



CROWN PRINCE OPENS ASSEMBLY, CALLS FOR COORDINATED EFFORTS

New leaf ... away from disputes

Citizens urged to keep questioning MPs Kuwait backs Palestinians Iraqi ruling on Khor unlawful



By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has stressed the need for the coordinated efforts of everyone in the interest of the nation.

HH the Crown Prince made the statement at the inaugural session of the second year of the 17th term of the National Assembly on Tuesday, during which he delivered a speech on behalf of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

He urged the citizens to keep on questioning their representatives at the Assembly and to be brave in correcting them; especially since some MPs have adopted certain demands, claiming these are public demands even if they have nothing to do with the people.

He added Kuwait has been suffering a lot due to erroneous and undisciplined parliamentary practices. He called on the MPs to improve their performance and refrain from submitting queries, which take a whole parliamentary term for the concerned ministers to respond.

Addressing the executive authority, HH the Crown Prince stated that the achievements are still lower than expected; especially the issues which do not require special legislation.

He added that he has repeatedly emphasized that challenges and dangers still surround Kuwait; hence, the need for everyone to adhere to the principle of national unity and avoid delving into issues, which could lead to tension and disputes as they are not in the interest of the nation.

Addressing the legislative and executive authorities, HH the Crown Prince said the continuation of the previous political scenario will not serve the citizens' interests. He added such disagreements scenario hindered development and caused depression among citizens.

On the current situation in Gaza, he confirmed that the political leadership, government, National Assembly and people of Kuwait are anxiously following up on Palestine, particularly Gaza. He said the country remains firm in its stand to support the Palestinian cause.

He went on to say that Kuwait remains committed to international agreements and treaties, while denouncing the ruling of the Iraqi Court to nullify the agreement that Kuwait and Iraq signed in 2012 concerning navigation in Khor Abdullah waterway.

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Day by Day

THE recent press conference by the Minister of Foreign Affairs brought a sense of gratification. For an extended period, spanning from the invasion through the liberation, Kuwait's foreign ministers had remained conspicuously absent from public engagements.

Many of them chose not to engage, responding with silence or indifference, as though their lives were shrouded in secrecy. Even when contacted by the media, their responses were elusive.

In contrast, foreign ministers in most countries worldwide routinely engage with the public, addressing daily matters. In our case, the absence of clear communication allows rumors to flourish, leaving the state obscured by uncertainty, as if they live in high towers and do not see anything.

Zahed Matar

NewsWatch

DOHA: Qatar's Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad and Italian President Sergio Mattarella discussed Monday the latest developments in the Palestinian territories, in addition to bilateral relations, and the most prominent regional and international issues of common interest.

During a telephone conversation received by Sheikh Tamim, the Italian leader thanked Sheikh Tamim for Qatar's diplomatic efforts made regarding the situation in the Gaza Strip, Qatar's Amiri Diwan said in a statement. (KUNA)

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida: Shootings across the U.S. over the weekend before Halloween have left at least 11 people dead and more than 70 injured, authorities said.

The deaths between Friday and Sunday included two in Tampa, Florida, three in Texarkana, Texas, and two each in Dodge City, Kansas; San Antonio, Texas; and Mansfield, Ohio, according to police. Many involved altercations arising from Halloween celebrations, including the mass shooting in Tampa's Ybor City section early Sunday as bars were closing and scores of people in costumes spilled out on the streets before groups began arguing.

The spate of weekend violence unfolded as people mourn the 18 killed by a gunman last week in Lewiston, Maine. More than 1,000 people turned out Sunday for a vigil. (AP)

PARIS: Paris police opened fire Tuesday on a woman who threatened to blow herself up after allegedly making death threats and speaking in support of terrorism on a train heading into the French capital.

It was the latest security incident in France, which has been on heightened anti-terror alert since a fatal stabbing at a school on Oct. 13 blamed on an Islamic extremist.

Police fired one shot, hitting and seriously injuring the woman, the Paris prosecutor's office said. It said she was hospitalized for emergency treatment. (AP)

JAKARTA: Indonesia's elite counterterrorism police squad arrested at least 59 suspected militants in recent weeks in a nationwide crackdown as the country gears up for elections in 2024, police said Tuesday.

The arrests were made in eight provinces since Oct. 2, including 27 suspects who were arrested Friday, said Aswin Siregar, the spokesperson of the squad known as Densus 88. Those arrested believed to have links to banned extremist groups who were allegedly plotting to disrupt next year's election, he said. (AP)

800,000 Palestinians fled to Gaza south

Netanyahu rejects calls for cease-fire

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip, Oct 31, (AP): Israeli troops battled Hamas militants and attacked underground compounds on Tuesday with a focus on northern Gaza. An estimated 800,000 Palestinians have fled south, even though Israeli airstrikes have pounded the entirety of the besieged enclave.

Buoyed by the first successful rescue of a captive held by Hamas, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has rejected calls for a cease-fire and again vowed to crush Hamas' ability to govern Gaza or threaten Israel following its bloody Oct. 7 rampage, which ignited the war.

More than half the territory's 2.3 million Palestinians have fled their homes, with hundreds of thousands sheltering in packed U.N.-run schools-turned-shelters or in hospitals alongside thousands of wounded patients. Israeli strikes have hit closer to several northern hospitals in recent days, alarming medics.

The U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, known as UNRWA, says nearly 672,000 Palestinians are sheltering in its schools and other facilities - four times their capacity. Thousands of people broke into its aid warehouses over the weekend to take food, as supplies of basic goods have dwindled because of the Israeli siege.

There has been no central electricity in Gaza for weeks, and Israel has barred the entry of fuel needed to power emergency generators for hospitals and homes.

UNRWA, which hundreds of thousands of people in Gaza rely on for basic services even in normal times, says 64 of its staff have been killed since the start of the war, including a man killed alongside his wife and eight children in a strike late Monday.

"This is the highest number ever of U.N. aid workers killed in any conflict around the world in such a short time," spokesperson Juliette Touma told The Associated Press. "UNRWA will never be the same without these colleagues."

The war has also threatened to ignite even heavier fighting on other fronts. Israel and Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group have traded fire on a daily basis along the border, and Israel and the U.S. have struck targets in Syria linked to Iran, which supports Hamas, Hezbollah and other armed groups in the region.

The military said it shot down what appeared to be a drone near the southernmost city of Eilat and intercepted a missile over the Red Sea on Tuesday, neither of which entered Israeli airspace.

The Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen later issued a video statement claiming to have fired ballistic missiles and drones at Israel, saying it was the third such operation. They threatened to carry out more strikes "until the Israeli aggression stops."

Earlier this month, a U.S. Navy destroyer in the Red Sea intercepted three cruise missiles and several drones launched toward Israel by the Houthis, who control much of northern Yemen, including its capital, Sanaa. Mysterious projectiles have also struck inside Egypt, near the Israeli border.

In the occupied West Bank, where Israeli-Palestinian violence has also surged, the army demolished the family home of Saleh al-Aroui, a senior Hamas official exiled over a decade ago. Ali Kaseeb, head of the local council in the village of Aroura, said the

home had been vacant for 15 years.

Jonathan Conricus, an Israeli military spokesman, said ground operations in Gaza are focused on the north, including Gaza City, which he said was the "center of gravity of Hamas."

"But we also continue to strike in other parts of Gaza. We are hunting their commanders, we are attacking their infrastructure, and whenever there is an important target that is related to Hamas, we strike it," he said.

The military said it struck some 300 militant targets over the past day, including compounds inside tunnels, and that troops had engaged in several battles with Palestinian militants armed with antitank missiles and machine guns. Video footage released by the military showed soldiers and a tank moving down a dirt road between two rows of demolished buildings, some of them three to four stories high.

Hamas released its own video showing what it said was a battle in northern Gaza on Sunday. A fighter wearing a GoPro-style camera emerged from a tunnel with a rocket-propelled grenade launcher and ran across sand dunes and shrubs with other militants amid the clatter of gunfire.

It was not possible to independently confirm the reports.

Larger ground operations have been launched both north and east of Gaza City, which before the war was home to over 650,000 people.

Conricus said some 800,000 people have heeded the Israeli military's orders to flee from the northern part of the strip to the south. But tens of thousands of people remain in and around Gaza City, and casualties are expected to mount on both sides as the battle moves into dense, residential neighborhoods.

The window to flee south may be closing, as Israeli forces reached Gaza's main north-south highway this week. Video circulating Monday showed a tank opening fire on a car that had approached a sand berm but was turning around. Gaza's Health Ministry said three people were killed.

Zaki Abdel-Hay, a Palestinian man living a few minutes' walk from the road south of Gaza City, said people are afraid to use it. "People are very scared. The Israeli tanks are still close," he said over the phone, adding that "constant artillery fire" could be heard near the road.



Palestinians evacuate survivors of the Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip in Rafah on Monday, Oct. 30, 2023. (AP)

Opinion

'Simplicity is better...' but it does not build a state

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

IN her book titled "Political Leadership", the American expert in management science Jessica Cameron detailed the most prominent characteristics of a successful political leader, the most important of which is decision-making and his influence on it.

This can only be done through a responsible person who acts as a role model for integrity. He must have good communication skills that enable him to work with a group of other people, and achieve the greatest benefit for the people. He must resist temptations, and should have a good conscience.

A group of countries built their renaissance on these principles. They had leaders who had ambitions to serve their countries and were proficient in the art of choosing assistants.

When Muhammad Ali Pasha took over the reins of government in Egypt, he found an entity suffering from a number of structural problems, from which it was only possible to get out through perseverance in follow-up.

That is why after a few years, he built an effective state regionally and internationally.

Also, some American presidents such as George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Roosevelt, Eisenhower, Harry Truman, Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush who overcame difficulties to build a strong United States had adopted such a manner and left a mark in history.

All of the aforementioned leaders did not work alone, but had experts and advisors who were chosen with great care.

In the region there were leaders who sought to achieve their ambitions with the available capabilities, such as King Faisal in Iraq, King Abdulaziz, the unifier of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan, and Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum, who made a tremendous effort to unify the United Arab Emirates.

Before them, Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah, during a sensitive international and regional political moment, was able to build a protection umbrella for Kuwait, and make it the first nucleus of an independent state.

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## Prayer Timings

Fajr .....	04:39	Asr .....	14:40
Sunrise ..	06:00	Maghrib ..	17:03
Zohr .....	11:32	Isha .....	18:21

# Local

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

## Customer awareness is vital: AlNassar

# Gulf Bank cautions on fraudulent donation pages during crises

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: As part of its social responsibilities and its keenness to protect and educate customers and the community, Gulf Bank continues to educate customers, and any entities that deal with banks, about the risks posed by cyber crime on their information and bank accounts.

For the third consecutive year, Gulf Bank is playing a major role in supporting the Diraya "Let's Be Aware" awareness campaign; initiated by the Central Bank of Kuwait in cooperation with the Kuwait Banking Association.

Echoing the campaign's message, Gulf Bank's Corporate Communications Officer, AbdulMohsen AlNassar, has been reminding customers and employees to cautiously handle any emails, text messages and phone calls that they receive from unknown parties, as they might be scammers impersonating another bank employee.

AlNassar stressed on the importance of preserving their account information and data, and to completely avoid dealing with these messages and calls; to deter any cyber theft from occurring by unknown parties.

He noted that banks will never ask customers for their personal information via email, text messages or phone calls; hence, this would be a clear indication of attempted theft aimed at obtaining banking information in order to steal money or personal data. AlNassar added that it sometimes takes just one click, on a foreign link, to expose someone's confidential

banking information to theft.

AlNassar further mentioned that it is also important to consider the increase of fraudulent activity through fake donation pages – following any disasters – as scammers may take advantage of the opportunity to mislead people and steal their money by asking them to support the needy and those affected by the disasters.

AlNassar advised all bank employees with the following:

- To avoid saving confidential information such as debit card, credit card or PIN numbers on the mobile phone.
- To avoid writing the PIN on the credit card, and to avoid sharing the one-time passport (OTP) number with anyone.
- To ensure logging out of the Bank's mobile application or website immediately upon completion of transactions.
- To ensure that the antivirus software and associated files are updated.
- To type the URL into the browser instead of directly clicking or opening links in emails.
- To be careful when opening attachments and links within emails.
- To download software from known and legitimate sources only.
- To keep all systems such as security systems, applications, and operating systems updated with the latest security updates.

AlNassar mentioned that customer awareness is vital in preserving banking data, especially with the significant increase and usage of elec-

## Weather

**By Day:** Rather hot and partly cloudy to cloudy with light variable wind to light to moderate southeasterly wind, with speeds of 08-26 km/h with a chance for scattered light rain.

**By Night:** Mild, partly cloudy and relatively humid over coastal areas with light to moderate southeasterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-26 km/h with a chance for scattered light rain.

**Station** Max Exp Min Rec

Kuwait City 34 26

Kuwait Airport	35	22
Abdaly	36	20
Jahra	35	23
Salmiyah	29	25
Ahmadi	30	27
Nuwaisib	34	24
Wafra	34	21



AbdulMohsen AlNassar: We are keen to protect and educate customers and the community about the risks of not safeguarding their banking data.

tronic services lately. He advises customers to always deal with the verified, original websites and licensed institutions when donating funds.

The Central Bank of Kuwait, in cooperation with Kuwait Banking Association, has launched the Diraya "Let's Be Aware" campaign in 2021, to acquaint bank customers with the most important banking services provided to them. This is to ensure the safety of transactions and to enhance financial inclusion, as well as monetary and economic stability – through comprehensive awareness of customers' rights and obligations.

The Diraya campaign also aims to introduce the advantages of electronic financial transactions and ways to avoid the risks arising from them to achieve cybersecurity.



Al Roudhan and Al Fadhel with Zain officials and Dive Team members.

## Zain presents Kuwait Dive Team fully equipped boat

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: In support of socially impactful and dedicated volunteer efforts, and in line with its strategic goals to empower a sustainable environment, Zain has renewed its collaboration with the Kuwait Dive Team by presenting a fully equipped boat to aid the team's marine protection operations in Kuwait. The new boat was delivered at the Yacht Club in Salmiya. In attendance were Zain Kuwait CEO Eaman Al Roudhan and Kuwait Dive Team Director Waleed Al Fadhel.

This is the fourth boat presented by Zain to the Kuwait Dive Team throughout their partnership of over 25 years that started back in 1997. The boats were used by the team's volunteers to run and maintain hundreds of marine protection missions, resulting in the removal of thousands of tons of harmful waste, and the protection of tens of thousands of sea creatures.

Zain's boat will be used to run key marine operations, like installing and maintaining marine cleats around areas containing coral reefs. Marine cleats offer an eco-friendly solution to safely anchor boats and yachts while also preserving marine life. This step also helps prevent accidentally harming or destroying coral

reefs and other creatures near islands and beaches.

The boat will also be used to remove discarded fishing nets, debris, and other harmful waste to protect sea creatures, shipping lanes, and coasts from pollution. The Kuwait Dive Team also uses the boat to monitor coral reefs by conducting periodic visits to study their growth and publish reports that can be used by science centers.

Other operations conducted using the boat include a program for the preservation and rehabilitation of coastlines, covering all of Kuwait's northern and southern coastlines with regular cleanups to remove any debris and waste. The team also uses the boat to document Kuwait's marine environment, highlighting the nation's rich biodiversity, and sharing footage and content with researchers, environmentalists, and other interested parties.

Zain puts environmental sustainability at the forefront of its priorities. The company's social message seeks to create a culture of sustainability within the community by advocating practices like reducing consumption, recycling, using renewable sources of energy, preserving the marine environment, and more.

## 'Prepare concepts for better livelihood'

## Optimism on Gov't-Assembly ties

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti Cabinet said that there would be hopefully further joint and constructive cooperation between both executive and legislative authorities during the next parliament session in order to achieve more national accomplishments.

This came during a routine weekly cabinet meeting held at Bayan Palace under chairmanship of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

During the meeting, the ministers looked into the issues and subjects to be discussed during the first debate of the second session of the 17th legislative term due on Tuesday.

The Cabinet was also briefed on the directives of His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince for working for improving retirees' and workers' living conditions amid the lingering challenges of the state's public finances and the dire need to diversify sources of income.

The cabinet voiced much sincere thanks and gratitude to the political leadership for their instructions that serve national and public interests, underlining that these instructions should be put in place at an early date, in coordination with the National Assembly.

Afterwards, the ministers were briefed on the outcomes of the recent visit by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to the United Kingdom.

The cabinet was also apprised of a decree accepting the resignation of Minister of Public Works Dr. Ameni Buqamaz, together with another decree appointing Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Dr. Jassim Mohammad

Al-Ostath as Acting Minister of Public Works.

Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah informed the cabinet about the latest developments of the Gaza Strip, pointing Kuwait's continued efforts to muster international efforts to put an end to the ongoing war in Gaza.

The minister reiterated his country's call for urgently bringing humanitarian and relief aid into the Palestinian territory, and for finding a final solution for the Palestinian cause.

He also pointed out Kuwait's continued air bridge aiming at sending daily flights carrying hundreds of medical and food aid to Egypt's Arish City before delivering them to the besieged people of Gaza.

In implementation of the directives, the Cabinet tasked Minister of Finance Fahad Abdulaziz Al-Jallah with preparing final and comprehensive concepts aiming to upgrade living conditions of some segments of citizens in a period of up to the end of this year.

### Cooperation

This is done in cooperation and coordination with the National Assembly, in light of the presence of many parliamentary proposals in this regard, which will enter into force at the beginning of next year.

The Cabinet also assigned Al-Jarallah to identify the segments most in need of support, and achieve justice and equality, while working, in parallel, to develop and reform what aims to increase non-oil revenues, rationalize expenses, and achieve financial sustainability without any impact of these reforms on citizens and their conditions.

Finally, the Cabinet expressed great appreciation and thanks to the political leadership for these directives, stressing working with the National Assembly to implement them as soon as possible.

# '2-state solution only way out'

Kuwait reiterates demand to end Gaza hostilities: FM

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah said on Monday that a sustainable and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian issue based on the bi-state approach is the only way out of ongoing violence.

"The only way to put an end to this cycle of violence that has continued for decades is to forge a sustainable and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian issue based on the Two State Solution that reaffirms the rights of Palestinians to a life of dignity and self-determination," he addressed a celebration held by the UN Mission in Kuwait to mark the UN Day, which falls on October 24.

He said that the State of Kuwait has been resolute in its demand for the immediate cessation of hostilities in Gaza.

The State of Kuwait has continuously emphasized the need to ensure unimpeded access of essential humanitarian aid for the Palestinian people, who have long endured the devastating consequences of this conflict, he added.

Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah said that the world today is facing multiple crises and it pains everyone to see the human tragedy currently unfolding in Gaza.

"The most recent reports estimate that at least 8,000 Palestinians, among them over 3,000 children, have been killed since the outbreak of the conflict, 24 days ago," he said.

"I was deeply sorry to hear about the tragic loss of 35 UNRWA employees while trying to deliver vital aid to those in need in Gaza. My heartfelt condolences go out to their families, friends, and colleagues during this difficult time," he noted.

He went on saying: "On that note, the State of Kuwait is grateful to the United Nations and Secretary-General Antonio Guterres for their efforts to de-escalate the situation and their commitment to providing much needed humanitarian aid to the people in Gaza."

On the United Nations Day, he said: "We are here to pay tribute to the unwavering dedication of an institution that, for seventy-eight years, has been an advocate of international harmony and progress and a symbol of hope for global unity."

He affirmed that through its pursuit of peace and development worldwide, the United Nations has saved millions of lives and improved millions more.

"This occasion is an opportunity to say thank you and recommit ourselves to upholding the principles and goals enshrined in the United Nations Charter, namely strengthening international cooperation to ensure global peace, security, and prosperity," Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah added.

### Milestone

He pointed out that tonight's celebration coincides with another significant milestone, namely the State of Kuwait's 60th anniversary of its membership in the United Nations.

"Our enduring cooperation and strategic partnership established over the years reflect our deep-rooted commitment to the mission and Charter of the United Nations. The distinguished partnership between Kuwait and the United Nations is marked by a number of significant milestones," he added.

"The most important by far being the resolute stance taken by the international community, spearheaded by the United Nations Security Council, in liberating my country, Kuwait in 1991," he noted.

The success of this endeavor solidified the United Nations' pivotal role in upholding global peace and security, he said, adding that this defining chapter remains one of the most compelling success stories of the United Nations.

The Kuwaiti foreign minister concluded by saying: "Together, let us strive for a world where harmony, progress, and unity prevail."

For her part, UN Secretary-General's Representative in Kuwait Ghada Al-Tajer said Kuwait, since it joined the UN in 1963, has been an effective member in the international community, especially in humanitarian and development domains worldwide.

She added that there should be more international cooperation amid the major regional challenges, mainly in occupied Palestinian territories.

She congratulated the State of Kuwait for having been elected as a member of the UN Human Rights Council for three years starting from January 2024.

Meanwhile, Kuwait on Monday called to support the Palestinian people right to choose, including the right for a comprehensive settlement in accordance with the two-state solution, international resolutions, mainly their rights for an independent state on the 1967 borders with Jerusalem being its capital.

The statement was revealed by the Kuwaiti UN delegation delivered by Diplomatic attache Shahad Al-Munifi ahead of the Third Committee of the General Assembly under the topic "hate speech".

Al-Munifi added, "It is difficult for us to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, while the occupying Israel entity continues to direct systematic hate speech against the Palestinian people, describing them as less human and more savage ... not as people with rights who stand by all international legal laws and norms."

While adding that we are witnessing a "humanitarian catastrophe primarily as a result of what the brotherly Palestinian people suffer from continues aggression by the Israeli occupation forces and the deprivation of their human and basic rights", reassuring Kuwait's stance towards the Palestinian cause.

She also pointed out the world today is in dire need to expand the culture of peace and forgiveness between religions, stressing that the manifestation of Islamophobia ignites the essence of hate and hostility between people.

## Beach cleaning drive ... all welcome

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: The Embassy of Japan in Kuwait is delighted to announce that the Japanese Society in Kuwait is holding a beach cleaning campaign called "Operation Turtle" on Saturday, November 4, 2023 at Shuwaikh Beach Park, 10:30 am -12:00 noon.

This campaign was launched in 2000 with the goal of restoring the environment of the Kuwaiti beach so that sea turtles can come back and enhancing

people's awareness of the importance of environment protection. It is open to the public; the Japanese Society welcomes any participant who is interested in this campaign.

All media representatives are welcomed to attend and cover the event.

Operation outline:  
Date: Saturday, November 4, 10:30 am - 12:00 noon - Location: Shuwaikh Beach Park

## Other Voices

## Waste and questionnaires

By Ahmad alsarraf

A private consulting organization, often acting on behalf of the local municipality, conducted a survey to assess the level of satisfaction among citizens and residents with the state of cleanliness in the country.

The survey was prompted by noticeable disparities in public opinions regarding cleanliness, encompassing individual, familial, and societal aspects.

In reality, the state of cleanliness has remained largely unchanged for decades, with only minor superficial improvements and the adoption of more modern equipment.

Regarding the broader aspects of cleanliness and societal norms, particularly the matter of waste disposal, there has been little progress. Neither families nor the Ministry of Education have imparted to the younger generation the essential "etiquette and principles of waste management."

Consequently, the prevailing practice continues to involve collecting trash in plastic bags and discarding them, often when overflowing, into unsightly plastic bins situated outside their homes.

This waste is then collected by contracted vehicles, which sometimes fail to meet necessary standards, and deposited in landfills that fall short of various environmental requirements. Alternatively, the trash is incinerated, compounding the issue further.

The state allocates an annual budget of over 300 million dinars for waste management, yet it has never made substantial efforts to establish comprehensive regulations for both waste management contractors and citizens. For instance, there has been no initiative to require contractors to provide containers of various colors, each designated for specific types of waste, or to encourage citizens to actively participate in waste sorting. Such measures would facilitate recycling and reduce the need for burial or incineration.

In the survey, respondents were asked about their satisfaction with the cleanli-

ness of their residential areas. The general consensus was dissatisfaction, with significant variations between different residential, commercial, and industrial zones. The state of the environment we inhabit should be consistent across all areas, as it directly impacts the health of everyone.

The questionnaire also contained somewhat simplistic questions, such as opinions on the size and number of waste containers in front of homes. However, it failed to offer the option of requesting more modern, robust, and versatile containers.

Another question inquired about contacting the relevant party for waste container replacement, as if everyone knew the name and contact information of this party. There was also a query about whether waste containers were being cleaned and sterilized on-site, a service many residents were unaware of. It remains unclear whom to contact in case of a complaint.

Questions were posed regarding street sweepers and the dust they generate, and the answers were largely predictable.

The survey included inquiries about the utilization of Kuwait Municipality's services for wastewater removal, manhole drainage, agricultural waste disposal, and limited-scale construction waste. Very few respondents were aware of these supposedly "free" services, and if they did have knowledge of their existence, they were uncertain about how to access them.

Additional questions pertained to the noise created by garbage collection trucks, particularly during late hours. There were also questions about the dress code and conduct of cleaning workers and the responsibilities of citizens in reducing waste generation. The state incurs considerable expenses in waste removal, transportation, and sustainable disposal.

