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**By Munaif Naif** Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff KUWAIT CITY, Nov 21: According to informed sources. the Ministry of Interior has not yet opened family visas for expatriates, with the exception of some categories such as doctors, as part of the ministry's plan to reduce the number of violators of the residency law, including those who entered the country under different visa categories and ended up not leaving when

these visas expired.

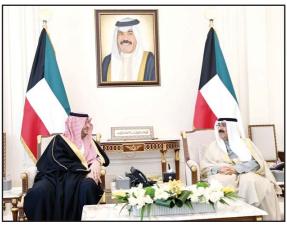
They explained that the Ministry of Interior, based on instructions from the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of

Interior Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled,

**Continued on Page 5** 

Crackdown on violators intensifies

## Family visas still closed except for some categories





Crown Prince Diwan photos Left: His Highness Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives Saudi Cabinet Member Prince Turki Bin Mohammad Al-Saud. Right: His Highness the Crown Prince receives Kuwaiti players who won medals in the 19th Asian Games in China.

### Crown Prince receives Saudi minister, Kuwaiti athletes

Opinion

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Tuesday at Bayan Palace Saudi Arabia Minister of State and Cabinet Member His Highness Prince Turki Bin Mohammad bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud and his

**Continued on Page 5** 

## **SOCIAL INSURANCE FACES CASH CRUNCH** Audit flags liquidity risks

Fighting corruption requires tough people

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

THE "40th day" of thieves is here, and their crimes are being exposed, but this is not the end of it, as many are still protected.

Therefore, petty thieves try to hide many of their crimes so as not to expose those who protect them, but when the courts began to become abuzz with their thefts, some of them fled the country, and others tried to fabricate lies and charges against others in order to keep the spotlight away from them.

Here we are, with the noose tightening around the "suspects". Those who cover them up are exposed,



law in order to stay away from prison. Kuwait is not the only country where corruption has spread in this manner. There are sev-

and they work to violate the

eral other countries that have suffered from it. The thieves in those countries had once claimed that they were above suspicion, but when the 40th day saw the light of accountability, they found themselves

behind bars, even though they were senior officials.



### Crisis looms

**By Mahmoud Shendi** Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 21: In a stark warning, the Audit Bureau has raised concerns about a looming liquidity crisis that could jeopardize the General Organization for Social Insurance's ability to meet its commitments and entitlements. The bureau's report on the examination and review of independent bodies' budgets and final accounts for the fiscal vear 2022/2023

However, when the law is implemented by hands that are not shaky and there is determination to cleanse the institutions, then the familial, sectarian and tribal pride becomes just unnecessary adornment, and the mouthpiece of the corrupt starts bubbling as if the fall of the corrupt will be the fall of everything else that exists.

This matter is useful for the state to heal from diseases and correct its course. This is what happened in Singapore, when Lee Kuan Yew launched the reform process. He was the surgeon whose scalpel cut the boils of corruption and extracted the pus from the institutions

This also happened in the United Arab Emirates when Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid smelled corruption in some circles in Dubai. He worked to remove its causes first and hold those involved in it accountable. This also happened in Qatar where a finance minister and a number of officials were imprisoned.

As for the painful operation for the health of the state that took place in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, based on directives from King Salman bin Abdulaziz, arrested dozens of princes, businesspersons and personalities who were famous and were considered above accountability, but they suddenly found themselves not equal to the wing of a mosquito when the time for reckoning came. In all of this, the leaders were the ones who imposed the punishment according to the law.

The countries that treated this disease, sometimes with painful operations, were protecting the homeland from internal betrayal, about which Napoleon said, "The one who betrayed his people and sold his country is like the one who steals from his father's money to feed the thieves. Neither his father forgives him nor the thieves reward him.

We are living in a strange situation in Kuwait where theft seems to thrive. In many institutions, unqualified people are appointed to sensitive, economic, security and political positions, and they are protected by an influential person. Such a person does not serve the state, but rather serves the one who appointed him, and caters for his personal interests, because he realizes when the time comes for him to leave office, he will become a "scapegoat". In both cases, he is still considered a traitor to the homeland.

Therefore, if there is a determination to reform and rid the country of the scourge of corruption and theft, those who appointed these people, those who protect them, and those who worked to facilitate their tasks must be brought to justice.

However, if the situation remains as it is and selectivity prevails in accountability, then the "40th day" of thieves will never come to be.

Building the nation and maintaining its institutions require strong, honest, determined and willing tough people to do so, and not people who love praises and promote favoritism, nepotism, partisan and "this is our son" mentality.

In this regard, there is a popular saying - "There are those who heard that the country was expensive, so they sold it". Doesn't this apply to someone who was appointed in a sensitive position and betrayed his trust, either a minister, a prime minister, or even a junior employee?

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Palestinians mourn their relatives killed in the Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip, in the hospital in Khan Younis, Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2023. (AP)

Israeli troops battle militants across north Gaza

## Hostage agreement on the horizon

JERUSALEM, Nov 21, (AP): Israel's Cabinet was to convene Tuesday to consider a possible deal for the release of some of the hostages held by Hamas, as troops battled Palestinian militants in an urban refugee camp in northern Gaza and around hospitals overcrowded with patients and sheltering families.

Details of any deal, worked out through international mediators. were not immediately known. Talks over the past weeks have centered on a swap of some of the estimated 240 people taken hostage by militants in their Oct. 7 attack into Israel for Palestinians held in Israeli prisons, accompanied by a temporary cease-fire in Gaza

Senior Hamas officials said an agreement was near. But talks have repeatedly stalled and past predictions of a breakthrough proved premature. Israel announced that its War Cabinet, and then the full Cabinet - whose approval is needed on any deal would convene Tuesday evening to discuss "the issue of the release of hostages."

Commenting on the return of hostages, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Tuesday, "We are currently advancing. I do not think that it is necessary to belabor the point, not even now. but I hope there will be good news soon.

Inside Gaza, the front line of the war, now in its seventh week, shifted to the Jabaliya refugee camp, a dense warren of concrete buildings near Gaza City that houses families displaced in the 1948 war surrounding Israel's creation. Israel has bombarded the area for weeks, and the military said Hamas fighters have regrouped there and in other eastern districts after being pushed out of much of Gaza City. The fighting in Jabaliya raged around two nearby hospitals, trapping hundreds of patients and displaced people sheltering inside with dwindling supplies. A strike Tuesday hit inside one of the facilities, al-Awda, killing four people, including three doctors, the hospital director told Al-Jazeera TV. The director, Ahmed Mahna, blamed the strike on Israel, a claim that AP could not independently confirm.

In southern Lebanon, an Israeli strike killed two journalists with Al-Mayadeen TV, according to the Pan-Arab network and Lebanese

**Kuwait aims to reach carbon** neutrality by 2060, says EPA

### **By Abdul Nasser Al-Aslami** Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 21: Acting Director General of the Environment Public Authority (EPA) Samira Al-Kandari affirmed that Kuwait hopes to reach the stage of carbon neutrality by 2060.

Al-Kandari said this in her speech during the Kuwait Low-Carbon Strategy 2050 Results Forum based on the UN resolutions aimed at preserving the environment and in confirmation of what was stated in the speech of His Highness the Crown Prince at the Green Middle East Initiative regarding the State of Kuwait's endeavor to reach carbon neutrality in the year 2060.

She explained that the Council of Ministers assigned EPA to prepare a long-term, low-emission national strategy that includes contributions from each of the state's main sectors to the total greenhouse gas emissions in the

The war has exacted a heavy toll on Palestinian civilians, particularly those who remain in the north after Israel repeatedly called on people to flee south.

officials. There was no immediate

comment from the Israeli military.

A separate Israeli drone strike in

Lebanon killed four Hamas mem-

bers, a Palestinian official and a

The Israeli military has been

trading fire almost daily across the

border with Lebanon's Hezbollah

group and Palestinian militants

since the outbreak of the war.

Lebanon security official said.

State of Kuwait, and expectations of their increase until the middle

of the current century. It has also been tasked with studying the opportunities available to reduce these emissions to the lowest possible level based on the national conditions in the State of Kuwait, in preparation for reaching carbon neutrality in the year 2060.

As a result of this assignment, EPA, with the cooperation of the United Nations Environment Program - Regional Office for West Asia, conducted extensive consultations with stakeholders from government agencies and the private sector to reach results that would achieve the general goal of this strategy in line with the country's policies, program, and development plans, and the approved sectoral strategies and state structural plans to build a clear picture of the future vision of the State of Kuwait, and study the opportunities available to reduce its

**Continued on Page 5** 

Newswatch

DUBAI: The websites of two government ministries in Bahrain briefly became inaccessible Tuesday night after a statement claimed hackers took them down over the island kingdom's stance on the ongoing Israel-Hamas war.

A statement posted online by a self-described group calling itself Al-Toufan, or "The Flood" in Arabic, claimed hacking the Foreign Ministry and the Information Affairs Ministry's websites. Both later became accessible again Tuesday night. (AP) 

TEHRAN: A 4.7 earthquake hit the city of Zahedan, southeast of Tehran, injuring 25 people, Iranian health authorities announced

on Tuesday. According to the Iranian Students' News Agency (ISNA), Director of Khatam Al-Anbiya Hospital Mohammad Redha Miradi said that the 25 injuries were minor and were treated immediately.

Miradi also stated that the injuries occurred while civilians were fleeing their homes and have been treated by hospital staff. (KUNA)

BERLIN: German authorities on Tuesday raided the homes of 17 people in the state of Bavaria accused of spreading antisemitic hate speech and threats targeting Jews online. According to the Bavarian

criminal police, the suspects were 15 men and two women aged between 18 and 62, German news agency dpa reported. Police questioned the suspects and confiscated evidence from their homes, including cellphones and laptops, the agency said. (AP)

highlights the potential decrease in cash liquidity at the institution, particularly if the public treasury fails to fulfill its financial obligations.

As of March 31, 2023, the institution's cash liquidity stands at 1,458,682,211 dinars, accounting for 3.37% of its total assets of 43,284,338,605 dinars. The report underscores that the institution's capacity to maintain sufficient cash flows for insurance, investments, and other administrative obligations could be compromised. There is a looming risk of a negative amount, projected at 423,710,431 dinars by March 31, 2024, should the state's public treasury fail to meet its financial commitments, significantly elevating liquidity risks.

The Audit Bureau emphasizes the need to reconsider the investment asset distribution strategy, especially the cash percentage ranging from 0% to 20%, as prepared by the American asset management company Mercer. This reassessment aims to ensure that the institution maintains adequate cash liquidity without exposing itself to unnecessary risks.

Calling for immediate action, the Audit Bureau stresses the importance of maintaining positive cash flows to fulfill obligations. Coordination with relevant authorities is deemed necessary to guarantee that the state's public treasury fulfills its financial responsibilities toward the institution.

The report also sheds light on hypothetical cash flow statements for the institution's future obligations, based on worst-case scenarios. These assumptions include the Ministry of Finance's failure to meet its dues and the continuation of a general economic recession. With cumulative monthly dues and contributions to the public treasury reaching 2,532,852,911 dinars by March 31, 2023, any failure to meet these obligations may impact the institution's cash flow and limit available investment opportunities, affecting the targeted return on the investment portfolio.

#### **Prayer Timings** Fajr ...... 04:54 Sunrise .. 06:16 ..... 14:31 Asr... Maghrib .. 16:51 Zohr ..... 11:34 Isha ..... 18:11



Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

By Day: Mild with light to mod-erate northerly wind to northwest-erly wind, with speed of 12-35 km/h and some scattred clouds will appear.

#### Weather By Night: Rather cold and clouds will increase graduall light to moderate northwe wind to light variable wind

Max Exp

speed of 08-30 km/h.

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Kuwait City

**By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh** 

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 21: The Legal and

Legislative Affairs Committee organised

a symposium on Tuesday at the National

Assembly Theater to discuss the bill on

amending the Elections Law and adopting

the party-list proportion representation

Present at the event were several public figures in-

cluding former MPs and ministers, representatives of

civil society organizations, interested entities and or-

Nation Assembly Speaker Ahmad Al-Sa'adoun, who au-

thored the bill, attended the symposium as well. The bill of Assembly Speaker Ahmed Al-Saadoun is

aimed at reforming the constituencies, indicating the num-

ber of constituencies shall remain five. Under the List PR,

each constituency will have one list with a maximum of 10

**Application** 

tion within 10 days, starting from the day after the call for

Candidates should submit their application to run for elec-

2

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

### Physical, psychological health priority: Dr Al-Sanad

### Leave sanctioned for pregnant Kuwaiti women in third trimester

### By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

#### Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 21: The Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi issued a ministerial decision to grant pregnant Kuwaiti women, who are in their third trimester, sick leave for the remainder of their pregnancy term, provided that the pregnancy continues, without the need for presenting to a specialized committee in the obstetrics and gynecology departments. Via the official media platforms used by Ministry of

Health, the official spokesman for the Ministry of Health Dr. Abdullah Al-Sanad explained that the decision was based on the belief of the Minister of Health and the Council of Obstetrics and Gynecology Departments in the importance of providing all means of care and protection for Kuwaiti pregnant women. This is especially since some professional activities at work may not be compatible with the progress of the months of pregnancy. Therefore, the decision was issued



with the aim of preserving the safety of Kuwaiti pregnant women and their physical and psychological health, and the safety of the fetus.

The decision came in agreement with the Medical Council, and the approval of the undersecretary of the Ministry of Health and the representative of the competent medical sector, which is in line with what was stipulated in Article 22 of Law No. 21/2015 regarding children's rights, as per which the government must care for pregnant women in terms of health and treatment during

pregnancy, childbirth, and beyond. Dr. Al-Sanad highlighted the procedures that were previously in place for pregnant women to obtain sick leave if needed. He explained that they had to request for a medical report from a pregnancy clinic in either the government sector or the private sector, submit a request to be presented to a medical committee through the employer of the department where they work, and then the employer had to address the Medical Council. After that, the Medical Council addressed the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, according to the residential area to which the applicant submits the application, and then address the hospital director with this request, obtain his approval for the request, and then set a date for the committee.

These procedures used to take close to one whole month. However, with the issuance of the new decision, all of these steps have been shortened and replaced with a simple procedure, whereby every Kuwaiti woman whose pregnancy has reached 30 weeks can now, if she wishes, obtain sick leave for the remainder of her pregnancy term. All she has to do is submit a request to the General Medical Council directly through the form prepared for that purpose, and submit evidence that the pregnancy has reached 30 weeks, without the need for her to seek the approval of her employer.

Dr. Al-Sanad went on to explain that this decision aims to facilitate the pregnant Kuwaiti employees, especially since the medical committees for pregnant women in the obstetrics and gynecology departments in some of the ministry's hospitals are held once or twice a week, and each time there are about 120 applications from the pregnant category to obtain sick leave. Among this number is a segment of those whose pregnancy has reached 30 weeks or more. Therefore this will undoubtedly reduce the period and the waiting lists for other medical cases in the medical committees. It will help provide appointments for other medical cases that require to be reviewed by the competent medical committee.

In the same context, he said the decision aims to preserve the privacy of the concerned pregnant woman in support of the professional practice Law No. 70/2020, as communica-

## **Bill on revising Elections Law discussed**

Speaker attends Legal Affairs Committee seminar



His Highness the Prime Minister receives the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the new heads of diplomatic and consular missions

### PM receives FM, newly appointed diplomats

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received Tuesday Min-ister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah accompanied by new chiefs of diplomatic and consular missions abroad at Al-Seif Palace.

Sheikh Salem introduced Kuwait's permanent representative to the Arab League Talal Al-Mutairi, Kuwait's Ambassadors to Venezuela Fadhel Al-Hassan, Ambassador to Bhutan Adel Al-Jassam, Ambassador to the Republic of Chile Ziad Al-Anbaei, Ambassador to Brazil Talal Al-Mansour, Ambassador to South Africa Salem Al-Shibli and Ambassador to Singapore Ahmad Al-Shuraim to His Highness.

Sheikh Salem also introduced the Consul of Kuwait to Italy Sheikh Jaber Duaij Khalifa Al-Sabah, the

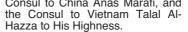
### **Cabinet holds weekly meeting**

### Ministers pledge support for Prime Minister

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 21, (KUNA): The Cabinet held its weekly session on Monday at Bayan Palace, headed by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

After the meeting, the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, and Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs, Issa Al-Kandari, stated the following:

At the beginning of the session, the ministers reviewed the letter by National Assembly Speaker Ahmad Abdulaziz Al-Saadoun, which highlighted a parlia-mentary grilling submitted by MP Muh-alhal Al-Mudhaf to the premier. The ministers, while recognizing that interrogation is a right guaranteed by the Constitution, they confirmed keenness to support the Prime Minister, expressing hopes that the parliamentary practice regarding interrogation will be consistent with the articles of the Constitution and the internal bylaws of the National Assembly. Meanwhile, the cabinet also reviewed the outcome of the previous interrogation, which was directed at the Minister of Commerce and Industry and the Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Mohammad Al-Aiban, last Tuesday, which ended with a renewal of confidence for the minister.



The reception was attended by the Undersecretary of the Prime Minister's office Sheikh Khaled Talal Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, Director of the Office of His Highness the Prime Minister Hamad Al-Amer, and Assistant Foreign Minister for Protocol Affairs Nabeel Al-Dakheel. (KUNA)

dates' names are arranged according to the results of the public lottery supervised by the Higher Elections Commission on the day after closing the filing of candidacy. Voters are free to elect any of the lists whether they are registered in the constituency or not. A voter should elect only one list; otherwise, his vote will be declared null and void. After the voting process, the total

(List PR).

dinary citizens.

candidates and minimum of one.

number of votes is counted and then divided by the required number of MPs to determine the number of votes needed for every candidate to be considered a winner. In order to declare the list victorious, each of its members must obtain the required number of votes. In case the number of winners is lower than the required number of MPs, the candidates with lower votes will be considered until the needed number of MPs is reached. In case two or more



candidates obtain the same number of votes, the Higher Elections Commission will organize a lottery to determine the winner.

The bill nullifies law number 42/2006 and any contradictory law. The Higher Elections Commission will issue the executive regulations for this bill.

At the beginning of the symposium, the committee showed an audio-visual presentation briefly explaining the List PR idea; pointing out that a list consists of 10 candidates. The aim of List PR is to prevent the election of MPs based on sectarian or tribal criteria and to develop group parliamentary work. Chairman of the committee MP Muhannad Al-Sayer said the panel is studying the bill on amending the Elections Law, affirming they decided to take advantage of social and public contributions because "the people are considered the fuel of legislative production." He added the Assembly had earlier assigned the committee to prepare a report on the bill within one month and it will be included in the agenda of the session scheduled for Dec 19, 2023. Rapporteur of the committee MP Abdulkareem Al-Kandari stressed the need to update the Elections Law, even if such laws are not 100 percent fair. He stated that for more than 50 years, the country has been implementing the individual elections system, resulting in 50 lawmakers with 50 different visions. Al-Kandari emphasized the need to benefit from the current political stability in order to switch to a new elections system, which enhances group parliamentary action in the interest of the nation. Member of the committee MP Abdulaziz Al- Sagaabi said that despite the success of the current legislature due to the solidarity of the 48 MP Bloc, the Elections Law still needs amendment for the country to have a new elections system in order to end the era of individual action. He clarified the unity of the current Assembly is exceptional: hence, the need to benefit from it through the amendment of the law and creation of an environment conducive for group parliamentary action.

elections. Every list will be given a number and the candi-Consul to China Anas Marafi, and the Consul to Vietnam Talal Al-

tion and submission of medical reports takes place directly between the pregnant woman and the General Medical Council without the need to submit medical reports with its detailed data and information to the employer.

Dr. Al-Sanad stressed that sick leave is issued at the request of the concerned party, and it is not obligatory, as there are those who wish to continue working without requesting leave, or there are those who request a reduction in working hours in the last weeks of pregnancy.

He stated that submitting the application in the current period is done by filling out a paper form at the General Medical Council, indicating that the leave is calculated directly from the date of submitting the application.

Dr. Al-Sanad revealed that in the coming period, the application will be submitted via digital electronic means, about which he will give details in the near future.

He explained that the new decision applies to cases where pregnancy has exceeded 30 weeks. As for cases that have not completed 30 weeks and wish to obtain sick leave, there are strict controls for this. It is granted to those who are eligible, and to cases that suffer from diseases associated with pregnancy, such as irregular blood pressure, or some problems in the placenta, as well as if there is a history of premature births, or in some cases of multiple pregnancies such as twins or triplets, or other eligible medical conditions.

### Woman wins cash comp for docs faulty diagnosis

#### **By Jaber Al-Hamoud**

#### Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 21: Based on a new judicial principle as per which an incorrect medical diagnosis obligates the person who did the diagnosis to compensate the affected patient even if there is no material damage, the Civil Court of Appeals ruled in favor of a Kuwaiti woman and obligated a private hospital to pay her KD 8,800, which is the value of the final moral compensation and the legal fees due to an error in diagnosis.

In detail, the Kuwaiti woman went to a private hospital for the diagnosis of her condition, but the hospital doctors did not diagnose her condition correctly.

The case was referred to forensic medicine, which concluded the lack of evidence to prove that the hospital staff violated medical principles in dealing with the plaintiff's case. The Court of First Instance hence ruled to reject the compensation claim because it lacked support.

During the court session, the defense counsel representing the Kuwaiti woman Lawyer Dr. Fawaz Al-Khatib highlighted the error of the ruling in applying the law and its corruption in reasoning, and basing the ruling on a deficient forensic medical report.

As a result, the Court of Appeals assigned a tripartite committee of professors from the Faculty of Medicine at Kuwait University to look into the matter. The committee issued a finding that the hospital doctors' diagnosis was inaccurate and that the doctor did not mention details that should have been included in the diagnosis, which is considered negligence.

After receiving the report, to which the hospital had objected, the court reassigned the same committee to examine the objections. After submitting the report, the court reserved the case for judgment and issued the aforementioned ruling.

Regarding the justification, the court, in its ruling, stated that it is sufficient in estimating compensation for moral damage that it be to the extent that it consoles the injured person and relieves her of the feelings of sadness and grief that befell her, without exaggeration or extravagance. Without a doubt, she did suffer from pain, sadness, grief, and psychological stress as a result of the hospital staff's error in diagnosing her medical condition.

In this regard, the cabinet praised efforts exerted by Al-Aiban and his clear answers, statements, and facts.

Finally, marking the occasion of 53rd anniversary of the National Day of the Sultanate of Oman, which coincided last Saturday, the cabinet extended its sincere congratulations to Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, praising the outstanding developments, and achievements made under his leadership.

### Kuwait DM urges alert amid current scenario

MUSCAT, Nov 21, (KUNA): It is imperative to remain alert at a time where the world is facing "exceptional" circumstances regionally and internationally, Kuwait's Defense Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah told his counterparts from the Gulf Arab region on Tuesday.

As Israeli occupation forces step up their attacks across Palestinian territories, it would behoove armed forces from around the region to be "vigilant and prepared" for any potential threats, the Kuwaiti minister underlined during the talks in the Omani capital.

Such gatherings are instrumental in bolstering "military cooperation" among Gulf Cooperation Council states, he added, saying it is a step forward towards preserving peace and security within the six-member bloc and beyond.



KUNA photo Defense Minister Sheikh Ahmed Fahd Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah with his Omani counterpart Shihab bin Tariq Al Said.

### Kuwait, Oman in talks

Kuwait Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and Deputy Prime Minister of Defense Affairs in the Sultanate of Oman Shehab Al-Said, discussed bilat-eral ties and military cooperation between the two countries.

A statement issued by the Kuwait Defense Ministry said that the meeting that brought the two min-isters together came on the sidelines of the 20th Defense Minister's Council held in Muscat.

Additionally, the meeting touched

'Protect Gaza children'

### 'Need to safeguard kids' rights'

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 21, (KUNA): Minister of Social Affairs and Community Development and Minister for Women and Childhood Affairs Sheikh Firas Saud Al-Malik Al-Sabah affirmed on Monday that Kuwait attaches great importance to bolstering children's rights and protection.

On the International Children's Day, Sheikh Firas said that Kuwait is at the forefront of countries that ratified international agreements on children's rights, and that it made great efforts towards achieving sustainable development goals, focusing on the well-being of kids by including their issues in national development documents.

on the latest regional and global

Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad praised

He also affirmed the importance

of these meetings that support the

bonds of cooperation between the

countries of the Gulf Cooperation

Kuwait's Ambassador to the

Sultanate of Oman Mohammed

Al-Hajri attended the meeting.

the deep historical ties between the

two countries, hoping to boost them

developments

in various fields.

Council (GCC).

(KUNA)

He praised the efforts of the Ministry of Social Affairs in caring for children, supporting them, granting them their rights and preserving them, stressing the need for the international community to pay attention to what children in Gaza are exposed to, of the killing and the humanitarian violations.

Member of the committee MP Jenan Bu Shehri asserted the law is the property of the people, so they have the right to contribute to its improvement directly or indirectly.

Member of the committee MP Osama Al- Shaheen affirmed there is no need to worry about the bill as it will address the lawmaker's fear of losing in the next election due to a certain diwaniya or family. He added this bill will increase the parliamentary achievements by four or five times.

#### Reform

Member of the committee MP Jarrah Al- Fawzan said the bill is the first step towards a comprehensive political reform; adding that List PR will end vote-buying and forgery, as well as protect the Assembly from external disputes either among members of the ruling family or the traders.

He stressed the need to include national unity and social agreement in the bill. He pointed out that when the people agreed on dismissing the government chaired by HH Sheikh asser Al-Muhammad in 2011, they succeeded in doing so.

Member of the committee MP Mubarak Al-Tasha said the bill will address the loopholes of the existing law and stop injustice in the structure of constituencies; in which a constituency with 250,000 voters is considered equal to another which has 90,000 voters.

