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## FINANCE MINISTER PRESSED ON KIA'S ALLEGED ISRAELI INVESTMENTS

Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at the inaugural ceremony of Manama Dialogue 2023.

#### **FM attends Manama Dialogue**

Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Friday evening attended the inaugural ceremony of Manama Dialogue 2023, patronized and attended by Bahraini Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, and attended by a number of

ministers of sisterly and friendly countries.

Manama Dialogue 2023 tackles several political and security issues, primarily regional and international challenges and tensions, and ways of promoting strategic cooperation to address relevant reflections and achieve regional peace and joint future ambitions. (KUNA)

#### US sanctions Iraqi militia members backed by Iran

WASHINGTON, Nov 18, (AP): The U.S. on Friday imposed sanctions on six people affiliated with the Iranian-backed Îraqi militia Kataeb Hezbollah, which is accused of being behind a spate of recent attacks against U.S. forces in Iraq and Syria following the October 7 attacks by Hamas against Israel.

Included in the sanctions are the militia's foreign affairs chief, a member of its governing council, its military commander and a media spokesman. The sanctions block access to U.S. property and bank accounts and prevent the targeted people and companies from doing business with Americans.

A spate of drone attacks hit U.S. bases in Iraq as recently as Friday, as regional tensions have flared up following the bloody war between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

Two U.S. defense officials confirmed three additional attacks on U.S. military facilities in Iraq and Syria on Friday, bringing the total number of attacks on U.S. and coalition military facilities in Iraq and Syria to at least 60. The three bases attacked as of Friday included: a one-way drone targeted Al Harir air base in Erbil, with no casualties reported, but an infrastructure damage assessment was still ongoing; an attack by multiple one-way drones at Al Asad air base in Iraq that resulted in no injuries or infrastructure damage; and another multiple one-way drone attack at Tall Baydar, Syria, that resulted in minor injuries to one service member who was able to return to duty, one of the defense officials said.

Iranian-backed militias in Iraq have threatened to attack U.S. facilities there because of American support for Israel.

Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control says Kataeb Hezbollah is supported by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-Quds Force. And the State Department has previously designated it as a terrorist organization.

Brian E. Nelson, Treasury's under-secretary for terrorism and financial intelligence said the U.S. is "fully committed to security and stability in the Middle East and are steadfast in our efforts to disrupt these destabilizing activities.'

At least 11,470 Palestinians - two-thirds of them women and minors - have been killed since the war in Gaza began, according to Palestinian health authorities, who do not differentiate between civilian and militant deaths. About 2,700 people are reported miss-

Some 1,200 people have been killed in Israel, mostly during the initial attack, and around 240 were taken captive by militants.

#### **Advertisers fleeing Musk's X**

WASHINGTON, Nov 18, (AP): Advertisers are fleeing social media platform X over concerns about their ads showing up next to pro-Nazi content and hate speech on the site in general, with billionaire owner Elon Musk inflaming tensions with his own posts endorsing an antisemitic conspiracy theory.

IBM said this week that it stopped advertising on X after a report said its and a superstant of the said the sa

port said its ads were appearing alongside material praising Nazis - a fresh setback as the platform formerly known as Twitter tries to win back big brands and their ad dollars, X's main source of revenue.



The liberal advocacy group Media Matters said in a report Thursday that ads from Apple, Oracle, NBCUniversal's Bravo network and Comcast also were placed next to antisemitic material on X.

"IBM has zero tolerance for hate speech and discrimination and we have immediately suspended all advertising on X while we investigate this entirely unacceptable situation," the company said in a state-

Apple, Oracle, NBCUniversal and Comcast didn't respond immediately to requests seeking comment on their next steps.

The European Union's executive branch said separately Friday it is pausing advertising on X and other social media platforms, in part because of a surge in hate speech. Later in the day, Disney, Lionsgate and Paramount Global also said they were suspending or pausing advertising on X.

Musk sparked outcry this week with his own tweets responding to a user who accused Jews of hating white people and professing indifference to antisemitism. "You have said the actual truth," Musk tweeted in a reply Wednesday.

Musk has faced accusations of tolerating antisemitic messages on the platform since purchasing it last year, and the content on X has gained increased scrutiny since the war between Israel and Hamas began.

"We condemn this abhorrent promotion of Antisemitic and racist hate in the strongest terms, which runs against our core values as Americans," White House spokesperson Andrew Bates said Friday in response to Musk's tweet.

X CEO Linda Yaccarino said X's "point of view has always been very clear that discrimination by everyone should STOP across the board.

"I think that's something we can and should all agree on," she tweeted Thursday.

Yaccarino, a former NBCUniversal executive, was hired by Musk to rebuild ties with advertisers who fled after he took over, concerned that his easing of content restrictions was allowing hateful and toxic speech to flourish and that would harm their

"When it comes to this platform - X has also been extremely clear about our efforts to combat antisemitism and discrimination. There's no place for it anywhere in the world - it's ugly and wrong.

## MPs invoke Constitutional right with grilling motion against PM

Lawmakers rally behind Al-Mudhaf

**By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh** Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: Several lawmakers have expressed

support for the grilling motion of MP Mehalhal Al-Mudhaf against HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, emphasizing that this is their absolute right as stipulated in the Constitution and regardless of the grilling points.

MP Hamad Al-Elyan explained he supports the grilling motion as per the constitutional rules and it should be discussed openly without the need for the Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee or the Constitutional Court to review it. He said HH the Prime Minister must stand on the grilling podium and disprove the grilling points, asserting the MPs are free to decide whom to support under the monitoring of the nation.

MP Khalid Al-Otaibi pointed out that the corrupt media misled the public in the previous period, making it appear that grilling hinders development and disrupts legislative progress. He clarified that grilling is the most powerful parliamentary tool for addressing wrongdoings. He underscored the need to stop attempts to criminalize grilling and accuse

the MPs of instigating crisis just to prevent the lawmakers from fulfilling public demands; otherwise, the whole nation shall continue living like the previous period, instead of moving forward.

He concluded that deliberations on grilling motions will not stop the government from enforcing the necessary legislation, if it is really keen on doing so. He also highlighted the fact that the National Assembly has two main tasks -- legislation and monitoring, stressing these two tasks should be carried out simultane-

MP Muhammad Al-Regaib urged HH the Prime Minister to stand on the grilling podium as part of his commitment to cooperate with the Assembly, adding that the nation and lawmakers shall take the final decision.

MP Mubaral Al-Hajraf emphasized the need to adhere to the Constitution, which allows MPs to grill members of the government whenever the need arises; while MP Adel Al Obaid said the grilling motion must be discussed in an open session without being referred to the Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee or the Constitutional Court. He added this is one of the rights of the MPs and citi-

MP Jenan Bu Shehri pointed out that the executive and legislative authorities had earlier reached an agreement to rectify mistakes committed in the past period. She argued that political reform cannot be separated from economic reform, stressing grilling is the duty of every MP as it is crucial in playing their monitoring role efficiently. She explained that grilling has nothing to with coordination with the government, stating this tool must never be sus-



hosting the international coalition forces to fight the so-called Islamic State (ISIS), was targeted by a booby-trapped drone, the General Counter-Terrorism Di-rectorate in **Kurdistan Region** in Northern Iraq announced In a statement, the Directorate

said that the airbase located in Northern Irbil has been subjected to continuous attacks by robotic aircraft. (KUNA)

DAMASCUS: Syria's president issued a decree granting amnesty and reducing sentences for several categories of crime committed prior to Thursday, his office and state media reported.

No reason was given for the amnesty but it came on the anniversary of the 1970 coup that brought the father and predecessor of President Bashar Assad to power. (AP)

ANKARA: The Turkish Parliament's foreign affairs committee on Thursday opened debate on **Sweden**'s bid to join NATO, but adjourned the proceedings until a later date without reaching a de-

It was not immediately known when the committee would resume its discussions on Sweden's accession protocol or when it would reach Parliament's general assembly for the last stage of the legislative process. (AP)

NEW DELHI: India appealed on Friday to the leaders of the Global South to consolidate efforts to

build an inclusive global system. The Indian Ministry of External Affairs quoted Minister S Jaishankar as saying in his opening remarks at the 2nd Voice of Global South Summit held virtually that projecting shared interests of the Global South will be greatly impactful for the emerging world order. (KUNA)





Top: Twelve-year-old Amr Jandieh, who was wounded in the Israel-Hamas war, gestures, while surrounded by Emirati officials as he is brought down from the plane to an ambulance in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023. Jandieh

the Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip, in the hospital in Khan is one of thousands of children in Gaza who have been injured by Younis, Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023. (AP) Wounded Palestinian children arrive in UAE

the ongoing Hamas-Israel war. But he's one of the slightly luckier

ones who was able to leave the besieged enclave to get treat-

ment outside. Above: Palestinians mourn their relatives killed in

#### **Starship launch** ends in setback

WASHINGTON, Nov 18, (AP): SpaceX launched its mega rocket Starship on Saturday, but lost the booster and then the spacecraft minutes into the test flight.

The booster had sent the rocketship toward space, but communication was lost eight minutes after liftoff from South Texas and SpaceX declared that the vehicle had failed.

The trouble cropped up as the ship's engines were almost done firing to put it on an around-theworld path. Minutes earlier, the booster exploded, but not until its job was done, putting the ship on

a course toward space.
At 400 feet, Starship is the biggest and most powerful rocket ever built. The first test flight in April ended in an explosion soon after liftoff.

Earlier, SpaceX's giant new rocket blasted off from South Texas on a test flight Saturday, seven months after the first try ended in an explosion.

## **Kuwait rallies support at WFP**

The State of Kuwait has received unanimous support from the Executive Board of the World Food Programme to formally demand

the sustained flow of food and humanitarian aid into the Gaza

The Permanent Delegation of the State of Kuwait to the WFP

SpaceX's mega rocket Starship launches for a test flight from Starbase in Boca Chica, Texas, Nov. 18, 2023. (AP)

Rome, in issuing an official statement on the humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip. The Kuwaiti delegation pointed out that the Executive Board's issuance of the statement came after continuous consultations and negotiations it carried out with the rest of the board member states in coordination with the Arab group at the UN organization to tackle the catastrophic humanitarian situation in the Gaza

told KUNA Friday that the sec-

ond regular session of the Execu-

tive Board succeeded, at the con-

clusion of its activities held at the

organization's headquarters in

The delegation noted that the Executive Board instructed its chairman in the statement to present to the Executive Director Cindy McCain, "the strong views of the member states regarding

**Continued on Page 5** 

**Expected weather for the next** causing rising dush.

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

By Night: Mild by night rather cold, cloudy to partly cloudy and humid especially over coastal areas with light to moderate freshening at times southeasterly wind, with speed of 15-50 km/h with a chance for rain

that might by thundery at times.

Weather

Min Rec **Max Exp** Station 25 25 **Kuwait City** Kuwait Airport Abdaly Jahra Salmiyah Nuwaisib Wafra

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

#### **Kuwait-Oman ties deep-rooted: Ambassador Al-Hajri**

## Oman marks nat'l day, limiting celebration in solidarity with Palestine

#### Report by Nasser Al-Aimi

MUSCAT, Nov 18, (KUNA): The Sultanate of Oman will be marking on November 18, Saturday, its 53rd national day with celebrations limited due to the current bleak situation

Celebrations will include a military parade held under the auspices of Sultan Haitham bin Tareq and will include a show of solidarity with Palestinians who have been heavily assaulted by the Israeli occupation regime for over a month.

Oman would also be focusing on its 2040 development vision, launched in 2021, to achieve growth for the Sul-

The development vision is imple-

mented by government entities su-pervising 34 initiatives to boost the economy, business, progression, and governance As part of the development vision,

last May the Sultan Haitham city project in Seeb province was inaugurated. The city is a model of sustainability and meets the aspira-

tions of the Omani youth. On the political level, the election for the 2023-27 Shura council held on October 29th, saw the inclusion of 90 members with an event using the AI-based Al-Enthakhb application for voting and vote count.

In regards to Kuwait-Omani relations, the two fellow GCC nations had made it a point to pursue more cooperation under the guidance of both countries' leaderships.

The Omani-Kuwait committee met last March in Muscat, focusing their gathering on pursuing all venues of coopera-

The joint Omani-Kuwaiti project is exemplified in the Duqm Refinery at a cost of USD eight billion.

The project is situated in the heart of the Duqm town in Oman, a strategic economic region for land and maritime transport on the Arab sea.

The refinery has a production capacity of 230,000 barrels per day and it is working on producing fuel for aircrafts in addition to liquefied gas petroleum, a main

The Ambassador of Kuwait to Oman Mohammad Al-Hajri Saturday congratulated the leadership and people of Oman on the 53rd anniversary of National Day, commending the deep-rooted Kuwaiti-Omani ties.

Al-Hajri told KUNA that Oman plays an active role in all local, regional and international forums.

The Kuwaiti-Omani relations are progressing steadily with unwavering determination, as they are united by the common goals under the leadership of both sides, he explained.

He underlined the keenness of the wise leaderships of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, to enhance bilateral cooperation between the two sides.

In recent years, many agreements and memorandums of understanding have been signed that would achieve the anticipated goals and objectives for both countries, he pointed

## Track down drug dealers, protect youth - minister

Driver beats sponsor, steals KD 300

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: The security** authorities have intensified their efforts to track down drug dealers and protect Kuwaiti youths from this deadly scourge in compliance with the directives of First **Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of In**terior Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled, reports Al-Qabas daily.

This led to the confiscation of about 800 kilograms



Special children at the festival

#### Special Olympics holds Diabetes Day 'festival

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: In collaboration with Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital, Special Olympics Kuwait organized a health-focused sports festival to commemorate World Diabetes Day. The event saw the enthusiastic participation of 130 male and female players representing schools, institutions, and associations dedicated to individuals with disabilities, along with players from the Al-Ambuh Sports Club. The two-day festival, held at the Assima Mall, featured a walking race followed by comprehensive medical examinations. Participants underwent health assessments covering diabetes, blood pressure, body mass, and nutritional counseling.

Rehab Bouresli, National Director of Kuwaiti Special Olympics, commended the remarkable and distinctive turnout from special education schools, disability-focused associations and institutions. She highlighted the positive impact of the festival, encompassing athletic, psychological, and health aspects, as well as its role in raising awareness among children with mental disabili-

Bouresli emphasized that the collaboration with the Diabetes and Endocrinology Unit at Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital reflects Special Olympics Kuwait's commitment to fostering partnerships with medical agencies, institutions, and health specialists. This commitment aims to provide comprehensive and high-quality healthcare for individuals with mental disabilities, contributing to their improved health and physical competence. The initiative also enhances their opportunities to engage in sports and fitness programs while addressing and resolving the health challenges they may face.

#### **Expat caught selling drugs** to young people in 'south'

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: Officers from the Criminal Investigation General Department at the Interior Ministry have arrested an expatriate for selling narcotic substances to young people in Umm Al-Hayman, south of Kuwait City, with an undisclosed quantity of Shabu, heroin, Lyrica pills and drug paraphernalia in his possession, reports Al-Anba daily quoting a reliable source from the security

The source revealed that the department received confidential information about an expatriate selling narcotic substances to the youths in Ahmadi Governorate. In response to the tip-off, the investigation officers verified the information by closely monitoring the activities of the suspect. This led to the arrest of the suspect and confiscation of the above-mentioned narcotics.

A case was registered and the suspect was referred to the concerned authorities.

of various drugs and about 1.5 million psychotropic pills from August to October 2023. The daily obtained data showing that several individuals

involved in drug cases were arrested and referred to the Pub-

In August, a total of 6,150 kilograms of various drugs and 763 psychotropic pills were confiscated within one day resulting in the filing of 10 cases involving 15 individuals; 15 kilograms of drugs and seven kilograms of psychotropic substances were found in postal parcels resulting in the filing of 14 cases against 14 people; in addition to 250,000 psychotropic pills, 11 kilograms of narcotics and 8,130 different pills confiscated in separate operations.

In September 2023, about 180 kilograms of drugs -- hashish, heroin and others -- were confiscated; as well as thousands of psychotropic pills.

In October, about 128 kilograms of hashish and other drugs were confis-

Over the past three months, the authorities arrested around 190 people of various nationalities for promoting and trafficking in drugs

Recently, the authorities arrested 16 defendants involved in 12 cases

with more than 11 kilograms of various drugs in their possession; in addition to two kilograms of Lyrica powder; 3,200 psychotropic pills; 15 bottles of alcohol; an undisclosed quantity of marijuana seeds; four unlicensed weapons and ammunition and some cash.

**Driver beats sponsor:** An unidentified driver, attacked his sponsor and stole 300 dinars during a heated discussion between them, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to complaint filed by the citizen with the Far-

waniya police station, he requested the driver to take him to visit his relative and the latter refused, because according to the Kuwaiti he was in an abnormal condition.

He added the driver not only attacked him but stole 300 dinars from him and fled.

A case of beating and theft has been filed against the absconding driver.

**New victim of scam:** Despite the warning issued by the Ministry of Interior regarding fraudulent activities carried out by individuals from outside Kuwait, posing as security personnel or bank representatives through phone calls and electronic communication platforms, an expatriate fell prey to such deceptive operations that target unsuspecting victims, reports Al-Anba daily.

A complaint filed by the expatriate at the Farwaniya police station shows the man was robbed of three thousand dinars. He said the caller claimed he was a bank employee and requested a copy of his bank card and civil ID.

Subsequently, the victim received multiple messages in-dicating withdrawals totaling 3 thousand dinars in a short

Upon contacting the bank, it was verified that they do not have employees soliciting customers for such information. The expatriate had, indeed, become a victim of a scam orchestrated by external criminal networks. A case has been recorded with the relevant authorities for further investiga-

Jail, fine in fraud: The Court of Appeals, headed by Judge Nasr Salem Al-Heid, has sentenced the former secretary of a lawmaker to five years in prison and fined her KD21,000 for committing fraud, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The Public Prosecution had earlier charged the defendant - a female citizen -- with defrauding compatriots by promising to give them government houses, nationalities, farms, guest houses and chalets. She also forged the identities of many citizens and obtained a total of KD43,000 from some of the victims.

The crime was uncovered when several citizens complained about the illegal activities of the accused, who allegedly forged identification documents in printing shops.

Airport fire tackled: Thursday night, the fire operations room received a report about a fire at the "T2" airport project, reports Al-Anba daily.

Firefighting teams promptly responded to the incident, and upon their arrival, it was determined that the fire involved construction materials on a bridge that was still under

The firefighters swiftly brought the situation under control, extinguishing the fire without delay without any human casualties. The fire caused only minor material damage.

The fire-fighting operation was supervised by Lieutenant General Khaled Al-Makrad, the Chief of the General Fire Force, along with Major General Jamal Badr Nasser, the Acting Deputy Chief of the Firefighting Sector and the Human Resources Development Sector.

#### **HH Amir, Crown Prince, PM congratulate Oman**

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Friday sent a cable of congratulations to Sultan Haitham bin Tariq of Oman on the occasion of his country's na-

In the cable, His Highness the Amir commended the solid and historical ties between Kuwait and Oman as well as the outstanding achievements that Oman has accomplished under the wise leadership of the Sultan.

His Highness the Amir also wished the Sultan of Oman good health and further progress and prosperity for his country under his wise leadership.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah also sent a cable Friday to

Sultan Haitham bin Tariq of Oman, congratulating him on the occasion of his country's National Day.

His Highness the Crown Prince wished the Sultan everlasting well-being and the people of Oman further progress and development under his wise leadership.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah then sent a cable on Friday to Sultan Haitham bin Tariq of Oman, congratulating him on the occasion of his country's National Day.

Speaker of National Assembly Ahmad Al-Sa'adoun sent Friday two cables of congratulations to President of Oman's State Council Sheikh Abdulmalik Al-Khalili and Chairman of Shura Council Khalid bin Hilal Al Mawali on Oman's National Day.





Schengen for Kuwaitis my priority: EU envoy

#### New Belgian envoy commends ties with Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: In his initial statement, shortly after presenting his credentials to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad, the Belgian Ambassador to Kuwait, Christian Dooms, commended the friendly and pleasant nature of the meeting, reports Al-Rai

Discussions primarily centered around bilateral relations between Belgium and Kuwait. Ambassador Dooms expressed satisfaction with the existing excellent relationship but conveyed a sense that more could be achieved, particularly in terms of enhancing commercial ties and fostering cultural and technical coopera-

Highlighting Belgium's global standing in renewable energy and offshore wind energy, as well as expertise in medical and cancer treatment and artificial intelligence research, Ambassador Dooms suggested the potential for closer collaboration. He mentioned the existing security and defense cooperation with Kuwait, emphasizing Belgium's participation in the international coalition against ISIS, with two military personnel stationed at the Arifjan base.

Ambassador Domes proposed potential areas of collaboration, including tourism initiatives and student exchanges between Kuwait and Belgian universities. While refraining from commenting on European countries' positions on events in Gaza, he reiterated Belgium's consistent call for a two-state solution to address the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Expressing concern for the situation in Gaza, he emphasized the need for a resolution and hoped for more critical voices in Israel regarding its government's actions.

Regarding Kuwait's role in the ongoing conflict, Ambassador Domes praised Kuwait's positive contributions, highlighting its significant commitment and generosity. He acknowledged Kuwait as the thirdlargest contributor of aid since the conflict's inception, sending 21 aid planes, and extended congratulations for Kuwait's humanitarian efforts.

Meanwhile, in her first official statement after presenting her credentials to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad, the European Union Ambassador to Kuwait, Anne Koistinen, said the digitization of the Schengen visa is a positive step, reports Al-Rai daily. Koistinen said, "Facilitating Schengen requirements for Kuwaiti citizens is one of my priorities, and will contribute to facilitating communications between individuals in line with the European Union's Gulf strategy.

She went on to say, "Until the new online visa system becomes operational in 2028, I encourage applicants to obtain a Schengen visa." In Kuwait, we must continue to follow the current procedures issued by the relevant embassies in Kuwait.

She stated that once the online visa platform for the European Union is operational in 2028, applicants will still need to come in person to the Schengen consular offices or service providers in the case of first-time applicants, people whose biometric data is no longer valid, and people who have a new travel document, saying, "This new system will also replace the current visa sticker with a cryptographically signed bar code."

The European Union adopted new rules on November 13, 2023, which will allow people planning to travel to the Schengen Area to apply online



Picture taken at the ceremony

#### **AU secures gold awards at TICE and EEA ceremony**

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: The College of Engineering at the Australian University (AU) achieved noteworthy success, clinching 4 Gold awards while participating in the 14th Technological Innovations Conference and Exhibition (TICE), and the 7th Engineering Excellence Awards (EEA).

The event was held under the patronage of H.E. Sheikh Malik Al-Jaber Al-Malik Al-Sabah- Head of Sustainable Development Initiatives at the Prime Minister Office and attracted distinguished guests from Ministries, the Oil sector, Research Institutes, Industry leaders and Scholars.

Over the years, TICE has become an internationally renowned event and a place of confluence for emerging & innovative technologies that can help find solutions for the multiple challenges faced by the industries in Kuwait including Oil & Gas and Energy sector.

The College of Engineering at AU made a significant impact at the event, presenting two research projects for the Engineering Excellence Award, delivering two presentations, nominating two alumni for the Emerging Engineer of the Year, and showcasing graduation projects by a group of students.
Dr. Suad Al Radwan, a faculty mem-

ber at AU, played a crucial role as a chairperson within the organizing committee of the conference.

In a triumph under the Research Category, AU secured 2 Gold Awards. The first, "Engineering Excellence - Renewable Energy" recognized a Feasibility Study of Solar PV Imple-

mentation, supervised by Dr. Suad Al Radhwan, with participating students Dana Dalleh, Dana Al Sairafi Shaikhah Al Dousari, Wafaa Al Saeed and Zahraa Kassim.

The second Gold Award, "Engineering Excellence- Research", acknowledged Realtime Monitoring of a Rotary Machine using the Cloud-Based Platform, 'Thingspeak.", supervised by Dr Mohammad Omar.Participating students included Dalal Al Ruwaie, Danah Halawah, Shahad Al Kharji, Sondos Al Fadhli and Lujain Al Sarraf.

Adding to the accolades, two alumni from the Petroleum Engineering Department; Eng. Salma Sameer Shehab and Eng. Hasan Hamza Al Ali, were recognized as the Emerging Engineer

## diwaniya 🕈 چیوانیة

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

## 'Gaza will remain resilient by sacrifices of its people'

"ALL countries of the world are following the massacres and crimes carried out by the Israeli occupation against the civilians of Gaza, men and women, children, youth and the elderly. It bombed their homes, cut off their water, food and electricity, and forced them to flee to other areas, where they live in extremely difficult humanitarian conditions," columnist **Dr Bahija** Behbehani wrote for Al-Qabas daily.

"Has the world lost its sense of anger at watching these painful and heartbreaking scenes without taking any actual participation to help them, other than resonant statements of anger on social media and holding demonstrations denouncing the crime? Why don't countries around the world put pressure on Israel to

stop its ferocious attack on innocent civilians? "Kuwait, "the country of humanity," has sent ambulances, food, and medicine by relief air bridge planes for the benefit of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip. The United Nations stated, "The complete siege that Israel imposed on the Gaza Strip is prohibited under international law." Human Rights Watch described "the Israeli Defense Minister's statement regarding the Palestinians as disgusting, and it is



Dr. Behbehani

Gaza, stressing the cutting off of water, food, and electricity from the Strip is a human calamity.

"International law, on which the United Nations relies, stipulates: "In rejecting the Israeli siege, the civilian population has the right to full protection under military operations, and prohibits or restricts combat measures that may cause them suffering.'

