew 22.4 percent to JPY 21.3 billion (USD 143 million), up for the 18th month in a row.

Furthermore, Middle East’s trade surplus with Japan also narrowed 24.9 percent to JPY 842.5 billion (USD 5.6 billion) last month, with Japan-bound exports from the region shrinking 16.0 percent from a year earlier. (KUNA)

Emirates orders 15 Airbus A350

Long-haul carrier Emirates said Thursday it will purchase 15 additional Airbus A350-900s worth \$6 billion after a spat between the airline and the European manufacturer went unusually public during this week’s Dubai Air Show.

The Emirates’ order, far smaller than initially expected, came after the airline and its sister carrier FlyDubai purchased \$63 billion worth of aircraft from Boeing Co. at the start of the weeklong show, which comes as international travel has rebounded following the coronavirus

pandemic.

So far, Emirates has ordered 65 of the aircraft.

On Tuesday, Emirates President Tim Clark signaled the carrier would hold off on a major purchase of Airbus A350 aircraft over concerns about the Rolls-Royce Trent XWB-97 engines on the 350-1000. Rolls-Royce vigorously disputed Clark’s comments about what he described as the additional maintenance required for them in Dubai’s hot and desert environment. (AP)

Market Movements 16-11-2023

		Change	Closing pts			Change	Closing pts
Saudi	- Tadawul	+59.08	11,081.97	Japan	- Nikkei	-95.29	33,424.41
UAE	- DFM	+23.75	3,984.52				
Egypt	- EGX 30	+244.47	24,383.27				
Philippines	- PSEI	+20.35	6,191.48				
Pakistan	- KSE 1--	+578.88	57,344.16				

Business

‘Dubai real estate boom expected to slow, limited systemic fallout anticipated’

Improved inflation situation boosts overall economic optimism in UAE

By National Bank of Kuwait

Non-oil growth to remain solid in 2024

After surging in 2022, economic growth is set to soften over 2023-24 on lower oil production, normalizing non-oil growth, tighter financial conditions, and a slowing global economy. However, non-oil growth should remain solid on steady implementation of the government’s pro-growth agenda and investments under net zero emissions goals. As COP 28 approaches in late 2023, the government updated its pledge to cut UAE carbon emissions by 40% in 2030 (up from 31%) while state energy firm ADNOC brought forward its net-zero target by five years to 2045, unlocking more opportunities for the private sector and enabling the non-oil sector to drive sustainable growth over the long term. Near term, oil sector output could fall this year by 1.7% following May’s voluntary output cuts. But the reversal of OPEC+ cuts in early 2024 and the scheduled quota upward revision by 200k b/d in 2024 to 3.2 mb/d could result in 2.5% growth in 2024. Plans to raise oil production capacity to 5 million b/d by 2027 (currently at 4.65 mb/d) would support medium-to-long-term growth, even amid the sped-up green objectives.

The non-oil sector saw vibrant growth in H1 2023 of 9.2% y/y and 3.2% in Abu Dhabi and Dubai respectively, with retail trade, hospitality, and finance the main drivers. Non-oil growth in H2 2023 may have softened as the effects of high interest rates take hold, though still supported by the post-pandemic recovery in tourism (Jan-Aug 2023: 22% y/y) and strong PMI readings - which at 56.4 on average in July-October remained firmly in expansion territory and above historical norms. After a stellar H1, non-oil growth for 2023 could reach 5.2% with further easing in 2024 on elevated funding costs, moderate credit expansion, softer real estate activity and slowing global growth. However, a still-strong outlook is underpinned by high oil prices, resilient activity in the Gulf region and government efforts to achieve vision goals (UAE 2031, D33, and Abu Dhabi 2030), which will sustain reform momentum and strengthen economic fundamentals over the medium term.

Softening inflation and real estate activity

Inflation could slow to 3.2% on average in 2023 after reaching its highest level since 2008 at 4.8% in 2022 due to spiking fuel and recreation prices (liberalized pricing makes UAE inflation more sensitive to global energy prices than other Gulf economies). Next year, we see inflation easing to 2.8% as non-oil growth slows and food prices soften, offsetting a limited rise in fuel prices. Housing services (35% of the CPI basket), mostly rents, have also put upward pressure on inflation this year (+6.1% y/y in September in Dubai), but there are signs that the rental market is cooling after a very strong run. Dubai’s two-year residential property sales boom also appears to be slowing (sales +15% y/y in October versus 65% in December 2022), affected by high valuations, rising interest rates and seemingly less intense overseas buying versus last year. Our base case is for market activity to soften further in 2024 and for the boom to draw to a close. However, with recent market buoyancy not driven by excess

Although slower than in 2023, we expect the non-oil economy to expand by a solid 4%+ next year, benefiting from still high oil prices, persistent government pro-growth reforms in pursuit of development goals, supportive fiscal policy, and easing inflation. We expect Dubai’s real estate boom to fade further, but any systemic fallout should be limited. Within an overall positive economic outlook, key downside risks include lower oil prices, a global slowdown, a sharper-than-expected real estate correction and regional geopolitical tensions impacting inward investment. Key upside risks include higher oil prices, rapid increases in domestic oil production and greater-than-expected resilience to a global downturn.

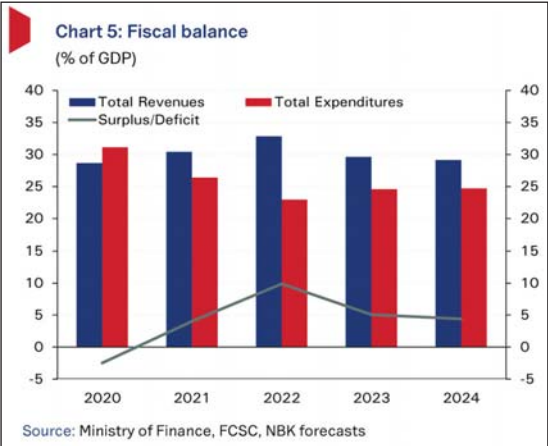
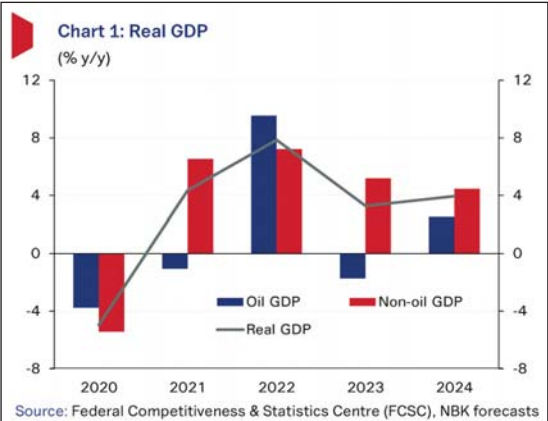
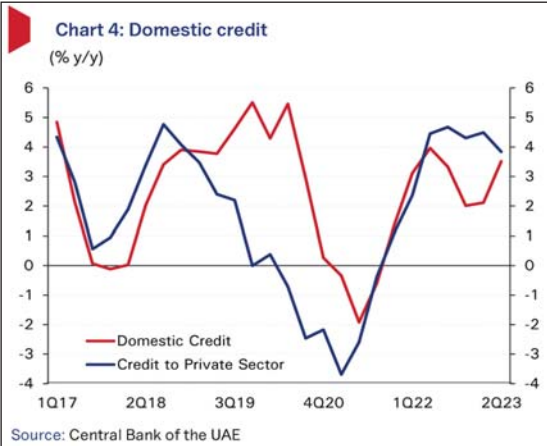
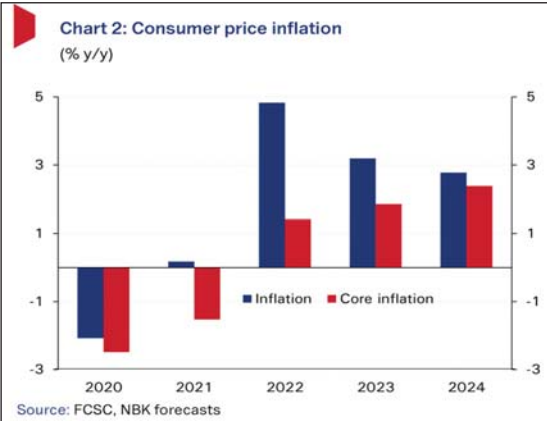


Table 1: Key economic indicators

		2020	2021	2022e	2023f	2024f
Nominal GDP	\$ bn	350	415	507	504	533
Real GDP	% y/y	-5.0	4.4	7.9	3.3	3.9
- Oil sector	% y/y	-3.8	-1.1	9.5	-1.7	2.5
- Non-oil sector	% y/y	-5.4	6.5	7.2	5.2	4.5
Inflation (avg.)	% y/y	-2.1	0.2	4.8	3.2	2.8
Fiscal balance	% of GDP	-2.5	4.0	9.9	5.1	4.4
Current acc. balance	% of GDP	6.0	11.6	30.7	27.7	26.1

Source: Official sources, NBK forecasts

sive borrowing and the non-oil economy expected to expand strongly next year, the systemic consequences of a faded property boom should be limited.

Fiscal surplus in 2023-24, budgets target higher capex

The fiscal position achieved a surplus of 4.8% GDP in H1 2023 (13.4% in H1 2022) on lower revenues (-19.2% y/y) due to declining oil prices and a faster rise in spending (+8.3% versus +3.0%). Higher spending came on nearly doubling social welfare and low-income households’ subsidies, including food and energy inflation assistance. For 2023 as a whole, we expect a slightly larger surplus of 5.1% of GDP, as higher oil prices in H2 and the phased introduction of the 9% Corporate Income Tax from mid-2023 boost revenues, while expenditures could see a mild seasonal slowdown (+6.4%). The expansionary stance should continue next year with Federal and Dubai 2024 budget spending allocations up by 2% (to \$17bn) and 17% (to \$22bn), respectively, with higher capital provisions to support non-oil growth. We expect another 6% rise in consolidated expenditures in 2024 and a smaller pick up in revenues, resulting in a surplus of 4.4% of GDP. ADIA & Mubadala assets estimated at \$1.1 trillion, according to SWF institute, complemented by large external surpluses and declining public debt during the forecast period (estimated at 29.4% of GDP in 2023 by the IMF), provide additional support for the country’s strong credit ratings (S&P: AA; Moody’s: Aa2).

Geopolitical tensions could weigh on investor sentiment

We see a positive overall economic outlook for the UAE amid an increasingly competitive regional climate. Key downside risks however include lower oil prices, a slowdown in global growth that affects UAE trade and inward investment, a sharper-than-expected correction in the real estate market and rising geopolitical tensions in the region that affect investor sentiment, hindering the country’s efforts to attract capital and push ahead with its ambitious development plans. Key upside risks include higher oil prices, rapid increases in oil production and greater-than-expected resilience to a global slowdown.

Retail sales slip 0.1%

US retail spending dips in Oct ending 6-month growth streak

NEW YORK, Nov 16, (AP): Americans cut back on retail spending in October, ending six straight months of gains, though the decline was partly driven by falling prices for both gasoline and cars.

Retail sales fell 0.1% last month after jumping a strong 0.9% in September, according to a report released Wednesday by the Commerce Department. September’s figure was revised higher from an initial 0.7% gain. Excluding sales of gas and autos, retail sales ticked up 0.1%.

The figures reflect a slowdown in consumers’ willingness to spend after a blowout summer. Consumer spending jumped in the July-September quarter, but economists forecast it will slow in the final three months of the year, as credit card debt - and delinquencies - rise and average savings fall.

Still, the decline was smaller than analysts expected. And excluding sales of autos, gas, building materials, and restaurant meals, the so-called “control group” of sales - which is used to calculate economic growth - rose 0.2%, after a 0.7% leap in September. The increase in control sales suggests consumers still have some spending power left.

“The October retail sales report was stronger than expectations, but confirmed a slowdown in consumption,” Ellen Zentner, chief U.S. economist at Morgan Stanley, wrote in a note to clients.

Most retail categories reported a drop in sales, including gas stations and auto dealers, which partly reflected price declines last month in both categories. Sales at furniture stores fell 2%, and general merchandise sales - a category that includes large retailers such as Walmart and Target - dropped 0.2%. Sales at clothing stores were unchanged.

Online spending, however, climbed 0.2% last month, according to the report. Sales at electronics and appliance stores rose 0.6% and grocery store sales moved up 0.7%. Restaurants and bars reported a 0.3% sales increase, though that was much lower than September’s 1.6% gain.

The figures aren’t adjusted for inflation, but the price of manufactured goods ticked down last month and overall inflation was flat.

Sales at general merchandise stores fell 0.2% and sales at home furnishing



A shopper passes by a display of Christmas trees in a Costco warehouse Thursday, Oct. 26, 2023, in Sherian, Colo. On Wednesday, the Commerce Department released U.S. retail sales data for October. (AP)

ings and furniture stores plunged 2%.