MP Mubarak Al-Hajraf warned that although the bill is aimed at yielding positive results, the nation might miss such an opportunity in case the executive authority implements it whimsically and then control the legislature.

He underscored the need to acquire the infrastructure needed for the proper implementation of the bill, citing as an example allowing the formation and declaration of political entities and parties.

He added the constituencies need radical changes, pointing out that one vote in the Fifth Constituency is equal to three votes in the Second Constituency due to the huge difference in the number of voters in these constituencies.

Faisal Al Beraidi, who represented Kuwait Society for Public Funds Protection at the symposium, confirmed that the society supports the bill. He added the society will forward its comments to the concerned parliamentary committee.

Kuwait Transparency Society representative Dr Oroub Al-Refaie thanked the committee for communicating with civil society organizations and the citizens at the Assembly rather than in private diwaniyas or anywhere outside the legislature. She praised the bill, while affirming that the society supports it.

### KISR organizes 6th Children's Science Fair

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 21: The Ameri-can University of the Middle East (AUM) served as a primary sponsor for the sixth children's science exhibition organized by the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research.

The event took place at the Capital Mall over three days from November 16 to 18. The exhibition, an annual initiative, is designed to captivate and engage children aged 6 to 12, a crucial

stage for shaping scientific interests and fostering a passion for knowledge. This year, over 2,000 children, including students from various Kuwaiti schools, participated in 21 sets of simplified scientific experiments facilitated by 37 researchers and technicians from the institute, reports Al-Rai daily. AUM, recognizing its responsibility to

cultivate youth skills in science and technology, showcased an interactive pavil-

ion featuring engaging experiments during its participation in the exhibition. The activities aimed to combine science and fun, encouraging children to participate actively. The interactive experiments included a flight simulator experience, the use of microscopes with screens to explore the dynamic world of colorful bacteria, and the creation of distinctive shapes and designs reflecting children's creative imagination.

### LOCAL



A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

### 'Practice grilling as a sophisticated, democratic tool'

"THE parliamentarian, in short, is merely an agent on behalf of the nation, to exercise its role in power. We, as voting citizens, exercise our role as a legislative authority through fifty representatives, whom we choose according to constitutionally established elections, after which the representative exercises his constitutional roles, as a representative of the nation, in legislation and oversight," columnist Asrar Johar Hayat wrote

for Al-Qabas daily. "The above is well-known to all

of us, but despite practicing democracy for decades, we sometimes forget that, in light of the crowded political scenes, these words overlap, contradict, and lead to disagreements, which necessitated that I remind myself first, and then my esteemed readers of such a scenario

"Today, what necessitated this Asrar J. Hayat

is that I insist on this constitutional Asrar J. Hayat rule, which is MP Muhalhal Al-Mudhaf's interrogation of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmed Nawaf Al-Ahmad, especially in light of the rumors about the possibility of transferring the interrogation to the Constitutional Committee, or holding it in camera, and other rumors that are being circulated, the accuracy of which cannot be confirmed.

"Here, I want to emphasize the connection of the two matters together. As long as the MP is a representative and agent of the nation in exercising its legislative authority and monitoring the executive authority, the nation has the right to attend, watch, and follow the events of any interrogation. Therefore, the publicity of interrogations is one of our rights, since the representatives perform their tasks on our behalf.

"On the other hand, MPs are constitutionally empowered with oversight tools to monitor the government performance, including parliamentary questions and interrogations. Therefore, any attempts to eliminate or restrict these tools are nothing but attempts that contradict the con-stitution, empty it of its spirit, and undermine democracy.

"The MP has the right to be questioned, without excessiveness, and the government, represented by its ministers or its president, has the right to use the deadlines and tools granted to it constitutionally, without excessiveness, so that the tasks and powers of both parties are not harmed.

"Rather, ministers must take advantage of the interrogation to take to the podium to refute the interlocutor, and to entrench their efforts and work in the minds of citizens.

"Here I address my speech to His Highness the Prime Minister, Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad, who enjoys our love as citizens, and our support without a doubt, to use the grilling filed by MP Muhalhal Al-Mudhaf, to reveal the government's plans, strategies and efforts, so that we can discover the truth. I am confident that His Highness has sufficient arguments, especially in light of what we have seen in recent decisions that are in the interest of the citizens and the general public.

"I also direct my words to the honorable MP Al-Mudhaf, not to hesitate to use his constitutional rights in oversight and legislation, and to reveal the validity of the topics of his questioning, as we are all also confident that his motives are in the interest of the nation.

"In short, let us practice interrogation, as a sophisticated , democratic tool. It is not a battle that must be won or lost. To the contrary, it can be fought keeping in mind a victory for Kuwait and Kuwaitis."

### Also:

"There was a friendly discussion about the reasons why we cannot have a new restructuring of our institutions, specifically with regard to the bodies and their subordination," columnist Turki Al-Azemi wrote for Al-Rai daily.

"The surprise was confined to the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fisheries Resources, and it was observed that the title did not encompass livestock, despite "Initially, this particular body is segmented into three

distinct fields -- agriculture, livestock, and fisheries -- each operating independently of the others.

"Despite each field having its own specialization and nature, they fall under the responsibility of a single indi-vidual. The authority has been transferred from one minister to another, and outstanding cases related to violations in agricultural and animal holdings remain unresolved, lacking a clear distribution mechanism, even though they form the essence of food security.

"Upon discussion, the consensus is that a restructuring is imperative, particularly in the hierarchical arrangement of these bodies. The proposal suggests transforming the PAAAFR into three separate entities -- the Agriculture Authority, the Livestock Authority, and the Fisheries Authority

"Each of these bodies would be led by a specialized official and have its own mini-council and dedicated research department. This restructuring is deemed necessary as food "The prevailing issue in Kuwait lies in our awareness of

the problem's core, yet a decisive solution to the overlap-ping specialization dilemma is not actively pursued, causing confusion in the food security domain.

'An example is the 1986 afforestation initiative in Kuwait, impacting climate and the environment, but resulting in neglected trees due to insufficient irrigation or care. In contrast, in the United States, homeowners planting in front of their houses are tax-exempt, while in Kuwait, efforts in gardening and beautifying setbacks often lead to losses with subsequent uprooting.

"Kuwaiti farmers face challenges in selling their produce, with instances of agricultural products being discarded. Fish and livestock prices are high, influenced by groups, mainly expatriates. Despite complaints from livestock breeders about restrictions in pastoral areas and the elevated prices of livestock, no solutions have been found.

"The evident need for urgent solutions to the issue of food security calls for the restructuring of the General Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fisheries

'The proposal advocates creating three bodies under a council of specialists, whose role would involve price control and support provision to farmers, fishermen, and livestock breeders. This strategy aims to ensure required food security, with other bodies aligning their efforts accordingly.

- Compiled by Mai Elsoukary

**Other Voices** 

### The preacher who reigned supreme

### **By Ahmad alsarraf**

**R**epresentatives of the Brotherhood group, and their Rleaders in Kuwait, claim that the issue of Palestine is theirs!

If Hamas were not a member of the Brotherhood, they would not have shown half this sympathy for the cause

They are the richest people in Kuwait and own huge commercial projects, often because of their affiliation to the Brotherhood group, and perhaps by investing their surplus funds. One member in his tweets blamed the Arab regimes for their positions on the Palestinian right, and that the right will not return except "with the disappearance of these Arab re-

gimes," as they are the reason for the losses of Palestinians! I am not defending the Arab

## Iranian smugglers nabbed with drugs worth KD 1.5m

Container of illicit tobacco seized at airport

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 21: Personnel from** the public and private customs warehouses administration at the airport successfully thwarted an attempt to smuggle a significant quantity of tobacco, reports Al-Rai daily.

The illicit substance was concealed within a container purportedly transporting clothes and accessories into the country. The operation was conducted under the supervision of the customs warehouses director, Muhammad Ghareeb Al-Saidi, and the customs warehouses controller, Nasser Al-Dalmani.

According to a customs source, the inspectors became



Toh

3



Drugs worth KD 1.5 million seized



The Iranian suspects arrested by the Coast Guard



Municipality takes away abandoned cars

### **Cleanliness targeted**

### Abandoned cars seized

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 21: The Kuwait Municipality's Public Relations Department recently announced that the Public Cleanliness and Road Occupations Department, operating under the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate Municipality Branch, will conduct extensive field tours. The primary objective of these tours is to enhance cleanliness levels and eliminate obstructions on roads, thereby restoring the overall aesthetic appeal. This initiative includes the removal of abandoned cars, boats, and debris from open areas and streets, reports Al-Anba daily.

Fahd Al-Quraifah, the Director of the Public Cleanliness and Road Works Department in the governorate's municipality branch, emphasized that the intensive field tours aim to monitor and address violations through legal measures. Al-Quraifah highlighted the significant focus of his supervisory team on elevating cleanliness levels in their designated areas and eliminating anything that hinders the visual aesthetics and obstructs roads. These efforts are crucial for maintaining the civilized appearance of the governorate.

Al-Quraifah reported that the supervisory team success fully conducted field tours, resulting in the removal of 24 abandoned cars, boats, groceries, and commercial containers. Additionally, they placed 32 stickers on abandoned items, signifying their impending removal after a specified time-frame. Moreover, 38 old containers were replaced with new ones over the past week.

He emphasized the ongoing commitment of the supervisory team at the Public Cleanliness and Road Works Department to conduct regular field tours. Al-Quraifah reiterated the team's unwavering dedication to implementing all necessary legal measures against those who violate public cleanliness and road works regulations, underscoring the im-





regimes. Rather, I am concerned with defending a national regime. This is not the first time one Brotherhood member has been exposed to it, with a high degree of insolence, forgetting that our national security was exposed to a real danger during the events of the Arab Spring, which the Brotherhood was be-

hind, and this case was previously pointed out and paid attention to by the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad, and he eliminated the attempt. What did the brother or the International Brother-

hood organization do for Palestine, over the course of 75 years? What civilizational, educational or cultural projects have they established, at least in Gaza, other than rhetoric and demands to stand with the cause?

What is the aim of this preacher behind his tweets, his obscene attacks on Arab regimes, and his demand that their peoples "uproot" their rulers?! This same preacher had previously made very dangerous statements during the events of the Arab Spring, and he admitted, in a letter addressed to the "scholars of the sultans," who demand that people obey the "guardian," that he had no obedience to the ruler. He called on the people to rise and sacrifice blood, by all means, to achieve their rights.

He said that he never called for peaceful resistance to the Gaddafi regime, but rather called for confronting it with weapons, and that the first group that went out to confront him knew the names of its participants, and that they were young men whom he had trained.

Then the years passed by and the tone of the preacher himself changed, after the failure of the "revolutions" of the Arab Spring and the destruction of countries, only to discover the extent of the destruction caused by him and his international organization, so he returned and declared that those "revolutions" happened, and he played no role in them, nor in supporting them, either financially or with weapons, and he did not interfere in the matter at all, and it caused devastation, destruction, and misfortunes that hurt the peoples of those countries.

These people are not ashamed of lying, and their statements on YouTube are the best evidence of their lies! But the blame lies with the specialists and officials who remained silent about them, and still are!

One of the things that puzzles some people is the amount of wealth or comfortable life that all preachers live, almost without exception, and the manifestations of blessing that appear on them, in terms of clothing, housing, travel, and investment abroad, and perhaps all of this is from their share of what they collect.

You can find them in the videos riding well-trained horses and roaming across vast farms in Turkey, Bosnia, Kosovo, and elsewhere, and no party volunteered to ask them, "Where did you get this from?" Almost all of them had very humble beginnings in their lives, and were not known to be businessmen, other than using sticks to remove jinns from the bodies, so how did they become so wealthy?

Also, the courts in Kuwait had previously issued rulings against some of those who collected money to support the Arab Spring revolutions and unrest, and demanded that they return the money they had collected in the form of donations.

We are also seeing, at an accelerating pace, a significant increase in fundraising activities, whenever a calamity or tragedy befalls us. The parasites among them feed on table crumbs, and announce the acceptance of donations to dig wells and hire preachers, while the relevant ministry has its mouth open and does not know how to deal with these fraudsters!! It is truly a crying and funny comedy, at the same time !!

e-mail: a.alsarraf@alqabas.com.kw

suspicious of a container arriving at the airport with a customs declaration indicating "clothes and accessories."

Subsequently, the customs officials subjected the container to a meticulous inspection, revealing that it harbored a substantial amount of tobacco concealed behind cartons of clothes and accessories.

KD 1.5m drugs seized: The operation executed by the Criminal Security Sector at the Ministry of Interior, led by the General Administration for Combating Drugs in collaboration with the General Administration of the Coast Guard, the General Administration of the Special Security Forces, and the Administration of the Police Aviation Wing, under the explicit instructions of Sheikh Talal Al-Khalid, the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior an attempt was foiled to smuggle half a ton of hashish into the country, reports Al-Rai daily.

The operation was supervised by Major General Hamid Al-Dawas, Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior for Criminal Security Affairs, and Brigadier General Muhammad Qabazard, Director General of the General Department of Narcotics Control.

The estimated market value of the seized narcotics is one and a half million dinars. In a major breakthrough, authorities arrested six Iranian smugglers who were caught in the act while infiltrating Kuwaiti territorial waters. The perpetrators had reached Kubbar Island and were in the process of burying the illicit substances to be recovered later.

The General Department of Narcotics Control received confidential information about an elaborate drug smuggling scheme planned by a criminal gang. The information suggested that the gang intended to infiltrate Kuwaiti territorial waters from a neighboring country and bury drugs on one of Kuwait's Kubbar Island.

One dead in mishap: A collision that occurred on King Fahd Road resulted in the death of one person and the injury of another, reports Al-Rai daily.

The General Fire Department stated that, "The Mina Abdullah Fire Brigade dealt with the accident between a trailer and a diesel tanker on King Fahd Road.'

The accident resulted in the death of one person and injury of another, and the site was handed over to the competent authorities.'

#### 

Wedding gunman caught: The Jahra security forces have arrested an unidentified bedoun who fired shots during a wedding ceremony in Jahra, reports Al-Rai daily.

The man has been charged with using a weapon and endangering the lives of others and attempted murder.

The arrest came after security authorities received a report of gunfire in front of a wedding hall in the Jahra Governorate

After the wedding ceremony was over, the groom was interrogated, and he identified a Bedoun as the person who fired from the Kalashnikov.

Perpetrators identified: The Ministry of Interior said all the people who were involved in a scuffle in front of an unidentified school have been identified and arrested by the police, reports Al-Rai daily.

The daily added, the arrests came after a video clip of the incident was posted on the social media sites.

Fire destroys bus: Al-Samoud Center Fire Brigade responded to a bus fire incident in the Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh area, which subsequently destroyed another bus, reports Al-Rai daily

### portance of maintaining the community's standards.

### **Stay away: Coast Guard**

### Live ammo drill is on

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 21: As part of the security institu-tion's strategy to enhance the proficiency of its members and elevate their performance, the Ministry of Interior's General Administration of Security Relations and Media has declared that the Coast Guard will conduct shooting exercises with live ammunition in the southern region of Boubyan Island and northeast of Failaka Island, extending to Ouha Island today and tomorrow, commencing at 8:00 am, reports Al-Rai daily.

In light of this, the administration has issued a cautionary notice to all seafarers, urging them to refrain from approaching the designated training area during this period. Emphasizing the importance of safety, the administration has communicated that marine patrols will be vigilant in preventing any unauthorized access to the site.

#### 

One hurt in accident: An unidentified person was rushed to the Farwaniya Hospital following a road accident on the Route 6.5, reports Al-Anba daily.

The daily, without giving specific details said, the man was injured after the vehicle overturned, the cause of which is not known.

A security source told the daily, after the Operations Department of the Ministry of Interior received a report on the incident, police and paramedics rushed to the scene of the accident and took the man to the hospital by ambulance. The accident is being investigated.

### 'Productivity decreases' Migraine affects 23% in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 21: Dr. Jassim Al-Hashel, the President of the Kuwait Neurological Association and a Professor of Neurology, emphasized the significant impact of migraines on the nervous system, leading to decreased productivity for individuals and institutions. He highlighted the economic

consequences of this decline, especially considering the high incidence rate of migraines in Kuwait, which has reached 23 percent. In response, Dr. Al-Hashel stressed the urgent need to educate healthcare professionals, particularly in the fields of neurology and family

medicine, reports Al-Rai daily These remarks were made during the inau-

gural Kuwait Headache and Migraine Conference, where Professor Simona Sacco, a researcher and contributor to headache science legislation and laws, was a distinguished guest. Dr. Al-Hashel attributed the increasing prevalence of migraines to technological advancements, citing the improper use of smartphones and computer screens. He also noted the influence of unhealthy eating habits, extensive electronic device use, and the proliferation of fast-food restaurants.

Discussing the role of government and private institutions in addressing the issue, Dr. Al-Hashel emphasized the commonality of migraines, affecting 23 percent of Kuwaiti society. Migraines, often accompanied by nausea and light sensitivity, are particularly challenging for women, especially during specific periods. Dr. Al-Hashel stressed the importance of raising awareness about migraines, as they significantly impact vital functions.

Regarding the responsibility of institutions toward their employees, Dr. Al-Hashel highlighted ongoing efforts by the Kuwait Neurological Association to promote awareness. Major companies, such as Kuwait Petroleum Company and Gulf Insurance, have designated awareness days for employees to learn about migraines, their symptoms, and preventive measures.

The focus is on educating family doctors, considered the first line of defense, and parents, given the increasing number of children suffering from migraines.



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### HH Crown Prince and Prime Minister send similar cables

### HH Amir congratulates Argentina's newly-elected president

## **'MEW lacks law in bid to buy** and sell electricity via GIA'

'Important for ministry to study matter'

#### **By Mohammed Ghanem**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff **KUWAIT CITY, Nov 21:** Informed sources in the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy criticized the lack of a law that allows the ministry to buy and sell electricity through the Gulf Electricity Interconnection Project, which would provide financial revenues in cases of sale or savings in the fuel consumption budget and the cost of operation and maintenance in cases of purchase, similar to the countries of the Gulf **Cooperation Council.** 

The sources demanded the necessity for the ministry to study this matter and expedite the preparation of a law that achieves the desired economic and financial goals of the project, which achieved economic returns and savings estimated at KD 3 billion for the member states, according to the latest statistics announced in the 2022/2023 budget. This has

### **Only 9,000 on waiting list**

### CSC prepares for job seekers' registration

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 21: The integrated systems at the Civil Service Commission (CSC) resumed operations upon completion of the modernization process in preparation for the opening of registration for job seekers, reports Al-Anba daily quoting a reliable source.

The source disclosed that only 9,000 citizens, not 12,000, are on the employment waiting list, including 3,700 university graduates in Engineering, Accounting,

occurred since the operation of the project in the year 2009. These savings were represented in energy trading investments, fuel consumption, operating and maintenance costs, reducing carbon emissions, reducing installed capacity, avoiding programmed shutdowns for emergency support, reducing the operational reserve, and other items.

The sources explained that the absence of a law makes the ministry benefit only technically from the project without benefiting from investment in energy. The percentages of technical benefit

Law, Media and Political Science; and the rest hold diploma, secondary, intermediate and primary certificates.

The source clarified that the nomination will be based on the actual manpower needs uploaded in the automated system; indicating such data came from the ministries and other government institutions.

Another source cited four reasons behind the big number of citizens waiting for employment in

are determined and presented to the Planning Committee of the Gulf Interconnection Authority.

To confirm these percentages, they are determined through precise technical programs for all the Gulf states combined, and then distributed to the member states according to engineering and technical standards.

The Kuwaiti ownership percentages in the authority were approved by the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, as the Kuwaiti ownership rate is 26.7 percent and remains unchanged. They stressed that the method-

ology for annual fees was chosen

the government sector as follows: high number of graduates; the labor market does not need some of the graduates' specializations; the number of job grades for each ministry and institution specified by the Ministry of Finance; and cancellation of the supplementary accreditation -- an open budget for the CSC through which it can specify and nominate 25,000 to 27,000 applicants to work in the public sector.

by the representatives of the six member states in the planning committee, which contributes to saving the annual fees budget to 20 percent in 2022 and 20.39 percent in 2024.

Meanwhile, the latest statistics report revealed that electricity was supplied to 606 new plots with an electrical load of 81,867 kilowatts in October for all housing sectors.

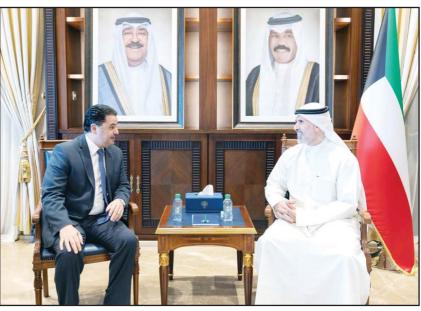
Private housing came first with 532 plots, then industrial with 22 plots, government with 16 plots, agricultural with 16 plots, commercial with 14 plots, and investment with six plots.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 21, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Tuesday a cable to the newly-elected President of Argentina Javier Milei, congratulating him on winning the elections.

His Highness wished him success, good health and further development of relations between the two countries. Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown

Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Tuesday a cable to the newly elected President of Argentina Javier Milei, congratulating him on winning the elections.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah also sent a cable to the newly-elected President Javier Milei, congratulating him on winning the elections.



KUNA photo Deputy FM Sheikh Jarrah Jaber with the Ambassador of Jordan Sinan Al-Majali.

### Talks focus on bilateral ties, Gaza situation

Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received on Monday Jordanian Ambassador to the country Sinan AlMajali.

The meeting touched on bilateral ties between the two friendly countries and the situation in Palestine. (KUNA)

### Gulf Bank introduces an exclusive offer for Mastercard cardholders

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 21: As part of its customer appreciation initiatives, Gulf Bank has introduced an exclusive promotion for Gulf Bank cardholders, offering

them an extra 15% discount when using their Mastercard credit cards for transactions through the XCite website or mobile app.

This exclusive discount for Gulf Bank Mastercard credit cardholders is applicable from November 22, 2023, to November 26, 2023, marking it as the most substantial online discount of the year during the 'XCite Friday Sale'

Mr. Mohammed Taqi, Assistant General Manager of Consumer Banking, expressed, "Gulf Bank is dedicated to acknowledging and fulfilling the needs of its customers, in alignment with our continuous commitment to providing top-notch products and services, and ensuring an outstanding customer experience."

He highlighted the multifaceted features of Gulf Bank's credit cards, providing customers with benefits across various sectors such as restaurants, hotels, tourism, travel, entertainment, health and beauty, car rental, and more. Gulf Bank takes pride in having the leading and most efficient rewards program in Kuwait, recognized as the Gulf Points program. This initiative enables customers to exchange points for airline tickets and book accommodations at more than 300,000 hotels worldwide.

All Gulf Bank's credit cardholders are enrolled automatically to the Gulf Points program which provides customers with a multitude of advantages. These

include the flexibility to travel to any destination at any time throughout the year. Customers also earn Airline Frequent Flyer miles, when using their points to book a flight with their Gulf Points in addition to earning points when paying the remaining booking value using their Gulf Bank credit cards.

Gulf Bank's vision is to be the leading Kuwaiti Bank of the Future. The Bank is constantly

engaging and empowering its employees as part of an inclusive and diversified workplace in recognition of every employee's role in delivering customer excellence and serving the community at large. With its extensive network of branches and innovative digital services, Gulf Bank is able to give its customers the choice of how and where to conduct their banking transactions, all while en-



Taqi



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suring a simple and seamless banking experience.

Gulf Bank is committed to maintaining robust developments in sustainability at environmental, social and governance levels through diverse sustainability initiatives, strategically selected to benefit the Bank both internally and externally. Gulf Bank supports Kuwait Vision 2035 "New Kuwait" and works with various parties to achieve it.

### 'Experience valuable'

### Kuwait's Abulhassan picked for World **Aquatics advisory panel membership**

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 21, (KUNA): The World Aquatics on Sunday picked Kuwait's Faisal Abulhassan for membership in the advisory committee of its executive office which aims to "contribute to the development of its six competitions" worldwide.

A statement by the Kuwaiti Aquatic Federation said Abulhassan was chosen due to his valuable experience in all of the federations sports which include swimming, diving, artistic swimming, water polo and open water.

Abulhassan alluded that he is the newest member in the advisory committee which is led by the President of the American Aquatics Federation, Christopher Burton, in hopes to contribute to the development of the federation's around the world.

While also mentioning the World Aquatics headed by Kuwaiti Hussain Al-Musallam, was established in 1908 and recognized by the OIC for administering international competitions with its headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland.

**News in Brief** 

P. Shield Forces arrive: The Peninsula Shield Forces delegation participating in the Takamul One exercise arrived in the country through Salmi Port recently, reports Al-Anba daily.

The Takamul One exercise will be conducted in the training area -- Al-Adira' Al-Abraq -- in the northwestern part of the country from Nov 26 until Dec 7, 2023; under the leadership of Kuwait Army that is represented by the ground and Peninsula Shield forces.

Other participants will continue arriving through the air, land and sea ports in the next few days.

Program launched: Mubarak Al-Abdullah Joint Command and College has launched the senior leadership qualification program (strategic level four), with Air Force Commander Major General Pilot Bandar Salem Al-Muzain in attendance, reports Al-Anba daily.

The launching ceremony was under the patronage of acting Chief of the General Staff of Kuwait Army Major General Dr Ghazi Hassan Al-Shammari. A number of visiting lecturers, as well as Political Science, Economics and Strategic Communication professor from Kuwait University, British Defense College and Cranfield University are involved in the program. It aims to develop the commanding officers' knowledge of national and regional strategies; and raise awareness and capabilities that help them analyze, plan, implement and understand the surrounding environment.