"International law also prohibits "directly or indiscriminately targeting civilians or retaliating against them, and it also prohibits starving them as one of the methods of war." The law also prohibits "attacking, destroying, or disrupting things that are indispensable to civilians, such as food, agricultural supplies, livestock, and drinking water," which is also an action carried out by Israel against the Gaza Strip.

"The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is at the forefront of political and diplomatic activity -- as usual -- in order to end the tragic situation by holding an "emergency joint Arab-Islamic summit" to take fateful decisions, forcing Israel to stop its crimes in Gaza.

"We hope that the summit decisions regarding Gaza will be implemented on the ground, as the Palestinian people in Gaza have been under siege for nearly two decades, and are currently suffering from brutal

attacks by the Israeli army.
"Despite the enormity of the sacrifices made by the Palestinians, the flood of 10/7/2023 recorded a glorious victory for the Palestinian resistance over the Zionist entity, and shone the global spotlight on them, and Gaza will remain steadfast due to the sacrifices of its people.'

#### Also:

"Let us leave aside the conflict between the major powers that is taking place today between robbery and submission and between victory and defeat to seize the waterways of the global trade routes due to the developments in the markets and the commercial marketing system," columnist Dr Abdul Rahman Al Jeeran wrote for Al-Rai daily.

Ukraine and Sudan is con sidered one of the files of this conflict, and Israel is one of the axes of this international conflict on one side, and on the other side, the power of the Islamic faith has transcended regimes, crossed continents, and traveled its path around the world in isolation from the wars of countries and their lame policies, from political Islam, and the thrones and crowns of royal monarchs.

"Take, for example, the African continent today which has 14 Muslim countries. Muslims are approximately 550 million people, and their conversion to Islam has nothing to do with a country or politics. This is close to the case in Sumatra, Java, Pakistan, and Indonesia and China and its neighboring Tajik countries may have a number like this number of millions. God continues to plant seeds in this religion that He uses to obey Him.
"This force is dominant and steadfast, requiring an

explanation other than the word "creed" devoid of its properties, advantages, and the beauties of Islam. This advantage was not afforded to other faiths that were not known to have such dominance and such spread and appearance.

"This is what worried the West, so researchers began seeking the reasons that facilitated this call unless it is possible for others. One of the reasons for its spread among Indians is that it equalizes the outcast sects and other Brahmin and noble classes.

"Also, one of the reasons for the spread of Islam in Indonesia and Malaysia is that it encountered a poor agricultural people who had bad suspicions of their worldly and religious masters and denied their condescension over them and their preoccupation with financial corruption so they welcomed the followers of the

new religion and they came to it in the millions.
"One of the reasons for its spread on the African continent -- according to a team of researchers -- is that it does not prevent polygamy and does not prevent an African man from divorcing his wives or keeping as many of them as he wants, provided that it does not

"One of the reasons for its wide spread in Europe, America, and Australia is that it is a religion of common sense, simple and easy to follow, rules and principles, and those who enter it after witnessing monotheism and the pillars of Islam do not need any of the mysteries, talismans, and ceremonies that followers of other religions practice without understanding their meaning.

"On this previous basis, we find that the leaders of the Ethiopian, Sudanese, and other tribes entered Islam, thus entering the tribe completely, and this transformation began from the upper classes to those below them, as it began from the followers to the masters and

It is the steadfastness of the Islamic faith in the face of challenges, and this is what frightened the children

"Members of the Finance Committee at the National Assembly gave the retirees and employees good news on a package of decisions taken in their meeting with the finance minister and officials at the Public Institution for Social Security. Thus, joy prevailed in the hearts of retirees and employees," columnist Yousef

Hajji wrote for Annahar daily.

"Then, the minister announced in a press conference that only retirees whose pension is less than KD1,000 are covered. For the rest of the retirees, their condition will be considered upon completion of the study that he will conduct within two months. People are confused as to whom they should believe – the committee members or the minister.

"The questions for the government are: Why delay these studies that we have been hearing about for months? Why lengthen the study period if it is aimed at improving living conditions?

"I believe the law allows insurance companies to increase the minimum salaries through the issuance of a decision without waiting and meeting the National

"My questions for the Assembly are: How long will the retiree wait? What is his fault if his feelings are tickled daily by news from you that is far from the

"Some social media sites do not fail to play with feelings through their daily broadcast of fake news about improving living conditions, especially that of

"How many legislatures and governments have passed, yet the work on improving the living conditions of the citizen did not see studies, meetings and consensuses between the two authorities? Unfortunately, all of them are unfulfilled promises.

"The citizens are confused and do not know whom to believe, up to the point that majority of them declared their disbelief of all these news and statements until they see the amount deposited into their accounts.

"I hope the two authorities will quickly improve the living conditions of citizens, because the citizens are now tired of promises."

"We got news that Israel is preparing for an 'unprecedented brutal' operation in Gaza...,"columnist Dr Turki Al-Azmi wrote for Al-Rai daily.

"Biden supports the ground operation and is looking for 'possible alternatives'!

It is strange that the international community exposed the Hamas attack on Oct 7 - the mask of the real face of the European community and America's insolence in its unlimited support for Israel. 'What 'unprecedented brutality' after the bombing

of Baptist Hospital and other hospitals, demolition of homes for children, and 'brutal' scenes that have never been seen in contemporary history, even though they are considered criminal and forbidden according to the United Nations and human rights principles. "The homes of defenseless and helpless people were

demolished and their hospitals bombed, while the Zionists talk, analyze and search for the evacuation of the people of Gaza ... What humanity are they talking

"Strangely, they are using double standards. After Russia's war on Ukraine and America's objection ... we find America revealing the Zionism of its positions with its full support for Israel.

"It is strange that some Muslim leaders sympathize with the wounded of Israel and rush to help them, but they do not move toward their brothers in religion.

"There is nothing more than the protests that began in Kuwait and some Arab, Islamic, European and American countries which distinguish right from wrong with a desire to reform the situation and return to international laws and treaties that criminalize the practices of the Israeli army and protect the people of the land, our brothers, the people of usurped Palestine.

"What alternatives is the American President talking about after supporting the ground operation, which Israel described as unprecedentedly brutal? There is no power or strength except in God Almighty, who knows the hidden secrets.

"We do not want a Muslim by identity only ... We want the Islamic sense to be present in everyone. The least that could be done include supplication, support and steadfastness in speaking the truth."

"The acceleration of events within the educational sector makes us slow down, think and wonder where to begin talking about this important and vital sector in the country!" columnist Dr Abdullah Al-Ghassab wrote for **Annahar** daily.

"Talking about education, its needs and what is happening in it means we must look deep into the current condition of educational institutions. The magnitude of the problems and suffering that these institutions are experiencing is not a secret to anyone, such as the delay and decline in indicators of the quality of education and development of educational institutions to cope with the rapid technological pace in the era of artificial intelligence and combating cyber threats to State institutions.

"The State sectors' need for specialized national professionals armed with scientific knowledge and well trained in all modern fields has become important and indispensable. The problems of State institutions are due to the lack of nationals with vital specializations that are in line with the needs of the times and the local labor market.

"Among the most prominent of these required specializations are cybersecurity and artificial intelligence, which do not exist in public colleges and universities. This is in addition to the need to increase the number of students accepted into medical specializations at the local and foreign universities. Admission is limited due to the low budget and other reasons. "Everyone knows that distinguished education

achieves and guarantees human wealth, which then lead to renaissance for any society like Japan. After World War II, what are its economic and political classifications now?! It is at a very advanced level globally despite the fact that it is a non-oil country.

"This is why we direct our message to His Excellency the Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr Adel Al-Mana, with the advice of one who loves and focuses on academic affairs: The instability of ministry officials and the administrative costs – from the bottom to the top of the pyramid - have contributed to a frightening administrative vacuum that cannot wait for long to correct in order to address the existing problems and advance the ministry's institutions. "Your Excellency the Honorable Minister: Higher

education institutions require distinguished administrations worthy of access to an attractive educational environment. This requires speeding up the issuance of tough decisions.

"Your Excellency the Minister of Education ... I know very well that you recently assumed the ministerial portfolio, but we also know that you are an academician par excellence, who has sufficient experience and is fully aware of how the education sector is suffering at all levels. What distinguishes you from the previous ministers is that you are a jurist who knows the law determines relationships between humans and institutions, and greatly contributes to accomplishing the task.

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary

## **Hunt intensified for duo** who set fire to judge car

Ruling on Army Fund due Sunday

#### **Al-Seyassah Report**

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18:** Security teams in the Ministry of Interior have intensified their efforts to arrest the two unknown individuals who started a fire on Thursday night in the vicinity of the home belonging to the Head of a department in the Court of Cassation Judge Sultan Bouresli, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This move came under increasing public pressure, and after the incident turned into an issue of public opinion affecting the most important detail in the country's authorities.

This occurred two days before the ruling, which is scheduled to be issued today, on the appeal submitted by the Public Prosecution against the acquittal of His Highness the former Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, the former Minister of Defense and Interior Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah, and others accused in the Army Fund case.

#### **Seriousness**

What increased the seriousness of the situation was the death threat that the judge received one week ago, according to what Ziad Bouresli reported in his account on the X platform after revealing the incident on Thursday.

He wrote, "One week ago, Judge Bouresli was subjected to an attempted assassination threat. Two days after the ruling in the Army Fund case, his car and the fence of his house were set on fire in an attempt to intimidate and threaten

Everyone knows that the honorable judge will not deviate from the truth, no matter what it is. He will not be intimidated by your despic-

The judge is in good health and is doing well. However, what happened is a clear violation of the judicial authority. We call on the officers in the Ministry of Interior to quickly follow up the incident and identify the perpetrator so that they may receive the most severe penalties. This action will not dissuade the judge, who always speaks the truth, from speaking his mind on the issue of the army fund."

#### **Threatened**

Meanwhile, the former Minister of Information Saad Bin Tafla wrote in his X account, "It is only in mafia states, drug gangs, and failed states that judges who are just and their families are threatened, kidnapped, and killed in order to discourage them from issuing their rulings according to what the law and a living, impartial conscience dictate."

Furthermore, Lawyer Jasser Al-Jadai said, "What Judge Bouresli was exposed to is something that hurts us and worries us, and the state must protect him. We must also protect him with the tools we have, as he is a judge with a history of adjudication and judgment. We know his standing among lawyers and judges, and we do not accept attacks on him or exposing him to danger.'

Also, Dr. Faisal Al-Kandari said, "Protecting him and his family is the responsibility of the Minister of Interior. The blatant attack on his house and the burning of his car only happens in countries where joints are controlled by corrupt people who are confident that the law will not be applied to them, and the state of law is not a refuge for everyone.

Addressing the Minister of Interior, he said, "Minister of Interior, you have an urgent task to arrest the perpetrators and bring their heads to justice so that we may live in a country of safety.

Even though the Ministry of Interior did not issue a statement about the incident, reliable sources explained that two unidentified people on board an All-Terrain-Vehicle (buggy), each wearing a helmet on his head, went to the house of Judge Bouresli and poured gasoline under his car and on the fence and then started the fire.

Two young men, who happened to be at the scene, hurried to extinguish the fire using fire extinguishers with the help of the judge's neighbors. In the chaos, the fire starters and those who were with them managed to flee.

Security personnel rushed to the place and opened an immediate investigation to identify the perpetrators. Records from nearby surveillance cameras proved that the two masked individuals entered the vicinity of Judge Bouresli's house.

According to preliminary investigations, the crime was planned in advance, as the perpetrators monitored the site for a few days and chose to commit the crime late at night so that the place would be void of bypassers. They had intended to set fire on a larger scale, but an eye-witness prevented them from completing their crime.

Immediately after the Ministry of Interior was informed of the incident, investigators and forensic personnel searched the site. A mobile security patrol team was assigned to guard Judge Bouresli's house. Investigations are underway to arrest the accused.

The sources affirmed that there is great interest in this case, and higher instructions have been issued to arrest the suspects and find out the reasons and motives behind the in-

They revealed that the instructions stressed the need for the protection of judges and the lack of tolerance for anyone who destabilizes the security of the country or attacks others, regardless of their position either in a public office or elsewhere, and that there should be no tolerance for criminals.

#### Diwan officials, others probed in funds scam

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: The Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) has referred a former Amiri Diwan official and others to the Public Prosecution on suspicion of embezzling public funds, reports Al-Anba daily.

În a press statement, Nazaha reaffirmed its commitment to intentinize corruption reports; and that it always values the role of whistleblowers in providing vital information while ensuring they are fully protected considering their great contribution to the authority's efforts to carry out its tasks efficiently within the purview of the law.

Meanwhile, Nazaha organized a workshop entitled, "Strengthening Accountability and Auditing Mechanisms in the Public Sector," ernment Performance Monitoring Agency, State Audit Bureau and Internal Auditors Association.

According to the authority, the workshop focused on the inspection and audit offices that were established pursuant to Cabinet Resolution 283/2011, and their supervisory role in developing transparency and integrity, as well as improving performance and accountability, as these offices work and implementation to achieve efficiency and sustainability in government agencies.

#### **Aid collected for Gaza**

#### Campaign bags KD 733,495

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: Al-Salam Humanitarian and Charitable Works Association concluded its "We Are All Gaza" campaign with a direct financial harvest amounting to 733,495 Kuwaiti dinars, through the fundraising link that it launched with the approval and supervision of the Ministry of Social Affairs at ten in the morning and continued until ten in the evening, with

great and effective public and popular participation.

The Chairman of the Society's Board of Directors, Dr. Nabil Al-Aoun, told Al-Rai, "We started the "We are all Gaza" campaign about a month ago, and we succeeded, thanks to God, in flying 21 relief planes for our brothers in Gaza, and the Peace Society in cooperation with the International Islamic Organization, the Kuwaiti Red Crescent, and the Kuwaiti Relief Society, and in partnership with the International Islamic Charitable Organization, we flew 8 planes, and we have one plane that will take off Sunday and another that will take off next Tuesday.

He added that these planes will contain first-class quality aid and will contain ambulances and refrigerators operating according to the solar energy system, in addition to large diesel "electric generator" machines with a capacity of 250,000, of which we have prepared 7 machines, in addition to more than 20 new blankets ready, and more than 50,000. A piece of clothing for children and adults, "jackets" for the winter, food supplies, dates, and other qualitative relief aid will be launched through the air bridge on upcoming flights.

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#### **Power imported** from 'GCC grid' KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18:

Informed sources in the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy revealed the Ministry imported two days ago 750 megawatts for an hour from the Gulf electrical interconnection network, following the shutting down of two units from the Al-Zour North station, reports Al-Rai daily.

The sources said, "After the shutting down of these two units the station's rate of production dropped by 1,000 megawatts, the ministry was forced to compensate for the deficit from the Gulf network by importing 750 megawatts, and covering the rest from the Kuwaiti network with 250 megawatts."

The sources explained that "despite the low rates of power consumption during the current period, due to the drop in temperature.



## Municipality cites regulations for demolition & restoration of sites

Hawally Municipality's Safety Dept organises field tours

#### By Inass Awadh

Al-Sevassah/Arab Times Staff KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: Director of the Safety **Department in Hawally** Municipality Al-Humaidi Al-Mutairi affirmed that awareness of the municipality's requirements and regulations for demolition and restoration of sites contributes to reducing their violations.

Al-Mutairi said this in a statement he issued on the sidelines of the third field tour organized by the Hawally Municipality's Safety Department recently as part of the comprehensive inspection campaign for the safety departments of all municipality branches in the country's gover-

He explained that licenses must be issued by Kuwait Municipality for the demolition and restoration of sites, starting with a license from the Engineering Audit and Follow-

up Department, then a demolition safety license from the Safety Department, and then a license to prepare the demolition or restoration of the site by placing a fence around the site to prevent any stones or dust from flying outside the demolition site in order to avoid exposure to passersby or putting vehicles at risk.

#### Monitored

The department monitored the demolition process in a property in Bayan to ensure care was taken during the demolition process to provide a source of water, either by a tanker or other means, to spray the demolition site and prevent the spread of dirt and dust during the

demolition process. After the completion of the demolition process, certain safety management requirements are implemented such as preventing the sorting of demolition products inside the site, especially separating the iron from the concrete, ensuring they are removed promptly, and cleaning the demolition site completely.

Then the owner of the demolition site or the company responsible for the demolition should visit the Safety Department to request for a safety certificate for the cleanliness

of the site. After that, a committee from the Safety Department will inspect the site, ensure its cleanliness. and grant the owner or company the certificate through which the work can be completed.

Al-Mutari stressed that the safety department's field tours continue daily according to a well-estab-lished geographical distribution, which makes it easier for officials to follow the progress of work and intervene if any problem occurs in a specific area.

He explained that in cases of violation of the demolition conditions, a citation is issued directly to the violator without a warning because the matter is sensitive and causes harm to the safety of those inside and outside the demolition site. In addition, the demolition companies know the requirements for demolition in advance and must adhere to them.

#### **Violation**

In case of a violation related to the presence of construction debris or other violations, a citation will be issued but it will be preceded by a warning and the issuance of a deadline for removal.

Last Thursday, the municipality launched its first campaign, which

was implemented by safety department teams in the governorate's municipality branches to ensure the implementation of safety requirements in construction and restoration operations, set up special containers for waste construction materials, and activate its supervisory role in maintaining the safety of infrastructure manholes, rain drainage, and sewage systems to confront weather conditions.

The first inspection tour in Jahra Governorate was headed by the Director of the Safety Department Hamoud Al-Mutairi during a field tour that resulted in the issuance of 293 warnings and a report against violators for non-compliance with safety regulations.

The inspection tours of the Safety Department of Ahmadi Municipality, headed by the Director of the department Khaled Al-Otaibi and the general controller for the follow-up of safety works, also resulted in issuance of warnings to 280 plots for not placing construction rubble containers and in taking legal measures, in addition to issuing a violation report against nine plots that did not modify the situation after warning about the violation of the safety conditions and regulations.

#### **National Day greetings sent**

#### HH Amir congratulates Morocco

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Friday sent a cable of congratulations to the King of Morocco Mohammed VI on the occasion of his country's National Day.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir commended the outstanding achievements that Morocco has accomplished in all fields under the wise leadership of the King, wishing him good health and further progress and prosperity for his country under his wise leadership.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable to King Mohammed VI, congratulating him on the occasion of his country's National Day. His Highness the Crown Prince wished the King everlasting well-being and the people of Morocco further progress and development under his wise

Also, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a cable to King Mohammed VI, congratulating him on the occasion of his country's National Day.

In the meantime, Speaker of National Assembly Ahmad Al-Saadoun sent two cables of congratulations to President of the Moroccan House of Councillors Enaam Mayara and Speaker of the House of Representatives Rachid Talbi on Morocco's National Day.



KUNA photo

Awarding Bader Hussain with the second place.

Big achievement for 'all of us'

#### Kuwaiti students in US unfold remarkable 'Leave a Mark' initiative

November

Room Promotion

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: The altruistic spirit knows no bounds. In the southwestern region of America, specifically in the state of Arizona, seven Kuwaiti students from the University of Arizona Tucson have distinguished themselves within the Kuwaiti Club through a remarkable humanitarian initiative titled "Leave a Trace."

These students, in collaboration with fellow Kuwaiti volunteers, aimed to be trailblazers in promoting positive change within their community, transcending geograph-



ical boundaries

Kuwaiti students taking part in the 'Leave a Mark' initiative.

Athba Al-Radaan, one of the

team members, in a conversation with Al-Rai, shared a collective passion for reshaping the world around them, with their primary objective being to inspire people to make a positive impact in their daily lives

and in society as a whole. Together, they organized a series of humanitarian activities targeting various segments of society, including distributing meals to those in need and organizing sports activities for children – activities wholly funded by the students themselves. Al-Radaan not-

ed, "The impact of our initiatives was palpable on the faces of the beneficiaries, who marveled at the students' ability to execute such compassionate

Highlighting the initiative's inspirational effect, she noted, "The 'Leave a Mark' initiative succeeded in motivating numerous individuals, particularly Kuwaiti youth, leading to an increased number of volunteers. This infusion of energy added a new dynamism to the campaign, expanding its sphere of influence.

#### 3 Kuwaitis win UAE photography award

#### By Salem Al-Methen

ABU DHABI, Nov 18, (KUNA): Three Kuwaiti photographers won Friday Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammad bin Rashid Al Maktoum International Photography Award of the UAE in various categories, which attracted hundreds of professional and ama-

teur photographers from all over the world. Speaking to KUNA, Mohammad Al-Kandari, a wildlife photographer, said Kuwait's outstanding presence in this international event is a big achievement for "all of us to raise the country's flag internationally".

He expressed his delight at winning categories in the 12th edition of the award, which is one of the most important international events, adding that several photogra-phers from Arab and foreign countries participated in the award.

Āl-Kandari and his compatriot Moham-

mad Al-Qattan have won the fourth and fifth places respectively in the award titled "diversity", while their compatriot Bader Ali Hussain came second in another category of

Al-Kandari is a wildlife photographer, and he won many awards in several countries, mostly in the National Geographic Photography Competition in 2015 and Hamdan International Photography Award in 2016, in addition to his participation as a member of the jury in many local and international photography competitions.

Established in 2011 in the UAE, Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammad bin Rashid Al Maktoum International Photography Award aims to enhance global interest, improve performance and creativity in photography as well as create a global base and encourage the participation of citizens in relevant international competitions and activities.

#### In line with company's internal digitization strategy

#### stc digitizes its 'To whom it may concern' certs for its employees

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: Kuwait Telecommunications Company - stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait has unveiled the new update to the Company's myHR application, featuring the launch of a new electronic service by issuing "To Whom It May Concern" certificates for its employees. The initiative comes as part of stc's internal digitization journey, a key segment under the Company's corporate strategy.

The new feature launched by stc for its employees aims to generate 'To whom it may concern' electronic certificates upon request that can be submitted to third party institutions such as banks and financial institutions.

The requests can be submitted through the Company's myHR App or Employee Self Service platform, in which the certificates will be generated automatically. To streamline the verification and authentication process, a QR code will be imbedded within each certificate, validating the authenticity of the certificate once scanned.

The HR e-certificates will also increase the speed, efficiency, and security of generating such documents, further building on its digitization and digital transformation journey.

stc has consistently explored and introduced new-to-market concepts that cater to all stakeholders, whether customers or employees. The Company utilizes its digital expertise and know-how to provide efficient solutions that can streamline processes and deliver efficient outcomes.

stc logo

As a pioneer within the private sector, stc is one of the first companies to implement the self-service e-certificates issuance portal for employees. The Company holds a reputation of exploring new solutions and finding innovative, efficient ways to integrate value-adding technologies within its internal ecosystem.

This technological exploration and implementation reflects the Company's commitment to driving progress and fostering a culture of innovation and excellence throughout the region.

In a statement,stc expressed that it has consistently followed its commitment to innovation and the seamless integration of groundbreaking technology, positioning itself as a pioneer and enabler of digital transformation. With immediate access to essential documents coupled with innovative verification features, employees are empowered to complete third-party interactions with enhanced ease and confidence. Such strategic moves reaffirm stc's role as a catalyst for digital transformation, delivering on the evolving needs and efficiencies of the modern world.

### **Academy holds courses on self-development**

#### By Abdul Nasser Al-Aslami

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: The Creative Academy 5, organized by the Martyr's Office, continues to offer its courses on various fields of life with the aim of refining children's talents and expanding their awareness of self-development to be active members of society.

In this regard, Director of the Family Guidance and Welfare Department Muhammad Al-Mutairi explained that the academy is discussing the health topic, which is one of the four topics that the academy is presenting this year.

The health axis consists of three seminars - the first on first aid, the second on health and proper nutrition, and the last on technology and the en-

There is a lot of information in the health section that children must acquire and exploit when necessary, especially with regard to first aid and dealing with

As for proper nutrition, the lecture is regarding how to deal with developments at a time when a person needs to balance between exercise and healthy food on one hand and the luxury achieved by technology that contributes to reducing a person's movement in contrast to the strong demand for fast food.

Regarding the technological revolu-

tion and the environment, this is a matter of great importance, especially now in light of the increasing rates of pollution and ways to prevent it, such as agriculture, greening and other health technologies. These courses were presented by a group of children of martyrs who special-

ized in these topics, which had a positive impact on the souls of the rest of the children and encouraged them to be diligent and persistent in order to reach the highest levels of development, excellence and A large number of the children of the

martyrs participate in the academy's seminars. They praised the daughters of the martyr Fares Al-Enezi, Bashayer and Shaima Al-Enezi, for the courses offered by the office and their contribution to self-building and developing their skills.

They expressed their hope that these courses will continue with broader horizons and multiple fields.



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#### **Embassy celebrates Poland's National Day**

## 'Relations between Poland-Kuwait deeply rooted and multifaceted'

#### By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: The Charge D'Affaires of the Embassy of Poland in Kuwait, Anna Marta Godowy Czeszkowska, says, "After a four-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are pleased to resume this cherished celebration outside the embassy, which symbolizes our collective resilience and enduring spirit."

On the occasion of Poland's national celebration, she said, "This occasion and our celebration of November 11 is a testimony to the sacrifices of generations that strived for Poland's independence. Despite the absence of 123 years from the world map, the dream of freedom prevailed, with the end of World War I on the occasion of the re-

birth of our country.

Re-establishing the state after 123 years of partition was a complex endeavor. Despite not having an independent country for more than a century, the resilience of Polish identity remained constant, maintained by the unyielding spirit of Polish society throughout this period of repression. Each generation of young Poles inherited a deep connection to their national language, culture and traditions.

