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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2023 / RABEE' A AL THANI 18, 1445 AH

emergency number 112

NO. 18434

16 PAGES

150 FILS

PARLIAMENT HOLDS SPECIAL SESSION ON ZIONIST AGGRESSION

‘Gaza scenes evoke sadness... anger’



Left: A man sits on the rubble as others wander among debris of buildings that were targeted by Israeli airstrikes in Jabaliya refugee camp, northern Gaza Strip, Wednesday, Nov. 1, 2023. Right: A Palestinian man cries while holding a dead child who was found under the rubble of a destroyed building following Israeli airstrikes in Nusseirat refugee camp, central Gaza Strip, Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2023. (AP)

Resplendent
rebirth
by a
grandson's
hand



SPECIAL REPORT
Details Page 2

Newswatch

LONDON: Lord Tariq Ahmad, Minister of State for the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia and United Nations, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and Dr. Abdullah bin Rashid Al Zayani, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Bahrain, co-chaired on Tuesday the first session of the UK-Bahrain Strategic Dialogue, formerly known as the Bahrain-UK Joint Working Group.

A British Foreign Office statement noted, "this renaming reflects the significant relationship, strategic nature and importance of the Ministerial biannual forum between our two countries."

In their meeting, the two Ministers reviewed key areas of collaboration between the United Kingdom and the Kingdom of Bahrain, and noted the shared history and strong people-to-people links which underpin this. (KUNA)

WASHINGTON: The United States called Lebanese politicians to end the political debate and elect a new president who would lead the country to a political and economic stability.

A statement for the State Department published on Wednesday said, "Exactly one year after the end of former President Aoun's term, Lebanon remains without a president or an empowered government". "Lebanon's divided parliamentarians have failed to elect a successor to President Aoun, putting their personal ambitions ahead of the interests of their country," the statement added. (KUNA)

MOSCOW: A Russian court on Tuesday ordered a detained Russian-American journalist to remain in jail ahead of trial on charges of failing to register as a foreign agent, rather than be released to house arrest, state news agency Tass reported.

Als Kurmasheva, an editor for the U.S. government-funded Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Tatar-Bashkir service, was taken into custody on Oct. 18 and faces charges of failing to register as a foreign agent while collecting information about the Russian military. (AP)

DHAKA: Police in Bangladesh clashed Tuesday with opposition supporters who blocked roads to demand that the prime minister resign and hand power to a nonpartisan caretaker to oversee elections next year. At least two people were killed and dozens injured, officials said.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has rejected a caretaker government and on Tuesday ruled out any dialogue with the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party, which is behind the protests. She warned of consequences if they continue with their announced intention to block roads for three days starting Tuesday. (AP)

ISLAMABAD: At least five people, including a policeman, were killed while two others received injuries in an attack targeting a police station in Pakistan's southwestern Balochistan province, said officials on Tuesday.

A senior police official, District Police Officer, Muhammad Baloch told media that around 20 miscreants attacked the Naseerabad Police Station in Turbat area of Kech district in Balochistan province.

He said that two policemen tried to engage the attackers but were overpowered during the exchange of fire. The official confirmed that a policeman and four laborers present in the police station were killed and two others were injured in the attack. (KUNA)

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani security forces on Wednesday rounded up, detained and deported dozens of Afghans who were living in the country illegally, after a government-set deadline for them to leave expired, authorities said.

The sweep is part of a new anti-migrant crackdown that targets all undocumented or unregistered foreigners, according to Islamabad, though it mostly affects some 2 million Afghans who are in Pakistan without documentation. (AP)

Kuwait leads diplomatic response to crisis

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: The National Assembly discussed the Israeli attacks on Gaza in Wednesday's special session.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah delivered the government's statement during the session. He said the current situation in Gaza evokes sadness and anger, asserting that the killing machine of the occupying entity killed thousands of innocent and unarmed people including women and children. He also cited the displacement of hundred thousands of people, in addition to the destruction of thousands of houses and infrastructure.

Since 1948, the occupying entity has been believing that it can fortify its presence by emptying the land and kicking out people to be forgotten as years pass by. This attitude has prompted Palestinians to intensify their efforts to fight for their rights, passing such conviction from one generation to another. Israel insists on launching big and small wars on Palestinians, ignoring the fact that it failed to tame them or break their strong will and lofty pride. It also failed to remove the Palestinian issue from the minds of Arabs, Muslims, and the peace and justice loving people of the free world, the minister stated.

He stressed that since the independence of Kuwait, it has been working hard to expose the Israeli failure to convince the international community that the issue will not be resolved without the comprehensive and fair foundations toward the freedom of the people of Palestine. He attributed the growing anger in the Arab and Muslim world to the stubbornness and abusive attitude of the occupying entity, as well as its double standards in dealing with the issue. He pointed out such an attitude makes people wonder why the lives of Palestinians are worthless in the international consciousness, why such crimes are committed against the Palestinians without monitoring or punishment, why the criminal is not punished, why the international law is not applied on Palestinians, and why the international law is enforced selectively. He said these questions remain valid until a final and fair settlement of the issue is concluded, that is, once the Palestinians have an independent State. He added Israel continues to commit crimes against the Palestinians, believing that it is above the international law.

He wondered about the suspicious silence of the international community over the war crimes committed by Israel. He thinks this is an indication that the international community uses double standards in dealing with Palestinians, while the United Nations Security Council failed to impose ceasefire. Since the beginning of the violent acts, Kuwait has been calling for regional and international solidarity to address the issue, stop the Israeli attacks, secure a safe passage to



Photo by Rizk Taufiq
Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah delivers the government's statement during the parliament's special session.

deliver humanitarian aid to the people in Gaza, and thwart attempts to displace the people of Gaza.

He confirmed that Kuwait held several meetings with the Foreign Affairs ministers of friendly and sisterly countries to push for the immediate implementation of ceasefire.

Also, every MP was given three to five minutes to talk about the issue. All of them agreed on supporting the Palestinian cause and condemning the Israeli attacks. They stressed the need for immediate ceasefire, strongly criticized the double standards in dealing with Israel in terms of the implementation of international laws and United Nations resolutions, and rejected all forms of normalizing relations with Israel.

After the discussion, the Assembly issued a statement; including its recommendations regarding the issue as follows:

1. Report Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to the military of countries around the world and assign the Inter-Parliamentary Group to carry out the relevant media, legal and political procedures;

2. Affirm solidarity with the people in Gaza and all Palestinians and support their right to an independent State with control over their sacred places;

3. Leaders of Arab and Muslim countries should adopt positions similar to that of the people of Kuwait and the free world to take certain steps like opening the borders with Gaza to break the blockade imposed

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Photo by Rizk Taufiq
The National Assembly discusses the Israeli attacks on Gaza in Wednesday's special session.

Israeli strikes pound refugee camp

Gaza crossing opens for foreign passport holders and wounded

RAFAH, Gaza Strip, Nov 1, (AP): After more than three weeks of siege, the first Palestinians - dozens of dual passport holders and seriously injured - were allowed to leave Gaza, where Israeli airstrikes pounded a refugee camp for the second day Wednesday.

Even as bombings have driven tens of thousands from their homes and food, water and fuel run low, no one has been allowed to leave the embattled enclave, except for four hostages released by Hamas. Another captive was rescued by Israeli forces earlier this week. But a limited agreement appeared to have been reached Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Al-Jazeera television, one of the few media outlets still reporting from northern Gaza, aired footage of devastation in the Jabaliya refugee camp near Gaza City and of several wounded people, including children, being brought to a nearby hospital. The Hamas-run government said the strikes killed and wounded many people, but the exact toll was not yet known.

The Al-Jazeera footage showed nearly identical scenes as the day before, with dozens of men digging through the gray rubble of demolished multistory buildings in search of survivors.

The toll from Tuesday's strikes was also unknown, though the director of a nearby hospital said hundreds were killed or wounded. Israel said those strikes killed dozens of militants, including a senior Hamas commander who was involved in the militants' bloody Oct. 7 rampage that ignited the war, and destroyed militant tunnels beneath the buildings.

The strikes came as Israeli ground forces pushed to the outskirts of Gaza City, days after launching a new phase of the war that Israel's leaders say will be long and difficult. As when Israeli troops first pushed into Gaza in larger numbers over the weekend, internet and phone service was cut for several hours Wednesday.

The isolated Palestinian enclave, home to 2.3 million people, is in the grip of a severe humanitarian crisis amid a siege imposed by Israel in the wake of the Oct. 7 attack. Over half the population has fled their homes, and supplies of food, medicine, water and fuel are running low. A territory-wide blackout has left hospitals reliant on generators that could shut down soon as Israel has barred all fuel imports.

The strikes in Jabaliya underline the anticipated surge in casualties on both sides as Israeli troops advance toward the outskirts of Gaza City and its dense residential neighborhoods. Israeli officials say Hamas' military infrastructure, including hundreds of kilometers (miles) of underground tunnels, is concentrated in the city, which was home to some 650,000 people before the war.

Amid the deteriorating circumstances, 110

foreign passport holders were allowed to exit Gaza as of Wednesday afternoon, according to Wael Abu Omar, a spokesperson for the Palestinian Crossings Authority.

The authority said the plan was for more than 400 foreign passport holders would be permitted to leave for Egypt. Egypt, however, has said it will not accept an influx of Palestinian refugees because of fears Israel will not allow them to return to Gaza after the war.

Dozens of people could be seen entering the Rafah crossing - the only one currently operating - and ambulances carrying wounded Palestinians exited on the Egyptian side.

Egypt had earlier said that more than 80 Palestinians - out of many thousands wounded in the war - would also be brought in for treatment. But Dr. Mohamed Zaqout, a Health Ministry official in Gaza, told The Associated Press that 10 of the patients died before they could be evacuated to Egypt. The criteria for medical evacuation were not immediately clear.

Those who remain behind are contending with multiple crises, made worse Wednesday by the communications blackout. The Palestinian telecoms company Paltel said internet and mobile phone services were gradually being restored in Gaza following a "complete disruption" that lasted several hours.

Internet-access advocacy group NetBlocks.org attributed both disruptions to "measures imposed by Israel." Alp Tokar, the director the group, said "service remains significantly below pre-war levels."

Blackouts

The International Committee of the Red Cross said such blackouts make it harder for civilians to seek safety. "Even the potentially life-saving act of calling an ambulance becomes impossible," said Jessica Moussan, an ICRC spokesperson.

The Palestinian Health Ministry, meanwhile, said that Gaza's only hospital offering specialized treatment for cancer patients was forced to shut down because of lack of fuel, leaving 70 cancer patients in a critical situation.

More than 8,700 Palestinians have been killed in the war, mostly women and minors, and more than 22,000 people have been wounded, the Palestinian Health Ministry said Wednesday, without providing a breakdown between civilians and fighters. The figure is without precedent in decades of Israeli-Palestinian violence.

Over 1,400 people have died on the Israeli side, mainly civilians killed during Hamas' initial attack, also an unprecedented figure. Palestinian militants also abducted around 240 people during their incursion and have continued firing rockets into Israel.

The Israeli military confirmed Wednesday that nine soldiers have been killed in fighting in northern Gaza, bringing the total number of soldiers killed since the start of the ground operation to 11.

Israel has been vague about its operations in Gaza, but residents and spokesmen for militant groups say troops appear to be trying to take control of the two main north-south roads.

An estimated 800,000 Palestinians have fled south from Gaza City and other northern areas following Israeli orders to evacuate, but hundreds of thousands remain in the north.

Israel has allowed international aid groups to send more than 200 trucks carrying food and medicine to enter from Egypt over the past 10 days, but aid workers say it's not nearly enough.

Israel has vowed to crush Hamas' ability to govern Gaza or threaten it, while also saying it does not plan to reoccupy the territory, from which it withdrew soldiers and settlers in 2005. But it has said little about who would govern Gaza afterwards.



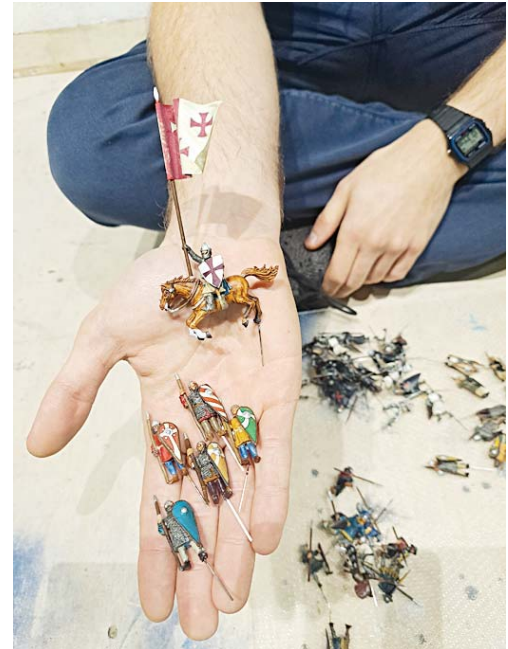
SPECIAL REPORT



Tareq Rajab Museum ... labor of love

Musical instruments from across the Islamic world can be seen at the museum. These instruments are from Kuwait and other Arab countries. Inset top right: Jehan and Tareq Rajab at the museum in 1980. Born to British parents in Brazil, Jehan met Tareq when he was a young student at an arts college in the UK. True soul-mates, they shared many common interests and during their long marriage led extremely productive and adventurous lives. Inset bottom right: Tareq Rajab is flanked by his father Nadr (left) and uncle, Dr Ziad, (right) at the outside entrance of the Tareq Rajab Museum. It opened in 1980 and is the first museum of Islamic art and culture in the region, housing a magnificent, world-renowned collection assembled exclusively by Jehan and Tareq Sayed Rajab. Their grandson, Tareq, has recently completed the monumental task of renovating and updating the museum.

Resplendent rebirth by a grandson's hand



Tareq hand-painted 3,500 metal figures of soldiers with their shields, flags and horses for his diorama of the Battle of Hattin. His father, Nadr, drilled holes into the base of each figure and fastened tiny pins for mounting.

Story and photographs by Claudia Farkas Al Rashoud

Special to the Arab Times

The first museum of Islamic art and culture in the region, the Tareq Rajab Museum houses a magnificent, world-renowned collection assembled exclusively by Tareq Sayed Rajab and his wife, Jehan. This private museum opened in 1980, a hidden jewel tucked away on a side street in the residential area of Jabriya.

The museum's founders have passed away; Jehan in 2015 and Tareq a year later, both at the age of 81. Their descendants inherited a remarkable legacy that is equally precious and challenging.

Curating such a remarkable collection obviously involves a tremendous investment of time and human and financial resources. The founders' sons, Ziad and Nadr, serve as the museum's administrators while their sister Nur does photographic archiving. But who would take over the museum's custodianship in the future had long posed a weighty question.

Enter on the scene Nadr's twenty-six year-old son Tareq: a Master's degree holder from Cardiff University, qualified bioarchaeologist, and namesake of the museum's founder. In 2021 he began his professional involvement with the museum by revamping the website and Instagram, but soon moved on to the colossal undertaking of renovating the entire museum premises and curating the collection.

Daunting is the word that immediately springs to mind when envisioning the enormity and complexity of this task.

The collection includes more than 30,000 artifacts personally acquired by Jehan and Tareq Rajab during a sixty-year period of travels around the globe. Some 10,000 of these items had been put on permanent display including Islamic manuscripts, ethnic silver jewelry, gold jewelry, ceramics, glass, metalwork, textiles and costumes, musical instruments, orientalist art, and Islamic arms and armor.

Forty three years after its opening, the museum needed an overhaul. The building had not been purpose built to house a modern museum and with limited space one of the biggest challenges was how to showcase as many artifacts as possible while keeping them organized and tidy for optimum viewing.

Tareq Nadr Rajab took a courageous and comprehensive approach to this herculean job. Standing at the entrance to the museum he begins outlining some of the work he has done. This includes removing thousands of artifacts from their showcases and researching and writing new captions for every item as well as providing more extensive information. After the captions and texts were translated into Arabic they were painstakingly edited by Tareq's uncle, Dr Ziad. The captions are now clearly printed on long-lasting Perspex rather than card.

Tareq replaced all the background material in the display cases, carefully selecting textures and colors that would

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editor's choice



Municipality’s circular details conditions for spring camping

Draft ministerial decision on adverts regulations OK’d

By Inass Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: As part of the awareness campaign titled “The camp is for you and the camp is for your family” recently launched by Kuwait Municipality on the eve of the camping season, the municipality published on its social media accounts a special circular regarding the conditions for holding spring camps scheduled for the period from November 15, 2023 to March 15, 2024.

According to the circular issued by the municipality, the area of each camp for all licenses of companies and bodies ranges from 2,000 to 5,000 square meters. It is not permissible to issue more than one license under the same name. The site is to be chosen from the sites specified by the municipality for camping. The municipality reserves the right to amend, change, update or cancel a camping site.

The camping license is temporary and the municipality may cancel it or modify the location. The area specified for each license for individuals is 1,000 square meters, and the license issuance fee due to the municipality is KD 50 and is not refundable. Also, an insurance amount of KD 100 must



Khaled Al-Mutairi

be paid, which is returned to the license holder after obtaining a camp cleanliness certificate from the Environment Public Authority (EPA).

License

The temporary license holder is also obligated to inform the municipality about evacuating the licensed camping site within the period specified in his license. Likewise, the insurance amount on the licensed site may not be transferred to another location.

The circular stressed the prohibition of erecting fixed facilities using construction materials or digging holes in the ground in sites licensed for camping.

The license holders must also commit not to throw, fill, or burn waste of all kinds in the desert environment, and not hunt or kill any wildlife as well as avoid the practice of grazing within the camping areas.

The circular emphasized the prohibition of destroying or deteriorating the natural environment, harming wildlife, or compromising its aesthetic value.

The circular stressed the need for adherence to the requirements of the Kuwait Fire Service Directorate and the Ministry of Interior for prevention and safety purposes, in addition to the obligation to remove the camp.

In the event of a violation by the concerned party, the municipality will remove the camp at the expense of the concerned party, and the violator will not be entitled to obtain a camping license within a maximum period of three years. The license will also be canceled in the event of modification to the site that was chosen for camping.

Meanwhile, after lengthy discussions that extended for nearly two hours, the Municipal Council, in its regular session recently headed by the Deputy Chairman of the Municipal Council Khaled Al-Mutairi, approved the draft ministerial decision about the advertisements regulations, which consists of 27 articles, with the addition of new clauses to some articles of the regulations and the amendment of others.

It accepted Kuwait University’s request to approve the amended structural plan for the medical campus project in Sabah Al-Salem University City in Shadadiya, and the request of Touristic Enterprises Company regarding the boundaries of the existing Khairan Park project.

Requests

It also accepted the requests of the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy for the allocation of a path for overhead lines in Bneider, for the allocation of a path for overhead lines from the main transfer station in Wafra, which is affiliated with the Gulf

Interconnection Grid, all the way to the stations of the residential city of Sabah Al-Ahmad, and the allocation of overhead line routes from both Kazma station and SWD A station to Jaber Bridge station in Subbiya.

It also accepted the request of the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART) to allocate a path to divert floods in South Sabahiya.

The Municipal Council responded to the question submitted by member Alia Al-Farsi regarding the project to develop the structural plan for Sulaibikhat Bay, after Al-Farsi submitted a number of inquiries.

Challenges

She said the project is important and vital, and has environmental challenges, especially since it consists of six areas with different uses.

Al-Farsi said she wondered whether there would be one investor or six investors, and whether or not the project would be launched without environmental approval.

The Municipal Council responded by stating that it will provide an explanation during the technical committee meeting on everything related to the project.

Meanwhile, the Municipal Council referred to the Capital Committee the request submitted by some members for stopping the establishment of an investment complex for the Kuwait Athletics Union in Kaifan.

A member Fahad Al-Abd Al-Jader said, “We, as members, reject the establishment of investment complexes in private housing areas. The same issue in Adailiya had previously been discussed and stopped.”



Ambassador Dr. Swaika with Chairman of KCCI Mohamad Al-Sager.

Indian ambassador meets chief of KCCI

Indian Ambassador to Kuwait, H.E. Dr. Adarsh Swaika met the Chairman of Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) H.E. Mohamad Jassim Al-Hamad Al-Sager. Discussions

focused on exploring opportunities for increasing bilateral economic cooperation. The ambassador thanked KCCI for supporting embassy’s commercial events.



KUNA photo

Kuwait’s relief aid plane being loaded.

Egyptian PM thanks Kuwait for aid

Kuwait’s 10th relief aid plane for Gaza Strip heads to Egypt

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1, (KUNA): The tenth plane within the Kuwaiti relief airbridge took off Wednesday, heading to the Egyptian city Al-Arish, carrying 40 tons of humanitarian aid, medical equipment and four ambulances, to be delivered to Gaza Strip.

This initiative came from the Kuwait Relief Society, in coordination with the ministries of Foreign Affairs and Social Affairs, in line with Kuwait’s leadership.

The airbridge is being executed with the participation of many Kuwaiti official and private bodies and under the direct supervision of the ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defense, Health and the Air Force in the Kuwaiti Army, in cooperation with the Kuwait Red Crescent Society, the Kuwaiti Relief Society, Al-Salam Humanitarian Society, and Kuwaiti charities and humanitarian institutions.

Earlier on Tuesday, Kuwait’s eighth and ninth air bridge planes loaded with about 50 tons of medical supplies and urgent needs arrived at Egypt’s Al-Arish Airport to be delivered to people in the Gaza Strip.

Speaking to KUNA in a statement, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Egypt and Permanent Delegate to the Arab League Ghanim Al-Ghanim said the air bridge loaded with humanitarian aid came in implementation of the decree of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

The ambassador, who was at the airport to receive the planes, said that the eighth plane carried 10 tons of food supplies provided by Al-Salam charity.

The ninth plane was loaded by 40 tons of aid provided by Kuwait Relief Society, he said, indicating that the total aid has reached so far 240 tons.

Four ambulances and medical equipment as well as others were included in the relief planes sent to Palestinians in the Strip, he noted.

He thanked Kuwait and Egyptian Red Crescent Societies, and North Sinai Governorate for unlimited facilitation to enter Kuwait’s humanitarian aid through Rafah border crossing to hand out the aid to the Gazans.

The ambassador said he met Egypt’s Prime Minister Moustafa Madbouli during a field tour in Al-Arish and Rafah Cities.

The premier thanked Kuwait, its leadership, government and people for humanitarian support to Palestinian people, Al-Ghanim pointed out.

Proving continually humanitarian aid to brothers in the Gaza Strip comes in implementation of the decree of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the directives of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the instructions of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the ambassador said.

Dr Al-Awadhi briefs on social media’s impact

Activities of Creatives Academy 5 continue

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: The Creatives Academy 5, which is organized by the Martyr’s Office for the children of martyrs, continued its activities within its weekly program, as it hosted Dr. Mohammad Al-Awadhi to discuss the impact of social media on values.