Assistant Professor at Kuwait University Dr Fahd Zaman expressed his pride over the contributions of competent Kuwaitis by organizing or participating in such dialogues. He affirmed that he is happy to participate in dialogues on regional and international policies in general, and those related to the space security sector, due to their importance in shaping the economic and technological future of the region.

The Manama Dialogue is one of the most important forums in the world, as it focuses on the most important political and security issues and ways to enhance strategic international cooperation to address regional and international challenges.

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### LOCAL



Top and below: Some photos from the Bangladesh Military Contingents' observance of the Armed Forces Day.



Maj-Gen AI-Enezi graces occasion

### BMC observes Bangladesh Armed Forces Day

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 21: Bangladesh Military Contingents (BMC) to Kuwait observed Bangladesh Armed Forces Day with due solemnity on 21st November 2023. The programme was arranged in limited scale without festivity show-ing solidarity to the afflicted people of Palestine. Major General Eid Rashed Al Owaihan Al Enezi, Director General, General Department of Criminal Evidence, Ministry of Interior, Kuwait, graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

The chief guest acknowledged the contribution and sacrifices of Bangladeshi troops since 1991 and optimized that the relation between two armed forces will reach to an optimal level in future days.

Brigadier General Lafi Melfi Al Mutairi, Director, Non-Commissioned Officers Affairs Branch of Kuwait Armed Forces also delivered his speech as a special guest and convey his regards to all Bangladeshi troops deployed in Kuwait. Besides, senior officers of Kuwait Armed

**Continued from Page 1** 

**Kuwait aims** 

Forces, Defence Attaches of different countries, Bangladesh Embassy officials, and representatives of Bangladesh community in Kuwait were among the spectators of this event.

At the outset, Commander BMC, Brig-adier General Md Tajul Islam Thakur, BSP, SGP, ndc, afwc, psc, G, MPhil delivered his welcome speech highlighting the importance of the day and emphasizing the glorious history of friendship between two armed forces of Bangladesh and Kuwait.

A short video clip on Bangladesh Armed Forces and Bangladesh Military Contingents in Kuwait was also showcased. Exhibition of photo gallery was of another great attraction for the guests and acted as a remembrance for many. History of Bangladesh armed forces since 1971 and the gradual development of BMC since its inception in 1991, was the main focus of these projections. BMC Magazine-2023 was unveiled during the program.

Asian Games held in Hangzhou, China.

Expressing his gratitude, His Highness the Crown Prince delivered a speech in which he conveyed the greetings and congratulations of His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. His Highness commended the athletes for their exceptional achievements, emphasizing the vital role of the nation's youth as the driving force behind Kuwait's progress. HH the Crown Prince praised the athletes' determination, competitive spirit, and skills, underscoring their contribution to showcasing Kuwait's positive image in international sports. His Highness expressed pride in athlete Faisal Al-Rajhi's remarkable performance and encouraged all athletes to continue their efforts and strive for further accomplishments. He extended sincere thanks to those who supported and created favorable conditions for the athletes, acknowledging the private sector's role in promoting sports. Concluding his speech, HH the Crown Prince urged continued dedication, good planning, and follow-up from sports officials to advance Kuwaiti sports across all domains. He concluded with a prayer for God's blessings on Kuwait, expressing hope for the nation's ongoing success under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir. Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. His Highness the Crown Prince, recognizing the significance of these sporting achievements, praised his sons, the players, as a source of immense pride, demonstrating the resilience of Kuwaiti sports youth in overcoming challenges. The occasion was marked with a commemorative photograph to immortalize the celebration. (KUNA)

## 'Good news on Schengen soon'

Kuwait's relations with Belgium distinguished: Marafie

### **By Fares Al-Abdan**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 21:** Assistant Foreign Minister for European Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Sadiq Marafie affirmed that Kuwait's file for Schengen visa for citizens is ready.

During a ceremony held by the Belgian Embassy yesterday evening, he said Kuwait has taken positive steps and received acceptance from all members of the European Union, and is now awaiting the European Parliament's decision, adding, "God willing, we will hear good news soon.

Ambassador Marafie said, "With regard to Kuwait's membership in the Human Rights Council (HRC), we have a general plan of action. Through the Human Rights Department and our permanent representative in Geneva, there will be cooperation with all member delegations and observers.'

He announced that a meeting of the Senior Officials Committee between Kuwait and the European Union will be held in the Belgian capital, Brussels, on December 11, revealing that it is the fourth meeting of its kind, and the dialogue will include areas of cooperation between the two countries, including the visa file.

Ambassador Marafie said, "Kuwait has distinguished relations with Belgium, especially since we will celebrate the 60th anniversary next year. We look forward during the year to having official visits at a high level. We are looking forward to developing relations that are considered distinguished, but we always strive for the best, especially since there are many areas of cooperation between the two countries.' Meanwhile, the Belgian Ambassador to the country Christian Dooms affirmed in a speech that the two countries' bilateral relations are excellent.







Top and above: Some photos from the event.

### Belgium Ambassador's Speech on King's Day

egy, which reflects its keenness to fulfill its obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement.

emissions based on national economic,

Meanwhile, Representative of the

United Nations Environment Program

and Regional Director of the West Asia

Office Sami Demasi said, "I am pleased

to join you in announcing the results of

the State of Kuwait's low-carbon strat-

social and environmental conditions.

We live in a world that is exposed to a real threat due to climate change. Earth is currently living in an era of global turmoil, as described by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Last July witnessed a record high in temperatures. Different regions of the world are witnessing natural disasters such as hurricanes, floods, and fires.

Ladies and gentlemen, this strategy embodies a strong commitment to enhancing the resilience of the State of Kuwait against the effects of climate change, and presents a future vision for the expected challenges.

Kuwait presents a road map for sustainable economic growth in all sectors by 2050, and reaching carbon neutrality by 2060. Kuwait has paid special attention to diversifying the country's energy sources. This is done by promoting the use of renewable energies, replacing fossil fuels with liquefied gas, and utilizing waste to achieve sustainable energy.

### **Crown Prince receives**

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

accompanying delegation.

Prince Turki conveyed Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud and the Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammad bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud greetings to His Highness Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince.

His Highness wished the Saudi king and Crown Prince everlasting well-being and the people of Saudi Arabia further development and progress under their wise leadership.

Minister of Åmiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, His Highness Amir's Office director Ambassador Ahmad Fahad Al-Fahad, and the Crown Prince's office director Ret. lieutenant General Jamal Mohammad Al-Theyab attended the meeting.

Diwan Amiri's Secretary Sheikh Khaled Abdullah Al-Sabah, foreign ministry undersecretary Mazen Issa Al-Issa and Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait Prince Sultan bin Saad bin Khaled Al-Saud also attended the meeting. Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown

Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah welcomed His Excellency the Minister of Commerce and Industry and the Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Mohammad Othman Al-Aiban, along with the Director General of the Public Authority for Sports, Yousef Abdullah Al-Baidan, and the President of the Kuwait Olympic Committee, Sheikh Fahd Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, at Bayan Palace. They proudly presented to His Highness the Crown Prince the accomplished players who secured medals in the 19th

### Audit flags

**Continued from Page 1** 

In response, the General Organization for Social Insurance emphasizes its commitment to maintaining sufficient cash liquidity to meet obligations without exposure to risks. The institution updates its investment commitments daily, ensuring correct and robust target percentages, contingent on the state's public treasury meeting its financial obligations.

Addressing concerns raised by the Audit Bureau, the institution highlights the normal foundations of its asset distribution strategy, clarifying that the nonpayment of dues by the public treasury is considered an exceptional circumstance. The institution coordinates continuously with the public treasury, confirming its commitment to pay all dues.

### Family visas

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

is determined to end the problem of violators of the residency law through extensive security campaigns carried out by the ministry's sectors. This is because the Residency Affairs Investigation Sector has been arresting thousands of violators of labor law in all governorates since the beginning of this year. These measures have reduced the number of violators in the country.

The sources reiterated that security campaigns are ongoing throughout the country in order to arrest violators of the residency and labor laws, adding that all sectors of the Ministry of Interior are working to control marginal workers and violators of law.

#### Celebration

He highlighted that the participation of the Foreign Minister's representative in the celebration is greatly appreciated.

Ambassador Dooms expressed appreciation and gratitude to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad, and the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmed Al-Nawaf.

Regarding the occasion, he said, "November 15 has been the King's Day in Belgium since 1866. At first, it was the King's birthday and then Saint Leopold's Day. Since then, the date was set on November 15, regardless of the king's first name. The King's Day celebration was rescheduled in Kuwait for organizational reasons."

Ambassador Dooms went on to say, "Our country has established excellent relations with Kuwait since its independence, to the point that Belgium participated in the international coalition to liberate Kuwait from its invaders. We are also good trading partners, and our numbers in recent years have been continuously improving since the emergence of the COV-ID-19 virus.I am very confident that things will improve in the near future."

He stressed that the volume of trade exchange between the two countries reached 371 million euros for the year 2022, but it is possible to reach better.

Ambassador Dooms said, "The two countries will next year celebrate the 60th anniversary of their diplomatic relations. This anniversary will provide many opportunities to highlight close

FOREIGN Minister Assistant, Dear Sadiq Marafie.

Let me thank you for being here tonight as representative of H.E. Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Your presence is highly appreciated and underlines our excellent bilateral relations.

I would also like to extend my gratitude and respect to His Highness Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, His Highness Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal Al-Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and to Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

#### **Excellencies**, Dear Friends,

The 15th of November is King's Day in Belgium since 1866. Initially, it was the king's birthday and later the day of Saint Leopold. Since then, the date has been fixed on the 15th of November, whatever the first name of the sovereign.I have rescheduled the celebration of King's Day today, for organisational reasons.

Our two countries have nourished excellent relations since the independence of the State of Kuwait, so much so that Belgium took part in the international coalition to liberate Kuwait from its invaders.

We are also good trading partners and our figures of the late years are in constant progress since Covid struck. I am pretty confident things will improve in the near future. 371 million euros for 2022 is correct, but we can do better.

Next year, we will celebrate the 60th anniversary of our diplomatic relations. This anniversary will provide us with plenty of opportunities to highlight our close cooperation and to raise it at a higher level.

Belgium and Kuwait have a seat at the Human Rights Council. This is a promising avenue for closer cooperation. Both our countries are also engaged in the anti-Daesh coalition.

We have, alas, to look beyond our bilateral re-

cooperation and raise it to a higher level, as Belgium and Kuwait have a seat in the Human Rights Council. This is a promising path for close cooperation.

#### Turbulent

We must look beyond our bilateral relations and note that we live in a turbulent environment characterized by renewed violence and conflict on the European continent, and more recently in the Middle East.

In this bleak international context, we celebrate International Children's Day today. lations and note that we are living in a troubled environment marked by renewed violence and conflict on the European continent, and recently in the Middle East. It is in this grim international context that we commemorate today World Children's Day. Belgium is committed to the protection and promotion of children's rights.

Our thoughts are with all the children living in difficult humanitarian situations, and particularly with the children of Gaza, who suffer most the brunt of the war. Countries like ours, which have experienced the plight of invasions have a role to play to encourage respect of the UN Charter, its principles and the peaceful resolution of conflicts. On this issue, I am confident that the State of Kuwait, with its discreet but considerable capacity to liaise with other countries and to support peace and dialogue, can do a lot.

We commend the Kuwaiti government for its generous and steadfast humanitarian support to the Palestinian people.

Belgium will hold the Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the first half of 2024. The Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs Hadja Lahbib has already indicated that the Peace Process in the Middle East will be a priority of the Belgian Presidency.

The Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo, together with the Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez will have bilateral talks with the political leaders of Israel, Palestine, Jordan and Egypt on 23 and 24 of November, in order to see whether a diplomatic solution can be found to the crisis.

Before letting you enjoy the Belgian food and the good company I would like to thank my staff for its dedication and support.

I give now the floor to the Head of our Trade Department, Ms. Laurence Heyblom. Thank you!

Belgium is committed to pro-

tecting and promoting chil-

Our hearts go out to all chil-

dren living in difficult humani-

tarian conditions, especially

with the children of Gaza, who

suffer more than others from

Countries like ours, which

have suffered from the ordeal

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wait, with its hidden but great

the brunt of the war.

dren's rights.

ability, can communicate with other countries and support peace and dialogue, it can do a lot."

He praised the Kuwaiti government's generous and consistent humanitarian support for the Palestinian people.

Ambassador Dooms revealed that the Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo and the Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez will hold bilateral talks with the political leaders of Israel, Palestine, Jordan and Egypt on November 23 and 24 to find out whether it is possible to reach a diplomatic solution to the crisis.

### **INTERNATIONAL**

### **World News Roundup**

### **Europe**

### **Pistorius visits Kyiv** Camilla praises role of journos in society

LONDON, Nov 21, (AP): Britain's Queen Camilla, not always known for having an easy time with reporters, stepped into the lion's den on Monday, praising the role of journalists in society as she delivered the keynote address at the Foreign Press Association's annual awards ceremony in London.

She shouldn't have worried much. King Charles III's consort was mobbed as she arrived for the event. London-based foreign correspondents surrounded her as she mingled with the finalists. With cellphones raised over their heads, glasses swishing, they jostled for a better view and a chance for a chat.



Camilla, who was criticized by Britain's tabloids during the breakdown of first marriage, Charles' praised the work of foreign correspondents, particularly in the conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East. She won laughter and appre-

ciation when she took a selfdeprecating swipe at herself. "There are journalists in my family, and I have even been

Camilla the subject of one or two stories myself over the years," she said. "I have also had the opportunity to visit a significant number of newsrooms and have seen how tough your work is. Particularly, if I dare say so, for women, who, despite the many hurdles they have faced, have been among the bravest reporters of all."

The FPA is the oldest and largest association of for-eign correspondents in the world. It was founded in 1888 by foreign journalists who came to London to cover the case of Jack the Ripper.

Camilla was made an honorary member of the association, following in the footsteps of the king. "There are not many associations who can show off

that they have two crowned kings and queens as their honorary members," FPA director Deborah Bonetti said as she presented the honor.

Ex-PM confused by COVID-19 inquiry hears: Boris Johnson, the former British prime minister, struggled to come to grips with much of the science during the coronavirus pandemic, his chief scientific advisor said Monday.

In keenly awaited testimony to the country's public inquiry into the COVID-19 pandemic, Patrick Vallance said he and others faced repeated problems getting Johnson to understand the science and that he changed his mind on numerous occasions.

"I think I'm right in saying that the prime minister gave up science at 15," he said. "I think he'd be the first to admit it wasn't his forte and that he struggled with the concepts and we did need to repeat them often.

Extracts from Vallace's mostly contemporaneous diary of the time were relayed to the inquiry. In them, he wrote that Johnson was often "bamboozled" by the graphs and data and that watching him "get his head round stats is awful.'

Germany's defense min visits Kyiv: German Defense Minister Boris Pistorius made an unan-



President Joe Biden stands next to Liberty, one of the two national Thanksgiving turkeys, after pardoning them during a ceremony on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington on Nov 20. Also pictured is Jennie-O Turkey Store Vice President Jose Rojas, left. Inset: First lady Jill Biden receives the official 2023 White House Christmas Tree at the White House in Washington, Monday. The tree is an 18-and-a-half-foot tall Native True fir from Cline Church Nursery in Fleetwood, N.C. (AP)



### Critics question presidential candidate's path ahead

Vivek struggles to gain traction with Iowa GOP

COUNCIL BLUFFS, Iowa, Nov 21, (AP): Ten minutes before Vivek Ramaswamy was to take the stage in a dated casino hotel in western Iowa, no one was in the conference room except for two staffers from the Iowa GOP, which organized the event, and a group of journalists.

Guests started trickling in at the time the event was scheduled. By the time Ramaswamy began his remarks an hour later, there were about 60 people.

While Ramaswamy is packing his schedule with stops across Iowa, he has failed to move up in the 2024 Republican primary race and is increasingly at risk of becoming an afterthought. He is polling in the mid to high single digits and has left critics asking what his endgame is or if he is staying in the race only to boost former president Donald Trump.

### **Biden marks b'day with jokes** as WH stresses his experience

WASHINGTON, Nov 21, (AP): US President Joe Biden celebrated his 81st birthday on Monday by joking repeatedly about his advanced age, even as the White House strongly defended his stamina and batted away polling - and one prominent Democrat - suggesting that the issue could cost him votes in next year's election.

White House press secretary Kar-

to get this done on behalf of the American people, against anyone. Anyone, any day of the week

Biden, for his part, went for hu-

mor. "By the way, it's my birthday today," Biden told a crowd on the White House South Lawn as he The those in the truck of the truck of the those is the second se pardoned Thanksgiving turkeys Liberty and Bell.

"I just want you to know, it's dif-ficult turning 60," the president add-ed with a chuckle. "Difficult."

nounced visit to Ukraine on Tuesday and vowed to keep supporting Kyiv's efforts to win its war against Russia.

European Council President Charles Michel reportedly was also due in Kyiv on Tuesday, which is the 10th anniversary of what Ukraine calls its Revolution of Dignity. That uprising that brought momentous change for Ukraine, pushing it closer to the West and bringing confrontation with Moscow.

Ukraine's fight to push out the Kremlin's forces has lasted almost 21 months. A recent Ukrainian counteroffensive apparently has yielded no major changes on the battlefield, and another tough winter of attritional warfare lies ahead.

Germany is the second biggest single provider of military and financial support to Ukraine after the United States, and German officials said Pistorius aimed to assess the effectiveness of its aid as well as take stock of the fighting during his visit.

Austin meets Zelenskyy: US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin made an unannounced visit to Kyiv on Monday in a high-profile push to keep money and weapons flowing to Ukraine even as U.S. and international resources are stretched by the new global risks raised by the Israel-Hamas conflict.

Austin, who traveled to Kyiv by train from Poland, met with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Defense Minister Rustem Umerov and Chief of Staff Gen. Valerii Zaluzhnvi.

While there Austin announced the Pentagon would be sending an additional \$100 million in weapons to Ukraine from US existing stockpiles, including artillery and munitions for air defense systems. The package also includes another High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, or HIMARS.

NATO supports Bosnia territorial integrity: NATO supports Bosnia's territorial integrity and is concerned by "malign foreign interference," including by Russia, in the volatile Balkans region that went through a devastating war in the 1990s, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said Monday.

Sarajevo is the first stop on Stoltenberg's tour of Western Balkan countries that will also include Kosovo, Serbia and North Macedonia.

"The Allies strongly support the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bosnia-Herzegovina," Stoltenberg told reporters. "We are concerned by the secessionist and divisive rhetoric as well as malign foreign interference, including Russia."

More than 200 convicted in Italy's maxi-trial: An Italian tribunal on Monday convicted 207 people and sentenced them to a combined 2,100 years in prison on charges related to their membership in Italy's 'ndrangheta organized crime syndicate, one of the world's most powerful, extensive and wealthy drugtrafficking groups.

It took over an hour and 40 minutes to read aloud the court's lengthy verdict, including the acquittal of 131 other defendants. The drama unfolded in a bunker-stye courtroom in the southern Calabria region, where the mob organization was originally based.

The 'ndrangheta has quietly amassed power in Italy and abroad as the Sicilian Mafia lost influence and now holds almost a monopoly on cocaine importation in Europe, according to anti-mafia prosecutors who led the investigation in southern Italy.

ficer, was initially buried in a paupers cemetery without any notification to his family. (AP)

Civil rights attorney Ben Crump speaks at the funeral service for Dex-

ter Wade in Jackson, Mississippi on

Nov 20. Wade, a 37-year-old man

who died after being hit by a Jackson

police SUV driven by an off-duty of-



Weaver

### America

Navy plane overshoots runway: Navy plane flying in rainy weather over-

shot a runway Monday at a military base in Hawaii and splashed into Kaneohe Bay, but all nine aboard were uninjured, authorities said.

The Coast Guard responded, but rescue operations were quickly called off, said Petty Officer Ryan Fisher, a Coast Guard spokesperson. "It sounds like all parties involved were rescued," he said.

Marine Corps spokesperson Gunnery Sgt. Orlando Perez had no information about what caused the P-8A aircraft to go off the runway at Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

A photo taken by witness Diane Dircks showed the plane in water just offshore, a sight reminiscent of the 2009 "Miracle on the Hudson" when a passenger jet piloted by Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger made an emergency landing on the New York river. All 155 people aboard survived. The P-8A and the Airbus A320 that

Sullenberger piloted are roughly the same size. (AP) 

Man wounded 4 before killing self:

A shooter opened fire Monday night at a Walmart in Ohio and wounded four people before killing himself, police said.

The attack was reported at around 8:30 pm at the Walmart in Beavercreek, a town of about 50,000 in the Dayton metropolitan area.

"The conditions of the victims right now is unknown" but all were taken to hospitals for treatment, police Capt. Scott Molnar said at a news conference.

Police also said the gunman died after apparently shooting himself. His name, a motive for the attack and other details weren't immediately released.

Police earlier said on social media that the store had been cleared and secured and there wasn't any "active threat." (AP) 

Property dispute leaves 3 dead:

Authorities in Colorado hunted Tuesday for a man they believe shot and killed three people and critically wounded a

### Attention

Ramaswamy is falling behind just as the GOP campaign enters the critical final weeks before the Iowa caucuses on Jan. 15. After an earlier flurry of attention, the 38-year-old biotech entrepreneur and first-time political candidate is gaining more notice for his provocations in debates than for signs that his campaign is resonating with voters.

"If viability were the reason to stay in a race, he's long since left that behind," said David Kochel, a Republican strategist who advised Jeb Bush in his 2016 presidential bid. "If you like Vivek Ramaswamy and what he is saying in this campaign, you already have a candidate, and his name is Donald Trump.'

Former United Nations Ambassador Nikki Haley and Florida Gov. Ron De-Santis are increasingly going after each other as they vie for a distant second place, competing for donors and voters open to a Trump alternative. Former Vice President Mike Pence and South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott dropped out after running Iowa-focused campaigns that didn't gain traction.

Ramaswamy's campaign said in early November that it would spend up to \$8 million in advertising through the

fourth in a property dispute.

The 45-year-old suspect was believed to be driving a white Ram 1500 pickup truck with a camper shell, according to a Facebook post from the Custer County

Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak (left), and Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer Jeremy Hunt learn how to lay bricks during a visit to a college in north London, on Nov 20. (AP)

ine Jean-Pierre said the president's age should not be a primary focus. "Our perspective is, it's not about age, it's about the president's experience," she said while highlighting that Biden had suc-cessfully championed through Congress several major pieces of legislation - including a sweeping public works package and initiative on public health and combating climate change - and visited active war zones not controlled by the U.S. military in Ukraine and Israel.

"What we say is we have to judge him by what he's done, not by his numbers," Jean-Pierre said. "I would put the president's stamina, the president's wisdom, ability

Iowa caucuses on Jan. 15. So far, the campaign has booked just \$162,000 in broadcast and digital ads for the rest of the Iowa campaign, according to data from the media tracking firm AdImpact

Haley and her allied super PAC have reserved nearly \$3.5 million over that same period, while DeSantis and his allied super PAC have booked more than \$3.3 million.

Tricia McLaughlin, Ramaswamy's campaign spokeswoman, said that events hosted by the campaign are drawing more people lately, noting that a sizable number of eventgoers are

Sheriff's Office. Residents of the wooded, rural area were told to shelter in place for five hours on Monday as authorities hunted for the man, but the order was listed Monday

Noting that the pre-Thanksgiving pardoning ceremony dated back 76 years, Biden also said, "I want you to know I wasn't there - for the first one." To coincide with Biden's birth-

day, Trump released a new letter from his physician reporting that the former president's "overall health is excellent.'

"His physical exams were well within the normal range and his cognitive exams were exceptional, wrote New Jersey Dr. Bruce Á. Aronwald, who said he has been Trump's doctor since 2001 and most recently examined him on Sept 13.

not registered as Republicans.

"We are reaching young people," she said. "These people are taking the time and effort to come out. These people are not even being polled because they are not your typical caucusgoer."

Ramaswamy has suggested policy ideas that he says carry on Trump's "America First" legacy without the former president's baggage.

At a Florida GOP event earlier this month, Ramaswamy arguably drew the most cheers when his pitch was that he was the Republican candidate who had been most supportive of Trump.

night while he remained at large.

At around 1 pm Monday, a report of shots being fired sent deputies to Rocky Ridge Road, about 8 miles (13 kilometers) from the county seat of Westcliffe and about an hour's drive from Colorado Springs. (AP)

Slain NH security guard honored: The wind blew out some of the candles Monday at a vigil for New Hampshire Hospital security officer Bradley Haas, but one speaker told mourners "hope and unity are our guiding lights.'

"Though we gather in grief and sorrow today, we also gather in unity and solidarity," said **Lori Weaver**, commis-sioner of the state Department of Health and Human Services. "We know it will take time. We also know that we can only heal together, no matter how dark it gets. I know that together we will create light as we support each other and connect as

a community." Hundreds of people stood in the cold and dark on a soccer field near the state psychiatric hospital where Haas was shot to death Friday afternoon in the facility's lobby. The gunman, John Madore, 33, was then shot and killed by a state trooper assigned to the hospital. (AP)

Gov Chris Sununu urged the crowd to make showing appreciation for law en-forcement a daily practice. (AP)

### INTERNATIONAL

### Lat/Am

### Gun battles kill 9

### Many conservatives support Verástegui

MEXICO CITY, Nov 21, (AP): The morning af-ter Mexico's Supreme Court decriminalized abortion, right-wing activist and film producer Eduardo Verástegui dressed up in a black suit to register as an independent candidate for the 2024 presidential campaign

"Mourning is a reminder for me to recall why I'm doing this," the former telenovela actor recently told supporters.