#### Identity

This enduring spirit of national identity is encapsulated in the poignant words of our national anthem - Poland is not dead yet, as long as we are still alive."

Czeszkowska expressed her hopes and solidarity with Ukraine, saying, "They are fighting bravely for the sovereignty of their nation, and we believe that they will soon celebrate the joys of independence. At the same time, Poland is dedicated to promoting global peace initiatives, especially in Palestine.

She went on to say, "Recognizing the urgent humanitarian needs, we have allocated PLN 1 million to fund the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), demonstrating our support for these vital peacekeeping

Czeszkowska affirmed that the historical relations between Poland and Kuwait are deeply rooted and multifaceted, as one of the prominent examples of early interaction is the trip of the Polish nobleman Wacław Seweryn Rzewuski to the Arabian Peninsula in the 19th century, which began as a short visit and developed into a long stay in the region.

She explained that Rzewski's memoirs, rich with detailed accounts of the people he encountered, the places he explored, and his comprehensive study of Arabian horses, are invaluable historical documents. His life and writings create a distinctive bridge between the Polish and Arab worlds,

demonstrating that these cultures have deep, multi-layered connections despite obvious differences.

#### Support

Czeszkowska said, "Last year, with the support of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), we displayed an exhibition in Kuwait about Rzewski's interactions in the region and his studies of Arabian horses. The exhibition gained great interest, further highlighting the depth and intrigue of our shared history.

This year is an important milestone as we celebrate the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Poland and Kuwait, which is evidence of the exceptional cooperation between our two countries. In line with this celebration, we are pleased to conclude new agreements that further strengthen our bilateral relations.

Regarding the enduring nature of our cooperation, one notable example is the joint archaeological mission in Subiya and Failaka Island. This project has been operating successfully for nearly twenty years.

In addition, we are proud to facilitate a training program in Poland for students from the Kuwait Coast Guard. We also look forward to strengthening cooperation between Poland and Kuwait and continuing to develop our bilateral relations in various other

# 'Strictly follow rules, regulations'

were also found to have violated the law as their visa is Article 20 (domestic worker).'

a butcher shop which, according to Al-Kandari, was closed as the butcher was caught in the act of thawing frozen liver with the intention of selling it as fresh, in addition to trading in adulterated food without a nutritional data card, noncompliance with the general requirements for food establishments, cracks on the floors and malfunctioning meat refrigerator.

A food storage, two stores, and one store selling vegetables and fruits in Salmiya were closed for operating without a health license and violating the sanitation regulations.

#### 8 food establishments shut: PAFN KUWAIT CITY, ly, while the erring facil-The team also inspected ity is open for evacuation purposes only and its records are forwarded to the Public Prosecution. He added: "The employees

Nov 18: Inspector at the Public Authority for Food and **Nutrition** (PAFN) in Hawally Governorate Mohammad Al-Kandari stressed the need for food establishments to strictly comply with the rules and regulations; while confirming the closure of eight food establishments and issuance of 25 violation citations during the recent inspection tours in Hawally and Salmiya, reports Al-Anba daily.

In a statement to the daily, Al-Kandari disclosed that several establishments with various activities were shut down for committing violations; such as food establishments operating without a health license. He said reconciliation is not permissible in these cases and the closure order is implemented immediate-

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Regarding the ruling issued in Case No. 380/2019, Commercial and Civil Department of Government/13, which is supported by the ruling issued in Appeal Nos. 3901/2019, 406/2020, Commercial Cassation/6, upholding the bankruptcy declaration of the Investment Dar Company, and pursuant to Application No. 134/2023, bankruptcy declaration issued by the Department Bankruptcy issued on 10/29/2023 related to the provisions mentioned above.

The Bankruptcy Trustees Committee invites all creditors to submit their claim along with the claim documents within a period not exceeding (Thirty) days from the date of this announcement. In the event of failure to do so, it will not be accepted. The address of the trustees is as follows:

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Phone: 22423415 - 22423417 - 22424919 P.O. Box 27387 - Safat 13134, Kuwait Email : Admin@alwahauditing.com







Photos by Mahmoud Jadeed

#### **MPs assert**

#### **Continued from Page 1**

She added a minister or prime minister subject to grilling has the right to defend himself and disprove the accusations, leaving the decision in the hands of the nation's representatives. She emphasized the need for the MPs and members of the government to correct the wrong notion about grilling motions, which was adopted long time ago; that is, considering grilling as a way of instigating crises. She added that she is looking forward to a professional debate, during which both HH the Prime Minister and Al-Mudhaf will exhibit a civilized behavior.

Meanwhile, MP Jarrah Al-Fawzan forwarded queries to Minister of Finance Fahd Al-Jarallah about the news that Al-Seyassah daily published on Nov 15; indicating Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) owns shares in a company located in Israel, and that it invested \$150 million in Zorlu Holding and \$88 million in 2022 instead of exiting. He asked if KIA knows that Zorlu manages energy plants in Tel Aviv, percentage of the shares it owns, measures taken after the publication of the news and if the Ministry of Finance investigated the issue.

On the recent closure of four private plastic surgery clinics, MP Fayez Al-Jomhour asked the health minister to present a detailed report including the names and specializations of these clinics, copies of their licenses, their violations, number of clinics shut down in the last three months, if the clinics carried out abortion and hair transplant procedures, if the ministry received complaints against the clinics

and action taken against them if any. He asked Minister of State for Municipal and Communications Affairs Fahd Al-Shaulah to submit the list of communication towers installed on the roofs of private houses; if the communication companies were granted licenses by the Ministry of Communications, Ministry of Health, and Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) to use the roofs of private houses; steps that Kuwait Municipality and CITRA took against erring companies; and if the State Ministry for Communications formed inspection teams to follow up the violations.

#### **Kuwait rallies**

#### **Continued from Page 1**

the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip and their demand of the WFP to effectively carry out its mandate of ensuring the immediate delivery of humanitarian aid to all civilians in the Gaza Strip"

It also instructed the chairman to express "the board members' expectation that the Executive Director will stress the seriousness of the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip and continue her call so that the World Food Program can effectively carry out its mandate of ensuring the immediate delivery of humanitarian assistance to all civilian populations in need throughout the Strip.'

In his speech at the board meeting, the representative of the State of Kuwait at the WFP Engineer Yousef Jahil, offered "condolences to our people in Gaza and salutes to the steadfast Palestinian people in the face of the most horrific occupation in history,' praising the WFP's tireless efforts and work to deliver humanitarian and food

aid to civilians in Gaza strip. He stressed that the WFP, as recently confirmed by its Executive Director, "possesses logistical capabilities that enable it to quickly deliver humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip, which is facing a massive hunger crisis in light of the interruption of food supplies in all its forms to civilians.'

The Kuwaiti representative denounced those who do not see the "ethnic cleansing, the indiscriminate bombing of civilians, the killing of children, or the mass displacement in

He blamed those who "pay lip service to international principles, humanitarian values, human rights, equality, solidarity, and basic rights to access to food and water and the empowerment of women and girls," wondering, "Where did these slogans go in the face of the machine of killing and destruction of the occupation forces in Gaza and the burial of children and women under the rubble of their destroyed homes'

Kuwait was re-elected to the membership of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme, which consists of 36 countries, which presided over during the period from 2016 to 2018. The new term would end on December 31, 2024

Meanwhile, patients, staff and displaced people left Gaza's largest hospital Saturday, health officials said, leaving behind only a skeleton crew to care for those too sick to move and Israeli forces in control of the facility.

The exodus from Shifa Hospital in Gaza City came the same day internet and phone service was restored to the Gaza Strip, ending a telecommunications blackout that forced the United Nations to shut down critical humanitarian aid deliveries because it was un-

Israel continued to expand its offensive in Gaza City, with the military warning in a social media post in Arabic that residents of two neighborhoods in the east and north and the urban refugee camp of Jabaliya must evacuate for their safety.

able to coordinate its convovs.

It said military activities would be paused briefly to allow them to leave. Earlier in the week, the Israeli defense minister had said troops had completed operations in the west of Gaza City.

Attacks also continued in the south of the Gaza Strip, with an Israeli airstrike hitting a residential building on the outskirts of the town of Khan Younis, killing at least 26 Palestinians, according to a doctor at the hospital where the bodies were taken.

Israel's military has been searching Shifa Hospital for traces of a Hamas command center that it alleges was located under the building - a claim Hamas and the hospital staff deny - and urging the several thousand people still

On Saturday, the military said it had been asked by the hospital's director to help those who would like to leave do so by a secure route.

The military said it did not order any evacuation, and that medical personnel were being allowed to remain in the hospital to support patients who cannot be moved.

But Medhat Abbas, a spokesman for the Health Ministry in Hamascontrolled Gaza, said the military had ordered the facility cleared, giving the hospital an hour to get people out. After it appeared the evacuation was

mostly complete, Dr. Ahmed Mokhallalati, a Shifa physician, said on social media that there were some 120 patients remaining who were unable to leave, including some in intensive care and premature babies, and that he and five other doctors were staying behind to care for them. It was not immediately clear where

those who left the hospital had gone, with 25 of Gaza's hospitals non-functional due to lack of fuel, damage and other problems and the other 11 only partially operational, according to the World Health Operation.

Israel has said hospitals in northern Gaza were a key target of its ground offensive aimed at crushing Hamas, claiming they were used as militant command centers and weapons depots, which both Hamas and medical staff deny.

Israeli troops have encircled or entered several hospitals, while others stopped functioning because of dwindling supplies and loss of electricity.

Elsewhere, the first planeload of Palestinian children wounded in the Israel-Hamas war raging in the Gaza Strip reached the United Arab Emirates on Saturday, part of a pledged relief effort by the country to aid 1,000 children.

The group of 15 people, including children and their family members, made it across the Gaza Strip's Rafah border crossing with Egypt on Friday. They then took a flight to Abu Dhabi, the capital of the Emirates.

Young children lay asleep on their moms' laps as the plane finally landed at Abu Dhabi International Airport. Some of the seats of the plane were removed to make room for the most critically wounded children, who needed to lie on stretchers.

Some of the young had bandaged arms and legs. Others sat quietly next to their parents or relatives. Some traveled alone. The mood was somber and quiet inside the plane. Many of the mothers said they were exhausted.

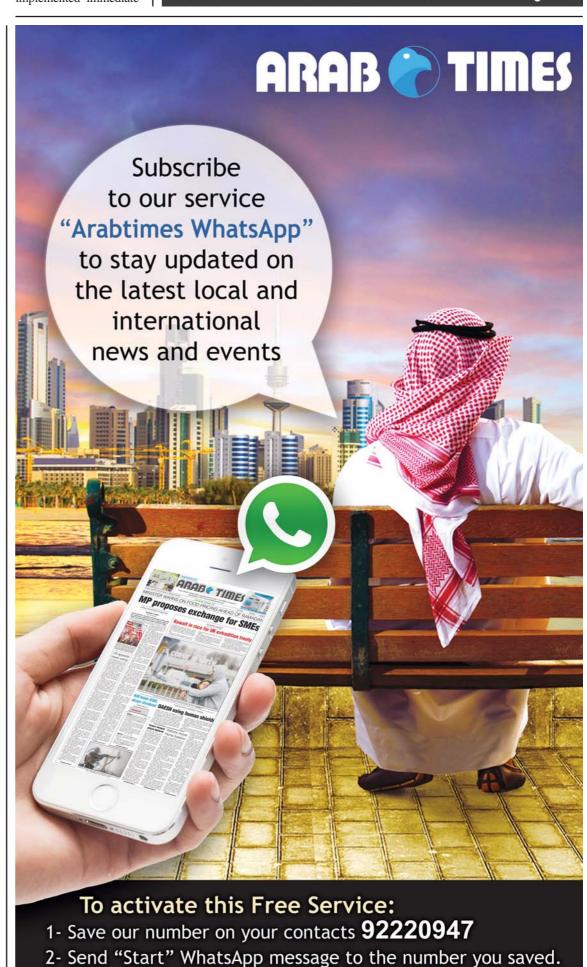
Twelve-year-old Amr Jandieh, his eyes welling up with tears, said he traveled to the Emirates alone.

"My dad, uncle, and I were talking on the street," Jandieh said. "My un-cle was killed. My dad was injured ... all of a sudden a missile hit and I lost consciousness. I woke up and found myself in the hospital." Mohammed Abu Tabikh, 14, was

juries to his neck and spine when a car he was traveling in was hit in a strike. "When I got injured, I felt shock. And then I stopped moving," he quietly said before being brought carefully out of the plane.

one of the more seriously wounded

children on the plane. He suffered in-



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#### **World News Roundup**

#### **Europe**

Marines claim multiple bridgeheads: Ukraine's military said Friday its troops had secured multiple bridgeheads on the eastern bank of the Dnieper River in the Kherson region - a small but potentially significant strategic advance in the midst of a war largely at a standstill.

The Marine Infantry Command's claims were the first to come directly from the Ukrainian military about advances across one of Russia's most significant barriers. Earlier this week, Andriy Yermak, the head of the president's office, confirmed for the first time that Ukraine had established a foothold on the eastern side of the river.

The wide river is a natural dividing line along the southern battlefront, and Moscow's forces have used it since leaving the area around the city of Kherson in November 2022 to prevent Ukrainian troops from advancing farther toward Russianannexed Crimea.

Troops are trying to push Russian forces away from the Dnieper to stop shelling that has routinely struck civilian areas on the Ukrainian-held west bank, the



general staff of the Ukrainian Armed Forces said in a report Friday. Western officials with intelligence

knowledge, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive information, said Thursday that Ukraine has portions of three brigades across the river and was expected to make small gains as the Russians have so far been unable to repel them. 'The Ukrainians have seen an oppor-

tunity there and taken it," one official said. "What we've not seen is the Rus-

sians being able to push them back from that position." (AP)

Moscow Times declared a 'foreign agent': Russia's Justice Ministry on Friday added The Moscow Times, an online newspaper popular among Russia's expatriate community, to its list of "foreign agents" in the country's continuing crackdown on critical news media and opposition.

The "foreign agent" designation subjects individuals and organizations to increased financial scrutiny and requires any of their public material to prominently include notice of being declared a foreign agent. The label is seen as a pejorative aimed at undermining the designees' credibility.

It was not immediately clear how the move would affect The Moscow Times, which moved its editorial operations out of Russia in 2022 after the passage of a law imposing stiff penalties for material regarded as discrediting the Russian military and its war in Ukraine.

The Moscow Times publishes in English and in Russian, but its Russian-language site was blocked in Russia several months after the Ukraine war began.

The publication began in 1992 as a daily print paper distributed for free in restaurants, hotels and other locations popular with expatriates, whose presence in Moscow was soaring after the collapse of the Soviet Union. It later reduced its print edition to weekly, then became online-only in 2017. (AP) 

More than 2,400 kids taken to Belarus: More than 2,400 Ukrainian children aged 6-17 have been taken to Belarus from four regions of Ukraine that are partially occupied by Russian

forces, a study by Yale University has found.

The study, released Thursday by the Humanitarian Research
Lab of the Yale School of Public Health, which receives funding from the U.S. State Department, found that "Russia's systematic effort to identify, collect, transport, and re-educate Ukraine's children has been facilitated by Belarus," and is "ultimately coordinated" between Russia's President Vladimir Putin and Belarus' authoritarian leader Alexander Lukashenko.

"Belarus' direct involvement in Russia's forced deportation of children represents a collaboration" between the two, "with various pro-Russia and pro-regime organizations facilitating

the deportation of children from Ukraine," the research said.

According to the study, at least 2,442 children, including those with disabilities, were taken to Belarus from 17 cities of the Donestk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions of Ukraine between Feb. 24, 2022 and Oct 30, 2023. The effort has been described in great detail in the 40-page report. (AP)

Thousands march thru Athens: More than 25,000 people marched through central Athens on Friday to mark the 50th anniversary of a pro-democracy student uprising that was violently put down by the military dictatorship ruling Greece in 1973. The demonstration was peaceful, although minor rioting broke out at a university campus in another part of the capital after a few dozen youths set fires to dumpsters and threw petrol

bombs at police who appeared on the scene. Violence also broke out after the end of a similar march in Greece's second city of Thessaloniki, when youths threw petrol bombs and stones at police who responded with tear gas. Police said nine suspected rioters were detained. There were

also minor clashes in the southern city of Patras. The annual march in Athens started from the Polytechnic campus, which was the headquarters of the uprising, and headed toward the U.S. Embassy. America is still widely blamed in Greece for supporting the 1967-74 rightwing dictatorship during the Cold War. (AP)

'Ensure Nagorno-Karabakh people safety': The UN top court on Friday issued an order calling on Azerbaijan to ensure the safety of people who leave, return to or remain in Nagorno-Karabakh, following the Azerbaijani military's retaking of the separatist region in September.

Armenia asked the International Court of Justice to order so-called provisional measures, guaranteeing safety and protecting property and identity documents, after Azerbaijan's army routed ethnic Armenian forces in Nagorno-Karabakh in a 24-hour campaign that began on Sept 19.

The region's separatist government then agreed to disband itself by the end of the year. More than 100,000 ethnic Armenians fled Nagorno-Karabakh to neighboring Armenia. Armenia last month urged judges to issue interim orders on Azerbaijan to prevent what the leader of Armenia's legal team called the "ethnic cleansing" of the Nagorno-Karabakh region from becoming irreversible. Azerbaijan's Deputy Foreign Minister Elnur Mammadov denied the allegation.

"Azerbaijan has not engaged and will not engage in ethnic cleansing or any form of attack on the civilian population of Karabakh," he said at the hearings in October. He made pledges that Azerbaijan would do all it could to ensure the safety and rights of all citizens in the region. (AP)

Sánchez beat the odds to stay PM: Spanish Socialist leader Pedro Sánchez pulled off his latest feat of political survival to get reelected as prime minister with an absolute majority in a highly fragmented parliament. Now, he will have to use all his dexterity to keep a mixed bag of supporters happy and his government in power for the next four years.

Sánchez, who has led Spain since 2018, has defied the odds before, but the ones he faces this time look especially daunting. To win the endorsement of a majority of lawmakers Thursday, he clinched deals with six small parties, including two Catalan separatist groups that demanded he take an unpopular action

He agreed to push through a controversial amnesty for hundreds of people in legal trouble over the Catalonia region's failed secession attempt in 2017. Among them is the region's fugitive former president, Carles Puigdemont, who for many in Spain is public enemy No. 1 since he led the independence

bid before fleeing to Belgium. While political observers agree Sánchez has a hard road ahead, they are unwilling to start writing his political obituary just yet, especially given the record of endurance he chronicled in a 2019 memoir "A Manual of Resistance." For one thing, analysts say it is very difficult to topple a Spanish government though a parliamentary maneuver. (AP)

Police fired 36 shots at armed man:



Britain's Prince William waves to well-whishers as he visits the Millennium Powerhouse, a multi-service youth hub which works with a wide range of local organisations with a mission to create brighter futures for young people, in Moss Side neighbourhood, in Manchester on Nov 16. (AP



Petronila Santos reacts to meeting Prime Minister Justin Trudeau after his visit to a grocery store in Surrey, British Columbia on Nov 14. (AP)



**America** 

Carter

Carter in hospice care at home: Former US first lady Rosalynn Carter is in hospice care at home in Plains, Georgia, joining former President Jimmy Carter, who has been receiving end-of-life care since

February, their family announced Friday.

The Carter family said they are "grateful for the outpouring of love and support" but asked for privacy. The Carters have been married for 77 years and are the longestmarried presidential couple in US history.

The family announced earlier this year that the 96-year-old former first lady is suffering from dementia. The former president, now 99, entered hospice care at home in February but remains alert, those close to

They have been together through Jimmy Carter's rise from their Georgia farm to his election to the presidency in 1976. After his 1980 defeat, the couple established The Carter Center in Atlanta as a global center to advocate human rights, democracy and public health.

"I loved politics," Rosalynn Carter told The Associated Press in 2021. She said she had "the best time" campaigning on her husband's behalf in what they both described as "a full partnership." (AP)

Shooter kills security guard: A shooter killed a security guard in the lobby of New Hampshire's state psychiatric hospital on Friday before being fatally shot by a state trooper, officials said.

The shooting happened around 3:30 pm at New Hampshire Hospital and was contained to the front lobby of the 185-bed facility, State Police Col Mark Hall said at a news conference. He said CPR was performed on the victim, who later died at Concord Hospital.

Authorities identified the victim Friday night as Bradley Haas, 63, a state Department of Safety security officer who was working at the front lobby entrance.

Haas lived in Franklin, a small town about 20 miles (32 kilometers) from Concord. He worked as a police officer for 28 years and rose to become police chief, according to a statement from the state attorney general's office.

All patients at the psychiatric hospital were safe, and the state trooper who killed the shooter was not wounded, according to authorities. (AP)

#### **Politics**

#### **Ethics chairman launches new bid to expel Santos**

#### Biden signs bill averting govt shutdown

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov 18, (AP): US President Joe Biden signed a temporary spending bill a day before a potential government shutdown, pushing a fight with congressional Republicans over the federal budget into the new year, as wartime aid for Ukraine and Israel remains stalled.

The measure passed the House and Senate by wide bipartisan margins this week, ensuring the government remains open until after the holiday season, and potentially giving lawmakers more time to sort out their considerable differences over government spending levels for the current budget year. Biden signed the bill Thursday in San Francisco, where he was hosting the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit.

News of the signing came late at night. The president signed the bill at the Legion of Honor Museum, where he held a dinner for APEC members.

#### Package

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 dates when there will be a risk of a partial government shutdown.

The two-step approach was championed by new House Speaker Mike Johnson, a Republican, and 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. Johnson 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.

US House Speaker **Mike Johnson** said Friday he plans to publicly release thousands of hours of footage from the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the US Capitol, making good on a promise he made to far-right members of his party when he was campaigning for the job.

"This decision will provide millions of Americans, criminal defendants, public interest organizations, and the

#### **DeSantis, Haley & Ramaswamy get** personal during 'discussion' in lowa

DES MOINES, Iowa, Nov 18, (AP): The Republicans battling to be their party's alternative to former President Donald Trump came together Friday for a different kind of cattle call, bringing personal and at times emotional stories to what an influential lowa organization billed as a friendly conversation.

Three candidates - Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, former United Nations Ambassador Nikki Haley and entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy - sat side-by-side at a festive Thanksgiving table for a "family discussion" in Des Moines Friday. Trump did not attend, though he

The field around Trump is winnowing with less than two months before the lowa caucuses kick off the GOP nominating calendar. In a sign of the urgency the field faces, many of his rivals are going after each other more frequently with jabs that have often turned per-

But there was little sign of such tension Friday - except perhaps toward the candidate missing from the conversation.

The candidates addressed each other by their first names and at times noted where they agreed. The conversation often led them back to pieces of their stump speeches, as foreign policy on Israel, China and the Russia-Ukraine war, religious liberty and agriculture were raised, but the interactions between them were friendly.

The candidates also shared emotional stories during the unusual forum that offered a more collegial, intimate conversation, moderated by Family Leader President and CEO Bob Vander Plaats.

All three connected their opposition to legalized abortion to difficulties they had having children. DeSantis talked about his wife Casey's miscarriage and its impact on them. Ramaswamy gestured for his three-year-old son to join him onstage after detailing how his wife, Apoorva, thought she had suffered a second miscarriage.

Haley mentioned the difficulty she had getting pregnant. Vander Plaats later asked her to address her stance on abortion, which calls for consensus on the issue.

Haley has urged Republicans to not push for a national abortion ban with next to no chance of passing Congress. But when pressed by Vander Plaats on whether she would have signed a new law banning most abortions after about six weeks of pregnancy as governor, as Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds did this year, she said yes.

media an ability to see for themselves what happened that day, rather than having to rely upon the interpretation of a small group of government officials," Johnson said in a statement.

The newly elected speaker said the first tranche of security footage, around 90 hours, to be released on a public committee website Friday, with the rest of the 44,000 hours expected to be posted over the next several months. In the meantime, a public viewing room will also be set up in the Capitol for viewing the footage. 

The chairman of the House Ethics Committee announced Friday he has filed a resolution to force a vote on expelling Rep. George Santos, R-NY, from Congress, one day after the committee issued a withering report detailing substantial evidence that Santos converted campaign donations for his own personal use.

Santos easily survived an expulsion vote earlier this month as lawmakers in both parties stressed the need to allow due process, as Santos is also facing nearly two dozen charges in federal court. But the release of the committee's findings has generated new momentum for ousting the scandalplagued freshman. Shortly after the report was released, Santos announced he would not seek reelection.

Four Baltimore police officers unleashed a barrage of deadly gunfire at a man who pointed a gun at them while fleeing last week, according to body-camera recordings released by the department Friday.

The officers fired three dozen shots, of-

day afternoon at Baltimore police headquarters where they played the recordings and presented the department's view of

ficials said during a press conference Fri-

The shooting occurred Nov. 7, when of-



Emergency crews get to work on the back portion of the Amrak train involved in a crash on Nov 16 at the Lakeside Road crossing between New Buffalo and Three Oaks, Mich. An Amtrak train heading to Chicago with 200 passengers derailed after striking an unoccupied vehicle and a tow truck in southwestern Michigan, authorities said Friday. (AP)

ficers on a District Action Team - a squad focused on seizing illegal guns - were proactively patrolling in southwest Baltimore. A man later identified as Hunter Jessup, 27, was killed during a short foot pursuit. The videos show him appear to fire his own weapon before he's struck by gunfire and falls to the sidewalk.

Officials said they haven't determined

how many times Jessup was shot. (AP) 

Officials probe train crash: Federal safety officials said Friday they have launched an investigation into a Chicago commuter train crash that injured nearly 40 people but they're likely more than a year away from releasing any conclusions about what caused the incident.