In this regard, Dr. Al-Awadhi stressed that, “Modern humans cannot separate themselves from the latest technical means and the conflict of values, since they are the ones who created and invented these devices and gave us their content, their own system, and the laws that govern them.

Therefore, it is in control in terms of production and content. We are a nation that consumes and imports things and ideas; therefore we will be affected. There is a challenge before us regarding the extent of this influence.

Values

Reality confirms the fact that the threat to our values has exceeded what was expected and has reached our daughters and sons who are below the age of maturity, as well as to adults whose mental level has fallen below the age of maturity, sparking uncreative chaos.

But this does not mean that we cannot modify the course by setting criteria for what is acceptable and unacceptable, as not everything must be tried.”

Dr. Al-Awadhi praised the ideas and programs provided by the Martyr’s Office that enable it to carry a specific message and deliver it to society.

Meanwhile, Director of the Family Guidance and Care Department Muhammad Al-Mutairi said the academy, in its fifth year, focuses on four axes - psychosocial, health, family, financial and economic, and it consists of 11 di-

verse scientific seminars.

He announced that in the next stage, after completing the academy’s activities, enrollment will begin for courses for widows that will be offered by specialized academics, adding that these courses will vary between dealing with psychological pressures, drawing and decoration courses, and soap-making.

Furthermore, Balqis Al-Ibrahim, the daughter of the martyr Muhammad Al-Ibrahim, said these courses develop the personality of the individual who needs the opinions of specialists in his life matters from time to time.

Courses

She affirmed that these courses offered by the Creatives Academy seek to contribute to the development of the children of martyrs, adding that this is the first time she has participated in them and that she will continue to follow these courses offered by academics.

Also, Adhari Al-Fuzai, the daughter of the martyr Abdul-Hamid Al-Fuzai, stressed that she benefits greatly from the lectures presented at the academy with the presence of excellent specialists and lecturers.

She said, “I hope that the office would continue to provide these lectures, advertise them more, and communicate with children to announce these works”.

In addition, Maryam Al-Talhi, the daughter of the martyr Muhammad Al-Talhi, spoke about the importance of participating in the academy culturally and socially, as it contributes to expanding the horizon of acquaintance with the community of martyrs’ families.

She highlighted that the diversity of agendas and topics in the academy contributes to the development of personal capabilities in various fields, either social, cultural, psychological, or even economic.

November

Room Promotion

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

Promo period from 1st – 30th November 2023 Terms & conditions apply*



Dr. Ammar Al-Hussaini and Engineer Badr Al-Salman honored Al-Nusif for supporting solutions by stc.

solutions by stc offers ground-breaking solutions at ‘EGOV10’

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: solutions by stc, the specialized business arm of Kuwait Telecommunications Company – stc, showcased several pioneering solutions during its participation in the 10th eGovernment (EGOV10) Forum in Kuwait . As a platinum sponsor of the forum, launched under the title ‘Future of the Cloud in Kuwait’ and held under the patronage of His Excellency Fahad Ali Zaided Al-Shuala, Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Communications Affairs, solutions by stc also took on an active role to further reflect its dedication to developing the ICT sector in Kuwait.

Held in cooperation with the Central Agency for Information Technology, solutions by stc joined the event’s opening ceremony at Crowne Plaza Hotel as it was attended by the representative of the event’s patron, CAIT Acting Director General Dr. Ammar Al Hussaini, along with stc’s CEO Eng. Maziad Alharbi and solutions by stc’s CEO, Mohammad Al-Nusif. The Forum witnessed the participation of major domestic and international cloud computing companies, in addition to the attendance of many prominent executives and leaders from the local public and private sectors.

Organized by the Kuwaiti Federation for Engineering Offices and Consulting Houses (KFEOCH) and managed by Razen Events in strategic partnership with the Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT), the 2-day forum reflected a critical stage for the future of cloud computing in Kuwait. Considering the wide range of cloud computing solutions offered by solutions by stc, the opening speech was delivered by solutions by stc’s CEO, Mohammad Al-Nusif.

Al-Nusif highlighted the important role the forum played in stimulating the ICT sector in the Kuwaiti market, as well as the value of the knowledge and insights shared during such events. With the development of the cloud solutions space, in line with international standards, Kuwait can strongly align with the quality and breadth of solutions found in developed countries.

Issa Al-Suwait, General Manager of Cybersecurity at stc, delivered a presentation at the forum entitled “Cybersecurity in Cloud Computing: Safeguarding the Digital Frontier.” This comprehensive presentation sought to enlighten attendees about the critical importance of data protection. It explored topics including the definition of cloud computing, its benefits, challenges associated with cloud cybersecurity, measures to ensure cybersecurity in cloud computing, relevant compliance and regulations, illustrative case studies, and anticipated future trends in cloud cybersecurity.

During the forum, solutions by stc unveiled Modar, a state-of-the-art Cloud Managed Network solution, specifically crafted for the business sector and developed in partnership with CloudCampus technology. Modar represents a significant leap forward, offering industries an opportunity to undergo a seamless digital transformation. Customers adopting this solution are set to enjoy uninterrupted connectivity, access to a broad spectrum of innovative products tailored to meet their networking and security demands.

The solution is also marked by its user-friendly setup process and is supported by a team of experts ready to provide remote technical assistance whenever necessary, ensuring a smooth and efficient user experience.



Marco Bertini with Al Dehani, Al Mana, and Al Hamad.



Professor Bertini during the session.

Zain and SACGC host session

Bid to support innovation and sustainable financial success

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: Under their strategic partnership to empower innovation and support entrepreneurship, Zain and Sabah Al Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity (SACGC) – a center of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) have jointly hosted an informative session on innovation and sustainable financial success. The session, titled “Capitalize on Your Entrepreneurial Skills,” was presented by Marco Bertini, Professor of Marketing at Esade Business School, Barcelona.

Present were SACGC General Manager Neda Al Dehani, Zain Kuwait’s Innovation and Entrepreneurship Expert Haya Al Mana, and Decision Lab Founder Omar Al Hamad. The session was attended by over 80 entrepreneurs and startup owners from the local business community.

This step came under the umbrella of Zain and SACGC’s recently signed MoU, which focuses on a number of strategic pillars and sustainable goals like supporting innovation, empowering entrepreneurs and startups, encouraging creativity, investing in the digital skills of children and young people, and more.

The session was presented by Marco Bertini, the influential author, researcher,

and expert in business and marketing. He currently serves as Professor of Marketing and Director of Open Enrollment Programs at the renowned Esade Business School in Barcelona. Professor Bertini has a wealth of experience in marketing, entrepreneurship, and business, having previously served in many senior roles in academic institutions, business schools, and consultancy firms around the world.

During the session, Professor Bertini shared some insightful tips that were valuable to any entrepreneur and new startup owner. He explained that successful entrepreneurship requires early and comprehensive consideration of monetization strategies, eliminating misconceptions, and focusing on customer-centric approaches to ensure sustainable financial success.

This session came under Zain’s Innovation Nation initiative, under which all of Zain’s innovation and entrepreneurship programs fall, especially within science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) areas. The initiative mainly targets the youth, and centers around a number of pillars, including entrepreneurship, investment, startup acceleration, supporting inventors, fostering innovation, and more.

MEW in process to fill up 226 vacant supervisory positions

KFAED participates in United Nations Day

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: The Minister of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy and Acting Minister of Public Works, Dr. Jassim Al-Ustad, confirmed the ministry is in the process of filling 226 vacant supervisory positions including 20 department directors, 50 controllers, 153 department heads, and 3 division head.

The minister indicated, in his response to a parliamentary query raised by MP Dr. Muhammad Al-Huwaila, a copy of which was obtained by Al-Seyassah daily, that the Ministry seeks to fill these positions, pointing out that it has prepared a new mechanism and add more conditions for filling these positions that do not conflict with the rules and regulations laid down by the Civil Service Commission vide Resolution No. 25/2006 and its amendments.

Al-Ustad stated that a decision will be issued complete with the new conditions before opening the window to receive the applications from prospective applicants to fill the vacant positions.

He added, these positions remained vacant until now based on the CSC earlier decision to “cease appointments to supervisory positions.”

He explained the current priority is to nominate those who occupy leadership positions in the ministry, which in turn will help in selecting the most qualified and worthy people to fill these positions.

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KFAED in UN event: The Kuwait Fund for Arab and Economic Development (KFAED) participated in the “United Nations Day” event, which was organized by the United Nations office in Kuwait last Monday evening, under the patronage and presence of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Chairman of the Fund’s Board of Directors, Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah, reports Al-Rai daily.

The celebration comes on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the close partnership between the State of Kuwait and United Nations organizations in the fields of development and peace, and to enhance sustainable cooperation between the United Nations and Kuwait in achieving development goals and efforts to promote peace at the regional and international levels.

The Fund’s acting director, Walid Al-Bahr, announced that the Kuwaiti Fund’s total contributions to supporting development and humanitarian efforts and projects of United Nations organizations and bodies around the world amounted to about 34 grants, worth up to \$108 million.

Al-Bahr stressed that KFAED’s efforts in partnership with United Nations bodies come within the framework of supporting regional and international humanitarian work in enhancing countries’ capacity for development, which has resulted in a profound impact on the sectors of education, health, agriculture, irrigation, transport, communications, energy, industry, water and sanitation in developing countries, in addition to supporting Refugees and giving them the opportunity to have a decent life.

30,000 register for Hajj 10 days before deadline

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: With only 10 days remaining, 30,000 male and female citizens and bedoun have shown their desire to perform the rituals this year, and most of those registered are women, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, registration to perform Hajj this year electronically remains open until November 10, 12 noon.

It is noteworthy that Kuwait’s quota this year is 8,000 pilgrims through 63 caravans nominated to carry the pilgrims. Registration with the caravan must exceed 50 pilgrims. Those registering less than 50 pilgrims will not be allowed to organize Hajj this year.

Regarding the registration of bedoun, it will continue until the door closes, according to the controls set by the Supreme Committee for Hajj subject to approval by the Saudi authorities.

The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs is organizing the Hajj exhibition from November 11 to 15 at the Mishref exhibition grounds, which is an opportunity for all those wishing to perform the Hajj rituals to learn about the services provided by the caravans and to respond to all inquiries of those wishing to perform the rituals this year by the Hajj and Umrah Administration.

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Chance of rain: Unstable weather with a chance of light scattered showers, thundery at times, are expected later tonight until early Friday, according to a meteorologist.

The rainy conditions were caused by a surface low pressure accompanied by moist air rising into the atmosphere creating mid and low-level cumulus clouds, said Official at Kuwait Meteorological Center, Abdulaziz Al-Qarawi to KUNA.

Intermittent strong winds causing elevated dust levels and reduced visibility in some areas are expected which would lead to an increase in sea wave heights exceeding 6 feet, along with the potential for foggy conditions, concluded Al-Qarawi.



KUNA photo
Ambassador Yaqoub Al-Sanad poses for a picture with the Crown Prince Heir Alois von Liechtenstein.

Ambassador presents credentials

Kuwait, Liechtenstein ties boost eyed

BERN, Nov 1, (KUNA): Ambassador Yaqoub Al-Sanad presented his credentials yesterday as a non-resident assigned ambassador to Liechtenstein to the Crown Prince Heir Alois von Liechtenstein in the capital Vaduz.

Speaking to KUNA, Ambassador Al-Sanad affirmed that during the meeting he stressed Kuwait’s keenness to bolster relations with Liechtenstein and to build a global system in which peace prevails and international law and international humanitarian law are respected.

Ambassador Al-Sanad added that he extended His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah’s greetings and wishes of good health to His Highness the Prince of Liechtenstein, Hans-Adam II, the royal family, and the friendly people of Liechtenstein for continued progress and prosperity.”

He also added that the Crown Prince of Liechtenstein has affirmed his nation’s

alignment with the diplomatic approach of the State of Kuwait in addressing global crises and resolving issues through peaceful means. In line with this commitment, Liechtenstein cast its vote in support of the Arab resolution for a Gaza ceasefire during the United Nations General Assembly session.

He also explained that Liechtenstein is keen to achieve a ceasefire, prevent the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza, and try to find sustainable solutions to this long-standing issue.

In the context of bilateral relations, the Crown Prince highlighted the shared interests and common ground between his country and the State of Kuwait as both nations prioritize stability, international peace, and security. He also expressed optimism for enhanced cooperation between the General Authority for Investment, investment entities, and the investment fund in his nation.

Liechtenstein is located between Switzerland and Austria, with an area not exceeding 160 square kilometers and a population of about 40,000 people.

DISCOUNT MANIA

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25 October - 31 December 2023

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From 01 to 04.11.2023

1.990

Sunwhite Calrose Rice 5kg

From 01 to 05.11.2023

0.590

Lindt Lindor Assorted 100gm *1pc

3.040

Ferrero Rocher T-30 375gm

1.290

Kellogg's Chocos 500gm / Coco Pops 480 gm / pc

1.560

Rainbow Evaporated Milk Cardamom / Lite 170gm 6's

1.450

Americana Beef Burger Arabic Spices 1kg

1.990

Sadia Chicken 1.2kg 2's

3.790

Prawns (Kuwait) per kg

3.690

Seabass (Small) per kg

3.190

Indian Chilled Whole Mutton/kg

3.990

New Zealand Chilled Lamb Forequarter /kg

0.545

Apple Royal Gala (France) per kg

1.195

Mandarin (Australia) per kg

1.250

Grapes Red Crimson (Lebanon) per kg

1.125

Potato Net Bag

4.510

Tide Washing Powder 2.5kg 2's

3.300

Dettol Antiseptic Liquid 750ml 2's

4.480

Sensodyne Multi-Care Whitening Tooth Paste 2 X 75ml

1129.900

Samsung 77" 4K OLED TV QA77S90CAUXZN

1053.900

Samsung 77" 4K OLED TV QA77S90CAUXZN

439.900

Apple iPhone 14 Pro Max 256GB

369.900

Apple iPhone 14 Pro Max 256GB

442.900

Apple iPhone 15 Pro Max 256GB

428.900

Apple iPhone 15 Pro Max 256GB

diwaniya

ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

‘Public demonstrations not only ways to support Palestinians’

“Unfortunately, we in Kuwait have witnessed the influence of certain undisclosed political factions. This becomes evident whenever conflicts arise worldwide, as these factions take to the streets in protests and demonstrations, giving the impression that we possess the power to impose our agenda on others,” columnist **Hamad Salem Al-Marri** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“We seem to have forgotten the lessons from past events, such as the 1990 invasion by our northern neighbor, the “Arab Spring,” and the attempts of these factions to incite unrest.

“Whenever conflicts erupt elsewhere, these parties often emerge as leaders of the street, as seen in events in Egypt, ‘Rabaa al-Adawiya’ slogans in Kuwait and Syria, and their encouragement of Kuwaiti youth to join fighters in various places.

“Before that, the events in Lebanon in 2006, when Hezbollah kidnapped Israeli soldiers, resulting in Israel’s destruction of Lebanon. However, we saw them go out in demonstrations in which they described Hassan Nasrallah as having restored the dignity of the Arabs.

“Today, because of the war in Gaza, these parties have disturbed the Kuwaiti people by screaming in the public squares and their leaders delivering speeches of denunciation, which over time have turned into insults to Arab rulers, as if the Arab governments were the reason behind the outbreak of this war.



Hamad Al-Marri

It’s crucial to note that the root cause or rather foolishness of the “Hamas Brotherhood” group is the main reason behind this war, and yet we did not hear from these political parties and movements, especially the “bankrupt Brotherhood,” any blame for this group. Rather, they directed the arrows of their accusations at the Arab governments.

“We in Kuwait are known for our official positions towards the Palestinian issue, since the establishment of the Zionist entity, and we are known to be one of the countries that most supports the Palestinian people, financially and politically, and we are still continuing to support, despite the Palestinians’ position in support of the Iraqi occupation, and the emergence of “Hamas” in demonstrations in support of this occupation; so why these auctions at the public square?

“We do not have borders with the Zionist entity, and we do not have any diplomatic relations with it, and there are threats issued from time to time by the Iraqi militias loyal to Iran, Iranian harassment at sea, and political tension with Iran because of the Durra field.

“We are not short of throwing the country into chaos because of the “Erada Square” demonstrations condemning the Israeli war on Gaza. What will the Kuwaiti people benefit from these demonstrations, other than shouting and charging the Kuwaiti street?

“Kuwait has a long history of supporting the Palestinian people both financially and politically. However, these demonstrations and inflammatory calls may not serve the best interests of Kuwait. Supporting the Palestinians can be more effective through prayer, financial donations, and backing the Kuwaiti government’s foreign policy, rather than through public demonstrations.

“These protests have even led to what some may call “intellectual terrorism,” as people are afraid to be labeled as Zionist for opposing Hamas. It’s time for these demonstrators to consider more constructive ways to support the Palestinian cause, rather than endangering Kuwait’s interests and creating unnecessary division.

“Finally, we say to these demonstrators: Why don’t you go to Gaza and participate in its defense, instead of shouting here? Some of you were able to enter Syria during its conflict and participate in the fighting there, so you are unable to enter Gaza, especially since the Syrian-Israeli border and the Lebanese-Israeli border are controlled by “Hezbollah” and militias loyal to Iran, which has the “Quds Force,” which leads the resistance and the liberation of Palestine movement.”

Also:

“Israel did not absorb the shock from the Palestinian resistance until two days later, and then the West supported its revenge without any thought about international law or the humanitarian and moral side of the war. Nevertheless, what happened is not surprising. Rather, it reflects Israel’s ability to win supporters through various means, including diplomatic and economic harvests and the Zionist lobbies in the West,” columnist Dr **Adel Al-Misha’al** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

“Despite the global condemnation from the Federal Republic of Russia, China and many countries around the world, in addition to some organizations and figures in some western countries that supported Israel, some politicians, jurists, celebrities and ordinary people supported the Palestinian right.

“Between the waves of support and condemnation, Israel insists on imposing pain, through hunger, thirst and bombings on the people of Gaza, especially the shortage of fuel and flour, as they suffer in operating hospitals and bakeries.

“The Turkish president stated that any war depending on cutting off water,

electricity and roads, and destroying infrastructure, places of worship and schools is considered a massacre. Israel bombed civilian buildings, houses, mosques and the Greek Orthodox Church, without the Christian West taking care of the bombing of churches, killing and wounding of many of those who sought refuge in them.

“It is a disaster that the Zionist entity has begun to have a despicable tendency to expel the people of Gaza to Sinai, but the reality rejected the project. Despite the Arab Republic of Egypt being exposed to economic pressures and temptations, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi refused without discussing the details.

“Mahmoud Abbas added that the Israeli aggression on Gaza will only strengthen the resilience of the Palestinian people. I declare disavowal of the agreements with the American and Israeli sides.

“The backwardness of the Arab media in reaching others, especially the western world, has become clear. It has never succeeded in conveying the message and the Arab narrative of events. This backwardness is linked to democratic backwardness. In the education and health sectors, it is a chain. There is a difference between a journalist and someone who works in the media.

“Some Arab personalities responded clearly when they talked to some foreign channels, including media presenter Bassem Youssef, Palestinian Ambassador to Britain Hossam Zomlot and a young Egyptian woman — Rahma Zein. They refuted the western lies supporting Israel.

“Some Arab professional athletes in Europe were subjected to criticism and penalties when they expressed support for Palestine, while the fans of the Spanish club — Osasuna — raised the Palestinian flag.

“The duality and hypocrisy of the western world regarding the values it believes are manifested in the fact that it supports Ukraine in defending itself, but does not support Palestine. The material support for Israel will be great, displeasing the Ukrainian president who constantly supports Israel’s attacks because the latter will share with him the military and material aid provided by the West.

“The American president, along with West Europe, insist on supporting Israel, forgetting the history and age of war crimes committed by Israel against the Palestinian people for more than 75 years. The American representative at the United Nations demanded holding Hamas accountable, without mentioning holding Israel accountable for the crimes it has committed.”

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary



Photos by Rizk Taufiq

Above: Some photos from Wednesday’s special National Assembly session.

Criminal Court acquits ex-MP of money laundering charges

‘Royal’s’ alleged murder case set for Nov 4

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: The Criminal Court has acquitted a former MP of charges of money laundering in an amount estimated at 188 million Kuwaiti dinars, fraud, and selling fake real estate and hotels in various

regions of Kuwait, in addition to cities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

However, the court found two expatriates guilty and put them behind bars with hard labor for seven and three years respectively and ordered that the civil case be referred to the competent civil court.

The Public Prosecution had charged the defendants with money laundering 188 million Kuwaiti dinars, and in the second related felony, an amount of 256 million Kuwaiti dinars.

The defendants were convicted after committing fraud and selling the right to use fake real estate and hotels to the affected people through real estate exhibitions licensed by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The defendants also committed money laundering crimes by using their personal accounts, the accounts of an engineering office, and a money exchange office to conceal the money obtained from the fraud crime.

The defense of the victims and those affected was attended by lawyer Abdul Mohsen Al-Qattan, who confirmed that what the defendants did was considered fraud and this is considered fraud to use methods that would deceive people into the existence of a non-existent fact.

Meanwhile, the Criminal Court adjourned to November 4 the case filed against a ruling family member for allegedly murdering citizen Abdulaziz Al-Zaatari. The case was adjourned for the final argument and the presentation of the communication tower movement statement to the accused’s defense team.

According to the case file, on the evening of April 10, Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate witnessed a horrific murder crime when someone fired 12 bullets at the young man Abdulaziz Al-Zaatari in front of his house. The killer had concealed his identity by wearing a protective helmet and he fled from the location after committing the crime.

The Criminal Security Sector was later able to seize the suspect and the weapon used in the crime, and referred him to the concerned authority for necessary legal measures.

AIU announces AI and Cybersecurity GCC Forum in partnership with CITRA

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: American International University (AIU) is thrilled to announce its strategic partnership with the Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) in Kuwait for the highly anticipated AI and Cybersecurity GCC Forum. This dynamic collaboration is set to make waves in the tech world on November 15, 2023. It heralds the inception of a pivotal 1-day forum aimed at senior executives and led by industry leaders in the fields of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Cybersecurity.

CITRA, the Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority, is a forward-thinking organization at the forefront of Kuwait’s digital transformation. Established to regulate and promote the development of communication and information technology in the country, CITRA plays a crucial role in shaping Kuwait’s digital landscape. This includes ensuring telecommunications services are accessible and affordable for all, supporting innovation and entrepreneurship in the tech sector, and, most importantly, safeguarding the nation’s digital infrastructure through stringent cybersecurity measures.