Rallying all over the country to fulfill the difficult task of gathering 1 million signatures by early January, the 49-year-old has ignited controversy in this deeply Catholic nation.



While many Mexican politicians refrain from clarifying where they stand on religion and abortion, Verástegui prays on TikTok.

"I identify with his values, with his faith," said Alejandra Hernández, 46, during a training session for volunteers gathering signatures for him.

Obrador

Nearby, wrapped in a shawl stamped with an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Felícitas

Díaz, 65, said she supports Verástegui because he is the only prominent anti-abortion candidate. "Killing innocent beings is not OK," Díaz said, re-

ferring to the widening of abortion access. "I was sad, worried, thinking 'Who am I going to vote for?' and when I was told about him, a light opened up for me."

For decades, Díaz said, she sympathized with a conservative political party that shared her ideology, but the decisions made by its leaders ahead of 2024 elections dismayed her.

Lacking opponents to challenge Claudia Sheinbaum, the former mayor of Mexico City who leads the polls to succeed President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, the National Action Party - which Díaz favored - created a coalition with other parties and chose Senator Xóchitl Gálvez as a contender.

### Progressive

Both Sheinbaum and Gálvez are seen as progressive - and therefore are rejected - by Mexico's conservative sector.

Raúl Tortolero, a writer who sympathizes with Verástegui, said the former pop singer champions a "new right" by advocating for values resembling Donald Trump in the United States, José Antonio Kast in Chile and Santiago Abascal in Spain.

"More than far-right, as the media calls us, we are patriots," said Isaac Alonso, a 31-year-old entrepreneur who leads a group of young people supporting Verástegui.

Frida Espinoza, who is 23 and co-founded an antiabortion organization, said that she connected with Verástegui after listening to his life testimony and is willing to support him even if he has little chance of getting on the ballot alongside Sheinbaum and Gálvez.

Entrepreneurs and TV personalities have played a key role in Latin America's politics for years - Guatemala elected a TV comedian in 2015 - but a figure like Verástegui, who declined to be interviewed, is unique in Mexico's recent history.

#### 



Presidential hopeful Eduardo Verastegui campaigns during a rally to collect signatures to enable him to run as an independent candidate in the 2024 presidential election, in San Bartolo del Valle, Mexico on Nov 10. (AP)



Congo President Félix Tshisekedi attends a campaign rally ahead of the presidential elections, in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo on Nov 19. (AP)



Asia

### **Eruption of Papua New Guinea volcano subsides**

### NKorea will try again to launch military spy sat

TOKYO, Nov 21, (AP): North Korea told Japan on Tuesday that it will launch a satellite in the coming days in violation of UN resolutions, its apparent third attempt to fire a military spy satellite that drew immediate rebukes from its neighbors.

North Korea is eager to operate spy satellites to deal with what it calls escalating U.S.-led military threats. But its two previous attempts to place a spy satellite into orbit earlier this year ended in failure due to technical issues.

Japan's coast guard said North Korea notified Tokyo of its plan to launch a satellite sometime between Wednesday and Nov 30.

The notice identified three maritime zones where debris from the rocket carrying the satellite may fall. Two are in the waters between the Korean Peninsula and China and the third in the Philippine Sea, Japanese coast guard spokesperson Kazuo Ogawa said.

### Implying

Ogawa said the areas are the same as the ones North Korea identified for its failed satellite launches in May and August, implying the third attempt would have a similar flight path. North Korea has given Japan the launch information because Japan's coast guard coordinates and distributes maritime safety information in East Asia. The North's notification came a day after rival South Korea warned it to cancel its launch or face consequences. South Korea's military suggested Seoul would suspend a 2018 inter-Korean agreement to reduce tensions and resume front-line aerial surveillance and live-firing drills in response to a North Korean satellite launch. UN Security Council resolutions ban any satellite launches by North Korea because they are seen as a cover for testing its missile technology. North Korea says it needs a spacebased surveillance system to better monitor its rivals, but South Korea says the North's launches are also designed to enhance its long-range missile program. Since last year, North Korea has carried out about 100 missile tests as part of its efforts to modernize its arsenal of nuclear-capable weapons targeting the United States and its allies. Many foreign experts say the North still has the few remaining technological hurdles to overcome to possess functioning nuclear-tipped missiles. Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida asked officials to coordinate again this week and decide "whether the in-

with other countries to ask North Korea to cancel its launch. He said Japanese destroyers carrying Aegis-class radars and PAC-3 missile defense systems on Okinawa have been activated to stand by in case of an unexpected development.

"Even if the purpose is to launch a satellite, if ballistic missile technology is used, it is a violation of the United Nations Security Council resolutions, and this is a matter that greatly affects the safety of the people," Kishida said.

During trilateral phone talks, senior officials from Japan, South Korea and the US affirmed their cooperation to 'strongly request North Korea to cancel" its launch plan, according to Japan's Foreign Ministry. South Korea's Foreign Ministry separately urged North Korea to withdraw the launch plan immediately, saying that Seoul will sternly deal with "an illegal provocation by North Korea" in close coordination with Washington and Tokyo.

After the second launch failure, North Korea had vowed a third attempt would take place in October, but failed to follow through. South Korean offiending.

The eruption on the remote northeastern island of New Britain attracted international attention when Japanese authorities announced they were assessing whether tsunami waves could reach the Izu and Ogasawara islands.

But several volcanologists doubt that Ulawun will ever pose such a threat. Papua New Guinea's division said the threat was "nil."

Brad Scott, a volcanologist with the New Zealand research institute GNS Science, said the "tsunami risk is incredibly minor" because the volcano is far from the ocean.

But the volcano, which stands 2,334 meters (7,657 feet) above sea level, remained active and the eruption could continue indefinitely, the division said.

The Papua New Guinea division reported the ash plume rising at least 5,000 meters (16,000 feet) on Tuesday before becoming lost in atmospheric cloud.

The small volcanic particles in ash plumes can be carried long distances by wind and can threaten aviation. A thick plume extended tens of kilometers (miles) to the northwest of Mount

LHOKSEUMAWE, Indonesia: Almost

1,000 Rohingya Muslims from Myan-

mar have arrived by boat in Indone-

sia's northernmost province of Aceh in

the last six days, officials said Monday.

women and children who were afloat

for days. One batch of more than 240

people was twice denied landing by

residents in Aceh Utara district, spark-

ing concerns from human rights or-

ganizations. The group finally disem-

barked in Bireuen district on Sunday

communities who have received and

granted landing permits for them and

in the future we hope that this spirit of

solidarity and humanity will continue

to be extended to refugees who need

assistance and protection," the the UN

High Commissioner for Refugees said

The refugees arriving in Aceh had

endured a difficult sea journey. Most

of them left refugee camps in Bang-

ladesh, where more than 700,000 had

fled following a crackdown by Myan-

mar's army in August 2017. Myanmar

security forces have been accused of

mass rape, killings and the burning of

thousands of Rohingya homes.

"We thank the authorities and local

They included five groups with

Ulawun on Tuesday.

morning.

in a statement.

Cuernavaca gun battles leave 9 dead: Gun battles between police and armed civilians in the Mexican city of Cuernavaca on Monday left nine dead, including two police officers, authorities said.

The Cuernavaca security agency said in a statement that two other police officers were wounded in shootouts that began after a convoy of gunmen opened fire on people who were drinking on the street and tried to abduct one person.

Gunmen with rifles, ballistic vests and radios engaged with police in various parts of the city, including a central neighborhood. Cuernavaca lies 50 miles south of Mexico City and has been the site of violence from competing organized crime groups.

### 

Gold mine collapse kills 10: At least 10 people died after an illegal gold mine collapsed Monday in the South American country of Suriname, authorities said.

Police, military officials and rescue crews were dispatched to the mine, which is located in the country's rural southern region. The miners are believed to have built their own tunnels to search for gold, a common occurrence in Suriname, officials said.

It wasn't immediately clear what caused the collapse.

"There's still a lot of uncertainty," said President Chan Santokhi. "It's important that we now get the situation under control.'

Santokhi was attending a government budget meeting when the incident occurred, forcing him to interrupt those speaking saying, "Something terrible is going on.'

#### 

New suspect in Moïse slaying detained: Authorities in Haiti on Monday arrested a new suspect in the July 2021 slaying of President Jovenel Moïse.

Macky Kessa, a former mayor of the southern coastal city of Jacmel, was detained but has not been charged, his attorney, Jimmy Jean-Baptiste, told The Associated Press.

He said Kessa is being held in Haiti's notorious National Penitentiary in the capital, Port-au-Prince, and that he plans to seek his release.

It wasn't immediately clear why Kessa was detained. Jean-Baptiste declined further comment, noting that the investigation is ongoing.

The arrest occurred after Kessa met with Judge Walther Wesser Voltaire, who is investigating the case and has interviewed several other suspects who have been languishing in jail for more than two years.

### 

'Wall was poorly built': A concrete wall along an avenue in the Dominican Republic's capital that collapsed over the weekend and killed nine people during heavy rains was poorly designed, experts said Mon-

day. The government of the Caribbean country has come under scrutiny, with experts saying they had warned more than 20 years ago about the wall's failures and lack of effort to fix them.

"It has weaknesses in the design," civil engineer Cristian Rojas told The Associated Press. "No anchors were placed, and that is why the wall collapsed."

Rojas, former president of the Dominican College of Engineers, Architects and Surveyors, said the force of the water in a flooded adjacent avenue, combined with the type of wall that was built, led to the collapse.

#### Car rams Boakai supporters, 2 dead:

A speeding vehicle rammed into jubilant supporters of President-elect Joseph Boakai at a victory celebration, killing at least two people and injuring at least 18 others, authorities said Tuesday. Police made an arrest following the crash

late Monday but are withholding the name of the suspect pending their investigation, said Col. Melvin Sackor, deputy police inspector general for operations.

It was not immediately known whether the crash at the headquarters of the Unity Party in Monrovia was politically motivated. However, it took place hours after election officials formally declared Boakai the winner of this month's presidential runoff vote.

According to the National Elections Commission, Boakai won with 50.64% of the second round balloting while incumbent President George Weah took 49.36%.

Weah had already conceded defeat several days earlier based on the release of provisional results, and urged his supporters to respect the vote's outcome.

Election officials in Liberia on Monday formally declared J Boakai the president-

elect. "We are at the point where we will prepare for transition, begin the plan for inauguration, as we jump-start the activities of governance," Boakai, 78, a former vice president, said moments after he was officially pronounced the winner.

Weah, a former international soccer star, has earned praise in the West African country and abroad for his decision to concede defeat rather than challenge the outcome in court

"This is a time for graciousness in defeat, a time to place our country above party, and patriotism above personal interest," Weah said in his concession speech late Friday. He has said his political career is not yet over.

In 2017, Weah easily defeated Boakai in the second round with 60% of the ballots cast. However, his popularity later fell with Liberia's mounting economic problems.

Elsewhere, there have been growing concerns about the decline of democracy in West Africa. The region has seen a spate of military coups over the last several years, including one in Gabon earlier this year in the aftermath of a presidential election. (AP)

Pistorius to have chance at parole: Oscar Pistorius will have a second chance at parole at a hearing on Friday after he was wrongly ruled ineligible for early release from prison in March.

South Africa's department of corrections said in a statement sent to The Associated Press on Monday that a parole board will consider the former Olympic runner's case

mate is suitable or not for social integration."

tee athlete who broke barriers by competing on carbon-fiber running blades at the 2012



Visitors look at the northern side from the unification observatory in Paju, South Korea, on Nov 21. North Korea told Japan on Tuesday that it will make a third attempt to launch a military spy satellite in the coming days, prompting its neighbors to issue an urgent request for the North not to perform the launch in violation of UN Security Council resolutions. (AP)

cials said the delay was likely because North Korea is receiving Russian technology assistance.

North Korea and Russia are pushing to expand their relationships in the face of separate confrontations with the West - North Korea over its nuclear ambitions and Russia over its invasion of Ukraine.

Foreign governments and experts say North Korea is seeking Russian technologies to enhance its nuclear and other military capabilities in return for supplying conventional arms to support Russia's war efforts in Ukraine. Such transfer would violate UN Security Council resolutions that ban any weapons trading to and from North Korea.

### Also:

**CANBERRA, Australia:** An eruption of Papua New Guinea's tallest volcano that raised regional tsunami fears subsided Tuesday, but thick ash still billowed into the sky and coated roofs and palm trees nearby.

One of the South Pacific nation's most active volcanoes, Mount Ulawun erupted on Monday, spewing ash as high as 15 kilometers (50,000 feet).

Papua New Guinea's Geohazards Management Division said while the eruption had been downgraded since Monday from the maximum alert level, there were no signs that it was

London Olympics, has been in prison since late 2014 for the shooting death of girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp. He was initially convicted of culpable homicide, an offense comparable to manslaughter, for shooting

Steenkamp multiple times through a closed toilet cubicle door in his home in the South African capital, Pretoria, in the predawn hours of Valentine's Day 2013.

His conviction was upgraded to murder and he was ultimately sentenced to 13 years and five months in prison after a series of appeals by prosecutors. Serious offenders in South Africa must serve at least half their sentence before they are eligible for parole.

Pistorius' case and his parole eligibility has been complicated by those appeals by prosecutors, who first challenged his culpable homicide conviction and then a sentence of six years for murder, which they called shockingly lenient.

The Supreme Court of Appeal eventually ruled in 2017 that Pistorius should serve South Africa's minimum sentence of 15 years for murder, but took into account the year and seven months he had already served for culpable homicide when it delivered the 13 years and five months sentence.

However, the court made an error by not counting another period Pistorius had served while his murder sentence was being appealed, meaning he was in fact eligible for parole in March when he was told at his first hearing that he would only be eligible in August 2024.

Pistorius' lawyers took his case to the country's apex Constitutional Court. The decision to give Pistorius another parole hearing on Friday is effectively an admission of the appeal court's error. (AP)

Pistorius, a world-famous double-ampu-

### oil price up

### Kuwait spent 460 million dinars on gasoline 2022/2023

The price of Kuwaiti oil went up by USD 3.52 to USD 85.79 per barrel on Monday as opposed to USD 82.27 pb last Friday, said the Ku-wait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Tuesday. At the global level, the price

of the Brent crude increased by USD 1.71 to USD 82.32 per barrel, the same case with the West Texas Intermediate, which went up by USD 2.39 to USD 77.83 pb. (KUNA)

> Market Movements 21-11-2023

and ultra.

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	PAKISTAN	-	KSE 100	+342.19	57,408.18				



Official statistics reveal that during

the fiscal year 2022/2023, citizens

and residents in Kuwait spent around

460 million dinars on car fuel, with a

total consumption of approximately

4.89 billion liters of various gasoline

types, including premium, private,

Detailed data indicates a 9.5% in-

crease in automobile fuel consump-

tion by Kuwait's citizens and residents,

amounting to about 426 million liters.

This brought the total consumption to 4.89 billion liters from the beginning of April 2022 to the end of March 2023, averaging 13.5 million liters per day. This represents a notable rise compared to the 4.465 billion liters recorded in the previous fiscal year (April 2021 to March 2022).

Car fuel consumption increased by 9.5% in one year... to reach 4.89 billion liters by the end of 2022/2023, compared to 4.46 billion liters in the previous fiscal year

The consumption of 91-octane gasoline increased by 8.7% during the last fiscal year, totaling 3.042 billion liters; expenditure on this type of fuel by citizens and residents reached about 258.6 million dinars in the fiscal year 2022/2023, compared to 237.88 million dinars in the fiscal year 2021/2022.

Premium gasoline, constituting about 62% of gasoline sales in Kuwait, has

witnessed a consistent increase. Notably, its consumption has more than tripled in the last seven years since the government raised prices in September 2016.

Premium gasoline consumption reached about 731.4 million liters in the fiscal year 2015/2016, doubling to about 1.66 billion liters in the following fiscal year, 2016/2017, and ultimately reaching a record 3 billion liters in the last fiscal year. (Agencies)

## Fed's Goolsbee optimistic amid inflation concerns

Inflation expected to ease, Fed's benchmark rate hikes may shift to cuts

WASHINGTON, Nov 21, (AP): Austan Goolsbee, president of the Federal **Reserve Bank of Chicago**, suggested Monday that the economy appears to be on what he calls the "golden path," another term for what economists call a "soft landing," in which the Fed would curb inflation without causing a deep recession.

"Any time we've had a serious cut to the inflation rate, it's come with a major recession," Goolsbee said in an interview with The Associated Press. "And so the golden path is a ... bigger soft landing than conventional wisdom believes has ever been possible. I still think it is possible.

At the same time, he cautioned: "I haven't moved so far as to say that that's what my prediction is.'

Goolsbee declined to comment on the likely future path for the Fed's key short-term interest rate. Nor would he say what his thoughts were

about the timing of an eventual cut in interest rates. But Goolsbee's optimistic out-

look for inflation underscores why analysts increasingly think the Fed's next move will be a rate cut, rather than an increase. Wall Street investors foresee essentially no chance of a rate hike at the Fed's meetings in December or January. They put the likelihood of a rate cut in March at 28% - about double the perceived likelihood a month ago - and roughly a 58% chance of a cut in May.

#### Inflation

Goolsbee also said he thought inflation would continue to slow toward the Fed's target of 2%. Partly in response to the higher borrowing costs that the Fed has engineered, inflation has fallen steadily, to 3.2% in October from a peak of 9.1% in June 2022.

"I don't see much evidence now that ... inflation (is) stalling out at some level that's well above the target," Goolsbee said. "And thus far, I don't see much evidence that we're breaking through and overshooting that inflation is on a path that could be something below 2%."

The Fed raised its benchmark

short-term rate 11 times over the past year and a half, to about 5.4%, the highest level in 22 years. Those rate hikes have heightened borrowing costs for consumers and businesses, including for mortgages, auto loans and credit cards

3,985.04 33,354.14

Fed officials have remained publicly reluctant to declare victory over inflation or to definitively signal that they are done hiking rates.

Ön Friday, Susan Collins, head of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, said she saw "positive signs" regarding the path of inflation. But she added that "we're in a phase of being patient, really assessing the range of data and recognizing that things are uneven."

Collins said she hasn't ruled out the possibility of supporting another rate hike but added that that was "not my baseline."

Last week, the government reported that inflation cooled in October, with core prices - which exclude volatile food and energy prices - rising just 0.2% from September. The yearover-year increase in core prices -4% - was the smallest in two years. The Fed tracks core prices because they are considered a better gauge of inflation's future path.

### **Back-to-back wins in Wealth Management**

Business

### Markaz wins 'Best Wealth Manager' in Kuwait at WealthBriefing MENA Awards

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 21: Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz" was named "Kuwait's Best Wealth Manager" at the 2023 WealthBriefing MENA Awards. The award for "Best Private Bank or Wealth Manager in Kuwait" was presented to Mr. Mohammad Alsumaie, Manager - Wealth Management and Business Development at Markaz, on behalf of the Company at a gala dinner in Dubai on November 16th.This achievement is a testament to the organization's enduring commitment to innovative client-centric solutions, its excellence in clients' servicing, and its status as a partner in wealth creation.

The event brought together leading members of the MENA region's wealth management community to recognize excellence in the field across a number of key sectors, emphasizing regional banking, countrybased banking, investment management, private client services, and technology. Each of the categories honored are highly contested and are subject to a rigorous process before the ultimate winner is selected by the judges. It is this process that makes WealthBriefing MENA awards so prized amongst winners.

Commenting on the significance of the win for the Company, Mr. Abdullatif Al-Nusif, Managing Director - Wealth Management and Business Development at Markaz said: "We at Markaz are honored to receive the"Best Private Bank or Wealth Manager in Kuwait" award for the



The award for 'Best Private Bank or Wealth Manager in Kuwait' presented to Mr. Mohammad Alsumaie, Manager – Wealth Management and Business Development at Markaz.

second consecutive year. This award affirms the dedication and expertise of our wealth management team at Markaz, where we provide extensively researched, customized, and innovative solutions to each of our clients' unique challenges. On behalf of everyone at Markaz, I would like to thank the organizers for providing a regional platform that recognizes and celebrates wealth management excellence. Its presence throughout the years has surely motivated members of the industry, including our organization, to pursue ever-greater opportunities in today's dynamic financial landscape.'

Markaz's distinction represents just one of more than 70 accolades garnered across its decades of activity in the financial sector. Throughout its wide-ranging wealth management solutions that cover both conventional and Islamic portfolio advisory services across diverse asset classes and structured products, Markaz distinguishes itself from other leading institutions through its team's collaborative spirit and unwavering commitment to a client-centric approach.



Travellers check baggage at the Southwest Airlines counter in Denver International Airport on Monday, Nov. 20, 2023, in Denver. Despite inflation and memories of past holiday travel meltdowns, millions of people are expected to hit airports and highways in record numbers over the Thanksgiving Day break. (AP

### TSA anticipates 2.9mln passengers on Sunday

### **Record-breaking Thanksgiving travel** anticipated despite inflation concerns

DALLAS, Nov 21, (AP): Despite inflation and memories of past holiday travel meltdowns, millions of people are expected to hit airports and highways in record numbers over the Thanksgiving break.

The busiest days to fly will be Tuesday and Wednesday as well as the Sunday after Thanksgiving. The Transportation Security Administration expects to screen 2.6 million passengers on Tuesday and 2.7 million passengers on Wednesday. Sunday will draw the largest crowds with an estimated 2.9 million passengers, which would narrowly eclipse a record set on June 30.

Meanwhile, AAA forecasts that 55.4 million Americans will travel at least 50 miles from home between next Wednesday and the Sunday after Thanksgiving, with roads likely to be the most clogged on Wednesday.

The weather could snarl air and road traffic. A storm system was expected to move from the southern Plains to the Northeast on Tuesday and Wednesday, bringing severe thunderstorms, gusty wind and possible snow.

U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg said during a news conference Monday that the government has tried to better prepare for holiday travel over the last year by hiring more air traffic controllers, opening new air routes along the East Coast and providing grants to airports for snowplows and deicing equipment. But he warned travelers to check road conditions and flight times before leaving home.

"Mother Nature, of course, is the X factor in all of this," he said. The good news for travelers by

plane and car alike: Prices are coming down

Airfares are averaging \$268 per ticket, down 14% from a year ago, according to the travel site Hopper.

Gasoline prices are down about 45 cents a gallon from this time last year.

The national average was \$3.30 per gallon on Monday, according to AAA, down from \$3.67 a year ago.

A survey of GasBuddy users found that despite cheaper pump prices, the number of people planning to take a long driving trip this Thanksgiving hasn't changed much from last year. Patrick De Haan, an analyst for the price-tracking service, said inflation has cooled but some things like food are still getting more expensive. Consumers are also charging more on credit cards and saving less

"Sure, they love the falling gas prices, but a lot of Americans spent in other ways this summer and they may not be ready to open their wallets for Thanksgiving travel just yet," De Haan said.

Thanksgiving marks the start of the holiday travel season, and many still haven't shaken last December's nightmare before Christmas, when severe winter storms knocked out thousands of flights and left millions of passengers stranded.

Scott Keyes, founder of the travel site Going, is cautiously optimistic that holiday air travel won't be the same mess. So far this year, he said, airlines have avoided massive disruptions.

"Everyone understands that airlines can't control Mother Nature and it's unsafe to take off or land in the middle of a thunderstorm or snowstorm," Keyes said. "What really irks people are the controllable cancellations - those widespread disruptions because the airline couldn't get their act together because their system melted down the way Southwest did over Christmas.'

Indeed, Southwest didn't recover as quickly as other carriers from last year's storm when its planes, pilots and flight attendants were trapped out of position and its crew-rescheduling system got bogged down. The airline canceled nearly 17,000 flights before fixing the operation. Federal regulators told Southwest recently that it could be fined for failing to help stranded travelers.

Southwest officials say they have since purchased additional deicing trucks and heating equipment and will add staff at cold-weather airports depending on the forecast. The company said it has also updated its crew-scheduling technology.

U.S. airlines as a whole have been better about stranding passengers. Through October, they canceled 38% fewer flights than during the same period in 2022. From June through August - when thunderstorms can snarl air traffic - the rate of cancellations fell 18% compared to 2022.

Even still, consumer complaints about airline service have soared, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation. There have been so many complaints, the agency says, that it has only compiled figures through May

The airlines, in turn, have heaped blame on the Federal Aviation Administration, which they say can't keep up with the growing air traffic. In fact, the Transportation Department's inspector general reported this summer that the FAA has made only "limited efforts" to fix a shortage of air traffic controllers, especially at key facilities in New York, Miami and Jacksonville, Florida.

Meanwhile, staffing levels in other parts of the airline industry have largely recovered since the pandemic. After shedding tens of thousands of workers early on, airlines have been on a hiring spree since late 2020. Passenger airlines have added more than 140,000 workers - an increase of nearly 40% - according to government figures updated last week. The number of people working in the business is the largest since 2001, when there were many more airlines.

### **KIB** continues support of 'Diraya' initiative to promote financial and banking literacy

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 21: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) continues to support the "Let's Be Aware' (Diraya) banking awareness campaign, launched by the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) in collaboration with Kuwait Banking Association. The Bank aims to promote the objectives of its social program to spread banking awareness and financial literacy among all segments of the community.

As part of its support to the campaign, KIB seeks to continue raising awareness on all the different aspects of banking, including the different kinds and uses of credit cards provided by the Bank. It aims to achieve this goal by engaging with its community through its various media and social media platforms.

Within this context, Deema Al-Mulifi, Assistant General Manager of the Operations Department at KIB, praised the campaign's objectives and the positive impact it has had on various segments of customers to date. She added: "It is our duty to educate community members on the uses of banking cards, as they are considered one of the most important products, and financial instruments issued by banks for payments and purchases - online or direct points of sale - or cash withdrawals. Banking cards are safe and practical for cashless transactions. They can also be used for overseas purchases without having to exchange currencies.'