National Transportation Safety Board Chairperson Jennifer Homendy said during a short news conference Friday that a team of seven investigators from her agency has started documenting the scene of the crash. They expect to spend about five days on the

The investigators have not reviewed event recorders or video of the incident yet, she said. The agency expects to issue a preliminary report in a matter of weeks, she said, but didn't specify when. The agency will likely need a year to 18 months to produce a final report with an analysis of what happened, conclusions and recommendations, Homendy said. (AP)

#### LatAm

#### 'Poll results dubious'

#### Biden & Obrador pledge 'solidarity'

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov 18, (AP): US President Joe Biden and Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador pledged Friday to work side-by-side to confront illicit fentanyl trafficking into the U.S. and to manage the growing number of migrants traveling north to the border between their nation.

"Nothing is beyond our reach in my view if Mexico and the United States stand together and work together," Biden said.

Biden's relationship with López Obrador has at times been tense, in part because of Biden's willingness to criticize Mexico on topics such as fentanyl production and the killing of journalists. And López Obrador isn't afraid to snub the US leader. He skipped

his mind.

a Los Angeles summit last year where leaders tackled the issue of migration because the US didn't invite Cuba, Nicaragua or Venezuela. He also initially said he would skip this year's APEC conference, but changed

The two men were all smiles and compliments before the



press on Friday, with Biden telling López Obrador: "I couldn't have a better partner than you," and the Mexican leader calling Biden a "good man" and an "extraor-

dinary president. They were in San Francisco for the annual Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation conference, where Biden has held a series of face-to-face meetings with other leaders, including China's President Xi Jinping and the leaders of Japan and South Korea, as he seeks to reassure the region that the US and China are competitors, not zero-sum rivals.

Biden and Lopez Obrador set to work talking migration as the US strains to manage a rising number of southern border crossings

They also discussed deadly fentanyl trafficking, particularly after Biden secured an agreement with Xi to curb the illicit opioid. Mexico and China are the primary sources for synthetic fentanyl trafficked into the

#### Trafficked

US Nearly all the chemicals needed to make it come from China, and the drugs are then mass-produced in Mexico and trafficked via cartels into the US.

"I want to tell you about my great conversation with Xi Jinping on that issue," Biden told López Obrador.

The issues of fentanyl and immigration are related. Human smuggling over the border is a part of cartel operations that also include drug trafficking into the US. "We're working side-by-side to combat organized

crime," Biden said. The powerful opioid is the deadliest drug in the US today. More than 100,000 deaths a year have been linked to drug overdoses since 2020 and about twothirds of those are related to fentanyl. The annual death toll is more than 10 times the level in 1988, at the height of the crack epidemic.

"We're aware of the damage it poses to the United states youth," López Obrador said through an inter-

And migration challenges facing the US are growing increasingly intractable. Democratic leaders at the state and local level are begging for federal assistance to help care for migrant families living in squalid shelters and sleeping in police stations. Republicans are loudly critical of Biden's border policies as too lax. And Congress has not passed an immigration overhaul in decades.

Biden asked for \$14 billion from Congress for border security but the temporary spending bill he just signed did not have funding for the border, Ukraine aid or Israel.

There are rising numbers of migrants at the border. Arrests for illegal crossings along the US.-Mexico line were up 21% to 218,763 in September, and Biden has repeatedly said Congress should act to fix outdated immigration laws. But in the meantime, his administration has developed policies that aim to deter migrants from making a dangerous and often deadly journey while also opening up new legal immigration pathways.

#### Also:

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina: This may sound familiar: A self-styled outsider aims to win the presidency and purge the political establishment so he can restore order to a broken nation - if only he can overcome a system rigged against him.

But this isn't former President Donald Trump, or even happening in the US. It's Argentine presidential candidate Javier Milei, the latest politician to follow Trump's playbook and claim that election results are dubious and that gatekeepers may deprive him of the nation's top job.

Analysts say it is a tactic to fire up Milei's base and promote vigilance at polling stations, or set the stage for refusing to concede a loss.

The right-wing economist rose to fame blasting the political class on television and has welcomed comparisons to Trump. His message that a corrupt elite has left the country behind resonates with Argentines coping with rising poverty and 142% annual inflation.

Milei represents upheaval, and casting doubt on the electoral system - in a nation where it is widely trusted - is true to form. Since Argentina's return to democracy a half century ago, no candidate in any national race has formally challenged results, according to the electoral appeals court.

Pre-election polls in the Nov. 19 runoff between Milei and Economy Minister Sergio Massa show a



**GUATEMALA CITY:** Guatemalan prosecutors said Thursday they will seek to strip President-elect Bernardo Arévalo and several members of his party of their immunity for allegedly making social media posts that encouraged students to take over a public university in 2022.

Cultural Heritage prosecutor Ángel Saúl Sánchez announced the move aimed at Arévalo and members of his Seed Movement at a news conference while federal agents executed search warrants and sought to arrest more than 30 student members of the party.

It was only the latest legal salvo against Arévalo, an anti-corruption crusader who shocked the nation by winning the presidential election in August. The United States government, Organization of American States and other outside observers have suggested the legal attacks are an attempt to keep Arévalo from taking power in January.

Attorney General Consuelo Porras and outgoing President Alejandro Giammattei have denied political motivations.



A security guard walks beside the damaged ceiling of a shopping mall in General Santos City, South Cotabato, southern Philippines on Nov 17. A powerful undersea earthquake has shaken the southern Philippines. The US Geological Survey says the quake measured magnitude 6.7 and was located 26 kilometers

(16 miles) from Burias at the southern tip of the Philippines. Inset: In this handout photo provided by the Philippine Red Cross, volunteers attend to people affected by an earthquake that struck General Santos City, South Cotabato, southern Philippines on Friday. (AP)

#### Powerful quake shakes southern Philippines, causing ceilings to fall at malls

A powerful undersea earthquake shook the southern Philippines on Friday, causing ceilings in shopping malls to plunge to the ground as shoppers screamed. No tsunami warning was in effect.

The Office of Civil Defense said it was investigating a report of one death. Gregorio Narajos, 34, was getting ready to eat at

Friday afternoon. "We went under the table, we can't do any thing

else," he told The Associated Press. "People started running downstairs. We were scared because there might be a stampede, then the lights when off, the earthquake was so strong. People were

the SM City General Santos mall when the quake hit

screaming and shouting, 'Oh my God!' We just started praying.'

The magnitude 6.7 quake was located 26 kilometers (16 miles) from Burias at the southern tip of the Philippines, the United States Geological Survey said. It was centered at a depth of 78 kilometers (48 miles), it said. (AP)



Residents of Chamwana Muma village walk through flood water after using a makeshift bridge to cross the swollen River Tana, in Tana Delta, Kenya, on Nov 15, (AP)





Sonko



Weah

#### **Africa**

Weah concedes defeat: Liberian President George Weah conceded defeat late Friday after provisional results from this week's runoff vote showed challenger Joseph Boakai beating him by just over a per-

Elections officials said that with 99.58% of ballots counted from Tuesday's election, Boakai was in the lead, with 50.89% to Weah's 49.11%. The results were a dramatic reversal from the election six years ago when Weah easily beat Boakai in the second round.

"The Liberian people have spoken and we have heard their voice," Weah said in an address to the nation, adding that Boakai "is in a lead that we cannot surpass.

The concession speech given even before official results were announced in Liberia comes at a time when there have been growing concerns about the decline of democracy in West Africa. The region has seen a spate of military coups over the last several years, including one earlier this year carried out in Gabon in the aftermath of a presidential election. (AP)

**Court blocks Sonko from running:** 

Senegal's highest court on Friday effectively barred detained opposition leader Ousmane Sonko from running for president early next year by overturning a decision that would have reinstated him to the West African country's voter rolls. The legal setback for the embattled politi-

cian came the same day that a West African regional court dismissed his case seeking his reinstatement. Sonko was recently returned to a Dakar jail after being hospitalized for several weeks amid a hunger strike.

Senegal's government formally dissolved Sonko's political party earlier this year and canceled his voter registration after he was convicted of corrupting youth. His followers maintain the charge and prosecution were politically motivated and aimed at derailing his candidacy in the February election. (AP)



#### Taiwan envoy hopeful Biden-Xi meet will cut tensions

#### Biden seizes chance to refocus on Asia

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov 18, (AP): Sometimes it can be easy to forget that President Joe Biden's original foreign policy priority was reasserting American influence in Asia.

After all, that was before Russian tanks tried to blitz Ukraine, and before Israel and Hamas descended into a fresh round of bloody fighting. With was slipping further down the presidential to-do list.

But this week was a rare opportunity for Biden to demonstrate otherwise. While playing host for an annual summit of Asian leaders in San Francisco, he could finally refocus on the continent that he views as key to the future.

"The United States remains vital to the future of the region, and the region is more vital than ever to the United States of America," he told a gathering of business executives during one of the summit's many receptions. "That's been my administration's outlook from day one.

#### Reshaped

Turning that vision into a reality has never been more challenging. Biden's tenure as president is being constantly reshaped by two very different and unpredictable wars in Europe and the Middle East. He's also struggling to ease doubts about his reelection chances as Donald Trump, the former Republican president, pursues a comeback bid for the White House that would upend American foreign policy.

However, those concerns faded into the background for at least a few days during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit. Biden outlined a vision of collaboration and friendship for the region during a gala for visiting dignitaries on Wednesday evening.

The 92-year-old businessman who represented Taiwan at this week's

**Navy divers likely hurt by Chinese** navy 'unsafe' use of sonar: Aussies BEIJING, Nov 18, (AP): Australia doubt their ability to unseat the rul-

on Saturday accused the Chinese ing party in January's election. navy of likely causing minor injuries to Australian naval divers by operating its sonar while they were trying to clear fishing nets from their ship's

The Australian government has expressed its serious concerns to the Chinese government over what it called the unsafe and unprofessional conduct earlier this week. Defense Minister Richard Marles said in a statement on his official website.

There was no immediate comment from the Chinese side. The US, Canadian and Australian militaries have complained multiple times about what they say have been dangerous actions by the Chinese navy and air force in the western Pacific. Analysts fear a collision or other accident could spark an international incident and escalate into conflict.

#### Also:

TAIPEI, Taiwan: Taiwan's two main opposition parties have failed to agree on a joint candidate for president, once again throwing into and other celebrities in its fold, has died at 95, the Japanese religious organization said Saturday. Īkeda died on Nov. 15 at his home in Tokyo, "from natural causes," the

The Nationalist Party and the Tai-

wan People's Party were expected

to unveil an agreed-upon candidate

at a news conference Saturday. In-

stead, they announced the need for

further consultations after a disa-

greement over how to use polling

TOKYO: Daisaku Ikeda, who head-

ed Soka Gakkai, a Japanese Bud-

dhist organization, that includes famed musician Herbie Hancock

data to make the selection

group said in a statement, without giving details.

Along with his two predecessors, Ikeda is credited with reviving Nichiren Buddhism in the modern age, making it more accessible for present-day practitioners by emphasizing a philosophy of goodness, respect for others and being happy and at peace.

summit of Asia-Pacific leaders in San Francisco expressed hope Friday that the meeting between U.S. President Joe Biden and China's Xi Jinping should help to reduce tensions between the two superpowers and in the region.

Morris Chang, the founder of the microchip giant Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company, also suggested the meeting could help to promote economic stability and reliable supply

"You don't have to be a leader to know that if there is no peace, there is no supply chain to start with," Chang said at a news conference at the close of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit.

Chang said the Biden-Xi meeting was a "good" one, pointing to their agreement to resume high-level military communications.

Floods death toll rises to 130: At least ing seen only once every 100 years. 130 people have died in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia following heavy rains that trig-

that inundated the Horn of Africa region. gered what aid agencies described as flood-The National Disaster Management Agency said 51 people have been killed across the Somalia bore the brunt of the flash floods country and a half-million displaced since the rains started in October.

Emergency workers fear the death toll could rise since there were many people still unaccounted for. Parts of the country remained cut off and inaccessible after roads and bridges were washed away, marooning thousands of residents. (AP) 

Former c.bank chief arraigned: The former governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, who was removed from office in June, was on Friday charged with procurement fraud at a local court, which remanded him

in prison pending his bail ruling. In amended charges, the Nigerian goverment said Godwin Emefiele illegally awarded contracts for dozens of vehicles during his time as the governor of the apex bank in Africa's largest economy, according to court documents.

The charge sheet alleged that Emefiele used his position as the bank's governor to "confer a corrupt advantage" on another member of staff by awarding the contracts to a company with links to that staff member, thereby breaching Nigeria's procurement laws. (AP)



US President Joe Biden meets with Mexico's President Andrés Manuel López Obrador at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit on Nov 17, in San Francisco. (AP)

#### oil down

The price of Kuwaiti oil went down by USD 2.44 to USD 82.27 per barrel on Friday, compared to USD 84.71 pb the day before, said the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on

The Brent crude and West
Texas Intermediate in the global
markets rose each by USD 3.19 and USD 2.99 to settle at USD 80.61 per barrel and USD 75.89 per barrel respectively. (KUNA)

- Euro Stoxx 50

UAE

#### KIB Chairman receives prestigious 'Life Achievement' award

In recognition of his exceptional contributions to the Islamic banking industry, World Finance magazine once again presented Sheikh Mohammed Jarrah Al-Sabah, Chairman of Kuwait International Bank (KIB), with the highly esteemed "Life Achievement in Islamic Banking and Dedication to Community" award. The title was also bestowed upon Al-Jarrah for his unwavering commitment to making a positive impact in the communities he serves.

upholding Islamic finance principles and commitment to social causes, expressing how this exemplifies his Al-Jarrah nabbed the prestigious incredible dedication to advancing the

greater good.
Commenting on the occasion, Al-Jarrah said: "I am deeply honored to receive this life achievement award." honorary title for his outstanding performance, in accordance with the award criteria. Among them are entrepreneurial acumen, exceptional leadership, and admirable humility The KIB Chairman asserted his full which have served as a guiding light commitment to continuing the tireto numerous individuals and organiless efforts to develop the Bank's zations. World Finance commended strategies and further push it on an him for his unrelenting efforts towards upward growth path. He underscored the Bank's strategy to accomplish its goals and maintain its competitive position within the banking sector as a leading, full-service bank.



KIB Chairman Sheikh Mohammed Jarrah

#### **Market** Movements

Change Closing pts +10.02 3,994.54 PHILLIPINES - PSE

6.211.89 +20.41 +38.32 4,340.77 7,504.25

PAKISTAN - KSE 100

17-11-2023

Change Closing pts -327.20 57,016.96

# Business

## Kuwait economic outlook positive amid fiscal expansion

GDP growth to surge in 2024 with OPEC+ production increase

#### By National Bank of Kuwait

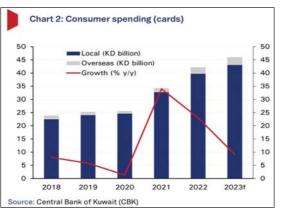
Oil output down on OPEC+ cuts, refined products

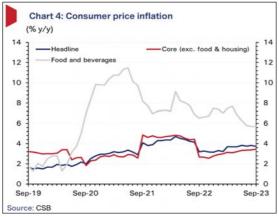
The back of Kuwait's commitment in April 2023 to additional OPEC+ voluntary oil production cuts, which will cut full-year output by 4.3% to an average of 2.6mb/d. These cuts are scheduled to be unwound in 2024, which should drive both oil sector and total GDP up 3.3% next year. Higher crude flows will also facilitate further refining sector value-add (classified as non-oil activity), with the newly commissioned 615 kb/d Al-Zour refinery steadily ramping up gasoil and fuel oil output in a key recent megaproject success story.

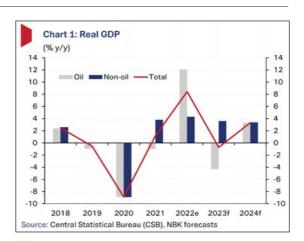
Non-oil growth normalizes, consumer activity buoyant Growth in the non-oil economy (ex-refining), meanwhile, has been solid, at a forecast of 3.0% in 2023 (down from an estimated 3.2% in 2022) on the back of buoyant private and expanding government consumption, supported by elevated oil prices. With the exception of project awards and refining sector output, both of which ranged higher in 2023-the former at more than twice 2022's full year levels-key indicators of non-oil activity, such as consumer cards spending (+8.7% y/y in Q3), real estate sales (-18.2% y/y as of Sept) and household credit (+2.6% y/y as of Sept), have been trending downwards in annual growth terms since peaking in 2022. This has taken place amid tighter monetary conditions and softer global economic growth. Looking ahead, we expect non-oil GDP to grow at a similar rate in 2024 on broadly constructive consumer spending, an uptick in household lending growth and still high oil prices. The economy may also benefit from continuing post-pandemic expatriate inflows (employment up 14% y/y to 2.5 million as of mid-2023) to ease labor shortages and drive projects activity. Inflation likely to ease in 2024

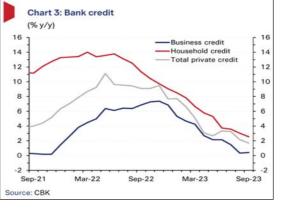
Inflation ranged at around 3.7% for most of 2023 (core rate at 3.2%), likely reflecting a combination of ongoing strength in consumer demand, rising housing rents and lingering supply chain issues. These dynamics are expected to lessen in 2024, helping to bring inflation down to 2.5% on average. Meanwhile, with the US Fed likely to cut interest rates before end-2024, the Central Bank of Kuwait may follow suit - although having hiked its discount rate only about half as much as the Fed since March 2022 (+275 bps to 4.25%), it may opt to cut by less on the way down.

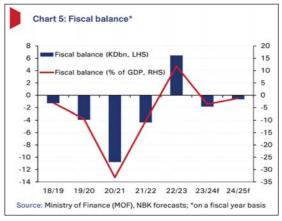
Budget deficits through 2024, capex momentum The public finances have improved amid higher oil prices and generally keener spending oversight. That said, the FY22/23 surplus of 11.8% of GDP, Kuwait's first since 2014, is expected to revert to a deficit of 3.6% of GDP (KD1.83bn) in FY23/24 given the record spending penciled in the budget. This included large, non-recurring outlays Economic conditions are expected to remain positive over the forecast period, with consumer activity constructive, government fiscal policy expansionary amid elevated oil prices and inflation easing. GDP growth will also be boosted in 2024 from additional crude supply following the unwinding of voluntary OPEC+ production cuts. The challenge remains to extend near-term gains into sustainable, longterm improvements to the public finances and economic diversification. Amid a greater sense of political urgency, prospects for progressing key reform steps appear stronger than in previ-

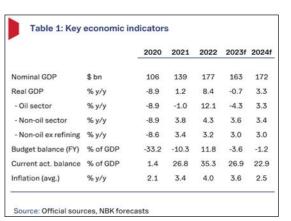












on fuel subsidies and employee leave payments. Our deficit estimate is much narrower than the budget's forecast of 6.2% of GDP, given the historical tendency for spending to undershoot the budget and conservative official oil revenue assumptions. Next year, the deficit should narrow to 1.2% of GDP on a moderate spending increase (+4% from FY23/24 excluding one-off items) and still-high oil prices. Capex should see another year of double-digit gains as development projects are prioritized.

Outlook positive but longer-term reforms still key

Overall near-term economic prospects are favorable, with private consumption solid, inflation trending lower and fiscal and external buffers ample (CBK reserve and KIA overseas assets are in excess of \$850bn, or 521% of GDP). Public debt (3.0% of GDP) is also extremely low by international standards. Nevertheless, the economy remains exposed to oil price volatility, uncertain OPEC+ oil production policy and disruptive domestic politics. Here fiscal sustainability and economic diversification goals have often run up against populist calls for greater welfare spending and policymaking inertia, respectively.

That said, the new executive and legislature appear to share a greater sense of urgency to address key economic challenges. Priorities in the government's 4-year economic plan (2023-27) include creating a comprehensive fiscal framework, developing the private sector and improving government efficiency. Corporate and excise taxes may be the first revenue-boosting measures to be rolled out, helping to offset increases in retiree pensions and possibly cost-ofliving allowances championed by MPs.

System-wide, supply-side and regulatory reforms (e.g. of business, housing and labor markets) alongside initiatives to boost historically soft investment rates will be essential to realize productivity gains and economic diversification goals. Mooted housing development and mortgage laws plus the potentially sizeable 'Ciyada' domestic investment vehicle could be positive initiatives on the horizon.

#### **Other Voices**

#### Al-Zour Refinery must go to KNPC

#### By Kamel Al-Harami

Independent Oil Analyst

WE appeal to our oil minister to transfer Al-Zour Refinery to Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) because it is currently run by an operator that has no experience in running and operating re-



that people inexperienced in running refineries are being tasked to run our new refin-

fineries.

It comes

as a shock

Al-Zour Refinery is the biggest refinery in Kuwait, and in fact one of the biggest in the region and in the world, with a production capacity of 615,000 barrels per day. It is the most advanced refinery that produces the best petroleum products, and meets the world's need for light products produced from medium type crude oil.

However, even though it has not started operating fully, it has been facing fire and other accidents. Four accidents occured in this refinery, leading to ten days of complete shutdown. Just when the refinery was to start again, another fire accident occured last week in the hydrogen

The main reason behind such fire accidents is the presence of staff who lack the necessary experience to run and operate such complex machinery. It is the most difficult and dangerous operation that involves the use of all kinds of dangerous molecules and chemicals, and can lead to fire accidents if not carried out properly.

The Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC)'s board took such a bad decision to form a new company Kuwait Integrated

Petroleum Industries Company (KIPIC) and give it the task of running the new Al-Zour refinery. That company has zero experience in the refinery field, due to which the refinery ended up with such bad results and performance.

Such a complex refinery could easily earn us more than a \$15 profit margin for one barrel of crude oil. Now, we must struggle to rectify and remedy the situation at such an expense. This has also caused bad publicity for our refinery and Kuwait oil industry. How can we face our customers when our name has made it into the Guiness Book of Records for the highest number of fire accidents in refineries?

Dear Mr. Minister, now is the time to make a decision about giving Al-Zour to KNPC at a cost so that it can be run by well experienced people. We should not wait for another disaster to occur, as if something like that happens, you will be held responsible. Give your instructions to allow KNPC to operate the refinery and bring their own staff to manage and operate Al-Zour. The company has failed to run and operate a refinery of this size and complexity.

It is a temporary measure until the time when there is a full KPC reorganization with fewer companies to take place. However this for sure will face heavy resistance causing lower companies and lower employment opportunities.

Enough with the fire accidents in our refineries... Necessary action must be taken... It is time to act... It is perhaps time to bring in experienced retired local staff to work in Al-Zour refinery on a temporary basis, as our refineries are being depleted of experienced professionals because the system in Kuwait refers for retirement any employee who completes 30 years of work experience, regardless. **Email:** naftikuwaiti@yahoo.com

#### 'Board no longer has confidence in his ability to continue leading'

#### ChatGPT-maker OpenAl fires CEO Sam Altman over 'lack of candor'

NEW YORK, Nov 18, (AP): ChatG-PT-maker OpenAI said Friday it has pushed out its co-founder and CEO Sam Altman after a review found he was "not consistently candid in his communications" with the board of

"The board no longer has confidence in his ability to continue leading OpenAI," the artificial intelligence company said in a statement.

In the year since Altman catapulted ChatGPT to global fame, he has become Silicon Valley's sought-after voice on the promise and potential dangers of artificial intelligence and his sudden and mostly unexplained exit brought uncertainty to the industry's future.

Mira Murati, OpenAI's chief technology officer, will take over as interim CEO effective immediately, the company said, while it searches for a permanent replacement.

The announcement also said another OpenAI co-founder and top executive, Greg Brockman, the board's chairman, would be stepping down from that role but remain at the company, where he serves as president. But later on X, formerly Twitter, Brockman wrote, "based on today's news, i quit."

OpenAI declined to answer questions on what Altman's alleged lack of candor was about. The statement said his behavior was hindering the board's ability to exercise its responsibilities.

Altman posted Friday on X: "i loved my time at openai. it was transformative for me personally, and hopefully the world a little bit. most of all i loved working with such talented people. will have more to say about what's next later."

The Associated Press and OpenAI have a licensing and technology agreement that allows OpenAI access to part of AP's text archives.

Altman helped start OpenAI as a nonprofit research laboratory in 2015. But it was ChatGPT's explosion into public consciousness that thrust Altman into the spotlight as a face of generative AI - technology that can produce novel imagery, passages of text and other media. On a world tour this year, he was mobbed by a crowd of adoring fans at an event in London.

He's sat with multiple heads of state to discuss AI's potential and perils. Just Thursday, he took part in a CEO summit at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation conference in San Francisco, where OpenAI is based.

He predicted AI will prove to be "the greatest leap forward of any of the

## VI Markets CEO tackles Kuwait's trading evolution, inclusivity drive in OBG video

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: Oxford Business Group presents its latest Global Platform video, featuring an exclusive interview with Talal Al Ajmi, CEO and Founder of VI Markets. The video delves into the dynamic changes that have transformed the financial markets, particularly in Kuwait and the GCC, and highlights the growing accessibility of trading, especially for women. The video also explores the role of new technologies, such as artificial intelligence (AI) and copy trading, in enhancing the trading experience.

The global financial landscape has undergone significant shifts in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, and Kuwait is no exception. The traditional barriers to entry for traders have been replaced with streamlined processes and modern technologies.