Recent U.S. data has revealed that a surge in consumer spending has fueled strong growth and its resilience has confounded economists, the Federal Reserve, and appear to contrast the sour sentiments that Americans themselves have expressed in opinion polls.

Consumer spending may still take a hit with the resumption of student loan repayments, the persistence of high prices, and wars raging in the Middle East and in Europe. The moratorium on student loan payments lifted Oct. 1.

Inflation in the United States slowed last month, suggesting that the Federal Reserve’s interest rate hikes have tamed price spikes that have burdened weighed on Americans for the past two years. But shoppers are still finding the costs of many services, notably rents, restaurants, and health care, continue to rise faster than before the pandemic.

And Americans are facing higher costs for mortgages, auto loans and credit cards, the direct result of the Fed’s campaign against inflation. Retailers have reported an uptick in credit card delinquencies in recent months.

A slew of retailers including Walmart and Macy’s will report third-quarter financial results over the next two weeks, offering a more detailed picture of consumer behavior heading into the Thanksgiving weekend, the official kickoff of the holiday shopping season.

On Tuesday, Home Depot, the nations’ largest home improvement chain, reported that sales continue to slide as customers cut back on spending for big-ticket items like appliances, and spent less on big renovation projects. Target reported a hefty profit increase fueled by cost-cutting measures but posted a decline in quarterly sales. The company said Wednesday its customers have less discretionary income.

Warba raises level of banking awareness among clients

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: Warba Bank is keen to increase the banking awareness of users of electronic channels and alternative service media, such as fake websites, and the need to deal with caution from electronic and text messages and phone calls that they receive from unknown parties, and to make their transactions with more caution, to avoid falling into the traps of fraudsters and their tricks, as part of its keenness to continue raising the level of banking awareness among clients.

The Director of Marketing and Corporate Communications at Warba Bank, Ayman Salem Al-Mutairi, highlighted the importance of intensifying cooperation between banks and telecom-

By Mahmoud Shendi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: Settlement transactions among local banks in Kuwait demonstrated a robust performance during the first nine months of 2023, amounting to approximately 182.7 billion dinars. This marked a significant increase of 7.5% compared to the closing balance of 18.270 billion dinars in September 2022, highlighting the active financial interactions within the banking sector.

This surge in settlement operations coincided with the growth of the overall balance of cash credit facilities provided by banks across various sectors. Over the course of the first nine months of 2023, there was a 0.7% increase, representing a value of 381.7 million dinars. The total cash credit facilities

communications and Internet companies to confront electronic fraud operations targeting users, as part of Warba’s messages participating in the banking awareness campaign “Let’s Be Aware” launched by the Central Bank of Kuwait in cooperation with the Kuwait Banking Association and local banks.

Al-Mutairi added that the awareness messages that Warba has been broadcasting

stood at 52.828 billion dinars by the end of September, compared to 52.447 billion dinars in December 2022.

Personal cash facilities, a crucial component of the banking landscape, witnessed a steady uptick, registering a 0.9% increase since the beginning of the year. The balance of personal cash facilities, which includes advances from banks, reached 18.65 million dinars, showcasing the ongoing financial activities within this segment.

Within the realm of personal facilities, the landscape exhibited a dynamic picture. Consumer loans, a significant aspect of personal finance, decreased by 0.6%, reflecting a balance of 1.954 billion dinars in September compared to 1.967 billion dinars in December. In contrast, housing facilities experienced growth, rising by 1.4% to reach a balance of 15.96 billion dinars in September from 15.74 billion dinars in December.

Private and typical housing loans witnessed a decrease of 8.1%, settling at 299.7 million dinars, down from 326.3 million dinars. Concurrently, the balance of facilities designed for purchasing securities demonstrated a positive trajectory, increasing by 1.5% to 3.34 billion dinars in September from 3.291 billion dinars in December.

In terms of new credit facilities, there was a decrease of 2.45%, with the consolidated figure amounting to 17 billion dinars for the first nine months of 2023. This reflects a decline from the 17.474 billion dinars recorded during the same period in 2022.

Shifting the focus to broader financial indicators, the assets of local banks witnessed a commendable growth of 1.1%, amounting to 942 million dinars. This increase saw the total assets rise from 84.486 billion dinars at the end of December to 85.428 billion dinars in September.

The net foreign assets of local banks also experienced a positive trajectory, growing by 2.9% to reach a value of 10.655 billion dinars by the end of September, up from 10.354 billion dinars in December.

However, shareholders’ equity in local banks underwent a marginal decrease of 0.25%, amounting to 14.33 billion dinars in September, compared to 14.37 billion dinars in December 2022.

In summary, the financial landscape in Kuwait’s banking sector during the first nine months of 2023 reflects dynamic activity in settlement operations, steady growth in cash credit facilities, and nuanced trends in personal facilities, signaling a resilient and evolving financial ecosystem.

through its social media platforms and websites indicate that while banks are constantly moving to confront the risks of electronic fraud and fake websites, they need help from clients, and the joint efforts of parties related to or providing support services to the banking services industry, such as telecommunications companies, the Internet, and social media platforms, regarding protecting data privacy and quickly dealing with fraud attempts and stealing clients’ funds, through monitoring and tracking electronic fraud operations at their beginnings, achieving greater cooperation, and exchange of information between relevant parties.

He stated that the messages, which

come as part of a continuous effort by “Warba” as part of “Let’s Be Aware,” talk about the expansion of electronic shopping and online banking services, and as a result of the boom in digital transactions, this type of theft and fake pages for donations have spread, in addition to obtaining passwords from users in devious ways. Fraudsters use mass text messages, advertisements for fake investments, and impersonation.

Therefore, the client remains the first line of defense, with his awareness and understanding of the seriousness of financial fraud, and contributing and cooperating in activating efforts to protect him through many precautions that must be taken seriously and without compromise.

Report suggests ways to keep global warming under 1.5C

‘Asian economies must ramp up wind and solar power’

Finance may be ‘junked’ from EU climate law, leaked memo shows

Critics say it could be unenforceable

LONDON, Nov 16, (AP): A flagship EU law intended to push European companies toward net zero faces being seriously weakened by member states, a confidential document passed to The Associated Press reveals, with firms seemingly no longer forced to implement Paris Agreement goals.

The Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive was designed to make companies eliminate environmental and human rights violations throughout all areas of their business. The legislation was meant to ensure firms’ operations were aligned with a global rise in temperatures of no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit). But a Nov. 9 briefing obtained by The AP details a watered-down proposal that would drop the entire financial sector from the initial law.

Banks and insurers are among Europe’s biggest contributors to global warming, by financing or insuring new oil and gas projects, or agribusinesses that chop down tropical rainforests. Nonprofits also warn the new proposal would mean firms merely need to have plans to hit low carbon targets, not actually deliver them - a recipe for greenwashing.

When it was unveiled, environmentalists hailed the law. But there’s currently a standoff on the final text between the European Parliament, which wants tough legislation, and the Council of the European Union, formed of ministers from all 27 member countries.

Many of the latter want less onerous provisions, worried about the impact of stringent regulation on their economies.

Spain currently holds the council’s presidency, and is trying to get all the member states to agree on their desired version of the law. Its attempt at breaking the impasse was set out in the confidential briefing.

The proposed rules on the financial sector had led to “difficult problems to overcome in working out a reasonable landing zone” with the European Parliament, it said. As a solution, “the Presidency proposes ... a possible exclusion of the financial sector which would delay the extension to the financial sector to a later stage.”

This came as a shock to campaigners, who warn if it’s kicked into the long grass, the inclusion of finance may never happen. The next European elections are due in June 2024, and many believe after that the chance to add to it will be gone.

As part of its plan to become climate neutral by 2050, the European Union has adopted a wide range of measures, from reducing energy consumption to sharply cutting transportation emissions and reforming the EU’s trading system for greenhouse gases. But with the elections looming, some leaders and lawmakers are concerned about antagonizing voters with binding legislation and restrictive requirements.

As recently as October, the council’s proposal was to create laws for the financial sector that



Trains are parked outside the train station in Munich, Germany, Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023. Germany’s national railway operator is running a drastically reduced service after a union called out drivers and others on a 20-hour strike aimed at increasing the pressure in a bitter dispute over pay and working hours. (AP)

German railway runs much-reduced schedule as drivers’ union stages a twenty-hour strike

BERLIN, Nov 16, (AP): Germany’s national railway operator ran a drastically reduced schedule on Thursday as a union called a 20-hour strike aimed at increasing the pressure in a bitter dispute over pay and working hours.

The strike by drivers and other workers in the GDL union began at 10 p.m. on Wednesday and was scheduled to end at 6 p.m. on Thursday. Limited “warning strikes” are a common tactic in German pay negotiations.

The main national railway operator, state-owned Deutsche Bahn, expected to run about 20% of its

normal long-distance service. Regional and local services also were affected, though to varying degrees because some are run by private operators and not all of those were targeted by the strike.

The dispute between Deutsche Bahn and GDL is in its early stages, but already is looking unusually difficult.

A central issue is the union’s call for shift workers’ hours to be reduced from 38 to 35 hours per week without a pay reduction, a demand at which the company so far has balked.

GDL is seeking a raise of 555

euros (\$593) per month for employees plus a payment of up to 3,000 euros (\$3,257) to counter inflation. After negotiations started last week, Deutsche Bahn said it had made an offer that amounts to an 11% raise.

Negotiations were due to resume on Thursday, but Deutsche Bahn canceled this week’s talks after GDL called the strike.

A dispute between the railway operator and a rival union, the larger and traditionally less aggressive EVG, was settled earlier this year after both sides accepted a proposal by arbitrators.

EU Presidency now prefers the weaker regulation, nonprofits warn. As a “proposed solution” to the standoff, it said companies should show an “obligation of means” to align with the Paris Agreement.

In legal terms, an “obligation of results” would have been much stronger, said Marion Lupin, a lawyer and policy officer at the European Coalition for Corporate Justice.

“Use of the phrase ‘obligation of means’ here has the effect of meaning companies only need to have a plan for aligning with Paris, as opposed to actually implementing that plan,” said Romain Hubert, a research fellow at Paris-based analysts the Institute for Climate Economics.

Friends of the Earth’s Grosdidier said the new proposed could even be counterproductive, as the adoption of a plan with no duty to implement was a “license to greenwash.”

A spokesman for the Spanish presidency of the EU Council declined to comment.

Ambassadors of member countries are due to discuss the new proposals Wednesday. If they agree on them, they will form the basis for the final negotiation with the European Parliament. Once negotiators from all side will have brokered a compromise, it will need to get formal approval from both the parliament and council to become a law across the bloc with about 450 million citizens.

HANOI, Vietnam, Nov 16, (AP): To meet the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit), nine major Asian economies must increase the share of electricity they get from renewable energy from the current 6% to at least 50% by 2030, according to a report by a German thinktank released Wednesday.

Nearly a third of that renewable energy should come from wind and solar power, said the report by researchers of Berlin-based Agora Energiewende. A fifth would be hydropower and other clean sources and the remainder, fossil fuels.

The study analyzed energy plans of both developing nations like Indonesia and Vietnam, where demand for energy is growing rapidly, and wealthier places like Japan and South Korea, which have among the highest burdens of per capita greenhouse gas emissions. It did not include China, the world’s biggest emitter of carbon, or India, another major contributor.

A global temperature increase of 1.5C (2.7F) since pre-industrial times is considered a critical climate threshold beyond which risks of catastrophes rise. The world will likely lose most of its coral reefs, a key ice sheet could kick into irreversible melt, and water shortages, heat waves and death from extreme weather may surge, according to an earlier United Nations scientific report.

Agora Energiewende researchers found that Asian nations are united in their heavy reliance on fossil fuels and national plans are not aligned with ambitious climate pledges announced by their governments.

By using proven technologies like wind and solar power, countries can avoid exceeding limits they have set and also limit investment in fossil fuel infrastructure they won’t need, said Mathis Rogner, the Southeast Asia project lead for Agora Energiewende and a co-author of the report.

To conform with 1.5C (2.7F) limit, the nine countries included in the study need to add 45 to 55 gigawatts of solar energy and 20 gigawatts of wind energy every year. In 2021, they had installed a total of just 11.9 gigawatts of solar energy and 1.5 gigawatts of wind energy.

The study reviewed energy plans of Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Taiwan.

As of the end of 2022, the U.S. had installed capacity of more than 144 GW of wind power and 110 GW of solar photovoltaic power.

The need for urgent action was echoed by United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who called for a “climate ambition supernova” after a U.N. analysis released Tuesday found that countries’ climate plans still lagged far behind what was needed.