The AI and Cybersecurity GCC Forum will serve as a unique platform for collaboration, knowledge exchange, and innovation among top-tier professionals and experts.



CITRA official partner

Hosted at the prestigious Four Seasons Hotel in Kuwait City, this exclusive event will draw in C-level executives, decision-makers, government representatives, and policy makers.

Key highlights of this groundbreaking conference include captivating keynote speeches, thought-provoking panel discussions, invaluable networking opportunities, and immersive workshops led by industry experts from Kuwait, KSA, UAE and USA. CITRA’s strategic partnership with AIU underscores the event’s importance in promoting technological excellence and aligns seamlessly with

AIU’s vision 2035 to aid in securing the country’s digital future.

The AI and Cybersecurity GCC Forum promises to be a significant milestone in Kuwait’s journey towards technological leadership. AIU is deeply honored to play a pivotal role in bringing knowledge, expertise, and inspiration to this pivotal event. As AIU and CITRA join forces, they send a resounding message: Kuwait is not just a consumer of technology, but a leader in innovation and security in the realms of artificial intelligence and cybersecurity. This forum is the first of many steps on the path to Kuwait’s digital supremacy.

‘Gaza scenes

Continued from Page 1

on it and reject normalization of relations with the Zionist entity;

4. The government should help the Palestinian teachers in Kuwait to meet their families who are stranded outside Gaza as soon as possible;

5. The government and the private sector should establish a fund for the reconstruction of Gaza, and urge other governments, businesspersons and chambers of commerce and industry to support the fund and boycott the Zionist entity;

6. The government should take tough measures against the very few individuals who might communicate with the Zionist entity as per the Amiri Decree to wage war against Zionist gangs and the law on boycotting Israel;

7. The government should establish Kuwait Humanitarian City in Gaza to provide public utilities including houses, schools and clinics in order to help the inhabitants of Gaza to thwart attempts to displace them;

8. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Health should coordinate their efforts to receive the injured, especially women and children, to be treated in Kuwait;

9. Al-Majles TV (National Assembly TV) should broadcast the special session with translations of significant parts in different languages;

10. Continue closing the Kuwaiti sky and land to those planning to commit crimes against Palestinians;

11. Reject all forms of normalizing relations with the Zionist entity and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or any public institution should refrain from signing joint statements with any sisterly or friendly country or any regional or international organization if the statement calls or promotes normalization of ties with Israel, condemns the Palestinian resistance to the Zionist occupation or treats the victim and perpetrator as equals;

12. The government should take the relevant diplomatic action to immediately impose ceasefire, protect civilians and reject the displacement of the people of Gaza;

13. The public and official position of Kuwait is united – to support the Palestinian cause.

In addition, MP Osama Al-Shaheen was elected as Assembly Secretary, while MP Falah Al-Hajri was elected as Observer.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Tuesday a cable of congratulation to MP Osama Al-Shaheen on his new post as the National Assembly’s Secretary.

In the cable, His Highness wished Al-Shaheen all the best to fulfill this high position, and further success in serving Kuwait.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Tuesday a cable of congratulation to MP Osama Al-Shaheen on his new post as the National Assembly’s Secretary.

In the cable, His Highness wished Al-Shaheen further success in serving his country.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent on Tuesday a cable of congratulation to MP Osama Al-Shaheen on his new post as the National Assembly’s Secretary.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent Tuesday a cable of congratulations to Dr. Falah Al-Hajri, National Assembly Observer.

His Highness the Amir congratulated Dr. Al-Hajri on being voted to the post by acclamation and wished him all success in his endeavors. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent Tuesday a cable of congratulations to Dr. Falah Al-Hajri, National Assembly Observer.

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His Highness the Prime Minister congratulated Dr. Al-Hajri on being voted to the post by acclamation and wished him all success in his endeavors.

The National Assembly formed permanent committees and elected the members during its inaugural session in the second round of the 17th legislative term on Tuesday.

Following are the permanent committees and their members:

Health, Social and Labor Affairs Committee

1. Badr Nashmi, 2. Hamad Al-Matar, 3. Saad Al-Khanfour, 4. Fahd bin Jame’e, 5. Hani Shams

Illegal Residents (Bedouns) Affairs Committee

1. Ahmed Lari, 2. Bader Sayyar, 3. Hassan Jawhar, 4. Fahd bin Jame’e, 5. Hani Shams

Public Utilities Committee

1. Ahmed Lari, 2. Dawoud Maarefi, 3. Fares Al-Otaibi, 4. Fahd bin Jame’e, 5. Mubarak Al-Hajraf, 6. Muhammad Al-Hewaila, 7. Muhammad Al-Mahan

Disabled Affairs Committee

1. Khalid Al-Otaibi, 2. Khalid Al-Tamar, 3. Soud Al-Asfour, 4. Meteb Al-Anzi, 5. Hani Shams

Public Funds Protection Committee

1. Osama Al-Shaheen, 2. Badr Al-Mulla, 3. Hamad Al-Elyan, 4. Abdulhadi Al-Ajmi, 5. Mehalhal Al-Mudhaf

Foreign Affairs Committee

1. Khalid Al-Otaibi, 2. Abdulkareem Al-Kandari, 3. Abdullah Al-Mudhaf, 4. Abdulhadi Al-Ajmi, 5. Marzouq Al-Hebeini

Education and Guidance Affairs Committee

1. Jenan Bu Shehri, 2. Fahd Al-Masoud, 3. Hamad Al-Elyan, 4. Muhammad Al-Hewaila, 5. Falah Al-Hajri

Negative Phenomena Committee

1. Muhammad Hayef, 2. Hamad Al-Obaid, 3. Hamdan Al-Azmi, 4. Fayeze Al-Jomhour, 5. Falah Al-Hajri, 6. Fahd bin Jame’e, 7. Mubarak Al-Tasha

Housing Affairs Committee

1. Badr Nashmi, 2. Hassan Jawhar, 3. Hamad Al-Obaid, 4. Hamad Al-Medlej, 5. Fayeze Al-Jomhour, 6. Abdulaziz Al-Saqaabi, 7. Muhammad Al-Regaib

Budgets and Final Accounts Committee

1. Osama Al-Zaid, 2. Badr Al-Mullah, 3. Hamad Al-Matar, 4. Soud Al-Asfour, 5. Adel Al-Damkhi, 6. Abdulwahab Al-Essa, 7. Fahd Al-Masoud

Youth and Sports Affairs Committee

1. Badr Nashmi, 2. Badr Sayyar, 3. Mubarak Al-Hajraf

Digitalization, Empowerment, Artificial Intelligence and Cybersecurity in Public Institutions Committee

1. Badr Al-Mulla, 2. Dawoud Maarefi, 3. Abdulwahab Al-Essa, 4. Fahd Al-Masoud, 5. Hassan Jawhar

Environment, Food and Water Security Committee

1. Bader Al-Mullah, 2. Hamad Al-Matar, 3. Hamdan Al-Azmi, 4. Abdullah Fehad, 5. Fayeze Al-Jomhour

Business and Small Enterprises Development Committee

1. Hamad Al-Medlej, 2. Dawoud Maarefi, 3. Abdulwahab Al-Essa

Values Enhancement Committee

1. Hamad Al-Obaid, 2. Hamdan Al-Azmi, 3. Fayeze Al-Jomhour, 4. Falah Al-Hajri, 5. Fahd bin Jame’e, 6. Mubarak Al-Tasha, 7. Muhammad Hayef

Women, Family and Children Affairs Committee

1. Osama Al-Shaheen, 2. Jenan Bu Shehri, 3. Dawoud Maarefi

Human Resources Development Committee

1. Badr Nashmi, 2. Jarrah Al-Fawzan, 3. Fares Al-Otaibi, 4. Abdullah Al-Anbai, 5. Muhammad Al-Hewaila

New and Remote Areas Services Development Committee

1. Khalid Al-Tamar, 2. Fahd bin Jame’e, 3. Abdulhadi Al-Ajmi, 4. Majed Al-Mutairi, 5. Mubarak Al-Tasha, 6. Muhammad Al-Hewaila, 7. Muhammad Hayef

Human Rights Committee

1. Adel Al-Damkhi, 2. Mubarak Al-Tasha, 3. Muhammad Hayef

Committee for Investigating the Points in the Grilling Motions of MPs Dawoud Maarefi and Mubarak Al-Tasha against Former Minister of Public Works Amani Bugamaz

1. Badr Nashmi, 2. Hamad Al-Matar, 3. Khalid Al-Tamar, 4. Dawoud Maarefi, 5. Mubarak Al-Tasha, 6. Marzouq Al-Hebeini, 7. Fahd Al-Masoud

Financial and Economic Affairs Committee

1. Shuaib Al-Muwaizri, 2. Dawoud Maarefi, 3. Abdulwahab Al-Essa, 4. Abdullah Fehad, 5. Shuaib Shaaban, 7. Hamad Al-Medlej, 8. Badr Nashmi

Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee

1. Muhammad Al-Sayer, 2. Abdulkareem Al-Kandari, 3. Mubarak Al-Tasha, 4. Abdulaziz Al-Saqaabi, 5. Jenan Bu Shehri, 6. Jarrah Al-Fawzan, 7. Osama Al-Shaheen

Priorities Committee

1. Hamad Al-Medlej, 2. Abdullah Fehad, 3. Osama Al-Zaid, 4. Shuaib Shaaban, 5. Muhammad Al-Sayer

Response to Amiri Speech Committee

1. Osama Al-Shaheen, 2. Jarrah Al-Fawzan, 3. Hamad Al-Obaid

World News Roundup

Europe

Russia urged to probe village attack: UN investigators on Tuesday urged Russia under the government of **Vladimir Putin** to acknowledge responsibility for a missile strike on a Ukrainian village that killed 59 civilians, conduct a transparent investigation into what happened, provide reparations for victims and hold those responsible to account.

The strike on a cafe in the village of Hroza on Oct 5 was one of the deadliest strikes since the Kremlin's forces launched a full-scale invasion 20 months ago. Whole families perished while attending a wake for a local soldier who died fighting Russian troops



Putin

The blast killed 36 women, 22 men and an 8-year-old boy. Numerous bodies were found torn to pieces, and it took nearly a week to identify all the dead.

The UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine said in a report published Tuesday it "has reasonable grounds to believe" that a Russian Iskander missile - a short-range precision-guided ballistic weapon - probably caused the blast in Hroza.

The extensive damage and weapon debris at the scene led investigators to that conclusion, the report said.

It said that Russia "either failed to undertake all feasible measures to verify that the intended target was a military objective rather than civilians or civilian objects, or deliberately targeted civilians or a civilian object."

Either of those explanations amounts to a violation of international humanitarian law, the report said. (AP)

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Ukrainians need humanitarian help: Russian strikes are inflicting unimaginable suffering on the people of Ukraine and more than 40% of them need humanitarian assistance, a senior U.N. official told the U.N. Security Council on Tuesday.

Ramesh Rajasingham, director of coordination in the UN humanitarian office, said thousands of civilians have been killed in strikes on homes, schools, fields and markets since Russia's invasion in February 2022. The UN human rights office has formally verified 9,900 civilians killed, but he said "the actual number is certainly higher."

Ukrainian civilians are suffering "horrendous humanitarian consequences" and "unimaginable levels of suffering" from the Russian strikes, Rajasingham said. About 18 million Ukrainians - more than 40% of the population - need some form of humanitarian assistance, and as winter approaches "needs will be magnified," he said.

Rajasingham said significant damage and destruction of critical infrastructure continues to severely impact civilian access to electricity, heating, water and telecommunications, "a particular concern as winter fast approaches," which will put the elderly, disabled and displaced most at risk.

The Russian military methodically targeted Ukraine's power stations and other critical infrastructure with missile and drone strikes during the last winter season, resulting in frequent power outages. (AP)

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Belarusians face new hurdles: Andrei, a 29-year-old computer programmer who fled to Germany from Belarus two years ago amid a harsh crackdown on political dissent, is facing a serious dilemma.

His Belarusian passport has expired, along with his German residence permit. But Belarus has stopped renewing passports at its embassies abroad under a new decree by authoritarian leader Alexander Lukashenko.

"I have a terrible choice to make: become an illegal immigrant in Germany, or return to Belarus, where I will probably be arrested," said Andrei, who asked to be identified only by his first name because he fears for his safety.

Authorities in Minsk, he told The Associated Press, "managed to turn the life of Belarusians into hell even here."

An estimated 500,000 Belarusians fled to the West after Lukashenko was declared the winner of the 2020 election, which was widely seen as fraudulent. Many of them face having no valid documents after the Sept. 4 decree halted passport renewals.

Human Rights Watch has condemned what it called the "draconian" decision, labeling it retaliation against the regime's "critics-in-exile" by putting them at risk of "politically motivated prosecution if they have to return to Belarus to process their documents." (AP)

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Cummings withering about UK govt: The former top aide to ex-British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Tuesday painted a picture of widespread chaos and dysfunction in the UK government during the coronavirus pandemic.

In keenly awaited testimony to the country's public inquiry into the COVID-19 pandemic, Dominic Cummings, a self-styled political disruptor, was withering about many of the people dealing with the situation, including his former boss.

"I would say, overall, it's widespread failure, but pockets of excellent people and pockets of excellent teams doing excellent work within an overall dysfunctional system," he said.

He added that it was "crackers" that he had been appointed by Johnson to such a senior political position in government, using a British slang term for something that is ridiculous.

In emails and WhatsApp messages that were handed to the inquiry, Cummings also slammed many ministers in expletive-ridden terms. (AP)

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3 sentenced to long prison terms: Members of a pop music group that became a symbol of protest in Belarus were sentenced Tuesday to prison terms of up to nine years in the country's relentless crackdown on dissent.

The Tor Band became widely known in Belarus during a wave of protests that arose in August 2020 following a disputed presidential election in which which Alexander Lukashenko was declared the winner, giving him a sixth term in office.

The protests lasted for months, the largest and most prolonged show of dissent since Lukashenko came to power in 1994 and began repressing independent news media and opposition.

Lukashenko unleashed harsh measures against the protesters, with police detaining some 35,000 people and beating thousands. Many major opposition figures fled the country, including Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, who ran against him in the election. Others have been jailed, such as Nobel Peace Prize laureate Ales Bialiatski, founder of the human rights group Viasna.

The three members of the Tor Band were arrested in October 2022. (AP)

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Businessman gets 18 months: A Dutch court convicted a Russian businessman Tuesday of exporting computer chips and other electronic products to the Russian arms and defense industry in violation of European Union sanctions and sentenced him to 18 months in jail.

The EU has slapped Moscow with a series of wide-ranging sanctions since its illegal invasion of Ukraine last year sparked a war now in its 20th month. Rotterdam District Court said in a statement that the man turned sanctions evasion into a "revenue model."

The man, whose identity was not released in line with Dutch court rules, exported "dual-use" products that can have both civil and military applications to companies linked to the arms industry in Russia for a period of more than seven months.

The court ruled that he faked invoices for the exports and sent them to Russia via a company in the Maldives. (AP)

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'Dec 17 snap parliamentary poll': Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic on Wednesday set Dec 17 as the date for early parliamentary election, which will be the third vote in the Balkan country in nearly four years.

Local elections will also be held on the same day in several municipalities, including Belgrade, the capital.

The election date came as no surprise as the populist Serbian leader had been campaigning in favor of his ruling Serbian Progressive Party for weeks, although he has formally stepped down from its helm.

"We are living in times that are difficult for the whole world, in a time of global challenges, wars and conflicts, in a time in which it is necessary for us all to be united in the fight to preserve the vital national and state interests of the Republic of Serbia," Vucic said after calling the election.

Vucic's presidency is not being contested in the vote after he won re-election by a landslide in general elections in April 2022, and his nationalist party secured the largest number of seats in the 250-member parliament. (AP)



Princess Leonor, (right), next to Spanish King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia, swears allegiance to the Constitution, during a gala event that makes her eligible to be queen one day, in Madrid on Oct 31. The heir to the Spanish throne, Princess Leonor, is to swear allegiance to the Constitution on her 18th birthday Tuesday, in a gala event that paves the way to her becoming queen when the time comes. Leonor is the eldest daughter of King Felipe and Queen Letizia. (AP)

Spain's Crown Princess Leonor turns 18, feted as future queen at swearing-in ceremony

The heir to the Spanish throne, Princess Leonor, swore allegiance to her country's Constitution on her 18th birthday Tuesday, laying the groundwork for her eventual succession as queen when the time comes.

The nationally televised ceremony in the lower house of parliament is understood to symbolize the continuity of Spain's parliamentary monarchy and the institution's allegiance to the chamber.

Leonor de Borbón Ortiz recited the same oath as her father did when he - then prince - turned 18 in 1986. She pledged "to faithfully carry out my duties, to keep and uphold the Constitution and the laws and respect the rights of citizens and the autono-

mous communities and loyalty to the king."

The ceremony was necessary for her to be able to succeed to the crown and someday become queen.

Leonor became crown princess when Felipe VI was proclaimed king on June 19, 2014. Her photo has appeared frequently in the media lately along with the term "Leonormania," underlining her growing popularity as the modern face of the future monarchy.

"From here forward, my duty is to all Spaniards, who I will serve in each moment with respect and loyalty," Leonor said in a short speech at the Royal Palace after the ceremony in parliament's Congress of Deputies.

"I ask you to place your trust in me, just as I have all my confidence placed in the future of our nation," she said.

Banners with her photograph decorated lamp-posts along several of Madrid's main streets. Many official buildings were festooned with drapes and tapestries for the ceremony, which was broadcast on several giant screens set up in Madrid.

The royal family - Leonor, younger sister Sofia, Felipe and Queen Letizia - arrived at the parliament building escorted by a mounted squadron of Spain's Royal Guard. Leonor and Sofia waived from inside a Rolls-Royce to the crowds lining the streets in the center of the capital. (AP)

Politics

Biden heads to Minn in wake of Phillips primary challenge

Nevada gov slams state GOP holding caucus

RENO, Nev., Nov. 1, (AP) - Nevada Republican Gov Joe Lombardo ripped his state party's plan to hold a caucus despite a primary election occurring two days prior, a split that some state GOP officials warn could confuse voters in a key early nomination state.

Speaking on the "Nevada News-makers" podcast episode, which aired Tuesday, Lombardo echoed widespread concerns about the parallel election processes, mainly that it would cause confusion and prove arduous for Republican voters in the western swing state. He specifically criticized a rule adopted by the state party that bars any candidate who runs in the presidential primary from participating in the caucus.

"I think that's unacceptable for the voters and the understanding of how things should be done," Lombardo said.

The other main concern among many Republicans - including Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis - is that the caucus rules would tilt the nominating process in Trump's favor. Chairman Michael McDonald, who was a fake elector for Trump during the 2020 presidential election, introduced him at a rally Saturday by promoting both the former president and the caucus process.

Lombardo did not specifically mention the criticism of the caucus rules leaning in Trump's favor. At one point, he said, "I think we all can surmise the reason why it was brought forward." Spokesper-

son Elizabeth Ray had no further clarification on what he was referencing.

The episode marked the first time Lombardo had spoken out about the plan. In a press conference last month alongside McDonald and RNC Chairwoman Ronna McDaniel, Lombardo refused to answer a question about the primary versus caucus situation, saying it was not the topic of the press call.

Rifts

But on the episode airing this week, Lombardo said the dueling processes further expose internal Republican rifts - both in Nevada and nationally - that reflect poorly on the party. He referenced the chaotic process under which Republicans in Washington replaced the speaker of the House.

"It's unfortunate," Lombardo said. "I've had numerous conversations, both with the state party and other individuals involved. And it's falling on deaf ears."

McDonald has long said that the state party is forging ahead with the caucus due to the Democratic-controlled Legislature not considering any of Lombardo's election-related bills, most notably his calls to implement voter ID. He called the caucus process - which will require voter ID, paper ballots, in-person voting - more secure than the Nevada primaries.

In an interview Tuesday, McDonald called Lombardo a "dear friend" and that "all the things the governor

wanted in the legislative session, are in our caucus."

Also:

WASHINGTON: US President **Joe Biden** is headed to **Minnesota** to visit a family-run farm south of Minneapolis and hold a fundraiser featuring many of the state's top Democrats, aimed to demonstrate political clout on the home turf of his new 2024 primary challenger, Rep. **Dean Phillips**.

The president plans to announce more than \$5 billion in spending on adapting agriculture to climate change, expanding high-speed internet access, improving local infrastructure, and more. The money comes from infrastructure and inflation reduction laws approved earlier in Biden's term.

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LANSING, Mich: Former US president **Donald Trump** is asking a court to prevent **Michigan** Secretary of State **Jocelyn Benson** from leaving his name off the 2024 primary ballot.

In a filing made Monday in the Michigan Court of Claims, Trump's attorneys also want the court to declare that Benson has neither the duty nor authority to assess Trump's constitutional qualifications to serve as president.

Trump's filing is in response to efforts by activists in Michigan who have asked a judge to order Benson to keep his name off any ballot for president.

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Queens District Attorney **Melinda Katz** said Beauvais, 34, was intoxicated and driving with a suspended license. She fled, but was arrested a short time later. (AP)

□ □ □

Employee fatally hit by vehicle: A vehicle fatally struck a person on the tarmac of Austin-Bergstrom International Airport, officials said Tuesday, the second fatal incident this year involving a worker at the airport in the Texas capital.

The person was identified as an airport employee but authorities did not immediately release details about how the collision on Tuesday occurred. Firefighters and police responded to the scene, according to Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services. (AP)

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Tennessee family sues police: A woman has sued a Tennessee police department after her son was shot and killed when he tried to drive away from a traffic stop with an officer leaning into the car.

Linda Allen, whose son Eric Allen, 39, died in the November 2022 interaction with Mt. Juliet Police, filed the lawsuit Monday against the chief of police, two officers and the city.

Body camera footage shows that when the officer asked Allen to step out of the car, he moved from the passenger side into the driver's seat and began to drive off while the officer was leaning inside the car. As the car drove away, the passenger door closed with the officer inside, shouting at Allen repeatedly to stop the car. He then fired his stun gun and said he would shoot Allen, before firing his handgun three times at him. (AP)



Former US president Donald Trump speaks during a rally protesting the electoral college certification of Joe Biden as President in Washington, Jan 6, 2021. Court arguments have begun in the efforts to use an insurrection clause in the US Constitution to bar Trump from running for his old job again. (AP)



Katz



Martinez

America

Vehicle used to kill suspect: Las Vegas police officers used a patrol vehicle Tuesday to strike and kill a man who the department says fatally stabbed a female at an apartment complex and then ran into the street and "began to walk toward occupied vehicles" while armed with a knife.

