



LAWMAKER DECLARES NON-COOPERATION WITH P.M., BACKS 'NO-CONFIDENCE'

MP demands gov't resignation over failures



The 13th plane in Kuwait's relief air bridge departed on Sunday, heading to the Egyptian city of Al-Arish, carrying 40 tons of essential aid bound for the Gaza Strip. — See Page 4

Opinion

Are we in the era of the 'Brethren of Purity' and 'Kalila and Dimna'?

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

WHEN an influential group controls the reins of power, has an agenda with corrupt goals that do not serve the interest of the nation, and imposes its point of view through the law, the people tend to express their pain either through puns and symbolism, or by leaving the country in order to exercise their right of freedom of expression and opinion without any disturbances or persecution.

Since forever, freedom has been the goal of creation. Whenever freedom gets suppressed, human beings tend to resort to unusual methods in order to communicate and be heard, something that often annoys the corrupt.

That is why when the Buyid Dynasty witnessed the "Ikhwan al-Safa" (Brethren of Purity) group emerge not to fight corruption but to seize the decision in order to contribute to the collapse caused by a faction that had tightened control on power and destabilized the caliphate, discord prevailed on that day, and each faction went on to defend it.

The same applies to the stories of "Kalila and Dimna", as when the freedom of expression was suppressed in India, fables became an outlet of expression.

This is because people were unable to express their opinion out of fear and panic, and at the same time, they were alert to reform. That is why, in that era, the stories of "Kalila and Dimna" became something similar to a reformist statement for the opposition. They became widespread in the ancient world after the stories were translated. They had an impact among the people, and are in fact circulated among them even to this day.

Today, Kuwait lives under half-baked freedom of opinion. There are many warnings set by a group of parliamentarians, with the support of the authorities, to limit criticism of any corrupt political behavior.

These laws do not fit with the social and cultural nature of Kuwait, which has been inherited from the time it was found on this good land.

This situation, in light of the extensive spread of the media and social communication, has made people resort to puns and symbolism, or to publish under pseudonyms or from abroad, especially after they saw the harsh sentences being issued against them as a result of rumors, or for revealing facts about practices that spread corruption in institutions.

This is why we have witnessed in recent years prison sentences being issued against social media users, some of which reach up to 70 years, as a result of publishing a single sentence.

The Cybercrime Law, despite being against the Constitution, is implemented harshly because the judge does not find any text that would enable him to show mercy, as well as the Publications and Press Law, let alone contain many flaws and huge fines.

As for the proposal for the new law, it seeks to open a window for the application of the General Penal Code, which issues penalties of imprisonment for long periods for even saying a word.

The laws that were drawn up in lean years, when the authorities and parliamentary blocs sought to silence people, formed something like an arsenal to resist freedom of expression, thought and speech. It discouraged individual initiative by limiting freedom of expression, which pushes people to withdraw, allowing the corrupt to exercise their aggression against others without accountability.

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Email: [ahmed@aljarallah.com](mailto:ahmed@aljarallah.com)  
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[ahmedaljarallah@gmail.com](mailto:ahmedaljarallah@gmail.com)

'Total paralysis'

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: MP Abdulwahab Al-Essa said the government has failed politically, citing the Amiri speech that HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah delivered at the inaugural session of the second round of the 17th parliamentary term on Oct 31.

Al-Essa quoted HH the Crown Prince as saying that "the performance of the government does not match the citizens' ambitions despite obtaining the unlimited support of the political leadership." He added the government must resign; as this kind of relationship with the political leadership should not continue,

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Audit Bureau uncovers MoH financial lapses during Covid

**By Marwa Al-Bahrawi**  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: Although "Covid-19" pandemic has become a thing of the past, the financial and administrative violations committed in the Ministry of Health during the crisis still constitute significant material for the Audit Bureau.

The annual report of the Audit Bureau regarding the results of implementing the final accounts of the ministries for the fiscal 2022-2023 revealed the disbursement of bonuses, financial compensation, salaries and allowances to doctors and workers during the pandemic and doctors who worked in administrative positions worth about 940 thousand dinars, in violation of the approved laws and regulations.

The Bureau said in its report, "The Ministry

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Social Affairs okays 'AI of Things Society'

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5, (KUNA): Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs Sheikh Firas Saud Al-Malik Al-Sabah issued a ministerial decision announcing the establishment of "Artificial Intelligence of Things Society," which aims to enhance and develop understanding of artificial intelligence (AI) and its applications.

The Society, led by Sheikh Mohamad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, also aims to support developing AI technologies to make great benefits for society and contribute to achieving the country's development vision.

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Palestinian journalist Mohammed al-Aloul carries the body of his child killed in the Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip, at the hospital in Deir al Balah, Sunday, Nov. 5, 2023. (AP)

Nepal cremates earthquake dead, thousands homeless

KATHMANDU, Nov 5, (AP): Villagers in the mountains of northwest Nepal cremated the bodies of some who perished in an earthquake that shook the area Friday night. The strong tremor killed 157 people and left thousands homeless.

The 13 bodies were carried on Sunday to the banks of the Bheri River and placed on pyres made of stacked wood. Priests chanted Hindu prayers while family members cried as they covered the bodies of loved ones with flowers before setting them on fire in a cremation ceremony.

All 13 were from Chiuri village in Jajarkot district, which authorities said was the epicenter of the quake, and where at least 105 people were confirmed dead. Another 52 were killed in the neighboring Rukum district, officials said. Some 184 people were injured.

Most of the houses in Jajarkot - usually made by stacking rocks and logs - either collapsed or were severely damaged by the sudden earthquake, while the few concrete houses in towns were also damaged. The majority of those killed were crushed by debris.

Thousands spent Saturday night in the bitter cold. People used whatever they could find to set up shelter for the night, using plastic sheets and old clothes to keep them warm. Most people have been unable to retrieve their belongings from under the rubble.

Many were looking to the government for help.

"Our situation has gotten so worse that we do not even have anything left to eat. Whatever food we had is buried underneath the rubble of our fallen house," Samkhana Bika, who had lost her home, said Sunday.

Her house at Chepare village had fallen. She sat around a fire near their fallen home to keep warm with her six family members.

"Someone else gave us some rice, a little oil and some salt out of which we made a stew last night and ate that," she said.

Nepal's government said it is trying to get aid to the affected areas.

A cabinet meeting held on Sunday announced that aid would be immediately transported. Minister Rekha Sharma told reporters that supplying food and setting up temporary shelters were the main focus while working on plans to reconstruct damaged houses.

As rescuers were scrambling to rush aid, operations were hampered by the fact that many of the mountainous villages could only be reached by foot. Roads were also blocked by landslides triggered by the earthquake.

'Massacre' ... as attack flattens several multi-story homes

Israeli warplanes strike Gaza refugee camp

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip, Nov 5, (AP): Israeli warplanes struck a refugee camp in the Gaza Strip early Sunday, killing at least 40 people and wounding dozens, health officials said. The strike came as Israel said it would press on with its offensive to crush the territory's Hamas rulers, despite U.S. appeals for a pause to get aid to desperate civilians.

The soaring death toll in Gaza has sparked growing international anger, with tens of thousands from Washington to Berlin taking to the streets Saturday to demand an immediate cease-fire.

Israel has rejected the idea of halting its offensive, even for brief humanitarian pauses proposed by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken during his current tour of the region. Instead, it said that Hamas was "encountering the full force" of its troops.

"Anyone in Gaza City is risking their life," Israel's Minister of Defense Yoav Gallant said.

Large columns of smoke rose as Israel's military said it had encircled Gaza City, the initial target of its offensive. Gaza's Health Ministry said more than 9,700 Palestinians have been killed in the territory in nearly a month of war, and that number is likely to rise.

Airstrikes hit the Maghazi refugee camp in central Gaza overnight, killing at least 40 people and wounding 34 others, the Health Ministry said. It said first responders and residents were still digging through the rubble, hoping to find survivors.

An Associated Press reporter at a nearby hospital saw eight dead children, including a baby, who had been brought in after the strike. A surviving child was led down the hospital corridor by an adult holding her hand, her clothes caked in dust, an expression of shock on her face.

Arafat Abu Mashaia, who lives in the camp, said the Israeli airstrike flattened several multi-story homes where people forced out of other parts of Gaza were sheltering.

"It was a true massacre," he said early Sunday while standing on the wreckage of destroyed homes. "All here are peaceful people. I challenge anyone who says there were resistance (fighters) here."

There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military.

The camp, a built-up residential area, is located in the evacuation zone where Israel's military had urged Palestinian civilians in Gaza to seek refuge as it focuses its military offensive on the north.

Despite such appeals, Israel has continued its bombardment across Gaza, saying it is targeting Hamas fighters and assets everywhere and accusing it of using civilians as human shields. Critics say Israel's strikes are often disproportionate, considering the large number of women and children killed.

Blinken met with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in the occupied West Bank on Sunday, a day after meeting with Arab foreign ministers in neighboring Jordan. Abbas has had no authority in Gaza since Hamas routed forces loyal to him in 2007.

Blinken met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Friday, who insisted there could be no temporary cease-fire until all hostages held by Hamas are released.

Arab leaders have called for an immediate cease-fire. But Blinken said that "would simply leave Hamas in place, able to regroup and repeat what it did on Oct. 7," when the group launched a wide-ranging attack from Gaza into southern Israel, triggering the war.

He said humanitarian pauses can be critical in protecting civilians, getting aid in and getting foreign nationals out, "while still enabling Israel to achieve its objective, the defeat of Hamas."



A woman sits in front of her earthquake damaged house in Jajarkot district, northwestern Nepal, Sunday, Nov 5, 2023. (AP)

Newswatch

**KUWAIT CITY:** His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Sunday His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

His Highness also received First Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled Al-Sabah.

Further, His Highness received Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. (KUNA)

**BERLIN:** The hostage situation at Hamburg Airport ended Sunday afternoon, around 18 hours after a man drove his vehicle through the gates of the airport with his 4-year-old daughter inside, authorities said. The man was arrested and the girl appears to be unharmed.

Hamburg police tweeted that "the hostage situation is over. The suspect has left the car with his daughter. ... The child appears to be unharmed."

Police also said that "the man was arrested by the emergency services without resistance."

The airport in the northern German city had been closed to passengers and flights canceled since Saturday night when the man, who was armed, broke through an airport gate with his vehicle and fired twice into the air with a weapon, according to German news agency dpa. The man drove the vehicle just outside a terminal building and parked it under a plane. (AP)



Prayer Timings			
Fajr .....	04:43	Asr .....	14:37
Sunrise ..	06:04	Maghrib ..	16:59
Zohr .....	11:32	Isha .....	18:18

# Local

**Expected weather for the next 24 hours:**  
**By Day:** Rather hot and partly cloudy with light variable wind to light to moderate northwesterly wind, with speed of 08-32 km/h.

Weather			
<b>By Night:</b>	Mild with light variable wind to light to moderate northwesterly wind, with speed of 08-28 km/h.		
<b>Station</b>	<b>Max Exp</b>	<b>Min Rec</b>	
Kuwait City	31	24	

Kuwait Airport	32	19
Abdaly	32	20
Jahra	33	22
Salmiyah	30	25
Nuwaisib	32	21
Wafra	32	20

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

## ‘Religious, moral, social support’

# Awqaf ministry to organize lectures, seminars in support of Gaza

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, represented by the Department of Mosques of Farwaniya Governorate and Cultural Monitoring, will hold lectures and seminars to express support for the people of Gaza and to demonstrate the virtue of standing by their side religiously, morally and socially.

The lectures and seminars will take place over a course of two weeks this month, and will be presented by 20 clerics.

During this week, lectures under the broad title of “Gaza is the Pulse of the Nation” will be held in ten mosques on November 5, 7 and 8. A number of religious preachers will participate in it. On Sunday, Sheikh Nizam Masoud will hold a lecture at the Omar bin Al-Khattab Mosque in Farwaniya, Sheikh Hamoud Muhammad at the Batla Al-Khureini Mosque in Ardiya, Sheikh Sayyid Darwish at the Awaid Al-Mutairi Mosque in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, and Sheikh Muhammad Ghazai Khalaf at the Issa Al-Othman Mosque in Khaitan.

On Tuesday, November 7, Sheikh Ghanem Al-Shalahi will give a lecture at the Mardi Al-Rajhi Mosque in Ishbiliya, Sheikh Muhammad Ayoub Ramadan at the Ghazai Al-Rashidi Mosque in Abdullah Al-Mubarak, and Sheikh Muhammad Ghazai Khalaf at the Issa Al-Othman Mosque in Khaitan.

On Wednesday, November 8, three lectures will be held on Gaza. The first will be presented by Sheikh Awad Mujbil

Awadh at the Hazma Bin Thabet Mosque in Firdous, the second by Sheikh Al-Sayyid Al-Badawi Al-Faqi at the Aqel Bin Abi Talib Mosque in Rehab, and the third by Sheikh Muhammad Ali Al-Jandbi at the Daidan Amer Al-Mutairat Mosque in Sabah Al-Nasser.

During the second week, ten seminars under the broad title of “And We Love Gaza” will be held by a number of religious preachers in Farwaniya Governorate. The activity will begin on Sunday, November 19 with four lectures, one of which will be presented by Sheikh Ramadan Al-Nawam at the Muhammad Al-Bidan Mosque in Farwaniya, second by Sheikh Suleiman Al-Ghadian at the Al-Sabeel Mosque in Ardiya, third by Sheikh Saad Al-Otaibi at the Muhammad Al-Habib Mosque in New Khaitan, and fourth lecture by Sheikh Hassan Rakaba at the Abdullah Al-Zeer Mosque in Omariya.

Three lectures on Gaza will also be held on Tuesday, November 21, with the first lecture presented by Sheikh Hussein Al-Mahous at the Zayed Al-Duwailah Mosque in Rehab, the second by Sheikh Abdullah Al-Otaibi at the Ayed Al-Mutairi Mosque in Abdullah Al-Mubarak, and the third by Sheikh Mishal Al-Adwani at the Salem Sabah Al-Nasser Mosque in Sabah Al-Nasser.

On Wednesday, November 22, three lectures will be held on Gaza. The first will be given by Sheikh Mujbil Matar at the Jazaa Al-Rashidi Mosque in Firdous, the second by Sheikh Omar Mutheeb at the Imam Al-Qurtubi Mosque in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, and the third by Sheikh Musaad Al-Jumhur at the Hakam Bin Kisan Mosque in West Abdullah Al-Mubarak.

# Awqaf sets regulations on mosques and housing for ‘imams’, ‘muezzins’

## Distance between mosque, residential area specified

**By Enas Awad**

Al-Seyassah/ Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has informed the Acting Director of Kuwait Municipality Saud Al-Dabbous about ministerial resolutions No. 240 and 267 regarding mosques, housing, and family housing for imams and muezzins.**

This comes as part of the efforts of Kuwait Municipality, as the executive body of the Municipal Council, to coordinate and cooperate with the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs to control the mechanism for allocating lands to mosques, and their compliance with the conditions included in the building regulations for private and investment housing areas and organizing their parking lots.

According to the statement issued by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs to the municipality, the conditions that must be taken into account when considering the requests for allocating mosques include the following:

1. The distance from the nearest existing mosque in residential areas should not be less than 350 meters.
2. The distance from the nearest existing mosque in investment housing areas and service, craft, commercial and industrial areas shall not be less than 250 meters when requesting to be allocated in the same plot.
3. The distance from the nearest existing mosque should not be less than 10 kilometers for mosques required to be allocated or established on highways.
4. The distance from the nearest existing mosque should not be less than 1,500 meters in areas of chalets and of agricultural holdings.
5. Approval of neighbors is required to allocate new mosques in residential areas in the event that there are neighbors adjacent to the mosque, in accordance with the regulations in force in the municipality.
6. Car parking and family housing for the imam and muezzin of the new mosques in the chalet areas must be provided, after obtaining the approval of the Ministry of Finance’s State Property Department.

### Parking

7. If it is provided in agricultural areas and the site to be allocated is within an agricultural holding, the area required to be allocated to the mosque, parking lots, and family housing for the imam and the muezzin will be deducted from that holding, provided that the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) approves it.

The statement specified the controls for allocating family housing to imams and muezzins, the most prominent of which is that the area of the plot for family housing should not be less than 250 square meters. The building may consist of two or more floors, but each floor must constitute one unit or separate units. The design is subject to building conditions and regulations in accordance with applicable standards in the municipality according to three conditions:-

1. Allowing a license to establish family housing within the boundaries of the existing mosque if its area allows for this, in accordance with the technical requirements contained in the regulations of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and the building regulations in force in the municipality.
2. Allowing the construction of family housing adjacent to the wall of the existing mosque or close to it, in accordance with the technical requirements contained in the bylaw and the applicable building regulations, provided that the neighboring neighbors approve the mosque in residential areas only.
3. In all cases, it must be taken into account not to disturb the architectural character and aesthetic form of the mosque when designing family housing for the imam and the muezzin.

One of the articles contained in the municipality’s statement also stressed the need for the proposed location to construct mosques, family housing for the imam and muezzin, and parking lots to be compatible with the building regulations, conditions, and regulatory and planning standards in force in the municipality.

Article 7 referred to the statement sent by the ministry to the municipality to form a committee based on the decision of the undersecretary of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs. It will be headed by the assistant undersecretary for Mosque Sector Affairs, and its members must include the deputy director general responsible for organization in the municipality, a vice president and a number of members from the municipality.

The committee will be tasked with examining the extent to which the requests submitted by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs to allocate sites for mosques and family housing for imams and muezzins are compatible with the actual need to establish them in the areas where they are required to be established, and the extent to which the requests are compatible with the conditions contained in the ministerial decision for endowments. It must also grant initial approval of the application and submit it to the municipality to consider the possibility of allocating the site.

# ‘Take needed measures to counter rainy season’

**By Enas Awad**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: The Acting Director General of Kuwait Municipality Saud Al-Dabbous issued a binding administrative circular to all sectors and branches of the municipality in all governorates regarding the need to take necessary measures and preparations to confront the rainy season.**

The circular stressed the importance of alerting and following up with the cleaning companies contracted by the municipality to ensure that all areas surrounding the manholes are cleaned, and the surrounding waste materials, plastic bags, building materials, and rubble are removed.

They must also ensure that garbage containers are emptied periodically, especially before the start of the rainy season, so that waste materials are not carried by the rainwater to close the drainages. The garbage containers must not be placed above the service areas of the Ministry of Public Works and others.

The work must be followed up by the supervisory bodies in the municipality and its branches in the governorates represented by the public hygiene and road works departments, and the safety departments, to ensure the removal of any rubble or waste above manholes and rainwater drains, or internal drainage systems, and to take legal measures in this regard against anyone who violates this.

Al-Dabbous stressed the necessity of ensuring the cleaning equipment are in a state of complete readiness and placed in areas close to residential areas, activating the emergency plan, and ensuring the permanent presence of the regulatory apparatus and officials at all functional levels during times of heavy rain for the activation of the emergency plan.



KUNA photo

The Speaker of the National Assembly is seen at the Kuwait International Airport with other officials as he heads to Qatar.

## Speaker leaves for Qatar

National Assembly Speaker and Chairperson of the Parliamentary Caucus Ahmad Al-Sadoun headed to Qatar on Sunday to participate in the 17th meeting of the Speakers of the Shura, National, and Parliamentary Councils in the GCC.

Al-Sa’adoun and the Parliamentary Caucus delegation were seen off by Deputy Speaker Mohammad Al-Mutair and Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of

National Assembly Affairs and Cabinet Affairs Essa Al-Kandari.

The delegation includes members of the Parliamentary Caucus MP Hamad Al-Mutar, MP Mohammad Al-Mahan, MP Hamad Al-Obaid, MP Fahad Bin Jamae, MP Shuaib Shabaan, MP Dawood Ma’arafi, the National Assembly Secretary General Khaled Abu Sulaib and Acting Assistant Secretary for Organizations Department Mishal Al-Enezi. (KUNA)

## ‘Improving communication skills’

# Patients better life quality eyed

**By Marwa Al-Bahrawi**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: Director of Jahra Health Zone Dr. Jamal Al-Duaij revealed about preparation of workshops in the future to support and develop communication skills between the Occupational Therapy Department and the rest of the departments at Jahra Hospital.

He stressed the importance of this field in improving the quality of life of patients and in qualifying them to practice daily life normally.

Dr. Al-Duaij affirmed that the Ministry of Health spares no effort to improve occupational therapy and physical therapy services in the country.

In a press statement issued on the sidelines of his sponsorship of the celebration held by Jahra Hospital’s Occupational Therapy Department to mark the World Occupational Therapy Day yesterday under the title “Occupational Therapy to Improve the Quality of Life”, Dr. Al-Duaij revealed that the Occupational Therapy Department is affiliated with the Physical Therapy Department.

He said, “It is an essential supportive and complementary unit for treating many medical conditions, especially those related to bone diseases, fractures, neurological diseases, aging diseases, and others.”

Dr. Al-Duaij explained that occupational therapy is one of the supportive medical specialties that contribute to the rehabilitation

of the patient, as the role of an occupational therapist begins with assessing the condition and the extent of the barriers that hinder the individual from completing the activity.

Accordingly, an appropriate treatment plan is developed that may include modifying some of the individual’s activities to suit his abilities or new activities suitable for the individual.

An occupational therapist may also suggest some assistive tools that make it easier for the individual to perform his life activities in the simplest possible way.

He also evaluates the condition and provides treatment to enhance, restore, or maintain the activities that are most important to the individual. He works with patients of all ages and with a variety of medical conditions, including nervous system injuries such as stroke and spinal injuries, disorders that affect children, such as cerebral palsy and developmental delays, mental health disorders such as schizophrenia, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, hand injuries such as carpal tunnel syndrome and nerve injuries, and cases of swallowing difficulties and burns as well.

Dr. Al-Duaij praised the efforts exerted by those in charge of the Physical Therapy Department particularly the Occupational Therapy Department, stressing that the department has many young Kuwaiti talents who are making persistent efforts to improve the health services provided in the department.



KUNA photo

Dr. Bassam Al-Jazzaf talking to the participants.

## KUNA launches training program

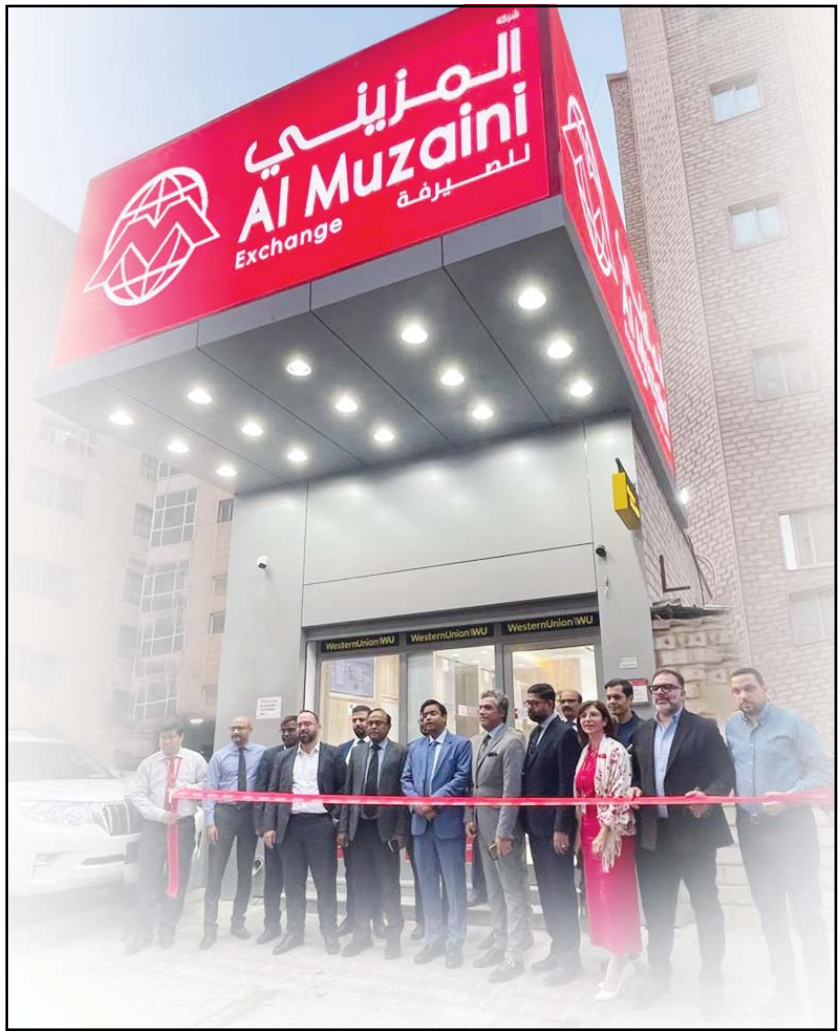
KUNA’s Media Center launched a training program (TV news bulletins) on Sunday, which aims to gather, edit, and present information for news bulletins.

The program, presented by journalist Dr. Bassam Al-Jazzaf, addresses the basics of television journalism, techniques for collecting information for television news, building the structure of news stories, and organizing bulletin content.

The program also touch on topics of video and audio editing, reading news

reports, interacting with stories, acting and performing in front of the camera, and how to deal with urgent news.

KUNA’s Center for Media Capacity Development, which was established in December 1995, is one of the most important media training centers as it has provided hundreds of training programs in various media fields and aims to develop personal media capacities and capabilities and advance professional media work. (KUNA)



Staff at the new branch.

# Al-Muzaini exchange company opens a new branch in Salmiya

KUWAIT CITY, NOV 5: The number one money exchange company in Kuwait, Al-Muzaini Exchange Company recently opened its newest branch in Salmiya, Block 10, Street 3 on Wednesday, November 1, 2023. This opening was extremely significant and the rapid expansion reflects the company’s endeavor to always be near its customers. It also reinforces the company’s commitment to providing the highest quality of financial services such as money transfers, foreign currency exchange and bill payments with convenience, comfort and safety and at the most competitive prices, seven days a week.