Al-Mulifi further noted that there are various credit card types, the most

popular of which is the debit card, which is directly linked to its holder's bank account balance and would draw directly from available funds. Credit cards, on the other hand, allow cardholders to make purchases and later repay the money borrowed from the Bank in a flexible manner.

Al-Mulifi added: "At KIB, our range of premium credit cards, including Visa Infinite, Visa Signature and Visa Plati-

customers

numerous

lounges,

num, come with an exclusive suite of benefits and rewards whether used locally or abroad. They provide with benefits including free travel insurance, access to airport

Deema Al-Mulifi exclusive dining offers and experi-

ences in Kuwait and abroad, car rental. concierge services and more. All cards at KIB are secured with a smart chip and are accepted at over 30 million Visa outlets worldwide.

Referring to the Bank's cashback program for credit and prepaid cards, Al-Mulifi stated that KIB offers customers up to 5% cashback on purchases, with the added advantage of obtaining and redeeming cashback points worth up to a maximum of KD 600 per month on eligible transactions conducted using KIB's credit and pre-

paid cards, whether inside Kuwait or

abroad. She further noted that all KIB cardholders can enjoy the cashback benefit when spending a minimum of KD 100, addingthat the percentage and amount of cashback depend on the card type.

Al-Mulifi also mentioned that other types of credit cards include the prepaid card, which is mostly used for a safer online payment, since holders receive it unloaded and are able to recharge it, through direct transfer from their account balance, with the amount to be used for the purchase only.

Speaking about the Bank's ISO-certified data security systems, Al-Mulifi reaffirmed that KIB employs state-ofthe-art technology to protect personal data and privacy. The Bank's Information Security, Privacy and Anti-Fraud Department has been awarded for securing its Information Technology infrastructure and digital services. She also reiterated that the bank provides a 24/7 fraud monitoring system for added customer security and safer banking transactions.

Concluding her statement, Al-Mulifiaffirmed KIB's commitment to playing an active role in educating its community on all the different and various aspects of their banking behavior, explaining that it is an integral component of the Bank's multi-faceted social responsibility program. KIB has always been keen to launch, or actively participate and sponsor, initiatives that aim to spread financial awareness on a wider scale, including the "Diraya" program.

### Sweeney paints Google as monopolist, Google counters

Epic Games accuses Google of shady tactics in antitrust trial

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov 21, (AP): Epic Games CEO Tim Sweeney on Monday portrayed Google as a ruthless bully that resorts to shady tactics to protect a predatory payment sys-

His portrayal came in testimony in an antitrust trial focused on Epic Games' attempt to upend Google's store for Android phone apps.

Sweeney's more than two-hour stint on the witness stand in San Francisco came less than a week after Google CEO Sundar Pichai defended before the 10-member jury the way his company runs its Play Store for Android apps. It's one of two antitrust cases against Google, whose tech empire valued at \$1.7 trillion is being threatened by legal attacks seeking to break it up. Testimony in the Android phone app case is scheduled to

finish before Christmas.

The other case, focused on Google's dominant search engine, ended last week, but won't be decided by a federal judge in Washington, D.C., until next year.

While Sweeney sought to depict Google as a greedy monopolist under questioning by his own lawyer, Google attorney Jonathan Kravis tried to flip the script. Much of Kravis' his crossexamination appeared design to cast Sweeney as an executive primarily interested in bypassing a long-standing commission system to boost his video game company's profits.

Epic, the maker of the popular Fortnite game, alleges that Google has been engaged in illegal price-gouging by collecting commissions ranging from 15% to 30% on in-app digital transactions. It's similar to a payment system that Epic unsuccessfully challenged in a parallel lawsuit filed against Apple's iPhone app store. Epic is appealing the outcome of the Apple trial to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Unlike Apple's iPhone app store, Google already allows competition to the Play Store - something that Epic tried to do when it decided to roll out Fortnite for Android phones in 2018 on its own website instead of the Play Store.

In his Monday testimony, Sweeney recalled how Google called him into its Mountain View, California, headquarters to try to persuade Epic to release Fortnite in the Play Store instead. Sweeney said Google tried to entice him with a wide range of financial incentives, which he rejected.



### 9

### Germany to invest 4b euros in Africa's green energy projects

The German government pledged Monday to invest 4 billion euros (\$4.37 billion) in African green energy projects until 2030, with Chancellor Olaf Scholz saying that countries in Africa should benefit more from their wealth of raw materials.

Scholz discussed the pledge at a news conference on the G20 Compact with Africa summit taking place in Berlin. He did not mention any specific projects but said the materials used in green energy should be processed in the African nations they come from

"This creates jobs and pros-perity in these countries," Scholz said. "And the German industry gets reliable suppliers.

Compact with Africa is based on an initiative launched by Germany during its chairmanship of the Group of 20 leading rich and developing nations. It

aims to improve the economic conditions in the participating countries in order to make them more attractive for foreign private investment.

Scholz said Germany should become a long-term and reliable partner to countries in Africa. "Africa is our partner of choice

when it comes to intensifying our economic relations and moving toward a climate-neutral future together," he said. (AP)

#### UK summit to boost food security through science, innovation

The Global Food Security Sum-mit in London Monday brought together experts to address the underlying causes of food insecurity and build more resilient food systems.

In his opening speech, the Prime Minister Rishi Sunak urged the international community to address the underlying causes of food insecurity, build more resilient food systems and to act now to prevent food crises

and malnutrition. Sunak has announced that the UK will launch a new science centre where experts will develop climate resilient crops and identify risks to global food

systems. The new virtual science hub, will be led CGIAR, a global research partnership which unites international organisations working on food security will make global food systems more resilient to future shocks in a chang-

ing climate. It will link UK scientists with research initiatives that will develop crops that can withstand the impacts of climate change and are more disease resistant, he explained.

"We must take action to address the underlying, and of-ten unseen, causes of global food insecurity," Sunak said. (KUNA)

### Fain to build on concessions won through strikes

### UAW chief aims to expand membership to nonunion automakers

DETROIT, Nov 21, (AP): Entering contract talks with Detroit's three automakers, Shawn Fain set lofty expectations for what he could gain for his union members - and delivered on many of them. He secured significant pay raises, improved benefits, the right to strike over plant closures and a raft of other concessions.

But to the United Auto Workers president, the agreements that emerged from talks that were marked by six weeks of strikes were merely the start of a victory streak and a renaissance for the 88-year-old union. Now, Fain has set his latest ambitious goal: To gain UAW membership in nonunion companies across the industry - from foreign automakers with U.S. operations like Toyota to electric vehicle makers like Tesla to EV battery plants that will likely represent a sizable share of auto jobs in the decades ahead

Already, Fain asserted in an interview with The Associated Press, the contracts have benefited workers in nonunion auto companies: Soon after the UAW won major pay raises for its workers, Toyota, Honda, Hyundai and Nissan - all nonunion operations - raised their own workers' pay in what Fain characterized as an obvious bid to stop the UAW from unionizing those workforces.

Last week, workers at General Motors, Ford and Stellantis collectively voted 64% to ratify the new settlement deals, which are among the richest contracts in the UAW 88-year history. The agreements ended many wage tiers, gave temporary hires better pay and a path to full-time work and boosted from around 6% to 10%

the annual 401(k) contributions for those without pension plans.

According to Fain, workers at some nonunion plants, including the electric vehicle sales leader, Tesla, have contacted the UAW about joining the union, which hasn't even begun its organizing efforts. Fain noted that the nonunion companies didn't raise pay for their workers until after the UAW won general and cost-ofliving raises, which should reach 33% by the time the contacts expire in 2028.

"Companies play their workers as fools sometimes," he said in the interview. They care about keeping more for themselves and leaving the employees to fend for themselves.

Fain, who took office just eight months ago in the first direct election of UAW leaders in its history, said the time is right for labor unions to grow as they did in the 1930s and 40s, before they began a steady decline beginning in the 1950s. American workers, he said, are fed up with stagnant wages while corporate executives earn ever-growing multiples of median worker pay.

Companies, Fain said, will spend "limitless amounts" to try to stop the UAW, but the union can point to its Detroit contracts to show workers they will have a voice. In that way, he said, the union is a "great equalizer."

Fain declined to say which nonunion companies the UAW would target first. But high on the list is Tesla, whose biggest shareholder is CEO Elon Musk, the world's wealthiest man and an outspoken opponent of the union.

'The world's richest man is the richest man for a reason," Fain said. "They get this kind of wealth by exploiting other people."

Musk, who also runs the rocket company SpaceX, is talking about shipping Tesla production to Mexico and other low-cost countries.

A message was left seeking comment from Tesla.

The union leader said he expects Toyota, Honda and others to fight the UAW's organizing effort by threatening to close factories or eliminate benefits. Musk has threated to end stock awards that go to production workers if they vote to join the union. Fain said the UAW, if given the opportunity, would negotiate to retain and increase those stock awards. The union, Fain says, also will have to organize Detroit automakers' EV battery plants, which are joint ventures with South Korean companies. GM and Stellantis, the maker of Jeep and Ram vehicles, have agreed to bring their joint venture plants under the union's national contract, making it easier for the UAW to sign them up. Ford has not. That, he said, could become a problem if Ford fights the UAW's efforts to organize at the plants in Kentucky and Tennessee.

"Unless they change their tune, it's going to be an all-out war," Fain said.

Ford did agree to put a wholly owned battery plant in Michigan and a planned electric pickup plant in Tennessee into the UAW contract. But in the interview, Fain accused CEO Jim Farley of agreeing to work with the union on the jointventure plants - only to renege later.

### Sunak and Yoon to hold talks

S.Korea's president to talk trade, tech and defense on state visit to the UK

LONDON, Nov 21, (AP): The leaders of Britain and South Korea will seek to strengthen trade and defense ties between their countries during a state visit to the U.K. by President Yoon Suk Yeol.

Yoon landed at Stansted Airport near London on Monday. Britain hopes his formal three-day visit will help cement an "Indo-Pacific tilt " in its foreign and trade policy.

During that time, the president will be treated to both royal and diplomatic pomp, including a ceremonial welcome with military honor guards, an opportunity to address Parliament and a state banquet hosted by King Charles III at Buckingham Palace.

He's also scheduled to hold talks with Prime Minister Rishi Sunak focused on trade, technology and defense. The two countries will officially launch talks on an "upgraded" free trade agreement to replace their current deal, which largely replicates the arrangements the U.K. had before

and New Zealand. The U.K. also has joined the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership, or CPTPP, an Asia-Pacific trade bloc that includes Japan and 10 other nations.

Sunak and Yoon are expected to sign an agreement covering cooperation in defense and technology, including artificial intelligence. Britain hosted the first international AI Safety Summit this month, and South Korea intends to hold a follow-up event next year.

Britain also plans to invest in South Korean semiconductor manufacturing as part of international efforts to diversify the supply of the key computer components. Many of the advanced chips are produced in Taiwan, and the coronavirus pandemic and an increasingly assertive China have heightened concerns about future supply.

The two leaders are also set to boost defense cooperation, including joint naval patrols to enforce U.N. sanctions on North Korea.

Sunak said agreements made dur-

## **Arab British Economic summit** tackles 'boosting of trade ties'

Meet themed 'Sustaining an Emerging Vision'

3°°ARAb BRITISH ECONOMIC JMMIT 2023 KEZAD C 8 الاقتصادية العربية البريطانية الثالثة 0 3 SUSTAINING AN EMERGING

Arab League Secretary General Ahmad Abul Gheit addresses the 3rd Arab British Economic Summit 2023 in

#### LONDON, Nov 21. (KUNA): The Arab-British **Chamber** of Commerce held the 3rd Arab British Economic Summit 2023 in London on Monday, with participation from government officials, decision

makers, and ambassadors. The Summit, under the banner of 'Sustaining an Emerging Vision', will highlight the strategic UK-Arab partnership with an emphasis on the widening scope of cooperation within various sectors and industries.

The event will seek to identify practical initiatives that can strengthen transnational trade ties and bilateral investment flows in the post-pandemic, post-Brexit low-carbon economy.

Discussion will concentrate on sus-

it left the European Union.

Britain has launched trade talks with several countries since leaving the EU in 2020, though it has finalized deals only with Australia

ing Yoon's visit would "drive investment, boost trade and build a friendship that not only supports global stability, but protects our interests and lasts the test of time."

### **Attentive Energy investing \$10.6** million in supply chain, startups

MIDDLETOWN, N.J. Nov 21, (AP): A company proposing an offshore wind farm in New Jersey is investing \$10.6 million in projects to help grow the industry's supply chain and support oceanbased technology startup businesses in the state.

Attentive Energy is one of four projects proposed in New Jersey's most recent round of solicitations for offshore wind projects. It is a collaboration between Houstonbased Total Energies, and Corio Generation, with offices in Boston and London.

During an event at Brookdale Community College, Damian Bednarz, the company's president, said Attentive Energy will invest \$6.6 million in SeaAhead. That is a company that supports ocean-related technology firms; it will establish a business incubator program in New Jersey.

Attentive Energy will invest another \$4 million in technical support for small businesses at 11 regional small business development centers across the state.

A key goal of the company is to localize and diversify the supply chain for the offshore wind indus-

Continuing problems with the offshore wind supply chain was a major factor in Danish offshore wind developer Orsted's decision to scrap its two offshore wind projects in New Jersey last month.

"In New York and New Jersey, you'll always find someone who says, 'This is great: I have a service for this, I have a business for this," Bednarz said.

Boston-based SeaAhead's Blue Angels group has funded 29 startup businesses in the last three years, said Alissa Peterson, its co-founder and CEO.

"We need to create an environment where the best and the brightest choose to solve the hardest problems that we face as a globe," she said. "And if we're going to get them to do that, they need to know that the resources are going to be there for them to be successful."

Attentive Energy is proposing a wind farm 42 miles (65 kilometers) off Seaside Heights that would provide enough energy to power 600,000 homes. It would be among the farthest from shore of the wind farm projects proposed to date on the U.S. East Coast. The distance from the coast would eliminate one of the main objections voiced by opponents of offshore wind, that they don't want to see the wind turbines from the beach.

Without Orsted, New Jersey has only one approved offshore wind project: Atlantic Shores.

That Atlantic City-based venture is a joint partnership between Shell New Energies US LLC and EDF-RE Offshore Development, LLC.

In a related development, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on Monday established a go-slow zone for ships off Atlantic City to protect the critically endangered North American right whale. The agency says there are less than 350 of the animals remaining.

Last Friday, an undersea research glider operated by Rutgers University and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution detected the presence of right whales off Atlantic City.

Monday's action by the federal agency asks ships to avoid the area, or travel through it at 10 knots (11 mph or 17 kph) or less of vessel speed. The restriction will run through Dec. 2, and joins similar restrictions in four other areas in the Northeast.

tainable tourism, e-commerce, franchising, as well as the banking and financial industry.

This high-level event will bring together government officials, senior executives, thought leaders and decision-makers and ambassadors from across the UK and the Arab world, among them Kuwait Ambassador to the UK Bader Al-Awadhi, to share their ideas and debate the diverse trade and investment opportunities that are emerging in the new technology-based industries.

The line-up of speakers includes Arab League Secretary General Ah-mad Abul Gheit, UK Investment Minister Lord Dominic Johnson, the Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean, Chairwoman at ABCC, Lord (Tariq) Ahmad

Minister of State for MENA, AfPak, India, UN & The Commonwealth at Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.

#### Commissioner

UK trade commissioner for the Middle East Oliver Christian.

The sessions will tackle first, securing the future of Water, Food and Health.

Countries across the MENA region are intensifying their efforts towards food security, improved management of scarce water resources and healthcare for their citizens, leading to increased innovation in these key sectors vital for human life, wellbeing, sustainability as well as economic development.

To mitigate disruptions to fragile lobal supply chains and learning the lessons of the pandemic and the impact of a protracted war in Europe, agricultural self-sufficiency, water security and people's health are increasingly adopted as strategic priorities.

Agri-tech, vertical farming, green energy, water use and reuse, healthcare and med tech finance and investment for future sustainability. The second session will delve into the Evolution of Banking, Finance and Insurance.

As banks, non-bank financial institutions and the financial services industry continue to respond to rising consumer expectations and new technologies such as cloud and AI, banks are harnessing the potential of digital to improve service delivery and achieve competitive edge.

Evaluating the scope for greater Arab-British cooperation, speakers will consider the key trends that are transforming the industry and the evolving relationship of institutions with their ustomers including the rise of nonbank institutions as sources of credit, insurance products, the Fintech sector and investment firms.

The session will look at the regulatory frameworks, legal measures and

### Arab-British economic 'partnership' is heading in the right direction: officials

LONDON, Nov 21, (KUNA): Arab and UK officials on Monday agreed that economic partnerships are heading in the right direction as rate hikes have been fostering in the past years.

The 3rd Arab-British Economic Summit organized by the Arab-British Chamber of Commerce in London, focused on discussing the most prominent aspects of cooperation and mutual investments available to businessmen and investors, while also including the challenges that may hinder sustainable development goals.

One of the prominent speakers, Secretary-General of the Arab League, Ahmad Abul-Gheit, stressed on the importance of political stability and prioritizing the Palestinian cause to a fair and final solution, and the opportunity for economic cooperation and investment without boundaries.

Abul-Gheit also mentioned a number of Arab countries are working hard to present solutions to better the development process through a better investment climate by removing any possible obstacles, pointing to last

best practice to ensure data protection and minimize risk.

Technology and banking, response of traditional banks - changing customer demand, Islamic finance, corporate social responsibility. The third session will discuss

growth of E-Commerce, AI and UK-GCC trade agreement. The session will look at how the

MENA countries and GCC in particular have become some of the most exciting e-commerce markets in the world.

The Gulf countries are global leaders in addressing the challenges posed by the rise of Artificial Intelligence and they are adopting key strategies to deal with the opportunities that AI presents with ambitions to adapt AI techniques and integrate them across economic sectors from health, education, transport, communications and energy.

E-commerce is growing in sophistication with the technology aware younger population driving forward demand for more innovative products.

The forthcoming UK-GCC free trade agreement should create much more potential for partnership across the AI and e-commerce space offering new opportunities for trailblazing British E-commerce innovators many of

#### year's 1,617 investment projects valued at USD 200 billion.

He also assured investments with the UK will continue under the frameworks of strengthening economic ties noting the USD 57 billion invested in 2021

British Minister of State for MENA, Lord Tariq Ahmed said the Kingdom has an extensive history track of cooperation and partnerships with Arab nations, especially in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states.

The Free Trade agreement with the GCC is heading in the direction intended whilst in a fast pace, and it is expected that positive outcomes will ensue following implementation, he added.

On his behalf, British trade negotiator for the Middle East, Oliver Christian considered the dialog to be an opportunity to bear opportunity "with no limits" including the potential of a work force capable of boundless economic development.

He also pointed out that 92-percent

which are fast growing SMEs.

Why MENA is now one of the world's most exciting e-commerce markets, Opportunities for British innovation in E-commerce and AI, Growth of AI and future market trends, untapped potential for sharing expertise and partnership AI and the UK-GCC free trade agreement.

The fourth session will cover COP28 and Sustainable Development. This session will examine how the Arab World today stands right at the center of global efforts to meet the goals of the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change.

Following on from COP27 held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, in 2022, COP28 is set to open in Expo City Dubai, on 30 November 2023, where bold, practical and ambitious solutions will be reviewed and agreed to reduce emissions, meet international obligations and secure sustainable development for the region and world.

Continued advances across the Arab countries are guided by a core vision of sustainable development opening up investment in ambitious new projects that offer new vital revenue streams and job creation in areas such as new technologies, transport, infrastructure, hospitality, leisure, education and of Algerian exports to Britain is profiting from a tax exempt, while Britain's imports from Arab countries amounted to 38 billion pound sterling (USD 47 billion).

KUNA photo

As for the President of the Federation of Arab Chambers of Commerce. his notions were that challenges faced in the region need to be confronted in order to better the economic structure as the forefront issues rest on conflict. stability, weak supply chains, and high inflation rates.

The Third Arab summit through its five sessions entrenched on prioritized topics which include ensuring the future of water, food, health, and in addition to developments in the banking, finance, and insurance sectors.

During the third session, development of e-commerce and artificial intelligence was touched on, while the fourth session discussed the COP28 Summit, as for the fifth session the summit concluded with discussions of future businessmen and contributions for achieving development projects in the Arab world.

training and environmental protection.

Speakers will address how the COP28 agenda and the sustainable economic development priorities go hand in hand. VisitBritain will explore how tourism is an enabler of cultural and economic exchange, outlining its campaigns the Gulf to drive visitor growth and attracting visitors from across the region to Britain's economy while building a sustainable, innovative and accessible destination.

The fifth session will go over the Entrepreneurs of the Future.

This session will discuss how entrepreneurs contribute to national prosperity through cutting edge innovation.

Speakers will look at policy priorities of Arab countries to build a culture of entrepreneurship and the factors that shape success.

The session will also consider how closer partnership between education institutions and business can develop the skillsets required to achieve market success, how entrepreneurs inspire others, successful leadership, opportunities from franchising and the impact of digital technology. Creating a seedbed for innovation

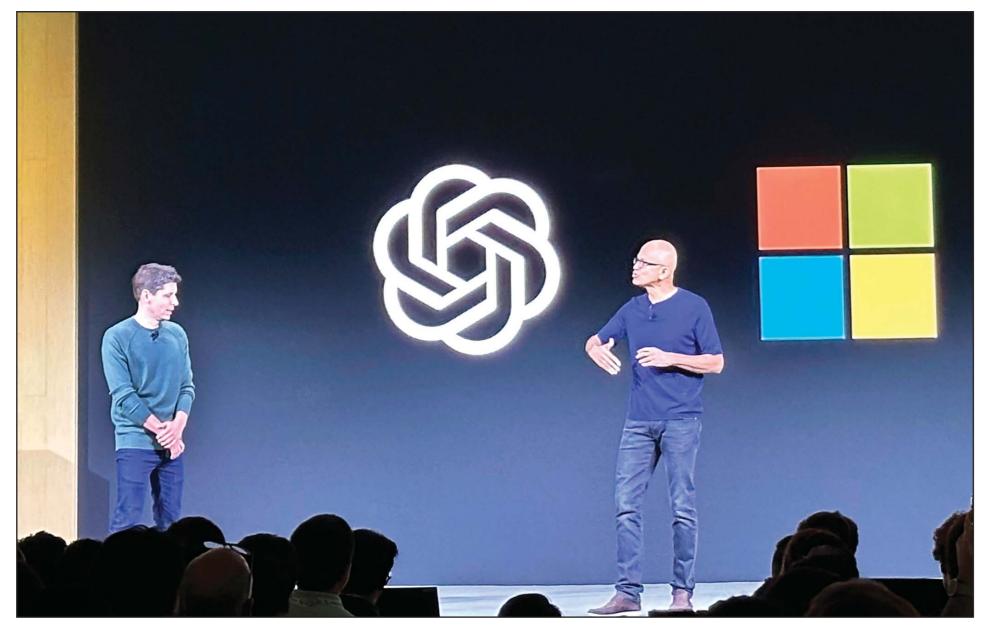
- incubation and accelerating creative talent, incentives and financial support for start-ups, importance of mentoring.

## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

# Business

Microsoft shares advance, hits all-time high

## OpenAI in turmoil after Microsoft hires ousted CEO



Sam Altman, left, appears onstage with Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella at OpenAI's first developer conference, on Nov. 6, 2023, in San Francisco. Microsoft snapped up Altman for a new venture after his sudden departure from OpenAl shocked the artificial intelligence world. (AP)

> NEW YORK, Nov 21, (AP): The company that created ChatGPT was thrown into turmoil Monday after Microsoft hired its ousted CEO and many employees threatened to follow him in a conflict that centered in part on how to build artificial intelligence that's smarter than humans.

The developments followed a weekend of drama that shocked the AI field and fueled speculation about the future of OpenAL which named

ened to join them at Microsoft in an open letter addressed to OpenAI's four-member board that called for the board's resignation and Altman's return.

"If the architects and vision and brains behind these products have now left, the company will be a shell of what it once was," said Sarah Kreps, director of Cornell University's Tech Policy Institute. "All of that brain trust going to Microsoft will then mean that these impressive tools will be coming out of Microsoft. It will be hard to see OpenAI continue

in his ability to lead the company. In an X post Monday, OpenAI's new interim chief executive, Emmett Shear, said he would hire an independent investigator to look into Altman's ouster and write a report within 30 days.

"It's clear that the process and communications around Sam's removal" were handled "very badly," wrote Shear, who co-founded Twitch, an Amazon-owned livestreaming

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

A key driver of the shakeup, OpenAI's co-founder, chief scientist and board member Ilya Sutskever, expressed regrets for his participation in the ouster.

"I never intended to harm OpenAL

that the board resign and be replaced with a "qualified board" that could stabilize the company. But the board resisted and said allowing OpenAI to be destroyed would be consistent with its mission, according to the letter.

OpenAI has said since its 2015 founding that its goal is to advance AI in a way that benefits all human-

A company spokesperson confirmed that the board received the letter.

Microsoft declined to comment on the letter.

After Altman was pushed out, he stirred speculation about coming back into the fold in a series of tweets. He posted a selfie with an OpenAI guest pass Sunday, saying this is "first and last time i ever wear one of these.'

Hours earlier, he tweeted, "i love the openai team so much," which drew heart replies from Brockman and Mira Murati, OpenAI's chief technology officer who was initially named as interim CEO.

It's not clear what transpired between the announcement of Murati's interim role Friday and Shear's hiring, though she was among several employees Monday who tweeted, "OpenAI is nothing without its people." Altman replied to many with heart emojis.