It is evident that there is a pressing need to incorporate waste management education into school curricula. This measure would help maintain the country's appearance, streamline waste sorting efforts, and, most importantly, safeguard the environment and, subsequently, public health. Achieving this goal necessitates drawing upon the experiences of more developed nations.

□ □ □  
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## One or four-day New Year holiday?

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: The Civil Service Commission is in the process of looking into the possibility of declaring a public holiday for New Year 2024 which could either be a single-day break, aligning with Monday, January 1, 2024, or it may extend for four days from Friday, December 29, 2023, to Monday, January 1, 2024, reports Al-Anba daily.

Official working hours would resume on the subsequent day, Tuesday, January 2. This arrangement stems from the fact that Sunday, December 31, is considered a "rest" day as it falls between two holidays: Saturday, December 30 (a designated rest day), and Monday, January 1, 2024 (an official holiday). This practice is based

on two prior instances where the day between two days off was similarly treated.

The first precedent occurred in 2017 when Sunday, December 31, 2017, was recognized as a day of rest due to its placement between Saturday, Dec 30, a rest day, and Monday, January 1, 2018, an official holiday for New Year's Day. During this period, government ministries and institutions suspended their operations, and work resumed officially on Tuesday, January 2, 2018.

The second precedent was established in 2022 when Thursday, May 5, 2022, was designated as a day of rest as it fell between the Eid al-Fitr holiday and the Friday holiday.

# Parliamentary life back again in fast-changing global scene

"Parliamentary activities have resumed following a parliamentary recess marked by numerous international events and regional changes," columnist **Yacoub Abdulaziz Al-Sanae** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"These included the aftermath of the events in Gaza and the widespread efforts to support Palestine, which included calls for boycotting products and companies supporting the Zionist entity. This issue ignited a significant debate within the Kuwaiti community.

"The key highlights of this political and parliamentary debate were the two interrogations of the Minister of Public Works, leading to her resignation.

"Additionally, elections for various parliamentary roles, including the secretariat, observer, and permanent and temporary committees, have added to the dynamic of government-parliamentary cooperation.

"The government has asserted its intention to exercise its right to vote for the offices and committees of the Council. This move is noteworthy, especially when the agenda suggests a focus on enhancing living conditions and addressing cooperation between the government and the Council.



Al-Sanae

"One of the issues sparking differences in viewpoints is the amnesty file, particularly in one of the consultations, and the new media law. The latter is seen by observers and media professionals as a regulation potentially tightening penalties and imprisonment.

"The question arises: Should there be a unified legislation covering various forms of publishing, whether in print, electronic, or audio-visual formats? The need for consistency in punishments and avoiding contradictions, as well as the potential for double punishment for the same offense, is a significant legislative principle.

"In conclusion, alongside the return of the Council, nominations have closed for the upcoming Kuwaiti Lawyers Association elections, scheduled for November 5th next week. An interesting development is the emergence of a new youth list called the "Profession List." Wishing success to all, we may provide further insights into these elections in the future, following the tenure of driving lawyers for eight years and four union sessions."

**Also:**

"My focus in this article will be on foreign relations and diplomacy, and I do not intend to address the details of local affairs or discuss the practices of the executive and legislative branches, or what the Constitution stipulates in this regard," columnist, Chairman of the Reconciliation Center for Research and Studies, Member of the National Press Club in Washington, **Abdulaziz Muhammad Al-Anjari** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"My foremost concern revolves around how our nation can safeguard its interests amidst the current challenges. The impending arrival of the new American ambassador and the emergence of a potent position on the political stage, coupled with the announcement of intentions to interrogate Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah once he accepts the credentials of the new US ambassador to Kuwait, raise critical questions.

"While we acknowledge the pressing need for comprehensive support and aid to address the situation in Gaza, it is undeniable that clear and unreversed American backing for Israel is a prevailing reality. Yet, considering the enduring security challenges in our region, the presence of armed militias, and influential regional powers, we must ask ourselves: How can we ensure that our relationship with the United States remains unshaken, given Kuwait's unwavering reliance on the grace of God and the dedication of our armed forces in partnership with the American ally to preserve our security and stability?

"This, indeed, should be the central concern for decision-makers in Kuwait, be they representatives, ministers, or those who hold other key positions.

This situation brings us back to asking basic questions related to the future of Kuwait, including:

"1. How can Kuwait maintain the strength of its relations with the United States at a moment when it takes a position like this?

"2. What are Kuwait's viable strategic alternatives if our relations with Washington worsen and deteriorate to the point of withdrawal of its forces from our country?

"We are now at a critical crossroads, and enthusiasm and sincere desire to support Gaza must not make us deviate from the path of law and covenants. Are we the ones to break them? Of course not.

"If the goal is to deliver a strongly worded message of protest to the United States, then there is more than one way and tool to deliver several messages and firm and bold positions, intelligently and without exposing Kuwait to dangerous repercussions. Yes, politics is colorful and changing, but despite that it includes some fixed rules, and it is wrong to mix several things together, for "the believer is wise, shrewd, and cautious."

"The actions taken by Kuwait and the United States were in accordance with the diplomatic standards adopted and recognized between the two countries, and they are not affected by the fluctuations in the situation, the moods of the officials, and the whims of the street.

"In the current situation, Kuwait's rejection of the ambassador will be considered a precedent that Washington will not accept, and will not go unnoticed by their politicians, especially at this fraught time. The 1983 incident that was recirculated was related to Kuwait's rejection of a name that had only been nominated.

"As for Ambassador Karen Sasahara, she passed the nomination stage and initial approval from Kuwait, more than a year ago, specifically in August 2022, without any objection at the time from Kuwait as a government or even from the National Assembly.

"We must realize that the decision not to accept the ambassador will put Kuwait in the crosshairs of the Zionist lobby, which will exploit its influence in the corridors of Washington, exposing Kuwait to pressure and repercussions within a legal frame-

work from which we cannot escape. There is a clear and systematic targeting of countries that take a position hostile to Israel and support the Palestinian cause, and Kuwait is at the forefront of these countries.

"Accordingly, we must look at the future with an eye that takes into account all possibilities, to ensure that we do not open the door to any interventions that may harm the interests of Kuwait and its people.

"Power in politics does not come from emotions alone, but from the ability to plan strategically and think about the long-term consequences of any decision we make. As Sheikh Ibn Uthaymeen - may God have mercy on him - said, "If something has benefits and harms and the benefits and harms are equal, then it is prohibited in order to ward off corruption." We in Kuwait today need to apply this principle more than ever before.

"It is okay if emotions and feelings lead us to certain decisions, just as it is okay to reconsider and then withdraw from them if it becomes clear to us that they are not useful. There is nothing wrong with that at all. At the same time, we should expect some reactions from vile critics and trolls in troubled waters who live by spreading discord, and we should not let them influence our decisions and distract us from important matters. A Western proverb says: "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me."

"I would like my words to be interpreted as sincere fraternal advice, as we are all seeking what is best for Kuwait. We must balance our moral and humanitarian duty towards the Palestinian issue with protecting the interests of Kuwait, and remain aware of the role we can play without being exposed to risks that may negatively affect our country."



"The State of Kuwait has been among the first to support the Palestinian cause financially and politically in various international forums for 60 years. It overcame the shameful position of the Palestine Liberation Organization in support of the Iraqi forces' invasion in 1990. It rose above the wounds and turned the page on the past with all its might. This page contained treachery, villainy and meanness," columnist **Jaber Al-Hajri** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

"Today, the State of Kuwait takes an honorable stand in confronting whatever the innocent children, women and the elderly are facing in Gaza. This is a principled position based on humanitarian and ideological foundations in front of the injustice, brutality and relentless killing carried out by the Zionist military machine.

"The State of Kuwait is a small country with a bitter experience with the neighbor that betrayed it one day, prompting it to seek the help of an international coalition led by its brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, other Gulf states, Egypt and Syria, in order to liberate it from the clutches of a treacherous occupation by a brother whom it supported for eight years.

"Kuwait is a constitutional State that respects the opinion of others. It has a fair level of freedom of speech. However, this does not mean we should hear those who we thought are reasonable saying something that could affect the security and stability of Kuwait. We have heard some ideologies on what affects national interests. Some people are comfortable expressing something that is not in the interest of the country, its security and stability.

"It is not a secret to anyone that some of those who went to Erada Square, raising the slogan of supporting Gaza, had their eyes and hearts on the white building opposite the square and on the upcoming parliamentary elections. All the people of Kuwait are for the liberation of Palestine. This is not hidden from anyone and no one is bidding on that. However, the interest of our country must be on top of anything else.

"We witnessed the remarkable positions of those with aching hearts about what is happening to our brothers in Gaza. May God grant them victory. We also witnessed tense positions that did not benefit the people of Gaza and Kuwait. The latter has an honorable history in Arab wars. Although it is small, it was remarkable in its courageous positions and the heroism of its people in 1967. In 1973, the graves of Kuwaiti martyrs in Egypt bore witness to that."



"The previous session of the National Assembly witnessed unprecedented parliamentary-governmental cooperation, through which four important laws were ratified as part of the legislative map adopted by the lawmakers, in coordination with the government. It is like a covenant they made to implement laws that serve the nation and its citizens," columnist **Khalid Al-Arrafa** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"The laws were approved unanimously in one session. They received the blessing of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad, may God protect him. These laws are on the establishment of companies tasked to construct residential cities, including housewives to the beneficiaries of the health insurance for retired citizens (Afiya), amending the law on establishing the Constitutional Court and the formation of a general election commission.

"The opening of the second session of the 17th legislative term on Tuesday will most likely lead to the ratification of many laws within the roadmap that will have a direct impact on citizens.

"The lawmakers will present various bills whose approval necessitates the cooperation of the two authorities, as mentioned in the recent statement of the lawmakers. These bills are on living conditions, political priorities and development goals.

"These priorities include improving the living conditions, which concerns a large segment of citizens and aims to raise the minimum pension, as well as the strategic alternative to the salary scale, amending the Insurance Law for those registered under Chapter Five, amending the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and increasing the social allowance, pension and public assistance.

"This particular priority enjoys massive support, in addition to other priorities and laws that everyone is waiting for. In return, the government is expected to complete its work and assist the lawmakers in approving the map of priorities that will have a significant impact on the well-being of citizens, and the development and prosperity of the country."

— Compiled by **Mai Elsoukary**

# 'Nazaha' is keen to cooperate with GCC

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31, (KUNA): Kuwait's Anti-Corruption Public Authority (Nazaha) stressed on Monday the importance of boosting cooperation amongst GCC anti-corruption organizations to enhance overall development in the region.

While heading the authority's delegation to the ninth meeting for the GCC anti-corruption authorities in Muscat, Oman, Nazaha chairman Abdulaziz Al-Ibrahim said in a press statement that it was vital to boost cooperation amongst anti-corruption authorities in the region to prevent crime and illicit activities.

Nazaha is keen on boosting cooperation with regional and international organizations, he affirmed.

In regards to the meeting, Al-Ibrahim revealed that it focused on ways to boost coordination and cooperation within the domain of anti-corruption.

The meeting also approved the GCC joint program for anti-corruption awareness within the educational sector, he said, adding that an award ceremony was held to honor outstanding anti-corruption employees in the region.



KUNA photo  
Chairman Abdulaziz Al-Ibrahim speaking at the meeting.

# Child rapist sentenced to 15 yrs jail in Syria is in Kuwait?

KD56mln unpaid to govt: Audit

By **Mahmoud Shendi**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: Amidst the state's current financial constraints, the Audit Bureau has brought to light concerning financial discrepancies in the Ministry of Finance's final account for fiscal 2021/2022.**

Notably, there are outstanding government debts amounting to 56 million dinars that have remained uncollected or unresolved for several years, a clear breach of budget execution regulations.

The Audit Bureau also highlighted a lack of precision in the Ministry of Finance's revenue estimates for certain items and categories during the preparation of the draft budget for the fiscal year 2021/2022.

This deviation from the guidelines outlined in the Ministry of Finance's Circular No. 6 of 2020 concerning budget estimates led to substantial disparities between the estimated collections and the actual results, some of which exceeded 100%. This discrepancy signals the Ministry's inability to attain the objectives for which the estimates were included in the budget.

**Allocated**

Furthermore, the Audit Bureau uncovered a decline in the disbursement of allocated funds for specific development plan projects.

This situation signifies the Ministry's inability to execute these projects in alignment with their intended goals, violating budget execution regulations.

Additionally, it may result in an increase in the overall costs of these projects due to inflationary factors over the years. The report also emphasized inaccuracies in the request for a transfer from the supplementary appropriation, totaling 4,008,251 dinars.



**Child rapist in Kuwait?:** The International Cooperation Prosecution is investigating the case of child abuse at the center of which is a Syrian who had been sentenced to 15 years imprisonment by a Syrian court, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

The defendant has confessed to Syrian Court of Casation, that he had previously raped a child in Jabriya, Kuwait, and after that he raped other children in Syria. After a verdict was issued against him in Syria, he fled and returned to Kuwait to work in a well-known children's salon for the first time, out of a desire to complete his ongoing series of crimes against children.

Lawyer **Ali Al-Duwaikh** had submitted a report to the Public Prosecutor against the accused, after getting the power of attorney from the relatives of the man's victims in Syria.

He submitted a copy of the verdict issued against the accused, and upon examining him, it became clear that he was wanted by Interpol at the request of the Syrian authorities.

The International Cooperation Prosecution decided to address the Syrian judicial authorities to send the final verdict against the accused to issue a verdict that cannot be appealed.



**SJC approves list:** The Supreme Judicial Council officially approved, in its meeting held yesterday, the names of 105 prosecutors, and referred them to the Minister of Justice, **Faleh Al-Ruqaba**, reports **Al-Qabas** daily.

The source said the list of names includes 16 female prosecutors and the rest are male, indicating that this comes within the framework of the plan to Kuwaitize the judiciary.

The source indicated that the Judicial Council carried out audit procedures and examined the names of the new prosecutors, and the matter became the responsibility of the Minister of Justice.



Tons of decaying meat confiscated.

# Asians running liquor factory

# Company shut as 2 tons of 'tainted' meat seized

By **Munaif Naif**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31:** Three Asian expatriates were arrested for running a factory that produces local liquor, and for possessing 300 cartons of liquor ready for sale.

According to a security source, information was received by detective officers in Sulaibikhat about three Asians' involvement in trading locally manufactured liquor, they obtained legal permission and went to a livestock pen where they found equipment used for manufacturing liquor, 80 gas cylinders, 300 barrels, pressing devices, and sticker printers.

They discovered that the bootleggers sold bottles of locally made liquor and labeled them as imported.

The three were arrested and the liquor cartons were confiscated. The suspects were referred to the concerned authorities where legal measures will be taken.



**Rotten meat seized:** Inspectors of the Commercial Control Department at the Ministry of Commerce foiled an attempt by a company to distribute large quantities of meat unfit for human consumption to cooperative societies and sales outlets.

Official sources said "oversight inspectors closed the headquarters of a company and a meat factory after they seized 2.2 tons of meat showing signs of apparent tampering with expiry dates," reports **Al-Rai** daily.

The sources explained that "what strengthens the foundations of the seizure and the company's violation of consumer protection procedures and its officials' intentional selling by fraud are the presence of modern (sticker) printer devices, a computer, and a printer to write down information that includes commercial data and expiry dates. A set of ready-to-use stickers prepared to be placed on meat was also found. This indicates an intention to change the validity data of the products."

The sources added, "Sheep meat that was seized was being prepared for distribution and marketing to various sales centers, including cooperative societies and restaurants. It was decided to confiscate it and refer the company and factory to the Commercial Prosecution."

# 'Rough weather, avoid going sea'

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31:** From Tuesday until Friday, Kuwait will witness rainy weather condition -- light to moderate rain -- and the situation will continue until Wednesday before the rain increases in intensity on Thursday and Friday.

Meteorologist **Fahd Al-Otaibi** told **Al-Rai** that the data indicates a better rainy weather conditions than the previous year, and he expects scattered light rainfall on Tuesday and Wednesday with prospects for moderate to heavy rainfall, sometimes accompanied by thunder on Thursday and Friday.

Al-Otaibi says the rainfall on Thursday and Friday will be accompanied by active, southwesterly winds, which will cause sea waves to rise to more than 6 feet. Al-Otaibi said: "The Met department advises young people not to go to the sea on Thursday and Friday due to the unstable weather condition."

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**'Initiative aims to protect Kuwaiti coasts'**

# Volunteer initiative boosts work value: Kuwait's youth body

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31, (KUNA): Kuwait's Youth Public Authority (YPA) announced that a national volunteer initiative to protect marine environment which will be launched Tuesday (today), in cooperation with the Kuwaiti diving team, aims to protect Kuwaiti coasts and boost the value of volunteering among Kuwaiti youth.

In a press conference held Monday at the Voluntary Work Academy at Al-Shamiya Youth Center,

Director of the Voluntary Work Department at the Authority Walid Al-Ansari said that the initiative, which will focus on cleaning the coasts, is witnessing a large turnout from the Ministry of Education's schools to participate in the campaign.

Al-Ansari added that they want to involve the Arab and foreign communities in the campaign based on their desire, stressing that the authority will spare no effort in supporting

all initiatives that aim to serve the community, especially preserving the country's environment.

In a similar speech, Head of the Kuwaiti diving team Waleed Al-Fadhel said that the initiative includes holding specialized cleaning campaigns in cooperation with the competent authorities and volunteers to remove any waste on the coasts, adding that the initiative aims to raise awareness about the importance of Kuwait's coastal environment and the necessity of preserving it.

He expected that these campaigns, which will last several months, will witness the participation of about 2,000 students and will focus on removing waste from the coasts, saying that the campaign is an opportunity to highlight the role of Kuwaiti youth in volunteer work.

He explained that the campaigns will include cleaning Kuwait's most important coasts including Shu-

waikh, Doha, Asheraj, Sulaibkhat, Al-Bedaa Al-Bahri, Fahaheel, Al-Zour, Al-Khiran, Fintas, Jadeliat, the Hospital Coast, and Souq Sharq, and rehabilitating the coast of the Jahra Reserve, noting the efforts of the authority and the national companies supporting the initiative.

For his part, the CEO of Relations and Corporate Affairs at Zain Kuwait Company Waleed Al-Khashti said that their contribution to this national volunteer initiative comes from the

positive impact it has on society, especially among children and youth, as it introduces them to sustainable concepts of volunteering to best serve the country.

Al-Khashti pointed to the cooperation of the public and private sectors, civil society institutions and volunteer teams to make this initiative a success, which is a distinguished model for achieving the most important goal, which is serving Kuwait and its environment.

# CITRA 'denies' validity of reports on Internet surveillance in Kuwait

**'Project is an existing and extended project'**

**By Mohammed Ghanem**  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: The Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) denied the validity of the reports circulating about the Kuwait International Gateway tender, stressing that it does not allow Internet surveillance in Kuwait.**

In response to a parliamentary question by MP Hamad Abdul Rahman Al-Olayan, CITRA explained in a memorandum sent to the Director General Omar Saud Al-Omar, and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Minister of State for Communications Affairs Fahad Al-Shoula that the project is related to developing the Kuwait International Gateway, and it is an existing and extended project. In each contract, CITRA renews licenses, and maintains, and develops systems capacities in view of the continuous increase in Internet capacities in the State of Kuwait.

It revealed that a total of ten local companies

had applied to win the tender.

In response to a question about whether user data will be sent under this agreement to a third party, CITRA explained that the third party was mentioned in the technical specifications brochure document in clause 16.10 on page No. 74.

The wording of the clause is as follows - "The required system known as DPI must support the ability to copy subscriber traffic and send it to a third-party system interface."

The benefits mentioned in the item are technical terms that mean the system requested in the tender must have the ability to communicate and integrate with different systems in the nature of its operation, known as "third-party systems". This ability is basic and required for all technical systems connected to the Internet.

For example, the system requested in the tender must have the ability to link to other systems used to extract monthly reports or other systems to analyze traffic data and other

## PAFN launches the 'Raqeb' for imported food products

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: The Public Authority for Food and Nutrition announced the operation of the "Raqeb" platform for imported foods, on a trial basis under directives from the Council of Ministers towards digital transformation and automation of government services, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This comes upon the authority's keenness to ensure the safety and quality of food for the consumer and facilitate procedures for importers.

PAFN invites companies and individuals wishing to import food products to register on the electronic platform, or communicate via the WhatsApp service, number "97533807".

systems.

CITRA stated that these systems are used in the Arabian Gulf states, some Arab countries such as Egypt, Algeria, and countries around the world such as the United States of America, Britain, Germany, France, Italy, Australia, Japan, and others.



KUNA photo

A photo from the press conference organized by Kuwait's Youth Public Authority.



KUNA photo

One of the two relief planes that took off as part of the eighth flight of the Kuwaiti Air Bridge.

## Gaza relief aid planes depart Kuwait to Egypt

Two relief aid planes, the eighth in the air bridge efforts for the Gaza Strip, departed Kuwait on Tuesday, heading to Egypt.

The aircrafts are filled with 50 tons of

necessities and supplies.

This initiative came in line with the Kuwaiti leadership's directives and reflected the people's solemn support to the Palestinian people.

## MC's Legal & Financial Committee retains 5 out of 7 items on agenda

**By Inass Awadh**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: The Legal and Financial Committee of the Municipal Council, during its meeting Saturday, chaired by Fahad Al-Abd Al-Jader, retained five out of seven items on its agenda.

These items included the proposal submitted by its chairman for issuing temporary licenses for some activities during the rainy season, and the letter submitted by the National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprises Development for exempting small and medium enterprises from paying municipal fees.

Other retained items were the proposal submitted by the Deputy Chairman of the Municipal Council Khaled Al-Mutairi for amending some provisions of the temporary tents regulations, the proposal submitted by member Sharifa Al-Shalfan for translating Kuwait Municipality regulations into English, and presenting the draft budget of Kuwait Municipality for the fiscal year of 2023/2024 to the Municipal Council.

The committee referred to the executive branch the Kuwait Insurance Union's (KIU) request to add new activities to the list of public stores that are harmful to health, as well as the request submitted by a Kuwaiti woman to change the name of the street located in the Shamiya Block 1 - Umayya Street, in order to prepare a study on them.

Meanwhile, within the framework of the Municipal Council's follow-up of the mechanism for activating members' proposals in coordination with the relevant state ministries, it followed up the proposal of member Nasser Al-Jadaan for the establishment of a pedestrian bridge on Al-Taawon Street between Salva Block 12 and Anjafa Beach because beachgoers are crossing the main street, which puts their lives in danger.

The chairman of the Municipal Council sent a letter to the Ministry of Interior for

## Stick to rules for charity work, says Social Affairs

**By Fares Al-Abdan**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: The Ministry of Social Affairs called on all citizens, residents, and public and private sectors to adhere to the controls of charitable work and not release any advertisements for collecting donations, and avoid submitting to advertisements by unlicensed entities.

The ministry affirmed the keenness of Kuwait to preserve the reputation of Kuwaiti charitable work, which is internationally and regionally recognized for its integrity and leadership.

It stressed that the steps to support charitable work came within the efforts of the Kuwaiti government and people to provide relief to the afflicted and needy around the world.

The ministry called on all well wishers and philanthropists to go to well-known charitable organizations and cooperate with them if they wish to donate to any charitable projects or establish charitable projects inside or outside the country in order to ensure the safety of donation procedures, preserve the rights of donors, and achieve the purpose of charitable work.

It indicated that donation advertisements of all kinds without obtaining the approval and licensing from the Ministry of Social Affairs are considered a violation of the law.

a report on the accidents and to indicate the pedestrian crossing movement at the location specified in Al-Jadaan's proposal so that the council can take the necessary measures.

## New hospital opens emergency dept

**By Marwa Al-Bahrawi**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: The Ministry of Health inaugurated an emergency department at the new Farwaniya Hospital as part of the fourth and penultimate operational phase of the plan, with a capacity of handling 1,800 cases per day, and a clinical capacity of 84 beds for observation and recovery and 71 for the clinic.

In a press statement issued on Tuesday, Head of the Emergency Department Dr. Hanan Al-Razouki said the inauguration comes within the framework of New Kuwait 2035 vision, which is based on several basic pillars, including advanced infrastructure and high-quality health care, with the aim of achieving a distinguished global position and a sustainable living environment.

She explained that the department has been completely transferred and work has commenced. It includes under its umbrella various medical departments for treating emergency cases such as internal medicine, ophthalmology, general surgery, orthopedics, ENT (Ear, Nose and Throat) and other departments. It also includes rooms for resuscitation and observation for both men and women.

The department, which was equipped at the highest level and with the latest medical equipment to provide better care for accident and multiple injury patients, also includes emergency, urgent and pre-case classification rooms. It will contribute sig-

nificantly to alleviating overcrowding and improving the health services provided.

It is worth highlighting that the new Farwaniya Hospital is among the largest models of integrated health service in the country that are consistent with the latest international standards. It is equipped with huge capabilities that constitute a qualitative, high-value addition to serving citizens in Farwaniya.

The hospital is built on a total building area of 423 thousand square meters and consists of five main buildings that include 314 general and specialized clinics. The clinical capacity is 955 beds and 35 suites for specialized medical services. In order to provide all means of comfort to patients, 70 percent of the rooms are private. The hospital also includes 245 isolation rooms.

