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Gov't-parliament cooperation must continue for public welfare, says finance minister

MPs advance bill regulating private oil sector recruitment

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 7: Chairman of the parliamentary Human Resources Development Committee MP Fares Al-Otaibi disclosed that they discussed the bill on regulating the recruitment process in the private oil sector on Tuesday.

He revealed the committee reached an agreement with representatives of the private oil sector, who attended the meeting, to revise the bill and submit a report in this regard to the committee within one month to pave way for its referral to the National Assembly for deliberation and voting.

On the other hand, MP Hassan Jawhar forwarded queries to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahd about the legal measures taken regarding cases filed in Kuwait and America in relation to the alleged violations at Kuwait Army Fund and the overseas military offices. He requested for copies of documents

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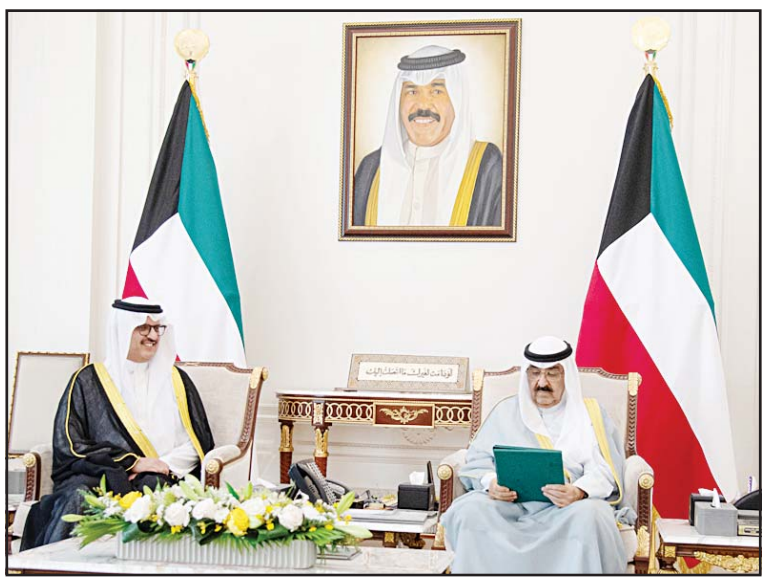

Crown Prince Diwan photo

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait Prince Sultan bin Saad bin Khaled Al-Saud.

Crown Prince receives Saudi invitation

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Tuesday, on behalf of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, an invitation from the Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud to attend the extraordinary session of the Arab Summit to be held in Riyadh on November 11.

During their meeting, Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait Prince Sultan bin Saad bin Khaled Al-Saud handed the invitation to His Highness the Crown Prince.

Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah and several other senior officials attended the meeting. (KUNA)

Opinion

Where is the undercover agent?

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

WHEN the National Assembly opened in 2022, the government announced that there would be an undercover agent to uncover the negligence, bribery, and other matters that obstruct the work of official authorities. On that day, citizens applauded with joy over this step, which was considered the beginning of a serious and radical administrative reform process.

Despite the presence of many oversight bodies in the country, totaling about 19, corruption still pervades state institutions. It is now believed that the undercover agent needs an undercover observer over him.

In this regard, there is a story circulating in some countries of the Levant about the governor of one of the provinces during the Ottoman era. When prices rose in the country, he appointed a group of undercover cops whom he called "Shalitiyah". They worked to monitor the prices set by merchants in the Levant.

However, after a short period, the governor discovered that prices had further increased, and that the cops were taking bribes from merchants. He therefore appointed observers to the Shalitiyah, and they were called "Sarsariyya". However, they turned out to be more greedy than the Shalitiyah, and ended up being referred as "Akhu Shalitiyah", which means "Brother of Shalitiyah".

This matter seems to have reached Kuwait, as the undercover agents have either disappeared from the scene, or have begun exploiting their work for their own interests. That is why there are shameful scandals every day involving corruption that have reached the bone because those chosen for this mission cannot break away from the tribal, sectarian, or regional cloak.

The "power of pride" that is widespread in Kuwait does not build institutions, but rather transforms them into farms. If a minister or director comes with his pals and makes them decision-makers, how will reform be achieved?

Decision-makers in all countries seek the help of competent and honorable experts who do not flatter anyone, and do not work for their interests. They put all the facts before the officials, even if they harm their own interests, because they are entrusted with the supreme interests of the state and the destinies of the people.

The official hears all opinions that contradict his point of view before those that support them, in order to reach the right decision, and not as happens in Kuwait where the government issues a decision today and cancels it tomorrow.

An example of this is the issue of loans. Although it is a popular agenda, parliamentarians try to benefit from them electorally while the government hesitates in its decision. This is owing to the existence of some who agree with the idea, and others who disagree and allow the depressed citizens not to benefit from the loan, as well as the housing cities, which have become a bazaar for everyone who wants to benefit and get rich from the suffering of citizens.

We have said this many times and for a very long time - resolving this issue requires a decision similar to what neighboring countries did, which have managed to close this file forever.

When hesitation controls the executive decision-maker, the state becomes paralyzed. For this reason, institutions fall into a state of

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Day by Day

INTERROGATING the Prime Minister has once again brought us back to a heightened state of tension, as previously alluded to by His Highness the Crown Prince in his significant address.

Our challenge lies in the fact that we are practicing a form of democracy that we are not entirely familiar with from start to finish. What is undeniable, however, is our robust exercise of freedom of expression, often pushed to the extent of hurling insults.

Kuwait's democratic system holds its own peculiarities, and even more intriguing is the perpetual assertion that Kuwait is an exception in this regard!

… Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

'GAZA NIGHTMARE A CRISIS OF HUMANITY'

UN appeals for ceasefire, $1.2bn humanitarian aid

Bibi rejects

NEW YORK, Nov 7, (Agencies): UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appealed for a humanitarian aid totaling USD 1.2 billion to help deliver aid to 2.7 million people in Gaza and the West Bank.

In a statement, Guterres urged an immediate ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas conflict, as he warned that the bombarded Gaza Strip was becoming a "graveyard for children."

"The unfolding catastrophe makes the need for a humanitarian ceasefire more urgent with every passing hour," he told reporters at the UN headquarters.

"The parties to the conflict and, indeed, the international community, face an immediate and fundamental responsibility: to stop this inhuman collective suffering and dramatically expand humanitarian aid to Gaza," he said.

"The nightmare in Gaza is more than a humanitarian crisis. It is a crisis of humanity."

Guterres also deplored the killings of media workers.

According to the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists, at least 36 journalists and media workers have been killed.

"More journalists have reportedly been killed over a four-week period than in any conflict in at least three decades," Guterres said.

Aid trucks have been coming into Gaza from Egypt through the Rafah crossing, but the level remains well below the level before October 7, with "Israel" saying it needs time for security checks of vehicles, and they are not bringing fuel.

"Without fuel, newborn babies in incubators and patients on life support will die," Guterres said.

"The way forward is clear. A humanitarian ceasefire now. All parties respecting all their obligations under international humanitarian law," he said.

Guterres again voiced alarm about the "clear violations of international humanitarian law that we are witnessing."

"Let me be clear: No party to an armed conflict is above international humanitarian law," he said.

Meanwhile, Israel will take "overall security responsibility" in Gaza indefinitely after its war with Hamas, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said, the clearest indication yet that Israel plans to maintain control over the coastal enclave one month into a conflict that has claimed thousands of lives and leveled whole swaths of the territory.

In an interview with ABC News that aired late Monday, Netanyahu expressed openness to "little pauses" in the fighting to facilitate the delivery of aid to Gaza or the release of some of the more than 240 hostages seized by Hamas in its Oct. 7 attack into Israel that triggered the war.

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Palestinians flee after an Israeli airstrike in Rafah, Gaza Strip, Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2023. (AP)

'Greater unity amid conflict'

DOHA, Nov 7, (KUNA): Kuwait's top lawmaker Ahmad Al-Sadoun on Tuesday called for greater unity among Gulf Arab states given the current developments in the region, saying such a measure was necessary to bring common aspirations to fruition.

At a time where we "watch with agony" the continued acts of destruction committed by Israeli forces against the Palestinians, which include mass killings that constitute "genocide," the Kuwaiti top lawmaker told a gathering that joined him with his counterparts from across the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in the Qatari capital.

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KUNA photo

Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah arrives in Oman to participate in the fortieth meeting of the GCC Interior Ministers.

— See Page 3

Newswatch

ERBIL: Kurdistan Region's anti-terror group said on Tuesday that the **US**-led Coalition against so-called Islamic State IS downed three armed drones.

The Directorate General of Counter Terrorism (CTD) said in a statement three armed drones were shot down over Erbil airport in northern **Iraq**, where US forces and other international forces are stationed, in two separate attacks.

The statement did not elaborate further details on the forces that had launched the drone attacks or if there were any causalities among the multi-national forces.

Director of Erbil International Airport, **Ahmed Hoshyar** stated that flight navigations returned to normal after a temporary suspension early morning. (KUNA)

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TOKYO: The Japanese government decided on Tuesday to extend the dispatch of four Ground Self-Defense Force (GSDF) to the Sinai Peninsula in eastern **Egypt** on a multinational peacekeeping mission by another year, the Defense Ministry said Tuesday.

The extension, until the end of November next year, was approved at a Cabinet meeting earlier, the ministry said in a statement.

Since April 2019, Japan has dispatched GSDF members to the command of the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) on the Sinai Peninsula, which monitors the ceasefire in the Egypt-**Israel** border zone.

At the MFO command in **Sharm El-Sheikh**, currently four GSDF officers are engaged in liaison and coordination duties between the Egyptian and Israeli and forces as well as the maintenance of facilities, according to the ministry. (KUNA)

Products customizable

OpenAI unveils future of chatbots at confab

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov 7, (AP): Less than a year into its meteoric rise, the company behind ChatGPT unveiled the future it has in mind for its artificial intelligence technology, launching a new line of chatbot products that can be customized to a variety of tasks.

"Eventually, you'll just ask the computer for what you need and it'll do all of these tasks for you," said OpenAI CEO Sam Altman to a cheering crowd of more than 900 software developers and other attendees. It was OpenAI's inaugural developer conference, embracing a Silicon Valley tradition for technology showcases that Apple helped pioneer decades ago.

At the event held in a cavernous former Honda dealership in OpenAI's hometown of San Francisco, the company unveiled a new version called GPT-4 Turbo that it says is more capable and can retrieve information about world and cultural events as recent as April 2023 - unlike previous versions that couldn't answer questions about anything after 2021.

It also touted a new version of its AI model called GPT-4 with vision, or GPT-4V, that enables the chatbot to analyze images. In a September research paper, the company showed how the tool could describe what's in images to people who are blind or have low vision.

ChatGPT has more than 100 million weekly active users and 2 million developers, spread "entirely by word of mouth," Altman said.

He also unveiled a new line of products called GPTs - emphasis on the plural - that will enable users to make their own customized versions of ChatGPT for specific tasks.

Alyssa Hwang, a computer science researcher at the University of Pennsylvania who got an early glimpse at the GPT vision tool, said it was "so good at describing a whole lot of different kinds of images, no matter how complicated they were," but also needed some improvements.

For instance, in trying to test its limits, Hwang appended an image of steak with a caption about chicken noodle soup, confusing the chatbot into describing the

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Prayer Timings

Fajr	04:44	Asr	14:36
Sunrise	06:05	Maghrib	16:58
Zohr	11:32	Isha	18:17

Local

Weather

Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

By Day: Rather hot with light variable wind to light to moderate northwesterly wind, with speed of 08-28 km/h.

By Night: Mild with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speed of 08-28 km/h.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	33	24
Kuwait Airport	32	16
Abdaly	32	17
Jahra	32	20
Salmiyah	31	25
Nuwaisib	34	18
Wafra	32	18

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

427 Kuwaiti companies have invested $2 billion in Turkiye: minister

We aim to further boost economic ties with Kuwait: envoy

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 7, (KUNA): Turkish ambassador to Kuwait Tuba Nur Sonmez said Tuesday that her country is aiming for further economic cooperation and exchange with Kuwait.

During her speech at the opening of the "Commercial Authority" program organized by the Turkish Embassy, Sonmez added that Kuwait and Turkiye enjoy exceptional political relations, distinguished and solid partnership in addition to joint perspective on a variety of issues."

She added that trade surplus between the two countries reached a record figure last year which indicates an upward trend in commercial transactions in various sectors between the two countries.

The Turkish ambassador pointed out that Kuwait and Turkiye have a unique strengths and resources that, if combined, will achieve exceptional economic results, confirming that if this economic partnership is fully achieved, it will become a model in the region that others will seek to follow.

She added that the Turkish vision aims to push Turkiye towards a future aimed at progress, development and global participation, saying that this vision stems from a new perspective of economic management that

KUNA photo

Turkish Ambassador: We aspire for more cooperation and trade exchange with Kuwait.

KUNA photo

Turkish Minister of Trade: 427 Kuwaiti companies invest about two billion dollars in Türkiye.

focuses on monetary stability, confidence, and financial incentives.

Sonmez expressed her deepest sympathy and grief over the humanitarian catastrophe taking place in Gaza, pointing to the enormous suffering the people of Gaza are experiencing there, praying to Allah the Almighty to grant the people of Palestine a speedy relief.

She added that the horrific Israeli occupation aggression has reached the point of a war crime, and must be stopped.

For his part, Mustafa Gultepe, Chairman of the Turkish Exporters Council said in his speech "We came today to establish trade relations on the basis of the win-win principle, as we have many sectors such as pharmaceuticals, agriculture, food, clothing and animal farming, which are very important for the two countries and the region."

He added that the Turkish participants in the (Commercial Authority) program will be from 37 Turkish companies from various sectors.

The Exporters Council has more than 110,000 members from 27 sectors, Gultepe noted.

He praised the historical relations between Turkiye and Kuwait, contributing to stonger trade relationship, adding "we aspirer to share our capabilities and expertise to carry out trade and exchange experiences and reach a sustainable and continuous partnership.

"We meet today, but our minds and hearts are with our martyrs in Gaza. We strongly condemn these Israeli raids in Gaza, and we hope that it will end soon," he added.

Gultepe is scheduled to meet with Kuwait Commerce and Industry Minister as well as Minister of Commerce and Industry and State Minister for the Youth Affairs Mohammad Al-Aiban.

He is also expected to meet with the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Oil, and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment, Dr. Saad Al-Barrak.

The "Commercial Authority" program, featuring 100 Turkish businessmen, aims to develop means of bilateral trade cooperation. The event will be an opportunity for Turkish companies to meet with Kuwaiti businessmen to strengthen trade relations.

Investments

Meanwhile, the Turkish Minister of Trade Dr. Omar Polat said on Tuesday that there are 427 Kuwaiti companies investing around USD two billion in Turkiye, and hopes for increase in investments between the two countries.

This came during his inaugural speech of (Commercial Authority) program organized by the Turkish Embassy in Kuwait, in the presence of Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Mohammad Al-Aiban and 100 Turkish businessmen.

"Turkish contracting companies are considered pioneers around the world, and they are executing around 50 projects in Kuwait with a total value of about USD nine billion," said the Ambassador.

"There are many investment opportunities in many sectors such as industry, tourism, real estate and finance. From a commercial perspective, we must work to remove technical barriers, and this is one of the topics that will be raised during our meetings (in Kuwait), in addition to the details of free trade with the Gulf countries," he pointed out.

"The amount allocated from trade between the two countries in 2022 has reached about USD one billion, and the amount of Turkish exports to Kuwait has reached more than USD 600 million. In addition, the two countries have other agreements, including Kuwait's purchase of 18 Turkish military aircraft," he noted.

The Turkish minister said that during his stay in Kuwait, he would visit the new airport project (T2) that is being constructed by a Turkish company to check out its progression.

He considers Kuwait as a special country for Turkiye as President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has visited Kuwait in 2017 and said that it was a gateway for Turkiye to the Gulf, as much as Turkiye is a gateway for Kuwait to Central Asia and Europe.

He praised Kuwait's positions towards Turkiye, saying, "It is always by our side and provide relief materials and aid. The Kuwaiti people are generous and our relationship with Kuwait is strong."

Polat, meanwhile, expressed his condemnation of the Israeli occupation aggression against Gaza, pointing out that there are massacres that are unseen in the world, and indicated that the Islamic world want to prevent bloodshed and ceasefire.

Both Polat and Al-Aiban are set to hold a meeting after the inauguration to discuss economic cooperation between Turkiye and Kuwait.

Afterwards, the Turkish minister will meet with Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Oil and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investments Saad Al-Barrak.

The (Commercial Authority) program that includes 100 businessmen in coordination with the Turkish Ministry of Trade seeks to develop bilateral commercial cooperation. In addition, Turkish companies will meet with Kuwaiti businessmen to enhance commercial relations between the two countries.

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'Women heroes in Gaza war'

Kuwait reiterates support to Palestinians

JEDDAH, Nov 7, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait has reiterated its support to the Palestinian people and Palestinian women in particular for their resilience, heroism, bravery and continuous sacrifices amidst horrendous crises under Israeli occupation.

This was in Kuwait's speech by delegation chief and Assistant Foreign Minister for human rights, Ambassador Sheikha Jawaher Ibrahim Al-Sabah, on Tuesday at international conference "Women in Islam: Status and Empowerment."

The conference, held in Jeddah, jointly organized by Saudi Foreign Ministry and the Organization of Islamic cooperation General Secretariat.

"As we convene to examine the status of women in Islam, Palestinian women live through tragic circumstances prompted by horrific Israeli occupation aggression against Gaza," relayed Ambassador Al-Sabah.

She continued saying that this aggression is a breach of humanitarian international laws as it systemically targets civilians with 70 percent of victims women and children.

Al-Sabah went on to say that since the establishment of the modern state of Kuwait it had relied on the principles of the Islamic religion, principles that had guaranteed the rights of women.

She stated that the beliefs and traditions of Kuwaiti people distinguish women as an essential and active partner in society, therefore; the 1962 constitution inscribes the rights of Kuwaiti women, and marks equality between men and women.

Explained

On role of modern Kuwaiti women, Ambassador Al-Sabah explained that echoing what was stipulated in the 2035 vision in regards to women empowerment, around 58 percent of national workforce are women; 48 percent of private sector, and 60 percent of public sector.

Additionally, women take up 28 percent of positions of leadership, claiming a notable role in the decision making process.

Around 47 percent of leadership roles in the Defense Ministry are occupied by women, as well as 43 percent of military engineering positions.

The Kuwaiti diplomat also took note of women's multiplied presence in certain careers including police force, diplomacy, oil sector, judiciary and the banking sector.

Ambassador Al-Sabah further stated that Kuwait had taken a leap in global indices on gender gap issued by the global economic forum, and came third on Arab world level in women peace and security index.

The conference is being held amidst critical conditions as the Islamic religion is being subjected to grotesque attempts aiming to defile it and false claims of it marginalizing Muslim women, commented Al-Sabah.

As such, the conference's axes have been intricately designed to address the status of women in relation to society as a whole and individuals, to clear the name of Islam and eradicate misconceptions.

Al-Sabah took the opportunity to affirm that Islam reinforced principles of equity between men and women, in duties, responsibilities, penalties and fate.

The Kuwaiti Ambassador extended her thanks to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for hosting the conference, sponsored by King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, and commended OIC for their efforts.

The conference, launched yesterday Monday concludes on November 8, aims to shed light on achievements of Muslim women across the ages as well as highlight their contributions to development of member states.

It ventures to put forth a roadmap on legal reformations, and political initiatives to reinforce justice and empowerment, as well as adopt comprehensive document titled, "Jeddah document for women in Islam."

KUNA photo

Kuwaiti diplomacy: We salute the steadfastness of the Palestinian people and Palestinian women and their heroic role against the occupation.

KUNA photo

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah receives Acting President of Kuwait Audit Bureau Adel Al-Sara'awi.

HH PM receives 'Audit' report

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received Acting President of Kuwait Audit Bureau Adel Al-Saraawi on Tuesday.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah also received on Tuesday the President of the Supreme Judicial Council Counselor and the head of the Court of Cassation Dr. Adel Bouresli, Deputy President of the Qatari Court of Cassation Thaqeel Bin Sayer Al-Shammari, and his accompanying delegation.

Director of the Office of the Prime Minister Hamad Al-Amer and Court of Cassation Undersecretary and member of the Supreme Judicial Council Counselor Khaled Al-Muzaini attended the meeting. (KUNA)

The Amricani Cultural Center

Burgan Bank sponsors Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyyah's 28th cultural season

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 7: In continued support of Kuwait's arts and culture scene, Burgan Bank announced that it will be sponsoring select workshops among Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyyah's (DAI) 28th Cultural Season, which is set to bring its audience a diverse and vibrant range of events and hands-on experiences for six months between October 2023 and March 2024. This sponsorship comes as part of Burgan's comprehensive social responsibility strategy and committed efforts to inspire positive change across society.

Kholoud

Commenting on the DAI sponsorship, Mrs. Kholoud Al-Feeli, Deputy General Manager – Marketing and Communication at Burgan Bank, said: "We are delighted to extend our ongoing support to DAI in their exemplary pursuit of cultivating the realms of arts and culture within Kuwait. With each ensuing season, DAI continually pushes the limits of creativity by engaging diverse segments of the community in Kuwait's rich cultural heritage, motivating us to reinforce our support for this distinguished organization."

"As part of our multi-faceted social responsibility program, we remain dedicated to supporting all cultural events and initiatives that aim to broaden society's perspective and enrich their experiences by offering arts and culture in an engaging context that appeals to the different audiences," added Al-Feeli.

During DAI's 28th Cultural Season, Burgan Bank will be sponsoring a range of workshops this year and next. For 2023, the workshops include Contemplations on the Quran by Dr. Ali Al-Yaqoub, which will be held between the 14th and 16th of November, and The Art of Arabic Calligraphy by Mr. Jassim Mearaj, which will be organized from the 12th to 14th of December.

Meanwhile, for 2024, The Skills of Speed Reading and Mind Mapping workshop by Ms. Maria Shoukry will be held between the 15th and 17th of February,and The History of the Mamluks workshop by Bethany Walker will be organized from the 2nd to 4th of March.

It serves to note that Burgan Bank's commitment to preserving and showcasing Kuwait's rich cultural heritage manifests in various efforts, on top of which is its people-centric Burgan Sidra initiative that draws its inspiration from the symbol of Kuwaiti culture, the Sidra tree, and the unique national talents who continue to put Kuwait on the global map of cultural destinations.

'Lawyer' list wins KBA elections

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 7: After the tallying of the votes, it was announced that the "Lawyer" list won the elections of the Kuwait Bar Association yesterday, obtaining nine full seats of the Board of Directors, with a total of 17,260 votes.

In a press statement, the President of the association Sharyan Al-Sharyan highlighted that the "Lawyer" list received more than two-thirds of the votes of the participants in the electoral process, which constitutes a recommendation and consensus on the need for those in charge of the Board of Directors to complete their vision that serves those affiliated with the profession.

Al-Sharyan, who assumes the presidency of the "Lawyer" list for the fourth time in a precedent in the association over the course of 50 years, said, "The Board of Directors will remain committed to its covenant and promise to complete the process of its work, achievements and aspirations".

He expressed appreciation for the trust of colleagues that they placed in the members of the Lawyer list.

The results of the "Lawyer" list members were as follows:- Khaled Al-Suwaifan with 2,202 votes, Adnan Abel with 2,099 votes, Hamoud Al-Radaan with 1,998 votes, Abdul Razzaq Al-Enezi with 1,979 votes, Sharyan Al-Sharyan with 1,880 votes, Mishaal Al-Khanna with 1,878 votes, Abdul Rahman Al-Tahous with 1,755 votes, Abdullah Al-Azmi with 1,745 votes, and Mishari Al-Bulayhis with 1,729 votes.

The elections of the Kuwait Bar Association took place the day before yesterday amid a massive presence and a large turnout by members of the legal profession at the association's headquarters. They witnessed a competition for the presidency of the association between the "Lawyer" list, which heads the current council and the "Profession list" during the election period that began at 10:00am and continued until 8:00pm.

The members of each list gathered in front of the polling station and corners of the association building to receive the voting lawyers, hoping to obtain their votes.

Al-Seyassah was present to witness the election atmosphere and met with the head of the association's media center Lawyer Khaled Al-Adeela, who said, "The elections took place in a democratic atmosphere after the completion of the General Assembly, which was held at 9:30am yesterday under the supervision of the Ministry of Social Affairs, during which a vote was taken to hold the elections.

Lawyer Al-Adeela expressed his happiness with the electoral atmosphere experienced by the association's members, noting that the association's elections are heartwarming due to the fair competition enjoyed by the competitors.

He stated that the number of members of the Kuwait Bar Association exceeds 5,500 lawyers, and the number of participants in the benefits provided by the association to its members is 2,500, adding that he expected the participation rate to be high.

Lawyer Al-Adeela highlighted the spirit of love and harmony that prevails among the association's members particularly among the members of the two competing lists.

Marine service suspended

117 MoH staff get paid for no jobs

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 7: The Ministry of Health annually spends an amount of KD 2,124,754 for paying the salaries of 117 employees and technicians to monitor the marine ambulance service, which has been suspended for several years due to the lack of boats and marine ambulance facilities.

The State Audit Bureau confirmed the failure of the Ministry of Health to provide the requirements for monitoring marine services, including boats, facilities, and maintenance work, which resulted in the failure to perform the main tasks assigned to it in providing the marine ambulance service for many years.

This happened despite the budget being charged for paying the salaries of 117 employees and technicians to monitor marine services at a value of KD 2,124,754, and providing a financial allocation of KD 450,000 for the fiscal year of 2022/2023, which was not utilized despite the Ministry of Health's justification of the situation by issuing tender No. S/MKH/3/2023/2024 to supply an ambulance and rescue boat and open a health quarantine center for an estimated value of KD 450,000.

However, the SAB affirmed, in its annual report to audit and review the implementation of the budgets of ministries and government departments and their final accounts for the fiscal year of 2022/2023, that the ministry's response confirms its observation and the severe delay on its part in providing the requirements for the work of that monitoring for many years, which resulted in not achieving any benefit from the technical and administrative cadres available therein, in addition to not exercising its assigned powers and burdening public funds with the salaries of those working in that sector.

MEW to reconstitute planning committee

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 7: The Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy and the Acting Minister of Public Works Dr. Jassim Al-Ostad issued a decision to reconstitute the ministry's Planning Committee under its chairmanship and with the undersecretary and the assistant undersecretaries of the ministry, totaling 11, in addition to the chief specialist engineer - civil (rapporteur) as members.

The decision specified the committee's tasks of proposing and following up the executive plans and programs, and expressing its opinion on the draft budget, as well as studying the organizational and administrative conditions, and proposing the necessary procedures to develop work methods and raise performance efficiency. The committee will also be tasked with preparing training plans and sending students on scholarships or study leaves to ensure coordination with other government agencies, following up the work progress in the ministry, and coordinating with its sectors. Everything that the minister deems appropriate should be referred to it to express an opinion on it.