Much of the clean energy capacity the world has added since 2016 has been concentrated in the U.S., China and India. Even though wind and solar technologies have been getting cheaper every year, among other Asian nations, only Japan and Vietnam derive more than a tenth of their capacity from the wind and the sun.

The vast increases in Chinese and Indian renewable energy capacity are an example for other Asian countries that lag behind. They also show how such transitions can create jobs and improve energy security, said Kanika Chawla, chief of staff at Sustainable Energy for All, the United Nations’ sustainable energy unit, who was not involved in the report.

Many countries still rely heavily on large hydropower dams, which can involve hefty social and environmental costs and are vulnerable to drought.

The report estimates that South Korea, Thailand, and Indonesia each should add between 8 and 14 gigawatts of solar power annually. Indonesia now gets less than 1% of its power from wind and solar energy, according to a study by the U.K.-based thinktank Ember. South Korea and Thailand also still mostly depend on fossil fuel.

Japan needs to add an average of 9 gigawatts of solar power a year and Vietnam, around 10 gigawatts, to meet end-of-the-decade targets. But the report says the goals are achievable since both countries have managed similar increases in the past.

The report says Pakistan, Bangladesh and the Philippines need to add between 1 and 3 gigawatts of energy from the sun each year to their grid.

South Korea needs the biggest spurt in wind power - an average increase of 8 gigawatts each year - while Japan needs to add about 3 gigawatts. Vietnam should be deploying around 4 gigawatts in new wind power capacity, the report said.

Lower potential for wind power in other countries means they should target between one and 2 gigawatts each year.

The report calls for a “paradigm shift” to speed up the transition to wind and solar power. That would include removing subsidies for oil and gas that make renewables less competitive, simplifying bureaucratic hurdles such as permits and facilitating investments.

At the same time, power grids need to be upgraded to allow for the variability and unpredictability of wind and solar power, it said.

Despite a common misconception that wind and solar are more expensive and less stable than fossil fuel-powered generation, “Our analysis shows that often much higher shares of wind and solar can be reliably integrated into the power system than the operators expect,” Rogner of Agora said.

Energy sector targeted

EU reaches deal to reduce highly polluting methane gas emissions

BRUSSELS, Nov 16, (AP): European Union negotiators reached a deal on Wednesday to reduce highly polluting methane gas emissions from the energy industry across the 27-nation bloc.

According to experts, one of the biggest causes of climate change is methane gas emissions - second only to carbon dioxide. The gas also causes serious health problems. Most emissions come from the energy, agriculture and waste sectors.

Under the provisional agreement announced just weeks before the COP28 climate conference, the fossil gas, oil and coal industry will be forced to “properly measure, monitor, report and verify their methane emissions according to the highest monitoring standards, and take action to reduce them,” said the European Commission, the EU’s executive arm.

The deal needs to be formally approved by both the European Parliament and the Council, which represents member states, before the new legislation enters into force.

The EU deal came as China and the United States pledged to accelerate their efforts to address climate change ahead of the climate conference, making a commitment to take steps to reduce emissions of methane and other greenhouse gases besides carbon dioxide.

The U.S., the EU and other nations have previously committed to reduce overall methane emissions worldwide by 30% by 2030.

The Commission said the compro-

mise requires operators to report about quantification and measurements of methane emissions at source level, and forces oil and gas companies to detect and repair methane leaks on EU soil. It also bans routine venting and flaring, which release methane in the atmosphere, and limits venting from thermal coal mines from 2027, with stricter conditions introduced after 2031.

“It requires companies in the oil, gas and coal sectors to carry out an inventory of closed, inactive, plugged and abandoned assets, such as wells and mines, to monitor their emissions and to adopt a plan to mitigate these emissions as soon as possible,” the Commission added.

The EU methane regulation for the energy sector is part of the so-called European Green Deal that seeks to establish the world’s most ambitious climate and biodiversity targets.

Since the EU imports large quantities of oil, gas and coal, the deal also stipulates that starting in 2027 any exporters outside the bloc must have “the same monitoring, reporting and verification obligations” as EU producers, the Commission said.

Flavia Sollazzo, from the non-profit group Environmental Defense Fund Europe, said the methane regulation plans send a clear message ahead of COP28 that “climate responsibility doesn’t stop at European borders.”

“As the world’s biggest buyer of natural gas, the EU is strategically leveraging its economic influence to drive global reductions in methane emissions,” Sollazzo said.



A view of a methane digester at the New Hope Dairy in Galt, California, on Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2016. European Union negotiators reached a deal on Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2023, to reduce highly polluting methane gas emissions from the energy sector across the 27-nation bloc. One of the biggest causes of climate change is methane gas emissions, second only to carbon dioxide, and the gas also causes serious health problems. Most emissions come from the energy, agriculture and waste sectors. (AP)

Economy has lost momentum during a tough year: EU commission

FRANKFURT, Germany, Nov 16, (AP): The European Union’s executive commission lowered growth its expectations for this year and next, saying the economy “has lost momentum” as inflation discourages consumers and higher interest rates deter borrowing for purchases and investment.

The outlook was lowered to 0.6% from 0.8% for the 20 countries that use the euro currency, and to 1.2% from 1.3% for next year, the commission said Wednesday in its autumn economic forecast, which revised figures from its previous forecast in September.

And the outlook is exposed to risks of trouble spreading from Russia’s ongoing war against Ukraine and the Israel-Hamas war

in Gaza.

So far, the conflict in Gaza has not interfered with oil supplies from Mideast producers such as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, and oil prices have fallen recently, while Europe’s underground natural gas storage facilities are full ahead of the winter heating season.

Nevertheless, “the main risk that we see is energy prices,” said Paolo Gentiloni, the EU’s commissioner for economy. “I think we are all aware that if this conflict escalates, if it involves neighboring countries in some way ... it could create spillovers on energy prices.”

While growth remains anemic, unemployment remains near re-

cord lows and growth should improve as inflation falls and leaves people with more spending more, the commission said. Meanwhile, government deficits and debt have declined after a burst of stimulus spending during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Gentiloni said at a news conference in Brussels that “growth momentum in the EU remains very weak.” Hopes for a recovery are being sustained by investment and spending from the EU’s pandemic recovery fund, and from a strong labor market, which provided “the main underlying force behind the outlook” for growth, he said.

“Importantly, this forecast foresees wage growth exceeding infla-

tion, finally allowing workers to at least partially recovery purchasing power, Gentiloni said.

The economy has barely grown this year, recording zero increase in the first quarter, 0.2% growth in the third, and a fall of 0.1% in output in the third quarter.

Inflation declined to 2.9% in October from its peak of 10.6% a year earlier as the European Central Bank swiftly raised its key interest rate benchmark from minus 0.5% to 4% in just over a year. Higher interest rates are the typical central bank tool against inflation. But they can also weigh on growth by making credit more expensive for consumer purchases or for business investment in new offices or production facilities.

Singer releases her first rock ‘n’ roll album ‘Rockstar’

Parton’s new album is a detour from country music

LOS ANGELES, Nov 16, (AP): Last year, Dolly Parton was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame - against her wishes. Now, almost exactly a year later, she’s releasing her first rock ‘n’ roll album, appropriately titled “Rockstar,” on Friday.

In 2022, Parton shared a statement announcing that she didn’t feel she had “earned” the right to be nominated, but the Hall inducted her anyway.

“I just didn’t think that I had done enough in the rock world to be considered, to be put in the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame when there were so many great rock artists that are not even in the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame,” Parton told The Associated Press in a phone interview.

“They were going to put me in anyway, so I just accepted it gracefully. But I thought, ‘Well, I’m going to have to earn my keep,’” she says. Parton once thought she’d record a “Linda Ronstadt-type rock album,” but had felt she was getting too old. This presented a fresh opportunity.

“I jumped on that like a duck on a Junebug,” she laughs.

She started covering some of her favorite rock ‘n’ roll classics. Some tracks feature the original artists: “Every Breath You Take” with Sting, “Baby, I Love Your Way” with Peter Frampton, “Heart of Glass” with Debbie Harry, “Heartbreaker” with Pat Benatar. Some are creative collaborations: “(I Can’t Get No) Satisfaction” with Pink and Brandi Carlile, “Night Moves” with Chris Stapleton, “Stairway to Heaven” with Lizzo on flute.

She wanted Mick Jagger and Lionel Richie, but the timing didn’t work. She did, however, manage to reunite the Beatles. Sort of. Long before the release of “Now and Then,” Parton asked Paul McCartney if he would sing on a cover of “Let It Be.”

“He said, ‘Yeah, I’d be happy to play on it, too, if you want me to,’” she says. Then Ringo Starr replaced the drums they’d recorded on the track.

Earlier this year, Starr told the AP he’s working on a country music EP - to which Parton reacts, “I’ll join them if they want me to!”

“I’d definitely do some country singing for some of the rockers going country,” she says.

Original

“Rockstar” also features nine original songs. Some have been unearthed - the lovelorn My Blue Tears,” for example, was written when Parton was with “The Porter Wagoner Show” in the late 1960s and early ‘70s, and the cheeky “I Dreamed About Elvis” was written over two decades ago. It features the ‘50s vocal quartet Jordanaires, recorded right before they broke up in 2013, and Ronnie McDowell, who plays the Elvis character in the song.

“I had him come in and do the Elvis voice on it, just to kind of sum up that whole story about Elvis,” she says. She’s referring to the now-infamous event in which Elvis Presley said he wanted to

record her hit, “I Will Always Love You.” She turned him down - because Presley’s manager, Colonel Tom Parker, wanted half of the song’s publishing rights.

Those sweet songs contrast with the album’s lead single. “World on Fire” is theatrical arena rock to the highest degree - big drums and bigger power chords - sonically ascendent and thematically frustrated.

“I’m very sensitive,” she says. “I care about people, human suffering and all of that.”

“World On Fire,” she says, was written after she thought the album was completed. But after watching so many natural disasters last year, she says, “I thought, ‘Well, I’ve got to write this song and I’ve got to call another session, because I think the song needs to be heard. I need to say this. People need to hear it, people that are feeling that way but don’t know how to express it. And I just feel like sometimes it is my place to do that.”

With lyrics like “Greedy politicians, present and past / They wouldn’t know the truth if it bit ‘em in the ass,” many assumed Parton was getting political - having spent the entirety of her career impartial.

“I’m not political. I hate politics,” she says. “This is not about politics. This is about saving the world as opposed to destroying it.”

For now, Parton says “Rockstar” is her first and last rock album. She’s currently adapting her life story into a Broadway musical and wants to explore other genres.

Variety



This image released by A24 shows Cailee Spaeny as Priscilla, in a scene from ‘Priscilla.’ (AP)

Film

Cast reflects on trust, Sofia and souvenirs

Spaeny and Elordi proud of ‘Priscilla’

WASHINGTON: Comedian **Kevin Hart** has been chosen to receive the Kennedy Center’s Mark Twain Prize for lifetime achievement in American humor, capping a three-decade career that has seen him rise from the open mics of **Philadelphia** to become one of his generation’s most successful performers.

Hart, 44, launched his career as a teenager performing at venues such as The Laff House in his native Philadelphia under the name of Lil Kev. He recalled his early stand-up performances as a string of brutal failures that included being booed off the stage multiple times and at one point, he claimed, having a piece of chicken thrown at him on stage.

Gradually, Hart honed a signature style that combined his diminutive stature, expressive face and motormouth delivery and made him a wildly successful touring act. He made his movie debut in the 2002 film “Paper Soldiers” and came to mainstream fame through a string of scene-stealing cameos in mega-hits such as 2005’s “The 40-Year-Old Virgin.”

Hart has gone on to become one of the country’s most bankable and ubiquitous performers, with 11 of his films opening at No. 1 at the box office. All told, his films have grossed more than \$4.23 billion in global revenue.

“For over three decades, Kevin Hart has been a source of laughter across **America** and throughout the world with his iconic characters, inimitable physical comedy, and reliable narratives,” Kennedy Center President **Deborah F. Rutter** said in a statement Wednesday. “We express our gratitude to Kevin for enriching American culture and look forward to celebrating his exceptional career.”

Now in its 25th year, the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor annually honors performers who have made a lasting impact on humor and culture. Honorees receive a bronze bust of Twain, the iconic American writer and satirist whose real name was **Samuel Clemens**.

Hart, in a statement, noted that the launch of the Mark Twain Prize in 1998, with inaugural

LOS ANGELES, Nov 16, (AP): As a child of the South, actor Cailee Spaeny grew up steeped in Graceland mythology, memorabilia and Elvis Presley tunes.

Her mother loved Elvis and it wasn’t unusual for a trip to that famous house in Memphis, Tennessee, to count as a family vacation. Priscilla Presley was of course part of that. But Spaeny would find there was much more than she’d ever known when she got the opportunity to play her in Sofia Coppola’s new film, “Priscilla,” now in theaters.