The era before the Covid-19 pandemic involved cumbersome procedures and paperwork when opening a trading account. However, today, trading is just a few clicks away. This transformation highlights the accessibility of trading and how innovative technologies are revolutionising the trading experience for individuals.

big technological revolutions we've

had so far." He also acknowledged the

need for guardrails, calling attention to

the existential dangers future AI could

cized that focus on far-off risks as dis-

tracting from the real-world limitations

and harms of current AI products. The

U.S. Federal Trade Commission has

launched an investigation into whether

OpenAI violated consumer protection

laws by scraping public data and pub-

lishing false information through its

The company said its board consists of OpenAI's chief scientist, Ilya

Sutskever, and three non-employees:

Quora CEO Adam D'Angelo, tech en-

trepreneur Tasha McCauley, and Hel-

en Toner of the Georgetown Center for

OpenAI's key business partner, Mi-

crosoft, which has invested billions of

Security and Emerging Technology.

Some computer scientists have criti-

The video interview also sheds light on the importance of raising awareness to encourage more individuals, particularly women, to venture into the world of trading. VI Markets has taken proactive steps to achieve this goal by organising educational seminars, especially targeting the youth, and to encourage women in developing trading and leadership skills, through its initiative called Yasmeen Society.

Al Ajmi noted that the integration ofAI into trading platforms is another significant topic of discussion. As technology continues to advance, AI is poised to play an increasingly central role in the world of trading, offering traders a powerful tool to navigate complex markets with con-

"AI empowers traders with the precision of technology, allowing them to implement their trading strategies with the utmost accuracy. It essentially eliminates the human element, known for emotional responses, and replaces it with a sophisticated, data-driven approach. This not only enhances trading efficiency but also minimises the risk associated with emotional decisionmaking," he added.

The video also introduces the concept of copy trading, where individuals can access and follow the trading strategies of experienced traders with a proven track record. This approachwill open doors for aspiring traders to learn from the best and enhance their investment portfolios.

Marc-André de Blois, OBG's Director of Video Content, emphasised OBG's continuing dedication to promoting economic growth by facilitat-

ing well-informed choices.
"Oxford Business Group is dedicated to shedding light on the evolving dynamics of global markets. Our recent Global Platform video featuring Talal Al Ajmi of VI Markets providescomprehensive insights into the changing landscape of trading not only in Kuwait, but also in the GCC region, and how new technologies are making it more accessible for everyone," he

This Global Platform video offers a compelling look at the evolving landscape of trading in Kuwait and the wider region. It has been done in collaboration with VI Markets, who has recently forged a strategic alliance with the global trading firm AxiTrader

dollars into the startup and helped provide the computing power to run its AI systems, said that the transition won't

affect its relationship. "We have a long-term partnership with OpenAI and Microsoft remains committed to Mira and their team as we bring this next era of AI to our customers," said an emailed Microsoft

While not trained as an AI engineer, Altman, now 38, has been seen as a Silicon Valley wunderkind since his early 20s. He was recruited in 2014 to take lead of the startup incubator

YCombinator. "Sam is one of the smartest people I know, and understands startups better than perhaps anyone I know, including myself," read YCombinator co-founder Paul Graham's 2014 announcement that Altman would become its president. Graham said at the time that Altman was "one of those rare people who manage to be both fearsomely effective and yet fundamentally benevo-

OpenAI started out as a nonprofit when it launched with financial backing from Tesla CEO Elon Musk and others. Its stated aims were to "advance digital intelligence in the way that is most likely to benefit humanity as a whole, unconstrained by a need to generate financial return."

That changed in 2018 when it incorporated a for-profit business Open AI LP, and shifted nearly all its staff into the business, not long after releasing its first generation of the GPT large language model for mimicking human writing. Around the same time, Musk, who had co-chaired its board with Altman, resigned from the board in a move that OpenAI said would eliminate a "potential future conflict for Elon" due to Tesla's work on building self-driving systems.

#### TikTok, Meta challenge Europe's new rules

TikTok and Facebook owner Meta are filing legal challenges against new European Union rules designed to counter the dominance of digital giants and make online competition fairer by giving consumers more choice.

giving consumers more choice.

TikTok said in a blog post
Thursday that it's appealing being classified as an online "gatekeeper" by the Digital Markets
Act, arguing that it's playing the
role of a new competitor in so-

cial media that is taking on entrenched players.

Meta said a day earlier that it disagrees with the 27-nation bloc's decision to include its Marketplace and Messenger as gateway services under the new rules, adding that it is seeking "clarification on specific points of

The Digital Markets Act will take effect by March, with a list of dos and don'ts for big tech

companies aimed at giving users more choices and threatening big penalties if they don't comply.

Labeling TikTok a gatekeeper undermines the DMA's goal by "protecting actual gatekeepers from newer competitors like TikTok," the company said, adding that the video-sharing app is "arguably the most capable challenger" to bigger social media rivals. (AP)

#### US imposes new sanctions over Russian oil price cap violations

The U.S. Treasury on Thursday imposed a new round of sanctions on firms and ships that used American service providers to carry Russian crude oil in violation of the multinational price cap - and imposed another set of sanctions on a group of Balkan people and firms tied to Kremlin influence in the region.

Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control imposed sanctions on three United Arab Emirates-based firms and blocked three ships that used U.S. service providers to carry Russian crude oil above the \$60 price cap. The sanctions block access to U.S. property and bank accounts and prevent the targeted people and companies from doing business with Americans. The actions on the ships blacklist them from transporting goods with U.S. service providers.

service providers.

The U.S., along with the EU, countries in the Group of Seven

and Australia, imposed a \$60 a barrel limit last year on what Russia could charge for its oil. The cap is designed to deprive the Kremlin of revenue to fund its war in Ukraine, forcing the Russian government either to sell its oil at a discount or find a costly alternative shipping network. Treasury in October imposed its first set of sanctions on two companies that shipped Russian oil in violation of a multinational price cap. (AP)

#### Sweden could lead the way with this efficient public transportation

## Electric ferries may set new standard around clean transportation

STOCKHOLM, Nov 18, (AP): Many cities around the world see clean and efficient public transport as a crucial way to lower their carbon emissions. For cities with waterways, a high-tech ferry in Sweden could soon set a new standard.

Speeding through Stockholm's archipelago, electric boat maker Candela's new P-12 vessel barely makes a sound as it glides over a meter (3 feet) above the water. Its developers hope the ferry, which was unveiled this week, will yield a new era of waterborne public transport.

"This is a real leap forward," said Erik Eklund, who is in charge of the commercial vessel division at Candela. "The energy savings we get by going airborne on the foils give us the speed and range we need to make this work on batteries."

The vessel is designed to carry 30 passengers at a maximum speed of 30 knots (56 kph or 35 mph) - considerably faster than other electric passenger ferries. It achieves this with carbon fiber hydrofoil wings that lift the boat out of the water, reducing drag.

Candela says its technology reduces the energy per passenger-kilometer by 95% compared with the diesel ships that are currently transporting passengers across the picturesque Stockholm archipelago, which is made up of tens of thousands of islands and skerries stretching out into the Baltic Sea.

An added benefit is that the vessel is exempt from the 12-knot speed limit in Stockholm because it leaves no wake - waves made by a boat's displacement through water that increase with speed and could swamp other vessels or erode the shoreline.

The P-12 is still in testing but is set to enter service in July between

the Stockholm suburb of Ekero and the city center as part of a ninemonth pilot project. The ferry will cut the travel time from Ekero by conventional public transport from 55 minutes to 25 minutes.

The company wants to build on lessons learned from the launch of its smaller electric hydrofoil leisure boat. Onboard, engineers are fine-tuning the hydrofoils, which are regulated by a computer 100 times per second to compensate for the sea state and negate the effects of any waves. The vessel can operate in waves of up two meters (6.5 feet).

#### Transport

Candela hopes that as well as Stockholm, cities like San Francisco, New York and Venice will lead the electrification of waterborne public transport

Gustav Hemming, Vice President of the Regional Executive Board in Stockholm, said the Swedish capital is on board.

"The ambition is, for the Stockholm region, to expand public transport on water, because we think that is one of the keys to make public transport more attractive," he said.

There were around 6.2 million public transport boat journeys in the Stockholm region in 2022, and while boat traffic remains a small part of the entire public transit system, it is the fastest-growing mode of public transport after the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Our roads are congested and building new ones is very expensive and not very environmentally friendly," Hemming said, looking out onto the open waters of Stockholm on a cold autumnal day. "But here we have our traditional infrastructure. There is no congestion on the water." The use of hydrofoils to raise a vessel out of the water to reduce drag is not new. Ship designers have experimented with the technology for more than a century, but costs and maintenance issues had prevented its widespread adoption. However, new lightweight carbon fiber material saw the technology make a comeback in elite sailing, and with efficient electric motors and high costs for traditional fuels it's getting a second birth in the public transport sector, too.

"We know that marine vessels are often energy-hungry, and the limited energy density of today's batteries will be a barrier for electrification of a marine fleet," said Arash Eslamdoost, associate professor of applied hydrodynamics at the Chalmers University of Technology in Gothenburg. "Here is where foiling steps in as a radical solution for taking the most out of the limited onboard electric power."

Globally, several hydrofoil electric passenger ferries are under design or actively being developed. In the U.K., Artemis Technologies has announced plans for a fully electric hydrofoil ferry to operate in Northern Ireland between Belfast and nearby Bangor, possibly as early as next year.

Robin Cook from the Swedish Transport Agency says the maritime industry is ripe for change, especially for short-distance connections. But he stressed that public infrastructure must keep up with the latest developments and even encourage this through incentives.

"One important part of the electrification is when the ships connect to the ports through the onshore power supply," he said. "And here the harbors play a very important role to make sure that the infrastructure is in place for these connections."

#### **Deal allows US investment & tech**

## US and Philippines sign a nuclear cooperation pact

MANILA, Philippines, Nov 18, (AP): The United States and the Philippines have signed a nuclear cooperation pact under which U.S. investment and technologies are to help the Southeast Asian nation transition to cleaner energy and bolster its power supply.

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. witnessed the signing of the deal by his energy secretary and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Thursday on the sidelines of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in San Francisco.

"We see nuclear energy becoming a part of the Philippines' energy mix by 2032 and we are more than happy to pursue this path with the United States as one of our partners," Marcos said at the signing ceremony.

He said the pact, known as a Section 123 agreement, would support the development of reliable, affordable and sustainable power in the Philippines. It will also open doors for U.S. companies to invest and participate in nuclear power projects, he said.

Blinken said negotiations with the Philippines were completed within a year, the fastest for a Section 123 agreement, which is required under the U.S. Atomic Energy Act to allow the transfer of nuclear equipment

and material for peaceful uses.

He noted that the Philippines has set an ambitious target of cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 75% by 2030. With its peak energy demand expected to quadruple by 2040, nuclear energy will help it meet its needs in a sustainable way, he said.

"With access to U.S. material and equipment, the U.S. and the Philippines will be able to work together to deploy advanced new technologies, including small modular reactors, to support climate goals as well as critical energy security and baseload power needs within the Philippines," he said.

"In a nation of more than 7,000 islands, small modular reactors -- some just the size of a city bus -- can generate energy locally and conveniently," he added.

The Philippines began building a nuclear generating plant, the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant, in the 1970s but it was never completed after questions were raised about its cost and safety, including its location near a major fault and the Pinatubo volcano.

The United States has 23 Section 123 agreements in force that govern peaceful nuclear cooperation with 47 countries, the International Atomic Energy Agency and Taiwan.

# **EU** countries to stop 'shipping' plastic waste to poor countries

Major breakthrough reached

# BRUSSELS, Nov 18, (AP): The European Union made a major breakthrough Friday in efforts to stop sending its plastic trash to poor countries.

Under a tentative agreement, the 27 EU countries will no longer be able to export their plastic waste outside the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development club of wealthy countries

of wealthy countries.

The text now needs to be formally approved by both the council representing the EU member states and the EU Parliament to enter into force.

#### Recycled

Only a third of plastic waste in Europe is recycled, and half of the plastic collected for recycling is exported to be treated in countries outside the EU.

"The EU will finally assume responsibility for its plastic waste by banning its export to non-OECD countries," said Pernille Weiss, the EU Parliament rapporteur. "Once again, we follow our vision that waste is a resource when it is properly managed, but should not in any case be causing harm to the environment or human health."

In addition, plastic waste exports to the 38 OECD countries "will be subject to stricter conditions, including an obligation to apply the prior written notification and consent procedure, and closer compliance monitoring," the Parliament said.

#### Negotiations

The deal was announced as United Nations-led negotiations for a treat y aimed at cutting plastics pollution take place in Kenya.

After a period of five years following the introduction of the regulation, non-OECD countries will have the option to ask the EU Commission - the bloc's executive arm - for the right to import plastic waste and the ban will be lifted if they prove they can treat it properly.

The EU Commission said negotiators agreed to set up a group to coordinate the action of member countries to make sure illegal shipments are detected and prevented.

According to EU data, the

global production of plastic has grown from 1.5 million tonnes in 1950 to 359 million tonnes in 2018. As part of the Green Deal, 55% of plastic packaging waste should be recycled by 2030.

#### The Conversation

#### Companies stay because the money is just too good

## China making it 'incredibly hard' for foreign businesses to operate

**By Amitrajeet A. Batabyal**Rochester Institute of Technology

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

Doing business in China can be a difficult and contentious proposition for companies in many countries. Yet even with charges of intellectual property theft, forced partnerships and tight restrictions on doing business, China continues to attract foreign capital. Why do businesses want to invest in China when there are so many other "business-friendly" countries and financial markets that support foreign investment?

The United States has accused China of stealing the intellectual property of American firms, theft that is estimated at US\$600 billion annually. As a precondition for doing business in China, American and other firms may be subjected to the forced transfer of their technology. In addition, regulations can require foreign investors to partner and set up a joint venture with a Chinese firm before they can do business in

In 2001, after becoming a member of the World Trade Organization, China promised to open up its banking, telecommunications and electronic payment processing sectors. But action in these areas has been nonexistent or, at best, half-hearted. The Chinese telecommunications industry, for example, remains under government control, and the government has barred Facebook and Google from offering their services in China.

Doing Business 2020, a publication of the World Bank, ranks China - in terms of the availability of credit and the ease and magnitude of tax payments - 80th and 105th, respectively, out of 190 nations in the world. Using 10 other indicators, such as protection offered to minority investors, registering property and enforcing contracts, China ranks 31st out of 190 nations in the world for the overall ease of doing business. By contrast, the U.S. ranks 6th out of 190, according to the same report.

In addition, doing business in China can be politically risky. Negotiations with the Communist-led government can be difficult; it has a political system with a reputa-

tion for a lack of transparency and intolerance for dissent. The nation has significant rules about the inflows and outflows of capital that can change without public notice. Corruption is pervasive in China, which hurts foreign investors like the United States.

Despite these negative business conditions, according to the 2020 World Investment Report, in 2018 and 2019 China attracted a staggering \$138 billion and \$141 billion in foreign investment, respectively. Focusing on just 2019, this massive foreign investment into China exceeds the GDPs of entire nations such as Kuwait - \$137 billion; Kenya - \$98 billion; and Venezuela - \$70 billion. In 2019, China was the world's second largest recipient of foreign investment, second only to the United States.

#### Unfriendly

Despite being relatively business-unfriendly, if the world's 31st ranked nation can attract such large amounts of foreign investment, surely the world's first ranked nation must be doing as well as China, if not better. But New Zealand, ranked first in the world for its business-friendly climate, doesn't come close to China in terms of foreign investment

On the two metrics - credit availability, which measures how easy it is to obtain credit; and tax payments, which measure the straightforwardness and the magnitude of tax payments made to the country where business is being done - New Zealand ranks 1st and 9th in the world. And for overall ease of doing business, by contrast to China's 31st rank, New Zealand ranks first in the world.

Despite that honor, in 2018 and 2019 New Zealand attracted only \$1.95 billion and \$5.43 billion, respectively, in foreign investment. In other words, in 2018 and 2019, China attracted 71 times and 26 times more foreign investment than New Zealand, even though New Zealand is considered a stable democracy with a lower political risk than other forms of government and the least corrupt nation in the world. What explains this vast disparity in foreign investment?

The size of a national market - or scale - matters greatly for business. The more consumers that a market comprises, the more products have

the potential to be sold. In 2019, China's population was about 1.4 billion, as compared to New Zealand's population of about 4.8 million. In addition, when measured by gross domestic product, the Chinese economy is the second largest in the world, as compared to New Zealand's economy, which ranks 51st. Whether the issue is viewed in terms of the sheer number of consumers or the total size of the "economic pie" that is GDP, the Chinese economy overshadows the New Zealand economy.

This enormous disparity in size or scale matters. Even though China is a significantly less friendly place in which to do business relative to New Zealand, it still makes sense for American and other multinational firms to invest in China.

From the standpoint of financial gain, consider the profits of a firm that invests in China. The markup is the difference between the price a firm charges for a product and the cost of producing an additional unit of the product. Profit, then, is simply the markup multiplied by the number of products that can be sold. The larger the market, the more product can be sold. More sales translate into more profit. This explains why firms throughout the world are prepared to tolerate questionable Chinese business practices and still invest in China.

One example of doing business in China, despite the many constraints, comes from Hollywood. Disney produced "Mulan," a \$200 million live-action film that took more than five years to make. Disney shot a large portion of the film in New Zealand with the intention of releasing it in China, primarily to gain access to that vast market and to maximize profits. Disney bowed to many Chinese demands to ensure that "Mulan" could be released in China without objections from Chinese officials.

Disney's relationship and concessions to China are an example of why so many foreign investors continue to pursue business in China - profit. Despite the institutional restrictions on investment, with access to more than 1.3 billion people, many of them potential consumers, and a flourishing GDP, China represents a global market opportunity that multinational companies around the world continue to exploit. (AP)

## N. Jersey moving forward with its offshore wind power goals

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. Nov 18, (AP): Despite the loss of two major offshore wind farm projects when Danish developer Orsted pulled out of New Jersey, the state is moving forward with its plans to support and

grow the nascent industry.

The state Board of Public Utilities on Friday voted to seek bids for a transmission facility into which several offshore wind projects can plug, an important part of getting the power from ocean-based wind turbines into the onshore electrical grid.

But on a more elemental level, Friday's vote represented a vote of confidence in offshore wind from a state that wants to be the East Coast leader in the industry.

"Recent setbacks will not prevent us from moving forward with our commitment to offshore wind," said Christine Guhl-Sadovy, the board's president. "Offshore wind is and continues to be the economic development opportunity of a generation, and remains a key tool in climate change mitigation."

The board authorized a solicitation of proposals for an energy transmission system. That system would be "an open-access transmission facility, located either in the Atlantic Ocean or onshore, used to facilitate the collection of offshore wind energy or its delivery to the electric transmission system in this state," according to a 2019 law.

It would include concrete structures and empty pipes through which power cables would pass. They would be installed in a single construction effort, capable of servicing multiple offshore wind farms.

James Ferris, the deputy director

of the board's clean energy division, said that installing the project all at once "would minimize environmental and community impacts by resulting in a single shore crossing."

Those eligible to apply include power transmission developers and owners, and offshore wind developers, Ferris said.

The board vote came nearly three weeks after Orsted, the world's largest offshore wind developer, scrapped its Ocean Wind I and II projects off the coast of New Jersey. The company cited inflation, supply chain problems and a failure to secure as much government financial subsidies as it wanted as reasons the projects were no longer feasible.

That sent shock waves through the offshore wind industry. It also heartened its opponents, who said Orsted's decision to walk away from New Jersey and write off \$4 billion in losses, mostly due to the cancellations, shows the industry is inherently unprofitable without massive government subsidies.

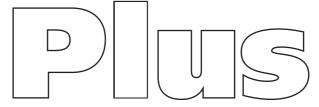
Shortly after Orsted scraped its projects, numerous community groups celebrated, and promised to oppose other pending wind farms, including one by Atlantic Shores, a project by EDF/Shell.

"The communities of southern

New Jersey are surely celebrating the end of the project," said Joseph Mancini, mayor of Long Beach Township. "New Jersey can harness sustainable energy solutions more effectively without succumbing to the industrialization of the ocean. There are smarter, more considerate avenues to explore that protect our state's interests and national natural treasures."

#### INNOVATION

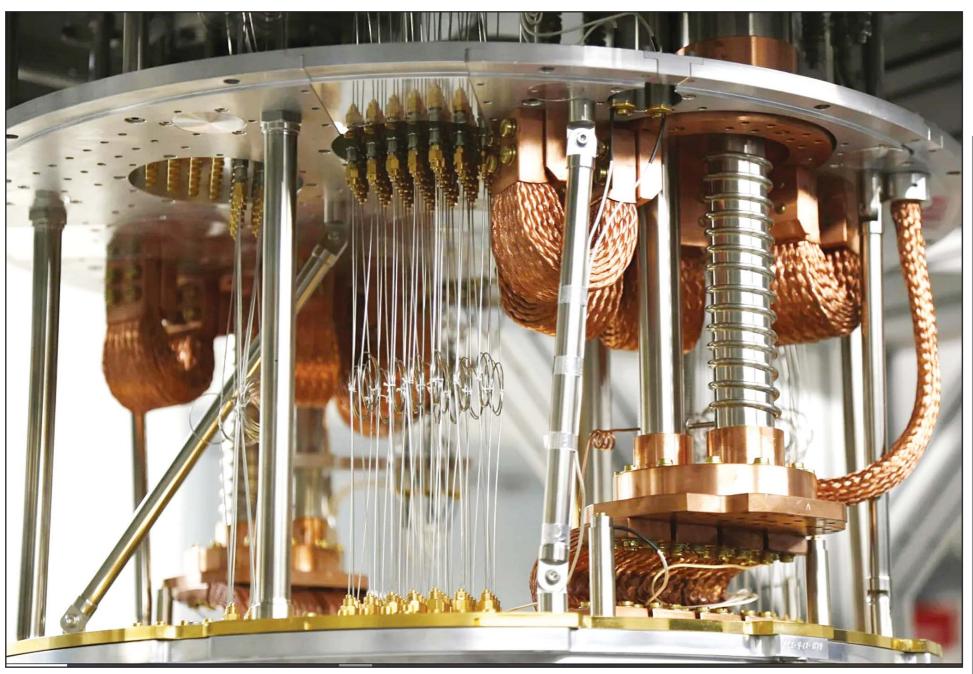
## Business





Scientist explains milestone marking the arrival of extremely powerful computers

## From qubits to quantum ... tech at crucial juncture



This Feb. 27, 2018 photo, shows electronics for use in a quantum computer in the quantum computing lab at the IBM Thomas J. Watson Research Center in Yorktown Heights, N.Y. (AP)

Quantum computing may one day be as disruptive as the arrival of

generative AI

#### **By Daniel Lidar**

University of Southern California

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

uantum advantage is the milestone the field of quantum computing is fervently working toward, where a quantum computer can solve problems that are beyond the reach of the most powerful non-quantum, or classical, computers.

Quantum refers to the scale of atoms and molecules where the laws of physics as we experience them break down and a different, counterintuitive set of laws apply. Quantum computers take advantage of these strange behaviors to solve problems.

There are some types of problems that are impractical for classical computers to solve, such as cracking state-of-the-art encryption algorithms. Research in recent decades has shown that quantum computers have the potential to solve some of these problems. If a quantum computer can be built that actually does solve one of these problems, it will have demonstrated quantum advantage. I am a physicist who studies

quantum information processing and the control of quantum systems. I believe that this frontier of scientific and technological innovation not only promises groundbreaking advances in computation but also represents a broader surge in quantum technology, including significant advancements in quantum cryptography and quantum

Central to quantum computing is the quantum bit, or qubit. Unlike classical bits, which can only be in states of 0 or 1, a qubit can be in any state that is some combination of 0 and 1. This state of neither just 1 or just 0 is known as a quantum superposition. With every additional qubit, the number of states that can be represented by the qubits doubles.

This property is often mistaken for the source of the power of quantum computing. Instead, it comes down to an intricate interplay of superposition, interference and entanglement.

Interference involves manipulating qubits so that their states combine constructively during computations to amplify correct solutions and destructively to suppress the wrong answers.

Constructive interference is what happens when the peaks of two waves - like sound waves or ocean waves - combine to create a higher peak. Destructive interference is what happens when a wave peak and a wave trough combine and cancel each other out. Quantum algorithms, which are few and difficult to devise, set up a sequence of interference patterns that yield the correct answer to a problem.

Entanglement establishes a uniquely quantum correlation between qubits: The state of one cannot be described independently of the others, no matter how far apart the qubits are. This is what Albert Einstein famously dismissed as "spooky action at a distance." Entanglement's collective behavior, orchestrated through a quantum computer, enables computational speed-ups that are beyond the reach of classical computers.

Quantum computing has a range of potential uses where it can outperform classical computers. In cryptography, quantum computers pose both an opportunity and a challenge. Most famously, they have the potential to decipher current encryption algorithms, such as the widely used RSA

One consequence of this is that today's encryption protocols need to be reengineered to be resistant to future quantum attacks. This recognition has led to the burgeoning field of post-quantum cryptography. After a long process, the National Institute of Standards and Technology recently selected four quantum-resistant algorithms and has begun the process of readying them so that organizations around the world can use them in their encryption technology.

In addition, quantum computing can dramatically speed up quantum simulation: the ability to predict the outcome of experiments operating in the quantum realm. Famed physicist Richard Feynman envisioned this possibility more than 40 years ago. Quantum simulation offers the potential for considerable advancements in chemistry and materials science, aiding in areas such as the intricate modeling of molecular structures for drug discovery and enabling the discovery or creation of materials with

novel properties. Another use of quantum information technology is quantum sensing: detecting and measuring physical properties like electromagnetic energy, gravity, pressure and temperature with greater sensitivity and precision than non-quantum instruments. Quantum sensing has myriad applications in fields such as environmental monitoring, geological exploration, medical imaging and surveillance.