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

‘Fast-changing global changes could trigger economic crisis’

“THE noticeable changes taking place in the political arena currently are much greater than what the local mind can imagine. The global changes are noticeable and significant and could be the beginning of an economic crisis,” columnist **Dr Ghadeer Muhammad Asiri** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

“Reading between the lines is a demand and a necessity, which is what is required today. The facts indicate dangerous upcoming predictions. Moving towards the global economy, restructuring and redistributing it, and sorting wealth on the world map is the greatest goal and content of all global movements and debates.

“The next stage cannot tolerate political confusion and heroic statements. The political scene is larger than what is presented to the public. Since ancient times, this region has witnessed major political conflicts. It ends with coexistence, asylum, and civil naturalization, and what comes to our minds as those who carefully monitor the rapid changes in political scenes and their danger, and that what we are led to is a major problem, and the constant anxiety that is born with us because we live in this part of the world.

Dr. Asiri

“Will the next thing will be a collapse of the currency and the restoration of the value and strength of the basket of currencies. Globalism? Or the collapse of the internal system, or the reluctance to use oil that many countries own and do not have anyone to trade with it or provide opportunities to buy it so that it becomes the primary resource for the countries that produce or acquire it, or the liquidity and economic diplomacy to benefit from it?

“The scene is bigger than an individual muscle for those who claim idealism. The economy is the focus and a deep reading of global events is what is required.

“Here we are accustomed in local politics to riding the waves and claiming righteousness before reform. Today, scrutiny of scenes and statements is what is required and rapid global movements. Countries are filled with displaced persons and immigrants, either for political reasons or collapses.

“Real economic, and the demand of people in the world for a decent and safe life and political stability with dignity, total respect and social justice is the basis, and if we carefully return to the countries whose regimes collapsed for reasons beyond their control, there is no one who aspires and dreams of ruin and destruction, and what is required in the coming stages is precise political action.

“A deep reading of the historical sequence and how changes occur through which borders and wealth in the world are drawn or redrawn. Stay safe.”

Also:

“The most important question that pops up now is: Will the Zionist entity succeed in achieving its goals in Gaza? The ground invasion has multiple goals, but the primary goal, as announced by Israel’s leaders, especially Netanyahu and the Israeli Chief of Staff, remains to completely dismantle and weaken Hamas’ military power,” columnist **Dr Noura Saleh Al-Majim** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

“The success of that goal is followed by several other goals, including an attempt to gain military control over Gaza, even if it is limited, and the installation of a new civilian government in the Strip.

“Certainly, trying to anticipate the future of the ground operation in Gaza is a very complex matter, and the subject of widespread debate among military experts, even Israelis. The source of this controversy is many data, as the actual balance of power, especially the military, suggests, without much discussion, a victory for Israel in its ground invasion.

“But on the ground, the talk will be completely different, as Israel will face many, many challenges, difficulties, pressures, and obstacles to achieve complete victory over Hamas, or complete control over the Gaza Strip.

“The limited ground military movements carried out by the Zionist entity in the Gaza Strip cannot be described as a ground war. As they are merely ground reconnaissance operations to intimidate Hamas and measure its reaction and the reaction of various external parties allied with and opposed to Israel and neutral parties, a comprehensive ground war is about to begin and Israel will not back down from it.

“According to military strategic data, and also by reference to countless historical precedents; The so-called “gang” or “street” wars, that is, against irregular entities, represent the most difficult and complex wars fought by regular armies. With reference to historical precedents, the most recent and most prominent of which was the American war in Afghanistan against the Taliban, the regular armies there do not achieve any real victories, as the most that can be achieved is to weaken these paramilitary entities after years of fighting at a high material and human cost.

“Wars against paramilitary entities are not subject to the traditional rules of war, and traditional military means and weapons do not work with them. It relies on infantry wars, street fighting, and intelligence information, in which infantry soldiers are exhausted in endless back-and-forth operations against militants who appear and disappear like ghosts.

“Israel will wage a ground war in Gaza, which is densely populated and with facilities, against Hamas fighters, whose number exceeds five thousand fighters according to the lowest estimates, and who are hiding in separate places and tunnels that do not have a map or specific borders, and which Israel knows nothing about. The evidence is its miserable failure revealed by Operation Al-Aqsa Flood.

“Consequently, Israel will be faced with many surprises -- and it knows this -- in its ground invasion, armed ambushes and lightning attacks in multiple directions, and if it succeeds in this challenge, it will face the most difficult challenge, which is searching for Hamas fighters, which will exhaust it greatly, and fighting hit-and-run wars with them. Not to mention that the fighting in the streets of Gaza is very exhausting.

“Based on this, we can be certain that the ground operation by the Zionist entity will not be short and may extend for months. This brings us to the other challenge, which is the ability of the Israeli economy to withstand this long war in the Gaza Strip. According to estimates, the Israeli economy is currently incurring daily losses estimated at one billion shekels, as a result of the call-up of approximately 350,000 reserve personnel who represent the main workforce in Israel, in addition to the cost of preparing for the invasion, and losses in several sectors such as the tourism sector.

“Hence, a long war in the Gaza Strip may cause Israel losses exceeding half a trillion shekels, forcing it to stop operations in Gaza without achieving impossible goals.

“The truth is that the challenges of the ground invasion in Gaza are too many for the article to mention, and they all point to the extreme difficulty in the Zionist entity achieving its goals in Gaza.

“But we conclude by saying that Hamas is not a movement, but rather an ideology of resistance against the usurping occupation of a land. Therefore, if Israel succeeds in eliminating Hamas, a thousand other Hamas will arise as long as there is still occupation. This is what reasonable people in Israel should know well, and unfortunately they are a minority.”

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“His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad opened the second round of the 17th legislative term, representing His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad, in a speech that warmed the hearts of Kuwaitis, touching on several topics,” columnist **Mussa Behbahani** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

“The first axis:

Internal Affairs: Calling for full cooperation between the two authorities, away from fanaticism and personal interests, as well as changing approaches, away from wrong practices that threaten national unity, use the tool of interrogation for correction, not revenge for personal gain, and refrain from inflaming the street and keeping citizens busy with trivial issues.

“The second axis:

Calling on the people to exercise their oversight role over the representatives and holding the latter accountable in order to mcorrect the path, as those who correct the performance of members of the National Assembly are the voters. The people have the right to correct distortions at the Assembly.

“The third axis:

Some MPs engage in activities that may lead to citizens’ dissatisfaction, because they did not achieve the latter’s aspirations and they misused the interrogation tool yfor narrow personal goals.

“The fourth axis:

Members of the executive authority: Government performance is still limited and it has not achieved the people’s aspirations. He described government performance as hesitation in making decisions and slow implementation, especially on issues that do not require the intervention of the legislative authority despite obtaining full support of the political leadership’.

“The fifth axis:

The lofty desire of His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince, may God protect them, to review living standards and improve the living conditions of employees without prejudice to facing the sustainable challenges of public finances and the urgent need to find new and diverse sources of revenue.

“The sixth axis:

The Palestinian issue: Kuwait affirmed its firm position on issue and condemned the aggression, killing, siege, brutal violations of the occupying authority, and the bombing of places of worship, hospitals, citizens’ homes and shelters. All of this can only be described as genocide j.

“The seventh axis:

Kuwait expressed astonishment over the decision of the Iraqi Federal Court to overturn the Khor Abdullah Agreement, particularly the regulation on maritime navigation between the two countries. This is considered a violation of the relevant international agreements and charters.

“Voice of the People:

Indeed, it is the final word, rather it is the voice of the people. The speech was frank and it refuted everything. It touched on everything in the hearts of every citizen, in addition to eliminating strife that some might take advantage of.”

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“The dispute over who represents public opinion and popular demands continues,“ columnist **Ahmad Al-Mulaifi** wrote for **Annahar** daily.

“Members of Parliament claimed that they reflect the people’s demands, while the government stated these demands do not represent the priorities of the people or the nation, and they are nothing but electoral bidding and populist gain that is harmful in the short and long terms.

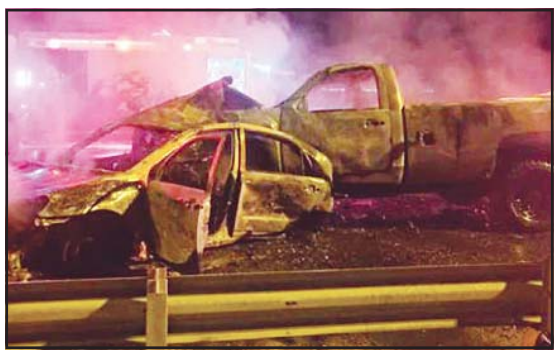
“It is not possible to rely on what is presented on social media to determine priorities. We all know that these tools are exploited internally and externally. Rather, they often represent a deceptive opinion led by a few accounts, most of which are fake or the so-called ‘electronic flies’.

“The dispute will remain and the claim to represent public opinion will continue without conclusive evidence unless there is a specialized and neutral body that uses scientific methods and the correct tools to measure the trends and priorities of the public.

“The government must establish an independent body affiliated with the Ministry of Planning, whose mission is to measure the public trends in terms of priorities and satisfaction or dissatisfaction over any issue.

“It is important for the government, the legislature and the people to be honest and impartial about the current situation and the people’s view on the performance of the two authorities. They must know how people think – whether citizens, residents or tourists. Once we know the truth , we can deal with it correctly, away from exaggeration or understatement.”

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary



Scene of accident

Drugs paraphernalia

One dead in accident; 2 held with drugs

An unknown person died, Monday, as a result of a two-vehicle collision on the Seventh Ring Road.

The General Fire Force stated, “The Istiklal Center Fire Brigade dealt with a accident. The firemen added, when they arrived at the scene of the accident both vehicles were consumed by flames, reports Al-Rai daily.

The fire sources said one person died while other was seriously injured and he has been admitted to the area hospital in serious condition.

Meanwhile, the Jahra security personnel have referred two young men to the General Administration for Narcotics Control for possessing narcotic substances and drug paraphernalia. A security source said that the two young men were arrested after being suspected when they passed through a security checkpoint and found in their possession 3 needles, a bag of chemicals, and wrapping paper.

Blogger’s detention renewed for offending friendly Turkiye

Hearing adjourned in ‘terror’ case

By Jaber Al-Hamoud
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and **Agencies**

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 7: The detention renewal judge yesterday decided to continue the detention of the X user, identified as A.H., who is accused of offending a friendly state Turkey for a period of 14 days pending investigation. The Criminal Court also set the session of November 14 for his trial.

The accused had been referred to the Public Prosecution by the State Security Department on charges of harming the relations between Kuwait and Turkey due to posts he published on his private X account, which included insults.

During the court session yesterday, the accused was present along with his defense team. He completely denied the accusation leveled against him. His defense also requested his release for a bail bond of any amount that the court deems appropriate, given that there are no justifications for pretrial detention, as he is a Kuwaiti citizen who is not expected to flee.

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Hearing adjourned: The Court of Cassation adjourned to January 15 for ruling on the appeal submitted by the Public Prosecution against the acquittal of 13 citizens who were accused of financing terrorism and joining a banned Lebanese party “Hezbollah” through donations from a charitable committee.

Earlier, the Court of First Instance had affirmed “in a way that does not represent an increase or digression in this regard, to the absence of legislation in the country that criminalizes the collection of money for public purposes without a license since the establishment of the Department of Social Affairs on December 14, 1954.

This is what tied the court’s hands and distanced it from using its authority stipulated in article 132 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and Trials by amending the description of the accusation in question to a legal description - which is supposed to exist - that is more correct and accurate.

According to its view, this is a legislative flaw that requires care to control and correct it in order to place all individuals and groups in the field of fundraising with their various beliefs and orientations under the scrutiny of the authority and the eye of the censor who prevents the recurrence of the incident in question, and protects this country from any harm that may befall it or its position internally or externally at the local, regional, or international levels.”

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Drug addict nabbed: An unidentified person in his forties has been referred to the General Administration for Narcotics Control after he was caught in the Jahra area in a state of drug abuse and in possession of a “cocktail” of narcotic substances in addition to drug paraphernalia, says Al-Seyassah daily .

According to a security source, a support patrol affiliated to the Jahra Security Directorate spotted a speeding car, and after catching up with it and forcing its driver to pull over, it was found that he was in a state of drug abuse and in possession of narcotics. During interrogation, he admitted that he uses narcotic substances and sells hallucinogenic pills to drug users in cafes, health clubs, and camps.

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Man robbed in park: A young man, born in 2004, came to the Sulaibikhat police station to report that he had been robbed inside a park.

The victim stated he knows the name of the suspect and that the incident happened in a park northwest of Sulaibikhat at around eight in the evening, reports al-Anba daily.

The complaint has been registered as a felony. However, the young man did not say what was robbed from him. The suspect has been summoned for interrogation.

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Transfers suspended: Following the directives of the Minister of Health, Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi, the Ministry of Health has suspended employee transfers after the designated transfer period, reports Al-Anba daily. This decision mandates that employee transfers within the Ministry should occur twice a year, specifically in April and October.

Health authorities have disclosed that they received and processed transfer applications for approximately 500 employees with diverse job titles, including doctors, technicians, nurses, and administrators, during the approved transfer window in October.

The transfer process was carried out based on the operational needs of the Ministry and the specific requirements of the health facilities, whether transferring employees in or out. It was executed in a manner that ensures an equitable distribution of human resources across the Ministry’s various sectors.

Sources have further clarified that a meticulous coordination process took place between the Ministry and relevant authorities to assess the extent to which an employee requesting a transfer would contribute to the new department in terms of their job title and educational qualifications. This approach was taken to maintain optimal service delivery and enhance overall work efficiency.

To initiate a transfer, the Ministry of Health stipulated that transfer requests, submitted on approved forms, must receive the consent of both the sending and receiving employers, along with the approval of the respective assistant undersecretary.

Furthermore, it was mandated that transfer applications should be submitted within the first 15 days of April or October. Any applications received outside of these specified dates would not be considered.

Court Cases

Ruling in Rashidi murder case expected on Dec 5

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 7: The Criminal Court yesterday adjourned to December 5 the case of the murder of citizen Mubarak Al-Rashidi after charging the accused with premeditated murder.

During the court session, the Public Prosecution demanded that maximum penalty be imposed on the accused.

Weeks after the citizen Mubarak Al-Rashidi disappeared in Subbiya desert, the Ministry of Interior announced the uncovering of the mystery related to his disappearance.

Following the discovery of a corpse inside a container in Salmi desert by security forces, a Forensic Evidence report was issued on May 26, which revealed that the body belonged to the missing citizen Mubarak Al-Rashidi, and that he had been killed.

Investigations conducted by the Ministry of Interior, and its continuous efforts since the disappearance of citizen Mubarak Al-Rashidi, revealed the details and circumstances of this heinous crime. The investigations had extended from Kuwait to Egypt in coordination with the Egyptian security authorities in order to investigate the Egyptian accused, who witnessed the crime inside a camp in the Kabd area, and had helped in transporting the body with the aim of hiding it.

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X user acquitted: The Criminal Court yesterday acquitted an X user of managing 45 fake accounts on the X social media platform through which he published false news and insulted political figures via posts.

The Public Prosecution had referred the accused to trial on charges related to misuse of smartphone, managing fake accounts, and spreading false news in violation of the laws on combating information technology crimes and internal state security crimes.

Strong GCC ties sought

By Nasser Al-Ajmi

MUSCAT, Nov 7, (KUNA): Kuwait’s First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah affirmed Tuesday that the meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council interior ministers in Muscat will produce a number of decisions that will strengthen the process of joint Gulf security cooperation.

This came in a statement by Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled to KUNA, Tuesday, after his arrival in Oman to participate in the fortieth meeting of the GCC Interior Ministers.

Sheikh Talal was received at the airport by the Omani Minister of Interior and the Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to the Sultanate of Oman, Ambassador Mohammad Al-Hajri.

Kuwait ranks first in Arab world, ME over indicators to fight AIDS

Health minister sponsors Kuwait AIDS, Venereal Diseases Confab

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 7: The Assistant Undersecretary for Public Health Affairs and Chairman of the Permanent National Committee to Combat Immunodeficiency Disease Dr. Al-Mundhir Al-Hasawi says Kuwait ranked first in the Arab world and the Middle East in achieving the indicators of combating AIDS, with a score of 94 percent, according to a report issued by the Joint United Nations Program on AIDS.

In a speech he delivered during the inauguration of the annual Kuwait AIDS and Venereal Diseases Conference on behalf of the conference sponsor the Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi, Dr. Al-Hasawi said Kuwait was able to achieve all these indicators and top the list during the year 2022 according to the United Nations Joint Program to Combat AIDS.

He explained that Kuwait ranked first in the Middle East and North Africa region by achieving an index of 90/90/90, which means that 90 percent of people infected with HIV are aware of their infection, 90 percent of those diagnosed receive antiviral treatment, and 90 percent of those receiving treatment are carrying an undetectable virus in the blood.

Goal

Based on that, Kuwait took quick, steady and clear steps towards the next indicator, which is achieving the goal of 95/95/95, for which a time frame was set in 2030 and in accordance with the national strategy to combat AIDS. Kuwait is expected to achieve these goals two years before the specified date, at the least.

Dr. Al-Hasawi said, "These indicators are not just numbers, but rather realistic goals based on scientific studies. If all countries of the world are able to achieve them, we will witness a significant decrease in the number of infections and deaths associated with HIV. If all countries of the world are able to achieve this goal, we can prevent 30 million new infections by 2030, including seven million infections in children, and prevent 21 million deaths related to HIV or AIDS and its complications. These results will also have clear financial and economic impacts on all countries of the world.

Dr Al-Hasawi

After Kuwait was able to achieve this success in the three indicators, it sought a fourth indicator, which is the quality of life indicator, known as the fourth 90 indicator. It is not enough that the person is infected and receives treatment or that he is carrying an unreadable virus while he suffers in his life and has psychological, economical and social problems. Therefore, ensuring quality of life was a priority for the treatment agencies in the Ministry of Health."

Support

He affirmed the keenness of the ministry to provide psychological and mental support to those infected with HIV, reduce the rate of discrimination shown towards infected people, and provide the latest global treatments through injections that are taken once every two months as an option available to people instead of daily pills.

Dr. Al-Hasawi indicated that the Permanent National Committee to Combat AIDS has studied ways to prevent the disease for all of society, and is currently studying many other interventions that reduce HIV infection.

He stressed that these efforts would not have occurred without the efforts of officials.

Furthermore, the Director of the Jahra Health Zone and the Director of the Infectious Diseases Hospital Dr. Jamal Al-Duaij said the medical teams are vigilant in supporting the health security of citizens and residents alike in the field of sexual diseases, especially AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).

Praising the efforts exerted to hold the conference, he affirmed the need to keep pace with the latest international recommendations and medical tests in this field and the availability of the latest, fastest and most accurate diagnostic methods (voluntary test), which does not exceed 15 minutes.

Awareness

Dr. Al-Duaij stressed that public awareness campaigns continue from time to time with the cooperation of the Patient Helping Fund Society.

He explained that the ministry, in the field of treatment, has made great strides in providing the latest medicines and applying the latest treatment strategies in the world. The work team had announced the marriage of some patients after the level of the virus in the blood reached levels that are not detectable by the latest and most accurate testing devices.

In addition, Head of the Infectious Diseases Department and Chairman of the conference Dr. Osama Al-Baqsami said, "Today we stand on the cusp of a new medical era vibrant with rapid discoveries and developments in the treatment and diagnosis of AIDS and venereal diseases and modern technologies that allow for further progress, equipped with the latest scientific and medical methods to confront diseases."

He highlighted their responsibility to keep up with these developments, interact with them, learn from them, and add their own mark for strengthening their position as a center for innovation and leadership in the field of medicine.

Dr. Al-Baqsami said the conference works to unify efforts, exchange experiences and information, explore scientific innovations, discuss effective strategies, and focus on prevention and education.

He stressed that the conference includes specialized scientific sessions for doctors and researchers, and highlights the latest research and developments in the field of AIDS and reproductive diseases, as well as interactive dialogue sessions to spread awareness and knowledge among members of society to prevent the spread of these diseases and break the barriers and stigma associated with them.

KUNA photo

HH the PM Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf presides over the Cabinet meeting.

Draft law eyed at hiking retirees' pensions

Cabinet directs PAHW regarding building northern residential city

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 7, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti Cabinet on Monday directed the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) to take all required arrangements to build a residential city in the north.

The direction came during a weekly routine Cabinet meeting held at Bayan Palace and presided over by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

It came within the framework of the Cabinet's following up on Kuwaiti-Chinese agreements in the fields of building residential cities, electricity and water.

The Cabinet also entrusted the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy to take necessary steps for cooperation in the area of power energy and renewable energy.

During the meeting, the ministers looked into legislative priorities due to be adopted during the second ordinary session of the 17th parliamentary term.

In this regard, the Cabinet underlined commitment to beefing and bolstering cooperation and coordination between both executive and legislative authorities, particularly laws purposed to improve citizens' standards of living at the behest of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Therefore, Minister of Finance Fahad Al-Jarallah was tasked with speedily working out a draft law aiming at raising retirees' minimum pensions, in collaboration with the National Assembly's specialized committees.

The minister was also entrusted with giving an immediate vision about ways of improving the living conditions of employees in the public and private sectors.

Under the Cabinet's instructions, the minister of finance would also devise a blueprint for investment with international food, medicine, power, water and housing companies.

On the other hand, the Cabinet took note of a letter sent by National Assembly Speaker Ahmad Al-Saadoun on a grilling motion lodged by MP Hamad Al-Azmi against Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Mohammad Al-Aiban.

The Cabinet acknowledged that it is the right of MPs to grill any minister, but voiced utter confidence in the minister, hoping that the parliamentary practice would match the constitution and parliament bylaws.

Afterwards, Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah briefed the Cabinet on the outcomes of his recent visit to Russia, along with his talks with Russian officials, which focused on regional and international issues, primarily the latest Palestinian developments.

Finally, the Cabinet congratulated Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Mohammad bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud as well as the Saudi people on the kingdom's World Cup 2034 bid win as a special sports achievement for Arab and Muslim countries.

Call to expedite procedures for 10 tenders

MPW implements KD 14m worth four road maintenance contracts

By Mohammed Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 7: According to informed sources in the Ministry of Public Works, the ministry is implementing four road maintenance contracts worth KD 14.980 million, through which, the problem can be addressed at the country level.

They called for accelerating the procedures for awarding ten tenders that were recently launched for the comprehensive treatment of roads.

The sources explained that the first contract is for the maintenance of roads in agricultural areas in the southern part of Kuwait at a value of KD 1.797 million, ending on May 27, 2024. The second contract is for the maintenance of roads in agricultural areas in the northern part of Kuwait at a value of KD 1,911 million, ending on August 27, 2024. The third contract aims at maintaining the roads in Hawally Governorate at a value of KD 5.992 million, ending on June 13, 2024. The fourth and final contract is for the maintenance of roads in Farwaniya Governorate at a value of KD 5.280 million, ending on January 30, 2024.

In parallel, the sources went on to explain that there are nine solutions to confront the problem of "flying gravel". They include introducing a practice for the application of the ISO 9001, ISO 140041 and ISO 17025 quality systems, appointing an accredited laboratory that holds ISO 17025 as a third party with a three-year contract by the signing of a contract between the Ministry of Public Works and one of the engineering studies centers, preparing asphalt mixtures according to the approved specifications of the Ministry of Public Works using the superpave system, which is a modern method for asphalt mixing, in addition to the Marshall system.

The modern equipment for testing asphalt in the laboratory was supplied within a contract that includes operation and maintenance during the contract period of three years, in addition to training on conducting tests according to the latest ASTM specifications, as well as transferring the accreditation of the pebbles warehouses to the Quality Control Department to ensure the stability of the source in the countries of origin and coordination with the National Petroleum Company regarding bitumen inspection.

They stressed the accreditation of asphalt factories supplied to road projects according to the approved specifications of the Ministry of Public Works, with visits to those factories being conducted periodically to ensure continued compliance with the controls and requirements mentioned in the accreditation certificate.

They called for the development of the site laboratories clause in all recent contracts, indicating the adoption of neutral laboratories as a third party to conduct examinations of quality control samples for road projects.

'Work begins on housing project'

By Abdul Nasser Al-Aslami

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 7: The company specialized in constructing, completing and maintaining main road works, infrastructure services networks, rainwater tanks and a treated water tank has begun its work in the South Saad Al-Abdullah City Housing Project.

Meanwhile, the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) announced the completion of the implementation of four groups of commercial stores in blocks 1, 2, 3 and 4 in the N10 suburb of Mutlaa Residential City.

In a press statement, PAHW revealed that it had handed over the keys to the shops in the four blocks to representatives of the Ministry of Finance's State Property and Services Department at the end of October 2023.

It explained that the keys to two local mosques and two buildings, including the residence of an imam and a muezzin, in blocks 1 and 4 in the N10 suburb of the city were handed over as part of a contract for a project to construct, complete, and maintain public buildings. It is continuing to deliver ready-made public buildings to the relevant government agencies in preparation for their operation for the city's citizens and patrons.

MoE to upload test models for general, religious edu exams

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 7: The Ministry of Education, through the Technical Guidance Service, has entrusted the secret printing press with the task of producing the majority of first-semester test papers. These tests are to be prepared as backups for secondary school classes.

According to an educational insider who disclosed information to Al-Rai, said directives have been issued to release a number of test models for general and religious education exams across the three secondary school grades. Some of the remaining test models will be handed over later this week by the general mentors. In addition, question banks for all academic subjects are being prepared and will be made available on the Ministry's official technical guidance websites and via electronic mail well in advance of the exam dates.

The source further revealed that educational districts have already initiated the formation of secret printing presses to produce middle school exams. Each of these printing presses consists of 15 to 20 members. They are responsible for creating tests for grades six to nine, subject to review and approval by the directors of educational affairs to ensure their accuracy and the absence of errors or invalidated questions. Following final approval, the printing presses will oversee the distribution of these tests based on the number of students enrolled in the relevant classes.

As for the process of transporting the tests from central control to schools, the source clarified that it remains unchanged from the previous year. The tests will be transported in the Ministry's vehicles in the early morning and will be sealed in secure boxes.

A photo from the event.

Workshop features participation of three global experts

Gulf Bank hosts senior management workshop emphasizing the significance of cybersecurity

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 7: In its ongoing commitment to staying ahead in the realm of cybersecurity, Gulf Bank has successfully concluded an intensive workshop for senior leadership within its executive management team. The workshop featured the participation of three international experts in the field.

Ms. Mai Dashti, Assistant General Manager of Information Security at Gulf Bank, affirmed the bank's unwavering commitment to staying ahead of the rapid advancements in cybersecurity. This commitment encompasses addressing emerging threats, understanding attack methods, and implementing effective defense strategies. She emphasized Gulf Bank's dedication to maintaining the highest standards of security and protection for all its banking transactions. This dedication is clearly reflected in the substantial investments made in cutting-edge technological solutions, integral to the bank's digital transformation journey and a fundamental component of its five-year strategy for 2025.