“I had no idea about her side of the story and what her experience was growing up in Graceland,” Spaeny said in a recent interview.

The film is based on Presley’s 1985 memoir “Elvis and Me,” a diary-like account of her years with the King. She recounts meeting him at 14 in Wiesbaden, Germany, and moving to Graceland not too long after, where she finished high school. She talks about her unconventional hours, staying up all night with Elvis and trying to stay awake in school the next day.

She details how he dictated her look including her hair (black and big!), eye makeup (more!) and clothing choices (no prints!), their passion for one another, his volatility and her isolation. And perhaps most importantly how she, and everyone around him, just wanted to make him happy- even after she chose to leave.

Spaeny got to spend some time with Presley before filming began, though she wasn’t entirely prepared to be as star-struck as she was.

“I remember when I first met her, I had all these questions ready to go. I was so prepared. And then I just see her sort of walking my way and they all just leave you because she has such a presence about her,” Spaeny said. “The way she carries herself is really like no one else. I mean, she really is American royalty.”

She was equally grateful that Presley did not hang around set during the shoot where she and Jacob Elordi, the rising Australian actor cast as Elvis, had only 30 days to tell this expansive but intimate story with hundreds of costume changes and quite a few wigs too.

“You just don’t know what you’re getting into when someone is cast as your co-star,” Spaeny said. “And when you have that little time, you’re shooting massive scenes every single day. You don’t get a light day. So to be able to go into this project with someone who took it as seriously as he did and really took the time to find those nuances and to do the prep beforehand was such a relief.”

Elordi said they quickly developed an “unspoken language” that helped carry them through. As an actor, he loved going deep into why Elvis behaved the way he did.

“You have to establish a base where you can just fall into this immediate love,” he said. “We would sort of look each other in the eyes and it would just say, ‘You’re going to do this? I’m going to do this.’”

Challenges

The beehive hairdo, Spaeny laughed, took more getting used to. She found herself having to walk “like a doll” and sometimes she’d forget its height when getting into a car. But the wigs would be a grounding factor in a shoot that often had her playing very different ages in the same day.

“You just got to do what you got to do,” Spaeny said. “It was just one of the many fun little challenges along the way. The hair, makeup and costumes were really essential in knowing what age she is and where she is emotionally. That was the thing that I held on to.”

And it wasn’t just a dress up extravaganza for Spaeny either. Elordi got to wear custom looks throughout.

“It was kind of as cool as it sounds,” he said. “You know, for me personally, it was like, ‘Do you want to be Elvis Presley for 30 days and wear Valentino clothes that are tailored to your body?’ Yes. That’s awesome.”

Though Spaeny might have less dialogue than Elordi, her performance has been making waves since its debut - a breakout that has already been recognized by the Venice Film Festival and is sure to garner more nominations as awards season picks up.

“She can convey so much emotion with just her

face,” Coppola said. “It’s mysterious but the camera can pick up on it. She’s so photogenic and some people just jump off the screen, but you can connect to them in an emotional way.”

In one scene, where Elvis tells a very pregnant Priscilla that he wants her to move out and she calls his bluff, Coppola debated using narration. She’d loved what Presley had written about that moment and wanted to capture that, but she also wanted to have the film stay in the present. And Spaeny was up to the challenge.

“I talked to Cailee and we did another take and she did some little shift,” Coppola said. “You see halfway down the hall, her face changes with resolution. It was so subtle. I don’t know how she did it. It’s a talent that some actresses can really just convey so much without saying anything.”

And though things went quickly and sometimes it felt like Spaeny couldn’t feel her feet on the ground, she was grateful that her director kept a calm, focused set. It was, she said, the opposite of chaos.

“I’ve never really worked with someone quite like her, and the way she handles herself on the set,” Spaeny said. “She knows when to take things seriously and when to have fun. Everyone just brings their A-game because of her. She just leads with kindness. She wants to be collaborative and she has a clear vision.”

Though both Spaeny and Elordi have trouble watching themselves on screen, they are proud of “Priscilla.” Elordi said he felt honored to be “part of the way that she wants her story to be told.”

And both walked away with something tangible from whirlwind too. Elordi said he has a few “secret things.” Spaeny got something too, but it might be a bit much even for someone who grew up surrounded by Elvis stuff.

“I have this really strange mural of myself as Priscilla. It was a beautiful painting, but it’s me as Priscilla that was hanging on the walls of Graceland. I just am like, what do I do with this? I can’t put it anywhere,” she laughed. “I think I’ve got to, like, ship it to my grandma. I think she’d love it.”

recipient **Richard Pryor**, basically coincided with the start of his comedic career. (AP)

□ □ □

JAKARTA, Indonesia: More than 200 conservative Muslims marched in Indonesia’s capital on Wednesday, calling for the cancellation of a Coldplay con-



Martin



Hart

cert that night over the British band’s support for the LGBTQ+ community.

The protesters, marching about 1 kilometer (half a mile) away from the concert venue in Jakarta where the band was set to perform, held a large banner that read: “Reject, cancel and disband Coldplay concerts.” It described the band

as an LGBTQ+ “propagandist,” saying its stance damages “faith and morals.”

The same protest group also staged demonstrations last week at several locations in Jakarta, including the British Embassy.

Indonesia is secular and has a long history of religious tolerance, but a small extremist fringe

has become more vocal in recent years.

Coldplay is renowned for interlacing its values with its shows, such as the band’s push for environmental sustainability. Lead singer **Chris Martin** has been known to wear rainbow colors and wave gay pride flags during performances. (AP)

People & Places

Music

Tops Latin Grammys

Barrera the producer behind ‘favorite hits’

MEXICO CITY, Nov 16, (AP): **Édgar Barrera** is one of the most in-demand people in music. He’s worked with everyone from Madonna and Shakira to Peso Pluma and Karol G. He has one Grammy and 18 Latin Grammys already to his name, and is the top nominee at Thursday’s 2023 Latin Grammys ceremony.

Unlike most of his contemporaries dominating the music industry, though, Barrera is a producer and songwriter first, recently receiving a songwriter of the year nod for the Grammys in February.

“Being an artist who is a public figure and things like that doesn’t really catch my attention,” he told The Associated Press in Spanish during a video call from Miami earlier this year. “I don’t like that prominence or anything like that. Being hidden behind, writing the songs, producing, doing what I like to do, what I know how to do, that is enough, and I don’t need the mark of being the artist, of being named.”

Yet named he is - 13 times at this year’s Latin Grammys, held in Seville, Spain, including in the biggest categories: recording of the year (for “La formula” by Maluma and Marc Anthony), album of the year (for “De Adentro Pa Afuera” by Camilo) and song of the year (twice - for “NASA” by Camilo and Alejandro Sanz and “un x100to” by Grupo Frontera and Bad Bunny).

He’s also nominated in the brand-new songwriter of the year category of the Latin Grammys, and says he’s proud to be recognized alongside his collaborators and mentors. Barrera walks the line between what a producer is and what an artist is, feeling better behind the console than in front of a microphone.

“I am here to provide a service to artists,” he said. “I am there to facilitate what they want to say in their career, and that is my job.”

Rhythm

It’s impossible to confine Barrera - or the artists with whom he works - to a single genre.

“Sometimes I spend like weeks doing urban things and then weeks doing regional Mexican, then another week doing pop, tropical also another week,” he said. “I do a little bit of everything, so as not to get saturated with a single rhythm or a single sound.”

It was Barrera’s bet to introduce Bad Bunny to regional Mexican music - and, in the process, work with an artist with whom he had always wanted to enter the studio.

“It’s very difficult, when the artist is so good at what he does, for example, Bad Bunny is one of the best (expletive) composers the industry has and with the best results,” he said. “What can I contribute to Bad Bunny, what can I send him to make him look at me again? He doesn’t need anyone’s help.”

Fortunately for him, the Puerto Rican reggaetonero had wanted to do something with a Mexican touch for a long time.

On the other hand, there’s Grupo Frontera, until recently a relatively unknown band who Barrera encouraged to go from its beginnings playing cover songs at parties to performing at Mexico City’s Zócalo during the Mexican Independence Day festivities in September. (“From playing for 20 people last year in April to playing for 220,000 is a great achievement,” Barrera said.)

Barrera had an immediate connection with the band because they are “kids from my town” and grew up in the same region on the border between Texas and the Mexican state of Tamaulipas. Barrera, who was born in McAllen, Texas, grew up in Miguel Alemán, Tamaulipas, and has dual nationality, defines himself as a man of the frontier.

“We come from the same culture, we speak the same language,” he said of Grupo Frontera.

“Un x100to” is one of the few regional Mexican music songs that have managed to reach the song of the year category at this year’s Latin Grammys.

Barrera is also nominated three times in the best tropical song category: for “La formula” again, “Ambulancia” by Camilo and Camila Cabello, and “El merengue” by Manuel Turizo and Marshmello. He wondered how Marshmello would translate to the genre, but Barrera was pleasantly surprised with the American DJ and producer’s interest in Latin music.

“He told me, ‘It’s not about translating anything to my sound, I want to get into your sound, I want to make a merengue, teach me how to make a merengue,’” Barrera recalled.

Being nominated for producer of the year again represents all the behind-the-scenes work Barrera enjoys, though he cautions it’s “much more than just writing a song.”

“I don’t wait for things to happen, I always make things happen in the studio,” he said, summing up his overall approach.

And he ultimately measures his achievements not by how many trophies he accepts on stage, but by the streets.

“For me, the greatest success that a song has is the acceptance of the public and that the public consumes it,” he said. “There is a mariachi (in Miami) that plays every night, and they are playing my songs all the time, that for me is the reward for what one makes music at the end of the day.”

Also:

LOS ANGELES: Danny Brown is one of the most inventive, at times, absurdist contemporary rappers in the game - so when he releases a new full-length record, there’s no telling which direction he’s moving in. “Quaranta,” named after the Italian word for “40” - though it certainly sounds similar to a less attractive “qu-” word in “quarantine” - is Brown’s sixth solo studio album, a highly-anticipated follow-up to 2019’s “Uknwwhatimsayin,” via Warp Records. He considers it a “spiritual sequel” to “XXX,” his 2011 break out album. On “Quaranta,” the lead single “Tantor” teeters is skunk-y avant-rap, a track that plays like an unearthed recording captured decades in some technofuture. He’s called the album his more personal to date, written and recorded before long stint in rehab. “It was almost like, if I died, this is what I have to say,” he told Rolling Stone.

Twenty years ago, a mall goth battle cry rung out across the world: “Bring Me to Life,” the lead single from nu-metal alt-rock band Evanescence’s debut album “Fallen” connected with an apathetic audience searching for dooming catharsis - frontwoman Amy Lee’s airy soprano challenged traditional images of the genre. Then, of course, were the other Myspace-ready records on “Fallen”: “My Immortal,” “Everybody’s Fool,” and “Going Under.” Now, two decades removed, “Fallen” is getting a remastered release - and it sounds as immediate as ever.



Dolly Parton poses for a picture before the Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy Ceremony at Gotham Hall in New York on Oct. 13, 2022. Parton released a new album ‘Rockstar.’ (AP) – Details Page 11

Music

Singer’s bold reinvention on ‘Black Mona Lisa’

Porter pivots to dance music to heal

NEW YORK, Nov 16, (AP): Billy Porter is strutting off in an entirely new sonic direction on his fifth album. The Broadway, runway and TV star has pivoted to dance music.

“I’m a new artist. There’s a transformation that has happened,” the Tony-, Emmy- and Grammy-winner tells The Associated Press. “I’ve been offered a real second chance.”

“Black Mona Lisa” sees Porter embrace club, house and old-school disco over 12 tracks, creating a warm, welcoming space that showcases his voice and redemption story.

“It’s been fun. It’s been a healing. It’s been beyond anything that I could have dreamed,” he says. “I’m trying to bring some positivity into the world. I’m trying to heal people.”

The songs veer from the dance anthem “Broke a Sweat,” to the soulful “Stranger Things,” the four-on-the-floor of “Baby Was a Dancer” to the pop of “New Shoes.”

“I had a lot of different genres in this album and we manage to stay coherent because the cohesive energy comes from me,” he says. “It’s taken me 30 years to figure out how to do that.”

There’s a playful strut to the lyrics, with a confidence Porter says he feels now. On the song “Funk Is on the One,” he sings: “They give me Emmy from the TV like a showgirl/Gotta Grammy so big I gotta park it on the curb/Rubbing elbows with the superstars like Big Bird.”

“It’s the first time that I am singing music that feels a little bit like a flex, a little bit like a brag,” Porter says. “I would never, ever in my life have sung anything like that before now. I embrace it, but sometimes I go, ‘OK, calm down, girl. Calm down.’”

The bright album stands in stark re-

lief to his 1997 debut, his self-titled R&B collection, which largely languished despite his Tony-winning voice (“Kinky Boots”), Emmy-winning pathos (“Pose”) and Met Gala attitude.