Police Capt **Joshua Martinez** said officers had been called to investigate reports of a stabbing at an apartment complex in western Las Vegas when they encountered a man brandishing a knife in the street. Martinez said officers hit the man with their patrol vehicle "to get him down to the ground" and take him into custody. He died at the scene, (AP)

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Officers sentencing postponed: A federal judge has postponed sentencing for six former Mississippi law enforcement officers who pleaded guilty to a long list of federal charges for torturing two Black men in January.

Sentencing had been scheduled to begin Nov. 14, but US District Judge Tom Lee wrote in a Friday order that the court would delay it in response to motions from some of the former officers. Their attorneys said they needed more time to evaluate presentencing reports and prepare objections, the judge said.

Lee has not yet rescheduled the sentencing hearing, but some of the former officers requested it be delayed until Dec 15. (AP)

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Woman convicted of manslaughter: A Long Island woman was convicted on Tuesday of aggravated manslaughter in the

death of a New York City police detective killed on the Long Island Expressway.

Jessica Beauvais, of Hempstead, was arrested in April 2021 after 43-year-old Ana-

stasios Tsakos, a 14-year veteran of the police department, was struck and killed while assisting officers at the scene of another fatal crash on the expressway in Queens.



Zhanna Litvina, the head of the Belarusian Association of Journalists, (center), and Mikhas Yanchuk, a journalist of the Belsat channel, (right), show their passports with a stamp that bans them leaving the country during a news conference in Minsk, Belarus on March 15, 2012. Belarus has stopped renewing passports at its embassies abroad, and hundreds of thousands of Belarusians who have fled President Alexander Lukashenko's repressive regime cannot update their travel documents without returning home and risking possible arrest. (AP)

Africa

6.9m displaced in Congo

Charles ‘visits’ war cemetery in Kenya

NAIROBI, Kenya, Nov 1, (AP): King Charles III visited a war cemetery in Nairobi on Wednesday, laying a wreath in honor of Kenyans who fought alongside the British in the two world wars, a day after the monarch expressed “greatest sorrow and the deepest regret” for the violence of the colonial era.

Charles, who with **Queen Camilla** arrived on Monday in what is his first state visit to a Commonwealth country as monarch, cited the “abhorrent and unjustifiable acts of violence” committed against Kenyans as they sought independence. However, he didn’t explicitly apologize for Britain’s actions in its former colony as many Kenyans wanted.

At the state banquet hosted by Kenyan President William Ruto on Tuesday, Charles said there “can be no excuse” for the “wrongdoings of the past.” He said that addressing them with honesty and openness could “continue to build an ever closer bond in the years ahead.”



Camilla

Nyanjom Anyange.

Kavai, 101, who fought in India and Burma in World War II, said his medals were a “joy and pride for him and his entire family,” reminding him of his service. “I will not lose these ones until my death and my children will be custodians,” he added.

Mburia, who fought in Damascus, Cairo and Jerusalem, said he got rid of his medal a long time ago for fear of being associated with the British colonizers but was now happy to get a replacement from the king.

The cemetery has 59 graves and neighbors Kariook market, previously the site of Nairobi’s Carrier Corps Depot, the administrative center through which soldiers heading to the front passed through. Charles also met with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission members and communities living near the cemetery.

Challenging

Kenya is celebrating the 60th anniversary of its independence this year and has had a close but at times challenging relationship with Britain after the prolonged struggle against colonial rule, sometimes known as the Mau Mau Rebellion, in which thousands of Kenyans died.

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

Camilla on Wednesday visited the Brooke Donkey Sanctuary in Nairobi to hear how the charity is working with the Kenya Society for the Protection and Care of Animals to rescue donkeys. She saw how the donkeys are housed and treated and met with their owners who explained how the project has impacted their lives.

She who wore a cream shirt waisted dress with embroidered giraffe panels by Anna Valentine.

On the roads leading to the war cemetery, at a walking distance from the central business district, authorities deployed heavy security forces, including army, an anti-terror police unit, elite units and regular police.

Also:

DAKAR, Senegal: Senegal’s electoral commission on Tuesday asked that sponsorship forms be given to main opposition leader **Ousmane Sonko**, whose candidacy for the upcoming presidential election has been called into question over the past year amid a series of criminal charges.

The move comes as Sonko remains hospitalized because of a hunger strike he began earlier this month and as he awaits a decision from a West African regional court. The ECOWAS Court of Justice said that it would render its verdict next week on Senegal’s dissolution of Sonko’s political party.

Senegal’s Interior Ministry removed Sonko from the voter rolls after his conviction earlier this year on charges of corrupting youth. However, the decision was later overturned by a judge in the southern city of Ziguinchor, where Sonko serves as mayor.

In a statement Tuesday the electoral commission said that Sonko “must enjoy his status as a registered voter with all the rights attached thereto.”



GOMA, Congo: A record 6.9 million people have been displaced by conflict across Congo, the United Nations migration agency said, making it one of the world’s largest displacement and humanitarian crises.

The decadeslong conflict has been the primary reason for displacement, the International Organization for Migration said Monday in a report based on data from Congo’s 26 provinces.

At least 80% of the displaced people live in eastern Congo’s provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri and Tanganyika, which have long been overrun by dozens of armed groups seeking a share of the region’s gold and other resources. Some groups reportedly have been backed by Congo’s neighbors. Some groups are trying to protect their communities.

“The most recent escalation of the conflict has uprooted more people in less time like rarely seen before,” said IOM’s chief of mission in Congo, Fabien Sambussy.



BAMAKO, Mali: United Nations peacekeepers on Tuesday withdrew from a rebel stronghold in northern Mali weeks earlier than planned because of growing insecurity, leaving the town in the hands of ethnic Tuareg separatists.

Underscoring the uptick in violence, at least two peacekeepers were wounded en route to the largest UN base in Gao.

“The peacekeepers’ convoy that left Kidal this morning was the victim of two improvised explosive device attacks,” Myriam Dessables, head of communications for the U.N. mission known as MINUSMA, told The Associated Press.

JNIM, an extremist group with links to al-Qaida, later claimed responsibility for the attack.

MINUSMA has now left eight of its 13 bases after Mali’s junta earlier this year ordered the 15,000-strong mission to leave the West African country, claiming it had failed in its mission in trying to contain an Islamic extremist insurgency.



In this photo released from the The Military True News Information Team on Oct 30 representatives of Myanmar State Administration Council, (left side), led by Home Affairs Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae meet with Chinese representatives, right side, led by Wang Xiaohong, Chinese Minister for public security, in Naypyitaw, Myanmar. The visit by Chinese State Council member and Wang Xiaohong comes as fighting rages along Myanmar’s northeastern frontier, where an alliance of ethnic minority groups launched an offensive against the military government. (AP)

Asia

‘NKorea shipped more than mln artillery shells to Russia’

China keeps up military pressure on Taiwan

TAIPEI, Taiwan, Nov 1, (AP): Taiwan said Wednesday that China sent 43 military aircraft and seven ships near the self-ruled island, the latest sign that Beijing plans no let-up in its campaign of harassment, threats and intimidation.

Taiwan’s Defense Ministry said the figure was current for the 24 hours up to 6:00 am Wednesday and that 37 of the aircraft had crossed the median line in the Taiwan Strait, which China no longer recognizes as an informal divider between the sides.

It said Taiwan had monitored the situation, scrambled jet fighters, dispatched ships and activated land-based missile systems, all standard responses to Chinese military activities, which include crossing into Taiwan’s air defense identification zone but not into its actual airspace.

Such Chinese maneuvers have become frequent and aggressive since then- US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan in August 2022. China suspended military communication with the US to show its displeasure over her trip to Taiwan, which Beijing considers part of its territory to be brought under under its control by force if necessary.

China’s military maneuvers are seen as intended to break down Taiwanese morale, exhausting its pilots and other personnel and wearing down its equipment. Despite that, the present status of de-facto independence remains widely popular among the island’s voters and the defense budget has been increased to purchase new equipment from the US, its chief ally, and to produce some items locally, including submarines.

At an international defense forum in Beijing on Monday, China’s second-ranking military official Gen. Zhang Youxia reiterated threats by the Chinese government to retaliate against moves toward establishing Taiwan’s formal independence, saying that “no matter who tries to split Taiwan from China in any form, China and the Chinese military will never allow that to happen.”

Zhang, who is also vice chairman of the Central Military Commission, which oversees the world’s largest standing military, opened the three-day event in the absence of former Defense Minister Gen. Li Shangfu, who would have normally hosted the event.

Also:

SEOUL, South Korea: South Korea’s top spy agency believes North Korea sent more than a million artillery shells to **Russia** since August to help fuel Russian President **Vladimir**

CANBERRA, Australia, Nov 1, (AP): Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said Wednesday he will raise the plight of a detained Australian democracy blogger with Chinese leaders during a state visit to China.

Albanese said he had approved a draft letter to the sons of Yang Hengjun, who has been detained in China since 2019.

“We’re very sympathetic and understand the concerns that they would have for their father and for this Australian who has been detained now for a long period of time,” Albanese told reporters.

The sons have made public a letter to Albanese, dated Oct. 28, that said there was a “narrow window of opportunity” before Albanese left for China to secure their father’s freedom.

“We ask that you make it clear that it is not possible to stabilize the bilateral relationship with a government that is holding an Australian citizen just a few kilometers south of where you will be hosted,” the brothers added, referring to Beijing.

They said they had just last week received the first letter Yang had been allowed to send from detention. Yang wrote: “I’m sick. I’m weak. I’m dying.”

Yang, who once worked for China’s Ministry of State Security, is still awaiting a verdict from his closed-door trial on espionage charges in May 2021.

His sons are 24 and 31 years old. Family friend Feng Chongyi said the sons had not been publicly identified

because they feared Chinese retaliation for their father’s activities.

Feng said Albanese becoming the first Australian prime minister in seven years to visit China created an opportunity for Yang.

“It’s not the last chance, but it’s the best chance,” Feng said. “The visit symbolizes the complete normalization of relations between the two countries.”

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin defended Yang’s prosecution and his wait of over two years for a verdict.

Also:

CANBERRA, Australia: Australia’s highest court on Wednesday overturned a government decision to strip citizenship from a man convicted of terrorism.

The ruling is a second blow in the High Court to the law introduced almost a decade ago that allows a government minister to strip dual nationalities of their Australian citizenship on extremism-related grounds.

The ruling also prevents the government from deporting Algerian-born cleric **Abdul Benbrika** when he is released from prison, which is expected within weeks.

The High Court judges ruled 6-1 that the law that gave the home affairs minister power to strip citizenship in such instances was unconstitutional. The majority found that the minister was effectively exercising a judicial function of punishing criminal guilt.

BANGKOK: A group of human rights researchers officially launched a website Wednesday that they hope will help get justice for victims of state violence in Myanmar, where one of the world’s less-noticed but still brutal armed struggles is taking place.

Since the army seized power in February 2021 from the elected government of **Aung San Suu Kyi**, thousands of people have been killed by the security forces seeking to quash pro-democracy resistance. According to the United Nations, more than 1.8 million have been displaced by military offensives, which critics charge have involved gross violations of human rights.

War crimes have become easier to document in recent years thanks largely to the ubiquity of cellphone cameras and the near-universal access to social media, where photo and video evidence can easily be posted and viewed.



People stay beside apartment-type tombs inside Manila’s North Cemetery, Philippines on Nov 1. Many Filipinos trooped to cemeteries to visit the graves of their departed loved ones as part of tradition during All Saints’ Day. (AP)



Holloway



Ojeda

Lat/Am

Puerto Rico police arrest 380: Puerto Rico police arrested at least 380 people on Tuesday in the department’s biggest crackdown on crime in recent years.

Police Commissioner Antonio López said 12 gangs dedicated to the sale of drugs and weapons were targeted after receiving tips from residents who had complained about violence in their communities.

Police also seized 78 firearms, more than 50 vehicles and nearly \$100,000 in cash, along with a variety of unspecified drugs.

Among the arrested are couples, families and women who ran criminal organizations linked to various killings, said Police Col Carlos Cruz.

The FBI and other federal agencies were involved in the operation. (AP)



4 more sunken boats found: The Mexican navy said Tuesday that four more boats have been located on the bottom of Acapulco bay, bringing to 33 the number of vessels that apparently sank when Hurricane Otis slammed into the resort city last week.

The boats are believed to have been one of the key sources of hurricane deaths, because many crews are missing and apparently stayed aboard their craft when the Category 5 storm hit. So far, 47 people have been confirmed killed, including three foreign residents.

Navy Secretary **José Rafael Ojeda** said a ship with a crane has arrived, and that search teams hope to start lifting the boats to the surface soon to check for victims.

“We have located 33 vessels, and we are going to start trying to lift them,” Ojeda said. However, with just one crane working, lifting the boats to the surface could take weeks, raising the prospect of a long, agonizing wait for relatives.

On Monday, a handful of relatives demonstrated on Acapulco’s mud-clogged main boulevard to demand authorities speed up the search, holding up hand-lettered signs saying “I’m looking for my husband.”

Abigail Andrade Rodríguez was one of four crew members aboard the rental boat Litos, a 94-foot (29-meter), twin-motor yacht based in Puerto Marques, just south of Acapulco’s main bay, on the night the hurricane hit.

“None of them has been found,” said Susy Andrade, her aunt.

“She spoke with her family (Tuesday) and she said the sea was very choppy, and that they were going to leave Puerto Marques and head for the (Acapulco) marina to see if they would be safer there,” Andrade said. “It appears they didn’t arrive.”

Around midnight, the yacht appears to have sent out an SOS after being blown off

fleeing across the main bay. There was no official word that the Litos was among the 29 boats confirmed sunk.

“Things don’t look good,” Andrade said, “but we want to find her.”

Acapulco is known for both its abundance of expensive yachts and its cheap tour boats

that carry tourists around the bay. (AP)



Holloway’s killer returns to Peru: A Dutchman who recently confessed to killing American high school student **Natalee Holloway** in 2005 in Aruba was returned to



Britain’s King Charles III, (center) plants a tree, with Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, Zainab Hawa Bangura, (at left) during a visit to the United Nations Office, in Nairobi, Kenya on Nov 1. (AP)

oil down

THE price of Kuwait oil went down USD 1.48 to USD 91.34 per barrel on Tuesday in contrast to USD 92.82 Monday, said Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Wednesday.

The price of the Brent crude went down by four cents to USD 87.41 per barrel, while the price of the West Texas Intermediate went up by 16 cents to USD 81.02 pb. (KUNA)

KFH launches green products financing campaign

Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has launched a personal financing campaign the first of its kind in the Kuwaiti market titled "Sustainable Financing of Green Products" targeting citizens owning private housing plots.

The campaign offers a comprehensive range of resources for customers to construct their homes using green sustainable housing and consumer products that contribute to the preservation of natural resources and the harnessing of renewable energy. Thanks to its financing solutions, the campaign facilitates the process of building the future house in cooperation with specialized companies in the field.

Abdulaziz Alsaeed, Acting Executive Manager of Personal Finance at KFH, said that the campaign contributes to enhancing KFH's role in raising awareness for preserving natural resources through1)providing products that reduce electricity and water consumption, 2) expanding reliance on building and construction elements that comply with sustainability standards 3)offering customers special features and a new experience.

Alsaeed added that the campaign would promote the adoption of environmental sustainability initiatives within the construction industry.

Alsaeed stressed KFH's continuous role in supporting the state's efforts in providing suitable housing for the citizens, pointing out that the three-month campaign provides the top-tier features in the market, including exclusive discounts on housing and consumer products.



Abdulaziz Alsaeed, Acting Executive Manager of Personal Finance

Market Movements

1-11-2023

SAUDI

-

Tadawul

Change

+124.80

Closing pts

10,814.89

UAE

-

DFM

Change

+15.47

Closing pts

3,892.55

JAPAN

-

Nikkei

Change

+742.80

Closing pts

31,601.65

PAKISTAN

-

KSE 100

Change

+380.74

Closing pts

52,357.05

EGYPT

-

EGX 30

Change

-117.27

Closing pts

22,433.38

Business

Household credit shows initial signs of turnaround

Kuwait domestic credit flat in third quarter of 2023

By National Bank of Kuwait

Domestic credit was flat in Q3, keeping the YTD increase at a muted 0.8% (+1.7% y/y). The weakness in Q3 was mainly driven by business credit while household credit showed initial signs of a turnaround. Looking ahead, business credit growth has historically been the weakest in the fourth quarter of the year. Nevertheless, overall credit growth should improve next year on the back of a very weak 2023, sharp improvement in project awards that is already being witnessed this year, ongoing job gains among Kuwaitis, and as the shock from higher interest rates is somehow absorbed.

Business credit decreased by 1% q/q translating into YTD growth of only 0.6%. This follows a strong 6.8% growth in 2022, the fastest annual expansion since 2013. Sector-wise, wide differences continued to be the case with "construction" and "trade" maintaining their solid expansion while all other main sectors were in the red. From a YTD perspective, "construction" and "trade" are up by 10% and 8.2%, respectively, while "other services", "oil/gas", and "industry" are in negative territory. Real estate, the heavyweight sector with a 41% share, is broadly flat YTD. Looking ahead, growth should improve with the weak 2023 naturally opening room for a better performance in 2024, especially with the ongoing improvement in project awards, which are up by more than 300% y/y in the first nine months of 2023 although from a low base last year. On the other hand, the growth in household credit improved to 0.9% q/q after being nil for two consecutive quarters, resulting in a 1% YTD increase, a major slowdown compared with the 9% recorded in 2022. For 2024, household credit growth should improve given ongoing job gains among citizens (+1.5% YTD in 1H2023), salary increments, and as the pressure on debt burden ratios from higher interest rates is somehow absorbed. On a y/y basis, total credit is up by 1.7% through September (household +2.5%, business +0.4%).

Deposit growth weakened sharply, dragged down by private-sector and public-institution deposits

Resident deposits decreased for four consecutive months and are down by 1% in Q3, pulling down the YTD increase to a lackluster

Table 1: Credit growth

Credit	Sep-2023	% growth			
	KD billions	q/q	YTD	y/y	2022
Business	23.1	-1.0	0.6	0.4	6.8
of which Real Estate	9.5	-0.8	0.1	0.4	5.6
Household	18.7	0.9	1.0	2.5	9.1
Securities	3.3	3.0	1.9	3.5	14.3
Banks & financial instit.	2.2	-0.8	0.3	5.5	-3.1
Total domestic credit	47.3	0.0	0.8	1.7	7.7
Non-resident credit	5.6	-3.0	-0.1	-1.3	17.2
Total credit	52.8	-0.3	0.7	1.4	8.6

Source: Central Bank of Kuwait

Table 2: Deposit growth

Deposits	Sep-2023	% growth			
	KD billions	q/q	YTD	y/y	2022
Private sector	37.5	-1.1	1.4	4.2	7.2
of which Time dep.	20.7	2.3	12.2	22.2	19.8
of which CASA dep.	15.1	-5.5	-9.7	-13.0	-3.9
Public Institutions	5.7	-3.5	-14.0	-20.2	-8.9
Government	4.2	2.9	25.2	10.2	18.2
Total resident dep.	47.3	-1.0	0.9	1.0	5.3
Non-resident deposits	4.1	3.3	-4.9	-3.5	-1.7
Total deposits	51.4	-0.7	0.4	0.6	4.6

Source: Central Bank of Kuwait

KPC seeks to secure KD 3.8 bn for future needs

Central Bank of Kuwait seeks fourfold increase in reserves ceiling to KD 5 bn

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: The Central Bank of Kuwait has asked the Ministry of Finance, after obtaining the approval of its Board of Directors, to jump the ceiling of its reserves 4 times, from the amount of one billion to 5 billion dinars, indicating that the request to increase its reserve of reserves was approved. .

It indicated that the approval came after months of open discussions by the supervisory regulator with those concerned in the Ministry of Finance to convince them of its broad need to increase the ability of its tools for rapid intervention to regulate the liquidity of the banking sector, and to carry out its work with complete independence without resorting to the government to approve new liquidity laws if the need arises, as happened when providing solutions to the 2008 crisis, reports Al-Rai daily.

The sources stated that, according to the considerations advanced by the Central Bank, the approval to stop transferring the bank's net profits to the general reserve until the ceiling for building its new reserves is reached helps it follow the development of interest rates in the local market and foreign markets, and control the impact of this on monetary and credit policy, in addition to Increase foreign currency reserves

Finances

But what increases the challenges of these moves on public finances is that despite the importance of raising the ceiling of the Central Bank's reserves in accordance with the considerations raised by it, they come at a time when official expectations estimate that the 2023-2024 budget will achieve a record deficit of 6.8 billion dinars.

These numbers constitute a huge jump in the deficit, which increases fears that stopping the transfer of profits from independent entities to the public treasury will lead to additional pressures on the liquidity of the general reserve, especially if the government does not succeed in obtaining the approval of the National Assembly for the public debt law, and if oil prices continue at their levels in exchange for the increase in its expenses, which increased in the budget of the current fiscal year compared to the previous fiscal year, by 2.752 billion dinars, equivalent to 11.7 percent.

The sources noted that the considerations mentioned by the Central Bank in its request included that the new ceiling it targets for its reserves ensures the implementation of its policy followed regarding the gradual raising of interest, a measure that will entail an additional cost on the bank's budget that requires retaining its profits until the target value of the reserve is formed, taking into account that The

bank's capital is 5 million dinars.

Accounting-wise, this is not the first time that the Central Bank has asked to increase its reserves by withholding its net realized profits and not transferring them to the general reserve, as it had previously approved raising them to one billion dinars.

In a related context, the sources pointed out that the Central Bank recently transferred about 300 million dinars to the public treasury, representing profits achieved for the last fiscal year, which indicates that its reserves have already reached the ceiling of one billion.

Bank

She explained that the application of the approval obtained by the Central Bank will start from the current fiscal year, until the completion of filling the bank's general reserve reservoir.

On the other hand, the sources indicated that the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation is seeking to raise the ceiling of its reserve fund and not transfer its profits for the fiscal years 2021/2022 and 2022/2023, estimated at about 3.8 billion dinars, to the public treasury, provided that they are used to finance its future needs.

The sources indicated that the corporation's request has not been decided yet, noting that according to the reasons for the request, "Petroleum Corporation" confirmed that reserving its profits for the past two fiscal years is a financial necessity to raise its production and investment capacity, which requires double coverage of its financing needs for its projects expected to be launched during the coming near period.

According to statements by the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Oil, Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment, and Acting Minister of Finance, Dr. Saad Al-Barrak, it is expected that Kuwaiti investments in the field of energy in the long term and until 2040 will reach more than 300 billion dollars, which motivates decision-makers in the "Petroleum Corporation." » On the step of increasing financial reserves and not transferring the profits achieved for the past two years to the public treasury as stipulated in the accounting procedure.