The board consists of Sutskever, Quora CEO Adam D'Angelo, tech entrepreneur Tasha McCauley and Helen Toner of the Georgetown Center for Security and Emerging Technology. None of them responded to calls or emails seeking comment. Because of its nonprofit structure, the board differs from most startup boards that are typically led by investors.

Altman helped catapult ChatGPT to global fame based on its ability to respond to questions and produce human-like passages of text in a seemingly natural way.

In the past year, he has become Silicon Valley's most in-demand voice on the promise and potential dangers of artificial intelligence.

Earlier this year, he went on a world tour to meet with government officials, drawing big crowds at public events as he discussed the risks of AI and attempts to regulate the emerging technology But as money poured into OpenAI this year, helping to advance its development of more capable AI, it also brought more conflict around whether that fast pace of commercialization fit with the startup's founding vision, said Kreps, the Cornell University professor. But rather than slow that pace, Altman's ouster may simply shift it out of OpenAI. Altman "really has a walk-on-wa-ter aura, and I think a lot of it is well deserved," Kreps said. "He's the one who has attracted the investment, and he'll do that wherever it is.'

If the architects and vision and brains behind these products have now left, the company will be a shell of what it once was

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It appears to many of us

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to be the largest copy-

a new chief executive on Friday and then replaced her on Sunday. The newest CEO vowed to investigate the firing of co-founder and CEO Sam Altman, who's been instrumental in OpenAI's transformation from a nonprofit research laboratory into a world-renowned commercial startup that inaugurated the era of generative artificial intelligence.

Microsoft, which has been a close partner of the company and invested billions of dollars in it, announced that Altman and OpenAI's former president, Greg Brockman, would lead its new advanced AI research team. Brockman, also an OpenAI cofounder, quit in protest after Altman was fired.

Hundreds of OpenAI employees, including other top executives, threat-

to thrive as a company. Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter, that he was "extremely excited" to bring on the pair and looked "forward to getting to know" the new management team at OpenAI.

Altman later said on X that his top priority with Nadella is to ensure that OpenAI "continues to thrive" and that it is committed to "fully providing continuity of operations to our partners and customers.

OpenAI said Friday that Altman was pushed out after a review found he was "not consistently candid in his communications" with the board of directors, which had lost confidence

service popular with video gamers.

He said he also plans in the next month to "reform the management and leadership team in light of recent departures." After that, Shear said, he would "drive changes in the organization," including "significant governance changes if necessary.'

Originally started as a nonprofit, and still governed as one, OpenAI's stated mission is to safely build AI that is "generally smarter than humans." Debates have swirled around that goal and whether it conflicts with the company's increasing commercial success.

The reason behind the board's removal of Altman was not a "specific disagreement on safety," nor does the board oppose commercialization of AI models, Shear said.

I love everything we've built together and I will do everything I can to reunite the company," he said Monday on X.

The open letter began circulating Monday. According to a copy obtained by The Associated Press, the number of signatures amounted to a majority of the company's 770 employees. The AP was not able to independently confirm that all of the signatures were from OpenAI employees.

"Everyone at @OpenAI is united," one of the signatories, research scientist Noam Brown, said on X. "This is not a civil war. Unless Sam and Greg are brought back, there will be no OpenAI left to govern.

The letter alleged that after Altman's firing, the company's remain-ing executive team had recommended

Microsoft's shares rose 2% on Monday and hit an all-time high. The AP and OpenAI have a

licensing and technology agreement allowing OpenAI access to part of the AP's text archives.

Tech industry says not so fast as top copyright official hasn't yet taken sides

## 'Please regulate AI': Artists push for US copyright reforms

NEW YORK, Nov 21, (AP): Country singers, romance novelists, video game artists and voice actors are appealing to the U.S. government for relief - as soon as possible - from the threat that artificial intelligence poses to their livelihoods.

"Please regulate AI. I'm scared," wrote a podcaster concerned about his voice being replicated by AI in one of thousands of letters recently submitted to the U.S. Copyright Office.

Technology companies, by contrast, are largely happy with the status quo that has enabled them to gobble up published works to make their AI systems better at mimicking what humans do.

The nation's top copyright official hasn't yet taken sides. She told The Associated Press she's listening to everyone as her office weighs whether copyright reforms are needed for a new era of generative AI tools that can spit out compelling imagery, music, video and passages of text.

"We've received close to 10,000 comments," said Shira Perlmutter, the U.S. register of copyrights, in an interview. "Every one of them is being read by a human being, not a computer. And I myself am reading a large part of them." What's at stake?

Perlmutter directs the U.S. Copyright Office, which registered more than 480,000 copyrights last year cov-ering millions of individual works but is increasingly being asked to register works that are AI-generated. So far, copyright claims for fully machinegenerated content have been soundly rejected because copyright laws are designed to protect works of human

authorship. But, Perlmutter asks, as humans feed content into AI systems and give instructions to influence what comes out, "is there a point at which there's enough human involvement in controlling the expressive elements of the output that the human can be considered to have contributed author-ship?"

That's one question the Copyright Office has put to the public. A bigger one - the question that's fielded thousands of comments from creative professions - is what to do about copyrighted human works that are

being pulled from the internet and other sources and ingested to train AI systems, often without permission or compensation.

More than 9,700 comments were sent to the Copyright Office, part of the Library of Congress, before an initial comment period closed in late October. Another round of comments is due by Dec. 6. After that, Perlmutter's office will work to advise Congress and others on whether reforms are needed.

What are artists saying? Addressing the "Ladies and Gentle-men of the US Copyright Office," the

"Family Ties" actor and filmmaker Justine Bateman said she was disturbed that AI models were "ingesting 100 years of film" and TV in a way that could destroy the structure of the film business and replace large portions of its labor pipeline.

It "appears to many of us to be the largest copyright violation in the history of the United States," Bateman wrote. "I sincerely hope you can stop this practice of thievery.

Airing some of the same AI concerns that fueled this year's Hol-

lywood strikes, television showrunner Lilla Zuckerman ("Poker Face") said her industry should declare war on what is "nothing more than a plagiarism machine" before Hollywood is "coopted by greedy and craven companies who want to take human talent out of entertainment.'

The music industry is also threatened, said Nashville-based country songwriter Marc Beeson, who's penned tunes for Carrie Underwood and Garth Brooks. Beeson said AI has potential to do good but "in some ways, it's like a gun - in the wrong hands, with no parameters in place for its use, it could do irreparable damage to one of the last true American art forms.

While most commenters were individuals, their concerns were echoed by big music publishers (Universal Music Group called the way AI is trained "ravenous and poorly controlled") as well as author groups and news organizations including the New York Times and The Associated Press

Is it fair use? What leading tech companies like Google, Microsoft and Chat-GPT-maker OpenAI are telling the Copyright Office is that their training of AI models fits into the "fair use" doctrine that allows for limited uses of copyrighted materials such as for teaching, research or transforming the copyrighted work into something different.

"The American AI industry is built in part on the understanding that the Copyright Act does not proscribe the use of copyrighted mate-rial to train Generative AI models," says a letter from Meta Platforms, the parent company of Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp. The purpose of AI training is to identify patterns "across a broad body of content," not to "extract or reproduce" individual works, it added.

So far, courts have largely sided with tech companies in interpreting how copyright laws should treat AI systems. In a defeat for visual artists, a federal judge in San Francisco last month dismissed much of the first big lawsuit against AI image-generators, though allowed some of the case to proceed.

editor's choice



### Tragic events leave her fans angry, disappointed

### Swift's Rio tour marred by deaths, muggings and heat wave



RIO DE JANEIRO, Nov 21, (AP): The deaths of two people, muggings and a dangerous heat wave left legions of Taylor Swift's Brazilian fans angry and disappointed in the three-day Rio de Janeiro leg of the pop superstar's Eras Tour, which concluded Monday night.

Gabriel Mongenot Santana Milhomem Santos, 25, a fan who had traveled from the country's center-west region to see Swift, was stabbed to death on a Copacabana beach about 3 a.m. Monday, Rio's police said in a statement.

It was the second death of a Swift fan in four days. On Friday, 23-year-old Ana Clara Benevides Machado fell ill during the singer's first show in the city, and died later that evening at a hospital.

Fans also reported fainting from extreme heat, being mugged or getting caught up in a police raid.

Rio's Municipal Health Department said Benevides, who, according to a friend, passed out during Swift's second song, "Cruel Summer," experienced cardiorespiratory arrest, but the exact cause of her death is not yet known. Rio's Forensic Medical Institute examined the body Saturday and said additional laboratory tests had to be conducted, the online news site G1 reported.

In a statement posted on Instagram, Swift said Benevides' death left her with a "shattered heart."

Before the show Friday, fans lined up for hours outside the Nilton

Variety

Santos Olympic Stadium where temperatures soared to 41 degrees Celsius (105 Fahrenheit), with a heat index of nearly 59 C (138 F). Inside the stadium, concertgoers complained of unbearable heat and some said they had difficulty getting access to water.

"I didn't imagine that my dream could turn into a nightmare," said fan Kléssia Menezes, who told R7 TV that she had gotten stuck with hundreds of other people on one of the ramps to a VIP area Saturday as security officers blocked the entrance.

Once security let them through, she said, people started running and she fell on a hot metallic floor that burned her leg and back.

"They took me to the doctor ... and I saw that I wasn't the only person to have fallen in this chaos," she said. "Many people fell and burned themselves."

#### Postponed

Ultimately, that night's show was postponed, after tens of thousands of fans had spent hours lining up in the heat. Swift announced on Instagram that it was necessary "due to the extreme temperatures in Rio."

A fan who identified herself as Julia Alvarenga said she was upset that Swift didn't decide to cancel earlier.

"My friend, can you see how much I'm sweating, how all the pores in my body are dilated from the sweat?" Alvarenga asked, visibly angry, in a video posted on X, formerly known as Twitter. She then pointed to her waist, highlighting the extreme measures she had taken to attend a concert for which she knew she would stand in line for hours. "I'm wearing a diaper, a geriatric diaper," she says, urging the artist to appear. "Come on stage, I want to see you!"

The postponement was followed by chaos outside the stadium. Under a light rain, a mass of concertgoers left the area, which is close to one of Rio's working-class neighborhoods, known as favelas.

Videos shared on social media showed groups of pickpockets robbing fans of their belongings, scenes not so unusual to Rio residents, but far from the postcards many tourists have seen of the "cidade maravilhosa." Many took refuge inside a Burger King, ducking for cover under tables and behind the counter in the kitchen area. Heavily armed police raided the fast food restaurant's basement as loud sirens blared and those stuck outside the restaurant shouted. Some of those who

were able to escape in taxis were overcharged by the drivers. Saturday's show was postponed to Monday night, but many who

had traveled from other regions of Brazil and outside the country had already made plans to leave earlier. "We're not going to be able to make it," said Hely Olivares, a 41

year-old Venezuelan who had traveled from Panama. "A lot of people have wasted their journey."



This image released by Disney shows Asha, voiced by Ariana DeBose, in a scene from the animated film 'Wish.' (AP)

Film



LOS ANGELES: Hannah Waddingham's friends weren't exactly ready to celebrate Christmas when they received an invitation to attend a live taping of her holiday special last May at the London Coliseum. It "was uncommonly sweaty in

London," recalled Waddingham, "and there was us putting out an invitation saying, 'Please wear your Christmas finery.' So many of my friends rang me, were like, 'Dude, really?' I was like, 'Yes, get your Christmas sweater out. If I'm going to be sweating, so can you.'"

"Hannah Waddingham: Home for Christmas," debuting Wednesday (along with an accompanying soundtrack), is a dream come true for the performer, an Emmy Award-winner and three-time Olivier Award nominee. Her mother, **Melodie Kelly**, was an opera singer and Waddingham says she essentially spent her childhood at the Coliseum.

"I've run around those corridors since I was 8 years old. The reason why I am who I am as a performer is from sitting in that theater watching the great opera singers of the day. ... And then, of course, you know, my mother I didn't mention it in the special, but my mother is heavily afflicted with Parkinson's disease and is in a wheelchair. So the fact that she was even able to be there, my father sitting next to her, who had had quintuple heart surgery while I was shooting 'Ted Lasso' ... and to have my little girl, who by some quirk of the universe was 8 years old when we were shooting it, it's unbelievable. Kismet.'

Waddingham is joined by other special guests including Leslie Odom Jr., Luke Evans ("He and I have known each other for 20 years from theater," she said), and Sam Ryder. Some of her pals from "Ted Lasso" also appear. (AP)

**MOSCOW:** Russia has placed a Ukrainian singer who won the 2016 Eurovision Song Contest on its wanted list, state news agencies reported Monday.

The reported Monday. The reports said an Interior Ministry database listed singer **Susana Jamaladinova** as being sought for violating a criminal law.

The independent news site Mediazona, which covers opposition and human rights issues, said Jamaladinova was charged under Disney's musical fairy tale a family-friendly holiday show

### 'Wish' is beautiful, but lacking magic

### **By Lindsey Bahr**

Walt Disney Animation's "Wish" is stunning to look at with textured and rich watercolorinspired animation and easter egg treasures for audiences nostalgic for the classics. But it is also more concept than story: A strained and forgettable attempt to pay homage to the studio's 100 years. The origin of the wishing star is as fine a motivation as any for a jumping off point, but "Wish," directed by Chris Buck and Fawn Veerasunthorn, seems to have been drawn not from someone's earnest imagination and dreams, but a corporate board trying to reverseengineer magic and charm.

Case in point: In one of the awfully generic songs, "I Am a Star," a cute, talking rabbit chirpily sings to our heroine Asha that "when it comes to the universe, we're all shareholders." Ugh.

I'm probably not alone in having learned several vocabulary words from Disney songs as a child, but there is something so dispiriting about hearing the word "shareholders" in what is supposed to be a rallying, inspirational anthem in a fairy tale world where talking goats and magic exist. There is no sign of corporations or public offerings in the Kingdom of Rosas, though that could have been an interesting path to take. Instead, this is a place founded by a guy, Magnifico (Chris Pine), who has the ability to grant wishes (and other magic things, too).

Now, you may think you know what a wish is, but this movie needs it to be a little more complicated than that and thus has to explain it over and over again to justify itself. Wishes aren't just small wants, they're everything - your soul, your reason for living - and Magnifico has convinced all his subjects to give him theirs upon their 18th birthday for protection. He stores these wishes in floating orbs in an observatory in his castle, that he'll then grant back to some at a later date.

Asha, the lead voiced by Ariana DeBose ("West Side Story" Oscar-winner and the reason "Angela

a law adopted last year that bans

spreading so-called fake informa-

the ongoing fighting in Ukraine.

Jamaladinova, who performs

under the stage name Jamala, is of

Crimean Tatar descent. She won

the 2016 Eurovision contest with

the song "1944," a title that refers

to the year the Soviet Union de-

tion about the Russian military and

Bassett did the thing" lives rent-free in my head) is a spirted subject of Rosas who is about to turn 18 and give her wish to Magnifico. She is fan No.1 of Rosas and Magnifico, but when she discovers (about 15 minutes into the film) that he doesn't have any intention of granting her 100-year-old grandfather's wish, she turns on him and Rosas and begins an accidental revolution. This is after Asha and Magnifico sing a duet "At All Costs" that is fully a love song about two people but has been shoehorned in here to be about Rosas and the wishes. It's strangely awkward.

#### Original

The original songs, by Julia Michaels and Benjamin Rice, are slick and poppy and ultimately inoffensive. Their appeal might depend on how you felt about Benj Pasek and Justin Paul's songs for "The Greatest Showman." If you loved those, the "Wish" soundtrack is probably for you. If not, sorry, though "Knowing What I Know Now" is pretty catchy.

"Wish" also doesn't seem to have a solid handle on how the lack of these wishes affect the population of Rosas. A few walk around like sleepy shells, but most everyone else seems happy and content even after having volunteered this essential part of their being. Maybe that's the point? But this is a movie that has some surprising parallels (in themes and unresolved storylines) with "Don't Worry Darling" that don't stop at Chris Pine relishing his handsome villain era.

The animation really is quite lovely overall and striking after so many years of computer generated smoothness and perfection. But this is also a strange mixture of both styles and the storybook like textures makes some of the characters faces and the star look almost too fake for the world they're in.

The star, a speechless innocent, is also lacking a certain spark that might make it as iconic as the filmmakers want it to be. Or perhaps it just has the misfortune of looking too similar to the nihilist star from "The Super Mario Bros. Movie" from earlier this year.

"Wish" is harmless holiday programming for the family, but it's strange to watch a movie about celebrating the individual "star" in everyone that feels like it was made by mandate, not a dream. And I would bet that every person who worked on this film probably grew up loving Disney and that each has dozens of ideas more inspired than this to commemorate 100 years and take this company into the future. Maybe next time.

"Wish," a Walt Disney Co. release in theaters Tuesday, is rated PG by the Motion Picture Association for "thematic elements and mild action." Running time: 92 minutes. Two stars out of four.

#### Also:

**LOS ANGELES:** Are you and your home entertainment system prepared? After making nearly \$950 million at the box office, **Christopher Nolan**'s three-hour "Oppenheimer" will finally be available to watch in your living room starting on Tuesday. There's a UHD streaming version available to purchase for \$19.99, as well as 4K Ultra HD and Blu-Ray options with over 3 hours of extras, with everything overseen by Nolan. AP Film Writer **Jake Coyle** wrote in his review that, "There are times in Nolan's latest opus that flames fill the frame and visions of subatomic particles flitter across the screen - montages of Oppenheimer's own churning visions. But for all the immensity of 'Oppenheimer,' this is Nolan's most human-scaled film - and one of his greatest achievements."

Adam Sandler plays a 74-year-old class lizard named "Leo" in the latest Netflix animation offering, streaming on Tuesday. Worried he's wasted his life in a cage, Leo tries to plot his escape when a kid in the school is assigned to take him home. But some mishaps ensue and he ends up befriending some of the elementary school kids when they learn he can talk. Sandler is joined by a strong comedic voice cast including **Bill Burr, Cecily Strong, Jason Alexander, Jo Koy** and, of course, **Rob Schneider**. (AP)



Jamaladinova

Waddingham

ported Crimean Tatars en masse. Her winning performance came almost exactly two years after Russia annexed Crimea as political turmoil gripped Ukraine. Most other countries regard the annexation as illegitimate. (AP)

BEIRUT: Directorate General of

Lebanese Department of Islamic Awqaf at Dar Al Fatwa organized Al-Quds Expo in response to the current events in the **Gaza Strip** and the brutal aggression witnessed in the occupied Palestinian territories by the Israeli occupation forces. The expo, supervised by Al-Quds International Institution included various pavilions about occupied Palestine and its cause in all its humanitarian, religious and cultural aspects.

Al-Quds expo explored the city of **Al-Quds** and its ancient history, the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque, the major events that took place there, and the uprisings against the occupation's practices against the Palestinian people. (KUNA)

### **NEWS/FEATURES**

### **People & Places**

### People

### 'Enough evidence'

### A\$AP must face trial on gun firing charges

LOS ANGELES, Nov 21, (AP): A Los Angeles judge ruled Monday that there is enough evidence for A\$AP Rocky to stand trial on charges that he fired a gun at a former friend and collaborator on the streets near a Hollywood hotel in 2021.

Superior Court Judge M.L. Villar made the ruling at at a preliminary hearing, after hearing roughly a day and a half of testimony from two witnesses. Rocky, who gave no visible reaction to the decision, has pleaded not guilty to two felony counts of assault with a semiautomatic firearm.

The 35-year-old rapper, fashion mogul and twotime Grammy nominee is in a relationship with Rihanna, with whom he has two young sons.



He could get up to 24 years in prison if convicted on all charges, prosecutors said.

Villar said "the totality of the video and testimony shows there is sufficient evidence for the defendant to go to trial. She emphasized that preliminary hearings have a much lower evidence standard than a trial. "We're not disappointed,

A\$AP Rocky

not surprised, we expected to go to trial, we've been planning for trial all along,' Rocky's attorney, Joe Tacopina, said outside court. "Rocky is going to be vindicated when all this is

said and done, without question." At the first day of the hearing, which resumed Monday after a long delay, Terell Ephron testified that he and Rocky, a friend since childhood, had belonged to the same collective of musicians and artists at their New York high school.

He said their relationship had started to go sour and resulted in the standoff in Hollywood on Nov. 6, 2021, when he said Rocky first pulled a gun on him, and in a later confrontation fired shots that grazed Ephron's knuckles.

"You need nothing more than Mr. Ephron's tes-timony by itself," Deputy District Attorney Paul Przelomiec told the judge before her ruling, adding that the surveillance video that captured parts of the incident "corroborates exactly what Mr. Ephron said.

#### Testimony

Tacopina countered that "there are some real problems with the testimony of the complainant,' adding, "I think there's not enough evidence."

Tacopina established while questioning a police detective earlier Monday that seven officers who searched a sidewalk and street about 20 minutes after the shots were allegedly fired found no evidence of the shooting, and that a pair of 9 mm shell casings in police possession were recovered by Ephron, who returned to the scene about an hour after the standoff.

Tacopina played body camera video of the officers, who searched the ground for about 10 minutes. Ephron, who first went to police to report the incident two days later, turned over the shell casings, which the detective said had no recoverable finger-



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Colman Domingo in a scene from 'The Color Purple.' (AP)

Film



Julia Michaels poses for photographers upon arrival at the premiere of the film 'Wish' on Monday, Nov. 20, in

### Actor's resonant voice takes center stage Colman Domingo's time is now

### **By Jake Coyle**

olman Domingo has a commanding physical presence, an expressive face and soulful eyes. But his most limber and powerful tool is his voice.

It can go low in a bone-rattling baritone, like in his Nigerian-accented pimp in Janicza Bravo's "Zola." Or it can rise to the warm, erudite rhythm of civil rights leader Bayard Rustin, in "Rustin." In Steven Spielberg's "Lincoln," Domingo's voice, as a union

soldier, is the first thing you hear. Domingo, himself, isn't sure when

film. Domingo threw a bunch of coldweather clothes together and jumped on a plane from Los Angeles

"Basically, I was shot out of a cannon," he says, smiling.

Domingo, sincere and amiable in conversation, had the appearance of someone eminently aware that a hardearned moment had finally arrived.

"I keep telling people that I'm 54 years old. Because for this to happen now, it's unusual," Domingo says. (His birthday is Nov. 28.) "Suddenly, after 32 years, it seems like the sun is shining on every corner of my career."

an Obie award for ensemble - once the play closed, Domingo found himself bartending again.

Resolving to make his own opportunity, Domingo wrote and staged the autobiographical "A Boy and His Soul," a dexterous one-man play that used the soul music of his youth (Earth Wind & Fire, Donna Summer) to evoke his life story and the inspirational figure of his mother, his greatest champion. In it, he recalls his mother telling him: "Keep a song in your heart, and you will always find your way." She and Domingo's stepfather died in 2016.

prints on them.

Prosecutors played a video from near the scene where no people are initially visible, but what sounds like two gunshots can be heard. Then a man comes running around a corner, then slows to a walk. The man's identity is not clear in the video, but LAPD Detective Frank Flores testified they have established it is Rocky.

Flores testified that no 9 mm pistol was recovered when a search warrant was served on Rocky.

Prosecutors showed a still from surveillance video showing a man in a hooded sweatshirt whose face is not visible holding what appears to be a gun, along with another image from the same video showing the face of the man in the sweatshirt, with no gun visible. Flores testified that the images led them to establish it was Rocky.

Tacopina, who is also representing Donald Trump in his New York criminal case, pressed the detective on the weapon, suggesting police had no way of knowing whether it was a loaded or even real gun.

"That gun or whatever it was was not tested, right?" Tacopina asked. "No, it was never recovered," Flores said.

#### Survived

Tacopina asked, "You're not sure if it's an operable gun or a non-operable gun or whatever?"

"Without having it, I can't tell you whether it's operable," the detective replied.

Tacopina also tried to cast doubt on the minor injury to Ephron's hand, questioning why he waited until he returned to New York to seek medical treatment.

He showed the detective a photo of the scraped fingers and said, sarcastically, "It's a miracle he survived that shooting.<sup>3</sup>

The judge admonished him, one of several times she told Tacopina to change his tone.

Rocky was arrested at Los Angeles International Airport in the case in April, and charged in August. He arrived in the courtroom Monday morning wearing a dark suit, sunglasses and a face mask, after spending the weekend at the Formula One Las Vegas Grand Prix auto race, where he had a prominent role as Puma's creative director in the clothing brand's partnership with F1.

He has released little music in recent years, and has become better known as the romantic partner, fellow fashion influencer and co-parent of Rihanna, with whom he had a second son in May. His first two studio albums in 2013 and 2015 both went to No. 1 on the Billboard 200.

Asked outside court whether Rocky would ask Rihanna, who did not attend the preliminary hearings, to attend his trial, Tacopina responded, "He would never subject his family, he wants to shield them, he's handling it like Rocky would handle something, he protects his family."

Rocky also became an unlikely cause for then-President Donald Trump, who said he was trying to get the rapper freed and returned to the US when he was jailed after a brawl in Sweden in 2019. He was found guilty of assault at trial but was given a "conditional sentence" that meant no additional jail time.

### London. (AP) — Details Page 11

### Variety

PARIS: Holding olive branches and white banners, French performers from different religious and ethnic backgrounds led thousands of people on a silent march through central Paris on Sunday to call for peace between Israelis and Palestinians and unity in France.

The crowd, which included actors Isabelle Adjani and Emmanuelle Beart as well as singers and other cultural figures, marched from the Arab World Institute toward the Museum of Art and History, located across the Seine River.