Ms. Dashti emphasized the bank's proactive approach to adapting to challenges and changes in the digital landscape. Gulf Bank achieves this through continuous training, adherence to the latest policies, and robust protection programs. This commitment aligns with the bank's pledge to provide a secure and flexible work environment for all banking transactions.

Mai Dashti

Furthermore, she noted the bank's efforts to organize periodic training courses and workshops on information security and cybersecurity, tailored to meet the requirements of employees from diverse departments, including executives. Gulf Bank places significant emphasis on the paramount significance of data privacy and security. To uphold the highest standards of data privacy and security in all its operations, the bank prioritizes training initiatives focused on privacy and security.

In conclusion, Ms. Dashti affirmed Gulf Bank's proactive stance in addressing cyber risks and ensuring the security and integrity of customer data and transactions. This commitment is demonstrated through strategic investments in human resources and continuous development of advanced systems and technologies in the field of information security.

Gulf Bank's vision is to be the leading Kuwaiti Bank of the Future. The Bank is constantly engaging and empowering its employees as part of an inclusive and diversified workplace in recognition of every employee's role in delivering customer excellence and serving the community at large. With its extensive network of branches and innovative digital services, Gulf Bank is able to give its customers the choice of how and where to conduct their banking transactions, all while ensuring a simple and seamless banking experience.

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

'Kuwait, GCC cooperation vital to combat rise in cyber attacks'

4th Gulf cybersecurity confab kicks off

By Inass Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 7: Head of the National Center for Cybersecurity Major General Eng. Mohammad Bouarki explained that the world is on the turning point of a fourth industrial revolution driven by communication and digital technology. Effective cybersecurity has become more important in the face of the large amount of risks facing the GCC countries. In such an increasingly complex world, technology alone is no longer sufficient to combat these growing threats. Technology also requires continuous partnerships between governments and companies in various sectors.

In a speech he delivered yesterday at the opening ceremony of the Fourth Gulf Cybersecurity Conference and Exhibition, which is being held from November 6 to 7 under the patronage of the Minister of Oil and Minister of State for Economic Affairs Dr. Saad Al-Barrak, Major General Bouarki said the main goal of holding the conference is the solidarity of the Kuwaiti and Gulf parties for the sake of digital cooperation.

These bodies are represented by the Ministry of Oil, the Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA), the Central Agency for Information Technology, the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Interior.

The Gulf Cooperation Council countries were also keen to participate with many bodies, such as the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, the Saudi Data and Artificial Intelligence Authority, the National Cybersecurity Authority from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Ministry of Finance, the Qatar Electricity and Water Corporation, the National Cybersecurity Agency, the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers in the State of Qatar, the Ministry of Interior from the Kingdom of Bahrain, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment, the Diwan of Royal Court from the Sultanate of Oman, and Sharjah Police from the United Arab Emirates.

The conference is sponsored by a number of companies, such as Huawei, Ooredoo Communications Company, Paramount Company, Automated Systems Company, and the Kuwait Applied Information Networks Company, along with the participation of international companies such as Bosch and the American company Nephila.

Eng Bouarki

Major General Bouarki explained that the fourth session of the Gulf Conference on Cybersecurity Challenges in the State of Kuwait constitutes a platform for thought leaders and experts in the region to exchange their information and experiences regarding emerging opportunities and challenges related to cybersecurity.

Discussions

It will include rich discussions and key sessions on various topics such as cyber crimes, in addition to the future of artificial intelligence in the field of cybersecurity. The conference also provides participants with tremendous opportunities for communication and cooperation among themselves.

The cybersecurity conference is also consistent with the national strategy for the digital economy of the State of Kuwait and the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, which aims to double the percentage of the digital economy's contribution to the non-oil gross domestic product, in addition to employing and integrating digital technologies into comprehensive government strategies, and integrating all capabilities, infrastructure and opportunities at the local level in line with the dimensions of the national strategic vision for a new Kuwait.

However, the accelerating pace of digital transformation across the region has led to an increase in cyber attacks.

The conference also addresses developments in information and communications technology, the best solutions, programs and new technology, transforming government agencies into smart digital entities and preserving them from cybersecurity risks.

It sheds light on the efforts being exerted in the oil sector, the banking sector, insurance and other important sectors to preserve customer information and to avoid the hacking of their accounts, whether personal, companies or ministries, as well as to preserve the privacy of senior officials who face challenges and work to find solutions and recommendations to be presented to the relevant authorities in the State of Kuwait and the Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

This also takes into account the increasing importance of cybersecurity internationally, based on what was included in the vision of the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries on the importance of strengthening joint action, cooperation and building alliances in the field of cybersecurity in line with the aspirations of the countries of the "Final Statement of the Riyadh Declaration" issued by the work of the 4th session of the Supreme Council in December 2021.

Meanwhile, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of CITRA Omar Al-Omar, in a speech he delivered on behalf of the conference sponsor the Minister of Oil Dr. Saad Al-Barrak, explained that cyber attacks are no longer limited to individuals and institutions. Rather, it goes beyond that to threaten the security of the state and the safety of its facilities and economy, which requires harnessing all technological capabilities, qualifying human resources, and improving the ability to deal with cybersecurity issues, to reduce the cyber risks that threaten the state's economy and national security.

The advanced technical data, their accelerating pace, and the increasing risks of electronic attacks and hacks confirm the urgent need to deal with these risks with all seriousness, find solutions, develop capabilities, and prepare preventive plans to address them.

This highlights the importance of having clear policies to repel the increasing electronic attacks, especially since information security affects the public and private sectors and all institutions operating in any country.

This is necessary due to the tremendous technological progress in the means of communication and information and the diversity of multiple programs for exchanging information and the freedom of its access to its users.

Where is

Continued from Page 1

confusion as a result of the absence of decision-making and the lack of a reliable governmental vision.

This is why everything is disrupted, and the market for slogans, which neither nourishes nor avails hunger, flourishes.

Hence, the undercover agent has become just a slogan launched at a time in order to entertain people or to divert attention from what is happening in state institutions where corruption has become widespread to the extent that it has become difficult to handle, and there is no longer the possibility of reform except through a painful surgical operation.

MPs advance

Continued from Page 1

and evidence presented to support the position of the Defense Ministry and disprove that of the defendants.

He asked if the bank accounts under the name of Kuwait Army Fund and the military offices abroad were determined and if the relevant regulations were enforced to prevent the repetition of previous crimes including embezzlement of some deposits and transferring them to suspicious personal bank accounts.

He wants to know if the ministry commissioned international or local entities specialized in tracking bank accounts related to the fund and overseas military offices, if committees were formed to follow up the cases, and members of these committees and their work experience.

MP Abdullah Al-Anbai asked Minister of Commerce and Industry and State Minister for Youth Affairs Muhammad Al-Aiban about the rationale behind cutting subsidized diesel for fishermen, which resulted in a remarkable increase in fish prices.

Meanwhile, MP Fares Al-Otaibi submitted a proposal to increase the allowance of overseas patients to KD100 per month and KD50 for their companions. MPs Mubarak Al-Hajraf, Bader Nashmi Al-Anzi, Muhammad Al-Hewaila and Saad Al-Asfour signed the proposal.

MP Fayez Al-Jomhour has proposed allowing citizens residing in West Taima'a residential area to build a third floor on their houses at their own expense.

MP Saad Al-Khanfour submitted a proposal to relocate the headquarters of the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) from Rabia residential area to a suitable location. He pointed out that the current location causes massive traffic jams; thereby, changing the nature of Rabia as a private residential area. He suggested handing over the area currently occupied by PAAAFR to the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) for the latter to transform it into the fifth residential block in Rabia.

Moreover, Deputy Assembly Speaker MP Muhammad Al- Mutair revealed that he met with HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah recently; during which His Highness gave valuable pieces of advice and directives, particularly those related to cooperation between the legislative and executive authorities. He quoted HH the Crown Prince as saying that "full satisfaction over the performance of the two authorities is possible only if they address majority of the citizens' demands and realize the nation's ambitions."

He added that after the meeting, he is sure that the Amiri Speech delivered by HH the Crown Prince at the inaugural session of the second round of the 17th parliamentary term was aimed at motivating the two authorities.

Meanwhile, Kuwait Finance Minister Fahad Al-Jarallah said Tuesday cooperation with the National Assembly should continue for the service of the nation and citizens.

Al-Jarallah, in a statement, said he would be meeting with members of the National Assembly's Finance and Economy Committee on Thursday to discuss a government proposal to increase pension for retirees.

This proposal, he added, was at the behest of the political leadership and would be approved in next parliamentary session once completed.

Al-Jarallah said the government would also propose improving living conditions of public and private sectors' workers, and that teams from the Ministry and Public Institute for Social Security were preparing the ground for these proposals.

The Minister also underlined importance of economic reforms to guarantee sustainable financial status of the State, as well as achieving justice and equality among citizens.

"The government approach will encourage citizens to work in the private sectors, which is a major element in the national economy," he said.

'Greater unity

Continued from Page 1

He slammed Israel's "persistence" in its "aggressive and malicious" ideologies, saying the Israeli forces' "acts of violence" remain unabated as they continue to impede the delivery of humanitarian aid to Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, subsequently dashing even the faintest of hopes for peace in the region.

Kuwait's chief lawmaker went on say that Israel continues to get "unlimited backing" in its war against the Palestinians, emphasizing the need for an immediate humanitarian truce in Gaza that would pave the way for the delivery of aid there.

Arab states remain vociferous in their support for the Palestinians, he reiterated, saying peace in the region largely hinges on the end of Israeli violence and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

UN appeals

Continued from Page 1

But he ruled out any general ceasefire without the release of all the hostages, and the White House said there was no agreement on U.S. President Joe Biden's call for a broader humanitarian pause after a phone call between the leaders.

The war has already come at a staggering cost, and Israel unleashed another wave of strikes across the territory on Tuesday. Entire city blocks have been reduced to rubble, and around 70% of Gaza's 2.3 million people have fled their homes, with many heeding Israeli orders to head to the southern part of the besieged territory, which is also being bombed.

Israeli troops have been battling Palestinian militants inside Gaza for over a week, and have succeeded in cutting the territory in half and encircling Gaza City. Food, medicine, fuel and water are running low, and United Nations-run schools-turned-shelters are overflowing.

The Palestinian death toll has surpassed 10,000, the Health Ministry of the Hamas-run Gaza Strip said Monday, including over 4,100 minors. More than 2,300 people are missing and believed to be buried under the rubble of destroyed buildings, the ministry said. The ministry does not distinguish between civilians and combatants, and Israel says it has killed thousands of fighters.

OpenAI unveils

Continued from Page 1

image as having something to do with chicken noodle soup.

"That could lead to some adversarial attacks," Hwang said. "Imagine if you put some offensive text or something like that in an image, you'll end up getting something you don't want."

That's partly why OpenAI has given researchers such as Hwang early access to help discover flaws in its newest tools before their wide release. Altman on Monday described the company's approach as "gradual iterative deployment" that leaves time to address safety risks.

The path to OpenAI's debut DevDay has been an unusual one. Founded as a nonprofit research institute in 2015, it catapulted to worldwide fame just under a year ago with the release of a chatbot that's sparked excitement, fear and a push for international safeguards to guide AI's rapid advancement.

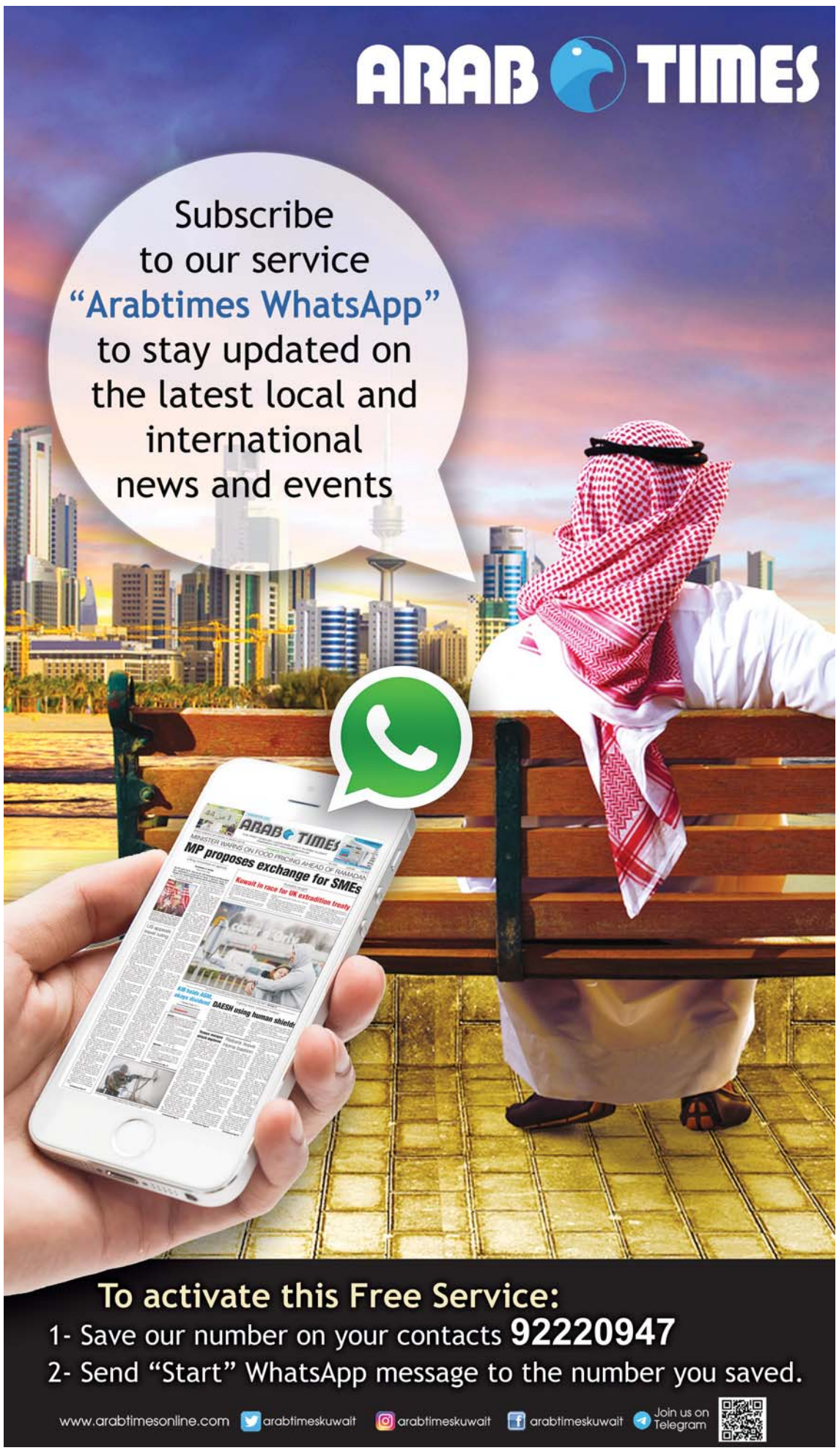
The conference comes a week after President Joe Biden signed an executive order that will set some of the first U.S. guardrails on AI technology.

Using the Defense Production Act, the order requires AI developers likely to include OpenAI, its financial backer Microsoft and competitors such as Google and Meta to share information with the government about AI systems being built with such "high levels of performance" that they could pose serious safety risks.

The order built on voluntary commitments set by the White House that leading AI developers made earlier this year.

A lot of expectation is also riding on the economic promise of the latest crop of generative AI tools that can produce passages of text and novel images, sounds and other media in response to written or spoken prompts.

Altman was briefly joined on stage by Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella, who said amid cheers from the audience "we love you guys."



World News Roundup

Europe

Parliament opens

Law and order focus of UK king's speech

LONDON, Nov 7, (AP): Britain's Conservative government set out a pre-election policy slate including tougher sentences for criminals and promises of elusive economic growth at the grand State Opening of Parliament on Tuesday.

King Charles III read out a speech, written by Prime Minister **Rishi Sunak**'s government, outlining its legislative plans for the next year.

It's almost certainly the last such speech before a national election, and Sunak's first chance to set out major legislative plans since he became prime minister just over a year ago. The last session of Parliament opened in May 2022, when Boris Johnson was prime minister and Queen Elizabeth II sat on the throne.

Sunak

Charles became monarch when his mother died in September 2022, after a 70-year reign. He paid tribute to "my beloved mother" at the start of the first King's - rather than Queen's - Speech since 1951.

The speech gave clues to how the Conservatives plan to campaign in an election that must be called by the end of 2024. The party has been in power since 2010 but opinion polls put the Conservatives as much as 20 points behind the opposition Labour Party.

There was a strong focus on law and order, an area where the Conservatives think they have an edge over left-of-center Labour. The speech included a plan for tougher sentences for serious offenses, including no-parole "life means life" sentences for people convicted of sexual or sadistic murders and an end to early release for serious sexual offenders.

Changes

The speech, which lasted just over 10 minutes, set out the government's modest slate of 21 bills, ranging from changes to the way soccer teams are run to a clampdown on unlicensed pedicabs.

Several laws were touted as "Brexit freedoms" enabled by the UK's exit from the European Union, including less stringent data-protection rules to replace the EU's GDPR, and a ban on exporting live animals for slaughter.

The government also announced plans to continue the watering-down of environmental measures started by Sunak when he lifted a moratorium on North Sea oil and gas extraction in July. A planned law will require new oil and gas drilling licenses in the North Sea to be awarded every year. The government argues that will protect jobs, cut Britain's reliance on foreign fuel and increase energy security.

Environmentalists and opposition parties say it will just make it harder for the UK to make a much-needed switch to renewable energy and to meet its goal of reducing U.K. greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050.

The king, a lifelong champion of green causes, gave no flicker of emotion as he announced the measure. Monarchs are constitutionally obliged to follow the government's advice, and Charles is barred from expressing his view on the measures he read out on behalf of "my government."

"My Ministers' focus is on increasing economic growth and safeguarding the health and security of the British people for generations to come," the king said.

Detailed economic plans were scant, though the speech included legislation aimed at growing, and regulating, sectors including AI and self-driving cars, and a law to open Britain's market to a grouping of Pacific Rim nations as part of a trade agreement, known as the CPTPP, that the UK joined this year.

Raising

There also was legislation to enact Sunak's plan to stop new generations from smoking by gradually raising the minimum age for buying tobacco, so that no one turning 14 this year can ever legally be sold cigarettes.

Several bills were carried over from the last session, including one to bolster protection for renters and a contentious plan to ban public bodies from imposing "politically motivated boycotts of foreign countries" - a law aimed at stopping boycotts of Israel.

The King's Speech was the centerpiece of a parliamentary opening ceremony that reflects the two sides of Britain's constitutional monarchy: royal pomp and political power.

The day began with scarlet-clad yeomen of the guard searching Parliament's cellars for explosives, a reference to the 1605 Gunpowder Plot in which Roman Catholic rebels led by Guy Fawkes tried to blow up the building with the Protestant King James I inside.

The king traveled from Buckingham Palace in a gilded horse-drawn carriage, past a few dozen anti-monarchy protesters holding signs reading "Not my king." He read the speech from a golden throne, wearing the Robe of State and the Imperial State Crown, encrusted with almost 3,000 diamonds.

Hundreds of lawmakers and red-robed members of the House of Lords packed Parliament's unelected upper chamber for the speech. Monarchs have been barred from entering the House of Commons since King Charles I tried to arrest lawmakers there in 1642 - an act of royal overreach that led to civil war and the monarchy's temporary overthrow.

Also:

WARSAW, Poland: Poland's president on Monday tapped outgoing Prime Minister **Mateusz Morawiecki** to try to form a new government even though his Law and Justice party lost its parliamentary majority in a national election three weeks ago.

The decision by President **Andrzej Duda** was likely to delay formation of a new government in Poland, the fifth most populous country in the European Union, because the opposition won enough votes in the Oct 15 election to take control of Parliament and oust the nationalist and conservative government after eight years in power.

Duda, an ally of the current government, said Law and Justice should get the first chance to form a government since it remains the country's biggest party. If Morawiecki fails, it will be up to Parliament to propose a prime minister and he will immediately endorse the candidate, the president added.

"Following a calm analysis and consultations I have decided to task Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki with the mission of forming a government," Duda said in a televised address. "I decided to continue the good parliamentary tradition according to which the winning party is the first to be given the opportunity to form a government."

Britain's King Charles III sits besides Queen Camilla during the State Opening of Parliament at the Palace of Westminster in London on Nov 7. King Charles III sits on a gilded throne and reads out the King's Speech, a list of planned laws drawn up by the Conservative government and aimed at winning over voters ahead of an election next year. Inset: Charles III pauses during the State Opening of Parliament. (AP)

This undated family handout photo provided on Nov 2 shows six-month-old Indi Gregory. Italy's government on Monday granted Italian citizenship to an eight-month-old terminally ill British girl after a court in Britain upheld rulings authorizing the withdrawal of life-supporting invasive treatment. Baby Indi Gregory's situation is the latest in a series of cases in Britain in which doctors and parents have sparred over the treatment of terminally ill children. The Vatican's pediatric hospital, Bambino Gesu, in Rome has offered to care for Indi Gregory. (AP)

Boylan

Adelson

America

Cop acquitted in McClain death: Elijah McClain's mother wiped tears from her eyes as a verdict was read Monday acquitting a second Denver-area police officer in the 2019 death of her son.

Two of three officers to face trial so far avoided prison time after being found not guilty, leaving Sheneen McClain and police reform advocates still searching for justice. Elijah McClain's death fueled national outrage about racial injustice in policing after the 23-year-old Black man was put in a neck hold and injected with an overdose of ketamine after police stopped him as he walked home from a convenience store.

In the most recent trial, a 12-person jury found Aurora officer Nathan Woodyard, who put McClain in the neck hold, not guilty of homicide and manslaughter following a weekslong trial in state district court. He faced years in prison if convicted.

Sheneen McClain sat in the front row of the courtroom and left with a fist raised high, just as she did after the first trial last month against two other officers. She declined to comment, but a supporter who accompanied her called the verdict "pathetic" and a sign that the justice system was not changing. (AP)

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Capt guilty of 'manslaughter': A scuba dive boat captain was convicted Monday of criminal negligence in the deaths of 34 people killed in a fire aboard the vessel in 2019, the deadliest maritime disaster in recent US history.

Jerry Boylan, 69, was found guilty of one count of misconduct or neglect of ship officer following a 10-day trial in federal court in downtown Los Angeles. The charge is a pre-Civil War statute colloquially known as seaman's manslaughter that was designed to hold steamboat captains and crew responsible for maritime disasters.

Boylan is the only person to face criminal charges connected to the fire. He could get 10 years behind bars when he's sentenced Feb. 8, though he can appeal. His public defenders declined to comment as they left the courthouse. (AP)

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Chicago suburb drops citations: Officials in a suburban Chicago community on Monday dropped municipal citations against a local news reporter for what they said were persistent contacts with city officials seeking comment on treacherous fall flooding.

The reversal occurred days after officials in Calumet City mailed several citations to Hank Sanders, a Daily Southtown reporter whose job includes covering the suburb, the Chicago Tribune reported Monday. The Southtown is owned by the Tribune's parent company,

The tickets from the city of 35,000, located 24 miles (39 kilometers) south of Chicago, had alleged "interference/hampering of city employees" by Sanders.(AP)

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Dentist convicted in slaying: A jury on Monday convicted a Florida dentist of murder in the shooting death of his former brother-in-law, a prominent professor outside his Tallahassee home in 2014 following a bitter custody battle with the dentist's sister.

The verdict signaled jurors believed the prosecutors' contentions that the defendant, **Charles Adelson**, paid to have Florida State University law professor Dan Markel killed that year.

Adelson was convicted of first-degree murder, conspiracy to commit first-degree murder and solicitation of first-degree murder, The Tallahassee Democrat reported after jurors returned their verdict Monday afternoon. (AP)

Politics

Filing period for 2024 election kicks off

Biden, Trump qualify for Arkansas ballot

LITTLE ROCK, Ark, Nov 7, (AP): US President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump qualified for the Arkansas ballot on Monday as the filing period for next year's election in the state kicked off.

Dozens of candidates filled the state Capitol rotunda to make their bids official for the state's primary and nonpartisan judicial elections, which will be held on March 5. The filing period ends Nov. 14.

Representatives for Biden and Trump's campaigns, along with ones representing Republican hopefuls Vivek Ramaswamy, Ron DeSantis and Nikki Haley, filed paperwork. Former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson, who launched his bid in April, is expected to file his paperwork in person but has not said when.

Running

Republican Secretary of State John Thurston was the first to file, making his candidacy for state treasurer official. Thurston is running to complete the two years left on the term of Treasurer Mark Lowery, who died in July.

"This will be more than likely my last opportunity to be a part of the filing process and be over this, and I just wanted to be the first one and be available for the rest of this week as the process continues," Thurston told reporters.

Republicans hold all statewide and federal offices in Arkansas, and Trump easily won the state in the 2016 and 2020 presidential elections.

Democrats head into the election hoping to break Republicans' hold on the Legislature. The GOP holds 82 of the 100 seats in the House and 29 of the 35 seats in the Senate. All 100 House seats and 18 Senate seats are up next year.

"I think our goal remains the same as it's always been," Democratic Party Chairman Grant Tennille said. "We've got to break the legislative supermajority, we just have to."

Republicans believe they could pick up more seats next year.

"In those supermajority numbers, our first goal is to make sure our incumbents or incumbent held seats ... have the resources they need at filing to still have those seats when filing is done," Republican Party of Arkansas Executive Director Seth Mays said. "The other prong of course is winning seats that aren't held by Republicans."

Three Democrats filed to run for US House seats held by Republicans. They include Rodney Govens, who is running for the 1st District seat held by Rep. Rick Crawford; Marcus Jones, who is running for the 2nd District seat held by Rep French Hill; and Caitlin Draper, who is running for the 3rd District seat held by Steve Womack.

No Democrat has announced plans to run against Rep. Bruce Westerman in the 4th Congressional District. Representatives of Hill and Westerman's campaign filed paperwork Monday.

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Arkansas Gov **Sarah Huckabee** Sanders, who served as former President **Donald Trump**'s press secretary, on Monday endorsed his bid for the Republican presidential nomination.

Sanders, who took office in January as Arkansas governor after a campaign where she touted her endorsement from the former president, planned to join Trump at a rally in Florida on Wednesday, Trump said in a statement.

"It's not a question between right versus left anymore. It's normal versus crazy, and President **Biden** and the left are doubling down on crazy," Sanders said in a statement. "The time has come to return to the normal policies of the Trump era which created a safer, stronger, and more prosperous America, and that's why I am proud to endorse Donald Trump for President."

Trump lashes out from witness stand at judge, NY attorney gen

NEW YORK, Nov 7, (AP): A defiant Donald Trump sparred with a New York judge and slammed the state attorney general suing him Monday, using the witness stand at his civil fraud trial to defend his riches and lash out at a case that imperils his real estate empire.