The sources added that there is an additional consideration that increases the relevance of increasing the "Petroleum Corporation's" reserves, which is that Kuwait aims to increase its oil production capacity to reach 3.2 million barrels per day by the end of 2024, which requires increasing investment spending to achieve this production target, explaining that without strengthening the corporation's reserves item. With the target number, it may be difficult to implement the established production plan.

0.9% (+1% y/y). This was driven by private-sector and public-institution deposits, which fell in Q3 while government deposits continued to creep higher. YTD, private-sector deposits are up by 1.4%, government deposits soared by 25% while public institutions' deposits fell

by 14%. Within private-sector KD deposits, and for the sixth consecutive quarter, growth in time deposits (+2.3% q/q) outpaced that of CASA (-5.5%). In fact, since March 2022, when interest rate-liftoff commenced, time deposits are up by 31% while CASA is down by 16%.

Market expects hiking cycle is done while the dot-plot calls for a final 25 bps hike; both expect cuts in 2024

Finally, the Central Bank of Kuwait has hiked the discount rate by a cumulative 2.75% since March 2022, compared with a cumulative

5.25% increase by the Fed. While the Fed's most recent dot-plot (September) indicates one final 25 bps hike before year-end, current futures market pricing indicates that the hiking cycle is done. Both the dot-plot and market-implied pricing point to rate cuts in 2024.

Kuwait's economic outlook bleak as IMF predicts -0.6% GDP contraction

IMF expects 3.4% inflation rate

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: The World Economic Outlook report issued by the International Monetary Fund on October 29 expects Kuwait to record a negative growth rate in real GDP this year, of -0.6 percent, making it the only Gulf country that will record negative growth in 2023. According to the published figures, from Kuwait's GDP (at current prices) is likely to reach \$159.69 billion, reports Al-Rai daily.

The IMF expects the inflation rate (according to the average consumer price index) in Kuwait to reach 3.4 percent this year, which is the highest in the Gulf.

It is expected that the UAE will record an

inflation rate of 3.1 percent, Qatar 2.8 percent, Saudi Arabia 2.5 percent, and Oman 1.1 percent. percent and Bahrain 1 percent. As for the unemployment rate, it is expected in Kuwait to reach 2.2 percent in 2023.

On the other hand, Kuwait ranked fourth in the Gulf in terms of expected per capita GDP (at current dollar prices) for this year, as it is expected to reach 32.22 thousand dollars, compared to 81.97 thousand dollars in Qatar, and 50.6 thousand dollars in the Emirates. 32.59 thousand in Saudi Arabia, 28.46 thousand in Bahrain, and 21.27 thousand in Oman.

In terms of per capita GDP according to purchasing power parity, it is likely to reach \$51.76 thousand in Kuwait in 2023, and the current account balance will reach \$48.415 billion or 30.3 percent of GDP in 2023.

Net lending to general government borrowing in Kuwait amounted to 14 percent of the GDP for the year 2023, while the total public debt of the government amounted to 3.4 per-

cent of the GDP for this year.

The World Economic Outlook report contains a chart of IMF data according to selected key indicators only. The IMF staff compiles the data appearing in the World Economic Outlook (WEO) while preparing the WEO.

The historical data and forecasts are based on information collected by IMF country office staff in the course of their missions to IMF member countries and through their ongoing analysis of the evolving situation in each country.

As historical data is constantly updated, as more information becomes available, structural breaks in the data are often modified to produce smooth series using linking and other techniques. The IMF's expert estimates continue to serve as an alternative to historical series when complete information is not available. As a result, World Economic Outlook data can differ from other sources containing official data, including international financial statistics issued by the Monetary Fund.

Central Bank takes proactive measures to strengthen dinar

Kuwait's borrowing from foreign banks declines by 8.5 %

By Ahmad Fathi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: Over the course of nine months, foreign banks reduced their borrowing from local banks, experiencing an 8.5 percent decrease totaling 185.3 million dinars. This decline brought their borrowing from 2.169 billion dinars in December down to 1.983 billion dinars by September. On a monthly basis, foreign bank borrowing decreased by 6.2 percent, amounting to 131.2 million dinars, compared to 2.114 billion dinars in August. Annually, it fell by 9.2 percent, totaling about 202.6 million dinars, down from 2.186 billion dinars at the end of September 2022.

Conversely, the amount of loans obtained by local banks from foreign banks increased in the first nine months of 2023. It saw a 15.3 percent growth, reaching 166 million dinars, up from 1.081 billion dinars in December 2022 to 1.247 billion dinars in September. On a monthly basis, these loans increased by 122.5 million dinars or 10.9 percent, as they were 1.125 billion dinars in August. Annually, they surged by 30.2 percent, approximately 289.7 million dinars, compared to 957.8 million dinars in September 2022.

Moving on to credit facilities, loans and credit extended to non-residents (foreigners) increased by 5.3 percent over nine months, totaling around 180.4 million dinars. This growth brought the total from 3.393 billion dinars in December to 3.573 billion dinars in September. On a monthly basis, there was a 4.1 percent increase, roughly 142.4 million dinars, compared to 3.431 billion dinars in August. Annually, it increased by 3.76 percent, about 129.5 million dinars, up from 3.444 billion dinars in September 2022.

Increase

Within these loans and facilities, the value of loans in dinars reached approximately 131.1 million dinars, showing a 4 percent increase of 5 million dinars since the beginning of 2023. This is an increase from 126.1 million dinars at the end of December, although it decreased by 0.15 percent or about 200 thousand dinars on a monthly basis from 131.3 million dinars in August. Annually, it rose by 10 percent, approximately 12 million dinars, from 119.1 million dinars in September 2022.

The increase in mutual loans between local and foreign banks is linked to consecutive rises in local and global interest rates. This trend is led

by the US Federal Reserve, which aims to mitigate the sharpest inflation increase in over four decades and avoid a recession in the world's largest economy. Most global central banks have followed the Federal Reserve's lead by raising interest rates to maintain the strength and competitiveness of their respective currencies.

The Central Bank of Kuwait has also been proactive in managing cash flows between the banking sector and the national economy. It aims to keep the Kuwaiti dinar attractive as a rewarding and dependable savings vehicle. The Central Bank raised interest rates seven times in 2022 to keep pace with the Federal Reserve. The interest rate increased from 1.50% to 1.75% on March 16, then to 2% on September 5, 2.25% on September 16, 2.5% on August 28, and 2.75% on September 11, culminating in 3% on September 22. On December 7, the Central Bank further raised the discount rate by half a percentage point to 3.50% from 3.00%.

In 2023, the Central Bank initiated another increase in the discount rate in January, raising it by half a percentage point to 4.0% from 3.5% as of January 26. Last August, the Central Bank raised the discount rate by 25 basis points to reach 4.25% from 4.0% as of August 27, 2023.

Kuwait hails ‘fruitful’ Gulf Arab oil committee talks

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1, (KUNA): Kuwait's oil ministry on Tuesday hailed its "fruitful" participation in talks involving a pan-Gulf Arab committee on oil and gas, saying the country had pitched a number of suggestions pertaining to future plans and endeavors.

The talks mainly revolved around efforts to forge effective media strategies of state-run oil and gas firms in Gulf Cooperation

Council (GCC) member states, the oil ministry's public relations chief Sheikh Tamather Al-Sabah said in a statement.

These efforts include setting a timeframe to such strategies, in addition to identifying the message the plans aim to convey, the official underlined, pointing out that Kuwaiti suggestions on the matter have been approved by the committee.

On the strategy's chief goal, the official

said it seeks to demonstrate the "strategic clout" of Gulf Arab countries in the global oil industry, while simultaneously ratcheting up the region's cooperation with prominent oil firms from around the world.

The talks come ahead of a larger gathering devoted to oil media strategies as part of the United Nations' climate summit COP28 in Dubai next month, she added.

Bangladesh's garment factory workers protest

Thousands of garment factory workers took to the streets of Bangladesh's capital, Dhaka, and the industrial district of Gazipur on Tuesday to demand better wages. Bangladesh is the second largest garment-producing country in the world after China with its nearly 3,500 factories where some 4 million workers are employed - most are women - according to the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Ex-

porters Association, or BGMEA. The workers get 8,300 takas, or \$75, as monthly minimum wage and they often need to work overtime to make ends meet, labor unions and workers say. Protests erupted over the weekend after BGMEA offered to increase the monthly minimum wage by 25% to reach \$90, instead of the \$208 demanded by the workers. While Bangladesh has been maintaining stable an-

nual economic growth for years, rising inflation has become a major challenge. Gazipur district, which houses thousands of factories, saw thousands of protesters on the streets with some throwing stones at shops. In Dhaka's Mirpur area, where an Associated Press team was at the scene, hundreds of protesters chanted demanding better wages. (AP)

Dhaka launches new India-assisted rail projects

India and Bangladesh launched two new railway links and a thermal power plant unit Wednesday to strengthen connections and energy security in the region amid strong opposition protests in Bangladesh. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina jointly inaugurated the three Indian-assisted development projects via video conferencing.

India provided \$47.8 million for a cross-border train link and a \$388.92 million concessional line of credit for the Khulna-Mongla port rail line in Bangladesh. India provided another \$1.6 billion for Bangladesh's 1,320-megawatt super thermal power project, according to India's External Affairs Ministry. Hasina is facing street protests from opposition supporters who demand that her government re-

sign and hand power to a non-partisan caretaker to oversee a general election next year. At least six people have been killed and dozens injured during street protests since Saturday, officials said. Hasina considers a partnership with India politically significant for regional peace and development. However, India has not commented directly on the recent unrest. (AP)

Talent scheme lures mainland Chinese

Beijing's crackdown fails to dim Hong Kong's luster

HONG KONG, Nov 1, (AP): The exodus of tens of thousands of professionals from Hong Kong triggered by a crackdown on its civil liberties is being offset by new arrivals: mainland Chinese keen to move to the former British colony. The Asian financial hub has attracted tens of thousands of visa applications from mainland Chinese under the Top Talent Pass Scheme, a program launched in late 2022 aimed at luring high-income professionals and top global university graduates from around the world, though nine in 10 successful applicants are from China. For mainland Chinese, Hong Kong's unique attributes - such as wider freedom of speech and internet access, its cosmopolitan ambience, a less oppressive work culture, and a society where ability largely trumps connections - set it apart, according to interviews by The Associated Press with 20 mainland Chinese visa holders. Some, like Wu, a finance professional in his 20s, view moving to Hong Kong as a way to gain greater freedom and security. Wu, who asked to be identified by his surname due to fear of government retaliation, said he felt a sense of panic when he was trapped in unpredictable lockdowns in Beijing during the COVID-19 pandemic. He was tempted to join a protest against China's stringent COVID-19 restrictions, but opted instead to "run," a Chinese euphemism for emigrating that became popular during the pandemic. He moved to Hong Kong during the summer. "For now, it's my life boat," he said. The leeway for public dissent has narrowed in China in recent years under leader Xi Jinping. Although they have eroded under crackdowns that followed the imposition of a 2020 national security law, Hong Kong still has Western-style civil liberties that reflect its history as a former colony. China's communist leaders promised to let the semi-autonomous region keep those freedoms for 50 years after it returned to Chinese rule in 1997. Wu says he shares with many Hong Kongers a desire for freedom of speech. He's also happy it has fewer staunch nationalists, popularly known as "little pinks," than in Beijing. He enjoys the ability to freely move his money to other countries and to be able to access the internet without having to use VPNs to cir-

cumvent the censorship that prevails in the Chinese mainland. Since the Hong Kong government enacted the national security law, saying it was needed to restore stability following massive pro-democracy protests in 2019, many of the city's leading activists have been prosecuted. Dozens of civil society groups have been disbanded, and outspoken media outlets like Apple Daily and Stand News have been forced to shut down. Those political shifts, alongside strict COVID-19 controls that were lifted in Hong Kong faster than in the mainland, contributed to a decline in Hong Kong's population from 7.5 million in mid-2019 to 7.3 million in mid-2022. International companies and banks also have been moving away. It's unclear how many Hong Kongers have left for good and how many departures were mainly because of the political climate. But more than 123,800 have moved to Britain and thousands of others gained permanent residency in Canada under special policies for people from Hong Kong after the security law took effect. The talent scheme is meant to help plug that brain drain: According to the immigration department, about 37,000 applications from mainland Chinese have already been approved. It is unclear how many have already arrived in the city, which had about 135,000 mainland Chinese already residing there for less than seven years as of 2021, before the program was launched. Many others have become permanent residents after staying in the city for more than seven years: nearly a third of the city's residents were born in other parts of China and self-ruled Taiwan, though most of those moved to Hong Kong years ago. Fresh graduate Zhang Guangwei, 22, said he turned down several job offers in mainland China to work as a software developer in Hong Kong, aiming to escape from China's notorious "996" working culture, in which employees often work from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. six days a week. Zhang got a taste of a similar workaholic lifestyle during an internship and he's happy his Hong Kong job only requires him to work from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. for five days a week. That allows him spare time to hike and socialize with friends. "If work gets too busy, then I feel it's meaningless for me to earn money," he said.

Most of the mid-career people interviewed by AP said they were largely motivated by Hong Kong's wider educational opportunities for their children. Monica Wang, a 39-year-old businesswoman who has secured a visa, was enticed by Hong Kong's freedom of speech and its portrayal in movies and TV shows as a modern city that embraces a variety of lifestyles. Hungry for new career options, she hopes to relocate to Hong Kong from the nearby city of Zhuhai. "I want to see more about the world and I also hope my children can," she said. Most people interviewed by AP appeared undeterred by the narrowing of leeway for dissent and free speech in Hong Kong, which still enjoys wider freedoms than can be found across the border in mainland China. Wang said she viewed the security law as a way to make the city safer. Though the new arrivals may alleviate the brain drain in some areas like finance, they may not fully make up for the loss of talent across various sectors, said Simon Lee, an honorary fellow at the Chinese University of Hong Kong's Asia-Pacific Institute of Business. The medical sector has lost some "quite experienced" professionals who can't be easily replaced by doctors who haven't been trained locally, he said. Experts are unsure how the influx of mainland Chinese might shape the city's future given the dynamic interactions between new arrivals and Hong Kong natives. Although not all newcomers can speak Cantonese - the mother tongue of many Hong Kongers - some of them can secure a job quickly as Mandarin has become an increasingly prominent language in the city after the 1997 handover. Hong Kong has been absorbing migrants from the rest of China ever since it was a fishing village centuries ago, and while many were refugees fleeing civil war, poverty or communism, many others came simply in search of better opportunities than they could find back home. Such factors are playing out in the lives of new arrivals like Wu, the finance professional. He says he finds his local friends and Hong Kong media outlets have become more cautious since he arrived. If the government tightens controls and the political atmosphere becomes too suffocating, Wu said he plans to try to stay for the seven years required to get permanent residency. After that, he said, "there's a high probability that I will leave."

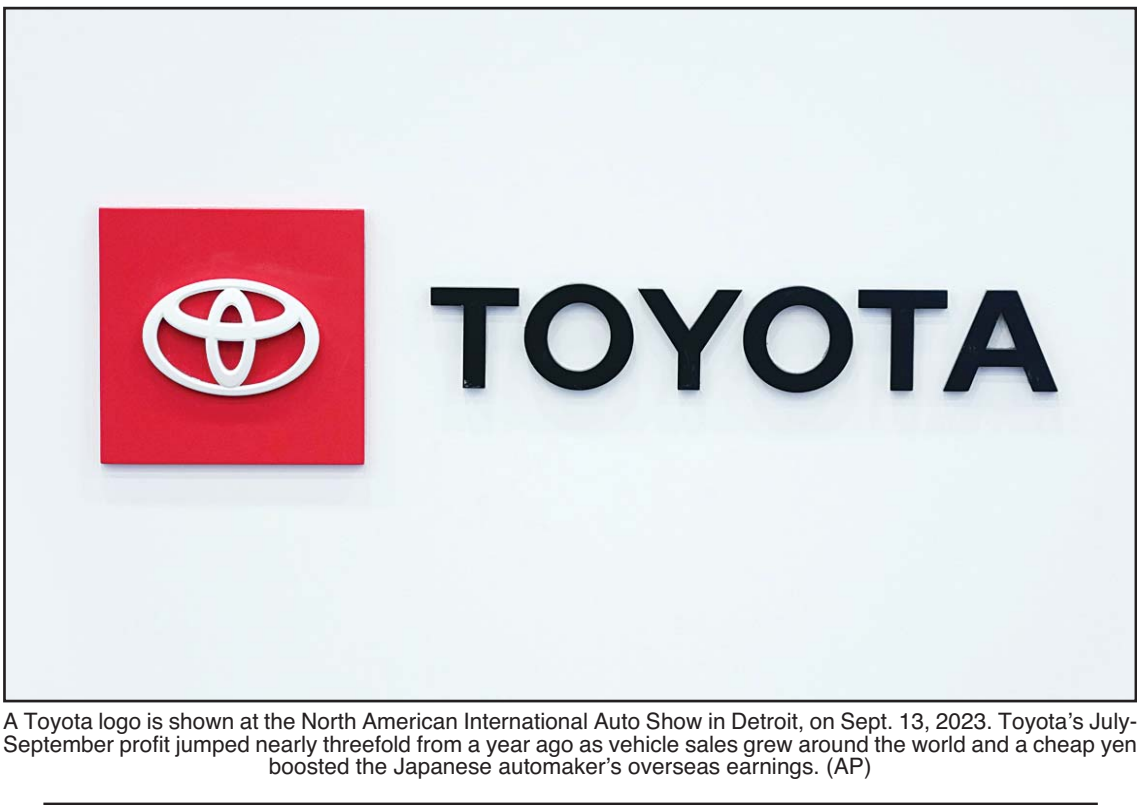
Toyota's quarterly profits zoom on cheap yen and strong global sales

Automaker's forecast of selling 11.38m vehicles on course

TOKYO, Nov 1, (AP): Toyota's July-September profit jumped nearly threefold from a year ago as vehicle sales grew around the world and a cheap yen boosted the Japanese automaker's overseas earnings. Toyota Motor Corp. reported Wednesday 1.28 trillion yen (\$8.5 billion) in quarterly profit, up from 434 billion yen the previous year. Quarterly sales rose 24% to 11.43 trillion yen (\$75.7 billion) from 9.22 trillion yen. A cheap yen is a plus for Japan's giant exporters like Toyota by raising the value of its overseas earnings when translated into yen. The U.S. dollar was trading at about 145 Japanese yen in the latest quarter, up from 138 yen. It's trading above 150 yen lately. The manufacturer of the Camry sedan, Prius hybrid and Lexus luxury models raised its profit forecast for the fiscal year through March 2024 to 3.95 trillion yen (\$26 billion), up from the previous projection of 2.5 trillion yen.

Improvement

The forecast, if realized, marks an improvement from the previous fiscal year's 2.45 trillion yen profit, and will be a record high for Toyota. Toyota is expecting its vehicle sales to grow in most major regions, officials said. Toyota's vehicle sales for July-September grew from the previous year in the U.S., Europe, Japan and the rest of Asia, totaling more than 2.4 million vehicles globally, up from 2.1 million the previous year. Toyota kept unchanged its forecast of selling 11.38 million vehicles for the full fiscal year worldwide. Toyota has acknowledged it has fallen behind in battery electric vehicles to frontrunner rivals like U.S. EV maker Tesla and BYD of China. Toyota has shown concepts recently that reflect how it's serious about catching up. Earlier this week, Toyota said it's investing an additional \$8 billion in the hybrid and electric vehicle battery factory it's constructing in North Carolina, more than doubling its prior investments. The new investment is expected to create 3,000 additional jobs, to a total of more than 5,000 jobs when its first U.S. automotive battery plant begins operations near Greensboro in 2025. The plant is designed to be



A Toyota logo is shown at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, on Sept. 13, 2023. Toyota's July-September profit jumped nearly threefold from a year ago as vehicle sales grew around the world and a cheap yen boosted the Japanese automaker's overseas earnings. (AP)

Three energy companies compete to build new nuclear reactor in the Czech Republic

PRAGUE , Nov 1, (AP): Three energy companies including U.S. Westinghouse, France's EdF and Korea's KHNP, have submitted their final bids to build the Czech Republic's newest reactor at the Dukovany nuclear power station as the country strives to become more energy independent and wean itself of fossil fuels. State-controlled power company CEZ said Tuesday it would assess the bids for the multi-billion-dollar contract before sending its decision to the government for final approval of the winner. The three companies that met Tuesday's deadline already submitted preliminary bids in November in a tender launched earlier in March 2022 after passing a Czech government security appraisal. The new reactor should become operational by 2036. The winner of the lucrative contract will then have an option to build three more nuclear reactors in the country. Last year, the Czech govern-

ment excluded Russia's energy giant Rosatom and China's CNG from the tender process on security grounds. Prime Minister Petr Fiala said Russian participation in the project, which is critical for the Czech Republic's energy security, was "unimaginable" following the Kremlin's invasion of Ukraine. Complement The new reactor will complement Dukovany's four 510-megawatt units that were completed in the 1980s. Last year, the government originally estimated the project would cost around 6 billion euros (\$6.4 billion) but that could change due to high inflation driven by soaring energy prices. The Czech Republic already relies on six nuclear reactors to generate more than a third of its total electricity. Besides the four in Dukovany, state-controlled power company CEZ operates another

two 1,000-megawatt reactors at the Temelin plant. CEZ will be in charge of the tender. Unlike its western neighbors Austria and Germany, the Czech Republic is doubling down on nuclear power and renewable energy sources after deciding to phase out coal as a fuel for energy generation by 2033 in order to reduce carbon emissions. Another two European Union countries in Central Europe, Slovakia and Hungary, have also been working to expand nuclear power production while another neighbor, Poland, has selected Westinghouse to build its first nuclear power plant as part of an effort to burn less coal and gain greater energy independence. In a separate deal, CEZ had signed a deal with U.S. energy giant Westinghouse Electric Co. to supply nuclear fuel for the Dukovany nuclear plant, eliminating dependence on Russia for such fuel.