The hospital has 314 general and specialized clinics, with a clinical capacity of 955 beds, 35 suites for specialized medical services, 245 isolation rooms, 31 operating rooms for various specialties, four advanced hybrid operating rooms with an intensive care capacity of 233 beds, and an integrated rehabilitation center that provides pulmonary rehabilitation service.

The hospital has seven medical laboratories which are managed using a secure system according to the required standards for quality of service, as well as three pharmacies that will operate according to a strict digital system, and is completely equipped with natural gases so that it can be completely transformed into intensive care rooms if the need arises.



# November

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Oil Ministry's Sheikh Dr Nimr participates in two-day preliminary meetings in Abu Dhabi

# COP28 meets vital for environment protection, planet's future: Kuwait

By Salem Al-Methen

**ABU DHABI, Oct 31, (KUNA):** The 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference or Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC (COP28) is vital for the global efforts to protect the environment and earth's future generations, said a Kuwaiti official on Monday.

On the sideline of his participation in the two-day COP28 preliminary meetings in Abu Dhabi, Undersecretary at the Ministry of Oil Sheikh Dr. Nimr Al-Malek Al-Sabah told KUNA that the event showcased the global community's dedication to combat climate change and pollution.

He affirmed Kuwait's commitment to decreasing carbon emissions and focus on policies geared towards renewable and clean energy.

Sheikh Nimr revealed that Kuwait

embarked on establishing eco-friendly power stations in line with Kuwait's development vision and the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSG).

He affirmed that Kuwait was looking forwards to COP28 conference, on November 30 until December 12 in Dubai, which would be attended by many global leaders, heads of organizations and prominent figures.

On his part, Emirati Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology, Dr. Sultan Al-Jaber affirmed that the preliminary meetings displayed the world's keenness on battling the adverse effects of climate change.

The COP28 preliminary meetings hope to bring views together to find common grounds between plans for developments and protecting the environment, showcasing the globe's might in this regard, he added.

He affirmed that the world's interest was in finding ways to fend off climate change for the sake of future generations.

The COP28 preliminary meetings this year had been attended by 100 delegations and 70 ministers from across the globe.



Participants in the COP28 preliminary meetings in Abu Dhabi.

KUNA photo



## 'Simplicity is

Continued from Page 1

They were willing to make difficult decisions, some of which were unpopular. On the other hand, there were officials who chose to leave matters to their incompetent assistants, which helped in spreading corruption due to the lack of accountability.

This is the case in Kuwait, as we have not witnessed any development for nearly three decades. This is because some heads of government were putting personal considerations above the public interest, due to their lack of key leadership qualities, the most important of which is the ability to bear responsibility.

It is true that there are some officials who worked outside the box, but did not want their reputation to be tarnished. In fact, they were fought by the Council of Ministers itself, which is why we have reached an unenviable situation today. Abstention from assuming responsibility has become a general norm.

In addition, the referral of many officials to the Public Prosecution indicates the extent of administrative wear and tear due to the minister not fulfilling his responsibility faithfully, either because he follows certain influential people or because he is working to achieve his party's agenda and profiteering. The biggest disaster is that some ministers consider themselves as mere employees who implement the wishes of their boss.

On the other hand, the National Assembly did not meet the expected ambition, given that they put their interests before the public interest. Therefore, most parliaments were dissolved in the past three decades due to personal disputes.

With the start of the National Assembly session, Kuwait is today faced with a new test. However, it is clear that the situation will not change. This is because the government is unable to implement its program due to its weakness, and the parliament will not allow laws to be passed unless the parliamentarians gain from it.

Such situations neither build a state, nor fortify it in the face of the crises that are ravaging the region. Do executive decision makers realize that, or will they follow the popular proverb - "Simplicity is better than affectation"?

## New leaf

Continued from Page 1

On the other hand, HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah emphasized the urgency and necessity of cooperation between the executive and legislative authorities, as well as commitment to Article 50 of the Constitution.

This article states: "In conformity with the provisions of the Constitution, the system of government shall be established on the basis of separation and cooperation of powers. No Authority shall be allowed to waive all or part of its jurisdiction as prescribed in this Constitution."

He affirmed such cooperation in the first round of the 17th parliamentary term led to the ratification of four important laws, which are being implemented now. He said he is aware that the citizens are looking forward to more achievements, indicating the government held several meetings with the coordinating committee to specify priorities for this parliamentary round. He confirmed that the government is keen on developing the financial capabilities of Kuwait through the diversification of income sources, the switch from rentier economy to sustainable and productive economy, and development of infrastructure to support Kuwait 2035 Vision.

He added that HH the Crown Prince visited China in response to the invitation

of Chinese President Xi Jinping; during which he signed a number of agreements on drainage network, Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port, free trade zone, housing development and other important projects, as part of the five-year cooperation agreement between the two friendly countries from 2024 to 2028.

He went on to say the government has many concerns, some of which were included in the agenda for this year like the completion of certain development projects as per schedule. He revealed these projects are aimed at diversifying income sources and enhancing non-oil revenues.

He added the government is keen on fully benefiting from industrial and craft plots through strict governance over these plots.

He also cited the currency strategies adopted by the Central Bank of Kuwait, as they reduced inflation from 4.7 percent in April 2022 to 3.8 percent in August 2023. He said the Central Bank has been taking the necessary steps for the licensing of digital banks.

He disclosed that the Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT) is implementing an integrated project for digital banks, adding the National Cybersecurity Center is preparing a strategy to foil attempts to hack official data.

On the oil sector, he stated that Zour Oil Refinery is expected to produce 615 barrels per day and this is enough for generating electricity. He said Al-Dagham Refinery in Oman is expected to produce 230 barrels per day. He added Kuwait National Petroleum Corporation (KNPC) laid down a strategy to switch to clean energy by 2050, complementing the long-term strategy of the Environment Public Authority (EPA) to enhance low carbon development by 2060.

Regarding human resources development, HH the Prime Minister said the Ministry of Higher Education offered 3,454 overseas scholarships in academic year 2023/2024 and 6,540 local scholarships in academic year 2022/2023.

On employment, he revealed that the number of citizens appointed from Jan 1 to Oct 31, 2023 has reached 15,690. He affirmed the government is keen on addressing the demographic imbalance issue by granting privileges to nationals working in the private sector, granting social allowance to the owners of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and nationalizing supervisory jobs in cooperative societies.

On retirees, he confirmed the allocation of three plots for the Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS) to invest in for the benefit of retirees. He stressed that the successive governments are fully aware of the dramatic changes in the 21st century in relation to the establishment of new regional and international commercial paths, including land and marine networks. He said the government prioritizes regional cooperation on railways, starting with the GCC railway and the agreement signed with Saudi Arabia to link the railways.

On the situation in Gaza, he stressed that Kuwait is anxiously monitoring the tragic and brutal Israeli attacks on Gaza, as well as the forced displacement and group punishment attempts that included women and children. He lamented such crimes are being committed while the international community is silent and the United Nations Security Council is helpless. He said this scene causes depression among the peoples of the region. He called on the Security Council to bear responsibility in ending the violence in Palestine and enforcing the United Nations General Assembly resolution; which obtained the votes of the majority of members on Oct 27, 2023 to stop the Israeli crimes immediately and provide protection for the Palestinian people.

He added the Council of Ministers, as per the directive of HH the Amir and HH Crown Prince, launched an



Photos by Rizk Taufiq

Above: Some photos from the opening session of Assembly's 17th term.



air bridge to deliver aid to the people of Gaza. He affirmed that Kuwait supports all the rights of the Palestinians, including their right to establish an independent State.

Speaker of the National Assembly Ahmad Al-Saadoun affirmed on Tuesday that the Palestinians were facing a war of genocide carried out by the Israeli occupation forces.

Speaking at the opening of the Second Regular Session of the 17th Legislative Term of the National Assembly, Al-Saadoun condemned the horrific acts carried out by the Zionist regime against the innocent people of the Gaza Strip, saying that the Israeli occupiers were committing war crimes against the Palestinian people.

The force displacement, the attacks on hospitals and places of worship, and ethnically cleansing the Palestinians were all barbaric acts carried out by Israel, he added.

Meanwhile, Al-Saadoun touched on the current session of the National Assembly, saying that the citizens of Kuwait were eager to seek achievements and developments for the country.

The parliament will work with the government to achieve said development and progress for Kuwait, he affirmed.

Al-Saadoun also affirmed on Tuesday that parliament must seek all venues to achieve development in the country and meet challenges in line with Kuwait's interest.

Speaking at the opening of the Second Regular Session of the 17th Legislative Term of the National Assembly, Al-Saadoun said that inter-parliamentary coordination must be a priority for the sake of Kuwait.

He said that despite different views and opinions, national unity based on solemn efforts amongst the people would achieve security and stability for the nation.

Safeguarding Kuwait was above all matters, he affirmed, noting that the recent Iraqi Federal Supreme Court ruling over the Khor Abdullah waterway was unlawful.

Al-Saadoun called on Iraq to deal with the matter swiftly and respect signed treaties and resolutions, namely UNSC 833 concerning the work of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission.

Kuwait government will not be taking part in secretary, observer and parliamentary committees' election, affirmed Deputy Prime Minister, State Minister for Cabinet Affairs and State Minister for National Assembly Affairs Essa Al-Kandari on Tuesday.

Al-Kandari, at the inauguration of the second session of the 17th legislative term, asserted the government's commitment to not intervening in parliamentary elections and its intent on furthering cooperation and coordination with the assembly.

Parliament Member Osama Al-Shaheen was voted by acclamation to become National Assembly Secretary, while MP Dr. Falah Al-Hajri was voted to be parliament observer.

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## World News Roundup

## Europe

## 4 workers dead

## Montenegro gets new government

PODGORICA, Montenegro, Oct 31, (AP): Montenegro's new government was confirmed on Tuesday, with the prime minister promising to unblock the Balkan nation's stalled European Union integration process as a top EU official was set to hold talks in the small NATO member country.

Parliament approved the new Cabinet with 46 votes in favor and 19 against after a session that lasted all night. Montenegro's assembly has 81 members but not all were present at the vote.

The government was formed after months of political bickering that followed an election in June. The centrist Europe Now party of Prime Minister Milo

**jko Spajic** won the election, but without enough support to form a government on its own.

To form the government, the winning coalition received backing from staunchly anti-Western groups under the condition that one of their leaders, Andrija Mandic, was elected as the speaker of parliament - an influential political position.

Spajic said his government will be pro-European despite Mandic's election. He dismissed reports that his Cabinet will be influenced by neighboring Serbia, from which Montenegro split in 2006 after an independence referendum.



Spajic

"We can't wait to make a result for our country," Spajic told reporters. "We hope to unblock the European integration, move forward quickly and become the next member of the European Union."

## Aspiring

Spajic spoke shortly before EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen was set to hold talks in the capital, Podgorica, as part of a tour of Western Balkan nations aspiring to join the 27-nation union. Von der Leyen visited North Macedonia and Kosovo before Montenegro and is slated to travel to Serbia later on Tuesday.

Six Western Balkan countries are at different stages on their path to join the EU, in a process expected to take years.

As the war rages in Ukraine, EU officials recently have sought to push the process forward and encourage Balkan nations to boost reform in order to join. Von der Leyen was discussing details of the 6 billion-euro (\$6.37 billion) package for Western Balkan countries, along with tensions that still exist in the region long after ethnic wars of the 1990s.



**Police deployment at border:** The new Slovak government announced a big deployment of police and armed forces Monday along the border with Hungary to prevent growing numbers of migrants entering the country.

Prime Minister Robert Fico did not immediately give details of the deployment but said that illegal migration must be controlled or else people linked to "terrorist" groups could enter the country.

Fico, who spoke after meeting Interior Minister Matus Sutaj Esto, said the deployment would start later Monday and that he would personally inspect the situation at the border.

His new government was sworn in last Wednesday after his leftist Smer, or Direction, party won the Sept. 30 parliamentary election, opening the way for the populist leader to become prime minister for the fourth time.

The new government has not yet released its policy program, but Fico has suggested it will include a tough stance against migration.



**Ex-GCHQ employee gets life:** A former British cyberespionage employee who had become angry and resentful toward his agency's work was sentenced Monday to life in prison for attempted murder in the vicious stabbing of an American intelligence worker assigned to the UK.

Joshua Bowles, 29, punched the woman and knifed her repeatedly in what was called a "politically motivated" attack as she left a gym March 9 in the western England town of Cheltenham, which is home to the UK's electronic spy agency, Government Communications Headquarters, better known as GCHQ.

Bowles will serve at least 13 years in prison before any chance at early release.

The woman, identified in court only by a code number, 99230, worked for the National Security Agency, which spies on electronic communications for the US, and places some of its employees at the Cheltenham facility.



**4 construction workers dead:** Four Bulgarian construction workers died when scaffolding fell down an elevator shaft inside a building site in Hamburg on Monday and another suffered life-threatening injuries, German authorities said.

There was no immediate word on why the scaffolding collapsed from the eighth floor, German news agency dpa reported.

Officials initially reported that five people died. The fire service said there was no longer anyone missing.

Recovery workers spent hours sifting through and removing debris piled up over several floors. The city government said the victims were Bulgarian nationals.

The accident happened in the Ueberseequartier, part of the port city's Hafen City district on the Elbe river that is being redeveloped with office and residential buildings, hotels and shops.



**British man extradited to Germany:** A British man has been extradited to Germany and charged with murder over the brutal killing of a retiree at his home in Munich nearly 45 years ago, German officials said Monday.

An indictment against the Briton, now aged 70, was filed at the state court in Munich, prosecutor Juliane Grotz said. He was arrested in his homeland in late March and extradited in early April to the Bavarian city, where he has been in custody since.

The 69-year-old victim was last seen on Dec 30, 1978, in the company of a younger man, police investigator Stephan Beer told reporters. On Jan. 2, 1979, his body was found lying in his bathtub after he failed to respond to calls from relatives.

An autopsy found that he died following at least 10 blows to the head, apparently with a 1-kilo (2.2-pound) bronze pestle that was found at the scene. Three fingerprints also were found, which couldn't be attributed to anyone at the time. Cash and his keys were stolen along with a ring, which was found about a week later on a building site at Munich's main station.



The White House is lit for Halloween before US President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden give treats to trick-or-treaters on the South Lawn of the White House, on Halloween on Oct 30. Inset: Joe and Jill Biden give treats to trick-or-treaters. (AP)

## Joe &amp; Jill Biden hand out books, candy while hosting thousands for trick or treating

Gray skies and drizzle added a spooky element and books were as abundant as candy at Halloween eve trick-or-treating that President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden hosted at the White House.

Monday's "Hallo-READ!" event featured book giveaways and story readings by the first lady, White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre, Education Secretary Miguel Cardona and authors.

The first lady showed her spirit by sporting feline ears, a tail and a black nose. She said she dressed as her cat, Willow.

"Go have fun and eat lots of candy," she told a group of costumed children after she read "Ten

Spooky Pumpkins," a counting book.

Jean-Pierre donned a halo and angel wings, saying she chose that over a devil costume.

After she finished reading, the president and first lady spent about 90 minutes welcoming children from local public schools and from military families, who were invited.

As the costume-clad kids walked up along the driveway, Biden dropped M&M's or Hershey's Kisses in little boxes stamped with the presidential seal into their bags or buckets. The first lady handed out books.

Jill Biden, who is a lifelong teacher, came up with

the "Hallow-READ!" theme and a decor featuring famous literary characters, ghoulish tales and ghost story time, the White House said. A military band played instrumental versions of "Thriller," "Monster Mash," and other songs.

Some 8,000 guests were expected, the White House said.

Numerous federal government departments and agencies participated, many with booths dotting the south grounds that were stocked with all types of chocolate candy and other sugary treats provided by the National Confectioners Association and its member companies. Scholastic donated the books. (AP)

## Politics

## St Louis County prosecutor drops US Senate bid

## Haley formally enters her home-state primary

COLUMBIA, SC, Oct 31, (AP): Nikki Haley reappeared Monday at the Statehouse where her political career began to file paperwork to participate in the South Carolina primary as she hopes to become the primary alternative in her party to former President Donald Trump.

The former South Carolina governor, who vacated the post in 2017 to become United Nations ambassador, suggested that by South Carolina's Feb. 24 primary, she might be able to beat Trump, who maintains huge leads nationally and in early primary states.

A Des Moines Register poll released Monday shows Haley pulling even in Iowa with Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, even as both lag far behind the former president. Haley and DeSantis are vying for second place in hopes of consolidating the support of people who want an alternative to Trump, with their campaigns and allied super PACs increasingly targeting each other in ads and messaging.

A field that began with roughly a dozen candidates is shrinking. Former Vice President Mike Pence ended his bid over the weekend amid lackluster polling numbers and low fundraising totals. Those numbers will only continue to dwindle after the first-in-the-nation Iowa caucus and subsequent New Hampshire primary, Haley said.

"Then we'll come to the sweet state of South Carolina, and we'll finish it," Haley said.

With Israel deepening its offensive

into Gaza, Haley positioned herself as a strong candidate on foreign policy. She criticized the Biden administration for loosening sanctions on Iran, and emphasized that the United States should play only a "supporting role" to Israel. She said she would not have pressed the Israeli government to restore internet communications recently in the Gaza Strip.

St Louis County Prosecuting Attorney Wesley Bell announced Monday he will drop his bid to unseat Republican US Sen Josh Hawley in 2024, and will instead make a run at a fellow Democrat - U.S. Rep Cori Bush.

## Oppose

Bell, 48, will oppose Bush in the 2024 Democratic primary for Missouri's 1st Congressional District seat that covers St. Louis and part of St. Louis County. The decision comes as Bush has taken criticism for her response to the Hamas attack on Israel.

Bell and Bush are both Black, and both emerged as political forces in the aftermath of the fatal police shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, in 2014, a death that helped spark the national Black Lives Matter movement. Bush was elected to the House in 2020, pulling a stunning upset of Democratic veteran William Lacy Clay, and won reelection in 2022.

In 2018, Bell pulled an equally surprising upset when he unseated Bob McCulloch as St. Louis County prosecutor.

Bell said at a news conference that he was changing course, even though he felt he was the Democrat best positioned to defeat Hawley - an admittedly tall task in very conservative Missouri. He said several people around the state urged him to run for Congress instead.



Retreating from the turmoil in Washington, DC, Rep Lauren Boebert arrived in bucolic southwest Colorado to turmoil of a different sort - the lingering impact of an embarrassing moment when she was caught on tape vaping and with a date during a musical production of "Beetlejuice."

The scandal threw a wrench into an already tough reelection bid. After Boebert won her last race by just 546 votes, she began revamping her campaign strategy. It now includes apologies to voters at campaign events for an episode that has rattled even loyal Republicans.

Expected to face a rematch with Democrat Adam Frisch, in a race that could determine which party controls Congress, Boebert tackled the embarrassment head-on at the Lincoln Day Dinner in Archuleta County.

"I owe each and every one of you here a deep, heartfelt apology," she said as murmurs of agreement faded to attentive silence.

It's an unusual tone for Boebert. The congresswoman's unapologetic, Trumpian style had propelled her to MAGA stardom nationwide; now, she's fighting for political survival at home.



White House hopeful Nikki Haley holds up a filing to appear on the South Carolina Republican presidential primary ballot at the South Carolina State House on Oct 30 in Columbia, SC. The former South Carolina governor formally filed Monday to appear on the state's Republican presidential primary ballot. (AP)



Trump



Durbin

## America

**Judge dismisses Favre suit:** A federal judge on Monday dismissed Brett Favre's defamation lawsuit against fellow retired NFL player Shannon Sharpe, ruling that Sharpe used constitutionally protected speech on a sports broadcast when he criticized Favre's connection to a welfare mispending case in Mississippi.

US District Judge Keith Starrett ruled that Sharpe, a former tight end, was using "rhetorical hyperbole" in saying on air that Favre was "taking from the underserved," that the former quarterback "stole money from people that really needed that money" and that someone would have to be a sorry person "to steal from the lowest of the low."

Favre sued Sharpe in February, saying that the fellow Pro Football Hall of Fame member made "egregiously false" statements about him on the Fox Sports talk show "Skip and Shannon: Undisputed." The case was moved to federal court in March, and Sharpe left the sports show in June. (AP)



**'Subpoena Crow, Leo':** Senate Democrats said Monday they plan to subpoena Republican megadonor Harlan Crow and conservative activist Leonard Leo for more information about their roles in organizing and paying for luxury travel for Supreme Court justices.

The announcement by Democrats on the Senate Judiciary Committee comes as the court is being pressed to adopt an ethics code, a move that has been publicly endorsed by three of the nine justices.

The committee could act as soon as next week to authorize Sen Dick Durbin, D-Ill,

the panel's chairman, to issue subpoenas to Crow, Leo and another wealthy donor, Robin Arkley II.

Crow has been identified as a benefactor of Justice Clarence Thomas for more than two decades, paying for nearly annual va-

cations, purchasing from Thomas and others the Georgia home in which the justice's mother still lives and helping pay for the private schooling for a relative. (AP)



Slovakian Prime Minister Robert Fico, (right) arrives with Interior Minister Matus Sutaj Estok, (left), at the Cunovo-Rajka border crossing with Hungary, in Slovakia on Oct 30. The new Slovak government announced a big deployment of police and armed forces Monday along the border with Hungary to prevent growing numbers of migrants entering the country. (AP)

**Ivanka Trump testimony delayed:** Ivanka Trump's testimony at her father's New York civil fraud trial is being delayed until next week so there is sufficient time for her to be questioned, a judge said Monday.

Former president Donald Trump's eldest daughter had been set to take the witness stand on Friday, when the Manhattan trial typically meets for a half-day session, but lawyers in the case said her testimony is likely to take a full day, if not longer.

Judge Arthur Engoron, who last week rejected Ivanka Trump's bid to avoid testifying, said she will now appear on Nov. 8. The judge had floated the idea of making Friday a full-day court session, but Donald Trump's lawyers said they couldn't do that because of other commitments. (AP)



**NY last floating jail to close:** Kenneth Williams spent his whole life in Brooklyn, but it wasn't until a night in 2018 when he crossed a narrow footbridge in shackles, that he learned about New York City's last floating jail. He remembers the murky East River water below him, the stench of mold, and a sinking feeling that soon turned literal.

Docked in the shallows off an industrial edge of the South Bronx, the Yvernon C. Bain Correctional Center is a five-story jail barge that stretches the length of two football fields, resembling a container ship stacked with cargo. (AP)

## Africa

## Police unit on trial

## Charles in Kenya for four-day 'state visit'

NAIROBI, Kenya, Oct 31, (AP): King Charles III is in Kenya for a four-day trip, his first state visit to a Commonwealth country as king, underscoring his commitment to an organization that's been central to Britain's global power and prestige since World War II.

It's also a visit that's full of symbolism as Charles' mother, the late Queen Elizabeth II, learned that she had become U.K. monarch while visiting a game preserve in the East African nation in 1952.

The king and Queen Camilla touched down at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport late on Monday. The royal couple was received by Kenya's Prime Cabinet Secretary and Foreign Minister Musalia Mudavadi and British High Commissioner to Kenya Neil Wigan.



Charles

On Tuesday morning, a ceremonial welcome by Kenyan President William Ruto is planned at State House.

During the visit, Charles will acknowledge the "painful aspects" of his nation's shared history with Kenya, which celebrates the 60th anniversary of its independence from the United Kingdom this year. The two countries have enjoyed a close relationship since independence, despite the prolonged struggle against colonial rule, sometimes known as the Mau Mau Rebellion, in which thousands of Kenyans died.

Colonial authorities resorted to executions and detention without trial as they tried to put down the insurrection, and thousands of Kenyans said they were beaten and sexually assaulted by agents of the administration.

## Ensure

The British High Commission said Charles would "meet veterans and give his blessing to efforts by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to ensure Kenyans and Africans who supported British efforts in the World Wars are properly commemorated."

Tuesday morning traffic was a bit slow on major roads towards the central business district. The governor in charge of Kenya's capital of Nairobi, Johnson Sakaja, had told residents on Monday to expect "mild" traffic disruptions while the king is in town.

Charles also plans to visit Nairobi National Park and meet with environmental activist Wanjira Mathai, the daughter of late Nobel laureate Wangari Maathai, as he underscores his commitment to environmental protection.

The UK royal family has long ties to Africa. In 1947, the future queen pledged lifelong service to Britain and the Commonwealth during a speech from South Africa on her 21st birthday. Five years later, Elizabeth and her late husband Prince Philip were visiting Aberdare National Park in Kenya when they learned that her father had died and she had become queen.

**Police unit goes on trial:** An elite Kenyan police unit went on trial Tuesday on charges of wrongful death in the killing of an outspoken Pakistani journalist in Nairobi a year ago. The case was jointly filed by the journalist's widow and two Kenyan journalists' unions.

Arshad Sharif was killed Oct 23, 2022, when the car he was in with another Pakistani man sped up and drove through a roadblock checkpoint outside the Kenyan capital and police opened fire. Nairobi police at the time expressed regret over the shooting, saying it was a case of "mistaken identity" during a search for a similar car involved in a child abduction case.

The 50-year-old journalist had fled Pakistan earlier that year to avoid arrest at home on charges of maligning Pakistan's national institutions - a phrase used for critics of the powerful military, which has ruled Pakistan for half of its 75-year history. He stayed briefly in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom before arriving in Kenya.