"We have a blue sky on top of our head today, in **Palestine**, they're having bombs, they're having war. We're not helping the situation by choosing sides or throwing hate on one side or another," Nadia Fares said.

The silence at Sunday's march "will balance, hopefully, the cacophony we have all over the world," she said.

France, home to significant Muslim populations, has seen weeks of protests and tensions over the Israel-Hamas war.

The French government is pushing for a truce to get humanitarian aid to Palestinian civilians in Gaza and also trying to negoti-

ate the release of eight French hostages held by Hamas. French President Emmanuel Macron spoke Sunday with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, and with the

leaders of Qatar and Egypt on Saturday, as part of his diplomatic efforts. Macron confirmed his support for

Israel's right to defend itself but denounced "too numerous civilian losses" in Gaza. according to a French presidential statement. He urged an immediate humanitarian truce leading to a cease-fire.

Macron also expressed concern about violence against Palestinian civilians in the West Bank and called for resumed diplomatic efforts toward a two-state solution. (AP)

ST. PAUL, Minn.: A library book that is more than a century overdue was finally returned in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Titled "Famous Composers" and featuring the likes of Bach and Mozart, the tome turned up while someone was sorting through a relative's belongings. The St. Paul Public Library checkout slip shows it was last borrowed in 1919, Minnesota Public Radio reports.

St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter joked in a tweet on Saturday that there would be no fine. The library, like many across the country, stopped charging late fees in 2019.

The future of the book is unsure. John Larson, the St. Paul Public Library's digital library coordinator, said he doubted it will go back into circulation because of its delicate condition, but expected the library

to hang onto it. "It has reached a point where it's not just an old book, it's an artifact. It has a little bit his voice became so resonate. Trac ing it sends him back to his childhood, growing up a self-described outsider gay, awkward, unsure of himself - in west Philadelphia. That voice, he says, wasn't there 20 years ago.

"At some point, as I grew into this person, comfortable in my own skin, sexuality, my mind, my intentions, who I am in the world, I think my voice developed more," Domingo says. "I don't know that I had this voice before. All the resonance in my voice, I can hear it. There's confidence. There's gravitas to it. I hear exactly what people hear now."

People are finally hearing Domingo. His performance in George C. Wolfe's "Rustin" - Domingo's first time atop the call sheet - has made the 53-yearold journeyman actor a favorite for a best actor Oscar nomination. It's a deft and dazzling leading performance that channels all the complexities of the March on Washington architect.

Domingo also co-stars as Mister, the abusive antagonist of "The Color Purple," one of the most anticipated holiday releases. The roles couldn't be more different. Throw in the fall-festival hit "Sing Sing," in which Domingo stars alongside a cast of mostly formerly incarcerated actors (A24 will release it in 2024), and you have the full spectrum of what Domingo is capable of.

#### Struggle

Years of struggle as a supporting player in service of others have finally led to his turn in the spotlight.

"I started to feel like: Well, what happened, God? What is my journey? At some point, my journey felt like Bayard's journey, which is maybe why I feel we're so close," Domingo says. "You know, I've assisted many people getting Oscars. I've assisted many people getting a lot of shine and love.

On the heels of the actors strike ending, Domingo met recently at a Manhattan hotel overlooking Central Park. After months of being unable to promote that part of his life, he had been thrown straight into late-night appearances, interviews and a "Rustin' screening in Washington, with Barack and Michelle Obama, whose Higher Ground Productions produced the

of history to it," he said.

the library it was the oldest book he ever saw returned.

"There's been a time or two when something has come back and maybe it has been checked out for 20 or 30 years, but nothing where it looks like it has been out for some 100 years," he said. (AP)

HONG KONG: Hong Kong Disneyland

Domingo was raised in a workingclass family by his mother and stepfather. Domingo's father, whom he's named after, wasn't a part of his life. It wasn't until he took an acting class at Temple University that he began acting. În regional theater, starting in San Francisco, he honed the wide-ranging ability of a character actor.

"Growing up, I never thought I was much to look at it. I think it liberated me," Domingo savs. "I know I can play a handsome man and a hideous man because I'm liberated. I can play anything. I'm not looking at myself. I'm not taking myself too seriously. I have the body of a clown."

#### Famous

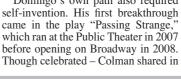
To "The Color Purple" director Blitz Bazawule, Domingo is belatedly becoming the leading man he was destined to be after years of out-acting more famous co-stars.

"Colman comes from the oldschool of actors. You think about Bogart or you think of Daniel-Day," says Bazawule. "These people, the minute you hear them or see them, there's a clear presence. I think he is in that tradition of leading men. Colman takes the frame.

Voice played a central role in Domingo finding Rustin. The film, which is streaming on Netflix, depicts the tireless grassroots activism of Rustin, who was openly gay, in organizing the 1963 march where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. would give his "I Have a Dream" speech. Domingo was flummoxed by the origin of Rustin's Mid-Atlantic accent before talking with Rachelle Horowitz, who organized transportation for the march.

"She said, 'He made that up," Domingo says. "I thought that was key. Here was someone who truly created themselves at a time when everyone was trying to write you off or box you in or violate your body because you're Black and queer. I thought: That's courage."

Domingo's own path also required self-invention. His first breakthrough came in the play "Passing Strange," which ran at the Public Theater in 2007 before opening on Broadway in 2008.



Beart

Adiani

"I started writing my solo show in the last year of my mother's life and I didn't know that that writing was going to save my life," Domingo says. "I was writing so I could be with my family 90 minutes a day.

#### Production

Domingo's production company, Edith, is named after his mother. When her son was struggling to catch a break, she wrote at least six letters to Oprah Winfrey, Domingo says. "She said, 'She could help you. I want you to know her.' I was like, 'Mom, Oprah doesn't care about me.'

"The prayers and wishes people have for you are sometimes more profound than what you imagine, yourself," says Domingo.

"When I was cast in 'Zola,' I thought, 'Me, playing a pimp? What? In this dark comedy? What do you see in me?" savs Domingo. "And Janicza Bravo said, 'I see that the possibilities of the way you think are endless.'

Wolfe, the esteemed theater director, first cast Domingo in "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom," alongside Viola Davis and Chadwick Boseman, as the trombone-player Cutler. Gradually, he came to see Domingo as Bayard Rustin.

"I would be talking with Mark Rickler the production designer, 'Oh, Colman could do that.' Part of my brain would go, 'Oh, Colman could do that,'' recalls Wolfe. "It was an organic conversation that had a degree of inevitability but I didn't realize it at the time. I think all good smart decisions, there's a sense of inevitability."

Now, Domingo finds himself collaborating with some of the Hollywood legends his mother envisioned him with. Winfrey is a producer on "The Color Purple" and the two have become friendly. During a hike for Ava DuVernay's birthday in Hawaii (DuVernay cast Domingo in "Selma"), he told Winfrey about the letters his mother wrote her.

"I said, 'I think I just realized that you answered her letters," Domingo says. "And she clutches her heart and says, 'Oh, Colman.' And then we started hiking again." (AP)

opened its first Frozen-themed attraction on Monday, with thousands of eager visitors turning up to experience the new rides, some lining up for hours to get an early start.

Based on Disney's wildly popular "Frozen" animation film, the new section of the park features landscapes and characters from the movie and two new rides, a roller coaster and a boat ride that takes visitors through different scenes featured in the film. (AP)

Larson said in his 25 years working for

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### HEALTH



Boursa Kuwait lights its building blue (left), awareness session on men's health (center) and male employees undergo medical check-up as part of its Movember campaign.

Boursa Kuwait goes blue and hosts awareness on men's health in support of Movember

### Prostate cancer ranks as fourth highest prevalent cancer in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 21: In its ongoing dedication to making a positive impact on the community, Boursa Kuwait lit up its building in blue in commemoration of Movember, the global awareness month for men's health. The company also organized an awareness session for employees and building patrons given by Dr. Mohammad Abdulmohsen Al-Ghanem, Consultant Urologist at Jaber Al-Ahmad Armed Forces Hospital, which shed light on critical men's health issues including prostate cancer.

Commemorated around the world every November, the Movember campaign aims to promote physical and mental well-being among men, addressing issues such as prostate cancer and mental health challenges. The campaign provides a platform for open discussions on men's health, fostering support and encouraging proactive steps towards a healthier life.

#### Commitment

Boursa Kuwait's participation in this annual event underscores the company's commitment to the well-being of the community in which it operates and is part of the company's corporate social responsibility mandate as well asGoal 3 - Health and Well-Being and Goal 17 - Partnership for the Goals - of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Prostate cancer ranks as the fourth highest prevalent cancer in Kuwait, behind only breast cancer, colon cancer and thyroid cancer. A study conducted in 2020 concluded that there were around 250 cases of prostate cancer in the country, which constituted around 6.6% of all cancer cases.

Speaking at the session, Dr. Mohammad A. Al-Ghanem emphasized the benefits of the early detection of prostate cancer as well as the importance of periodic screening. Drawing attention to the increasing occurrence of the disease, Dr. Al-Ghanem stated, "Early detection and timely intervention are paramount in the fight against prostate cancer, a disease that affects a significant portion of the male population. As men age, particularly those past the age of 50, the risk of developing prostate cancer increases substantially. Therefore, it is imperative for men in this age group to incorporate regular symptom checks into their healthcare routines.

### Identify

Dr. Al-Ghanem added, "These checks serve as a proactive measure to identify potential signs of prostate cancer at its earliest stages. By actively monitoring their prostate health, men can empower themselves to take control of their well-being and significantly enhance their chances of successful treatment and recovery.

As part of the initiative, Boursa Kuwait

'Diabetes affects over 25 per cent of Kuwaitis

## **Mubarak Al-Kabeer prioritizes diabetes care** with early detection and treatment services

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 21: The Director of Mubarak Al-Kabeer Health Zone Dr. Walid Al-Busairi affirmed the interest of the Ministry of Health, particularly the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Health Zone, to care for patients with chronic diseases, especially those suffering from diabetes, by providing early detection and treatment services for this disease, and developing a strategy to expand these services in primary healthcare centers in the area.

In a special press statement issued yesterday on the sidelines of West Mubarak Al-Kabeer Health Center's celebration of World Diabetes Day, Dr. Al-Busairi said, "Mubarak Al-Kabeer Health Zone has 16 primary health care centers, and all centers has one or more clinics for diabetes care. However, what distinguishes Adan Health Center from other centers is the provision of early diabetes detection service.

#### Prevent

Early diabetes detection clinics contribute to identifying risk groups and placing them under a comprehensive nutritional treatment program for follow-up and identifying the first signs of the disease and how to prevent it.

This is a service that the area seeks to expand to include all primary health care centers in the region because early detection is of great importance in preventing diabetes complications, which sometimes lead to loss of sight and limbs as a result of neglecting treatment."

She praised the head of the West Mubarak Al-Kabeer Health Center Dr. Maryam Al-Qattan, in the presence of the Governor of Mubarak Al-



Walid Al-Busairi moderated the medical teams at the ceremony.

Kabeer ret. Major General Mahmoud Boushahri, the Director of the Department of Prevention and Response to Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases Dr. Hamoud Al-Zoubi, Head of the Primary Health Care Unit in Mubarak Al-Kabeer Health Zone Dr. Basma Al-Qallaf, and the heads of health centers and technical departments in the area.

She explained that the incidence of diabetes in Kuwait exceeded 25 percent of the total number of Kuwaitis. Preventing it and its complications has become a major factor in improving the quality of health and psychological life for the individual and society. This happens especially with the continuous rise in infection rates to the

extent that it has become one of the most common chronic diseases in the world, which may lead to severe complications in body functions, such as diabetic foot, glaucoma, cardiovascular disease, kidney disease, problems with the mouth, gums, teeth, and skin diseases

Dr. Busairi stressed the possibility of preventing and overcoming these complications by committing to regular check-ups and following a healthy lifestyle based on eating healthy foods, exercising, and maintaining an ideal weight.

She highlighted the active participation of the administrative and technical departments of primary healthcare at the center, which include the Diabetes and Chronic Diseases Department,

Family Medicine Department, Dentistry Department, Laboratory Department, Pharmacy Department, Nursing Department, Therapeutic Nutrition Department, the Administrative Department and a number of sponsoring companies.

Dr. Al-Busairi also highlighted the participation of work teams from the departments of prevention and response to chronic non-communicable diseases and medical emergencies to provide consultations and medical advice to patients about the importance of periodic checkups, treatment and follow-up to avoid complications of the disease and maintain a healthy lifestyle, ways to provide immediate resuscitation and the importance of training to save lives.

### Antibiotic resistance causing 1.2mn deaths worldwide

Symposium highlights antibiotics overuse, misuse risks

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 21: The symposium, held in collaboration between



for Kuwait.

ing towards better health outcomes and the National Liaison Officer for Antibiotic Resistance, urged addressing the challenge of antimicrobial resistance that poses a threat to humans, animals, and plants. Dr. Asad Hafeez, the representative of the World Health Organization in Kuwait, stressed the importance of multisectoral cooperation to implement antimicrobial stewardship. He highlighted that antimicrobial resistance is a threat to humans, animals, plants, and the environment. Dr. Hafeez called for preventive measures against antimicrobial resistance, emphasizing the need for cooperation to protect future generations. The event also aims to underscore the significance of the Ministry's national action plan and encourage healthcare professionals to prescribe antibiotics judiciously, considering the associated risks of over-prescription.

also partnered with MedCell to offer a range of medical services, including lab tests, consultations and various other treatments, on the day of the session.

Supporting and serving the communities and people across Kuwait is a responsibility that Boursa Kuwait takes very seriously.

The company seeks to be a force for good for both external and internal stakeholders, actively giving back and driving positive impact through an ongoing and diverse range of community and social impact endeavors, including several health-based initiatives with institutions to organize blood drives, awareness sessions and others. Boursa Kuwait is committed to making a positive, long-lasting impact in the community in which it operates, championing a series of initiatives aimed at preserving the well-being of the community and has established internal policies and procedures to ensure the sustained health of its employees.

the World Health Organization office in Kuwait and the Ministry of Health to mark World Antimicrobial Awareness Week, emphasized the risks associated with the misuse and overuse of antimicrobials, particularly antibiotics, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Dr. Al-Mundhir Al-Hasawi, the Acting Assistant Undersecretary for Public Health Affairs at the Ministry of Health, underscored the significance of collaborative efforts among relevant stakeholders to prevent antibiotic resistance and misuse, emphasizing the need to promote the optimal use of these medications.

Dr. Al-Hasawi emphasized that the symposium serves as more than a health event; it functions as a platform bringing together experts to support programs overseeing antibiotic use Photo by Rizk Tawfig

Participants in the symposium.

within healthcare facilities in Kuwait. The objective is to collaborate in addressing issues related to the misuse and overuse of antibiotics and work-

Highlighting the global impact of antibiotic resistance, Dr. Al-Hasawi noted that the World Health Organization ranks it among the top 10 threats to human health, causing 1.2 million deaths worldwide, surpassing mortality rates from malaria, AIDS, and tuberculosis. Kuwait has prioritized addressing antibiotic resistance by establishing higher committees dedicated to the issue and representing it at the national level for infection prevention and sterilization management.

Dr. Al-Hasawi emphasized that the responsibility for the optimal use of antibiotics extends beyond decisionmakers: it is a collective responsibility.

Dr. Abeer Omar, the Head of the Department of Statistical Studies and Analysis in the Infection Prevention Department at the Ministry of Health



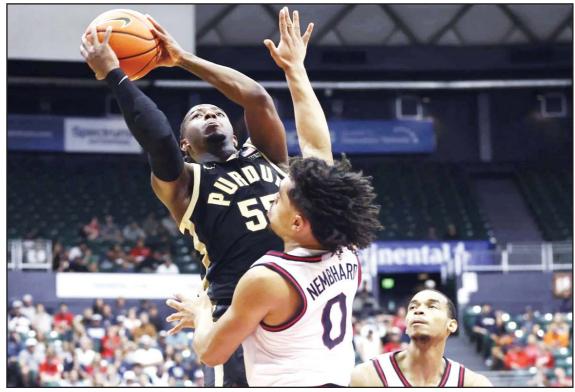




### **SPORTS**

### South Carolina routs South Dakota State, LSU eases past Texas Southern

### Kitley scores 31 as Virginia Tech rolls over UNC Greensboro



Purdue guard Lance Jones shoots over Gonzaga guard Ryan Nembhard during the second half of NCAA college basketball game on Nov. 20, 2023, in Honolulu. (AP)

BLACKSBURG, Va., Nov 21, (AP): Elizabeth Kitley scored 31 points to lead No. 9 Virginia Tech to a 72-51 victory over UNC Greensboro on Monday.

Kitley connected on 13 of 22 from the floor and grabbed 10 rebounds to lift the Hokies (3-1) to their second consecutive win.

Jayde Gamble scored a career-high 25 points to pace UNC Greensboro (3-2), which saw its three-game winning streak end. Gamble connected on 12 of 19 from the floor.

Georgia Amoore added nine points and eight assists for the Hokies, who shot 46.8% (29 of 62). Matilda Ekh scored nine as well.

S. Carolina 78, S. Dakota St 38 In Columbia, S.C., Kamilla Cardoso had 23 points, 10 rebounds and six blocks as South Carolina shook off some poor shooting to rout South Dakota State.

The Gamecocks (4-0) played without their most reliable outside shooter in Oregon transfer Te-Hina Paopao, who has an ankle injury, and her absence showed.

Raven Johnson had a career-high 18 points, plus six assists and five steals. The 6-foot-7 Cardoso had her third double-double of the season and 19th of her career. Brooklyn Meyer scored 19 points for the Jackrabbits (2-2), who were the preseason favorites to



South Carolina center Kamilla Cardoso (10) looks to shoot against South Dakota State forward Brooklyn Meyer, right, during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game in Columbia, S.C. on Mon-day, Nov. 20, 2023. (AP)

#### win the Summit League.

LSU 106, Texas Southern 47 In Baton Rouge, La., Aneesah Morrow and Flau'jae Johnson tied their season highs with 17 points apiece and LSU defeated Texas Southern while star forward Angel Reese missed her second straight game.

Hailey Van Lith scored a season-high 16 points for LSU (5-1), which has won five straight since its seasonopening loss to then No. 20 Colorado, which has since moved up to third in the AP Top 25.

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Freshman Mikayla Williams scored 14 points, reaching double figures in scoring for the fifth time in what was her sixth college game. Aalyah Del Rosario also added 14 points for LSU.

### BASKETBALL

Daeja Holmes and Taniya Lawson each scored 11 points for Texas Southern, which was plagued by a seasonhigh 35 turnovers that led to 48 LSU points

#### USC 64, Seton Hall 54

In Nassau, Bahamas, JuJu Watkins scored 15 points, Rayah Marshall had 14 points and 14 rebounds, and USC held off Seton Hall at the Baha Mar Pink Flamingo Championship.

Kaitlyn Davis scored 13 points and McKenzie Forbes added 12 for USC (4-0).

Azana Baines scored 16 points and Gray added 14 for the Pirates (3-2). The tournament resumes on

Wednesday. USC will play Penn State, and Seton Hall will face East Carolina.

## **Edey's stellar performance propels Purdue to victory against Gonzaga**

Top-ranked Kansas beat Chaminade 83-56 at Maui Invitational

HONOLULU, Nov 21, (AP): Zach Edey had 25 points and 14 rebounds, and No. 2 Purdue rallied past No. 11 Gonzaga 73-63 in an early marquee matchup at the Maui Invitational on Monday.

The Boilermakers (4-0) trailed by as many as nine points late in the first half, but outscored the Bulldogs 43-28 after halftime.

Edey, a 7-foot-4 senior center, shot 8 for 16 from the field and made 9 of 10 free throws. He also blocked three shots in 33 minutes.

Lance Jones and Braden Smith add-

ed 13 points apiece for Purdue, which shot 54.5% from the field (18 of 33) in the second half. Smith also had five steals.

Graham Ike led Gonzaga with 14 points and seven rebounds. Ryan Nembhard had 11 points, six assists and three steals, and Nolan Hickman added 11 points and three steals.

#### Kansas 83, Chaminade 56

In Honolulu, Hunter Dickinson had 31 points and 11 rebounds and Kansas beat Chaminade at the Maui Invitational.

Kevin McCullar had 22 points, 11 rebounds, 10 assists, three steals and two blocks for the Jayhawks (4-0), who led throughout and shot a blistering 60% from the field. They held the Silverswords (1-3) to 33.9%

shooting.

Jamir Thomas, Ross Reeves and Wyatt Lowell scored 12 points apiece for Chaminade, a Division II school that upset the No. 1 team in the country, Ralph Sampson-led Virginia, in 1982

#### UConn 81, Texas 71

In New York, Alex Karaban scored 20 points, including three clutch jumpers down the stretch, and UConn turned back Texas to win the Empire Classic at Madison Square Garden.

Cam Spencer had 16 points and Samson Johnson set career highs with 15 points and eight rebounds off the bench for the defending national champion Huskies (5-0), who have won 22 consecutive nonconference games - all by double digits.

Dillon Mitchell scored a careerbest 21 points on 9-of-12 shooting and grabbed eight rebounds for the undermanned Longhorns (4-1), who played without starting forward Kadin Shedrick. Tyrese Hunter had 13 points, seven assists and five rebounds

Huskies point guard Tristen Newton, who had eight points and eight assists, was selected tournament MVP. It was UConn's first Empire Classic championship since 2013.

### Tennessee 73, Syracuse 56

In Honolulu, Dalton Knecht scored 17 points to lead Tennessee past Syracuse in the Maui Invitational. Josiah-Jordan James had 15 points and 12 rebounds, and Aidoo had 14 points and 11 boards for the Volun-

teers (4-0), who shot 50% from the field in the second half to pull away. Knecht had 15 points by halftime and missed part of the second half with an apparent left leg injury. He returned in the closing minutes.

Chris Bell scored 16 points and Judah Mintz had 15 for Syracuse.

spectators during the 6 1-2-week

Cricket Roundup

Gul was coach during Pakistan's white-ball series against Afghanistan in the United Arab Emirates and against New Zea land at home earlier this year. He has also coached Quetta Gladiators in the Pakistan Super League last season and was coach of the Afghanistan team during the last T20 World Cup in 2022.

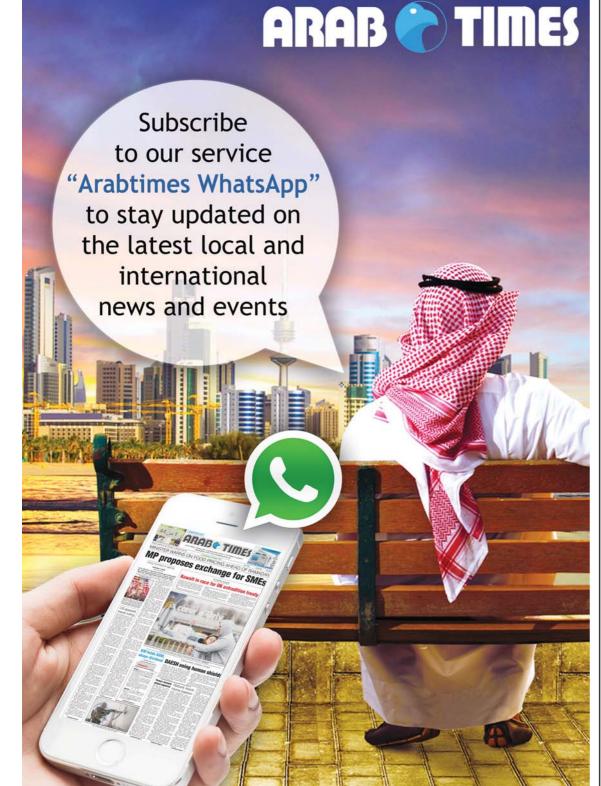
tournament attendance record

NEW DELHI, Nov 21, (AP): The Cricket World Cup attracted a tournament-record 1.25 million

Gul, Ajmal named bowling coaches Cricket WC in India sets all-time

Chaminade forward Chris Bready (3) shoots over Kansas center Hunter Dickinson (1) during the first half of NCAA college basketball game, Mon-day, Nov. 20, 2023, in Honolulu. (AP)

### ARAB TIMES, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2023



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#### Kentucky 96, Saint Joseph's 88, OT

In Lexington, Ky., Tre Mitchell scored nine of his season-high 22 points in overtime as Kentucky got

points in overtime as Kentucky got past Saint Joseph's. Mitchell hit back-to-back 3-point-ers to open Kentucky's scoring in overtime, and the Wildcats outscored the Hawks 19-11 in the extra period.

D.J. Wagner had a career-best 22 points for the Wildcats (4-1). Antonio Reeves scored 20 points, Rob Dillingham added 13 and Justin Edwards 12.

### BASKETBALL

Erik Reynolds II made six 3-pointers and scored 28 points for the Hawks (3-2). Xzayvier Brown and Cameron Brown added 17 points apiece.

Colorado 64, Richmond 59 In Daytona Beach, Fla., KJ Simpson scored 23 points to lead Colorado past Richmond at the Sunshine Slam.

Simpson made 6 of 11 field goals and 9 of 10 from the line for Colorado (4-0). Tristan da Silva added 15 points and eight rebounds for the Buffaloes, who will play Florida State on Tuesday for the tournament title.

Jordan King had 20 points and seven rebounds for Richmond (2-2).

Wisconsin 65, Virginia41 In Fort Myers, Fla., Steven Crowl had 15 points and 10 rebounds, and

Wisconsin beat Virginia in the Fort Myers Tip-Off. John Blackwell added 10 points for the Badgers (3-2), who had 30 points inside

against Virginia's vaunted defense. Reece Beekman had 17 points to lead the Cavaliers (4-1), who just en-

tered the AP Top 25 earlier Monday for what may be a short stay.

event which ended Sunday with Australia beating India by six wickets for its sixth title.