“I was told that it would never work out for me because my queerness would be my liability. And it was - in all areas. And then it wasn’t,” he says. “I’m grateful that I lived long enough to see the day where it wasn’t, where my liability has become my superpower.”

Porter found a soulmate in songwriter and producer Justin Tranter, who has written hits for artists such as Britney Spears, Linkin Park, Kelly Clarkson, Justin Bieber, Ariana Grande and Lady Gaga.

Journey

“No matter how fearless this person is, no matter how confident Billy is, this business burned him real bad decades ago, and so I did the best I could to make sure that he felt heard, to make sure that he felt understood,” said Tranter, who is nominated for songwriter of the year at this year’s Grammys.

Tranter said listeners who just want to dance and have fun can enjoy Porter’s album, but those who listen carefully will have a whole journey to digest. The title track, in particular, is a favorite.

“‘Black Mona Lisa’ is to me Billy distilled into a song, where it is confident, it is vulnerable, it is flamboyant, it is over the top and it is serious, all at the same time. And I think that’s what is inspiring,” they said.

While dance music is often dismissed as rarely introspective, Porter fuses both huge hooks and poignant, personal lyrics to his songs. He opens “More to Learn,” with the lyrics: “I’m

alive, what an accomplishment for my kind.”

“I’m 54 years old. I came out during the AIDS crisis. I am HIV positive. On paper, I’m not supposed to be here,” Porter says when asked about the lyric.

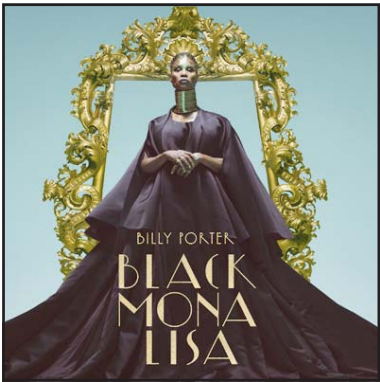
Porter is now invited to Dick Clark’s New Year’s Rockin’ Eve, helps light the National Christmas Tree and sits as a guest judge on “Dancing With the Stars.” But he spent 13 years away from the business after finding his career stalling. He returned and never looked back after winning the 2013 best leading-man Tony Award for “Kinky Boots.” He has now become a producer, backing 2022’s best musical Tony winner “A Strange Loop.”

Porter then put out three albums of Broadway and Broadway-adjacent music, including 2017’s “Billy Porter Presents the Soul of Richard Rodgers,” which gave some funk and hip-hop feel to some standards.

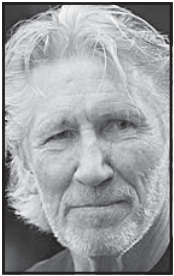
In some ways, he points to that last album as a bridge for some of his mainly white and over-60 fans from Broadway to follow him to where he is now. “I tried to take them by the hands and cross them over to a sound that they might not recognize,” he says.

On a deeper level, “Black Mona Lisa” is a bit like a veteran offering advice to the next generation, like on “Audacity” where Porter sings “The audacity to show up honestly/How dare I believe/That’s it’s OK be me” and on “Children,” where he counsels: “Some people criticize the way you live/But don’t you apologize, or dare submit.”

“I grew up in the church, and while I left the church for reasons beyond my control, there were wonderful and astonishing, beautiful things that I learned,” he says.



This cover image released by Republic Records shows ‘Black Mona Lisa’ by Billy Porter. (AP)



Waters



Jones

Variety

CHICAGO: Iconic music producer **Quincy Jones** and entertainers **Jennifer Hudson** and **Chance the Rapper** are now co-owners of the historic Ramova Theatre on Chicago’s South Side.

Their ownership was announced Wednesday, according to the Chicago Sun-Times.

The Ramova has been closed for nearly four decades. Developer and co-owner **Tyler Nevis** bought the property and an adjacent lot from the city in 2017 for \$1, the newspaper reported.

Jones, Hudson and Chance the Rapper, whose real name is **Chancellor Bennett**, are Chicago natives.

“My mother always taught us to take care of home first, so to support the rehabilitation of this extraordinary theater with such a rich history in Chicago means more to me than one could imagine,” Hudson said.

Bennett says “Chicago will always be part” of who he is.

“I joined the team at Ramova to give back to the city that’s given me so much and to provide a stage to showcase the incredible talent Chicago has to offer,” he said.

The Ramova opened in 1929 as a single-screen movie palace. It had shut down by 1985 and was spared demolition. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2021.

When it reopens, the renovated theater will feature a 1,500-seat live music venue and beer garden and grill. No opening date has been announced.

New York-based Other Half Brewing also is a partner in the venture.

“With Ramova, I see a future where the rich cultural heritage of Chicago shines even brighter alongside the country’s most talented artists, which will inspire future generations to come and bring glory to America’s Second City,” Jones said. (AP)



RIO DE JANEIRO: Hotels in **Argentina** and **Uruguay** reportedly rejected reservations for **Pink Floyd** co-founder **Roger Waters** over accusations of antisemitism leveled at the British singer known for his pro-Palestinian views.

Waters was due to stay in Argentina’s capital of **Buenos Aires** ahead of shows

scheduled for Nov. 21-22 as part of his “This is Not a Drill” tour, but the reservations fell through, with hotels citing a lack of availability, the Argentine

newspaper Pagina 12 reported.

Hotels in **Montevideo**, in neighboring **Uruguay**, also refused to host him but did not provide a reason, a Pagina 12 story on



Archie Madekwe arrives at the premiere of ‘Saltburn’ on Tuesday, Nov. 14, at The Theatre at Ace Hotel in Los Angeles. (AP)

Wednesday quoted Waters as saying.

The singer said that as a result he was still in **Sao Paulo, Brazil**, where he performed a few days ago.

“I had a dinner date on the 16th with **José Mujica**, the former president of Uruguay, who is a friend of mine. And I can’t go (...) because the Israeli lobby and whatever they call themselves have canceled me,” Waters told Pagina 12. (AP)



LOS ANGELES: November is the month for noir on the Criterion Channel (which is hosting a series of favorites) and on TCM, which will marathon classics like “Detour” (1945) and “The Narrow Margin” (1952) on Friday, Nov. 17. But also seek out the Criterion Channel’s “Women of the West” series, streaming this month. The western may be a predominantly male genre, but some of the best ever made are centered on strong frontier women who back down from no one. Among them here are **Marlene Dietrich** (“Rancho Notorious”) and **Barbara Stanwyck** (“Forty Guns,” “The Fluries”), but nothing beats **Nicholas Ray**’s 1954 Technicolor masterpiece “Johnny Guitar.” **Joan Crawford** as saloon owner Vivienne remains one of the most raging, smoldering performances you’ll ever see. (AP)

The Conversation

Research on music-induced insulin release offers hope for diabetics

Insulin injections could one day be replaced with rock music

By Bill Sullivan
Indiana University

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

More than 37 million people in the US have diabetes. According to the American Diabetes Association, 8.4 million Americans needed to take insulin in 2022 to lower their blood sugar. Insulin, however, is tricky to deliver into the body orally because it is a protein easily destroyed in the stomach.

While researchers are developing pills that resist digestion in the stomach and skin patches that monitor blood sugar and automatically release insulin, the most reliable way currently to take insulin is through frequent injections.

I am a professor of pharmacology and toxicology at Indiana University School of Medicine, where my colleagues and I study drug delivery systems. Researching innovative new ways to get medications into the body can improve how well patients respond to and comply with treatments. An easier way to take insulin would be music to the ears of many people with diabetes, especially those who aren't fans of needles.

In a recent study in The Lancet Diabetes & Endocrinology, researchers engineered cells to release insulin in response to specific sound waves: the music of the band Queen. Though it still has a long way to go, this new system may one day replace the insulin injection with a dose of rock 'n' roll.

Diabetes is a chronic disease that arises when the body fails to make enough insulin or respond to insulin. Insulin is a hormone the pancreas makes in response to the rise in sugar concentration in the blood when the body digests food.

This crucial hormone gets those sugars out of the blood and into muscles and tissues where it is used or stored for energy.

Without insulin, blood sugar levels remain high and cause symptoms that include frequent urination, thirst, blurry vision and fatigue. Left untreated, this hyperglycemia can be life-threatening, causing organ damage and a diabetic coma. According to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, diabetes is the No. 1 cause of kidney failure, lower-limb amputations and adult blindness, making it the eighth most common cause of death in the US.

Symptoms

Treating diabetes is straightforward: When the body is lacking insulin, give it more insulin. Scientists have mastered how to make the hormone, but direct injection is the only effective way to get it into the body. Diabetic patients usually have to carry insulin vials and needles wherever they go. Considering that many people fear needles, this may not be an ideal way to manage the disease.

This challenge has sparked researchers to look into new ways to deliver insulin more easily.

Cells are the basic unit of life. Your body is composed of hundreds of different types of cells that carry out specialized functions. In some diabetic patients, the pancreatic beta cells that make insulin have malfunctioned or died. What if there were a way to replace these defective cells with new ones that could produce insulin on demand?

That's where cellular engineering comes in. Cellular engineering involves genetically modifying a cell to perform a specific function, like producing insulin. Installing the gene that makes insulin into cells is not difficult, but controlling when the

cell makes it has been a challenge. Insulin should be made only in response to high blood sugar levels following a meal, not at any other time.

Scientists have been exploring the idea of using ion channels - proteins embedded in a cell's membrane that regulate the flow of ions such as calcium or chloride - like a remote-controlled device to activate cellular activity. Cells with specific types of ion channel in their membranes can be activated in response to certain stimuli, such as light, electricity, magnetic fields or mechanical stimulation. Such ion channels exist naturally as sensory devices to help cells and organisms respond to light, magnetism, touch or sound. For example, hair cells in the inner ear have mechanosensitive ion channels that respond to sound waves.

Bioengineering professor Martin Fussenegger of ETH Zurich, a university in Basel, Switzerland, led a recent study that used a mechanosensitive ion channel as a remote control to signal cells to make insulin in response to specific sound waves.

These "MUSIC-controlled, insulin-releasing cells" - MUSIC is short for music-inducible cellular control - were cultured in the lab next to loudspeakers. His team tested a variety of musical genres of different intensities and speeds.

Implanted

Among the songs they played were pop songs like Michael Jackson's "Billie Jean," Queen's "We Will Rock You" and the Eagles' "Hotel California"; classical pieces such as Beethoven's "Für Elise" and Mozart's "Alla Turca"; and movie themes such as Soundgarden's "Live To Rise," which was featured in "The Avengers," a Marvel film. They found that pop music heavy in low bass and movie soundtracks were better able to trigger insulin release compared with classical music, and cells were able to release insulin within minutes of exposure to the song.

In particular, they found that the Queen song "We Will Rock You" most faithfully mimicked the rate of insulin release in normal pancreatic beta cells.

The team then implanted the MUSIC-controlled, insulin-releasing cells into diabetic mice. Listening to the Queen song for 15 minutes once a day returned the amount of insulin in their blood to normal levels. Blood sugar levels returned to normal as well. In contrast, mice that were not exposed to the song remained hyperglycemic.

Despite these promising results, much more research is needed before this musical approach to producing insulin can be considered for human use.

One concern is the possibility of making too much insulin, which can also cause health problems. Fussenegger's study found that talking and background noise such as the racket made by airplanes, lawn mowers or firetrucks did not trigger the insulin production system in mice. The music also needed to be played close to the abdomen where the MUSIC-controlled, insulin-releasing cells were implanted.

In an email, Fussenegger explained that extensive clinical trials must be performed to ensure efficacy and safety of the technique and to determine how long the cellular implants can last. As with introducing any foreign material into the body, tissue rejection is also a concern.

Cellular engineering may one day provide a much-needed alternative to frequent injections of insulin for the millions of people with diabetes around the world. In the future, different cell types could be engineered to release other drugs in the body more conveniently. (AP)

Charting the course to a lunar space station

Scientists suspect ice hiding on Moon

By Paul Hayne
University of Colorado Boulder

Building a space station on the Moon might seem like something out of a science fiction movie, but each new lunar mission is bringing that idea closer to reality. Scientists are homing in on potential lunar ice reservoirs in permanently shadowed regions, or PSRs. These are key to setting up any sort of sustainable lunar infrastructure.

In late August 2023, India's Chandrayaan-3 lander touched down on the lunar surface in the south polar region, which scientists suspect may harbor ice. This landing marked a significant milestone not only for India but for the scientific community at large.

For planetary scientists like me, measurements from instruments onboard Chandrayaan-3's Vikram lander and its small, six-wheeled rover Pragyan provide a tantalizing up-close glimpse of the parts of the Moon most likely to contain ice. Earlier observations have shown ice is present in some permanently shadowed regions, but estimates vary widely regarding the amount, form and distribution of these ice deposits.