The General Manager of Al Muzaini Exchange Company, Mr. Hugh Fernandes and the company’s department managers and various senior personnel inaugurated the new branch in Salmiya and Mr. Fernandes stated: “We take great pride in strengthening our leading posi-

tion in the local market and always place focus in ensuring that we provide the best financial services experience to our customers in order to meet all their money transfer needs.

We always want to stay true to our mission; to always be near to our customers and to add to their convenience and the opening of our new branch is another step in that direction.”

The company always strives to make its financial services accessible to all. In addition to its strong network of branches, Al Muzaini application provides simple and safe financial solutions and is packed with plenty of valuable features such as: - Availability in all digital platforms, new customer registration, the ability to add a new beneficiary and benefits from the Western Union service and Visa Direct services that makes it possible for you to transfer anywhere, anytime.

# Drugs, liquor, weapons seized

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: The General Department of Narcotics Control has arrested 16 people of different nationalities for possessing about 11,250 kilograms of narcotic substances (shabu - hashish - chemical - marijuana), 2 kilos of Lyrica powder, and 3,200 pills of psychotropic substances, 15 bottles of alcohol, marijuana seeds ready for planting, 4 unlicensed weapons and ammunition, and sums of money resulting from the sale.

The General Administration of Security Relations and Media Department said the defendants during interrogation have admitted that the seized items belonged to them for the purpose of trafficking and

abuse.

All those arrested have been referred to the concerned authority.

The MoI has called on everyone to cooperate with security personnel and report any negative phenomena on the emergency phone (112) and the hotline of the General Administration for Drug Control (1884141).

**Death in transit:** A security source said, an American traveler died in the transit hall at Kuwait International Airport.

The police station investigator rushed to the airport with the security men and ordered the body to be transferred to forensic medicine, reports Al-Rai daily.



# ‘Govt & MPs must not squander opportunity to bury the hatchet’

“DURING the opening ceremony of the second regular session of the seventeenth legislative term of the National Assembly, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, may God protect and preserve him, delivered a speech on behalf of His Highness the Amir,” columnist **Fahd Amash Al-Jabri** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

“This address served as a voice for the Kuwaiti people who have endured years of chaos and disarray. It expressed concerns about the loss of government decision-making authority and the manipulation of public sentiment by certain politicians who prioritize personal gains.

“The net result has been a rhetoric of “achievement” that is heard but not seen, with development stagnating and the country’s condition worsening.

“An observer of the political landscape in recent times has noticed that it has become a dichotomy: a stage for conflicts, disputes, and street protests on one hand, or a passive, stagnant arena filled with uncertainty and mistrust on the other. This general suspicion within the political scene has left the public uncertain about the nation’s direction. Are they witnessing a political battle to settle personal scores, or is it a genuine effort to rescue the nation from its challenges?”

“The National Assembly had two key opportunities, the first of which ended below citizens’ expectations, and the second one was marked by stagnation during the summer period.

“It was essential for the representatives to come together, set their priorities for the upcoming phase, coordinate with the government on these priorities, and communicate them to the public through the usual media channels. Regrettably, the representatives failed to reach a consensus on these priorities.

“This led them to hastily release a parliamentary legislative map on October 22, which, in reality, did not represent a unified legislative agenda. Instead, it reflected the individual desires of the representatives, lacking both parliamentary and governmental consensus.

“As the current session begins, both the representatives and the government have a fresh opportunity to work together and fulfill the popular aspirations without leveraging or trading them.

“However, there are concerns that this opportunity may not be seized effectively, much like the previous ones. The introduction of an inquiry by the honorable MP Hamdan Al-Azmi, directed at the Minister of Commerce and Industry and the Minister of State for Youth Affairs adds complexity.

“The Kuwaiti people deserve to understand his motivations and justifications, and it is up to the nation’s representatives to assess this situation in accordance with the internal regulations of the National Assembly and the Kuwaiti Constitution.”

## Also:

“His Highness the Crown Prince, Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad, representing His Highness the Amir, delivered an important address at the inauguration of the second session of the seventeenth legislative term of the National Assembly,” columnist **Dr Turki Al-Azmi** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

“In his speech, he emphasized the need to avoid exploiting the citizens’ name for personal gains and expressed concerns about the government’s ongoing hesitations and unfulfilled ambitions, despite the political leadership’s support.

“The long-standing question remains: What is the future direction of the two councils? The National Assembly has only been functioning for a few months, and a collaborative committee between the National Assembly and the government has been tasked with setting priorities, including the implementation of popular laws.

“The challenges Kuwait faces can be attributed to a two-fold problem. Firstly, there are conflicts among political factions, which are causing disruptions and are in need of resolution as per the accepted constitution. Secondly, some National Assembly members aim to reap personal gains, and it is imperative to identify such representatives, especially those whose wealth has significantly increased over the past three decades.

“The government also shares responsibility for many of the popular demands, such as education, healthcare, housing, and infrastructure. It must expedite the transition to a digital government and enhance citizen services to eliminate favoritism, allowing National Assembly members to focus on legislative and oversight tasks.

“Various rumors and heresy are circulating, some of which require thorough investigation. The nation hopes not to burden its people beyond their means, particularly since many essential issues fall within the government’s purview.

“The electoral system, previously a priority for representatives, requires reform, specifically the implementation of proportional lists and a fair distribution of districts based on voter density and geographical considerations.

“Simultaneously, the leadership selection process must be reformed through amendments to certain constitutional articles and internal regulations.

“The delay in addressing administrative and financial corruption has raised questions. Kuwait might learn from the successful anti-corruption efforts in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which recovered funds and eliminated nepotism.

“Some parties may resist reform, and this requires a logical analysis of the ongoing situation. As several months have passed, expectations for progress in the coming days are high.

“Any leader who has not contributed to the development of their affiliated institution should be replaced by a competent, honorable individual with a reform-oriented vision, as the saying goes, “For every time, there is a state and men.” God is the ultimate guide.”

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“The representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad – may God protect them – delivered a lofty speech at the opening of the second round of the 17th legislative term, calling on the two authorities to open a new page based on co-operation, understanding, consultation and staying away from fanaticism, rivalry and self-interest,” columnist **Khalid Al-Arrafa** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

“His Highness stressed the need for the current round to realize the aspirations of citizens. His Highness stated in his frank and direct speech that the continuation of the past political scene is not in the interest of the nation and the citizens.

“This scene obstructed the development process and caused disappointment in the hearts of citizens in terms of correcting the path and coordinating efforts for the country to achieve the expected development.

“The speech had a significant impact on directing the course of the government and lawmakers to reach the correct path that begins in the foundations of cooperation and understanding toward the renaissance and development of Kuwait. They must refrain from delving into trivial issues that are not beneficial to the citizens and the nation. Cooperation between the two authorities is needed to repair the distortion.

“His Highness sent direct messages to the citizens, the government and the lawmakers. He urged the citizens to activate their role in questioning, monitoring and holding the lawmakers accountable to control the political scene and correct its distortions, and to have a clear, frank and courageous opinion on all topics and issues that members of the National Assembly may raise. This trust is in our hands and everyone is required to maintain it.

“For the MPs the directives were to improve parliamentary practice, avoid adopting minor issues that are not in the interest of citizens, and focus on presenting and adopting important issues which affect the life and well-being of citizens. In my view, this will be achieved only through the cooperation of the two authorities.

“The third message was addressed to the executive authority. His Highness stated that the government’s performance does not fulfill the aspirations of citizens despite the support of the political leadership, especially on matters that do not require legislative intervention.

“Based on the royal directive, the government must work and it should not hesitate in making decisions. It must implement projects that do not require legislation and fully benefit from the unlimited support of the political leadership, which must be matched by an achievement that meets the ambitions of citizens.

“Finally, the speech of His Highness the Crown Prince dotted the i’s and crossed the t’s, stating that development and progress in the country will be achieved only through concerted efforts and building bridges of cooperation between the two authorities. We hope the heads of the two authorities will achieve this, because their cooperation and hard work will lead to stability and achievements for the good of the nation and the citizens.”

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“The Ministry of Education is a vital institution in the educational system in Kuwait. However, this ministry faces many problems and challenges that affect the quality of education in the country,” columnist **Salem Al-Mohailbi** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

“One of the serious problems of the ministry is the lack of financial capabilities. Despite the increase in spending on education, there is still a lack of funding for the development of the infrastructure in schools and provision of modern equipment, such as computers, laboratories and textbooks.

“The ministry also suffers from an increase in the student-teacher ratio, which negatively affects the quality of education and the ability of teachers to meet the needs of students effectively. This increase in the number of students makes it difficult for teachers to pay attention to each student and provide education tailored to their individual needs.

“Moreover, the ministry lacks continuous support from higher authorities. This is in addition to the absence of clear plans to develop education and there is no clear direction or governmental vision for education, which makes it difficult for the ministry to realize aspirations for education and improve its quality.

“In conclusion, we must assign competent nationals to solve the problems of the ministry and provide the necessary resources to improve the quality of education. The government must allocate more funds to modernize school infrastructure and provide continuous support for teachers. The government must also lay down clear plans and a vision for education that seeks sustainable development and improvement of the quality of education in the future.”

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“The senseless war of extermination continues in the Gaza Strip. Israel certainly knows that regular armies cannot eliminate an organization, which has permeated the ranks of the people. This is exactly what the Americans discovered in Vietnam and the Russians in Afghanistan...etc.” columnist **Sami Al-Nisf** wrote for **Annahar** daily.

“In such confrontations, there is no decisive war between the two parties. In wars between armies, the victorious and defeated parties are known afterward.

“On the other hand, Hamas knows that it cannot eliminate Israel and liberate the land from the river to the sea due to the huge difference in the balance of power, as well as the nature of the land. The area is very small. It has no mountains or forests for waging a successful guerrilla war, as it happened in Vietnam and Afghanistan.

“Therefore, the organization in question must explain its strategic goals regarding the repeated military operations it carries out to gain external and internal support.

“Whoever truly supports the people of Gaza must be careful this time, as the issue does not end in a temporary truce. A roadmap must be created to connect the people of Gaza to a lasting and just peace. Otherwise, the blood that was wasted and the structure that was destroyed will be in vain. Through extension, whoever was not killed or whose home was demolished will be killed and his house destroyed in the next confrontation after a year or two, as it was the custom in the past.

“The global public sympathy for the people of Gaza is great. This sympathy must be taken advantage of by creating a clear roadmap to reach a permanent solution to the problem, before it gradually fades with the passage of time and the people return to their other preoccupations, similar to what happened with the Sabra and Shatila massacres and others.”

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary

# 95 people dead in traffic accidents in last 4 mths

23,503 traffic violations issued

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

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: The General Traffic Department announced the death of 95 people due to traffic accidents in the last four months.**

According to security sources, the leaders of the General Traffic Department stress the necessity of approving the new traffic law in order to reduce traffic accidents and increase penalties for those who commit serious violations that cause painful traffic accidents. The approval of the new traffic law contributes significantly to deterring violators of traffic laws.

They revealed that the approval of the new law to increase penalties requires approval by the National Assembly.

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**Traffic violations:** Statistics issued by the General Traffic Department from October 28 until Friday, revealed that 23,503 various violations were issued and 79 violators were referred to the prosecution, including 25 juveniles for driving without a license, while the rest of the 54 violators committed serious violations, and the majority of them were issued direct traffic violations, reports Al-Anba daily.

Also, 120 vehicles and motorcycles were referred to the vehicle impounding garage, and 78 wanted persons, 12 violators of the residency law, and 6 absentees were arrested.

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**Citizen acquitted:** The Criminal Court acquitted a Kuwaiti citizen who was accused of offending the authority and defaming the entity of the Amir.

He was referred to trial after the security authorities accused him of writing offensive statements about the Amiri’s authority, on a social media site.

In a related context, the Public Prosecution decided to imprison the X user, identified as “A.H.”, for a period of 21 days in the Central Prison on charges of harming relations between Kuwait and Turkey, against the backdrop of the posts he published on his private X account, which included offending a friendly country Turkey.

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**Huge number accepted:** Attorney General Saad Al-Safran announced the acceptance of the largest number of applicants for the position of “junior legal researcher” (prosecutor) this year in the history of the Public Prosecution, based on the directives of the political leadership for the Kuwaitization of the Kuwaiti judiciary according to a specific plan and decreed approach.

In this regard, the Ministry of Justice affirmed in a press statement issued yesterday that 105 applicants were accepted for the position of “Junior Legal Researcher” and qualifies for the position of Deputy Prosecutor (C) in the Public Prosecution, after passing the written tests and personal interviews scheduled in this regard.

The ministry indicated that those accepted must visit the Department of Judges and Members of the Public Prosecution in the Administrative Affairs Department in the Ministries Complex, third floor, Block 15 to complete their appointment procedures.

The ministry also announced the opening of receiving grievances from applicants who were not accepted according to the legally prescribed deadlines, within a period of 60 days, starting yesterday, provided that the grievances are submitted to the Office of the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Justice in the Ministries Complex, third floor, Block 17.

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**Bar elections begin:** The elections of the General Assembly of the Kuwait Bar Association began yesterday morning amid

## Other Voices

## External victory, inner defeat

By Ahmad alsarraf

I believe in three main and secondary viewpoints regarding our conflict with Israel, and our future in the world and history in the coming decades or centuries.

First: Our conflict with Israel is primarily civilizational, and we are far behind it. It is enough that it manufactures the majority of its weapons, and exports some of them, while being able to develop what it imports! On the other hand, we are often unable to even use the weapons we have purchased, originally imported from “friends of Israel,” and this makes them prevail in any future war.

Second: The logic of history says that Israel will inevitably disappear, and the majority of those who rule it have this concern, and therefore they act on the basis that any laxity in the issue of security means the end of the state, and this concern, for example, is not complained of by a country like Egypt. The Israelis know that they are foreign bodies in a region to which they do not belong historically, ethnically, or culturally, and the solution before them is peaceful coexistence with the rest of the components of the region, and assimilation with them, without that there are great horrors!

Third: And most importantly, we need to develop and progress, and to truly believe in the importance and necessity of building a free human being, and applying the principles of justice, equality, and humanity in our countries. Without a free human being, justice, and equality, no nation can rise. Our countries do not believe in all human rights, which were mentioned in the Universal Declaration, without belief in which we will not find a free person enjoying his rights to justice, freedom and equality. Therefore, oppression will continue, tyranny will spread more, and the plundering of wealth will expand, and with it usually comes the trinity of ruin: poverty, ignorance and disease. “This will weaken any entity, no matter how financially wealthy it is.



alsarraf

Therefore, whoever believes that it is easy to eliminate Israel militarily once we unite, or by requesting help from our friends, is mistaken. This solidarity will not be achieved at all, and if it is achieved and we win over Israel militarily, and we regain Palestine, then the defeat within us, the humiliation of our condition, our division, and the absence of justice and equality in our societies, which are racist and hate minorities in them, to the core, and deem them infidels, and consider them worthy of marginalization, and even exile on earth. It will make losing Palestine a second or third time a possibility, as the one who is defeated internally cannot be victorious externally!

Therefore, lamenting that the Arab countries have not taken the same path since the 1960s as Korea, Singapore and Taiwan in terms of development, freedom and democracy is meaningless.

Its progress and success depended on “factors” that are not present in our countries at all, and that have nothing to do with the beliefs we believe in, but rather contradict and contradict them radically, and make the successful implementation of “progress” in our societies impossible!

We are neither Taiwan, nor Singapore, and not even Rwanda, which has achieved tremendous growth rates, due to the absence of anything that hinders these countries from progressing, and limits our progress.

The cleric, in all the countries above, and others of course, does not have that pivotal role, such as we have, to the extent even the decision to reconcile with Israel, which is a purely strategic and sovereign decision, in a country the size of Egypt, requires a fatwa from Al-Azhar, and someone might say that it was a formality, but how many formalities have destroyed souls and mini-states!

A final note: Everyone praises Hamas, and no one denies its role, of course, but almost none of the Palestinians, or others, are willing to live under its rule, as it aims to rule all of Palestine, and other of our countries, according to the ideology of the Muslim Brotherhood, and its “A religious emirate or Islamic caliphate.” There is no constitution, no courts, and no freedoms, but rather extremism and an imposed veil.”

□ □ □

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

## Co-ops must create senior posts

## Merger sought to provide jobs

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: The Ministry of Social Affairs has disclosed to Al-Seyassah that the Ministry is committed to ensuring that every cooperative society has the opportunity to appoint citizens in supervisory positions.

The sources clarified that for those cooperatives with limited budgets that cannot readily accommodate citizen appointments; they will be encouraged to merge two or more of their departments. After the merger, suitable citizens will be appointed to these positions as a means to streamline their budgets.

These cooperatives will be required to communicate with the Ministry, assessing their financial situation before any decisions are made. The Ministry will then determine the appropriate course of action for associations facing budget constraints.

Furthermore, the Ministry, in collaboration with the Federation of Cooperative Societies, has issued a directive to all cooperatives to standardize their organizational structure,

comprising ten departments in addition to the Director-General, Deputy Director-General for Commercial Affairs, and Deputy Director-General for Financial and Administrative Affairs. The Ministry has made it clear that its decision to appoint citizens to supervisory roles is non-negotiable, and it will enforce this policy rigorously.

Cooperatives that fail to announce or report vacant supervisory positions to the Ministry will face legal consequences, including judicial investigations and potential suspension of their financial accreditation. The Ministry has already initiated 14 legal actions against non-compliant coops.

In the interest of transparency, the Ministry is currently contemplating the scheduling of interviews for citizens applying for these positions, with interviews to be conducted over two days each week.

As a testament to the level of interest, the Ministry received 24 applications for the Deputy Director-General position at the Nuzha Cooperative last Wednesday. Interviews for other applicants from different associations are also scheduled for this week.

a competitive atmosphere between two lists - “lawyers” and “profession” - to choose a new board of directors for the next session

of 2023. The voting process began at 9:00 am. The list of “lawyers” includes Sharyan Al-Sharyan, Adnan Abel, Khaled Al-Suwaifan, Ab-

dul-Razzaq Al-Enezi, Hamoud Al-Radaan, Mishari Al-Bulahis, Abdullah Al-Azmi, Abdul-Rahman Al-Tahous, and Mishaal Al-Khanna.

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‘ ... opportunity to introduce Kuwait to widely diverse audience’

Sharjah book fair ... cultural bridge between world nations: Kuwait

Medical expert reveals launch of ‘exosomes’ use to treat diabetes

Kuwait Prostate Cancer Awareness campaign launched

**By Marwa Al-Bahrawi**  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: Dr. Hamad Yaseen Ali, an associate professor of Genomic Medicine in the Health Sciences Center of Kuwait University, Research Associate at Dasman Diabetes Institute in Kuwait and a board member at Kuwait Scientific Center, revealed the start of the use of exosomes (ultra-small cellular particles) to develop treatments for patients with complications resulting from diabetes.**

In a televised interview, Dr Ali said the Dasman Diabetes Institute conducted a research study on the use of genetic fingerprinting in cell exosomes for patients suffering from kidney complications associated with diabetes, in order to develop medicines and reduce complications.

He explained that, “This was done by adopting a clinical, laboratory, genetic and informational methodology to enhance our understanding of the disease.

By analyzing the nature and levels of small nucleic acids found in exosomes, we were able to study the complex relationship between these

small nucleic acids and the genes that affect them. Understanding this relationship may help us direct the research compass in the future towards developing promising treatments for these diseases.

**Study**

The study relied on extracting these exosomes from patients’ urine samples using centrifugation technology and decoding their genetic code to identify the type of genetic acids present and the differences between the samples of patients and healthy people.”

Meanwhile, Director of the Health Enhancement Department Dr. Abeer Al-Bahwa highlighted the danger of pre-diabetes, as it is a gateway to Type 2 diabetes and many other diseases such as heart disease and stroke.

In a special press statement issued on the occasion of the celebration of World Diabetes Day under the title “I know your risk and I know your response”, she revealed that one out of ten people suffering from pre-diabetes is at a risk of developing Type 2 diabetes.

Dr. Al-Bahwa explained that pre-diabetes is a condition in which glucose (sugar) levels in the blood are higher than normal but not high

enough to be diagnosed as Type 2 diabetes. A patient at this stage may be exposed to the risk of developing Type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular and kidney disease, unnoticed “silent” heart attacks, and stroke.

When a normal person digests sugar, it enters the bloodstream and the pancreas secrete the hormone insulin, which allows the sugar to enter the cells and reduces blood sugar to the normal level.

A pre-diabetic patient suffers from the cells not responding properly to the hormone insulin, and then the pancreas produces more insulin but cannot keep up with the increase. Hence, the blood sugar level rises, paving way for the pre-diabetes stage and then Type 2 diabetes if the situation is not controlled.

**Causes**

Scientists have not yet discovered the causes of this stage of infection. However, its diagnosis depends on conducting three tests - accumulative glucose A1C test in which the blood sugar level should be between 5.7 to 6.4 percent, the fasting blood glucose test (Fasting Plasma Glucose) in which the glucose levels should range between 5.6 - 6.9 mmol-l, and finally the glucose tolerance test (Glucose Tolerance Test), in which the glucose levels should range between 7.8 to 11 mmol.

Dr. Al-Bahwa stressed that maintaining a normal weight can prevent this stage, in addition to eating healthy food, practicing physical activities, avoiding bad habits, and getting sufficient sleep.

She explained that the prevalence

of diabetes in the country is about 25 percent among adults in the age group from 20 to 79 years, meaning one out of every four people suffers from diabetes. The rate is expected to rise and reach 29.8 percent by 2045.

Type 2 diabetes is the most prevalent in Kuwait, which is one of the ten countries in the world with the highest prevalence of diabetes among young people. Diabetes is one of the main causes for blindness, kidney failure, heart attacks, nerve damage, strokes, and amputation of lower limbs. It also caused three percent of deaths in the period from 2000 to 2019.

In another development, the Cancer Awareness Nation (CAN) campaign announced the launch of the Kuwait Prostate Cancer Awareness Campaign in November 2023, in partnership with the Kuwait Urology Association and the Kuwaiti Oncology Association, to mark the World Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, under the patronage of the Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi.

In a press statement issued yesterday, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of CAN Dr. Khaled Al-Saleh explained that prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men over the age of fifty years.

The campaign, which bears the slogan “Get Screened”, aims to highlight the importance of early detection and recognizing the initial symptoms. It also aims to encourage the target group to undergo regular examinations by analyzing tumor markers for prostate cancer through a PSA blood test, which, if elevated, can give an indication of the possible presence of this tumor.

**By Humoud Al-Shaijy**

**SHARJAH, Nov 5, (KUNA):** The 42nd edition of Sharjah International Book Fair creates connections between world countries and bridges cultural gap as it is also an opportunity to introduce Kuwait to widely diverse audience, stated participating Information Ministry officials.

Ministry representative Faisal Al-Shammari underlined to KUNA significance of such an event describing it as a platform for the exchange of ideas and a display of latest developments in the field.

He explained that attending are media

personnel, writers as well as renowned media establishments from all over the world.

Abdallah Al-Rafadi, Ministry official, spoke about the ministry’s pavilion saying that it sought to highlight Kuwait as a beacon of culture, humanity and as a cultural economic hub.

The pavilion also shed light on local talents and narratives of Kuwaiti history and culture.

This year’s edition of the book fair encompasses various activities and keynote speakers as part of a comprehensive cultural program.



Ministry representative Faisal Al-Shammari.

KUNA photo



KUNA photo

The 13th plane took off from the Kuwaiti relief air bridge to the Gaza Strip.

12th relief aid plane arrives in Egypt

Kuwait’s 13th relief aid plane for Gaza Strip heads to Egypt

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5, (KUNA):** The 13th plane within the Kuwaiti relief air bridge took off Sunday, heading to the Egyptian city Al-Arish, carrying 40 tons of necessities, 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 air bridge 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.

Meanwhile, Kuwait’s 12th air bridge plane loaded with an ambulance and medical supplies, including intensive care gear arrived Saturday at Egypt’s Al-Arish Airport intended to reach people in the Gaza Strip.

Representatives of Kuwaiti charitable societies who were accompanying the aid plane confirmed in statements to KUNA that Kuwaiti aid to the people of Gaza is not a favor from the people of Kuwait, but rather a right to the brothers in Palestine, adding that this aid will continue until the unrest ends and the crisis in Gaza ends.

The Head of the Relief and Projects

Campaign at Kuwait Relief Society, Mahmoud Al-Mesbah, added that the 12th plane is a continuation of previous Kuwaiti relief planes, noting that the cargo of this flight is carrying a modern ambulance equipped with necessary aid and designated for intensive care rooms to perform urgent surgical operations for the people in Gaza.

Al-Mesbah added that the new ambulance vehicle is equipped for early resuscitation operations, which will be added to other ambulances that arrived in the past for first aid, and simple and medium surgeries.

Al-Mesbah added that 24 Kuwaiti charitable societies joined together to prepare humanitarian relief aid for the people of Gaza, which included medical supplies, food supplies, and first aid supplies, stressing the continuation of this aid until the crisis ends.

For his part, representative of the Kuwaiti Relief Society, Tariq Al-Batni, said that charitable societies inside Kuwait, since the beginning of the Israeli occupation aggression on Gaza Strip, have united under the umbrella of the Kuwaiti Relief Society.

Al-Batni added that coordination had taken place between these associations, as well as with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor, and the Kuwaiti Ministry of Defense, represented by the Air Force, in order to facilitate the air bridge and deliver Kuwaiti humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza.

‘KD 209K allocated for overseas official missions so far this year’

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

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5:** The Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Dr. Jassim Al-Ostad says the total financial allocations disbursed for external official missions to each leader or employee from the first of January until end of September amounted to KD 209,145 for 41 official missions.