The former president's barbed testimony spurred the judge to admonish, "This is not a political rally."

Trump's long-awaited testimony about property valuations and financial statements was punctuated by personal jabs at state Judge Arthur Engoron, who he said was biased against him, and New York Attorney General Letitia James, whom he derided as a "political hack." He proudly boasted of his real estate business - "I'm worth billions of dollars more than the financial statements" - and disputed claims that he had deceived banks and insurers.

"This is the opposite of fraud," he declared. Referring to James, a Democrat whose office brought the lawsuit, he said, "The fraud is her."

The testy exchanges and frequent rebukes from the judge underscored Trump's unwillingness to adapt his famously freewheeling rhetorical style to a formal courtroom setting governed by rules of evidence and legal protocol. His presence on the stand was a vivid reminder of the legal troubles he faces as he vies to reclaim the White House in 2024.

It also functioned as a campaign platform for the former president and leading Republican presidential candidate to raise anew to supporters his claims of political persecution at the hands of government lawyers and judges.

"People are sick and tired of what's happening. I think it is a very sad day for America," Trump told reporters outside the courtroom after roughly three-and-a-half hours on the stand.

The fraud case doesn't carry the prospect of prison as Trump's upcoming criminal cases do. But its allegations of financial impropriety cut to the very heart of the brand he spent decades crafting.

Former US President Donald Trump, (center), flanked by his defense attorneys, Alina Habba, (left), and Chris Kise, waits for the continuation of his civil business fraud trial at New York Supreme Court on Oct 25, in New York. (AP)

A motorcyclist drives wearing pollution mask amid smog in New Delhi, India on Nov 7. Masks are back on the streets as residents of the capital city grapple with the annual surge in air pollution that has engulfed the region. (AP)

Africa

22 peacekeepers hurt

Sudan's army conflict getting closer to South

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 7, (AP): The "unprecedented" conflict between Sudan's army and rival paramilitary force now in its seventh month is getting closer to South Sudan and the disputed Abyei region, the UN special envoy for the Horn of Africa warned Monday.

Hanna Serwaa Tetteh pointed to the paramilitary Rapid Support Force's recent seizures of the airport and oil field in Belila, about 55 kilometers (34 miles) southwest of the capital of Sudan's West Kordofan State.

She told the UN Security Council that the conflict "is profoundly affecting bilateral relations between Sudan and South Sudan, with significant humanitarian, security, economic and political consequences that are a matter of deep concern among the South Sudanese political leadership."

Tetteh

Sudan was plunged into chaos in mid-April when simmering tensions between the military and the RSF exploded into open warfare in the capital, Khartoum, and other areas across the East African nation.

More than 9,000 people have been killed, according to the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data project, which tracks Sudan's war. And the fighting has driven over 4.5 million people to flee their homes to other places inside Sudan and more than 1.2 million to seek refuge in neighboring countries, the UN says. Sudan plunged into turmoil after its leading military figure, Gen Abdel-Fattah Burhan, led a coup in October 2021 that upended a short-run democratic transition following three decades of autocratic rule by Omar al-Bashir. Since mid-April, his troops have been fighting the RSF, commanded by Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo.

Both sides have been taking part in talks aimed at ending the conflict in the Saudi coastal city of Jeddah, brokered by Saudi Arabia and the United States, since late October. But fighting has continued.

The Security Council meeting focused on the U.N. peacekeeping force in the oil-rich Abyei region, whose status was unresolved after South Sudan became independent from Sudan in 2011. The region's majority Ngok Dinka people favor South Sudan, while the Misseriya nomads who come to Abyei to find pasture for their cattle favor Sudan.

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22 UN peacekeepers injured: Twenty-two UN peacekeepers in a convoy withdrawing from a rebel stronghold in northern Mali were injured when their vehicles hit improvised explosive devices on two occasions on Saturday, the United Nations said Monday.

There have now been six incidents since the peacekeepers left their base in Kidal on Oct. 31 for the estimated 350 kilometer (220-mile) trip to Gao, injuring a total of at least 39 peacekeepers, U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said.

Eight peacekeepers were injured by improvised explosive devices last Wednesday and seven early Friday, he said, and at least two peacekeepers were injured in two earlier IED attacks.

Dujarric said the 22 peacekeepers injured Saturday had to be evacuated by air to receive treatment in Gao.

In June, Mali's military junta, which overthrew the democratically elected president in 2021, ordered the nearly 15,000-strong UN peacekeeping force known as MINUSMA to leave after a decade of working on stemming a jihadi insurgency.

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Fire at Canadian High Commission kills 2: A fire at the Canadian High Commission in Nigeria's capital killed two people and injured two others, the local emergency services said Monday.

The fire broke out in the morning while workers were servicing generators, said Nkechi Isa, spokeswoman for the State Emergency Management Agency in Abuja. The two killed were Nigerian maintenance workers, she said.

"The fire occurred when the tank of diesel in the generator house containing 2,000 liters exploded," Isa said.

Two maintenance workers were being treated for severe burns, she said.

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Militants kill 11 farmers: Islamic rebels killed 11 farmers and abducted several others in Nigeria's northeast, locals and authorities said Monday, the latest of several such attacks that analysts say threaten food supplies in the hard-hit region.

The rebels attacked the farmers as they worked in their fields in Borno state's Jere district Sunday evening before beheading them and shooting and wounding others as they escaped, according to Dauda Ibrahim, a resident in the area.

"About six of the farmers that were killed are from the same family," said Dauda.

Borno police spokesman Daso Nahum confirmed the attack but could not further provide further details, saying the police chief in the state is in the area to assess the situation.

The attacks have raised fears of worsening hunger in the troubled region where 4.4 million face acute hunger, according to the UN World Food Program.

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Heavy rains kill 30 in Kenya, Somalia: Heavy rains and flash flooding have killed at least 30 people and displaced tens of thousands in Kenya and Somalia, aid agencies reported Monday.

In Somalia, the federal government declared a national emergency after the extreme weather killed at least 14 people and destroyed homes, roads and bridges. Emergency and rescue workers were trying to reach an estimated 2,400 residents trapped by flood waters in the Luuq district of southern Somalia's Jubaland state.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs warned of a high risk of flooding along the Juba and Shabelle rivers and called for the evacuation of people living along the entire stretch of the Juba.

The heavy rains in Somalia follow four consecutive years of drought that pushed the country to the brink of famine.

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'W.Tigray will be settled in referendum': Ethiopia's federal government says the future of contested land in its northern Tigray region will be settled by a referendum, and hundreds of thousands of forcibly displaced people will be returned. Monday's announcement came one year after a cease-fire ended a devastating civil war there.

The disputed status of western Tigray, a patch of fertile land bordering Sudan, was a key flashpoint in the two-year conflict between the Tigray People's Liberation Front, or TPLF, and the federal government.

A staff member holds a flounder from Fukushima at Sakana Bacca, a seafood retailer, on Oct 31 in Tokyo. Fishing communities in Fukushima feared devastating damage to their businesses from the tsunami-wrecked nuclear power plant's ongoing discharge of treated radioactive wastewater into the sea. Instead, they're seeing increased consumer support as people eat more fish, a movement in part helped by China's ban on Japanese seafood. (AP)

Rocha

Obrador

Lat/Am

1 child dead, 3 exposed to fentanyl: A one-year-old child died and a four-year-old has recovered after being exposed to the deadly synthetic opioid fentanyl in the drug-plagued northern Mexico state of Sinaloa, authorities said Monday.

The state's governor acknowledged that so far this year, a total of four children have been treated for exposure to fentanyl in Sinaloa, Mexico's best-known drug-trafficking state and home to the cartel of the same name.

But Gov **Ruben Rocha** sought to downplay the issue at a news conference Monday, saying that so far "only one child has died, the other three didn't." He also at one point claimed there was no fentanyl in his state, despite its reputation for being a major producer.

Rocha said the kids may have been exposed through contact with an addict or someone who worked in a clandestine fentanyl pill-pressing workshop, which are common in the state and which press fentanyl powder into fake pills made to look like Oxycontin, Valium, Xanax or other medications.

Many people in the United States have died because they took pills they didn't know contained fentanyl. Fentanyl addiction is still rare in Mexico, because the pills go for export.

Rocha claimed that fentanyl "is not allowed in" to Sinaloa state. "There is no fentanyl, what is known as the active substance," he told the news conference, echoing claims made by President **Andrés Manuel López Obrador.**

However, experts agree that Mexican cartels import precursor chemicals from China, process them into fentanyl and then ship pills to the United States.

Rocha said there were no drug "laboratories" in his state, though he conceded there were drug "workshops." And when he described one of these suspected workshops, he appeared to marvel at the sophistication of the traffickers in how they mix various ingredients together. "This is to give the pill color, that is to avoid stomach aches for those who use it, this is to avoid giving users headaches - all this the traffickers are careful about," Rocha said. (AP)

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400K customers still in the dark: At least 400,000 customers in Brazil's biggest city still had no electricity Monday, three days after a violent storm plunged millions into darkness around Sao Paulo, the power distribution company Enel said.

The storm, with winds of up to 100 kph (62 mph), caused at least seven deaths, authorities said, and uprooted many large trees, some of which fell on power lines, blacking out entire neighborhoods. At one point on Friday, 4.2 million residents had no power, the newspaper Folha de S. Paulo reported. In some apartment buildings, condo associations delivered bottles of drinking water to older residents.

José Eraudo Júnior, administrator of a 15-floor building in Sao Paulo's Butanta neighborhood that didn't get power back until Monday evening, said electricity went out for all 430 apartments Friday night.

Water in the roof tanks ran out by Saturday evening, while underground reserves could not be tapped because there was no power to run the pumps, he said.

On Sunday, residents were using buckets or empty bottles to collect water from the building's swimming pool to flush their toilets, he added. With elevators out of service, some had to carry the water up 15 floors by foot.

"It's not very common to see such a big power outage," Eduardo Júnior said by phone. "Three days without electricity - nobody remembers such a thing."

Enel Distribuição São Paulo, one of three companies providing electricity in Sao Paulo, said in a statement Monday afternoon that it had restored power to 1.7 million of its 2.1 million customers affected by the storm, or just over 80%. It said electricity would be reestablished for almost everyone by Tuesday. "The windstorm that hit the concession area ... was the strongest in recent years and caused severe damage to the distribution network," Enel said. (AP)

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Zapatista dissolves 'municipalities': The Zapatista indigenous rebel movement in southern Mexico said in a statement posted Monday it is dissolving the "autonomous municipalities" it declared in the years following the group's 1994 armed uprising.

The Zapatistas led a brief rebellion to demand greater Indigenous rights, and since then have remained in their "autonomous" townships in the southern state of Chiapas, refusing government aid programs.

In the statement, dated "November" and signed by rebel Subcommander Moises, the group cited waves of gang violence that have hit the area of Chiapas that borders Guatemala, but did not say whether that was a reason for dissolving the townships. The area held by the Zapatistas includes areas near the border. There is also a possibility the changes may be related to the upcoming 2024 presidential election. The movement has run candidates in the past.

"In upcoming statements, we will describe the reasons and the processes involved in taking this decision," the statement said. "We will also begin explaining what the new structure of Zapatista autonomy will look like, and how it was arrived at." (AP)

India

Masks back, schools shut as toxic air engulfs Delhi

India states vote in key test for oppn, PM

NEW DELHI, Nov 7, (AP): Two Indian states began voting in local elections on Tuesday in a test of strength for India's opposition, which is pitted against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling party ahead of a crucial national vote scheduled for next year.

The elections in central Chhattisgarh and northeastern Mizoram states, along with polls in three others states over the next three weeks, are expected to give an indication of voter mood before India's political parties gear up for nationwide elections in 2024 in which Modi is eyeing a third consecutive term.

A second round of voting in Chhattisgarh will be held on Nov. 17 along with polls in central Madhya Pradesh state. Polls in two more states, western Rajasthan and southern Telangana, will be held Nov. 23 and Nov. 30. Votes in all five states will be counted on Dec. 3 and results will be declared the same day.

Power

The Indian National Congress, India's main opposition party, holds power in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party rules Madhya Pradesh and its regional ally is in power in Mizoram. Telangana is ruled by a strong regional party.

The Congress party also leads the INDIA alliance, which is aiming to keep Modi's increasingly powerful sway at bay. The acronym, which stands for Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance, comprises India's previously fractured opposition parties.

Modi and leaders of the Congress party headed by Rahul Gandhi have traveled across the five states in a charged-up election campaign trying to woo voters by promising them subsidies, loan waivers and employment guarantees.

Modi and his party remain popular nationally after nearly a decade in power and surveys suggest he is expected to win a third term as prime minister. But his party is expected to face tough challenges in all five state polls where issues like rising unemployment and commodity price increases are likely to play on voters' minds.

Meanwhile, the Congress party hopes to revive its fortunes in these states ahead of the national polls next year. It has announced welfare schemes for women and farmers in states where it is in a direct contest with Modi's party.

The local polls will also test the INDIA alliance's strength after it came together to take on Modi in July.

During his nine years in power, Modi has consolidated his party's reach in north and central India. But the party has faced tough challenges in states where regional parties hold influence.

In recent polls, Congress toppled local BJP governments in state elections in southern Karnataka and northern Himachal Pradesh, denting the ruling party's image of invincibility.

Modi will seek reelection next year at a time when India's global diplomatic reach is rising. However, his rule at home has coincided with a struggling economy, rising unemployment, attacks by Hindu nationalists against the country's minorities, particularly Muslims, and a shrinking space for dissent and free media.

Also:

NEW DELHI: A toxic blanket of grey smog hangs over New Delhi's monuments and high-rises. Schools have been ordered shut and construction banned. People are back to wearing masks.

In the Indian capital, it is that time of the year again. Authorities are struggling to rein in severe air pollution levels, an annual and chronic health crisis that disrupts the lives of over 20 million in the city every year.

On Tuesday, the air quality index veered close to the 400 mark for tiny particulate matter, a level considered hazardous and more than 10 times the global safety threshold, according to SAFAR, **India's** main environmental monitoring agency. It's the fifth consecutive day of bad air in the region.

"There's too much smog. I'm watching the air quality index and I'm scared about this climate," said **Srinivas Rao,** a visitor from **Andhra Pradesh** state who donned a mask as he took a morning walk near the city's India Gate monument.

Authorities have deployed water sprinklers and anti-smog guns to control the haze and announced a fine of 20,000 rupees ($240) for drivers found using gasoline and diesel cars, buses and trucks that create smog. Meanwhile, doctors have advised residents to wear masks and avoid outdoors as much as possible because the smog could trigger respiratory infections, flu and asthma attacks.

The pollution also threatens to disrupt the ongoing Cricket World Cup, hosted by India, after the Sri Lankan team had to cancel their training session in New Delhi over the weekend, before they faced **Bangladesh** on Monday at the Arun Jaitley Stadium.

Demand for air purifiers has risen in the past week, local media reported.

Residents like Renu Aggarwal, 55, are worried the smog will worsen as Diwali, the Hindu festival of light that features the lighting of firecrackers, approaches this weekend. Her daughter has a pollen allergy that worsens with pollution.

"She cannot breathe. Even though we keep the doors and windows shut in our home, the pollution still affects her so much that even going to the washroom is difficult for her. And she gets breathless," she said.

New Delhi tops the list almost every year of many Indian cities with poor air quality, particularly in the winter, when the burning of crop residues in neighboring states coincides with cooler temperatures that trap hazardous smoke.

The burning of crop remnants at the start of the winter wheat-sowing season is a key contributor to the pollution in north India. Authorities have been trying to discourage farmers by offering cash incentives to buy machines to do the job. But smoke from crop burning still accounts for 25% of the pollution in New Delhi, according to the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology in Pune.

New Delhi saw a sharp 32% rise in tiny particles in the air between 2019 and 2020, a dip of 43.7 % in 2021, and a steady increase in 2022 and 2023, according to Respirer Living Sciences, an organization that monitors air quality and other environmental factors.

Mourners lay flowers outside the Royal Hotel in Daylesford, Australia on Nov 6. A car crashed into an Australian pub's outdoor dining area, killing and injuring multiple people, officials said on Monday. (AP)

Students from the International British School pose for a group photo during their visit at Dasman Diabetes Institute.

Students provided with diabetes prevention lectures

Dasman Diabetes Institute hosts school visit

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 7: Dasman Diabetes Institute (DDI), founded by Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, recently received a group of students from the International British School. The students were provided with diabetes prevention lectures by the diabetes educators and nutritionists as well as physical activity training by the medical fitness team at the institute to raise the students' awareness. In addition, the students were taken on a general tour at the institute to brief them about the ongoing activities and projects at DDI.

Holding such events and activities stems from DDI's mission statement, where health promotion and awareness are a priority for the Institute. Since its establishment in 2006, the Institute has been organizing and taking part in many events and campaigns to shed light on diabetes and its related conditions. This is in accordance with the Institute's belief that, Prevention is better than cure.

Kala (Art) Kuwait to celebrate 19th Anniversary

'NIRAM 2023' Children's Day Painting Competition shifted to 'online platform'

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 7: Kala (Art) Kuwait presents "NIRAM-2023" Children's Day Painting Competition will be held on Friday, 10th November 2023 in Online Platform, in view of the recent announcement by the Kuwait Ministry regarding halting all celebrations and concerts until further notice.

Kala (Art) Kuwait scheduled the program on the occasion of Children's Day celebration by marking the birth day of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the First Prime Minister of India. Kala (Art) Kuwait is delighted to celebrate 19th Anniversary of "NIRAM" Painting Competition which is opened for all students of Indian Schools in Kuwait.

The online registration is full swing and it will be continued until 9th November 2023. Online registration facility is available through the websitewww.kalakuwait.net and the Link: https://www.kalakuwait.net/niram2023/regniram2023.php

Painting Competition

The Painting Competition will be conducted in four different age groups. Group 'A" from LKG to 1stStandard, Group 'B" from 2nd to 4th Standard, Group 'C" from 5th to 7th Standard and Group 'D" from 8th to 12th Standard. The media for Group 'A" and 'B" will be Crayons or Color Pencil while Group"C" and 'D" are Water Colors. The Competition duration will be 2 hours starting 2:00pm to 4:00pm and for uploading drawings from 4:00pm to 4:30pm.Students can use A3 or A4 Size drawing paper.

Subjects for all groups will be provided One hour before the competition starts through the Website: www.kalakuwait.net and by email also to the participants. Prominent artists from Kuwait will control the competition.

Kala (Art) Kuwait, emphasize the exclusive prizes for the winners as first place with gold coin & gold medal, second place with silver medal and third place with bronze medal along with memento & certificate. Besides the 1st, 2nd,&3rd, there will be 75 participants to Merit Prizes and Ten (10) percent of the participants will be awarded with consolation prizes.

You don't always have to say 'yes'

Five strategies for navigating current digital tipping culture

By Kimberly Palmer
NerdWallet

The nearly universal experience of finding yourself face-to-face with a checkout counter screen asking you to select an amount to tip for service can prompt a cascade of awkward questions: How much should you tip on a $5 coffee if anything? How can you decide before the cup has even been poured? Is it rude to select "no tip," then slink away with your drink?

The answers to those questions vary depending on whom you ask, but tipping experts agree on one thing: We get prompted to tip much more frequently these days, largely because of the explosion of cashless payment methods with automated tipping options. Another thing they agree on: You don't always have to say "yes."

"During the pandemic and post-pandemic, we've seen a dramatic shift in the way tips are given. Suddenly, you see tablets where you are prompted to give specific tip amounts at points of purchase where never before would anyone have dreamed of giving a tip," says Thomas Farley, also known as "Mister Manners," a New York-based etiquette expert and keynote speaker.

"Consumers want to be dutiful, good consumers, so many play along, but still feel confused," Farley adds. To sort out that confusion, consider following these five strategies for navigating current tipping culture:

Brush off any awkwardness

While you might feel put on the spot with the sudden appearance of the tipping screen at a checkout counter, Farley says you should feel justified in taking your time and making the best decision for you and your budget.

"Most servers I witness try to give you your space while you decide. Own your decision knowing you are fully supported by good etiquette guidelines either way," he says.

"We are living through inflationary times when everything costs more. Unless you have tons of disposable income, you shouldn't feel guilty about not tipping" at a checkout counter, even if an iPad tells you to, Farley adds.

Aim to tip 20% for most services

While tipping isn't traditional at a coffee shop or convenience store counter, it is expected when you're being served at a restaurant, where 20% is customary. Hairstylists, salon assistants, food delivery drivers and other service workers generally rely on similar percentage tips as a significant portion of their income.

Blake Hammerton, Dallas-based founder of The Sharp Gentleman, a coaching and lifestyle website for men, suggests adding 20% or rounding up to an even dollar amount for most services. As a former pizza delivery worker, he says he always appreciated tips based on the amount of effort he had to put into the job, including distance driven and the amount of food delivered. "Five dollars is great if it's close by and a small amount, but if it's eight pizzas for a party, you'll want to tip more," he says.

Carry some cash for traditional tipping

Lisa Mirza Grotts, an etiquette expert in the San Francisco Bay area, says that while many consumers no longer carry much cash, it's still useful to have some on hand in certain situations, such as when tipping a hotel housekeeper or valet. She suggests keeping $5 and $10 bills handy, especially when you travel.

There's also a time for larger bills. When you're tipping on a big-ticket service, such as a $5,000 house move, Farley recommends having a few $100 bills on hand to pass out to the workers at the end. "There's no need to tip 20%, but $100 would go a long way," he says.

At the end of the year, Farley suggests tipping each service provider, such as a hairstylist, barber or nail technician, the equivalent of the cost of one visit, whether it's $30 or $300. "Cash is king," he says, adding that you can include a notecard with the tip.

For in-home service providers, such as a nanny or housekeeper, the end-of-year tip is generally one week's pay, Farley says. And if you're not sure how much to tip a service provider, he encourages an informal polling of neighbors since the answer can depend on location.

Consider your budget

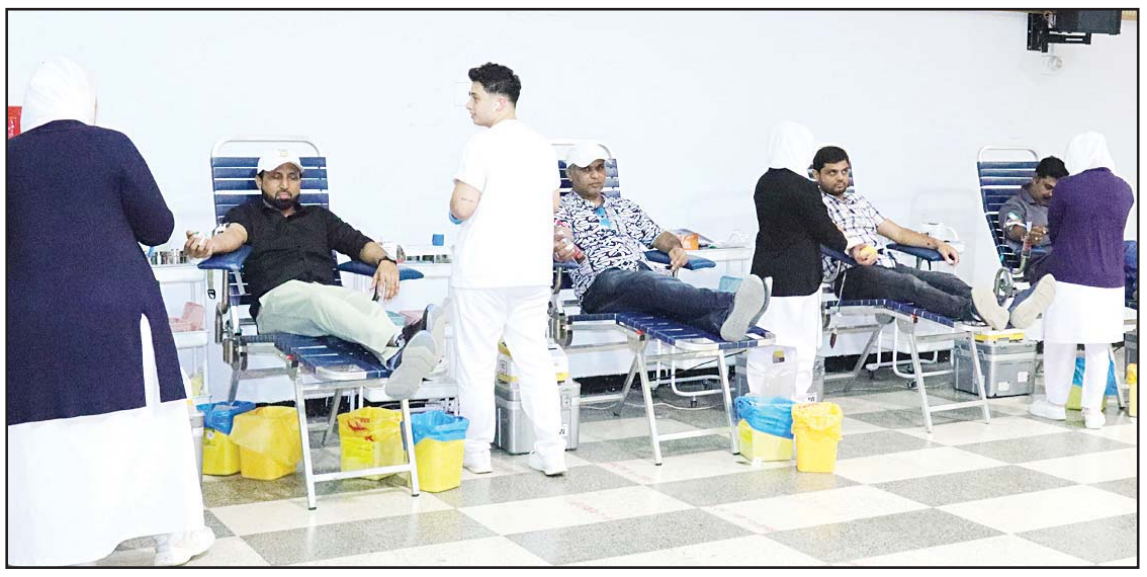
Marianne Nolte, a certified financial planner and founder of the firm Imagine Financial Services based in Lake Havasu City, Arizona, was recently shocked by a prompt to tip while purchasing a smoothie at a drive-through window. "It felt excessive," she says. "It was a drive-through, not a sit-down restaurant."

"If tipping is expected and it's too expensive, we do have other choices," she says, noting that she could make her own smoothie at home to avoid the pressure to tip.

Ellie Austin-Williams, author of the forthcoming book "Money Talks: A Lifestyle Guide for Financial Wellbeing," similarly encourages consumers to protect their budget from tipping-creep. "Just because the option is there to tip, don't always feel you have to take it. Businesses are there to encourage us to spend more money, and it's on you to manage your money. You've got to look after your own finances," she says.

Embrace the joy of tipping

When you've received excellent service and you want to reward the people who provided it, tipping can be a positive experience - and no one leaves feeling awkward. (AP)



Photos during the Indian Community School, Kuwait (ICSK) blood donation drive.

'Small acts when multiplied by millions of people can transform the world'

ICSK-organized blood donation drive an initiative to save lives

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 7: School is a place where values are cultivated and lives transformed. The Indian Community School, Kuwait (ICSK) has always prioritized social responsibilities and is committed to the welfare of the community. With the motive of encouraging young leaders to become ambassadors of humanity, a spectrum of activities is conducted throughout the academic year. These activities not only foster empathy and hone leadership skills but also enable the children realize how their actions can have a positive impact on the world.

Continuing our culture of being trendsetters in various curricular and co – curricular fields, The Indian Community School, Kuwait takes pride in being the first ever Indian School in Kuwait to organize Blood Donation Drive. The drive conducted on Wednesday, 1st November 2023 aimed at raising awareness about the importance of blood donation and dispelling myths regarding it. The event was graced by a highly passionate team of medical staff of 13 nurses led by Dr. Eman Monir, Central World Bank, Kuwait. The team was welcomed with great reverence and pride by the staff and the students.

The inaugural function began with the Islamic prayer invoking the blessings of the Almighty. Motivating the students to be life - saving donors in the future, Dr. V. Binumon, Principal and Senior Administrator of ICSK presented a cordial welcome to the gathering. Dr. Eman Monir, in her address, threw light upon how each blood donation contributes significantly to the country's health care system.Vote of Thanks proposed by Mrs. Susan Rajesh, Vice Principal of ICSK Senior drew curtain to the inaugural ceremony and stated the commencement of the blood donation drive.

165 members of the ICSK family comprising of parents and staff registered to be donors and contribute to the noble cause. Maliha Tanwar Alam, student of class XII voluntarily donated blood and set an example for her schoolmates to follow.The overwhelming amount of support displayed by the parents, students and staff of ICSK family during the blood donation drive was an uplifting and inspiring experience for the young pillars. A photograph of parent – donor along with their ward was taken to capture the precious moment.

Students of each class were provided with an opportunity to witness the proceedings of blood donation giving them an insight into the benefits of blood donation, the procedure involved and the medical conditions required. They appreciated the unwavering support and dedication of the medical team who work tirelessly to save the lives of the people. Each donor was thanked profusely for their spirit and generosity and for being exemplary figures for others.