My team at the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics has a goal of understanding where water on the Moon came from. Comets or asteroids crashing into the Moon are options, as are volcanic activity and solar wind.

Each of these events leaves behind a distinctive chemical fingerprint, so if we can see those fingerprints, we might be able to trace them to the source of water. For example, sulfur is expected in higher amounts in lunar ice deposits if volcanic activity rather than comets created the ice.

Temperature

Like water, sulfur is a "volatile" element on the Moon, because on the lunar surface it's not very stable. It's easily vaporized and lost to space. Given its temperamental nature, sulfur is expected to accumulate only in the colder parts of the Moon.

While the Vikram lander didn't land in a permanently shadowed region, it measured the temperature at a high southern latitude of 69.37°S and was able to identify sulfur in soil grains on the lunar surface. The sulfur measurement is intriguing because sulfur may point toward the source of the Moon's water.

So, scientists can use temperature as a way of finding where volatiles like these may end up. Temperature measurements from Chandrayaan-3 could allow scientists to test models of volatile stability and figure out how recently the sulfur may have accumulated at the landing site.

Vikram and Pragyan are the newest in a series of spacecraft that have helped scientists study water on the Moon. NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter launched in 2009 and has spent the past several years observing the Moon from orbit. I'm a co-investigator on LRO, and I use its data to study the distribution, form and abundance of water on the lunar poles.

Both India's Chandrayaan-1 orbiter and LRO have allowed my colleagues and me to use ultraviolet and near-infrared observations to identify ice in the permanently shadowed regions by measuring the chemical fingerprints of water. We've definitively detected water ice in some of these regions inside the coldest shadows at the lunar poles, but we're still not sure why the ice isn't more widespread.

On Mercury, by contrast, the permanently



In this image from video provided by SpaceX, the company's Starship launches from Boca Chica, Texas, on April 20, 2023. SpaceX is aiming for another test flight of its mega rocket on Friday, Nov. 17, now that's it's gotten the final OK from the Federal Aviation Administration. The FAA issued its license Wednesday, Nov. 15, noting that SpaceX has met all safety, environmental and other requirements. (AP)

SpaceX to try again to launch its mega rocket into orbit

SpaceX is aiming for another test flight of its mega rocket on Friday after getting final approval from federal regulators.

The first launch of Starship ended in an explosion minutes after lifting off from South Texas in April.

The Federal Aviation Administration issued its license Wednesday, noting that SpaceX has met safety, environmental and other requirements to launch again. Elon Musk's rocket company said it was targeting Friday morning.

After the self-destruct system blew up the rocket over the Gulf of Mexico, SpaceX made dozens of improvements to the nearly 400-foot (121-meter) rocket and to the launch pad, which ended up with a large crater beneath it.

SpaceX has a \$3 billion NASA contract to land astronauts on the lunar surface as early as 2025, using the spacecraft.

A month ago, the FAA completed its safety review of the upcoming Starship

launch. It needed more time to wrap up its environmental review. No one was injured in the first attempt, but the pad was heavily damaged as the rocket's 33 main engines ignited at liftoff.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service later reported that concrete chunks, steel sheets and other objects were hurled thousands of feet (hundreds of meters) from the pad. It also said a plume of pulverized concrete sent material several miles (up to 10 kilometers) away.

Wildlife and environmental groups sued the FAA over what they considered to be the FAA's failure to fully consider the environmental impacts of the Starship program near Boca Chica Beach.

Plans call for the test flight to last 1 1/2 hours and fall short of a full orbit of Earth. The spacecraft would go eastward, passing over the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific oceans before ditching near Hawaii. Nothing of value will be on board. (AP)

shadowed regions are practically overflowing with ice. For several years, scientists have recognized the need to get down on the surface and make more detailed measurements of lunar volatiles. With its sulfur detections, the Vikram lander has now taken the first tentative steps as part of a larger exploration program.

Search

NASA has its sights set on the lunar south pole. Leading up to the Artemis III mission to deploy astronauts to investigate ice on the surface, the Commercial Lunar Payload Services program will send multiple landers and rovers to search for ice starting later in 2023.

While uncertainty surrounds the timeline of Artemis launches, the first crewed mission, Artemis II, is on track for a late 2024 or early 2025 launch, with a looping trajectory passing behind the Moon's far side and back to Earth.

The Lunar Compact Infrared Imaging System, of which I'm the principal investigator, is an infrared camera that will take temperature measurements and study the surface composition of the Moon.

Dubbed L-CIRIS, this camera recently underwent its final review before delivery to NASA, and the completed flight instrument will be prepared to launch on a commercial lander in late 2026.

Prior to L-CIRIS, the VIPER rover mission is planned to launch in late 2024 to the lunar south polar region, where it will carry instruments to search for ice in micro-cold traps. These tiny shadows, some no larger than a penny, are hypothesized to contain a significant amount of water and are more accessible than the larger PSRs.

One long-term goal of L-CIRIS and NASA's Commercial Lunar Payload Services program is to find a suitable place for a long-term, sustainable lunar station. Astronauts could stay at this station, potentially similar to the one at McMurdo station in Antarctica, but it would need to be somewhat self-sufficient to be economically viable. Water is extremely expensive to ship to the Moon, hence locating the station near ice reservoirs is a must.

During the Artemis III mission, NASA astronauts will use the information gathered by the Commercial Lunar Payload Services program and other missions, including Chandrayaan-3, to assess the best locations to collect samples. Chandrayaan-3 and L-CIRIS's measurements of temperature and composition are like those that will be needed for Artemis to succeed. Cooperation among space agencies young and old is thus becoming a key feature of a long-term, sustainable human presence on the Moon. (AP)

MEDICAL CLASSIFIEDS

Take care of your health

To advertise in this page please call: (+965) 24813566 Ext.: 513 or E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

For
your
ads on
this page

Call: 24813805 E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

www.arabtimesonline.com

SHIFA AL JAZEERA MEDICAL CENTRE

الفروانية FARWANIYA

Obstetrics & Gynecology

Our gynecology department, the most dependable one in Kuwait, offers below services:

- Special Care and treatment during prenatal and postnatal periods.
- Treatment of other gynecological problems such as disturbances of menstruation recurrent miscarriages etc.,
- Diagnosis and treatment of infertility cases.
- Treatment of patients with high-risk pregnancies; managing complex problems related to reproductive endocrinology and infertility
- Screening programmes for early detection of tumours, breast cancer, cervical cancer, ovarian cancer etc.

Dr. Rehab Mohamed
MBBS, MS
(Mansoura University, Egypt)
17 years' experience

Behind Maghateer Commercial Complex & Opp. Police station - Farwaniya

24 734 000 60 749 749

www.shifaaljazeera.com.kw

Alcaraz ends losing streak at ATP Finals



A snapshot of the 8th Flare Festival.



A group photo of the Burgan team.



Competitors participating in the festival's sporting activities.

Cementing proactive role in development of Kuwait's sports culture

Burgan Bank concludes its sponsorship of the 8th Flare Festival, biggest fitness challenge in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: Burgan Bank announced the conclusion of its strategic sponsorship of the 8th edition of Flare Festival, Kuwait's biggest fitness challenge, which took place at Marina Crescent. Throughout its three-day span, the event saw a massive turnout of 3,000 participants in addition to more than 7,500 visitors.

In recognition of its strategic sponsorship of such a flagship sporting event, the Flare Festival organizer honored Burgan Bank for their effort and support, in the presence of the Chairman of the Kuwaiti Olympic Committee, Sheikh Fahad Nasser Al-Sabah; whereby Ms. Hessa Hussain Al-Najadah, Senior Manager - Corporate and CSR Communications at Burgan Bank received the shield of honor on behalf of the Bank. On his part, Sheikh Mubarak Faisal Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Member of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Olympic Committee, honored the Flare Festival winners across the different competitions.

For the three days of the event, Burgan Bank presented the crowd with many gifts and orchestrated several activities and competitions suitable for all age groups, not to mention organizing a number of competitions that were exclusive to the fitness challenges' competitors, with total cash prizes and gifts amounting in value to KD 5,000. Moreover, the Bank representatives offered flavored



Ms. Al-Najadah receiving the festival's shield of honor from Sheikh Fahad Nasser Al-Sabah.

detox water at the Burgan booth across the event's duration, besides handing out reusable sports water bottles to encourage the audience to drink water regularly while reducing the use of harmful one-time-use plastics.

The event's sponsorship comes as an extension of the Bank's comprehensive social responsibility program and commitment to embedding environmental, social, and governance (ESG) principles in its community initiatives,

Burgan also continues its dedicated efforts to fortify Kuwait's sports culture and its support for aspiring home-grown athletic talents.

On this occasion, Al-Najadah commented: "On behalf of the bank, I would like to congratulate all of the Flare Festival winners and applaud all participants who exerted a notable effort throughout the three days of competitions. I would also like to extend my appreciation and thank Flare Festival organizers for their

dedicated efforts. We are very proud of our strategic sponsorship of Flare Festival, and we look forward to supporting Kuwait's sports culture and its aspiring talents across many more similarly successful events."

On his part, Mr. Yousef Al Shaya, CEO of Flare Fitness, stated: "We are very proud of everyone who took part in this amazing edition of Flare Festival, from the Sponsors to the participants; and of course, we extend our genuine gratitude to Burgan Bank for the unwavering support that they have given us throughout the planning and execution phases of the event, the bank support was a huge force that enabled us to aim for excellence in every detail."

To ensure that Burgan Bank optimized its presence at Flare Festival, its dedicated staff were available among the crowd and at the Bank's designated booth, extending its support of the "Let's Be Aware" (Diraya) campaign – initiated by the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) and the Kuwait Banking Association (KBA) – and sharing essential banking awareness tips with the event's audience.

As part of Burgan Bank's social responsibility strategy, it continues to sponsor mega sporting events that encourage members of the community to adopt healthier lifestyles.

Staggering ticket prices give it exclusive feel of a Super Bowl

F1 has gone all-in on America with Las Vegas race

LAS VEGAS, Nov 16, (AP): Eddie Cheever had a prime seat the last time Formula One rolled the dice in Las Vegas. Behind the wheel of a race car.

Cheever took part in both F1 races that were staged in the early 1980s around a nondescript parking lot next to Caesars Palace - a scorching, glorified karting track that was perhaps the worst excuse for a racing circuit in grand prix history.

"Diana Ross was on the podium," Cheever, who took third in the 1982 race behind winner Michele Alboreto and runner-up John Watson, said with a chuckle. "That's what I remember most."

MOTOR RACING

Those races look downright quaint compared to Formula One's return to Sin City this weekend for a glittering, high-rolling spectacle along the Strip. Hundreds of millions of dollars have been spent to prepare the 3.8-mile circuit that incorporates one of America's most famed streets. Staggering ticket prices give it the exclusive feel of a Super Bowl.

Yet, in some ways, this feels like déjà vu.

Four decades ago, there was a big push to make Formula One the next big thing in America. Races sprouted up all over the country. Long Beach. Detroit. Dallas. And, yes, Las Vegas.

All were gone before the end of the



George Russell drives during a demonstration along the Las Vegas Strip at a launch party for the Formula One Las Vegas Grand Prix on Nov. 5, 2022. (AP)

'80s, like so many hair bands.

One can't help but wonder if Formula One is simply going through another flash-in-the-pan stage in America, if all the hype fueled by the popularity of the Netflix reality series "Drive To Survive" and the ample U.S. dollars doled out by F1's American owner, Liberty Media, will soon be running on empty.

Especially if one driver keeps winning nearly all the races.

Max Verstappen arrived in Las Vegas having locked up his third straight

world championship nearly six weeks ago. The 26-year-old Dutchman has taken the checkered flag in 17 of 20 races this season and, unless something really unusual happens Saturday night, he'll be the first one crossing the line in his mighty Red Bull machine.

While "Drive To Survive" has concocted some riveting storylines, the real show rarely provides any drama - at least at the front of the F1 field.

It's Verstappen and Everyone Else. "I'm nostalgic for the way it was,"

the 65-year-old Cheever said, remembering his decade-long career in Formula One before he shifted to IndyCar. "There was less dominance technically in those days than there is now."

He was quick to add that F1 has always been dominated by a handful of well-funded teams, and the series makes no apologies for having the most technologically advanced racing in the world.

If one team has a huge edge over everyone else, so be it. There is no willingness to penalize a team for being too good, as you might see with NASCAR's constantly shifting guidelines in the name of parity.

Fans outside America can certainly appreciate the high-priced wizardry that goes into the making of a dominant car, not to mention the passionate team rivalries and wheel-to-wheel duels further back in the field.

In a way, it's comparable to the nuances of soccer - low-scoring games, time being kept by the referee - that were slow to gain a foothold in this country.

