



MP questions Interior Minister on Israel boycott regulations

Parliament committee reviews amendments to media laws

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: The parliamentary Financial and Economic Affairs Committee on Sunday discussed the proposed amendment of Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS) Law No. 61/1976.

Minister of Finance Fahd Al Jarallah as well as the representatives of PIFSS, Kuwait Society for Small and Medium Enterprises, Kuwait Economic Society and Business Society attended the meeting.

The Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee met on the same day to deliberate on the proposed amendment of the National Assembly Elections Law and reforming the constituencies.

The Budgets and Final Accounts Committee tackled various issues stated in the report of the State Audit Bureau (SAB) for fiscal 2022/2023 and comments recorded against public institutions, with the representatives of SAB in attendance.

The Public Facilities Affairs Committee continued discussing its strategy; while the Education, Culture and Guidance Affairs Committee talked about the proposed amendment of Publication and Print Law No. 3/2006 and Audiovisual Law No. 61/2007. Minister of Information, Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi and senior Information Ministry officials attended the latter's meeting.

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Opinion

Prime Minister, horse of authority needs a knight

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah
Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

PRIOR to social media, there were no secrets. Kuwait was and still is a house with multiple rooms with doors that are open to each other such that nothing was hidden from the people.

Today, with the communications revolution, news spreads among people at a lightning speed, and the comments that follow are merciless. In fact, those who choose to defend an official expose his faults more than trying to cover them up.

Therefore, His Highness the Prime Minister must realize that there is no cover, as the good and the bad deeds are exposed to the public, irrespective of whether the one posting them does it under his clear name, or chooses a fictitious name.

In this regard, Kuwaitis, after the crises they have been through, no longer trust the integrity of any official or his good conduct, and will never agree to give him their daughter for marriage. However, this is not the case in this regard, as the people see the official to be in a position to serve them and preserve their interests.

Nonetheless, a commander is aware from the beginning of the battle of the losses and gains, and what he wants. If he is seeking personal glory, people would quickly turn away from him and begin to point out his administrative and political shortcomings.

The authority's horse wants a capable knight who does not take advantage of his influence, family or party affiliation in order to protect himself from any accountability.

The person entrusted with the interests of the state must never lose sight of the fact that he is held accountable to Allah, and then the people, and their leaders.

Either he will be remembered in history for what he accomplished, or he will have no mention at all, given that everything is preserved.

Therefore, if an official has the ability to recognize mistakes but is unable to correct them, he must admit that and leave his position so that his career is not stigmatized by defects.

There are many officials - ministers or prime ministers - who chose to step down after realizing that they were unable to exercise their responsibility, as stipulated in the law and the internal regulations of the Council of Ministers.

When the former minister of Education fell short of his responsibilities, he chose to leave. Indeed, there are ministers who chose to leave the pathetic ministerial scene before they were asked to do so, only when they felt that their presence in the position was a burden on the state and the ministry.

The choice always remains with the supreme leadership who works to achieve harmony between the requirements of the people, the executive authority, and its relationship with the legislative authority.

When an official fails, he should not make excuses. The former British Prime Minister Theresa May had resigned when she failed to remove her country from the European Union.

Likewise, the Prime Minister of the Netherlands Mark Rutte resigned due to the government's failure to reach an agreement on the influx of refugees. The Prime Minister of New Zealand Jacinda Ardern left her position because she no longer had the energy to assume responsibility.

Hence, when the lofty speech at the opening of the current parliamentary term, delivered by His Highness the Crown Prince, held both the National Assembly and the government responsible, he only pinpointed the problem.

Despite everything that was said about the good relationship between the National Assembly and the Council of Ministers, altercations continue between the two authorities, which means things are not as rumored about their cooperation.

In all of this, Kuwait alone is paying the price in all aspects. Therefore, irrespective of the situation, nothing will change as long as the conviction is that any criticism of a failed or negligent official is considered an insult, even if the error is crystal clear.

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Finance faces scrutiny over KD 75.5 million debt neglect

KD 193.8mn income tax dues: Audit Bureau

By Mahmoud Shendi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: The Audit Bureau has uncovered that the Ministry of Finance neglected to collect or settle government debts amounting to 75.5 million dinars, violating budget implementation rules. The report for the fiscal year 2022/2023 also highlights a mere 5.3% collection rate of tax dues rolled over from previous years, totaling 342,834,142 dinars. The Ministry faces scrutiny for holding balances rolled over from previous

fiscal years, including income tax dues of 193,800,914 dinars, breaching budget rules.

Moreover, the Bureau reveals that the Ministry failed to settle retained balances in the local current liabilities account, totaling 16 million dinars, and outstanding amounts in various credit accounts, violating budget implementation rules and circulars. The report emphasizes the Ministry's lack of action in settling restricted amounts, amounting to 2 million Kuwaiti dinars in liabilities accounts. The Ministry also failed to adhere to Circular No. (1) of 2022 regarding closing accounts and preparing the final account.

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Commerce boosts oversight to curb price hikes



KUNA photo
Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of State for Youth Affairs – Mohammad Al-Aiban, during an inspection tour of the Al-Siddiq Center for Commercial Control and the Central Operations Room.

Other Voices

Legal perspectives on Palestine and Kuwait's firm stance against normalization with Israel

By Dr. Fawaz K. Alkhateeb
Attorney – Visiting Assistant Professor in Criminal Law at KILAW

Introduction:

In the heart of the Middle East, where ancient lands bear witness to both historic achievements and enduring conflicts, lies the unresolved story of Palestinian territories – a saga deeply rooted in international law and regional geopolitics. This narrative unfolds Kuwait's steadfast resolve against normalization with Israel, a stance not just of policy, but of principle, woven with a commitment to justice and the Palestinian people's rights.

The Seeds of Conflict:

Over a century ago, with the Balfour Declaration of November 2, 1917 – a single document promising a homeland for Jews in Palestine, the home of Palestinians – set the stage for decades of turmoil. The British Mandate for Palestine (1918-1948) encouraged a global Jewish diaspora to converge on Palestine, leading to the birth of Israel in 1948. This seismic event transformed the land's essence, shifting its ownership dramatically to the Jews from Palestinians even though 93% of the land was owned by Palestinians while mere 6% were owned by Jews as chronicled by scholars like Prof. Ilan Pappé in Ten Myths about Israel and Prof. Jeff Halper in Decolonizing Israel, Liberating Palestine. The declaration of an Israeli statehood, simultaneously commemorated as Nakba Day by Palestinians and Independence Day by Israelis, paints a vivid picture of two narratives intertwined in a single historical moment.

Kuwait's Early Defiance:

Before the ink had dried on its constitution, Kuwait's heart beat in solidarity with the Palestinians. The Unified Law for Boycotting Israel, enacted on May 26, 1957, was not merely a law but a declaration of empathy and resistance, banning Israeli goods and marking the dawn of Kuwait's active opposition to the occupation.

A Constitution with a Cause:

The Kuwaiti Constitution is more than a legal document; it is a reflection of a nation's soul. Its Preamble and Article 1 are a testament to Kuwait's commitment to democracy, Arab nationalism, and the pursuit of world peace. Article 1 boldly declares Kuwait as an inseparable part of the Arab Nation while Article 157 echoes the nation's pursuit of peace and the responsibility to protect the integrity of not just Kuwait, but the entire Arab world.

Laws with a Voice:

Kuwait's legal tapestry, woven with the threads of the pre-constitutional law of 1957 and Law No. 21 of 1964, speaks loudly against normalization with Israel. These laws are not mere texts but guardians of Kuwait's ethical stance, prohibiting any collabora-



Dr. Alkhateeb

31 babies evacuated Kuwait condemns bombing of school

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19, (Agencies): The State of Kuwait has condemned and denounced the Israeli occupation heinous massacre of a large number of Palestinian civilians, including children and women, by bombing the UN-run Al-Fakhoura School at Jabalia refugee camp in the Gaza Strip.

In a press statement, Kuwait's Foreign Ministry also expressed Kuwait's unequivocal rejection of the Israeli occupation forces' systematic targeting of defenseless Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip.

It also reiterated Kuwait's call for an immediate stoppage of such assaults and provision of protection for Palestinian people and relief agencies operating the Gaza Strip and their staff.

The ministry also underlined the need for holding the Israeli occupation accountable for its continued violation of the international humanitarian law and the UN resolutions.

Elsewhere, the World Health Organization says 31 babies have been safely transported from Shifa Hospital to another hospital in southern Gaza.

The evacuation took place on Sunday, and the babies are to be transferred to a third hospital across the border in Egypt.

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Palestinians mourn relatives killed in the Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip in front of the morgue in Deir al Balah, Nov. 19, 2023. (AP)

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19, (KUNA): On Sunday, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Mohammad Al-Aiban, conducted an inspection of the Al-Siddiq Center for Commercial Control and the Central Operations Room to assess their progress. During the visit, he emphasized the need to intensify oversight tours in markets to prevent any artificial price increases.

In a press statement, the minister stated that his visit aimed to monitor the work plan of the Commercial Control Department and emergency inspection teams, ensuring compliance with directives to tighten control over the markets. He highlighted the importance of monitoring for artificial price increases, particularly in light of recent financial adjustments for retirees, and considered it a proactive measure by the Ministry to curb potential future increases.

Al-Aiban underscored the necessity of intensified inspection tours, vigilance, and focus to deter law violators. He emphasized the Ministry's commitment to imposing maximum penalties on those exploiting financial increases to inflate prices. Commending the center's procedures and mechanism, he emphasized the role of employees and commercial control inspectors as the "first line of defense" in protecting consumers.

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GIG maintains its 'A' ratings

— Details Page 9 —

Newswatch

JERUSALEM: Israel seized Yemen's Houthi rebels seized an Israeli-linked cargo ship in a crucial Red Sea shipping route on Sunday, raising fears that regional tensions heightened over the Israel-Hamas war were playing out on a new maritime front.

There was no immediate comment from the Houthis, an Iran-backed rebel movement in Yemen that threatened earlier Sunday to target Israeli-linked vessels in the Red Sea.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said 25 crew members of various nationalities, including Bulgarians, Filipinos, Mexicans and Ukrainians but no Israelis. (AP)

Prayer Timings			
Fajr	04:52	Asr	14:31
Sunrise ...	06:15	Maghrib ...	16:52
Zohr	11:33	Isha	18:12

Local

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

Field trips vital to boost students skills: Dr Al-Rasheed

Marine science students visit Qaroh isle, study environs challenges

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: The Marine Sciences Department of at the College of Science carried out a field trip, under the supervision of professors in the department, Dr. Tariq Al-Rasheed and Dr. Fahd Al-Sanafi, in cooperation with the Kuwaiti Coast Guard, to the northeast of Qaroh Island, where more than 40 devices were placed in the water at 3 marine sites and a meteorological station on Qaroh Island, reports Al-Rai daily.

The daily said the main goal of the trip is to train marine science students, especially the marine physics and research methods course (32 male and female students), on the latest scientific equipment for data extraction, and to consolidate the students' information and field skills, as well as training them to analyze data immediately



Dr. Al-Rasheed

after it is extracted from the water.

During the trip, the students learned how to use scientific devices, including the wire-walker device, which is considered unique given its kind, as it performs the process of diving and rising to the surface with the movement of waves (a mechanical process).

It is the first of its kind and the only one used in the Middle East, as it is considered a marine vehicle. It travels in the water column, carries devices on it, and through the Crivello device located on the floating station, it is possible to monitor the readings directly.

The students contributed to programming and installing ADCP devices, which are used to measure marine currents and understand their movement. They learned about other devices related to examining marine currents, the oxygen level, the turbidity level... etc., in addition to being trained to install a meteorological station on the island.

In this regard, Dr. Tariq Al-Rasheed stressed that the presence of students in the field is very

important for them to provide a sensory understanding of how to work in difficult environments (waves and varying temperatures), and it is also necessary to develop their marine skills, such as training on ropes and maritime security and safety.

He stated that the students will learn about marine disturbances associated with weather changes, and how they affect marine sediments, and link them to understanding the marine environment in particular, and their impact on Qaroh Island in general, adding that part of this work will also be provided to some distinguished students, to conduct scientific studies and published it in scientific journals, in support of them.

He stressed that marine science students benefited from the experience, as a generation was prepared that was familiar with the marine environmental challenges and problems of the State of Kuwait, and capable of developing solutions to these challenges.



Marine science students during the field trip.

HH Amir congrats Maldives head

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable on Sunday to the newly elected President of Maldives Dr. Mohammad Muiz , congratulating him on winning the elections and taking the constitutional oath.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah also sent a cable on Sunday to the newly elected President of

Maldives Dr. Mohammad Muiz, congratulating him on winning the elections and taking the constitutional oath.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah then sent a cable on Sunday to the newly elected President of Maldives Dr. Mohammad Muiz, congratulating him on winning the elections and taking the constitutional oath.

'Foolproof security for judges'

Arsonists will be tracked down: Interior minister

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: In the midst of on-going investigations and collection of evidence to arrest those who set fire to the premises of the house of Cassation Court's Judge Sultan Bouresli recently, Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Faleh Al-Raqba has confirmed providing all forms of support and assistance to members of the judicial authority and their families, reports Al-Qabas daily.

In a statement to the daily, Al-Raqba stressed that his ministry spares no effort in protecting judges and their families. "Since the arson, HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah has been keen on ensuring protection for Bouresli and his family, while stressing the need for immediate arrest of the suspects. First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled contacted us immediately after the incident; affirming his commitment to intensify efforts to arrest the perpetrators, provide protection for Bouresli and his honorable family, and assign patrol and security officers around his home. Undersecretary Anwar Al-Barjas also confirmed his keenness to deploy the officers soon after the incident," he revealed.

He went on to say that full protection was provided to Bouresli during the Army Fund case trial at the Justice Palace on Sunday. He asserted the arson in the house of a judge is an isolated case, but it must be dealt with properly to ensure justice is served. He added those who committed the crime must be arrested and the most severe penalties should be imposed on them.

He reiterated that the Ministry of Interior spares no effort in arresting the perpetrators: stressing the law is applied on everyone as Kuwait is a State of law, justice and institutions.

In addition, the Ministry of Interior continues to exert tremendous efforts to arrest two unknown persons who were seen setting fire to the house of Bouresli.

A reliable source told the daily that two unknown people poured gasoline into the vehicle of Bouresli and the fence of his house, set fire to them and then fled from the scene.

The source said the results of preliminary investigations indicate some people planned this crime as the suspects were seen monitoring the area for days. He added the arsonists carried out the crime in the wee hours of the morning to ensure the place was deserted, however, a passerby saw two masked individuals and prevented them from completing their crime.

7 years jail, huge fine for being absent, getting pay

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: The Criminal Court sentenced an official of a government agency to seven-year imprisonment followed by termination from his position because he illegally seized salaries worth KD 37,000 by assigning an Iranian clerk to sign in for him using fingerprint molds.

According to the case file, the official had not been going to work and had instead paid an Iranian expatriate to sign in and out for him by using a fingerprint mold, as well as provided him with his job file number and password to prove his attendance on a daily basis.

The court also sentenced the Iranian expatriate to seven-year imprisonment. It ordered the Iranian expatriate and the accused government official to pay a fine of KD 113,000, which is double the value of the unjustified salaries they received.

Case adjourned: The Court of Cassation, presided over by Judge Sultan Bouresli, decided to adjourn to November 26 the pronouncement of the ruling on the appeal submitted by the Public Prosecution against the acquittal of His Highness the former Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, the former Minister of Defense and Interior Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah and others in the Army Fund case.

The hall of the Court of Cassation witnessed strict measures to secure the ruling session. Personal protection was provided to Judge Sultan Bouresli. Security patrols were deployed, and representatives of the press and media were prevented from entering the hall to follow up the daily cases designated for deliberation.

Following the issuance of the Ministerial Court's ruling, the Public Prosecution, in its appeal, demanded the conviction of Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak and Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah, and the cancellation of the acquittal.

The Court of Ministers, presided over by Judge Nasr Al-Heid, had acquitted former Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, former Minister of Interior and Defense Sheikh Khalid Al-Jarrah, former Undersecretary of Defense Jassar Al-Jassar, former military attaché in London Fahad Al-Baz, former military attaché in Bahrain Ali Al-Asker, former military attaché in Lebanon Adel Al-Enezi, former army treasurer at the Ministry of Defense Samir Morgan, former army treasurer at the Ministry of Defense Hamad Al-Banwan, Director of the Office of the Minister of Defense Wael Al-Furaih and an officer with the rank of colonel on all charges.

The issue of the Army Fund was raised in November 2019 after the late Sheikh Nasser Al-Sabah, who was the then Minister of Defense, had submitted a report to the Public Prosecutor regarding the existence of suspicions of crimes related to misuse of public funds during the years that preceded his assumption of the ministry.

Weather	Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
might be thundery at times.	Kuwait City	25	19
By Night: Rather cold, relatively humid especially over coastal areas and partly cloudy with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speed of 08-32 km/h with a chance for light fog forming over some areas.	Kuwait Airport	26	14
	Abdaly	26	14
	Jahra	27	16
	Salmiyah	23	20
	Nuwaisib	27	15
	Wafra	26	13



Ambassador Halima Mahmoud

1,500 pass test: Envoy Halima

'Kenyan house help for Kuwait'

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: The Ambassador of the Republic of Kenya to Kuwait, accredited to Bahrain and Lebanon, HE Halima Mahmoud, said about 1,500 Kenyan citizens have passed the skilled workers admission tests to work in Kuwait in various sectors, out of the more than 5,000 who applied for the tests, reports Al-Rai daily.

In a statement to Al-Rai, the Kenyan envoy said those who passed the interviews will arrive in Kuwait next December, and added, "There is consensus for the signing of a memorandum of understanding for the recruitment of domestic workers from Kenya, which is expected to be signed soon."

She went on to say, "We want to bring our domestic workers to Kuwait." There are about 300,000 Kenyans working in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, more than half of whom are in the domestic labor sector, including 150,000 in Saudi Arabia, more than 70,000 in Qatar, and about 50,000 in Dubai."

She explained, "no labor agreement has been signed with Kuwait, but the discussions are positive about signing a memorandum of understanding in the field of this work, saying the Kenyan Foreign Minister was scheduled to visit Kuwait at the end of last October, but the visit was postponed due to changes in the Council of Ministers in Nairobi, and the minister was transferred to the tourism portfolio and another minister was appointed in his place.

"We are waiting to arrange a new date for the visit of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Labor to Kuwait, to sign the memorandums of understanding, most notably the agreement to recruit domestic workers, and the memorandum of understanding regarding the direct flight between the two countries that was agreed upon."

Iran envoy optimistic

'New phase of ties'

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: Newly-appointed Iranian Ambassador to Kuwait Mohammad Toutouchi praised the bilateral relations between Kuwait and Iran; hoping for a new phase of cooperation between the two countries in the economic, political, cultural and all other fields, reports Al-Qabas daily.

In his first statement to the daily after submitting his credentials to HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Toutouchi praised his meeting with His Highness the Crown Prince; considering it an important day as it was a friendly and brotherly meeting, during which feelings of affection and love were shared.

He disclosed that His Highness the Crown Prince stressed the importance of further strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries. He also affirmed the continuation of coordination between Kuwait and his country on regional and international developments.



Toutouchi

'Imams', 'muezzins' exams Sunday

'1,072 emergency cases in rain'

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: Director of the Medical Emergency Department at the Ministry of Health Dr Ahmad Al-Shatti revealed that the department's Operations Unit dealt with about 1,072 ambulance reports during the heavy rains that hit the country recently -- with a daily average of 356, reports Al-Anba daily.

In a press statement, Al-Shatti revealed the number of road accidents increased to 94 with a daily average of 31 -- a slight increase compared to the daily average of 21 before the heavy rains.

He praised the concerted efforts of all parties involved, led by the emergency medical heroes assigned in the operations units and ambulance centers in all governorates;

along with the medical teams in accident departments in hospitals and healthcare centers equipped to deal with emergencies, the Crisis Management Center and Engineering Sector in the ministry, support partners at Kuwait Firefighting Force, Interior Ministry, Civil Defense Ministry, Meteorology Department, Ministry of Public Works and National Guard.

Exams on Sunday: The Technical Affairs Department in the Mosques Sector at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs is fully prepared for the written exams of Kuwaiti Imams and Muezzins at the Grand Mosque on Sunday, reports Al-Anba daily.

Kuwaiti women in China confab

Hunt for new horizons in ties



Asrar Al-Ansari and Heba Abbas

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: Asrar Al-Ansari, a member of the Board of Directors of the Kuwaiti Society for Media and Communication and the official spokesperson for the Public Authority for Youth, emphasized the depth of the pioneering and inspiring role of Kuwaiti women, who are a driving force at the heart of renaissance and development, and an effective and influential partner in vital sectors, reports Al-Rai daily.

Al-Ansari said this on the sidelines of her participation with Heba Abbas, the technical advisor and head of the Sustainability Committee at the Water Association, in the 2023 Pearl Bay International Conference on Climate Investment and Finance in Guangzhou in the People's Republic of China.

Al-Ansari and Abbas were the only Arab participants in the conference among 500 participants from around the world, which was held under the slogan "Climate Finance for a Better World," and organized by the Guangdong Provincial Government, the Chinese Ministry of Environment, the Chinese News Agency Xinhua and the Chinese Economic Information Service.

Attending the event were global leaders in finance and politics, in addition to representatives from governments, financial institutions, major companies and research institutes.

Opportunity

In a statement, Al-Ansari added that the conference is an opportunity to strengthen ties and explore new horizons of cooperation between Kuwait and China, especially in the areas of climate investment and financing, with the aim of building a more sustainable and resilient world, in addition to field visits to major Chinese projects and companies, and meetings with officials, on the sidelines of the conference.

Regarding the role of Kuwaiti women, she said, "Our participation in the conference is a living example that embodies the keenness of Kuwaiti women to contribute to the global dialogue on major issues and challenges such as climate change and sustainable development, and reflects Kuwait's progressive approach in enhancing the role of women and empowering them in all fields, and the state's vision in moving forward towards an equal society characterized by justice and equality."

For her part, Abbas said "Climate change is a global issue and no single country can combat its impact effectively, in isolation from others. Therefore, international cooperation ensures that countries can From exchanging technology, knowledge and resources, to mitigate the effects of climate change and adapt to it."

She added: "We discussed with a group of Chinese advisors ways to enhance international exchange and cooperation, to address the risks of climate change and its impact on water security, and to develop the global climate investment and financing system, in addition to ways to enhance international cooperation at the level of technological exchange, financial support, research and joint databases, and how to strengthen existing agreements such as the Paris Climate Agreement.

Biometrics to function soon in all schools

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: In an effort to speed up the completion of the fingerprint attendance project for school administrations, the Ministry of Education has called on the educational districts to allow the company in charge of the supply, installation, operation and maintenance of fingerprint attendance verification devices and programs in schools to continue working beyond the official hours, reports Al-Anba daily.

The daily obtained a copy of the letter of acting Undersecretary of the ministry Dr Salman Al-Lafi addressed to the assistant undersecretary of Public Education Affairs, requesting for permission for the contractor to work beyond the official hours throughout the week and during holidays to guarantee the speedy completion and implementation of the work related to the aforementioned contract and to circulate this letter to the educational districts, as well as the Religious Education Department.

In this context, reliable sources from the educational sector confirmed that the specialized company is working hard to quickly install 2,800 fingerprint devices and their accessories in 900 schools. Sources added the number of devices in each school does not exceed three.

Sources clarified the fingerprinting attendance system is for more than 90,000 school employees and this will be implemented upon completion of the installation works as per the decision of the ministry.

KIA pulls out of 117 investments

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) has successfully disassociated from 117 real estate investments valued at KD97 million despite facing difficulties that hindered the exit operations from some of these investments due to the political, security and economic conditions in Arab countries hosting the investments, reports Al-Anba daily.

In response to the report of a regulatory authority, KIA disclosed the real estate management has long started the process of disassociating from local and Arab real estate investments found to be incompatible with the investment strategy of the General Reserve Sector, but was cautious in the application phase due to the need to consider the current market conditions and work environment.

According to KIA, it is keen on updating its investment strategy; especially after implementing the strategy for almost six years. It added the liquid investments have been restructured, while portfolios have been exited and reinvested as per the new strategic asset allocation approved by the Board of Directors.

diwaniya

ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

‘Embattled Netanyahu vents anger on Gazans’

“WHILE I was browsing through the electronic archives of Al-Qabas newspaper a few days ago, I stopped at a statement published on the front page on October 10, 1997, by the Israeli Foreign Minister at the time, saying, “I can no longer tolerate Netanyahu,” columnist Dr **Hamad Al-Jadei** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

“Also in 2011, two international media headlines included a leaked speech by former French President Nicolas Sarkozy, saying the same sentence: “I can no longer bear to see Netanyahu. He is a liar.”

“Although Netanyahu has been an intolerable character since he came to power in 1996, he is still at the head of the occupying state’s authority, committing unbearable crimes and lying under the pretext of eliminating Hamas and liberating Israeli prisoners.