A team of Pakistani investigators later said Sharif's killing was a "planned assassination." His widow, Javeria Siddique, filed the case against the Kenyan police unit, known as the General Service Unit or GSU, that was involved in the shooting. Kenyan police claimed Sharif did not stop at a roadblock on the outskirts of Nairobi but his family and Pakistani investigators disagreed, saying Sharif's killing was planned in Pakistan.

**More than 70 people missing:** More than 70 people were missing on Monday after a boat capsized in northern Nigeria, according to authorities who deplored the frequent deadly boat accidents in Africa's most populous country.

The boat was carrying traders returning from a fish market in Taraba state's Ardo-Kola district late Saturday when it capsized on the Benue River, which is one of Nigeria's largest, the national emergency services said.

More than 100 passengers were on board and 14 were rescued, while 17 bodies have been recovered and 73 people are missing, Ladan Ayuba, head of Nigeria's National Emergency Management Agency, told The Associated Press.

Taraba Gov. Agbu Kefas called the accident a "monumental tragedy" and ordered the use of life jackets for boat passengers. "Our body of water, which is one of the longest in the region, should be a veritable source of wealth and not death," the governor said, according to a statement issued Monday by his office.

Boat disasters are common in remote communities across the West African nation. This is the third involving more than 100 passengers in just four months. Most are attributed to overloading. Good, accessible roads are often lacking in those areas.

**Haiti bans charter flights to Nicaragua:** Haiti's government has banned all charter flights to Nicaragua that migrants fleeing poverty and violence had been increasingly using in their quest to reach the United States, according to a bulletin issued Monday that The Associated Press obtained.

Haiti's government did not provide an explanation for the decision in its bulletin, which was first reported by The Miami Herald. Civil aviation authorities in Haiti did not respond to a message seeking comment.

The move left a couple of thousand angry and bewildered travelers stranded in a parking lot facing Haiti's main international airport in the capital of Port-au-Prince surrounded by their luggage, with some holding babies.

"I have to seek a better life elsewhere because Haiti doesn't offer my generation anything," said 29-year-old Jean-Marc Antoine. "It's either hold a gun and be involved with a gang, be killed, or leave the country."



A damage is seen at a yacht club in the aftermath of Hurricane Otis in Acapulco, Mexico on Oct. 28. Three foreign residents were among at least 47 people killed when Hurricane Otis devastated Mexico's resort city of Acapulco last week, officials said Monday, as the search for the missing focused on submerged boats. (AP)

## Asia

## Japanese police reportedly capture gunman

## Hong Kong leader defends new election rules

HONG KONG, Oct 31, (AP): Hong Kong's leader defended the rules for upcoming local elections as open and fair Tuesday after an electoral overhaul effectively barred the city's remaining pro-democracy activists from joining the race.

The city's largest pro-democracy party, the Democratic Party, will be absent in December's district council election for the first time since its establishment in 1994. Party chair Lo Kin-hei said he and other members could not secure enough nominations under the new rules authorities introduced to ensure that "patriots administer Hong Kong." Other smaller groups from the camp had the same problem.

Chief Executive John Lee said at a weekly news briefing that candidates have to respect the decisions of the people they sought nomination from.

"It is up to you to ensure that you can convince the person you want to convince," he said.

The district councils were the last major political representative bodies chosen by the public. Under the electoral overhaul, most directly elected seats in the municipal-level organization have been eliminated.

The lack of participation from pan-democrats reflects the dwindling space for the city's pro-democracy movement under a government crackdown on dissidents following the anti-government protests in 2019.

To enter the race, candidates have to secure endorsements from at least nine members of local committees that are packed with pro-government figures. Some pro-government politicians, including lawmaker Michael Tien, also said it was challenging for their groups to secure nominations.

## Also:

**TOKYO:** Japanese police have captured a gunman who holed up at a post office and have rescued a member of staff who was held hostage, NHK television reported Tuesday.

It followed a more than eight-hour standoff with the man, who entered the post office with a gun in Warabi, north of Tokyo, an hour after a hospital shooting in which two people were wounded in the nearby city of Toda.

Police said they were investigating the two cases together because of a possibility they are related. They are also looking into a fire that broke out in a building near the hospital around the time of the shooting.

Hundreds of police had surrounded the building housing the post office.

## China forces shadow Philippine navy ship near 'disputed shoal'

MANILA, Philippines, Oct 31, (AP): A Philippine navy patrol ship was shadowed by Chinese forces near a disputed shoal in the South China Sea, sparking a fresh exchange of accusations and warnings between the Asian neighbors Tuesday.

Chinese and Philippine security officials gave conflicting accounts of Monday's encounter near Scarborough Shoal. China has surrounded the shoal with its navy and coast guard ships since a tense standoff with Philippine vessels more than a decade ago. A rich fishing atoll and a safe mooring area during storms, Scarborough off the northwestern Philippines coast is one of most fiercely contested territories in the South China Sea, where Chinese and Philippine forces have faced off in recent months.

The frequent confrontations, which led to an Oct. 22 collision of Chinese and Philippine vessels near another disputed shoal, have prompted the United States to repeatedly renew a warning that it's obligated to defend the Philippines, its oldest treaty ally in Asia, if Filipino forces, ships or aircraft come under an armed attack in the Pacific, including in the South China Sea.

Chinese air force Col. Tian Junli, a spokesperson for the Southern Theater Command of the People's Liberation Army, said a Philippine warship trespassed into what he said were Chinese waters around Scarborough Shoal on Monday and was "tracked, monitored, warned and restricted" by the Chinese navy and air force for seriously violating "China's sovereignty and international law."

"We urge the Philippine side to immediately stop its infringement and provocation to avoid further escalation," he said in a statement. "The troops assigned to the PLA Southern Theater Command remain on high alert at all times to resolutely defend China's national sovereignty and security and peace and stability in the South China Sea."

Philippine National Security Adviser Eduardo Año, however, said in Manila that the Philippine navy ship carried out a routine patrol of the waters in the vicinity of Scarborough "without any untoward incident," but added that "Chinese vessels, as usual, conducted shadowing on the movement" of the Philippine navy ship.

## Also:

**BEIJING:** Singapore's defense minister urged China as a dominant power in Asia to take the lead in reducing tensions in the region, warning that a military conflict like the one in Ukraine or the Israel-Hamas war would be devastating for the continent and its future.

Speaking Tuesday on the third and final day of an annual defense conference held by China, Ng Eng Hen stressed the importance of military-to-military communication to manage crises, expressing hope that the United States and China would resume the use of their military hotline.

Peace is precarious and never a given anywhere in the world, Ng said. "What has happened in Europe and the Middle East must never occur here. ... We must do all we can to avoid it."

Television footage showed officers wearing helmets and bulletproof vests squatting behind the doors of a patrol vehicle parked outside. The video also showed the suspect - an older-looking man wearing a cap and holding a gun - when he showed up briefly at the entrance.

**BEIJING:** The remains of former Chinese Premier Li Keqiang are to be cremated on Thursday, with flags around the country to be flown at half-staff to mourn the official who helped guide the world's second-largest economy

for a decade. Li died Friday of a heart attack at 68. Mourners gathered at his childhood home in the city of Hefei in an apparently spontaneous outpouring of grief seen by some as a rebuke of state leader and head of the ruling Communist Party Xi Jinping.

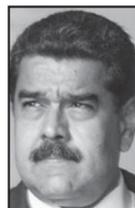
Li was once seen as a potential top leader, but the trained economist was shunted aside in a leadership shakeup last year and replaced with Xi loyalist Li Qiang. Even before then, Xi had consolidated power and sidelined potential rivals with an anti-corruption campaign and by altering the constitution to allow himself to rule indefinitely.



Nong Rong, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs of China, arrives for the 10th Beijing Xiangshan Forum in Beijing on Oct 31. Singapore's Defense Minister Ng Eng Hen called on China, as a dominant power in Asia, to take the lead in reducing tensions by being a benevolent one, warning that military conflict like the wars in Ukraine and Gaza would be devastating to the region's future. (AP)



Van der Sloot



Maduro

## Lat/Am

**Van der Sloot sent back to Peru:** A Dutch citizen who recently admitted to killing U.S. student Natalie Holloway in Aruba in 2005 is being sent back this week from the United States to Peru where he will serve out a sentence for the killing of a Peruvian woman.

Joran van der Sloot will be transferred to Peru's custody on Tuesday, the head of Interpol for the Andean country, Col. Aldo Avila, told The Associated Press.

Interpol earlier had said that van der Sloot was scheduled to arrive Monday afternoon in the Peruvian capital of Lima. But police in Peru later told local media outlets the flight was postponed. The U.S. Justice Department said it does not comment about timing of such extradition transfers for safety reasons. Van der Sloot had been temporarily extradited to the U.S. to face charges linked to Holloway's disappearance, a case that has drawn international attention over the course of two decades.

A few days ago, he admitted that he killed Holloway and disposed of her remains. The disclosure came as he pleaded guilty to charges of trying to extort money from Holloway's mother in return for information about the location of the body. (AP)

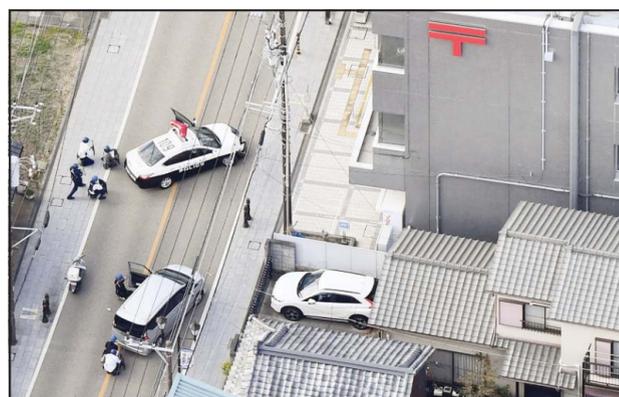
**Colombia veers to right:** Allies of President Gustavo Petro lost by wide margins in municipal and provincial elections Sunday, in what analysts called a sign of growing discontent with Colombia's first left-wing government.

Candidates for the president's Historical Pact party failed to win mayorships in any of the nation's main cities and won governorships in only two small provinces along Colombia's southern border, according to results released on Sunday night by election officials.

Races for governorships were won mostly by candidates from traditional parties on the center and the right, which were beaten by Petro in last year's presidential election and lost to independent candidates in the last regional elections four years ago.

Some analysts said Sunday's outcome threatens Petro's efforts to get the congress to make significant changes to the nation's health system and its labor laws.

"This sends a message to some lawmakers who were perhaps on the fence about returning to the government, that it's not going to be in their electoral interests" to support Petro's proposals, said Will Freeman a fellow for Latin American Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations. "The winds are changing in Colombia." (AP)



This aerial photo shows first responders take position outside the post office where a man is believed to hole up in Warabi city, Saitama prefecture, north of Tokyo on Oct 31. (AP)

National Primary Commission as he entered the attorney general's office minutes after the ruling was issued. The commission is an independent body that formed to organize the opposition's primary.

Maduro and his allies have ridiculed and minimized the primary all year, but they escalated their attacks after the election exceeded participation expectations. More than 2.4 million Venezuelans in the country and abroad voted, including in areas once considered strongholds of the ruling party. (AP)

**Long lines at gas stations:** Long lines formed at gas stations throughout Argentina on Monday as surging demand outstripped supply, becoming a campaign issue just weeks ahead of the second round of the country's presidential race.

Economy Minister Sergio Massa, one of the two remaining presidential candidates, blamed oil companies for a lack of supply in the South American country and threatened to prohibit their exports if the situation failed to normalize immediately. His challenger, right-wing populist Javier Milei, blamed the leftist policies of the current government for the shortage.

The country's oil companies, meanwhile, blamed the shortfall on a serious of unrelated events in recent days, but sought to head off any continued hoarding or panic buying by reassuring the public that their capacity to produce was "robust." (AP)

## oil down

The price of Kuwait oil went down 27 cents to USD 92.82 per barrel on Monday as opposed to USD 93.09 per barrel last Friday, said the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) Tuesday. At the global level, the prices Brent crude and West Texas Intermediate went down each by USD 3.03 and USD 3.23, settling respectively at USD 87.45 per barrel and USD 82.31 pb. (KUNA)

KuCoin is pleased to present the latest survey report "Into The Cryptoverse: Understanding Crypto Users in the UAE", the 17th edition of the report series, offering essential insights into the UAE crypto market. This comprehensive report is based on feedback from 597 crypto investors in the UAE, highlighting their pressing need for trust, security, crypto education, and their profound interest in crypto innovation. Moreover, the survey reaffirms the

UAE's growing recognition as a cryptocurrency hub. Alicia Kao, Managing Director of KuCoin, highlighted the significance of the report, stating, "Our survey has unveiled the pressing needs and aspirations of the UAE's crypto community. Trust, security, and education are at the core of their concerns. This report not only illuminates their preferences but also solidifies the UAE's position as a leader in the crypto revolution,

with a dominant 72% preference for Bitcoin and a strong appetite for blockchain and AI integration. The UAE's advantages, including access to funding, a robust financial infrastructure, and a global network, set the stage for the country's crypto industry to flourish." The key findings of the survey report include: 1. Fostering Trust and Crypto Education: The report reveals that 48% of UAE crypto users

express concerns about the lack of trust in crypto platforms, and 32% of respondents cite a lack of crypto education and awareness as the region's top challenge. 2. Prioritizing Security and Customer Support: When choosing a crypto exchange, the report shows that 63% of UAE crypto users prioritize security, while 47% prioritize customer support, highlighting the paramount importance of trust in crypto platform selection.

3. Bitcoin Dominance: With a remarkable 72% preference for Bitcoin among UAE crypto investors, the UAE solidifies its position as a regional leader in crypto adoption. 4. Diverse Crypto Use Cases: The survey showcases a strong appetite among UAE crypto users for real-world applications beyond investment, with 40% expressing a preference for crypto in cross-border remittances and daily transactions.

## Market Movements

31-10-2023

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts		
SAUDI	- Tadawul	+154.22	10,690.09	EGYPT	- EGX 30	-885.00	22,550.65
UAE	- DFM	+38.32	3,877.08				
JAPAN	- Nikkei	+161.89	30,858.85				
PAKISTAN	- KSE 100	+490.56	51,976.31				

# Business

## Total assets recorded at KD 114.04 mln

# Bursa Kuwait records nine-month net profit of KD 12.60 million

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: In a meeting of its Board of Directors on 31 October 2023, Bursa Kuwait announced a net profit attributable to equity holders of the parent company of KD 12.60 million for the nine-month period ended 30 September 2023, which represented a decrease of 16.51% compared to the corresponding period in 2022. The decline in the net profit is mainly attributed to reduced total operating revenue as a result of lower trading activity.

The performance of the global markets continued to be adversely impacted by the geopolitical tensions and economic turmoil during 2023, with most of the GCC markets following suit despite rising oil prices. Amidst the turbulence, Bursa Kuwait promoted the Kuwaiti capital market to international investors comprising of renowned investment companies and financial institutions, enhanced market efficacy and transparency, facilitated access, and raised awareness of best-in-class standards and practices.

"Despite the global economic and geopolitical challenges, Bursa Kuwait has demonstrated remarkable resilience, consistently adapting to market volatility while upholding its strategic goals of enhancing market efficiency and adopting international standards," remarked Bursa Kuwait Chairman Mr. Hamad Mishari Al-Humaidhi.

"Bursa Kuwait strengthened Kuwait's position as a regional investment hub, building partnerships with global asset managers, communicating with global investors, and developing a strong, transparent capital market which is essential to the national economy and Kuwait's vision. I thank the Board, Executive Team, and employees for their hard work and commitment, which ensured business continuity and operational robustness amid current challenges," Al-Humaidhi added.

Bursa Kuwait and Kuwait Clearing Company (KCC) enhanced and facilitated investor access to the Kuwaiti capital market. KCC successfully automated several processes, including omnibus account splits for AGMs and digital AGM requests.

It also introduced late confirmations for international investors, omnibus accounts, and foreign investor KYC through a global custodian, which are features exclusive to the Kuwaiti capital market in the region.

Additionally, KCC ran stress tests for the CCP system to ensure that financial brokerage firms can meet settlement requirements with the Central Bank of Kuwait and local banks.

Bursa Kuwait continues to work on launching ETFs and a bond and sukuk platform simultaneously with the CCP.

Bursa Kuwait CEO Mr. Mohammad Saud Al-Osaimi stated that the exchange is working with its partners to implement enhancements and regulatory projects, testing participants for readiness for new products and services that will boost the market's attractiveness locally, regionally, and globally.

The bourse is committed to attracting local and international retail and institutional investments, adopting best-in-class standards and practices.

Bursa Kuwait collaborates with partners to offer global tools



Hamad Al-Humaidhi



Mohammad Al-Osaimi

and instruments, attract investors and investments, and improve efficiency and access.

The company's 10th Corporate Day, held with the GCC Exchanges Conference, brought "Premier" Market companies and global investment firms together to communicate with investors and highlight Kuwaiti market opportunities.

Additionally, Bursa Kuwait and KCC recently concluded a London roadshow to showcase the market's latest developments to prospective investors from investment advisories, asset management firms, and global financial institutions.

Additionally, the bourse organized an initiative to empower prominent Kuwaiti asset management companies to utilize new products and services from world-renowned investment banks as well as gain expertise and knowledge and explore opportunities to collaborate and contribute to the enhancement of the Kuwaiti capital market.

Financial Highlights for the period ended 30 September 2023:

- Net profit was recorded at KD 12.60 million
- Earnings per share were recorded at 62.75 fils
- Total operating revenue came in at KD 22.50 million
- Operating profit came in at KD 14.79 million
- Total assets were recorded at KD 114.04 million
- Shareholders Equity (Attributable to equity holders of the Parent Company) was recorded at KD 61.03 million

Bursa Kuwait plays a pivotal role in the development of the Kuwaiti capital market and the diversification of the national economy and has remained steadfast in its dedication to establishing a transparent, efficient and advanced exchange platform, which has led to the creation of a liquid capital market.

Since Bursa Kuwait took over operations of the national stock exchange, the Kuwaiti capital market has undergone an unprecedented development thanks to the diligent efforts of the capital market participants and apparatus.

Their focus on empowering participants and raising standards has resulted in several key initiatives, including the diversification of products and services, establishing an appealing investment platform, ex-



Q3 Financial Results

panding the issuer base, and adapting rules and regulations to meet market demands.

The apparatus has also significantly enhanced the market's infrastructure and fostered an attractive investment environment, which resulted in the Kuwaiti capital market's reclassification to an Emerging Market by three prominent global index providers, and solidified Kuwait's position as a leading financial center in the region.

# KDIPA attracts KD 195.3 million in direct investments for FY 2022/23

Cumulative inflows surpass KD 1.4 bln

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31, (KUNA): Kuwait's Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) issued on Monday its report for the fiscal year 2022/2023, a routine measure the body takes as part of its contributions towards national development plans.

KDIPA has managed to lure direct investment of up to KD 195.3 million (USD 630 million), the report showed, attributing the sum to its efforts to promote initiatives aiming to usher in development and investment.

The cumulative volume of investments since the body's inception had risen to nearly KD 1.4 billion (USD 4.5 billion), added the report, saying the figure includes foreign investments coming from 26 countries around the world, most

of which entail the service sector.

On the economic impact triggered by licensed economic firms, the report showed an increase of 15 percent as compared to the previous period, with a cumulative sum of KD 795.4 million (USD 2 billion).

On KDIPA's primary objectives, he said boosting human capital remains the focal point of the body's long-term strategies, in addition to its efforts to ensure that KDIPA's plans and policies fall in line with globally recognized practices.



Kuwait investment promotion body issues fiscal year 2022/23 report. (KUNA)

## Volume of liquidity in circulation amounted to KD 52.58 mln

# Bursa indices slide as banking sector declines

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: The main indices of the Bursa Kuwait declined at the beginning of trading, Sunday under pressure from the decline of 8 sectors, led by banks, the decline in banking stocks and several leading entities led to a significant decline in general indicators, which deepened the market's losses, reports Al-Rai daily.

The sales that dominated the general direction of trading in these stocks, were nothing more than systematic liquidation by electronic accounts, financial portfolios, and investment funds, had significant effects on the pace of trading, and these movements cast a shadow on the indicators to record large losses, translated by the market value by losing 840 million dinars in the first sessions. The week and only two sessions before the monthly closings.

## Stock

The Premier Market had the greatest impact on the losses achieved by the stock market yesterday, as it recorded a decline of 176.08 points, equivalent to 2.49 percent, to close at 6,904.75 points, i.e. at its lowest level since July 14, 2021, noting that the lowest point at which the index traded yesterday was 6,899.5 points.

During the trading session, 112 stocks were traded, of which 18 closed with an increase, 83 with a decline, and 11 stocks without a price change to maintain the previous close. However, the movement of all these stocks between decline and rise resulted in the general index of the stock exchange closing with a decrease of 141.87 points, equivalent to 2.18 percent, to trade at its lowest level since July 13, 2021, while the main market recorded a decline of 58.65 points.

The volume of liquidity in circulation amounted to 52.58 million dinars, of which 46.54 million represented the basis of the first market transactions only, which shows that the concentration of most of the buying and selling operations, liquidation, and influential sales were the share of the leading stocks, the majority of which represent major components of the Premier Market.

It was noted at the end of the session that the most traded stocks in terms of value recorded a decline ranging between 2 and 5 percent of their market value due to random liquidation operations in which different accounts and portfolios participated.

It is expected that this decline will have a significant impact on the per-

formance of investment funds by the end of October, as tomorrow coincides with the monthly closing day, which will increase the depth of the losses awaiting the funds, as data indicate that they will incur huge losses.

## Market

Investment sources said that global and regional financial markets are affected by wars and political developments that countries are witnessing, but the financial market is always affected in line with the general pace of all markets as it is part of them, pointing out that many financial markets trade in a balanced manner between activity at times and decline at other times. However, the Bursa Kuwait has lost the most compared to many markets during the recent period.

She added that the absence of investment alternatives in the market, the lack of flexibility in applying standards and controls on companies, and expanding the scope of cooperation between groups to take the initiative to support their stocks through available tools and provide positive economic data represent basic factors that can be relied upon to provide a suitable environment for the stock market to fully recover.

# Sharq Investment Company receives 'Fastest Growing Portfolio Management Award 2023'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: Global Economics magazine crowned Sharq Investment Company the award as of "Fastest Growing in Investment Portfolio Management" for the year 2023, in recognition of the efforts and contributions in various investment sectors and portfolio management. Sharq Investment Company was able to ob-

tain the "Fastest Growing Award in Investment Portfolio Management" for the year 2023, which reflects ... Its success in achieving sustainable growth in its various financial indicators, market shares, distinguished performance, and the success of its vision aimed at developing a strong customer base.

The Chairman of the Board of Direc-

tors, Mr. Adel Al-Nakas, expressed his pride in these achievements, achieved by the company, which come as a culmination of moving forward and a true embodiment of the company's continuous efforts towards investment and investment portfolio management, by strengthening its plans for further expansion, which reflects its leadership in customer service.



Sharq Investment Co (Trophy)



Sharq Investment Co (Certificate)



Sharq Investment Co (TGE Awards Logo)

**Meta rolls out paid ad-free option for Europe**

Facebook and Instagram users in Europe are getting the option to pay for ad-free versions of the social media platforms as a way to comply with the continent's strict data privacy rules, parent company Meta said Monday.

Starting in November, users on desktop browsers can pay about 10 euros (\$10.50) a month while iOS or Android users will pay roughly 13 euros.

The higher prices reflect commissions charged by the Apple and Google app stores on in-app payments, the company said in a blog post.

The fee will cover all linked Facebook and Instagram accounts until March, when Meta will start charging 6 euros for each additional account. The Wall Street Journal reported on the plan earlier this month.

The U.S. tech giant is rolling out the subscription option after the European Union's top court ruled that under strict EU data privacy rules, Meta must first get consent before showing ads to users. The ruling jeopardizes the company's ability to make money by tailoring advertisements for individual users based on their online interests and digital activity.

**Europe's inflation eased to 2.9% in October**

The inflation that has been wearing on European consumers fell sharply to 2.9% in October, its lowest in more than two years as fuel prices fell and rapid interest rate hikes from the European Central Bank took hold.

But that encouraging news was balanced by official figures showing economic output in the 20 countries that use the euro

shrank by 0.1% in the July-September quarter.

Inflation fell from an annual 4.3% in September as fuel prices fell by 11.1% and painful food inflation slowed, to 7.5%.

The drop to under 3% is down from the peak of over 10% in October 2022 and puts the inflation figure at least within shouting distance of the European Central Bank's target

of 2% considered best for the economy.

But growth disappeared as output shrank after months of stagnation near zero.

Germany, the largest of the 20 countries that use the euro, saw its economy output fall by 0.1%, while No. 2 economy France only scraped out 0.1% growth, slowing from 0.6% in the previous quarter. (AP)

**The Conversation**

**California's new climate laws will have a global impact**

**Exxon, Apple and other corporate giants will have to disclose all their emissions**

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

□ □ □

**By Lily Hsueh**

Arizona State University

Many of the world's largest public and private companies will soon be required to track and report almost all of their greenhouse gas emissions if they do business in California - including emissions from their supply chains, business travel, employees' commutes and the way customers use their products.