"I enjoy NASCAR," Cheever said, who serves as a consultant to that series and its sports car division, IMSA. "It's just different than Formula One. It's like soccer vs. football. Or baseball vs. cricket. They're similar, but different."

With a handful of exceptions, Formula One championships have been hoarded for the better part of three decades by a handful of drivers who were fortunate enough to land in the fastest cars.

Rublev's agony continues

TURIN, Italy, Nov 16, (AP): Andrey Rublev grew so frustrated during a 7-5, 6-2 loss to Carlos Alcaraz at the ATP Finals on Wednesday that he repeatedly hit himself with his racket - so hard that he bloodied his left knee.

Rublev had already slammed his racket to the ground during the opening game of the second set. Then when the Russian missed a shot to hand Alcaraz a break, he started beating himself as he walked to his chair and then used a towel to wipe the blood off.

Blood continued to trickle down Rublev's leg as he played on and he eventually called a trainer for treatment.



Spain's Carlos Alcaraz reacts during the singles tennis match against Russia's Andrey Rublev, of the ATP World Tour Finals at the Pala Alpitour, in Turin, Italy, Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2023. (AP)

TENNIS

"It's OK," Rublev said of his knee. "I get disappointed and couldn't manage."

The second-ranked Alcaraz, a 20-year-old Spaniard who is already a two-time Grand Slam champion, ended an uncharacteristic three-match losing streak following defeats to Grigor Dimitrov in Shanghai, Roman Safiulin in Paris and Alexander Zverev in his debut match in Turin.

"I played such a great level," Alcaraz said.

While Rublev was virtually eliminated after losing both of his opening matches, Alcaraz boosted his chances of advancing from the round robin stage at the season-ending event for the year's top eight players.

Alcaraz will next face Daniil Medvedev.



Russia's Andrey Rublev returns the ball to Spain's Carlos Alcaraz during their singles tennis match of the ATP World Tour Finals at the Pala Alpitour, in Turin, Italy, Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2023. (AP)

"The key against Medvedev is to play a perfect match - tactically," Alcaraz said.

Later in the red group, Medvedev will meet Zverev for the 18th time.

Jannik Sinner leads the green group with two wins following his victory over Novak Djokovic on Tuesday.

The top two finishers in each four-man group advance to the semifinals.

In a first career meeting, it was a tight first set until Alcaraz broke for a 6-5 lead. Then Rublev was left fuming when the opening point of the next game had to be replayed after his shot was called wide. The call was overturned on review after it was shown that the shot had landed

on the line.

Rublev called it an "unlucky call."

"But it's part of the sport," he said. "It happens every match. ... Just happen that it was important (point)."

In the next game, Rublev bloodied himself.

As the second set wore on, Alcaraz began producing one highlight after another. Like when he hit a forehand cross-court passing shot as he was in the process of falling down. Or when he pulled off a backhand winner down the line from far off court on the run a couple of games later.

Alcaraz missed last year's ATP Finals because of an abdominal injury.

PGA Tour faces turbulence

McIlroy resigns from board amidst Saudi investment fund controversy

DUBAI, Nov 16, (AP): Rory McIlroy resigned from the PGA Tour board on Tuesday, an abrupt move that comes as the tour is trying to finalize an agreement to create a new commercial enterprise involving Saudi Arabia's national wealth fund.

McIlroy did not mention his decision earlier in the day at the DP World Tour Championship in Dubai, though one comment was telling about his three years on the board during some of the tour's most turbulent times.

Asked if he liked having a seat at the table, McIlroy said, "Not particularly, no. Not what I signed for when I went on the board. But yeah, the game of professional golf has been in flux for the last two years."

In a statement, PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan and board chairman Ed Herlihy thanked McIlroy for his dedication and commitment the last five years - two years on the Player Advisory Council, one as PAC chairman who sat in on board meetings, and the last two years as the first international player to serve on the board.

"Rory's insight has been instrumental in helping shape the success of the tour, and his willingness to thoughtfully voice his opinions has been especially impactful," they said. "Given the extraordinary time and effort that Rory - and all of his fellow player directors - have invested in the tour during this unprecedented, transformational period in our history, we certainly understand and respect his decision to step down in order to focus on his game and his family."

The New York Times first reported McIlroy's resignation.

Monahan said in a memo to players earlier Tuesday the tour was working toward finalizing an agreement with the Public Investment Fund of Saudi Arabia and trying to narrow bids from a handful of private equity firms wanting to invest in the for-profit PGA Tour Enterprises.

The deadline to finalize the tour's deal with the Saudis, an agreement announced June 6, is the end of the year, though the deadline can be extended.

No player has been more outspo-

ken than McIlroy about the PIF's financial backing of rival league LIV Golf, which attracted a number of major champions with enormous signing fees. LIV Golf recently completed its second year, and it remains unclear how the PIF's deal with the tour affects it.

McIlroy constantly criticized Greg Norman, the CEO of LIV Golf, and panned some of the younger players who went to LIV for "taking the easy way out."

But he was left in the dark about Monahan's secret negotiations with the PIF in May, along with other top players. The day after the shock announcement, McIlroy said, "It's hard for me to not sit up here and feel somewhat like a sacrificial lamb and feeling like I've put myself out there and this is what happens."

He also said that day he had come to terms with the Saudi involvement in other sports, and that perhaps the tour was better off being a partner as long as it's done the right way. As recently as last week, he said he hoped the PIF is involved in the tour deal "and we can bring the game of golf back together."



McIlroy

GOLF

Players do not receive fees for serving on the board, and McIlroy got involved in tour business at a rough time. He served on the PAC in 2019 and 2020, the latter right in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic and the tour finding a way to resume playing.

Through it all was a threat of a new league funded by Saudi Arabian wealth. Even before LIV Golf was created, McIlroy was the first to say he was not interested in a new league, saying he wanted to be "on the right side of history."

McIlroy also is involved in TMRW Sports with Tiger Woods, an entertainment and media venture that is behind the new tech-infused TGL golf league that starts in January.

He already has clinched his fifth season title on the European tour and said he felt he was playing some of his best golf, even as he tries to end a decade without winning a major.

The remaining five player-directors on the 12-member board will elect a successor to serve McIlroy's term, which ends after next year.



Participants who took part in ICC Level 1 Coaching Course.



Participants display their certificates at the end of ICC Level 1 Coaching Course.

Green suspended five games

NEW YORK, Nov 16, (AP): The NBA has suspended Golden State's Draymond Green for five games for grabbing Minnesota's Rudy Gobert around the neck "in an unsportsmanlike and dangerous manner," the league said Wednesday night. Also penalized by the league for their roles in the incident, which happened early in Tuesday's game between the Timberwolves and Warriors, were Gobert, his Minnesota teammate Jaden McDaniels and Golden State guard Klay Thompson — all fined \$25,000 by the league.

But Green will pay the biggest price, both in terms of games missed and money lost. The suspension will cost him \$769,704 in forfeited salary. "The length of the suspension is based in part on Green's history of

unsportsmanlike acts," the NBA said in the release announcing the penalties. Those sanctions were handed down by Joe Dumars, the NBA's Executive Vice President and Head of Basketball Operations — and a long-time mentor of Green's.

The incident started when Thompson and McDaniels "became entangled and were grabbing and pulling at one another's jerseys," the NBA said, and got further out of hand when Gobert got involved and put his arms around Thompson.

Green got involved not long after that, wrapping his arm around Gobert's neck.

Thompson and McDaniels were each assessed a technical foul and ejected, while Green was assessed a Flagrant Foul 2 for grabbing Gobert.

ICC Level 1 Coaching Course conducted in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: ICC Certified Tutors Tariq Rasool Shah & Tahir Khan conducted the ICC Level 1 Coaching Course in Kuwait with as many as 23 participants consisting of former & current national players of Kuwait (men's & women's), private academy coaches as well as senior members of KCC with all the professional guidance and support from the ICC Asia Team led by Aminul Islam & Mr. Iqbal Sikander.

CRICKET

KCC Coaches Jude Dyslva, Nikhil Kulkarni, Meezan Ali & Shehan Shashika played a vital role as instructors of the courses and supported the tutors with utmost professionalism who were mentored during the course by the former national head coach of Kuwait, Muthumudalige Pushpakumara.

After the successful completion of the theoretical course, a practical assignment of 30-40

hours spread over 3-6 months was given to all the participants where they were all given an opportunity to work with the Kuwait National Teams of Juniors, Men's & Women's in order to be eligible for the cer-

tification.

As a result, the following participants successfully completed the ICC Level 1 Coaching course: Ali Talib, Amna Sharif Tariq, Danish Javed Kaloo, Dhanajayan Naveen, Ilyas Ahmed Saber

Ahmed, Ismail Vadakke Kolayath, Krishna Prakash, Mariamma Hyder, Maryyam Ashraf, Mofida Banu, Mohammed Bulbul Ahmed, Moladad Safi, Muhammad Kashif, Nishad K. Abdullah, Priyada Murali, Robert Dsouza, Siobhan Lee Gome.

Congratulations to all the participants who successfully completed their assignments and are now officially recognized as ICC Certified Level 1 coaches.

Kuwait Cricket Club's Director General Sajid Ashraf graced the certification ceremony and congratulated all the participants and appreciated the hard work and efforts put in by the entire coaching staff & management team, in particular the ICC certified tutors; Tariq Rasool Shah & Tahir Khan.

Ashraf also shared the vision of the KCC Board for all the local coaches focusing on cricket development programs with plenty of domestic and international opportunities that are lined up in the next cycle of the ACC, ICC & KCC respectively.



Coaching course in progress.

Asian Club Handball Championship kicks off in Kuwait

Opening and closing ceremonies canceled in solidarity with Palestinian people

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: The 26th edition of the Asian Club Handball Championship kicked off at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex in the Sabah Al-Salem suburb. Under the patronage and presence of the Minister of Commerce and Industry and the Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Mohammed Al-Aiban, 12 clubs are set to participate in this prestigious tournament, where the winning team will secure a spot in the upcoming Club World Cup as Asia's representatives.

Sheikh Khaled Al-Fahd, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Al-Qadsia Club and head of the tournament organizing committee, announced the completion of all preparations. The committees, formed in the preceding period, have readied the match hall, training halls, as well as accommoda-

HANDBALL

tions for delegations and referees.

In extending a warm welcome to the participating delegations, Sheikh Khaled Al-Fahd expressed wishes for a pleasant stay in their "second home," Kuwait. He conveyed gratitude to the Asian Handball Federation for entrusting Al-Qadsia Club with organizing the event, highlighting the club's readiness and capabilities backed by national resources and experience.

Al-Fahd also acknowledged the General Sports Authority for unwavering support, along with the collaborative efforts of ministries and government institutions in making this continental tournament possible. Stressing the developmental impact of such tournaments on handball performance, he emphasized the contribution to enriching the technical level of the game.

The draw divided the 11 teams into two groups after the withdrawal of the Palestinian Salah team. Notable matches today include Al-Arabi Qatar vs. the Iraqi Army, Indian Sai vs. Shabab Sidon of Lebanon, Al-Gharafa of Qatar vs. the Saudi Gulf, Al-Qadsia vs. Al-Sharjah of the Emirates, and the opening ceremony followed by the final match between the Bahraini Star and the Indian Golden Eagle.

Due to current circumstances, the opening and closing ceremonies were canceled in solidarity with the Palestinian people. Shabab Sidon played a trial match upon arrival, featuring loaned players Mahdi Al-Qallaf and Austrian Janko Bozovic from Sulaibkhat.



Players preparing for the tournament.

Kuwait Camel Racing Club hosts the ninth session of camel racing season

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: Presently, the Kuwaiti Camel Racing Club is hosting the ninth session of camel racing for the current season, dedicated to the cherished heritage sport. The event boasts the registration of 400 male camels of diverse breeds, including 80 male heels, virgin males, Sudanese females, and female males, along with stallions.

These participants are set to compete fiercely over an eight-kilometer distance. Enthusiasts are eagerly anticipating the fifth round, specifically designated for the Cup in honor of the late Salman Abdullah Al-Dabbous.

The competition extends to Al-Jaza'a Abkar and Al-Jaza'a Qa'dan males, engaged in a six-kilometer

race. Notably, 80 males of Al-Jaza'a Q'a'dan are vying for victory in the cup presented by the club.

Hussein Manea Al-Dawas, Chairman of the Board of Directors, expressed his delight at the race being held at the club.

CAMEL RACING

He extended sincere gratitude to the heirs of the late Salman Al-Dabbous, acknowledging their significant support for the sport, which has deep roots in the traditions of fathers, grandfathers, and camel owners. Al-Dawas emphasized the crucial role played by everyone in preserving this valuable heritage sport.



The Asian Club Handball Championship logo.