Bid to promote global green energy dev

PowerChina collaborates 'closely' with BRI nations

BEIJING, Nov 1, (PR Newswire): Power Construction Corporation of China ("PowerChina") participated in the opening ceremony of the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing. Since the "Belt and Road" initiative was put forward ten years ago, PowerChina has been vigorously promoting and advocating the sustainable development of the global energy industry, and devoting itself to the construction of the "Belt and Road". Giving full play to its advantages in the integration of the whole industrial chain of investment, construction and operation and its global marketing network, PowerChina has constructed energy and power projects with a total installed capacity of 190 million kilowatts, and invested in projects with a total installed capacity of more than 6,000 megawatts, which have benefited more than 1 billion people around the world with the clean energy it has created. PowerChina has constructed 112 hydropower projects with a total installed capacity of 34,000 kilowatts in countries and regions along the Belt and Road. PowerChina's hydro and wind energy, photovoltaics, and International New Energy Solutions (INES) have made contributions to combating global climate change. By the end of Sep2023, PowerChina secured international new energy projects totaling 44.7GW. PowerChina's projects delivered reliable, cost-effective, and environmentally-friendly energy, making significant contributions to global climate change mitigation. PowerChina's clean energy solutions - spanning hydro, wind, and photovolta-

ics - are operational in various regions, including Singapore, Laos, Kazakhstan, Bangladesh, Zambia, Brazil etc. In the six years since its establishment, the INES has scaled to 29 companies, with business covering wind power, photovoltaics, solar thermal, the entire industry chain of investment, construction and operation in energy storage, waste-to-energy, hydrogen energy, among other industries. To date, the INES has cooperated in 69 new energy projects with a total installed capacity of more than 12GW. President of the Republic of Argentina, Alberto Fernández, who attended the 3rd Belt and Road Forum, noted that PowerChina is among the most important multinational companies in the construction of Argentina's infrastructure. The Cauchari Solar PV and Helios Wind Power Group projects have played a pivotal role in addressing power shortages, stimulating the economy, promoting employment, and reducing carbon emissions. PowerChina's innovative global green energy advocacy and development reaches new heights. PowerChina's Taweeleh SWRO Water Desalination Plant in Abu Dhabi, UAE, a winner of the 2023 Global Water Awards, is currently the world's largest reverse osmosis seawater desalination project with a daily production capacity of 900,000 cubic meters, satisfying the water needs of the local population of nearly 2 million people. And the project will significantly alleviate the shortage of freshwater resources in the UAE, benefiting people's livelihoods and local economic and social development in the UAE.

KIB in partnership with Visa

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: Kuwait International Bank (KIB), a leading financial institution in Kuwait, proudly announces a groundbreaking strategic growth partnership with Visa, the global leader in digital payments. This dynamic collaboration, set to span seven years, marks a pivotal moment in the Kuwaiti banking landscape. KIB is poised to undergo a remarkable transformation into an exclusively Visa card issuing bank. Under the overarching theme of "KIB & Visa Partnership for Growth," this visionary alliance is built upon a foundation of innovation, technology, and the creation of new business verticals. KIB and Visa are dedicated to pioneering financial solutions and forging new pathways within the Kuwaiti market. This partnership will have far-reaching implications for the Kuwaiti banking industry as a whole. The cornerstone of this partnership is the commitment to driving innova-

tion and embracing cutting-edge technology. KIB and Visa are dedicated to jointly introducing innovative banking products and services that will revolutionize the financial landscape in Kuwait. By leveraging Visa's global expertise and KIB's digital capabilities, customers can anticipate a wealth of new banking propositions, encompassing seamless payment solutions, digital banking innovations, and much more. On this occasion, Mohammed El-Shareef - General Manager of the Digital Transformation and Innovation Department at KIB, said: "This partnership represents a significant stride towards making KIB synonymous with innovation and customer-centric solutions. We are committed to delivering banking experiences that exceed expectations and position KIB as a digital banking leader that sets new industry benchmarks and elevates the financial landscape in Kuwait to unprecedented heights."



KIB – Visa Growth Partnership signing ceremony.

Toyota's main lithium-ion battery production site in North America and will be a key supplier for the Kentucky-based plant that's building its first U.S.-made electric vehicles. Toyota sold fewer than 25,000 EVs worldwide last year, although in the first eight months of this year, it sold 65,000, mostly

outside Japan. Toyota is targeting sales of 1.5 million EVs a year by 2026 and 3.5 million by 2030. A shortage of computer chips caused by the social restrictions of the coronavirus pandemic had previously slammed the supply chain and hurt Toyota sales. But that has gradually eased. Vehicles that aren't gas-guz-

zlers are increasingly popular in various markets because of environmental concerns. Besides battery EVs, Toyota is also banking on other kinds of ecological vehicles, such as fuel cells that run on hydrogen and hybrids that have both an electric motor and gasoline engine.

Books

NEW YORK, Nov 1, (AP): Black holes, wormholes and other mysteries of the universe are so firmly embedded in popular culture – from Carl Sagan’s “Contact” to Christopher Nolan’s “Interstellar” – that readers with no scientific background have some images in mind when the concepts are mentioned.

But in “The Warped Side of Our Universe: An Odyssey Through Black Holes, Wormholes, Time Travel, and Gravitational Waves,” physicist Kip Thorne and artist Lia Halloran find a novel approach to exploring these topics in startling detail.

The collaboration between the two is just as fascinating as the book itself. Thorne is among three astrophysicists who won the Nobel prize in physics in 2017 for their research into gravitational waves. For the past 13 years he and Halloran have partnered on this book as a way to explain the research that has helped shed light on the far reaches the universe.

Written in verse form, Thorne’s writing is perfectly complemented by Halloran’s vivid illustrations in explaining how that research has pierced a universe that is “varied and vast.”

The paintings portray a swirling universe of wonders, explaining a black hole’s characteristics with images of Halloran’s wife being bent by its warped spacetime. Images of other scientists such as Sagan and Stephen Hawking appear throughout the paintings in the book, alongside illustrations of black holes colliding and wormholes metamorphizing into time machines.

The book guides readers through the history of the research into these concepts, including the work on the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory, or LIGO, that led to the 2017 Nobel. And

it offers a glimpse at the work ahead that physicists hope will reveal more about the birth of the universe.

□ □ □

Dara’s dream of defying the odds and becoming a partner at her firm is just within reach when Lani enters the picture. This handsome Nigerian man is about to irrevocably change her life, and her best friend’s and the newcomer to their book club’s lives, too.

Kehinde Fadipe’s debut novel, “The Sun Sets in Singapore,” brings three expat Nigerian women to the stage to highlight the specific struggles that come with their race, gender and backgrounds - particularly in an upscale and competitive environment like Singapore.

Lani is joining Dara’s firm, and the timing is impeccable for undermining the years of cutthroat efforts and ludicrous hours she’s sunk into her job trying to secure a partnership. She tells her best friend, Amaka, in hopes they can dig up some dirt on the guy and figure out what to do.

Attraction

But Amaka, who’s trying to keep her workplace romance and the battle over her father’s estate thoroughly compartmentalized, is zapped by an immediate attraction to Lani. Her coping mechanism of choice is pricey shoes and handbags, and with the stresses piling up, Amaka’s on track to blow through everything her father left.

Then there’s Lillian, a former concert pianist who followed her husband from the United States to Singapore in an attempt to escape her demons. But the emotional scars left by the death of her parents at an early age can’t be outrun. When she sees Lani, he’s the spitting image of her father. The grief, stress and aimlessness that have ruled

her life for so long begin to bubble over.

The women find themselves in the same book club, which cycles through tons of enticing titles that Fadipe has kindly included a list of at the end of the novel. When the women get into discussing the books they’ve read, it’s clearly a statement on the story; halfway through, there’s essentially a book report on “Americannah” about the way women oppress each other. It’s heavy handed, but it works.

Fadipe’s novel tackles broad, common themes: misogyny in the workplace, family strife and love triangles. But it’s also exceptionally niche.

Dara loves Greek mythology, Amaka knows designer fashion inside and out, and classical music is embedded in Lillian like DNA. Plus, their very status as Nigerians in Singapore is a rarity that brings up hyper-specific experiences unfamiliar to most Western readers. It’s uncomfortable, cool, and confusing all at once. And in the moments when you know the reference, it’s highly rewarding.

“The Sun Sets in Singapore” is charming, sweet, funny and emotional - but also exhausting. Its high drama, quick turns and brutally unrelenting pace demand you keep up or drop out, which makes it all the more disappointing when the pivotal climax is as clear as day with a red flag the size of Singapore waving right in readers’ faces for pages. The tone doesn’t change between the women’s chapters, so I found myself flipping back on multiple occasions to figure out which “she” we were reading about.

Would I read it again? No. Am I glad I read it? Absolutely. Just the opportunity to experience something completely new makes “The Sun Sets in Singapore” worth picking up and discussing at your own book club.

Variety



This image released by Netflix shows Jeffrey Mackenzie Jordan, (left), and Colman Domingo as Bayard Rustin in a scene from 'Rustin.' (AP)

Film

Domingo is outstanding in triumphant Netflix movie

‘Rustin’ a terrific look at 1963 March

LOS ANGELES, Nov 1, (AP): The 1963 March on Washington drew an estimated 250,000 people from across the country - the largest march at that point in American history - and was the place where the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his iconic “I Have a Dream” speech.

It likely wouldn’t have happened without the work of a master strategist: Bayard Rustin, a Black socialist and pacifist-activist from Pennsylvania, whose close friendship with King was the engine in the early days of the Civil Rights Movement.

The winning, triumphant Netflix movie “Rustin” explores the stressful weeks leading up to the march from the grassroots level, with Colman Domingo starring as the organizer who many people know nothing about.

It was he who wrangled 80,000 boxed lunches, 22 first aid stations, six water tanks, 2,200 chartered buses, six chartered flights, 292 latrines, over 1,000 Black police officers and a change to the city’s subway schedule, not to mention snagging celebrities like Marlon Brando, Charlton Heston, Lena Horne and James Baldwin.

Domingo is debonair, frisky, droll, passionate and utterly captivating as Rustin - the film representing the electric meeting of winning material with the perfect performer.

“You’re irrelevant,” Rustin is told at an after-work get-together by a more militant activist. “It’s Friday night. I’ve been called worse,” Rustin responds, taking a sip of his drink.

But as wonderful as Domingo is, it’s the astonishing amount of talent in front of and behind the camera that will take your breath away. No matter how small, each performance brings fire and makes the most of a few minutes on camera.

Is that Jeffrey Wright as a dour Rep. Adam Clayton Powell? Yes, indeed. Wait, isn’t that Adrienne Warren? Yup. Kevin Mambo and Audra McDonald, too? Yes and yes. Chris Rock ages up to play

a stuffy NAACP Executive Secretary Roy Wilkins and Glynn Turman is awesome, as always, as labor leader A. Philip Randolph.

Da’Vine Joy Randolph plays Mahalia Jackson, Michael Potts is “Cleve” Robinson, CCH Pounder as Dr. Anna Hegeman, appropriately, gets her own warm round of applause during the movie. And Aml Ameen plays an understated King, his moments with Rustin playing like two old friends.

There’s excellence in the music - Branford Marsalis provides the jazzy score, including lonely sax solos and mournful double bass plucks - and Lenny Kravitz contributed an original song, “Road to Freedom.”

Portrait

The biopic has a presidential seal or at least a former presidential seal - Barack Obama and Michelle Obama’s Higher Ground produced. (Obama awarded Rustin a posthumous Presidential Medal of Freedom.)

“Rustin” is more than just the public-facing story of how the March on Washington came about. It’s also a portrait of a man who has to hide his sexuality. If it was widely known, his career, the march and maybe even the Civil Rights Movement itself could be at risk.

Domingo shows the immense pressures faced by being a religiously-raised, Black man in the racist and homophobic 1960s, enough psychic forces to tear a man apart.

“On the day that I was born Black, I was also born a” Rustin tells King before a crucial meeting with Black leadership. “They either believe in freedom and justice for all or they do not.”

Director George C. Wolfe, a theater legend, keeps this biopic intriguing, making it almost feel like a caper. Will they pull off their audacious effort? Of course, but the twists and turns endured make organizing the march a bit like the rush to get

a big musical on its feet. Wolfe adds that energy.

The screenplay by Julian Breece and Dustin Lance Black isn’t shy about exposing the divides within the movement and the ugly homophobic feelings of the era. There is a smart flashback to 1942 when the camera goes to black and white.

The movie take viewers to places perhaps unfamiliar, like to training sessions where Black police officers were taught about nonviolence and to Manhattan apartments where protesters would talk about their own stories of segregation to convince rich white folks to contribute money for buses.

The final section - the actual march itself - mixes new footage with some from that day. There was some fear by the organizers that not enough people would come, but the hero of “Rustin” doesn’t waver - and is seen bluffing with reporters right up until the end. “Rustin” is as vibrant as the movement it covers.

“Rustin,” a Netflix release in select theaters Friday and that hits Netflix on Nov. 17, is rated PG-13 for “Some violence, sexual material, brief drug use, racial slurs, thematic material, language and smoking.” Running time: 108 minutes. Three and a half stars out of four.

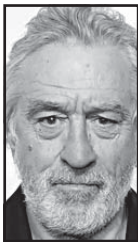
Also:

LOS ANGELES: It took **Diana Nyad** more than 30 years and five tries to swim from **Cuba** to the **Florida Keys**. “Free Solo” filmmakers **Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi** and **Jimmy Chin**’s “Nyad,” streaming Friday, Nov. 3 on Netflix, dramatizes her feat of endurance, along with the perseverance of her closest friends and collaborators. Bening plays Nyad, who was 60 when she began training herself again for the open-ocean swim. In a stand-out supporting performance, **Jodie Foster** plays her friend and trainer **Bonnie Stoll**. In my review, I wrote that there is enough here to help the film “if not swim against the tide of sport-biopic convention then at least ride a swift current to the finish line.”

he relied on the “rules of common sense.” He said he promoted Robinson with the title of vice president of his company, Canal Productions, at her request but he added that her duties didn’t change. (AP)

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NEW YORK: Heidi Klum shook her tail feathers Tuesday for



De Niro



Klum

her latest elaborate Halloween costume, dressing up as a peacock with several acrobats forming her tail feathers.

Klum capped her resplendent costume off by having her husband, **Tom Kaulitz**, accompany her dressed as her egg.

Klum’s party has been a staple of the spooky season for more than two

decades, drawing a host of celebrities since its first iteration in 2000. The German-born supermodel typically undergoes hours of makeup, emerging in past years as Fiona from “Shrek,” **Jessica Rabbit** from “Who Framed Roger Rabbit,” and last year’s giant rain worm.

Klum made her grand entrance on the carpet accompanied by

Cirque du Soleil performers.

“A lot of planning goes into it,” she said. “First you have to have an idea. And the idea for me was to do something with many, many people.”

Klum called herself in costume “he” - proving the model did her research as male peacocks have elaborate tail feathers while the females have shorter, duller tails. (AP)

People & Places

Music

'Bad Bunny's' ode

Chinese band WayV impress with 'Youth'

LOS ANGELES, Nov 1, (AP): SM Entertainment's Chinese boy band WayV with seven members namely Xiaojun, Yangyang, Ten, Hendery Winwin, Kun, Lucas, have come out with guns blazing on their sophomore album, "On My Youth." It's no small feat for the six-piece group to stand out, particularly because they are the fourth sub-unit from the K-pop mega boyband NCT.

But WayV manage to forge their own style and path in the dizzying world of K-pop divisions and subdivisions. They are in spirit, musically and aesthetically, the new generation's EXO-M - SM Entertainment's previous Chinese subgroup of their super act EXO - loaded with similar charisma.

WayV, whose name is an acronym for We Are



Yangyang

Your Vision, expertly mix hip-hop, pop and electronica on their new 10-track album in a style uniquely their own. From the neo-soulful "No One But You" and the bright pop "Be Alright," this album is a journey that always seems to revert back to a sense of hopefulness, uplifting the listener even when detouring with a weird trap stanza.

The title track and single "On My Youth," which also gets an all English-language version on the album, moves from electronic music to trap to rap in a mid-tempo melody, an an unexpected but welcomed combo. "Poppin' Love" is ripe for dancing, with its Y2K boy band-style production flavor with a dizzying beat. "Lighthouse" is a pleasant stripped down piano ballad, and "Moonlight" goes full pop with a majestic string arrangement.

If there is an outlier on the album, it's found on "Rodeo," with its deep bass EDM beats and surprising reference to Lil Jon's "From the Window to the Wall." But its uniqueness doesn't make for a disjointed listening experience - instead, it works as a great break on the album, arriving midway through. Think of it like an animated intermission.

Lyricaly, the entirety of the record is an ode to youth, young love, immature mistakes and hope for the future. With beats like these, it's a safe bet the sextet will be a lasting part of the C-pop pantheon.

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It is what every artist wants and so few manage: distinction. In a heartbeat, Bad Bunny's idiosyncratic baritone - instantaneously recognizable in both in his somber singing and stadium-sized raps. There is no question when Benito Antonio Martínez Ocasio's records are playing.

Then it is even more impressively impressive that he chooses reinvention - repossession of his past sounds and a modern refitting - that the popular Puerto Rican musician is still as distinctive as ever. "Nadie Sabe Lo Que Va a Pasar Mañana," El Conejo Malo's 22-track, fifth solo album (translating to "Nobody Knows What Will Happen Tomorrow") is a more restrained ride than the album that preceded it, but in some ways, no less dynamic.

Those expecting a continuation of Benito's sunshine-y 2022 album "Un Verano Sin Ti" - one of The Associated Press' top albums of the year - should prepare for a different listening experience. (And isn't change the muse of great art?)

On this album, reggaeton offerings are limited (dembow fans won't be disappointed, rather, they might just find themselves hitting play on "Perro Negro" and "Un Preview" more than some of the other album cuts.) Where the musician previously mastered weaving a myriad of sounds - perreo next to rock, bomba and merengue into EDM and hip-hop - "Nadie Sabe" strips Bad Bunny's magnetism to its foundation and builds from there.

It's why much of this album recalls Bad Bunny's early days: the Latin trap of his debut album, 2018's "X 100PRE" - like in "Monaco" and "Gracias Por Nada."

Conceptually, a lot of this album deals with the trials and tribulations of newfound fame - the humanity it strips away in place of power and wealth. Returning to an earlier format is an experiment in reclamation, the actions of an artist who plays by their own rules but simultaneously finds attraction in returning to a time period of control. As he announces in the choir-assisted, six-minute-plus opener.

Track

Simplifying his approach doesn't mean sacrificing his innovations. Those aren't hard to find: "VOU 787" utilizes the synth that opens Madonna's "Vogue" (Madge gets a name check in a later verse). "Baticano" teeters on BDSM synth-wave - that is, if the genre used lyrics about the Teletubby character Tinky Winky in a NSFW fashion. "HIBIKI" similarly explores a kind of techno-house; "Where She Goes" is Jersey club.

The penultimate track, "ACHO PR," a reference to the Puerto Rican slang for "muchacho," or "boy," - is a love letter to his island, his people, and the reggaetoneros that paved the way for him: including feature spots by Nengo Flow and reuniting the former duo Arcángel and De La Ghetto.

Love for his island is abundant on this album, as it always is: the record features those Boricua idols, but also the current and next generation of Puerto Rican talent in Eladio Carrión, Young Miko, Mora, Bryant Myers, Yovngchimi and Luar La L.

However, "ACHO PR" doesn't have the same immediate effect of, say, "El Apagón" from "Un Verano Sin Ti." Bad Bunny has made a name for himself as a true understander of both party and political songs - a creative identity not unrelated to the affirming resilience of the Puerto Rican people, who make art and find joy in a country whose struggle for self-determination dates back generations, and not just to the US invasion of 1898. But the fight on "Nadie Sabe Lo Que Va a Pasar Mañana" is less about systemic failings and more about fame.

Lyricaly, Benito's focused on his interior struggles, no doubt informed by his Puerto Rican-ness, a unique identity both exploited and celebrated in the same breath. But because he looks inward on "Nadie Sabe Lo Que Va a Pasar Mañana," it makes for a sometimes-distant listen.

Still, there's a lot to enjoy here. The real fans will love it. They'll also question what comes next.



Taylor Swift performs at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, Calif., Friday, July 28, 2023. (AP)

Music

From 2014 nostalgia to 2023 reality

It's time for Taylor Swift's '1989'

LOS ANGELES, Nov 1, (AP): Taylor Swift's reimagined "1989" is here, the album that ushered in the first Peak Swift era - revisited at the height of her massive pop culture dominance.

Released in 2014 and named for her birth year, the original "1989" signified a sonic rebirth. Swift had shed the Nashville country roots of her first four studio albums and announced herself a full-fledged pop superstar.

"1989 (Taylor's Version)" takes that version of Swift - then in her mid-20s, living in New York, prepared to take on the world with an arsenal of '80s synth sounds and a new producer named Jack Antonoff - and includes five unreleased "vault" tracks that deliver more clues about the artist she was then.

Previous "Taylor's Version" releases have been more than conventional rerecordings, arriving with new music, Easter eggs and visuals that deepen understanding of her work.

The project - the fourth of six rereleases - was instigated by music manager Scooter Braun's purchase and sale of her early catalog and represents Swift's effort to control her own songs and how they're used.

Her return to "1989" - the album where she began to confront media portrayals of herself and in song - comes at another Swift popularity crescendo but also during a 2010s nostalgia (Yes, it's only 2023. Yes, the nostalgia is real).

Here are some key things to consider as "1989" propels the New Peak Swift era forward:

Listeners will dive deep into the vault tracks for clues into Swift's mind around 2014. "Slut!" may recall her contentious relationship with the press, which fixated on her alleged romantic relationships and the songs she'd write once they ended.

Connections

They'll find connections to "Out of the Woods" on "Is It Over Now?" in the lyrics "when you lost control / red blood, white snow." They'll wonder who made her pretend to like acid rock and mega yachts on "Now That We Don't Talk." But more insight will be found in thinking about where Swift was at the time, what came next, and how that mirrors the current moment.

Swift dominated headlines and award show crowd shots in 2014, reaching a point of oversaturation, and leading to her retreat from the public eye prior to the release of her undercelebrated revenge record, 2017's "Reputation." With Swift getting similar treatment on NFL broadcasts due to her relationship with Kansas City Chiefs star Travis Kelce, could history repeat itself?

Brittany Spanos, senior writer at Rolling Stone, puts it simply: "People just get easily sick of anyone who's super famous. And I think that we

haven't had a lot of monocultural kind of celeb moments like this in a minute," she says of Swift in 2023.

Rebecca Jennings, a senior correspondent at Vox covering social platforms and the creator economy, sees a connection between the 2014 eras as being "post-recession" and 2023 being "post-COVID," a time where Swift succeeds because there's a sort of cultural "bouncing back vibe," a time where people want celebratory music.

In 2014, that was Swift finding her pop sound with "1989."

In 2023, it's becoming the most successful version of herself, and re-releasing "1989" while on the top of her game.

"It was a huge risk for her to move completely outside of country - there's no country elements on this album whatsoever," says Spanos, who also teaches a course on Swift at New York University's Clive Davis Institute. She says Swift's penchant for pop songwriting is evidenced all the way back on her 2008 sophomore release "Fearless" in tracks like "Love Story," but "1989" is "her first official, full-length pop project."

However, more so than a declarative move into pop, Spanos views "1989" as "more in the lineage of the kind of transitional albums teen stars tend to make when they move into adulthood," comparing it to Janet Jackson's "Control" and Christina Aguilera's "Stripped." "1989" is the album where Swift's divorced herself from adolescence. She's moved to NYC; she's working with new people; she's making synth pop.