“The truth is that the state of hysteria in which he is experiencing is due to the fact that October 7, 2023 his end was officially and irreversibly written, and he was placed in Israeli prisons with a suspended sentence. This is the reason for his unbearable madness.

“In order for us to know and imagine the extent of the influence of the personal interests of politicians on the making of major events and sometimes global disasters, you can imagine that Netanyahu is being prosecuted and threatened with imprisonment by the courts of the occupying state for life due to dozens of corruption cases, and he was removed from power in 2021, due to the large number of his opponents and his failure to forming a government three times in a row, and stillborn alliances with his secular opponents, Benny Gantz and Naftali Bennett, and the reason is known, of course, because it is unbearable.

“He became ostracized from his government, his people, and his Western allies and was threatened with imprisonment. With malicious moves to protect himself, he made political deals with the most religiously extremist Zionists in the occupying state, namely the head of the Jewish Power Party, Itamar Ben Gvir, the extremist who hoped to have the honor of assassinating Yitzhak Rabin, because of his signing of the Oslo Accords; the head of the Religious Zionism Party, Bezalel Smotrich, who was previously accused of religious extremism and threatening Jewish security, and Amichai Eliyahu, the current Minister of Heritage, who supported the idea of dropping a nuclear bomb on the children of Gaza and killing them.



Dr. Al-Jadei

“With this ill-fated alliance, Netanyahu and the extremist ministers returned to power in 2022, announcing an amendment to the judiciary law to extend his authority and extricate himself from the crisis of prosecution.

“As an expression of gratitude, he withdrew the administration of the settlements from the army and handed it over to Minister of National Security Ben Gvir, who had not served a single day in the military. Let the recent criminal events begin that brought us to this unbearable scene.

“The price that was paid and is still being paid is high, but it is certain that this simple image of disunity and great division within Israel is the end of the extreme right-wing Zionists, a lesson for secularists, the beginning of the return of the voice of the Jewish supporters of the Oslo Accords, and a reason for the beginning of the formation of international public opinion against the occupying state and its brutal practices.

“But this alone is not enough without Arab and Islamic unity, which actually began at the Riyadh summit with high representation and near Arab-Turkish-Iranian consensus.

“Of course, we do not reduce the scene of the 75 years of the Israeli occupation of Palestine to one person, but this is one of the important angles to consider, and according to this perspective and from this angle we must move and unite as Muslims and Arabs.

“No matter how much we differ in the method of solution and political paths, we are without the slightest doubt in agreement on the rights of the Palestinian people. We are aware that the circumstances are in our favor, and that the chances of a two-state solution have increased, and without a doubt, we all “can no longer tolerate Netanyahu.”

Also:

“I was surprised by the dispute that arose between the oil unions and the management of the oil companies, specifically the Kuwait Gulf Oil Company (the divided zone - Al-Khafji). As it is known, the production in the region is 300 thousand barrels per day (50 percent for the Kuwaiti side) and the number of employees is approximately 760 Kuwaitis. So what is the secret of the dispute,” columnist **Dr Turki Al-Azemi** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

“As a management consultant, I researched the matter and found that working in the oil sector, especially in the Kuwait Gulf Oil Company (Khafji Joint Operations), has a special character. In addition to the fact that it is double and hard work and the risk factor is high, the company was grateful to pay compensation to workers for overtime hours.

“The labor law in the oil sector stipulates that working hours of 40 hours per week or more are considered

overtime for which the company must compensate workers, especially since there is a court ruling that obliges the company to pay.

“The company continued to pay for eight years, from 2015 to 2023, and stopped paying since last September. The Minister of Oil formed a committee on September 26, 2023, to discuss all legal, administrative and technical aspects and came up with recommendations within two weeks of its formation and until now (and this is the point) it has issued recommendations but not implemented.

“Since oil is the lifeline and has a sovereign character, the employees of the Kuwait Gulf Oil Company - Al-Khafji and the rest of the companies are considered as Kuwaiti employees in the divided region, and they are considered the “core” and cannot be compensated through contractors, especially since there is a Kuwaitization law in the oil sector that reinforces this.

Here we ask questions to the minister and leaders of oil companies:

- Why was compensation for overtime hours stopped even though it is an acquired right by a final court ruling?
- Do oil companies suffer from a shortage of workers, including Al-Zour station?
- Why have no jobs been announced since 2014?
- Was the reason for the escalation investigated by the Kuwait Gulf Oil Company Workers Union? If so, why were the recommendations not implemented?

“I believe that it has become necessary to pay attention to the oil sector and its companies, especially since there are many waiting for job opportunities that suit their specializations in the oil field and for the process of disbursing benefits (compensations) to be controlled according to the labor law and the court ruling.

“The oil sector will remain a lifeline, and the state budget depends heavily on it as a main source of income. We do not accept in any way any negative impact that will prolong the operational process, and any dispute that may occur should be resolved through understanding and knowledge of the reasons. If there is a right for workers, then the law is the ruling, and we are great. As children, we respect the law and apply it without prejudice, especially with respect to wages and compensation.

“We hope that the Minister of Oil and the management of oil companies will limit the percentage of labor shortages and announce employment in an urgent time (without impossible conditions), considering that workers are partners in developing the oil sector and improving its performance.”

— Compiled by **Mai Elsoukary**



ATVs impounded heading for GTD garage.

15 ATVs, 4 bikes seized

By Mansour Al-Sultan
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

Upon directives of the Assistant Undersecretary for Public Security Affairs, Major General Abdullah Al-Rajaib and in implementation of the security campaign against ATVs (all-terrain vehicles) and motorcycle drivers who disturb people in residential areas and cause traffic accidents, in all areas of Al-Ahmadi, resulted in the seizure of 15 ATVs and 4 motorcycles.

The impounded vehicles have been towed to the traffic detention garage. This is in addition to issuing 50 traffic violations and arresting 21 expatriates – violators of the residency and labor laws.

Crime, traffic violations

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: The General Traffic Department (GTD) announced it received 5,773 reports during the past week, specifically from Nov 11 to Nov 17 about 2,698 minor collisions and 321 serious accidents, reports Al-Anba daily.

The traffic campaign resulted in impounding 45 motorcycles and detention of 53 people by the traffic police.

The GTD also seized 109 wanted vehicles, arrested 11 violators of the residence law and another 13 who did not have proof of “identity.” Another 18 people were arrested for committing serious violations including two reported absconding and another two on suspicion of consuming narcotics.

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Items stolen from cars: A forensic team has moved to the Salwa area, specifically to one of the open areas, to remove fingerprints and traces that could lead to an unknown person who broke into four vehicles and stole money and valuables -- mobile phones, bank cards, and official documents.

A security source told Al-Anba that the four cars belonged to Kuwaiti citizens and they have filed complaints with the Salwa Police Station.

It was not known if CCTV cameras will help nab the suspect/s.

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Ex-spouse damages car: An unidentified woman, who is believed to be in her thirties, has filed a complaint with a police station in Al-Ahmadi Governorate accusing her ex-husband of damaging her car while it was parked in front of a building, reports Al-Anba daily.

Motorists grapple with potholes, uneven surfaces, bridge dividers

Expat bribes cops to free girlfriend...both to be deported

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19, (Agencies): Motorists navigating secondary and main roads grapple with the daily frustration of encountering potholes and uneven surfaces, which have become pervasive issues across the majority of streets. They remain hopeful that the Ministry of Works and the General Authority of Roads will urgently address these challenges, especially after the setback in the road maintenance project carried out by international companies, leading to its eventual abandonment.

The road predicament, persisting since 2018, extends beyond deteriorating surfaces, encompassing problems with bridge dividers and supports on highways. This complicates matters for officials at the Ministry of Works and the Roads Authority.

Informed sources disclosed that over 70 percent of bridge dividers and supports demand immediate maintenance due to the potential dangers faced by drivers navigating these dividers. The ongoing neglect not only poses risks to drivers but also inflicts damage to their vehicles. The sources anticipate that this issue will persist until new maintenance contracts are secured.

While recent highway maintenance contracts included provisions for repairing bridge dividers and supports, these contracts remain unfulfilled. Currently, there are no agreements with the Roads Authority to address these issues, indicating that the suffering of road users is likely to persist.

Concerns are also raised about the potential risks associated with neglecting bridge joints, as failure to address them promptly may lead to future problems affecting the safety of the bridges’ concrete structures, ultimately escalating maintenance costs.

The issue of bridge breaks, endangering the safety of drivers, prompts a renewed focus on the maintenance of concrete walls. Specialists at the Roads Authority emphasize the absence of maintenance contracts for bridge walls since their construction, underscoring the need for new agreements to ensure periodic safety inspections, especially for walls obscured by adjacent trees.

Despite numerous appeals from drivers to the Ministry of Works and the General Authority for Roads, responses have been limited, reflecting the Authority’s weakened capabilities due to the absence of maintenance contracts. Disappointment prevails among road users who initially harbored optimism for the involvement of international companies, only to witness the faltering of proposed tenders.

In a disheartening revelation, informed sources at the Roads Authority confirm that after inspecting and surveying highway bridge joints, 40 percent of one bridge’s joints require urgent maintenance, emphasizing the pressing need for comprehensive intervention in addressing the deteriorating state of the infrastructure.

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Expat bribes cops: An expatriate, offered a bribe of 300 dinars to Hawalli patrolmen to let go his girlfriend against whom an absconding case was registered in the Salmiya area, reports Al-Anba daily.

He asked them to release her. However, he too was arrested and referred to the Salmiya police station in preparation for their deportation.

□ □ □



Worn out bridge joints pose risk to motorists.

Escape attempt foiled

Jahra police arrest 8 drug users

By Mansour Al-Sultan
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: During security campaigns the Jahra Security Directorate, under the supervision of the Acting Director General of Jahra Security, Brigadier General Saleh Al-Azme, and Director of Operations Department, Brigadier General Muhammad Al-Ibrahim, arrested 8 drug users and seized from them of narcotic substances and paraphernalia.

The first arrest was made at a checkpoint in the Al-Naim area, when police seized from the suspects a sachet of shabu, 3 chemical bags, a hashish cigarette, and drug paraphernalia.

The second arrest took place at a checkpoint in the Saad Al-Abdullah area when a young man driving a four-wheel drive climbed on the sidewalk to avoid the checkpoint. After he was forced to stop he showed signs of fear and confusion and when he was searched as a precautionary measure, he was found in possession of a marijuana cigarette and drug paraphernalia.

In the third incident 3 people driving in a sports car in the Taima area were arrested because they were in a state of drug use and in possession of Captagon-type narcotic pills, hashish cigarettes, and drug paraphernalia.

Expat teacher wins case: The First Labor Chamber of the Court of Appeal ruled in favor of a Romanian teacher in a private model education school. The court decided that the teacher was entitled to all of her work entitlements, and awarded her an amount of up to 14 thousand dinars.

Whereas lawyer Abdul Rahman Ayeshe Al-Enezi appeared on behalf of the appellant and demanded all special labor rights for his client, in line with the text of Article 30 of the Labor Law, which stipulated a minimum period of time for the employment contract.

Al-Enezi explained that some weak-minded employers force their employees to sign employment contracts, including conditions that violate the law, believing that the contracts will protect them from labor claims.

The Labor Chamber in the Court of Appeal

The fourth seizure was made in the Al-Waha area forcing a driver to pull over, and the man behind the wheel and another in the passenger seat were in a state of drug use.

When they were about to get in the police car they tried in vain to escape on foot. Police seized from them shabu, narcotic pills, as well as two packages containing narcotic hashish.

Meanwhile, patrol men supporting the Ahmadi Security Directorate were able to arrest 3 people in the Umm Al-Hayman area in possession of narcotic drugs and abuse tools.

Patrol men from the Ahmadi Security Directorate, during their tour in the Umm Al-Hayman area, became suspicious of a car parked in one of the parking lots, and after approaching it, its driver started the car’s engine and stepped on the gas pedal in a vain attempt to escape with two other men inside.

After chasing the man and forcing the man behind the steering wheel, it became clear one of them was wanted in connection with a criminal case, and during a precautionary search of the car police found narcotic substances (hashish, chemicals, shabu, and narcotic pills), in addition to tools and syringes used for drug abuse.

Accordingly, the accused and the seized narcotics were arrested and referred to the General Department of Narcotics Control.

upheld the law without any regard to the conditions contained in the employment contract, which were in violation of the provisions of the law. The court affirmed in the merits of its ruling that the peremptory texts in the law do not allow individuals to agree otherwise.

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Foul play ruled out: A security source said that the forensic medicine concluded that the body found behind the Al-Ahmadi crossing was that of an expatriate, and that the death was natural and there was no criminal suspicion, reports Al-Anba daily.

A security source told the daily the corpse of the unidentified person was discovered last week in an open area off the Al-Ahmadi Traffic Department.

Other Voices

He who laughs last, laughs best

By Ahmad alsarraf

A person has the right to dispose of his money, as long as he is aware of the price he will pay if he acts recklessly. If he is foolish, he will be quarantined. A person has the right to dispose of his health in the way he desires, as long as he is aware of the consequences of his action and the diseases it will bring, especially when he reaches the most degrading age. He usually laughs a lot and very often is the one who laughs last.

Over the course of a few moments, I reviewed the names of a large group of presidents, celebrities, tyrants, and major swindlers known to Kuwait and the world, and I imagined, with mixed feelings, the fate they had ended up with or would end up with, sooner or later, and I thus learned one of the meanings of the title of today’s article, especially after I read the news of the fall of someone who had previously become famous for her tricks and for following the example of her father, in the evil of her deeds, after years of impersonating various qualities that were neither real nor legal.

When US President George H. W. Bush, the hero of the liberation of Kuwait, died a short time ago, his funeral was attended by five current and former US presidents: Trump, Obama, Bush Jr., Clinton and Carter, and his end, after he reached the age of ninety-four, was compared to the end of tyrants, such as Saddam and Gaddafi.

I was amazed at their stupidity and their absurdity because they did not



alsarraf

learn from the simplest lessons of life, and how neither power nor prestige nor fame nor glory nor physical strength, nor any of these material things, can give us peace of mind and a deep and delicious sleep whenever we need it. We put our heads on the pillow at the end of the day, and we want to end our lives in peace and in complete harmony with ourselves!

Ruminating over memories of rule, prestige, wealth, health, power, and authority, no matter how long they last, cannot compensate a person whenever he sees himself within the walls of a prison or within the walls of a house that he cannot leave, or on the run in hiding, afraid even of his own shadow, suspicious even of his family!

What did tyrants gain from oppressing their people and killing so many innocent people? Would they choose to repeat their story if they came back to life...?

Some of those who read this will smile sarcastically, and will respond sarcastically that all he has to do is get the billions, by any means, and he will show us how he will be happy with them, or how he can make power a source of pleasure, but life experiences have proven that this is nothing but an “illusion.”

What comes (earned) in an incorrect way often does not last, and will lead to misery. What is the guarantee that he will be one of the few who will escape through the “eye of the needle”?

If we looked at the testimonies, memoirs, confessions, fates and news of those who oppressed, stole, killed, embezzled, swindled, and destroyed the lives of many with drugs and other things, we would know that only a few enjoyed or were happy with their actions, and only a few would like to believe these words... and learn from them?

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HH Crown Prince and Prime Minister send greetings

HH the Amir congratulates Latvia, Monaco on national days

‘We are all Gaza’ exhibit collects more than KD 800K on first day

Over 80 Kuwaiti companies participate in exhibition

By Abdul Naser Al-Aslami
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: On last Friday, the charity exhibition of the Salaam (Peace) Society titled “We are all Gaza” was launched in Safat Square. More than 80 Kuwaiti companies participated, and allocated 100 percent of their sales to the benefit of the Palestinian people in Gaza.

According to the head of the Salaam Society for Humanitarian and

Charity Works Dr. Nabil Al-Aoun, the value of the donations to the campaign and exhibition titled “We are all Gaza” exceeded more than KD 800,000 on the first day of the campaign. It is expected that record numbers will be reached at the end of the campaign on December 8.

Dr. Al-Aoun said, “We believe in partnership with other parties in this campaign, led by the International Islamic Charitable Organization. We succeeded in flying 21 relief planes, including nine planes belonging to the Salaam Society and the International Islamic Charitable Organization, to our people in Gaza, with the cooperation of the Kuwait Airforce. This aid exceeded 500 tons of various food and relief materials, ambulances, bulldozers, equipment, medical devices, tents, blankets, and other materials.”

Support

He affirmed that the Salaam Society continues to provide support to Gaza, revealing that a relief plane will take off on Sunday, and another larger plane with a large number of first aid supplies and tents on Tuesday.

He said, “The Salaam Society received a donation of 1,000 tents last weekend. We also prepared 11 ambulances, 40,000 blankets, clothes, a solar energy system, refrigerators, and other food supplies at the request of our brothers in Gaza.

We will not let our brothers in Gaza down. We will continue to provide support to them through the Egyptian Red Crescent, the Palestinian Red Crescent, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Social Affairs to deliver this aid inside Gaza.”

Dr. Al-Aoun concluded his statement by saying the Salaam Society for Humanitarian and Charity Works has provided more than 180 tons of aid to the brothers in Gaza worth more than \$3 million since the beginning of the crisis.

Meanwhile, the Director General of the Salaam Society Dhari Al-Baijan said, “The campaign was launched to protect our brothers in Gaza who are currently being subjected to great harm as a result of the Zionist aggression.

The campaign has two parts. The first is a financial link that was launched from 10:00am to 4:00pm. The value of donations amounted to more than half a million Kuwaiti dinars.

The second part of the campaign is the spark for the launch of this exhibition. We are present in the Safat Square for the largest charity exhibition, the proceeds of which were entirely allocated to our brothers in Gaza.”



Photo by Mahmoud Jadeed
Officials inaugurating the exhibition ‘We are all Gaza’.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19, (KUNA): His Highness Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable on Sunday to President of Latvia Edgars Rinkevics congratulating him on his country’s National Day.

His Highness wished the president everlasting well-being and the people of Latvia further development and progress.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable to President Edgars Rinkevics on his country’s National Day.

In the cable, His Highness wished the Latvian president and his country further prosperity and progress.

Also, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to President

Edgars Rinkevics on his country’s National Day.

In the meantime, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad sent a cable on Sunday to the Prince of Monaco Albert II to congratulate him on his country’s National Day, wishing him good health and for his people progress and development.

Also, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad sent a cable to Prince Albert II to congratulate him on his country’s National Day, wishing him good health and for his people progress and development.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad also sent a cable to Prince II to congratulate him on his country’s National Day, wishing him good health and for his people progress and development.



Photo by Mahmoud Jadeed
Some of the items on sale during the ‘We are all Gaza’ exhibition.



KUNA photo
Kuwait’s ambassador Rashed Al-Saleh receives former King and governor of Terengganu, Sultan Abidin.

Discussion focuses on bilateral ties

Kuwait’s ambassador to Malaysia receives governor of Terengganu

By Abdullah Bugis

KUALA LAMPUR, Nov 19, (KUNA): Kuwait’s Ambassador to Malaysia Rashed Al-Saleh explored on Sunday with Malaysia’s former King and governor of the Malaysian state of Terengganu, Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin, the bilateral relations between both countries.

Al-Saleh stated to KUNA that Sultan Mizan sent his greetings to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-

Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and to Kuwait’s government and people.

He also added that both sides discussed the bilateral relation and trade, tourism and investment cooperation between Kuwait and Terengganu, noting that Terengganu is famous for its islands, beaches, lakes and many tourist attractions.

The Malaysian embassy opened in Kuwait in 1974, followed by the Kuwaiti embassy in Malaysia in 1980, noting that their strong bilateral relation is based on their cooperation in various fields.

MoC committed to Kuwaitization

Union inaugurates 2nd seasonal market for local farm products

By Abdel Nasser Al-Aslami and Mohammed Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: Head of the Kuwait Farmers Union Jaber Al-Azmi inaugurated the second seasonal market for local farm products of the Kuwait Farmers Union on November 17 in Wafra Agricultural Area. Present at the market were the Union Treasurer Abdullah Al-Dahoum, members of the Board of Directors of the union Mubarak Al-Dammak and Fahad Al-Azmi, and the Union’s General Manager Ayed Al-Rashidi as well as a number of Wafra farmers.

On this occasion, Al-Azmi greeted the producers participating in the seasonal market and its increasing visitors - both citizens and expatriates.

He praised the Kuwaiti products that are distinguished by their freshness and price.

Al-Azmi said, “Every season, we bring about tangible development in the seasonal market to make it better than the previous one. In this season, the farmers participated with their entrepreneurial brothers in small projects so that it would benefit all producers and consumers in Kuwait.”

Meanwhile, the Treasurer of the Kuwait Farmers Union Abdullah Al-Dahoum said the second seasonal market

of the Kuwait Farmers Union this year is covered, and has more luxurious, organized and tidy stalls where the best vegetables and fruits are displayed, so that families can find all the good vegetables and fruits they need at reasonable prices on a daily basis.

In addition, farmer Suwailam Al-Karibani said, “When a visitor looks left and right in this market, he will only find fresh Kuwaiti products.”

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Employee shortage: According to informed sources from the Ministry of Communications, there is a shortage of 100 Kuwaiti employees in three specializations, including 50 lawyers, 30 administrators, and 20 legal professionals.

The sources affirmed that the ministry is committed to the Kuwaitization plan for all positions based on the directives of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) and in accordance with the plan established and issued in its regard by Civil Service Council’s Resolution No. 11/2017, especially after CSC have been notifying the ministry every fiscal year about the number of jobs required to be filled.

They revealed that the current percentage of Kuwaitization has reached 98.8 in all administrative and technical sectors of the ministry.



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FM Sheikh Salem Abdullah with US envoy Barbara Leaf.

FM, US diplomat discuss Gaza developments

Kuwait’s Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah held talks on Sunday with visiting US Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Barbara Leaf, focusing on current developments in the Gaza Strip.

Kuwait remains “unwavering in its support for the Palestinians and their statehood rights,” the foreign minister told the US envoy, underlining the need to a just solution to the conflict in the Middle East, according to a foreign ministry statement. (KUNA)

Prime Minister,

Continued from Page 1

However, blind people and those who consider themselves as scapegoats make the official look like a saint. That is why governments in Third World countries including Kuwait fail.

This mistaken view has reached all ministries and institutions, even the Amiri Diwan. A few days ago, Nazaha had published a list of the names of corrupt officials from the Amiri Diwan. They were the reason for the administrative wear and tear, and the corruption and bribery that we hear about through more than one scandal per day.

Given that what we say falls on deaf ears, citizens do not know whom to blame and whom to hold accountable. Perhaps it takes more than one cry for the executive to realize that he is a failure and he “should throw in the towel on his own.”

Legal perspectives

Continued from Page 1

for self-determination, firmly rooted in international law, transcends mere historical accounts and stands as a living testament to resilience and perseverance. Kuwait, with its steadfast legal and ethical posture, continues to champion justice, peace, and the enduring principles of international law.

The indiscriminate killing of civilians in Gaza by Israel represents a grave affront to humanity. The bombing of refugee camps, hospitals, schools, and ambulances has led to the deaths of thousands of innocent children, women, and men, clearly violating international law. This is not a matter of self-defense. We in the Arab and Islamic world condemn any civilian killings; we do not accept the killing of Jews or any human being and believe that he who kills one person is killing humanity. Still, the 75 years of oppression against Palestinians, the killing of innocent people, and the conditions akin to an open-air prison in Gaza in which they live – impoverished and in inhumane circumstances – are neither justified nor acceptable by any means. The brutality and barbaric policies that have persisted for centuries by the Israeli government cannot be condoned. How can the West remain so blind to this reality? At this critical juncture in modern history, I urge individuals across all sectors to actively condemn these atrocities and call for an immediate cessation of hostilities. The actions of Israel profoundly contravene the values esteemed by the civilized world.

The tacit or explicit Western justification of the Israeli occupation and the associated killings cannot be perceived as anything other than a manifestation of deep-seated prejudice and discrimination against Arabs and Muslims, effectively devaluing their lives compared to others. This inequitable stance not only exacerbates the conflict but also undermines the principles of justice and equality that should form the bedrock of international relations.

In light of these circumstances, there is a pressing need for a concerted, global effort to address and resolve this longstanding conflict. Governments, international organizations, and individuals must unite in their efforts to uphold human rights, enforce international law, and seek a peaceful, just resolution that acknowledges and respects the Palestinian people’s right to self-determination and sovereignty. Only through such collective action can we hope to see an end to this cycle of violence and the dawn of a more equitable and peaceful future in the region.

Finance faces

Continued from Page 1

In terms of government dues, the Bureau discovered recorded tax dues of 385,627,135 dinars without detailed explanations for non-settlement, breaching Ministry of Finance Circular No. (1) of 2022. The report urges adherence to financial instructions and demands clarification on reduced balances in the final account.

Regarding support for national workers, the Bureau discloses uncollected balances in the account of national labor support dues, reaching 107,144,040,000 dinars, in violation of budget implementation rules. Similarly, retained balances in the account of Zakat Law dues from previous years amounted to 13,937,395,000 Kuwaiti dinars, contravening budget rules. The Bureau calls for legal measures to ensure timely collection, preventing statute of limitations.

- Key Observations:
- Delay in collecting 75.5 million dinars government debt
 - 193.8 million dinars in uncollected income tax receivables
 - Only 5.3% of tax benefits (342.8 million dinars) received

Commerce boosts

Continued from Page 1

During the visit, the Minister received a detailed explanation of the daily work plan and mechanism from various departments, including follow-up and coordination, the automated information center, the central operations room, and the control emergency team. Employees outlined their procedures for receiving complaints, dealing

with them, conducting inspection tours, documenting violations, and monitoring supply branches through the operating room.

Additionally, the Minister took the opportunity to listen to consumer calls received by the call and communication center, seeking opinions, suggestions, and comments on the services provided.

Parliament committee

Continued from Page 1

Rapporteur of the committee MP Fahd Al- Masoud disclosed that the minister promised to respond to queried regarding the bills in a couple of weeks. He added the minister informed the committee that they are working on the draft bill on organizing the media and it will be referred to the Assembly upon completion.

The parliamentary committee tasked to discuss points in the grilling motion of MP Dawoud Maarefi against former Minister of Public Works Amani Bugamaz deliberated on its strategy to accomplish the task.

On the other hand, MP Hamad Al-Elyan has forwarded queries to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Khalid Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah about his ministry’s vision and regulations on boycotting Israel and preventing the entry of anyone holding Israeli passport or dual passport holders if one of the passports is issued by Israel.

He asked about the steps taken to implement Kuwaiti legislation stating the country is at war with Zionist gangs occupying Palestinian and Arab territories. He requested for copies of documents supporting his response.

He wants to know how the ministry ensures that only Israeli passport holders are banned from entering the country, if anyone entered the country on another country’s passport and was found to be holding Israeli nationality in the last 20 years, measures taken in this regard, if Kuwait signed agreements with other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries on banning the entry of individuals who previously visited Israel for security reasons as per Kuwaiti laws which ban dealing with individuals or entities dealing with Israel, the position of Kuwait on the GCC unified visa, when is the implementation if Kuwait approved such agreement, way of preventing the entry of other GCC citizens who obtained Israeli citizenship, and if it is true that Kuwait adopted a conservative position on the unified visa for security reasons.

MP Fahd bin Jame’ asked all the ministers about the number of court rulings issued for or against each ministry and their subsidiaries that were implemented from January 2020 till date, number of compensation-related court rulings issued for or against each ministry and their subsidiaries within the same period, amount of collected and uncollected compensation, copies of recorded comments against each ministry and their subsidiaries, and their response if any.

Meanwhile, MP Osama Al-Shaheen expressed condolences over the death of Deputy Speaker of Palestinian Legislative Council Ahmed Al-Bahr who was killed in the recent Israeli bombing of Gaza. He said the son and grandchildren of Al-Bahr were killed in earlier Israeli attacks.

He also affirmed solidarity with Speaker of the Palestinian Legislative Council Dr Abdulaziz Al-Duwaik who is currently detained by Israel.

He said the crimes being committed by Israel exceeded all limits and include various types of criminal acts against humanity such as genocide, ethnic cleansing, compulsory displacement and apartheid which violate the international law, Geneva Declaration and Rome Declaration. He added the Israeli crimes include targeting infrastructure and public structures like worshipping places, schools and hospitals using internationally prohibited weapons such as phosphorus.

He hailed the efforts exerted by South Africa and other friendly countries, some French and American lawyers, Turkish Lawyers Society and Kuwait Lawyers Society regarding the attacks. He affirmed joining Kuwait Lawyers Society in its bid to file cases against the war criminals – Israeli leaders and commanders.

He asked about the Arab League’s move; indicating nothing has been done until now in terms of ceasefire, filing cases against Israeli commanders, and launching media platforms to expose the Israeli crimes.

Kuwait condemns

Continued from Page 1

They were among scores of critically ill and wounded patients stranded at Shifa after Israeli forces fought their way to the hospital and entered it last Wednesday.

The fate of the newborns at Shifa Hospital had captured global attention after the release of images showing doctors trying to keep them warm. A power blackout had shut down incubators and other equipment, and food, water and medical supplies ran out as Israeli forces battled Palestinian militants outside the hospital.

A World Health Organization team that visited the hospital on Saturday said 291 patients were still there, including 32 babies in extremely critical condition, trauma patients with severely infected wounds, and others with spinal injuries who are unable to move.

KFSD announces opening of 2 fire stations at airport & in Qairawan

1,980 applicants for fire fighting courses pass admission tests

By Munaif Naif
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: Director General of the Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) Lieutenant General Khaled Al-Mekrad announced the opening of two fire stations at the New Kuwait Airport and another in Qairawan out of a total of six fire stations that will be opened successively before the end of this year.

He said this in a press statement issued during the drawing of lots for a number of courses in KFSD at Kazma Club in Adailiya in the presence of the Deputy Director General of Public Authority of Applied Education and Training (PAAET), the Deputy Director General of the Firefighting Sector Major General Jamal Bader, the Deputy Director General of the Kuwait Transparency Society Dr. Bader Al-Raqeeb, and applicants.

Announced

Lieutenant General Al-Mekrad revealed that courses for all ranks will be announced in April next year as part of KFSD’s plan to enhance its human capabilities.

He affirmed that all the necessary plans to implement the Kuwait Fire Force Club have been completed, and a tender for its implementation will be issued soon.

In a related context, the Director of Public Relations and Media at KFSD Colonel Muhammad Al-Gharib said the number of applicants who met the conditions and passed the admission tests reached 1,980 distributed over seven courses, in addition to immediate acceptance of three specialties - sergeant - prevention inspector, sergeant - public relations, media and photography, and security and safety sergeant - due to the lack of incomplete numbers.

He indicated that acceptance is not considered final until passing the medical examination.

Furthermore, the Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Transparency Society, Dr. Fahad Al-Raqeeb said, “We are present in the draw for selecting firefighting courses to supervise the procedures, which were conducted in an organized manner without any obstacles.”

He affirmed the keenness of KFSD to conduct the draw with high transparency so that there is fairness in selecting those accepted through the presence of applicants for these courses and putting their names on a paper in the boxes, after which the names are drawn.

Dr. Al-Raqeeb appreciated the role of KFSD in cooperating with the Kuwait Transparency Society, and the distinguished organization of the draw.

In addition, a draw will be held to

Kuwait sends 3 more flights

Kuwait, Egypt charities ink \$500,000 deal for Gaza aid

CAIRO, Nov 19, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Society for Relief partnered with Egypt’s Dar Al-Orman charity on Sunday for a deal worth USD 500,000 to provide urgent aid to Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, running the gamut from food to healthcare supplies.

The endeavor comes “in line with the directives” of Kuwait’s political leaders, which call for “amplifying” the scope of aid to the Palestinians, said Dr. Mohammad Al-Sharhan, a member of the Kuwait-based charity’s board of trustees.

He cited previous aid programs directed at the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, chief among them an “air bridge” that carried some 500 tons of varied assistance for the Palestinians in a testament to what he described as Kuwaitis’ “historic” penchant for such humanitarian endeavors.

Echoing the Kuwaiti official’s sentiments, the chief of the Egypt-based charity Ahmad Al-Gendi said that coming to the aid of the Palestinians is tantamount to a “legal and moral” obligation, commending the efforts of Kuwaiti charities as they respond to the urgent needs of the Palestinians.

Meanwhile, three humanitarian aid airplanes took off Sunday carrying 90 tons of various humanitarian aid to relieve the people in the Gaza Strip, bringing the total number of flights from the Kuwaiti air bridge to 24.

Director of Public Relations and Media Department at KRCS Khaled Al-Zaid told KUNA before take-off that the Kuwaiti relief aid from the Kuwaiti air bridge to date has amounted to about 600 tons through 24 flights provided by all Kuwaiti charitable societies and bodies in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, KRCS, Egyptian Red Crescent and Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS).

Al-Zaid revealed that 90 percent of Kuwaiti relief aid arrived in Gaza. Considering the separation of the north from the south of Gaza by the Israeli occupation forces, it became difficult to deliver aid to the north, however in the southern part, the Palestinian Red Crescent was able to fill the warehouses with various Kuwaiti aid, he explained.

In a similar statement to KUNA, Director General of Al-Salam Dr. Nabeel Al-Aoun confirmed that the volume of relief aid provided by Al-Salam and IICO to relieve those affected by Gaza since the beginning of the crisis amounted to approximately 210 tons, with a value exceeding USD 3 million.

Al-Salam will send a large relief plane next Tuesday that includes various materials, including tents, ambulances, shelter materials, clothing, refrigerators, and others, based on the request of PRCS, Al-Aoun said.



One of the newly-opened fire stations.

Photo by Mahmoud Jadeed

Kuwait’s role in fostering peace, stability in region hailed

Kuwait important ally of the US: Warburg

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: US State Department Regional Spokesman Samuel Warburg has confirmed that Kuwait is an important ally of his country and their bilateral relations are developing significantly; highlighting his country’s appreciation for the constructive and effective role played by Kuwait, and it considers the latter a valuable partner in promoting peace and stability in the region, reports Al-Anba daily.

In an exclusive interview with the daily, Warburg stressed that the United States does not put pressure on its partners and allies to adopt certain positions; as it respects open dialogue and the constructive exchange of ideas. He affirmed that his country is aware of differences between its viewpoints and that of its allies, but all of them strive to achieve peace and harmony in the region as a common goal.

He added the United States of America takes a clear and firm position regarding Hamas’ operations, which pose grave danger to the stability of the entire region. The violent act of Hamas on Oct 7 that harmed women, children and innocent civilians is a blatant example of terrorist action hurting both the Palestinian and Israelis, he added.

Pressure

“We, in the United States, do not put pressure on our partners and allies to adopt certain positions; unlike some dictatorial regimes or terrorist groups in the region. We respect open dialogue and constructive exchange of ideas. Nevertheless, we believe that Hamas’ terrorism is harmful for the entire region. It is strange that no one has condemned the heinous terrorist acts carried out by this group. We understand that there could be differences in views between us and our allies, but at the end of the day, we all strive to achieve a common goal – peace and harmony in this region. The United States remains committed to work-

accept four courses, including 125 vehicle operators and 25 reservists, 100 special missions vehicle operator sergeants and 25 reservists, 75



Samuel Warburg

ing with its partners to achieve this goal, while maintaining mutual respect and constructive cooperation,” he asserted.

He explained that the two-State solution is a permanent and just way of ending the conflict in the region, such that the Israelis and Palestinians live side by side in peace and security. He said achieving this solution requires cooperation and understanding among all parties involved; stressing this must come through negotiations and dialogue, not violence.

He confirmed his country’s strong opposition to proposals that could lead to the displacement of the population of Gaza or change the geographical or demographic conditions in the region. “We believe in the right of the people of Gaza to return to their homes and land, and that any solution must respect their rights and preserve their dignity,” he added.

Challenges

Asked if the position of the United States about the current situation in the Gaza Strip needs reconsideration and rapid intervention to resolve this issue and end the long-term conflict, he explained: “The United States is fully aware of the challenges and complexities associated with the situation in the Gaza Strip. We are deeply concerned about the loss of civilian lives and the destruction that has been happening there. We believe that the

lasting and just solution to the conflict in the region lies in achieving a two-State solution, where Israelis and Palestinians live side by side in peace and security.”

He also affirmed that the United States is keen on actively participating in the Manama Dialogue this year, which is being held under regional circumstances with many challenges. “We greatly appreciate the Kingdom of Bahrain’s continued support for this important dialogue initiative, which reflects its firm commitment to spreading the values of dialogue and peaceful coexistence. Our participation this year is an affirmation of our deep commitment to the security and stability of the region, and to deepening the strategic partnership with Bahrain,” he emphasized.

He then clarified that this participation is an opportunity to highlight the progress achieved within the framework of the Comprehensive Agreement on Security, Integration and Prosperity between the two countries, which contributes to strengthening the foundations of security, stability and well-being of the region.

He stated that the United States believes Iran still plays a destabilizing role in the region. “In fact, we designated a number of armed militias allied with Iran as terrorist organizations on Nov 17. This measure is a response to the support of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard and the Quds Force for these militias through training, financing and the provision of advanced weapons, including advanced and deadly unmanned aircraft systems. These Iranian-backed militias planned and supported attacks against American personnel. Therefore, we consider Iran the largest State sponsor of terrorism in the world. The United States is committed to making full use of all available tools to confront Iran’s support for terrorism and stop the terrorist attacks of Iranian-backed groups,” he concluded.

combat sergeants and 25 reservists, 100 combat corporals and 25 reservists, as well as immediate acceptance of the specializations of ser-

geant and prevention inspector, numbering 94, public relations, media and photography sergeant 24, and security and safety sergeant.

وزارة التجارة والصناعة
Ministry of Commerce and Industry

RECALL INFORMATION

Mercedes-Benz Cars
MODEL: 254
Model year: 2023
Total vehicles: 112

RECALL REASON

Mercedes-Benz AG has determined that on certain GLC (254 platform) vehicles, the socket for the towing device in the front crossmember might not meet specifications. As a result, a loosening of the bolt connection under load cannot be ruled out, increasing the risk of an accident or injury.

REMEDY

As a precautionary measure, the front crossmember of the affected vehicles will be checked and replace if necessary. The required work certainly be carried out free of charge.

CONTACT

Please contact Al Mulla Automobiles Co.
Phone 1-887-888
Mercedes-Benz Service Centre - Al Shuwaikh Industrial Area - 9 Street
Mercedes-Benz Service Centre - Al Shuwaikh Industrial Area - 13 Street
Mercedes-Benz Service Centre for Passenger Cars - Al Ahmadi - 29 Street

This Recall is run pursuant to articles (42, 43, 44, 46 and 47) of no.39/2015 issuing the executive by laws of law no.39/2014 on Consumer Protection

World News Roundup

Europe

‘Release artist’

Kyiv ‘light yrs away’ from joining EU: PM

BUDAPEST, Nov 19, (AP): Hungary’s prime minister said Saturday that Ukraine is “light years away” from joining the European Union, further signaling that his government is likely to present a roadblock to Kyiv’s ambitions to join the bloc.

Speaking at a biannual congress of his nationalist Fidesz party, Prime Minister **Viktor Orbán** said he and his government would “resist” talks scheduled for mid-December on whether to formally invite Ukraine to start membership negotiations.

Admitting a new country requires unanimous approval from all existing member countries, giving Orbán a powerful veto.

At the party congress in Budapest on Saturday, he was reelected as the president of Fidesz for the 11th straight time since 2003. Orbán said afterward that standing in the way of Ukraine joining the EU would be one of his government’s top priorities in the coming months.

“Our task will be to correct the mistaken promise to start negotiations with Ukraine, since Ukraine is now light years away from the European Union,” Orbán said.

The EU’s executive commission earlier this month recommended beginning accession talks with Ukraine, saying the government in Kyiv “has shown a remarkable level of institutional strength, determination and ability to function.”

But Orbán, one of Russian President Vladimir Putin’s only EU allies, has argued that negotiations should not begin with a country that is at war, and that Ukraine’s membership would reorient the 27-member EU’s system of distributing funds to member countries.

□ □ □
Troops work to advance on side of river: Ukrainian troops worked to push back Russian forces positioned on the east bank of the Dnieper River, the military said Saturday, a day after Ukraine claimed to have secured multiple bridgeheads on that side of the river that divides the country’s partially occupied Kherson region.

Ukraine’s establishment of footholds on the Russian-held bank of the Dnieper represents a small but potentially significant strategic advance in the midst of a war largely at a standstill. The General Staff of Ukraine’s armed forces said its troops there had repelled 12 attacks by the Russian army between Friday and Saturday.

The Ukrainians now were trying to “push back Russian army units as far as possible in order to make life easier for the (western) bank of the Kherson region, so that they get shelled less,” Natalia Humeniuk, spokesperson for Ukraine’s Southern Operational Command, said.

□ □ □
Russian docs call for release of artist: More than 100 Russian doctors signed an open letter published Saturday that demands the immediate release of an artist and musician who was sentenced to seven years in prison for swapping supermarket price tags with antiwar messages.

The letter calling for Sasha Skochilenko to be freed was addressed to Russian President Vladimir Putin and warned that time in prison could lead to a “significant deterioration” in the 33-year-old artist’s health.

Skochilenko was “diagnosed with a number of severe chronic diseases that require proper medical supervision and a special diet,” states the letter, which goes on to note the doctors’ indignation at the “obvious injustice of the verdict.”

□ □ □
Albania’s ex-health min accused of corruption: Albania’s former health minister, who is being investigated for alleged corruption, must report to police and not leave the country, prosecutors said Saturday.

Prosecutors with the country’s Special Court Against Corruption and Organized Crime said Ilir Beqaj should report to prosecutors every Friday and may not use his passport or identity card to leave the country. The special prosecution agency was created in 2019 to handle corruption and other crime cases involving senior officials.

Beqaj, 55, resigned his post as head of a government agency coordinating international assistance. He was the minister of health from 2013-2017 as part of the governing Socialist Party of Prime Minister Edi Rama.

□ □ □
Estonia’s Kallas re-elected to lead party: Estonia’s ruling Reform Party reelected Prime Minister Kaja Kallas as its chairperson Saturday and confirmed her staying on as the Baltic nation’s leader amid widespread calls by opposition and voters for her to resign over a scandal involving her husband’s business dealings in Russia.

Kallas was the only candidate for the party leadership post as center-right Reform held a general meeting in the capital, Tallinn. Two-thirds of the 931 delegates who took part in a vote supported her and one-third abstained.

The 46-year-old lawyer has been the leader of the Reform Party, Estonia’s largest political group, since April 2018. She became the country’s first female prime minister in January 2021.

Earlier this week, Kallas publicly signaled at a foreign policy conference in Washington her interest in becoming the next secretary-general of NATO. NATO’s current chief, Jens Stoltenberg, is due to step down in October 2024 after 10 years in the post.

□ □ □
‘Months before it is safe to go home’: People in southwest Iceland remained on edge Saturday, waiting to see whether a volcano rumbling under the Reykjanes Peninsula will erupt. Civil protection authorities said that even if it doesn’t, it’s likely to be months before it is safe for residents evacuated from the danger zone to go home.

The fishing town of Grindavik was evacuated a week ago as magma - semi-molten rock - rumbled and snaked under the earth amid thousands of tremors. It has left a jagged crack running through the community, thrusting the ground upward by 1 meter (3 feet) or more in places.

The Icelandic Meteorological Office said there is a “significant likelihood” that an eruption will occur somewhere along the 15-kilometer (9-mile) magma tunnel, with the “prime location” an area north of Grindavik near the Hagafell mountain.



US Republican presidential candidate and former President Donald Trump speaks during a rally Saturday, Nov 18, in Fort Dodge, Iowa. (AP)

Politics

Trump celebrates win in Colorado election case

GOP secures all elected statewide offices in La

BATON ROUGE, La, Nov 19, (AP): Come January, the GOP will control every elected statewide office in Louisiana after Republicans swept three runoff races for attorney general, secretary of state and treasurer Saturday night.

The GOP success, in a state that has had a Democrat in the governor’s office for the past eight years, means that Republicans secured all of Louisiana’s statewide offices for the first time since 2015. In addition, the GOP holds a two-third supermajority in the House and Senate.

Liz Murrill was elected as attorney general, Nancy Landry as secretary of state and John Fleming as treasurer. The results also mean Louisiana will have its first female attorney general and first woman elected as secretary of state.

Powerful

Saturday’s election completes the shaping of Louisiana’s executive branch, where most incumbents didn’t seek reelection and opened the door for new leadership in some of the most powerful positions.

Louisiana’s gubernatorial election was decided in October when Jeff Landry, a Republican backed by former President Donald Trump, won outright and avoided a runoff. Current Gov. John Bel Edwards, the only Democratic governor in the Deep South, was unable to run for reelection due to term limits.

Also for the Republicans, Lt Gov Billy Nungesser and Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry Mike Strain were reelected last month and Tim Temple was elected insurance commissioner.

Despite a low voter turnout, Saturday’s election caught the eye of Trump, who endorsed the Republican candidates in each of the three statewide races.

The three Republicans “are outstanding in every way and have my complete and total endorsement,” Trump said in a statement issued by the Louisiana Republican Party.

Murrill, a Republican, will replace her boss, Jeff Landry, when he becomes governor in January. Murrill’s opponent in the attorney general race was Lindsey Cheek, a New Orleans-

WASHINGTON, Nov 19, (AP): By most accounts, Speaker Mike Johnson inherited a House Republican majority in disarray after the sudden ouster of his predecessor last month.

But as Johnson, R-La., tries to rebuild that slim majority, he’s fast running into the same hard-right factions and divisions that Rep Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif, was unable to tame. That’s disrupting the party’s agenda, shelving priorities and leaving gnawing questions about any leader’s ability to govern.

Capitol Hill devolved into fresh scenes of political chaos this past week as tensions soared. A Republican senator challenged a Teamsters union boss to a brawl, one of several outbursts involving lawmakers, and the untested new speaker was forced to abandon his own party’s schedule and send everyone home early for Thanksgiving.

based trial attorney.

The attorney general represents the state in a variety of legal disputes. However, Landry often made statewide and national headlines in the role, including his support for legislation banning gender-affirming medical care for transgender youths and a near-total abortion ban with no exceptions for cases of rape and incest.

Murrill has joined Landry in championing conservative causes, including a lawsuit against President Joe Biden’s administration for the COVID-19 vaccine mandate for federal contractors.

On the campaign trail, Murrill pledged to fight overreach by the federal government, defending the state’s abortion ban and pushing a tough-on-crime rhetoric.

Also:

FORT DODGE, Iowa: Former US president **Donald Trump** celebrated a

“This place is a pressure cooker,” Johnson lamented. Hopefully, he said, people will “cool off.”

But the outlook ahead appears no better. House Republicans who pledged to slash federal spending, investigate President Joe Biden and end a long string of Democratic policies have made only incremental progress on their priorities.

Even though McCarthy struck a surprising debt deal with Biden earlier this year that set a course to reduce federal deficits by \$1.5 trillion over the next decade, a conservative victory, it exists mainly on paper.

Republicans have failed to pass all the legislation needed to put all those cuts into law and have yanked some bills from the House floor. Centrist conservatives said the measures went too far, however, as the hard-right faction demands steeper reductions in government programs.

win in a closely watched election case during a return visit to Iowa Saturday, where he blasted his political foes and encouraged his supporters to not move past their grievances with US President **Joe Biden**.

A Colorado judge Friday rejected an effort to keep the GOP front-runner off the state’s primary ballot, concluding that Trump had engaged in insurrection during the Jan 6, 2021, attack on the US Capitol but that it was unclear whether a Civil War-era constitutional amendment barring insurrectionists from public office applied to the presidency. It was Trump’s latest win following rulings in similar cases in Minnesota and Michigan.

Trump, campaigning in west-central Iowa, called the decision “a gigantic court victory” as he panned what he called “an outrageous attempt to disenfranchise millions of voters by getting us thrown off the ballot.”



A line of cars on a road heading out of the town of Grindavik, Iceland on Nov 13. Residents of Grindavik, a town in southwestern Iceland, have been briefly allowed to return to their homes on Monday after being told to evacuate on Saturday after increasing concern about a potential volcanic eruption caused civil defense authorities to declare a state of emergency in the region. (AP)



Formella



Newsom

America

Police search for shooter: Police in Tennessee have launched a manhunt for a suspect believed to have fatally shot three women and a teenage girl and critically wounded another teen girl at three separate locations during a deadly outbreak of domestic violence Saturday night.

Memphis Police Department officers responded to a report of a shooting at 9:22 pm on the 100 Block of Howard Drive. Police found a woman with an apparent gunshot wound who was pronounced dead at the scene.

Investigators determined there were two other connected fatal shootings. At Field Lark Drive, a woman and a 13-year-old girl were killed and a 15-year-old girl was critically wounded. (AP)

□ □ □
Fire, safety hazards found: State investigators repeatedly identified fire and safety hazards at a leased storage space under an elevated Los Angeles freeway before it burned in an arson fire, documents show.

The Nov. 11 blaze, fed by flammable materials stored under the roadway in violation of the company’s lease, closed a stretch of Interstate 10 near downtown for days, snarling traffic as repair crews work around the clock to fix it. Officials say all lanes are expected to reopen by Tuesday.

The California Department of Transportation, known as Caltrans, released the documents on Friday, a day before investigators said they identified a “person of interest” and released two photos in a “crime alert notification” posted to social media.

While investigators have not said how the fire was set, the blaze was fed by pallets, cars, construction materials, hand sanitizer and other items being stored under the freeway under a little-known program that now is under scrutiny. Gov **Gavin Newsom** said the state will reassess the practice of leasing land under roads to bring in money for mass transportation projects. (AP)

Boy fatally stabs twin brother: A 5-year-old California boy fatally stabbed his twin brother, authorities said.

The twins were fighting Wednesday

when one brother grabbed a small kitchen knife and stabbed his sibling in unincorporated Scotts Valley, according to the Santa Cruz County Sheriff’s Office. The



Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden, (right), visits the German branch of the Swedish medical technology company ‘Getinge’ in Frankfurt, Germany, on Nov 17. (AP)

boy died at the hospital.

“We are heartbroken for the family of these two young children and share in their grief,” the sheriff’s office wrote in a Facebook post on Thursday.

Authorities said they do not plan to file criminal charges in the death.

“California law dictates that age, criminal intent, and knowledge of wrongfulness are factors needed to charge a child with a crime,” the Facebook post stated. “Based on the current investigation, there is no indication of negligence or criminal activity by any other party.” (AP)

□ □ □
Shooting suspect identified: A man killed by a state police trooper after he shot a security guard to death at a New Hampshire psychiatric hospital has been identified, authorities said Saturday.

New Hampshire Attorney General **John Formella** said 33-year-old John Madore entered New Hampshire Hospital on Friday afternoon and killed Bradley Haas, a state Department of Safety security officer who was working at the front lobby entrance of the facility. There were several people in the lobby at the time of the shooting, he said.

Formella said Madore was most recently living in a hotel in the Seacoast region and also had lived in Concord. (AP)

Lat/Am

American arrested

Mexico’s new project shrouded in secrecy

MEXICO CITY, Nov 19, (AP): The family of Germán Robles set up a camera trap in 2002 and, to their surprise, caught a black bear wandering through their farm in northern Mexico where residents fear a new freight train line will soon bisect their properties.

The bear, spotted while Robles was in middle school, prompted the family to let a portion of their land go wild after rearing cattle for four generations.

Eventually they spotted ocelots and golden eagles, six different species of rattlesnake and a jaguar. Scientists flooded in and by 2011 the ranch was federally designated a Natural Protected Area.

Now Robles fears the sanctuary he built with his father is in danger, as government contractors begin felling trees and bulldozing the path for the railroad toward his family’s Aribabi ranch and the town of Imuris, 40 miles (65 kilometers) south of the US-Mexico border.

“Things will change completely in a matter of weeks, you know,” Robles said, adding that the project will fragment habitat his family worked hard to nurture. “It will create a kind of manmade wall that will not allow for animal species to migrate from one side to the other.”

The railroad project is billed as bolstering connections between a Pacific port and the border with Arizona. Local residents and conservationists say it ignores environmental concerns, but have had trouble fighting the project because it has been shrouded in secrecy.

In February, military officials travelled to Imuris to announce the project. Since then, there has been no official communication: no plan, consultation or environmental assessment, local residents say. The project is not mentioned on any state or federal government websites, or in Sonora state’s development plans.

Bring

Nor is it clear why the new route is necessary other than to bring the line closer to new mines owned by the rail operator’s parent company, Grupo Mexico.

Grupo Mexico, its rail subsidiary Ferromex, Sonora Gov. Alfonso Durazo’s office and Mexico’s defense department all did not respond to requests for comment about the project.

Meanwhile, construction began a few months ago on communal land north of Imuris.

The project has drawn comparisons to the much larger Maya Train project, a pet project of President Andrés Manuel López Obrador to transport tourists through the forested Yucatan peninsula. While smaller, the project in Imuris matches Obrador’s penchant for infrastructure projects with heavy military involvement and no apparent concern for the environment.

No official map of the new rail line has been published. But according to a map leaked by a local official in the spring, the project will create a second rail line for a portion of the existing route between Nogales and the port of Guaymas, this time following the Cocospera river south before cutting through the west perimeter of the Aribabi ranch and then pulling west, into Imuris.

Locals say the route rides roughshod over their farms’ irrigation canals and threatens the reservoir that provides water for the township’s 12,500 residents.

In addition to disrupting wildlife that rely on the river, construction will also cut up an important migration corridor over the Azul and El Pinito mountains for ocelots, black bears and jaguars, according to the Center for Biological Diversity.

Splitting

“It is a mockery,” said Alberto Heredia, saying the state offered to buy a strip through his farm for the tracks themselves, splitting his house from the cows’ corral. “It is an abuse that they are committing.”

Asked why the offer was so low, the state infrastructure department’s chief of transparency, Alan Espinosa Araujo, declined to comment, saying the project was under federal jurisdiction, so his department had no information to share.

Imuris Mayor Jesús Leonardo García said he has tried to negotiate with state authorities for residents with affected properties to be reimbursed, but that he himself had no “official” information.

“One of the main problems was precisely that: the uncertainty that exists among the people because of the lack of communication,” García said.

Locals can only guess at the new railroad’s purpose, however, in the face of an almost complete vacuum of information. The new route will bring tracks within roughly 10 miles of Santa Cruz, where Grupo Mexico expect to open a new open-pit copper mine in 2025.

Mirna Manteca, a biologist with Wildlands Network, began researching when concerned locals approached her in March, but found there was very little to research. “There’s no real information. There’s no official project,” said Manteca. “There’s nothing.”

Over the summer, government agencies deflected information requests into a tortuous loop. First the town of Imuris said it was a state project. Then Sonora’s government insisted it fell under federal oversight. Months later, every federal department Manteca contacted said it had no information it could share about a train project in Imuris.

Also:

CARACAS, Venezuela: A California man’s family is pleading for his release after they say he was wrongfully arrested in Venezuela and held for tens of thousands of dollars in ransom just days after the Biden administration eased crippling oil sanctions on the socialist-run government.

Savoi Wright’s Oct 24 arrest, which had not been previously reported, has become the latest flashpoint in the tenuous relationship between the US and Nicolás Maduro’s government that critics say should lead to a return to sanctions.

But all Wright’s family wants is for the 38-year-old businessman to be returned home. They know precious little about the circumstances of his arrest. No criminal charges have been filed, he has not been allowed to see a lawyer and the Venezuelan government hasn’t said where he is being held.

“It’s a nightmare. It’s like you’re watching a horror movie but you’re in it,” his mother, Erin Stewart, told The Associated Press in a telephone interview from her Oakland home.

Wright joins at least seven other US citizens who remain imprisoned in Venezuela. But his arrest stands out because it came on the heels of a politically risky move by President Joe Biden to roll back crippling oil sanctions against the OPEC nation in tandem with an Oct 17 agreement in Barbados between Maduro’s government and its opponents to hold elections next year.



Construction continues for a new train line in northern Mexico, in San Lorenzo, Sonora state, Mexico on Nov 13. Residents in the northern state of Sonora are battling the new train line which they say threatens to displace their homes and cut up the local ecosystem. (AP)



Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. speaks during the APEC CEO Summit on Nov 15 in San Francisco. (AP)



Muizzu



Solih

Subcontinent

Roadside bomb kills 3 in Pakistan: A roadside bomb exploded, killing three people in insurgency-hit southwestern Baluchistan province on Sunday, police said.

Police officer Mohammad Rahim said the bomb was planted on a dirt road in Balgar area of Kech district and was detonated remotely. Three men, two of whom were brothers, were killed while on their way to a family gathering, and a privately owned car was destroyed, he said.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the blast but suspicion falls on Baluch nationalists turned separatist groups who have been involved in low-level insurgency for over two decades in the gas and mineral-rich province. The groups have been calling for independence from the central government in Islamabad.

Kech district and surrounding areas have suffered from insurgency for years. Insurgent groups have claimed responsibility for attacks on security forces and civilian targets in recent months. (AP)

Pakistani army kills 4 militants: Pakistan security forces killed four militants in a shootout during an overnight raid in the country’s northwest near the border with Afghanistan, the military said Sunday.

A military statement said security forces conducted an intelligence-based operation in the Khaisoor area of North Waziristan district, where they exchanged fire with militants. It said troops seized weapons and ammunition from the militants’ hideout.

The military said one of the most wanted militant commanders, identified by single name of Ibrahim, was among the dead, all of whom were involved in attacks on security forces and civilians. Troops were carrying out sanitization of the surrounding areas to eliminate any hiding militants, it said.

North Waziristan served for decades as a safe haven for militants until the military carried out a major operation after an attack on an army-run school in Peshawar in 2014 killed more than 150 people, mostly schoolchildren. The Pakistani Taliban are a separate group but allies of the Afghan Taliban, which seized power in Afghanistan in 2021 as the US and NATO troops were in the final stages of their pullout after 20 years of war. (AP)

Alternate rescue plans considered: Officials trying to reach 41 workers who have been trapped in a collapsed tunnel in northern India for eight days were contemplating alternative rescue plans Nov 19 after snags with a drilling machine caused them to halt digging. (AP)

Asia

Duong denies working for China

Marcos’ Hawaii visit boosts US-Philippines bond

HONOLULU, Nov 19, (AP): Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos Jr is meeting with senior US military leaders and members of Hawaii’s large Filipino community this weekend in a visit steeped in geopolitical and personal significance for the leader, but also drawing protests from a younger generation of Filipinos who point to the actions of his dictator father who died in exile in Hawaii.

Marcos, who stopped in Hawaii on his way home from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in San Francisco, connected Saturday evening with members of Hawaii’s large Filipino-American community before a planned Sunday meeting with Adm. John Aquilino, the top US military commander in the Indo-Pacific region. Marcos is then due to deliver a talk about his nation’s security challenges and the role of the Philippines-US alliance.

Meeting

Protesters gathered outside the community meeting and at the airport where he landed.

Marcos’ trip comes at a time when the US and the Philippines have been deepening their long-standing alliance in a shift after Marcos’ predecessor, Rodrigo Duterte, nurtured cozy ties with China and Russia.

The Philippines this year agreed to give the US access to four more bases as America looks to deter China’s increasingly aggressive actions toward Taiwan and in the South China Sea. In April, the two countries held their largest military exercises in decades.

But the trip also likely has personal resonance for the leader of the Philippines. His father, the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, died in exile in Honolulu after he was ousted in a 1986 army-backed “people power” uprising.

Many Filipino immigrants in Hawaii also hail from same part of the Philippines as Marcos and revere him and his family. Filipinos are the largest single ethnic group in Hawaii, accounting for 26% of the state’s population as of the 2020 census.

Winfred Damo, who immigrated to Honolulu from Marcos’ province

of Ilocos Norte in 1999, said being Ilocano means “we always support the Marcoses.”

The 58-year-old helped campaign for Marcos Jr in Hawaii and said the president is a different person than his father and from a different era. Philippine nationals living abroad can vote in elections back home.

“We have a better government now in the Philippines,” he said. “Marcoses are good people. They did a lot in our country and they are the best.”

Not all are Marcos fans. Arcy Imasa organized a protest outside the convention center where Marcos met with community members on Saturday. Her aim was to help younger Filipinos learn his family’s history.

Marcos’ father placed the Philippines under martial rule in 1972, a year before his term was to expire. He also padlocked Congress, ordered the arrest of political rivals and left-wing activists and ruled by decree.

A Hawaii court found the senior Marcos liable for human rights violations and awarded \$2 billion from his estate to compensate more than 9,000 Filipinos who filed a lawsuit against him for torture, incarceration, extrajudicial killings and disappearances.

Imasa, 40, who is part of Hawaii Filipinos for Truth, Justice and Democracy and grew up in the Ilocos province of Pangasinan, said the mindset of many Filipinos in Hawaii is fixed, especially those of older generations.

“They’re not on the right side of history. They’re not fully aware of the crimes that transpired,” she said.

Also:

MELBOURNE, Australia: Lawyers for the first person to be charged under Australia’s foreign interference laws insisted in court Friday that a donation to a hospital made via a federal government minister was not a covert attempt to curry favor on behalf of the Chinese Communist Party.

Melbourne businessman and local community leader Di Sanh Duong, 68, has pleaded not guilty in the Victoria state County Court to a charge of preparing for or planning an act of foreign interference. Vietnam-born

Duong, who came to Australia in 1980 as a refugee, faces a potential 10-year prison sentence if convicted in the landmark case.

He is the first person to be charged under federal laws created in 2018 that ban covert foreign interference in domestic politics and make industrial espionage for a foreign power a crime. The laws offended Australia’s most important trading partner, China, and accelerated a deterioration in bilateral relations.

The allegation centers on a novelty check that Duong handed then-Cabinet minister Alan Tudge at a media event in June 2020 as a donation toward the Royal Melbourne Hospital’s pandemic response.

The 37,450 Australian dollar (then equivalent to \$25,800, now \$24,200) donation had been raised from Melbourne’s local Chinese diaspora.

□ □ □

BANGKOK: Airstrikes by Myanmar’s military on a village in a western region have killed at least 11 civilians, including eight children, a leading opposition group and residents of the area said Friday.

The attack Wednesday on Vuilu village, south of Matupi township in Chin state, also left four people wounded, according to online reports in independent local media. The military government has not announced any attacks at the location.

As reports of the attack began to circulate, the UN human rights chief issued a statement calling for all parties in Myanmar to exercise restraint in military operations that could harm civilians.

Civilian casualties have often occurred in attacks by the military-installed government on pro-democracy forces and ethnically based armed groups since the army seized power in February 2021 from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi.

Chin state has been deeply involved in the armed struggle against military rule since the army takeover. The Chin National Front, an armed ethnic opposition group, and its allies on Monday seized the town of Rihkhawda, on the border with India.

dra Patwal, a disaster management official. (AP)

□ □ □

Muizzu makes official request: Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu officially requested India to withdraw its military personnel from the archipelago on Saturday, a day after being sworn in.

The president’s office said in a statement that Muizzu made the request when he met Kiren Rijiju, India’s minister for earth sciences. He was in the Maldives for the presidential inauguration.

“The president noted that at the presidential election held in September, the Maldivian people had given him a strong mandate to make the request to India and expressed hope that India will honour the democratic will of the people of the Maldives,” the statement said.

Muizzu, who is seen as pro-China, campaigned on a promise to evict Indian military personnel and balance trade, which he said was heavily in favor of India under his predecessor, Ibrahim Mohamed Solih.

The election was seen a virtual referendum on which regional power - China or India - should have the biggest influence in the Indian Ocean archipelago. Both India, the closest neighbor of the Maldives, and China have been vying for influence in the islands located strategically on the shipping route connecting east and west. The number of Indian troops in the Maldives is not publicly known. Critics say secrecy in the agreement between India and Solih’s government regarding the role and number of Indian military personnel has led to suspicion and rumors. (AP)



Rescuers and security officers stand near the entrance to the site of an under-construction road tunnel that collapsed in mountainous Uttarakhand state, India on Nov 17. Officials trying to reach 41 workers who have been trapped in a collapsed tunnel in northern India for eight days were contemplating alternative rescue plans Nov 19 after snags with a drilling machine caused them to halt digging. (AP)

Initiative made to empower, excel and elevate women in leadership positions in corporate world

KIBS completes second cohort of accelerating women’s leadership

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: The Kuwait Institute of Banking Studies (KIBS) strategic collaboration with HEC Paris’ Accelerating Women’s Leadership Program is a landmark initiative that was designed to empower women and foster their leadership roles within the banking sector. This collaboration underscores KIBS’s unwavering commitment to aligning with the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) mandate and positions itself as a frontrunner in promoting diversity and gender equality in leadership. As the banking industry continues to prioritize ESG principles, KIBS recognizes the pivotal role it plays in contributing to sustainable and responsible practices.

The second cohort of the Accelerating Women’s Leadership Program that was held at Kuwait’s Waldorf Astoria on Nov. 11 – 15, 2023 was a testament to the banking sector’s dedication to inclusivity and gender diversity. Underpinned by the Central Bank of Kuwait’s directives and the industry’s collective commitment to fostering a diverse and empowered workforce, this collaboration represents a proactive step towards meeting ESG goals and promoting women’s advancement in leadership positions.

Key highlights of the collaboration include ESG mandate alignment as this collaboration reinforces KIBS’s dedication to aligning with the ESG mandate, emphasizing the Institute’s role in driving sustainable practices within the banking sector. The program also stresses leadership development as through the Accelerating Women’s Leadership Program, KIBS seeks to nurture a pipeline of talented women leaders who will contribute to the industry’s growth and sustainability. Due to the Central Bank of Kuwait’s influence, this initiative is in line with the Central Bank of Kuwait’s directives, showcasing KIBS’s commitment to sup-



Photos during the Kuwait Institute of Banking Studies (KIBS) strategic collaboration with HEC Paris’ Accelerating Women’s Leadership Program.



porting national banking policies and contributing to the advancement of women in leadership roles. KIBS and HEC Paris’ collaboration reflects the industry’s recognition of the importance of diversity and leadership development in achieving long-term sustainability and success. Ms. Rana A. Al Nibari, KIBS Director General, commented, “By dedicating resources to women’s leadership, we aim not only to meet the ESG mandate but also to mold a future for the banking industry in Kuwait that is more sustainable and resilient.”

Led by Prof. Shaheena Janjuha – Jivraj, an Associate Professor in Entrepreneurial Leadership and Diversity at HEC Paris in Qatar, and Dr. Siham Jouini, Associate Professor of

Innovation and Researcher at the GREGHEC, the five-day program included themes that navigate around global business environment, entrepreneurial mindset, innovation, leadership brand, strengthening self-efficacy, resources and resilience and finally, how to become an agent of change. Participants greatly benefited from the experience as they learned howto lead their team to high performance and innovation, prepare their own leadership skills to access new career opportunities, strengthen their impact in building effective relationships with stakeholders across their organization, develop mental agility and an approach to innovation that is diffused across

their time and finally, how to develop executive presence with effective verbal and non-verbal skills to communicate with power.

The fourth day of the program including a panelist session that featured Mr. Abdul Aziz Yousef Ali Al Roomi, Executive Manager – Human Resources Group from Boubyan Bank, Ms. Nuhail Al Musallam, KFH’s Products Deputy Manager, and Ms. Mai Alowaisih. Gulf Bank’s Chief Data and Innovation Officer. The panelists partook in a Q&A session that was moderated by Prof. Shaheenaabout the themes presented in the program.

The Kuwait Institute of Banking Studies (KIBS) is a not-for-profit, semi-governmental

organization that functions under the auspices of the Central Bank of Kuwait. KIBS offers education, training, language programs and research to serve the developmental needs of the Kuwaiti banking and finance sector.

HEC Paris is a globally recognized leader in executive education, making a lasting impact on organizations through the design and delivery of customized learning solutions. Leverage global resources from their branch campus in Qatar, HEC Paris provides proximity and ensures relevance for organizations operating throughout the region.

For more information about KIBS’ training programs, please visit kibs.edu.kw



The Epic Saga of Manjappada’s Unprecedented Support for Indian Football in Kuwait.



32,000 strong, a logistical masterpiece and a testament to unity in Indian football fandom.

Manjappada Kuwait wing, celebrating home away from home

Symphony of passion ignites unprecedented support for Indian football

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: In a tale of unwavering dedication and unity, the Manjappada Fan Group of Kerala Blaster FC and ardent Indian football enthusiasts in Kuwait, orchestrated a remarkable saga that unfolded with the precision of a well-composed symphony. Their efforts, chronicled over three months, culminated in an unparalleled display of support for the Indian national football team during the recent World Cup Qualifiers match. They began with a vision to forge a digital nexus through a WhatsApp group. This virtual arena became the crucible for coordination, allowing Indian football fans scattered across Kuwait to come together, share their passion, and lay the foundation for an extraordinary journey.

As the days dwindled towards the highly anticipated match, the group unleashed a creative storm on social media. Countdown posters adorned timelines, each day marked with a vibrant reminder of the impending spectacle. The virtual realm became a canvas, painting the digital landscape with hues of anticipation and fervor.

To solidify their collective identity, the group introduced exclusive Indian team

fan jerseys. Each jersey, donned by supporters, became a symbol of allegiance and unity, transforming the stadium into a living tapestry of colors.

The pinnacle of their efforts unfolded with a groundbreaking gesture – a mid-air welcome for the national football team, courtesy of Kuwait Jazeera Airways. This unprecedented event set the stage for an outpouring of support that transcended the confines of the stadium and reverberated across the city. The airport, upon the team’s arrival, became a scene of jubilation as Manjappada members in Kuwait extended a warm welcome, turning the arrival into a celebration of shared passion and national pride. In the digital realm, the WhatsApp group evolved into a virtual stadium. Chants echoed through the messages, instructions on waves and synchronized mobile touches were shared, creating a symphony of support that transcended physical boundaries. Do’s and don’ts guidelines were distributed, ensuring a seamless and joyous experience for every fan in the stadium. Understanding the logistical challenges of diverse fan locations, the group orchestrated a logistical masterpiece – transportation facilities from various parts of Kuwait to the stadium. The streets of Kuwait City transformed

into a river of unity, flowing towards a common destination.

As the sun set and the stadium lights bathed the field in a glow of anticipation, the group’s efforts reached their zenith. Indian national flags waved proudly, faces adorned with flag-inspired paint, and a poster-making competition added a burst of creativity to the stands. All this made it feel like a HOME away from Home for the visiting Indian National Football Team. The turnout of 32,000 fans, with a staggering 20,000 Indians, bore witness to the collective spirit and passion fostered by Manjappada. Their journey, chronicled in the annals of Kuwaiti soil, stood as a testament to the power of unity and shared enthusiasm for the beautiful game.

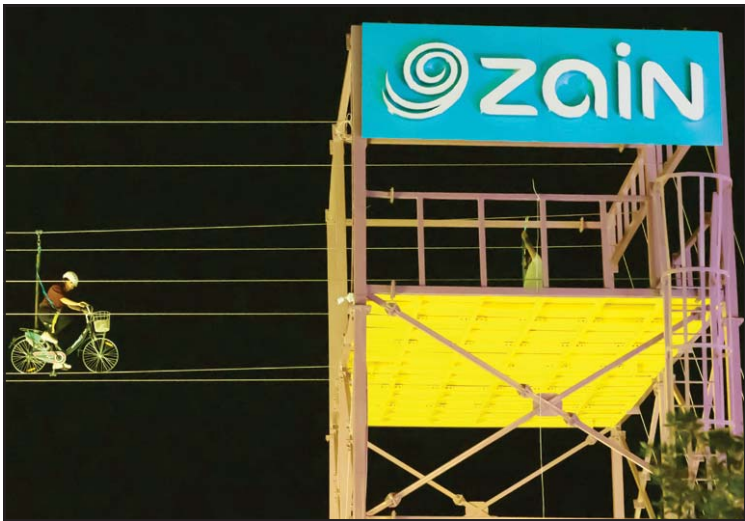
In appreciation of their extraordinary efforts by the Indian Community, the members of Manjappada Kuwait wing extend their heartfelt thanks to the entire Indian community in Kuwait. As they look forward to future matches, their story serves as an inspiration, echoing the sentiment that when passion and unity converge, the result is nothing short of extraordinary.

Company actively supports unique homegrown projects

Zain sponsors K-Land, Kuwait’s newest family destination

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: Continuing to actively support and participate in a range of exciting local creative projects, Zain announces its sponsorship of K-Land, Kuwait’s newest entertainment family destination. This new project, which offers an enjoyable and entertaining experience that celebrates Kuwait’s rich cultural heritage, comes in strategic partnership with the Touristic Enterprises Company (TEC).

Zain was eager to be among the first to support this unique homegrown project, recognizing the crucial role of the private sector in developing and supporting entertainment and recreational destinations that provide enriching experiences to the community. Zain’s support to K-Land reflects its commitment to contributing to advance the local economy and tourism industry.



One of the thrilling experiences of K-Land.



The Zain Kventure area.

cycle slackline, ziplines on two different kinds of lines, and a karting race on artificial sand dunes. K-Land includes dozens of other games and attractions for the whole family to experience and enjoy.

Every year, the Kuwaiti community anticipates Zain’s participation in the biggest social and entertainment events, where the company adds its own flavor and reflects its brand values and identity: Zain A Wonderful World. The company is set to share the joys of K-Land with the community and has prepared special activities and surprises for visitors.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: LuLu Hypermarket, the destination of choice for retail shopping, is set to launch its mega Super Sale of the year for two weeks starting from 22 November. The fortnight of super sales promises unprecedented discounts and exciting offers across a wide range of categories, both online and offline, and across all LuLu Hypermarket outlets in Kuwait.

During the super sale festive period, shoppers can indulge in a shopping spree of items at amazingly tantalizing prices, including for mobiles, tablets, laptops, TVs, electronics, wearables, IT accessories, gaming equipment, home appliances, beauty gadgets, fashion, footwear, luggage, fragrances, eyewear, makeup, beau-

ty, lifestyle, home furnishings, toys, and even everyday essentials such as groceries and fresh foods.

Highlight of the two week mega Super Sale will be



Super Friday logo

30 customers winning cash prizes worth KD1,500 each

KFH announces winners of Al-Rabeh draw

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announced the winners of the AlRabeh draw with 30 customers winning cash prizes worth KD1,500 each for the 42nd, 43rd and 44th weeks of 2023. KFH announced Ahmad Al-Habdan as the monthly winner of 1 kilo Gram of KFH Gold for the month of October 2023.