Initiatives such as the development of a quantum internet that interconnects quantum computers are crucial steps toward bridging the quantum and classical computing worlds.
This network could be secured using quantum cryptographic protocols such as quantum key distribution, which enables ultra-secure communication channels that are protected against computational attacks - including those using quantum computers.

Despite a growing application suite for quantum computing, developing new algorithms that make full use of the quantum advantage - in particular in machine learning - remains a critical area of ongoing research.

The quantum computing field faces significant hurdles in hardware and software development. Quantum computers are highly sensitive to any unintentional interactions with their environments. This leads to the phenomenon of decoherence, where qubits rapidly degrade to the 0 or 1 states of classical bits.

Building large-scale quantum computing systems capable of delivering on the promise of quantum speed-ups requires overcoming decoherence.

The key is developing effective methods of suppressing and correcting quantum errors, an area my own research is focused on.

In navigating these challenges, numerous quantum hardware and software startups have emerged alongside well-established technology industry players like Google and IBM. This industry interest, combined with significant investment from governments Building large-scale quantum com-

nificant investment from governments worldwide, underscores a collective recognition of quantum technology's transformative potential. These initiatives foster a rich ecosystem where academia and industry collaborate, accelerating progress in the field.

Quantum computing may one day be as disruptive as the arrival of generative AI. Currently, the development of quantum computing technology is at a crucial juncture. On the one hand, the field has already shown early signs of having achieved a narrowly specialized quantum advantage. Researchers at Google and later a team of researchers in China demonstrated quantum advantage for generating a list of random numbers with certain properties. My research team demonstrated a quantum speed-up for a random number guessing game.

On the other hand, there is a tangible risk of entering a "quantum winter," a period of reduced investment if practical results fail to materialize in the near term.

While the technology industry is working to deliver quantum advantage in products and services in the near term, academic research remains focused on investigating the fundamental principles underpinning this new science and technology. This ongoing basic research, fueled by enthusiastic cadres of new and bright students of the type I encounter almost every day, ensures that the field will continue to progress. (AP)

Will AI catapult humanity to new heights or a dystopian nightmare?

## Leaders, tech titans probe AI's promise and peril

As our interactions with technology become more and more natural, computers will increasingly be able to see and interpret our intent and make sense of the world around us

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov 18, (AP): US President Joe Biden and other global leaders have spent the past few days melding minds with Silicon Valley titans in San Francisco, their discussions frequently focusing on artificial intelligence, a technology expected to reshape the world, for better or worse.

For all the collective brainpower on hand for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation conference, there were no concrete answers to a pivotal question: Will AI turn be the springboard that catapults humanity to new heights, or the dystopian nightmare that culminates in its demise?

"The world is at an inflection point - this is not a hyperbole," Biden said Thursday at a CEO summit held in conjunction with APEC. "The decisions we make today are going to shape the direction of the world for decades to come.'

Not surprisingly, most of the technology CEOs who appeared at the summit were generally upbeat about AI's potential to unleash breakthroughs that will make workers more produc

tive and eventually improve standards of living.

None were more bullish than Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella, whose software company has invested more than \$10 billion in OpenAI, the startup behind the AI chatbot ChatGPT

Like many of his peers, Nadella says he believes AI will turn out to be as transformative as the advent of personal computers were during the 1980s, the internet's rise during the 1990s and the introduction of smartphones during the 2000s.

"We finally have a way to interact with computing using natural language. That is, we finally have a technology that understands us, not the other way around," Nadella said at the CEO summit. "As our interactions with technology become more and more natural, computers will increasingly be able to see and interpret our intent and make sense of the world around us."

Google CEO Sundar Pichai, whose internet company is increasingly infusing its influential search engine with AI, is similarly optimistic about

humanity's ability to control the technology in ways that will make the

world a better place. "I think we have to work hard to harness it," Pichai said. "But that is true of every other technological advance we've had before. It was true for the industrial revolution. I think we can learn from those things.

The enthusiasm exuded by Nadella and Pichai has been mirrored by investors who have been betting AI will pay off for Microsoft and Google. The accelerating advances in AI are the main reasons why the stock prices of both Microsoft and Google's corporate parent, Alphabet Inc., have both soared by more than 50% so far this year. Those gains have combined to produce an additional \$1.6 trillion in shareholder

But the perspective from outside the tech industry is more circumspect.

"Everyone has learned to spell AI, they don't really know what quite to do about it," said former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who is now director of the Hoover Institution

at Stanford University. "They have enormous benefit written all over them. They also have a lot of cautionary tales about how technology can be

misused.' Robert Moritz, global chairman of the consulting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers, said there are legitimate concerns about the "Doomsday discussions" centered on the effects of AI, potentially about the likelihood of supplanting the need for people to

perform a wide range of jobs. Companies have found ways to train people who lose their jobs in past waves of technological upheaval, Moritz said, and that will have to happen again or "we will have a mismatch, which will bring more unrest, which we cannot afford to have.

San Francisco, APEC's host city, is counting on the multibillion-dollar investments in AI and the expansion of payrolls among startups such as OpenAI and Anthropic to revive the fortunes of a city that's still struggling to adjust to a pandemic-driven shift that has led to more people working

"We are in the spring of yet another innovative boom," San Francisco Mayor London Breed said, while boasting that eight of the biggest AI-centric companies are based in the city.

The existential threat to humanity posed by AI is one of the reasons that led tech mogul Elon Musk to spend some of his estimated fortune of \$240 billion to launch a startup called xAI during the summer. Musk had been scheduled to discuss his hopes and fears surrounding AI during the CEO summit with Salesforce CEO Marc Benioff, but canceled Thursday because of an undisclosed conflict.

OpenAI CEO Sam Altman predicted AI will prove to be "the greatest leap forward of any of the big technological revolutions we've had so far." But he also acknowledged the need for guardrails to protect humanity from the existential threat posed by the quantum leaps being taking by computers.

"I really think the world is going to rise to the occasion and everybody wants to do the right thing," Altman said.

editor's choice



## Harrowing Ukraine war docu '20 Days in Mariupol' now on TV

NEW YORK, Nov 18, (AP): The visceral documentary "20 Days in Mariupol," about Russia's early assault on the Ukrainian city, will soon reach its widest audience yet.

The 94-minute film, a joint production by The Associated Press and PBS "Frontline," has been met with critical acclaim and an audience award at the Sundance Film Festival. AP journalist Mstyslav Chernov directed the movie from 30 hours of footage shot in Mariupol in the opening days of the war. Chernov and AP colleagues Evgeniy Maloletka, a photographer, and producer Vasilisa Stepanenko were the last international journalists in the city before

"I thought I should do something more. I should do something more with that 30 hours of footage to tell a bigger story and more context to show the audience of the scale," Chernov has said.

After screenings in dozens of cities, "20 Days in Mariupol" will air on PBS stations in the US beginning Tuesday. As it heads to home and streaming devices, here are details on how it came together and where you can watch it.

PBS shows air depending on local schedules, so it's best to check for when the documentary will air on the "Frontline" website at https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/schedule/.

'Frontline" episodes are also available after they air on the PBS app, which also includes other ways to purchase them.

It is an intense account of the war's early days. Death

abounds. Chernov, Maloletka and Stepanenko documented fighting in the streets, the crushing strain on Mariupol's besieged residents and attacks that left pregnant women, children and others dead.

The trailer provides some sense of difficult scenes in the film. The film has gotten excellent critical reception and won numerous awards, including two Critics Choice honors this week. It cur-

"Watching Chernov's film is a humanitarian duty," Harper's Bazaar said.

rently has a 100% rating on the film review aggregator Rotten To-

#### Tragedy

The film is also a New York Times Critic's Pick, with reviewer Jason Farago noting: "This film is very hard to watch, and so it should be, though its episodic structure makes it somewhat easier to endure.

"What comes through most vividly, other than the human tragedy on display, is the vital importance of war correspondents and the courage and ingenuity they must possess in order to work under such life-threatening conditions," The Hollywood Reporter said in its review.

Chernov and the AP team could only send limited footage and dispatches during their 20 days in Mariupol.

Once they were safely outside the city, the team was able to review their footage and Chernov considered what to do with it. He wanted to focus on the time the team was in the city and narrated the film himself.

"It's OK to tell the audiences about your emotions," he said. "It's just important to not let those emotions dictate what you show and don't show ... While narrated by me, I still tried to keep it fair."

"Frontline" producer Michelle Mizner edited "20 Days. Chernov's first-person account of fleeing the city - with Russian soldiers hunting for the AP team - tells the amazing backstory behind their reporting.

For months after leaving Mariupol, the AP team continued to document the conflict in Mariupol, including a detailed investigation into a Russian attack on a theater that killed an estimated 600 civilians and Russia's efforts to scrub the city's identity after taking control of it.

The team, which included investigative correspondent Lori Hinnant, won the Pulitzer Prize for public service. The Pulitzer website includes links to the team's stories and videos. AP's coverage of the war, in Mariupol and beyond, also won the breaking news photography Pulitzer this year.

AP and "Frontline" also produced a project tracking potential war crimes, including two short documentaries that can be found

#### **Variety**



This image released by Apple TV+ shows Joaquin Phoenix in a scene from 'Napoleon.' (AP)

#### Film

#### Phoenix leads in a provocative take on male power

## Scott's 'Napoleon' has plenty of ego

#### By Jake Coyle

For such a famed historical figure, Napoleon has made only fleeting appearances in movies since Abel Gance's 1927 silent film.

Stanley Kubrick had grand designs for a Napoleon epic that went unmade. Napoleon and his bicorne hat - more icon of history than a real character - mostly only pops up in time-traveling odysseys like "Time Bandits" or "Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure."

The party, though, is finally on in Ridley Scott's "Napoleon," starring Joaquin Phoenix. Scott doesn't do anything small, not even famously diminutive French emperors. And his two-hour-38-minute bigscreen biopic serves up a heaping historical spectacle complete with bloody European battles and massive military maneuvers.

But don't mistake "Napoleon" for your average historical epic. Our first sense that this may not be a grand glorification of a Great Man of history comes early in the film, when a 24-year-old Bonaparte leads the siege on the British troops controlling the port city of Toulon. When Napoleon, then a major, charges forward in the fight, he's visibly terrified, even panting. He looks more like Phoenix's anxious protagonist in "Beau Is Afraid" than the man who would become France's Caesar. Napoleon doesn't storm the gates so much as lurch desperately at them.

And for the rest of Scott's film and Phoenix's riveting performance, Napoleon's actions are never much more complicated than that. He assumes power cavalierly. His coup d'état against the French Directory in 1799 is a ramshackle farce. He flings his armies around the continent without the slightest concern. He's prone to petulant rages, screaming at the British: "You think you're so great because you have boats!"

"Napoleon" subscribes more to the Not-So-Great Man theory of history. This Napoleon isn't extraordinary nor is he much of a man. He's a boyishly impulsive, thin-skinned brute, careening his way through Europe and leaving battlefields of dead soldiers in his wake. When he, while on a campaign in Egypt, is informed over lunch that his wife, Joséphine (Vanessa Kirby), is having an affair back in Paris, he responds curtly to the messenger: "No dessert for you.

For more than 200 years, characterizations of Napoleon have ranged from genius reformer born out of the French Revolution to marauding tyrant whose wars left three million dead. Napoleon, himself, helped shape his legacy while exiled on St. Helena with a self-serving memoir. Some of the titans of 19th century literature reckoned with him. Victor Hugo wrote Napoleon lost at Waterloo because he had grown "troublesome to ...." Tolstoy, in "War and Peace," was less impressed, calling him, "that most insignificant instrument of history.

In "Napoleon," which begins with Marie Antoinette at the guillotine and ends with Napoleon on St. Helena where he died at age 51 in 1821, it's startling how much disregard the movie has for its protagonist. Hollywood historical epics have traditionally leaned toward aggrandizement, not the undressing of fragile, deluded male egos who exclaim over dinner: "Destiny has brought me here! Destiny has brought me this lamb chop!

#### **Portrait**

Here is a sweeping historical tapestry - no one does it better today than Scott - with a damning, almost satirical portrait at its center. That mix - Scott's spectacle and Phoenix's the-emperor-has-no-clothes performance - makes "Napoleon" a rivetingly offkilter experience.

It's not always a smooth mix. Phoenix's characterization may at times have more in common with some of his past depictions of melancholy loners ("The Master," "The Joker") than any factual record of Napoleon. A quality like ambition, you'd think, would be prominent in depicting Napoleon. He was a notorious workaholic, meticulously organized and an energetic intellectual - little of which is present here, making Napoleon's rise to power sometimes hard to fathom.

But that's also part of the point of "Napoleon," which surely has some contemporary echoes. There are plenty of enablers along the way (a highlight of the supporting cast is Paul Rhys as the scheming diplomat Talleyrand) as the film marches through major events like the fall of Robespierre, the 1799 coup, Napoleon making himself Emperor in 1804 and the triumphant Battle of Austerlitz. The last is Scott's finest set piece in the film, ending in a rout of the

Russian forces as they flee over a frozen pond while the bombardment of cannons plunges them into an

But in David Scarpa's screenplay, the real through line in "Napoleon" isn't the string of battles leading up to the downfall we all know is coming at Waterloo. (There, Rupert Everett's sneering Duke of Wellington enlivens the military tactics.) It's Napoleon's relationship with Joséphine that makes the main thread.

When he first sees her across a crowded party, he stands transfixed. Anyone would be. The slinky Kirby, sporting a pixie cut, rivals Phoenix for most potent presence in "Napoleon." She has a complete hold on Napoleon, who turns out to be no more suave in the bedroom than he is among society. When he returns from Egypt furious from the well-publicized rumors of her infidelity, they have a prolonged fight that ends with her turning the tables. "You are nothing without me," she tells him, as he cowers, happily. "Say it."

There's a version of the film that could be wholly focused on their dynamic. Joséphine is omnipresent for a long stretch - he writes her constantly from the battlefront in letters narrated to us - but "Napoleon" never quite finds its balance in cutting between their life together and the military exploits. Scott is expected to release a four-hour director's cut on Apple TV+ after the film's theatrical run, which may offer

a more calibrated version. But the 85-year-old Scott - himself a symbol of ceaseless ambition - has made a film that, like his previous "The Last Duel," is a provocative takedown of male power. Scott has made plenty of brawny, swaggering epics in his time - including "Gladiator," with an Oscar-nominated Phoenix as the Roman emperor Commodus. But even though not everything in "Napoleon" coheres, it's appealing destabilizing. In one of the film's final images, Napoleon and his hat are in silhouette as he slumps to his death like a keeling ship, going down.

"Napoleon," an Apple Studios release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for strong violence, some grisly images, sexual content and brief language. Running time: 158 minutes. Three stars out of four. (AP)

catchy blend of jazz, funk and soul, what Brown liked to call "the sound of happiness." In 1964, Brown helped launch the Grammy-winning group, originally called the Jazziacs, lywood Swinging" among others along with such friends as bassist Robert "Kool" Bell, brother Ronald Bell on keyboards and guitarist Charles Śmith.

After years of relative obscurity, name changes and personnel changes, Kool & The Gang broke through in the mid-1970s with "Jungle Boogie" and "Hol-

**FONTAINEBLEAU, France:** One of the signature broad, black bicorne hats that **Napoleon** 

Bonaparte wore when he ruled 19th-century France and waged war in Europe is expected to

fetch upwards of 600,000 euros

(\$650,000) at an auction Sunday.

Other history-laden items in the sale of industrialist Jean-

Napoleonic memorabilia include

a silver plate looted from Napo-

the Battle of Waterloo in 1815.

It also includes a wooden vanity

case he owned, with razors, a

silver toothbrush, scissors and

star piece, valued at between

While other officers cus-

tomarily wore their hats with

the wings facing front to back.

pointing toward his shoulders.

That style - known as "en battaille," in battle, in French

made it easier for his troops

statesman in combat.

to spot the military general and

"For people who are into

Napoleonic souvenirs, it's the

holy grail to have a hat," said

Osenat auction house. (AP)

Jean-Pierre Osenat, head of the

**NEW YORK:** George "Funky"

Brown, the co-founder and long-

Gang who helped write such hits as "Too Hot," "Ladies Night,"

"Joanna" and the party favorite

Los Angeles at age 74.

"Celebration," died Thursday in

Brown died after a battle with

cancer, according to a statement

released by Universal Music. He

had retired earlier in the year,

nearly 60 years after the band

diagnosed with stage 4 lung

millions of records with its

began, and revealed that he was

Kool & The Gang has sold

time drummer of Kool & The

Napoléon wore his with the ends

600,000 and 800,000 euros

(\$650,000 to \$870,000).

The faded black felt hat is the

other personal belongings.

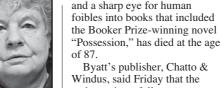
leon's carriage after his defeat at

Louis Noisiez's collection of

songs and peaked in the late '70s-mid 1980s, with hits ranging from the ballads "Cherish" and "Joanna" to the up-tempo, chart-topping "Celebration, now a standard at weddings and other festive gatherings. (AP)

**LONDON:** British author **A.S.** 





Byatt's publisher, Chatto & Windus, said Friday that the author, whose full name was Antonia Byatt, died "peacefully

Byatt, who wove history, myth

at home surrounded by close family" on Thursday.

Byatt wrote two dozen books. starting with her first novel, "The Shadow of the Sun," in 1964. Her work was translated into 38 languages.

"Possession," published in 1990, follows two young academics investigating the lives of a pair of imaginary Victorian poets. The novel, a double romance which skillfully layers a modern story with mock-Victorian letters and poems, was a huge bestseller and won the prestigious Booker

Accepting the prize, Byatt said "Possession" was about the joy of reading. (AP)



#### People & Places

#### **People**

#### **Cosby: New lawsuit**

## Combs, Cassie settle lawsuit within 24 hrs

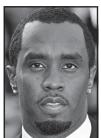
NEW YORK, Nov 18, (AP): A lawsuit by singer Cassie containing allegations of beatings and abuse by music producer **Sean "Diddy" Combs** has been settled, the artists announced Friday, one day after the lawsuit was filed.

The settlement was announced in a statement sent by attorney Douglas Wigdor, who represents Cassie, whose full name is Casandra Ventura.

The statement said they had reached a deal "to their mutual satisfaction" Friday evening, but no terms of the agreement were disclosed and no further statements would be issued beyond those made by Ventura, Combs and Wigdor in the email distributed by the lawyer.

In her statement, Ventura said: "I have decided to

In her statement, Ventura said: "I have decided to resolve this matter amicably on terms that I have some level of control. I want to thank



Comb

my family, fans and lawyers for their unwavering support." Combs said: "We have de-

Combs said: "We have decided to resolve this matter amicably. I wish Cassie and her family all the best. Love."

Ben Brafman, an attorney for Combs, did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment. On Thursday, he said in a statement that Combs "vehemently denies" the allegations.

The lawsuit alleged Combs brought the singer into his "ostentatious, fast-paced, and drug-fueled life-style" soon after she met him and signed to his label in 2005, when she was 19 and he was 37.

Ventura, now 37, said Combs, now 54, began a pattern of abuse as soon as their on-and-off relationship began in 2007.

The lawsuit alleged that, "prone to uncontrollable rage," Combs subjected Ventura to "savage" beatings in which he punched, kicked and stomped her. It alleges he plied her with drugs and forced her to have sex with other men while he masturbated and filmed them.

According to the lawsuit, as Ventura was trying to end the relationship in 2018, Combs forced her into her Los Angeles home and raped her.

The Associated Press does not typically name people who say they have been sexually abused unless they come forward publicly as Ventura has.

Combs is among the most influential hip-hop producers and executives of the past three decades. The founder of Bad Boy Records and a three-time Grammy winner, he has worked with a slew of top-tier artists including Notorious B.I.G., Mary J. Blige, Usher, Lil Kim, Faith Evans and 112.

This year, he released his fifth studio album, "The Love Album: Off the Grid," which earned two Grammy nominations this month. It was his first studio album in 17 years

"The bad boy of entertainment is getting the key to the city from the bad boy of politics!" Mayor Eric Adams said in September as he presented a giant key to Combs in Times Square. Combs was born in New York City and raised in nearby Mount Vernon.

Ventura gained fame with the Ryan Leslie-produced hit single "Me & U," which rose to No. 1 on the Billboard Hot R&B/Hip-Hop songs chart in 2006. It was her only studio album. As an actor, she was in several projects including Fox's "Empire," "Step Up 2:The Streets" and "Spenser Confidential."

Brafman's statement on Thursday said Ventura had for the past six months persistently demanded \$30 million while threatening to write a damaging book about her relationship with Combs. The lawyer said the demands were rejected as "blatent blockmail".

the demands were rejected as "blatant blackmail."

Ventura withdrew the initial threat before filing a lawsuit "riddled with baseless and outrageous lies, aiming to tarnish Mr. Combs's reputation and seeking a payday," Brafman said.

Wigdor responded Thursday in a statement saying Combs had offered her "eight figures to silence her" and prevent the lawsuit from being filed.

"She rejected his efforts and decided to give a voice to all woman who suffer in silence," Wigdor said.

Wigdor praised his client in a statement included in his email announcing the settlement on Friday.

"I am very proud of Ms. Ventura for having the

"I am very proud of Ms. Ventura for having the strength to go public with her lawsuit. She ought to be commended for doing so," he said.

A woman who said **Bill Cosby** sexually assaulted her when she was a young comedy writer more than 50 years ago filed a lawsuit against the actor Thursday under a soon-to-expire New York law that gave victims of sexual abuse a one-year window for claims that would otherwise be barred by time limits.

Joan Tarshis initially came forward with allegations against Cosby in 2014 that are repeated in the new lawsuit. Tarshis said Cosby drugged her and forced her to perform oral sex on him in 1969 or 1970, and then drugged and raped her during another encounter a year or two later.

The New York resident was living in California at the time of the first assault and had met Cosby through a mutual friend while he was starring in "The Bill Cosby Show," according to the lawsuit, filed in state Supreme Court in New York City.

A spokesperson for Cosby did not address the specifics of Tarshis's claims.

"Diddy, LA Reid, **Steven Tyler**, and now they circle back to this," spokesperson Andrew Wyatt said, referring to others recently sued under New York's Adult Survivors Act. "When is it going to stop?"

Cosby, 86, has been accused of rape, sexual assault and sexual harassment by more than 60 women. He has denied all allegations involving sex crimes. He was the first celebrity tried and convicted in the #Me-Too era and spent nearly three years at a state prison near Philadelphia before a higher court overturned the conviction and released him in 2021.

Tarshis was among the first accusers to speak publicly about Cosby, whom she met when she was 19 and just breaking into comedy writing. An interview she did with CNN newsman **Don Lemon** soon after she came forward drew a flurry of attention on social media, and an apology from Lemon. While on-air, the host suggested Tarshis could have bitten Cosby on his genitals during the first assault, something Tarshis said she hadn't thought of.

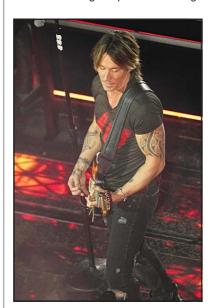
Tarshis previously sued Cosby in Massachusetts, where Cosby had a home. She was among seven women who filed defamation claims after Cosby branded them liars. The cases were settled in 2019.

The new lawsuit alleges assault, battery, intentional infliction of emotional distress and false imprisonment. It seeks unspecified damages.

In it, Tarshis said Cosby invited her to meet with him at the studio lot where he was filming his show, under the pretense of working on a skit she was writing.



John Legend performs during an opening ceremony for the Formula One Las Vegas Grand Prix auto race, Wednesday, Nov. 15, in Las Vegas. (AP)



Keith Urban performs during an opening ceremony for the Formula One Las Vegas Grand Prix auto race, Nov. 15, in Las Vegas. (AP)



Snoop Dogg



Rosé

#### Variety

**NEW YORK:** Asking for privacy, hiphop legend and longtime marijuana enthusiast **Snoop Dogg** says he's going to stop smoking - though he didn't specify exactly what that might mean.

"After much consideration and con-

versation with my family, I've decided to give up smoke," Snoop wrote in a message shared on Instagram and X, the platform formerly known as Twitter, on Thursday. "Please respect my privacy at this time."

The rapper and entrepreneur, who has become known for his own weed-related ventures over the years, provided no additional details in his brief announcement, which came the week after a new marijuana-adjacent product was introduced bearing his name. Representatives for the 52-year-old Snoop, born Calvin Cordozar Broadus Jr., did not immediately respond to The Associated Press' requests for comment Friday.

That didn't stop ample speculation from fans, many of whom filled the comments of Snoop's post after being caught off guard by his decision.

Some wondered if Snoop would switch to another form of THC or announce a new business-related or marketing venture down the road. Others applauded the announcement and suggested Snoop may have chosen to stop smoking for his own personal health.

Marketing and branding experts note that it's not uncommon to see this kind of response when celebrities make unexpected announcements - especially if it contradicts something fans have identified them with for such a long time. (AP)

SAN FRANCISCO: K-pop superstar Rosé said Friday at a mental health awareness event hosted by first lady Jill Biden that it's important for the world to understand that famous people grapple with emotional struggles, too.

with emotional struggles, too.
"I think that would be very great, for everybody who works under the public eye," she said, perched on a slate gray couch at the Apple Park campus in Cupertino after hugging the first lady, who thanked her for coming.