One blood donation can save as many as three lives and the power to save lives is in the palm of our hands. With the notable participation of the parents, students and faculty members, the blood donation drive led by Chief Coordinator, Dr. Waseem Pathan was a resounding success. With new milestones to achieve in its journey, the Indian Community School, Kuwait will continue to take initiatives to serve humanity and the world at large.

AUK pioneers as host of IEEEXtreme 17.0 competition

Group photo during the American University of Kuwait's IEEEXtreme 17.0 competition.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 7: The American University of Kuwait (AUK) hosted the IEEEXtreme 17.0 competition this year, achieving a significant milestone as the only university in Kuwait to undertake this prestigious event.

IEEEXtreme is a global programming competition that challenges young minds to solve complex problems under tight time constraints. It attracts participants from around the world, encouraging teamwork, problem-solving, and innovation.

Throughout the 24-hour marathon, three teams representing AUK and Kuwait Technical College (Ktech) showcased their exceptional coding abilities. The AUK team, Golden Camel, finished first in Kuwait. The members of the winning team were Anas Dahshan, Alexandre Meulien, and Adnan Kazi.

This event not only provided an opportunity for participants to test their coding prowess but also served as a platform for networking and knowledge exchange among students, faculty, and professionals. The competition highlights AUK's commitment to fostering a culture of innovation, collaboration, and academic excellence.

AUK holds a deep sense of pride in its role as a contributor to the global community of young innovators. The University's unwavering commitment lies in the cultivation of its students' talents and aspirations, persistently offering them opportunities to excel, not only on a national platform but also on the international stage.

oil down

The price of Kuwaiti oil went down by USD 1.39 to USD 89.89 per barrel on Monday as opposed to USD 91.28 per barrel last Friday, said the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) Tuesday.

The prices of the Brent crude and West Texas Intermediate both rose by 29 and 31 cents respectively, reaching each USD 85.18 per barrel and USD 80.82 pb. (KUNA)

KIB wins tender to manage real estate portfolio for Zakat House

Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced that it has won a tender to manage the real estate portfolio for Zakat House Kuwait. This important achievement reflects the leadership of the Bank's Property Management Department in providing comprehensive and distinguished real estate services to all customers. This comes in line with KIB's commitment to its vital role and its reliance on its accumulated expertise in managing and developing portfolios in the governmental sector and other diverse portfolios.

Commenting on the occasion, Yousef Al-Ojail, Manager of Property Management at KIB, said: "This tender is a testament to the confidence placed in KIB by Zakat House Kuwait as a reliable and trusted partner. The Zakat House real estate portfolio, which will be managed by KIB, includes a group of investment commercial properties located in different areas across Kuwait."

Al-Ojail praised the high levels of expertise and professionalism exhibited by the KIB Property Management team, as well as their impressive track record of achievements and successes over the past years. He also mentioned that he will work on developing the assets of this portfolio, increasing its annual revenue and income. This will involve various tasks such as maintenance work, supervision of maintenance companies for the properties within the Zakat House portfolio, attracting bids from these companies, contracting with them, disbursing their payments, and overseeing issues related to properties and tenants.

Yousef Al-Ojail, Manager of Property Management at KIB

Market Movements 07-11-2023

			Change	Closing pts					Change	Closing pts
UAE-	-	DFM	+32.75	3,989.71	Saudi	-	Tadawul	-2.89	10,945.97
Egypt	-	EGX30	+334.26	23,393.41	Japan	-	Nikkei	-436.66	32,271.82
Philippines	-	PSEi	+53.29	6,131.32	Pakistan	-	KSE100	-130.22	53,810.82

Business

Min. Al-Aiban highlights strategies to overcome global trade challenges

Kuwait records trade surplus of $1.064 bln with Turkey in 2022

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 7, (KUNA): Kuwait Commerce and Industry Minister as well as State Minister for the Youth Affairs Mohammad Al-Aiban said on Tuesday that trade surplus with Turkey reached USD 1.064 billion in 2022, with an increase of 32.9 percent over 2021.

In a speech delivered during the opening of the "Commercial Authority" program held at the Turkish Embassy, he said, "We are witnessing a positive and fruitful transformation in the bilateral relation through the increase in economic, commercial, and investment cooperation between the two countries".

He noted that the challenges faces global trade such as strikes on supply chains, and restrictions on transport, ban on imports and exports, and shortages of goods led to devise means, plans, and projects that guarantee success during crises and enhance sufficient flexibility for the economy and global trade to overcome these obstacles.

"We are here today to review trade opportunities between the two countries and to review the latest developments in this regard, I'm sure that this event would witness fruitful and effective discussions to enhance cooperation and partnership between the government and private sectors, and looking forward to see their positive results benefit Kuwait and Turkey and their people," he explained.

He pointed out that Kuwait has taken many steps to improve the business environment in the country, such as simplifying the procedures for establishing companies, reducing time and effort to obtain needed licenses and work permits, as everything has become through digital portals for commercial licenses.

Kuwait also improved and simplified business related laws and regulations to be more transparent and easy to apply, as well as financing small and medium enterprises to encourage entrepreneurship, and provide job opportunities through the National Fund for the Development of Small and Medium Businesses, the Minister added.

He stressed that Kuwait worked to expand economic openness and strengthen trade relations with other countries to enhance trade exchange, provide investment opportunities, and exchange the expertise required to improve the quality of the business environment.

KUNA photo

Kuwait Commerce and Industry Minister Mohammad Al-Aiban speaks during the opening of 'Commercial Authority' program.

"We realize that there are many investing opportunities that are available between both countries and need to enhance joint action to achieve them, we are her today to exchange ideas, expertize, and experiences," he added.

He stated, "Today we aim to identify more investment opportunities, as the Kuwaiti government pays great attention to the private sector as one of the main pillars that works to stimulate the economic growth process".

He stressed that this work would have a positive impact on the future vision of the State of Kuwait and transform it into a financial and commercial center in the region.

He said that it is our responsibility today to address many challenges, such as global political stability, food security, the challenges of climate change, and new commitments to development.

Following the opening, the Kuwaiti Minister of Commerce is scheduled to meet with Turkish Trade Minister Omar Polat to discuss developing economic cooperation between the two countries.

According to the visit schedule, the Turkish minister will meet with the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Oil, and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment, Dr. Saad Al-Barrak.

The "Commercial Authority" program, in which about 100 Turkish businessmen participate in coordination with the Turkish Ministry of Commerce, aims to develop means of bilateral trade cooperation.

In addition, Turkish companies will meet with Kuwaiti businessmen to provide the appropriate atmosphere to strengthen trade relations between the two countries.

Boursa Kuwait begins week with 469 mln dinars in gains

Market value rises to 39.137 bln dinars

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 7: The interpretation of the Boursa Kuwait of the situation during the first trading sessions of this week, which was filled with the highest levels of positivity, reflected in the performance of all indicators to gain all of them are in green amid purchases and building investment positions in selected stocks in the Premier Market, and others witnessed the same demand in the main market, which witnessed a noticeable increase in the average rates of liquidity directed to it, reports Al-Anba daily.

The Boursa Kuwait began the week's trading with a remarkable increase in all indicators and variables, foremost of which is the market value, which rose by 1.2%, adding 469 million dinars in gains, bringing the total market value of the Boursa Kuwait to 39.137 billion dinars, up from 38.668 billion dinars at the end of last week's closing session.

All market indices witnessed notable increases, as the primary market index achieved 97.8 points, a gain of 1.3%, to reach 7,269 points. The main market index also rose 34 points, or 0.6%, to reach 5,354 points, with the general market index recording an increase of 1.2%, adding 79.1 points, to reach 5,354 points to 6612 points.

The session witnessed a continuation of purchasing momentum, especially on leading stocks whose prices declined significantly in the recent period, which encouraged segments of dealers, whether individuals, institutions or investment funds, to purchase and build new investment centers according to the financial results at the end of the third quarter of the current fiscal year.

The positive activity of the stock market in recent sessions was reinforced by the continuation of companies' disclosures of remarkable growth in profits for the first 9 months of the current year, as financial results are considered one of the most important market drivers, especially when the disclosures are satisfactory to shareholders, and it also supports the positive situation that currently prevails among the ranks. The price of Kuwaiti oil continues to rise at a high level, revolving around $90 per barrel.

With the continued targeting of leading stocks with high price values, the liquidity flowing to the market increased by 13% yesterday, with a total total of 44.8 million dinars, up from 39.6 million dinars in last Thursday's session, and the concentration of liquidity in the leading stocks continued, led by "KFH", which accounted for about 28%. Of the total, with transactions worth 12.5 million dinars, it was followed by "National Bank" with 3.4 million dinars, followed by "IFA Hotels" with 2.1 million dinars, then "Industries" with 1.9 million dinars, and "Ships" with 1.8 million dinars.

With the expansion of purchasing operations, trading volumes increased by 32% in yesterday's session, with 178 million shares traded compared to 135 million shares in the previous session. "Sukuk" stock came at the top of the most traded stocks with 23.4 million shares, followed by "KFH" with 17.5 million shares.

SME secretary-general emphasizes women's economic empowerment

KUNA photo

Secretary-General of SMEs at MGRP Jamela Al-Dawas and Mona Al-Mutawa, head of the economic committee at SMEs.

MANAMA, Nov 7, (KUNA): Secretary-General of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) at Manpower and Government Restructuring Program (MGRP) Jamela Al-Dawas has stressed that economic empowerment of women is positively reflected in the community.

Speaking to KUNA, Al-Dawas, who is leading the Kuwaiti delegation to the Asia Pacific Regional Conference held in Bahrain, pointed out the importance of such conferences that aim at empowering small and medium size projects, in addition to exchanging expertise in different fields.

Such meetings increase awareness of economic empowerment of women thus highlighting the importance of the private sector in activating women's role in the workplace, Al-dawas added.

She also stated that the SMEs are planning to initiate a business incubator, not only for women, but for youth in general as well as those who need assistance in financing new projects.

The business incubator will also help different and diverse projects that need financing with a one year support by (SMEs) until such projects reach their aims.

For her part, Mona Al-Mutawa, head of the economic committee at the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), said that the business incubator will also provide a comprehensive study and consultation for those who want to start a business.

She added that it will also help those who wish to venture in new projects, providing them with logistics for their projects and creating better job opportunities.

Dollar index rises 0.4%

Gold price drops 0.5% to $1,967.09 per oz on interest rate speculation

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 7: Gold touched its lowest point in nearly a fortnight on Tuesday, while the dollar gained strength, with traders keeping an eye out for interest rate cues from a group of Federal Reserve officials set to deliver speeches throughout the week, reports Al-Rai daily.

In immediate transactions, gold dropped 0.5 percent to $1,967.09 per ounce as of 1050 GMT, marking its lowest level since October 25. Meanwhile, gold futures declined by 0.8 percent to $1,973.50.

The dollar index saw a 0.4 percent rise, causing gold to become pricier for international buyers. Carlo Alberto de Casa, a market analyst at Kinesis Money, noted that the gold market is anticipating more cautious signals from the US Central Bank before making any upward moves. He added that prices are currently consolidating after entering the overbought territory.

In October, gold enjoyed over a seven percent increase, thanks to the surge in demand for the precious metal as a safe-haven asset amid conflicts in the Middle East.

Investors are now awaiting a series of speeches from various Federal Reserve officials this week, with particular attention on Chairman Jerome Powell, who is scheduled to address audiences on Wednesday and Thursday. As per the CME Fed Watch service, investors believe there is a 90 percent probability that the US Central Bank will maintain interest rates at their December meeting, with an approximately 80 percent chance of a cut next June.

However, Neel Kashkari, President of the Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank, has indicated that the central bank may need to take additional measures to control inflation. In terms of other precious metals, silver fell 1.6 percent to $22.66 per ounce in spot transactions, while platinum dropped 0.7 percent to $899.10. Palladium experienced a 1.3 percent decline, falling to $1,092.22, marking a 39 percent decrease in its value for the year to date.

KUNA photo

A group photo of Kuwait's pavilion at Qatar industrial exhibition.

Kuwaiti factories on display at Qatar expo

Some 10 Kuwait-based factories, running the gamut from nutrition to hospitality, are taking part in an international industrial exhibition in the Qatari capital Doha, a Kuwaiti official said on Monday.

The gathering is a chance for Kuwait-based firms to market their products as part of efforts to lure foreign investment, according to the deputy chief of the Kuwaiti Public Authority for Industry's exports department Dr. Sanad Al-Ajmi. (KUNA)

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Total Value of the Offering	KD 60,000,000
Subscription Period	Commences on Sunday 29 October 2023 (inclusive) and ends on Sunday 12 November 2023 at 1:00pm
Pre-emptive Rights Trading Period	Commences on Sunday 29 October 2023 (inclusive) and ends on Sunday 5 November 2023 (inclusive)
Eligible Subscribers	Shareholders who are recorded in the shareholder register of the Issuer as at close of Record Date (26 October 2023) and the holders of the Pre-emption Rights who have obtained such rights before the end of Pre-emption Right trading period
Entitled Shares	Eligible Shareholders will be entitled to 776 Issue Shares for every 10,000 existing shares held.
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This is for promotional purpose and does not omit any essential information related to the investment in the subject financial security. For further details on any such risk factors, please refer to the downloadable/printable version of the Prospectus relating to the offering on the Issuer and Joint Lead Manager and Subscription Agent's website (www.e-gulfbank.com), or Joint Lead Manager and Subscription Agent's website (www.kamcoinvest.com), or Boursa Kuwait's website (www.boursakuwait.com.kw). The terms and conditions in the Prospectus and the Subscription Application Form shall apply. You are hereby advised to read and understand the contents of the Prospectus or to seek the advice of an advisor licensed by law and which specializes in advising on the subscription and the risks thereto prior to making a decision to subscribe. The Kuwait Capital Markets Authority or any regulatory organization in the State of Kuwait shall not bear any liability for the contents of this announcement or its accuracy, nor did they approve its contents or verify the validity and accuracy of any of the information contained herein, and will not be liable for any loss arising from reliance on any part of this announcement. It is recommended to consult an investment advisor.

China firmly opposes US sanctions

China said on Monday it firmly opposes the US Department of Treasury's sanctions imposed on certain Chinese entities with so-called Russia-related excuses, state-run China Daily reported.

"China took notice that the US Department of Treasury placed some Chinese entities on its "specially designated nationals list" for alleged involvement with Russia, which China expressed strong dissatisfaction over and resolute objection to," the Ministry of Commerce said.

Noting the US approach as typical unilateral sanctions and long-arm jurisdiction, the ministry said in a release that such acts undermine the order and rules of international trade, and affect the security and stability of the global industrial and supply chain.

The US should immediately stop its unreasonable suppression towards Chinese enterprises, it said, adding that China will resolutely safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese enterprises. (KUNA)

new UK, Germany partnership to boost renewable energy

New partnership between the United Kingdom and Germany governments has been agreed on Friday to help secure safe, affordable and clean energy for consumers in both nations for the long term and bolster energy security.

In a statement, UK Department of Energy Security and Net Zero said, "Under the new partnership signed in London by Energy Security Secretary Claire Coutinho and Germany's Vice Chancellor, Robert Habeck, the UK and Germany have reaffirmed their shared ambition and commitment to net zero and progressing the energy transition."

"Europe's 2 largest economies have also doubled down on commitments made under the Paris Agreement to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees," the statement added.

The energy and climate partnership sees both countries commit to enhance cooperation in renewables, notably offshore wind and electricity interconnection, to remove regulatory barriers and accelerate deployment of offshore hybrid projects.

Second, share industry knowledge and expertise to improve the exploration of carbon capture, utilization and storage, including the cross-border transport of CO2.

Third, strengthen and promote regional and global energy security, including discussions on winter preparedness, security of infrastructure and supply chains.

Fourth, share best practices and lessons learned on industrial, buildings and heat de-carbonization, energy efficiency and net zero policies and strategies. (KUNA)

The impact will be significant and far-reaching: Yellen

IRS plan to let taxpayers digitally submit docus ahead of schedule

WASHINGTON, Nov 7, (AP): Taxpayers will be able to submit all sorts of tax documents and other communications to the IRS digitally months earlier than originally planned under a new timetable for paperless taxpayer communications announced Tuesday by Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen.

"The impact will be significant and far-reaching," Yellen says in a speech prepared for delivery at IRS headquarters in Washington, "and we'll speed up processing times for the system as a whole."

The IRS has endured decades of underfunding and been overloaded with paper documents that prevented the agency from processing tax forms at a faster pace. Yellen's speech is intended to signal that the infusion of cash for the IRS over 10 years included in the Democrats' Inflation Reduction Act is working.

"Taxpayers will save time and effort," she says, as people can begin submitting their documents now, instead of waiting until the originally planned time frame of early next year.

The IRS plan for customer service improvements for the 2024 filing season comes against the backdrop of a series of proposals by congressional Republicans to reduce its funding.

Tuesday's focus will be on what the allotted funds are doing for taxpayers.

Under the initiative, most people will be able to submit everything but their tax returns digitally in 2024. As the IRS pilots its new electronic free file tax return system starting in 2024, the agency will be able to process everything, including tax returns, digitally by 2025.

"The IRS will reduce errors and storage costs," Yellen says.

The processing change is expected to cut back on the $40 million per year that the agency spends storing more than 1 billion historical documents. The federal tax administrator receives more than 200 million paper tax returns, forms and pieces of mail and non-tax forms annually, according to the IRS.

The improvements are being announced as the agency faces yet another effort to exact cuts.

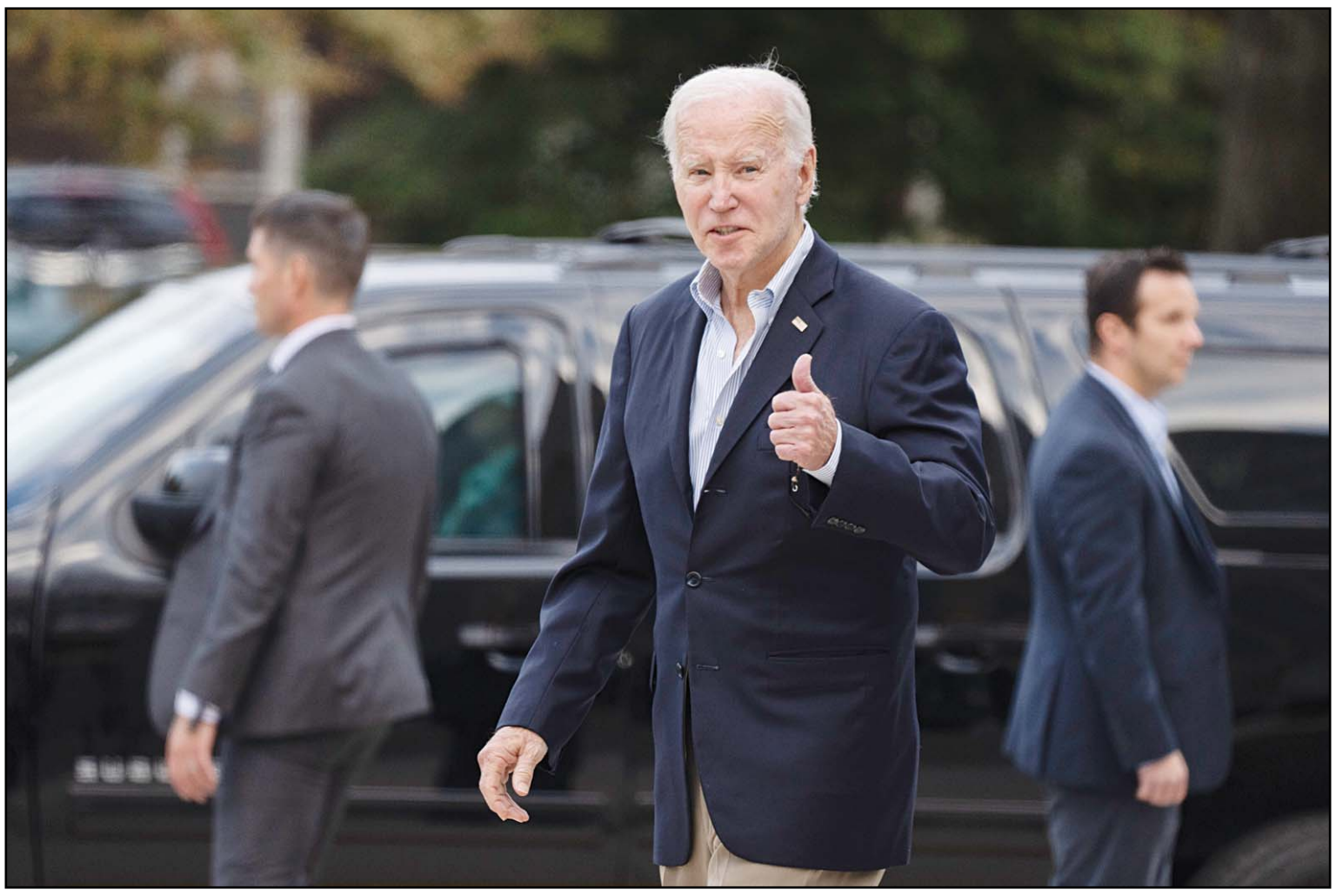
An aid bill that passed the House on Thursday - unlikely to be approved by the Democratic-controlled Senate - would cut $14 billion from the nation's tax collector in exchange for providing assistance to Israel. President Joe Biden has said he would veto the bill if it reaches his desk.

The IRS cutback would cost taxpayers billions of dollars, not save money, according to independent budget analysts.

Yellen said on CNN last week that tying Israel aid to cuts at the IRS is "irresponsible."

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen speaks at the Atlantic Council Global Citizen Awards, Sept. 20, 2023, in New York. Taxpayers will be able to digitally submit all sorts of tax documents and other communications to the IRS months earlier than originally planned under a new timetable being announced Tuesday, Nov. 7. (AP)

Favorable views rising for the US while 'declining' for China



US President Joe Biden responds to a question from a journalist as he leaves St. Edmond's Roman Catholic Church in Rehoboth Beach, Del., after attending Mass, Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023. Public opinions in 24 countries, mostly rich nations, have grown more favorable of the United States than of China, according to the latest survey by the Washington-based Pew Research Center. The gap in favorability of the world's two largest economies widened after views of the U.S. rebounded since President Joe Biden took office in 2021, the report found. (AP)

A new survey of wealthy nations released

WASHINGTON, Nov 7, (AP): Public opinions in 24 countries - mostly rich nations - have grown more favorable of the United States than of China, according to the latest survey by the Washington-based Pew Research Center.

The gap in favorability of the world's two largest economies widened after views of the U.S. rebounded since President Joe Biden took office in 2021, the report found. Favorable views of both countries fell in 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic began, but the ratings for China remained low during the latest survey, the Pew center said, "leading to some of the largest gaps in these views we have seen in our polling."

The report, released Monday, comes as the two countries are intensely competing for global influence. President Xi Jinping wants China to be respected and trusted around the world, while Biden has made it a priority to mend relationships with U.S. allies.

"This year, overall views of the United States are much more positive than views of China in most places surveyed," the report said. "But this has not always been the case in our nearly two decades of favorability polling, and views of the countries have fluctuated alongside views of their leaders."

The 2019 survey recorded a median of 55% across 22 countries showing favorable views of the U.S., compared to a median of 39% of China.

In 2020, when Pew conducted surveys in a much smaller set of countries because of the pandemic, medians of 38% and 25% had favorable views of the U.S. and China, respectively. Of the same countries in 2023, medians of 58% and 21% had positive views of the U.S. and China, respectively. Medians are only of the 10 countries surveyed in both years, exclusive of the U.S. and Australia, Pew's research analysts said.

In the latest survey, the gaps were most significant in Poland, Japan and South Korea, where more than 70% of the respondents rated the U.S. positively, compared with fewer than 30% who viewed China favorably, said Pew, which conducted nationally representative surveys in 24 countries in 2023.

Japan and South Korea, neighbors of China, have had a historically tense relationship with each other. In a diplomatic breakthrough, Biden held a trilateral summit with Japan's prime minister and South Korea's president at Camp David in August, hailed by supporters as forging a strong partnership countering China's influence in the Indo-Pacific region.

The differences in favorable public opinions of the U.S. and China narrowed in middle-income countries such as Indonesia, South Africa and Mexico, and China overtook the U.S. in favorability in Nigeria, where both countries were highly favored, the report said.

Middle-income countries accounted for about one third of the countries surveyed by Pew, and no low-income country was included in the latest study.

The center said it was unable to conduct in-person surveys in less developed countries during the pandemic but planned to gauge public opinions in those countries when travel becomes easier. "In the months ahead, we intend to continue expanding our country coverage to a more economically and geographically diverse set of countries," said Laura Clancy, a research analyst at Pew.

In China, the leadership has touted that the country has gained more friends and that friendships have become stronger around the world, typically among developing nations. Beijing's massive global infrastructure building scheme, known as the Belt and Road Initiative, is credited with bringing economic benefits to foreign countries and winning friends for Beijing, according to China's state media, contrary to Western criticism that those projects could saddle host countries with debt and harm the environment.

The views of the U.S. have shifted over time alongside changes to the presidency, Clancy said.

In 2023, a median of 56% across 22 countries had confidence in Biden, compared to 19% in Xi. In 2019, medians of the same 22 countries having confidence Donald Trump, then the U.S. president, and Xi were 31% and 28%, respectively.

In the latest survey, 83% people in Poland expressed confidence in Biden, compared to 8% in Xi, registering the widest gap of 75 percentage points, the report said. The spread was at least 50 points in countries such as Germany, Japan and Sweden. The gap narrowed in middle-income countries, but still more had more confidence in Biden and Xi, the report said.

"These gaps in views of the American and Chinese leaders reflect both souring attitudes toward Xi in high-income countries and greater confidence in Biden - particularly compared with his predecessor, Donald Trump," the report said.

In 2007, the gaps between the U.S. and China in terms of likeability were narrower under different leaders in both countries.

Then, a median of 53% across 15 countries reported favorable views of the U.S., compared to a median of 43% with favorable views of China. In 2023, medians of 59% and 27% across the same countries had favorable views of the U.S. and of China, respectively, according to Pew.

That was near the end of the George W. Bush presidency in 2007, when confidence in Bush was limited, and China's then-President Hu Jintao received more positive ratings, the center said.

In other results, the Pew polls have found:

• The surveyed countries were more likely to see the U.S. as interfering in the affairs of other countries than China.

• Most countries said the U.S. accounted for their country's interests more so than China. Israel led the pack with a 65-percentage-point difference.

• The U.S. got higher marks than China for contributing to global peace and stability. The difference was greatest in Japan, where 79% said the U.S. contributed at least a fair amount to international stability, compared to 14% who said the same of China.

• Most considered the U.S. to be the leading economy. In South Korean, 83% of the respondents said the U.S. was the world's leading economic power, compared to only 8% who said China was the leading power. Italy was on the other end of the spectrum, with 55% of the respondents said China was the leading economy, compared to 31% who would give that title to the U.S.