Superstars

Rachel Brodsky, a music and culture writer who has been covering Swift for well over a decade, points out that Swift's sonic experimentations were earned - and that she very well might be one of the final pop superstars who couldn't come out of the gate playing with genre the way listeners are accustomed to now.

"She came up in the shadow of the Chicks, where she was told under certain circumstances by her team, like, 'You don't want to be the Chicks,'" Brodsky says of the country music group who were chastised for going against the expectations of their audience.

The Chicks, acts like Shania Twain and LeAnn Rimes cracked open the door for Swift to burst open on "1989," she says. And not just as a pop musician, but as someone bucking convention - something Brodsky says artists like Kacey Musgraves, Maren Morris and even Olivia Rodrigo have followed.

By the time "1989" rolled around, Swift was no longer writing high school romances and fairytale narratives.

She'd begun engaging with her celebrity reality - inviting Beyoncé and Jay-Z to her birthday party, hanging

out with models and other very famous people in a group labeled "the Squad" in the media.

She was also writing songs like "'Bad Blood,' which is about her feud with Katy Perry," says Spanos, a decisive move away from the kind of humility and "hometown girl" image associated with "country Taylor." That meant occupying more space in the pop landscape: reconciling with Kanye West after the infamous 2009 VMAs moment, starring alongside Drake in a commercial, getting Kendrick Lamar on a remix, so on and so forth.

In 2023, Swift is more famous now than she was then, and she's still engaging with her celebrity in a very public way.

Jennings believes people are nostalgic for the year 2014 and always will be - because it was one of the last online periods before the hyper-commodification of social media - which makes 2023 the ideal time for revisiting "1989."

Innocence

There were blogs, and Tumblr, and our internet lives were less defined by algorithms. "It is looked at as this Edenic time of innocence and purity," she says. At the time, there was a kind of monoculture that leans itself to nostalgia in 2023, she says - everyone receiving the same information on the same topics at the same time, Taylor Swift's "1989" era included - as opposed to the current influencer-based model.

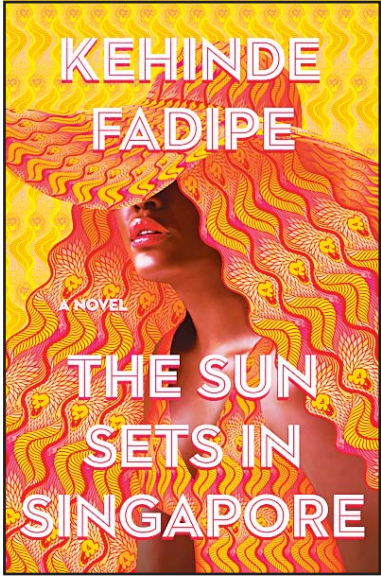
Additionally, in the last few months, Swift has been seen dining with very famous friends like Blake Lively, Sophie Turner and Selena Gomez, a return to the language of her "Squad." "By parading out many of the same friends she had during that era that she was also parading about, she's playing into this nostalgia element," argues Jennings.

At the time, theories swirled around Swift's assumed romantic relationships - many believe the song "Style" is about her short relationship with Harry Styles - and in 2023, her latest assumed romance has become a top story again.

"It's almost like she's method promoting," Spanos jokes. "She's leaning into it again." But there's a huge difference in the kind of treatment she's receiving from the public this time around. The press appears to be rooting for her relationship, she says, instead of thinking about the breakup songs it might inspire, warning her male partners and turning Swift into the butt of the joke - as the media was doing in 2014.

"There's a little bit less of that level of misogyny," Spanos says. So what's next for Swift?

The continuation of her Eras tour, which is set to resume on November 9th in Buenos Aires, Argentina. And, of course, two more "Taylor's Version" albums.



This cover image released by Grand Central Publishing shows 'The Sun Sets in Singapore' by Kehinde Fadipe. (AP) - Details Page 11

Variety

SAN JOSE, Calif: McAfee has revealed that **Ryan Gosling**, star of this summer's hit movie, 'Barbie', topped the list of celebrities whose names are used most by scammers to create malware or risky sites. McAfee Labs created the list by identifying the big-name celebrities who most frequently generate unsafe search results that could lead consumers to unknowingly install malware and jeopardize their data, privacy, and identity.

Gosling finds himself in prime position as a scammer's favorite lure, thanks to the blockbuster movie, 'Barbie'. His popularity skyrocketed after the movie's release, as did the amount of 'Barbie' and Ryan Gosling-related scams. As McAfee reported earlier this year, Barbie was a huge hit for both movie-goers and cybercriminals; the latter baited consumers with a rash of new scams that included downloads of the film containing hidden malware. Months later, searches for Gosling remain high, with Gosling's portrayal of Ken scoring him a first-ever Billboard Hot 100 song, and Ken and Barbie outfits ranking as the most searched for Halloween costumes for 2023.

Trailing Gosling as the celebrity whose name is most used by scammers, is **Emily Blunt** in the No. 2 position. The critically acclaimed actress starred in this summer's hit film, Oppenheimer, increasing her popularity with consumers and cybercriminals alike. Jennifer Lopez comes in at No. 3, Zendaya at No. 4, and the fifth spot goes to Yellowstone actor, **Kevin Costner**. Within the top ten list, the popularity of Barbie shines through, with three of its stars making the Hacker Celebrity Hot List: America Ferrera at No.10, Margot Robbie at No. 8 and Ryan Gosling at No.1. (Agencies)

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LOS ANGELES: Andrew Zimmern, Emmy-winning and four-time **James Beard** Award-winning TV personality and chef, is excited to announce his new frozen entrée line, 'By Andrew Zimmern.' Food has always been an integral part of Zimmern's life, whether working as a chef in prestigious restaurants, cooking and entertaining on television and at innumerable events around the world, or feeding family and friends at home. It is the latter experience that Zimmern wanted to recreate for consumers - wholesome comfort foods that place a premium on quality and convenience. Zimmern drew from his own varied experiences and personal recipes to create the four 'By Andrew Zimmern' frozen meal varieties.

Connecting people through a shared love of food and cultures has been both a passion and life theme for Zimmern in his roles as a chef, on TV in series such as, and as a food writer. The 'By Andrew Zimmern' frozen food entrées at Walmart enable him to reach even more people with a line that both makes an impact on the industry, helping to reshape the frozen food category, and is simultaneously very personal to him. (Agencies)

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FLORENCE, Italy: Just four at a time, visitors soon will be allowed access to a long-hidden space inside Florence's Medici Chapel where delicate charcoal drawings

sketched on the walls have been attributed by some experts to **Michelangelo**.

The secret room - a tiny 10-by-3 meters (33-by-10 feet) space - was discovered in 1975, when officials were searching for a new exit from the Medici Chapel to accommodate increasing visitors. The museum's then-director **Paolo Dal Poggetto** "firmly believed that they were by Michelangelo," said the current director, **Paola D'Agostino**. A fierce debate ensued, and continues to this day.

"The major scholars of Michelangelo's



Gosling



Blunt

drawings dismissed the attributions" at the time of discovery 50 years ago, she said. "Others had a more moderate view, in the sense they tough that some could be by Michelangelo and others could be by followers. So the debate is ongoing."

The room was used to store coal until 1955, and then sealed closed and forgotten for decades below a trapdoor that was in turn hidden beneath furniture. The drawings themselves were discovered under two layers of plaster. (AP)

The Conversation

Experts on high alert against possible tripledemic

COVID-19, flu, RSV vaccines key to winter surge prevention

By Libby Richards
Purdue University

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

As cold and flu season ramps up, health care experts are once again on high alert for the possibility of a tripledemic, or a surge brought on by the respiratory viruses that cause COVID-19, the flu and respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV. The good news is that this year, health officials have more tools at their disposal to combat them.

Americans ages 6 months and older are eligible to receive the newest COVID-19 vaccine and the annual flu vaccine. In addition, this year the Food and Drug Administration approved the first vaccine against RSV for use in late pregnancy and adults 60 years of age and older.

RSV, COVID-19 and the flu are all contagious respiratory illnesses that have similar symptoms, making it difficult to distinguish between the three viral infections without a lab test. Testing is the only way to know which virus is causing your symptoms. In fact, researchers are working to create one test that can detect COVID-19, RSV and the flu.

As a nursing professor with experience in public health promotion, I am often asked about the differences between these respiratory viruses. This year, I am fielding many questions about the timing of getting the new COVID-19 and RSV vaccines along with the flu shot, and whether they can be given together.

Symptoms of COVID-19, RSV and the flu can range from mild - or even no noticeable symptoms at all - to severe. Flu symptoms typically come on suddenly, while RSV and COVID-19 often start out mild but can become severe over time. In addition, while a flu infection does not typically affect one's ability to taste or smell, the loss of taste or smell can be a common COVID-19 symptom.

All three infections can cause fevers and fatigue, while chills and body aches are more common with COVID-19 and the flu. More severe symptoms of these infections include difficulty breathing and subsequent infections like pneumonia.

With the new RSV vaccine and updated COVID-19 vaccine now available and flu season just around the corner, a natural question is whether there is an optimal schedule for the three shots.

Symptoms

The answer to that question is, if you are eligible, to get these vaccines as soon as possible. It is important to consider that it takes approximately two weeks after vaccination for your body to develop antibodies from both the COVID-19 vaccines and the flu vaccine.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that anyone who is either unvaccinated or has previously received a COVID-19 vaccine before Sept. 12, 2023, to get the updated vaccine. This means now is the time to get the updated COVID-19 vaccine that targets a previously dominant variant of the omicron family.

The original COVID-19 vaccines and booster series have dramatically reduced the number of COVID-19 infections, hospitalizations and death rates from the virus.

While everyone 6 months of age and older is advised to receive both the COVID-19 and flu vaccines, certain populations have a higher risk for severe infection, such as pregnant women, and should be extra vigilant about getting vaccinated.

In addition, among those vaccinated against COVID-19, symptoms during an infection tend to be milder. However, due in part to the quickly evolving nature of the virus, it has become clear that immune protection from COVID-19 vaccination or infection diminishes over time. While studies

show that the primary COVID-19 series maintains efficacy against severe disease and death six months after vaccination, protection after vaccination decreases over time. Viruses, such as those that cause COVID-19 and influenza, also continuously mutate and evolve.

The fact that COVID-19 vaccine immunity decreases over time and that viruses evolve are exactly why updated vaccines are so critical. Without a large uptake of updated vaccines in the population, COVID-19 infection rates could surge again.

Timing is also important with the flu vaccine. Flu cases typically begin to rise in October and peak between December and February, but can last through May. Ideally, people should get vaccinated before flu begins to spread, making the month of October the ideal flu vaccination time.

But if you miss that deadline, it is absolutely better to get vaccinated later in the season than not at all. Flu, COVID-19 and RSV vaccines are available at your health care provider's office, your local health department and most retail pharmacies, although access to the newly updated COVID-19 vaccine is still limited in some areas of the country.

While infections and hospitalizations from COVID-19 declined dramatically in 2023, experts are remaining vigilant against the possibility of new, more-infectious variants causing another fall and winter surge. Adults 65 and older continue to be the highest-risk group for severe infection.

Booster

Flu seasons are inherently difficult to predict. Since the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic, flu cases have been lower than prior to the pandemic. However, the 2022-2023 flu season still caused over 300,000 hospitalizations and up to 98,000 flu-related deaths, making vaccination an important prevention tool.

To further compound this, flu vaccine rates have been lower during the pandemic, suggesting that Americans may be out of the habit of getting their annual flu shot.

Many are also wondering whether they can or should get the updated COVID-19 booster, the new RSV vaccine and the flu shot at the same time. The good news is, the CDC clearly indicates that it is safe for both adults and children who are eligible for the updated COVID-19 vaccine to get this vaccine simultaneously with the annual flu shot.

A 2022 study found that common vaccine side effects, such as pain at the injection site, occurred at slightly higher rates when someone received the flu vaccine and a COVID-19 vaccine at the same time, as opposed to receiving only a COVID-19 booster. However, those reactions, including fatigue and headache, were mild and resolved within a day or two. In addition, a recent study found that the immune response was the same when both vaccines were given together compared to when given separately.

Since the RSV vaccine is new, there is no data yet on receiving all three vaccines at the same time. Instead, those at the highest risk of RSV infection should get this vaccine as soon as they are able.

Getting the COVID-19, RSV and flu vaccines isn't just about your own health - it's about family and community health too. Communities with higher vaccination rates have fewer opportunities to spread the virus.

Keep in mind that many people cannot be vaccinated, because they have weakened immune systems or are undergoing treatments. They depend on those around them for protection. While one person may experience mild symptoms if they contract RSV, COVID-19 or the flu, they could spread the virus to others who could become severely ill.

Because it's impossible to predict how people will react if they get sick, getting the flu and COVID-19 vaccines - and the RSV vaccine if you are eligible - is the best prevention strategy. (AP)

Experts urge vaccines for high-risk patients

65,000 citizens, residents receive winter shots

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: According to informed health sources, about 65,000 citizens and residents were vaccinated against seasonal influenza and pneumococcal pneumonia a month after the launch of the national vaccination campaign against winter diseases.

In an exclusive press statement, the sources revealed that the campaign witnessed the vaccination of about 56,000 people against seasonal influenza, with an average of 8,000 to 10,000 people in each governorate, and the vaccination of about 9,000 against bacterial pneumonia "Pneumococcal."

They highlighted the trend to expand the vaccination campaigns to include public institutions and sectors in various governorates, in coordination with the relevant authorities.

The sources said the elderly, patients with heart and respiratory diseases, and health workers are the categories most in demand for the vaccination in the 50 preventive health centers distributed throughout all governorates of Kuwait.

They emphasized the importance of vaccination for risk groups such as those suffering from obesity, asthma, and chronic non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, cancer, and others.

The sources reiterated the suitability of



Kuwaiti citizens and residents receive winter shots as the country launched vaccination campaign against winter diseases.

winter vaccinations for children aged six months and above in order to reduce the severity of the disease and the number of days

of infection, and to reduce the complications of infection with aggressive respiratory viruses.

Largest increase in two decades

US infant mortality rate soar 3% in 2022

NEW YORK, Nov 1, (AP): The US infant mortality rate rose 3% last year - the largest increase in two decades, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

White and Native American infants, infant boys and babies born at 37 weeks or earlier had significant death rate increases. The CDC's report, published Wednesday, also noted larger increases for two of the leading causes of infant deaths - maternal complications and bacterial meningitis.

"It's definitely concerning, given that it's going in the opposite direction from what it has been," said Marie Thoma, a University of Maryland researcher who studies maternal and infant mortality.

Dr. Eric Eichenwald, a Philadelphia-based neonatologist, called the new data "disturbing," but said experts at this point can only speculate as to why a statistic that generally has been falling for decades rose sharply in 2022.

RSV and flu infections rebounded last fall after two years of pandemic precautions, filling pediatric emergency rooms across the country.

"That could potentially account for some of it," said Eichenwald, who chairs an American Academy of Pediatrics committee that writes guidelines for medical care of newborns.

Infant mortality is the measure of how many babies die before they reach their first birthday. Because the number of babies born in the US varies from year to year, researchers instead calculate rates to better compare infant mortality over time.

The US infant mortality rate has been worse than other high-income countries, which experts have attributed to poverty, inadequate prenatal care and other possibilities.

But even so, the US rate generally gradu-

ally improved because of medical advances and public health efforts.

Pandemic

The national rate rose to 5.6 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 2022, up from from 5.44 per 1,000 the year before, the new report said.

The increase may seem small, but it's the first statistically significant jump in the rate since the increase between 2001 and 2002, said Danielle Ely, the CDC report's lead author. She also said researchers could not establish whether the 2022 rise was a one-year statistical blip - or the beginning of a more lasting trend.

Overall in the US, the death rate fell 5% in 2022 - a general decrease that's been attributed to the waning impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially on people 65 and older. US maternal deaths also fell last year.

More than 30 states saw at least slight rises in infant mortality rates in 2022, but four states had statistically significant increases - Georgia, Iowa, Missouri and Texas.

In numbers, US infant deaths surpassed 20,500 in 2022 - 610 more than the year before nationwide. But Georgia had 116 more infant deaths than the year before, and Texas had 251 more.

"It would appear that some of the states could be having a larger impact on the (national) rate," Ely said, adding that smaller increases elsewhere also have an effect - and that it's hard to parse out exactly what places, policies or other factors are behind the national statistic.

Also:

NEW YORK: A month after federal officials recommended new versions of COVID-19 vaccines, 7% of US adults and 2% of children have gotten a shot.

One expert called the rates "abysmal." The numbers, presented Thursday at a

meeting held by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, come from a national survey of thousands of Americans, conducted two weeks ago.

The data also indicated that nearly 40% of adults said they probably or definitely will not get the shot. A similar percentage of parents said they did not plan to vaccinate their children.

In the late summer, government health officials made the nation's COVID-19 vaccination campaign more like the annual flu campaign.

Officials approved updated shots that have a single target, an omicron descendant named XBB.1.5. They replaced vaccines that targeted the original coronavirus strain and a much earlier omicron version. Last month, the CDC recommended the new shots for everyone 6 months and older.

The government also transitioned to a commercialized system that relied on the health-care industry - not the government - to handle the distribution of the shots. Many people who immediately went for shots said pharmacies or doctors didn't have them.

Americans have been urged to get different iterations of the vaccines for more than 2 and 1/2 years. This year, COVID-19 deaths and hospitalizations fell to lower levels than seen in the previous three years.

Cases remain low compared with the pandemic's early months. Even so, health officials say about 18,000 hospitalization and 1,200 deaths are still being reported each week.

One expert at the meeting, **Dr. Camille Kotton** of Harvard Medical School, called the numbers "abysmal" and said part of the problem may be patient confusion. She urged stepped-up public education efforts.

Dr. David Kimberlin, of the University of Alabama at Birmingham, also expressed dismay.

"The recommendations are not being heard," he said.

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San Antonio Spurs' Devin Vassell (24) drives past Phoenix Suns' Josh Okogie (2) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Phoenix, Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2023. (AP)

Toledo races past Buffalo 31-13

Biggins seals CMU's win over NIU

MOUNT PLEASANT, Mich., Nov 1, (AP): Jase Bauer threw for one touchdown and rushed for two more, Mari-on Lukes had 202 yards rushing and a score, and Central Michigan held off Northern Illinois 37-31 on a snowy Tuesday night.

Bauer gave CMU a 37-11 lead with 6:32 remaining in the third quarter. But NIU answered two plays later when Rocky Lombardi connected with Trayvon Rudolph on a 72-yard score to begin a stretch of 20 straight points. The NIU defense forced a three-and-out with 1:42 remaining in the fourth to get another chance on offense. But the Huskies turned it over on third down when Nah-ree Biggins made his first interception of the season.

Toledo 31, Buffalo 13

In Toledo, Ohio, Jacquez Stuart returned the opening kickoff for a 97-yard touchdown, Peny Boone rushed for 125 yards, including a 71-yard score, and Toledo raced past Buffalo 31-13 on Tuesday night for its eighth straight victory. Toledo had a 14-0 lead just three minutes into the game. After Stuart's return and Buffalo's three-and-out, Boone ran for his long TD on the Rockets' second offensive play. Toledo extended it to 24-7 at halftime and Stuart added a 12-yard scoring run midway through the third quarter.

TENDER No. - KUW/ADMN/872/01/2015 DATED- NOVEMBER 2nd, 2023

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The detailed tender document along with its annexure may be downloaded from Central Procurement Portal <https://eprocure.gov.in/cpppl> and also the official website of the Embassy of India, Kuwait from <https://indembkwt.gov.intenders-in-kuwait.php> (please scan QR)

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Johnson's late basket lifts Spurs to 'stunning' victory

Knicks beat short-handed Cavaliers 109-91

PHOENIX, Nov 1, (AP): Keldon Johnson stripped Kevin Durant and made a contested layup with 1.2 seconds left to give the Spurs their only lead of the game and a 115-114 victory over the stunned Phoenix Suns on Tuesday night.

The Spurs, who trailed by as many as 20 points, broke a nine-game losing streak against Phoenix.

BASKETBALL

Johnson had 27 points to lead San Antonio. Top draft pick Victor Wembanyama missed his first five shots before throwing down a sensational dunk in the final seconds of the first half. He scored 18 points and had eight rebounds in 28 minutes. Devin Vassell also had 18 for the Spurs. Durant led Phoenix with 26 points. Eric Gordon scored 20, Grayson Allen had 19 on 5 of 7 shooting from 3-point range for the Suns, who played without injured starting guards Bradley Beal



New York Knicks center Jericho Sims, (right), shoots over Cleveland Cavaliers center Tristan Thompson and center Damian Jones (30) in the second half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2023, in Cleveland. (AP)

and Devin Booker.

Knicks 109, Cavaliers 91

In Cleveland, Julius Randle had 19 points and 10 rebounds, Jalen Brunson

scored 19 points and New York did not trail in the final three quarters of a victory over short-handed Cleveland. Immanuel Quickley added 18 points off the bench and RJ Barrett had 16 in the teams' first meeting since New York eliminated Cleveland in five games in the first round of the 2023 playoffs. Donovan Mitchell scored 26 points in 29 minutes, and Isaac Okoro and Georges Niang had 11 points apiece for the Cavaliers, who have lost three straight. Isaiah Hartenstein had 13 points and seven rebounds, and Mitchell Robinson added eight points and seven boards for New York. Cavaliers undrafted rookie Craig Porter scored 10 points.

Clippers 118, Magic 102

In Los Angeles, Paul George scored 27 points, Russell Westbrook added 18 and Los Angeles beat Orlando as future teammate James Harden watched from a suite. Harden could not be on the Clippers' bench because the trade bringing him to Los Angeles from the Philadelphia 76ers has not been finalized. Bones Hyland and Norman Powell added 18 points apiece for the Clippers. Paolo Banchero led Orlando with 15 points and Franz Wagner had 14 points and eight rebounds. Moritz Wagner scored 13 off the bench.

Zverev and Hurkacz advance

Alcaraz loses at Paris Masters

Sakkari eliminated

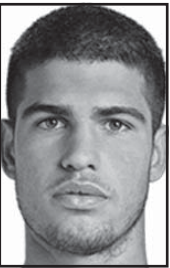
PARIS, Nov 1, (AP): Carlos Alcaraz's hopes of finishing the season as the top-ranked player took a hit after a 6-3, 6-4 loss to qualifier Roman Safiullin in the second round of the Paris Masters on Tuesday.

In his return from injury, Alcaraz dropped serve four times and made 27 unforced errors to 21 for Safiullin, a former world No. 2 junior.