Rosé, a part of the supergroup BLACKPINK, said having a large



#### A symphony of music and motorsport

## Music takes front seat at F1 Vegas

LAS VEGAS, Nov 18, (AP): At the inaugural Formula One Las Vegas Grand Prix, music and entertainment have taken a dominant role. As the elite motorsport experiments with the new race, A-list events are ubiquitous in Sin City, an unignorable part of the celebration.

Here are some of the highlights.
On Thursday, at a Sinatra-themed restaurant in the lobby of the Encore casino, Colombian reggaetonero J Balvin emerged in all black leather.

He'd performed the day before at the Las Vegas Grand Prix opening ceremony - the only artist to perform a song not in English, his Usher-sampling "Dientes." On Saturday, he'll close the race weekend with a longer performance, making him the only musician to take the stage at this inaugural Formula One race twice. In many ways, it is fitting: F1 is a global sport, Balvin is a global artist, and music has become increasingly integrated with the sport.

"No matter where you're from, your language, people just love it, you know?" he told The Associated Press about his connection to the motorsport. "It's really cohesive - my vision and Formula One."

"On the business side, it's good exposure," he says of why artists are motivated to perform at F1 events. "Other things relate to it, but personally, I love fast cars."

The sentiment echos something will.i.am told AP in advance of the opening ceremony: "Every producer, every DJ wants to play F1. Why? Because it's a (expletive) of money they make," he said. "Every band that's any band wants to play the mainstage at F1."

Las Vegas is the most expensive F1 race of the 2023 season - and the money is felt.

At night countless concerts over-

At night, countless concerts overlapped with what was supposed to be the first two Formula One practice sessions - a loose water valve cover canceled the first, and the second was delayed two-and-a-half hours for track repairs. Dedicated spectators were removed from viewing areas ahead of the 90-minute session that ended at 4 a.m. local time - the deadline for F1 to return the roads to Las Vegas commuters.

But for a large population of Vegas tourists, it was as if nothing was amiss. Jack Harlow played an abridged and charming set at a private SiriusXM + Pandora Concert at The Cosmopolitan. (Liberty Media, which owns Formula One, is also the majority owner of SiriusXM.) The Chainsmokers hit the stage at the Wynn. (The luxury club and casino is a founding partner in the Las Vegas Grand Prix.) Travis Scott performed at Zouk Nightclub located in Resorts World Las Vegas, another partner of this particular race.

For the music fan, it was a remarkable night of all-star performances. For the racing fan - not so much.

#### Medley

It was raining in the Las Vegas desert on Wednesday night when Thirty Seconds to Mars emerged atop a giant, custom-built LED platform on the Formula One racetrack that, in just over 24 hours, will host the first ever F1 practice session.

For the inaugural Vegas race weekend, the Grand Prix hosted an Opening Ceremony - not too dissimilar from the star-studded event that launch the Miami race in 2022. Jared Leto and his brother Shannon Leto wore matching race suits, launching into a medley of 2005's "The Kill," their biggest hit," and 2023's "Stuck," their most recent one.

Then, in less than half an hour, there were abridged performances from Keith Urban, Andra Day (with

is just never enough, and no matter how

gonna be somebody who has their own

hard I work on something, there's always

a rich cover of the Beatles' "Come Together"), Kylie Minogue's summertime smash "Padam Padam," Bishop Briggs, Journey, Steve Aoki, J Balvin, and will.i.am, each musician appearing atop their own LED platform.

Tigsto and John Legend performed

Tiësto and John Legend performed together from the roof of the exclusive Paddock Club, where top-tier tickets could set attendees back \$40,000. For the audience in the grandstands, tickets ranged from \$100-\$200.

The event reflects Formula One's accelerating influence on the music world - and vice versa.

"Anyone who hasn't been to an event like this can't conceive of the level everything is at," Keith Urban told AP the morning of the performance.

"It's much closer to an Olympics opening ceremony than anything I've ever seen," he added.

For his set, the country star performed "Somewhere in My Car," a clever gesture to the automotive theme - and promotion for his continued Las Vegas residency.

The eclectic lineup reflects a shift in the F1 audience, which has grown in popularity among young Americans over the last half decade. The inclusion of Grammy- and Oscar-winning actor Day, for example, is a welcomed surprise in a bill stacked with dedicated artists who frequently perform at these events: Tiësto, Steve Aoki, and F1 Global Artist in Residence will.i.am among them.

"The Formula One world is new to me," Day said, adding that the global reach of the sport was the "biggest draw" for her to join the event. "There's such a variety of people from all over."

"At the same time, it is nostalgic for

me. It reminds me of being a young girl, and how cars can bring people together. Just like music."

social media following makes her feel vulnerable, particularly when people are critical.

"I do feel like some of the things I do opinion or who enjoy taking control of



Photographer Evgeniy Maloletka, (from left), 'Frontline' producer/editor Michelle Mizner, director Mstyslav Chernov, and field producer Vasilisa Stepanenko pose for a portrait to promote the film '20 Days in Mariupol' at the Latinx House during the Sundance Film Festival on Sunday, Jan. 22, 2023, in Park City, Utah. The film is a joint project between The Associated Press and PBS 'Frontline.' (AP)

the narrative," she said. "And so, that comes to me as a sense of loneliness." She said it was important to talk about

such things, however difficult it may be.

"Just as we feed ourselves for better health and fitness, mental health can only be maintained equally -- if not more intentionally - as our physical well be-

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.: It's been a

long journey for one lone Mexican gray wolf - from the forests of southeastern Arizona, across the dusty high desert of central New Mexico to the edge of what is known as the Yellowstone of the Southwest.

Her paws have seen hundreds of miles now over the last five months. Having reached Valles Caldera National Preserve in northern New

National Preserve in northern New Mexico, she has wandered far beyond the boundaries established along the Arizona-New Mexico border for managing the rarest subspecies of gray wolf in North America. The recovery area - spanning tens of thousands of square miles - is home to more than 240 of the endangered predators.

no immediate plans for capturing the lone female wolf nicknamed Asha. But they will continue tracking her movements.

Known to biologists by her formal name of F2754, the wolf is outfitted with

Federal wildlife managers have con-

firmed to The Associated Press they have

name of F2754, the wolf is outfitted with a GPS collar. (AP)



#### Collaboration aims to transform diabetes, dyslipidemia care standards in Kuwait

#### Kuwait Diabetes Society partners with Sanofi to elevate cardiometabolic care

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: To enhance cardiometabolic care standards in Kuwait, the Kuwait Diabetes Society (KDS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Sanofi for patients living with diabetes and dys-

The MoU was signed between Dr. Walid Al-Dhahi, Chairman of the Kuwait Diabetes Society and Director of the Internal Medicine Department at Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital, and Niven Al-Khoury, General Manager of General Medicines at Sanofi KSA and Gulf MCO. Her Excellency Claire Le Flecher, French Ambassador to Kuwait, was also present to witness the occasion.

Under the terms of the agreement, Sanofi will collaborate with Kuwait Diabetes Society to implement a training program aimed at enhancing the capabilities of primary care physicians in the management of diabetes and dyslipidemia. Sanofi will also support the upgrading of pharmacists' knowledge about recent trends in Pharmacoeconomics

#### **Awareness**

Furthermore, and with the goal of empowering the patient community, Sanofi and KDS will jointly develop comprehensive awareness materials to provide patients with the tools they need to prevent and control diabetes and dyslipidemia

Dr. Walid Al-Dahy: "Our coopera-

tion with Sanofi has the potential to dramatically improve the quality of care provided to patients with diabetes, heart disease and dyslipidemia in Kuwait. The MoU covers in its scope several vital areas including the preparation and implementation of training courses and workshops for primary care doctors, pharmacists and diabetes educators with specific standards and indications for use, as well as the deployment of digital health tools to provide integrated care for patients, enabling them to achieve optimal blood sugar control. Over the years, Sanofi has played an active role in supporting Kuwait's public health agenda, and we look forward to more fruitful cooperation between us in the time to come.'

#### Commitment

Niven Al-Khoury: "Our collaboration with Kuwait Diabetes Society is a testament to our shared commitment to fostering a culture of care, support, and empowerment within the healthcare landscape of Kuwait. With the rising prevalence of chronic diseases such as diabetes and dyslipidemia posing a key public health challenge in the country, Sanofi is committed to working with its partners to improve the quality of life of patients with cardiometabolic diseases. Through awareness and education, and harnessing digital solutions to empower patients, we are proud to be actively contributing to the achievement of the country's healthcare agenda.'

Kuwait Insurance, New Mowasat raise diabetes awareness

## **KIC** conducts diabetes, **BP** tests for employees

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: Kuwait Insurance Company (KIC), in cooperation with New Mowasat Hospital, organized a two-day diabetes awareness campaign to conduct blood sugar and blood pressure tests for the Company's employees. This event coincided with the activities of World Diabetes Day, which is held on November 14th of each year. An integrated medical team from the New Mowasat Hospital conducted diabetes and blood pressure tests for the Company's employees. Dietitian Roaa Qaddoura from the hospital's Nutrition Department was also on hand to provide nutritional, fitness and lifestyle consultations with the aim of spreading awareness of diabetes, caused by the unhealthy habits of large segments of society, and advised on how to prevent it.

For her part, Fajer Al-Sayegh, Corporate Communication Manager in Kuwait Insurance Company, said, This campaign comes in response to the challenges posed by diabetes as a major health issue facing Kuwaiti society, as it is noteworthy that the State of Kuwait is one of the countries with the highest rates of diabetes in the world, in



A photo from the event.

addition to a high number of those who have what is called pre-diabetes and are at high risk of contracting this disease. Diabetes can be avoided by following a healthy lifestyle and such initiatives in the field of social responsibility will contribute to improving lifestyles in all

age groups, and raise health and cultural public awareness that contributes to the development of society".

Al-Sayegh concluded, "These awareness-raising activities are a continuation of the efforts undertaken by Kuwait Insurance Company to preserve the health and safety of community members, promote health awareness, and encourage proper behavior"

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She also thanked the marketing department team, the medical staff who attended from the New Mowasat Hospital, and all those responsible for the campaign.





#### Specialized IDF doctors offer in-depth guidance on breast cancer

#### LuLu Hypermarket organizes breast cancer awareness & support campaign

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: As part of its social responsibility to the community, LuLu Hypermarket organized a Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign at their Al Rai outlet on Nov 16. The campaign, which was held in association with the Indian Doctors Forum (IDF), aimed to raise public awareness about breast cancer and support patients in need.

The compassionate initiative garnered significant attention and participation from the community. The top management of LuLu Hypermarket played an active role in supporting the campaign, and donated a significant amount to aid breast cancer patients, providing them with the necessary support and resources in their battle against this formidable

Distinguished cancer specialists facilitated an awareness seminar on breast cancer during the event, drawing a large crowd of women, including individuals who were directly affected by this condition. Over 10 specialized doctors participated in the campaign, ensuring that attendees received comprehensive information regarding breast cancer risks, early detection, and preventive measures.

In a further inspiring and heartfelt gesture, LuLu Hypermarket's entire female staff actively participated in the campaign. Staff members, who had been affected by breast cancer, shared their personal experiences during the session. As part of the campaign, LuLu Hypermarket also set up a

pink colored 'Support Wall', where shoppers were encouraged to write messages of support, or share their own experiences of breast cancer, and stick the message on the wall in an expression of solidarity with breast cancer patients in the community.

LuLu Hypermarket's breast cancer awareness campaign created a platform for raising awareness and educating the public through accurate medical information from the IDF doctors, and provided support for individuals impacted by breast cancer. By actively engaging customers and the community, the event not only provided valuable information but also brought a sense of empowerment to those affected by this disease.

LuLu Hypermarket's commitment to social responsibility continues to shine through initiatives such as the Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign. As a leading retail chain, they recognize the importance of giving back to society and making a positive impact on individuals and communities in need. Their efforts to support cancer patients through the IDF collaboration is certainly highly commendable.







**Duke rolls past Bucknell 90-60** 

Cougars withstand Utes' surge

CHARLESTON, S.C., Nov 18, (AP), LJ Cryer scored 14 points, including a pair of 3-pointers after Utah had wiped out No. 6 Houston's 14-point lead, and the Cougars beat the Utes 76-66 on Friday to reach the Charleston Classic

The Utes trailed 50-36 in the second half before Gabe Madsen hit three of his eight 3-pointers during a 20-6 run to

tie it at 56-all with seven minutes left.

Terrance Arceneaux broke the tie

Houston (5-0) will play Dayton for

Madsen finished with a career-high 29 points for Utah (3-1), and Branden Carlson scored 17.

Duke 90, Bucknell 60
In Durham, N.C., Mark Mitchell

Mitchell, a sophomore forward, shot

Jared McCain made five 3s on the

Jack Forest had 17 points and Ruot

In Nassau, Bahamas, Matthew

Cleveland scored 18 points, Nijel Pack

added 16 and Miami topped Georgia

in the opening round of the Baha Mar

Wooga Poplar finished with 13

points and 11 rebounds for the Hurri-

canes (4-0). Bensley Joseph also scored

13 for Miami, and Norchad Omier bat-

Blue Cain scored 18 points for Geor-

gia (2-2), Noah Thomasson added 14

and Jabri Abdur-Rahim finished with

13. The Bulldogs fell to 5-22 over

the last five years against opponents

Texas A&M 74, Ôral Roberts 66

Coleman III had 19 points and 10 re-

bounds, and Texas A&M overcame

woeful 3-point shooting to beat Oral

The Aggies (4-0) finished 2 of 22

The 6-foot-8 Coleman did his work

inside, finishing 7 of 7 from the field

and 5 of 6 at the free-throw line. Wade

Taylor IV scored 16 points and Tyrece

Radford had 11 points for the Aggies.

(9%) from beyond the arc, but made up

for it with 42 points in the paint.

In College Station, Texas, Henry

ranked in the AP Top 25.

tled through foul trouble to score 11.

Bijiek scored 11 to pace Bucknell (1-4), which played its fourth road game

in 10 days.

Miami 79, Georgia 68

Rahamas, N

Hoops Bahamas Championship.

scored a career-high 20 points and

8 of 13 from the field. He was one of five

Blue Devils with at least one 3-pointer.

way to 17 points. Tyrese Proctor had 13 points and Kyle Filipowski added

the Charleston title on Sunday night.

with a bucket before Cryer, a Baylor transfer, hit two from beyond the arc to

put the Cougars ahead 64-58.

Duke rolled past Bucknell.

10 for Duke (3-1).

championship game.

## Durant, Booker boost Suns past Jazz

Clippers end skid

SALT LAKE CITY, Nov 18, (AP): Kevin Durant scored 38 points and Devin Booker had 24 points and a career-high 15 assists to boost the Phoenix Suns to a 131-128 win over the Utah Jazz in an NBA In-Season **Tournament game Friday** 

Durant's 3 lifted the Suns to a 124-115 lead before the Jazz rallied to get within one point in the final minute. Durant struck again with his sixth 3 with 18 seconds

Durant also collected nine rebounds and nine assists. He has scored at least 25 points in 11 straight games for the longest active streak in

Jordan Clarkson scored a seasonhigh 37 points for Utah. He has four straight games with 26 or more points, the longest such streak of his

Lauri Markkanen scored 21 points for Jazz, and John Collins had 15 points and 14 rebounds.

The Suns (6-6) improved to 1-1 in West Group A while the Jazz (4-8)

dropped to 2-1. Clippers 106, Rockets 100

In Los Angeles, James Harden hit a tiebreaking 3-pointer while getting fouled with six seconds to play, sending the Clippers to their first victory since his arrival and snapping their six-game losing streak.

#### **BASKETBALL**

Harden dramatically drew the foul from Jae'Sean Tate and drilled his vintage 26-footer from atop the key before completing the four-point play to secure the win for the Clippers, who had lost their first five games since acquiring Harden from Philadelphia.

Kawhi Leonard scored 26 points for the Clippers. Harden had a season-high 24 points, nine rebounds and seven assists against the Rockets, his team for nine seasons from 2013-

#### Lakers 107, Trail Blazers 95

In Portland, Oregon, LeBron James matched his season high with 35 points and Lakers handed the Trail Blazers their sixth straight loss. Anthony Davis added 16 points and 14 rebounds, and the Lakers moved to 3-0 in Group A of the

In-Season Tournament. Jerami Grant had 24 points for Portland. With the loss, the Blazers fell to 1-2 in the tournament and were eliminated from a shot at win-

ning their group. Celtics 108 Rantors 105 In Toronto, Derrick White made a tiebreaking 3-pointer with 26.8 sec-

onds remaining, lifting Boston to the



Utah Jazz forward John Collins (20) fouls Phoenix Suns forward Kevin Durant (35) during the second half of an NBA basketball In-season tournament game Friday, Nov. 17, 2023, in Salt Lake City. (AP)

#### **LSU women race past SE Louisiana 73-50**

#### Betts, Osborne lift UCLA over Princeton

LOS ANGELES, Nov 18, (AP): Lauren Betts had a career-high 22 points and 10 rebounds, and No. 3 UCLA pulled away in the fourth quarter to hold off Princeton 77-74 on Friday and avoid the upset bug among the top 10 teams in the AP

poll.
Only No. 1 South Carolina and the Bruins (4-0) haven't lost yet.
Charisma Osborne scored 13

of her 21 points in the fourth for UCLA. Kiki Rice added 13 points and Gabriela Jaquez had 11

points.
The Tigers (2-1) were led by Kaitlyn Chen with 24 points and Skye Belker with 20 points. Madison St. Rose added 15 points and freshman Mari Bickley had 10. LSU 73, SE Louisiana 50

In Hammond, La., Sophomore Flau'jae Johnson scored 17 points and 11 rebounds and junior Annesah Morrow added 10 points and 11 rebounds as LSU raced past SE Louisiana in their first game of the season without All-America forward Angel Reese.

Kennedy Paul and Hailey Giaratano led SE Louisiana with 12 points each.

Even without Reese, LSU (4-1) had enough firepower to handle the Lady Lions (2-2) in Mulkey's homecoming game in SE Louisiana's sold-out 7,500-seat arena.

victory in an In-Season Tournament

Jaylen Brown scored 23 points and

Kristaps Porzingis added 14 points

and 12 rebounds as the Celtics won

their sixth straight meeting with

Toronto. Jayson Tatum scored 17

Princeton guard Madison St. Rose, right, drives as UCLA guard Kiki Rice chases during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game, Friday, Nov. 17, 2023, in Los Angeles. (AP)

#### Florida State 79, Florida 75

In Gainesville, Fla., Ta'Niya Latson scored a career-high 35 points, including 17 in the fourth quarter, to rally Florida State over Florida.

The sophomore was 11-of-20 shooting and made all 12 of her free throws in posting her eighth career 30-point game. She made all five of her field-goal attempts and seven free throws in final quarter when

points for Boston, Jrue Holiday had

76ers 126, Hawks 116

points, eight assists and seven

rebounds, leading Philadelphia to the

victory in an NBA In-Season

Group A play, with one game remain-

points and 10 rebounds for the Sixers,

who snapped a two-game losing

streak. Tyrese Maxey finished with

Bucks 130, Hornets 99

scored 27 points, Malik Beasley added 20 and the Bucks remained unbeaten in NBA In-Season

In Charlotte, N.C., Damian Lillard

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 16

points, nine assists and eight rebounds

for the Bucks, who have won three

straight. Beasley made six 3-pointers

and Lillard had five as the Bucks

went 22 of 45 from beyond the arc.

the Hornets. Mark Williams had 11

Pelicans 115, Nuggets 110

scored 26 points and Brandon Ingram

added 21, leading New Orleans to the

In New Orleans, Zion Williamson

points and 16 rebounds.

LaMelo Ball scored 37 points for

ing. The Hawks dropped to 1-1.

19 points and eight assists.

The Sixers improved to 2-1 in

Tobias Harris had a season-high 29

In Atlanta, Joel Embiid had 32

4 and White 13.

Tournament game.

Tournament play.

the Seminoles (3-0) outscored the Gators 30-19. Makayla Timpson added 13 points and 12 rebounds. O'Mariah Gordon and Sara Bejedi scored 10 points each.

Ra Shaya Kyle and Leilani Correa scored 16 points each, Aliyah Matharu added 15 and Alberte Rimdal 13 for the Gators (3-1), who had a 25-game home nonconference win streak snapped. Their previous home nonleague loss also came against the Seminoles, in 2019.

Indiana 112, Murray State 79 In Bloomington, Ind., Macken-zie Holmes had 20 points and 10 rebounds for her 21st career double-double, Sara Scalia scored 22 points and Indiana rolled past Mur-

#### **BASKETBALL**

ray State. Yarden Garzon and Chloe

Katelyn Young had 18 points and 10 rebounds, Purdue transfer Ava earn added 15, Hannah McKay 13 and Zoe Stewart 10 for Murray State (1-2), which scored a school-record total in a 121-63 win over Cumberland in its last game.

Moore-McNeil added 14 points each and Lexus Bargesser and Lilly Meister 12 apiece for the Hoosiers (2-1), who shot 54% and made 21 of 28 free throws.

Williamson and Ingram each

scored twice during a late 8-0 run and

the Pelicans narrowly held on after

Kentavious Caldwell-Pope, Reggie

Jackson and Aaron Gordon each

missed 3-point shots for a tie game

during the same possession in the

help New Orleans win its second

straight NBA In-Season Tournament

Kings 129, Spurs 120

scored a season-high 43 points, and

the Kings remained undefeated in the

Domantas Sabonis had 27 points

and 14 rebounds as Sacramento won its fifth straight. Malik Monk added

20 points in the Kings' fourth straight

had 27 points and nine rebounds. Zach Collins had 28 points and Keldon Johnson added 21 points for

the Spurs, who have lost seven

Knicks 120, Wizards 99

scored 32 points, Immanuel Quickley

added 27 and the Knicks eliminated

the Wizards from contention in the

NBA In-Season Tournament.

In Washington, Jalen Brunson

Spurs rookie Victor Wembanyama

NBA In-Season Tournament.

win in San Antonio.

In San Antonio, De'Aaron Fox

Jonas Valanciunas scored 22 to

final 30 seconds.

Washington has dropped all three of its games so far in this new tourney. The Knicks improved to 1-1. Teams play four games apiece in the preliminary round, with the six group winners

#### and two wild cards advancing. Cavaliers 108, Pistons 100

In Cleveland, Darius Garland had a season-high 28 points and Evan Mobley and Max Strus scored 18 apiece as the Cavaliers handed the Pistons their 10th consecutive loss.

Mobley also had 10 rebounds and five assists, and rookie Craig Porter scored a career-best 12 points in 16 minutes for Cleveland, which returned home after a 2-2 West Coast trip. Jarrett Allen had 10 points and five blocked shots.

#### Magic 103, Bulls 97

In Chicago, Franz Wagner scored 21 points, Jonathan Isaac added 18 and the Magic beat the Bulls in an NBA In-Season Tournament game.

For the second time in three nights, Orlando held Chicago to 33 points in the first half and blew a lead after going up by 19. But just as the Magic did in Wednesday's 96-94 win at the United Center, they came away with a wild win.

Zach LaVine led Chicago with 35 points. DeMar DeRozan scored 23 after missing a game due to personal

Villanova 57, Maryland 40
In Villanova, Pa., Tyler Burton scored 10 of his 15 points in Villanova's dominant first half, and the Wildcats

Julian Reese had 10 points for Maryland (1-3), which dropped its third

from the field. Alabama 98, Mercer 67

#### In Tuscaloosa, Ala., Mark Sears

scored 24 points and Alabama beat Mercer in an Emerald Coast Classic campus game.

7 of 8 from the free-throw line. Nick Pringle and Jarin Stevenson scored 14 points each for the Crimson Tide (4-0). Jalyn McCreary scored 17 points for

#### In Champaign, Ill., Terrence Shan-

non Jr. scored 22 points and Dain Dainja had 16 as Illinois came from behind with a 49-point second half to beat Valparaiso.

Luke Goode had 13 points for the Fighting Illini (3-1), and Ty Rodgers added 10.

Cooper Schwieger and Jerome Palm each had 12 points and Jaxon Edwards

former Illini forward Roger Powell Jr. James Madison 76, Radford 73 In Harrisonburg, Va., Terrence Edwards scored 21 points, TJ Bickerstaff

had 20, and James Madison rallied past Radford in a Cancun Challenge campus game. The Dukes survived their first game

as a ranked team thanks to their defense in the closing minutes. DaQuan Smith put Radford ahead 73-70 on a jumper with 3:35 left, but the Highlanders didn't score again. Bickerstaff put JMU (4-0) ahead to stay when he took a hard foul and made two free throws

the Highlanders (2-3), Kenyon Giles scored 15 and Justin Archer contrib-

Commitment to rewarding its young clients, in collaboration with Flare Fitness

#### HoF 'jockey' Ussery dies

WASHINGTON, Nov 18, (AP): Bobby Ussery, a Hall of Fame jockey who won the 1967 Kentucky Derby and then crossed the finish line first in the 1968 edition only to be disqualified days later, has died. He was 88. Ussery died Thurs-

day of congestive heart failure at an assisted living facility in Hollywood, Florida, his son Robert told The Associated Press on Friday.

#### Change Name

I, Chan Singh S/o Jeet Singh R/o Dhobia Mihalla Near Gurudwara Thara Sahib, Teh Samana, Patiala (PB) have changed my name to Chann Singh.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: In its commitment to rewarding its young customers, Gulf Bank has unveiled exclusive welcome gifts for new Red and Red Plus customers transferring student benefits to their accounts in collaboration with Flare Until December 31, 2023, youth wel-

Los Angeles Clippers forward Paul George (left), and forward Kawhi Leonard (right), vie for a rebound with Houston Rockets forward Dillon Brooks

during the second half of an NBA basketball In-Season Tournament game

Friday, Nov 17, 2023, in Los Angeles. (AP)

come offers include a free one-month subscription at Flare Fitness, 25% discount for one month on Macros Diet meals, a 50% discount on a specially designed t-shirts for Red customers.