The ICC said Tuesday that the tournament had 1,250,307 spectators. With six games to go, the spectator figures had already surpassed the one million mark.

The India attendance figures surpass the earlier marks of the 2015 World Cup held in Australia and New Zealand

which attracted 1,016,420 spectators and the 2019 edition in England and Wales which had 752.000 fans. The 10-

Gul team tournament in India saw each team play the others once to advance to the semifinals. There were 48 matches played overall for a total average attendance of about 26,000.

It was the 13th edition of the Cricket World Cup first held in 1975.

The Pakistan Cricket Board appointed former international players Umar Gul and Saeed Ajmal as bowling coaches for the national team on Tuesday.

Gul will be the fast bowling coach while Ajmal will handle the spin bowlers. Both will accompany the team to Australia for three test matches which will be followed by five Twenty20s in New Zealand.

Gul represented Pakistan in 47 test matches, 130 ODIs and 60 T20s between 2003-16.

Ajmal has 447 international wickets in all formats. A former No. 1 ODI bowler, Ajmal played 35 test matches, 113 ODIs and 64 T20s for Pakistan and was famous for his 'doosra' - an off-spinner's delivery that turns away from righthanded batter.



West Indies picked uncapped allrounders Sherfane Rutherford and Matthew Forde in a 15-man squad on Monday to face visiting England in one-day internationals next month.

There were also recalls for wicketkeeper Shane Dowrich, who played his only ODI in 2019, and opening batter Kjorn Ottley, who played two ODIs in January 2021.

Rutherford is a 25-year-old middle-order batter who has played six Twenty20s, but not since 2020, and Forde is a 21-year-old medium-pacer.

The team led by Shai Hope fac-es England on Dec. 3 and 6 in Antigua, and on Dec. 9 in Barbados.

Allrounder Justin Greaves was injured while Jason Holder and Nicholas Pooran were unavailable because they were prioritizing other formats.

The West Indies and England then play five T20s.

### Spieth to finish McIlroy's term on PGA Tour board

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla., Nov 21, (AP): Jordan Spieth is replacing Rory McIlroy on the PGA Tour policy board and will finish out the term that runs until the end of next year.

### GOLF

McIlroy, the first international player elected to the board, said last week he no longer felt he had the time and energy to serve his final year of what has been a period of turmoil on the PGA Tour as it fought and then proposed a partnership with Saudi backers of LIV Golf.

PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan announced the move to players on Monday morning. Golf Chan-



Jordan Spieth walks on the first tee during the first round of the St. Jude Championship golf tournament on Aug. 10, 2023, in Memphis, Tenn. (AP)

nel first reported his memo. Spieth was the unanimous choice of the five other board members. He now joins

Tiger Woods, Patrick Cantlay, Charley Hoffman, Webb Simpson and Peter Malnati. Hoffman goes off the board next year and is succeeded by Adam Scott.

"Something had to give and there's guys that are on that board that are spending a lot more time and a lot more energy on it than I am," McIlroy said. "It's in good hands and I felt like it was the right time to step off."

Spieth previously served a threeyear stint on the policy board from 2019 through 2021, during the CO-VID-19 pandemic and the early threat from a Saudi-funded rival league.

"Jordan has extensive experience with the tour's governance process,' Monahan said.

15

### **SPORTS**



Event was joined by numerous pro racers.

### Offering a safe and professional setting for motorsports enthusiasts

## Zain sponsors the thrills of GulfRun Grand Prix

KUWAIT CITY Nov 21: In an exciting setting at the renowned Kuwait Motor Town, Zain sponsored for the sixth time the thrills of the GulfRun Grand Prix 2023, one of the most popular motorsport gatherings in Kuwait and the GCC. The much-anticipated event offered a safe and professional environment for motorsport enthusiasts to practice their favorite sport, attended by large crowds of visitors and spectators.

Zain's ongoing support to this annual gathering reflects its commitment to supporting the sports sector and encouraging promising projects that offer a world-class, safe environment for professional racers, giving them the chance to unleash their talents and grow their passion in all sports, especially motorsports that are very popular among Kuwait's youth.

This year, the GulfRun Grand Prix featured four different classes: Street, Super, GT, and Unlimited, where tens of local, regional, and international professionals raced and competed for the highest scores, thrilling the attending crowds. During the event's closing ceremony, Zain joined the stage to award the winners in one of the race's classes.

The event also featured numerous other segments that joyed families and young people alike. These programs included the Zain Junior Race for children, a special exhibition for car dealers to showcase their latest vehicles and offer a chance for test drives, and a community market with many unique brands, cafes, and restaurants offering their services to visitors.

GulfRun provides an ideal and safe alternative to street racing, which threatens the lives of many people, many of them young drivers. Motorsport enthusiasts are able to showcase their talents within professional and certified grounds at the Kuwait Motor Town's race circuit, in addition to taking advantage of the opportunity to gain valuable insights with the help of qualified trainers and experienced professional instructors.

Waleed AI Khashti awards the winners in one of the race's classes

Ivory Coast still unbeaten in WC qualifying

# Manama prevail as Kazma grapple with opening loss

Sulaibikhat continue strong performance in the basketball league

MANAMA, Nov 21: In the West Asian Super League for the Gulf Basketball Region, Kazma faced a setback, losing to Manama of Bahrain with a final score of 76-84 in Bahrain. This marked the commencement of the second group competitions in the league.

Kazma earned the losing point, while the defending champion, Manama, secured a strong start with two winning points in the group stage. The top two teams from each of the two groups in the Gulf region will advance to the semi-finals, utilizing a "play-off" system consisting of three matches. The victorious teams from these matches will proceed to the final round, following the same format.

### BASKETBALL

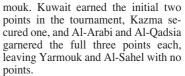
Furthermore, the champions and

### **AI-Qadsia outplay AI-Sahel**

### Al-Kuwait earn nail-biting win over Kazma in volleyball league opener

### **By Khaled El Anzi**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff KUWAIT CITY, Nov 21: The Kuwait Club secured a hard-fought triumph over Kazma with a 3-2 victory in the volleyball league. The intense match unfolded the day before yesterday at Al-Ittihad Hall in the inaugural round of the tournament. Concurrently, Al-Qadsia easily outplayed Al-Sahel in three straight games, while Al-Arabi clinched a 3-1 victory against Yar-



The "White" victory proved to be a challenging feat for Kuwait, despite their earlier successes in the Federation Championships and the Super Cup this season. They faced significant resistance from the "Orange," who delivered an outstanding performance.



The first half saw a closely contested battle, with the score fluctuating until Kazma claimed victory at 29-27. Kuwait leveled the score by winning the second half 25-21. The third half showcased an even performance, with Kuwait taking the lead by securing a 27-25 victory. Kazma, resilient, returned to dominance in the fourth half, prevailing at 25-21. The teams then engaged in a tiebreaker, where Kuwait ultimately asserted its advantage, securing a hard-fought 15-11 victory.

### VOLLEYBALL

In the second match, Al-Qadsia effortlessly defeated Al-Sahel in three consecutive games: 25-21, 25-18, 25

18. The third match witnessed Al-Arabi

facing resistance from Yarmouk, which

initially led with a 27-25 score in the

first half. However, Al-Akhdar staged

a comeback, winning the subsequent three games at 25-15, 25-23, and 25-17.

Cup is set to kick off next Sunday, con-

cluding on Wednesday with the par-

ticipation of Al-Fatah Club, Al-Oyoun

Girls Club, and Salwa Club. Addition-

ally, the U-19 Youth League is scheduled to commence on the 28th of this

month, followed by the Women's Gen-

eral League on December 3rd.

Looking ahead, the Women's Super

HARARE, Zimbabwe, Nov 21, (AP): Ivory Coast beat Gambia 2-0 to record consecutive wins in its first World Cup qualifying games.

Forward Christian Kouamé and midfielder Seko Fofana scored at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Tanzania capital city Dar es Salaam, Gambia's adopted home.

### SOCCER

The Ivorians followed their impressive 9-0 win against the Sevchelles in Abidjan on Friday, Africa's record win-ning margin in World Cup qualifiers.

Ivory Coast's third and last appearance at the World Cup was in 2014 in Brazil. It leads Group F with maximum points on goal difference from Gabon, which also has two wins.

Meanwhile, Djibouti hosted Guinea-Bissau in Cairo and lost 1-0, four days after losing to Egypt 6-0 at the same venue.

Liberia suffered back-to-back home defeats in its first two qualifiers after it was edged by Equatorial Guinea 1-0 in Monrovia. Liberia also lost to Malawi by the same scoreline on Friday.

The Seychelles continued its awful start to the campaign after the minnow, ranked 195 in the world, was thumped by Kenya 5-0 in Abidjan. Michael Olunga netted a brace for Kenya inside the first six minutes.

The team from the tiny Seychelles has leaked 14 goals in three days. Africa's smallest country has one of the worst records on the continent, having last won a competitive match in 2016 against Lesotho in an Africa Cup of Nations qualifier.

runners-up from both the Gulf and West Asia regions will qualify for the finals scheduled for May. The finals will adopt a pool system, featuring the addition of champions from India, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan. The ultimate champion will represent the Asian continent in the second edition of the World Club Championship.

Meanwhile, in the basketball league, Sulaibikhat continued to display strong performances by defeating Al-Nasr 76-63 in the fifth round. In the same round, Kuwait secured a dominant victory over Yarmouk with a commanding score of 119-69. Sulaibikhat now stands in second place with 9 points, Al-Nasr with 6 points, Kuwait with 6 points, and Yarmouk with 5 points.

The league competitions follow a two-part combination system, with the



A player goes for a spike as opponents defend during the volleyball league in Kuwait.

top four teams earning qualification for the semi-finals. Sulaibikhat, led by national coach Fahd Barjas, showcased determination in their bid for a

semi-final spot, securing their fourth victory in the tournament against one defeat. In the second match, Kuwait demonstrated brilliance, effortlessly claiming their third consecutive victory with an impressive 50-point lead, triumphing over Yarmouk with a final score of 119-69.

### **Nuggets hold off Pistons**

### Giannis scores 42, Bucks extend winning run

WASHINGTON, Nov 21, (AP): Gian-nis Antetokounmpo scored 42 points on 20-of-23 shooting, and the Milwaukee Bucks won their fifth consecutive game, 142-129 over the Washington Wizards on Monday night.

Washington dropped its sixth straight, but not without putting up a decent fight against the star-studded Bucks.

Antetokounmpo shot 87.0% from the field, the highest mark in a game by a player with at least 20 attempts since Mike Woodson of the Kansas City Kings went 22 of 24 (91.7%) in a 48-point effort against the Houston Rockets on Feb. 20, 1983. Antetokounmpo also contributed 13 rebounds and eight assists.

Jordan Poole scored 30 points for Washington, and Kyle Kuzma added 22 points and 13 assists.

### BASKETBALL

Damian Lillard scored 22 points for the Bucks. Khris Middleton scored 18 to move past Sidney Moncrief and into fourth place on Milwaukee's career scoring list.

#### Nuggets 107, Pistons 103

In Detroit, Reggie Jackson scored 21 points and carried Denver in the fourth quarter after two-time MVP Nikola Ĵokic was ejected in the first half, and the Nuggets handed Detroit its 12th straight loss.

Jackson had eight points and three assists in the final period as he and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope (20 points) shined against their former team. Michael Porter Jr. finished with 14 points and 11 rebounds for the defending NBA champion Nuggets (10-4).

Jokic and Denver coach Michael Malone were ejected after arguing calls. Malone was thrown out for coming onto the court to dispute a call late in the first quarter, and Jokic was tossed for picking up a second technical with 1:22 left in the second period.

Hornets 121, Celtics 118, OT In Charlotte, Miles Bridges hit a

3-pointer with 6.6 seconds left in overtime and Charlotte beat Boston to snap a six-game home losing streak.

LaMelo Ball finished with 36 points, nine rebounds and eight assists, and Gordon Hayward added 20 points for the Hornets, who rallied from an 18-point deficit.

Jayson Tatum finished with 45 points, but missed a free throw with 5.2 seconds left that would have tied the game after getting fouled on a 3-point shot. He had made the first two before the crucial miss.

#### Clippers 124, Spurs 99

In San Antonio, Paul George scored 28 points, Kawhi Leonard added 21 and Los Angeles rolled past Victor Wembanyama and San Antonio, extending the Spurs' losing streak to nine games.

James Harden added 13 points and 10 assists as Los Angeles won its sixth straight over San Antonio.

The Clippers won their second straight game with Harden after dropping their first five games since acquiring him from Philadelphia.

Heat 118, Bulls 100 In Chicago, Bam Adebayo had 23 points and 11 rebounds, and Miami topped Chicago, two nights after blowing a 21-point lead in the same building. Jimmy Butler scored 16 points against his former team, while Adebayo earned his eighth double-double of the season.

The Heat have won eight of their last nine games after a 1-4 start to the season. Zach LaVine was limited to 13 points on a season-low nine shot attempts. Alex Caruso also finished with 13 points along with a block and a steal.

Timberwolves 117, Knicks 100 In Minneapolis, Anthony Edwards had 23 points, 10 rebounds and five assists, Karl-Anthony Towns scored 20 points, and Western Conference-leading Minnesota beat New York Knicks.



Denver Nuggets guard Christian Braun (0) makes a layup as Detroit Pistons guard Cade Cunningham (2) defends during the second half of an NBA basketball game, in Detroit. (AP)

Minnesota (10-3) is 6-0 at home - tying a franchise record to start a season and has won nine of its past 10 games.

Jalen Brunson scored 25 points and Julius Randle had 21 for New York, which shot 34.8% (32 of 92) to Minnesota's 51.3%.

Pelicans 129, Kings 93 In New Orleans, Brandon Ingram hit all five of his 3-pointers and led all scorers with 31 points, and Zion Williamson dominated the paint by scor-ing 26 points on 12-for-16 shooting to power New Orleans over Sacramento.

The Pelicans trailed 47-43 midway through the second quarter and used a 44-10 scoring outburst spanning the second and third quarters to build an 87-57 lead.

Harrison Barnes scored 16 points and De'Aaron Fox 14 for Pacific Division-leading Sacramento. Fox and Donatus Sabonis, who finished with 10 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists, did not play in the fourth quarter.

Warriors 121, Rockets 116

In San Francisco, Stephen Curry scored 32 points with five 3-pointers to extend his latest NBA record, Klay Thompson broke out of his shooting slump with a season-high 20 points, and Golden State snapped a six-game losing streak with a win over Houston.

Already the league's all-time leader in made 3-pointers, Curry is the first player in league history to have four or more in his first 13 games. The ninetime All-Star and two-time MVP was 8 of 14 from the floor and 5 of 9 beyond the arc. It's Curry's seventh game this season with 30 or more points, and 10th with at least 25.



Sulaibikhat player dribbles past Al-Nasr player.

### Mendy launches claim against City

LONDON, Nov 21, (AP): Former Manchester City defender Benjamin Mendy has launched a claim against the club over unpaid wages, his lawyer said on Monday.

Mendy cited "unauthorized deductions from wages" after he was charged with rape and sexual assault in 2021.

Mendy, a France international, was cleared in January by a jury of six counts of rape and one count of sexual assault, relating to four young women or teenagers, following a six-month trial. Jurors failed to reach verdicts on two counts, of rape and attempted rape, leading to a retrial.

He was found not guilty of those two counts in July.

Nick De Marco confirmed in a statement sent to The Associated Press that he is acting on behalf of Mendy "in a multi-million pound claim for unauthorized deductions from wages."



Palestinian fans hold Palestine national flags ahead of a qualifying soccer match against Australia for the FIFA World Cup 2026 at Jaber Al-Ahmad stadium in Kuwait. (AP)



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Four medals won

### Medal glory: Kuwait team's impressive performance on opening day of Arab School Sports Championship

CAIRO, Nov 21: The school team clinched a total of four medals, securing three bronze and one silver, on the inaugural day of the Arab School Sports Championship held in Cairo. The detailed outcomes unfolded as follows: a silver medal in the relay comprising Hussein Ahmed, Hassan Tariq, Khaled Bashar, and Abdullah Al-Sanasiri, and three bronze medals earned by Hassan Tariq in the 100 freestyle, Hussein Al-Otaibi in the 50 backstroke, and Jassim Al-Tahhou in the 100 breaststroke. Notably, Hussein Ahmed set a new record with a remarkable 1.01 time in the 100 freestyle event.

Expressing his perspective on the fierce competition, the team's coach, Abbas Qali, emphasized the strength of the contests, particularly highlighting the debut of Al-Ittihad in international competitions. He commended the athletes for showcasing their capability in the tournament and expressed optimism about securing more medals in the upcoming days, culminating in a triumphant conclusion.

Faisal Al-Maqseed, President of the Kuwait School Sports Federation, shed light on the comprehensive nature of the Federation's "Our Talents in Our Schools" initiative.

This project encompasses technical, administrative, and scientific dimensions, enjoying national support from the political leadership and the Kuwaiti government, as endorsed by the Ministry of

### SCHOOL GAMES

Education and the Public Authority for Sports. Al-Maqseed noted the project's success in recent times, aligning with the Union's strategy, and emphasized the positive impact of participating in the Arab School Sports Championship in preparing students for competitive environments.

Dr. Muhammad Al-Rubaian, Director of the Development and Training Department of the School Union, underscored the distinctive position of the Kuwaiti School Union as the sole union in the Arab world with a well-defined strategy and action plan featuring specific timelines.



Kuwait school swimming team preparing for the relay.

## **Italy qualify for Euro 2024**



### Riyadh season spotlight **Cristiano Ronaldo iconic career** 'celebrated' in mobile museum

RIYADH, Nov 21: As part of a major entertainment and tourist festival, a museum dedicated to celebrating the remarkable career of Portuguese football superstar Cristiano Ronaldo has been unveiled in Riyadh,. The mobile museum, featured at the Riyadh Season, showcases memories and inspiring stories of Ronaldo, a five-time Ballon d'Or winner. Currently playing for the Saudi club Al Nassr, Ronaldo's illustrious career is portrayed through his achievements, awards, and jerseys, drawing fans from far and wide.

Having joined Al Nassr in January on a noteworthy two-and-a-half-year deal, the 38-year-old icon has continued to captivate audiences with his football brilliance, defying the constraints of age. The Riyadh Season, initiated in 2019 with the vision of transforming the Saudi capital into a global entertainment and tourist hotspot, has gained significant momentum.

This year's edition, operating under the theme "Big Time," commenced on October 28, attracting over 2 million visitors within its initial two weeks, according to Turki Alalsheikh, the head of the



Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo reacts during the UEFA Euro 2024 Group J qualifying soccer match between Liechtenstein and Portugal, in Vaduz, Liechtenstein. (AP)

yadh Season debuted with specacular shows, including a headline-grabbing showdown termed the "battle of the baddest," where British boxer Tyson Fury triumphed over former mixed martial arts world champion Fran-

Czech Republic's David Zima vies for the ball with Moldova's Virgiliu Postolachi (right), during the Euro 2024 group E qualifying soccer match between the Czech Republic and Moldova, at the Andruv Stadium in Olomouc, Czech Republic. (AP)

### Slovenia and Czech Republic advance

MILAN, Nov 21, (AP): Italy earned some redemption by qualifying for next year's European Championship, while Slovenia and the Czech Republic also secured their spots.

Italy needed just a point against Ukraine to claim second spot in Group C and avoid the dreaded playoffs, and it managed a 0-0 draw in Germany. However, there were some nervy moments for the Azzurri, who rode their luck.

Italy failed to qualify for the past two World Cups after losing playoffs - to Sweden and North Macedonia. After the Azzurri missed out on the

### SOCCER

2018 World Cup, they went on to win the following European Champion-

"We are very happy. We are where we deserve to be, after all the difficulties that we had," Italy captain and goalkeepr Gianluigi Donnarumma said. "But thanks to the new coach and the staff we have returned.

"Now it's right that we go there and we go there to bring back something, even to win it because we are going there as winners."

Ukraine would have sneaked past Italy with a win but will now head into the playoffs. England was already assured of top spot in the group and it drew at North Macedonia 1-1 to finish the campaign unbeaten.

A point would also have been enough for Slovenia and the Czech Republic to advance to Euro 2024 and they beat Kazakhstan and Moldova respectively to end their opponents' hopes of qualifying automatically for a first major international tournament. Kazakhstan still has a chance via the playoffs. It will play Greece in a semifinal on March 21 and - if it wins - either Georgia or Luxembourg five days later.

The top two finishers from each of the 10 groups advance. Another three spots will be determined in a playoff linked to performances in the Nations League. Host Germany automatically qualifies.

Ukraine was angered by a decision not to give a penalty in stoppage



Northern Ireland's Shea Charles challenges for the ball with Denmark's Thomas Delaney (right), during the Euro 2024 Group H qualifying soccer match between Northern Ireland and Denmark at Windsor Stadium in Belfast, Northern Ireland. (AP)

time for what seemed like a trip on Mykhailo Mudryk by Bryan Cristante

Federico Chiesa, Giovanni di Lorenzo and Davide Frattesi all missed excellent chances in the first half for Italy, for which Donnarumma charged down a shot by Mudryk to stop Ukraine taking the lead. His own misjudgement off a long throw gave Mudryk the chance.

It was the first time Italy failed to score in a European Championship qualifier in more than 13 years.

The match took place at the stadium of Bundesliga leader Bayer Leverkusen because Ukraine cannot play international games at home for security reasons during the military invasion by Russia. Russia was banned from Euro 2024 qualifying.

Russia thrashed Cuba 8-0 in a friendly on Monday with eight different goal-scorers. The result was one goal shy of its record 9-0 win over San Marino in qualifying for Euro 2020

Slovenia will play in the European Championship for the first time in nearly a quarter century.

A late goal from Benjamin Verbi□ saw Slovenia beat Kazakhstan 2-1 and qualify for the tournament for the first time since Euro 2000.

Denmark was already guaranteed to finish top of Group H and it lost away to Northern Ireland 2-0. Pyry Soiri scored twice to help third-placed Finland win in San Marino 2-1.

Not content with qualifying for only its second major tournament, Albania ensured it did so as Group E winner after drawing with the Faeroe Islands 0-0. That saw Albania finish above the Czech Republic thanks to a superior head-to-head record.

The Czechs beat 10-man Moldova 3-0 to seal second spot in the group.

Saudi General Entertainment Authority (GEA). Anticipating 10-12 million visitors for the current edition, Alalsheikh reported that 40 percent of the expected revenue has already been realized through sponsorship deals. The fourth edition of the Ri-

cis Ngannou. Spread across 12 venues in Riyadh, the Season's diverse events encompass concerts by international celebrities. theatrical performances, global cultural exhibits, and a variety of international cuisines served in local restaurants.

### Dest ejected for arguing

### US earn spot in Copa América despite loss

PORT OF SPAIN, Nov 21, (AP): Sergiño Dest lost his composure in a needless dispute with the referee, getting a pair of yellow cards for dissent in a 30-second span that endangered the United States' berth in next year's Copa América. Trinidad won 2-1 on Monday night in

Port-of-Spain, overcoming a deficit by scoring twice after Dest's 39th-minute ejection left the U.S. a man short. The Åmericans held on to win the total-goals series 4-2 and earn spots in the 16-nation Copa América and the CONCACAF Nations League semifinals.

U.S. captain Tim Ream revealed there were "choice words" for Dest at halftime.

"There's not too many things that I can say here publicly that we said privately," Ream said. "It's a complete lack of respect for the guys that are playing, for the guys that are on the bench, feeling of lack of respect for the game itself, for the referees.

Following a 3-0 win last week at Austin, Texas, Antonee Robinson scored in the 25th minute off Dest's cross to give the 11th-ranked U.S. a four-goal series lead in the Nations League quarterfinal.

Reon Moore tied the score in the 43rd off a long ball from Alvin Jones, getting past defender Cameron Carter-Vickers and beating Turner to the near post. Jones put the 99th-ranked Soca Warriors ahead in the 57th with a 30-yard free kick off the hands of goalkeeper Matt Turner, who tried to parry the swerving shot. Jones scored a similar long-range goal in October 2017 against Tim Howard in a 2-1 win at Couva, about 20 miles south, that ended the Americans' streak of World Cup appearances at seven.

The U.S. was in control until Dest, upset officials ruled he didn't keep a ball from going out near midfield, punted the ball away toward the far end. That earned the first yellow from Guatemalan referee Walter López, and the 23-year-old defender then pointed toward where no foul was called moments earlier when Andre Rampersad pushed him over.

### SOCCER

"It's inexcusable," U.S. coach Gregg Berhalter said. "It was surreal."

Dest argued with López as Gio Reyna and Ream tried to keep him away, Reyna trying to cover Dest's mouth. López raised two fingers and showed second yellow and a red. Ream and Turner screamed at Dest as he walked off the field.

"It is concerning because that's not



United States' Brenden Aaronson (center), fights for the ball with Trinidad and Tobago's Shannon Gomez (right), and Real Gill (left), during a CON-CACAF Nations League quarterfinal soccer match in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. (AP)



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what we represent, that's not who we are as a group," Berhalter said. "We pride ourselves in staying mentally disciplined, battling through any type of conditions. Whether they're good decisions or bad decisions, we're supposed to keep going and respond in an appropriate way, and that obviously wasn't the right response from Sergiño. He apologized to the group. He said it's not going to happen again. As a team, the players, the staff, we need to hold him accountable."

Dest will be suspended for the Nations League semifinal in March. He missed this year's Nations League final after getting a red card and a threegame ban for scuffling in the semifinal against Mexico.

"We were very firm with with our words after the game," Berhalter said. "He put a number of guys in jeopardy, made a number of guys do a lot of extra work in this weather.