Arab Sports Games begin

Ayesh running for Vice President position

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: The Vice President of the Kuwait School Sports Federation, Walid Ayesh, is running in the elections for the Executive Office of the Arab School Sports Federation. Ayesh is competing for the Vice President's seat. Ayesh enjoys great support

ARAB GAMES

from the Arabs of Asia and Africa as a result of his work as a member during the previous session of the Executive Office.

The elections are scheduled to take place on the sidelines of the Arab Sports Games, set to be held in Cairo from November 17 to 27. Ayesh's bid for the Vice President's seat will be decided during this period.



The Vice President of the Kuwait School Sports Federation Walid Ayesh.

Best of the Rest

Arnold steps down: Richard Arnold has stepped down from his role as chief executive of Manchester United, the club said Wednesday.

Arnold's departure comes at a time when American owners the Glazers are seeking new investment and British billionaire Jim Ratcliffe is attempting to buy a 25% stake in the 20-time league champions.

Patrick Stewart was named as interim CEO, in addition to his existing role as General Counsel. (AP)

□ □ □

High-tech all unveiled: A high-tech soccer ball that helps with more accurate offside decisions will make its European Championship debut next year in Germany after being used at the 2022 World Cup. (AP)

PCB says it offered him Test captaincy

Azam steps down as Pakistan captain in all formats

ISLAMABAD, Nov 16, (AP): Babar Azam has resigned as Pakistan captain after his team failed to advance from the group stage at the Cricket World Cup.

"Today, I am stepping down as the captain of Pakistan in all formats," the batter said in a statement.

"It's a difficult decision but I feel it is a right time for this call. I will continue to represent Pakistan as a player in all three formats."

The Pakistan Cricket Board named Shan Masood as the new Test captain and said the left-handed opener will stay as skipper through the World Test Championship cycle of 2023-25. Masood's first assignment will be Pakistan's tour to Australia next month where they are scheduled to play three test matches.

Left-arm fast bowler Shaheen Afridi was named T20 captain with Pakistan scheduled to play a five-match T20 series in New Zealand in January after the tour of Australia. The PCB also said it will name the new ODI skipper in due course.

Babar thanked the PCB for choosing him as all-format captain four years ago and said he will continue to support the new captain and "the team with my experience and dedication."

Babar scored 320 runs in nine World Cup games at an average of 40 in the ongoing edition. Pakistan won four of its nine games and missed the semi-finals after finishing fifth.



In this file photo, Pakistan's captain Babar Azam bats during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup match between Pakistan and England in Kolkata, India. (AP)

"I vividly remember the moment when I received the call from PCB to lead Pakistan in 2019," Babar said. "Over the past four years, I've experienced many highs and lows on and off the field, but I wholeheartedly and passionately aimed to maintain Pakistan's pride and respect in the cricket world."

Babar met with the chairman of the PCB managing committee, Zaka Ashraf, in Lahore on Wednesday to discuss the team's performance at the

World Cup.

The PCB said in a statement that Babar had been asked to continue as test captain "so that he could focus on one format" but he decided against this.

Ashraf said that without the "additional burden of captaincy," he hoped that Babar "can focus more on his performances to reach even greater heights."

During Babar's tenure as captain, Pakistan rose to No. 1 in the ODI rankings, but there was a sharp decline in the team's performance before the

CRICKET

World Cup in India.

Pakistan couldn't qualify for the Asia Cup final despite qualifying for the Super 4 stage of the tournament.

In the absence of injured fast bowler Naseem Shah, Pakistan struggled in the World Cup too, losing to rivals India, Australia, Afghanistan, South Africa and England while its four victories came against Sri Lanka, Netherlands, Bangladesh and New Zealand.

Pakistan's below-par performance in the World Cup led many former Test cricketers, including Shahid Afridi and Kamran Akmal, to criticize Babar's captaincy.

But Babar's teammate Mohammad Rizwan lauded Babar's efforts as skipper.



China's Lui Binbin (left), fights for the ball with Thailand's Bordin Phala during World Cup Asia qualifying match at Rajamangala national stadium in Bangkok, Thailand. China won 2-1. (AP)

Sports

Latest sports scores at — <http://sports.arabtimesonline.com>



The team representing Kuwait in the upcoming Arab School Sports Games.

Kuwait depart for Arab School Sports Games

The Kuwaiti School and Higher Education Union has officially confirmed the participation of the Kuwaiti school team in the upcoming Arab School Sports Games.

Scheduled to commence next Sunday in Cairo, Egypt, the competitions will extend until November 27, featuring the involvement of 14 Arab teams.

Faisal Al-Maqseed, the president of the federation and head of the participating delegation, shared in a press statement on Thursday that the team are set to depart the

country tomorrow, gearing up for the tournament where they will compete in both football and swimming categories. Acknowledging the significant

support from the Minister of Education, the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Dr. Adel Al-Mana, and Youssef Al-Baidan, Director of Sports at the General Au-

thority, Al-Maqseed expressed hope for the success of the Arab School Sports Association in achieving its goals and fostering fraternal relations among Arab youth. (KUNA)

Al-Mutairi, Arzouki clinch victories in Crown Prince Shooting Championship

'Tournament is progressing smoothly'

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: In the ongoing fourth annual Grand Shooting Championship of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad, sharp-shooter Ali Al-Mutairi secured the title in the men's 10-meter air rifle competition. The event is taking place at the Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Ranges Complex. Saud Al-Subaie claimed the second position, with Abdullah Al-Harbi securing third place. In the women's category, Maryam Arzouki emerged victorious, followed by Retaj

Al-Zayadi in second place and Rawan Al-Kandari in third.

Adnan Al-Ibrahim, the Treasurer of the Kuwait Shooting Club and Federation, confirmed that the tournament is progressing smoothly, thanks to the meticulous preparations undertaken by

SHOOTING

the Supreme Organizing Committee, working committees, and technical/administrative bodies. These efforts ensured the provision of all necessary equipment, ammunition, and field preparations, eliminating any obstacles to ensure adherence to the rules of the International Shooting



Adnan Al-Ibrahim, the Treasurer of the Kuwait Shooting Club and Federation.

Federation. The championship, which commenced with Olympic shooting competitions, including skeet, dirt, shotgun, 10-meter air pistol, 25-meter air pistol, 50-meter rifle 3-position meter, and Olympic archery, is a crucial platform preparing shooters for upcoming international competitions. Al-Ibrahim expressed gratitude to His Highness the Crown Prince for generously sponsoring the tournament that bears his name. Mohammed Al-Fahd, the acting head of the Al-Khartouh Referees Committee and an international referee, highlighted that the championship adheres to the regulations of the International Shooting Federation. He emphasized that the His Highness the Crown Prince Championship serves as exceptional preparation for shooters, fostering strong competition and a commitment to achieving the best results.



A file photo of players training.

Australia rout Bangladesh

Son & Hwang join forces in win for South Korea over Singapore

SEOUL, Nov 16, (Agencies): Five days after facing each other in the Premier League, Son Heung-min and Hwang Hee-chan joined forces and were both on target as South Korea kicked off its bid to reach the 2026 World Cup with a 5-0 win over Singapore in Seoul.

Asia's leading teams joined World Cup qualifying in the second round on Thursday with Australia and Japan also starting with comfortable wins.

On Saturday, Hwang's Wolverhampton beat Son's Tottenham 2-1, and against Singapore Hwang scored the second goal. Cho Gue-sung had broken the deadlock just before the break to get Korea's campaign to appear at an 11th successive World Cup off to a good start.

Soon after, Son, who has scored eight league goals this season, treated more than 60,000 fans to a spectacular strike with a curled shot from the edge of the area. Hwang Ui-jo added a fourth from the penalty spot while Paris Saint-Germain midfielder Lee Kang-in completed the victory.

The Socceroos, chasing a seventh appearance on the global stage, thrashed Bangladesh 7-0 in Melbourne. Leicester defender Harry Souttar opened the scoring for Australia after just four minutes with Brandon Borrello and two goals from Mitchell Duke giving Australia a 4-0 lead at the break. Jamie Maclaren scored a second-half hat trick.

Feyenoord forward Ayase Ueda also scored three as Japan beat Myanmar 5-0 in Osaka. Ueda netted twice before the break and once after while Lazio mid-

fielder Daichi Kamada and Ritsu Doan also got on the scoresheet. It was the seventh successive win for Japan who have appeared at the last seven World Cups. The top two teams from each of the nine groups of four in the second round will progress to the third stage.

Meanwhile, the Kuwait are set to depart for Dammam today, as they gear up to face Afghanistan next Tuesday in the second round of Group A competitions within the joint Asian qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup in the United States of America, Canada, and Mexico, as well as the 2027 Asian Cup in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Group A also includes Qatar and India.

SOCCER

Afghanistan played their match in Dammam due to the instability of security in their country. Pinto selected a squad of 26 players for the upcoming matches.

Squad:

Abdul Rahman Kamil, Fahd Al-Hajri, Mohsen Falah, Ahmed Al-Dhafiri, Reda Hani, Muhammad Dahham, Ahmed Al-Zenki, Faisal Zayed, Suleiman Abdul Ghafour, Salman Al-Awadi, Sultan Al-Anzi, Hassan Hamdan, Abdullah Ammar, Badr Tariq, Hamad Al-Qallaf, Bandar Al-Salama, Abdulaziz Wadi, Khaled Ibrahim, Eid Al-Rashidi, Mubarak Al-Fanini, Hamad Al-Harbi, Aqeel Al-Hazeem, Athbi Shehab, Mahdi Dashti, Shabib Al-Khalidi, and Abdul Rahman Al-Majdali

Kuwait deaf futsal team lose in quarters

SAO PAOLO, Nov 16: The Kuwaiti deaf futsal team were eliminated from the FIFA Futsal World Cup after suffering 2-3 loss to

FUTSAL

Thailand in the quarter-finals. Coach Salem Aman revealed that the team will continue to play two more matches to deter-

mine positions between fifth and eighth in the World Cup.

Expressing disappointment, Aman highlighted that the team, the sole Arab representative in the tournament, had aimed for top positions to bring joy to the people. He emphasized the team's unity, describing it as a cohesive group with a shared heart.

Celtics win early showdown with 76ers

PHILADELPHIA, Nov 16, (AP): Derrick White scored 14 of his 27 points in the fourth quarter to lead the short-handed Boston Celtics to a 117-107 win over the Philadelphia 76ers on Wednesday night in a matchup of the early pacesetters in the Eastern Conference.

Jayson Tatum scored a game-high 29 points and Jrue Holiday added 18 points, 10 rebounds and three assists for the Celtics, who were missing Jaylen Brown with an illness and Kristaps Porzingis with a right knee contusion.

Magic 96, Bulls 94

In Chicago, Paolo Banchero nailed a turnaround jumper with one second remaining, and Orlando beat Chicago.

The Magic led by as much as 19 in the third quarter, only to have Chicago tie it in the closing seconds of the game on a

BASKETBALL

3-pointer by Zach LaVine.

Kings 125, Lakers 110

In Los Angeles, Domantas Sabonis had 29 points and 16 rebounds, and Sacramento overcame LeBron James' 108th career triple-double for a win over Los Angeles.

De'Aaron Fox and Kevin Huerter scored 28 points apiece for the Kings, who won their fourth straight and snapped Los Angeles' three-game winning streak.

Mavericks 130, Wizards 117

In Washington, Luka Doncic scored 26 points and had 10 assists as Dallas eased to a victory over Washington.

Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 31 points and sank seven 3-pointers for the Mavericks on a night point guard Kyrie Irving sat out with a sprained left foot.

Knicks 116, Hawks 114

In Atlanta, Jalen Brunson scored 24 points, including a pull-up jumper from the top of the lane with 18.8 seconds remaining, and New York held on for the victory over Atlanta.

Julius Randle led the Knicks with 29 points.

Bucks 128, Raptors 112

In Toronto, Damian Lillard had 37 points and a season-high 13 assists, Ma-

lik Beasley scored a season-high 30 and Milwaukee overcame Giannis Antetokounmpo's absence to beat Toronto.

Antetokounmpo missed his first game of the season after playing the first 10, sitting out because of a strained right calf.

Suns 133, Timberwolves 115

In Phoenix, Devin Booker scored 31 points in his return from a calf injury, Kevin Durant also scored 31 and Phoe-

nix ended Minnesota's seven-game winning streak. Booker shot 12 of 22 from the field, adding five assists and four rebounds. Durant added 11 of 15 shots.

Cavaliers 109, Trail Blazers 95

In Portland, Donovan Mitchell scored 34 points and Cleveland handed Portland its fifth straight loss.

Evan Mobley added 21 points and 12 rebounds, and the Cavaliers finished 2-2 on their western road trip.



Sacramento Kings forward Domantas Sabonis (right) shoots as Los Angeles Lakers guard Austin Reaves defends. (AP)