In his response to a parliamentary question from a member of the National Assembly MP Muhallal Al-Mudhaf, he stressed the commitment of the ministry to the Civil Service Council’s resolution No. 1/2015 regarding the list of travel expenses and transportation expenses, and its amendments.

Dr. Al-Ostad explained that the basis

for selecting employees to carry out these tasks is to be nominated by the head of delegation, provided that they are those with technical expertise according to the nature of the task.

The reasons for the participation of leaders or employees in official tasks are due to the presence of official committees to represent the State of Kuwait in meetings of committees affiliated with the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Arab League, or regional and global bodies and organizations.

One of the reasons for participating in scientific conferences is to learn about international experiences with the aim of developing work in the ministry and increasing international factories to supervise the inspection of the receipt of materials that will be supplied for contractual projects with the ministry.

# November

## Room Promotion

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Promo period from 1<sup>st</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023      Terms & conditions apply\*



Kuwait Finance House concludes its participation in NLI Conference

KFH focuses on empowering national talents and innovation: Al Omar

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: Following its successful strategic partnership with the National Leadership Institute (NLI), Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has concluded its effective participation in the (Breaking Barriers) conference.

The conference brought together participants from different sectors, notable financial institutions, and field experts who discussed key aspects of digital transformation, woman empowerment, diversity, and inclusion, as well as emerging technologies.

KFH Group Chief Human Resources and Transformation Officer, Zeyad Abdullah Al Omar affirmed that KFH's participation in the conference was highly successful, attaining its desired objectives with substantial input from the Bank's executive leadership through diverse discussions and workshops, thereby delivering real value to the participants and audience.

In his statement, Al Omar added that KFH's contribution to the conference stems from its keenness to develop and empower the national leadership capabilities, in addition to its interest in enhancing the education system in Kuwait by participating in all the relevant initiatives and events, which constitute a valuable opportunity to address challenges and explore new avenues that contribute to accelerating knowledge transfer, empowering the next generation of national talents, focusing on innovation and forming purposeful partnerships for rising leaders amid a rapidly developing global scene.

"KFH is well aware of the digital transformation importance, which is why the Bank has been keen on investing extensively in the field, making KFH the leader of digital transformation in the region. Further, KFH's digital efforts in leading the competition, enhancing market share, expanding, and diversifying its customer base, in addition to achieving growth in operating income have reflected positively on its financial results," Al Omar added.

He went on to say that KFH focused on consolidating the work efficiency of its employees in order to achieve sustainable growth and create an equipped workforce ready to transition from the traditional workplace to a digital and innovative work environment that promotes productivity and empowerment. He noted that KFH was the first bank to implement the ORACLE Cloud system sector wide.

He pointed out that KFH's strategy, as the largest bank in Kuwait and the second largest Islamic bank in the world, focuses on inclusion and diversity, which is evident through its efforts in empowering women, recruiting and training skilled national cadres, and providing equal opportunities.

In terms of leadership development, Al Omar mentioned that KFH partnered with world-class universities and reputable educational institutions to conduct tailored training programs, in addition to launching KFH Digital Academy, reflecting KFH's belief that human resources are the core assets of success.

**Positive community interaction – Yousef Al-Ruwaieh**  
KFH Deputy General Manager Public Relations and Media, Yousef Abdullah Al-Ruwaieh said that KFH's participation affirms its prominent role in the community, noting that the Bank's active engagement during the conference has played a significant role in fostering positive community interaction. This further underlines KFH's dedication to supporting events that reinforce the abilities of both the youth and the broader community.

He went on to say that KFH's interest in taking part in such events stems from the substantial positive influence they have on improving the skills and knowledge of youth across a range of sustainability-related subjects, which, in turn, aids in boosting the community's educational aspects and empowering its youth.

He explained that the conference encompassed a number of discussion panels and workshops for exchanging ideas



Zeyad Al Omar being honored.

endorsing initiatives that foster the growth of leadership abilities, enhance efficiency, and align with worldwide advancement in business and human development, all while adhering to social responsibility principles.

"KFH's participation in the conference provided an additional advantage, enabling connections with prominent international figures across various industries" added Al-Ruwaieh.

He commended KFH's leaders participating in the workshops and exchanging their views with participants from different institutions, which contributed to the success of the conference.

He pointed out that KFH has a rich record of backing youth and initiatives dedicated to community development. It also boasts significant expertise in participating in conferences that have positive impact on knowledge transfer, serving as an important platform for youth and innovators to gain valuable insights and guidance from the discussions held during the conference.

**The first discussion panel – Tareq Al-Ajeel**

KFH Executive Manager Digital Transformation, Eng. Tareq Al-Ajeel participated in the first discussion panel held during the Breaking Barriers conference which focused on the role and significance of digital transformation.

Al-Ajeel stated that KFH online application has achieved massive success and was ranked first on Apple store, primarily for its efficiency, ease of use and innovative banking and financial solutions.

"At the end of Q3 of 2023, KFH customers carried out more than 152 million digital banking transactions through KFHonline on mobile and website, with a growth of about 40% compared to the same period last year," he added.

Al-Ajeel pointed out that this remarkable growth in customer usage of online digital banking affirms KFH's leadership in offering innovative digital financial solutions, enhancing the banking experience of customers and providing the Bank with a competitive edge.

He went on to say that KFH has maintained its strength and leadership in offering distinguished digital banking services, noting that the pandemic contributed to accelerating the digital transformation journey of KFH which had made significant leaps prior to the pandemic phase. He also revealed that during the total lockdown, KFH continued serving its customers round the clock through its online digital platforms.

Speaking on financial technology, Al-Ajeel pointed out that investing in FinTech and infrastructure development is at the heart of KFH's strategy as it has become a necessity. Therefore, KFH is keeping pace with the developments in this industry including Artificial Intelligence, cyber security, and machine learning, as well as enhancing its relationships with FinTech providers through strategic partnerships.

He noted that Open Banking and Application Programming Interface (API) are reshaping the banking sphere, therefore banks must adopt and benefit from these applications to improve their overall performance and enhance customer experience.

He added that KFH cooperates with world-class companies to provide unique and top-tier services, such as the cooperation with Ripple to launch instant cross-border payments service by using Ripple's technology. He also stressed that KFH will continue to explore new partnerships with emerging technology enterprises and FinTech providers with the intention of designing and delivering innovative financial solutions to customers.

**The second discussion panel - Nehal Almosalem**  
During the second discussion panel, KFH Group Deputy

points include constitutional violations in the recent recruitment of public prosecutors, such as rejecting applicants based on the category of their citizenship.

On the other hand the Parliamentary Coordinative Committee held its regular meeting on Sunday in the presence of the chairpersons and members of various parliamentary committees including MPs Abdulaziz Al-Saqabi, Muhammad Al-Sayer, Abdulwahab Al-Essa, Hamad Al-Elyan, Osama Al-Zaid, Muhammad Hayef, Fayez Al-Jomhour, Abdulhadi Al-Ajmi and Badr Nashmi Al-Anzi; in addition to members of the coordinative committee MPs Hassan Jawhar, Fahd Al-Masoud, Osama Al-Shaheen, Abdullah Fahad, Soud Al-Asfour, Adel Al-Damkhi and Abdullah Al-Anbai.

They discussed the agenda of the upcoming session and agreed on scheduling deliberation on 18 most important bills within the current legislative round. Some of these bills are on improving the citizens' standard of living, others on developing legislation and some on political reform.

Audit Bureau

Continued from Page 1

combined the disbursement of the compensation reward for assigning overtime work to quarantine workers and the reward for the front rows for doing the same work, in violation of Law No. 4 of 2021, which links the budget of ministries and government departments for fiscal 2020/2021 and the restrictions contained therein 543,923 dinars was spent unlawfully."

The Bureau confirmed that the Ministry of Health had disbursed a "guard allowance" and a training bonus to some doctors and employees working in the field of pharmaceutical services and allied medical services who were not assigned to the system and training in the Ministry worth 144,900 dinars, in violation of Civil Service Council Resolutions No. 5 of 2010 regarding salaries and allowances.

The Bureau added: "The Ministry of Health" also disbursed 250 thousand as training bonuses and a "guard allowance" for those holding administrative positions in violation of Civil Service Council Resolution No. 5 of 2010 regarding the salaries and allowances of human doctors and dentists.

Social Affairs

Continued from Page 1

In addition, it seeks to organize activities, forums and conferences aimed at highlighting the importance of AI, the Internet of things and enhancing the country's status in adopting, innovating and developing techniques of this field.

The society, whose fiscal year begins on January 1 and ends on December 31, organizes specialized training courses to qualify those interested and students on applying modern technologies in relevant fields.

In a news statement, Sheikh Mohammad Al-Sabah, Chairman of the association, said the society's role is represented in contributing to drawing up data and AI in the country as well as supporting and developing its techniques to serve national economy and develop society.

and experiences among different segments of society, adding that these sessions are an opportunity to address key topics that are of importance to the community and work environment. The sessions also raise awareness on the significance of knowledge, entrepreneurship as well as supporting Kuwaiti youth in implementing value-adding projects for the community.

Al-Ruwaieh also emphasized that KFH highly values knowledge and youth, endorsing initiatives that foster the growth of leadership abilities, enhance efficiency, and align with worldwide advancement in business and human development, all while adhering to social responsibility principles.

Council demands MoE to set up clear framework of action

Al-Hamdan puts forward 5 proposals

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: The Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education, Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Research and Curricula, Anwar Al-Hamdan, revealed the obstacles facing the ministry's development plan projects, specifically in the projects of developing curricula and diversifying secondary education, reports Al-Rai daily.

Al-Hamdan said the curriculum sector has been supervising the development project since 2012 and the secondary education track diversification project since 2021. These two projects have faced several obstacles since 2020, and a number of letters have been submitted in this regard, to develop solutions in line with the latest developments in the work.

Al-Hamdan added that the obstacles are still continuing, which negatively affect the implementation of projects according to the time plans that have been rescheduled time and again, indicating that the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development has demanded the existence of a clear document and framework for the ministry, so that work is done according to a systematic plan and clear educational policies.



Al-Hamdan

General Manager- Products, Nehal Almosalem shared her leadership journey at KFH, saying that the conference, in partnership with NLI, is an opportunity to shed light on empowering women leadership, one of the most important pillars of sustainable development.

Almosalem stressed KFH's commitment to a policy of ensuring wage and reward equality among all its employees, regardless of gender, while also offering equal opportunities in training, education, skill development and access to leadership roles.

She noted KFH's fundamental role in reinforcing sustainability and inclusion by empowering women leadership, referring to the presence of career growth opportunities for women, easing their progression into higher positions, offering a flexible workplace, alongside the creation of supportive policies and strategies that enhance women empowerment.

Almosalem added that KFH has made significant and promising progress in this field by implementing the goals of United Nations Development Program (UNDP) pertaining to Women Empowerment Principles agreement.

It is worth noting that in the previous year 55 female employees held positions in senior and middle management.

Al-Hamdan reviewed the data for the project to diversify secondary education tracks, as it was in the public education sector from 2011 to 2021, and then moved to the educational research and curricula sector in 2021.

Completion

The sources pointed to the data recorded in the project's automated system, which showed its actual date on April 1, 2017, then the expected completion date as March 31, 2025, and the completion rate as 48 percent.

The sources stated that the Curriculum Development Department followed a completely different vision and strategy from the philosophy and vision of the previous team, with achievements measuring 48 percent, so there are no achievement rates in the system as of last September 30, because the Curriculum Development Department is studying the current situation.

Al-Hamdan put forward 5 proposals to complete the development plan projects, which are as follows:

- Formation of a committee headed by the minister of education to develop the education strategy 2025-2040, which includes members from all relevant educational institutions.
- Identifying an executive director for each project, who is familiar with all procedures, operational steps, and challenges facing the project.
- Establishing a project management office entrusted with development projects, within the government's work program, and including a specialized team.
- Preparing an operational guide to organize the work of projects, in order to proceed with simultaneous time steps to achieve integration and comprehensiveness.
- Training the managers of the assistant undersecretaries' offices to manage projects related to their sectors.

The percentage of women representation in KFH branches was at around 35%, in addition the registration of women in (Forssah) training program reached around 53%.

**Connecting with global speakers – Mohammed Al-Musalam**

KFH Executive Manager Talent Management, Mohammed Al-Musalam said that KFH's involvement in the conference has yielded notable achievements in bolstering the Bank's human talents through their participation in training programs, discussions, workshops and seminars led by a diverse array of international speakers and industry experts such as Quest Nutrition Co-Founder Tom Bilyeu, Joanne Lesley Malone (Jo Malone) who transformed her small business into a global brand, AI and emerging technologies experts Calum Chace and Daniel Hulme, the first Arab woman astronaut Sara Sabry and Graeme Codrington who is an expert on the future of work and the disruptive forces.

Al-Musalam pointed out that hosting a cohort of global speakers aligns with KFH's vision to cultivate leaders and hone the skills of its human resources, the fundamental factor of success.

Are we

Continued from Page 1

Prior to these laws, Kuwait was accustomed to openness and frankness, reaching out to the decision maker, and talking about what the people are suffering from in all comfort. That was one of the factors of Kuwaiti strength, because it reveals the shortcomings and makes reform quick.

Today, these laws have changed the face of society. The correct thing is to research what is published in the media and social media. If it is correct, it must be taken into account for the sake of reform, but if it is wrong, then deny it.

When people are imprisoned and harsh sentences are issued, this directly means that what was published, even if under pseudonyms, is true, and people will follow those with hidden names.

Therefore, true reform begins with amending these laws, and not with further gagging of mouths.

MP demands

Continued from Page 1

taking into consideration the current circumstances including the war in the Middle East and border disputes over Khor Abdullah Bay and Durra offshore oilfield while the Kuwait Army chief of staff position remains vacant.

He asserted that aside from security problems, there are economic issues like the decline in the profits of the Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS) in recent years due to the delayed appointment of the Board of Directors. He stressed it is no longer acceptable that the country continues to witness total paralysis in all fields. He pointed out this is an indirect suspension of the Constitution especially Articles 52, 55 and 58 as follows:

Article 52: Executive power shall be vested in the Amir, the Cabinet and the Ministers in the manner specified in the Constitution.

Article 55: The Amir shall exercise his powers by the medium of his Ministers.

Article 58: The Prime Minister and the Ministers shall be jointly responsible to the Amir for the general policy of the State; and every Minister shall be answerable for the action.

He then disclosed that based on the abovementioned factors, he declared non-cooperation with HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah; while affirming support for the no-confidence motion that will be filed against any of the ministers in the coming days.

Meanwhile, MP Osama Al-Shaheen followed up the implementation of the flexible working hours system in ministries and other public institutions. Based on this, he asked all the ministers if they issued the executive regulations for Civil Service Commission (CSC) decision number 3/2023 on the flexible working hours in the public sector. He said the decision stipulates seven working hours from Sunday to Thursday, allowing the employees to report for work between 7:00 am to 9:00 am provided they complete the specified number of working hours. He requested for copies of the executive regulations, if any.

In addition, MP Meteb Ayed Al-Raathan announced that he is finalizing the grilling motion, which he intends to file against Minister of Justice and State Minister for Housing Affairs Faleh Al-Raqaba soon. He revealed the grilling

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World News Roundup

Europe

Russia opens exposition

Ukraine prez hosts EU's Von der Leyen

KYIV, Ukraine, Nov 5, (AP): Russian attacks in Ukraine wounded at least 14 civilians over the past day, officials said Saturday, as the president of the European Union's executive arm returned to the Ukrainian capital to meet with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

The governor of the Zaporizhzhia region, Yuri Malashko, said that nine people were wounded in a Russian rocket strike on the village of Zarichne. Overall, 26 cities and settlements in the region came under attack over the past day, he said.

In the Kherson region, five people were wounded, said Gov Oleksandr Prokudin. He said that attacks in the region came from artillery, mortars, drones, war-



Lysak

planes and tanks. Nikopol, a city of the opposite bank of the Dnieper River from the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, Europe's largest, came under fire, but no injuries were immediately reported, according to Dnipropetrovsk regional Gov Serhii Lysak.

Kerch is at the western end of the bridge to Russia's Krasnodar region, which is a crucial conduit for food and military supplies. The bridge has been hit by significant attacks twice.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen arrived in Kyiv on Saturday morning and was met by Zelenskyy at the train station.

She tweeted that during her sixth visit would focus on the path for Ukraine to join the EU "and how we will continue to make Russia pay for its war of aggression."

Progress

The visit came a week before she was due to present a report on the enlargement of the EU, which von der Leyen said will note Kyiv's progress on its path to membership in the 27-member bloc.

"I must say you have made excellent progress. This is impressive to see," von der Leyen said after the meeting with Zelenskyy. "We should never forget you are fighting an existential war and at the same time you are deeply reforming your country."

The Russian military said a Ukrainian missile strike on a shipyard in annexed Crimea had damaged a Russian ship.

The Russian Defense Ministry said late Saturday that Ukrainian forces fired 15 cruise missiles at the Zaliv shipyard in Kerch, a city in the east of the Crimean Peninsula. Air defenses shot down 13 missiles but others hit the shipyard and damaged a vessel, a statement from the ministry said.

The ministry didn't give details about the ship or the extent of the damage.

The Ukrainian air force commander, Mykola Oleschuk, said in a statement that at the time of the attack carried out by Ukrainian tactical aviation, "one of the most modern ships of Russia's Black Sea fleet was at the shipyard - carrier of the Kalibr cruise missiles." He didn't say directly, however, that this particular ship was damaged by the strike.

The Crimean Peninsula, which Russia illegally annexed from Ukraine in 2014, has been a frequent target since Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered a full-scale invasion of Ukraine 20 months ago. Crimea has served as the key hub supporting the invasion.

Meanwhile, Ukraine's newly appointed head of defense industry says he is working tirelessly to ramp up local arms production and wants to turn the country into a weapons production hub for the West.

Oleksandr Kamysyshin, the minister for strategic industries of Ukraine, said that Russia's invasion of his country and the Israel-Hamas war raging in the Middle East have highlighted the need for countries to spend on their defense systems.

Focusing

"We're really focusing on making Ukraine the arsenal of the free world," Kamysyshin told The Associated Press in an interview late Friday.

Kamysyshin said approximately 500 companies in Ukraine's defense industry are contributing to the country's efforts to increase weapons production in order to counter Russia's attempts to seize more territory. Among those are 70 state-owned factories, over 200 primarily private factories producing unmanned systems, and more than 200 private sector companies involved in the production of various types of weaponry and ammunition.

"We are focused on producing all types of weapons and ammunition, and we show that we can test it on the battlefield and make it better during the war," Kamysyshin said. "That's something we can contribute to the free world, because as you see, defense industry is becoming more and more important globally."

Oleksandr Kamysyshin was appointed to the post around eight months ago, and is now in charge of 300,000 people employed in Ukraine's defense industry.

He previously worked as the chief of the national railway Ukrzaliznytsia, which under his rule, became famous for keeping trains running on time despite the war, crucial to evacuating hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians to safety in the early days of Russia's invasion.

Also:

**MOSCOW:** With pointed disdain for the West, Russia on Saturday unveiled a sprawling exposition highlighting the nation's accomplishments, which will run through the months leading to the presidential election in which Vladimir Putin is widely expected to seek a new term.

Putin issued a decree in March to hold the exposition and some observers have seen it as aimed at creating an ideological framework for his reelection. News reports had suggested he might use the opening to announce his candidacy for the March election, but his spokesman later said he would not attend the event.

Putin has led Russia as president or prime minister since 2000, and reelection would extend his term until 2030.

The event is held at VDNKh, the vast exposition grounds in northern Moscow that was established by Josef Stalin and is renowned for its collection of elaborate Soviet Gothic-style pavilions. The setting plays to many Russians' nostalgia for the Soviet era and echoes Putin's drive to restore Russia as a superpower.

Thematically, the exposition focuses on Russia as a country of diverse ethnic groups and cultures unified by a sense of national purpose. It includes displays from each of Russia's regions, as well as from the Luhansk and Donetsk regions of Ukraine that Russia claims to have annexed, along with an array of presentations on industry, education and technology will be on offer.



Former US president Donald Trump acknowledges attendees before speaking at the Republican Party of Florida Freedom Summit on Nov 4, in Kissimmee, Fla. (AP)

Politics

Haley, Ramaswamy show rising power of Indian Americans

Trump's strength clear in Florida

KISSIMMEE, Fla, Nov 5, (AP): A booth at the Florida Republican Party's Freedom Summit made swift business of Donald Trump merchandise on Saturday, selling everything from socks to bathtub rubber ducks that paid tribute to the former president.

Vendor Peter Crotty also had Ron DeSantis T-shirts. But he discounted those items from their original \$25 down to \$5, an 80% discount on the Florida governor's name. The excess inventory needed to go, Crotty said.

It was just one sign of Trump's strength and DeSantis' challenges in the 2024 Republican primary fight. Barely two months from the first nominating ballots being cast, Trump is flaunting his advantages by trying to embarrass the governor in the two rivals' shared home state, where party activists on Saturday cheered any mention of the former president and booed at any criticisms of the GOP 2024 front-runner.

Policy

"Florida has shown the way forward for the Republican Party," DeSantis told the crowd, drawing applause for a litany of conservative policy victories in Tallahassee. "No state has done more to beat the left at the institutional level than we have in the state of Florida."

Yet hours before DeSantis took the stage, the Trump campaign announced a slate of endorsements from Florida lawmakers who had previously backed the governor. Trump already had secured support from a majority of Florida's US House delegation. The latest flips, first reported by The Messenger, came two days after US Sen Rick Scott, DeSantis' predecessor as governor, announced his support for Trump, and when Scott reaffirmed his choice Saturday, Florida Republicans roared.

"You might have seen that I endorsed President Trump," Scott said with a smile, pausing for the sustained ovation. "I don't think there's any question in my mind. He is the one person running that can really bring strength back to our country."



The tension between Nikki Haley and Vivek Ramaswamy was hard to

miss when they last met on a debate stage.

"Every time I hear you, I feel a little bit dumber for what you say," Haley told Ramaswamy.

Responding to the broadside, Ramaswamy argued "we will be better served as a Republican Party if we're not sitting here hurling personal insults." He later told reporters he would "use smaller words next time to make it easier" for Haley.

The two are poised to meet again on Wednesday for the third presidential debate, one of their final chances to make a case in front of a large audience before voting begins in the GOP primary next year.

porters and been critical of US military aid to Israel.

Summer Lee said it had committed "human rights violations." And at a recent cease-fire rally, Bowman said: "We cannot allow the lives of anyone to be erased. This erasure of Palestinian lives and experience has been happening for decades."

Adding to the fraught politics for Democrats is the fact that others could face pressure for the opposite reason - such as Shri Thanedar in Detroit, who represents a heavily Democratic district with a big Muslim population but has backed Israel.

Last week, the House overwhelmingly passed a resolution supporting Israel. Bush, Bowman, Lee, Omar and Taib were among nine Democrats who opposed the measure, saying it failed to call for a cease-fire, create a pathway to peace or express the need to protect Palestinian civilians in Gaza.

Bowman, Lee, Omar and Taib also were among the 17 sponsors of Bush's resolution asking the Biden administration to call for a cease-fire. Critics of that resolution said it failed to mention Hamas' unprovoked attack on Israel, hostages held by Hamas or that the US considers Hamas a terrorist organization.

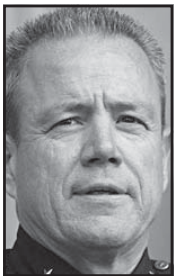
Though they are polling far behind former President Donald Trump in the race for the 2024 nomination, Haley and Ramaswamy represent the growing political influence of Americans of Indian descent and are a reminder of the nuanced views within the Indian diaspora.

"It is a growing, heterogeneous community," said Milan Vaishnav, the director of the South Asia Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, who co-wrote a study about how Indian Americans vote.

Haley and Ramaswamy exemplify the diversity of views among Indian Americans.



A man carries children through flood water, with emergency services at the scene after heavy rainfall, in Tuscany, Italy, on Nov 4. Record-breaking rain provoked floods in a vast swath of Tuscany as storm Ciaran pushed into Italy overnight. At least six people were killed in that central Italian region. (AP)



Moore



Carrillo

America

**Police investigating fire:** Minneapolis police are investigating another fire at a mosque, and faith leaders want them to look closely at the motive if the fire that destroyed three garages is determined to be arson.

The fire at Mercy Mosque happened around midday Wednesday and caused more than \$100,000 worth of damage. The Minneapolis Star Tribune reports there have been at least six other instances of vandalism at Muslim houses of worship in the state this year, including two arson cases that are pending.

Investigators are still working to determine what caused this latest fire.

The Minnesota chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations said in a statement that police should conduct a comprehensive investigation to determine if the mosque was targeted in the fire "in light of the previous attack and increasing community tensions." (AP)



**Phoenix finishes encampment:** The city of Phoenix has successfully cleared out a massive downtown homeless encampment by Saturday's court ordered deadline by helping more than 500 people find beds in shelters and motels.

The hundreds of tents that once lined blocks of streets in the area are now gone, with just a few people milling about or pushing shopping carts filled with their belongings.

"I was staying with a friend in a tent but he's now gone to a shelter," said Lily Bitsui, 33, who looked a bit lost. Bitsui said she was not around when city workers were offering to help people find a place to stay inside.

"They've really cleaned up things, and there's a lot less crime around here now," said Rudy Soliz, the operations director at the area's Justa Center, which provides day-time services for older homeless people, including meals and housing assistance. "I'm glad that a lot of those people have gone to shelters." (AP)



**Calif lawmaker arrested:** A California legislator who is running for a seat on the Los Angeles City Council was arrested early Friday on suspicion of drunken driving, according to law enforcement and jail records.



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, right, and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen attend a press conference in Kyiv, Ukraine on Nov 4. (AP)



Africa

Camara back in jail

Widespread war crimes in Sahel

ABUJA, Nigeria, Nov 5, (AP): Security forces and armed groups are committing war crimes against civilians in Africa's Sahel region, where extremists and rebels are increasingly fighting to exert dominance and control resources in communities, according to new reports from two rights groups.

Civilians are increasingly being killed, abducted or abused, including in Burkina Faso, where jihadi groups have fought for many years, and Mali, where militants and ethnic rebels are expanding their reach, Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International said.

Spread across the vast arid expanse south of the Sahara Desert, the Sahel region has been a hot spot for violent extremism, with armed groups often taking advantage of little or no government and security presence to target helpless communities.

But the conflict has worsened in recent months and analysts blame the trend on the absence of institutional reforms, failed peace efforts as well as rampant coups by militaries in places like Burkina Faso and Mali. The violence also includes alleged war crimes, which rights groups say are often covered up.

In Mali, both the armed forces and extremist rebels have killed and abused numerous civilians in the country's central and northern regions for allegedly collaborating with either side of the conflict, Human Rights Watch said in its report. Malian security forces were responsible for at least 40 civilian deaths, nearly half of whom were children, the report said.

Targeted

"The targeted killing of civilians by Islamist armed groups and the Malian army are war crimes that should be thoroughly and impartially investigated," **Ilaria Allegrozzi**, senior Sahel researcher at Human Rights Watch, said in the report based on interviews with 40 people, including more than 30 witnesses.

HRW's findings were communicated to Mali's justice and defense ministers who never responded, the group said.

In Burkina Faso, where HRW had previously accused the military of war crimes, Amnesty said it found that the Ansaroul Islam extremist group and other armed groups are killing and abducting women and girls, while also disrupting key infrastructure in communities to carry out "brutal sieges."

"They have not only enforced sieges across the country, but they have also killed thousands of civilians and destroyed civilian infrastructure, including bridges and water points," said Samira Daoud, Amnesty International's regional director for West and Central Africa.

The tactics to enforce the sieges have also limited residents' access to health and education, forcing one in 12 people across the country to flee their homes, the organization said.

Also:

**CONAKRY, Guinea:** Gunmen stormed the main prison in Guinea's capital early Saturday and freed former dictator **Moussa "Dadis" Camara** and several others, authorities said. A lawyer for the ex-strongman, though, later said he had been kidnapped.

In a statement, Prosecutor **Yamoussa Conte** said he has ordered authorities to investigate charges of escaping jail and weapons possession against Camara and three other individuals.

However, an attorney for Camara said late Saturday afternoon that her client was back at the central jail, where he was being questioned.

"My client has not escaped; he has been abducted," **Jacomey Haba** told The Associated Press.

Among the others who escaped were **Claude Pivi** and **Blaise Goumonou**, who along with Camara had been detained on charges in connection with a 2009 stadium massacre that left 157 people dead.

"We will find them. And those responsible will be held accountable," Justice Minister **Charles Alphonse Wright**, told local Radio Fim FM several hours after heavy gunfire erupted in the **Kaloum district** of the capital, **Conakry**.

A fourth prisoner, Moussa Thiegboro Camara, already has been recaptured, Wright added.

Camara came to power in a 2008 coup d'etat following the death of longtime dictator Lansana Conte. Camara had lived for years in exile after surviving an assassination attempt by one of his bodyguards before returning home to Guinea in late 2021.

More than a dozen suspects were charged in connection with the 2009 massacre, when Guinean security forces fired upon peaceful demonstrators protesting against his intention to run for president after seizing power.

**BERLIN:** Germany's president apologized for killings under colonial rule in Tanzania more than a century ago as he met descendants of an executed leader of a revolt against German rule, and vowed to seek answers to questions about that era that leave Tanzanians no peace.

President **Frank-Walter Steinmeier** on a visit to Tanzania noted that many bones and skulls were taken to Germany from East Africa and ended up in museums and anthropological collections, and that they were largely forgotten after the end of the colonial era and two world wars.

One of those skulls could be that of Chief **Songea Mbano**, who was executed by the Germans in 1906.

German East Africa – today's Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi – existed from 1885 until Germany's defeat at the end of World War I, when it lost its colonies under the treaty of Versailles. Up to 300,000 people are believed to have died during the Maji Maji rebellion against the colonial power between 1905 and 1907.

Steinmeier said that Mbano was "a brave leader" in the rebellion. He laid a rose at his grave and a wreath at a mass grave of 66 other fighters in the Maji Maji uprising, German news agency dpa reported.

"Along with you, I mourn Chief Songea and the others who were executed," he said. "I bow to the victims of German colonial rule. And as German president, I would like to apologize for what Germans did to your ancestors here."

Steinmeier also offered an assurance that "together with you, we will try to find the skull of Chief Songea in Germany," according to remarks released by his office. "Unfortunately, I just can't promise you that we will be successful," because identifying human remains is difficult even with scientific expertise, he added.



Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, (center), visits the BRP Teresa Magbanua ship at the Philippine Coast Guard headquarters on Nov 4 in Manila, Philippines. (AP)

Philippines

Marcos strongly condemns killing

Radio anchor slain during broadcast

MANILA, Philippines, Nov 5, (AP): A radio anchor was fatally shot by a man inside his southern Philippine station Sunday in a brazen attack that was witnessed by people watching the program live on Facebook.

The gunman gained entry into the home-based radio station of provincial news broadcaster Juan Jumalon by pretending to be a listener. He then shot him twice during a live morning broadcast in Calamba town in Misamis Occidental province, police said.

The attacker snatched the victim's gold necklace before fleeing with a companion, who waited outside Jumalon's house, onboard a motorcycle, police said. An investigation was underway to identify the gunman and establish if the attack was work-related.

The Philippines has long been regarded as one of the most dangerous places for journalists in the world.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr strongly condemned the shooting and said he ordered the national police to track down, arrest and prosecute the killers.

"Attacks on journalists will not be tolerated in our democracy and those who threaten the freedom of the press will face the full consequences of their actions," Marcos said in a statement.

The National Union of Journalists of the Philippines, a press freedom watchdog, said Jumalon was the 199th journalist to be killed in the country since 1986, when democracy returned after a "People Power" uprising toppled dictator Ferdinand Marcos, the father of the current president, and forced him and his family into US exile.

"The attack is even more condemnable since it happened at Jumalon's own home, which also served as the radio station," the watchdog said.

A video of the attack shows the bespectacled Jumalon, 57, pausing and looking upward at something away from the camera before two shots rang out. He slumped back bloodied in his chair as a background music played on. He was pronounced dead on the way to a hospital.

The attacker was not seen on the Facebook livestream but police said they were checking if security cameras installed in the house and at his neighbors recorded anything.

In 2009, members of a powerful political clan and their associates gunned down 58 people, including 32 media workers, in a brazen execution-style attack in southern Maguindanao province. It was the deadliest single attack on journalists in recent history.

While the mass killing was later linked to a violent electoral rivalry common in many rural areas, it also showcased the threats faced by journalists in the Philippines. A surfeit of unlicensed guns and private armies controlled by powerful clans and weak law enforcement in rural regions are among the security concerns journalists face in the poverty-stricken Southeast Asian country.

**Also:**  
**MANILA, Philippines:** Japan's prime minister boarded a Philippine patrol ship on Saturday in a symbolic show of support as Tokyo shores up regional alliances to counter China's assertiveness in maritime disputes with its neighbors.

Prime Minister **Fumio Kishida's** visit to the Japanese-built **BRP Teresa Magbanua**, which was docked at the Manila harbor, capped his two-day visit to Manila. He held talks with President **Ferdinand Marcos Jr.** on Friday to strengthen defense ties amid their countries' shared concern over China's behavior.

"I truly hope that this will lead to regional peace and prosperity as well as a free and open Indo-Pacific," Kishida told top Philippine government and coast guard officials aboard the Magbanua, one of the two biggest patrol ships of Manila's underfunded coast guard.

Japan has provided a dozen patrol ships to the Philippines in recent years, including the 97-meter (318-foot)-long Magbanua. Manila's coast guard largely uses the ships for sovereignty

patrols and to transport supplies and rotating navy and marine personnel to nine Philippines-occupied island, islets and reefs in the strategic **South China Sea**.

That has put the Philippine ships on a collision course with China's massive coast guard and navy fleets in the South China Sea, which China claims virtually in its entirety. Aside from China and the Philippines, **Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei** and **Taiwan** also lay claim to parts of or the entire sea passage, a key global trade route.

The Philippines has strongly protested the Chinese coast guard's use of blinding laser light and water cannon in separate incidents this year and its blockade that led to two minor collisions last month near the disputed Second Thomas Shoal.

In August, as the Magbanua tried to approach the shoal, which has been surrounded for years by China's vessels, its crew saw a Chinese coast guard ship maneuver into blocking position with its 70 mm armament uncovered, according to the Philippine coast guard.

In their talks on Friday in Manila, Kishida and Marcos agreed to start negotiations for a key defense pact called the Reciprocal Access Agreement that would allow their troops to enter each other's territory for joint military exercises.

The Japanese premier also announced that coastal surveillance radars would be provided to the Philippine navy under a new security grant program that aims to help strengthen the militaries of friendly countries.

Japan has had a longstanding territorial dispute with China over islands in the **East China Sea**.

In the first-ever speech by a Japanese premier before a joint session of the Philippine Congress on Saturday, Kishida pledged to continue helping bolster the capability of the Philippine military and maritime agencies.



Britain's King Charles III, (right), shakes hands with Chairperson of the Mandhry Mosque Committee Babu Ali Said during a visit to Al-Mandhry at Mahandry Mosque in Mombasa, Kenya, on Nov 3. (AP)



Boric



Obrador

Lat/Am

**Gunmen kill 5 people:** Gunmen on motorcycles shot five men to death Saturday on the outskirts of the Mexican city of Puebla in an apparent dispute over stolen fuel, authorities said.

The Puebla police department said the five victims appeared to have been guarding two gas tanker trucks when the attack occurred.

The department said the attack was "presumably for fuel theft." President of Mexico **Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador**.

It said two of the victims had been arrested in October for alleged involvement in the explosion of a gas tanker truck, though it gave no specifics on their role in that incident.

Puebla is just east of Mexico City and has long been plagued by gangs that drill illegal taps into government pipelines to steal fuel. Shootouts between the gangs and authorities are not uncommon. (AP)

**2 dead in shooting:** Two men were shot to death while visiting a graveyard during Mexico's Day of the Dead holiday, prosecutors said Friday.

The two men were killed, and a third person wounded, in a shooting Thursday at a cemetery in the Mexico City suburb of Naucalpan.

Mexicans traditionally visit the tombs of their deceased relatives during the Nov 1 - 2 holiday. The killers apparently used that tradition to wait for the victims.

There was no immediate official information on a motive in the attack or the identity of the victims. But local media reported that the victims were a businessman who provided bullet-proofing for cars, and his bodyguard.

On the Day of the Dead, families clean the tombs of their loved ones, decorate them with flowers, and sometimes eat, sing or sit quietly beside the graves.

This peaceful tradition also was marred by violence in northern Mexico.

Police in the northern border state of Sonora were attacked while driving between the towns of Santa Ana and Magdalena de Kino, 56 miles (89 kilometers) from the Arizona border, authorities said in a post on Facebook. The attackers left three assault rifles, a truck and smeared blood before fleeing to a mountain nearby.

Immediately following the attack, the mayor of Santa Ana evacuated the local school and postponed all Day of the Dead celebrations until further notice.

As tensions in the region rose, several other towns cancelled their traditional Day of the Dead celebrations. (AP)

**Games give Boric a break:** Chile's President **Gabriel Boric** faces a deeply polarized country, rising crime and a divisive upcoming vote on a new constitution. But his life is like a dream while attending

the Pan American Games in his country's capital.

Boric drew loud applause at the National Stadium on Oct. 20 when he opened the 41-nation games, which have given him with both a respite from politics and an easy way to generate positive publicity amid his deeply faltering popularity.

He looked glad to be filmed as he punched the air during a Chile vs. Argentina women's basketball match, signed autographs during the judo, sat casually in sunglasses at the beach volleyball and showed surprising interest for swimming as he stood up during the races.

The 37-year-old Boric is expected to remain in fan mode until the closing ceremony

Sunday, and has been busy using social media to highlight his attendance and his support of all Chileans, while glossing over glitches including reports of thefts and robberies at the venues.

"Let's keep supporting our players in Santiago," Boric said. "These Pan American Games have shown our country is ready for big things and that sports are an option for the young. Sports make us good as country. Let's keep building the Chile we want."

Fernanda Rocha, 22, wore a Chilean soccer shirt and said she came to watch athletics on Tuesday in the hopes that Boric also would attend.

"We need to give him the energy to keep going. I am sure he understands that too



Soldiers loyal to Burkina Faso's latest coup leader Capt Ibrahim Traore, are pictured in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso on Oct 14. Top human rights groups have released new reports in which they documented cases of 'war crimes' against civilians in the violent conflict in Africa's Sahel region where rebels are increasingly fighting in communities under siege. (AP)



Maersk to slash 10,000 jobs

Maersk, the world's biggest shipping company, said Friday that it plans to eliminate 10,000 jobs due to what it described as a challenging environment for container trade and logistics services. The company said the move would result in savings of \$600 million in 2024. The announcement was made as Copenhagen-based Maersk presented its quarterly report, which listed profits before taxes at \$691 million, down from \$9.1 billion for the same period last year. The report cited "challenging market conditions resulting in substantially lower freight rates compared to the abnormally high rates in 2022." A.P. Moller-Maersk CEO Vincent Clerc said the company will continue to streamline its organization and operations. "Our industry is facing a new normal with subdued demand, prices back in line with historical levels and inflationary pressure on our cost base," Clerc said. "Given the challenging times ahead, we accelerated several cost- and cash- containment measures to safeguard our financial performance." The company's revenue for Q3 was \$12.1 billion in 2023 compared to \$22.8 billion for the same period in 2022. (AP)

US awards \$653m in grants to upgrade ports

The Transportation Department on Friday awarded \$653 million in grants to upgrade and improve 41 water-based ports across the United States. The grants are part of the \$1 trillion in infrastructure investments included in a bipartisan law signed by President Joe Biden in 2021. Biden administration officials said the projects being supported will allow ports to meet greater shipping demands as well as lowering costs for consumers and improving worker safety. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg said on a call with reporters that supply chain challenges starting in 2021 drove up prices as the United States recovered from the pandemic. He said the goal of the projects is to improve the infrastructure for ports so that they can withstand the kinds of shocks seen during the pandemic. "Our goal is to strengthen those supply chains in a durable fashion," Buttigieg said. "Today's announcement is another big step in that direction." The grants included \$43.4 million to replace a dock in Cold Bay, Alaska. The Port of Long Beach in California will receive \$52.6 million for various upgrades, including a rail expansion to help move cargo. The Port of Newark in New Jersey will get \$32 million to reconstruct a berth. (AP)

Market Movements

05-11-2023

SAUDI

EGYPT

Tadawul

EGX 30

Change

+85.59

+455.10

Closing pts

10,938.95

23,094.69

Change

Closing pts

Business

Bank of Japan adopts flexible approach

Global central banks maintain rates amid economic uncertainty

By National Bank of Kuwait

United States

US Federal Reserve Holds Rates Steady

Last week, the US Federal Reserve held interest rates steady as policymakers unanimously agreed to hold the key federal funds rate in a target range between 5.25-5.5%. That marked the second consecutive meeting that the FOMC chose to hold, and followed a string of 11 rate hikes, including four in 2023 alone. "The process of getting inflation sustainably down to 2% has a long way to go," Fed Chair Jerome Powell said in remarks at a news conference. He stressed that the central bank hasn't made any decisions yet for its December meeting, saying that "The committee will always do what it thinks is appropriate at the time." The decision to stay put comes as core inflation runs at 3.7% on an annual basis, and although it has marked a steady decrease this year, it is still well above the Fed's 2% annual target. The post-meeting statement indicated that "economic activity expanded at a strong pace in the third quarter," compared with the September statement that said the economy had expanded at a "solid pace." The statement also noted that employment gains "have moderated since earlier in the year but remain strong." Gross domestic product expanded at a 4.9% annualized rate in the third quarter, far stronger than expectations, while nonfarm payrolls growth totaled 336,000 in September. Although many officials have said they believe rates can stay where they are as the Fed assesses the impact of the previous increases, essentially none have said they are considering cuts anytime soon. Market pricing indicates the first cut could come around June 2024.

Job Creation Decelerated in October

Nonfarm payrolls increased by 150,000 for the month, according to the Labor Department report on Friday, lower than market expectations for a rise of 170,000. The primary reason for the deceleration was the United Auto Workers strikes which meant a net loss of jobs for the manufacturing industry. Meanwhile the unemployment rate rose to the highest level since January 2022 at 3.9%. Looking at a key measure for inflation, average hourly earnings increased 0.2% for the month, less than the 0.3% forecast. Following the jobs data, markets further reduced

Highlights

■ The US Federal Reserve held interest rates steady in a target range of 5.25-5.5%, marking the second consecutive meeting that the FOMC chose to hold, ending a string of 11 rate hikes.

■ Nonfarm payrolls increased by 150K versus the 178K expected, leading markets to reduce their expectations of a rate hike in December.

■ The Bank of England also kept rates on hold while adding that monetary policy will likely need to stay tight for an "extended period of time."

■ Japan's central bank implements a modest policy tweak, removing the 1% "cap" on 10-year government debt. Just a day after, the BOJ implemented an unscheduled purchase operation as the 10-year bond neared 1%.

■ Stocks rose and bond yields fell after economic reports reinforced the idea that the Federal Reserve is done with interest rate hikes. In commodities, oil prices dropped to \$85 after peaking at \$90.15 the week prior.

■ The dollar index ended the week 1.46% lower, sending the pound and euro above the 1.23 and 1.07 respectively, while the USD/JPY pair dropped below the 150 mark.

ther tightening in monetary policy would be required if there were evidence of more persistent inflationary pressures," the MPC said in its Thursday statement. Inflation has weakened to 6.7% however remains well above the central bank's 2% target, while economic activity softened and the labor market shows signs of loosening. Bank of England Governor Andrew Bailey said Thursday that despite the progress on inflation, "there is absolutely no room for complacency" and that it is "still too high." Bailey added, "We will keep interest rates high enough for long enough to make sure we get inflation all the way back to the 2% target. We will be watching closely to see if further increases in interest rates are needed, but even if they are not needed, it is much too early to be thinking about rate cuts." In its accompanying Monetary Policy Report, the committee noted inflation has fallen below the expectations provided in the August findings. The BOE now expects CPI to average around 4.75% in the fourth quarter of 2023 before dropping to around 4.5% in the first quarter of next year and 3.75% in the second quarter of 2024.

Asia

Bank of Japan's Modest Policy Tweak

The BOJ announced it would take a more flexible approach to controlling yields on 10-year government debt, saying the 1% level was now a reference point

Kuwait

Kuwaiti Dinar

USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30890.

Rates - 5<sup>th</sup> November 2023

	Previous Week Levels				This Week's Expected Range		3-Month
Currencies	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	Forward
EUR	1.0564	1.0515	1.0746	1.0729	1.0605	1.0960	1.0780
GBP	1.2113	1.2088	1.2389	1.2376	1.2280	1.2640	1.2390
JPY	149.53	148.79	151.74	149.37	148.15	151.00	147.17
CHF	0.9020	0.8964	0.9112	0.9899	0.8820	0.9080	0.8901

Investment opportunities abound in Kuwait, but foreign funds lag behind

Approximately 1.47 bn dinars in foreign investments over 8 years

By Ahmad Fathi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: The Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority's recent annual report disclosed that Kuwait has attracted foreign investments amounting to approximately 1.47 billion dinars over eight years, spanning from January 1, 2015, to the end of the 2022/2023 fiscal year. Moreover, the report stated that new direct investments in the past year amounted to a mere 195.37 million dinars (\$633.29 million), highlighting Kuwait's struggle to draw significant foreign investments when compared to its Gulf counterparts. Kuwait's untapped investment potential Economists assert that Kuwait possesses the necessary capabilities and components to become a regional and global financial and commercial hub, attracting substantial investments. Key opportunities lie in projects like the Silk City, Mubarak Port, residential cities, development of Failaka Island, and ventures in tourism and industries with global demand. Furthermore, Kuwait holds distinct advantages over neighboring countries, such as the absence of income taxes, value-added tax, or zakat, as well as low electricity prices, which are appealing to foreign investors. Absence of an integrated investment strategy One of the primary hindrances to attracting foreign investments is the lack of a comprehensive strategy to promote investments within Kuwait. The direction of the state's economic development is unclear, leading to uncertainty about the long-term advantages and disadvantages of investing in Kuwait. The abrupt enactment and modification of laws and regulations also deter potential investors, whether they are local or foreign. Comparative shortcomings Economic experts emphasize that Kuwait's eight-year record of foreign investments is not commensurate with the nation's potential. Compared to neighboring Gulf states, the comparison is unfavorable, irrespective of their size. Kuwait has made legislative changes and established bodies such as the Direct Investment Promotion Authority to incentivize and support foreign investors. Nonetheless, the overall investment environment remains insufficient, leaving foreign and local investors questioning the state's commitment to fostering long-term investment opportunities. Eroding investor confidence Foreign investors are hesitant to engage in Kuwait's investment environment due to the absence of clear government direction, the potential for abrupt legislative changes, and a lack of guarantees. For example, an investor may not import specialized workers for their projects due to existing laws that prohibit this practice. Restructuring the

10-year Treasury yield highest since 2007

Wall St's roller-coaster ride: Return to normalcy

NEW YORK, Nov 5, (AP): It's easy to get swept up in all the superlatives popping up about investing and financial markets. The 10-year Treasury yield is at its highest level since 2007! The Federal Reserve has hiked its main interest rate to the highest level since 2001! Bond funds are on track for one of their worst years in decades! Diminished in all the hullabaloo is that conditions in financial markets are actually reverting to historical norms, not diverging from them. To be sure, the speed at which interest rates have snapped higher since the spring is jarring. But the 10-year yield is still lower than it was for roughly three decades, from the late 1960s through the late 1990s. Rather than think of today's conditions as strange, it's perhaps easier to think of the last few decades as the anomaly. Ever since the ghoul of high inflation was broken in the 1980s, the Federal Reserve has been quick to aid the economy and financial markets during times of trouble. That meant if lots of layoffs were happening or if the stock market was tumbling too frightfully, the Fed could cut interest rates down to zero. If that wasn't enough, the Fed could keep going with unconventional programs, such as purchasing however many bonds it thought was necessary to keep financial conditions easy. The Fed could do all that because inflation for a long, long time simply wasn't a problem. Now it is. And that means the Federal Reserve doesn't have the same freedom to cut rates so quickly, because lower rates can give inflation more fuel. After decades when changes like the internet and off-shoring manufacturing helped lower inflation, the global economy now faces conditions that could exacerbate it. Companies want multiple suppliers for example, rather than just the cheapest after the pandemic demonstrated the pain of snarled supply chains. "We think higher rates are here to stay as the Fed keeps policy tight to fight inflation," strategists at BlackRock Investment Institute wrote in a recent report. What all this means for investors depends on what kind of investments they're making. For savers looking for safe places to park their cash, the much higher yields on online savings accounts, CDs and short-term Treasury bills are welcome. Instead of getting nearly nothing, they're finally getting something. For investors holding longer-term bonds, there's both a plus and a minus. Higher yields mean new bonds getting issued today are paying more in income. That's helpful. But older bonds are paying less. That causes their prices to drop, which hurts investors already holding bonds in their portfolios. For stock investors, it can make things much more challenging. When bonds are paying more in interest, investors are less willing to pay high prices for stocks, which are riskier and can force investors to wait a long time for big growth. That puts downward pressure on all stocks. wait lags behind in terms of the efficiency and speed of commercial activities. Additional challenges include a shortage of industrial and artisanal land and potential limitations on the work-force required for projects. Corruption remains a significant issue, and the oversight and accountability mechanisms for government performance have weakened, adversely affecting investors and their business endeavors. Key challenges to attracting investments: 1. Lack of an investment vision in the government's action plan 2. Continuing tension and conflict between the legislative and executive branches 3. Unpredictable changes and sudden issuance of laws 4. Absence of an effective oversight and accountability mechanism for government performance 5. Bureaucracy and extended bureaucratic processes in project launches

'Investors should focus on operating earnings'

Buffett's firm reports \$12.8 bn loss amid strong insurance performance

OMAHA, Nov 5, (AP): Warren Buffett's company has reported a nearly \$13 billion loss in the third quarter as the paper value of its investments fell, but the companies it owns - particularly the insurers - generally performed well. Buffett's Firm Reports \$12.8 Billion Loss on Investment Decline said Saturday that it lost \$12.8 billion, or \$8,824 per Class A share, in the quarter. That's significantly bigger than the \$2.8 billion loss, or \$1,907 per Class A share, that it reported a year ago. But most of those investment losses are unrealized because Berkshire didn't actually sell most of its stocks with its biggest holding being a massive stake in Apple. Accounting rules require it to include the value of its investments, which it put at \$341.1 billion at the end of the quarter, in its earnings. Last quarter, it said its stock portfolio was worth \$353 billion. That's why Buffett has long said investors are better served focusing on Berkshire's operating earnings, which exclude the value of its investments that can vary widely quarter to quarter. By that measure, Berkshire said its operating profit jumped nearly 41% to \$10.8 billion, or \$7,437.15 per Class A share. That's up from \$7.65 billion, or \$5,215.60 per Class A share, a year ago. The three analysts surveyed by FactSet Research expected Berkshire to report operating earnings per share of \$6,540.23 on average. Berkshire's insurance unit was helped by relatively low losses related to major catastrophes like hurricanes this year and a rebound in Geico's profits. Altogether, Berkshire's insurers contributed \$2.4 billion to its operating profit. A year ago, the insurers reported a \$1.1 billion loss in the third quarter. CFRA Research analyst Cathy Seifert said the insurance results reflect Berkshire's pricing power in commercial and reinsurance because it was able to raise rates on many of its policies, and the changes Geico made. Geico improved its profits by raising its rates nearly 17% over the past year and cutting the number of policies it writes by 13%. Seifert said that helps in the short run, but investors probably won't learn more about Berkshire's long-term strategy at Geico until the annual meeting next May because Berkshire doesn't take questions on its quarterly reports like most companies do. "I think strategically investors are going to want to know what the go-forward strategy for Geico is because they're really pulling back and that's helping results. Strategically, that's not always sustainable," Seifert said. In addition to insurers, the Omaha, Nebraska-based conglomerate owns BNSF railroad, several major utilities and an eclectic assortment of manufacturing and retail firms including aviation parts maker Precision Castparts, See's Candy, Dairy Queen and Helzberg Diamonds. Profits fell at the railroad to \$1.2 billion from last year's \$1.4 billion as BNSF

~ WARREN BUFFETT ~



Warren Buffett, chairman and CEO of Berkshire Hathaway, smiles as he plays bridge following the annual Berkshire Hathaway shareholders meeting in Omaha, Neb., May 5, 2019. (AP)

hauled nearly 5% fewer shipments with the biggest drop in volume coming in consumer products. The utility unit contributed only \$498 million to Berkshire's operating profit, down from \$1.6 billion a year ago as its operating expenses soared 55% to \$3.7 billion. The biggest driver in that increase in expenses was a \$1.3 billion loss related to wildfires at its PacifiCorp unit. Berkshire got a \$183 million boost in the quarter from its acquisition of 80% of the Pilot Flying J network of truck stops that it made at the start of the year, but the quarterly report made no mention of the lawsuit Pilot's founding family recently filed to settle a dispute over how much Berkshire will pay to eventually acquire the remaining 20%. Edward Jones analyst Jim Shanahan said he wonders if that dispute with the Haslam family will hurt Berkshire's reputation as a benevolent acquirer of companies. Buffett is known for holding acquisitions long term and largely letting Berkshire's companies run themselves with little interference from headquarters. That hasn't been the case with Pilot, where Berkshire installed a new CEO early this year. The Haslams have said Berkshire was the only company they considered selling to back in 2017 when they agreed to the deal because of their respect for Berkshire and Buffett. "I wonder if this has harmed his reputation in the marketplace where they might be interested in selling to Berkshire, but then they see this situation with the Haslam family and it gives them some pause," Shanahan said. Berkshire did repurchase \$1.1 billion of its own stock in the quarter, but the pace of its buybacks is down considerably from the first quarter, when it bought \$4.4 billion of Berkshire shares. Buffett only buys back Berkshire's shares when he believes they are selling for a bargain. Buffett continues to sit on a massive pile of cash because he hasn't made any major investments or acquisitions this year. Berkshire had \$157.2 billion in cash at the end of the quarter, up from \$147.4 billion at the end of the second quarter.