That means oil and gas companies like Chevron will likely have to account for emissions from vehicles that use their gasoline, and Apple will have to account for materials that go into iPhones.

It's a huge leap from current federal and state reporting requirements, which require reporting of only certain emissions from companies' direct operations. And it will have global ramifications.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom signed two new rules into law on Oct. 7, 2023. Under the new Climate Corporate Data Accountability Act, U.S. companies with annual revenues of US\$1 billion or more will have to report both their direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions starting in 2026 and 2027. The California Chamber of Commerce opposed the regulation, arguing it would increase companies' costs. But more than a dozen major corporations endorsed the rule, including Microsoft, Apple, Salesforce and Patagonia.

The second law, the Climate-Related Financial Risk Act, requires companies generating \$500 million or more to report their financial risks related to climate change and their plans for risk mitigation.

As a professor of economics and public policy, I study corporate environmental behavior and public policy, including whether disclosure laws like these work to reduce emissions. I believe California's new rules represent a significant step toward mainstreaming corporate climate disclosures and potentially meaningful corporate climate actions.

Most of the companies covered by California's climate disclosure rules are multinational corporations. They include technology companies such as Apple, Google and Microsoft; giant retailers like Walmart and Costco; and oil and gas companies such as ExxonMobil and Chevron.

Many of these large corporations have been preparing for mandatory disclosure rules for several years.

Close to two-thirds of the companies listed in the S&P 500 index voluntarily report to CDP, formerly called the Carbon Disclosure Project. CDP is a nonprofit that surveys companies on behalf of institutional investors about their carbon management and plans to reduce carbon emissions.

Many of them also face reporting requirements elsewhere, including in the European Union, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Singapore and cities like Hong Kong.

Moreover, some of the same U.S. companies, notably

banks and asset managers that operate or sell products in Europe, have already started to comply with the EU's Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation. Those regulations require companies to report how sustainability risks are integrated into investment decision-making.

While California isn't the first place to mandate climate disclosures, it is the fifth-largest economy in the world. So, the state's new laws are poised to have substantial influence worldwide. Subsidiaries of companies that didn't have to report their emissions before will now be subject to disclosure requirements. California is in effect exercising its immense market leverage to establish climate disclosures as standard practice in the U.S. and beyond.

California also has a history of being a test bed for future federal U.S. policies. The U.S. government is considering broader emissions reporting requirements. But California's new rules go further than either the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission's proposed corporate climate disclosure rules or President Joe Biden's proposed disclosure rules for federal contractors.

The most controversial part of the new disclosure rules involves scope 3 emissions. These are emissions from a company's suppliers and its consumers' use of its products, and they are notoriously difficult to track accurately.

California's new emissions reporting law directs the California Air Resources Board, which will develop the regulations and administer them, to allow some leeway in scope 3 reporting as long as the reports are made with a reasonable basis and disclosed in good faith. It's also important to note that at this point the disclosure laws don't require companies to cut these emissions, only to report them. But tracking scope 3 emissions does highlight where companies could pressure suppliers to make changes.

The plethora of climate disclosure mandates globally suggest that policymakers and investors around the world perceive climate disclosures as driving actions that protect the environment. The big question is: Do disclosure rules actually work to reduce emissions?

My research shows that voluntary carbon disclosure systems like CDP's that focus on reporting corporate sustainability outputs, such as having science-based emissions targets, tend not to be as effective as those that focus on outcomes, such as a company's actual carbon emissions.

For example, a company could earn an A or B grade from CDP and still increase its entitywide carbon emissions, notably when it does not face regulatory pressure.

In contrast, a recent study of the U.K.'s 2013 disclosure mandate for U.K.-incorporated listed firms found that companies reduced their operational emissions by about 8% relative to a control group, with no significant changes to their profitability. When companies report their emissions, they can gain important knowledge about inefficiencies in their operations and supply chains that weren't evident before.

Ultimately, a well-designed disclosure program, whether voluntary or mandatory, needs to focus on consistency, comparability and accountability. Those traits allow companies to demonstrate that their climate pledges and actions are real and not just a front for greenwashing. (AP)

**Chinese factory activity contracts in Oct: survey**



Workers assemble mini excavators in a factory of heavy machinery in Suzhou in eastern China's Jiangsu province on Monday, Oct. 23, 2023. China's factory activity contracted in October, an official survey said Monday, a sign that China's economic growth remains uneven despite a raft of policies meant to support business. (AP)

**Momentum of China's economic growth ebbs**

**BEIJING, Oct 31, (AP): An official survey of manufacturers shows China's factory activity contracted in October, suggesting the economy remains on uneven footing.**

The purchasing managers' index, or PMI, fell to 49.5 in October on a 100-point scale, down from 50.2 last month, according to the National Bureau of Statistics and the China Federation of Logistics & Purchasing.

A figure below 50 indicates a contraction in manufacturing activity while a number above 50 reflects an expansion. The non-manufacturing PMI for October fell 1.1 percentage points to 50.6, a sign of slowing activity in China's service and construction industries.

Factory output and supplier delivery times improved while measures of new orders, raw materials and employment contracted.

China's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic has faltered after an initial burst of growth earlier in the year faded more quickly than expected.

In recent months, the government has raised spending on building ports and other infrastructure, cut interest rates and eased curbs on home-buying. But economists say wider reforms are needed to address long-term problems that are stifling growth.

"If reflected in hard activity data, today's PMIs suggest that the momentum of China's economic growth ebbed at the beginning of the fourth quarter," Robert Carnell, regional head of research for ING Economics in Asia Pacific, said in a report.

Carnell said support measures, including increased government spending, will help offset any tendency for the economy to slow.

"Even so, today's data suggest that although it has weakened, economic growth is still ongoing," he said.

Recent data suggest China will likely to hit its growth target of 5% for the year, he said. The economy expanded at a 4.9% annual pace in the last quarter.

The property sector, once an important pillar of China's economy, has now become a drag on growth as developers struggle with huge debt burdens and slowing sales. (AP)

**India-led alliance set to fund solar projects in Africa**

**BENGALURU, India, Oct 31, (AP): An alliance of nations that push for more solar power worldwide are set to announce nearly \$35 million for projects such as mini grids and rooftop installations, mainly in Africa, according to the group's director general.**

At the sidelines of the group's annual meeting in New Delhi on Tuesday, Ajay Mathur said the International Solar Alliance expect a \$25 million investment from the Indian government, alongside its own cash injection of \$10 million for smaller solar power infrastructure.

Officials from 116 nations are discussing how to harness solar power to ramp up clean energy use and reduce reliance on planet-warming fossil fuels at the gathering, which runs until Thursday.

The United States, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, as well as more than 30 African countries are members of the ISA. China, the market leader in solar energy, is not yet part of the alliance.

India's power minister and ISA president R. K. Singh said that the alliance's funding mechanism, known as the Global Solar Facility, is aiming to raise \$100 million to help deploy solar projects around the world.

Singh said that because of a lack of investment so far, Africa "has not been able to leverage its potential" in terms of solar power.

Singh said the alliance is focused on getting the 733 million people worldwide currently without electricity hooked onto renewables. Then, he said at a press conference, "we are certain investments will start flowing into Africa."

He added that exponentially increasing renewable energy capacity globally will be a key point of discussion at the upcoming United Nations climate conference scheduled to begin in Dubai in a month's time.

Chrysoula Zacharopoulou, France's junior minister for development and international partnerships, said the country "will support all commitments, particularly financial, to accelerate the global energy transition."

India and France co-lead the International Solar Alliance, which was formed after the 2015 climate talks in Paris.

Global investment in solar energy surpassed \$300 billion in 2022, but only 15% of that went to developing countries, according to an ISA report published last year. Investments in clean energy in Sub-Saharan Africa dropped 44% between 2015 and 2021.

The ISA said it helped develop one gigawatt of solar energy in the last six years and is working on helping install 9.5 gigawatts of solar energy in 55 countries in the Global South, enough to power up to six million homes in developing countries.

**US regulators sue SolarWinds and its security chief**

**WASHINGTON, Oct 31, (AP): U.S. regulators on Monday sued SolarWinds, a Texas-based technology company whose software was breached in a massive 2020 Russian cyberespionage campaign, for fraud for failing to disclose security deficiencies ahead of the stunning hack.**

The company's top security executive was also named in the complaint filed by the Securities and Exchange Commission seeking unspecified civil penalties, reimbursement of "ill-gotten gains" and the executive's removal.

Detected in December 2020, the SolarWinds hack penetrated U.S. government agencies including the Justice and Homeland Security departments, and more than 100 private companies and think tanks. It was a rude wake-up call that raised awareness in Washington about the urgency of stepping up efforts to better guard against intrusions.

In the 68-page complaint filed in New York federal court, the SEC says SolarWinds and its then vice president of security, Tim Brown, defrauded investors and customers "through misstatements, omissions and schemes" that concealed both the company's "poor cybersecurity practices and its heightened - and increasing - cybersecurity risks."

In a statement, SolarWinds called the SEC charges unfounded and said it is "deeply concerned this action will put our national security at risk."

Brown performed his responsibilities "with diligence, integrity, and distinction," his lawyer, Alec Koch, said in a statement. Koch added that "we look forward to defending his reputation and correcting the inaccuracies in the SEC's complaint." Brown's current title at SolarWinds is chief information security officer.

The SEC's enforcement division director, Gurbir S. Grewal, said in a statement that SolarWinds and Brown ignored "repeated red flags" for years, painting "a false picture of the company's cyber controls environment, thereby depriving investors of accurate material information."

The very month that SolarWinds registered for an initial public offering, October 2018, Brown wrote in an internal presentation that the company's "current state of security leaves us in a very vulnerable state," the complaint says.

Among the SEC's damning allegations: An internal SolarWinds presentation shared that year said the company's network was "not very secure," meaning it was vulnerable

to hacking that could lead to "major reputation and financial loss." Throughout 2019 and 2020, the SEC alleged, multiple communications among SolarWinds employees, including Brown, "questioned the company's ability to protect its critical assets from cyberattacks."

SolarWinds, which is based in Austin, Texas, provides network-monitoring and other technical services to hundreds of thousands of organizations around the world, including most Fortune 500 companies and government agencies in North America, Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

The nearly two-year espionage campaign involved the infection of thousands of customers by seeding malware in the update channel of the company's network management software. Capitalizing on the supply-chain hack, the Russian cyber operators then stealthily penetrated select targets including at least nine U.S. government agencies and prominent software and telecommunications providers.

In its statement, SolarWinds called the SEC action an "example of the agency's overreach (that) should alarm all public companies and committed cybersecurity professionals across the country."

It did not explain how the SEC's action could put national security at risk, though some in the cybersecurity community have argued that holding corporate information security officers personally responsible for identified vulnerabilities could make them less diligent about uncovering and/or disclosing them - and discourage qualified people from aspiring to such positions.

Under the Biden administration, the SEC has been aggressive about holding publicly traded companies to account for cybersecurity lapses and failures to disclose vulnerabilities.

In July, it adopted rules requiring them to disclose within four days all cybersecurity breaches that could affect their bottom lines. Delays would be permitted if immediate disclosure poses serious national-security or public-safety risks.

Victims of the SolarWinds hack whose Microsoft email accounts were violated included the New York federal prosecutors' office, then-acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf and members of the department's cybersecurity staff, whose jobs included hunting threats from foreign countries. (AP)

**EU chief says investment plan for Balkan candidate members will require reforms**

**SKOPJE, North Macedonia, Oct 31, (AP): The European Commission's top official said Monday that a decade-long investment package for Western Balkan countries seeking to join the bloc could vastly improve the region's economy but is conditioned on required reforms.**

EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen discussed details of the 6 billion euro (\$6.37 billion) package during a visit to North Macedonia's capital, Skopje, at the start of a four-day trip to the region. EU leaders presented the package at a Western Balkans meeting

in Albania earlier this month.

At a news conference Monday with North Macedonian Prime Minister Dimitar Kovachevski, von der Leyen said the EU package had the potential to double North Macedonia's economy within a decade. "That is the goal, and it will play an important role in your path towards the EU," she said.

She said the plan would allow Western Balkan countries access to key sectors of the block's single market, while at the same time countries in the region would be expected to open their own markets to their neighbors.

"If completed, the common regional market could increase (Gross Domestic Product) by 10% in the Western Balkans," she said.

Von der Leyen also stressed the need for the Western Balkans to carry on "positive reforms."

She said North Macedonia should secure efficient public administration, sound public finances and an independent judiciary. It also needs to better fight corruption, she said.

Later Monday, the EU commission chief visited Kosovo and underlined that the bitter dispute between Serbia

and Kosovo, a former Serbian province that declared independence in 2008, remains a great concern for the EU. Serbia has refused to recognize Kosovo's independence.

"We can only achieve all these steps forward and successes if Kosovo and Serbia normalize their relations," she said at a news conference after meeting with Kosovar President Vjosa Osmani.

An EU-facilitated dialogue to normalize ties has failed to go in the right direction, especially following a recent shootout between masked Serb gunmen and Kosovo police that left four

people dead and sent tensions soaring in the region.

Von der Leyen urged Kosovo to meet its commitment to set up an association to coordinate work on education, health care, land planning and economic development in northern Kosovo communities mostly populated by ethnic Serbs.

She also will travel to Serbia, where she said a key topic of discussion would be that Serbia should "deliver" on recognition of Kosovo.

Both countries have said they want to join the 27-nation bloc.

She will also make stops in Montenegro and Bosnia.

Six Western Balkan countries are at different stages on their path to join the EU, in a process expected to take years.

While Montenegro and Serbia are advancing, North Macedonia and Albania started membership negotiations with the EU in July 2022. Bosnia was granted candidate status five months later, while Kosovo was recognized as a potential candidate to join the block.

Osmani called on the EU to give candidate status to Kosovo at its December summit.

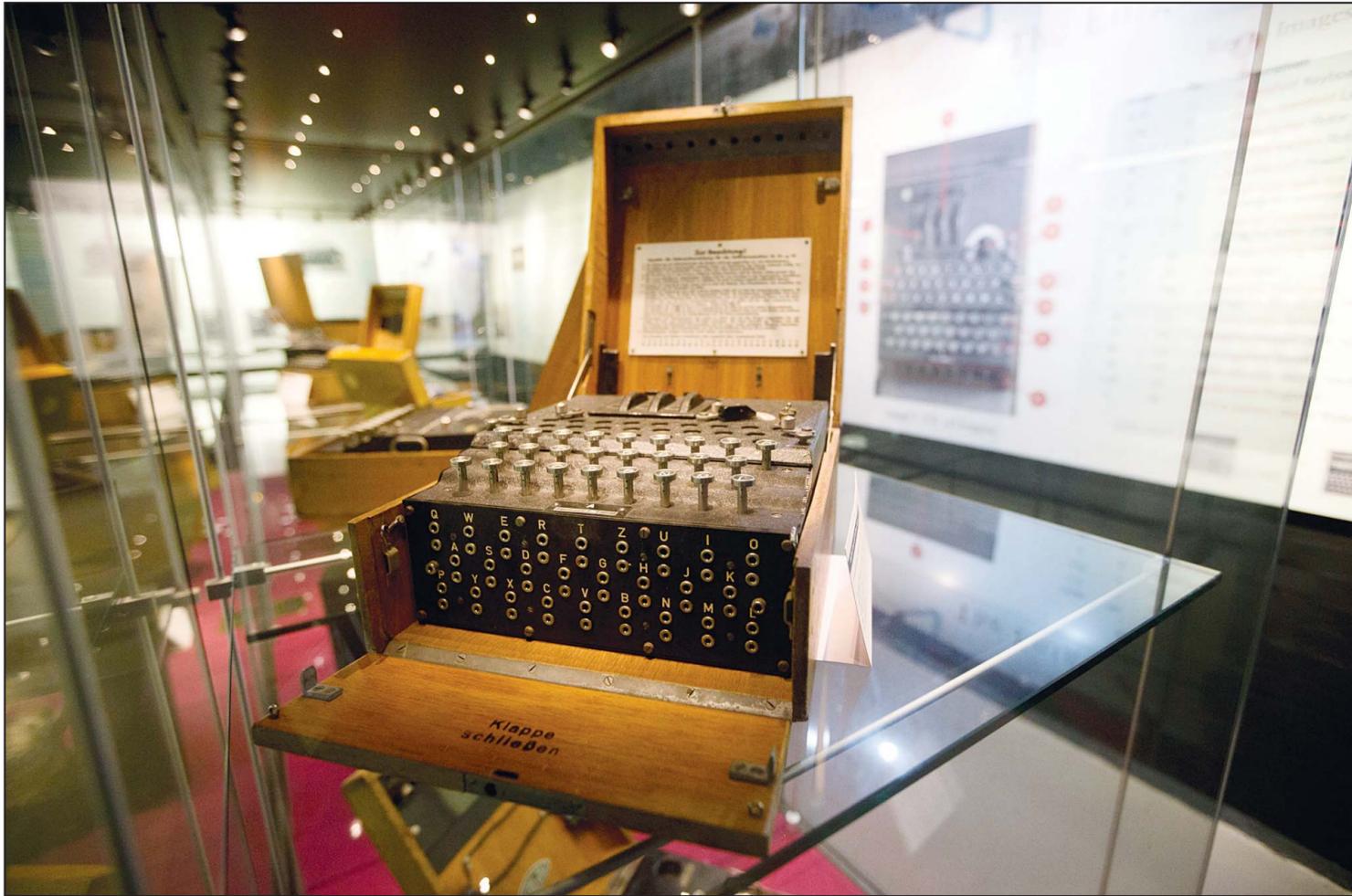
## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

## Business Plus



Are tech and political leaders doing enough?

## Cutting-edge AI raises fears about risks to humanity



An Enigma machine is displayed at Bletchley Park museum in the town of Bletchley in Buckinghamshire, England, Jan. 15, 2023. British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak will host a two-day summit focused on frontier AI. It's reportedly expected to be draw a group of about 100 officials from 28 countries, including U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris and executives from key U.S. artificial intelligence companies including OpenAI, Google's DeepMind and Anthropic. (AP)

It's far from certain that AI will wipe out mankind, Clune said, but it has sufficient risk and chance of occurring

LONDON, Oct 31, (AP): Chatbots like ChatGPT wowed the world with their ability to write speeches, plan vacations or hold a conversation as good as or arguably even better than humans do, thanks to cutting-edge artificial intelligence systems. Now, frontier AI has become the latest buzzword as concerns grow that the emerging technology has capabilities that could endanger humanity.

Everyone from the British government to top researchers and even major AI companies themselves are raising the alarm about frontier AI's as-yet-unknown dangers and calling for safeguards to protect people from its existential threats.

The debate comes to a head Wednesday, when British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak hosts a two-day summit focused on frontier AI. It's reportedly expected to draw a group of about 100 officials from 28 countries, including U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and executives from key U.S. artificial intelligence companies including OpenAI, Google's DeepMind and Anthropic.

The venue is Bletchley Park, a

former top secret base for World War II codebreakers led by Alan Turing. The historic estate is seen as the birthplace of modern computing because it is where Turing's team famously cracked Nazi Germany's Enigma code using the world's first digital programmable computer.

In a speech last week, Sunak said only governments - not AI companies - can keep people safe from the technology's risks. However, he also noted that the U.K.'s approach "is not to rush to regulate," even as he outlined a host of scary-sounding threats, such as the use of AI to more easily make chemical or biological weapons. "We need to take this seriously, and we need to start focusing on trying to get ahead of the problem," said Jeff Clune, an associate computer science professor at the University of British Columbia focusing on AI and machine learning.

Clune was among a group of influential researchers who authored a paper last week calling for governments to do more to manage risks from AI. It's the latest in a series of dire warnings from tech moguls like Elon Musk and OpenAI CEO Sam Altman about the rapidly evolving technology and

the disparate ways the industry, political leaders and researchers see the path forward when it comes to reigning in the risks and regulation.

It's far from certain that AI will wipe out mankind, Clune said, "but it has sufficient risk and chance of occurring. And we need to mobilize society's attention to try to solve it now rather than wait for the worst-case scenario to happen."

One of Sunak's big goals is to find agreement on a communicate about the nature of AI risks. He's also unveiling plans for an AI Safety Institute that will evaluate and test new types of the technology and proposing creation of a global expert panel, inspired by the U.N. climate change panel, to understand AI and draw up a "State of AI Science" report.

The summit reflects the British government's eagerness to host international gatherings to show it has not become isolated and can still lead on the world stage after its departure from the European Union three years ago.

The U.K. also wants to stake its claim in a hot-button policy issue where both the U.S. and the 27-nation EU are making moves.

Brussels is putting the final touches on what's poised to be the world's first comprehensive AI regulations, while U.S. President Joe Biden signed a sweeping executive order Monday to guide the development of AI, building on voluntary commitments made by tech companies.

China, which along with the U.S. is one of the two world AI powers, has been invited to the summit, though Sunak couldn't say with "100% certainty" that representatives from Beijing will attend.

The paper signed by Clune and more than 20 other experts, including two dubbed the "godfathers" of AI - Geoffrey Hinton and Yoshua Bengio - called for governments and AI companies to take concrete action, such as by spending a third of their research and development resources on ensuring safe and ethical use of advanced autonomous AI.

Frontier AI is shorthand for the latest and most powerful systems that go right up to the edge of AI's capabilities. They're based on foundation models, which are algorithms trained on a broad range of information scraped from the internet to provide a general, but not infallible, base of

knowledge.

"That makes frontier AI systems 'dangerous because they're not perfectly knowledgeable,'" Clune said. "People assume and think that they're tremendously knowledgeable, and that can get you in trouble."

The meeting, though, has faced criticism that it's too preoccupied with far-off dangers.

"The focus of the summit is actually a bit too narrow," said Francine Bennett, interim director of the Ada Lovelace Institute, a policy research group in London focusing on AI.

"We risk just forgetting about the broader set of risk and safety" and the algorithms that are already part of everyday life, she said at a Chatham House panel last week.

Deb Raji, a University of California, Berkeley, researcher who has studied algorithmic bias, pointed to problems with systems already deployed in the U.K., such as police facial recognition systems that had a much higher false detection rate for Black people and an algorithm that botched a high school exam.

The summit is a "missed opportunity" and marginalizes communities and workers that are most affected by AI, more than 100 civil society groups and experts said in an open letter to Sunak.

Skeptics say the U.K. government has set its summit goals too low, given that regulating AI will not be on the agenda, focusing instead on establishing "guardrails."

Sunak's call to not rush into regulation is reminiscent of "the messaging we hear from a lot of the corporate representatives in the U.S.," Raji said. "And so I'm not surprised that it's also making its way into what they might be saying to U.K. officials."

Tech companies shouldn't be involved in drafting regulations because they tend to "underestimate or downplay" the urgency and full range of harms, Raji said. They also aren't so open to supporting proposed laws "that might be necessary but might effectively endanger their bottom line," she said.

DeepMind and OpenAI didn't respond to requests for comment. Anthropic said co-founders Dario Amodei and Jack Clark would be attending.

Microsoft said in a blog post that it looked forward "to the U.K.'s next steps in convening the summit, advancing its efforts on AI safety testing, and supporting greater international collaboration on AI governance."

The government insists it will have the right mix of attendees from government, academia, civil society and business.

The Institute for Public Policy Research, a center-left U.K. think tank, said it would be a "historic mistake" if the tech industry was left to regulate itself without government supervision.

"Regulators and the public are largely in the dark about how AI is being deployed across the economy," said Carsten Jung, the group's senior economist. "But self-regulation didn't work for social media companies, it didn't work for the finance sector, and it won't work for AI."

Executive order seeks to ensure that AI is trustworthy and helpful

## Biden wants to move fast on AI safeguards

AI is driving change at warp speed and carries tremendous potential as well as perils

WASHINGTON, Oct 31, (AP): US President Joe Biden on Monday signed an ambitious executive order on artificial intelligence that seeks to balance the needs of cutting-edge technology companies with national security and consumer rights, creating an early set of guardrails that could be fortified by legislation and global agreements.

Before signing the order, Biden said AI is driving change at "warp speed" and carries tremendous potential as well as perils.

"AI is all around us," Biden said. "To realize the promise of AI and avoid the risk, we need to govern this technology."

The order is an initial step that is meant to ensure that AI is trustworthy and helpful, rather than deceptive and destructive. The order - which will likely need to be augmented by congressional action - seeks to steer how AI is developed so that companies can profit without putting public safety in jeopardy.

Using the Defense Production Act, the order requires leading AI developers to share safety test results and other information with the government. The National Institute of Standards and Technology is to create standards to ensure AI tools are safe and secure before public release.

The Commerce Department is to issue guidance to label and watermark AI-generated content to help differentiate between authentic interactions and those generated by software. The extensive order touches on matters of privacy, civil rights, consumer protections, scientific research and worker rights.

White House chief of staff Jeff Zients recalled Biden giving his staff a directive when formulating the order to move with urgency.

"We can't move at a normal government pace," Zients said the Democratic president told him. "We have to move as fast, if not faster, than the technology itself."

In Biden's view, the govern-

ment was late to address the risks of social media and now U.S. youth are grappling with related mental health issues. AI has the positive ability to accelerate cancer research, model the impacts of climate change, boost economic output and improve government services among other benefits. But it could also warp basic notions of truth with false images, deepen racial and social inequalities and provide a tool to scammers and criminals.

With the European Union nearing final passage of a sweeping law to rein in AI harms and Congress still in the early stages of debating safeguards, the Biden administration is "stepping up to use the levers it can control," said digital rights advocate Alexandra Reeve Givens, president of the Center for Democracy & Technology. "That's issuing guidance and standards to shape private sector behavior and leading by example in the federal government's own use of AI."

The order builds on voluntary commitments already made by technology

companies. It's part of a broader strategy that administration officials say also includes congressional legislation and international diplomacy, a sign of the disruptions already caused by the introduction of new AI tools such as ChatGPT that can generate text, images and sounds.

The guidance within the order is to be implemented and fulfilled over the range of 90 days to 365 days.

Last Thursday, Biden gathered his aides in the Oval Office to review and finalize the executive order, a 30-minute meeting that stretched to 70 minutes, despite other pressing matters, including the mass shooting in Maine, the Israel-Hamas war and the selection of a new House speaker.

Biden was profoundly curious about the technology in the months of meetings that led up to drafting the order. His science advisory council focused on AI at two meetings and his Cabinet discussed it at two meetings. The president also pressed tech executives and civil society advocates

about the technology's capabilities at multiple gatherings.

"He was as impressed and alarmed as anyone," deputy White House chief of staff Bruce Reed said in an interview. "He saw fake AI images of himself, of his dog. He saw how it can make bad poetry. And he's seen and heard the incredible and terrifying technology of voice cloning, which can take three seconds of your voice and turn it into an entire fake conversation."

The issue of AI was seemingly inescapable for Biden. At Camp David one weekend, he relaxed by watching the Tom Cruise film "Mission: Impossible - Dead Reckoning Part One." The film's villain is a sentient and rogue AI known as "the Entity" that sinks a submarine and kills its crew in the movie's opening minutes.

"If he hadn't already been concerned about what could go wrong with AI before that movie, he saw plenty more to worry about," said Reed, who watched the film with the president.

editor's choice



# Winkler grapples with the Fonz, dyslexia in his memoir

LOS ANGELES, Oct 31, (Agencies): Henry Winkler's memoir begins on a Tuesday morning in October 1973, at his first audition for "Happy Days." He was almost 28 - quite a bit old for a high schooler - and struggling with something he didn't know had a name.

"Being Henry: The Fonz... and Beyond," released Tuesday by Celadon Books, is a breezy, inspirational story of one of Hollywood's most beloved figures who became an unlikely TV screen icon and later a champion for those with dyslexia.

Winkler's 245-page book charts his course chronologically from the Fonz to "Barry" - and the frustrating fallow periods in between - painting a portrait of a man trying to overcome a bitter, loveless childhood and a disability that made reading impossibly hard and simply trying to become a better man.

"I was, in my mind, always a little boy," he writes. "My real self was like a kernel of corn sheathed in yards of concrete - as insulated as the nuclear material at Chernobyl."

He describes himself at the "Happy Days" audition as "a short Jew from New York City with a unibrow and hair down to my shoulders, confident about next to nothing in my life." He had graduated from Yale's drama school and bagged a few roles despite having difficulty reading.

The Fonz almost never happened for him: The fearsome Barry Diller, then head of development for ABC, and future Disney CEO Michael Eisner were skeptical of Winkler getting the part. But writer-

creator Garry Marshall saw something.

Later, Winkler dishes, the immense popularity of the Fonz eclipsed anyone else on the show and the network secretly approached him with the idea of spinning off a show or changing the name to "Fonzie's Happy Days." Winkler refused.

## Career

The end of "Happy Days" brought its own stress for a man who admits that "worrying is my favorite indoor sports." He writes: "I was terrified of being a flash in the pan. A one-hit wonder. Was I?"

Over the years, there were guest spots on shows like "Arrested Development," "Royal Pains" and "Parks and Recreation" until finally "Barry," the show in 2018 that would prove a second tentpole to his career and produce his first primetime Emmy.

In 2003, Winkler branched out into children's books with Lin Oliver, writing about the adventures of Hank Zipzer, a young boy with dyslexia who overcomes many learning challenges.

The 28-book series "Hank Zipzer: The World's Greatest Underachiever" was based on Winkler's own experience with undiagnosed dyslexia. "At the height of my fame and success, I felt embarrassed, inadequate," he writes.

The memoir is enlivened by an unusual move: Winkler includes long reaction passages from his wife, Stacey, who is pretty brutal about

Winkler's immaturity, his parenting, his own parents and a crippling fear of poverty. "A very big thing I'd learned about Henry was that when he wasn't working, he was absolutely miserable. Adrift. Insecure. Anxious," she writes.

It's telling that Winkler - who writes he has lately benefited from therapy - includes a frank perspective from outside his own head.

There are fun moments throughout: How Winkler came to produce "MacGyver" and how he got fired from directing "Turner & Hooch." There's a hysterical section about trying to direct Burt Reynolds in "Cop & 1/2" and, while Winkler is a nice guy, he's still capable of throwing some shade at Michael Keaton.

He wonderfully captures the late Robin Williams - "within 42 seconds, I knew, I was in the presence of greatness" - and how CBS made Ron Howard so mad during "Happy Days" that he became a film director almost out of spite.

But one figure looms over this book and career - the Fonz, whose moody expression fills the back cover. Winkler by the end has come to peace with his creation.

"For a long time after 'Happy Days,' I was saddened that the world could only see me as the Fonz," he writes. "But I never lost sight of what the character gave me - a roof over my head, food on the table, my children's education - and how much it gave me in terms of introducing me to the whole world."

Books

## Variety



Willie Nelson performs at the Producers & Engineers Wing 12th Annual GRAMMY Week Celebration in Los Angeles on Feb. 6, 2019. The country legend's new book, 'Energy Follows Thought,' gives the stories behind his most famous songs. (AP)

## Music

Country legend's songwriting secrets in new book

# Melodies easier than words: Nelson

LOS ANGELES, Oct 31, (AP): Willie starts with the words.

It's one of the surprising revelations in Willie Nelson's new book, "Energy Follows Thought: The Stories Behind My Songs," an examination of the 90-year-old country legend and soon-to-be Rock & Roll Hall of Famer's seven decades of songwriting.

While his guitar is practically an extension of his body at this point, he has always started the writing process by thinking up words rather than strumming chords. To him, it's doing the hard part first.

"The melodies are easier to write than the words," Nelson told The Associated Press in an interview ahead of Tuesday's release of his book.

He does not, however, write those words down, not even on a napkin.

"I have a theory," he said, "that if you can't remember 'em, it probably wasn't that good."

Nelson actually started out as a poet of sorts. At age 6 in Depression-era Texas, he composed a verse in response to the looks he got when he picked his nose and got a nosebleed while standing in front of his church congregation.

"My poem was, 'What are you looking at me for? I ain't got nothin' to say, if you don't like the looks of me, look some other way,'" he recalled 84 years later. "That was the beginning."

He started writing songs soon after.

When he became a superstar in middle age in the mid-1970s, Nelson would be best known for his dynamic live performances and his guitar and vocal stylings.

But as a young man in the 1950s and early '60s, he was best known as one of the struggling songsmiths who spent their days and nights at Tootsie's Orchid Lounge in Nashville.

In 1961, three of his songs became hits for other artists: Billy Walker's "Funny How Time Slips Away," Faron Young's "Hello Walls" and, most importantly, Patsy Cline's "Crazy," a song that

would become a signature for her and both a financial boon and an ego boost for him.

"Because Patsy liked it, I was poor no longer," he writes in the book. "This particular 'Crazy' convinced me, at a time when I wasn't a hundred percent sure of my writing talent, that I'd be crazy to stop writing."

He would go on to make other writers' songs his own in the same way. He didn't write most of the biggest hits associated with him, which came in the 1970s and 80s: "Blue Eyes Crying in the Rain," "Mammas Don't Let Your Babies Grow Up to Be Cowboys," "Always on My Mind."

He almost seemed to retire from songwriting when fame finally came to him in the Outlaw Country era, enjoying the chance to record his favorite old standards or the compositions of hot young writers.

## Compose

But he never stopped composing entirely. Director Sydney Pollack prodded him to write a new song for the 1980 Nelson-starring film "Honeysuckle Rose," on which Pollack was an executive producer.

Nelson responded by writing - words first - "On The Road Again."

Pollack was less than thrilled with the lyrics in isolation: "The life I love is makin' music with my friends, and I can't wait to get on the road again."

But was pleased when he heard the chugging music that suggested a train, or a tour bus.

And Nelson would appreciate the nudge.

"Without knowing or trying, in a few little lines, I'd written the story of my life," he says in the book.

But the songs did get fewer and farther between. More than performing, songwriting can be a young man's game.

"I don't write as much as I used to," he told the AP. "The ideas don't come that quick. I still write now and then."

He did recently write the song that gives the

name to his book, "Energy Follows Thought," for his 2022 album, "A Beautiful Time."

In it, Nelson and co-authors David Ritz and Mickey Raphael give brief backstories to 160 different songs he's written through the years.

It wasn't prompted by any great sense of reflection.

"Some of my business guys thought it would be a good thing to do," Nelson said.

The year of his 90th birthday has been overloaded with events. He was feted by a fellow star, including Neil Young and Snoop Dogg, in a two-night celebration at the Hollywood Bowl in the summer.

And on Friday, the same week the book is released, he'll be inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

Last year, fellow country legend Dolly Parton got a spot in the hall, and had mixed feelings about whether she belonged, even turning down the honor at first.

But Nelson, whose whole body of work has been built on ignoring the lines between genres, has no such problem.

"You can get rock 'n' roll in country, rock and roll in any kind of music," he said.

## Also:

**LOS ANGELES:** Last month, the singer-songwriter Jimmy Buffett, who turned his unique brand of beach bum soft rock and "Margaritaville" escapism into a lifestyle and movement, died. As the music world continues to mourn the loss of a giant, Mailboat and Sun Records have teamed up to release his final album, a posthumous release titled "Equal Strain on All Parts," recorded earlier this year. It features **Paul McCartney**, **Emmylou Harris**, **Lennie Gallant**, **Angelique Kidjo**, and the Preservation Hall Jazz Band. Buffett's light-hearted, good-time jams live on, as evidenced on the previously released tracks, "My Gummie Just Kicked In" and "Bubbles Up."

Features

ARABIC TIMES

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2023

**LOS ANGELES:** The stars of "Friends" say they are mourning the "unfathomable" death of **Matthew Perry**.

"We are all so utterly devastated by the loss of Matthew," **Jennifer Aniston**, **Courtney Cox**, **Lisa Kudrow**, **Matt LeBlanc**, and **David Schwimmer** said in a joint statement to People on Monday. "We were more than just cast mates. We are a family."

From 1994 to 2004, each of the five actors appeared in every episode of all 10 seasons of the NBC sitcom along with Perry, who was found dead at his Los Angeles home on Saturday at age 54.

"There is so much to say, but right now we're going to take a moment to grieve and process this unfathomable loss," the statement said. "In time we will say more, as and when we are able. For now, our thoughts and our love are with Matty's family, his friends, and everyone who loved him around the world."

It was the first public statement on Perry's death from Aniston, Cox, Kudrow, LeBlanc or Schwimmer.

After an initial investigation, the Los Angeles County coroner has deferred giving a cause of death, which may take weeks to determine.

Others public mourning Perry on Monday included **Salma Hayek**, his co-star in the 1997 rom-com "Fools Rush In," which Perry had said was probably his best film.

"It's taken me a couple of days to process this profound sadness. There is a special bond that happens when you share dreams with someone, and together you work towards them," Hayek said in an Instagram post. "Throughout the years, he and I found ourselves reminiscing about that meaningful time in our lives with a deep sense of nostalgia and gratitude. My friend, you are gone much too soon, but I will continue to cherish your silliness, your perseverance, and your lovely heart."

Perry is being mourned by fans worldwide, including some who placed flowers and heartfelt tributes outside the New York building that served as an exterior for the show. (AP)

**NEW YORK:** Former White

House Press Secretary **Jen Psaki** has a two-book deal with Scribner, starting with a book in which she will reflect on her years in government and offer advice on both public and private communication. Scribner announced Monday that Psaki's "Say More: Lessons from Work, the White House, and the World" is scheduled for May 7.



Aniston



Psaki

"Effective communication is about empathy and explanation. It is about connecting with your audience, whether it is the President, your partner, your colleagues, or even your kids," Psaki, now an MSNBC host, said in a statement. "This is a book I wish I had at many stages in my career, and my hope is that it will equip anyone

with the practical advice and skills to be a more powerful and impactful communicator."

Psaki, 44, was a State Department and White House communications official during the Obama administration and White House press secretary for the first 16 months of the Biden administration. According to Scribner,

she will write about "navigating an array of bosses from the hot-tempered **Rahm Emanuel** to the coolly intellectual **Barack Obama**, to the empathetic **Joe Biden**, walking readers through the most difficult conversations, and those where humor saves the day - whether with preschoolers, partners, or presidents." (AP)

## People &amp; Places

## Music

## Prince remastered

## Taemin back with enigmatic 'Guilty'

LOS ANGELES, Oct 31, (AP): The prince of sultry K-pop is back! The gothic, fall season is here and the prolific **Taemin** returns with some appropriately atmospheric music on a new EP titled "Guilty." It is his first release since completing his mandatory military enlistment in the South Korean army in April 2023.

Taemin cut his teeth in the spotlight by starting out in boy band SHINee but has emerged as a strong solo artist in the last nine years, with four previously released full-length albums under his belt. "Guilty" marks his fourth mini album - and proves that it only takes Taemin six tracks to realize a robust comeback.

Dramatic, mysterious, sometimes unsettling but always dreamy, "Guilty" is an offer one can't refuse.



Taemin

It would be inaccurate to say he's back and better than ever, because he was never not excellent. "Guilty" is Taemin just being just Taemin, surpassing himself not by being better but by being different. This EP is a pivot from the cool, synth-wave Taemin who explored themes of Stockholm syndrome on "Criminal" from his 2020 album "Never Gonna Dance Again," or the cool R&B-meets-dance pop cool Taemin of his 2021 EP "Advice" to, well, a new kind of cool on "Guilty."

From the theatricality of a 30-piece string ensemble on the title track, the record feels like a grand, triumphant return to music. And it certainly doesn't remain stagnant; dynamic synths and magnetic vocals - complete with spooky, ASMR-esque whispers - complete the song.

"The Rizzness," a silly title playing with internet slang "rizz" meaning "charisma," is seductive, pulsing, deep bass hip-hop. Taemin is not here to play nice. The song switches midway through, mutating from the musical incarnation of a thriller flick to a horror film with electric guitar tremolos dialed to 11.

Comparatively, "She Loves Me, She Loves Me Not" is a tamer pop track, a melancholic tune that twins with the dreamy "Not Over You" in the pantheon of heartbreak.

"Night Away" whisks the listener away on a hopeful daydream of romance with its soft guitars and Taemin's gentle vocals. While "Blue," its opposite on the emotional spectrum, offers a farewell with its vintage drums and hopeful mood.

With "Guilty," Taemin puts another notch on his great music belt.

The amount of music left behind by groundbreaking funkmaster **Prince** is, thankfully, good and voluminous. To that end, a newly remastered reissue box set, "Diamonds and Pearls Super Deluxe Edition," offers his 13th studio album from 1991 with his backing band, The New Power Generation, once again. Out Friday, there are 47 previously unreleased tracks for Prince fans from his vaulted vault, and over two hours of live performance footage.

Sure, the lush Dolby Atmos mix of the title track "Diamonds and Pearls" is there, with its gorgeous musical swells and Prince's soulful voice. So are a handful of other versions of the track, including a longer version and audio from live tour performances.

"Cream" is back with its salacious delivery. But better still is "Cream (N.P.G. Mix)," a version with an extra layer of stuttered percussion and a deep, melodic synth.

The unreleased tracks range from middling reworks of "Daddy Pop" and "Gett Off," to the torchy "I Pledge Allegiance to Your Love," a superbly slow blues scorcher with Prince soloing skillfully on the guitar throughout.

For some Prince purists, his New Power Generation backing band beginning in 1990 and leading to this 1991 album offered a bit too much polished pop, lacking some of his famed The Revolution 's grittier approach. Regardless, Prince's N.P.G. phase still delivered his evolving musical vision, as is evidenced here - particularly in the inclusion of real hip-hop influence: rapper Tony M is featured throughout.

The complete "Diamonds and Pearls Super Deluxe Edition" includes 75 audio tracks across seven CDs and 12 vinyl records. It also comes with a 120-page hardback book with unseen photos and essays.

All told, this massive special release is a must-have for Prince fans who have been partying like it's 1999 since roughly 1982.

There aren't that many Halloween albums out there and so tip your masks to **Duran Duran** for giving us a treat this spooky season.

"Danse Macabre" is a 13-track - even the number is unsettling - mix of playfully dark original tunes and some seasonally appropriate covers, like Talking Heads' "Psycho Killer" and **Billie Eilish's** "Bury a Friend." It all works better than you expected, a seminal '80s band luxuriating in the thick synth dance hooks of an over-the-top holiday.

The title track is full blast of classic Duran Duran - a gothic slice of disco with an arch **Simon Le Bon** singing the band's signature word soup: "Zombie in the back room, nuns in the bed/Kids in KISS makeup toasting the bread."

The band's original lineup - Le Bon, **Nick Rhodes**, **Roger Taylor**, **John Taylor** and **Andy Taylor** - gather for a fine "Rio"-era sounding "Nightboat" and the unmistakably funky Nile Rodgers enlivens "Black Moonlight," the album's high point.

But there are also some nasty tricks, like the band's quizzical take on Eilish's "Bury a Friend." They've gone big when the original was brilliantly small and Le Bon has adopted a slight Eastern European accent, maybe going for a vampiric feel. "Vhaat do you vhaat from me? Why don't you run from me?" he sings. It's a total car crash.

Better is the cover of The Rolling Stones' "Paint It Black," while their "Psycho Killer" - featuring bassist Victoria De Angelis from Måneskin - is a cool, funky take. Duran Duran do a respectful cover of The Specials' "Ghost Town" but they unwittingly unspookify it with too many horns.

Listeners who get halfway through the band's original "Super Lonely Freak" will suddenly - and not quite seamlessly - get an extended blast of **Rick James'** "Super Freak." It's like biting into a Snickers but it transforms into a Starburst - not altogether welcome but weird nonetheless.

Duran Duran are better off just sticking with their own music and ditching the covers. Halloween may be all about pretending to be someone else, but the boys in Duran should just be themselves.



Brian May, of Queen, performs during the 'Rhapsody' tour, Monday, Oct. 30, at the United Center in Chicago. (AP)

## Stage

## An opera of strength, technology, and innovation

## 'Grounded' soars with female pilot tale

WASHINGTON, Oct 31, (AP): Nearly 10 years after it was first imagined as an opera, "Grounded" took off.

With music by Jeanine Tesori and a libretto adapted by George Brant from his own play, "Grounded" tells the story of an F-16 fighter pilot who becomes pregnant and leaves the service. When she re-enlists she is assigned to a trailer in the Nevada desert, directing unmanned drone attacks on terrorists thousands of miles away. Gradually her personality fractures under the stress of the job until she can no longer separate her private from professional life.

The opera had its world premiere at the Washington National Opera on Saturday, with performances continuing through Nov. 13. And next fall it will open the season at the Metropolitan Opera, which commissioned the work.

That commission sprang from the fact that back in 2014 Paul Cremona, the Met's dramaturg, happened to see Brant's one-woman play at a tiny theater in Manhattan.

It's Cremona's job to shepherd the creation of new work as part of the company's push to attract younger, more diverse audiences. At the time, he was looking for a subject for Tesori, a composer then best known for musicals like "Thoroughly Modern Millie" and "Fun Home."

"We had signed up Jeanine to our new works project and it wasn't coming together, time was passing and I thought we've gotta find something for her," Cremona said.

He was struck by the operatic potential of the play, not least because its heroine is a strong, capable woman in a man's world.

"It's not a story about, Oh it's really hard to be a woman in a man's world," Cremona said. "No, She's as good as or better than the men. But it's about her own standards, judgments of herself. That's the struggle."

Brant said when Cremona first asked if he'd be interested in helping adapt his play, "I was thinking maybe a chamber opera on a less grand scale."

But Cremona envisioned something more, given the size of the Met, with its

vast stage and 3,800 seats. "The question was, can this one-woman show be turned into a full-fledged opera with multiple characters and a chorus and all the things an opera needs," he said.

Once Tesori came on board, she and Brant set to work to expand the play while keeping the basic story intact. The main character - identified in the play only as "the pilot" - was given a name, Jess. They also created roles for characters we only hear her talk about, like her husband Eric and her commander. Crucially, they added a character called Also Jess, who Brant said functions as "kind of her alter ego" as she starts to experience PTSD.

## Creative

The creative team, which soon included director Michael Mayer, worked steadily for the next several years, even during the pandemic lockdown.

"They had these very productive Zoom sessions," Cremona said, in which Jeanine would play the computer rendition of her score and they would discuss it scene by scene.

A key element of the production is the set, designed by Mimi Lien. It consists of two enormous screens made from hundreds of individual LED panels across the floor and ceiling.

"These have become common in huge stadium concerts, but they haven't been used on this scale before on an opera stage," Lien said. "That's what's exciting about it."

The panels are mapped with software that allows for real-time video and projections. At time, radar-like images displayed on the back wall give the audience the sense of what remote warfare feels like for Jess as she sits isolated in her trailer on a platform high above the stage.

"Since the subject matter says so much about the power of technology in our lives, I wanted the set to feel like a machine surrounding her, enclosing her, without a human element," Lien said.

For the role of Jess, the Met brought mezzo-soprano Emily D'Angelo aboard early in the process so Tesori could work with her voice in mind as

she wrote the score.

It's by far the highest profile assignment for the Canadian singer, who at age 28 has risen to stardom by virtue of her commanding presence and vocal authority. Those are qualities essential to embodying the fearless pilot who flourishes in a male-dominated world.

"To sing this part, I think you really have to have a toughness," D'Angelo said. "Jess's tenacity and strength are things you have to really draw from within yourself. You can't be faking it. It has to come from somewhere very deep and very real."

Vocally, she said, Tesori's music is "as dynamic as Jess is as a character. Jeanine has used every aspect of the voice to really show Jess to the greatest and most honest extent."

Daniela Candillari, who will conduct the premiere, said Tesori has scored the opera for "a Puccini-size orchestra with extra instruments and a large percussion battery." She said the eclectic score has moments of jazz, blues, military ceremonial brass and "what sounds like American folk music."

"Every character is defined by their vocal writing and their specific musical language," Candillari said. She gave as an example a scene at Eric's ranch in Wyoming where "oboes and clarinets play triplets, suggesting someone riding a horse."

The Met chose the WNO to stage the world premiere as a kind of out-of-town tryout ahead of "Grounded's" arrival in New York. But the arrangement initially led to some unwelcome controversy.

When the company announced the production, its website described General Dynamics as the opera's "presenting sponsor." Critics assailed the idea of a work about the military being funded by a defense contractor, and the company rewrote its website to refer to General Dynamics as a "WNO season sponsor."

And a note on the site now reads: "For the sake of clarity, no sponsor or supporter of WNO had any involvement in the creation of 'Grounded' or in the contents of its libretto."



This image released by the Washington National Opera shows mezzo-soprano Emily D'Angelo as a fighter pilot in "Grounded," an opera having its world premiere at the Washington National Opera. (AP)



De Niro



Robinson

## Variety

NEW YORK: **Robert De Niro** testified Monday in New York City at a trial resulting from a former personal assistant's lawsuit accusing the actor of being an abusive boss. De Niro, who at times appeared grumpy, restrained himself from erupting at the dissection of his interactions with her before finally blurting out: "This is all nonsense!"

The two-time Oscar-winning actor known for his performances in blockbuster movies like "The Deer Hunter" and "Raging Bull" was the first witness in a trial resulting from lawsuits over the employment of **Graham Chase Robinson**. Robinson, who worked for De Niro between 2008 and 2019, was paid \$300,000 annually before she quit as his vice president of production and finance.

The woman, tasked for years with everything from decorating De Niro's Christmas tree to taking him to the hospital when he fell down stairs, has sued him for \$12 million in damages for severe emotional distress and reputational harm. Robinson said he refused to give her a reference to find another job when she quit in 2019 after repeated clashes with his girlfriend.

De Niro, 80, testified through most of the afternoon, agreeing that he had listed Robinson as his emergency contact at one point and had relied on her to help with greeting cards for his children.

But when a lawyer for Robinson asked him if he considered her a conscientious employee, he scoffed.

"Not after everything I'm going through now," he said.

De Niro twice raised his voice almost to a shout during his testimony. Once, it occurred as he defended the interactions his girlfriend had with Robinson, saying, "We make decisions together."

The second time occurred when Robinson's lawyer tried to suggest that De Niro bothered his client early in the morning to take him to the hospital in 2017.

"That was one time when I cracked my back falling down the stairs!" De Niro angrily snapped. Even in that instance, he added, he delayed calling Robinson, making it to his bed after the accident at 1 a.m. or 2 a.m., but then later summoning her at 4 a.m. or 5 a.m.