$200m transferred thus far

Orsted wants out of $300m forfeiture for scrapped NJ offshore wind farms

OCEAN CITY, N.J., Nov 7, (AP): Offshore wind power company Orsted is trying to get out of a $300 million guarantee it agreed to pay New Jersey in the event it failed to build its first wind farm off the state's coast.

Last Tuesday, the Danish firm scrapped its Ocean Wind I and II projects in southern New Jersey, saying the projects were no longer financially feasible. The company cited supply chain issues, inflation and a failure to gain enough government tax credits.

The next day, Orsted wrote to the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, saying it was withdrawing from an agreement it signed with the state under which it would forfeit the money if it did not build Ocean Wind I.

The company said it was doing so because the board had not taken final action to approve the agreement.

The BPU said Monday it approved an escrow agreement with Orsted on Sept. 27, and a guarantee agreement on Oct. 11.

In an emailed statement Monday, Orsted said, "We withdrew our filings because we are no longer developing Ocean Wind I and thus are no longer pursuing the tax incentives related to the project."

In July, New Jersey approved a tax break that would have allowed Orsted to keep federal tax credits that it otherwise would have had to return to electric ratepayers, had the project been built.

The company said it has transferred $200 million to an escrow account with the state thus far.

It was not immediately clear what will happen next. In the agreement, Orsted and the state agreed not to sue each other over any dispute unless they tried and failed to resolve it through negotiations.

New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy, a Democrat, reacted angrily when Orsted canceled its two large projects, saying his administration would hold the company accountable to its cancellation obligations.

On Monday, a spokeswoman, Alexandra Altman, said Murphy's administration "is evaluating Orsted's recent statements and correspondence, and will take any and all actions necessary to ensure Orsted honors its commitment and responsibility to the state."

The company agreed to put up a $100 million guarantee that it would have Ocean Wind I built by the end of 2025. It also was obligated to pay an additional $200 million toward the development of the offshore wind industry in New Jersey.

Orsted wrote off $4 billion last week, due largely to costs associated with the cancellation of its two New Jersey projects.

The cancellations added fresh uncertainty to an industry seen by supporters as a way to help end the burning of planet-warming fossil fuels, but derided by opponents as inherently unworkable without massive financial subsidies.

And it is another political headache for Murphy and Democrats shortly before elections for the state Legislature in which opposition to offshore wind has become an important part of Republican campaigns.

New Jersey still has several other offshore wind projects in various stages of development, with four new proposals submitted in August alone. They join the one remaining project of the three originally approved by the state, Atlantic Shores. That is a project by Shell New Energies US and EDF Renewables North America.

Atlantic Shores said last week it remains committed to its project, though it hinted in a statement that it, too, is seeking additional help.

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

Australian cbank lifts benchmark cash rate to 4.35% with 13th hike

CANBERRA, Australia, Nov 7, (AP): Australia's central bank lifted its benchmark interest rate Tuesday for the first time since June with a quarter percentage point hike that brought the cash rate to a 12-year high of 4.35%.

The Reserve Bank of Australia's hike, its 13th since May 2022, was widely expected after the nation's inflation for the September quarter was higher than expected at 1.2%, or 5.4% for the year, driven mainly by the price of gasoline.

The last time the cash rate was higher was in December 2011, when it was 4.5%.

Bank Governor Michele Bullock said progress in reducing inflation had been slower than expected.

"Inflation in Australia has passed its peak but is still too high and is proving more persistent than expected a few months ago," Bullock said in a statement.

The bank manipulates interest rates to keep inflation within a target band of between 2% and 3%.

Bullock said her board did not expect inflation to fall within that range until late 2025. She has not ruled out a further rate rise.

"Returning inflation to target within a reasonable timeframe remains the board's priority," she said.

Treasurer Jim Chalmers declined to comment on the likelihood of the bank increasing rates again at its next monthly board meeting on Dec. 5.

"I leave it to the economists and to the market to make their own predictions. I don't predict or pre-empt or second-guess decisions taken by the independent Reserve Bank board. That is a matter for them," Chalmers told reporters.

He said his government policies, including balancing the nation's books in the last fiscal year for the first time in 15 years, were containing inflation while providing cost-of-living help to the most needy.

"The government is doing its bit to address the inflationary pressures in our economy. The independent Reserve Bank has taken this decision today in the interests of this fight against inflation," Chalmers said.

People

Corden heading to SiriusXM with a weekly celebrity talk show

Tennis legend Serena Williams honored as 'fashion icon'

NEW YORK, Nov 7, (AP): Tennis legend Serena Williams told a glittery fashion industry audience how fashion had become a favored mode of expression as she grew up in the public eye, with the tennis court serving as her own private runway.

"I knew when I was a little girl that I was different, so I explored fashion and style as a way to distinguish myself," Williams said as she accepted the Fashion Icon award Monday night from Council of Fashion Designers of America. "In many ways for me, the tennis courts became my runway, and the U.S. Open was my own New York Fashion Week." Reimagining the traditional tennis outfit became a way, she said, to express "my individuality and my confidence and most importantly, my culture. "

Williams, who retired from tennis last year, is the first athlete to win the Fashion Icon award, and it was presented to her by Kim Kardashian, a CFDA honoree last year. Kardashian called Williams "fearless, heroic, authentic, iconic - the greatest of all time."

The fashion industry's equivalent of Oscar night was held at the American Museum of Natural History in Manhattan and hosted by Anne Hathaway. In top designer awards, Catherine Holstein of the label Khaite won the coveted award for womenswear designer of the year. Willy Chavarria, who has created looks worn by Bad Bunny and Venus Williams, among others, won for menswear. The accessories award went to Ashley Olsen and Mary-Kate Olsen of the label The Row.

When Williams, now 42, retired from tennis, she said she needed to make the tough choice to focus on motherhood. She gave birth in August to a baby girl, almost exactly a year after her last match as a tennis star. Adira River Ohanian is the second child - and second daughter - for Williams and her husband, Reddit co-founder Alexis Ohanian. Their first, Olympia, was born in 2017.

In her speech, she spoke fondly about how she'd learned to express her creativity on the court. "I designed skirts out of denim and I wore purple tutus and bodysuits," she said, "and put beads in my hair, and braids. It was really just a fun time for me."

Williams studied fashion during her playing career, and in 2018, launched her "S by Serena" clothing line, which she said in her speech was intended "to inspire women women to embrace their bodies and love who they are no matter their size, race or income."

Among her many thank-yous, she saved her last for her mother, "for actually making those first tennis outfits when I was young." Watching her sew, she said, "created this creativity in me that I still have to this day."

The CFDA awards are presented by Amazon Fashion.

Also:

LOS ANGELES: **James Corden** may be off TV screens after leaving CBS' "The Late Late Show" but that doesn't mean he's stopped chatting with celebrities.

The multiple Emmy- and Tony Award-winner who gave the world "Carpool Karaoke" is launching a new weekly show set for early 2024 on SiriusXM called "This Life of Mine with James Corden."

The show will "feature in-depth conversations with the world's biggest stars, discussing the people, places, moments and memories that made them who they are today," according to producers.

"James has been a trailblazer in the entertainment business," said **Scott Greenstein**, SiriusXM's president and chief content officer in a statement. "We're so honored to welcome him to the SiriusXM family as he begins this next phase of his illustrious career and makes his mark in audio."

SiriusXM is hosting an event in New York on Wednesday where it will showcase its new SiriusXM streaming app, as well as new programming, live performances and surprise celebrity guests.

In a statement, Corden called his new show "a new chapter," adding "it's a dream to have a space to engage in deep conversations with the people whose work and talent I greatly admire."

He has won 12 Emmy Awards as a host, writer, producer, and actor. He is also a Tony Award winner, multiple BAFTA Award-winner, in addition to a Golden Globe Award nominee.

Variety

Pras, (from left), Lauryn Hill and Wyclef Jean of the Fugees perform during 'The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill' 25th anniversary tour on Sunday, Nov. 5, at the Kia Forum in Inglewood, Calif. (AP)

Music

For Pras, some lyrics and art imitate his life right now

Fugees reunite for a night of nostalgia

LOS ANGELES, Nov 7, (AP): It's Sunday night, backstage ahead of the second Los Angeles show of Lauryn Hill and the Fugees' anniversary tour. It will be a few hours yet before Hill opens the concert with a solo set of "The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill," 25 years after its release. The seats in the arena are slowing starting to fill.

Prakazrel "Pras" Michel, a founding member of the Fugees, is sitting in his dressing room at the Kia Forum, watching the Buffalo Bills play the Cincinnati Bengals. Tonight is a celebration - of his landmark group, of all the generations who have loved their music - and of his freedom, however much remains.

In April, the rapper accused in multimillion-dollar political conspiracies spanning two presidencies was convicted of 10 counts, including conspiracy and acting as an unregistered agent of a foreign government, after a trial in Washington, D.C., federal court that saw testimony from the likes of Leonardo DiCaprio.

"Some of the lyrics, this art, is imitating my life right now," he reflects on Fugees' legacy and this tour, taking place 27 years after the release of the Grammy-award winning "The Score," his rap trio's second, final, and culture-shaping album. "Especially when I talk about feds and this and that."

The "Ms. Lauryn Hill & Fugees: Miseducation of Lauryn Hill 25th Anniversary Tour" has dates scheduled through mid-December. Michel, who faces up to 20 years in prison on the top counts, doesn't have a sentencing date yet. But, he says, he was never concerned about being able to do the tour.

"I trust the process," Michel explains. He has a new attorney, Peter Zeidenberg, and is optimistic.

Last month, Michel argued in a motion for a new trial that, among other errors, his previous defense attorney used an "experimental" generative AI program to help write closing statements. In the closings, the attorney appeared to confuse key elements of the case and misattributed lyrics - "Every single day, every time I pray, I will be missing you" - to the Fugees instead of Diddy, according to the motion for a new trial.

"Obviously there's been a little bit of progress, so we'll see what happens," Michel says.

Despite that run-in with artificial intelligence, though, he hasn't soured on the concept: The world needs to recognize the technology is in "its infancy stage," Michel says, and there's a long way to go. "It's the future."

Outside his dressing room, the narrow hallways of the famed Inglewood venue are full of excited spectators made up of friends, family, fans - including an ecstatic Tiffany Haddish. Wyclef Jean's room quickly becomes the center of the party, with Drake's "Started from the Bottom" playing over a loudspeaker as he shows off his performing fit.

Celebration

Far too often, reunions feel like cheap plays at nostalgia - not so much a celebration of the great work that came a couple decades prior, but an attempt at capitalizing on collective memory. There is no such sentiment here. When Jean, the third member of the Fugees, thinks about the way these performances affect him, it's a homecoming - and the result of many years of hard work.

"If you ever created a band like in high school the first year of college, that's what it feels like. So, like the Beatles, for example. It's almost like you rehearse all your life through high school so you never have to rehearse again," he says. "And tonight is monumental, because the arena we're playing here, this is (where) the early Lakers (played). And so that's how I always explain the Fugees. You know, I said, it's like Showtime Lakers."

The Fugees' message is prescient, too - Michel points out a song like "Mask," and its resonance with members of a younger generation who have gone through the coronavirus pandemic.

"It's almost like we prophesized a lot of things," he says.

So how does a group know when they've got some magic? That a reunion tour is truly special? Jean compares it to a mountain - people don't see the "combustions" that formed it over years - only "the end result, which is beautiful," he says.

"And that's sort of like how music is made," Jean says. "So, when you make music that's vulnerable, whether it is Stevie Wonder, Earth, Wind & Fire, the Fugees, Nas' 'Illmatic,' 50 Cent's 'Get Rich or Die Tryin',' it's going to always last forever."

Close to 10 p.m., Hill emerges. She is awarded a plaque for "The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill" receiving diamond RIAA status; quotes from bell hooks appear on the screen behind her. In the first of many surprises, Nas appears on stage to perform "If I Ruled the World (Imagine That)."

Hill is joined by Jean and Michel, and it is as if no time had passed. Then Cypress Hill's B-Real comes out, as does Lil Wayne for "Ready or Not" and "A Milli."

Afterward, fans pour out into the night. Nearby, rapper Travis Scott's show is wrapping up at SoFi Stadium. The two audiences weave into one in the street; here are the past, present, and future of hip-hop, intertwined.

Also:

LOS ANGELES: **Lenny Kravitz** makes inspiration rock with a soaring new single he made for the upcoming Netflix film, "Rustin." Kravitz sings and plays drums, bass, piano, Hammond organ and rocks a tambourine on "Road to Freedom," which plays over the film's end credits. The movie centers on Bayard Rustin, the civil rights activist and primary architect of the 1963 March on **Washington**, who often worked tirelessly out of the limelight. The biopic, which arrives in select theaters Friday and lands on Netflix on Nov. 17.

LOS ANGELES: R&B group New Edition will bring their New Jack Swing tunes to **Las Vegas** early next year.

The Grammy-nominated sextet announced Monday that New Edition: Las Vegas will kick off Feb. 28. The group confirmed six residency shows at the Wynn Las Vegas' Encore Theater, where acts like **Diana Ross, Duran Duran, Lionel Richie** and **Brad Paisley** have taken the stage.

"We just caught lightning in a bottle," said **Ronnie DeVoe**, a founding member of New Edition - which includes **Michael Bivins, Bobby Brown, Johnny Gill, Ralph Tresvant** and **Ricky Bell**. Monday's announcement came after days after the group performed a tightly choreographed tribute to the Spinners at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame induction ceremony in **New York.**

DeVoe said the band heard fans countless requests - particularly through social media - for them to perform in Sin City. "We're looking to touch that stage and continue on with the legacy," he said.

After two consecutive North American tours, New Edition has planned for a more intimate setting at Encore, which seats 1,480.

"This is going to more theatrical than our Legacy and Culture tours," Brown said. "This will be a lot more intimate. We wanted it to be up, close and personal for our fans."

New Edition was founded by childhood friends in a Boston housing project and became one of the originators of the modern-day boy band. The group released their debut album "Candy Girl" in 1983 and rejuvenated the teen music scene in the mold of The Jackson Five with hit singles like "Candy Girl," "Mr. Telephone Man" and "Cool It Now."

The group maintained success after puberty and laid the foundation for groups such as New Kids on the Block, the Backstreet Boys and Boyz II Men.

But then, New Edition faced plenty of conflict - which included Brown's erratic behavior during a concert tour, resulting in him being kicked out the group. Tensions grew after Brown was replaced by Gill. (AP)

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LOS ANGELES: An exotic wildlife preserve owner who gained notoriety on the popular Netflix series "Tiger King" plead guilty Monday to animal trafficking and money laundering, the **US** Justice Department announced.

Bhagavan "Doc" Antle oversaw the sale or purchase of cheetah cubs, lion cubs, tigers and a juvenile chimpanzee that were all protected as endangered species, according to a Justice Department release. Officials said the 63-year-old man featured in a documentary miniseries about the tiger trade tried to hide animal payments as "donations" to his nonprofit organization.

Paisley

Ross

"The defendant held himself out as a conservationist, yet repeatedly violated laws protecting endangered animals and then tried to cover up those violations," Assistant Attorney General **Todd Kim** of the Justice Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division said in a statement.

Antle faces a maximum of five years' imprisonment, fines up to $250,000 and three years of supervised release for each count. He operates Myrtle Beach Safari in **South Carolina** and is the founder of a nonprofit registered in the state called the Rare Species Fund.

Investigators found evidence that Antle and a coconspirator had also used cash acquired through the transportation and harboring of immigrants who illegally entered the country. (AP)

People & Places

Books

New pandemic novel

'Spy Coast,' riveting & un-put-downable

LOS ANGELES, Nov 7, (AP): **Tess Gerritsen** writes an un-put-downable spin on espionage novels with 'The Spy Coast'

Maggie Bird just wants to relax into a quiet retirement, raising chickens in the cold little town of Purity, Maine. Even in these remote woods, though, trouble manages to find her. She'll have to face her past if she has any hope of staying alive.

Spy novel meets travelog with a murder mystery in "The Spy Coast," Book 1 of the new "Martini Club" series. Engrossing from the get-go, Tess Gerritsen's prose is undeniable – a true professional at sucking you right into the story.

When a young spy shows up dead outside Maggie's home, her friends immediately jump to action, recalling their former lives as CIA operatives.

Gerritsen

They may be in their 60s now, but these retirees are more than capable, exasperating Officer Jo Thibodeau. While the young police chief's involvement in the case is an annoying obstacle for Maggie, she can't help but be beguiled by this woman who reminds her of her former self. Jo's constant run-ins with the self-named Martini Club promise her character will have a lasting place in this fiction.

Throughout the novel, we learn about Maggie's final job 16 years ago: Operation Cyrano. These flashbacks slowly reveal bits about Danny – the man Maggie met in Bangkok – and his connection to the messy end of her career.

In her author's note, Gerritsen says she "wanted to write about spies who don't look like James Bond." She exceeded her goal by miles, handling the Martini Club's old age beautifully and foregoing a glamorized portrayal of espionage in favor of one that reflects a grind – a job just like any other, except for the high likelihood of death.

Accuracy

Gerritsen has dozens of titles under her belt, including the novels that inspired the TV series "Rizzoli & Isles," and her wealth of experience shows. She makes it look seamlessly easy; every piece fits together, every chapter is gripping and fun, blood spatters are described with just the right level of ominous medical accuracy. And with the same level of detail, she describes amazing dishes from around the world, their flavor notes mouthwateringly cataloged.

Most chapters focus on Maggie, the only character to get first-person perspective, though Gerritsen affords us the occasional, tantalizing glimpse into what's going on with other key players. It's the perfect mix – Maggie completely won me over, and getting to be in her head is an absolute treat.

"The Spy Coast" is a positively devourable and un-put-downable start to what promises to be an excellent series.

❑ ❑ ❑

The flood of pandemic literature shows no sign of letting up. In the three-plus years since the COVID-19 lockdown, we have seen fiction from the likes of **Gary Shteyngart, Elizabeth Strout** and many others. Now **Sigrid Nunez**, author of "Sempre Susan: A Memoir of Susan Sontag" and the National Book Award-winning "The Friend," has written a pandemic novel called "The Vulnerables."

The title refers to the groups of people, including the elderly, considered at high risk of getting severely ill at the start of the pandemic in spring 2020. The unnamed narrator, a stand-in for the 72-year-old author, is among them.

In the publishing world "The Vulnerables" is classified as a novel but it more often reads like an elegant, funny essay about what it felt like to be stuck in New York City in the early days of the lockdown, when your wealthier friends fled to their country houses, leaving you alone with a bad case of writer's block.

The narrator broods about the writing life even though she knows that "whenever I write something about writing or being a writer, I am annoying the hell out of some people." Indeed, self-awareness is a great part of her charm. "For the writer," she muses, "obsessive rumination is a must."

About halfway through the book, Nunez stumbles on something like a plot: the narrator is asked to take care of a male parrot named Eureka for a couple stranded in California by the pandemic. The college student who had agreed to do it has fled the city, too, in a worrying display of Gen Z irresponsibility. Then he returns, in part because he missed the bird. "We're bros, he explained, to make me feel even more left out."

Initially antagonistic, they slowly form a bond over edibles, vegan ice cream and microdoses of psilocybin. I briefly wondered whether Nunez was heading into "Harold and Maude" territory, the 1971 movie about a troubled young man who falls in love with a much older woman.

But as a writer and academic thoroughly steeped in literary theory, Nunez knows that a conventional marriage plot is not an option in contemporary fiction, not "with the world on fire and its systems collapsing… with hope after hope turning out to have been merely false hope." Plus, someone like her likely would have thought that he was not just too troubled but also too young. And so, their unlikely friendship becomes just one more oddball incident in this elegiac essay-novel.

Also:

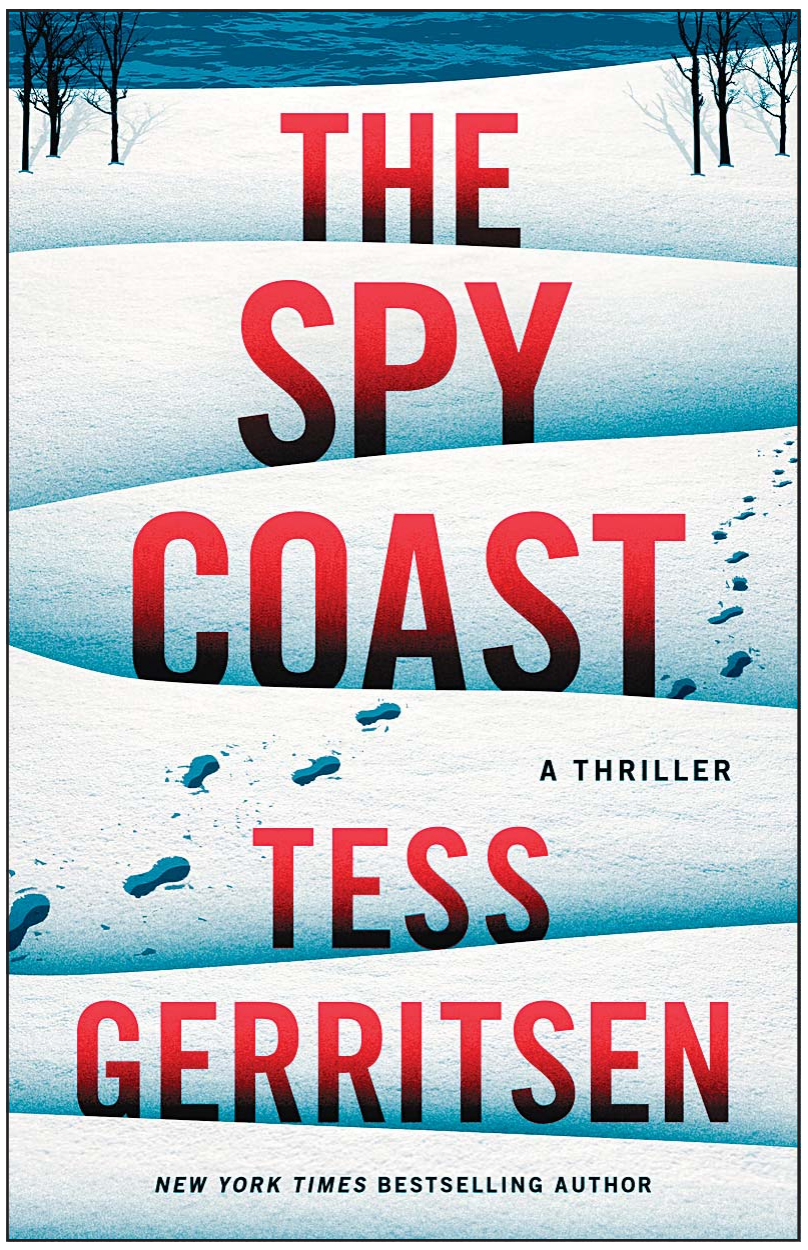
NEW YORK: Former White House chief of staff **Mark Meadows** is being sued by his publisher for contradicting his book's claim about the the 2020 election.

All Seasons Press alleges that sworn testimony by Meadows undermined "The Chief's Chief," in which he wrote that the election was stolen from former President **Donald Trump**.

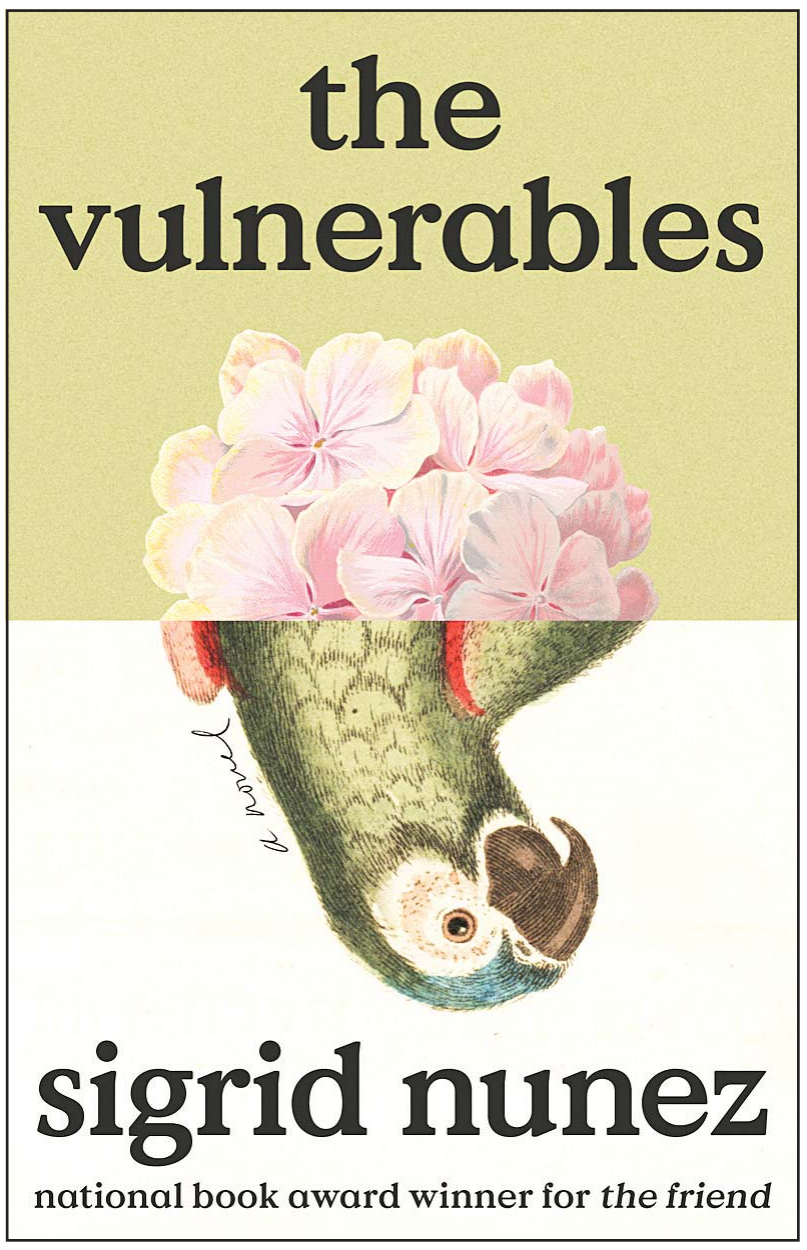
In a breach of contract lawsuit filed Friday in Florida, All Seasons cited media reports from last month alleging that Meadows knew Trump had lost to Democrat **Joe Biden**.

"Meadows' reported statements to the Special Prosecutor and/or his staff and his reported grand jury testimony squarely contradict the statements" in "The Chief's Chief," according to the lawsuit, filed in **Sarasota, Florida**. A central theme of Meadows' book is that "President Trump was the true winner of the 2020 Presidential Election and that election was 'stolen' and 'rigged' with the help from 'allies in the liberal media,'" the court papers read in part.