China’s largest LNG storage tank now in operation

China Petroleum & Chemical Corporation (HKG: 0386, “Sinopec”) has officially put China’s first and also the world’s largest LNG storage tank of 270,000 cubic meters into service on November 2 at its Qingdao LNG Receiving Terminal. The tank will add 165 million cubic meters of storage capacity to meet the gas demand of 2.16 million households for five months during the winter heating season, which will enhance and guarantee the natural gas supply in North China.

The mega LNG storage tank, independently designed, developed and built by Sinopec, has a diameter of 100.6 meters and a height of 55 meters, a key project of Sinopec Qingdao LNG Receiving Terminal’s phase III construction. The 270,000-cubic-meter tank adopted 17 patented technologies with independent intellectual property, the main structure was completed in only 18 months and it’s in full service within 27 months.

In the construction process, Sinopec has localized the applications of over 20 core equipment that significantly reduced procurement costs and boosted the localization level of the tank to 95 percent, the highest in China. (PR Newswire)

UN again condemns US embargo on Cuba

The U.N. General Assembly voted overwhelmingly Thursday to condemn the American economic embargo of Cuba for a 31st straight year.

The vote on the resolution in the 193-member General Assembly tied the record for support for the Caribbean island nation: The vote was 187 in favor, with the United States and Israel opposed, and Ukraine abstaining.

The “yes” vote was up from 185 last year and 184 in 2021, and tied the 2019 vote of 187.

Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez urged the assembly before the vote to support “reason and justice,” the U.N. Charter and international law, and declared: “Let Cuba live without the blockade!”

He said the U.S. embargo “constitutes a crime of genocide” and “an act of economic warfare during times of peace” aimed at weakening Cuba’s economic life, leaving its people hungry and desperate, and overthrowing the government.

General Assembly resolutions are not legally binding and are unenforceable, but they reflect world opinion and the vote has given Cuba an annual stage to demonstrate the isolation of the U.S. in its decades-old efforts to isolate the Caribbean island nation. (AP)

Estonia in a policy revision

Taiwan allowed to establish a non-diplomatic representative office

HELSINKI, Nov 5, (AP): Estonia will allow Taiwan to open a non-diplomatic representative office of Taipei in the Baltic country to boost economic and cultural ties with the self-governing island but pledged to stick with the “One China” policy in political relations.

The government of Estonia, a member of the European Union and NATO, revised its approach to Taiwan at a Cabinet meeting on Nov. 2 while discussing the country’s China policy, Foreign Minister Margus Tsahkna told local media outlets on Friday.

China claims Taiwan, an island about 160 kilometers (100 miles) off its east coast, as its territory. Beijing considers Taiwan as a rebel province to be brought under its control by force if necessary.

“Just like many other countries of the European Union, Estonia is also ready to accept the establishment of a nondiplomatic economic or cultural representation of Taipei in order to promote the respective relations,” Tsahkna said in remarks first published by Estonia’s foreign ministry on Nov. 2. He didn’t provide any details about when such an office would be established in Estonia.

Under the “One China” principle, Beijing holds a position that there is only one sovereign state under the name of China, and that Taiwan is an inalienable part of China.

Nevertheless, some countries, like the United States, maintain unofficial relations with Taiwan or allow its economic or cultural representative office - under Taipei’s name - on their territory.

“Estonia does not recognize Taiwan as a country. As part of the One China policy, we will not develop political relations with Taiwan,” Tsahkna said. “At the same time, we consider it important to revive relations with Taiwan in economy, education, culture, communication between civil society organizations and other such fields,” he said.

He said that Estonia, which has a population of 1.3 million people, wants to align its current China policy with that of the 27-member EU, which similarly to the Baltic nation sees Beijing as “a partner, a competitor, and a rival.”

“All these aspects must be taken into account in (Estonia’s) China policy,” he said.

Tsahkna’s comments came just days before Joseph Wu, Taiwan’s foreign minister, is set to visit Estonia. Wu will deliver a speech on Taiwan’s foreign policy and attend a discussion panel by a local think tank in the capital, Tallinn, on Nov. 8.

Wu isn’t arriving to Tallinn at the invitation of the Estonia’s government and won’t officially meet with Cabinet members during his visit, Tsahkna stressed but added that “we see nothing wrong with Mr. Wu visiting Estonia.”

TAIPEI, Taiwan, Nov 5, (AP): Seeking to generate excitement around a largely lackluster economy, Chinese Premier Li Qiang on Sunday pledged to continue deepening reforms, expand free trade zones and relax market access for foreign investment.

Li made the remarks when delivering a keynote speech at the opening of the 6th China International Import Expo in Shanghai, seeking to draw thousands of foreign businesses shopping for Chinese products and looking to expand trade and investment with the world’s second-largest economy.

China’s economy expanded at a 4.9% annual pace between July-September, beating analysts’ forecasts of about 4.5%, official data show. But that was much slower than the 6.3% annual growth rate of the previous quarter.

The Chinese government has adopted various policies to help the economy; raising spending on building ports and other infrastructure, cutting interest rates and easing curbs on home-buying. But economists say wider reforms are needed to address long-term problems that are stifling growth.

The expo between Nov. 5-10 is an annual event launched by President Xi Jinping in 2018 with the theme of promoting China’s image as being in favor of free trade.

“We will further relax market access ... protecting the rights and interests of foreign investment in accordance with the law, and continue to create a market-oriented, legal, and international business environment,” Li said at the opening.

Foreign businesses have complained of a worsening investment environment in China, particularly with the passage of new legislation that could deem the possession of standard economic data as being a form of espionage. American businesses have said current conditions make it almost impossible to invest in China without taking on significant risks.

This year’s expo brought Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, currently paying an official visit to China which is largely focused on restoring trade links blocked for years due to economic and political tensions.

From the outset of his prime ministership, Albanese had demanded that China immediately lift what he described as “unjustified” official and unofficial trade barriers costing Australian exporters 20 billion Australian dollars (\$13 billion) a year.



In this photo released by Xinhua News Agency, cyclists, some take selfie as they take rest against the sunrise skylines in Pudong, China’s financial and commercial hub, in Shanghai, China on Friday, Nov. 3, 2023. Seeking to generate excitement around a largely lackluster economy, Chinese Premier Li Qiang on Sunday, Nov. 5, pledged to continue deepening reforms, expand free trade zones and relax market access for foreign investment. (AP)

Canadian mine untouched

Panama President Cortizo signs into law a ‘moratorium’ on new mining concessions

PANAMA CITY, Nov 5, (AP): Panama’s President, Laurentino Cortizo, signed into law an indefinite moratorium on new mining concessions Friday. The law also prohibits renewing existing concessions.

Panama’s National Assembly approved the bill Thursday. An article was removed, however, that would have revoked a controversial mining contract that sparked nationwide protests over the past two weeks.

The new law will still allow Minera Panama to operate an open-pit copper mine in the state of Colon for 20 years, with a possible extension for another 20 years.

Environmentalists argue the mine threatens to destroy more of the dense jungle surrounding it and imperils local drinking water.

Minera Panama is a local subsidiary of Canadian mining company First Quantum.

Some lawyers welcomed the decision, warning that revoking that contract could have left the government open to multi-million-dollar legal liabilities.

However, experts said those could be avoided if the country’s Supreme Court rules the original contract was unconstitutional in any one of eight such cases brought against the deal so far.

Another bill also awaits debate, which would put the contract to a popular referendum.

Cortizo initially gave his final approval to the contract on Oct. 20.

Protests continued across the country Friday, drawing supporters from Indigenous groups and unions across the education, construction and medical sectors.

In 2017, El Salvador’s congress passed a total ban on the mining of metals in the country, becoming one of the first countries to enact such a broad ban. Proponents said the measure was needed to protect the water supply.

US officials, lawmakers express support for extension of Africa ‘trade program’

JOHANNESBURG, Nov 5, (AP): U.S. officials and lawmakers expressed support Saturday for the extension of a trade program that grants eligible African countries duty-free access to U.S. markets.

The move follows a clear push by eligible African countries at the African Growth and Opportunity Act trade forum in Johannesburg to have the program extended. It is currently slated to expire in September 2025.

AGOA is U.S. legislation that allows sub-Saharan African countries duty-free access to U.S. markets provided they meet certain conditions, including adherence to the rule of law and the protection of human rights.

Addressing the forum this week, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa called on the U.S. Congress to extend the program for a far longer period than the previous 10-year extension granted in 2015.

More than 30 African countries that are part of the AGOA program participated in the forum, where African businesses showcased products ranging from food and jewelry to electronics. The forum concluded Saturday.

In a statement released Friday, U.S. lawmakers expressed support for the extension of the program.

“Africa is on the precipice of an unprecedented demographic boom. The timely reauthorization of AGOA is important to provide business certainty and show the United States’ continued support towards Africa’s economic growth,” said House Foreign Affairs Committee chairman Michael McCaul and ranking member Gregory Meeks in a statement.

U.S. trade representative Katherine Tai, who led the U.S. delegation, emphasized AGOA’s impact on African businesses and its importance to the United States.

“AGOA remains the cornerstone of the U.S. economic partnership with Africa, let us not forget the real impact that AGOA has had on real lives, real people,” she said.

Earlier this week, President Joe Biden announced his intention to boot Niger, Gabon, the Central African Republic and Uganda from AGOA.

He said Niger and Gabon had failed to establish or make continual progress toward the protection of political pluralism and the rule of law, while citing the Central African Republic and Uganda as having committed gross violations of internationally recognized human rights.

Maine mulls proposal that would give the boot to corporate electric utilities

PORTLAND, Maine, Nov 5, (AP): Taking a page from the “throw-the-bums-out” script in politics, Mainers are poised to vote on an unprecedented plan to rid themselves of the state’s two largest electric utilities and start with a clean slate.

The proposed takeover of two investor-owned utilities that distribute 97% of electricity in the state would mark the first time a U.S. state’s utilities were forcibly removed at the same time. The referendum calls for dismantling Central Maine Power and Versant Power and replacing them with a non-profit utility called Pine Tree Power to operate 28,000 miles (45,000 kilometers) of transmission lines.

Across the country, ratepayers who are unhappy with their utilities are watching what happens when Mainers vote on Nov. 7 in the off-year election.

“What we say about state policy and trends is that it could become contagious,” said Timothy Cox, from Washington-based Clear View Energy Partners.

The referendum calls for creation of a nonprofit utility with a board made up of mostly elected members and a few appointed ones. A primary selling point is that the new utility would be beholden only to ratepayers, not corporate shareholders, allowing lower costs, greater investments in the grid and improved performance, supporters said. Interest rates for long-term borrowing for capital improvements also would be less costly for Pine Tree Power.

Supporters say there’s little to lose: Both investor-owned utilities rank near the bottom in customer satisfaction, with longer-than-average response to power outages and higher-than-average electricity rates.

But critics, including Democratic Gov. Janet Mills, worry about the power grid becoming politicized. They also question savings projections because of the billions of dollars needed to buy out the utilities, and worry about the prospect of lengthy litigation. Maine Public Advocate William Harwood contends legal disputes could postpone the new utility’s implementation by five to 10 years.



Central Maine Power Co. lineman John Baril works to restore electricity, in this March 15, 2023 file photo, in Lewiston, Maine. This fall Mainers are going to vote on whether to throw out the state’s two biggest private electric utilities. (AP)

NEW YORK, Nov 5, (AP): All signs point to a relatively solid holiday season for America’s small businesses. Yet, owners of these businesses appear to have a collective anxiety about the months ahead.

They have their customers to thank on both counts.

American kept up their spending over the summer, witness the government’s estimate that the economy grew by 4.9% in the third quarter. Yet even as they open their wallets, consumers seem pessimistic about their finances. A recent AP-NORC poll found that many Americans are concerned about their financial future.

In turn, after two years of a COVID-fueled sales boost, owners fear consumers have run through their pandemic savings and might cut back this holiday season or shop online again after getting out and supporting local businesses. Inflation is still a concern and interest rates are higher. And there’s no predicting the weather.

“When we talk to retailers there’s a lot of uncertainty,” said Max Rhodes, CEO of Faire, an online wholesale marketplace many small retailers use to buy inventory. “The combination of higher inflation and rising interest rates are making consumers nervous which in turn makes retailers nervous. It continues to be a weird economy. The data looks good, but nobody feels good about it.”

Rhodes said his customers started to search for “Christmas” items starting in mid-August, compared with mid-September last year. Buying early can relieve the stress of supply-chain bottlenecks and gives owners a chance to restock if something sells out early in the season.

For many retailers, the holidays can account for more than half their annual sales. Holiday retail sales are expected to increase between 3% and 4% in 2023, according to trade group the National Retail Federation. But the total value of those sales will grow more slowly because inflation has moderated. In 2022, sales jumped 5.3%, according to the NRF.

Early indications are that sales have kept pace with prior holiday seasons, with consumers making purchases that help them temporarily put aside their financial concerns.

Shop owners are seeing “comfort” items sell well: high-end candles, plush stuffed animals for adults, particularly the brand Jellycat, all things sparkly (like disco balls), and anything Barbie- and Taylor Swift-related.

“We’re calling it a ‘bright future’ (trend) right now because there’s so much heaviness in the world,” said Rick Haase, owner of eight Patina gift shops in St. Paul and Minneapolis in Minnesota. “Bright and happy is really the trend that we’re seeing as a whole, this kind of happy escapism and things that make you feel good about life.”

Higher-priced candles are in demand at Measure Twice, a card and gift store in Brooklyn, New York. Owner Kimberley Yurkiewicz said the store had strong sales in 2021 and 2022 and sales are up again so far this year. She said people are paying \$45 to \$65 for candles, up from a range of \$25 to \$45 last year.

But she said it’s hard to gauge numbers when it feels like things are constantly being disrupted, be it COVID, up and down tourism, or recession fears.

“We still don’t feel like we’re operating under ‘true’ or ‘regular’ or ‘normal’ numbers,” she said. “Any kind of accurate analysis has been a real challenge the last few years in that you can overthink it all. ...It’s hard to know what crisis-free sales reporting should look like.”

Andy Wilkerson, co-owner of Blackhawk Hardware in Charlotte, North Carolina, got a sales boost in 2021 and 2022 as holiday shoppers focused on outdoor holiday decorations for their home in lieu of celebrating with guests. But entertaining is back this year, and the store is seeing an influx of shoppers buying place settings, ornaments and indoor decorations.

So far, sales are on par with last year, which is “pretty remarkable, especially considering the last couple of years were unnaturally inflated because so many people were staying home or changing holiday traditions,” he said. “The fact that we have stayed steady this year is a good sign.”

Some owners still bear the scars of supply-chain driven shortages during the pandemic. Heather Haynie, co-owner of Rock Paper Scissors stationary store in Charlottesville, Va., had inventory shipped in sooner and put out holiday items earlier this year - at the beginning of October rather than mid-month. She says customers have learned to “buy something when they see it.”

Haynie also said that after having her best two holiday seasons in 2021 and 2022, she’s worried that customers might be lured by deals from bigger online players such as Amazon.

“Now that we are a bit more removed from the COVID years when our amazing customers felt strongly about getting out and supporting local, I fear that as life gets busy again, they fall prey to the convenience of online shopping,” she said. The NRF expects online and other non-store sales to rise 7% to 9% this year. The figure rose 9.5% during the holiday period in 2022, according to the NRF.

Sierra Wallis, owner of Sq/Ft gift shop in Decatur, Ga., who had her best sales years in 2021 and 2022, said her sales are up again so far this year, but spending per customer is down. Instead of one customer spending \$200, 10 customers are spending \$20 each.

“It’s kind of like we’re chasing our own tail,” Wallis said. “It’s like we’re busier, but we’re having to work harder for it.”

The holidays are essential to her business because they account for two-thirds of her annual sales. Wallis said she won’t be doing much reordering during the holiday season because that can be unpredictable. She’s already ordered all of her holiday inventory and hopes to sell through that by mid-December. Then she’ll restock with gift items that can sell not only during the holidays but in January and beyond.

“We’re just crossing our fingers, we feel good about it,” she said. “But, you know, I look at the numbers (every year) and it just always feels impossible, like, how are we going to sell that much in the next two months? But then it happens.”



# ENERGY

# Business Plus



Cancellations jeopardize Biden clean energy goals

## US offshore wind projects face economic storm



Land-based wind turbines spin in Atlantic City, N.J. on July 20, 2023. Wind developer Ørsted scrapped the project on Oct. 31, 2023, citing supply chain problems and high interest rates. (AP)

While macroeconomic headwinds are creating challenges for some projects, momentum remains on the side of an expanding U.S. offshore wind industry.

WASHINGTON, Nov 5, (AP): The cancellation of two large offshore wind projects in New Jersey is the latest in a series of setbacks for the nascent U.S. offshore wind industry, jeopardizing the Biden administration’s goals of powering 10 million homes from towering ocean-based turbines by 2030 and establishing a carbon-free electric grid five years later.

The Danish wind energy developer Ørsted said this week it’s scrapping its Ocean Wind I and II projects off southern New Jersey due to problems with supply chains, higher interest rates and a failure to obtain the amount of tax credits the company wanted. Together, the projects were supposed to deliver over 2.2 gigawatts of power.

The news comes after developers in New England canceled power contacts for three projects that would have provided another 3.2 gigawatts of wind power to Massachusetts and Connecticut. They said their projects were no longer financially feasible.

In total, the cancellations equate to nearly one-fifth of President Joe Biden’s goal of 30 gigawatts of offshore wind power by 2030.

Despite the setbacks, offshore wind continues to move forward, the White House said, citing recent investments

by New York state and approval by the Interior Department of the nation’s largest planned offshore wind farm in Virginia. Interior’s Bureau of Ocean Energy Management also announced new offshore wind lease areas in the Gulf of Mexico.

“While macroeconomic headwinds are creating challenges for some projects, momentum remains on the side of an expanding U.S. offshore wind industry - creating good-paying union jobs in manufacturing, shipbuilding and construction,” while strengthening the power grid and providing new clean energy resources for American families and businesses, the White House said in a statement Thursday.

Industry experts now say that while the U.S. likely won’t hit 30 gigawatts by 2030, a significant amount of offshore wind power is still attainable by then, roughly 20 to 22 gigawatts or more. That’s far more than the nation has today, with just two small demonstration projects that provide a small fraction of a single gigawatt of power.

Large, ocean-based wind farms are the linchpin of government plans to shift to renewable energy, particularly in populous East Coast states with limited land for wind turbines or solar arrays. Eight East Coast states have offshore wind mandates set by legislation or executive actions that commit

them to adding a combined capacity of more than 45 gigawatts, according to ClearView Energy Partners, a Washington-based research firm.

“I think very few people would argue that the U.S. will have the gigawatts the Biden administration wants by 2030,” said Timothy Fox, a ClearView vice president. “But I do think eventually we will have it and will likely exceed it.”

Offshore wind developers have publicly lamented the global economic gales they’re facing. Molly Morris, president of U.S. offshore wind for the Norwegian company Equinor, said the industry is facing a “perfect storm.”

High inflation, supply chain disruptions and the rising cost of capital and building materials are making projects more expensive while developers are trying to get the first large U.S. offshore wind farms opened. Ørsted is writing off \$4 billion, due largely to cancellation of the two New Jersey projects.

David Hardy, group executive vice president and CEO Americas at Ørsted, said it’s crucial to lower the leveled cost of offshore wind in the United States so Americans aren’t debating between affordability and clean energy. Hardy spoke at the American Clean Power industry group’s offshore wind conference in Boston last month on a panel with Morris.

“We’re probably a little bit too ambitious,” he said. “We came in hot, we came in fast, we thought we could build projects that were inexpensive, large projects right out of the gate. And it turns out that we probably still need to go through the same learning curve that Europe did, with higher prices in the beginning and a little slower pace.”

In May, there were 27 U.S. offshore wind projects that had negotiated agreements with states to provide power before the brunt of the cost increases hit, according to Walt Musial, offshore wind chief engineer at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, an arm of the Energy Department. The delay between signing purchase agreements and getting final approval to build allowed unexpected cost increases to render many projects economically unfeasible, he said.

Musial called Ørsted’s announcement a setback for the industry but “not a fatal blow by any means.”

On Tuesday, the Biden administration announced approval of the nation’s largest offshore wind project. The Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind project will be a 2.6 gigawatt wind farm off of Virginia Beach to power 900,000 homes. And even as Ørsted

announced the New Jersey cancellations, it said it was investing with utility Eversource to move forward with construction of Revolution Wind, Rhode Island and Connecticut’s first utility-scale offshore wind farm, a 704-megawatt project.

The current outlook from S&P Global Commodity Insights is 22 gigawatts by 2030, though that will be revised due to the recent industry announcements.

New York state, meanwhile, recently announced the award of 4 gigawatts of offshore wind capacity as it seeks to obtain 70% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2030 and 9 gigawatts of offshore wind by 2035. That announcement came shortly after New York regulators rejected a request for bigger payments for four offshore wind projects worth a combined 4.2 gigawatts of power. Those developers said they were assessing the viability of their projects.

Any delay in offshore wind means continued reliance on fossil fuel-burning power plants, according to environmental advocates.

“The quicker they come online, the quicker our air quality improves,” said Conor Bambrick, director of policy for Environmental Advocates NY.

New Jersey, under Democratic Gov. Phil Murphy, has established increasingly stringent clean energy goals, moving from 100% clean energy by 2050 to 100% by 2035. Murphy cast Ørsted’s decision as “outrageous” and an abandonment of its commitments, but the two-term Democrat said New Jersey plans to move forward with offshore wind. Additional offshore projects are pending before the state’s utility regulators.

“We definitely remain optimistic,” said Catherine Klinger, Murphy’s climate action and green economy executive director. “Offshore wind is a lot bigger than Ørsted.”

The first U.S. commercial-scale offshore wind farms are currently under construction: Vineyard Wind off Massachusetts and South Fork Wind off Rhode Island and New York.

Catherine Bowes, a senior director at Turn Forward, a nonprofit that advocates for offshore wind, believes the industry still has strong momentum because of the quality of the wind resources off the coastlines and the growing demand for clean electricity to meet decarbonization goals. The nonprofit is advocating for 100 gigawatts of U.S. offshore wind power.

“The bumpiness we’re seeing right now in no way indicates an inability of offshore wind to play a major role in the U.S. electric grid,” Bowes said Thursday.

Terminated contracts can be rebid, presumably with higher prices to cover development costs. Offshore wind developers are asking the federal government to ensure the industry can take advantage of tax credits under the Inflation Reduction Act to help these first projects become operational.

Michael Brown, CEO of Ocean Winds North America, which is developing several offshore projects, including one in New Jersey, said at the clean power conference that the industry will thrive in the U.S. but “it might be a little bit slower than we all want it.”

World Bank to temporarily host fund for the next four years

## Stage set for conflict at COP28 with mixed response

Billions of people, lives and livelihoods who are vulnerable to the effects of climate change depend upon the adoption of this recommended approach at COP28.