The winners of KD 1,500 are: Hisham Badr, Abdullah Al-Khatib, Hamed Al-Hunaidi, Zeinab Abdou, Eamar Al-Otaibi, Issa Al-Jadi, Suad Besharah, Hind Al-Duaij, Munirah Al-Khamees, Fahad Al-Batjan, Zainab Modhaffar, Emataiyah Al-Azmi, Wahid Rezek, Fahad Abdulaziz, Reda Elgamasy, Salem Al-Shammari, Hala Dib, Fatemah Al-Salhi, Ahmad Al-Qashem, Mahmoud Ramadan, Tharwat Ahmad, Anas Abu Taleb, Assem Abd-Alnabbi, Althami Hassani, Fahad Muhammed, Muhammed Shams Aldeen, Hamed Al-Huneidi, Ali Abd Al-raheem, Faisal Al-Azmi, Ajlan Al-Khaldi.

The AlRabeh campaign provides prizes and draws that offer customers several chances of winning “weekly, monthly and quarterly”. The campaign crowns 536 winners throughout the year.

The draw took place under the supervision of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The campaign is part of KFH’s ongoing efforts to offer exceptional products and services that meet customers’ aspirations, enhance the Bank’s leadership in the local and global markets, as well as reflect its excellence in offering innovative banking solutions as per the highest quality standards.

The Al-Rabeh account is a salary account available to customers wishing to transfer their salaries and manage their personal accounts. Customers can open Al-Rabeh account in any of KFH branches in Kuwait, or through the Bank’s online channels. The account can be opened in the Kuwaiti Dinar and is targeted for customers wishing to transfer their salaries and manage their personal accounts. Salary transfer is a prerequisite for customers to enter the draw provided



KFH Al-Rabeh campaign visual

that the transfer of salary to Al-Rabeh account is constant.

Regarding the terms and conditions of the prizes and draws, a customer is able to deposit 3 salaries during the 3 months prior to the draw, and the minimum balance of the account should not be less than KD 50 at the end of each month during the 3 months prior to the draw. Ten draws take place on a weekly basis for amount of K.D 1,500 for 10 winners each, 1 KG of KFH gold will be drawn monthly for one winner and K.D 25,000 for one winner every quarter, reaching a total number of 536 winners during the year.

KFH is keen to further meet customers’ requirements and aspirations and their increasing needs as well as offer innovative and modern services, therefore achieving customer satisfaction, which is one of the fundamentals at KFH. The Bank has achieved a qualitative shift in the level of financial services by utilizing technology.

LuLu Hypermarket to launch mega Super Friday sale

on ‘Super Friday’ when a flat 50 percent discount is being offered on all product categories, enabling shoppers to purchase choice items at the best prices of the year.

In addition to incredible discounts during the Super Sale period, LuLu Hypermarket is collaborating with several prominent banks to provide credit card holders with exclusive offers and special instant discounts, making the Super Sale fortnight even more attractive and budget-friendly.

With an array of surprise offers and never-before prices, the Super Sale period is bound to make shopping at LuLu Hypermarket an even more exciting and memorable event, with the Super Friday sale being the pinnacle of the festival.

Market Movements				19-11-2023	
		Change	Closing pts	Change	Closing pts
SAUDI	- Tadawul	+55.06	11,137.03		
EGYPT	- EGX 30	+516.32	24,899.59		

Business

Gold prices surge to \$1,980/oz

Investors shift focus to gold amidst stock and bond market uncertainty

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19, (KUNA): Gold prices surged in the final week of trading, reaching \$1,980 per ounce and securing a 2 percent weekly gain. This uptick was supported by the deceleration of inflation in the United States. According to a specialized report from Kuwaiti Dar Al-Sabaek Company, analysts anticipate that the US Federal Reserve will halt its interest rate hike policy this year, prompting investors to shift their focus from stock and bond markets to precious metals.

The report highlights current market attention on when the US Reserve might initiate a decrease in interest rates. Recent data reveals a slowdown in consumer price inflation in October, along with a decline in retail sales for the first time in seven months. Additionally, the number of Americans filing for unemployment benefits has reached its highest level in three months.

Gold futures contracts (December delivery) closed with a \$2.6 increase, reaching \$1,984 per ounce, marking a weekly gain of 2.45 percent. Meanwhile, the dollar index, measuring the performance of the American currency against other major currencies, decreased by 0.35 percent to close at 103.9 points. US bond yields saw slight gains, with the two-year interest rate reaching 4.91 percent, and the expected yields on 5-year and 10-year bonds at 4.46 percent and 4.45 percent, respectively.

Market anticipation is high this week for the release of central bank meeting minutes in major economies, providing investors insights into interest rate expectations. These developments coincide with geopolitical events in the Middle East, all of which contribute to the factors influencing precious metal prices.

In the local market, the report notes that the price of 24-karat gold per gram is 19.79 dinars (approximately \$60), while 22-karat gold is priced at 18.14 dinars (about \$55). Silver closed at 281 dinars (around \$857) per kilogram.

It's worth noting that the ounce, a unit of mass measurement, is utilized in various systems and is equivalent to 28.349 grams. In the context of precious metals, it equals 31.103 grams.

2022 revenues surge to KD 132.66 mln

KIB earns spot on Fortune 500 Arabia list

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: In a testament to its outstanding business success, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced that it has been named to Fortune 500 Arabia's inaugural list, which ranks the top 500 corporations from across 22 Arab countries in order of annual revenue. The Bank's recognition rests upon its 32.26% year-on-year (YoY) rise in its revenue for 2022, which amounted to KD 132.66 million, up from KD 98.84 million in 2021.

Adding to KIB's multiple banking accolades, its recognition on the Fortune 500 Arabia list will attract more regional and global investors, further catalyzing the Bank's growth toward new definitions of banking success.

Commenting on this honorable recognition, Othman Tawfeq, Retail Banking Department General Manager at KIB, said: "It is a great honor for all of us at KIB to see our unyielding pursuit of excellence and success recognized by an institution as prestigious as Fortune 500. However, being a Fortune 500 Arabia company isn't merely a title to boast, but a responsibility toward our shareholders to continue setting new benchmarks for success in the market, and toward our customers and community to continue putting their best interest at the heart of all our decisions."

"On behalf of all KIB staff, we are excited to continue journeying down this path of banking excellence and further consolidating our position among the leading Islamic banks in the region," added Tawfeq. "We firmly believe that this recognition will bring out the best in all employees across all departments who spare no effort to approach all opportunities and challenges with open hearts and minds."

Looking past the revenue achieved by the Bank, KIB also remains committed to elevating the local banking experience to new heights by developing all its products and services, as well as programs and initiatives, to better adapt to customers' ever-evolving needs, in line with the Islamic Shari'ah and latest environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards.

It serves to note that KIB has been recognized by a number of notable awards, including the first-ever Qorus Reinvention Awards – MEA, and has received the World Finance "Best Islamic Bank in Kuwait" Award, in addition to many others.

KD 45.6mn cash transactions in 9,612 deals

Boursa Kuwait gains 0.12% in trading session

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19, (KUNA): The Boursa Kuwait concluded its trading session on Sunday, recording a gain in its general index by 8.21 points, reaching 6650.47 points, indicating a 0.12 percent increase. A total of 9,612 cash transactions involving 45.6 million dinars (approximately 139 million dollars) were executed, with a trade volume of million shares.

The main market index exhibited a rise of 27.56 points, reaching 5434.83 points, reflecting a 0.51 percent increase. The trading activity involved 85 million shares through 4321 cash deals, amounting to 14.4 million dinars (about 43.9 million dollars).

Simultaneously, the Premier Market Index experienced a modest increase of 1.5 points, reaching 7293.69 points, marking a 0.02 percent rise. The trading of 101.8 million shares was executed through 5291 deals, with a total worth of 31.2 million dinars (about 95.16 million dollars).

In a parallel development, the Main 50 index surged by 50 points, reaching 5,345.67 points, signifying a 0.94 percent increase. The trading activity involved 67.8 million shares through 3,475 cash deals, totaling 13.3 million dinars (about 40.5 million dollars).

GIG maintains excellent 'A' ratings

Robust finances fuel strategic business expansion

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: Gulf Insurance Group (GIG), one of the leading insurance groups in the Middle East and North Africa, was affirmed, along with its subsidiary Gulf Insurance and Re-insurance Company, financial strength rating (FSR) of "A" (Excellent) and the long-term issuer credit rating (ICR) of "A" (Excellent) by AM BEST. The outlook of these ratings is stable.



Khaled Al Sanousi

This follows an upgrade in the month of May 2023 by Moody's Investors Service of GIG's insurance financial strength rating (IFSR) from "A3" to "A2", with a revised outlook from positive to stable. Standard & Poor's had also affirmed during March 2023 an "A" rating for both GIG's FSR and ICR with a stable outlook.

The strong ratings reflect the strength of GIG's consolidated balance sheet, with a solid operating performance, enhanced business profile and diversification, disciplined underwriting and investments and a comprehensive reinsurance program.

Rating agencies emphasized GIG's excellent risk management and governance framework as a key credit strength, and anticipate improving profitability and earnings coverage, by leveraging economies of scale with a comfortable capital adequacy and capacity to grow its business further.

Commenting on the rating, Mr. Khaled Al Sanousi, Group Executive Manager, said: "GIG continues to deliver on its strategy to ensure long-term profit-

ability while leading the industry with a sustainable business that focuses on innovative insurance, customer-centricity and digital transformation. Supporting the strategy, our Group has successfully expanded its operations geographically in the MENA region, and operationally through the diversification of its business lines.

"The consolidation of the Group's bold expansions and investments over the years was coupled with a comprehensive risk mitigation framework, enabling GIG to maintain today a solid financial position. As we move forward, we remain observant of global developments to continue to safeguard the interests of all our stakeholders."

GIG is today amongst the largest and most diversified insurance groups in the Middle East and North Africa region and holds leading positions across its core markets.



GIG Logo

Announcement Reminder

Invitation to Attend the Extraordinary General Assembly Meeting - November 2023

Kuwait Telecommunications Company (stc)

Kuwaiti Shareholding Company (Public)

The Board of Directors of Kuwait Telecommunications Company (**stc**) is pleased to invite you to attend the Extraordinary General Assembly Meeting, which will be held on Monday 27 November 2023 at 10:30 a.m., at the Company's Headquarters – Olympia Mall / West Office Towers, where Shareholders shall be able to attend by their physical presence or electronically through Kuwait Clearing Company's platforms specified for holding Annual General Assembly Meetings to discuss the agenda of the Extraordinary General Assembly Meeting.

Extraordinary General Assembly Meeting Agenda

Item: Approval to amend the text of Article No. (18) of the Article of Association:

Text before modification:

The company is managed by a board of directors consisting of 7 members (seven members). The term of membership of the board of directors is three years, subject to renewal.

The government, the Saudi Telecom Company, Kuwaiti shareholding companies, and every shareholder, whether a natural or legal person, may appoint representatives on the company's board of directors in proportion to the shares he owns therein. The number of board members chosen in this manner shall be deducted from the total board members who have been elected. Shareholders who have representatives on the Board of Directors may not participate with other shareholders in electing the remaining members of the Board of Directors, except to the extent that exceeds the percentage used in appointing their representatives to the Board of Directors. A group of shareholders may ally with each other to appoint one or more representatives on their behalf to the Board of Directors, in proportion to their combined ownership.

These representatives have the same rights and duties as the elected members, and the shareholder is responsible for the actions of his representatives towards the company, its creditors and shareholders.

Provided that there is at least one "independent member" among the members of the Board of Directors, and the number of independent members does not exceed half of the number of Board members. He is also elected by the ordinary general assembly of the company. The general assembly determines their remuneration, and it is not required that the independent member be among the company's shareholders.

In case it is not possible to elect a new board of directors on the specified date, the existing board will continue to manage the company's business until the reasons disappear and a new board of directors is elected.

Text after modification:

The company is managed by a board of directors consisting of 9 (nine members). The term of membership of the board of directors is of three years, subject to renewal.

The government, the Saudi Telecom Company, Kuwaiti shareholding companies, and every shareholder, whether a natural or legal person, may appoint representatives on the company's board of directors in proportion to the shares he owns therein. The number of board members chosen in this manner shall be deducted from the total board members who have been elected. Shareholders who have representatives on the Board of Directors may not participate with other shareholders in electing the remaining members of the Board of Directors, except to the extent that exceeds the percentage used in appointing their representatives to the Board of Directors. A group of shareholders may ally with each other to appoint one or more representatives on their behalf to the Board of Directors, in proportion to their combined ownership.

These representatives have the same rights and duties as the elected members, and the shareholder is responsible for the actions of his representatives towards the company, its creditors and shareholders.

Provided that there are at least two "independent members" among the members of the Board of Directors, and the number of independent members does not exceed half of the number of Board members. They are also elected by the company's ordinary general assembly, and the general assembly determines their remuneration. It is stipulated that the independent members are not among the company's shareholders.

In case it is not possible to elect a new board of directors on the specified date, the existing board will continue to manage the company's business until the reasons disappear and a new board of directors is elected.

Electronic Attendance: Shareholders wishing to attend the meeting electronically are required to register their names using the electronic voting service eAGM by filling up the intended form available on the website of the Kuwait Clearing Company (www.maqasa.com) in addition to providing the required documents in order to obtain the username and password which shall authorize them to attend and vote electronically on the Agenda items of the Extraordinary General Assembly. Participation and voting will be available from Monday 13 November 2023 until 08:00 a.m. of the day of the Extraordinary General Assembly Meeting scheduled on Monday 27 November 2023, as per the Policies and Procedures Guidelines published on Kuwait Clearing Company's website with regards to convening the general assemblies through the electronic systems.

Physical Attendance: Shareholders wishing to attend the meeting physically should visit the Investor Relations Department at the Company's Headquarters – Olympia Mall / West Office Towers. Shareholders shall bring with them their share certificates or the original transfer receipt in order to obtain the attendance invitations and the AGM agenda.

In the absence of a quorum for the Extraordinary General Assembly Meeting another meeting with the same agenda items and same place will be held on Monday, 11 December 2023, at 10:30 a.m. whereby, the attendance and voting shall be either physically or electronically.

Board of Directors

stc

Maintaining Excellence

Gulf Insurance Group's 2023 Credit Ratings

A

Stable

S&P Global Ratings

Financial Strength Rating (FSR)

Issuer Credit Rating (ICR)

A2

Stable

MOODY'S

Insurance Financial Strength Rating (IFSR)

A

(Excellent)

Stable

AM BEST

SINCE 1899

Financial Strength Rating (FSR)

Long Term Issuer Credit Rating (ICR)

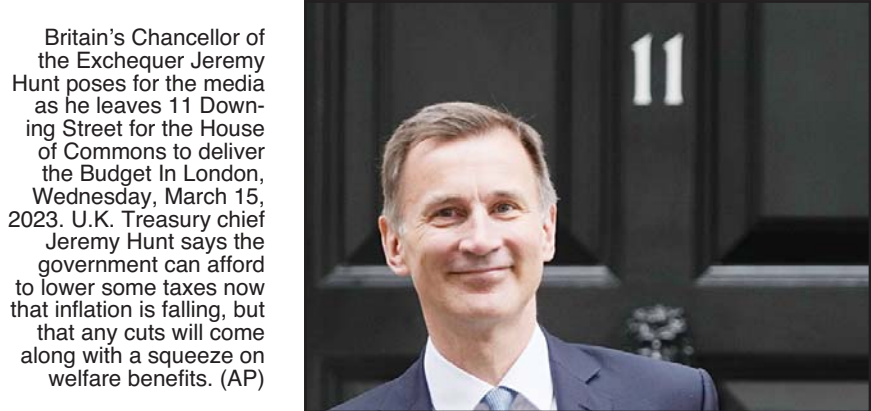
www.gulfinsgroup.com

GIG

مجموعة الخليج للتأمين

GULF INSURANCE GROUP

Kuwait Bahrain Jordan Egypt Turkey Algeria UAE KSA Oman Qatar Syria Iraq Lebanon



UK Treasury chief signals tax cuts and a squeeze on welfare benefits

U.K. Treasury chief Jeremy Hunt says the government can afford to lower some taxes now that inflation is falling, but that any cuts will come along with a squeeze on welfare benefits.

British media have reported that there will be relief for businesses and wealthy property-owners in Hunt's autumn budget statement on Wednesday.

Hunt told Saturday's Daily Telegraph newspaper that the British economy had "turned the corner." He said that "there is a path to reducing the tax burden, and a

Conservative government will take that path."

"Without preempting the decisions that the prime minister and I make, this is an autumn statement for growth. It's a turning point for the economy," Hunt said.

But he cautioned to broadcasters on Saturday that "there's no easy way to reduce the tax burden. What we need to do is take difficult decisions to reform the welfare state."

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's Con-

servative government has struggled for the past year to bolster an economy burdened by a cost-of-living crisis -- fueled by the pandemic, Brexit and Russia's invasion of Ukraine - and roiled by the rash tax-slashing policies of Sunak's predecessor, Liz Truss.

Inflation topped 11% late last year. It stood at 4.6% in October, still above the Bank of England's 2% target. The economy is barely growing and millions are struggling to pay high food and energy bills. (AP)

Bank's capital base grows by KD 60 million

Gulf Bank capital increase 6.9 times oversubscribed

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: Gulf Bank is well-equipped to invest in its future strategic growth and will continue providing exceptional products and service to its customers.

Gulf Bank announced the completion of the subscription period of the Bank's capital increase through rights issue successfully, with a 686.3% subscription coverage, totaling KD 411.8 million in comparison to issuance size of KD 60 million.

The subscription process was led jointly by KAMCO Invest and Gulf Bank, as the lead managers and subscription agents. The subscription was open for eligible shareholders and rights holders from October 29 to November 12, 2023.

Gulf Bank's capital increase of issued and paid-up capital was KD 26.1 million through a rights issue of 260,869,565 new shares at 230 fils per share including a nominal value of 100 fils, in addition to a share premium of 130 fils per share.



Jassim Mustafa Boodai, Gulf Bank's Chairman

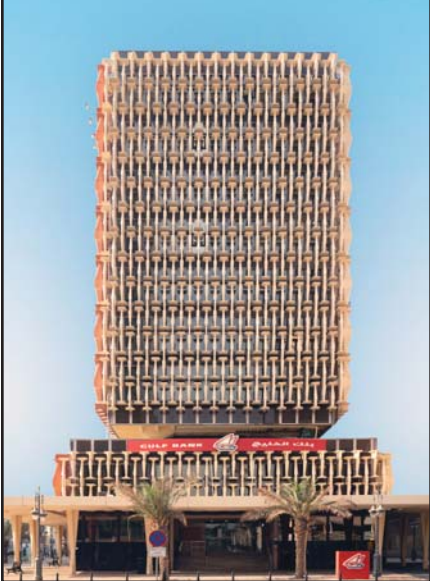
Accordingly, Gulf Bank's issued and paid-up capital increased by 7.76% , reaching KD 362.1 million.

Mr. Jassim Mustafa Boodai, Gulf Bank's

■ Jassim Mustafa Boodai: The oversubscription highlights shareholders' confidence in the Bank and its future plans.

■ The Bank is committed to delivering sustainable growth and added value for all stakeholders, and continue providing exceptional products and service that meets customer aspirations.

Chairman, stated, "The significant over subscription reflects shareholders' confidence in Gulf Bank and its future plans." The increase aims to strengthen the Bank's capital base, enhance regulatory capital



Gulf Bank HQ

ratios, and enables the pursuit of future growth opportunities aligned with the Bank's strategy.

Boodai emphasized on the Bank's com-

mitment to sustainable growth and added value for all stakeholders, and continue providing exceptional products and service that meets customer aspirations.

Mr. Jassim Mustafa Boodai expressed his appreciation to the lead managers Kamco Invest and Gulf Bank, and Kuwait Clearing Company for their outstanding efforts. He also thanked the regulatory authorities, including the Central Bank of Kuwait, the Capital Markets Authority, Boursa Kuwait, and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, for their cooperation in providing necessary approvals.

As of September 30, 2023, Gulf Bank's capital adequacy ratio reached 15.8% and tier 1 capital ratio 13.6%, both above regulatory requirements. The Bank is an "A" rated bank by three international credit rating agencies.

In the first nine months ending September 30, 2023, Gulf Bank reported a net profit of KD 53.8 million, an 18% increase compared to the same period in 2022. Operating income grew by 6% to KD 140.1 million, with return on assets improving from 0.9% to 1.0% and return on equity increasing from 9.0% to 10.0%.

Latest hit for developing nations

Sugar price rising worldwide after bad weather damaged Asia crops

ABUJA, Nigeria, Nov 19, (AP): Skyrocketing sugar prices left Ishaq Abdulraheem with few choices. Increasing the cost of bread would mean declining sales, so the Nigerian baker decided to cut his production by half.

For scores of other bakers struggling to stay afloat while enduring higher costs for fuel and flour, the stratospheric sugar prices proved to be the last straw, and they closed for good.

Sugar is needed to make bread, which is a staple for Nigeria's 210 million people, and for many who are struggling to put food on the table, it offers a cheap source of calories. Surging sugar prices - an increase of 55% in two months - means fewer bakers and less bread.

"It is a very serious situation," Abdulraheem said.

Sugar worldwide is trading at the highest prices since 2011, mainly due to lower global supplies after unusually dry weather damaged harvests in India and Thailand, the world's second- and third-largest exporters.

This is just the latest hit for developing nations already coping with shortages in staples like rice and bans on food trade that have added to food inflation. All of it contributes to food insecurity because of the combined effects of the naturally occurring climate phenomenon El Nino, the war in Ukraine and weaker currencies. Wealthier Western nations can absorb the higher costs, but poorer nations are struggling.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization is predicting a 2% decline in global sugar production in the 2023-24 season, compared with the previous year, translating to a loss of about 3.5 million metric tons (3.8 million U.S. tons), said Fabio Palmeri, an FAO global commodities market researcher. Increasingly, sugar is being used for biofuels like ethanol, so global reserves of sugar are at their lowest since 2009.

Brazil is the biggest sugar exporter, but its harvest will only help plug gaps later in 2024. Until then, import-dependent countries - like most of those in sub-Saharan Africa - remain vulnerable.

Nigeria, for instance, buys 98% of its raw sugar from other countries. In 2021, it banned imports of refined sugar that ran counter to a plan to build up domestic sugar processing and announced a \$73-million project to expand sugar infrastructure. But those are longer-term strategies. Abuja traders like Abba Usman are facing problems now.

The same 50-kilogram (110-pound) bag of sugar that Usman bought a week ago for \$66 now costs \$81. As prices rise, his customers are dwindling.

"The price keeps increasing every day, and we don't know why," Usman said.

It's partly due to the El Nino, a natural phenomenon that shifts global weather patterns and can cause extreme weather conditions ranging



Joseph Kuraru, a 26 year-old kiosk owner in Nairobi, Kenya, removes sugar from a sack to serve to a customer, Friday, Oct 27, 2023. The amount of sugar milled in Kenya fell steadily from June to August. To compensate, monthly imports doubled from September to October. (AP)

Major campaign theme for parties

Ahead of Dutch general elections, food banks highlight the cost-of-living crisis

VOORBURG, Netherlands, Nov 19, (AP): Cans of fish, jars of pasta sauce and bags of beans are stacked in blue crates. Meat, dairy and bread are kept cold in a huge freezer and a walk-in refrigerator in this affluent Dutch town. The supplies are on hand to feed the new poor in one of the richest nations in the world.

Needy families are lining up for free handouts at food banks across the Netherlands, underscoring how poverty is taking root even in lower middle-class families and why tackling it has become a major theme in next Wednesday's parliamentary election.

If it gets any worse, "then it really becomes a scandal for society," said Rob Kuipers, a 70-year-old retired senior civil servant who is the chairman of the local food bank in Leidschendam-Voorburg, within easy cycling distance of the parliament in

from drought to flooding. Scientists believe climate change is making El Nino stronger.

India endured its driest August in over a century, and crops in the western state of Maharashtra, which accounts for over a third of its sugarcane production, were stunted during the crucial growing phase.

India's sugar production is likely to decline by 8% this year, according to the Indian Sugar Mills Association. The world's most populated nation is also the biggest consumer of sugar and is now restricting sugar exports.

The Hague.

The cost-of-living crisis, a chronic shortage of social and affordable housing and limits on access to affordable healthcare have combined to become known by the catch-all title "security of existence" in election campaigning and it's a topic all parties are addressing in their election programs.

"We, for a long time, had people living in poverty but this was always, relatively speaking, a smaller group and a quite marginal group and now this has spread to the lower middle class. And that, I think, is the reason why we are talking so much about it now," said Maurice Crul, a professor of sociology at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.

"This was always a topic that the progressive or the left-wing parties put on the agenda," he added. "But now you see that also populist right wing

In Thailand, El Nino effects early in the growing season altered not just the quantity but also the quality of the harvest, said Naradhip Anantasuk, leader of the Thailand Sugar Planters Association. He expects only 76 million metric tons (84 million U.S. tons) of sugarcane to be milled in the 2024 harvest season, compared with 93 million metric tons (103 million U.S. tons) this year.

A report by U.S. Department of Agriculture predicted a 15% dip in output in Thailand in October.

Thailand reversed a hike in sugar

parties and the middle party is putting this on the agenda big time, too."

That centrist "middle party" is personified by Pieter Omtzigt, a former Christian Democrat who set up the New Social Contract over the summer. It is already polling so high that he will play a key role in coalition talks once the votes have been counted.

After years campaigning on behalf of marginalized members of society and uncovering government scandals, tackling poverty is one of his two main campaign themes.

"There is a long list of things we need to do to challenge that cost-of-living crisis," he told reporters at a campaign event. "We will make the primary necessities of life affordable," his party's manifesto says, with measures including reforming taxation and welfare rules to give people more disposable income.

prices within days, imposing price controls for the first time since 2018. Anantasuk said this would discourage farmers from growing sugar by capping their income.

"It's like preventing the industry from growing, preventing an open competition," he said.

Wholesale prices had been allowed to rise to help farmers cope with higher costs - partly due to government demands that they not burn their fields, which makes harvesting cheaper but envelops much of Thailand in heavy smog.

Tokyo and Beijing agree to work on stable relationship

TOKYO, Nov 19, (AP): Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed Friday to build a stable and constructive relationship, but achieved only a vague agreement on easing a dispute over a Chinese ban on Japanese seafood, officials said.

Kishida told reporters after a 65-minute meeting with Xi on the sidelines of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in San Francisco that they agreed to "find ways to resolve the dispute through meetings and dialogue in a constructive manner."

He said they would convene a meeting of scientific experts but gave no details, and told reporters later Tuesday that timing of a possible lifting of the ban was "unforseeable."

Kishida had demanded that China immediately lift its ban on Japanese seafood, in place since the crippled Fukushima nuclear power plant began discharging treated radioactive wastewater into the sea on Aug. 24. The ban has badly hurt Japanese exporters of scallops and other seafood.

Japan says the wastewater is much safer than international standards and that the International Atomic Energy Agency has concluded the environmental and health impact of its release is negligible. China calls the discharge "nuclear-contaminated water."

Chinese state broadcaster CCTV also said China and Japan agreed to find a way to resolve the Fukushima water is-

sue through consultations and negotiations. Xi, calling the discharge a global health and marine environment issue, told Kishida that Japan should take domestic and international concerns seriously and handle them in a responsible and constructive manner, CCTV said in an online report.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning, speaking Friday in Beijing, said all countries have the right to ensure food safety and protect public health.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno praised the talks as "extremely meaningful" because Kishida and Xi "confirmed their mutual goal of building constructive and stable Japan-China relations from a wide perspective."

But a series of disputes dominated the talks. Kishida asked Xi to remove all marking buoys that Beijing has placed inside Japan's Exclusive Economic Zone in the East China Sea, and to quickly release a Japanese businessman who was formally arrested in October on spying allegations.

Kishida said he raised "grave concern" about China's increased military activity around Japan, including joint exercises with Russia. He stressed the importance of peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait, where China regularly dispatches military ships and planes to threaten Taiwan, which Beijing claims as its own territory.

Resources dwindle

Democratic-led cities paying for migrants' tickets to other places

DENVER, Nov 19, (AP): As weary migrants arrive in Denver on buses from the U.S.-Mexico border city of El Paso, Texas, officials offer them two options: temporary shelter or a bus ticket out.

Nearly half of the 27,000 migrants who arrived in Denver since November 2022 have chosen the bus, plane or train tickets to other cities in the U.S., city data shows. In New York and Illinois, taxpayer dollars also are being spent on tickets, creating a shuffle of migrants in the interior U.S. who need shelter, food and medical assistance as they await rulings on asylum cases that can take years.

The transfer of migrants has gained momentum since Republican governors in Texas and Florida started chartering buses and planes to Democratic-led cities in what critics waved off as political stunts. More than a year later, some of those cities, their resources dwindling, are eager to help migrants move on to their final destinations.

The efforts show the increased pressures cities are facing as more migrants from around the globe are coming to the U.S. southern border, often fleeing economic turmoil. Illegal border crossings topped 2 million during the government's fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, the second-highest number on record.

With many migrants in shelters or living on the street, the next phase of the challenge is getting them to their families, friends or court cases, said Mario Russell, director at the Center for Migration Studies of New York.

That "has been in a sense dropped into the laps of interior cities without much preparation, without much forethought really at any level," Russell added.

Denver alone has spent at least \$4.3

million in city funds to send migrants to other U.S. cities, freeing up shelter beds for new arrivals while adding to the numbers in other Democratic-led cities such as Chicago and New York that are struggling to house asylum-seekers, mostly from Venezuela.

Data wasn't yet available from New York, though the city is offering one-way plane tickets to anywhere in the world. Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago has used state funds to help buy tickets for more than 2,500 migrants who have family, friends or sponsors elsewhere, according to Chief of Staff Mary Krinock.

The cities say they buy tickets only for migrants who want to travel and they do not coerce people to leave. Texas and Florida have chartered buses and planes to take migrants only to certain cities. They say people board them voluntarily.

"The people who are desperate, who are coming here for shelter and assistance, we're not going to turn those people away," Jon Ewing of Denver Human Service said. "But at the same time we have to make it very clear to them that there's only so much we can do."

Advocates working with migrants say many come to Denver on their way to other cities because of its relative proximity to the border, reputation for being welcoming and the cheaper bus fare.

But charities are feeling the pressure as the weather turns colder and migrants end up sleeping in tent encampments.

"It breaks my heart. It is like we have so many children and little ones that we know we can't even help," said Yoli Casas, executive director of Vive Wellness, which works with new migrants to Denver.

Singer cites record heat, says safety of fans and crew come first

Swift postpones Rio show a day after fan dies during concert

RIO DE JANEIRO, Nov 19, (AP): Taylor Swift postponed an Eras Tour concert in Rio de Janeiro Saturday after a 23-year-old fan died during her Friday night show, according to a message posted on the singer's Instagram.

"I'm writing this from my dressing room in the stadium. The decision has been made to postpone tonight's show due to the extreme temperatures in Rio," the singer said in a handwritten note on Instagram. "The safety and well being of my fans, fellow performers, and crew has to and always will come first."

The cause of death for Ana Clara Benevides Machado, the young woman who sought medical attention at Nilton Santos Olympic Stadium during Friday's show, has not yet been announced. The office of Rio's public prosecutor opened a criminal investigation and said Benevides' body was being examined.

Benevides' death shook many people in Brazil. She had taken her first flight ever to travel from the country's center-west region to Rio to see her favorite musician. She also created a WhatsApp group to keep her family updated, sending photos and videos every step of the way, family members told online news site G1.

Fans and politicians reacted to her death with outrage, speculating it was linked to extreme heat.

Concertgoers complained they were not allowed to take water into the stadium despite the stifling weather. As temperatures continued to

rise Saturday and with two more shows to go at the time, federal authorities announced that free water would now be made available at concerts and other large events.

One of Benevides' friends, who also went to the concert, told local outlets they had both been given water while waiting to enter the stadium.

In a previous statement shared on her social media Saturday morning, Swift said she had a "shattered heart."

Temperature

"There's very little information I have other than the fact that she was so incredibly beautiful and far too young," the singer wrote of the young woman.

The show's organizer, Time4Fun, said on Instagram that paramedics attended to Benevides after she reported feeling unwell. She was taken to a first-aid center and then to a hospital, where she died an hour later, the statement from the Brazilian live entertainment company said.

Fans who attended the Friday show said they were not allowed to bring water bottles into the stadium even though Rio and most of Brazil have had record-breaking temperatures this week amid a dangerous and lasting heat wave. The daytime high in Rio on Friday was 39.1 degrees Celsius (102.4 degrees Fahrenheit), but it felt much hotter.

Apparent temperature - a combination of temperature and humid-

ity - hit 59 C (138 F) Friday morning in Rio, the highest index ever recorded there.

Elizabeth Morin, 26, who recently moved to Rio from Los Angeles, described "sauna-like" conditions inside the stadium.

"It was extremely hot. My hair got so wet from sweat as soon as I came in," she said. "There was a point at which I had to check my breathing to make sure I wasn't going to pass out."

Morin said she drank plenty of water but saw "a good amount of people looking distressed" and others "yelling for water." She said she was able to get water from the sidelines of the area she was standing in, but that water was a lot harder to access from other parts of the stadium, "especially if you were concerned about losing your specific position."

During the show, Swift paused her performance and asked from the stage for water to be brought to a group of people who had successfully caught the singer's attention, according to Morin.

"They were holding up their phones saying 'We need water,'" she recalled.

Two other concertgoers interviewed by The Associated Press said they witnessed people feeling unwell from the heat during the show.

On her way to Rio, Benevides sent a video to family members that was broadcast by TV channel Globo News, telling them: "Mom, look at the plane, it's moving. Mom, I'm on the plane. My God in heaven! I'm happy!"

Music

Variety



This image released by MUBI shows Alma Pöysti, (left), and Jussi Vatanen in a scene from 'Fallen Leaves.' (AP)

Film

Kaurismäki's film has a timeless feeling

'Fallen Leaves' is deadpan nirvana

By Jake Coyle

In a movie year rife with grand, three-hour opuses from auteur filmmakers comes a slender 81-minute gem that outclasses them all. Aki Kaurismäki's "Fallen Leaves," short, sweet and utterly delightful, is the kind of movie that's so charming, you want to run it back the moment it's over.

Kaurismäki, the writer-director Finnish master of the deadpan, has for nearly four decades been making minimalist, clear-eyed fables about mostly working-class characters in harsh economic realities. Bleak as his films are, they're also funny, compassionate and profound. They put up a tough, droll front that never quite hides the heart underneath.

The same could be said for one of the main characters in the plaintive and tender "Fallen Leaves." When Holappa (Jussi Vatanen), a construction worker, is invited by his friend Houtari (Kaurismäki veteran Janne Hyytiäinen) to karaoke, he replies: "Tough guys don't sing."

"You're not a tough guy," Houtari responds. "Fallen Leaves," Kaurismäki's first since 2017's "The Other Side of Hope," is about Holappa and a woman named Ansa (Alma Pöysti), both solitary people scraping by in Helsinki. They first encounter each other at that karaoke bar where Houtari proudly sings (for the rest of the movie, whenever he appears he'll be seeking compliments for his performance), but Ansa and Holappa watch quietly apart.

Kaurismäki draws them together, but slowly. "Fallen Leaves" is the best big-screen romance of the year even though its prospective lovers exchange only a handful of words and, for most of the film, don't know each other's names.

It's more about the circumstances they're both in. In the beginning of the film, Ansa is working at a supermarket while a security guard glares at her. She's fired for keeping an expired item instead of throwing it away. At home, she looks at her bills and then shuts the power off. Her next job, at a restaurant, fizzles on pay day when the owner is arrested for selling drugs.

Holappa loses his job, too. After an accident at a construction site due to shoddy equipment, he's fired for having alcohol in his blood. He's a scapegoat, but the drinking problem is real. He keeps vodka in his locker and hidden on the job site.

"I'm depressed because I drink and I drink because I'm depressed," he tells Houtari.

The cinematography of longtime Kaurismäki collaborator Timo Salminen is so spare, with occasional pops of color and irony, that "Fallen Leaves" has a timeless feeling. It casts the cruelty of the world as an eternal state, a sense only enhanced and expanded upon in the most precise contemporary reference of the film. Whenever Ansa turns the radio on, news from the war in Ukraine is being read.

In Kaurismäki's film, the world is full of bullying authorities. (His radiant 2011 film "Le Havre," about an old French shoe shiner helping a migrant boy, hinged on a police officer who in the climactic moment chooses to look the other way.) In "Fallen Leaves," the only thing to do is curse the jerks who make life miserable, have a drink and head to the movies.

Comedy

That's where Ansa and Holappa go, once they finally meet, for a date. They see Jim Jarmusch's "The Dead Don't Die," a funny choice not just because it's a zombie comedy but because Jarmusch, a friend of Kaurismäki's, is so similar in deadpan style to him. Outside, the couple stands in front of telling posters: "Le Cercle Rouge," "Fat City," "Pierrot le Fou" - each a touchstone to the director.

It's little odes to cinema like these that make "Fallen Leaves" - winner of the jury prize at the Cannes Film Festival and Finland's Oscar submission - one of the most personal and self-reflective films for Kaurismäki. He probably wouldn't stand for all the analysis or the praise. But as Ansa and Holappa come together without a word of flowery romance, they carve out a small, private refugee from the world around them - just like the movies do. There isn't a bit of fat on "Fallen Leaves," just some lean truths about life

and a dog named Chaplin.

"Fallen Leaves," a Mubi release, is unrated by the Motion Picture Association. Running time: 81 minutes. In Finnish with English subtitles. Four stars out of four.

Also:

NEW YORK: Jimmy Kimmel is returning as host of the Academy Awards for the second straight year and fourth time overall, the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences announced Wednesday.

ABC is turning again to its late-night host a year after bringing Kimmel back for a 2023 ceremony that drew 18.7 million viewers, the most since 2020's pre-pandemic broadcast. In the wake of **Will Smith's** slap of **Chris Rock** at the 2022 Oscars, Kimmel led a cautious ceremony that helped stabilize the Academy Awards after years of turmoil.

Kimmel also hosted the Oscars in 2017 and 2018. "I always dreamed of hosting the Oscars exactly four times," Kimmel said in a statement.

Though the comic is inching up in the record books, he's still a long ways from the most frequent Oscar emcee. That title belongs to **Bob Hope**, who hosted a record 19 times either solo or as a co-host. Billy Crystal hosted nine times all between 1990 and 2012.

The film academy earlier announced that **Raj Kapoor** will serve as executive producer and showrunner, **Katy Mullan** will executive produce and **Hamish Hamilton** will direct. They'll be joined by **Molly McNearney**, executive producer of "Jimmy Kimmel Live" and Kimmel's wife, who will return for a second consecutive year to serve as an executive producer for the show.

"Jimmy has cemented himself as one of the all-time great Oscars hosts with his perfect blend of humanity and humor, and Molly is one of the best live TV producers around," Kapoor and Mullan said in a statement.

The 96th Academy Awards will air live on ABC on March 10 from the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. (AP)

SEVILLE, Spain: Karol G, Bizarrap, Shakira and Natalia Lafourcade, won big at the Latin Grammy Awards held Thursday.

Karol G's "Mañana será bonito" was crowned best album of the year and best urban music album.

Argentine producer Bizarrap took home the awards for song of the year and best pop song for "Shakira: Bzrp Music Sessions, Vol. 53," with the Colombian star.

Shakira, who attended the ceremony held in Seville, Spain, accompanied by her two children, Milan and Sasha, said that she wanted to dedicate the award to them "because I have promised them that I am going to be happy."

Natalia Lafourcade, who holds the title for most Latin Grammys in history, added more awards to her record-breaking list with record of the year.

Edgar Barrera, who began the night as a favorite with 13 nominations, had to settle for three awards: composer of the year (a category awarded for the first time), producer of the year and best regional Mexican song. That award came for the composition "un X100to," the collaboration between his protégés, Grupo Frontera, and the superstar Bad Bunny.

Relocating the show to Seville for the first time meant that flamenco was present throughout the entire night.

It was on display from the opening, by Rosalía, who returned to her origins to offer her version of "Se nos muerte el amor," by Rocio Jurado, to the musical number by Andrea Bocelli who performed "Granada," composed by the Mexican Agustín Lara and the performance of "Corazón partío" by Alejandro Sanz, who was accompanied by 30 flamenco dancers. (AP)

LONDON: A book about a fire that ravaged a Canadian city and has been called a portent of climate chaos won Britain's leading nonfiction book prize on Thursday.

John Vaillant's "Fire Weather: A True Story from a

Hotter World" was awarded the 50,000 pound (\$62,000) Baillie Gifford Prize at a ceremony in London.

The chair of the judging panel, Frederick Studemann, said the book tells "a terrifying story," reading "almost like a thriller" with a "deep science backdrop." He called "Fire Weather,"



Vaillant



Karol G

which was also a US National Book Award finalist, "an extraordinary and elegantly rendered account of a terrifying climate disaster that engulfed a community and industry, underscoring our toxic relationship with fossil fuels."

Vaillant, based in British Columbia, recounts how a huge

wildfire engulfed the oil city of Fort McMurray in 2016. The blaze, which burned for months, drove 90,000 people from their homes, destroyed 2,400 buildings and disrupted work at Alberta's lucrative polluting oil sands.

Vaillant said the lesson he took from the inferno was that

"fire is different now, and we've made it different" through human-driven climate change.

He said the day the fire broke out in early May, it was 33 Celsius (91.4 Fahrenheit) in Fort McMurray, which is about 600 miles (1,000 kilometers) south of the Arctic Circle. Humidity was a bone-dry 11%. (AP)

Features

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People & Places

Music

‘Underrated legend’

E-40 launches new album after 30 yrs

LOS ANGELES, Nov 19, (AP): **E-40** built a three decade-plus career on the foundations of an unorthodox rap flow, schooling listeners with life lessons through his streetwise perspective.

With a heavy dose of Bay Area slang, E-40 created a lane for his unique hip-hop vernacular that has made him one of the genre’s most revered artists. As a savvy businessman, he’s leveraged his connections in the rap world to the ice cream and food brand industries, including a Filipino food business inside Oracle Park in San Francisco.



E-40

Now at 56, there’s no slowing down for E-40, who released his 27th studio album “Rule of Thumb: Rule 1” on Friday. His new project comes more than 30 years after his debut, “Federal.”

The new album - which features NBA YoungBoy, Too Short, Larry June, Gucci Mane, B.G. and E-40’s son Droop-E - is the first installment of the “Rule of Thumb” album series. He plans to release the sequel

album early next year.

In a recent interview, E-40 spoke with The Associated Press about being an underrated legend, his unorthodox rap style and the new cookbook called “Snoop Dogg Presents: Goon With The Spoon,” which released earlier this week.

Answers have been edited for brevity and clarity.

AP: What’s the meaning behind your album title?

E-40: I feel like “Rule of Thumb” is just common sense. It’s certain rules and regulations that you must just know off top. It doesn’t take a rocket scientist. You don’t have to have a quarter of a brain to comprehend that. I’m teaching life lessons. Giving it to them straight, not fake and not fabricating things. It’s a lot of lightweight storytelling and a lot of life lessons, consequences and repercussions. I mix it up like a gumbo pot. I’m multi-dimensional. I don’t do just one style of rap. My beats aren’t always the same. I’m everywhere like air.

AP: Where does your unorthodox rap style and wisdom come from?

E-40: Being chipped from a different cliff, being carved from a different clay, and made from a different fabric. I’m wired different than most. I’m from an era of morals and respect, and we follow guidelines. That’s always been me. ... I always told stories. I talked about the repercussions and the consequences. If you go do this, you do know that little 30-second decision that you made could cost you 30 years in prison or you might be buried 6 feet deep. I always talked about the consequences if you go do something. I speak the real.

AP: You’re highly respected within hip-hop, but how does the feeling of being underrated bother you?

E-40: My life is beautiful. I’m very successful. I’m financially set. I’m financially good. I’m still accumulating bread. I’m still breaking boundaries. But anything that’s different is always going to be questionable. There will never be a rapper like E-40, whether you like me or not. You just got to give it to me. I got my own thing. I’ve been successful for 36 years with music since 1988. Let that soak in. I’ve got to be doing something right. Can’t just be no damn luck. I come from the ground up. All your favorite independent CEOs, they respect me because I was first. I laid the foundation for independent music.

Do I still feel underrated? Yes, I do. But I know what comes with the package. They like people that’s in the pocket and never go outside the box. That’s not me.

AP: You have a new cookbook. When did your passion for cooking start?

E-40: I’m the oldest of four. Moms would work two or three jobs. My mom and dad divorced when I was 8 years old. I had a lot of responsibilities being the oldest, so I cooked. We all knew how to cook. We taught ourselves how to cook. I worked at a restaurant when I was a teenager. There was a Caucasian man that I’d love dearly to this day. His name is Lewis. He taught me how to cook escargot, orange roughly with almonds with lemon butter sauce with white wine. He taught me how to do London Broil and chicken cordon bleu.

AP: How did you and Snoop connect on this cookbook?

E-40: Snoop, that’s my guy. He cooks as well. He was like, “Earl, my book was very successful. I sold over a million copies. It’s a bestseller. Let me present it.”

I was like “Snoop, I rock with you. You’re legendary. You’re a good friend of mine. I’ve been knowing you for over 30-plus years. We’re family. Thank you. Let’s do it.”

When you put your pride to the side, bigger things happen. He’s got some recipes in there. I got some recipes in there. He’s got adult beverages. I have adult beverages. It only makes sense. We both co-pack. We do the whole thing. Teamwork makes the dream work. It’s enough money out there for all of us.

AP: You’ve met with Vice President Kamala Harris at the White House, received an honorary doctorate from Grambling State University and had a street named after you in your hometown of Vallejo, California. How has hip-hop impacted your life?

E-40: Shout out to DJ Kool Herc, Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five, Run-DMC. Those dudes really paved the way for people like myself to diversify our portfolios and find other ways to make financial gain on a legitimate note. This beats the streets. You can make more money here than you could ever in the streets.

AP: Will you ever release a book with your slang terms?

E-40: If I do the book of slang, it’s going to hurt people’s feelings. Because they think that their favorite rapper made the words up, and it came from me. Or if it didn’t come from me, I got it from the soil - the trenches where most rappers that are from the urban community get their (expletive) from.

I’ve been around for more than a half a century. I know all this. I’ve got receipts to back it up. One day, I want to sit down and go word-for-word of all the words I’ve coined. I want to go to the year, the song, everything. I want to ask “Who said it before me?” If they try to lie about it, I’ve got receipts. I was the first rapper screaming “Tycoon.” That’s one of many. “Slappin.” “Choppers.” I’ve got so many of them. Just for that, I’m going to do a book of slang. The real way in 2024 style.



Miss Nicaragua, Sheynnis Palacios, smiles after being crowned Miss Universe at the 72nd Miss Universe Beauty Pageant in San Salvador, El Salvador, Nov. 18. (AP)

Music

Aoki builds a universe on ‘HIROQUEST 2

Twain’s ‘Greatest Hits’ shines on vinyl

LOS ANGELES, Nov 19, (Agencies): Shania Twain is familiar with the concept of a hit.

Her second album “The Woman in Me” sold 20 million copies. Her next, “Come On Over,” sold 40 million. Her 2004 “Greatest Hits” album was one of its own, selling more than half a million copies in its first week - enough to become the fastest-selling hits album by a female artist in the United States, per the Guinness World Records. It has since been certified four times platinum.

Now, as vinyl records and their players see a resurgence, that album has been remastered for vinyl, now available.

The collection, like its original, opens with the shimmery pop version of “Forever and For Always,” a proper introduction to the genre and Shania fun enclosed. This version - coming 19 years after its original release - adds a track from each of the Canadian country star’s most recent albums: “Life’s About To Get Good” from 2017’s “Now” and “Giddy Up!” from this year’s “Queen of Me.”

The 23 songs reveal the cross-genre prowess that saw Twain climb both country and pop charts, and then allowed future country-pop artists - especially female country-pop artists - to do the same. Casual fans won’t notice huge differences in the remastered tracks. The rousing drum beat and melodic fiddle on “Any Man of Mine” still provides a rich background to Twain’s strong vocals, but feels sharpened. The futuristic intro of “I’m Gonna Getcha Good!” sounds brighter, “Up!” is still aggressively catchy and optimistic.

Missing, like in 2004, are any songs from Twain’s self-titled debut album. The hits begin instead with those from “The Woman in Me,” her second album and the first produced by her then-husband Robert “Mutt” Lange. As she told The Associated Press in 2020, that album made her a star, but more importantly, gave her more control of her

artistry. “In my mind, I was just being myself and that was the great thing of all - to just be able to be myself and let my personality come through in the music,” she said.

That personality shines through on the remastered tracks, its strength emphasized by her consistency. Twain’s voice may have changed in the years between 2002’s “Up!” and “Now” and amid her battle with Lyme disease, but it’s clear she is as confident on “Life’s About to Get Good” and “Giddy Up!” as she is on iconic hits like “Man! I Feel Like a Woman” and “That Don’t Impress Me Much.”

It’s surprising that it took this long for Twain’s “Greatest Hits” to make it to vinyl - in many ways, a physical record seems like the perfect vessel for such a hitmaker’s greatest hits. The package now comes at a perfect moment: amid a surge in Shania love on the heels of her first tour in five years, ahead of her 2024 return to Las Vegas and just in time for the holidays.

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For the EDM DJ **Steve Aoki**, the next frontier is the final one.

Last year, it was announced he was on the manifest for the dearMoon Project, the first planned civilian mission to the moon. A trip to outer space makes a lot of sense for the forward-thinking creator, who has released “HIROQUEST 2: Double Helix” on Friday.

The first installment of the conceptual series, 2022’s pop-punk-infused “HIROQUEST: Genesis,” introduced the protagonist Hiro, tasked with collecting magical rings to save the world. On “HIROQUEST 2: Double Helix,” his story continues, and a new antagonist is introduced. The project has a collectible card component, and Aoki is writing a graphic novel - slated for release early next year - to tie the albums’ narratives together.

Beyond the lore, of course, are the songs. Sonically, “HIROQUEST 2:

Double Helix” is a detour from the first release.

“I’m inspired by the world around me, and the world around me has changed quite a lot. ‘HIROQUEST 1’ was made during the pandemic, so I was going and picking up my guitar,” he says, “listening to more punk and hardcore.”

The new release, on the other hand, is inspired by his life on the road: It’s an eclectic ride that finds cohesion in unrelenting energy, one that’s “far more dance, far more electronic, far more club banger,” Aoki says.

It also includes more Latin rhythms, with features from the boy band CNCO, Mexican singers **Danna Paola** and **Ángela Aguilar** and Argentine singers **Tini** and **La Joaqui**. Each featured artist (including **Paris Hilton**, on a breathy dance single) is connected to a character in the concept record’s plot.

“Latin culture is now, endemically and fundamentally part of my musical trajectory. It is always going to be a part of every album and project that I do,” he says, adding that “70-80%” of the artists that come through his studio in Las Vegas are Latin artists.

There are also a few reimaginings of nostalgic classics, with Aoki working with Akon to update “Locked Up,” or adding a hard drop to MGMT’s “Kids.” The latter is how Aoki closes his live sets now, “kicked up, like, 40 BPMs,” he says.

Those are the results of studio experimentation, thinking across different genres, cultures and languages. As Aoki sees it, an artist “has to innovate, because music and culture is unforgiving and it will leave you in the dust,” he says. “We’re all expendable.”

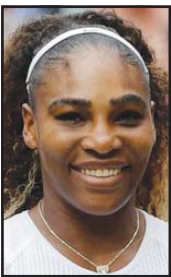
As for his journey into space, he’s undergone many physical and medical examinations but hasn’t yet begin the “pretty intensive” astronaut training protocol. A date has yet to be set for the launch, but he’ll be prepared.



This image released by Universal Music Group shows ‘Greatest Hits’ by Shania Twain. (AP)



Baldwin



Williams

Variety

SANTA FE, N.M.: Prosecutors are preparing to present evidence to a grand jury against **Alec Baldwin** in the fatal 2021 shooting of a cinematographer on the set of a Western movie in **New Mexico**.

A grand jury did not take up the case Thursday and a decision on whether to revive criminal charges against Baldwin still could be weeks away. It’s a secretive process without public access, as prosecutors present evidence and witnesses possibly testify without a cross-examination or immediate vetting by defense counsel.

Baldwin, lead actor and co-producer of “Rust,” was pointing a gun at cinematographer **Halyna Hutchins** during a rehearsal on a movie set outside Santa Fe in October 2021 when the gun went off, killing her and wounding director **Joel Souza**. Baldwin has said he pulled back the hammer - but not the trigger - and the gun fired.

Special prosecutors initially dismissed an involuntary manslaughter charge against Baldwin in April, saying they were informed the gun might have been modified before the shooting and malfunctioned. They later pivoted after receiving a new analysis of the gun and will ask a grand jury to consider recharging Baldwin.

Here are some of the recent developments.

Special prosecutors are not only marshaling evidence against Baldwin for the grand jury to consider, but also actively preparing for a scheduled February 2024 trial against “Rust” movie armorer **Hannah Gutierrez-Reed**, who has pleaded not guilty to involuntary manslaughter and evidence tampering in the case.

Those preparations for trial include recent subpoenas for documents from producers of “Rust,” and any audio and video recordings held by a Los Angeles film production company that might include Baldwin on the set of “Rust” or his comments about the film elsewhere.

Neama Rahmani, a former federal prosecutor in Southern California and currently president of West Coast Trial Lawyers, says documents or records uncovered in case against Gutierrez-Reed can be repurposed. (AP)

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NEW YORK: **Serena Williams** and **Ruby Bridges** will be inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame next year, the hall announced Thursday, adding the tennis great and civil rights icon to a previously announced list of women to be honored during Women’s History Month in March.

“The 2024 inductee class has broken

barriers, challenged the status quo, and left an impact on history,” the Hall of Fame said in its announcement.

Eight other honorees were announced in the spring. Williams and Bridges

became available after the date and location of the ceremony were changed, a spokesman said.

Williams, 42, is a 23-time Grand Slam tennis champion who holds the record



Tom Blyth, and Rachel Zegler pose for photographers upon arrival at the World premiere of the film ‘The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes’ on Thursday, Nov. 9, in London. (AP)

for the longest player ranked No. 1. She retired from tennis last year and earlier this month became the first athlete to win the Fashion Icon award from the Council of Fashion Designers of America.

Bridges, 69, was a 6-year-old first-grader when she became one of the first Black students at racially segregated schools in **New Orleans** in 1960. In 1963, painter **Norman Rockwell** recreated the scene in the painting, “The Problem We All Live With.” The Ruby Bridges Foundation she established 24 years ago promotes tolerance and change through education.

Neither Williams nor Bridges could immediately be reached for comment.

Others in the class include Peggy McIntosh, 88, an activist known for her explorations of privilege; **Kimberlé Crenshaw**, 63, who helped develop the academic concept of critical race theory, the idea that racism is systemic in the nation’s institutions, and **Judith Plaskow**, 76, regarded as the first Jewish feminist theologian for calling out an absence of female perspectives in Jewish history.

Also to be inducted are **Loretta Ross**, 69, founder of the National Center for Human Rights Education in **Atlanta**, and **Allucqure Rosanne “Sandy” Stone**, a transgender woman born in 1936 and considered a founder of the academic discipline of transgender studies. (AP)

Kuwait Chest Diseases Hospital’s participation enriches the conference

GIS conference focuses on future of cardiac catheterization

DUBAI, UAE, Nov 19: The Gulf Intervention Society (GIS) recently concluded its fifth annual conference in Dubai, successfully bringing together over 1,450 participants from around the globe. Held from November 16th to 18th, 2023, at the Intercontinental Festival City Hotel, Dubai, the conference focused on cutting-edge international technologies and advancements in cardiac catheterization and interventional surgeries.

The event garnered widespread international participation, with researchers, specialists, prominent scientists, and physicians from 22 countries convening to share expertise and insights. Leading medical institutions from around the world showcased their real-world experiences, enriching the conference with invaluable practical knowledge.

A highlight of the conference was the presentation of over 23 complex cases, 30 recorded cases, and 4 live transmissions from renowned healthcare facilities across the region (National Heart Center in Royal Hospital, Muscat, Oman, Al Qassimi Hospital, Sharjah, UAE, King Abdulaziz Cardiac Center, National Guard Hospital, Riyadh, KSA, and Chest Diseases Hospital, Kuwait). These presentations provided participants with a comprehensive understanding of real-world clinical scenarios and the latest interventional techniques.

Commitment

Addressing the conference, GIS President Dr. Fawaz Al-Mutairi, Consultant Interventional Cardiologist at the National Guard Hospital in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, emphasized the society’s commitment to promoting artificial intelligence (AI) in cardiac care. “The GIS Scientific Committee has been actively studying and applying AI techniques in the field of cardiac treatments and interventional catheter surgeries,” he stated. “During this conference, we shared a number of clinical trials and studies with our international audience, including cardiologists and catheter specialists from the GCC countries.”

The conference focused on the transformative potential of AI in catheterization and interventional surgery, emphasizing the need for its continued development and integration into clinical practice. AI’s role in early intervention and more accurate diagnosis of heart attacks was highlighted, with a focus on its potential to identify life-threatening cardiac conditions.

“The conference participants actively engaged in presenting innovative ideas and solutions to advance the healthcare sector and serve society,” added Dr. Al-Mutairi. “Several workshops were conducted covering a wide range of topics, including health awareness, cardiac treatments, interventional catheterization, and the latest developments and visions in the evolving field of cardiac healthcare.”

A significant milestone at the conference was the signing of multiple Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) between GIS and several international associations such as “The Cardiovascular Research, Education & Prevention Foundation (CVREP), The Iraqi-Cardio Thoracic Society, The Indonesian Heart Association, The Cardiological Society of India (CSI), and the Interventional Cardiovascular Innovation Group of Jordanian Society, and the Joint Interventional Meeting among other regional and international associations. These partnerships aim to foster collaboration and knowledge exchange in the field of interventional cardiology, promoting regional and global advancements.

The conference played a pivotal role in facilitating discussions and identifying key challenges in the healthcare, medical sciences, AI, catheterization, and interventional surgery sectors. It also highlighted the importance of scientific and technical research in these areas.

The event featured 130 presenters, including 30 international speakers. The sessions encompassed 25 scientific presentations, 5 workshops, and panel discussions. The conference received accreditation from The European Council for Accreditation in Cardiology (EBAC), granting participants 22 hours of continuous medical education credit.

Dr. Abdullah Shihab, Vice President of GIS, emphasized the value of global experiences in improving heart health, particularly in complex cases. He also highlighted the significant progress made in the use of AI for identifying various cardiac conditions and procedures.

Attracted

Dr. Mousa Akbar, General Secretary of GIS, stated that the conference attracted a distinguished group of medical and catheterization specialists. “Notable attendees included Dr. Antonio Colombo from Italy, Dr. George Dangas, Dr. Roxana Mehran, and Dr. Ziad Ali from the United States of America,” he noted. “They shared valuable insights on the latest developments in cardiac surgery and interventional catheterization, and also addressed the main challenges of clinical trials presented at various global conferences.”

Dr. Khalid bin Thani, Treasurer of GIS, explained that the conference aimed to empower healthcare professionals, including doctors, nurses, technicians, surgical and cardiology professionals, by providing them with the latest research-based recommendations for diagnosing and managing heart patients, and encouraging prevention practices.

“At the Opening Ceremony, we recognized the achievements of the Society’s founders and GIS ambassadors from around the world,” added Dr. Khalid bin Thani. “We also honored the graduates of the AI program and the Leadership Development Program.”

The next edition of the GIS Annual Conference is scheduled to take place from November 28th to 30th, 2024, at the Intercontinental Festival City Hotel in Dubai. ICOM Event Management Group will serve as the PCO for the conference and the society.



A group photo from the event.

‘Awareness crucial in disease control’

94% Kuwaiti women consider thalassemia screening

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, Nov 19, (Agencies): To facilitate greater understanding of thalassemia, a hereditary hemoglobinopathy, BGI Genomics has released its State of Thalassemia Awareness Report. This report assesses the level of knowledge and attitudes related to the associated health risks, thalassemia carrier screening, and genetic counseling for carriers. 1,847 female respondents from six countries with high thalassemia prevalence were surveyed: Azerbaijan, China, Indonesia, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Thailand.

94.1% of Kuwaiti women consider screening after learning about associated thalassemia health risks and costs which is higher than the global average of 84.5%. If both partners are thalassemia carriers, 38.1% of Kuwaiti women can persuade their partners to seek genetic counseling and consider preimplantation genetic diagnosis (PGD) which is lower than the global average of 50.9%.

Survey findings highlighted the urgent need to improve awareness, address barriers, and enhance access to screening:

Most don’t know much about thalassemia: 70.5% of women did not know much about thalassemia symptoms and the associated health risks, with another 14.4% indicating they never heard about thalassemia.

Services

Accessibility matters: Hospitals or agencies nearby that provide screening services (43.1%), cost of screening services (38.1%), and before getting married or having children (35.3%) are the top reasons that affect the willingness to undergo thalassemia screening.

Thalassemia carriers are more open to genetic counseling: If both partners are thalassemia carriers, 50.8% of women can persuade their partners to seek genetic counseling and consider PGD. If women have obtained information about thalassemia from health awareness programs, this percentage rises to 59.5%.

Dr. Zhiyu Peng, BGI Genomics Deputy GM, notes, “This survey shows that enhancing awareness and accessibility are an important first step in thalassemia control programs. Region-specific screening and

UK OKs world’s first sickle cell gene therapy

LONDON, Nov 19, (AP): Britain’s medicines regulator has authorized the world’s first gene therapy treatment for sickle cell disease, in a move that could offer relief to thousands of people with the crippling disease in the UK.

In a statement Thursday, the Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency said it approved Casgevy, the first medicine licensed using the gene editing tool CRISPR, which won its makers a Nobel prize in 2020.

The agency approved the treatment for patients with sickle cell disease and thalassemia who are 12 years old and over. Casgevy is made by Vertex Pharmaceuticals (Europe) Ltd. and CRISPR Therapeutics. To date, bone marrow transplants, extremely arduous procedures that come with very unpleasant side effects, have been the only long-lasting treatment.

“The future of life-changing cures resides in CRISPR based (gene-editing) technology,” said Dr. Helen O’Neill of University College London.

“The use of the word ‘cure’ in relation to sickle cell disease or thalassemia has, up until now, been incompatible,” she said in a statement, calling the MHRA’s approval of gene therapy “a positive moment in history.” Both sickle cell disease and thalassemia are caused by mistakes in the genes that carry hemoglobin, the protein in red blood cells that carry oxygen.

In people with sickle cell - which is particularly common in people with African or Caribbean backgrounds - a genetic mutation causes the cells to become crescent-shaped,

which can block blood flow and cause excruciating pain, organ damage, stroke and other problems.

In people with thalassemia, the genetic mutation can cause severe anemia. Patients typically require blood transfusions every few weeks, and injections and medicines for their entire life. Thalassemia predominantly affects people of South Asian, Southeast Asian and Middle Eastern heritage.

The new medicine, Casgevy, works by targeting the problematic gene in a patient’s bone marrow stem cells so that the body can make properly functioning hemoglobin.

Chemotherapy

Patients first receive a course of chemotherapy, before doctors take stem cells from the patient’s bone marrow and use genetic editing techniques in a laboratory to fix the gene. The cells are then infused back into the patient for a permanent treatment. Patients must be hospitalized at least twice - once for the collection of the stem cells and then to receive the altered cells.

“This is so exciting. It’s a new wave of treatments that we can utilize for patients with sickle cell disease,” said Dr. James LaBelle, director of the pediatric stem cell and cellular therapy program at the University of Chicago. He said Britain’s approval suggested the U.S. authorization was likely “imminent.”

Casgevy is currently being reviewed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration; the agency is expected to make a decision early next month, before considering another sickle cell gene therapy.

LaBelle said officials at the University of Chicago are “already moving forward to build not only the clinical infrastructure but also the reimbursement infrastructure to get these patients this treatment.”

Britain’s regulator said its decision to authorize the gene therapy for sickle cell disease was based on a study done on 29 patients, of whom 28 reported having no severe pain problems for at least one year after being treated. In the study for thalassemia, 39 out of 42 patients who got the therapy did not need a red blood cell transfusion for at least a year afterwards.

Gene therapy treatments can cost millions of dollars and experts have previously raised concerns that they could remain out of reach for the people who would benefit most.

Last year, Britain approved a gene therapy for a fatal genetic disorder that had a list price of £2.8 million (\$3.5 million). England’s National Health Service negotiated a significant confidential discount to make it available to eligible patients.

Vertex Pharmaceuticals said it had not yet established a price for the treatment in Britain and was working with health authorities “to secure reimbursement and access for eligible patients as quickly as possible.”

In the US, Vertex has not released a potential price for the therapy, but a report by the nonprofit Institute for Clinical and Economic Review said prices up to around \$2 million would be cost-effective. By comparison, research earlier this year showed medical expenses for current sickle cell treatments, from birth to age 65, add up to about \$1.6 million for women and \$1.7 million for men.

treatment programs, customized to align with local healthcare resources and cultural values, are also vital to identify thalassemia patients and carriers.”

Dr. Androulla Eleftheriou, Thalassemia International Federation Executive Director,

comments, “Enhancing awareness is a crucial first step in promoting individual behavior changes and policy reforms, ultimately leading to improved prevention, control, and management of thalassemia. Screening services - a key component of any ef-

fective national control programme - needs to consider cultural and socio-economic backgrounds. We welcome BGI Genomics efforts and reaffirm our commitment to further expanding thalassemia awareness on a global scale.”

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Texas defensive back Ryan Watts (6) dives to tackle Iowa State wide receiver Jayden Higgins (9) during the first half of an NCAA college football game, Saturday, Nov 18, 2023, in Ames, Iowa. (AP)

Texas stays atop Big 10

Oregon rolls past Arizona State

TEMPE, Arizona, Nov 19, (AP): Bo Nix threw for 404 yards and a career-high six touchdowns, Patrick Herbert and Troy Franklin both caught two touchdown passes and No. 6 Oregon rolled to a 49-13 win over Arizona State on Saturday.

The Ducks buried the Sun Devils with an avalanche of offense on the way to a 42-0 lead, scoring touchdowns on their first six drives and gaining 444 total yards. Nix - a Heisman Trophy candidate - had touchdown passes of 23, 49, 16, 45, 71 and 16 yards.

All that happened in just the first two quarters.

The pace slowed considerably after the halftime break, but the Ducks still cruised to victory. Franklin caught eight passes for 128 yards and became the school's single-season leader for yards receiving with 1,221. Nix completed 24 of 29 passes.

Oregon (10-1, 6-2 Pac-12) came into the game with the nation's No. 1 offense, averaging more than 46 points per game.

Texas 26, Iowa State 16

In Ames, Iowa, Quinn Ewers passed for 281 yards and two touchdowns, and No. 7 Texas pulled away from Iowa State for a 26-16 victory.

The win keeps the Longhorns (10-1, 7-1, No. 7 CFP) alone atop the Big Ten standings and moves them closer to the conference championship game.

Ewers completed 23 of 33 passes and C.J. Baxter rushed

for 117 yards, helping Texas extend its winning streak to five after an Oct. 7 loss to Oklahoma.

Rocco Becht threw for 323 yards and two touchdowns for Iowa State (6-5, 5-3), but the Cyclones netted only 9 yards rushing and averaged less than a half-yard per carry.

Jerrin Thompson then intercepted Becht at the Texas 40-yard line to set up Ewers' TD pass to Helm.

The Cyclones answered with a 66-yard touchdown pass from Becht to Easton Dean, trimming the margin to 23-16.

FOOTBALL

Bret Auburn's 42-yard field goal for Texas made it a 10-point game with 6:10 left and extended his streak of makes to 14.

Alabama 66, Chattanooga 10

In Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Jalen Milroe passed for 197 yards and three touchdowns before sitting out the second half of No. 8 Alabama's 66-10 rout of Chattanooga.

The Crimson Tide (10-1, No. 8 CFP) won their ninth straight game but got a breather from Southeastern Conference opponents against the Mocs (7-4), an FCS team.

Milroe led Alabama to a 38-7 halftime lead to continue his own personal hot streak, including 13 total touchdowns in the past three games. He completed his first 10 passes, with bombs of 56 and 44 yards to Jermaine Burton, and finished 13 of 16. Burton caught three passes for 105 yards, all by halftime, after sitting out the Kentucky game with an illness.

It was the most points Alabama scored since a 66-3 win over Western Carolina in 2019.

Missouri 33, Florida 31

In Columbia, Missouri, Harrison Mevis kicked a 30-yard field goal with five seconds remaining, and Brady Cook completed 20 of 34 passes for 326 yards and a touchdown to help No. 11 Missouri rally past Florida 33-31.

Cody Schrader carried the ball 23 times for 148 yards and a touchdown, Luther Burden III caught nine passes for 158 yards, and Mevis converted all four of his field goal attempts as Missouri (9-2, 5-2 SEC, No. 9 CFP) narrowly avoided losing to an unranked opponent for the first time this season.

Change Name

I, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM SAIBOLE ZAKIR ALI RAHIM TO SAIBOLE ZAKIR ABDUL REHMAN AS PER DOCUMENT AND MY FATHERS NAME FROM ALI RAHIM ISMAIL SAIBOLE TO ABDUL REHMAN ISMAIL SAIBOLE AND MY MOTHERS NAME FROM MEHRUNNISA ALI RAHIM SAIBOLE TO MEHARUNNISA ABDUL REHMAN SAIBOLE

Change Name

I, RASAYAPETA KHAJAPEER Indian Passport No. V3753473 having permanent address (state, country and pin Code H.No: 14/508-7-1 NAKASH STREET, KADAPA ANDHRA PRADESH residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare that herewith my name will be read at under: Given name KHAJAPEER and Surname: SHAIK

Towns' last-second floater lifts Wolves past Pelicans

Knicks extend winning streak

NEW ORLEANS, Nov 19, (AP): Karl-Anthony Towns capped a 29-point performance with a running floater off the glass with 5 seconds left, and the Minnesota Timberwolves overcame a 14-point deficit in the final 7:32 to beat the New Orleans Pelicans 121-120 on Saturday night.

Anthony Edwards scored 23 points before fouling out with 10 seconds left while guarding Brandon Ingram along the perimeter. But Ingram missed one of his two free throws, allowing Towns to put Minnesota in front from close range.

BASKETBALL

The Pelicans still had a shot to win it as time ran out, but Ingram, who had a game-high-30 points, missed a mid-range jumper.

Towns scored 12 in the fourth quarter, including a 3 that gave Minnesota its first lead of the second half at 119-117.

Rudy Gobert had 17 points and 11 rebounds for the T-Wolves. Jaden McDaniels added 12 points.

Jonas Valanciunas had 26 points and 11 rebounds for the Pelicans, who played without Zion Williamson. Williamson was being rested on what was the second of three games in four nights.

Knicks 122, Hornets 108

In Charlotte, N.C., Jalen Brunson scored 32 points as New York extended its winning streak to three games with a victory over Charlotte.

Brunson scored 26 points in the opening half for the Knicks, who never trailed and built a 15-point lead by the intermission on the way to their sixth win in seven games.

Donte DiVincenzo added 25 points, Julius Randle scored 21 points, R.J. Barrett finished with 15 points and Mitchell Robinson had a game-high 14 rebounds for New York.

LaMelo Ball led all scorers with 34 points for Charlotte, which lost its fourth straight game. Rookie Brandon Miller had 29 points and Miles Bridges 19.

Bucks 132, Mavericks 125

In Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 40 points and Damian Lillard added 27 for as Milwaukee



Minnesota Timberwolves center Karl-Anthony Towns (32) shoots the game-winning basket with 5.2 seconds remaining on the clock in the second half of an NBA basketball game against the New Orleans Pelicans in New Orleans, Saturday, Nov 18, 2023. (AP)

beat Dallas and extended its winning streak to four games.

Antetokounmpo was averaging 41.3 points in his last three games before being held to 16 Friday night in Charlotte. Against the Mavericks, he connected on 18 of 26 shots, including a pair of 3-pointers, and grabbed 14 rebounds to go along with seven assists.

Kyrie Irving scored 39 while Luka Doncic added 35 for Dallas (9-4).

Grizzlies 120, Spurs 108

In San Antonio, Jaren Jackson Jr. scored 27 points as short-handed Memphis overcame a 19-point deficit and sent San Antonio to its eighth straight loss.

Memphis outscored San Antonio 33-14 in the final quarter.

San Antonio rookie Victor Wembanyama finished with 19 points and 13 rebounds, and Keldon Johnson scored 22 points.

Desmond Bane scored 26 points, and Santi Aldama had 17 for Memphis, which recorded its largest comeback of the season.

Bulls 102, Heat 97

In Chicago, DeMar DeRozan scored 23 points and Chicago snapped a three-game skid, rallying to beat Miami and halting the Heat's winning streak at seven games.

Alex Caruso scored 11 points and all five Chicago starters reached double figures. Nikola Vucevic added 15 points, Coby White scored 14 and Zach LaVine contributed 13.

Thunder 130, Warriors 123, OT

In San Francisco, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander had 40 points, six rebounds and six assists, and Oklahoma City sent Golden State to its sixth straight loss.

Thunder rookie Chet Holmgren scored a season-high 36 points and added 10 rebounds and five assists, and Jaylin Williams had 22 points and six rebounds.

Andrew Wiggins scored a season-high 31 points and was 12 of 19 with five 3s, and Stephen Curry had 25 points in his return from a right knee strain as the Warriors fell to 1-6 on their home floor.

Notre Dame tops Illinois 79-68

Utah women beat D-II Alaska Anchorage

ANCHORAGE, Alaska, Nov 19, (AP): Gianna Kneepkens scored 22 points and had six steals, Reese Ross added 20 points and 10 rebounds and No. 4 Utah never trailed in its 101-56 win over Division-II Alaska Anchorage on Friday night at the Great Alaska Shootout.

Kneepkens made 9 of 12 from the field and 4 of 7 from 3-point range and Ross was 7-of-12 shooting. Alissa Pili - who starred at A.J. Dimond High School in Anchorage - scored 18 points and blocked three shots and Ines Vieira had 11 points and 14 assists for Utah (3-1).

Kneepkens hit a 3-pointer to open the scoring and Vieira made a layup to cap an 11-2 run that made it 22-11 with 3 minutes left in the first quarter. Maty Wilke hit two 3-pointers and Ross and Pili each made a 3 during a 16-0 run to end the first an begin the second quarter that pushed the lead into double figures for good.

Kneepkens had 13 points and five steals in the first half, Ross added 12 points and Pili scored 10 as the Utes took a 56-28 lead into intermission. Vieira had six points and eight assists before halftime.

BASKETBALL

Jazzpher Evans led Alaska Anchorage with 14 points.

Notre Dame 79, Illinois 68

In Washington, Hannah Hidalgo and Maddy Westbeld scored 24 points apiece and No. 16 Notre Dame won the second Shamrock Classic 79-68 over Illinois.

Hidalgo had eight assists and the nation's leader in steals had six to bring her total in the first four games on her career to 27. Westbeld had three 3s and eight rebounds.

The Irish were without leading scorer Sonia Citron (20.3), who injured a knee in Wednesday's win over Northwestern. Sophomore Cass Prosper had eight points in her first career start. Citron is expected to miss two weeks with a sprained knee.

KK Bransford added 11 points and six offensive rebounds off the bench for Notre Dame (3-1).

North Carolina 68, Elon 39

In Chapel Hill, N.C., Alyssa Ustby scored 16 points and grabbed 11 rebounds and No. 17 North Carolina defeated Elon 68-39.

Maria Gakdeng and Deja Kelly added 13 points apiece for the Tar Heels (4-0). In addition to her second double-double of the season and 24th of her career, Ustby had three blocks and three steals.

Jessica Booth and Maraja Pass had eight points apiece for the Phoenix (1-3), who had seven field goals in the first quarter and 14 in the game. They ended 1 of 14 from 3-point range and 14 of 46 overall (30%) with 21 turnovers.



Florida Atlantic center Vladislav Goldin (50) and guard Johnell Davis (1) defend Bryant forward Daniel Rivera (5) during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game, Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023, in Boca Raton, Fla. (AP)

Bryant stuns No. 10 Florida Atlantic

Scheierman scores 23 points as Creighton routs Texas Southern

OMAHA, Nebraska, Nov 19, (AP): Baylor Scheierman scored 23 points, Trey Alexander had 15 of his 20 in the first half, and eighth-ranked Creighton blew out Texas Southern 82-50 Saturday night.

It took a while for the Bluejays to warm up against their opponent from the Southwestern Athletic Conference. When they did, it was game over.

Ryan Kalkbrenner had 16 points, 10 rebounds and four blocks for Creighton, and Alexander had eight assists and seven rebounds.

Creighton (4-0) had runs of 11-0, 14-5 and 11-2 while building a 47-27 halftime lead. The bulge grew to 39 points in the second half.

Texas Southern (0-4), playing the fourth of nine straight road or neutral-site games to open the season, got 14 points from Zytarius Morte. The Tigers were without SWAC preseason player or the year and leading scorer PJ Henry for an undisclosed reason.

The Bluejays shot 46% overall and 35% on 3-pointers, making 14 of a program record-tying 40 attempts from distance.

Scheierman made 3 of 10 3s and was effective around the basket.

After Shaqir O'Neal's 3 pulled the Tigers within 10 midway through the

first half, Alexander's dunk, Francisco Farabello's layup and Isaac Traudt's putback built back the cushion. Then Alexander's four-point play and back-to-back 3s all but finished off the Tigers.

Morte scored nine points in a 13-7 spurt that cut Creighton's lead to 17 points in the second half. Kalkbrenner then dunked Steven Ashworth's lob to start a 20-0 spurt, and the Tigers went almost seven minutes without scoring.

Bryant 61, Florida Atlantic 52

In Boca Raton, Florida, Sherif Gross-Bullock scored 19 points, Earl Timberlake added 13 and Bryant stunned No. 10 Florida Atlantic 61-52 to end the Owls' 19-game home winning streak.

BASKETBALL

Daniel Rivera scored 12 and Rafael Pinzon added 10 for the Bulldogs (2-3), who were 0-10 against ranked opponents since becoming full members of Division I - losing those games by an average of 28.8 points, the most recent of those contests by 67 points against Houston in 2021.

Didn't matter. They held the Owls to 26% shooting, 20% in the second half.

Howard 67-54 in the Battle 4 Atlantis.

Ole Miss (3-1) will play the winner of Arizona-Memphis on Sunday in the semifinals. Howard will face the loser in the consolation bracket.

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Introducing the Future of Driving: The All-New Mazda CX-90

Kuwait Automotive Imports Co. launches the all-new Mazda CX-90

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: Mazda believes in the power of human potential; creativity, imagination and the amazing things we're all capable of when we're inspired. Mazda believes in taking the unconventional road and going the extra mile to do work that inspires. Mazda believes in artisans, designers, engineers and ambassadors who pour human energy into their work. Mazda believes in the power of cars to move human emotions. To awaken senses, heighten reflexes, make pulses race. Mazda believes the joy of being alive comes from what we discover on our journey, and the inspiration we find in every mile.

Discover Unparalleled Features and Performance

Mazda...a name synonymous with driving pleasure. With feeling at one with the vehicle as if it's an extension of you. We call that feeling inba-ittai.

And now it takes elegant, inspiring form in CX-90, our flagship three-row SUV. This masterful and assured redefinition of the family SUV is engineered from the ground up for exhilarating response that's also easy on the environment. It begins with the longitudinal version of our Skyactiv Multi-Solution Scalable Architecture platform scaled to CX-90's spacious dimensions and featuring an in-line six-cylinder engine with a front-engine rear-wheel-drive (FR) layout. This versatile, performance-focused platform even adapts to accommodate diverse electrification technologies such as our M Hybrid Boost 48 V mild hybrid system. Its design was directed by our unique Skyactiv-Vehicle Architecture concept aimed at supporting your natural ability to maintain balance while in motion, so you can comfortably retain a relaxed, well-balanced posture and stay in full command of the greater power of CX-90's newly developed engine while you enjoy controlling G forces in various driving situations.

Relentless research into how force is transmitted through CX-90's structure resulted in an extremely rigid body offering immediate re-

sponse and feedback to your control inputs, further increasing your sense of unity with the vehicle. And seats meticulously designed to support the pelvis and preserve balance do more than just heighten the driver's feeling of being one with CX-90: they enhance the ride comfort, well-being and sense of security for passengers of any age and in every row, elevating each and every drive into an experience to savour.

Kuwait Automotive Imports Company (AlShaya and AlSagar) proudly announces the successful launch event for the highly anticipated all-new CX-90. This momentous occasion took place at the Mazda showroom, attracting an array of automotive enthusiasts, Mazda fans, industry professionals, and distinguished members of the local community.

During the event, attendees had the exclusive opportunity to interact with the CX-90 up close and experience its remarkable features firsthand. The CX-90's striking aesthetics, advanced safety features, and unparalleled driving dynamics left a lasting impression on all who attended.

"We are delighted to introduce the all-new CX-90 to our valued customers and automotive enthusiasts in this grand manner," said Mr. Yousef Al-Shaya, CEO of KAICO. He further expressed his excitement, stating, "This event showcases our commitment to offering the finest vehicles in the market, and we are proud to present the CX-90, which embodies Mazda's relentless pursuit of excellence."

Mr. Ashish Tandon, General Manager at KAICO, shared his joy, saying, "We are thrilled to have hosted this momentous occasion and introduced the all-new CX-90 to our valued customers and Mazda enthusiasts. This launch reflects our commitment to delivering unparalleled automotive experiences and services."

Mazda's brand manager, Mr. Waleed Al Qahtani, expressed his enthusiasm, stating, "The launch of the CX-90 in partnership with KAI-



Kuwait Automotive Imports Co. officials pose with The All-New Mazda CX-90.



The interior of the All-New Mazda CX-90.

CO marks an exciting milestone for Mazda. We are delighted to witness the enthusiasm and passion of the Kuwaiti audience for our brand."

For more information about the CX-90 or to schedule a test drive, please contact Mazda Dealership (KAICO) at 2226 2226.

Verstappen 'earns' 18th win of season

Las Vegas GP exceed expectations

LAS VEGAS, Nov 19, (AP): Max Verstappen won his 18th race of the season Saturday night with a pass of Charles Leclerc at the Las Vegas Grand Prix, which turned out to be one of the most competitive events of the season despite a disastrous start to Formula One's expensive extravaganza.

"Viva Las Vegas! Viva Las Vegas!" sang the three-time reigning world champion as he crossed under the checkered flag waved by Justin Bieber. Verstappen had slammed the race at every chance, yet raced in an Elvis-inspired fire-suit and took the victory on the famed Las Vegas Strip.

"I hope everyone enjoyed it, we definitely did. Excited to come back here next year and try to do something similar," said Verstappen, who had markedly reversed his position on the Las Vegas spectacle.

Verstappen, Leclerc and Sergio Perez were driven in a limousine to a podium located near the Bellagio.

The Bellagio fountains had been turned off all week and restarted as part of the victory celebration. None of the participants seemed remotely interested as they stood chatting. After receiving their trophies, they were treated to a New Year's Eve-style fireworks show over the Strip.

Martin Garrix then launched into a throbbing DJ set to entertain those who opened their wallets for the most expensive spectator race of the season. Celebrities danced along on the grid and everyone seemed thrilled with the show and the stars in attendance included Brad Pitt, Rihanna, Usain Bolt and Shaquille O'Neal as F1 said the three-day event drew 315,000 spectators.

The race was the third stop this season in the United States, more than any other country, and was promoted by F1 and owner Liberty Media. But the event has been lambasted - especially by Verstappen - for its opulence and excess.

Tickets were expensive, hotels along the famed Strip hiked their prices, and the sporting element of the 21st race of the season was overshadowed by everything from celebrities, musical acts and a myriad of Elvis impersonators roaming the paddock that included a wedding chapel where former F1 champion Jacques Villeneuve was married earlier in the week.

Liberty expected to spend \$500 million on the first grand prix it self-promoted, but paddock speculation before Saturday night's main event was that Liberty had gone well over budget. The entire event nearly imploded nine minutes into the first practice session

when Carlos Sainz Jr. ran over a water drain valve on the track that badly damaged his Ferrari and F1 had to close the 3.85-mile (6.2-kilometer) circuit for inspection.

Fans were forced to leave at 1:30 a.m. Thursday night after witnessing just nine minutes of track activity. The second practice started at 2:30 a.m. and ran until 4 a.m., and instead of an apology, F1 simply offered \$200 credits to its merchandise store to any ticket holders who had only purchased Thursday access. A class-action lawsuit was filed Friday against the Las Vegas Grand Prix.

It made it critical for F1 to deliver a good race Saturday night and, even though it was Verstappen's sixth consecutive victory, it was one of the most spirited events of the season. Additionally, a track that had been likened to a "flying pig" because of its layout was praised for its raciness.

MOTOR RACING

Seven-time F1 champion Lewis Hamilton, who finished seventh for Mercedes, said the circuit "provided a better race than most of the tracks we go to."

"I don't think the music stopped this entire weekend in the paddock," said Logan Sargeant of Williams, the only American driver in F1.

Leclerc and teammate Sainz had qualified 1-2 on Friday but Sainz was handed a 10-place penalty on the starting grid because Ferrari was forced to change his car because of the damage from hitting the drain cover. That pushed Verstappen up to second for the start and Verstappen immediately pounced.

The Dutchman forced Leclerc off track to take the lead, and although Leclerc demanded that Verstappen be forced to give the position back, Verstappen was only handed a five-second penalty. He served it during a later pit stop, but his Red Bull is so strong, he remained in contention the entire race.



Red Bull driver Max Verstappen, of the Netherlands, holds a trophy after winning the Formula One Las Vegas Grand Prix auto race in Las Vegas. (AP)

Kuwaiti teams have been making remarkable strides

Kuwait women's 3x3 basketball team honored



Dhari Burgess welcomes Kuwait women's 3x3 basketball team.

Al-Sahel Club face Al-Qadsia

Al-Kuwait Club take on Kazma as Kuwait volleyball league kicks off

By Khaled El Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: The 2023-2024 volleyball league kicks off, featuring the enthusiastic participation of 10 clubs: Al-Kuwait,

VOLLEYBALL

Al-Qadsia, Al-Arabi, Kazma, Al-Tadamon, Al-Sahel, Al-Shabab, Su-

laibkhat, Yarmouk, and Burgan. Notably, Al-Jahra, having withdrawn for the current season, will be absent.

In adherence to the new league system, the 10 teams will engage in a two-part round, both "home and away." The top four teams will advance to the "golden square," a two-stage event where points will be allocated similar to international tournaments. A 3-0 or 3-1 victory will earn the winning team three points, while the losing team re-

ceives none. In the case of a 3-2 score, the victor secures two points, and the loser is awarded one point.

With an illustrious history, Al-Qadsia has claimed the championship title 23 times, followed by Kazma with 15 victories and Kuwait with 14 titles. Al-Arabi secured the title four times, and Al-Jahra emerged victorious once.

The volleyball league matches are scheduled at Al-Itihad Hall in the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Indoor Hall Complex, featuring three opening matches. Al-Sahel Club will face Al-Qadsia, Al-Tadamon will compete against Al-Arabi, and Al-Kuwait Club will take on Kazma.

Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Volleyball Federation, Dr. Jaber Al-Marri, anticipates robust competition among all clubs. He expresses his hope for players and teams to showcase their talents, reflecting the high standard of Kuwaiti volleyball. Al-Marri emphasizes the importance of providing opportunities for young talents to demonstrate their skills and contribute to the teams' preparation for the tournament.

The sports season commenced with the Al-Itihad Refresher Championship, followed by the Super Cup, with Al-Kuwait emerging victorious in both championships.



A file photo of players in action.

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: Dhari Burgess, the President of the Basketball Federation, eagerly welcomed the triumphant Kuwait women's 3x3 team at Kuwait Airport. The team secured a commendable third place and a bronze medal in the Bahrain International Triathlon Championship, which concluded in the capital, Manama.

Expressing his pride, the Federation President announced that the Board of Directors is set to bestow honors upon the accomplished women's 3x3 team. Notably, the Kuwaiti teams have been making remarkable strides in the 3x3 game, with the men's team recently clinching silver and bronze medals in the Gulf Men's Championship held in Qatar two weeks ago. These achievements, according to Burgess, signify the progressing prowess of Kuwaiti teams in the sport.

BASKETBALL

Burgess emphasized the federation's commitment to advancing the 3x3 game, revealing the adoption of a comprehensive committee program. This program aims to elevate the sport through an increase in the number of tournaments, both domestically and internationally, thereby enhancing Kuwait's standing in the 3x3 arena. Burgess appealed to the Sports Authority for augmented financial support, crucial for successfully executing this ambitious program.

Anticipating robust participation, Burgess mentioned that the "Kuwait" team is gearing up for the upcoming Arab Championship for Men's National Teams in Cairo, Egypt, scheduled for December. This championship will feature prominent Arab teams, and Burgess highlighted that the National Teams Committee has meticulously prepared a training program for Kuwait in preparation for the tournament's challenges.

Kuwaiti Marine Club heads to Egypt, Thailand for prestigious competitions

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: The free diving squad from the Kuwaiti Marine Sports Club is gearing up for a dual challenge this month, with participation in an international championship at Egypt's Dahab (Blue Hole) and the 18th Asian Guard Diving Fin Swimming Championship in Thailand.

Ali Al-Shamali, the head of the speedboat, wakeboard, and free diving committee at the Marine Club, revealed in a press statement on Sunday that both teams will undergo two training camps before commencing their competitions in the upcoming championships.

DIVING

The international championship in Egypt, scheduled from November 23 to 29 under the auspices of the International Diving Federation, is expected to draw

broad international participation. It caters to various age groups over 18 years, encompassing categories such as fixed weight, mono fins - free diving, fixed weight, double fins, and without fins.

Al-Shamali emphasized that the Asian Championship, set to take place in Thailand from the 24th to the 28th of this month, will focus exclusively on flip fin swimming, featuring participants from Asian countries. He commended the General Sports Authority for their steadfast support of the participating teams.

Heading the team for the international championship in Egypt is Fahd Al-Qasir, accompanied by Hassan Al-Sharrah, Yaqoub bin Jabal, and Zainab Al-Wazzan. Meanwhile, the squad competing in the Asian Free diving Championship, led by Faisal Ahmed Al-Failakawi, comprises Mansour Al-Mansour and Iman Al-Husseinan.



Australian players run to celebrate after they won by 6 wickets against India during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup final match in Ahmedabad, India. (AP)

Sports

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Annual Grand Shooting Championship concludes



Sheikh Mishal Al-Jaber Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah, Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah and Daij Al-Otaibi with the winners.

Kuwaitis dominate tournament

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: The fourth annual Grand Shooting Championship of His Highness the Crown Prince concluded with the crowning of the male and female winners of its competitions.

Representing the tournament sponsor, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Governor of Farwaniya, Sheikh Mishal Al-Jaber Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah, expressed honor to attend the closing ceremony. The event saw a significant turnout of participants, with congratulations extended to the competition winners.

Sheikh Meshaal Al-Jaber Al-Sabah commended the Kuwaiti Shooting Club's impeccable organization of the tournament, emphasizing the positive impact

on Kuwaiti shooting sports. He conveyed best wishes for continued success in this athletic endeavor.

Chairman of the Championship Organizing Committee and Club President, Daij Al-Otaibi, conveyed appreciation for the patronage of His Highness the Crown Prince, recognizing it as a manifestation of the wise leadership's keen interest in Kuwaiti shooting sports.

SHOOTING

Al-Otaibi highlighted the fierce competition and high-level performances throughout the tournament, foreseeing a positive impact on refining Kuwaiti shooters for upcoming competitions. Gratitude was expressed to

all state agencies contributing to the tournament's success.

The final day of the three-day tournament featured exceptional performances from shooters representing various clubs and sports federations. Abdullah Al-Taraqi secured the title of the skeet shooting competition, while Talal Al-Tarqi dominated in trap shooting. Salman Al-Anazi claimed gold in the 25-meter rapid pistol shooting, and archer Ali Al-Zaid emerged victorious in the Olympic Bow and Arrow Competition for men.

The medal tally continued with Abdullah Malallah securing gold in the compound category, Ali Al-Mutairi triumphing in the 10-meter air rifle shooting, and Maryam Arzouki excelling in the women's category for the same competition. Souad Al-Bahr clinched gold in the Olympic archery competition, and Mohammed Hamdan and Lulwa Al-Awadhi claimed gold in bow and arrow shooting for juniors.

The closing ceremony, held at the Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Ranges Complex, saw the presence of esteemed dignitaries, including the President of the Asian Shooting Federation, Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, and members of the Kuwaiti Shooting Club's Board of Directors. Families of the tournament's first-place winners also attended the celebratory event.

Aussies win Cricket World Cup for sixth time

Head hits 137 as Australia end India's dominant run

AHMEDABAD, India, Nov 19, (AP): Australia won the Cricket World Cup for a record-extending sixth time Sunday, ending India's dominant run in its home tournament with a six-wicket victory in a low-scoring final on the back of Travis Head's 137.

A heavily pro-Indian crowd inside the 132,000-capacity Narendra Modi Stadium was silenced as Head combined with Marnus Labuschagne (58 not out) in a 192-run partnership to chase down the target of 241.

Australia was wobbling on 47-3 after seven overs but Head and Labuschagne dug in to help their country regain its status as the king of one-day international cricket, adding to its 50-over world titles in 1987, 1999, 2003, 2007 and 2015.

Head was dismissed off what proved to be the next-to-last ball of the match, caught in the deep while attempting to hit a title-clinching boundary. In came Glenn Maxwell and he ran two off his first ball, securing a victory that prompted fireworks above the world's largest cricket venue.

CRICKET

The Indians won all 10 of their matches before the final and were seeking a third trophy in their fourth appearance in a title match that brought a country of 1.4 billion people to a virtual standstill. They were outplayed in every department by Australia, though, restricted to 240 all out on a slow pitch after losing the toss with only Virat Kohli (54) and Lokesh Rahul (66) making half-centuries.

Head became only the fifth player to score a century in a men's World Cup final - and third Australian after Ricky Ponting and Adam Gilchrist - and delivered a significant moment in India's innings when taking a diving catch



Rashid Al-Dawas celebrate with other winners on the podium.

Kuwaiti Champ Al-Dawas secures 2nd in Sharjah International Championship

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: In a remarkable achievement, Rashid Al-Dawas from Kuwait clinched the second position in the OPEN GP1 category at the Sharjah International Championship. This success further enhances Kuwait's standing in international arenas, a testament to the consistent participation of Kuwaiti champions in various regional and global competitions.

Participating as the lone Kuwaiti contender in the Kalba Beach Games Championship, featuring

a water bike competition in both standing and sitting categories, Al-Dawas displayed exceptional skill and determination, securing the second spot in the tournament.

SPEEDBOATING

Following this victory, Al-Dawas, accompanied by his coach, the world champion Ahmed Al-Dawas, departed for the world championship in Indonesia, situated in the picturesque Lake Toba area.

running back from cover to remove captain Rohit Sharma (47).

Australia finished the tournament

with a run of nine straight wins, after starting with back-to-back defeats to India and South Africa.

France crush Gibraltar in record 14-0 win

Netherlands, Switzerland, Romania qualify for Euros

LONDON, Nov 19: The Netherlands, Switzerland and Romania all secured places at Euro 2024 on Saturday, and France racked up the biggest-ever win in European Championship qualifying by beating Gibraltar 14-0.

The Netherlands needed a win over Ireland to be sure of qualifying and Wout Weghorst gave his team the lead in the 12th minute, blasting a shot into the top-right corner. The goal was awarded despite Weghorst appearing to pull on Ireland defender Nathan Collins' jersey just before he received the ball.

The Netherlands had 18 shots to Ireland's three but couldn't score again. Switzerland drew 1-1 with Kosovo to make sure of qualifying and continue a run of not missing any major tournament since Euro 2012. But the game continued a troubling Swiss trend to let leads slip.

Switzerland dominated possession but couldn't get through the Kosovo defense until Ruben Vargas headed in a deflected ball in the 47th. Kosovo's Muhamet Hyseni leveled the score in the 82nd with a shot in off the post. It was Switzerland's fifth draw in six games, and in all of those draws Switzerland conceded at least one goal after the 80th minute.

A draw was enough for Switzerland to qualify because Romania won 2-1 against third-place Israel.

Romania recovered from Israel's Eran Zahavi scoring in the second minute, responding with goals from George Puca and Ianis Hagi. Israel was the official host team but Saturday's game was played in Hungary because of the Israel-Hamas war.

Romania qualifies for its first major tournament since 2016 after missing the last European Championship despite being one of the host nations. Israel misses out on an automatic qualifying spot but goes into the playoffs because of its Nations League record. That means Norway and star striker Erling Haaland can no longer reach the playoffs and will not play at Euro 2024.

Belarus beat Andorra 1-0 in the other game in the group. France's 14 goals against Gibraltar broke the team's record for its biggest-ever win and also set a record for the competition.

Kylian Mbappe had a hat-trick as nine different French players scored goals, with one own-goal for Gibraltar. France's previous biggest win was a 10-0 victory over Azerbaijan in 1995. The pre-

vious record in European Championship qualifying was Germany's 13-0 win over San Marino in 2006. France had already



Croatia's Josko Gvardiol, (right), and Latvia's Janis Ikaunieks jumps for the ball during the Euro 2024 Group D qualifying soccer match between Latvia and Croatia at Skonto stadium in Riga, Latvia. (AP)

qualified for next year's tournament. Croatia is on the verge of qualifying after beating Latvia 2-0 as its closest rival Wales dropped points in a 1-1 draw with Armenia.

Early goals from Lovro Majer and Andrej Kramaric gave Croatia a comfortable victory at last-place Latvia.

Croatia can secure a qualifying spot on Tuesday with a win over Armenia in its last game or if Wales fails to beat Group D leader Turkey.

Lucas Zelarayan put Armenia ahead with a shot from the edge of the penalty area after Wales failed to clear a corner. Wales was level following Nair Tikhizyan's own-goal. The draw meant Armenia's slim chances of qualifying were ended when Croatia won its game.

Ahead of the game, the Football Association of Wales confirmed 32 Welsh fans had been arrested in Armenia.

Germany's new coach Julian Nagelsmann had a setback in his first home game with a 3-2 friendly loss to Turkey, which had heavy support in Berlin. Germany is hosting the European Championship next year and Turkey has qualified.



Governor of Farwaniya, Sheikh Mishal Al-Jaber Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah.

Kuwait wrap up training ahead of WC qualifier against Afghanistan

SAUDI ARABIA, Nov 19: Kuwait soccer team will conclude its training in the Saudi city of Dammam as part of its preparations to face Afghanistan tomorrow.

SOCCER

This encounter marks the second round of the initial group-stage matches in the joint Asian qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup and the 2027 Asian Cup. Having arrived in Dammam on Friday, the Kuwait delegation initiated

their training on the same day.

In response to various absences, Portuguese coach Rui Pinto made the decision to call up Kuwait club striker Ibrahim Kamil.

This move was prompted by the suspension of Faisal Zayed, the enrollment of Ahmed Al-Zenki in a military course, and the injury sidelining Salman Al-Awadhi. With a determination to secure victory and sustain their chances of progressing to the next round of qualifiers, Kuwait is looking to rebound after a narrow defeat to India in the initial round, where they conceded a single goal.



Kuwait coach supervising training session.

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