Repeatedly, Judge **Lewis J. Liman** explained the rules of testimony to De Niro and that there were limits to what he could say. "Can I ask a question?" De Niro asked in one exchange with Robinson's lawyer. The

request was denied.

He insisted that he treated Robinson well even after he bought a five-bedroom Manhattan townhouse and let Robinson oversee some of the preparations so he could move

there with his girlfriend, **Tiffany Chen**.

"It is not like I'm asking for her to go out there and scrape floors and mop the floor," he said. "So this is all nonsense!" (AP)



Reporters film the 'Hand with Reflecting Sphere', a lithography by Dutch artist Maurits Cornelis Escher during the press preview of the exhibition dedicated to him in Rome, Monday, Oct. 30. The exhibition marks the centenary of Escher's first visit to Rome in 1923 and runs from Oct. 31, 2023 to April 1, 2024. (AP)

**BUCHAREST, Romania:** The Romanian capital of Bucharest boasts a perfect location for Halloween festivities - and visitors love it.

More than 80,000 people descended last weekend on Bucharest's **Insula Ingerilor**, or Angels' Island peninsula, for the three-day West Side Hallo Fest, the largest Halloween festival in the Eastern European nation since the fall of communism.

The venue was carefully chosen. Both the Angels' Island and the surrounding **Lacul Morii** lake have been shrouded in mystery stories ever since the lake was artificially created in the late 1980s.

When the lake was created, hundreds of homes, two schools and a church had to be demolished, along with a cemetery. Authorities moved about 11,000 graves, but left many others behind, feeding spooky tales of lost souls, wandering ghosts and strange lights appearing at night.

The area around the lake remained deserted for years and later became a popular recreation area for Bucharest residents. But its reputation of eerie mystery stayed on, fully coming to life last weekend.

Organizers brought in 18.5 tons of pumpkins and more than 2,300 hay bales, along with decorations by renowned Romanian floral designer Nicu Bocancea.

Human skeleton models, monster masks, skulls and cotton-made spider webs were part of a horror-movie-like setting where visitors indulged in the spooky atmosphere. (AP)

## The Conversation

## Expert examines the healing power of beloved remedy

## The science of chicken soup: Does it truly aid in illness recovery?

By Colby Teeman  
University of Dayton

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

Preparing a bowl of chicken soup for a loved one when they're sick has been a common practice throughout the world for centuries. Today, generations from virtually every culture swear to the benefits of chicken soup. In the US, the dish is typically made with noodles, but different cultures prepare the soothing remedy their own way.

Chicken soup as a therapy can be traced back to 60 A.D. and Pedanius Dioscorides, an army surgeon who served under the Roman emperor Nero, and whose five-volume medical encyclopedia was consulted by early healers for more than a millennium. But the origins of chicken soup go back thousands of years earlier, to ancient China.

So, with cold and flu season in full swing, it's worth asking: Is there any science to back the belief that it helps? Or does chicken soup serve as just a comforting placebo, that is, providing psychological benefit while we're sick, without an actual therapeutic benefit?

As a registered dietitian and professor of dietetics and nutrition, I'm well aware of the appeal of chicken soup: the warmth of the broth and the rich, savory flavors of the chicken, vegetables and noodles. What gives the soup that distinctive taste is "umami" - the fifth category of taste sensations, along with sweet, salty, sour and bitter. It is often described as having a "meaty" taste.

## Taste

All that makes sense, because amino acids are the building blocks of proteins, and the amino acid glutamate is found in foods with the umami taste. Not all umami foods are meat or poultry, however; cheese, mushrooms, miso and soy sauce have it too.

Studies show that taste, it turns out, is critical to the healing properties of chicken soup. When I see patients with upper respiratory illnesses, I notice many of them are suddenly eating less or not eating at all. This is because acute illnesses ignite an inflammatory response that can decrease your appetite. Not feeling like eating means you're unlikely to get the nutrition you need, which is hardly an optimal recipe for immune health and recovery from illness.

But evidence suggests that the umami taste in chicken soup may help spur a bigger appetite. Participants in one study said they felt hungrier after their first taste of a soup with umami flavor added in by researchers.

Other studies say umami may also improve nutrient digestion. Once our brains sense umami through the taste receptors on our tongues, our bodies prime our digestive tracts to absorb protein more easily.

This can reduce gastrointestinal symptoms, which many people experience when they're under the weather. Although most

people don't associate upper respiratory infections with gastrointestinal symptoms, research in children has found that the flu virus increased abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea symptoms.

Inflammation is part of the body's natural response to injury or illness; inflammation occurs when white blood cells migrate to inflamed tissue to assist with healing. When this inflammatory process occurs in the upper airway, it results in common cold and flu symptoms, such as a stuffy or runny nose, sneezing, coughing and thickened mucus.

Conversely, lower white blood cell activity in the nasal passages can reduce inflammation. And interestingly, research shows that chicken soup can in fact lower the number of white blood cells traveling to inflamed tissues. It does this by directly inhibiting the ability of neutrophils, a type of white blood cell, to travel to the inflamed tissue.

## Nutritious

To truly understand the soothing and healing effects of chicken soup, it's important to consider the soup's ingredients. Not all chicken soups are packed with nutritious healing properties. For instance, the ultraprocessed canned versions of chicken soup, both with and without noodles, lack many of the antioxidants found in homemade versions. Most canned versions of chicken soup are nearly devoid of hearty vegetables.

The core nutrients in homemade versions of the soup are what set these varieties apart from canned versions. Chicken provides the body with a complete source of protein to combat infection. Vegetables supply a wide array of vitamins, minerals and antioxidants. If prepared the American way, noodles provide an easily digestible source of carbohydrate that your body uses for energy and recovery.

Even the warmth of chicken soup can help. Drinking the liquid and inhaling the vapors increase the temperature of nasal and respiratory passages, which loosens the thick mucus that often accompanies respiratory illnesses. Compared with hot water alone, studies show chicken soup is more effective at loosening mucus.

The herbs and spices sometimes used in chicken soup, such as pepper and garlic, also loosen mucus. The broth, which contains water and electrolytes, helps with rehydration.

So, to maximize the health benefits of chicken soup, I recommend a homemade variety, which can be prepared with carrots, celery, fresh garlic, herbs and spices, to name a few ingredients. But if you need a more convenient option, look at the ingredients and nutrition facts label, and choose soups with a variety of vegetables over an ultraprocessed, nutrient-depleted kind.

In short, the latest science suggests that chicken soup - though not an out-and-out cure for colds and flu - really helps with healing. Looks like Grandma was right again. (AP)

## Asteroids may house superheavy elements

By Johann Rafelski  
University of Arizona

For centuries, the quest for new elements was a driving force in many scientific disciplines. Understanding an atom's structure and the development of nuclear science allowed scientists to accomplish the old goal of alchemists - turning one element into another.

Over the past few decades, scientists in the United States, Germany and Russia have figured out how to use special tools to combine two atomic nuclei and create new, superheavy elements.

These heavy elements usually aren't stable. Heavier elements have more protons, or positively charged particles in the nucleus; some that scientists have created have up to 118. With that many protons, the electromagnetic repulsive forces between protons in the atomic nuclei overwhelm the attractive nuclear force that keeps the nucleus together.

Scientists have predicted for a long time that elements with around 164 protons could have a relatively long half-life, or even be stable. They call this the "island of stability" - here, the attractive nuclear force is strong enough to balance out any electromagnetic repulsion.

Since heavy elements are difficult to make in the lab, physicists like me have been looking for them elements everywhere, even beyond the Earth. To narrow down the search, we need to know what sort of natural processes could produce these elements. We also need to know what properties they have, like their mass densities.

From the outset, my team wanted to figure out the mass density of these superheavy elements. This property could tell us more about how the atomic nuclei of these elements behave. And once we had an idea about their density, we could get a better sense of where these elements might be hiding.

## Research

To figure out the mass density and other chemical properties of these elements, my research team used a model that represents an atom of each of these heavy elements as a single, charged cloud. This model works well for large atoms, particularly metals that are laid out in a lattice structure.

We first applied this model to atoms with known densities and calculated their chemical properties. Once we knew it worked, we used the model to calculate the density of elements with 164 protons, and other elements in this island of stability.

Based on our calculations, we expect stable metals with atomic numbers around 164 to have densities between 36 to 68 g/cm<sup>3</sup> (21 to 39 oz/in<sup>3</sup>). However, in our calculations, we used a conservative assumption about the mass of atomic nuclei. It's possible that the actual range is up to 40% higher.

Many scientists believe that gold and other heavy metals were deposited on Earth's surface after asteroids collided with the planet.

The same thing could have happened with these superheavy elements, but super mass dense heavy elements sink into ground and are eliminated from near the Earth's surface by the subduction of tectonic plates. However, while researchers might not find superheavy elements on Earth's surface, they could still be in asteroids like the ones that might have brought them to this planet.

Scientists have estimated that some asteroids have mass densities greater

Experts try to uncover solar system's mysteries



In this photo released by Xinhua News Agency, astronaut Gui Haichao waves as he is carried out of the re-entry capsule of the Shenzhou-14 manned space mission after it landed successfully at the Dongfeng landing site in northern China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, Tuesday, Oct. 31. (AP)

## Chinese astronauts return to Earth after 6-month mission

Three Chinese astronauts returned to Earth on Tuesday morning after six months aboard China's orbiting space station.

Jing Haipeng, Zhu Yangzhu and Gui Haichao emerged in good health from the return capsule near the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center on the edge of the Gobi Desert, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

The station's new three-person crew arrived to the Tiangong station last week.

The station is essentially complete, so the new crew will conduct medical and scientific experiments and maintain equipment.

China made its first crewed space mission in 2003 and plans to put as-

tronauts on the moon before 2030. It has brought samples back from the lunar surface and landed a rover on the less explored far side of the moon. Future plans include sending a new telescope to probe deep into the universe.

China built its own space station after it was excluded from the International Space Station, largely due to U.S. concerns over Chinese military control over the national space program.

Beijing has emerged as the chief rival with the US for reaching new milestones in outer space, with extremely limited cooperation between them in the field, as mandated by US law. That mirrors the competition for

influence between the world's two largest economies in the technology, trade, military and diplomatic spheres, with China's claim to sovereignty over the South China Sea and self-governing Taiwan particular points of contention.

The US, meanwhile, aims to put astronauts back on the lunar surface by the end of 2025 as part of a renewed commitment to crewed missions, aided by private sector players such as SpaceX and Blue Origin.

In addition to their lunar programs, the two countries have also separately landed rovers on Mars, and China plans to follow the US in landing a spacecraft on an asteroid. (AP)

than that of osmium (22.59 g/cm<sup>3</sup>, 13.06 oz/in<sup>3</sup>), the densest element found on Earth.

The largest of these objects is asteroid 33, which is nicknamed Polyhymnia and has a calculated density of 75.3 g/cm<sup>3</sup> (43.5 oz/in<sup>3</sup>). But this density might not be quite right, since it's quite difficult to measure the mass and volume of far-away asteroids.

Polyhymnia isn't the only dense asteroid out there. In fact, there's a whole class of superheavy objects, including asteroids, which could contain these superheavy elements. Some time ago, I introduced the name Compact Ultradense Objects, or CUDOs, for this class.

In a study published in October 2023 in the European Physical Journal Plus, my team suggested some of the CUDOs orbiting in the solar system might still contain some of these dense, heavy elements in their cores. Their surfaces would have accumulated normal matter over time and would appear normal to a distant observer.

So how are these heavy elements

produced? Some extreme astronomical events, like double star mergers could be hot and dense enough to produce stable superheavy elements.

Some of the superheavy material could then remain on board asteroids created in these events. They could stay packed in these asteroids, which orbit the solar system for billions of years.

## Material

The European Space Agency's Gaia mission aims to create the largest, most precise three-dimensional map of everything in the sky. Researchers could use these extremely precise results to study the motion of asteroids and figure out which ones might have an unusually large density.

Space missions are being conducted to collect material from the surfaces of asteroids and analyze them back on Earth. Both NASA and the Japanese state space agency JAXA have targeted low density near-Earth asteroids with success. Just this month, NASA's OSIRIS-REx mission brought back a sample. Though the

sample analysis is just getting started, there is a very small chance it could harbor dust containing superheavy elements accumulated over billions of years.

One mass-dense dust and rock sample brought back to Earth would be enough. NASA's Psyche mission, which launched in October 2023, will fly to and sample a metal-rich asteroid with a greater chance of harboring superheavy elements. More asteroid missions like this will help scientists better understand the properties of asteroids orbiting in the solar system.

Learning more about asteroids and exploring potential sources of superheavy elements will help scientists continue the century-spanning quest to characterize the matter that makes up the universe and better understand how objects in the solar system formed.

Evan LaForge, an undergraduate student studying physics and mathematics, is the lead author on this research and helped with the writing of this article, along with Will Price, a physics graduate student. (AP)

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## Egypt-born El Nahas claims Canada's only judo gold so far at Pan American Games

## Swimmer Ribeiro wins gold, paints nails as reminder of bipolar disorder



Canada's Shady El Nahas takes down Chile's Thomas Briceño during the men's 100kg judo gold medal match at the Pan Am Games in Santiago, Chile, Monday, Oct. 30, 2023. Inset: El Nahas accepts his gold medal after winning the match. (AP)

SANTIAGO, Chile, Oct 31, (AP): Every stroke of swimmer Felipe Ribeiro in the pool at the Pan American Games reminded the Brazilian of the bipolar disorder he dealt with ahead of competing in Chile.

The nails of the 25-year-old are painted black, except for his pink-colored ring fingers.

Mental health and how athletes deal with it have become top of mind for athletes, coaches and sports executives alike, even more so since the Tokyo Olympics in 2021 when American superstar gymnast Simone Biles skipped several title defenses in an attempt to protect herself.

A talking point at the athletes' village, Ribeiro's painted nails have invited some of his competitors and teammates to hear about his story. Only months ago, that included thoughts of self-harm, sleep deprivation and impulsiveness. Still, he won three gold medals at the largest multi-sport event on the continent, all in relays: 4 x 100 meters freestyle, 4 x 200 freestyle and mixed 4 x 100 freestyle.

"I went through a tough time in the beginning of this year, the end of last year. I had anxiety, panic attacks," Ribeiro told The Associated Press on



Brazil's Felipe Ribeiro celebrates after winning the last lap in the men's 4x100-meters freestyle relay final at the Pan American Games in Santiago, Chile, Saturday, Oct. 21, 2023. (AP)

smart."

El Nahas, who arrived in Chile saying he was injured after a taking the bronze medal at the Abu Dhabi Grand Slam last week, won by a match-ending ippon. He finished fifth at the Tokyo Olympics, and looked ready for a better finish next year in Paris.

Despite getting some insults from the fans during the final, the Canadian left the room under applause after hugging Briceño, raising his defeated opponent's right arm and asking those on the stands to applaud. Briceño himself took pictures with El Nahas in the backstage area and thanked him on social media.

Brazil, which should compete with Canada for the second place in the Pan American Games medal table, won seven gold medals in the sport in Santiago.

Maui surfer Zane Schweitzer has struggled with the devastating wildfires in the island he and his family live. The American did not forget the thousands of people suffering back home after he won a gold medal in the stand-up paddleboard final of the Pan American Games in Chile.

"Maui! This is for you!" Schweitzer said in the waters of the Punta de Lobos after beating Brazil's Luiz Diniz by 16.00 to 10.23 in Monday's final. The competitions took place on Punta de Lobos beach, one of South America's best surf breaks, near Pichelimu, a city 205 kilometers (107 miles) south of Santiago.

The American jumped to the gold medal position after scoring 8.50 on his fourth and final wave in the final day of surfing competition in Chile.

Schweitzer celebrated his win with USA surfing teammates Connor Baxter and Candice Appleby, who each won gold medals in the stand-up paddleboard race event.

Baxter secured his second Pan American gold medal ending his race in 12 minutes, 49.90 seconds to beat Peru's Itzel Delgado. Appleby claimed the top spot clocking 15 minutes, 24.90 seconds, with Costa Rica's Jennifer Kalmbach getting the silver medal.

## PAN AM GAMES

the sideline of the swimming competitions in Santiago. "Until recently, I couldn't control my head. It had its own life. I only slept when I was totally exhausted, had to play guitar in the middle of the night."

Ribeiro left his training in Florida in 2019 to move back with his family in Brazil, often unable to practice because he says he felt like he was not mentally fit. He called his coach during training hours so he could listen to other swimmers at work, hoping that would give him a boost. That was rarely the case.

The Brazilian says he was diagnosed last year with bipolar disorder, a mental illness that can cause shifts in mood, energy and activity levels, among other symptoms. He said his treatment has been based on a change of medication - which was previously for depression - and regular consultations with a psychiatrist, which allowed him to gradually return to training in March and competition in April.

Shady El Nahas, the Egypt-born Canadian heavyweight judoka, likes to be called "Slim." Just like rapper Eminem, who inspires his nickname, the athlete also likes to speak his mind.

The 25-year-old El Nahas on Monday won the only judo gold medal for Canada so far at the Pan American Games. The final day of judo competition is Tuesday.

Asked what his plan was to defeat Chile's Thomas Briceño - and the home crowd - in the final, El Nahas was straight forward.

"Beat him up," the judoca said. "No, I am joking. I knew the crowd was going to be against me. But I used that as motivation and I wanted to play

## GSW win big over Pelicans to stay 'unbeaten' on road

Jokic posts 107th career triple-double as Nuggets beat Jazz

NEW ORLEANS, Oct 31, (AP): Stephen Curry scored 42 points in 30 minutes, and the Golden State Warriors remained unbeaten on the road with a 130-102 victory over the New Orleans Pelicans on Monday night.

Chris Paul added 13 points off the bench, leading the Warriors on a 13-1 run at the end of the third quarter that gave them a 98-78 lead.

Zion Williamson helped New Orleans keep it close in the first half, but got into foul trouble in the third quarter and finished with 19 points. The Pelicans suffered their first loss of the season.

Curry opened with 11 points in the first 4:02, including a pair of 25-foot 3s. He hit seven 3s on 13 attempts, shot 15 of 22 overall and 5 of 7 on free throws.

Nuggets 110, Jazz 102

In Denver, Nikola Jokic had 27 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds for his second triple-double of the season. Jamal Murray added 18 points and 14 assists, and Denver beat Utah.

Jokic is tied with LeBron James and Jason Kidd with 107 career triple-doubles.

Aaron Gordon scored 21 points, most on thunderous dunks, as Denver extended its season-opening winning streak to four games. It is the Nuggets'

## BASKETBALL

first 4-0 start since 2018 and the sixth in franchise history.

Lauri Markkanen had 27 points and 14 rebounds, Walker Kessler added 22 points and 13 rebounds, and Talen Horton-Tucker scored 16 points for Utah.

Mavericks 125, Grizzlies 110

In Memphis, Tenn., Luka Doncic had 35 points, 12 rebounds and 12 assists, and undefeated Dallas beat winless Memphis.

It was the 58th career triple-double for Doncic. Derrick Jones Jr. scored 21 points, Tim Hardaway Jr. added 21 and Grant Williams finished with 15 for the Mavericks (3-0).

The Grizzlies have lost their first four games for the first time since 2004.

Desmond Bane and Jaren Jackson Jr. led Memphis with 30 points apiece. Jackson had nine rebounds. Marcus Smart scored 23 points before fouling out.

Bucks 122, Heat 114

In Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 33 points, Damian Lillard added 25 and Milwaukee built a 25-point lead before holding off Miami.

Tyler Herro scored 35 points for the Heat. Miami was playing without two-time All-Star center Bam Adebayo, who bruised his hip Saturday in a loss at Minnesota.

The Heat stunned the top-seeded Bucks in a first-round playoff series last season, rallying late to win Game 4 and the clinching Game 5. This time, Miami trailed 103-78 early in the fourth quarter and got within six points with 1:22 left. Antetokounmpo converted a three-point play to help ice the game.



Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) drives to the basket between New Orleans Pelicans forward Larry Nance Jr. (22) and forward Matt Ryan (37) in the second half of an NBA basketball game in New Orleans, Monday, Oct. 30, 2023. (AP)

## Victorious Springboks arrive back to a 'heroes' welcome' in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG, Oct 31, (AP): World rugby champions South Africa arrived back in the country on Tuesday to a heroes' welcome following a feat that saw them defend their title after beating New Zealand 11-12 in France over the weekend.

## RUGBY

Thousands of Springboks supporters braved the cold and wet weather to gather at O.R. Tambo International Airport to welcome the squad, the first nation to lift the



South Africa's Springbok captain Siya Kolisi holds the Webb Ellis Cup after arriving with other players at O.R. Tambo's International Airport in Johannesburg, South Africa, Tuesday Oct. 31, 2023. (AP)

Trail Blazers 99, Raptors 91

In Toronto, Deandre Ayton had a career-high 23 rebounds, Jerami Grant

World Cup on four occasions.

The crowds went to a frenzy as captain Siya Kolisi entered the arrivals terminal hoisting the Webb Ellis trophy surrounded by the rest of his teammates. It was a colourful affair, with many donning their green and gold Springboks jerseys, waving South African flags and holding up placards bearing congratulatory messages for the squad.

Supporters wearing Springbok jerseys or any South African colours were allowed to travel for free on the Gautrain train service to the airport, where traffic leading to the main terminals was jammed throughout the morning.

including a driving basket with 25 seconds remaining, and Canadian-born Shaedon Sharpe scored 14 points for Portland (1-3). Ayton contributed 10 points. Rookie Scoot Henderson scored 11 points for Portland, which snapped a two-game skid against Toronto.

Scottie Barnes had 20 points and 10 rebounds, Pascal Siakam also scored 20 points, and Jakob Poeltl had 14 points and 10 rebounds for Toronto, which lost its third straight. The Raptors shot a season-worst 4 for 29 from 3-point range.

Hawks 127, Timberwolves 113

In Atlanta, Dejounte Murray matched his career high with 41 points and Atlanta bounced back from a 19-point halftime deficit to beat Minnesota.

Murray scored 22 points in the third quarter, wiping out Minnesota's 79-60 lead at the break.

Trae Young added 24 points for the Hawks, who followed up a 17-point win at Milwaukee the previous night to get back to .500.

Anthony Edwards, returning to his hometown, led the Timberwolves with 31 points.

Thunder 124, Pistons 112

In Oklahoma City, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 32 points and Oklahoma City beat Detroit.

Gilgeous-Alexander made 11 of 23 field goals and had nine rebounds. Josh Giddey scored 17 of his 21 points in the second half and Jalen Williams added 19 points for Oklahoma City (3-1), which won at home for the first time this season.

Jaden Ivey scored 20 points off the bench for Detroit. Cade Cunningham scored 17 points on 5-for-15 shooting, and rookie Ausar Thompson had 15 points and 10 rebounds for the Pistons.

Nets 133, Hornets 121

In Charlotte, N.C., Cam Thomas scored 33 points, and Brooklyn built a 21-point first-quarter lead and held on to beat Charlotte.

Mikal Bridges had 24 points and Lonnie Walker IV and Dorian Finney-Smith each had added 19 for the Nets, who got their first win of the season. Brooklyn shot 56.3% from the field and scored 42 points in the first period.

Terry Rozier had 23 points and rookie Brandon Miller added a career-high 22 points and nine rebounds for the Hornets. Miller, the No. 2 pick in the draft, is averaging 17.3 points in his first three games.

Celtics 126, Wizards 107

In Washington, Jaylen Brown scored 36 points and Jayson Tatum had 33 as Boston beat Washington to begin the season 3-0.

Kristaps Porzingis scored 15 points in his return to Washington, where he spent his previous 1 1/2 seasons.

Kyle Kuzma scored 21 points for the Wizards (1-2), who trailed throughout and were behind by 26 points after 10 minutes.

Bulls 112, Pacers 105

In Indianapolis, Nikola Vucevic scored nine of his 24 points in the fourth quarter, and Chicago rallied past Indiana.

Zach LaVine had 23 points for the Bulls. DeMar DeRozan scored 20 points and put Chicago ahead to stay on a layup that made it 101-99 with 3:46 remaining. Myles Turner led the Pacers with 20 points. Tyrese Haliburton had 19 points and 13 assists, and Bennedict Maturin and Bruce Brown each scored 15 points.

## WTA defends its court

## Gauff and Swiatek win WTA Finals opening matches in straight sets

CANCUN, Mexico, Oct 31, (AP): U.S. Open champion Coco Gauff earned the first WTA Finals victory of her career on Monday night, breezing past three-time major runner-up Ons Jabeur 6-0, 6-1 in a round-robin match interrupted for a little more than an hour by rain.

Gauff, a 19-year-old from Florida, went 0-3 in singles at the season-ending championship in 2022.

"After the rain delay, I was just focused on keeping my foot on the gas pedal," said Gauff, who next will face Iga Swiatek, a 7-6 (3), 6-0 winner against Marketa Vondrousova.

"I'm just happy," Gauff said, "to finally get a win here in this event."

She is in Cancun with Brad Gilbert, who was one of her two coaches during the run of 12 consecutive victories - and 18 in 19 matches - that culminated with her first Grand Slam title in New York in September. The other coach at Flushing Meadows, Pere Riba, is no longer part of Gauff's team.

"It wasn't my decision. But we had to end the partnership. But I had a great time with him and I wish him the best in this next chapter," Gauff explained. "If it was up to me, I would have loved to have him here. But you know, things happen. Life happens. So no bad terms on our end." Against Jabeur, Gauff quickly grabbed the first seven games - using a 9-0 advantage in winners to help accumulate a 29-10 edge in points - before play was halted because of the weather. When they resumed, Jabeur held serve to claim her first game and make it 1-all in the second set.

But she wouldn't gain another. After one shanked forehand in the second set, Jabeur spiked her racket off the temporary outdoor hard court that has drawn so much criticism from the players in Cancun. Later, she dumped a backhand return into

the net and bounced her racket again.

It wasn't until the last game that Jabeur finally earned a break point - three in all. Gauff saved each of those and then converted her fourth match point when Jabeur sent a forehand wide.

"Not my best day on the court," Jabeur said. "But, yeah, that's tennis sometimes, unfortunately."

Earlier Monday, Swiatek climbed out of a 5-2 hole early against Vondrousova and dominated the second set. Both women then added their voices to the chorus of complaints about the playing conditions.

"For sure," Swiatek said, "it's not comfortable."

Swiatek, who won the French Open in June for her third Grand Slam title, is ranked No. 2 and has a chance to overtake Aryna Sabalenka at No. 1, depending on their results this week.

Sabalenka is also among the players who have said the court built for the event is not satisfactory. Vondrousova called it "honestly

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very bad."

The WTA said the court meets its standards.

The left-handed Vondrousova, the reigning Wimbledon champion, broke in three of Swiatek's initial four service games and served for that set at 5-2 and 5-4. But Swiatek began turning things around and grabbed 13 of 17 points in one stretch. What became a four-game run put Swiatek ahead 6-5.

"I just wanted to be more precise and more solid and not play risky," Swiatek said. At 3-all in the tie-breaker, Swiatek took over for good. She smacked a big forehand winner, collected a service winner and hit her first ace of the evening to get to set point, before Vondrousova double-faulted to end it.

That set took 64 minutes. The second lasted just 35, with Swiatek holding a 27-9 edge in points.

"She was playing amazing," Vondrousova said, "and there was nothing much to do."



Swiatek

## Al-Arabi acquire Ghazanfar on loan from Burgan

## Refresher Tournament slated for Dec 1

By Khaled El Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: The Handball Federation has officially scheduled the "Refresher Tournament" as the inaugural event of the 2023-2024 sports season. The tournament is slated to run from December 1 to January 15. The commencement of the new season has been delayed due to external commitments, starting with the Asian Games this month, followed by the recently concluded 2024 Paris Olympics qualifiers. Subsequently, we have the World Club

Championship, known as the "Super Globe," taking place on the 7th of this month, followed by the Asian Club Championship beginning on the 17th of the same month. December will see professional players representing their national teams, while January will host the Asian Championship, a qualifying event for the 2025 World Cup.

In other news, Osama Hosni, a professional player from the Arab Handball Club, has joined his national team's preparations for the African Cup and is expected to return in the middle of this month. Meanwhile, the

second "Green" professional, Osama Al-Jaziri, will participate with the Bahraini team in the Asian Club Championship, hosted in Kuwait.

Al-Arabi have acquired Kuwait

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national team player, Mohamed Ghazanfar, on loan from Burgan, while Al-Arabi's goalkeeper, Salman Kamal, has been loaned to Burgan for the upcoming season.

The team have also secured loan

agreements with Saud Al-Duwaihi and Ahmed Al-Farhan from Kuwait, as well as Muhammad Ali from Burgan. Contract renewals have been completed for "Green" stars Mahdi Khan, Abdullah Mustafa, Walid Al-Qallaf, and Salem Mahboub. The latter underwent a knee cleaning operation and will return to training following the refresher tournament.

Additionally, it is anticipated that Al-Arabi's player, Habib Boland, will complete a loan move to Sulaybiqhat, with negotiations reaching their final stages.



Abdulaziz Ashour with Ghazanfar.



Kazma and Al-Arabi players in action.

Photo by Al Arabi Club

## Premier League to be temporarily halted

## Kuwait set to face Afghanistan in Dammam

Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: Kuwait national soccer team are gearing up for their debut match in the first group of Asian qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup and the 2027 Asian Cup, as per the announcement by the Asian Confederation. On November 16, they will take on the Indian national team at 7:30 pm at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium in a much-anticipated encounter. Following this, they will engage in their second match, facing the Afghan national team on the 21st of this month at Al-Itifaq Club Stadium in Dammam, Saudi Arabia, with kickoff sched-

uled for 8:00 pm.

It's worth noting that the Premier League will temporarily halt its fixtures after the conclusion of the seventh round on the fourth of this month, with matches set to resume on the

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25th of this month as the eighth round kicks off.

The Football Association has unveiled the national team's November calendar on its official account, featuring these exciting clashes against India and Afghanistan.



Kuwait preparing towards the Afghan match.

## History is against Man Utd manager

MANCHESTER, England, Oct 31, (AP): Erik ten Hag says Manchester United are on the way up. The Premier League table tells a different story.

It must be tough for the United manager to come up with fresh explanations for his team's ever-worsening form. But after Sunday's 3-0 loss to Manchester City the pressure is mounting on him to provide a solution and turn United's season around.

"It hurts a lot," he said. "Now you have to deal with it. Accept it, how it is, and, in 24 hours, you have to get up and go for the next game."

That next game is against Newcastle in the League Cup on Wednesday. It is a repeat of last season's final, which United won as Ten Hag ended the club's six-year wait for a trophy and delivered silverware in his first year in charge.

Those were happier times for the Dutch coach, who enjoyed an impressive first season, which also included Champions League qualification and a second final - the FA Cup, which United lost against City.

Now Ten Hag, who was hired after leading Ajax to three Dutch league titles, faces a fight to stop United's campaign from unravelling after a miserable start. The numbers do not make for good reading.

United have lost five of its 10 league games, which is the most defeats the

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club have suffered at this stage of a campaign since 1986.

In a season when Ten Hag was supposed to mount a title challenge, his team are already 11 points off the leaders, Tottenham, and eight adrift of Champions League qualification.

Erling Haaland's two goals on Sunday, made it 11 in the league for the Norway striker this term, which is the same as the entire United team have managed so far.

Rasmus Hojlund, an \$82 million signing in the offseason, is yet to score in the league after seven games. While United fans jeered as the Dane was substituted against City, those boos were in response to Ten Hag's decision to take him off, rather than any dissatisfaction with the striker.

That is just another problem for the manager, who is having to listen to jeers from his own fans with increasing regularity.

He says he understands their frustration and there is still the sense that he has their backing. But he is the latest manager to struggle under the weight of expectation at a club that has been in decline since Alex Ferguson retired in 2013.

Ten Hag is the fifth permanent appointment since then, following in the footsteps of David Moyes, Louis van Gaal, Jose Mourinho and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer.

## 250 racers set for the inaugural Roll Race

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: Hussein Al-Sheikh, the director of Kuwait's "Inspire" Sports Club dedicated to cars and motorbikes, has announced the upcoming launch of the inaugural "Inspire" Kuwaiti Sports Club event, the "Roll Race." This high-octane event is set to take place at Kuwait Motor City in the Arifjan region on the 10th and 11th of November, featuring an impressive lineup of 250 racers.

Al-Sheikh has extended an open invitation to individuals aged 18 and above, both from Kuwait and the Gulf Cooperation Council nations, to participate in this thrilling competition, adhering to the established rules and regulations. He emphasized the club's aim to attract young motorsport enthusiasts, providing a secure and standardized environment for honing their technical skills. The event will center around a world-class Roll Race spanning 400 meters, where all international laws and regulations governing motorsport will be meticulously followed to en-



Hussein Al-Sheikh

sure the utmost safety and security standards.

Moreover, Al-Sheikh assured that the Kuwait Inspire Sports Club Championship for cars and motorbikes will offer an array of engaging activities, blending sports, entertainment, and awareness initiatives, creating a complete family-friendly experience across the two days of the tournament.

## Best of the Rest

**Ajax turns to John:** Slumping in last place in the Dutch league, four-time European champion Ajax named former player John van 't Schip as coach for the rest of a so-far calamitous season.

Ajax said in a statement van 't Schip will be interim coach "before stepping into a function in technical management" in July. The appointment came one day after Ajax lost 5-2 to league-leading PSV Eindhoven and one week after coach Maurice Steijn was fired just seven league games into a three-year contract. (AP)

**Olympiakos vow to fight:** Olympiakos vowed to "exhaust all legal means" in an appeal against a punishment for fan violence that cost the team its lead in the Greek league.

The Oct. 22 match between Olympiakos and historic rivals Panathinaikos was stopped in the 50th minute with the score at 1-1. Panathinaikos defender Juan Carlos Perez Lopez was injured by an exploding firecracker while warming up on the sidelines at Olympiakos' Karaiskakis Stadium in Piraeus. (AP)

## Kazima 'soar' into Champ'ship semis

Kuwait sweep Al-Tadamon

Khaled El Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: Kazma secured a spot in the semi-finals of the Al-Ittihad Refresher Volleyball Championship. They achieved this feat by staging a remarkable comeback to edgout Al-Arabi in a thrilling marathon match with a final score of three games to two (23-25, 21-25, 25-13, 25-15, 15-7). This intense contest unfolded at the Game Federation Hall in the Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Complex in the Sabah Al Salem suburb, serving as the concluding round of the tournament's first leg.

In the other matchups, Kuwait triumphed over Al-Tadamon with a clean sweep of three games to nil (25-16, 25-15, 25-19), and Al-Qadsia accomplished a similar victory against Al-Sahel (25-19, 25-15, 25-22). Meanwhile, Yarmouk overcame Al-Shabab in a fiercely contested battle that culminated in

a score of three games to two (25-16, 24-26, 17-25, 25-23, 15-13).

The final standings of the participating teams are as follows: Burgan lead the pack with 21 points, followed by Kuwait in the second spot, and Al-Qadsia in the third position. Kazma accumulated 14 points, while Al-Arabi trailed closely behind with 13 points. Yarmouk have 8 points, Al-Shabab with 7 points, Al-Sahel with 2 points and Al-Tadamon with 1 point.

The Al-Ittihad Refresher

## VOLLEYBALL

Championship's semi-finals are scheduled for tomorrow, Thursday. According to the tournament format, the second-ranked team, "Kuwait," will square off against the third-ranked team, Al-Qadsia, at 5:00 pm in the Al-Ittihad hall. At 7:00 pm, the table-toppers, the Burgan team, will clash with the fourth-ranked squad, Kazma. The victorious teams from these matches will advance to the final showdown, slated for the upcoming Monday, while the two losing teams will vie for the third and fourth positions.

## Al-Jahra demand KD50,000 from Al-Qadsia over transfer of player

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: The signing of Abdel-Wahab Al-Shalal, the top scorer in the Under-18 Football League, by Al-Qadisiyah Club to join their youth team, has ignited a dispute between Al-Jahra Club and Al-Qadisiyah Club. "Sons of the Red Palace" have submitted an official letter to the Football Association, demanding 50,000 dinars from Al-Qadsia Club as compensation for nurturing and training the player during his developmental years.

A well-informed source revealed that Al-Jahra Club asserted the player's registration with their club dating

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back to the under-12 category, progressing through the various developmental stages until he reached the age of 18. However, this season, the club faced challenges registering him for the designated stages due to the player's unspecified nationality. The club requested the player to provide his serial number to fulfill registration requirements according to the established rules and regulations, but the player declined to provide this academic sequence.

As a result, Al-Jahra Club extended a professional contract offer to the player for a spot on their first team. Given that the player is under 23 years of age, and if he rejects the contract, he forfeits the right to transfer to another club. Any club wishing to acquire his services must pay an amount of 50,000 dinars to Al-Jahra Club in recognition of their investment in player development over the years. It is anticipated that the Football Association will send an official letter to Al-Qadsia today regarding this matter.

## Villarreal 'win' a pulsating match

GRANADA, Spain, Oct 31, (AP): Villarreal scored three times in the opening half hour en route to a hard-fought 3-2 win over Granada in the Spanish league.

The visitor was 3-0 up within 28 minutes before Ricard Sánchez and Myrto Uzini pulled goals back for the home side before halftime.

Gerardo Moreno was the stand-out player for Villarreal, scoring his fifth and sixth goals in eight games.

Moreno opened the scoring from close range after 18 minutes then converted a penalty five minutes later. Alexander Sorloth added a third with 28 minutes gone.

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Sánchez scored with an angled shot from the right after 29 minutes, and although Granada's hope was raised by a superb second from Uzini five minutes later they could not find the equalizer in a pulsating second half.

Ciro Immobile scored an injury time penalty to give Lazio a 1-0 win over Fiorentina and sink the visitors' hope of moving back into the top four in Serie A.

Immobile sent the keeper the wrong way after Nikola Milenkovic was penalized for a handball four minutes into stoppage time.

Both sides found chances hard to come by but it was Fiorentina which came closest early on. Lucas Beltran had an early goal chalked off after a video review and then hit the post with a header.



A file photo of players celebrating.



FC Barcelona's and Spain's national team's midfielder Aitana Bonmati holds the trophy as she receives the 2023 Women's Ballon d'Or award during the 67th Ballon d'Or (Golden Ball) award ceremony at Theatre du Chatelet in Paris, France. (AP)

# Sports

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## Messi wins record-extending 8th Ballon d'Or

Bonmati takes women's award

PARIS, Oct 31, (AP): The list reads 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2015, 2019, 2021, and now 2023.

Lionel Messi won the men's Ballon d'Or for a record-extending eighth time after fulfilling his life's ambition by leading Argentina to the World Cup title in Qatar last year.

Adding to his silverware the one major trophy that eluded him in his storied career was the decisive factor in an otherwise quite mundane season - for his standards - at Paris Saint-Germain.

The 36-year-old Messi won ahead of Manchester City forward Erling Haaland and his former PSG teammate Kylian Mbappe.

Messi thanked his Argentina coach, teammates and staff for making his victory possible.

"Tonight I'm enjoying myself. It's a pleasure that will never leave me, and I hope to be able to enjoy it for many years to come," Messi said through a translator. "Becoming world champion was the title we were missing. I'd like to thank everyone who helped make Argentina the world champion team."

Messi also paid tribute to the late Diego Maradona, who also helped Argentina win the World Cup, back in 1986.

"This title and this trophy," Messi said, "I share them with you and all our Argentina comrades."

Aitana Bonmati won the women's award for guiding Spain to victory at the Women's World Cup in August. She also helped Barcelona win the Women's Champions League and Spanish league.

A year after missing out on the shortlist for the 2022 Ballon d'Or, and despite leaving top-level European soccer behind, Messi has recovered his crown.

He won the sport's biggest individual prize due to his tremendous World Cup. In Qatar, Messi was involved in 10 goals for Argentina, scoring seven and assisting three. He scored twice in the final against France.

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His final season with PSG was less shiny. Although PSG won a record-extending 11th French league, they again exited the Champions League in the round of 16.

Nobody else has won more than five Ballon d'Or. Cristiano Ronaldo has five, and Michel Platini, Johan Cruyff and Marco van Basten each won it three times.

Since moving to Inter Miami in the United States, Messi has already picked up his first silverware there by inspiring the team to victory in the U.S. Leagues Cup.

Messi's latest win marked the first time a Major League Soccer-based player got such recognition. Messi received the trophy from former

Manchester United star David Beckham, who is one of the owners of his new club.

"I'm very happy with the decisions I've made and to be with Miami," Messi said.

He succeeded Karim Benzema.

Mbappe hoped another Frenchman could win the Ballon d'Or after he scored a hat trick in the World Cup final, though France lost in a penalty shootout.

Haaland led City to a treble of trophies last season - Champions League, English Premier League, FA Cup - while scoring 52 goals.

Bonmati had already been awarded UEFA best women's player and the Golden Ball for the top Women's World Cup player. She scored three times and assisted twice at the tournament.

She followed in the footsteps of her teammate Alexia Putellas, who took the past two awards.

Bonmati won ahead of Sam Kerr and Salma Paralluelo.

"We are a country that lives football, intensely," Bonmati said. "We have a unique talent in Spain."

For the first time last year, the trophy awarded by France Football magazine was based on achievements from the past season. It was previously awarded based on performances through a calendar year. Stanley Matthews won the first Ballon d'Or in 1956.

The women's trophy was created in 2018, and both were canceled in 2020 because of the pandemic.

In other awards, the best under-21



Inter Miami's and Argentina's national team player Lionel Messi receives the 2023 Ballon d'Or trophy during the 67th Ballon d'Or (Golden Ball) award ceremony at Theatre du Chatelet in Paris, France. (AP)

player was Jude Bellingham, while Haaland won the Gerd Müller award for the best striker of the year.

The Lev Yashin award for best goalkeeper went to Emiliano Martinez. In addition to his trophy, the Argentina goalkeeper collected boos and whistles from the audience at the Theatre du Chatelet that included Mbappe and France coach Didier Deschamps.

Martinez was criticized for the excessive tone of his World Cup celebrations. He carried a doll with Mbappe's face on it while standing alongside teammate Messi as Argentina paraded the trophy back home. Martinez, who also made a crude gesture after winning the Golden Glove award for best goalkeeper, was filmed mocking Mbappe in the team dressing room after the game.

The humanitarian prize named after the late Brazil midfielder Socrates went to Vinicius Junior, for his involvement in the foundation he set up for underprivileged children. The Real Madrid player, who has been the target of racist abuse in the Spanish league, pledged to keep up the fight against racism.

Australia decides not to bid for soccer showcase

## Saudi Arabia likely to host 2034 World Cup

GENEVA, Oct 31, (AP): Saudi Arabia is all but certain to host the men's 2034 World Cup after the Australian soccer federation declined to enter the bidding contest.

FIFA had set a Tuesday deadline to submit a bid to host the tournament, but Australia's decision to pull out leaves Saudi Arabia as the only declared candidate.

"We have explored the opportunity to bid to host the FIFA World Cup and - having taken all factors into consideration - we have reached the conclusion not to do so for the 2034 competition," Football Australia said in a statement.

FIFA still needs to rubber stamp Saudi Arabia as the host - a decision that is likely to be made next year - but victory now seems a formality for the oil-rich kingdom. It

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would be the culmination of Saudi Arabia's ambitious drive to become a major player in global sports, having already spent massive amounts on bringing in dozens of star soccer players to its domestic league, buying English soccer club Newcastle, launching the breakout LIV Golf tour and hosting major boxing fights.

FIFA president Gianni Infantino has built close ties to Saudi soccer and the Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman personally, and has long been seen as trying to steer the world soccer body's competitions toward the kingdom.

When awarding the 2030 World Cup to a joint bid by Spain, Portugal and Morocco - which will also feature games in South America - FIFA decided to fast-track the 2034 hosting race earlier this month with only member federations in Asia and Oceania eligible to bid. The tight deadline gave them less than four weeks to enter the race by Tuesday and just one month more to sign a bidding agreement that requires government support.

Within hours of the FIFA announcement, the Saudi soccer federation said it was in and the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) - which includes Australia - said it was backing the kingdom to bring the World Cup back to the Middle East after neighboring Qatar hosted the 2022 edition.

Qatar hosted in November and December, in the heart of the European club soccer season, to avoid extreme heat in the summer months and a Saudi tournament likely also will be moved from the traditional June-July period.

Indonesia's football association initially showed interest in a joint bid with Australia, potentially



The Kuwaiti weightlifters with officials.

alongside Malaysia and Singapore, but that faded when Indonesia instead backed Saudi Arabia.

Australia will instead attempt to secure hosting rights for the 2029 Club World Cup - which will relaunch with a new format in 2025, featuring 32 teams playing in the tournament every four years - and the 2026 Women's Asian Cup.

"We believe we are in a strong position to host the oldest women's international competition in the world, the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2026, and then welcome the greatest teams in world football for the 2029 FIFA Club World Cup," the FA statement said.

Australia and New Zealand successfully co-hosted the Women's World Cup in July and August. Brisbane, Queensland state, is due to become the third Australian city to host the Olympics when it stages the 2032 Summer Games.

Saudi Arabia also will host the men's Asian Cup in 2027 and has started a widespread construction program to build and renovate stadiums that likely also will be used for the World Cup. FIFA's bidding documents say 14 stadiums are needed for the 48-team tournament.

## Pak eliminate B'desh from semifinal contention

KOLKATA, India, Oct 31, (AP): Shaheen Afridi's record-breaking haul of 3-23 helped Pakistan end their four-match losing streak at the Cricket World Cup and eliminate Bangladesh from semifinal contention with a seven-wicket win on Tuesday.

Another woeeful batting display by Bangladesh saw them bowled out for 204 as Afridi became the fastest bowler in ODI history to grab 100 wickets, doing it in his 51st game. The left-arm Pakistani pacer surpassed Australian pacer Mitchell Starc, who achieved the feat in 52 games.

### CRICKET

Fit-again Fakhar Zaman, one of the three changes Pakistan made, made a triumphant return from his knee injury and made 81 off 74 as Pakistan cruised to 205-3 in 32.3 overs.

Zaman and Abdullah Shafique (68) combined in a 128-run opening wicket stand before Shafique fell lbw to off-spinner Mehidy Hasan Miraz (3-60).

Captain Babar Azam's below-par World Cup continued when he held out at long-on after scoring 9 and Zaman missed out on his century while going

for another big shot against Miraz.

Zaman had to sit out the last five games due to a knee injury, but dominated Bangladesh's timid spin and pace with his powerful hitting as he smashed seven sixes and three boundaries, with one of his sixes strangled at 95 meters.



Pakistan's Mohammad Rizwan fields a ball during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup match between Bangladesh and Pakistan in Kolkata, India. (AP)

Pakistan's third win in seven games lifted them to No. 5 in the points table, their hopes of finishing in the top four still depends on favorable results in other games.

A sixth successive loss left Bangladesh just ahead of defending champions England at the bottom of standings on net run-rate with only two points, which also puts their qualification for 2025 Champions Trophy in danger. The top seven teams at the World Cup plus hosts Pakistan will qualify for the eight-team event.

Afridi surpassed Starc when he pinned Tanzid Hasan leg before wicket off his fifth delivery after Bangladesh skipper Shakib Al Hasan won the toss and elected to bat.

Usama Mir then plucked a superb low catch of Najmul Hasan Shanto in Afridi's next over at mid-wicket and Muhfiqur Rahim was beaten by Haris Rauf's length ball and was caught behind as Bangladesh slumped to 3-23 inside the batting powerplay.

Top-scorer Mahmudullah (56) and Litton Das (45) revived Bangladesh with a 79-run stand before Pakistan's pacers rattled the opposition with reverse swing in the latter half of the innings.

## Al-Jassar lauds Kuwait 29-medal haul at Arab Weightlifting Championship

CAIRO, Oct 31, (KUNA): Kuwait's team snatched 29 medals in the Arab

Weightlifting Championship for men and women, as well as male and female juniors that concluded on Monday.

The Kuwaiti women's team made history by clinching the second position in the tournament for the first time.

Talal Al-Jassar, who serves as the head of the Kuwaiti delegation to the championship and is also the President of the Kuwaiti Weightlifting Federation, expressed his admiration for the outstanding accomplishments of Kuwait's athletes. He commended the dedication and exceptional performance displayed by the Kuwaiti competitors throughout the tournament.

Malak Al-Hadad, a Kuwaiti weightlifter, distinguished herself by earning a gold and a bronze medal in the 45-kg category. Her compatriot, Amal Al-Mesaid, shone with three silver medals in the 81-kg contest.

### WEIGHTLIFTING

The Kuwaiti Women's team, in particular, brought home a total of 14 diverse medals. Hanof al-Megren secured two bronze medals in the 45-kg contest, while Al-Zahraa Kamshad achieved a bronze in the 64-kg category. Zainab Al-Mohammad and Abrar Fahad added to the team's success with two bronze medals in the 71-kg contest and three silver medals in the 76-kg event, respectively. Hanan Al-Amir and Fatma Al-Beloushi also contributed to the medal count with three bronze medals in the 81-kg and 87-kg categories, respectively.

The Kuwaiti Men's team performed admirably, securing four bronze medals. Hussein Monshed was particularly successful, winning three bronze medals in the 49-kg category, while Fahad Al-Otaibi earned a bronze in the 55-kg category. Furthermore, Mohammad Al-Mulla's exceptional performance garnered him two silver medals and a bronze in the 61-kg category, and Humaid Akbar secured three silver medals in the 89-kg contest.

The championship, which took place from October 25 to October 30, featured the participation of ten Arab countries, including Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Kuwait, Syria, Lebanon, Algeria, Tunisia, and Yemen.

## Sounders win series opener vs FC Dallas

SEATTLE, Oct 31, (AP): Albert Rusnak scored on a first-half penalty kick, Jordan Morris added an insurance goal and Stefan Frei posted his 12th career clean sheet in the postseason as the Seattle Sounders beat FC Dallas 2-0 in a series opener on Monday night.

Seattle (15-9-11), the second seed in the Western Conference, is unbeaten in its last 10 matches (5-0-5) and ran its unbeaten streak at home to 18 against No. 7 seed Dallas (11-11-13).