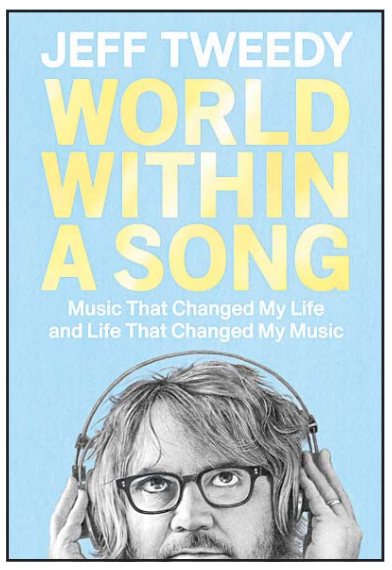
Meadows' attorney, **George Terwilliger**, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.



This cover image released by Thomas & Mercer shows 'The Spy Coast' by Tess Gerritsen. (AP)



This cover image released by Riverhead Books shows 'The Vulnerables' by Sigrid Nunez. (AP)



This cover image released by Dutton shows 'World Within a Song: Music That Changed My Life and Life That Changed My Music' by Jeff Tweedy. (AP)

Yellen

Carovillano

Variety

NEW YORK: The Pulitzer Prizes, considered the premier award for print journalists, are opening eligibility to broadcast and audio companies that also offer digital news sites.

But the work these companies can submit for prize consideration must primarily be written journalism, the Columbia University-based Pulitzer Prize Board said on Monday.

Broadcast news outlets were historically prohibited from entering work in the Pulitzer competition because they produced little text-based journalism. Other competitions, like the Emmys and the duPont-Columbia Awards, honor broadcast journalism.

But television and audio companies like CNN, NPR and broadcasters like ABC, CBS and NBC have robust digital sites.

"There's no such thing as newspaper and broadcast anymore," said **Brian Carovillano**, senior vice president and head of news standards at NBC News. "We're all digital news operations. We're all operating on multiple platforms."

He noted that The New York Times, considered primarily a print outlet, has won a duPont Award for its journalism.

The Pulitzer Board wanted to make digital news sites that are doing important, written investigative, enterprise and breaking news work eligible for honors, said **Marjorie Miller**, the Pulitzer administrator. (AP)

❑ ❑ ❑

BEIJING: The Philadelphia Orchestra returned to Beijing on Tuesday for a tour that will mark 50 years since its historic performance in **China**, the latest sign of improving ties between the two countries ahead of a highly anticipated meeting between Presidents **Joe Biden** and **Xi Jinping**.

The orchestra first visited China in September 1973, marking a thaw in **US**-China relations just as the two nations began normalizing ties after **Richard Nixon** became the first US president to visit China's mainland.

Ahead of the tour, the orchestra said 14 of its members will be traveling to China, including 73-year old **Davyd Booth**, a violinist who was on the orchestra's first tour to the country half a century ago.

"This constant 50-year connection with China has been really very deep and very wonderful," Booth on arriving at Beijing's Capital International Airport.

The ensemble will be performing with the China National Symphony Orchestra at the National Centre for the Performing Arts, starting Friday. The musicians will also travel to the cities of **Tianjin**, **Suzhou** and **Shanghai**, and hold master classes and perform chamber music at schools and cultural venues.

The ensemble's visit coincides with the American Ballet Theatre's tour in China, which started in Shanghai last week. The cultural exchanges follow a series of high-level visits from the **United States**, including Secretary of State **Antony Blinken**, Treasury Secretary **Janet Yellen** and Commerce Secretary **Gina Raimondo**.

The US and China have been slowly restoring contacts that were largely broken off over the past four years, both by the coronavirus pandemic that restricted travel and the growing animosity between the world's two largest economies. (AP)

❑ ❑ ❑

LONDON: Two climate change protesters were arrested Monday after they smashed a protective glass panel covering a famous **Diego Velázquez** oil painting at London's National Gallery, police said Monday.

The two activists from the group Just Stop Oil targeted Velázquez's "The Toilet of Venus," also known as "The Rokeby Venus," with small hammers. Photos showed the protective glass panel punctured with several holes.

Just Stop Oil, which has previously led similar protests targeting famous artworks and public buildings, said Monday's action was to demand **Britain**'s government immediately halt all licensing for the exploration, development and production of fossil fuels in the **UK**.

The group said Monday that the two activists chose to target Velázquez's 17th-century oil painting, one of the Spanish artist's most celebrated masterpieces, because it was previously slashed as part of the suffragette movement calling for women's rights in 1914.

Just Stop Oil said the protesters hammered the glass panel, then told people at the gallery: "Women did not get the vote by voting. It is time for deeds, not words." (AP)

Music

Prolific songwriter confronts his writing fears in book

Why does writing scare Tweedy?

LOS ANGELES, Nov 7, (AP): Jeff Tweedy is known to fans as a prolific songwriter and poignant lyricist. So it may come as a surprise that the frontman of the Grammy-winning rock band Wilco has long found the act of writing intimidating.

"I've always been really afraid of prose because I wasn't good in school. I was always underachieving. And part of it was I always felt overwhelmed by how much there is to say," he says.

Perhaps ironically, that fear is in part what compelled a young Tweedy to start writing music four decades ago.

"Songwriting is condensing things and giving yourself the freedom to omit lots of things, just to try and get the essence of an emotion or the essence of a story to come through," he says.

But as he gears up to release his third book on Tuesday, Tweedy admits the task of writing no longer daunts him the way it once did. Having already tackled a memoir and a "how to" book on songwriting, Tweedy is now shifting his attention to other musicians and the ways their art has influenced him in "World Within a Song."

The book is just as much about the circumstances in which Tweedy experienced these eclectic 50 tracks as it is about the songs themselves - the comfort that hearing "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" with his Judy Garland-loving mom brought him as a kid or the ways in which Minutemen's "History Lesson - Part II" bred his longing to be a rock star.

And while Tweedy, whose unadulterated love for music is still palpable after decades in the industry, recognizes the benefits of the unfettered access to songs that streaming platforms grant, he also laments what is lost when listeners don't have to "work for it" in their search for music.

"I think that there was something really important about the way my generation and previous generations invested themselves in music. The only way to get it was to pay for it. And once you had made just even that outlay of cash, you made time to find a way into it," he says. "Now, I think if you don't like something immediately, there's 10,000 other songs that you want to go to and find something that's going to hit you right away."

To combat that throwaway culture, Tweedy makes a habit of listening to music he's not into, trying to discern why that is - a practice, he says, that often confuses "the algorithm" used by streaming services to predict people's tastes.

"I don't like not liking music. And so a lot of times I visit stuff thinking, 'I know I'm not a big fan of this, but I want to know what other people are hearing in it,'" he explains. "I think there's really something interesting about listening to things that you don't love or don't think were made for you."

Reputation

Although often dubbed an alternative country band, Wilco has bent genres since they first formed 30 years ago, solidifying their reputation for experimentation and resistance to categorization with their seminal 2002 record, "Yankee Hotel Foxtrot" - their bestselling album to date.

"We've tried hard to kill genres for ourselves," Tweedy said of the Chicago-based band's perspective on their country associations. "It's an artistic tool, in a way. When somebody is coming at your music with a preconceived notion, then you have some friction to push against. And that's artistically enticing."

That genre defiance continues with their 13th studio album, "Cousin," released in September. The band has spent most of 2023 touring, despite Tweedy's ongoing battle with osteoarthritis in his hips. The pain is at times debilitating, and even walking short distances proves difficult for the 56-year-old. During a recent show in Los Angeles, though, Tweedy's pain was hardly apparent during a two-hour set.

While the discomfort is at times distracting for him, he says the act of performing does, for brief moments, make him forget.

"Music has an amazing magical power to transport you from pain, emotional and physical, for sure. And I do feel like I go someplace else most of the night," he said.

Also:

NEW YORK: **Boy George** - the Culture Club icon of the 1980s - is returning to Broadway in "Moulin Rouge! The Musical."

The singer-songwriter whose hits include "Karma Chameleon" and "Do You Really Want to Hurt Me" will play Moulin Rouge club owner **Harold Zidler** in the jukebox adaptation of **Baz Luhrmann**'s hyperactive 2001 movie.

He starts Feb. 6 and ends May 12 at Broadway's Al Hirschfeld Theatre, taking over the role from Tituss Burgess.

The show about the goings-on in a turn-of-the-century Parisian nightclub has been updated with tunes like "Single Ladies" and "Firework" alongside the big hit "Lady Marmalade." It won 10 Tony Awards in 2021, including best new musical.

Boy George was last represented on Broadway in 2003 with "Taboo," for which he wrote music and lyrics. Critics largely disliked the show, which told some of his life story. He also performed in that show, but did not play himself.

Travis Scott performs during the 'Circus Maximus' tour on Sunday, Nov. 5, at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, Calif. (AP)

State-of-the-art technology enhances precision diagnoses

Kuwait leads in medical imaging with first-of-its-kind PET/MRI device

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 7, (KUNA): The Ministry of Health unveiled a groundbreaking PET/MRI imaging device at Al-Jahra Hospital today, marking a significant milestone in the world of radiology. This cutting-edge technology, the first of its kind in Kuwait, offers high diagnostic precision, making it one of the most accurate examination devices available.

Dr. Muhammad Al-Shaheen, Head of the Nuclear Medicine Department at Jahra Hospital, explained that this device combines positron emission and magnetic resonance imaging to assess and diagnose medical conditions. It provides precise images of tissues using magnetic resonance imaging and determines cell metabolic activity, resulting in a more accurate diagnosis compared to conducting separate examinations.

Advantages

tAs part of the inauguration, a workshop was held on positron imaging technology combined with magnetic resonance imaging. The event was organized by the Department of Nuclear Medicine in collaboration with the Medical Physics Unit and the International Atomic Energy Agency, featuring contributions from experts from Germany and Austria.

Dr. Mishari Al-Naimi, Head of the Medical Physics Unit at the hospital, highlighted the advantages of this advanced technology, emphasizing its potential for accurate detection and early diagnosis of conditions such as tumors, neurological diseases, and vascular diseases. Additionally, it reduces radiation exposure to patients, particularly children, by up to 70% compared to conventional imaging methods.

Dr. Nader Al-Awadhi, the national liaison officer for the International Atomic Energy Agency, reaffirmed the agency's commitment to training professionals in the field and promoting the uses of positron imaging combined with magnetic resonance imaging for disease diagnosis. He emphasized the technology's reliance on medical radioactive materials to diagnose and treat diseases, including their ability to emit radiation for creating body images or targeting cancer cells.

The workshop's objective is to share insights about the benefits of positron imaging combined with magnetic resonance imaging, raise awareness among relevant authorities about its potential contributions, and explore ways to introduce this modern technology into Kuwait's nuclear medicine centers.

The first-of-its-kind PET/MRI imaging device for tumors and inflammations in Kuwait.

A photo of the honoring ceremony.

A photo of the participants in the workshop.

KUNA photos

More fruit pouches recalled

Nearly 1m chickens will be killed on a US farm because of bird flu

NEW YORK, Nov 7, (AP): Nearly 1 million chickens on a Minnesota egg farm will be slaughtered to help limit the spread of the highly contagious bird flu after it was confirmed there, officials said Monday.

The US Department of Agriculture announced that the virus was found at a farm in Wright County, Minnesota, as well as in three smaller flocks in South Dakota and Iowa. Whenever the highly pathogenic avian influenza virus is detected on a farm, the entire flock is killed as to keep it from spreading to other farms.

In addition to the Minnesota case, the USDA said some 26,800 turkeys will be killed on a farm in McPherson County in South Dakota and nearly 17,000 birds will be slaughtered on two farms in Iowa's Clay County.

The egg and poultry industry has been dealing with a bird flu outbreak since last year. In 2022, nearly 58 million birds - mostly chicken and turkeys - were slaughtered to deal with the virus, contributing significantly higher egg and turkey prices. The Minnesota farm is the first egg-laying operation where bird flu has been found this year.

The toll overall has been much lower in 2023 than in 2022 as the number of cases found in wild birds plummeted and farmers redoubled their efforts to prevent any contact between their birds and the ducks and geese migrating past their farms. Even after 940,000 chickens on the Minnesota farm are slaughtered, there will only have been about 3.4 million birds killed this year.

Minnesota has now lost a total of more than 5.5 million birds since the outbreak began. Iowa, which is home to many massive egg farms, has been the hardest hit with more than 16 million birds slaughtered, including one case where 5 million egg-laying chickens had to be killed. Egg farms like the one in Minnesota tend to have the most birds on any one farm. Turkey and chicken operations usually involve fewer birds.

Also:

NEW YORK: Federal health officials are expanding an investigation into potentially lead-tainted pouches of apple cinnamon fruit puree marketed for children amid reports of more illnesses and additional product recalls.

The **US** Food and Drug Administration said Friday it has received reports of seven illnesses in at least five states possibly linked to contaminated puree.

Two new companies, Schnucks Markets of St. Louis and Weis Markets of **Sunbury, Pennsylvania**, announced recalls of certain cinnamon applesauce products because they may contain high levels of lead. WanaBana of **Coral Gables, Florida**, previously recalled of all lots and expiration dates of its apple cinnamon fruit puree.

Minnesota egg farm will slaughter nearly 1 million chickens. This aims to limit the bird flu spread. Officials confirmed the outbreak on Monday. (AP)

A school nurse explains the powers of mucus

Why do noses get snotty when we are sick?

By Kristin Ahrens
Purdue University

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

❑ ❑ ❑

Curious Kids is a series for children of all ages. If you have a question you'd like an expert to answer, send it to curiouskidsus@theconversation.com.

Why do our noses get snotty when we are sick? - Veronica P., age 5, Panama City, Florida

Not many things are as uncomfortable and annoying as a runny or congested nose when you're sick. Constantly blowing your nose and not being able to breathe through it may leave you wondering: Why does this happen?

I'm a nurse practitioner who works with kids every day and also teaches nursing. The answer is pretty simple. Mucus - or snot - is one of the ways your body helps keep you healthy.

Mucus lines your nose, throat, lungs and other parts of your body to protect it from bad bacteria, viruses and other particles. Your body continuously creates mucus to fight off germs and help get rid of them.

When you're sick, your immune system ramps up to produce extra mucus to flush out germs. While it might seem gross, mucus is also pretty amazing.

Your body creates mucus out of a combination of water, proteins and salts. Its sticky consistency traps bad microorganisms and other unwanted particles, like dust, pet dander and mildew, so they can't get farther into your system.

Some components in mucus stop bacteria from banding together and becoming more dangerous. Other elements can actually kill the invaders that are trying to make you sick. And though scientists don't completely understand how, the proteins and genes in mucus seem to work together to make it thicker and stickier if necessary.

Once germs or other potentially damaging particles are trapped and neutralized, your body's way of getting rid of them altogether is to make so much mucus that you have to blow, sneeze or cough them out.

You might have noticed that sometimes when you're sick, your nose can get red too. This is because your immune system, in addition to making mucus, also sends extra white blood cells to the source of an infection. As they rush to the scene to help fight infection, the extra white blood cells expand the blood vessels in the area, making your nose look red. All the wiping and blowing can make it red, too.

Infection

Snot can come in a rainbow of yucky colors. When white blood cells are fighting an infection, they release chemicals that may turn your snot yellow. When more of those cells are needed to get the job done, mucus can even turn green. Typically, after a few days, colored mucus changes back to clear and your stuffy nose will go away.

Mucus isn't found just in your nose and lungs.

Your eyes also have a thin layer of mucus that helps protect them from particles in the air. When you get sick or get an eye infection, eye mucus can act the same way it does in your nose - catching and killing germs. Eye mucus can also sometimes turn thick and yellow. If that happens, you'll want to call your health care provider. Don't ever touch your eyes with your fingers. That can introduce more germs.

Your stomach and intestines also have protective mucus. If you've ever had an upset stomach that led to diarrhea, the mucus in your intestinal track was working overtime to help flush out bad bacteria. That's why your normal poop goes from a solid mush to something more slimy. There are other reasons you can have stomachaches - like stress, constipation or food allergies - but if you have diarrhea, your mucus is definitely hard at work.

Humans aren't the only animals that use mucus. For example, dogs and cats have mucus too.

Parrotfish, wrasses and other sea creatures produce mucus cocoons to help protect them from predators at night.

Chameleons use the sticky mucus on the end of their tongues to reel in their prey. Earthworms secrete mucus to help them move through the soil, which in turn benefits the soil. (AP)

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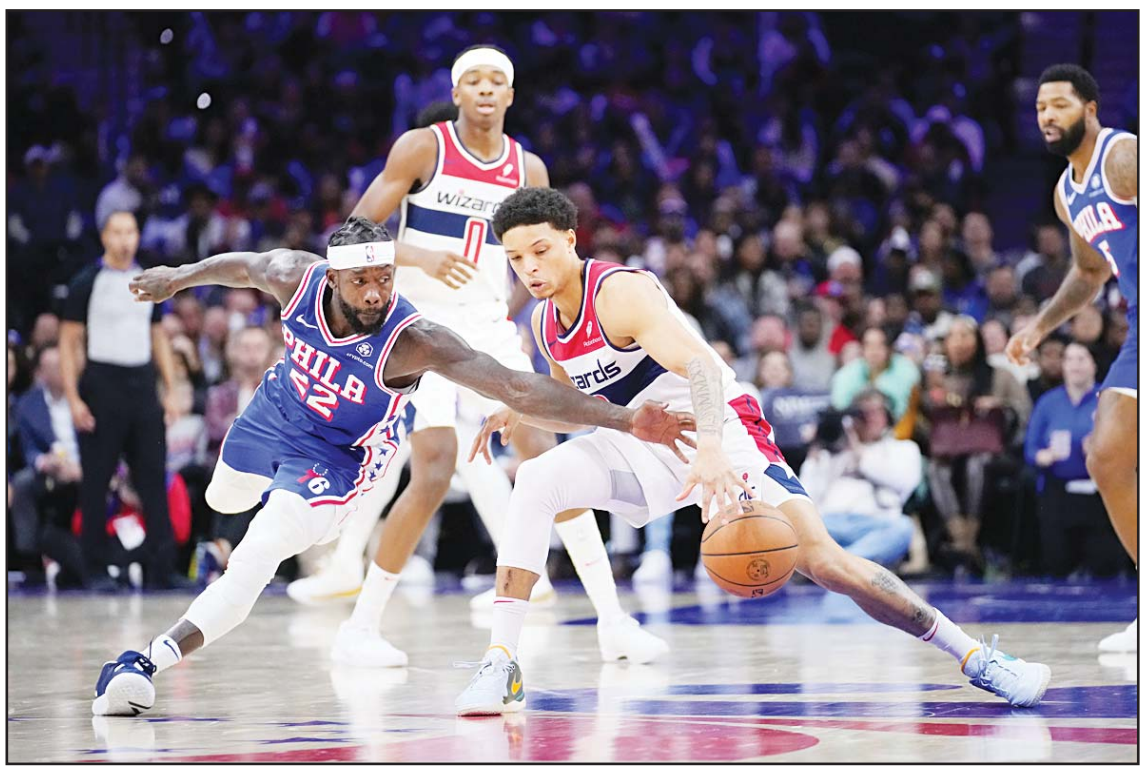
76ers roll for 5th win in row over Wizards



Philadelphia 76ers' Patrick Beverley (left), tries to steal the ball from Washington Wizards' Ryan Rollins during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, Nov. 6, 2023, in Philadelphia. (AP)

Heat hold off LeBron, Lakers 108-107

PHILADELPHIA, Nov 7, (AP): Joel Embiid scored 29 of his season-high 48 points in the third quarter and the Philadelphia 76ers rolled to their fifth straight victory, 146-128 over the Washington Wizards on Monday night.

Philadelphia is unbeaten after a one-point loss at Milwaukee in its opener.

In the third quarter, Embiid was 10 for 10 from the floor and 9 for 9 from the foul to help the 76ers extend their lead to 120-98. Embiid has scored 40 or more points 40 times in the regular season. He also had 11 rebounds and six assists.

Tyrese Maxey added 22 points and 11 assists, Tobias Harris had 18 and DeAnthony Melton a season-high 14 .

Nicolas Baton, who was picked up as one of the pieces in the trade that sent James Harden to the Los Angeles Clippers, scored 11 points on 4-for-5 shooting in his Sixers debut.

Heat 108, Lakers 107

In Miami, Bam Adebayo had the first 20-rebound triple-double in Miami history, Jimmy Butler scored 28 points and the Heat survived a big offensive drought at the end to beat Los Angeles.

Adebayo had 22 points, 20 rebounds and 10 assists for Miami in what became his sixth regular-season triple-double. Tyler Herro also scored 22 points for the Heat, and Duncan Robinson added 12.

LeBron James had 30 points for the Lakers, who fell to 0-4 on the road. Austin Reaves was an assist shy of a triple-double, finishing with 23 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists.

Timberwolves 114, Celtics 109, OT

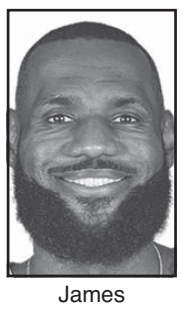
In Minneapolis, Anthony Edwards scored eight of his 38 points in overtime and Minnesota sent Boston to its first loss of the season

Jaden McDaniels added 20 points, and Rudy Gobert added 14 points and 12 rebounds as Minnesota improved to 4-0 at home in a third consecutive victory.

Jayson Tatum had 32 points and Jaylen Brown added 26 for the Celtics. Boston's 6-0 start was its best since 2009-10.

Knicks 111, Clippers 97

In New York, Julius Randle scored 27 points, RJ Barrett had 26 in his return to the lineup and New York spoiled James Harden's debut with Los Angeles.



James

Barrett had missed the previous two games with a sore left knee. Harden played 31 minutes and had 17 points and six assists in his first game since being traded from the Philadelphia 76ers.

BASKETBALL

Mitchell Robinson added 13 points and 14 rebounds as the Knicks snapped ar two-game losing streak and recorded their first home victory of the season.

Nuggets 134, Pelicans 116

In Denver, Nikola Jokic had his 108th triple-double with 35 points, 14 rebounds and 12 assists and Denver Nuggets overcame a 20-point, first-half deficit to beat New Orleans.

Jokic broke a tie with LeBron James and Jason Kidd to move into fourth place in triple-doubles. He trails Magic Johnson by 30 for third.

Denver rookie Julian Strawther scored a career-high 21 points of the bench to help overcome the absence of Jamal Murray, who will miss several games with a right hamstring injury.

Pacers 152, Spurs 111

In Indianapolis, Tyrese Haliburton scored 23 points and Indiana routed San Antonio for coach Rick Carlisle's 900th career victory.

Carlisle, second among active coaches in wins, beat the leader, active or otherwise, in Hall of Fame coach Gregg Popovich, who has 1,369 victories, all with the Spurs. The Pacers won in style, tying a team record for most points in a game.

Spurs rookie sensation Victor Wembanyama had his worst shooting night in his first back-to-back, going 3 of 12 and finishing with 13 points and 10 rebounds.

Bucks 129, Nets 125

In New York, Giannis Antetokounmpo had 36 points and 12 rebounds to help Milwaukee beat Brooklyn.

Damian Lillard added 21 points, and Jae Crowder had 15. Milwaukee improved to 4-2 with its first road victory of the season.

Cam Thomas scored 45 points for Brooklyn in his fourth 30-point game of the season. Mikal Bridges had 31 points, and Lonnie Walker IV added 19 points. Brooklyn fell to 3-4 overall and 0-3 at home.

Mavericks 117, Magic 102

In Orlando, Florida, Luka Doncic returned from a brief absence after bumping his head to score 12 of his 29 points in the fourth quarter, leading Dallas past Orlando.

Kyrie Irving and Tim Hardaway Jr. added 21 points as the Mavericks erased a 15-point deficit for the second night in a row to sweep their first back-to-back of the season.

Warriors 120, Pistons109

In Detroit, Steph Curry scored 34 points and Golden State dominated on the offensive glass against Detroit.

Golden State had 17 offensive rebounds to Detroit's seven and finished with a 26-10 advantage in second-chance points.

Klay Thompson and Chris Paul each added 17 points for the Warriors. Cade Cunningham and Killian Hayes each had 21 points for Detroit.

Golden State Warriors forward Kevon Looney blocks a shot by Detroit Pistons guard Marcus Sasser (25) during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, Nov. 6, 2023, in Detroit. (AP)

Rockets 122, Kings 97

In Houston, Alperen Sengun had 17 points, 12 assists and eight rebounds and Jalen Green scored 23 points in Houston's victory over Sacramento.

The Rockets have won three straight to improve to 3-3. They are .500 for the first time since Oct. 22, 2021, when they started the 2021-22 season 1-1.

Sengun fell just two rebounds shy of his third career triple-double, doing so in just 26 minutes and without playing in the fourth quarter.

Thunder 126, Hornets 117

In Oklahoma City, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 30 points in Oklahoma City's victory over Atlanta.

The Thunder's leading scorer sat out Friday against Golden State because of a sprained left knee. He bounced back quickly, making 11 of 20 shots and getting eight rebounds and six assists.

Dejounte Murray scored 29 points for Atlanta, and Trae Young added 22 points and 11 assists not far from the campus where he starred for Oklahoma.

Bulls 130, Jazz 113

In Chicago, Zach LaVine scored 24 points, DeMar DeRozan had 21 and Chicago beat Utah to snap a three-game losing streak.

Coby White added 18 as the Bulls scored a season high in points. Chicago got a boost off the bench as Jevon Carter hit four 3-pointers and scored 12 points, and Andre Drummond added 12 points from inside the paint. Drummond had seven rebounds, reaching 10,000 for his career.

Iga clinches year-end No. 1 ranking

Swiatek earns 1st WTA Finals title

CANCUN, Mexico, Nov 7, (AP): Right after relinquishing the No. 1 ranking two months ago, Iga Swiatek couldn't help but worry about trying to regain it.

"It's hard not to think about stuff like that," she explained.

And then Swiatek realized it was better to set that sort of thing aside and, instead, simply focus on playing her best tennis - and her best is better than anyone else's at the moment. Swiatek earned her first WTA Finals title and clinched the year-end No. 1 ranking by overwhelming Jessica Pegula 6-1, 6-0 on Monday in the latest in a series of dominant performances.

"Today was like a highlight of this mental (approach) - just being narrow with your head, only thinking about the right stuff," said Swiatek, a 22-year-old from Poland who is the youngest WTA Finals champion since Petra Kvitova was 21 in 2011.

Iga Swiatek, of Poland, holds her trophy after her victory over Jessica Pegula, of the United States, in the women's singles final of the WTA Finals tennis championships, in Cancun, Mexico, Monday, Nov. 6, 2023. (AP)

TENNIS

Swiatek went 5-0 at the tour's season-closing championship, winning all 10 sets she played and ceding a total of just 20 games. That's the fewest by the winner at the event for the top eight women in tennis since the round-robin format returned in 2003.

"She clearly really wanted that ranking," Pegula said. "I mean, you could tell by the way she was competing here. ... She was, like today, crushing people."

Swiatek extended her winning streak to 11 matches and improved to 68-11 in 2023 with six trophies, including her fourth career Grand Slam title at the French Open in June.