BENGALURU, India, Nov 5, (Agencies): Tense negotiations at the final meeting on a climate-related loss and damages fund - an international fund to help poor countries hit hard by a warming planet - ended Saturday in Abu Dhabi, with participants agreeing that the World Bank would temporarily host the fund for the next four years.

The United States and several developing countries expressed disappointment in the draft agreement, which will be sent for global leaders to sign at the COP28 climate conference, which begins in Dubai later this month.

The U.S. State Department, whose officials joined the negotiations in Abu Dhabi, said in a statement it was “pleased with an agreement being reached” but regretted that it does not make contributions to the fund voluntary.

The agreement lays out basic goals for the fund, including for its planned launch in 2024, and specifies how it

will be administered and who will oversee it, including a requirement for developing countries to have a seat on the board, in addition to the World Bank’s role.

Avinash Persaud, a special envoy to Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley on climate finance, said the agreement was “a challenging but critical outcome. It was one of those things where success can be measured in the equality of discomfort.” Persaud negotiated on behalf of Latin America and the Caribbean in the meetings.

He said that failure to reach an agreement would have “cast a long shadow over COP.”

Mohamed Nasr, the lead negotiator from Egypt, last year’s climate conference host, said, “It falls short on some items, particularly the scale and the sources (of funding), and (an) acknowledgment of cost incurred by developing countries.”

The demand for establishing a fund to help poor countries hit hard by climate change has been a focus of U.N.

climate talks ever since they started 30 years ago and was finally realized at last year’s climate conference in Egypt.

Since then, a smaller group of negotiators representing both rich and developing countries have met multiple times to finalize the details of the fund. Their last meeting in the city of Aswan in Egypt in November ended in a stalemate.

While acknowledging that an agreement on the fund is better than a stalemate, climate policy analysts say there are still numerous gaps that must be filled if the fund is to be effective in helping poor and vulnerable communities around the world hit by increasingly frequent climate-related disasters.

The meetings delivered on that mandate but were “the furthest thing imaginable from a success,” said Brandon Wu of ActionAid USA who has followed the talks over the last year. Wu said the fund “requires almost nothing of developed countries.

... At the same time, it meets very few of the priorities of developing countries - the very countries, need it be said again, that are supposed to benefit from this fund.”

Sultan al-Jaber, a federal minister with the United Arab Emirates and CEO of Abu Dhabi National Oil Company who will oversee COP28 next month, welcomed the outcome of the meetings.

“Billions of people, lives and livelihoods who are vulnerable to the effects of climate change depend upon the adoption of this recommended approach at COP28,” he said.

COP28 President Dr. Sultan Al Jaber addressed a record number of ministers and delegations from around the world at the opening session of Pre-COP last week, declaring that the international community needs to unite on climate action and that, “We have to come through. We must unite. We must act. And we must deliver in Dubai.”

Pre-COP in Abu Dhabi is a preparatory meeting of ministers and negotiators ahead of COP28. This year’s event has seen record attendance, with 70 ministers and over 100 delegations coming together in the UAE capital, more than double the normal number of participants for a Pre-COP.

Acknowledging that, “there are too many things out there dividing our world at this moment,” the COP28 President declared that “Now more than ever we need to unite on climate and deliver a clear message of hope, solidarity, stability and prosperity. We need to show that the international community can deliver and send a clear signal that keeps 1.5 within reach.”

Al Jaber pointed out that before the Paris Agreement, the world was heading for more than four degrees of warming but is now on course for warming of two to three degrees, according to latest reports, “We are heading in the right direction, but nowhere near fast enough,” he warned.

editor’s choice





‘Now and Then,’ the most impossible-to-believe track

Tune in to last new Beatles’ song with Fab Four and AI tech

LOS ANGELES, Nov 5, (AP): The final Beatles recording is here. Titled “Now and Then,” the almost impossible-to-believe track is four minutes and eight seconds of the first and only original Beatles recording of the 21st century. There’s a countdown, then acoustic guitar strumming and piano bleed into the unmistakable vocal tone of John Lennon in the song’s introduction: “I know it’s true / It’s all because of you / And if I make it through / It’s all because of you.” More than four decades since Lennon’s murder and two since George Harrison’s death, the very last Beatles song has been released as a double A-side single with “Love Me Do,” the band’s 1962 debut single. “Now and Then” comes from the same batch of unreleased demos written by Lennon in the 1970s, which were given to his former bandmates by Yoko Ono. They used the tape to construct the songs “Free As a Bird” and “Real Love,” released in the mid-1990s. But there were technical limitations to finishing “Now and Then.” On Wednesday, a short film titled “The Beatles - Now And Then - The Last Beatles Song” was released, detailing the creation of the track. On the original tape, Lennon’s voice was hidden; the piano was “hard to hear,” as Paul McCartney describes it. “And in those days, of course, we didn’t have the technology to do the separation.”

That changed in 2022, when the band - now a duo - was able to utilize the same technical restoration methods that separated the Beatles’ voices from background sounds during the making of director Peter Jackson’s 2021 documentary series, “The Beatles: Get Back.” And so, they were able to isolate Lennon’s voice from the original cassette and complete “Now and Then” using machine learning. When the song was first announced in June, McCartney described artificial intelligence technology as “kind of scary but exciting,” adding: “We will just have to see where that leads.” Contributions “To still be working on Beatles’ music in 2023 - wow,” he said in “The Beatles - Now And Then - The Last Beatles Song.” “We’re actually messing around with state-of-the-art technology, which is something the Beatles would’ve been very interested in.” “The rumors were that we just made it up,” Ringo Starr told The Associated Press of Lennon’s contributions to the forthcoming track in September. “Like we would do that anyway.” “This is the last track, ever, that you’ll get the four Beatles on the track. John, Paul, George, and Ringo,” he continued. McCartney and Starr built the track from Lennon’s demo, add-

ing guitar parts George Harrison wrote in the 1995 sessions and a slide guitar solo in his signature style. McCartney and Starr tracked their bass and drum contributions. A string arrangement was written with the help of Giles Martin, son of the late Beatles producer George Martin - a clever recall to the classic ambitiousness of “Strawberry Fields,” or “Yesterday,” or “I Am the Walrus.” Those musicians couldn’t be told they were contributing to the last ever Beatles track, so McCartney played it off like a solo endeavor. On Friday, an official music video for “Now and Then,” directed by Jackson, will premiere on the Beatles’ YouTube channel. It was created using footage McCartney and Starr took of themselves performing, 14 hours of “long forgotten film shot during the 1995 recording sessions, including several hours of Paul, George and Ringo working on ‘Now and Then,’” Jackson said in a statement. It also uses previously unseen home movie footage provided by Lennon’s son Sean and Olivia Harrison, George’s wife, and “a few precious seconds of The Beatles performing in their leather suits, the earliest known film of The Beatles and never seen before,” provided by Pete Best, the band’s original drummer. “The result is pretty nutty and provided the video with much needed balance between the sad and the funny,” said Jackson.

Variety



This image released by Netflix shows Annette Bening as Diana Nyad in a scene from the film ‘Nyad.’ (AP)

Film

‘Free Solo’ filmmakers dive into new narrative film

Star-studded cast brings ‘Nyad’ to life

LOS ANGELES, Nov 5, (AP): Filmmakers Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi and Jimmy Chin have given audiences thrilling and sometimes terrifying front-row seats to incredible feats of human ambition in their documentary work. From Alex Honnold’s white-knuckle climb up Yosemite’s El Capitan in the Oscar-winning “Free Solo” to the claustrophobic blackness awaiting the cave divers who rescued the trapped soccer team in Northern Thailand in “The Rescue,” their understanding of the personalities capable of such impossible accomplishments is almost unparalleled in filmed storytelling. It is not surprising, then, that they’d be interested and uniquely equipped to tell the story of Diana Nyad and her treacherous 110-mile (177-kilometer) swim from Cuba to Key West at age 64 for their first narrative film, “Nyad,” now available to watch on Netflix. But there would be at least one big difference in bringing “Nyad” to life: actors. “In nonfiction, you observe. You’re like the closest listener,” Vasarhelyi told The Associated Press in a recent interview. In fictionalized narrative, she found creative collaborators in their decorated core cast: Annette Bening, who plays Nyad, Jodie Foster as her friend and coach Bonnie Stoll, and Rhys Ifans as the ship’s navigator. “It felt like a super-sizing of something,” she said. “Like, suddenly your creativity can go further because you have these resources and partners.” Both Chin and Vasarhelyi, who are married and have two children, had been exploring opportunities in fiction when the script for “Nyad” came their way. Always drawn to characters with impossible dreams, they loved that this was wrapped in a female experience. Vasarhelyi wasn’t without any experience working with actors, either, and in fact learned from the best. Twenty years ago, she was Mike Nichols’ assistant while he was making “Closer.” “I thought everybody rehearsed for a month with Julia Roberts in the room and Jude Law and Clive Owen and Natalie Portman, and that everyone gets a private screening room in Covent Garden to watch the dailies every day and that Tom Stoppard stopped by all the

time afterwards,” she said with a knowing laugh. “But what I took away from it was that rehearsal is everything and the text is everything.” Thanks to a nine-month postponement, they were able to really dig into the story with their cast and their screenwriter, Julia Cox. And, it turns out, aside from things like blocking and scheduling, their experience filming top athletes also applied to performers. “Really, our job has been to create the space and the environment for them to perform at their best and bring a certain vibe on set as well,” Chin said. “But it was an extraordinary experience working with some of the greatest actors of our time.” Some of the lessons were hard learned, though. Chin recalled that on their first day of filming their first scene, Foster was out on the boat. They didn’t have enough time to shuttle a boat out in between shots, so the first notes they gave to their two-time Oscar winner were over a megaphone in front of the entire crew. Preparation “It’s 450 people on set, everyone’s highly conscious that we’re first-time directors. We’re conscious that we’re first-time directors. The actors are conscious of it,” Chin said. Though perhaps not ideal, they realized it was the only way to stay on schedule and a compromise they needed to make. “There’s just different challenges,” he said. Bening and Foster dove into their preparation, both intellectually and physically, spending time with their real-life counterparts and transforming their bodies. Bening spent a year training to swim and perfecting the strokes, getting comfortable with the five-hour stretches in the water that would be pivotal on set. “What was amazing about Annette is she made her own Diana,” Vasarhelyi said. “She did the work to know and anticipate what her body would feel like and how would she walk after 55 hours. And she was not afraid of playing a complicated, 360 (degree) woman who is sometimes unlikable.” Some in the small community of marathon swimmers have cast doubts on Nyad’s swim, which has not been

officially ratified, but Nyad and her team have always maintained that she did what she said in 2013 - swim the distance unassisted and without a shark cage. The film casts her in a complex light, prickly and egotistical, but also repeatedly shows her adherence to rules. “Diana Nyad was not afraid to pursue her dreams, to be ambitious, to be hungry and fight for what she wants,” said Vasarhelyi. “This opportunity to create two very rich roles for two pretty remarkable women that you don’t normally get to see, I think that was the reason why we did this.” They got some of the best in the business to help, as well, including Oscar-winning cinematographer Claudio Miranda, who had plenty of experience in the water shooting Ang Lee’s “Life of Pi.” The resources on “Nyad” were a little different, though. Vasarhelyi laughed that if “Life of Pi” gave Miranda a Formula One racecar, their film could only get him roller skates. “Everything just takes so much longer,” Chin said. “Even the prosthetics, it’d be four hours in the chair and then you only get a few takes. Or you’d get a perfect take but the wave machine wasn’t working. So you have to reset, move the boat all the way back. It was a lot.” But then sometimes everything would come together on the first take, like Nyad’s triumphant moment stepping on the beach. “We didn’t know what Annette was going to bring in that moment, you know? Even in a table read, you’re not sure what you’re going to get,” Chin said. “But she nailed it on the first take. Everyone was crying. We’re not so much proud for us, but proud for our cast and crew.” The ongoing actors strike, in which Hollywood’s film and television actors are fighting for fair contracts with major entertainment companies like Netflix has made the rollout of “Nyad” a little bittersweet. With their other films, the filmmakers had loved watching their subjects get to see audiences respond to them and their work. “We respect the fight that’s happening now. It is really important and urgent,” Vasarhelyi said. “But we haven’t had that sharing of that experience with the people who gave the most to the film.”

**NEW YORK: Britney Spears’** memoir “The Woman in Me” has sold 1.1 million copies in the US alone through its first week. “I poured my heart and soul into my memoir, and I am grateful to my fans and readers around the world for their unwavering support,” Spears said in a statement released Wednesday by Gallery Books, a division of Simon & Schuster. The sales figures include pre-orders, print sales, e-books and audiobooks. “The Woman in Me,” released Oct. 24, has been praised by critics as a compelling account of her rise to global fame and her ongoing struggles, including the conservatorship that for years granted her father control of much of her life and her revelation that she had an abortion while dating Justin Timberlake more than 20 years ago. On the day of publication, Spears posted on Instagram that her book had become “the highest-selling celebrity memoir in history.” It is not, so far, even the highest-selling memoir of 2023. “The Woman in Me,” for which she did little publicity beyond Instagram, was the top seller of last week. But **Prince Harry’s** memoir “Spare,” which came out in January, sold 1.6 million US copies in its first week. Spears’ memoir helped give a strong boost to streams and sales across her music catalog, according to Luminate, a music and entertainment analytics company. In one day last week, from Monday to Tuesday, Spears’ catalog jumped 18.2% in on-demand streams, and 36.8% in album sales. The numbers continued to climb over the following days. According to Luminate, her US streams increased 24% over the previous week - from 16 million to 19.8 million; her album sales were up 61.4% and digital sales 49%. Those numbers appear to mirror another pop star memoirist: when **Mariah Carey** released “The Meaning of Mariah Carey” in September 2020, she also saw a similar spike - 28.6% - in during release week. However, this year to date, Spears’ streams total 657 million, down from 703 million in 2021, when she saw immense growth due to the support surrounding the

#FreeBritney movement. (AP)

**TRENTON, N.J.:** New Jersey Gov. **Phil Murphy** tapped into a taxpayer-financed expense account for nearly \$12,000 at MetLife Stadium, including almost \$1,000 for a **Taylor Swift** concert in 2018. Murphy has asked the Democrat-



Swift



Spears

ic State Committee to reimburse the state for the purchases, the Politico first reported. The news agency cited records showing the Democratic governor spent the money on snacks and beverages at several events in 2018 and 2019 including the Swift concert, sporting events and a music festival presented by a **New York City** radio station.

A Murphy spokesperson said the Democratic State Committee was expected to cover the stadium costs. When it did not, the bill was paid through the governor’s \$95,000 annual expense account. “Once it was clear that there were outstanding bills that had not been paid, the state stepped up to meet this responsibility,” Jennifer

Sciortino said, adding that the committee had a different leadership team in place at the time and the charges in question “occurred during a time of staff transition for the state party.” She said the governor’s office is seeking reimbursement from the committee, “consistent with our practice for many years now.” (AP)



People & Places

Philanthropy

‘Find ways to help’

Theron ‘advocates’ for positive change

NEW YORK, Nov 5, (AP): **Charlize Theron** remembers the moment her role in philanthropy clicked into place.

The Oscar-winning actress had been talking with community leaders in her homeland of South Africa about how they could tackle the AIDS epidemic there. “We heard them say, ‘We know what to do, but we just need the resources to do it,’” Theron said Thursday at the Town & Country Philanthropy Summit in Manhattan. “And I thought, ‘Oh, wait, I can do that.’”

As a result, she created the Charlize Theron Africa Outreach Project in 2007 to fund community leaders in South Africa who were already working on the AIDS epidemic and then expanded to gender equity issues. “Our philosophy is always listen and they’ll tell us what we need to do and then we help with that,” Theron told The Associated Press in an interview backstage before her appearance at the summit.

It’s a strategy that resonated throughout the Town & Country Philanthropy Summit, which celebrated its 10th anniversary Thursday.

“Philanthropy, for me, comes down to a very simple question: ‘What can I do?’,” said Stellene Volandes, Town & Country’s editor in chief. “When you feel like there is something you might be able to do, it means you still have hope and it gives each and every one of us a role in making the world better.”

Volandes said philanthropy has been part of Town & Country essentially since the magazine launched in 1846. She said the Philanthropy Summit began in 2013 at a time when “the age of the anonymous donor was close to being over.”

“It’s when philanthropy became news,” she said. “Who was giving? How much were they giving? Who’s getting their name on the building?”

A lot has changed in philanthropy since then, with another sea change brewing in the sector.

Philanthropists, Volandes said, aren’t just the people who write big checks. They are people who serve others. And the race is on to find and activate as many of those people as possible.



Theron

Functions

Former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said society functions best when the government and philanthropy work together. He said his nonprofit After-School All-Stars, which provides programs to support students and their families across the country, is an example of philanthropy stepping in where government support is lacking.

“Your political philosophy falls apart right in front of you,” he said. “I’m a Republican. Is the government becoming a nanny for the kids who should be doing their own thing? ... No. I saw firsthand that the government needed to get involved.”

Ford Foundation President Darren Walker quoted the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.’s thoughts about philanthropy being “commendable,” but that it should not “cause the philanthropist to overlook the circumstances of economic injustice which make philanthropy necessary.” Walker urged those in attendance to engage in philanthropy that goes “beyond generosity and toward justice.”

“One of the trends we should be concerned about in our country is the growing level of inequality,” Walker told The Associated Press. “That means there are fewer middle class people giving and I think we should be worried about that. That’s a larger systemic issue in our economy that should be addressed to ensure that we have a vibrant and vital middle class.”

The results of that inequality are already being felt. In 2022, total giving fell for only the fourth time in four decades — down 3.4% to \$499.3 billion, which is a drop of 10.5% when adjusted for inflation — according to a Giving USA report released in June. More concerning to nonprofits, though, is the decline in the number of Americans who donate. In 2000, more than two-thirds of Americans donated. In 2022, that percentage dropped to less than half, according to the report.

The reason declines are not more severe is because wealthier Americans, like those who read Town & Country magazine, are donating more.

According to the 2023 Bank of America Study of Philanthropy released last month, affluent households, on average, gave 19% more in 2022 than they did before the pandemic started. Researchers defined affluent as households with a net worth of more than \$1 million or annual income of more than \$200,000.

Women in affluent households are more likely to volunteer than men and are more likely to influence the decisions about giving, said Una Osili, the report’s lead researcher and associate dean for Research and International Programs at the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy. However, she said women are less likely to serve on the boards governing nonprofits — providing an opportunity for change for many organizations.

“There seems to be a gap in terms of leadership opportunities for women in nonprofits at a time when our society is concerned with equity and bringing diverse voices to the table,” Osili said. “That’s a point that should be called out.”

Empowerment

Theron said the general need for more female leaders is why her Africa Outreach Project is so focused on gender equity and safety for girls, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic set back their work at least a decade.

“It’s been proven that economies rise instantly when females step into leadership,” she said. “It’s one of the biggest ways to solve some of the biggest problems that we have in South Africa. That’s another reason why I really believe in female empowerment.”

Theron has adopted two children: a daughter in March 2012 and another daughter in July 2015. She has been interested in adoption since childhood, when she became aware of orphanages and the overflowing numbers of children in them. In April 2019, Theron revealed that Jackson, then seven years old, is a transgender girl. She said of her daughters, “They were born who they are and exactly where in the world both of them get to find themselves as they grow up, and who they want to be, is not for me to decide.”

She is inspired by actresses Susan Sarandon and Sigourney Weaver. She has described her admiration for Tom Hanks as a “love affair” and watched many of his films throughout her youth. Hollywood actors were not featured in magazines in South Africa so she did not know how famous he was until she moved to the United States, which has been inferred as a factor of her “down-to-earth” attitude to fame. After filming for That Thing You Do! finished, Theron got Hanks’ autograph on her script. She later presented him his Cecil B. DeMille Award in 2020, in which Hanks revealed that he had a mutual admiration for Theron’s career since the day he met her.



Carrie Underwood performs during the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on Friday, Nov. 3, at Barclays Center in New York. (AP)

Film

‘What Happens Later’ co-stars talk fame, Nora

Ryan makes heartwarming comeback

LOS ANGELES, Nov 5, (AP): The words “For Nora” end Meg Ryan’s new film “What Happens Later.”

It was a no brainer to dedicate it to the late Nora Ephron, though it did require an extra layer of approval from the Directors Guild. Ephron and Ryan were responsible for some of the culture’s most enduring and beloved modern romantic comedies from “When Harry Met Sally,” which Ephron wrote, to “Sleepless in Seattle” and “You’ve Got Mail.”

And this film was not just a romantic comedy, but one that Ryan co-wrote and directed too. She co-stars with David Duchovny in a kind of fairy tale about two exes stuck in an airport together for 24 hours during a snowstorm. Though it might sound slightly gimmicky on paper, the result is anything but - it’s smart, charming, a little whimsical and a very welcome return for Ryan, who hasn’t been in a film for eight years. It opens in theaters Friday.

“It’s hopefully a movie that just unzips you a little bit like in terms of your heart,” Ryan said. “It’s not a cynical movie at all. It’s vulnerable. But maybe around the holidays, people are more open to seeing movies like that.”

Ryan and Duchovny did not really know each other before “What Happens Later,” but you’d never know it to watch them on screen or hear their off-camera rapport. They spoke to The Associated Press this week about the film, Ryan’s hiatus, the false promise of fame and their kids following them into the business.

Remarks have been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: This movie is just your characters and an omnipresent voice on the PA.

Duchovny: I’ve always been kind of on the fence with the voice of the airport. But (watching it last night), as the voice started to get involved in their particular story, I felt very warmly about it. Somebody cares about them.

Ryan: I love that part. I think it shares some DNA with some of the movies Nora did. In her movies, she had a belief in kismet and destiny. And I feel like this benevolent container that these two people are in is going to have them connect.

AP: It’s assumed that it’s a celebrity voice - people have guessed Tom Hanks and Billy Crystal for sentimental reasons. He’s credited as Hal Liggett and has an amusing bio in the press notes (stage work includes “Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead” and “on any given day Hal is between 5’10” and 6’2”, whatever it takes to

“look down on the note”), but it’s a riddle I can’t figure out.

Ryan: I wrote those.

Duchovny: All right, we’re going to give it away right now. Are you ready? Got your pen? It’s Morgan Freeman.

Ryan: No, it’s Scarlett Johansson. I’m just going to say, when Hal said he was going to do it, I walked up and down my driveway 10 times.

Duchovny: How long is your driveway?

Ryan: Pretty long.

AP: You have such lived-in banter and chemistry, it’s surprising that you two didn’t really know each other before this.

Duchovny: I’m thankful to Meg for giving me the opportunity to work in a movie like this. It’s something I wanted to do, a tone or genre that I wanted to exist in.

Ryan: It was so easy to entrust you with all of it. You have all this dexterity. He can turn on a dime and be hilarious and then heartbreaking and be hilarious again and so, so frustrated with her and so in love with her and so hating.

Duchovny: I forgot to tell you, somebody said yesterday that they were sure they were dead and in purgatory because they’re in white.

Ryan: I mean, you can read it that way.

Duchovny: It’s better than hell.

Ryan: Better than hell.

Duchovny: It’s one of those stories where you’re in a liminal space and you have to learn a lesson before you move on.

Ryan: That’s exactly what it is.

AP: Meg, a lot has been made about your big return to the screen after eight years. Was that hiatus a conscious decision?

Duchovny: I’ll answer for Meg.

Ryan: Sure.

Duchovny: Meg’s an artist and Meg was feeding. She was just laying fallow. She was off feeding and living and creating. Meg is very interested in many different aspects of moviemaking, but there’s also other parts of her life with interior design and all that.

Ryan: You sort of have to sort of unplug a little bit. But I know that nothing like that was ever intentional on my part. And remember, COVID was three years of that. I was hanging around, writing this. I don’t know, I can’t account for myself.

Duchovny: I don’t know if this is part of Meg’s journey. It was definitely part of mine. But when you become famous, it’s harder to observe things because people are observing you, and

you’re kind of changing rooms that you walk into because people start acting differently. And really the heart of any art is observation and humanity. And you’ve got to get yourself back to a place where you can do that.

Ryan: That is really true. And again, it’s not even necessarily intentional. I feel like I had this like moonshot for a while there, and I just wanted different experiences. Again, that’s making all these years sound very intentional, which they haven’t been. But in retrospect it seems like it made sense.

AP: It resonates with Matthew Perry’s observations fame not being fulfilling.

Ryan: That he told that story about the emptiness of the pursuit and finding after six months on that show that he didn’t see the value anymore - that’s a gift to the world to make an observation like that.

Duchovny: I went to the dog track and they have a little mechanical rabbit that the greyhounds chase. I was talking to a trainer and I said, “Has a dog ever caught the rabbit?” He said, “Yeah sometimes.” I said, “So what happens after they catch the rabbit?” He said, “They can’t race anymore because they know.” That’s kind of like fame.

Ryan: It’s such a beautiful story in a time when there seems to be so much chasing of that as a goal. It’s hard to see its value when you, however fleetingly, possess it.

Duchovny: I’m also anti-dog track.

AP: You both have children who have chosen to pursue acting, and while there’s a lot of talk about nepo babies, it does also seem so hard to follow in the footsteps of very successful parents.

Duchovny: Harder.

Ryan: It dismisses their own talents and efforts and work ethic.

Duchovny: It’s just an easy short-hand that I hope goes away soon.

Ryan: I think both of our children are very grateful for the privilege that they have. And so both things are true. They have privilege and they work hard and they have talent. But it’s a culture that doesn’t accept paradox that easily.

Duchovny: You know where the word nepotism comes from right?

Ryan: No.

Duchovny: He was the last emperor of Rome. He oversaw the destruction of the empire. It wasn’t his fault. I’m going to google that to make sure I’m right.

Ryan: He’s fact-checking.

Duchovny: I know the dog track is true.



Actor-director Meg Ryan, (right), poses with co-star David Duchovny at the Four Seasons Hotel in Los Angeles on Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2023, to promote their film ‘What Happens Later.’ (AP)

Variety

LOS ANGELES: Less than a week after his death, a foundation has been established in the name of **Matthew Perry** to help people dealing with addiction.

“In the spirit of Matthew Perry’s enduring commitment to helping others struggling with the disease of addiction, we embark on a journey to honor his legacy by establishing the Matthew Perry Foundation, guided by his own words and experiences, and driven by his passion for making a difference in as many lives as possible,” said an inaugural statement establishing the Matthew Perry Foundation on Friday.

The Emmy-nominated “Friends” star often spoke publicly about his struggles with drug and alcohol addiction. The foundation, which is now accepting donations, cited his desire to be remembered as someone who helped others with substance abuse even more than his sitcom stardom.

The foundation will be maintained by the National Philanthropic Trust. No further details on the organization were immediately released.

Perry was declared dead at age 54 after paramedics found him unresponsive at his Los Angeles home on Oct. 28. Authorities are investigating the cause.

He starred along with **Jennifer Aniston**, **Courteney Cox**, **Lisa Kudrow**, **Matt LeBlanc** and **David Schwimmer** for 10 seasons on NBC’s “Friends.” (AP)

CHINA: Long before “Friends” made its official debut in China, the show was a word-of-mouth phenomenon in the country. In the wake of **Matthew Perry**’s death at 54, fans in China are mourning the loss of the star who felt less like a distant celebrity and more like an old friend.

A Wednesday evening memorial at a cafe in **Shenzhen**, a busy city across the border of **Hong Kong**, was one of several held throughout the country for the actor who played Chandler Bing and died Saturday in **Los Angeles**. The coffee shop - an homage to the 10-season sitcom, from its name (Smelly Cat) to the Central Perk sign on its glass wall - was packed with people and floral arrangements as the TV mounted in the corner played an episode of “Friends.”

“There are more people who showed up than we expected,” said cafe manager **Nie Yanxia**. “People shared their own memories about Chandler and ‘Friends’ and many teared up.”

A large poster displayed on the bar featured pictures of Perry over the years. “We love you, friend,” read the message at the bottom.

While “Friends” didn’t debut in China until 2012 - through Sohu, a streaming platform - the show had become popular more than a decade earlier thanks to bootleg DVD and hard drive copies. Once Chinese fans added Mandarin subtitles to the show, which ran in the US from 1994 to 2004, it quickly gained a following.

“China was experiencing this drastic historical change marked by the rise of



Aniston



Perry

consumerism and also individualism and urbanization back then,” said **Xian Wang**, a professor on modern Chinese literature and popular culture at the University of Notre Dame. “This TV show actually offered a way to imagine this kind of so-called metropolitan utopian imagination.”

Many Chinese fans learned English through watching the show and got a peek into American life and culture. (AP)



The Conversation

Unconventional approaches bring new understanding

Cancer has many faces ... experts explore new frontiers of care

By Vivian Lam  
The Conversation

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

How researchers conceptualize a disease informs how they treat it. Cancer is often described as uncontrollable cell growth triggered by genetic damage. But cancer can also be seen from angles that emphasize mathematics, evolutionary game theory and physics, among others.

Molecular biology has brought significant advances in making it possible to live with cancer as a chronic illness rather than a fatal disease. Alternative frameworks, however, can offer scientists additional insights on how to prevent tumors from spreading throughout the body and becoming resistant to treatment.

Here are a few unconventional lenses through which researchers are viewing cancer with fresh eyes, drawn from The Conversation's archives.

The body is far from a wonderland for cells. Each individual cell competes against trillions of others for finite space and nutrients. If they're able to cooperate in an orderly enough fashion, sharing resources and dividing labor, the collective functions effectively. Cancer cells, however, cheat the system: They hog resources, take up as much space as possible and refuse to die.

Evolutionary

In this way, cancer can be thought of as an evolutionary disease - these are cells that have developed the genetic mutations to outcompete their neighbors, and subsequent cell generations inherit this survival advantage. Cancer cells benefit at the expense of the collective until the entire organism collapses.

Oncologist Monika Joshi and pathologists Joshua Warrick and David DeGraff believe that understanding evolution is key to understanding cancer. Screening programs are effective, for example, because removing a nascent tumor is easier than treating one that has evolved the ability to spread. Cancer cells likewise become resistant to treatments because they're pushed to further evolve to survive.

Some researchers are applying the principles of evolutionary game theory to reduce treatment resistance and optimize therapies for children.

"The fight against cancer is a fight against evolution, the fundamental process that has driven life on Earth since time immemorial," they wrote. "This is not an easy fight, but medicine has made tremendous progress."

As much as cancer is a disease that respects no boundaries, tumor cells are still shaped by their environment. Unlike healthy cells that take the hint when their presence isn't wanted, however, tumor cells not only survive but thrive in stressful conditions. Isolated cancer cells able to adapt to harsh settings are the ones that establish metastatic colonies and become resistant to treatment.

While researchers have focused on how biochemical signals direct cells to move from one location to another, a cell's physical environment also affects where it migrates. Mechanical engineer Yizeng Li found that a cell's "solid" and "fluid" surroundings influence its movement.

Cancer cells encounter varying degrees of fluid viscosity, or thickness, as they travel through the body. Li and her team found that breast cancer cells counterintuitively move faster in high viscosity environments by changing their structure. This meant that fluid viscosity serves as a mechanobiological cue for cancer cells to metastasize.

"Cancer patients usually don't die from the original source of the tumor but from its spread to other parts of the body," Li wrote. "Understanding how fluid viscosity affects the movement of tumor cells could help researchers figure out ways to better treat and detect cancer before it metastasizes."

Apart from being leading causes of death around the world, cardiovascular disease and cancer may not initially seem to have much in common. The many risk factors they share,

however - like poor diet, smoking and chronic stress - coalesce with chronic inflammation: persistent, low-grade activation of the immune system can damage cells in ways that encourage either disease to develop.

For biomedical engineer Bryan Smith, the developmental parallels between these diseases signal they could be treated at the same time.

Drugs can be repurposed to target diseases for which they weren't originally designed. Certain drugs, for example, can direct immune cells called macrophages to consume both cancer cells and the cellular debris that contribute to cardiovascular plaques.

"As basic science discovers other molecular parallels between these diseases, patients will be the beneficiaries of better therapies that can treat both," wrote Smith.

In certain contexts, math has unique strengths in describing the natural world. For instance, epigenetics - where and when genes are turned on or off - plays as much a role in cancer progression as direct changes to the genetic code. Epigenetic changes can alter healthy cells to the point of losing their normal form and function. But the randomness of these changes makes it difficult to tease out pathological from normal genetic activity.

A mathematical concept called stochasticity - or how the randomness of the steps of a process influences how predictable its outcome will be - lends a logical framework to the epigenetic changes contributing to cancer, clarifying when healthy cells rapidly develop into tumor cells.

Stochasticity is commonly used to study stock market behavior and epidemic disease spread, and researchers quantify it by examining the degree of uncertainty, or entropy, of a particular outcome. Identifying high entropy areas in the genome could offer another approach to cancer detection and drug design.

Cancer geneticist Andrew Feinberg has been using entropy to quantitatively describe the epigenetics of cancer. He and his colleagues found that high entropy regions of the genome in the skin become even more entropic with sun damage, increasing the chance of developing cancer. This offers a potential explanation for why cancer risk significantly increases with age.

Experimentation

"Epigenetic entropy shows that you can't fully understand cancer without mathematics," Feinberg wrote. "Biology is catching up with other hard sciences in incorporating mathematical methods with biological experimentation."

Cancer is a disease that develops in an individual, but its socially derived causes and societal-wide effects are hardly limited to a single person.

Take the case of lung cancer. It is stigmatized as a disease brought on by poor lifestyle choices - a consequence of a personal decision to use tobacco products. But as thoracic oncologist Estelamari Rodriguez noted, the face of lung cancer has changed.

"Over the past 15 years, more women, never-smokers and younger people are being diagnosed with lung cancer," she wrote. While lung cancer rates have significantly decreased for men, they have substantially risen for women around the world. Despite being the leading cause of cancer death among women, screening rates remain low compared with other cancers.

More broadly, cancer symptoms are often unrecognized or misdiagnosed, not only for women but also for many marginalized populations, including people of color, transgender patients and the uninsured.

These disparities are due in part to biases in medical education and clinical research that fail to prepare clinicians to care for the diversity of patients they'll encounter. Tenuous access to preventive care and disproportionate exposure to carcinogens among certain populations compound these inequities.

The purview of cancer goes far beyond a single discipline. It takes a village of researchers, policymakers and patient advocates to achieve effective and accessible cancer care for all. (AP)

Vampire viruses may hold the key to new antiviral therapies: experts

By Ivan Erill  
University of Maryland, Baltimore County

Have you ever wondered whether the virus that gave you a nasty cold can catch one itself? It may comfort you to know that, yes, viruses can actually get sick. Even better, as karmic justice would have it, the culprits turn out to be other viruses.

Viruses can get sick in the sense that their normal function is impaired. When a virus enters a cell, it can either go dormant or start replicating right away. When replicating, the virus essentially commandeers the molecular factory of the cell to make lots of copies of itself, then breaks out of the cell to set the new copies free.

Sometimes a virus enters a cell only to find that its new temporary dwelling is already home to another dormant virus. Surprise, surprise. What follows is a battle for control of the cell that can be won by either party.

But sometimes a virus will enter a cell to find a particularly nasty shock: a viral tenant waiting specifically to prey on the incoming virus.

I am a bioinformatician, and my laboratory studies the evolution of viruses. We frequently run into "viruses of viruses," but we recently discovered something new: a virus that latches onto the neck of another virus.

Existence

Biologists have known of the existence of viruses that prey on other viruses - referred to as viral "satellites" - for decades. In 1973, researchers studying bacteriophage P2, a virus that infects the gut bacterium Escherichia coli, found that this infection sometimes led to two different types of viruses emerging from the cell: phase P2 and phase P4.

Bacteriophage P4 is a temperate virus, meaning it can integrate into the chromosome of its host cell and lie dormant. When P2 infects a cell already harboring P4, the latent P4 quickly wakes up and uses the genetic instructions of P2 to make hundreds of its own small viral particles. The unsuspecting P2 is lucky to replicate a few times, if at all. In this case, biologists refer to P2 as a "helper" virus, because the satellite P4 needs P2's genetic material to replicate and spread.

Subsequent research has shown that most bacterial species have a diverse set of satellite-helper systems, like that of P4-P2. But viral satellites are not limited to bacteria. Shortly after the largest known virus, mimivirus, was discovered in 2003, scientists also found its satellite, which they named Sputnik. Plant viral satellites that lurk in plant cells waiting for other viruses are also widespread and can have important effects on crops.

Although researchers have found satellite-helper viral systems in pretty much every domain of life, their importance to biology remains underappreciated. Most obviously, viral satellites have a direct impact on their "helper" viruses, typically maiming them but sometimes making them more efficient killers. Yet that is probably the least of their contributions to biology.

Satellites and their helpers are also engaged in an endless evolutionary arms race. Satellites evolve new ways to exploit helpers and helpers evolve countermeasures to block them. Because both sides are viruses, the results of this internecine war necessarily include something of interest to people: antivirals.

Recent work indicates that many antiviral systems thought to have evolved in bacteria, like the CRISPR-Cas9 molecular scissors used in gene editing, may have originated in phages and their satellites. Somewhat ironically, with their high turnover and mutation rates, helper viruses and their satellites turn out to be evolutionary hot spots for antiviral weaponry. Trying

'Battling viruses with viruses'



Varieties of disposable flavored electronic cigarette devices manufactured by EB Design, formerly known as Elf Bar, are displayed at a store in Pinecrest, Fla., Monday, June 26, 2023. A report released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Thursday, Nov. 2, shows fewer high school students are vaping. (AP)

'A win for public health'

Vaping by high school students 'dropped' this year – US report

NEW YORK, Nov 5, (AP) - Fewer high school students are vaping this year, the government reported Thursday.

In a survey, 10% of high school students said they had used electronic cigarettes in the previous month, down from 14% last year.

Use of any tobacco product - including cigarettes and cigars - also fell among high schoolers, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report. "A lot of good news, I'd say," said Kenneth Michael Cummings, a University of South Carolina researcher who was not involved in the CDC study.

Among middle school student, about 5% said they used e-cigarettes. That did not significantly change from last year's survey. This year's survey involved more than 22,000 students who filled out an online questionnaire last spring. The agency considers the annual survey to be its best measure of youth smoking trends.

Why the drop among high schoolers? Health officials believe a number of factors could be helping, including efforts to raise prices and limit sales to kids by raising the legal age to 21.

"It's encouraging to see this substantial decrease in e-cigarette use among high schoolers within the past year, which is a win for public health," said Brian King, the Food and Drug Administration's tobacco center director.

The FDA has authorized a few tobacco-flavored e-cigarettes intended to help adult smokers cut back but has struggled to stop sales of illegal products.

Other key findings in the report:

■ Among students who currently use e-cigarettes, about a quarter said they use them every day.

■ About 1 in 10 middle and high school students said they recently had used a tobacco product. That translates to 2.8 million US kids.

■ E-cigarettes were the most commonly used kind of tobacco product, and disposable ones were the most popular with teens.

■ Nearly 90% of the students who vape used flavored products, with fruit and candy flavors topping the list.

In 2020, FDA regulators banned those teen-preferred flavors from reusable e-cigarettes like Juul and Vuse, which are now only sold in menthol and tobacco. But the flavor restriction didn't apply to disposable products, and companies like Elf Bar and Esco Bar quickly stepped in to fill the gap.

The growing variety in flavors like gummy bear and watermelon has been almost entirely driven by cheap, disposable devices imported from China, which the FDA considers illegal. Those products now account for more than half of U.S. vaping sales, according to government figures.

In the latest survey, about 56% of teens who vape said they used Elf Bar, trailed by Esco Bar and Vuse, which is a reusable e-cigarette made by R.J. Reynolds. Juul, the brand widely blamed for sparking the recent spike in teen vaping, was the fourth most popular brand, used by 16% of teens.

The FDA tried to block imports of both Elf Bar and Esco Bar in May, but the products remain widely available. Elf Bar has thwarted customs officials by changing its brand name, among other steps designed to avoid detection.

On Thursday, the FDA announced another round of fines against 20 stores selling Elf Bar products. The agency has sent more than 500 warning letters to retailers and manufacturers of unauthorized e-cigarettes over the past year, but those citations are not legally binding and are sometimes ignored.

In the latest report, the CDC highlighted one worrisome but puzzling finding.

to outsmart each other, satellite and helper viruses have come up with an unparalleled array of antiviral systems for researchers to exploit.

Viral satellites have the potential to transform how researchers understand antiviral

strategies, but there is still a lot to learn about them. In our recent work, my collaborators and I describe a satellite bacteriophage completely unlike previously known satellites, one that has evolved a unique, spooky lifestyle. (AP)

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# Embiid steers 76ers past Suns for 4th straight win

Celtics outlast Nets behind Tatum, Holiday's double-doubles

PHILADELPHIA, Nov 5, (AP): Joel Embiid had 26 points and 11 rebounds, Kelly Oubre Jr. scored 25 and the Philadelphia 76ers beat the Phoenix Suns 112-100 on Saturday for their fourth straight win.

With Bradley Beal (back spasms) and Devin Booker (sprained left ankle) sitting out, the Suns faltered in the fourth quarter and lost their third game in a row. Kevin Durant kept Phoenix within striking distance until late with 31 points.

Tyrese Maxey had 22 points and 10 assists, and Tobias Harris added 18 points and 10 rebounds for the Sixers.

### Nuggets 123, Bulls 101

In Denver, Nikola Jokic had 28 points, 16 rebounds and nine assists, Michael Porter Jr. scored a season-best 27 and Denver overcame the loss of point guard Jamal Murray to beat Chicago.

Aaron Gordon had 15 points and 12 rebounds for defending NBA champion Denver, which has won all four of its home games.

Murray played the first 8:40 before leaving with right hamstring tightness. Reggie Jackson, getting extended minutes in place of Murray, scored 16 off the bench, tying his season high.

Nikola Vucevic had 19 points and DeMar DeRozan scored 17 for the Bulls, who have dropped two straight.

### Celtics 124, Nets 112

In New York, Jayson Tatum had 32 points and 11 rebounds to lead unbeaten Boston over Brooklyn.

Tatum was one of five players to finish in double-figure scoring for the Celtics, who improved to 5-0 this season.

Jaylen Brown had 23 points and Kristaps Porzingis added 22. Jrue Holiday finished with 18 points and 10 assists, and Luke Kornet scored 11 off the bench.

Playing its second game in two days, Brooklyn dropped to 3-3. Cam Thomas led the Nets with 27 points.

### Magic 120, Lakers 101

In Orlando, Florida, Franz Wagner scored 26 points, and Paolo Banchero added 25 points, 10 assists and seven rebounds as Orlando routed Los Angeles.

Goga Bitadze started at center for the Magic and finished with 10 points, 10 rebounds and five blocks.

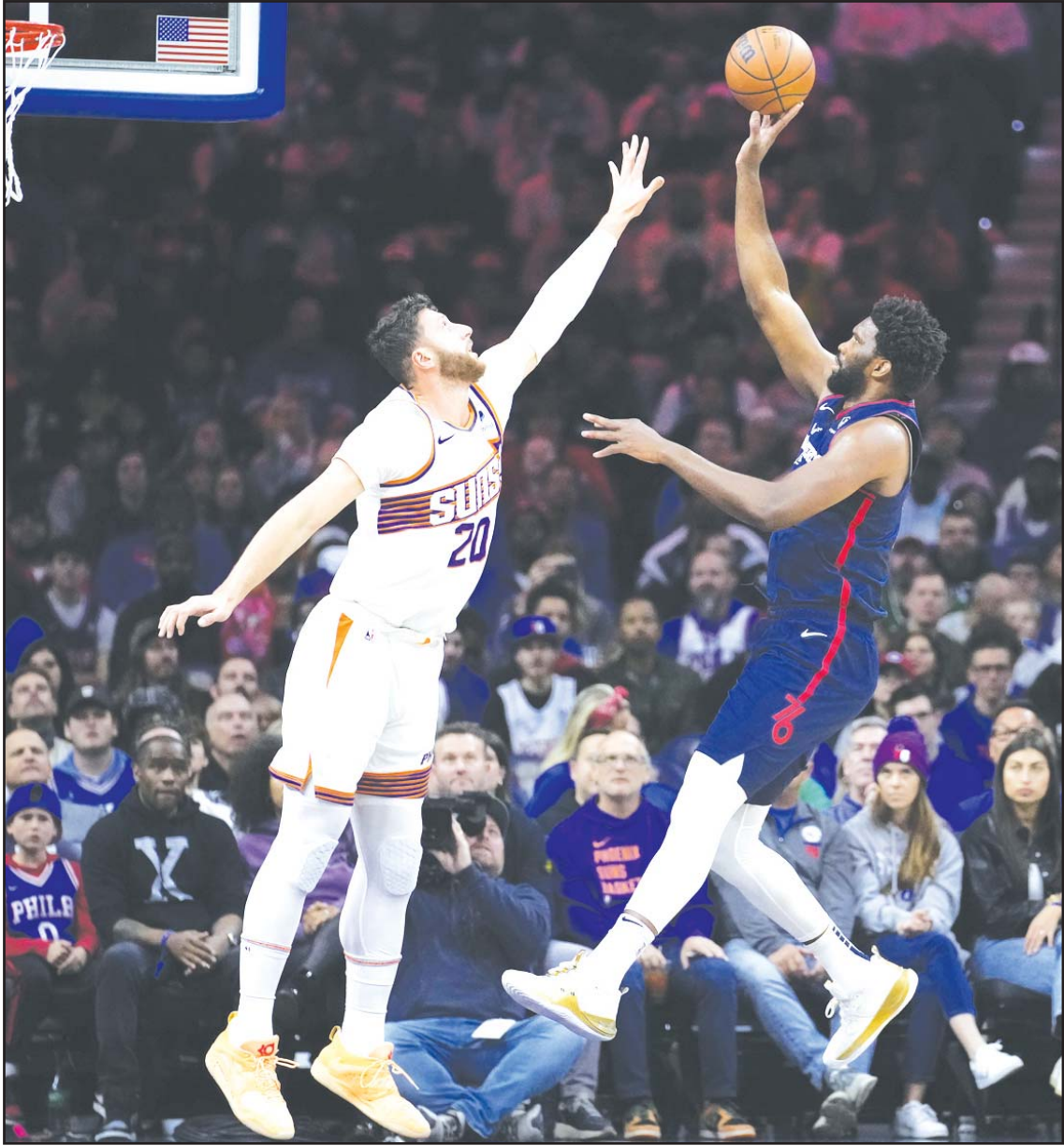
Wagner scored 16 in the first half and Banchero added 15 points and five assists in leading the Magic to a 67-51 lead at the break.

Anthony Davis had 28 points, 13 rebounds and seven blocks for the Lakers. LeBron James finished with 24 points and nine rebounds.

### Hawks 123, Pelicans 105

In New Orleans, Trae Young had 22 points and 12 assists, and Atlanta defeated New Orleans to extend its winning streak to four games.

Jalen Johnson added 21 points and



Philadelphia 76ers' Joel Embiid, right, goes up for a shot against Phoenix Suns' Jusuf Nurkic during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023, in Philadelphia. (AP)

11 rebounds, and Dejounte Murray scored 20 for the Hawks, who trailed by 10 early in the second half before surging in front with a 30-10 run.

Atlanta's victory came despite the return of Zion Williamson and Brandon Ingram to New Orleans' lineup. Williamson scored 25 points, Ingram had 16 and Pelicans rookie Jordan Hawkins hit four 3-pointers on his way to a career-high 15 points.

### Hornets 125, Pacers 124

In Indianapolis, Mark Williams scored 27 points, Gordon Hayward had 23 and Charlotte snapped a three-game losing streak by beating Indiana.

## BASKETBALL

Terry Rozier had 22 points and has scored 20 or more in all five Hornets games this season.

Tyrese Haliburton tied a career high with 43 points to lead the Pacers, who have lost three of four.

Williams, who shot 9 of 12 and grabbed a team-high seven rebounds, scored nine points in the fourth quarter to help Charlotte rally.

### Timberwolves 123, Jazz 95

In Minneapolis, Karl-Anthony Towns scored 15 of his season-high 25 points in a dominant third-quarter stretch, and Minnesota pulled away to beat Utah.



Chicago Bulls guard Zach LaVine, right, drives to the basket against Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokic (15) during the third quarter of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023, in Denver. (AP)

Lauri Markkanen led the Jazz with 22 points and eight rebounds. He was 4 of 11 on 3-pointers after making a franchise-record 25 through the first six games.

Utah, which opened a four-game trip, has lost four of five.

### Rockets 107, Kings 89

In Houston, Dillon Brooks scored 12 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter to lead Houston past Sacramento.

It was the second straight win for the Rockets after they opened the season 0-3.

A 3-pointer by Malik Monk got the Kings within three with about 8 1/2 minutes remaining. But the Rockets then went on a 10-2 run, with six points from Brooks, to push the lead to 90-79 midway through the period.

Monk scored 18 points off the bench to lead the Kings, with De'Aaron Fox sidelined for a second consecutive game due to a sprained right ankle. Domantas Sabonis had 11 points and a team-high 15 rebounds.

Fred VanVleet had 21 points and 12 assists, and Jabari Smith Jr. had 21 points and 11 rebounds for the Rockets.

## Allgaier finishes 3rd, Mayer 5th

# Custer clinches 1st NASCAR Xfinity Series championship

AVONDALE, Arizona, Nov 5, (AP): Cole Custer pulled away from Justin Allgaier during a two-lap overtime shootout to win his first NASCAR Xfinity Series championship Saturday night at Phoenix Raceway.

It was an exhilarating finish, with Custer, Allgaier and John Hunter Nemechek three-wide on the next-to-last lap, with Allgaier's JR Motorsports Chevrolet finding some room in between the other two cars. But Custer - who went to the inside - pulled away while the others battled for position.

"I can't believe we won that thing," Custer said.

It was a sweet moment for the 25-year-old Custer, who had a Cup ride for the Ford Stewart-Haas Racing team the past three seasons before being demoted this year to the Xfinity Series. It's also a bright spot in a tough season for the Stewart-Haas racing, which hasn't won a race in the Cup Series this season.

The four championship drivers were in the top four spots for the final restart, which was brought on after Anthony Alfredo spun out with five laps remaining.



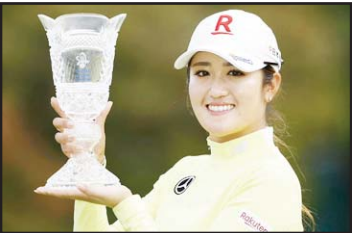
Custer

## CAR RACING

Custer - who was the Xfinity Series runner up in both 2018 and 2019 - went low as Nemechek stayed high, with Allgaier making a brief run up the middle that brought the crowd to its feet.

Allgaier finished third, Sam Mayer finished fifth and Nemechek fell to 28th after hitting the wall on the final lap.

"The restart was fantastic - we did everything right," Allgaier said. "I'm gonna replay this one in my head a couple times."



Japanese golfer Mone Inami holds the trophy after winning the LPGA's Japan Classic on Sunday, Nov. 5, 2023, at the Taiheiyo Club in Omizama city, Ibaraki prefecture, north central Japan. (AP)

## Inami wins LPGA's Japan Classic title

OMITAMA, Japan, Nov 5, (AP): Mone Inami of Japan shot a 3-under 69 on Sunday to win the LPGA's Japan Classic by one shot over Seon Woo Bae of South Korea and Shiho Kuwaki of Japan. It was the first win on the LPGA Tour for the 24-year-old.

Inami finished at 22-under 266 for the four rounds. Seon closed with a 67 and Kuwaki, who shared the lead after three rounds, slipped to a 71 at the Taiheiyo Club in north central Japan.

Defending champion Gemma Dryburgh of Scotland shot a 65 and finished in a tie for sixth, three strokes off the pace.

Allgaier put himself in a tough situation on Saturday's second lap when he tried to go low on the apron, bumping against Nemechek before spinning out and falling back to 36th. But the 37-year-old made up ground in a hurry, moving all the way up to third after his pit stop following the first stage.

Allgaier won four times this season, earning a spot in the championship round by beating Sheldon Creed in a door-to-door finish to win at Martinsville last week.

## Canada's Kim wins men's event

# US's Choi claims first breaking gold medal at Pan Am Games

SANTIAGO, Chile, Nov 5, (AP): Few people know who Grace Choi is. But every breaking dancer of style probably knows who "Sunny" is.

The American B-girl, as break dancers are known, won on Saturday the first Pan American gold medal for the sport that mixes dancing and acrobatics. She also qualified for the Paris Olympics next year.

## PAN AM GAMES

"Sunny," the 7th-best ranked break dancer in the world, beat Colombia's Luisa Tejada, who is known as "Luma," by 3-0 in the decider. The scoring is measured in head-to-head contests, which are called battles, between two break dancers.

The 34-year-old Choi told The Associated Press on Friday that getting a good nickname is mandatory for break dancers and part of hip-hop culture.

Hers clearly worked with the crowd in Chile, with children and teenagers cheering for the American in every risky spin she took on the dance floor.

Just like the competitors, breaking judges are also known by their stage names; Dom-K,

Kid Glyde and Skim were among those grading performances in Chile.

Breaking as an Olympic sport is not unanimous among those who love it. Its format is defined by the World DanceSport Federation, an International Olympic Committee-approved body.

Breaking was born in the United States about 50 years ago. Choi and other Americans attending the Olympics will have the pressure of performing in front of a big audience at the historic Place de la Concorde representing where the hip-hop dance comes from.

The Olympic movement is bringing dancing to the games in Paris as an attempt to captivate a younger crowd, but the sport is not in the program for the Los Angeles Olympics in 2028.

Choi and other competitors in Santiago said that doesn't matter much to them.

Canada's Phillip Kim, better known as B-boy "Phil Wizard," won the men's breaking competition at the Pan American Games. He beat American Jeff "Jeffro" Louis 3-0. Kim won the breaking world championship last year and finished as a runner-up in 2023.

Michigan routs Purdue as No. 3 Ohio State rallies to beat Rutgers

# Stackhouse's key late pick helps No. 1 Georgia holds off No. 14 Missouri



Georgia wide receiver Dominic Lovett (6) is stopped by Missouri defensive lineman Johnny Walker Jr. (15) after a catch during the second half of an NCAA college football game, Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023, in Athens, Ga. (AP)

ATHENS, Ga., Nov 5, (AP): Defensive tackle Nazir Stackhouse's fourth-quarter interception helped protect No. 1 Georgia's slim lead and the Bulldogs beat No. 14 Missouri 30-21 on Saturday for their 26th consecutive win.

Georgia (9-0, 6-0 Southeastern Conference, No. 2 College Football Playoff) had to rally to win the key SEC East matchup against Missouri (7-2, 3-2, No. 12 CFP).

The Tigers led 13-10 early in the second half. Georgia answered with two straight touchdowns, a 15-yard run by Kendall Milton and Carson Beck's 5-yard scoring pass to Oscar Delp. Beck completed 21 of 32 passes for 254 yards with two touchdowns and no interceptions.

### Michigan 41, Purdue 13

In Ann Arbor, Michigan, Blake Corum matched his season high with three touchdowns and Semaj Morgan ran for a 44-yard score, leading No. 2 Michigan to a 41-13 victory over Purdue.

## FOOTBALL

The Wolverines (9-0, 6-0 Big Ten) routed another overmatched opponent, as they have each game this season, amid an NCAA investigation into allegations that they broke rules with a sign-stealing scheme.

### Ohio State 35, Rutgers 16

In Piscataway, N.J., Cornerback Jordan Hancock woke up No. 3 Ohio State early in the second half with a 93-yard interception return for a touchdown and the Buckeyes rallied from their first halftime deficit of the season to beat vastly improved Rutgers 35-16.

Kyle McCord hit Marvin Harrison Jr. on two of his three touchdown passes and TreVeyon Henderson ran for 128 yards and a score as the Buckeyes (9-0, 6-0 Big, No. 1 in CFP) beat Rutgers (6-3, 3-3) for the 10th straight time.

### Florida State 24, Pittsburgh 7

In Pittsburgh, Jordan Travis ran for a touchdown and threw for another and No. 4 Florida

State clinched a spot in the ACC Championship game with a 24-7 win over Pittsburgh.

The Seminoles (9-0, 7-0) are heading to Charlotte on the first Saturday in December for the first time in nine years, overcoming a shaky first half to pull away over the final two quarters.

### Washington 52, USC 24

In Los Angeles, Dillon Johnson rushed for 256 yards and four touchdowns, Michael Penix Jr. passed for 256 yards and two scores and No. 5 Washington's prolific offense kept the Huskies unbeaten with a 52-24 victory over No. 24 Southern California.

Devin Culp and Ja'Lynn Polk caught TD passes from Penix, who also rushed for a score while the Huskies (9-0, 6-0 Pac-12) won a high-octane thriller featuring two elite offenses and two deficient defenses.

### Oregon 63, California 19

In Eugene, Oregon, Bo Nix threw four touchdown passes and ran for two more scores and No. 6 Oregon pulled away from California in a wild first half in a 63-19 victory.

Nix completed 29 of 38 passes for 38 yards. He had a pair of 1-yard touchdown runs. Tez Johnson



Michigan wide receiver Semaj Morgan (82) runs after a catch as Purdue defensive back Sanoussi Kane (21) in the second half of an NCAA college football game in Ann Arbor, Mich., Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023. (AP)

caught 12 passes for 180 yards and two scores and the Ducks (8-1, 4-1 Pac-12, No. 6 CFP) remained undefeated at Autzen Stadium.

### Texas 33, Kansas St 30, OT

In Austin, Texas, Bert Auburn kicked a 42-yard field goal in overtime and the Texas defense got a key stop on fourth down to earn a 33-30 win over Kansas State in a matchup of Big 12 co-leaders.

No. 7 Texas (8-1, 5-1 Big 12, No. 7 CFP) had led 27-7 late in the third quarter before No. 25 Kansas State (6-3, 4-2, No. 23 CFP) stormed back with three touchdown passes from Will Howard.

### Alabama 42, LSU 28

In Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Jalen Milroe rushed for 155 yards and four touchdowns and passed for another 219 yards to lead No. 8 Alabama to a 42-28 victory over No. 13 LSU.

Milroe matched big plays both running and passing with the Tigers' Heisman Trophy candidate Jayden Daniels and the Crimson Tide (8-1, 6-0 Southeastern Conference, No. 8 CFP) moved closer to locking down an SEC West title.

### Penn State 51, Maryland 15

In College Park, Md., Drew Allar threw three of his four touchdown passes in the first half, and No. 9 Penn State easily handled Maryland 51-15 to set up a showdown with Michigan next week.

The Nittany Lions (8-1, 5-1 Big Ten, No. 11 CFP) never were in danger of their meeting with fading Maryland becoming a trap game. The Terrapins (5-4, 2-4) have dropped four in a row, and a season that began with five straight wins is in danger of really unraveling.

### Oklahoma State 27, Oklahoma 24

In Still Water, Oklahoma, Ollie Gordon II ran for 137 yards and two touchdowns, and Oklahoma State defeated No. 10 Oklahoma 27-24 in the last Bedlam rivalry game before Oklahoma leaves the Big 12 for the Southeastern Conference next year.

Gordon, who entered the day as the nation's leading rusher, had a career-high 33 carries. It was his sixth straight game rushing for at least 100 yards.

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Zain remains a strong supporter of local athletes

# Dawri Zain’s top performing players awarded

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: Continuing its support of local athletes, Zain has recognized and awarded the top performing players in the first rounds of Dawri Zain’s Premier League and First Division competitions. The recognition came under the company’s partnership with the Kuwait Football Association (KFA).

In a special ceremony at the Zain Innovation Campus (ZINC), the company has presented the ‘Best Player of the Round’ award to the winners in the first six rounds of the Zain Premier League and the first five rounds of the

Zain First Division League.

In attendance were SHASHA commentator HichemKhalsi, Zain Kuwait’s Chief Corporate Affairs and

## SOCCER

Relations Officer Waleed Al Khashti, KFA Secretary-General Salah Al Qena’i, Head of the Technical Committee Abdulaziz Hamadah, and committee members Hamad Al Enzi and Hussein Hakem.

For the Zain Premier League, Zain has presented the following players with the ‘Best Player of the Round’ award (KD 500): Khaitan SC player Ali Fadhel, winner of the first round; Kuwait SC player Ahmad Al Dhafiri, winner of the second round; Naser SC player Khalid Al Ajaji, winner of the third round; Kuwait SC player Mohammed Dahaam, winner of the fourth round; Shabab SC player Abdullah Al Otaibi, winner of the fifth round, and Kuwait SC player Sami Al Sane, winner of the sixth round.

For the Zain First Division League,

the company has presented the following players with the ‘Best Player of the Round’ award (KD 200): Sahel SC player Nasser Al Qahtani, winner of the first round; Tadamun SC player Hamed Al Rashidi, winner of the second round, Yarmouk SC player Abdullah Majaki, winner of the third round; Burgan SC player Farhan Saad, winner of the fourth round; and Sahel SC Salem Al Hajeri, winner of the fifth round.

Before the new season’s kickoff, the Kuwait Football Association formed a special committee to outline the stand-

ards and criteria on which the prize winners will be selected. The committee is membered by former international players and experts Abdulaziz Hamadah (committee head), Hamad Al Enzi, Ahmad Mousa, Hussain Hakem, and Hussain Al Mutairi.

Zain remains a strong supporter of local athletes and believes that last season’s prizes contributed to elevating the league’s performance and quality. For this reason, the company has pledged not only to continue this support, but to even add new prize categories to reflect its interest in shouldering

the local sports sector.

This season, Zain’s cash prizes for athletes in the top flight are as follows: Player of the Season: KD 10,000, Best Player in the Round: KD 500 (per round), Season’s Top Scorer: KD 5,000, Season’s Top Local Scorer: KD 5,000, Season’s Best Goalkeeper: KD 5,000, Season’s Best Coach: KD 3,000, Season’s Rising Star: KD 2,000, and Best Photo of Season: KD 1000. For the Zain First Division League, the company also presents a new Best Player in the Round prize of KD 200 (per round).



Renowned sports commentator Hichem Khalsi with the guests and winners.

# Kuwait go top of Zain Premier League

Salmiya continue impressive run as Ibrahim resigns

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: Kuwait reclaimed their position at the summit of the Zain Premier League after the conclusion of the seventh round. Al-Arabi’s participation in the previous round allowed “Al-Abyad” to ascend to the top of the standings with 17 points, following their impressive 4-1 victory over Al-Fahaheel, who tumbled to the eighth position with just five points .

Al-Abyad not only secured the top spot but also enjoyed various benefits from this round. In addition to leading the league, they regained their winning form, exhibited strength, and significantly boosted the morale of their players ahead of their upcoming match against the Syrian Al-Ahly Aleppo Union in the Asian Federation Cup.

Meanwhile, Al-Qadsia achieved multiple objectives. They occupied the second place, trailing the leaders by two points, and overcame a formidable opponents by defeating Kazma with a 2-0 victory on their home turf, securing this position for the first time since the league began. On the other hand, the “Orange” team slipped to sixth place with 10 points. Despite their vic-

tory, “Yellow” fans were taken aback when coach Mohamed Ibrahim announced his immediate resignation

## SOCCER

after the match.

Al Salmiya continued their ascent with 12 points, securing their third consecutive victory by staging a comeback against Khaitan. In contrast, Khaitan’s slump continued, as they remained in ninth place with five points.

Al-Shabab, in seventh place with 8 points managed to distance themselves from the “danger zone” with a

clean 2-0 victory over Al-Jahra. The “Sons of the Red Palace” remained with single point.

This round witnessed numerous coaching changes. Beyond Berdatri’s dismissal and Ibrahim’s resignation, several other coaches found themselves on the “exempt” list. Notably, Al-Jahra’s Brazilian coach Gasnier da Silva was suspended for three weeks. The Zain Premier League competition is set to pause until November 25 due to the Kuwaiti national team’s engagements with India and Afghanistan in the Asian qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup and the 2027 Asian Cup on the 16th and 21st of this month.



A goalkeeper makes a save during Zain Premier League soccer match.

## Nejmeh face Zawraa

# Al-Arabi determined for victory

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

MANAMA, Nov 5: In the faceoff between Al-Arabi and Al-Riffa, the stage is set for a showdown featuring more than one potential goal.

Al-Arabi enter the fray with a resolute determination to claim victory as they visit Riffa in Bahrain at 9:00 pm at Khalifa Sports City Stadium. This pivotal encounter marks the fourth round of the AFC Cup’s third group competitions. In the same group, Nejmeh will meet the Iraqi Al-Zawraa at 7:00 pm.

## SOCCER

For Al-Arabi, securing a direct qualification ticket to the West Asia region’s semi-finals is the primary objective. Anything less than a victory would significantly diminish their chances of achieving this goal.

Currently, Al-Riffa top the standings with 7 points, followed closely by Al-Arabi with 4 points and a goal difference advantage over Al-Zawraa. Al-Najma occupy the fourth and final spot with just one point.

In this format, the first-place finishers from the three groups, along with the second-best finisher, qualify for the regional semi-finals.

Al-Arabi faced a period of instability with declining results in the Zain



Players in action.

# Mahdi ‘wins’ silver at World Junior Saber Championship

TEHRAN, Nov 5: Kuwait fencing talent, Muhammad Mahdi secured the silver medal in the individual events of the World Junior Saber Championship held in Tehran, Iran.

The fencing team are poised to join the team competition in the tournament, featuring players Muhammad Mahdi, Hamad Al-Shamlan, and Hussein Al-Amari. Hamad Al-Awadhi, the Secretary of the Kuwaiti Fencing Federation, praised

Muhammad Mahdi’s exceptional achievement as he clinched the silver medal in the World Junior Saber Championship. Al-Awadhi emphasized that

## FENCING

Muhammad Mahdi stands out as a talented and promising saber fencer, contributing to the continued success of the fencing federation.



Muhammad Mahdi displays his silver medal on the podium.

## Best of the Rest

**Team make appearance:** The Kuwaiti Winter Games Club has announced the commencement of the Kuwaiti national ice skating team’s involvement in the Dubai International Championship, a four-day event beginning today. The oversight of this tournament is conducted by the International Federation of the Game, and it features Kuwaiti athletes Fares Al-Obaid and Abdul-Rahman Al-Wahaibi competing in the slalom skating category.

Fahid Al-Ajmi, the president of the club responsible for overseeing the sport, explained that this competition revolves around accumulating the most points, with the highest scorer clinching the coveted first-place title.

□ □ □

**Tie for lead:** Kuwait and Al-Salmiya have upheld their joint lead in the preliminary round of the General Indoor Football League, following their triumphs the previous day. Kuwait emerged victorious against Kazma with a score of 3-2, while Al-Salmiya secured a resounding 6-1 win over Al-Nasr.

Both Kuwait and Salmiya have accumulated 9 points each to maintain their leadership positions. In the other match results, Yarmouk overcame Al-Tadamon with a commanding score of 9-3, and Al-Arabi edged past Khaitan with a close 2-1 victory.

# Kuwait, Burgan battle for title

By Khaled El Anzi  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: The culminating match of the Al-Ittihad Refresher Volleyball Championship is set to take place at 7:00 pm. This highly-anticipated clash will see Kuwait and Burgan facing off in the Al-Ittihad hall, located within the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex. Preceding the grand final, there will be a contest at 5:00 pm to determine the third and fourth places, featuring Al-Qadsia and Kazma in the same hall.

Burgan secured their spot in the championship’s final battle by finishing atop the rankings at the end of the initial tournament round, amass-

## VOLLEYBALL

ing 21 points. This positioned them ahead of Kuwait in second place and Al-Qadsia in third place. Meanwhile, Kazma claimed 14 points, Al-Arabi 13, Yarmouk 8, Al-Shabab 7, Al-Sahel 2 points, and Al-Tadamon 1 point.

Following the tournament’s structure, the top-seeded team from the first round, “Burgan,” is set to compete against the fourth-place team, Kazma, while the second-seeded Kuwait will square off against the third-seeded Al-Qadsia.

This final appearance is a historic moment for Burgan, under the guidance of Argentine coach Alejandro Schneider. The team were established in 2015, and their impressive journey has led them to the championship final. On the other hand, Kuwait boast a wealth of experience in finals and are managed by Turkish coach Taner Atik.

Nine clubs participated in the Al-Ittihad Championship, with Sulaibikhat opting to sit out and return for league and cup competitions. Al-Jahra, in the general category, withdrew from volleyball, handball, and basketball tournaments for the 2023-2024 season due to financial constraints within the club.

# Inter ‘maintain’ lead, Milan lose

MILAN, Nov 5. (AP): Inter Milan consolidated their position at the top of Serie A and Lautaro Martinez boosted his lead in the scoring charts as the Nerazzurri won 2-1 at Atalanta.

Martínez doubled Inter’s advantage in the 57th minute after Hakan Çalhanoğlu’s penalty had given the visitors the lead on a rainy evening in Bergamo. They were the first goals Atalanta had conceded at home this season.

Gianluca Scamacca reduced the deficit for Atalanta shortly after Martínez’s stunning strike.

It was Martínez’s 12th league goal this season, double that of his nearest challengers - AC Milan forward Olivier Giroud and Napoli’s Victor Osimhen. It was also the 33rd goal of the calendar year for Martínez, who has been in lethal form since winning the World Cup with Argentina in December.

Inter moved six above Milan after the Rossoneri’s problems increased with a humiliating 1-0 loss at home to lowly Udinese. Napoli remained seven points below Inter but moved up to fourth with a 2-0 win at bottom club Salernitana. The defending champions moved two points above Atalanta.



A file photo of players in action.





India's Ravindra Jadeja celebrates his five-wicket haul during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup match against South Africa in Kolkata, India. India won by 243 runs. (AP)

# Sports

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## Fluminense win maiden Copa Libertadores title



Players of Brazil's Fluminense celebrate with the trophy after winning the Copa Libertadores final soccer match against Argentina's Boca Juniors at Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. (AP)

Newcastle condemn abuse as Arsenal rage at match officials

### Araújo stoppage-time header snatches win for Barca

BARCELONA, Spain, Nov 5, (AP): Uruguay defender Ronald Araújo scored deep in stoppage time to snatch a 1-0 win for Barcelona at Real Sociedad. Araújo charged forward to join the attack in the dying moments in San Sebastian and guided home a lobbed pass by Ilkay Gündogan with a header to clinch victory for the visitors. The goal saw Barcelona move back ahead of Atletico Madrid and into third place. Sociedad, which are in sixth place, generated several scoring chances - especially in the opening minutes of the game - and dominated possession but was unable to convert their strong start into an early goal. Marc-Andre ter Stegen kept the game scoreless. The Barcelona goalkeeper used one arm to block Ander Barrenetxea's shot just seconds after kickoff. Mikel Oyarzabal and Mikel Merino then both went close with chances before Ter Stegen saved an effort by Takefusa Kubo. Spain midfielder Pedri returned for his first action since August, when he injured his hamstring, coming on with just over half an hour left. Ferran Torres also replaced Robert Lewandowski, who made his first start in a month after recovering from injury recently.

#### SOCCER

Barcelona finally started to click in attack in the final minutes. Araújo is a key defender for Barcelona, able to use his height at his natural position of central defender, and with enough speed to play at right back, like he did against Sociedad and in the prior round against Madrid. The 24-year-old helped change the flow of the game by forcing the first decent save by Sociedad's Alex Remiro in the final minutes. He beat Remiro by directing his header under the goalkeeper. The gutsy victory came a week after Barcelona lost 2-1 at home to Madrid in a "clasico" game.

Newcastle condemned Sunday the discriminatory abuse sent to Bruno Guimarães and Joe Willock in the wake of a controversy-laden Premier League match against Arsenal that has sparked heavy criticism by the London club about the standard of officiating in England's top division. Willock, who is Black, used his Instagram account to highlight racist messages he received after Newcastle's 1-0 win on Saturday. He is a former Arsenal player and was involved in the build-up to the only goal scored by Anthony Gordon that survived a lengthy video review for three possible infringements. Guimarães, a Brazil international, was also involved in some of the most heated incidents of the match at St. James' Park. Newcastle said it "strongly condemns" the abuse toward its midfielders, adding: "We are providing support to Bruno and Joe and will work with relevant authorities and social media

Jouaa secures KSP Middle East Muay Thai belt

### Al-Qazwini crowned martial arts champion



Kuwait International Martial Arts Championship champion Adnan Al-Qazwini.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: Adnan Al-Qazwini crowned martial arts champion after clinching the coveted (Middle East) belt, besting Jarrah Al-Anzi. This achievement came to fruition at the culmination of the Fourth Kuwait International Martial Arts Championship, which unfolded at Al-Zumroda Hall in the Salwa area. The event was graced by the presence of Sheikh Mubarak Al-Faisal Al-Nawaf Al-Sabah, a member of the Board of Directors of the Kuwaiti Olympic Committee, alongside representatives from Malek Sports Promotion Company (KSP) and the World Boxing Council (WBC) in Kuwait, including Mishal Al-Fajji. In another remarkable bout, Tunisian Hatem Jouaa secured the KSP Middle East Muay Thai belt by triumphing over his Lebanese counterpart, Muhanad Al-Maghribi. This contest was marked by excitement and parity, with both athletes showcasing their full array of skills from the first round through to the conclusion of the fifth. The Fourth Kuwait International Martial Arts Championship also witnessed other professional Muay Thai clashes, as

Khaled Jaber overcame Mohamed Zayed, Jassim Al-Shuaib emerged victorious against Youssef Al-Samahiji, and Fadi Al-Wakeel defeated Obaid Al-Mutairi. In the realm of professional boxing, Hassan Al-Kaabi defeated Fahd Al-Hajri, Khaled Al-Rashidi secured a victory over Youssef Badawi, and Nour Metwally bested Nayef Abdel Jader.

#### MARTIAL ARTS

Meshal Al-Fajji emphasized that the championship showcased a wealth of Arab talent with the potential to make significant strides in their professional careers, whether in boxing or Muay Thai. He expressed the organization's commitment to nurturing Arab champions, helping them attain international recognition, and enhancing their technical and physical abilities. This commitment positions these athletes for the opportunity to compete on the global stage and vie for international titles.

### Ashraf-led committee gets 3-month extension

ISLAMABAD, Nov 5, (AP): Zaka Ashraf will continue to head the Pakistan Cricket Board after the managing committee of the PCB was given a near-deadline extension. The three-month extension was confirmed by the country's ministry of inter-provincial coordination committee late on Saturday, as the interim PCB management's initial four-month term expired over the weekend. Pakistan's caretaker Premier Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, who is patron of the PCB, hinted in a recent television interview that the Ashraf-led administration could get an extension. "At this time, you know there is a tournament (World Cup) going on," Kakar told Dawn News TV on Friday. "We'll look after this tournament... at this moment, I don't think we are going to make a big decision. The reason for that is that at times you have to work according to the doctrine of necessity. Once we are past the World Cup, then we'll see."



Barcelona's Robert Lewandowski eyes the ball during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between Real Sociedad and Barcelona in San Sebastian, Spain. (AP)

Kennedy breaks Boca hearts

RIO DE JANEIRO, Nov 5, (AP): John Kennedy, a 21-year-old striker with many ups and downs in his short career, scored the winning goal on Saturday to give Brazil's Fluminense their maiden Copa Libertadores title against Boca Juniors. Substitute Kennedy netted Fluminense's second in their 2-1 victory against the Argentianians at the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro in the 9th minute of overtime. Regular time ended 1-1.

#### SOCCER

Kennedy was sent off for a second yellow after scoring with a powerful volley from the edge of the box, past the left corner of goalkeeper Sergio Romero. Shortly later Boca's Frank Fabra also saw a red card, which kept some balance between the two exhausted teams during extra time. The Argentinian giants were playing for their seventh title in the tournament. Their tens of thousands of fans in Rio saw their hopes momentarily tank after their countryman Germán Cano scored in the 36th minute after a low cross from Keno. The 35-year-old Cano netted 81



Marlon Santos of Brazil's Fluminense (left) and Luca Langoni of Argentina's Boca Juniors battle for the ball during a Copa Libertadores final soccer match at Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. (AP)

goals for the Rio-based club in 125 matches in the past two years. Boca lost some momentum, but managed to equalize in the 72nd minute with a powerful shot by Luis Advincula from the edge of the box, a goal allowed Argentinian fans once more to dream of the title, counting on Romero's great penalty saving skills. Eight minutes later, Kennedy stepped in. His goal in extra time came as Fluminense pushed forward, knowing a penalty shootout could make the final go Boca's way.

### Al-Nasr honors weightlifter Al-Fahad

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: Sultan Al-Mutairi, a member of the Board of Directors at Al-Nasr Sports Club and the Director of Individual Games, extended his commendations to Abrar Al-Fahad, a distinguished member of both the national team and Al-Nasr Club. This recognition was bestowed in recognition of her outstanding performance in the Arab Weightlifting Championship, where she clinched three silver medals in the snatch and clean, securing a remarkable second-

place finish. Al-Mutairi lauded Abrar Al-Fahad's remarkable achievements and

#### WEIGHTLIFTING

acknowledged the pivotal support offered by the club's board of directors for individual sports, a contribution that has significantly elevated the performance of male and female weightlifting athletes, both domestically and on the international stage.



Weightlifter Abrar Al-Fahad receives a plaque from an official