Red Plus MasterCard is the first prepaid card in the Middle East to offer cashback to youth, boasting the highest cashback program in Kuwait and the first vertically designed MasterCard prepaid card.

Red Plus cardholders reap numerous advantages, including immediate discounts of up to 25% at over 550 restaurants and cafes across Kuwait. Moreover, cardholders have the opportunity to explore enticing offers in travel, leisure, health, beauty, and beyond through the Gulf Offers program. Furthermore, the card offers secure online transactions through Gulf Bank's Triple Secure System, ensuring peace of mind with robust fraud protection.

Gulf Bank's vision is to be the leading Kuwaiti Bank of the Future. The Bank is constantly engaging and empowering its



Gulf Bank's new Red and Red Plus MasterCard.

employees as part of an inclusive and diversified workplace in recognition of every employee's role in delivering customer excellence and serving the community at large. With its extensive network of branches and innovative digital services, Gulf Bank is able to give its customers the choice of how and where to conduct their banking transactions, all while ensuring a simple and seamless banking experience.

Gulf Bank is committed to maintaining robust developments in sustainability at environmental, social and governance levels through diverse sustainability initiatives, strategically selected to benefit the Bank both internally and externally. Gulf Bank supports Kuwait Vision 2035 "New Kuwait" and works with various parties

#### Ward, Washington St romp over Colorado

PULLMAN, Wash., NOV 18, (AP): Cameron Ward threw for 288 yards and accounted for four touchdowns, Brennan Jackson had two scoop-andscore touchdowns and Washington State beat Colorado 56-14 on Friday night to snap a six-game losing streak and end the Buffaloes' hopes of a bowl game in the first year under Deion Sanders.

Colorado quarterback Shedeur Sanders left the game in the second quarter after taking a big hit on a botched snap. Sanders was slow to get up but walked off the field on his own before being taken to the locker room. The junior was 6 of 10 for 86 yards, including a 45yard touchdown strike to Travis Hunter. Sanders, the coach's son, was sacked four times before leaving the game.

Colorado (4-7, 1-7 Pac-12 Conference) and "Coach Prime" were the darlings of college football after a 3-0 start, but the team has lost seven of eight since.

# to secure victory in Charleston

Houston's Ja'Vier Francis, right, blocks a shot by Utah's Rollie Wor-ster (25) in the first half of an NCAA college basketball game during the Charleston Classic in Charleston, S.C., Friday, Nov. 17, 2023. (AP)

Isaac McBride scored 27 points for Oral Roberts (1-3), going 4 of 7 on 3s. UNC Greensboro 78, Arkansas 72

In Fayetteville, Ark., Keyshaun Langley scored 23 points, Mikeal Brown-Jones added 17 and UNC Greensboro stunned Arkansas. The Spartans (2-1), who came in as

15 1/2-point underdogs according to FanDuel Sportsbook, went on a 13-2 run late in the first half and led by 15 early in the second, taking advantage of sloppy play by the Razorbacks (3-1). Arkansas pulled within 54-50 on a layup by Davonte Davis with 9:54 left,

but UNC Greensboro responded with a 3-pointer by Donovan Atwell and a layup by Joryam Saizonou for a ninepoint lead.

point lead.

Tramon Mark scored 20 points and El Ellis added 19 for Arkansas.

Kentucky 101, Stonehill 67

In Lexington, Ky., Freshman Reed Sheppard scored 25 points and Kentucky beat Stonehill.

Sheppard made seven of Kentucky's 17 3-pointers. Rob Dillingham, also a freshman, scored 20 points for the Wildrats (3-1) and Antonio Reeves Wildcats (3-1), and Antonio Reeves and Tre Mitchell added 15 each.

Max Zegarowski and Tony Felder led Stonehill (1-4) with 15 points each. Michigan State 74, Butler 54

In East Lansing, Mich., Tyson Walker scored 21 points, including 16 in the first half, and A.J. Hoggard added 14 to lead Michigan State past Butler in the Gavitt Tipoff Games. Malik Hall scored 12 points for the

Spartans (2-2), who moved to 4-0 in the Gavitt Games and have won four of the last five meetings with the Bulldogs. Michigan State avoided starting the season 1-3 for the first time since 1976. Jahmyl Telfort scored 15 points for

Butler (3-1). Pierre Brooks, who transferred from Michigan State following last season, had 13 points.

#### No. Carolina 77, UC Riverside 52 In Chapel Hill, N.C., Armando Bacot had 21 points and North Carolina blew the game open with 19 straight points

## out of halftime to beat UC Riverside.

#### **BASKETBALL**

Harrison Ingram added 10 points and nine boards for the Tar Heels (3-0). Ben Griscti scored 14 points for UC Riverside (1-3).

rolled past cold-shooting Maryland.

TJ Bamba added 11 points as the Wildcats (3-1) rebounded from Monday's loss to unranked Penn.

straight. The Terrapins finished with just 12 field goals while shooting 24%

Sears shot 8 of 12 from the field and

Illinois 87, Valparaiso 64

Isaiah Stafford scored 30 points for Valparaiso, including 23 in the first half.

pulled down 15 rebounds for the Beacons (2-2), whose first-year coach is

with 1:22 remaining.
Smith finished with 20 points for

#### Australia donate to Gaza humanitarian causes ahead of WC qualifier vs Palestine

#### Kuwait looking to bounce back from opening setback against India

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, Nov 18, (Agencies): Kuwait's Portuguese national team coach, Rui Pinto, has made the decision to call up Kuwait Club striker Ibrahim Kamil to fill the void left by the suspension of Faisal Zayed, the enrollment of Ahmed Al-Zanki in a military course, and the injury of Salman Al-Awadhi for 2026 World Cup and the 2027 Asian Cup

Kamil has joined the Al-Azraq delegation in the Saudi city of Dammam to prepare for the upcoming match against the Afghanistan scheduled for Tuesday. Kuwait will be looking to bounce back from their opening setback against India.

During a press conference following Al-Azraq's recent loss to India by a single goal last Thursday, Coach Pinto acknowledged the team's modest performance in the initial round. He expressed a sense of responsibility for the defeat, citing the choices he made and emphasizing that the team's level did not reflect the effort put in over the past period. Pinto stressed the importance of working to overcome the setback against India and apologized to Kuwaiti fans for the outcome.

Meanwhile, Igor Stimac, the coach

of the Indian national team, stated that the victory over Kuwait in their home country did not come as a surprise to him. Stimac highlighted the patience of Indian players in scoring and mentioned that the Kuwaiti team faced pressure during the match. He explained that India adopted a defensive strategy, relying on rebounds.

Stimac expressed optimism about the joint qualifiers, stating that both India and Kuwait have the potential

#### **SOCCER**

to succeed. He praised the technical prowess of the Kuwaiti national team, considering it superior to many teams in the Asian continent.

Players on Australia's national soccer team will donate a portion of their match fees from a World Cup qualifier against Palestine towards humanitarian causes in Gaza.

Australia plays Palestine in Kuwait on Tuesday in a game that was going to be held in the West Bank but was relocated due to the escalation of violence in the region.

Hamas' deadly attack on Israel's



Faisal Zayed vies for the ball with Indian player during the World Cup and Asian Cup qualifier in Kuwait.

southern region on Oct. 7 was followed by Israel declaring war on the group and launching retaliatory strikes on the Gaza Strip. Palestinian health officials say more than 11,000

residents in Hamas-controlled Gaza have been killed in air and artillery

"It's unfathomable to comprehend," midfielder Jackson Irvine was quoted by Australian Associated Press as saying Saturday. "You're talking about one of the most complicated geopo-

litical issues of the last 100 years.' The players' union, Professional

Footballers Australia, confirmed a percentage of player match fees would be directed towards Oxfam's humanitarian efforts in Gaza, via the PFA's Footballers' Trust. The move is a player-led effort with Football Australia matching the players' donation, but no dollar amounts were mentioned.

The thoughts of the PFA are with all of those impacted by the conflict and the humanitarian crisis that is unfolding as a result," co-chief executive officer Beau Busch said in a statement. "Aid agencies and humanitarian groups have been clear on the scale of need and the players were able to play a part."

Irvine is the PFA president as well

as captain of German club FC St. Pauli. The Socceroos beat Bangladesh 7-0 in Melbourne on Thursday and took a charter flight to Kuwait on Saturday. The Palestinians held Lebanon to a 0-0 draw on neutral turf in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates in their secondround opener.

"We're aware of the situation, we understand that football in this moment is probably not the priority in some ways," Irvine said. "But at the end of the day, we've got a game to win and a performance to focus on.

## Al-Qadsia dominate road race

'Success not unfamiliar'

#### Miura wins figure skating title

ESPOO, Finland, Nov 18, (AP): Japanese figure skater Kao Miura edged past his teammate Shun Sato to win his first figure skating Grand Prix title Sunday and book a place in next month's finals.

Miura and Sato each landed three qua-

druple jumps in the free skate Saturday at Grand Prix Espoo, with Sato scoring slightly higher. Miura's three-point advantage from Friday's short program helped him hold on to win with a total 274.56 points to Sato's 273.34.

#### **KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18:** The athletics team of Al-**Qadsia Club secured the** overall championship in the youth, cubs, and buds divisions during the recent road race organized by the Kuwait Athletics Federation near Jaber **International Stadium.** The victory in the youth cat-

egory saw the yellow-clad players clinching the top spot, with Kazma Club securing second place and Khaitan Club claiming the third position. Similarly, in the Cubs category, the

#### **ATHLETICS**

Al-Qadsia Club emerged as the frontrunner, followed by the Kuwait Club in second place and Kazma Club in third place.

The same pattern continued in the Buds category, with the Al-Qadisiyah Club securing the title, the Al-Sahel Club attaining second place, and the Kazma Club securing the third position.

Expressing his joy at this accomplishment, Ali Al-Azmi, the Director of Athletics at Al-Qadsia Club, highlighted that this success is not unfamiliar to the Royal Champions.

He emphasized that the team consistently excels, claiming top positions and earning titles. Al-Azmi credited this achievement to the collective efforts and dedication of the players in their daily training sessions.

Al-Arabi eye second consecutive victory

#### By Hassan Musa Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: In the fifth round of the basketball league, Al-Arabi aim for their second consecutive victory as they take on Al-Qurain at 5:00 pm in Al-Ittihad Hall, Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Indoor Hall Complex. Simultaneously, another matchup unfolds between Al-Qadsia and Al-Tadamon at 7:15 pm in the same venue.

The league follows a twopart combination system, with the top four teams qualifying for the semi-finals to vie for the championship title.

#### **BASKETBALL**

Al-Qurain strives for its first league victory, while "Al-Akhdar," having faced initial setbacks against Al-Kuwait and Al-Qadsia aim to overcome Yarmouk. This victory would bring them closer to securing a spot among the top four, especially after notable pre-league signings, including Hussein Al-Khabaz and Abdullah Salmin.

In the second match, the stage seems set for Al-Qadsia, leading with 8 points, to extend their advantage against Al-Tadamon, currently in seventh place with 4 points. The technical disparity between the two teams favors Al-Qadsia, especially considering that Al-Tadamon are the sole team in the league competing without professional players.



Qadsia Club athletes celebrate with the championship trophy as officials look on



Hamad Al-Taweel runs for the ball during the friendly encounter.

#### **Kuwait Olympic team lose to Tajikistan**

DUBAI, Nov 18: The Kuwaiti Olympic team suffered a 1-0 defeat against Tajikistan in a friendly match held in the Emirate of Ajman as part of their training camp.

The Kuwaiti national team are currently in preparation for the AFC U-23 Cup, set to take place in Qatar next April. This tournament serves as a qualifier for the 2024

#### **SOCCER**

Paris Olympics.

The performance of Al-Azraq under their Portuguese coach, Pexi, fell short of expectations, particularly in the second half, which saw the Tajik national team scoring the decisive goal.

Looking ahead, the Kuwaiti national team are scheduled to participate in their second friendly match against the UAE national.

#### **Best of the Rest**

Strong winds cancel race: Strong winds forced the cancellation of a women's World Cup downhill on the Matterhorn mountain Saturday, a week after two men's races on the same course were wiped out because of snowfalls and gusts.

The International Ski and Snowboard Federation initially delayed Saturday's program as the ski lifts could not be operated in the early morning, before calling off the race hours later as conditions failed to improve. (AP) 

**Everton handed pt deduction:** Everton were deducted 10 points by the Premier League breaching the competition's fi-nancial rules. The club reported three-year losses totaling nearly 372 million pounds (\$454 million) last season. (AP)

#### Kuwait face Egypt in inaugural match of Arab School Sports Championship

CAIRO, Nov 18: Kuwait football team are set to embark on its first match in the Arab School Sports Championship against the Egyptian team at the Police Union Stadium in Abbasiya at 9:30 pm. The draw placed our team in the first group, which also features the Saudi team. The second group includes Morocco, Oman, Lebanon, and the third group consists of Algeria, Iraq, Palestine, and Libya.

Responding to a proposal by Dr. Ahmed Al-Hamdan, Secretary-General of the School Union, the Football Technical Committee, led by Dr. Jamal Ali, approved a modification to the match duration. The proposal extended the playing time from 50 to 80 minutes, divided into two halves.

The tournament format dictates that the top-ranked team and the best second team, excluding the fourth-placed team in the third

#### **SCHOOL GAMES**

group, will qualify for the semifinals. The second-ranked team that doesn't reach the semi-finals will engage in a match to determine fifth and sixth places, while the remaining teams will compete in the consolation round.

Expressing gratitude, Walid

Ayesh, Vice President of the Kuwait School Sports Federation and Chairman of the Technical Committee of the Arab Union, acknowledged the organized session by the organizing committee and praised the efficient organization of the draw led by Dr. Jamal Ali. He also appreciated Kuwait's proposal to modify the match duration, which aligns with international federation regulations.

Dr. Al-Hamdan emphasized the collaboration of the technical committee with Kuwait's proposal to adjust the match duration and the adoption of observations put forth by other committee members.



Officials hold a meeting on the eve of the tournament.



Women's 10m pistol winner in the annual shooting champithe annual Shocking onship Israa Bahman. KUNA photo

# Sports

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## Al-Aiban inaugurates Club Handball Champ'ship



Qadsia player goes for the ball during the opening match against Sharjah Emirati.



Dignitaries applaud participants during the inauguration of the Asian club handball championship in Kuwait.

#### Al-Qadsia suffer opening defeat

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18:** The 26th Asian Club Handball Championship was officially opened by Mohammed Al-Aiban, the Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, during ceremony held at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex.

Among the attendees at the tournament's opening were Yousef Al-Baidan, Director of the General Sports Authority, Badr Al-Dhiyab, Vice-President of the International Handball Federation, Sheikh Talal Al-Fahd, former President of Al-Qadisiyah Club, and members of the club's Board of Directors.

In a brief speech, Minister Al-Aiban expressed regret for the absence of the Palestinian Al-Salah team, unable to participate in the competition. He wished them well and invoked divine kindness and assistance.

The minister extended a warm welcome to the distinguished guests, referring to the hosting nation as the "land of friendship and peace.'

Vice President of the International Handball Federation, Badr Al-Dhiyab, emphasized the strong support of the Asian Handball Confederation for host countries and clubs in continental championships, especially the Asian Club Championship, national teams, and Olympic qualifiers. He praised the AFC's efforts in ensuring the tournament's technical success, particularly in terms of referees and observers. Acknowledging the significant contributions of Al-Qadsia, Al-Dhiyab noted Kuwait's prowess in organizing such events.

Wishing success to all participants, he expressed hope for a high technical level in the tournament, showcasing the game's status in the Yellow Continent.

#### HANDBALL

In the opening match, the Al-Qadsia Club suffered a defeat against Sharjah Emirati, with a score of 28-30. Other results from the first round included Al-Arabi of Qatar beating the Iraqi Army 42-23 and the Lebanese Shabab Sidon defeating the Indian Sai 47-34 in the second group. In the first group, Saudi Gulf won against Al-Gharafa of Qatar with a score of 28-27, and the Bahraini Star overcame the Indian Golden with a score of 42-21.

With these results, the Qatari Al-Arabi team led the second group by goal difference, followed by Shabab Sidon II and Al-Sharjah III, each with Iraqi Army remained without a score.

In the first group, the Bahraini Al-Najma team topped on goal difference from Al-Khaleej 2, both with two points, while Al-Gharafa and Golden remained without a score.

As per the tournament schedule, all teams will rest today, and matches will resume on Monday.

#### Italy get key win to set up showdown game against Ukraine

Denmark, Albania advance to European Championship

GENEVA, Nov 18, (AP): Denmark and Albania advanced to the European Championship and title-holders Italy got a crucial win ahead of a showdown

game against Ukraine. Italy beat North Macedonia 5-2 to both avenge their elimination in the 2022 World Cup qualifying playoffs and ensure they need only a draw against Ukraine on Monday to secure a place at Euro 2024 in Germany. At stake is second place behind group winners England, which beat Malta

Robert Lewandowski and Poland must go through the playoffs in March after a 1-1 draw at home to the Czech Republic ended their chance of advancing directly with group leaders

Albania kicked off earlier needing only a point in Moldova to secure their Euro 2024 place and did just enough in a 1-1 draw.

Denmark ensured they will finish top of Group H by beating closest minute goal by midfielder Thomas

That set up another decisive final game Monday: Slovenia host Kazakhstan needing only a draw to return to the Euros for the first time since 2000. Kazakhstan, which beat San Marino 3-1, has never qualified for a major tournament.

England secured their place last month and a 2-0 win over Malta at Wembley Stadium was routine, as was Harry Kane scoring his 25th goal in a prolific season for England and Bayern

The only surprising moment of drama was Kane being shown a yellow card after he was adjudged to have dived in the penalty area.

England are on course to be among the group winners with the best records who will be in the pot of top-seeded teams when the Euro 2024 tournament draw is made on Dec. 2 in Hamburg.

#### SOCCER

Including Denmark and Albania, 13 countries have now qualified for the 24-team tournament, and eight more will follow by the time the qualifying groups end Tuesday.

The final three places are decided in the 12-team playoffs scheduled from finish in the top two of a qualifying

Italy have bad recent memories of olaying North Macedonia at home. In March last year, Italy lost 1-0 to a stoppage-time goal in Palermo and were eliminated from the 2022 World

Cup playoffs. There was redemption at Stadio



England's Phil Foden (centre), challenges for the ball with Malta's Yannick Yankam during the Euro 2024 Group C qualifying soccer match between England and Malta at Wembley stadium in London.

Olimpico in Rome. Even when a threegoal half-time lead had been cut back to 3-2 entering the closing minutes, Italy rose again rather than faltered.

"I liked the team in the second half," Italy coach Luciano Spalletti said. "These matches reveal the level of personality and these lads have it. After the scoreline became 3-2, I expected them to suffer, to sit back. Instead, they responded very well, trying to attack even more."

Brazilian coach Sylvinho is going to Euro 2024 with his Albania team.

The former Arsenal and Barcelona left-back was appointed in January and has led Albania on a seven-game unbeaten run after starting qualifying with a 1-0 loss at Poland in March.

Sylvinho has found success after lasting less than a year at his previous jobs coaching Lyon and Corinthians.

Albania needed just one point from its final two Group E games, after out-performing the higher-ranked Poles and Czechs, and got it at the first attempt Friday. Veteran forward Sokol Cikalleshi's 25th-minute penalty put Albania ahead before Moldova equalized in the 87th.

"After the last whistle, but really after nine months, working every day, it's a dream, it's a dream," Sylvinho told Albanian media. "In fact, I should pleased, like all of you."

Thousands of Albanian fans gathered at the main Skanderbeg and Mother Teresa squares in Tirana to celebrate the result by waving national flags and setting off fireworks. Cars drove through the center of the city blaring their horns and loud national

#### Kohli the focal point

#### **Cricket-mad India readies for WCup final** against Australia in 132,000-seat venue

AHMEDEBAD, India, Nov 18, (AP): India, a country of 1.4 billion people, will come to a virtual standstill on Sunday when its cricket team led by Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli take on five-time champions Australia in the Cricket World Cup final.

It will be played at Narendra Modi Stadium, the world's largest cricket venue

with a seating capacity of 132,000. It was commissioned in 2015 and built with the purpose of hosting tournament final eight years later. In the process it will likely set a world cricket attendance record.



From Chennai to Dharamsala and Mumbai to Kolkata, India has played in front of partisan crowds during the six-week tournament. The home side have channeled that weight of expectations and pressure to win 10 consecutive games - the only unbeaten team.

"We know it's going to be a packed house," said Australia captain Pat Cummins. "There's going to be 130,000 fans here supporting India. So it's going to be awesome. You have got to embrace it. The crowd will be very one sided, but also in sport, there's nothing more satisfying than hearing a big crowd go silent. That's the aim for us tomorrow.

Kohli, not surprisingly, has been the focal point for this Indian performance. Now the foremost one-day international batter in history with 50 centuries, he has scored 711 runs in 10 innings at average of 101.57. It is an insurmountable tally, with Sharma (550 runs) and Australia's David War-

ner (528) well behind. India's dominance in this World Cup, however, has been underlined by its bowling attack. Mohammed Shami has been the leader - 23 wickets in only six games. And Shami wasn't in contention for the first four games when India opted for Hardik Pandya and Shardul Thakur/ Ravichandran Ashwin.

Pandya's left ankle injury ruled the allrounder out of the tournament and made more room for Shami. Also helping India was Jasprit Bumrah, who took 18 wickets in 10 games, while spinners Ravindra Jadeja and Kuldeep Yadav chipped in with 31 wickets between them.

India's bowling has been so impressive that it has yet to chase any total over 273 runs in this tournament and restricted the opposition to sub-100 scores twice and under-200 scores two other times. Among them, Australia were bowled out for 199 in its tournament-opening match at Chennai on Oct. 8.

"The difference is our bowling attack," said opener Shubman Gill. "Our bowlers have either defended the total or restricted the other team to a below-

Going for their sixth title, Australia are the most dominant side in World Cup history. They have lost two finals - to the West Indies in 1975 and to Sri Lanka in 1996. Now in their eighth final, they stand between India's quest for a third title.

The two sides have a previous knockout history - they have met on two occasions. Australia beat India in the 2015 World Cup semifinal at Sydney, enroute to its fifth title. In 2011, Yuvraj Singh's heroic halfcentury allowed the eventual championship-winning home side to beat Australia in the quarterfinals at Ahmedabad.

#### Ghana make winning start to WC qualifying

HARA\RE, Zimbabwe, Nov 18, (AP): Iñaki Williams gave Ghana a winning start to World Cup qualifying by scoring deep into injury time to secure a

1-0 victory over Madagascar. Ghana have qualified for four of the last five World Cups, only missing out in Russia in 2018, and reached the quarterfinals in South

Africa in 2010. The Black Stars were a big favorites at home against Madagascar but manager Chris Hughton's team struggled to breach the visitors' organized de-

fense in Kumasi. Williams finally broke the deadlock with a powerful header after the Spain-born Athletic Bilbao forward had an earlier goal disallowed for

#### **SOCCER**

The two teams observed a moment of silence in memory of former Ghana and Levante striker Raphael Dwamena, who collapsed and died on the field last Saturday during an Albanian league game.

Also Friday, Leicester forward Patson Daka scored twice as Zambia defeated Republic of Congo 4-2 at home. Lameck Banda and Fashion Sakala got the other goals for the host in Ndola. Silvère Ganvoula M'Boussy and Mons Bassouamina

scored for the Congolese. Malawi snatched a 1-0 win away to Liberia in Monrovia through a 78th-minute goal by teenager Chifundo Mphasi.

Libya won 1-0 away against Eswatini in a match played in South Africa, Comoros beat Central African Republic 4-2 at home and Guinea edged . Uganda 2-1 in Morocco.

Nine teams from Africa will qualify directly for the 48-team 2026 World Cup in the United States, Mexico and Canada. A 10th team could make the field through the playoffs.



Poland's Robert Lewandowski (2nd right), tries to head the ball during the Euro 2024 group E qualifying soccer match between Poland and Czech Republic at the National stadium in Warsaw, Poland. (AP)

#### Vinícius expected to miss nearly two months

MADRID, Nov 18, (AP): Real Madrid forward Vinícius Júnior tore a leg muscle while playing with Brazil's national team in South American World Cup qualifying, the Spanish club said Saturday.

Madrid said medical exams showed Vinícius has a muscle tear in his left leg. He was injured in Brazil's 2-1 loss at Colombia on Friday, having to be substituted be-

Madrid did not give a timetable for Vinícius' recovery, but that type of injury can sideline players for about two months. Vinícius "has been diagnosed with a tear in his left femoral bicep which is affecting the tendon in his hamstring. His recovery will be monitored," the

#### SOCCER

Madrid has already qualified for the knockout stage of the Champions League. It is two points behind leader Girona after 13 rounds in the Spanish league.

The 23-year-old Vinícius has scored six goals for Madrid this season, including three in the team's last two

ARAB (\* TIM

**Editor-in-Chief AHMED AL JARALLAH** 

**Editorial Office:** Airport Road, Shuwaikh P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat, Kuwait E-mail: arabtimes@arabtimesonline.com E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

Telephone: 24813566 & 24849144 Fax: 24818267

Advertising: Tel: 24813815 Fax: 24845708

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Tel: 24849144