Pegula called it "an amazing year."

This victory allows Swiatek to return to No. 1, a spot she held from April 2022 until this September, when Aryna Sabalenka overtook her after the U.S. Open. In Cancun, Swiatek defeated Sabalenka in a semifinal that began Saturday, was suspended by rain, then finished on Sunday.

ROC officials appeal to CAS against 'suspension' by IOC

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, Nov 7, (AP): The Russian Olympic Committee has appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sports against a suspension by the IOC last month for incorporating Ukrainian sports councils.

CAS said Monday it has registered the appeal but that "it is not possible to indicate a time frame" for a verdict by its panel of judges. A hearing is likely to be held in Lausanne, Switzerland, which is home to the court and the International Olympic Committee.

OLYMPICS

The legal dispute should have no effect on Russian athletes preparing to qualify for, and compete at, the Paris Olympics next year.

The IOC previously said any Russian athletes accepted as neutral individuals to compete in Paris could be invited directly via their sport's world governing body in a process bypassing the ROC.

The latest Russia-IOC dispute was provoked by the Russian Olympic body incorporating the sports councils in four regions in occupied eastern Ukraine as its own members.

Imposing the suspension last month, the IOC said the Russian action "constitutes a breach of the Olympic Charter because it violates the territorial integrity of the NOC of Ukraine."

The ROC made a similar move in 2016 to incorporate sports councils in the Crimea region which had been annexed by Russia two years earlier. The IOC did not issue a suspension that time.

CAS said Monday the Russian appeal asks for the ROC to be reinstated "benefiting from all rights and prerogatives granted by the Olympic Charter."

The suspension removes the right of the ROC to get a share of Olympic broadcast and sponsor money worth millions of dollars in each four-year Olympic funding cycle. Russian officials reportedly have been weighing legal action to access the money not being paid due to economic sanctions during the war in Ukraine.

No. 2 Duke opens season by beating Dartmouth

Dickinson, Kansas rout North Carolina Central

LAWRENCE, Kansas, Nov 7, (AP): Hunter Dickinson had 21 points and eight rebounds in his Kansas debut, Kevin McCullar Jr. made four 3-pointers and finished with 22 points and the top-ranked Jayhawks cruised to a 99-56 victory over North Carolina Central on Monday night.

Kansas had five players in double-figures scoring, including Dickinson, the Michigan transfer and one of the most sought-after players to enter the portal. He had seven points, two boards and a block 90 seconds in, including the first of three 3-pointers that showed the 7-foot-2 center is more than just a beast on the block.

Nic Timberlake had 13 points, KJ Adams scored 12 and Dajuan Harris Jr. dished out 10 assists for Kansas, which led 59-17 by halftime before coasting over the final 20 minutes to its 51st consecutive home-opening win.

Ja'Darius Harris had 12 points to lead the Eagles.

Duke 92, Dartmouth 54

In Durham, N.C., Kyle Filipowski scored 25 points to help No. 2 Duke beat Dartmouth 92-54 on Monday night to open Year 2 under Jon Scheyer.

Freshman Caleb Foster added 15 points for the Blue Devils (1-0), who shot 64.4% and had doubled up the Big Green by halftime (42-21). The preseason Atlantic Coast Conference favorite won its 23rd straight season opener despite playing without returning wing starter Mark Mitchell due to a lower-body injury.

Purdue 98, Samford 45

In West Lafayette, Ind., No. 3 Purdue spent eight long months trying to flush the bitter taste from last year's shocking first-round NCAA Tournament exit.

When their chance finally arrived Monday, the Boilermakers sent a quick, strong message: They're back and they might be even better than last year's Big Ten regular season and tourney champs.

James Madison's Terrence Edwards Jr., left, looks to maneuver against Michigan State's A.J. Hoggard during the second half of an NCAA college basketball game, Monday, Nov. 6, 2023, in East Lansing, Mich. (AP)

Zach Edey opened the season with 16 points and 11 rebounds, Camden Heide added 13 points and Braden Smith and Fletcher Loyer combined for half of the 16 3-pointers Monday night, helping No. 3 Purdue rout Samford 98-45.

James Madison 79, Michigan St 76, OT

In East Lansing, Mich., Terrence Edwards had 24 points and Raekwon Horton made a 3-pointer with 8.6 seconds left in overtime, sending James Madison past No. 4 Michigan State for a 79-76 victory on Monday night.

BASKETBALL

Tyson Walker scored 35 points for Michigan State, but he had the ball poked away from behind in the closing seconds of the season opener.

The Spartans shot 36.1% overall. They missed 19 of 20 3-point shots and made just 23 of 37 free throws.

Marquette 92, N. Illinois 70

In Milwaukee, Kam Jones scored 20 points and No. 5 Marquette beat Northern Illinois 92-70 on Monday night in the season opener for both schools.

Marquette entered with its highest preseason ranking since 1977, when it was coming off a national championship and started out at No. 3. The Golden Eagles return four starters from a team that won the Big East's regular-season and tournament championships last season.

Houston 84, Louisiana-Monroe 31

In Houston, Emanuel Sharp scored a career-high 20 points, Damian Dunn added 18 points and No. 7 Houston beat Louisiana-Monroe 84-31 Monday night in the season-opener for both teams.

Sharp was 5 for 9 from the field and hit four 3-pointers, while Dunn, a transfer from Temple, finished 5 for 8 from the field, including 3 for 5 on 3s. Dunn scored 14 straight points during one stretch as the Cougars built a 23-7 lead with 8:45 left in the first half en route to a 38-14 halftime lead.

Houston shot 43% and was 11 for 35 on 3-pointers.

Tennessee 80, Tennessee Tech 42

In Knoxville, Tenn., Dalton Knecht scored 17 points and No. 9 Tennessee's defense was in midseason form as the Volunteers opened the season by beating Tennessee Tech 80-42 Monday night.

Knecht, a Northern Colorado grad transfer, scored 14 points in the first half. Josiah-Jordan James added 15 points and Jordan Gainey 11.

Tennessee Tech was limited to 22% shooting. The Golden Eagles turned over the ball 16 times and had eight shots blocked, four by Jonas Aidoo, who had eight rebounds.

Josiah Davis led Tennessee Tech with 13 points.

Utah demolishes MV State

No. 1 LSU loses season opener, falling to No. 20 Colorado 92-78

LAS VEGAS, Nov 7, (AP): No. 1 and defending champion LSU loses season opener, falling to No. 20 Colorado 92-78 on Monday night in the Hall of Fame Series.

Clark

It's the first time that the No. 1 team and defending champions lost their opener since the 1995-96 season when UConn fell to Louisiana Tech according to ESPN.

Frida Formann scored 27 points and Aaronette Vonleh added 24 to lead Colorado. Jaylyn Sherrod had 19 points, eight rebounds and six assists for the Buffaloes. Mikaylah Williams led LSU with 17 points, Angel Reese had 15 points and 12 rebounds, Sa'Myah Smith scored 16 points and noted Louisville transfer Hailey Van Lith and had 14 points.

Iowa 102, Fairleigh Dickinson 46

In Iowa City, Iowa, Caitlin Clark had 28 points and 10 assists and Hannah Stuelke added 22 points as No. 3 Iowa opened the season with a 102-46 win over Fairleigh Dickinsont.

Clark, the reigning national player of the year who was a unanimous Associated Press preseason All-American this season, started her senior season by hitting 11 of 17 shots. She has scored in double figures in 91 consecutive games.

Utah 104, MV State 45

In Salt Lake City, Alissa Pili scored 26 points and No. 5 Utah beat Mississippi Valley State 104-45 in the season opener for both teams.

Gianna Kneepkins finished with 18 points, eight rebounds and eight assists for the Utes. Lani White added 15 points. Issy Palmer chipped in 10 points and seven assists.

BASKETBALL

S. Carolina 100, Notre Dame 71

In Paris, Kamilla Cardoso had 20 points, 15 rebounds and four blocks as No. 6 South Carolina opened in style with a 100-71 victory over No. 10 Notre Dame in the NCAA's first women's game in Paris.

Cardoso is a 6-foot-7 senior who came off the bench behind WNBA No. 1 draft pick Aliyah Boston the past two seasons. Now, she has the middle all to herself and was dominant for South Carolina (1-0), hitting nine of 14 shots for her 17th career double-double.

USC 83, Ohio State 74

In Las Vegas, Freshman JuJu Watkins scored 32 points in her college debut, lifting No. 21 Southern California over No. 7 Ohio State 83-74 in the season opener for both teams.

Watkins, one of the nation's highest regarded incoming freshmen, finished 11 of 18 from the floor with six rebounds and five assists.

Al-Kuwait beaten in final round

Al-Qadsia emerge as Water Polo Youth League champions

Water Polo League Championship winners Al-Qadsia Club.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 7: Al-Qadsia Club clinched the overall Water Polo League Championship for the 18-year-old category in the current sports season. They secured this victory by defeating Al-Kuwait 12-6 in the final round. Al-Qadsia's Hassan Bou Fatin was honored with the Best Player Award in the tournament, and his teammate Abdullah Nasr was named the Best Goalkeeper.

This championship is well-deserved, marking their third consecutive title without a single loss. Faisal Abu Al-Hassan, the Director of Aquatics at Al-Qadsia Club, commended the outstanding performance and results delivered by the Al-As-

WATER POLO

far players, which led them to secure the league championship for this age group. He also lauded the efforts of the technical and administrative staff, emphasizing their commitment to achieving more victories and adding to the prestigious legacy of the yellow castle.

Abu Al-Hassan extended his gratitude to the Board of Directors of Al-Qadsia Club, led by Sheikh Khaled Al-Fahad and his deputy Sheikh Fahd Talal Al-Fahad, for their consistent support and dedication. This achievement is dedicated to the devoted and loyal fans of the club.

Best of the Rest

Basketball league resumes: The basketball league is set to resume today after a week-long break to allow the basketball team to participate in the Gulf Championship, two matches are scheduled to take place at Al-Ittihad Hall in the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex. In the first game, Kuwait will meet with Al-Arabi at 5:00 pm, followed by showdown between Al-Tadamon and Al-Nasr 7:00 pm.

Kuwait aim to secure their second consecutive victory, having defeated Al-Tadamon 92-41 in their opening match of the season. Meanwhile, Al-Arabi are looking to bounce back from a stumble in their first tournament match, where they fell to Al-Qadisiyah 73-81.

❑ ❑ ❑

Granada eliminated: Granada's win over fifth-division club Arosa in the first round of the Copa del Rey has been declared void because it used an ineligible player, the Spanish soccer federation said Tuesday.

Arosa will play in the next round even though Granada won last Thursday's match 3-0.

Granada, which is second-to-last in the first division, has 10 days to appeal the federation's ruling on the eligibility of goalkeeper Adri López.

López is linked to Granada's "B" team and shouldn't have been added to the Copa squad. (AP)

❑ ❑ ❑

Cane suspended: New Zealand captain Sam Cane was suspended for three games on Monday for his red card in the Rugby World Cup final.

He became the first man to be red-carded in a final after his shoulder-led tackle at the head of South Africa's Jesse Kriel in the 29th minute in Paris on Oct. 28.

Cane was yellow-carded originally but the bunker upgraded it to red a few minutes later. The Springboks led 9-3 at the time and hung on to win 12-11.

At his hearing, Cane didn't believe his foul play deserved a red card. But the judicial panel said the tackle was reckless with a high degree of danger.

The panel started the sanction at six weeks and reduced it to three after taking into account Cane's disciplinary record and remorse. (AP)

Al-Arabi continue bad run as Al-Riffa go top

Al-Zawraa edge Al-Najma

By Hassan Musa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

MANAMA, Nov 7: Al-Arabi's decline continued as they suffered a 1-2 defeat at the hands of Bahrain's Riffa in the fourth round of Group Two competitions in the AFC Cup. This result pushed them down to third place with four points. Al-Riffa now top the group with 10 points, and Al-Zawraa of Iraq are in second place with 7 points, having defeated Al-Najma (one point) 2-1, effectively ending Al-Najma's qualification hopes.

After the loss, Al-Arabi found themselves in a rut, experiencing a period of instability with three consecutive defeats – two to Al-Riffa (0-3 and 1-2) and one to Al-Nasr (1-3) in the Zain Premier League. This means they have conceded 8 goals in the last three matches.

Their chances of topping the group in the Asian Championship have dwindled. Even if they win their last two matches, they won't lead the group due to the difference in head-to-head encounters with the Bahraini team that defeated them twice. Therefore, Al-Arabi's

SOCCER

hope lies in competing for the second-best spot in the three groups of the West Asia region, a goal that won't be easily achieved.

At the domestic level, the decline in results caused Al-Arabi to lose their position at the top of the league alongside Al-Kuwait, who now lead by 3 points. They also gave up the second-place spot, which went to Al-Qadisiyah, just one point behind Al-Arabi. Although there are still 11 rounds remaining in the league competition, Al-Arabi fans fear that this decline will persist in the coming period, potentially leading to the team's absence from tournaments, something they haven't been accustomed to in recent seasons.

Perhaps the fans can attribute this decline to absences and injuries that have affected the team's stability in recent times. The club management took action by dismissing the German coach Thomas Berdaric and bringing in Bosnian Darko Nesterovic. The pause period extending until November 24 will allow the players to understand and adapt to his methods effectively. The goal is to regain Al-Arabi's usual level and compete for titles, something that has been a hallmark of "Al-Arabawiya" in the past.

Al Arabi and Al-Riffa players battle for the ball.

Bellingham 'available' for Real in CL match vs Braga

MADRID, Nov 7, (AP): Real Madrid will have Jude Bellingham available for the Champions League match against Braga on Wednesday, when they will go for their fourth straight win in Group C.

Bellingham has been nursing an injury to his left shoulder sustained in the Spanish league match against Rayo Vallecano on Sunday, but he trained on Tuesday.

Madrid lead the group with nine points, three more than Napoli and six more than Braga.

Napoli host winless Union Berlin in the other group match on Wednesday. Madrid have qualified for the knock-

SOCCER

out rounds in all 27 of their previous campaigns.

When Bellingham trained with the rest of his teammates, he showed no apparent sign of pain. Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said the midfield player was taken out for parts of the practice session to avoid any knocks on the shoulder.

"I don't know if he will play, but he recovered well and didn't show any problems today," Ancelotti said. "It's probable that he plays, but he will be evaluated again tomorrow."

Bellingham was hurt after a fall about 10 minutes into the 0-0 draw against Rayo Vallecano at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium. Team doctors put wrapping on the shoulder and he continued playing. Tests conducted on Monday showed no major injury.

Bellingham has been Madrid's best player since joining this season from

Real Madrid's Jude Bellingham controls the ball during a Spanish La Liga soccer match between Real Madrid and Rayo Vallecano at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid, Spain. (AP)

Borussia Dortmund. The 20-year-old England international has participated in more than half of Madrid's goals. He has 13 goals in 14 matches with the Spanish club. Having Bellingham in top form is key for Madrid, which won only once in the four games in which he failed to score.

The team's forwards have somewhat struggled in attack this season, with Vinícius Júnior contributing three goals and Rodrygo two.

Also doubtful for the game at the Bernabeu because of muscle ailments were midfielder Dani Ceballos and defender Ferland Mendy.

Bavarians unbeaten in their last 37 group-stage games

Bayern, stung by criticism, host Galatasaray in CL

MUNICH, Nov 7, (AP): Bayern Munich hopes to continue its winning start to the Champions League against Galatasaray on Wednesday amid a brouhaha over coach Thomas Tuchel's reaction to criticism.

Tuchel broke off from a post-game TV interview following his team's 4-0 win at Borussia Dortmund in "der Klassiker" on Saturday, when he was clearly still aggrieved by commentary from experts after Bayern's surprise loss to third-division Saarbrücken in the German Cup just days before.

The coach directed his ire at former Bayern stars Lothar Matthäus and Dietmar Hamann, now pundits for Sky TV, for saying there had been no development of the team since Tuchel had taken over from the fired Julian Nagelsmann in March.

"I haven't seen any development with the pair of them either," Tuchel countered at a press conference on Friday.

Tuchel was snappy when talking to Sky presenter Patrick Wasserziehr before the Dortmund game - "I don't want to disturb when the experts are speaking about us," he said and then followed up after his team's win by responding sarcastically to Matthäus' praise.

"Then it's Easter and Christmas!" Tuchel said.

He later broke off from the interview, then followed up in the post-game press conference by saying, "Should I quote Didi and Lothar here? For a team that hasn't developed and with a poor relationship between players and coach, I would say it looked quite OK."

Bayern chief executive Jan-Christian Dreesen defended his coach in an interview with Kicker magazine on Monday, when he said he was surprised by the level of criticism directed at Tuchel and the team.

"We made our best start to the Bundesliga in seven years and won every game in the Champions League. That everything is then reduced to the cup defeat and that wins are spoken of badly is absolutely not OK," Dreesen said. "It's completely understandable that Thomas Tuchel won't let it slide, and he has our full support."

Bayern's players are unlikely to be distracted as they seek their fourth win from four games in Group A on Wednesday. They already came from behind to beat Galatasaray 3-1 in their last game in Istanbul to stretch the club's winning streak in the group stage to 16 games - a competition record.

Bayern's Harry Kane scores his side's 4th goal during the German Bundesliga soccer match between Borussia Dortmund and Bayern Munich in Dortmund, Germany. (AP)

The Bavarian powerhouses are unbeaten in their last 37 group-stage games, also a record.

Overall, Bayern are bidding to win Europe's premier competition for the seventh time. Their last Champions League title came at the expense of domestic rivals Dortmund in 2013, when they also won the German Cup and started their record run of 11 straight Bundesliga titles.

Another treble is no longer possible this season following their German Cup loss last week - the defeat that prompted Matthäus and Hamann's criticism.

Bayern defender Matthijs de Ligt will miss the game with a knee injury.

Galatasaray are probably fighting for second place in the group against Manchester United, which they defeated 3-2 away on the second matchday. The Turkish champions have four points from three games, one more than United, which play Copenhagen in the other match on Wednesday.

Australia's Glenn Maxwell plays a shot during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup match between Australia and Afghanistan in Mumbai, India. (AP)

Sports

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Al-Ittihad Refresher Championship winners Kuwait Club celebrate on the podium.

Kuwait Club soar to victory

Burgan, Kazma complete podium

By Khaled El Anzi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 7: The first volleyball team of Kuwait Club secured the Al-Ittihad Refresher Championship title by defeating Burgan 25-21, 25-21, 25-21 in the final match at Al-Ittihad Hall in the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex. In the match for the third-place spot, the Kazma Club overcame Al-Qadsia 25-19, 25-22, 25-21.

The tournament commenced early in October with the participation of nine clubs with only Sulaibikhat being the notable absence. Al-Jahra, which had announced the discontinuation of their public teams in handball, volleyball, and basketball, were absent for the current season alone.

VOLLEYBALL

Following the final match, Dr. Jaber Al-Marri, President of the Volleyball Association, and his deputy, Nasser Al-Enezi, awarded the championship to the victorious teams. The ceremony was attended by Khaled Al-Ghanem, President of Kuwait Club, Anwar Al-Otaibi, President of Burgan Club, and members of both clubs' boards.

Dr. Jaber Al-Marri expressed his gratitude to all participating clubs, particularly the three teams that secured top positions. He mentioned, "The tournament's final was passionate and marked by excellence from both sides. The Federation's Board of Directors will strive to enhance the competitions and elevate the standard of upcoming tournaments, benefiting the league and national teams alike."

Anwar Al-Otaibi, President of Burgan Club, emphasized that reaching the final match was an accomplishment in itself, considering the club's relatively short history in volleyball, having only participated in the Premier League for two seasons.

Musleh Al-Rashidi, the Kuwait Club's Game Director, extended his congratulations to the honorary president of Kuwait Club, Member of the National Assembly Marzouq Al-Ghanim, as well as the club's president, members, players, and fans for their Federation Championship victory. He underscored that the club is renowned for its achievements and is no stranger to such success.

Chelsea's Raheem Sterling (left), challenges for the ball with Tottenham's Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg during the English Premier League soccer match between Tottenham Hotspur and Chelsea, at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, London. (AP)

Jackson hits late treble

Chelsea hand 9-man Tottenham first defeat in a 'chaotic' match

LONDON, Nov 7, (AP): Tottenham's players lost their heads and the remaining unbeaten record in the English Premier League.

A late hat trick by Nicolas Jackson sealed a 4-1 victory for Chelsea in a chaotic London derby featuring two red cards - to Tottenham defenders Cristian Romero and Destiny Udogie - five disallowed goals and a maverick tactical approach by Spurs manager Ange Postecoglou in his unlikely bid to survive with nine men.

Jackson broke the resistance of Tottenham with his three goals from the 75th minute, settling a frantic game that defied logic at times as hosts survived for a while despite playing a high defensive line following the sending-offs of Romero in the 33rd and Udogie in the 55th.

"It is pretty hard to process," Postecoglou said. "It's almost impossible to analyze the game because it just seemed to get out of control."

Dejan Kulusevski gave Tottenham a flying start by scoring off a deflected shot in the sixth minute, only for the derby to turn fiery amid a blaze of wild challenges and crazy incidents.

Amidst all the madness, Cole Palmer equalized from the spot after Romero conceded a penalty - and earned a fourth red card in 2 1/2 years at Tottenham - for a dangerous lunge on Argentina teammate Enzo Fernandez.

SOCCER

And when Udogie collected a second yellow card, Tottenham faced an uphill battle to preserve its undefeated start to the season.

Chelsea initially failed to get past Tottenham's brave but possibly naïve high line but did so eventually to devastating effect. Jackson's final two goals came deep into stoppage time to clinch a memorable win for visiting manager Mauricio Pochettino on his return to the club he coached from 2014-19 and led to a Champions League final.

Postecoglou had no regrets regarding his tactics while his team was down to nine men, saying: "It is just who we are. It is who we are and who we will be for as long as I am here.

"If we go down to five men, we will have a crack."

It left Manchester City, the defending champions, a point clear of second-placed Tottenham after an 11th round of games that saw Liverpool and Arsenal, the other teams in the top four, also fail to win.

The first half, in particular, was mayhem.

Aside from the two goals and the red card to Romero, there were four disallowed goals, game-ending injuries to Tottenham players James Maddison and Micky van de Ven, yellow cards to Postecoglou for complaining and Udogie for a flying two-footed lunge, a free-for-all sparked by a scuffle between Chelsea's Levi Colwill and Tottenham's Pape Sarr, and 12 minutes of stoppage time.

Tottenham's Rodrigo Bentancur (right), challenges for the ball with Chelsea's Marc Cucurella (bottom), and Chelsea's Mykhailo Mudryk during the English Premier League soccer match between Tottenham Hotspur and Chelsea, at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, London. (AP)

Kelsey pip Najma in thriller

Al-Kuwait start Club World Cup campaign on winning note

By Khaled El Anzi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

RIYADH, Nov 7: The Kuwait Club's handball team delivered a commanding performance at the outset of the Club World Cup Handball Championship "Saudi Super Globe 2023," which commenced in Dammam. They secured a resounding victory against the Argentine club Fernando with a score of 41-28 in the opening round of matches.

Meanwhile, in the same group, Al-Najma of Bahrain clashed with Kelsey of Poland, with Kelsey narrowly emerging victorious at 27-26.

The Tunisian professional standout, Khaled Beljah, known as "White," was honored with the Best Player Award in this game, where several players stood out, including goalkeeper Hassan Safar in the second half, Saif Al-Adwani, Saleh Al-Moussawi, and Abdulaziz Al-Shammari.

In their upcoming fixture, Al-Kuwait will face off against Fox Berlin of Germany in the second group match on Thursday at 2:30 p.m. . the Bahraini team will take on Cal Heat of America, Fernando of Argentina will compete against Fox Berlin of Germany, Al-Noor of Saudi Arabia will confront Barcelona of Spain, and Al-Khaleej of Saudi Arabia will go up against Queensland of Australia.

HANDBALL

Kuwait National Team coach Haitham Al-Rashidi noted that the team have faced challenges due to players participating in the Asian Games and Paris 2024 qualifiers, as well as injuries. He emphasized that the Club World Cup is crucial preparation for the Asian Club Championship. The tournament features 4 or 5 top club teams globally, and the team's goal is to fine-tune their strategies to benefit the Kuwait national team in the upcoming Asian Cup.

Al-Rashidi mentioned that some players like Abdullah Al-Gharabally, Fawaz Abdul-Jalil, Abdullah Al-Khamis, and Abdul-Rahman Al-Baloul are still recovering from injuries. He expressed hope that the team would be at full strength for the Asian Championship.

In other news, Al-Qadsia signed a contract with the Japanese national team player, Kosyoko Yasuhira, to represent them the 26th edition of the Asian Club Championship. This championship will be hosted by Al-Qadsia from the 17th to the 27th of this month at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex in the Sabah Al-Salem suburb.

Yasuhira boasts an impressive resume, having excelled with the Japanese national team during the Asian qualifiers for the 2024 Paris Olympics, where Japan emerged as champions.

He was also awarded the title of Best Player with the French team Nimes in 2022 and was named the Best Player in the Macedonian Cup with the Vardar team during the 2022-2023 season.

Al-Qadsia are currently in training in Doha, Qatar, as part of their preparations for the Asian Cup. The addition of Yasuhira comes as a replacement for Montenegrin team's professional, Vasiliy Kalgirovic, who sustained an injury during the training camp. The Asian team also includes the Tunisian goalkeeper, Emil Al-Nakili, the Argentine circuit player, Moscarello, and the Montenegrin team's professional, Vladan Lipovina, alongside "Bani Qadiz" national Hussein Habib.

The draw for the tournament placed Al-Qadsia in the second group, alongside the Indian Sai, the Qatari Al-Arabi, the Iraqi Army, the Lebanese Sidon Youth, and the Emirati Sharjah. The first group consists of the second Kuwaiti representative, Al Kuwait, Najma, the Qatari Al-Gharafa, the Saudi Gulf, the Palestinian Salah, and the Indian Golden Eagle.

Kuwait commence training

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 7: The Kuwait national soccer team will kick off their training sessions at the Friendship and Peace Stadium. These preparations are in anticipation of the upcoming Asian qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup, to be held in the United States of America, Canada, and Mexico, as well as the 2027 Asian Cup in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Al-Azraq are set to conduct an internal training camp today to get ready for their match against India on November 16 in the first round of the initial group qualifiers. Following this, they will head to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to face the Afghanistan national team on the 21st of the same month.

Hernandez penetrates the Argentine team's defense to score.

Arteta 'doubles' down on his severe criticism

LONDON, Nov 7, (AP): Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta doubled down on his severe criticism of match officials, saying Tuesday it is supported by "evidence" and that it is his "duty" to defend his club amid accusations he is legitimizing widespread abuse of referees.

Arteta was furious about the standard of Premier League officiating in Arsenal's 1-0 loss to Newcastle on Saturday - in particular how the contentious winning goal from Anthony Gordon was allowed to stand after a video review checking three potential infringements.

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