The Spaniard was knocked out in the fourth round of the Shanghai Masters nearly three weeks ago and withdrew from the Swiss Indoors in Basel because of a left foot injury and muscle fatigue to his lower back.

Alcaraz leads the ATP Tour with six titles this year but hasn't lifted any trophy since Wimbledon. He seems to be running on fumes lately because of his demanding style of play.

The second-seeded Alcaraz and Safiullin traded breaks in the third and fourth games. Alcaraz struggled to find his range and dropped serve at 4-3 with a poor game that included a double fault and two unforced errors. Safiullin hit a service winner and two backhand winners to grab the opening set. Play was briefly interrupted in the beginning of the second



Alcaraz

TENNIS

set to switch off a vivid pink light under the roof of the arena that troubled the players when they were tossing the ball to serve.

Alcaraz rifled two consecutive return winners to break for a 3-1 lead only to see Safiullin break back in the next game with a forehand pass. Alcaraz dropped serve again in the seventh game, hitting a forehand long at the end of a long rally. Safiullin converted his second match point when Alcaraz sent a forehand return wide.

Daniil Medvedev also has an outside chance of finishing the season as the No. 1 player.

The fifth-seeded Andrey Rublev, the 16th-seeded Karen Khachanov, Tallon Griekspoor, Alexander Bublik and Daniel Altmaier also moved into the third round.

Rublev dispatched Yoshihito Nishioka 6-4, 6-3, Khachanov beat Laslo Djere 6-4, 7-5, Griekspoor routed Alejandro Davidovich Fokina 6-2, 6-2, and Bublik edged Nicolas Jarry 7-6 (3), 7-6 (3).

Altmaier ousted Arthur Fils 6-2, 6-4 in the first round but got a walkover into the third round because his next opponent, Taylor Fritz, withdrew because of an abdominal strain. The ninth-seeded Fritz received treatment on his abdomen

Arcangelo drops out of \$6 million Classic

Breeders' Cup contender Practical Move dies after morning gallop at Santa Anita

ARCADIA, Calif., Nov 1, (AP): A horse set to run in this weekend's Breeders' Cup died Tuesday at Santa Anita, and a short time later, Belmont Stakes winner Arcangelo dropped out of the \$6 million Classic because of a foot issue.

Trainer Jena Antonucci said she ran out of time trying to resolve an issue with Arcangelo's left hind foot. The colt had not trained the last few days after having the shoe on that foot removed last weekend.

Arcangelo had drawn the No. 1 post and was listed at 7-2 odds on the morning line for the Classic. His scratch reduces the field to 11. Kentucky Derby winner Mage had been expected to



Kentucky Derby entrant Practical Move works out at Churchill Downs Thursday, May 4, 2023, in Louisville, Ky. (AP)

HORSE RACING

run in the Classic but never arrived at Santa Anita after spiking a fever last weekend.

Practical Move was returning from a morning gallop when he collapsed near the eighth pole.

His rider wasn't hurt. Breeders' Cup officials said they suspected "a cardiac event."

Veterinarians from the California Horse Racing Board, 1/ST Racing and the Breeders' Cup tended to the 3-year-old colt.

Practical Move was the early 3-1 second choice for the \$1 million Dirt Mile on Saturday at the 40th world championships.

'No vacation' for US athletes competing at Pan Am Games

SANTIAGO, Chile, Nov 1, (AP): Most of the top track and field athletes in the world are taking a much deserved vacation since September. With the Pan American Games running so late in the sport's calendar, opportunities came for other competitors who are enjoying their time in Chile as they win some medals to take back home. Tuesday marked the second day of the program, with two thirds of the

National Stadium filled with fans who didn't seem to know much about the competitors, but were still excited to come with their Halloween costumes and loudly cheer for the locals as the Andes mountains overlooked.

The 27-year-old Kasey Knevelbaard is the unofficial winner of the 5,000-meter race - a Mexican runner is protesting after he finished first and was later disqualified.

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Two clubs to play one match without fans

Al-Ghanem, Sheikh Fahad receive stadium bans, Kuwait & Al-Qadsia each fined KD10,000

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: The Football Association has officially disclosed the penalties handed down by its Disciplinary Committee during its meeting in response to incidents that marred the match between Al-Qadsia and Kuwait in the sixth round of the Zain Premier League. Following a thorough examination of the referee’s report, match observer’s findings, and video evidence from the match, the Disciplinary Committee made the following decisions:

The Kuwait Club was fined 10,000 dinars for violating the provisions of Article 70 of the Discipline Regulations. Al-Qadsia Club also received

SOCCER

a 10,000 dinar fine for breaching Article 70 of the Discipline Regulations.

In addition to the fines, the following individuals faced stadium entry restrictions:



Sheikh Fahad Talal Al Fahad

Khaled Al-Ghanem

Khaled Al-Ghanem, President of the Kuwait Club, has been banned from entering the stadium during the 2023/2024 sports season due to violations in accordance with Article 79 of the Disciplinary Regulations.

Sheikh Fahad Talal Al-Fahad, Vice President of Al-Qadsia Club, will also be barred from stadium entry for the 2023/2024 sports season, based on violations outlined in Article 79 of the Disciplinary Regulations.

Adel Oqla, a member of the Kuwait Club and head of the football staff, has been similarly restricted from entering the field during matches in the 2023/2024 sports season, citing violations as per Article 79 of the Disciplinary Regulations. Additionally, he is required to pay a fine of 2,000 Kuwaiti dinars.

Furthermore, both Al-Qadsia Club and Al-Kuwait Club will play one match without an audience as part of their penalties for breaching Article 86 of the Discipline Regulations.

Kuwait, Al-Arabi renew battle for outright Zain Premier League lead



In this file photo Al Arabi players vie for the ball during Zain Premier League match.

By Hassan Musa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: The seventh round of the Zain Premier League kicks off with two exciting matches. The first showdown features Al-Nasr facing Al-Arabi at Ali Sabah Al-Salem Stadium at 5:30 pm, followed by Kuwait taking on Al-Fahaheel at Jaber

Al-Ahmad International Stadium at 8:28 pm.

Both matches are significant for the league leaders, with Al-Kuwait and Al-Arabi both holding 14 points each. This unique scheduling is due to their involvement in the AFC Cup. Kuwait will host the Syrian side, Al-Ahly Aleppo Union, while Al-Arabi are set to travel to Manama to face Bahrain’s Riffa next week.

In the opening encounter, Al-Arabi aim to continue their impres-

sive run in the domestic championship and secure another victory, allowing them to maintain their league lead and bolster their title aspirations.

Meanwhile, Al-Nasr, currently

SOCCER

ranked sixth with 7 points, are eager to clinch a victory or at least a draw to recover from recent setbacks that pushed them down the standings. This includes a heavy 2-4 loss to Al-Fahaheel in the previous round.

Al-Nasr look to bounce back

Abha eliminate Al-Ahly

Al-Nasr advance to King’s Cup quarters

RIYADH, Nov 1: Al-Nasr secured their spot in the quarter-finals of Saudi King’s Cup by defeating Al-Ittifaq 1-0 in the round of 16, following a goalless draw in regular time. The victory came after two additional periods, with Senegalese player Sadio Mane scoring the lone goal in the 107th minute.

In a surprising turn of events, Abha eliminated Al-Ahly with a 2-1 victory. The match was challenging and saw two players from Abha being sent off, forcing them to continue with only 9 players.

Ahmed Abdo made a significant impact for Abha by scoring

India against Sri Lanka in rematch of 2011 WC final

MUMBAI, India, Nov 1, (AP): A heavy bout of nostalgia will descend upon the Wankhede Stadium on Thursday when India play Sri Lanka at the Cricket World Cup.

It will be a rematch of the 2011 final, when India won by six wickets and the venue became hallowed turf for the cricket crazed nation. A sea of blue had poured out onto the streets of Mumbai that night after MS Dhoni lifted India’s second World Cup trophy.

Dhoni’s winning shot - a six over long on - was immortalized and two seats at the Wankhede are permanently decorated as that spot where the ball landed. All of it adds to the aura of this magnificent cricket venue by the seaside, where India are aiming to continue their unbeaten run in this tournament.

Much has changed since 2011, of course. The great Sachin Tendulkar is long retired, although his name is stamped on the stands at the Wankhede.

Dhoni, Yuvraj Singh and Zaheer Khan - all of vital contributors to India’s second World Cup title - are also retired.

Virat Kohli and spinner Ravichandran Ashwin are the only players in

CRICKET

this squad who were part of the setup 12 years ago.

Kohli has grown from a youngster to a superstar in the meantime - chants of his name have replaced the echoes of Tendulkar’s name. He has 48 ODI centuries now, one short of Tendulkar’s world record in the format. A good batting surface in Mumbai might just

help. Kohli was out for a duck in Lucknow against England, but scored 354 runs in five games before that.

Ashwin has only played one game in this tournament - the opener against Australia in Chennai when he returned 1-34 in 10 overs on a spin friendly surface. Ashwin was even left out on a similar wicket in Lucknow, as India’s focus has shifted to picking up wickets with pace.

Mohammed Shami is in searing form with nine wickets in two games. Jasprit Bumrah has picked up 14 wickets in six games, and the duo pose a tremendous threat with the new ball. They routed England, sharing seven wickets for 54 runs in 13.5 overs.

Shami’s inclusion has also solved India’s problem in the absence of injured allrounder Hardik Pandya. The five-man bowling attack looks balanced and there isn’t much scope for change, with Pandya not expected to recover from a left ankle injury until the semifinals.

Nostalgia aside, there will be intense focus on securing qualification for the semi-finals. India lead the standings with 12 points and are the only unbeaten lineup in the tournament.

One more win will guarantee a spot in the top four. “There are three matches left,” wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav said, declining to speculate on semifinal permutations. “We have to perform well and win all the three remaining matches. Then we will see who comes.”

Unlike India, Sri Lanka have no veterans from the 2011 final. And their form has been patchy in the ODI format, to the point where they had to go through the qualifiers in Zimbabwe to feature in this tournament.

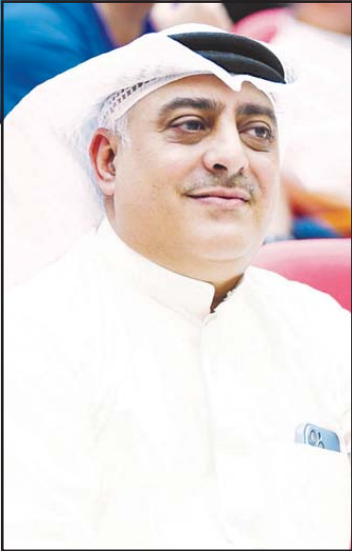


Al Nasr’s Cristiano Ronaldo battles an opponent for the ball.

Kuwait 3x3 basketball team depart for Gulf Champ’ship

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: The national 3x3 basketball team’s delegation embarked on their journey to Doha, the capital of Qatar where they are all set to compete in the 3x3 basketball Gulf Championship scheduled for Friday.

Leading the delegation is Mishal Muhammad, a member of the Federation’s Board of Directors and Vice-Chairman of the 3x3 basketball Committee. The contingent includes coach Salman Ramadan and eight players who will represent Kuwait in accordance with the



Mishal Muhammad

BASKETBALL

tournament’s format. These players are Ahmed Al-Balushi, Alexander Al-Ghais, Turki Hamoud, Imran Johar, Ali Al-Hadhdhoud, Abdulaziz Al-Hamidi, Abdul-Mohsen Mortada, and Muhammad Adnan.

Meshal Mohammed, the head of the delegation, emphasized that the team underwent rigorous training under Coach Salman Ramadan’s guidance in preparation for the tournament. He highlighted the players’ excellent physical condition and mentioned that the coach had meticulously selected the best players for the competi-

tion, aiming for optimal results. Mohammed anticipated fierce competition in the tournament, particularly from the Gulf teams, with Qatar being a strong contender, having won silver in the recent Asian Games. He further revealed that the Federation’s Trios Committee had laid out a comprehensive program for 3x3 tournaments, with the aim of elevating the Federation’s standing in this sport.

Wolfsburg end Leipzig title defense

3rd division Port Vale advance to English League Cup quarterfinals

MANCHESTER, England, Nov 1, (AP): Third-division Port Vale secured their place in the English League Cup quarterfinals.

The Midlands-based team have never played higher than the second tier of English soccer and have never won one of their major trophies.

But they could be rubbing shoulders with some of the biggest teams in the land in the last eight of the cup after a 1-0 win against Mansfield. Alfie Devine’s goal five minutes into the second half at One Call Stadium ended fourth-division Mansfield’s own hopes of a potential quarterfinals matchup against top-flight opposition.

Port Vale will not be the only team from outside the Premier League in the next round after Middlesbrough came back to beat third-division Exeter 3-2.

Middlesbrough won the League Cup in 2004 and are hoping to secure promotion to the Premier League this season under manager Michael Carrick, who lifted every major club prize during a storied playing career at Manchester United.

But Port Vale are turning out to be the story of the competition so far as the lowest-ranked team remaining and having advanced to the quarterfinals for the first time in their history.

□ □ □

Leipzig coach Marco Rose mourned the end of a “great journey” as the team’s two-year reign as holders of the German Cup ended in the second round in a 1-0 loss at Wolfsburg.

Václav Cerný scored off a pass from Tiago Tomas in the 14th minute. A red card for Leipzig forward Yussuf Poulсен for a second booking in the 56th minute set Leipzig on course for its first German Cup loss after 13 wins since defeat to Borussia Dortmund in the 2021 final.

“A great journey for us has come

to an end,” Rose said. “We’ve had some great results in the (German Cup) recently and won the title twice. This year, sadly that won’t be the case.”

Leipzig have reached the cup final in four of the last five seasons, winning the last two, and last exited the competition this early in a second-round loss on penalties to Bayern Munich in the 2017-18 season.

Union Berlin’s miserable season continued as they were beaten 1-0 by Stuttgart for an 11th straight loss in all competitions, and their fourth game in a row without scoring. Stuttgart’s goal came when Union goalkeeper Frederik Rønnow parried Jamie Leweling’s shot straight to the feet of Deniz Undav to score.

The German Cup was arguably Union’s last chance of success this season, as they have lost all three of its group-stage games so far in their

SOCCER

first Champions League campaign and are 15th in the Bundesliga. The slump follows Union’s most successful season ever with a fourth-place finish in the league. For Cologne too, an already troubled season got even worse in a 3-2 loss to second-division Kaiserslautern. Cologne are second-to-last in the Bundesliga and was coming off a 6-0 loss to Leipzig on Saturday.

Borussia Mönchengladbach beat Heidenheim at home for the second time in three days as American forward Jordan Pefok scored twice in a 3-1 win. Gladbach was coming off a 2-1 win over the same opponent in the league on Saturday.

The lowest-ranked team still in the competition won again as fourth-tier Homburg upset second-division Greuther Fürth 2-1 to reach the third round for the first time in 28 years.



Stuttgart’s Jamie Leweling (right), and Union Berlin’s Jerome Roussillon (left), challenge for the ball during the German Soccer Cup second round match between VfB Stuttgart and 1. FC Union Berlin in Stuttgart, Germany. (AP)



Mexico's Fernando Martinez wins the men's 5000-meters final at the Pan American Games in Santiago, Chile. Martinez was later disqualified for the obstruction of Kasey Knevelbaard of the United States who finished second, Canada's Charles Philibert-Thiboutot finished third and Brazil's Altobeli Da Silva fourth. (AP)

Sports

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HH Amir congratulates Saudi Arabia on WC bid

2034 World Cup will be hosted in Saudi Arabia: Infantino

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1, (Agencies): His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, conveyed his congratulations to Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud on Wednesday following FIFA announcing Saudi Arabia as the only declared candidate after the Australian soccer federation declined to enter the bidding contest.

His Highness extended his heartfelt wishes for King Salman's enduring health, continued success, and the advancement of his nation and its people.

His Highness the Crown Prince, Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, also conveyed his warm congratulations to Saudi King Salman.

In another development His

Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah also sent a congratulatory cable to King Salman.

FIFA had set a Tuesday deadline to submit a bid to host the tournament.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino has officially confirmed on his Instagram account that the 2034 World Cup will be hosted in Saudi Arabia. The announce-

SOCCER

ment comes after Saudi Arabia submitted a letter of intent to host the tournament just two days ago.

In his statement, Infantino highlighted the diversity of World Cup hosts, saying, "The best show on earth will be organized in Canada, Mexico, and the United States in 2026 in North America. The next two editions of the FIFA World Cup will be held in Africa (Morocco) and Europe (Portugal and Spain), with three matches also taking place



FIFA President Gianni Infantino holds the World Cup trophy.

in South America (Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay) in 2030. And in 2034, Asia will be represented by Saudi Arabia. Three editions, five continents, and 10 countries hosting the tournament. This is what makes football truly global."

Saudi Arabia was the only

Asian nation to express its intent to host the 2034 World Cup.

FIFA, in an official statement on its website, indicated that this marks the initial step in the extensive assessment process of the host candidacy submissions for the two upcoming tournaments, ahead of the FIFA Congress

where the 211 national federations will make the final selection.

Infantino further clarified that FIFA will engage in direct discussions with the countries submitting their candidacy files to ensure they meet all the necessary criteria and minimum requirements for hosting, as previously established by the FIFA Council.

Notably, Morocco, Spain, and Portugal have jointly expressed their interest in hosting the 2030 World Cup, while Uruguay, Argentina, and Paraguay are considering organizing matches to commemorate the tournament's centenary.

FIFA still needs to rubber stamp Saudi Arabia as the host - a decision that is likely to be made next year - but victory now seems a formality for the oil-rich kingdom. It would be the culmination of Saudi Arabia's ambitious drive to become a major player in global sports, having already spent massive amounts on bringing in dozens

of star soccer players to its domestic league, buying English soccer club Newcastle, launching the breakaway LIV Golf tour and hosting major boxing fights.

Within hours of the FIFA announcement, the Saudi soccer federation said it was in and the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) - which includes Australia - said it was backing the kingdom to bring the World Cup back to the Middle East after neighboring Qatar hosted the 2022 edition.

Qatar hosted in November and December, in the heart of the European club soccer season, to avoid extreme heat in the summer months and a Saudi tournament likely also will be moved from the traditional June-July period.

Indonesia's football association initially showed interest in a joint bid with Australia, potentially alongside Malaysia and Singapore, but that faded when Indonesia instead backed Saudi Arabia.



The Kuwaiti hearing-impaired sports team and delegation pose for a group photo.

Photo by Kuwait hearing-impaired sports club

Tournament to take place in Brazil on Nov 10

Kuwait's 'hearing-impaired' futsal team gear up for debut World Cup

KUWAIT CITY Nov 1: The Kuwaiti hearing-impaired futsal team are currently in Spain preparing for their debut in the first-ever World Futsal Cup, which will take place in Brazil on November 10. The team, consisting of 14 members, are undergoing an eight-day training camp in Granada, Southern Spain.

According to Salem Aman, the team's coach, the training camp is an essential opportunity for the Kuwaiti team to gain valuable experience by playing two matches against the Spanish team. This experience will be invaluable as they prepare for their first-ever participation in the World Cup.

Spain was chosen as the location for the training camp due to its high ranking in the sport and the availability of top-notch facilities, making it an ideal place to hone their skills before heading to Sao Paulo, Bra-

FUTSAL

zil, where the tournament will be held from November 10 to 19. In Brazil, the Kuwait National Team will be placed in a group alongside Denmark, Switzerland, and Britain.

Salem Aman expressed the team's readiness to represent Kuwait on the international stage and are determined to make their country proud. The Kuwaiti delegation includes Anwar Al-Harbi, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwaiti Sports Club for the Deaf, Hussein Bu Hamad, Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors, Khalaf Al-Shammari as the Treasurer, Falah Dabsha as the team manager, Mahdi Dashti as the sign language interpreter, and the talented players of the Kuwaiti Deaf National Team.



Moenchengladbach's Theoson-Jordan Siebacheu, (left), and Heidenheim's Patrick Mainka fight for the ball during the German Soccer Cup second round match between Borussia Moenchengladbach and 1. FC Heidenheim in Moenchengladbach, Germany. Moenchengladbach won 3-1. (AP) — See Page 15

Kerr claims women's award

Al-Dawsari named player of year in Asia

DOHA, Qatar, Nov 1, (AP): Saudi Arabia's Salem Al-Dawsari was named the men's player of the year by the Asian Football Confederation on Tuesday and Sam Kerr of Australia won the women's prize.

Al-Dawsari scored the winning goal in Saudi Arabia's 2-1 victory over eventual champion Argentina in the 2022 World Cup. The winger also played a major role in Al-Hilal reaching the final of the 2023 Asian Champions League.

Al-Dawsari beat Almoaz Ali of Qatar and Australia's Mathew Leckie and became the sixth Saudi player to win the award.

SOCCER

It capped a successful day for Saudi Arabia, which appears all but certain to host the men's 2034 World Cup after the Australian soccer federation decided not to enter the bidding contest. There was some consolation for Australia as Kerr received the accolade for a second time after helping English club Chelsea to a league and cup double.

Hajime Moriyasu was named as the men's coach of the year after leading Japan to the second round of the World Cup, defeating Germany and Spain in the group stage. China's Shui Qingxia won the female coaching award.

Messi's trip to China for a pair of exhibition games called off

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla., Nov 1, (AP): Lionel Messi evidently won't be playing in China this month after all.

Inter Miami announced Wednesday that its planned trip to China for a pair of exhibition matches has been called off. The team announced the trip last month, with a pair of games originally scheduled for Nov. 5 and Nov. 8. It would have been at least the eighth time that Messi - the World Cup champion for Argentina and now an eight-time Ballon d'Or winner,

after receiving the annual award yet again earlier this week - played in China, and the total attendance for the two planned matches could have exceeded 100,000.

Inter Miami said the reason was "unforeseen circumstances." The tour promoter, NSN, said the decision to cancel was out of respect to Chinese officials following the death last week of the country's former second-ranking leader, Li Keqiang. He was China's top economic official for a decade.

TyC Sports, a network in Argentina, reported Monday that the trip was called off. The team did not confirm that decision until Wednesday.

"The tour promoter, NSN, has informed Inter Miami CF of the cancellation of its China Tour due to unforeseen circumstances in China," read Inter Miami's statement. "Inter Miami's ambition remains to expand its global reach by playing in front of incredible fans from across the globe; the Club will continue to explore future opportunities with NSN to achieve this goal."

There were clear logistical challenges with the trip, including a botched ticket launch in China and reports that one of the matches would be canceled. It would have been Inter Miami's first international tour and could have served as a warm-up of sorts before Messi is expected to play in two World Cup qualifying matches for Argentina later this month.



Saudi Arabia's Salem Al-Dawsari receives best player award from AFC President Sheikh Salman bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa.