



Thousands opt for 'partitioned' rooms to save money

Kuwait high rent squeezes low-wage expat's wallet

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: Renting an apartment for expatriate workers is a financial concern that worries them a lot, as the average rent accounts for about 30 percent of the total income...

According to the latest real estate data, the average rent for a room and a hall is about 180 dinars, while for two rooms and a hall it reaches 230 dinars, and 120 dinars for a studio...

Expatriates with limited income are forced to search for cheap housing options, by heading to narrow spaces that suit their financial ability. Therefore, they resort to living collectively in one room...

According to a report issued by the Real Estate Union, the number of investment properties at the end of 2021 reached about 12,994 properties in various regions of Kuwait...

The total number of expatriates reached about 3.29 million, according to the latest statistics issued by the Public Authority for Civil Information...

Real estate agents said that thousands of expatriates live in "partitions" in various regions of Kuwait, where some people resort to renting apartments consisting of two rooms and a hall...

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Ukraine's Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba is seen on a monitor as Germany's Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, (clockwise from left to right), U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Japan's Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa, Canada's Foreign Minister Melanie Joly, France's Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna, Italy's Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell and Britain's Foreign Secretary James Cleverly attend an outreach session...

'Humanitarian pauses'

G7 nations announce unified stance on war

TOKYO, Nov 8, (AP): Top diplomats from the Group of Seven leading industrial democracies announced a unified stance on the Israel-Hamas war on Wednesday after intensive meetings in Tokyo...

In a statement following two days of talks, the nations sought to balance unequivocal criticism of Hamas' attacks against Israel and "the need for urgent action" to help civilians in the besieged Palestinian enclave.

"All parties must allow unimpeded humanitarian support for civilians, including food, water, medical care, fuel and shelter, and access for humanitarian workers," said the statement, hammered out by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and foreign ministers from Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Japan and Italy.

The G7 meeting was, in part, an attempt to contain the worsening humanitarian crisis while also keeping broader differences on Gaza from deepening. It came "at a very intense time for our countries and for the world," Blinken said in remarks to reporters, adding that "G7 unity is stronger and more important than ever."

The ministers noted that the G7 is "working intensively to prevent the conflict from escalating further and spreading more widely," and also using sanctions and other measures "to deny Hamas the ability to raise and use funds to carry out atrocities."

As the diplomats met in downtown Tokyo, a U.N. agency said that thousands of Palestinians in Gaza are fleeing south on foot with only what they can carry after running out of food and water in the north. Israel said its troops were battling Hamas militants deep inside Gaza City, which was home to some 650,000 people before the war and where the Israeli military says Hamas has its central command and a vast labyrinth of tunnels.

"All of us want to end this conflict as soon as possible and meanwhile to minimize civilian suffering," Blinken said. "But, as I discussed with my G7 colleagues, those calling for an immediate cease-fire have an obligation to explain how to address the unacceptable result that would likely bring about: Hamas left in place with more than 200 hostages, with a capacity and stated intent to repeat October 7th again and again and again."

Looking ahead to after the war, Blinken said, "key elements should include no forcible displacement of Palestinians from Gaza. ... No use of Gaza as a platform for terrorism or other violent attacks. No reoccupation of Gaza after the conflict ends. No attempt to blockade or besiege Gaza. No reduction in the territory of Gaza. We must also ensure no terrorist threats can emanate from the West Bank."

NewsWatch

MANILA: Dozens of Filipinos fled from the war-ravaged Gaza Strip into Egypt through the Rafah crossing after Filipino diplomats negotiated for their safe passage and Qatar mediated for the border to be opened, Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said Wednesday.

The 40 Filipinos were traveling to the Egyptian capital of Cairo, where they planned to take flights back to the Philippines, Marcos said in a video message in Manila. Two Filipino doctors managed to leave the Gaza Strip into Egypt last week. (AP)

BEIRUT: The Islamic State group ambushed pro-government militiamen in an overnight attack in eastern Syria, killing at least 21 fighters, pro-government media and an opposition war monitor said Wednesday.

Sham FM radio reported that the militiamen from the pro-government National Defense Forces were ambushed in the village of al-Kawm in the central Syrian desert, between the government-held city of Homs and south of the city of Raqqah, which is under control of U.S.-backed Kurdish-led forces. (AP)

ISLAMABAD: The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for a minibus explosion in the Afghan capital late on Tuesday that killed at least seven people. The Sunni militant group said its members detonated an explosive device on the bus carrying Shiite Muslims.

Twenty others were wounded in the attack in Kabul's western Shiite neighborhood of Dashti Barchi, according to police spokesman Khalid Zadrani. (AP)

NEW DELHI: India and Malaysia agreed on Tuesday to cement cooperation in several areas of mutual interests after holding the 6th Joint Commission Meeting in New Delhi.

Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar announced that he co-chaired with Malaysian Foreign Minister Zambry Abdul Kadir the 6th India-Malaysia Joint Commission Meeting in New Delhi. "Reviewed progress on our political, defence, security, trade and finance, health, energy, education, maritime cooperation, culture, tourism and people-to-people cooperation," Jaishankar said. (KUNA)



A man places a poppy cross at the 'Field of Remembrance' at the Westminster Abbey in London, Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2023. Soldiers build up the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey that will be officially opened on Thursday. The Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey has been organised by The Poppy Factory since 1928 to pay tribute to all those who have lost their lives in service for the country. (AP)

Govt's tax strategy seeks to enhance citizens' lives

'No direct tax on Kuwaitis'

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: At a time when the Council of Ministers announced that the Minister of Finance, Fahd Al-Jarallah, was assigned to quickly prepare a draft law to increase the minimum pensions for retirees, in cooperation with the relevant parliamentary committees, and to prepare a vision for improving the living standards of citizens working in the public and private sectors, in coordination with the National Assembly, to complete it before the end of the current year, government sources confirmed to Al-Jarida that the government is serious about raising the standard of living of citizens and supporting retirees and employees of both sectors through several government decisions and laws capable of providing them with a decent life.

This step will depend on non-governmental alternatives, most notably the selective and corporate taxes. The sources said that government studies concluded by dividing citizens eligible for support into segments to benefit from financial increases on the one hand, and raising the mini-

mum pension for retirees on the other hand.

This is in addition to supporting citizens working in the "private" sector to achieve justice and equal opportunities. The sources revealed that these studies concluded that the government will not bear all the costs of the upcoming increases, but rather will resort to alternative methods so as not to affect the general budget, which will bear only 300 million dinars of the estimated cost of implementing the upcoming laws, which is estimated at about 700 million.

The sources confirmed that these laws, which will see the light by the end of this year, came based on directives from the political leadership, then extensive studies resulted in what the government announced at the Cabinet meeting, denying that this government trend to approve retiree laws and raise the standard of living is aimed at buying time or buying loyalties in Parliament in light of the recent wave of interrogations.

The sources pointed out that the scenario of bearing the cost of laws to improve living conditions would be through imposing a selective tax on harmful goods, energy drinks, and cigarettes, which is a Gulf agreement, in addition to a tax on companies, banks, and some petroleum derivatives, whose estimated revenues reach 400 million dinars, while the government will bear the 300 million dinars.

The sources added that raising the standard of living will be matched by major economic and financial reforms that are expected to contribute to supporting the state budget significantly, in a way that will develop non-oil revenues to be a real source of the budget, denying the tendency to impose any taxes on citizens after the approval of these laws.

Thousands flee Gaza north as hunger looms



Palestinians gather in anticipation of food distribution in Rafah, southern Gaza Strip on Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2023. Since the start of the Israel-Hamas war, Israel has limited the amount of food and water allowed to enter the territory, causing widespread hunger across the strip. (AP)

Situation dire

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip, Nov 8, (AP): Israel came under mounting pressure over the plight of civilians in Gaza from some of its closest allies on Wednesday, as thousands of Palestinians streamed out of the enclave's north on foot because of dwindling food and water and fear of approaching Israeli forces.

Over 70% of Gaza's population of 2.3 million have already left their homes, but the number making their way south has quickened recently as Israeli troops battle militants inside Gaza City and the humanitarian situation grows increasingly dire.

But there remains no real end in sight to the war, triggered by Hamas' Oct. 7 assault inside Israel and now in its second month.

Israel has said the battle to end Hamas' rule and crush its military capabilities will be long and difficult, and that it will maintain some form of control over the coastal enclave indefinitely - though how it will achieve that remains unclear. Support for the war remains strong inside Israel, where the focus has been on the fate of the more than 240 hostages held by Hamas and other militant groups.

About 15,000 people fled northern Gaza on Tuesday - triple the number that left Monday - according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. They are using Gaza's main north-south highway during a daily four-hour window announced by Israel.

Those fleeing include children, older people and people with disabilities, and most walked with minimal belongings, the U.N. agency said. Some say they had to cross Israeli checkpoints, where they saw people being arrested, while others held their hands in the air and raised white flags while passing Israeli tanks.

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Day by Day

IT is said that if everything that is denied is not true then everything that is said is true.

Israel says one thing, and Hamas says another. Today, it is said money comes for free, and it is also said it is 'A blessing in disguise'.

These are estimates that we follow and we cannot absorb all data, or understand their current reality, but with time all secrets are revealed. ... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

Other Voices

How do we protect the future of our Arab world from the dangers it faces?

By Khalaf Ahmad Al Habtoor UAE businessman

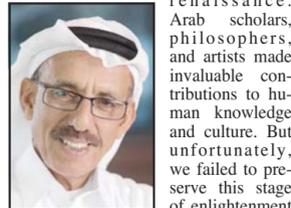
The Arab world, with its rich history and diverse cultures, has faced a range of challenges and dangers throughout the ages. From the shining days of the Arab Golden Age, when the region was at the forefront of human civilization, to today's complex geopolitical landscape, our region has been on a turbulent path.

Many threats and conspiracies have surrounded the Arab world since its golden age, the most prominent of which is the Sykes-Picot Agreement, which led to the division of Arab countries between France and the United Kingdom as if they were pieces in a cake, and rearranged the borders of the Middle East by separating members of a clan and a single family.

I have a feeling that we, as Arabs, deal with various parties with transparency that is not reciprocal, sometimes oblivious to the questionable alliances that are being hatched against us, which stem from the old proverb that says, "The enemy of my enemy is my friend." What are the ways to protect the future of the Arab nation? How can we benefit

from and draw lessons from these complex dynamics?

We cannot help but feel proud when mentioning the historical achievements of the Arab world during the Islamic Golden Age, as they had a significant impact on human civilization and its renaissance.



Al Habtoor

protect the region from conspiracies and intrigues.

Famed historian Bernard Lewis once wrote, "The Golden Age of Islam was not without challenges, as internal divisions and external pressures often tested the resilience of Arab societies. The Crusades and Mongol invasions stand as a harsh reminder of the dangers the Arab world faced. It was during these

tumultuous times that the concept of 'the enemy of my enemy is my friend' often comes up."

These external threats set the stage for subsequent centuries of geopolitical conflicts and power shifts. Indeed, our world today navigates a complex web of alliances and animosities, with controversial alliances being formed over the future stability of our region, including strange dynamics between the West, Iran, and Israel.

Despite the declared hostility between these various parties, we find their actions often contradict their official positions, as they serve the interest of their declared enemies at the expense of the Arab countries that suffer from both, through militias spread across a large number of Arab countries, whose declared goal is hostility to Israel and an Islamic resistance, while its essence is to keep the Middle East in a state of permanent instability and mobilize to defend its faith, identity and sanctities.

This is confirmed by American Dr. John Mearsheimer, a prominent researcher in international relations, when he expressed his concerns about the questionable alliance between the West

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Prayer Timings

Fajr	04:45	Asr	14:36
Sunrise ..	06:06	Maghrib ..	16:57
Zohr	11:32	Isha	18:16

Local

Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

By Day: Rather hot with light variable wind to light to moderate southeasterly wind, with speed of 06-26 km/h.

By Night: Mild to rather cold and

Weather

relatively humid over coastal areas with light variable wind to light to moderate southeasterly wind, with speed of 06-26 km/h.	Kuwait Airport	30	16
	Abdaly	30	17
	Jahra	31	19
	Salmiyah	29	25
	Nuwaisib	31	20
	Wafra	30	16

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

'Need to adopt united, strong stance until Palestinians obtain their rights'

GCC must work as one entity: Speaker Sa'adoun

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: "It is our fate to live in this era of critical regional positions and global changes; hence, the need for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries to adhere to the principles of unity, consultation, solidarity and cooperation," says National Assembly Speaker Ahmad Al-Sa'adoun.

This is part of the speaker's speech at the 17th Assembly of GCC Parliaments in Doha, Qatar, where he pointed out: "While we are meeting here, the Zionist entity keeps on committing devastating crimes, displacement and massacre in Gaza. The entity ignores the international humanitarian calls for ceasefire, refuses to open the borders for distribution of humanitarian aid and treatment of the injured. We need to recall the statement issued by the African Union leaders at the August 1975 summit, when they declared that the Israeli occupier of Palestine and the racist regimes ruling Zimbabwe and South Africa share the same racist colonialist ground with one racist entity keen on humiliating human beings and abusing their dignity."

He highlighted the decision taken at the Non-Aligned Foreign Affairs Ministers Conference in August 1975, condemning Zionism and considering it a threat to global safety and security; during which they recommended combating such racist and imperial ideology. He pointed out that despite the unlimited material, military and spiritual support of some countries for the Zionist entity; it is important to praise the fair position which the inter-parliamentary groups expressed at the International Parliament Union (IPU) Assembly held in Angola on October 23-27, 2023 where two proposals on Palestine were approved.

Canada submitted the first proposal on behalf of Argentina, Austria, Croatia, Finland, France, Italy, Holland, Sweden and United Kingdom. They proposed the establishment of a common base for peace. The Algeria and Kuwait delegation, which represented the Arab Group, Indonesia, Iran and South Africa, submitted the second proposal about ceasefire and stopping crimes against humanity in Gaza.

Al-Sa'adoun clarified that although none of these proposals obtained the special majority vote (two-thirds of the votes required to include them



KUNA photo
Kuwait National Assembly Speaker Ahmad Al-Sa'adoun at the Doha meeting.

in the agenda), both of them got absolute majority as follows:

First: 607 approved, 439 rejected and 219 abstained.

Second: 507 approved, 452 rejected and 306 abstained.

He also mentioned the United Nations General Assembly resolution issued on October 27, 2023 about the protection of civilians, and adherence to legal commitments for immediate and lasting peace and ceasefire in Gaza.

He stressed the need to adopt unified and strong positions to support Palestinians until they obtain their rights, such as the right to an independent State with full sovereignty.

In another development, MP Hani Shams submitted a bill on establishing a national shareholding shipping company for the shipment of goods by land, sea and air.

According to the bill, the government will establish the national company with a permanent headquarters in Kuwait.

The company will provide shipment services using the ships at Kuwaiti ports, Kuwait Airways fleet and public transportation. It will contribute to the development of logistic services to be internationally competitive.

The shares of the company will be distributed as follows: 6-24 percent for the government and its subsidiaries and 50 percent for public subscription. Retirees can hold shares and they can ask the Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS) to

buy the shares on their behalf, while the payment for these shares will be in installments that will be cut from their pension. A minimum of 26 percent of the shares will be for the bidding of companies registered at Boursa Kuwait. The institution that will be tasked to prepare the executive regulations for the bill will specify the conditions for these companies to participate in the bidding.

The national shipping company shall boost the economy in line with the relevant laws and international treaties. It is authorized to invest its profits directly or through other investment institutions. It will establish subsidiaries and buy the shares of other foreign shipping companies.

The Council of Ministers shall issue a decision for the concerned public institutions, including Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects, to establish the national shipping company and lay down the executive regulations within one year of ratifying the bill.

MP Majed Al-Mutairi submitted a proposal to establish the Saturday Market (Souk Sabt) for the owners of small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

On the other hand, MP Muhannad Al-Sayer asked Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Khalid Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah to provide him with a copy of the decision to establish the Disciplinary Council at the Criminal Investigation General Department, if the council is suspended now, reasons for suspension if the response is in the affirmative, measures taken against officials referred to the council in the last five years, deadline for the department to complete the investigation of a case, if cases have filed up at the department, if the number of investigators matches the number of cases, job description of the deputy chairman of the Investigation Section Affairs Unit, if the Technical Office carries out its tasks as per ministerial Decision No. 11/2008, if the job degree of the attorney general is similar to that of the undersecretary and his retirement privileges.

MP Hassan Jawhar asked the same minister about the number of residents who were granted Kuwaiti citizenship for providing exceptional services to Kuwait since March 1, 1991. He requested for details like the original nationality, period of residency in Kuwait before obtaining nationality, date of granting Kuwaiti nationality, qualification before obtaining Kuwaiti nationality, names of Kuwaiti relatives before obtaining citizenship, the exceptional services rendered, and number of individuals who were naturalized by virtue of the citizenship granted to the original beneficiaries.

This Diwali, get guaranteed gold coins on gold jewellery purchase with Malabar Gold and Diamonds

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: Indians across the globe are on the last leg of their festive shopping as Diwali Day draws near. Ahead of the festival of lights, Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the 6th largest jewellery retailer globally with over 335 showrooms across 11 countries, has ramped up its festive season offers across all of its showrooms globally.

Customers will be eligible for free gold coins on the purchase of gold jewellery worth KWD 250 from 9th to 11th November 2023. The offer can be availed across all Malabar Gold & Diamonds outlets in the GCC, Far East, the USA & the UK.

As part of the ongoing offer that has been running across Malabar Gold & Diamonds showrooms, customers were eligible for free gold coins on the purchase of diamond and precious gem jewellery worth KWD 250 and above.

As the auspicious occasion of Dhanteras draws near, the assured gold coin offer that has been extended to cover gold jewellery purchase as well, is sure to be great news for jewellery buyers.

"We've been hearing great reviews about our Festive Jewellery collection from our customers. Considering the preferences of our multicultural audi-

ence, we took special care to ensure that our jewellery collection incorporates designs to suit the cultural nuances of every celebration.

We have a strong customer base who chooses to buy jewellery on Dhanteras day as part of safeguarding their beliefs and with Dhanteras just around the corner, we hope to add more value and joy to their celebrations by introducing the free gold coin offer on gold jewellery purchase as well", said Mr. Shamal Ahamed, MD-International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds.

On Dhanteras Day (Friday, 10th November), all the outlets of Malabar Gold & Diamonds in Kuwait will be open from 8:00 am, to be able to serve the high customer footfall that is expected at the showrooms. The festive jewellery collection in Gold, Diamonds & Precious gems that the brand has unveiled during the festive season has been a tremendous hit amongst customers, eliciting a warm reception.

In light of the fluctuating gold rates, jewellery buyers had taken advantage of Malabar Gold & Diamonds' Gold Rate protection offer to block the gold rate till Diwali, thereby ensuring the lowest gold rate during purchase.

Delightful Diwali

MALABAR GOLD & DIAMONDS

ASSURED GOLD COINS ON GOLD & DIAMOND JEWELLERY

Malabar Gold & Diamonds is with you in all your celebrations. This festive season, bring home happiness and prosperity with guaranteed Gold Coins on purchase of our beautifully designed Gold, Diamond and Precious gem jewellery collections.

- FREE GOLD COINS**
Get a guaranteed gold coin for every KWD 250 worth gold jewellery. Validity: 9th to 11th Nov
- FREE 1 GRAM GOLD COIN**
On purchase of Diamond & Precious gem jewellery worth KWD 420
- FREE 1/2 GRAM GOLD COIN**
On purchase of Diamond & Precious gem jewellery worth KWD 250

- 0% ZERO DEDUCTION ON OLD GOLD (916) EXCHANGE**
- 100% VALUE ON DIAMOND EXCHANGE**
- No making charges on 8 gram gold coins
- Special buy counters with attractive discounts

Offer valid until 12th November

ON THIS AUSPICIOUS DAY OF DHANTERAS (NOV 10), OUR SHOWROOMS WILL OPEN FROM 8.30AM

Download Our Mobile App

OVER 335 BRANCHES SPREAD ACROSS KUWAIT, UAE, OMAN, QATAR, BAHRAIN, SAUDI ARABIA, SINGAPORE, MALAYSIA, USA, UK & INDIA

*Terms & Conditions Apply.

'US and Europe must house Palestinians, not neighbors'

"Everyone is in pain from what is happening to the Palestinian people, and everyone is bearing the burden of economic losses as a result of what is happening, and everyone is afraid of the displacement of the Palestinian people from their land to Egypt and Jordan," columnist **Abdulaziz Al-Tamimi** wrote for *Al-Rai* daily.

"Based on these data, the world has been divided into two halves. The first rejects the idea of displacing the Palestinian people outside their land, and supports the project. The Arab states are like two states, one in the West Bank on the 1967 borders, and the other beyond these borders in the occupied land of Palestine belongs to Israel, and these are a small minority who completely reject the idea, as homelands are not for sale and there is no mind that accepts this idea.

"The other party that supports the idea of displacement and settlement outside the borders of Palestine is a large group from the world, Western and Eastern.

"Based on all of this, I propose a solution to this dilemma, first to the countries that find the solution to displacement and settlement outside occupied Palestine the best, which are 27 European countries, along with America, so that they may come forward with the solution and receive whoever wants from the displaced from occupied Palestine and give them lands in their countries, instead of imposing them on neighboring countries.



Al-Tamimi

"Solving the Israeli problem at the expense of the Arab countries, and I am certain that the vast majority of the afflicted Arab people would prefer to go out on ships and planes to the 27 European countries or the 50 American states without fighting or losses.

"Thus, the supporters of Israel remove the thorn that has been stuck in its throat for 75 years, considering that the occupation gang has the right, and the Palestinian Arab people are the aggressors because of their adherence to their land, and the Arab countries are the countries without conscience and have no mercy in the face of the large number of innocent dead women and children and European countries.

"At its forefront is America, the dove of peace, which found the solution to the problem created by one of the European leaders in 1917. He began implementing his promise in 1920, and the flag of the Zionist entity was raised in 1948. Based on this act, the Arab people were displaced and spread throughout all countries without exception.

"I believe that whoever comes forward to intervene on behalf of one party is responsible for finding the appropriate solution for both parties, and at his own expense. Accept the immigration of the Palestinian people for those who wish to immigrate to Europe or America without pressure, war, or coercion. We will spare blood and not kill innocent people. May God protect us from the evil of wars and fighting."

Also:

"The Ministry of the Interior and the security leaders are working day and night to establish security and stability, the results of which have begun to appear with a decrease in violent crime rates," columnist **Tarek Hamada** wrote for *Al-Anba* daily.

"It is known that preventing crime is impossible because it is linked to human existence, but reducing its rates is possible through what is called preventive security, and following what has been published in various media outlets over the months.

"The latter realizes that the crimes are not comparable to previous periods, and this is due to the various field security agencies and the follow-up of the First Deputy Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled of the work of these agencies and periodic meetings with the representatives of the Ministry of the Interior to determine the results of the intensive campaigns carried out by the sectors of the Ministry of the Interior and his directives to intensify the security deployment and fixed, mobile and foot security patrols.

"This is done to immediately deal with any negativities. Surveillance cameras play a crucial role in enhancing security and have had a positive and effective impact in reducing the occurrence of crimes and revealing their circumstances if they occur.

"They have played an important role in closing many, many complex case files that could have been registered against an unknown person. There is also an important role in monitoring and documenting violations of recklessness, imprudence, endangering the lives of others, and cases hit-and-run incidents, and it has reduced the number of disturbing cases such as robbery that targeted money exchange shops, gas stations, and vehicles transporting money, and we rarely hear about them at the present time.

"The cameras supervised by the Ministry of Interior are estimated at about 500. It is distributed over roads, bridges and traffic lights. It is responsible for following up on traffic on main roads and intersections and recording indirect violations.

"Because of its connection to the control room in the management of traffic operations, it can be used to program and reduce congestion at intersections. It can also be used more by increasing the human cadres working on it, especially in mobile phone violations and quite a few vehicle drivers deliberately by-

passing queues that are often long and then stopping in the far right lane at peak times, causing further obstruction to traffic.

"I agree with the calls of a number of fellow MPs to make an amendment to some provisions of Law No. 61/2015 regarding organizing and installing cameras so that they branch out to cover the main streets of residential areas and the entrances and exits of the area, and linking them to their area police station.

"I congratulate the men of the Directorate General of Narcotics Control in Kuwait for winning the award for the best operational information field cooperation at the Arab, regional and international levels.

"This achievement is the result of great effort and the thwarting of operations carried out by organized criminal gangs in drug crimes. May you be strong and from success to success for the sake of Kuwait."



"The inaugural sessions of the National Assembly are among the most beautiful manifestations of our democracy, especially when the political leadership delivers a speech on this occasion," columnist **Asrar Hayat** wrote for *Al-Qabas* daily.

"The speech usually conveys messages for the two authorities – the nation's representatives and the ministers. It consists of instructions for them.

"At the inaugural session a few days ago, His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah delivered the sublime speech of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Perhaps, the most important characteristic of the speech was the father's frankness with his children to direct the courses of action of the legislative and executive authorities, otherwise, they will be aggravating elements.

"The lofty speech also touched on vital files such as Khor Abdullah and the events in Gaza. Locally, it was a clear diagnosis of the scene and an accurate assessment of the work of both the Council of Ministers and the National Assembly. It rather pointed out the shortcomings and facts with a scrutinizing eye.

"It was noteworthy that the supreme proclamation clearly expressed the citizens' disappointment over the performance of the two authorities as a result of wrong political practices, warning that the continuation of the previous political scene will not be in the interest of the nation and the citizens.

"The speech laid down a roadmap, including the improvement of parliamentary practice, refraining from delving into minor issues, staying away from parliamentary questions whose answers require a full legislative chapter, and avoid using interrogation as a pressure tool.

"On the other hand, the lofty speech contained messages that the government's performance disappointed the citizens and did not meet their aspirations despite the support of the political leadership. The performance was characterized by hesitation in decision-making, slowness in implementation, and failure to implement the government program.

"The lofty speech was clear and required members of the two authorities to be aware of the message – that they must bear the responsibility entrusted to them and work within the constitutional framework, which emphasized the separation of powers and their cooperation. We hope that the lawmakers and ministers will play their roles accordingly."



"Kuwait is full of national medical talents that have traveled the world in search and pursuit of knowledge. Dermatology is one of the most important medical specializations, in which the Ministry of Health has shown interest, and that interest does not stop at buildings," columnist **Dr Yousif Al-Braik** wrote for *Annahar* daily.

"Rather, it went beyond paying attention to the human element, preparing specialized cadres of doctors, technicians and nursing staff. The ministry expanded foreign mission programs in developed countries for Kuwaiti doctors with postgraduate studies in the field of Dermatology. This is in addition to obtaining the board program in Dermatology at Kuwait Institute for Medical Specializations.

"Therefore, we are proud of the competencies in Kuwait. We find ourselves proud of Kuwaiti national competencies, such as Dr Fahd Abdulaziz Al-Mutawa – a Dermatology, Cosmetics and Laser consultant at the Canadian and American medical boards. He worked as professor at the College of Medicine and a consultant in Dermatology and Cosmetics.

"He is considered one of the most competent medical figures, because of his extensive experience in the field and his ability to use the latest modern technological means in the field of medicine for cosmetics and treatment purposes.

"The Kuwaiti health sector is facing challenges in maintaining and developing competencies and expertise like Dr Fahd Abdulaziz Al-Mutawa. The health sector in Kuwait is at risk of shortage or bleeding of medical talent, especially the nationals due to the increasing regional and global demand for them, and the weak response to competitive standards for obtaining qualified services."

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary



KUNA photo

Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Scouts Association at the gathering.

Reveal truth of Israeli crimes against Palestinians – KBSA

Boy scouts groups meet in Cairo

CAIRO, Nov 8, (KUNA): Chief of Kuwaiti Boy Scout Association (KBSA), **Dr. Abdullah Al-Turajji**, on Tuesday urged for addressing scout associations all over the world to advocate and reveal truth of Israeli occupation atrocious crimes against the Palestinian people.

This was at urgent meeting for Arab Scout Organization held in Egyptian capital of Cairo called for by Kuwait to look into mechanisms to support Palestinian people and alleviate their suffering.

Al-Turajji called on Arab Scout leaders to issue a statement countering the false and deceptive statement issued by the Israeli occupation scout association.

Despite the fact that scout work is considered of educational and voluntary nature, stated Al-Turajji, the brutality of the situation places great responsibility on the scout organization to speak up and come out with recommendations that could contribute to lifting Palestinian morale.

Al-Turajji expressed his gratitude to Egyptian leadership for hosting this urgent meeting.

Demanding

Palestinian Minister for Youth and Sports, Lieutenant General Jibril Rajoub spoke to the congregation demanding that occupation scout be expelled from international scout organization, in an act that incriminates its practices and the war crimes and genocide it had been committing.

The minister recalled stance of former chief of Kuwait football association, current parliament Speaker Ahmad Al-Sa'adoun who expelled the Israeli occupation from the Asian football confederation.

He stated that the mere existence of Israeli scout groups on occupied Palestinian lands is a violation of the charter, principles and the very message of the international scout organization.

The minister spoke of the atrocities happening in Palestine, saying that thousands had been killed, wounded or displaced and entire families wiped out. Rajoub described this as unprecedented violence in human history.

He also voiced his disappointment at the western world, and the double standards they had adopted in face of the tragedies in his homeland.

Minister Rajoub voiced his hope that outcomes of this meeting translate into various directions supporting Palestine in face of this aggression.

As for deputy chair of Kuwaiti Boy Scout Association, Hussain Al-Maqseed, reaffirmed Kuwait's firm, unwavering stance for the Palestinian cause, stressing that the cause remains a top Arab priority.



KUNA photo

Launching of the 42nd General Conference of UNESCO.

Kuwait calls on UNESCO to OK bill on Gaza status

PARIS, Nov 8, (KUNA): Kuwait has called on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to approve a bill on the consequences of the current situation in Gaza in the light of the Israeli occupation's continuous attacks.

In a speech at the 42nd session of UNESCO's general conference on Wednesday, Minister of Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr Adel Al-Manae called on all UNESCO member-countries to vote for approving the bill, involving the impact of Israeli occupation's actions on the UNESCO's field of work in Gaza.

The bill includes protecting children's right of education, freedom of journalism and the lives and safety of journalists, he said.

The Israeli occupation attacks on innocent civilians in Gaza Strip is a violation of all international laws and conventions on human rights, said Al-Manae.

Kuwait calls on the international society to cooperate in supporting the UNESCO's work and facilitate the execution of its duties, said the minister.

Education is a priority to Kuwait, as the country spends a large part of its budget on education, to develop society and ensure a bright future, the official noted.

Kuwait is exerting great efforts to further develop the education field, as part of Kuwait vision 2035, including preparing generations to engage in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digital technologies, he added.

The conference kicked off in Paris on Tuesday, with the participation of 194 member-countries and representatives of international organizations and NGOs.

The 42nd session of the UNESCO General Conference kicked off with Kuwait's participation, in Paris to discuss various topics.

The delegations of 194 member states, and representatives of some international organizations and civil society organizations convened in Paris to focus on the organization's action in addressing global challenges and accelerated developments in the 21st century, topped with climate change and new technologies.

Head of the 41st session of the conference Ambassador Santiago Mourao called for a minute in silence for the victims of disputes all over the world.

Before the start of the 42nd session, Mourao said the world is going through a critical phase following the Covid-19, adding that the situation is currently more dangerous as international security is threatened than ever due to escalation and conflicts.

He stressed the need to sustain peace through continuous efforts to advance education, culture and science as essential role for better transformation and progress.

Meanwhile, Romanian Ambassador to UNESCO Simona-Mirela Miculescu was elected as President of the general conference at the 42nd session, and she is the fifth woman to hold this position over all previous sessions.

'Fashionista' hearing Jan 14

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: The Court of Appeals has set the session of January 14 to consider the appeal submitted by the "fashionista", who was involved in the "Al-Soor" accident, against the ruling that sentenced her to three-year imprisonment with hard labor and the withdrawal of her driving license for a year, after she caused the traffic accident that led to the death of two individuals. The court also ordered the referral of the civil case to the concerned department.

In the appeal documents, the defense team of the "fashionista" demanded that the ruling issued against her be annulled, and that she instead be granted acquittal. It also submitted a request to expedite her trial session to the head of the department.

According to the case file, the Public Prosecution had charged the accused with ten charges, which are manslaughter, accidental injury, driving a vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs, exceeding the speed limit, crossing the red signal, driving a vehicle recklessly, driving a vehicle with an invalid insurance, driving a vehicle without holding a vehicle operating license, causing damage to the property of others and causing damage to public property.

3,342 to go for overseas care

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: The Minister of Health, Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi, revealed 3,342 cases of overseas treatment were approved in 9 months from November 2022 and July 2023, issued by the specialized committees in hospitals and health centers.

These statistics were given by Minister Al-Awadhi, in his response to a parliamentary query by MP Fahd Al-Masoud, indicating "the cases were distributed as follows – 227 cases in November 2022; 300 in December, 450 in January 2023; 325 in February, 411 in March, 296 in April, and 480 in May, 387 in June, and 466 in July, reports Al-Rai daily.

On the issue of filling supervisory positions in overseas health offices, the Minister stated that "applications are submitted on an ongoing basis to the Administrative Affairs Department of the Ministry, the Office of the Undersecretary and the Minister's Office, saying until now 69 applicants have submitted their applications and personal interviews were conducted to review and evaluate their qualifications.

'Women views more positive in politics than men'

By Abdul Rahman Al-Shammari
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: In continuation of the "New Kuwait and a New Approach" forum that was held in June, the Center for Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Studies at Kuwait University reviewed the most important results of the opinion poll that was conducted on a sample of Kuwaiti society in the World Bank Hall of the College of Social Sciences at the Shuwaikh campus, in the presence of the Acting Director of the Center for Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Studies Prof. Yaqoub Al-Kandari.

After welcoming the attendees, Prof. Al-Kandari explained that the forum, which was held in June, included three basic activities and four scientific sessions presented by a group of lecturers who spoke about democratic issues, social and constitutional issues.

They touched on the issue of corruption within society and ways to address it. They stressed the importance of conducting an opinion poll to complement the work of the forum and presenting its results on the center's website. They also stressed the need to prepare a special edition for this study.

Prof. Al-Kandari said the poll that was conducted will have positive and negative effects on many of the issues discussed during the forum. He called for optimism in the next stage.

Meanwhile, Head of the Department for Preparing Future and Strategic Studies at the Center for Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Studies Dr. Salem Al-Mutawa said the forum was held as a continuation of the forum "New Kuwait and a New Approach, in which an opinion poll was conducted under the title "Attitudes of members of Kuwaiti society towards some issues related to the democratic system".

He said the poll aimed at knowing their opinion about the next stage in the life of the democratic process, adding that the sample included 1,435 Kuwaitis aged between 18 and 75 years, with an average age of 35.84 and a standard deviation of 15.05.

Dr. Al-Mutawa explained that one of the most important and prominent results that appeared in the opinion poll was that women's views turned out to be more positive than men's regarding political affairs.

In terms of residential governorates, the results showed that Jahra and Farwaniya governorates are more positive in their outlook on political affairs compared to the rest of the governorates.

In terms of education, the results showed that people with a diploma or less are more positive towards political affairs than people with a university degree or a postgraduate degree.

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LOCAL

PAHW says executed main road works, infrastructure in Mutlaa

'5 deals to construct KD 127m public buildings completed'

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: The Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) revealed that it has completed the implementation of the main road works and infrastructure for the residential blocks in Mutlaa city, which includes road networks, rainwater drainage, sewage, fresh water, fire-fighting systems, irrigation networks and tanks, telephone networks, traffic control systems and cameras, all within four contracts worth a total of KD 615 million.

In a press statement issued Monday, PAHW highlighted the recent completion of 113 government buildings out of a total of 118.

It stressed that work is underway to hand over these buildings to the relevant authorities in preparation for their operation in conjunction with the citizens' completion of building of their plots.

PAHW explained that it completed five contracts for constructing public buildings at a total cost of KD 127 million. Work is underway to complete two contracts that include five new buildings. Work is also underway to issue two tenders to build 20 government buildings, in addition to two tenders to build two suburb centers containing 18 government buildings in the residential city of Mutlaa. It is preparing to issue two tenders for public buildings in the residential

'Need to adhere to requirements'

MEW's request to allocate site in Jabriya for secondary transformer station OK'd

By Inass Awad

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: The Kuwait Municipality approved the request of the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy for the allocation of a secondary transformer station site in Jabriya block 12, with dimensions of 12.5 x 16.5 meters, provided that they adhere to the requirements of the subcommittee on public services and



Al-Dabbous

facilities issued during its meeting held on November 7 and coordinate with it before implementation. It also authorized the concerned department in the municipality to modify the dimensions and area of the site to no more than the allocated area in the event that it conflicts with any existing infrastructure services, or for any regulatory reasons, during installation.

The technical opinion on the transaction, approved by the Acting Director General of Kuwait Municipality Saud Al-Dabbous, contained a special section of the opinions of the relevant government agencies, including the General Traffic Department of the Ministry of Interior, which set three controls for its approval of the allocation. These three con-

trols are - adhering to security and safety conditions, obtaining the necessary permits from the General Traffic Department before implementation, and ensuring the station is five meters away from the surrounding roads.

The Ministry of Public Works, represented by the Sanitary Engineering Sector and the Maintenance Engineering Sector, stipulated the maintenance of existing services at the site and coordinating with the Capital Governorate for the maintenance of roads and networks before implementation, in addition to preserving the ministry's services and not distorting them. The ministry will not bear any costs for transferring other services to the ministry.

of N1, N5, and N12. It had issued two tenders for 132 kV ground cables in non-residential suburbs, and three other tenders for lighting the main roads of 6 suburbs located between N6 and N11.

Through its work teams, PAHW has been following up the completion of public buildings, operating the electrical current, and providing basic services to citizens. In addition, the Public Authority for Housing Welfare completed the distribution of all reserve cards for applications on September 24, 2003.

suburbs, in addition to two tenders for a suburb center and a fire station.

Completion

PAHW announced the completion of the implementation of 28 electricity contracts at a cost of KD 418 million.

It also announced the delivery of four main 400 kV stations and 36 132 kV stations in all residential suburbs of the city.

PAHW went on to explain that it had begun work on a contract to extend low- and medium-voltage cables in the suburbs of N2, N3,

and N4. Electricity is expected to be delivered to the first group of plots in these suburbs within the next six months.

Work has begun on a contract to implement 12 main power stations with a voltage of 132 kV for non-residential suburbs. Work is also underway to implement two main power stations, with a voltage of 400 kV, to supply non-residential areas with electricity.

PAHW will soon issue a tender for 400 kV electricity cables for non-residential suburbs. A contract for low and medium voltage cables is also being signed for the suburbs



KUNA photo

KOTC's Chief Executive Officer Sheikh Khaled Ahmed receiving the award.

KOTC receives educational maritime training award

Kuwait Oil Tanker Company on Tuesday received a prized award for its educational maritime field training program in the maritime industry for Middle East and the Indian subcontinent region for the year 2023 awarded by the IMO.

A press statement by KOTC said that the IMO's (International Maritime Organization) evaluation is considered paramount when it comes to the maritime transport field.

Chief Executive Officer Sheikh Khaled Ahmed received the award dur-

ing the ceremony that was held Tuesday in Dubai, under the benefaction of Dubai's Civil Aviation Chairman and Airlines CEO, Sheikh Ahmad bin Saeed.

The award considered a feat to be supplemented to the many KOTC accomplishments making way for further progress and more endeavors putting the company's reputation on a scale to be measured on a regional and international standard, said Sheikh Khaled. (KUNA)

Other Voices

Tweets harming Palestine issue

By Ahmad alsarraf

I was the first to write, in Kuwait at least, about the works, books, and sermons of the Palestinian preacher Abdullah Yousef Azzam (1941-1989) and his role in spreading ignorance and superstition, after he left his cause and headed to Afghanistan to fight alongside the 'Afghan Mujahideen' against the Russian presence.

Bin Laden considered Azzam one of his teachers, and Azzam was an extremist Salafist Brotherhood thinker, despite his educational background, as he studied agriculture and worked as a teacher, before he decided to study Sharia in Damascus and then Al-Azhar, and he was a believer in the thought of Sayyid Qutb.

Azzam left Palestine some time after the West Bank fell into the hands of the Israelis after the 1967 war. It is said that he participated in military operations, but he left for Jordan and then Saudi Arabia, from where he was recruited to fight in Afghanistan, as America had planned, where he worked as a link between the oil boom countries and the mujahideen.

He succeeded in recruiting fighters and collecting money, and after the defeat of the Soviets, as usually happens between the victors, a dispute arose between him and bin Laden, Ayman al-Zawahiri, and the rest of the leaders, and he was subsequently assassinated by blowing up his car, and it is not known to this day who assassinated him!

Azzam wrote many religious books, the most controversial of which was "The Verses of the Most Merciful in the Afghan Jihad," which contained a large number of miracles that were "proven" to have occurred to the Mujahideen, and we have already touched on many of them, nearly thirty years ago, after the book gained popularity and approval in the world. Kuwait,

which he visited several times, on one of his visits when he was a guest of Al-Qabas.

In our war today with Israel, the phenomenon of Azzam began to be repeated, in a similar manner, as his eldest son, Hudhayfah, who had previously participated in the war with Al-Zarqawi in Iraq in 2003, and with the Brotherhood in Syria, and in a miserable attempt to return to the limelight, published the following tweet, with the text: "One of God's saints in Gaza swore that his Kalashnikov machine gun magazine, which contained 30 rounds, fired more than 150 rounds during the clash. And he swore to God that he himself did not believe what his eyes saw. He stood in shock at what had happened. He could not find a logical or rational explanation for what happened."(!)

It seems that this is not the only tweet by Hudhayfah, as a Kuwaiti citizen, who appears to be mostly from Hudhayfah's team, posted the following comment on Hudhaifa's tweet: God bears witness that I love you for the sake of God, and I hope from God and then from you that you gather these positions of faith from the battle of the Al-Aqsa Flood!

Hudhayfah responded to him in support and promised a series of them! After that, we began to read an increasing number of similar tweets, which harmed the cause and doctrine more than they helped them.

At the time of writing this article, Hudhayfah's tweet had received more than one and a half million views, and it is unimaginable how harmful it is, especially to the mujahideen, as they do not need to hear these myths as much as they need those who stand with them with money, weapons, science, and knowledge.

If I were in the place of the Israelis, I would not hesitate to distribute the tweet widely, so that the world would know our way of thinking?!!

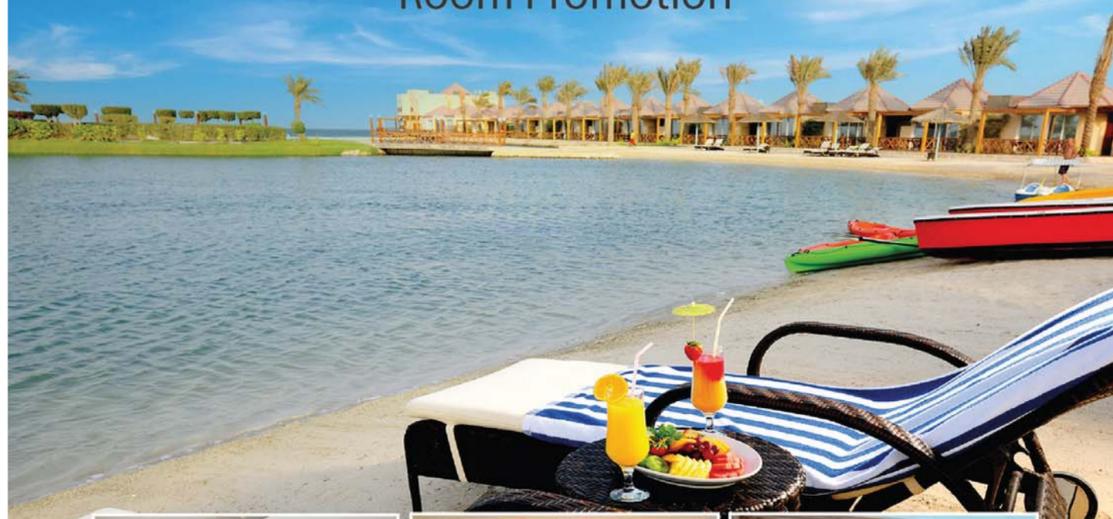
We go back and repeat: Our conflict with Israel is a civilized and scientific one and the Palestinian issue is too noble for us to drown it with such stories whose veracity has never been proven.

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



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Kuwait interior minister hails GCC states joint efforts in raising security efficiency

MUSCAT, Nov 8, (KUNA): Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled Al-Sabah stressed Wednesday that the GCC has made great efforts in joint cooperation, which has had a great impact in raising the efficiency of security services and maintaining security and stability in the GCC countries.

This came during a speech delivered by Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled before the 40th meeting of GCC Interior Ministers, which was held in the Omani capital, Muscat.

Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled called for continuing to strengthen the frameworks of cooperation and integration among the GCC countries to confront the challenges and move forward in combating cross-border organized crimes.

He also noted that there are those targeting the GCC countries with cyber-crimes by organized international gangs and professional hackers, which requires enhancing cybersecurity systems.

Kuwait has established a specialized center for cybersecurity and working to attract national competencies, he added.

He stressed the need to exert maximum cooperation and exchange of information between agencies concerned with cybersecurity so that the Gulf countries are resistant to security penetration of information and data.

Citizen, expat given 10-yr jail for leaking examination papers

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: The Criminal Court yesterday sentenced a Kuwaiti citizen and an expatriate to ten-year imprisonment with hard labor and imposed a fine of KD 482,000 for leaking high school exam questions via a WhatsApp group.

According to the case files, officers from the General Department of Criminal Investigations' Financial Crimes Department were monitoring social media when they came across the posts of a number of people who were announcing and promoting WhatsApp groups in which secondary school exam question papers would be published.

After intensifying security efforts and conducting further investigations, it was discovered that there were two groups, each of which received large sums of money in exchange for participation.

Accordingly, they were arrested and confronted with the results of the investigations, and they admitted to the allegations attributed to them. They were referred to the concerned authorities for necessary measures.

LOCAL



Above: Some photos from the exhibition 'Help Humanity'.

Photos by Rizk Taufiq

Tahboub attends 'Help Humanity' exhibition

Massacre that Palestinians are subjected to not self-defense, but rather a genocide: ambassador

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: The Palestinian Ambassador to Kuwait Rami Tahboub says the statement issued by an Israeli minister about throwing a nuclear bomb on the Palestinians confirms that the person reflects Israeli fascism and blind Israeli racism, and the entire international community must work to prosecute that person.

In a press statement issued on the sidelines of the opening of the "Help Humanity" exhibition held Monday morning at the headquarters of the Women's Cultural and Social Association, Ambassador Tahboub affirmed that Jordan and Palestine are two states for one people, and Jordan remains the basic lung of Palestine from which the Palestinian people breathe.

He said, "Jordan has opened its arms to the Palestinians from 1948 until this day. It is our basic and first strategic depth and line of defense for the Palestinian cause. We are one people and society.

We, as Palestinians, must unite in order to obtain our rights and establish our independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

The exhibition is held continuously every year, but this time it differs from previous exhibitions. The title of this year's exhibition is "Humanity Calls", and it is dedicated to our people in the Gaza Strip with everything it contains,

and because of what the besieged Strip and Palestine in general are exposed to.

There is a large and unprecedented international presence in our exhibitions, as it is a message to the international community. This is because the Palestinian issue is completely clear to them and they stand with the right side of this equation.

They know who the oppressor and the oppressed is in this genocide that the Gaza Strip is being subjected to, and also the West Bank, which does not want the spotlight on what is happening there.

What is happening in the West Bank is a kind of genocide and a war crime by preventing the people of the West Bank from moving between cities, placing iron gates at the entrances to the cities, and preventing citizens from leaving from 5:00 am to 8:00 am in order to allow the settlers freedom of passage.

The ambassador stressed that the participation of European countries is appreciated, and all European ambassadors expressed their solidarity with the Palestinian people, adding that the massacre the Palestinians are subjected to is not self-defense, but rather a genocide and attempts to forcibly displace them.

Meanwhile, MP Abdul Wahab Al-Issa said, "I was honored to attend the philanthropic market to support the Palestinian cause. The Kuwaiti government, people, and

political leadership support this just and deserved cause. These cultural and social events are nothing but an extension of the community's full support for our brothers in Palestine. The success of participation is clear from the opening of the exhibition".

He called on all the people of Kuwait to attend these events to support the Palestinian cause.

Al-Issa explained that the Kuwait Parliament, following the opening session, held a special session to support the people of Gaza, and sent a strongly worded political message and recommendations that the National Assembly, as well as the government, approved to pursue the Zionist entity and treat its leaders as war criminals.

The Kuwait parliament remains and continues to support the just Palestinian cause with all of its available potential.

In addition, the Canadian Ambassador to Kuwait Alia Mwani affirmed that it was an honor to participate in this exhibition, which tells about the history of Palestinian heritage and its importance.

She highlighted that there was participation in many traditional crafts that represent the feelings of the people who made them.

The ambassador said, "It is important to share with each other human heritage", thanking the Palestinian ambassador and his wife for their invitation to attend such an exhibition.

OAPEC chief, Japanese envoy discuss boosting co-op

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8, (KUNA): Secretary General of Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries, Jamal Al-Loughani, examined along with Japanese Ambassador to Kuwait, Morino Yasunari, boosting cooperation between the organization and establishments of similar activity in Japan.

In a press release, OAPEC mentioned that Al-Loughani commended the sturdy relations between the organization and Japanese authorities concerned with energy and petroleum industries.

Al-Loughani recalled a Memorandum of Understanding signed by OAPEC and Japan Cooperation Center for Petroleum in 2011, which culminated in various joint conferences and forums on refineries and petrochemicals.

He noted the secretariat's invitation to the Cooperation Center chief to attend 12th Arab Energy



OAPEC Chief Al-Loughani and Japanese Ambassador to Kuwait Yasunari during the meeting.

forum, saying it is a reaffirmation of OAPEC's keenness on strengthening relationships.

The Secretary General also underlined necessity to uniting positions in relation to climate change issues, especially for upcoming

COP 28 session, to be held in the United Arab Emirates this month.

As for the Japanese Ambassador, he underscored benefits of bilateral relations to both sides and hailed organization's efforts in cementing such ties.



Does plastic surgery of spouse lead to break-up in marriage?

... looked at from different viewpoint

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: Citizens still remember the comedic scene of the late artist Abdel Hussein Abdel Reda, in the series "Private Lesson," when, on the night of his wedding, he was shocked by his bride, the artist Souad Abdullah, as she removed her wig, eyebrows, and compound eyelashes, then took the lenses out of her eyes, and washed the makeup off her face, to show him a different image. Quite different from the beautiful picture he had seen a few minutes ago.

This scene, which dates back to the year 1981, was ahead of its time, as if it were talking about the

state of the situation today, after about 42 years, when the image of some women, and sometimes some men, on the wedding day has become completely different from the real or previous image, whether due to plastic surgery, or the touches of makeup artists, which caused many problems after the wedding day.

The Al-Rai daily opened the discussion on this issue, and asked the clerics about the legality of the marriage of someone who did not disclose the operations to her husband -- plastic surgery before the marriage contract and whether she is obligated to return the dowry. The daily also asked experts in this field about the legal aspect of concealing plastic surgery from the husband, and sometimes the wife, not to mention surgeries to improve shape and appearance is not considered fraud or a crime.

Experts say it is the duty of both spouses to disclose any surgeries that were previously performed before the engagement.

If in the past the mother personally examined the bride when she proposed to her son, to make sure that everything she saw was normal, because it was difficult for the groom to verify that matter before marriage, then what is the situation like today in the age of silicone, injections, and plastic surgery, to the point that a man is no longer able to distinguish between a woman with natural beauty and one with artificial beauty that has been tampered with by plastic surgeons?

This problem has sometimes caused divorce cases to be filed for harm on the grounds that the wife had "deceived" the groom and did not disclose to him before marriage about the operations she had performed that made her acceptable for marriage.

Court set to look into Twitter user's case

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: The Court of Appeals will today consider the case filed against the Twitter user Hamid Boyabes who was accused of offending the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia based

on a number of Twitter posts he wrote against the Saudi Minister of Interior, after the prosecution submitted an appeal against the acquittal ruling.

The Public Prosecution had charged Boyabes with carrying out a hostile act against Saudi Arabia in a manner that would

harm the relations between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, against the backdrop of Boyabes posting Twitter messages related to the smuggling of a number of state-subsidized food supplies into Saudi Arabia, and the Saudi Ministry of Interior's responsibility for them.

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LOCAL

'Orphan care has been priority of successive govts since 60s'

Union of Kuwaiti

Charitable Societies opens

confab



Photos by Mohammad Morsi

Top and above: Some photos from the event.

Kuwait high

Continued from Page 1

are doubled according to the number of partitions and rent prices, and at the same time it works to provide a cheap housing option for this wide segment of expatriates.

They explained that the rental value varies according to the region and the area of the partition and ranges between 15 and 70 dinars, indicating that this phenomenon is widespread in areas where expatriates are concentrated.

According to the Real Estate Union, Salmiya topped the Kuwaiti regions in terms of concentration of investment properties, with a number of buildings reaching 2,911, meaning it is the most densely populated with expatriates, while Hawalli came in second place with 1,811 buildings.

The Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh region occupied third place with 1,181 investment properties, followed by Farwaniya with 1,152, then Khaitan with 882 properties.

Mahboula came sixth with 799 buildings, followed by Al-Mangaf with 743, then Al-Fahaheel with 578, then Al-Jabriya with 511, and then Al-Jahra with 439 properties.

Abu Halifa ranked 11th with 359 buildings, then Sabah Al-Salem with 315, then the Sharq region with 313, then Al-Fintas with 305, Al-Raqi with 254, followed by Bneid Al-Qar with 198, then Al-Shaab with 131, then Al-Mirqab with 71, and finally Al-Qibla with 41.

A real estate source said that many Asian families live together in shared apartments and are separated by temporary partitions, pointing out that they resort to this option to save even if it is at the expense of their comfort and stability.

How do

Continued from Page 1

and Iran, saying that "the West's alignment with Iran in various geopolitical theatres raises astonishment. While seeking to achieve its interests in the Middle East, the West was turning a blind eye." "Sometimes about Iran's regional ambitions and its support for non-state actors."

Through my writings over the past two decades, I have always called on the Arab world, especially the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, to beware of losing Arab capitals one after another and falling into the clutches of Iran. Iranian officials do not hide their pride in this expansion, and prominent Iranian figures acknowledge this, as Heider Moshleh, the former Iranian Minister of Intelligence in the government of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, stated in 2015, "Iran controls four Arab capitals, as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin said." Netanyahu, Iranian Leader Ali Khamenei also bragged in a statement in November 2022 about the expansion of his active arms into 4 Arab capitals, celebrating "the success of Iran's vision in Syria, Iraq and Lebanon."

Iraq, Yemen, Syria, and Lebanon are countries that fell under the control of the mullahs in Tehran, and the greatest fear is of Iran's expansionist ambitions that may affect our sanctities and the remaining countries of the Middle East.

Likewise, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict remains a central issue in the region. Dr. Rashid Khalidi, a distinguished historian of the Arab-Israeli conflict, points out that "the ongoing Israeli occupation and settlement expansion continues to threaten peace in the Arab world. The plight of the Arab nation cannot be fully addressed without a

just solution to this conflict."

It is as if Arab solidarity, stability and unity constitute a threat to Western countries and their partners whose dangers we do not realize. Here it is permissible to ask: "Is it in the interest of America, the West, and Israel to unite ranks with Iran to prevent the Arab world from further progress and prosperity and restoring its golden age?"

In light of all the dangers surrounding the Arab world, it is necessary to chart a path towards protecting its future, giving priority to unity and cooperation, and investing in education, innovation, research and empowering our children, the natives of this land, which helps to fortify the Arab world and restore its historical importance. Collective action, at the regional and international levels, is crucial to addressing the complex issues facing us.

Arab countries must work together to confront common challenges, such as political instability, economic development, and security threats. Initiatives such as the League of Arab States, if their role is activated, can serve as platforms for cooperation and conflict resolution, and the priority can be given to resolving regional conflicts, the forefront of which is the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and putting an end to the ambitions of Iranian expansion.

The history of the Arab world is a testimony to its resilience and lasting contributions to human civilization. Although it has faced conspiracies and challenges since its golden age, it has the ability to overcome the dangers of the modern era. By strengthening unity, clarity and cooperation, the Arab nation can chart a course toward a brighter future, one in which it regains its position as a beacon of culture, knowledge and progress on the global stage.

Thousands flee

Continued from Page 1

Hundreds of trucks carrying aid have been allowed to enter Gaza from Egypt since Oct. 21. But humanitarian workers say that is nowhere near enough.

"There is an ocean of needs in Gaza right now, and what's been getting in is a drop in the ocean. We need fuel, we need water, we need food, and we need medical supplies," said Dominic Allen of the United Nations Population Fund, UNFPA, speaking in the West Bank.

Residents reported loud explosions overnight into Wednesday across Gaza City and in its Shati refugee camp, which houses Palestinian families who fled from or were driven out of what is now Israel during the 1948 war surrounding its establishment.

"The bombings were heavy and close," said Mohamed Abed, who lives in Gaza City.

The army's chief spokesperson, Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, said late Tuesday that Israeli ground forces had reached "the depths of Gaza City." The Israeli military said Wednesday that it killed one of Hamas' leading developers of rockets and other weapons, without saying where he was killed.

Hamas has denied that Israeli troops have made any significant gains or entered Gaza City. It was not possible to independently confirm battlefield claims from either side.

Israel is focusing its operations on the city, which was home to some 650,000 people before the war and where the military says Hamas has its central command and a vast labyrinth of tunnels. Hundreds of thousands have heeded Israeli orders to flee the north, where the city is located, in recent weeks, even though Israel also routinely strikes what it says are militant targets in the south, often killing civilians.

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: The Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs Sheikh Firas Al-Malik said, "Caring for and sponsoring an orphan is one of the greatest doors of goodness".

He said this in a speech he delivered at the opening of the Union of Kuwaiti Charitable Societies and Organizations yesterday during the conference titled "Orphan Care... Sustainability and Integrity" under the slogan "Towards Building a Decent Life for our Orphans," which lasts for two days.

Sheikh Firas said the journey of Kuwait's giving to orphans extends for decades, as it is firmly rooted in the conscience of the people of Kuwait whose hearts are filled with goodness and loyalty.

He affirmed the keenness of Kuwait to care for orphans via the Ministry of Social Affairs from 1961.

Sheikh Firas indicated his anticipation for the launch of the first version of the central aid program, which was prepared and implemented by the Ministry of Social Affairs' Social Development Sector, because of its great benefit for collecting data and information that will help in reaching needy families and people within the country, and creating a robust digital structure, in accordance with high-performance governance that contributes to achieving goals and objectives.

He affirmed that the conference touches on one of the most important social and humanitarian issues that are rooted in the top priorities of the State of Kuwait and have been inherited by the governments of Kuwait since the early 1960s.

Sheikh Firas said, "I bring to you greetings, appreciation, and unlimited support from the political leadership and His Highness the Prime Minister.

This conference comes amid a general feeling of sadness over the barbaric aggression taking place against the people of the Gaza Strip, in which innocent people are killed, the blood of children and women is shed, and hundreds of thousands of Palestinians are displaced. We ask Almighty Allah to help them.

This conference is a reflection of solidarity and compassion encouraged by the true Islamic religion."

Sheikh Firas expressed his appreciation and pride in Kuwait's humanity and its successes in the field of charitable work, highlighting the role of the private sector, civil society institutions, associations, foundations, and charitable bodies in providing care and services to orphans from Kuwait and around the globe.

He also expressed his gratitude to the entities that were chosen to receive awards at the conference for their excellence in the field of orphans.

Sheikh Firas wished them continued excellence due to the great impact and benefit to those targeted by their services.

Sidelines

In press statements issued on the sidelines of the opening of the conference, Sheikh Firas affirmed that caring for orphans is one of the most important social and humanitarian issues and is at the top of the country's priorities, and receives great attention from the political leadership.

He said that the conference, which was organized by the union with the cooperation of the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Al-Babtain Central Library of Arabic Poetry, coincides with the human tragedy taking place in the Gaza Strip and the bloodshed and displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians.

Sheikh Firas expressed his appreciation and pride in Kuwait's humanity and its success in various fields of charitable work, especially in seeking to extend a helping hand to the orphaned children in the Gaza Strip.

Furthermore, the President of the union Dr. Nasser Al-Ajmi said, "The dignity of the orphan is the dignity of society. His care goes beyond the material meaning to the concept of comprehensive care, including psychological and social care, and developing behavioral skills.

Comprehensive care must be the governing philosophy for our programs and strategies. We should include this in the indicators of our annual plans, and not pay attention to one aspect of care at the expense of another in order to empower the orphans and raise them to be good people."

He explained that the discussions during the conference will focus on the use of modern technology in the field of charitable work, raising the quality of the service provided to care for orphans, and ensuring the proper handling of humanitarian, development and cognitive challenges.



A group photo of Burgan's team during a training workshop.

Bid to foster robust risk, control culture in all depts

Burgan Bank hosts Risk Culture Week

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: Stemming from its commitment to banking excellence, Burgan Bank hosted Risk Culture Week, an event that aims to raise awareness of the latest global market standards for risk management across different departments and employment grades. This is in line with Burgan's strategy for human capital development and its commitment to meeting industry best practices, as the Bank seeks to equip all staff with the latest market knowledge that enables them to carry out their responsibilities with uncompromised quality.

Commenting on the weeklong event, Mr. Fadel Abdullah, Acting Chief Executive Officer - Kuwait at Burgan Bank, said: "The past few years have reminded us that success in the banking and financial industry isn't defined by how an institution

performs when everything is going right, but how it reacts when markets are disrupted. To remain a trusted financial partner to our customers, it is crucial that risk management becomes second nature to all of our staff, ensuring that they make sound decisions that have the best interest of our customers at heart no matter how steady or turbulent the market is."

Mr. Abdullah went on to note that risk culture goes beyond learning the latest market trends and adopting state-of-the-art analytic tools and software. "To succeed at instilling the risk and control culture at Burgan Bank, it is essential to also reinforce our institutional values that underscore ownership, responsibility, and accountability."

Throughout Risk Culture Week, Burgan Bank organized several

workshops and seminars that tackled different aspects of risk management in the banking industry, including case studies and emerging risk trends on topics such as ESG risks, cyber security, and innovation risks. Across the Bank, 343 employees participated in the workshops and seminars, which were delivered by distinguished internal and external experts. In addition, the week offered numerous activities and events that were designed to engage the employees in a proactive and inclusive atmosphere.

It serves to note that Burgan Bank introduced the Risk Culture Program in 2021 and has since spared no effort to ensure that all employees comply with its recommendations and guidelines, enabling short-term and long-term success for the Bank and utmost satisfaction for its customers.



A group photo from the signing of the partnership agreement.

British Council expands access to English language education in Kuwait through its 'KCST' partnership

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: In response to the increasing demand for English language education in Kuwait, the British Council has taken proactive measures by establishing new English teaching delivery partnership locations to better cater to the needs of the local population.

This week, a significant collaboration was unveiled as the British Council joined forces with the Kuwait College of Science and Technology (KCST) to announce a partnership agreement aimed at expanding access to English language education. The signing ceremony was graced by the presence of notable figures, including Tony Skinner, the Director of the British Council, and Professor Khalid Al-Begain, the President of KCST Kuwait College of Science and Technology, along with distinguished guests.

Starting from October 2023, individuals, including students from KCST and adults residing in the vicinity who are eager to pursue English language studies, can enroll in British Council English courses offered at Kuwait College of Science and Technology. Young Learner (YL) classes are scheduled to begin in January 2024.

Modern

Equipped with modern facilities and teaching tools, this partner institution is ideally placed to support the British Council's UK-developed communicative learning offer, which uses materials and content developed especially by the organization for its global network. Courses for adults have been completely refreshed over the recent period and now offer flexible attendance and the ability to choose themes that best meet individual needs on the MyClass program, while courses for children use the evolved Primary Plus and Secondary Plus programs, which ensure engag-



Officials signing the partnership agreement.

ing lessons that develop confidence, soft skills, and life skills alongside the core language skills of reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

Professor Khalid Al-Begain, President of the Kuwait College of Science and Technology, expressed his delight at signing the MoU with the British Council in Kuwait. He emphasized the university's readiness to open its doors to various education programs to maximize the benefits for the areas surrounding the university campus. Specifically, he welcomed the British Council's programs aimed at teaching and strengthening the English language, with the KCST campus serving as one of the centers. Al-Begain highlighted that offering university facilities to benefit the local community, in collaboration with the British Council, reflects the university's commitment to social responsibility. He also emphasized that the university has recently launched the Centre of Innovation, Continuing Education and Training (CICET) to expand its services throughout Kuwait.

Tony Skinner, British Council Kuwait Director, emphasizes that "I am delighted that we are signing this agreement with KCST. At the

British Council, we always look for ways that we can work with partners. Through this agreement with KCST, we hope to be able to make our English courses more easily accessible to the community. I am very grateful to the KCST management for their support, and I look forward to a long and mutually beneficial partnership with them."

British Council courses are delivered by professionals and draw on over 80 years of global leadership experience in English teaching to make learning engaging, effective, and relevant. With younger children, there is a complementary focus on literacy, confidence, and communicative skills, while courses for older children also incorporate academic skills development, soft skills, and exam technique elements. Courses for adults provide flexible attendance models to suit busy lifestyles and allow participants to build their own study program by choosing from a catalogue of class themes which cover everything from preparing to take an IELTS test to workplace language skills, with regular progress checks, a digital learning hub, and feedback and guidance from English experts.

Airport sees 11 pc hike in passenger traffic

By **Mohammed Ghanem**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: The Acting Director General of the Directorate General for Civil Aviation (DGCA) Eng. Imad Al-Jalawi says Kuwait International Airport witnessed an increase in passenger traffic by 11 percent, an increase in aircraft movement by 27 percent, and an increase in air

cargo traffic by 10 percent in the month of October compared to October 2022.

Eng. Al-Jalawi explained that the total number of passengers who traveled through Kuwait International Airport was 1,013,505, including 447,013 arrivals and 566,492 departures. The total number of transit passengers was 186,359, which is an increase of 38 percent compared to October last year.

The total aircraft movement that was operated to and from Kuwait International Airport in October was 11,169, compared to 8,807 flights in October 2022.

In terms of air cargo movement at Kuwait International Airport, the total movement in October was 19,430,786 kilograms, of which 15,231,783 kilograms of cargo were imported and 4,199,003 kilograms were exported.

World News Roundup

Europe

Protests in Spain

Portugal's PM resigns over corruption probe

LISBON, Portugal, Nov 8, (AP): Portuguese Prime Minister **António Costa** resigned Tuesday after his government was involved in a widespread corruption probe, sending a shock wave through the normally tranquil politics of the European Union member.

The 62-year-old Costa, Portugal's Socialist leader since 2015, asserted his innocence but said in a nationally televised address that "in these circumstances, obviously, I have presented my resignation to the president of the republic."

The announcement came hours after police arrested his chief of staff while raiding several public buildings and other properties as part of the probe.

The state prosecutor's office said the Supreme Court was examining suspects' "use of the prime minister's name and his involvement" when carrying out allegedly illicit activities. It said the minister of infrastructure, João Galamba, and the head of the environmental agency were among those named as suspects.

Portuguese president Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa quickly accepted Costa's resignation. He is expected to dissolve parliament and call for a new election.

The president said in a statement that he is meeting representatives of the political parties represented in the Portuguese parliament on Wednesday, and that he will speak to the nation after the Council of State gathers on Thursday.



Costa

Support

Costa teared up while thanking his family for their support.

"I totally trust the justice system," he said. "I want to say, eye to eye to the Portuguese, that no illicit or even reprehensible act weighs on my conscience." He acknowledged that he was not "above the law."

"The dignity of the prime minister's office is not compatible with any suspicion on his integrity, good conduct, and even less so with the suspicion that any criminal acts were committed," Costa said.

An investigative judge had issued arrest warrants for Vítor Escária, Costa's chief of staff; the mayor of the town of Sines; and three others because they represented a flight risk and to protect evidence, the prosecutor's office said in a statement.



Zelenskyy rules out holding polls next spring: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy late Monday ruled out holding a presidential vote in the spring and urged his countrymen to avoid political divides, saying they must concentrate all resources on fighting Russia.

Zelenskyy's comments in a video address follow increasing discussions about the possibility of a presidential election in March. Zelenskyy, who was elected for a five-year term in March 2019, had previously avoided definitive statements on the question. His associates had said he was pondering various possibilities.

"Now, in wartime, when there are so many challenges, it is absolutely irresponsible to throw the topic of elections into society in a lighthearted and playful way," Zelenskyy said, adding that "the waves of any politically divisive things must stop."

"We must realize that now is the time of defense, the time of the battle that determines the fate of the state and people, not the time of manipulations, which only Russia expects from Ukraine," he said. "I believe that now is not the right time for elections."



Protests turn ugly in Spain: Police clashed for a second night Tuesday with protesters who oppose negotiations between Spain's acting government and Catalan separatist parties over a possible amnesty for thousands involved in Catalonia's independence movement.

Several protesters in Madrid waved Spanish flags and shouted insults against the acting prime minister, Pedro Sánchez, and some of them self-identified as "nazis" in chants. The protesters pushed against barriers set by police in riot gear, who responded with rubber bullets and by hitting the protesters with batons.

The government said that Tuesday's gathering at the gates of the national headquarters in Madrid of the ruling Socialist Party was attended by around 7,000, roughly double the number of protesters that took part the day before. There were other similar protests in other Spanish cities.

Three people were arrested Monday, the central authorities' representative in the Spanish capital said, including two men for violent behavior against police and one woman for disobedience.



Russian troops shoot, kill civilian: Russian troops stationed in Georgia's breakaway province of South Ossetia shot and killed a Georgian civilian near the line of control in what the Georgian authorities denounced as "the most heinous act."

The encounter reflected the continuing tensions in the region after the 2008 Russian-Georgian war, which ended with Moscow recognizing South Ossetia and another Georgian province, Abkhazia, as independent states and beefing up its military presence there.

Most nations of the world consider both breakaway regions to be parts of Georgia, a former Soviet republic.

Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili said in a statement that a Russian soldier killed a Georgian citizen Monday while trying to illegally detain him near the village of Kirballi.



'Bialiatki in solitary confinement': Nobel Peace Prize laureate and activist Ales Bialiatki has been transferred to solitary confinement at his prison in Belarus, his wife said Tuesday.

Natalia Pinchuk told The Associated Press that prison authorities have toughened conditions for the 61-year-old Bialiatki, who is serving a 10-year sentence, despite his chronic illnesses.

"Effectively, it's a prison inside prison," she said. Prison authorities didn't allow Bialiatki to meet with his lawyer following his transfer over alleged disciplinary violations, she said.

Bialiatki, Belarus' top human rights advocate and one of the winners of the 2022 Nobel Peace Prize, was convicted in March with three colleagues on charges of financing actions violating public order and smuggling, accusations he denied.



Kentucky Gov Andy Beshear speaks during an election night rally after he was elected to a second term in Louisville, Ky on Nov 7. At right is his wife Britany Beshear. (AP)

Politics

Ohio protects abortion rights

Dems win big, but GOP holds Mississippi

WASHINGTON, Nov 8, (AP): Democrats had plenty of good news to celebrate in Tuesday's off-year elections and more evidence that they can win races centered on the national debate over abortion.

Abortion rights supporters won an Ohio ballot measure and the Democratic governor of beet-red Kentucky held onto his office by campaigning on reproductive rights and painting his opponent as extremist. A Democrat won an open seat on the Pennsylvania Supreme Court after campaigning on his pledge to uphold abortion rights. And Democrats took full control of the Virginia statehouse, blocking Republicans from being able to pass new abortion restrictions and delivering a defeat to Gov Glenn Youngkin that may douse any buzz about a late entry into the GOP presidential primary.

The victories won't be enough to make Democrats feel secure heading into next year's presidential election. The off-year elections have major implications in all of those states and provide a snapshot of American politics heading into 2024. But two big names - Joe Biden and Donald Trump - weren't on the ballot this time. How Americans view them will be a huge factor in shaping next year's race.

Results

Here are some key results from Tuesday's voting.

Democrats notched two early wins Tuesday night in Kentucky and Ohio, states that voted for Trump in 2020. In both states, abortion was the main campaign issue.

Kentucky Gov Andy Beshear was reelected in a state that Trump had won by 26 percentage points. Beshear had criticized the abortion views of his Republican challenger, Attorney General Daniel Cameron, in debates and television ads. One Beshear ad featured a woman who miscarried after being raped by her stepfather at age 12 expressing disbelief at Cameron's opposition to abortion in cases of rape and incest.

In Ohio, a ballot measure preserving abortion rights passed in a state that Trump won by eight percentage points

in 2020. Republicans had already tried to derail the measure by calling an unusual August referendum to make it harder to pass ballot measures, an initiative that was roundly rejected by Ohio voters.

Later Tuesday, Dan McCaffery won an open seat on Pennsylvania's Supreme Court after positioning himself as a defender of abortion rights. And in Virginia, Democrats held the state Senate and flipped control of the Virginia House of Delegates from the GOP.

The outcomes suggest a transformed political landscape since a conservative majority of the US Supreme Court overturned a federal right to an abortion last year. Abortion rights measures have passed in a plethora of states as some other Republican-run states have instituted new bans on the procedure.

Issue

Abortion rights may not be a potent enough issue to swing an election on its own. Several GOP governors who supported new bans cruised to reelection last year, including Ohio's Mike DeWine, Florida's Ron DeSantis and Texas' Greg Abbott.

But abortion was the key issue across the country on Tuesday. And that should worry Republicans in competitive races next year.

It was a good night for Democrats following a series of wins in special elections and comes after a stronger performance in last year's midterms, which are usually crushing for the party in power in Washington.

But none of the races were an up-or-down decision on the incumbent president, Biden. And none featured Trump on the ballot or his ability to turbocharge turnout of infrequent voters.

Democrats have performed well in recent special elections and did better than expected in 2022. It increasingly seems like the party starts from a position of strength. But it's not clear that translates to its 80-year-old president, who faces widespread skepticism about his job performance and whether he is too old to serve a second term.

We'll have to wait until 2024 to see how Biden fares.

Glenn Youngkin burst on the political scene in 2021, winning an upset victory to become the Republican governor of Virginia, a state Biden won handily the previous year. Putting a moderate, suburban dad spin on modern Republicanism, Youngkin generated buzz that he could even make a late, surprise entry into the GOP presidential primary after this month's elections.

Legislative

Instead, Youngkin said he would focus on the 2023 legislative elections and winning full Republican control over Virginia government. Things did not go the way he hoped.

Youngkin raised tens of millions of dollars for Republicans to defend their majority in Virginia's House of Delegates and win control of the Senate, which Democrats narrowly held in 2021. Among the things the legislature could do with that majority, he said, was pass a 15-week abortion ban he favored.

Youngkin didn't really have a path forward in the presidential primary - his window to get on the ballot has already closed in some states. Virginia has an unusual single-term limit for governors, making Youngkin's political future even more of a question.

Whatever he does, he'll have to explain 2023. And he'll face unified Democratic control of the statehouse for the rest of his term.

It was a good night for Democrats, but it could only go so far.

The party invested heavily in an unlikely place: Mississippi, where Brandon Presley, best known as Elvis Presley's second cousin, was challenging Republican Gov Tate Reeves.

The party hoped that Presley's celebrity and political skills, coupled with the change in a centuries-old provision originally designed to keep Black candidates from winning statewide races, could spell an unlikely victory. But it was not to be.

Reeves won the race. There are limited lessons to draw from a party falling short in a state its 2020 presidential candidate lost by 17 points, except one of the oldest - you can't win 'em all.



Italy's Premier Giorgia Meloni, (right), and Albania's Prime Minister Edi Rama, (left), shake hands after the signing of a memorandum of understanding on migrant management centres during a meeting in Rome, Italy on Nov 6. (AP)



Raymond



Fennessy

America

1 dead in interstate crashes: Dense smoke reminiscent of last month's "super fog" that rolled into Louisiana has led to a deadly crash that shut down Interstate 10 in the New Orleans area early Tuesday, police said.

The thoroughfare was closed due to smoke, fog and accidents involving multiple vehicles, New Orleans police said after the accident around 4:30 am. By late afternoon, all of the interstate's eastbound lanes were reopened and the westbound lanes were partially opened as crews continued clearing the road, police said.

In video from motorists, cars next to them disappear in the thick smoke. Sarah Trimble said she couldn't see the tail lights of the truck in front of her as she crossed railroad tracks on her way to work. In another video filmed by Connie Fiorella, smoke envelopes cars around her while the car just ahead of her nearly disappears from view except for the outline of its brake lights.

Smoke from fires near New Orleans is getting trapped under a very shallow layer of the atmosphere near the ground along Interstate 10 in eastern Orleans Parish, the National Weather Service said. As a result, motorists could see a quarter-mile (400 meters) or less, the weather service said. (AP)



Man with rifle arrested in park: A man with a rifle was arrested in a park near the US Capitol on Tuesday, police said.

Police confronted 21-year-old Ahmir Lavon Merrell of Atlanta after someone saw him with the gun in a park near Senate office buildings and told an officer, US Capitol Police said in a statement. Officers demanded that he drop the gun, but he refused and they used a Taser stun gun to subdue him, police said.

The park and roads in the area across from Washington's Union Station were closed for about two hours as officers searched the area and Merrell's belongings.

Officers said they did not believe there was an ongoing threat. It was not immediately clear why he was in Washington. No publicly listed contacts were available for him, and a lawyer who represented him on a previous case did not immediately return messages seeking comment. (AP)



Fire destroys blimp hangar: A raging fire Tuesday destroyed a massive World War II-era wooden hangar that was built to house military blimps based in Southern California, and authorities said the blaze could burn for days.

The Orange County Fire Authority said in a social media post that allowing the structure to collapse was the only way to fight the inferno, which was reported around

1 am. The cause was under investigation.

The agency released video of flames racing along the curved roof, which fell apart in sections. A huge plume of dark smoke was



Riot police officers take position in a cloud of tear gas and flames during a protest by right wing demonstrators near the national headquarters of Spain's Socialist Party in Madrid, Spain on Nov 7. The Spanish capital saw its second night in a row of clashes between police and protesters who oppose negotiations between Spain's acting government and Catalan separatist parties over a possible amnesty for thousands involved in Catalonia's independence movement. (AP)

visible for miles around.

"Due to the dynamic nature of the fire, and the imminent danger of collapse, we have determined the most operationally sound method is to allow the structure to collapse, at which point ground crews can move in closer, and aggressively work to extinguish the fire," the Fire Authority said.

Fire Chief **Brian Fennessy** said no injuries were reported. The fire smoldered into the evening. (AP)



Ex-CIA officer pleads guilty: A former CIA officer accused of drugging and sexually assaulting at least two dozen women during various overseas postings pleaded guilty Tuesday in Washington to federal sex abuse charges that could land him behind bars for up to 30 years.

Brian Jeffrey Raymond kept nearly 500 videos and photographs he took of unconscious women, prosecutors say. The images date to 2006 and track much of Raymond's career, with victims in Mexico, Peru and other countries.

The case was just the latest embarrassment for the CIA, which in recent months has seen a reckoning over its often secretive and antiquated handling of sexual misconduct claims within the spy agency.

The Associated Press found at least two dozen women have come forward to tell authorities and Congress about sexual assaults, unwanted touching and what they contend are the CIA's efforts to silence them. (AP)

Asia

Cambodia deports 25 Japanese nationals: Twenty-five Japanese nationals suspected of involvement in a cyberscam operation based in Cambodia were deported to Japan on Wednesday, said Gen **Khieu Sopheak**, a spokesperson for Cambodia's Interior Ministry.

The Japanese government arranged a charter flight to transport the suspects, who were detained in September after Cambodian police received a tip-off from their Japanese counterparts, he told The Associated Press.



Sopheak

The 25 were arrested in the capital, Phnom Penh, according to Gen Keo Vanthan, a spokesperson for the immigration police.

Khieu Sopheak thanked the Japanese government "for their support and good cooperation with the Cambodian government in order to arrest these people."

Cybercrime scams have become a major issue in Asia.

In August, the UN's human rights office said that criminal gangs have forced hundreds of thousands of people in Southeast Asia into participating in unlawful online scam operations, including false romantic ploys, bogus investment pitches and illegal gambling schemes.

The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in a report cited "credible sources" saying that at least 120,000 people in strife-torn Myanmar and roughly 100,000 in Cambodia "may be affected." (AP)

Powerful quakes shake eastern Indonesia: A series of powerful and shallow earthquakes shook a sparsely populated island chain in eastern Indonesia on Wednesday. There were no immediate reports of damage or casualties.

The US Geological Survey said a magnitude 6.9 earthquake hit an area 341 kilometers (211 miles) southwest of Tual, a coastal town in Maluku province, at a depth of 10 kilometers (6.2 miles).

It was followed by another 7.0 magnitude quake in the same area and two 5.1 magnitude aftershocks, the USGS said.

Indonesia's Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysical Agency said there was no danger of a tsunami but warned of possible aftershocks.

Villagers in the Tanimbar Islands reported strong tremors for a few minutes but there was no panic, the National Disaster Mitigation Agency's spokesperson Abul Muhari said in a statement.

He said the epicenter of the quakes was in the Banda Sea near the Tanimbar Islands, with a population of about 127,000.

The country of more than 270 million people is frequently struck by earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and tsunamis because of its location on the arc of volcanoes and fault lines in the Pacific Basin known as the "Ring of Fire."

In 2004, a 9.1 magnitude Indian Ocean quake set off a tsunami that killed more than 230,000 people in a dozen countries, most of them in Indonesia's Aceh province. (AP)

Myanmar hosts naval exercise with Russia: The military-run Southeast Asian nation of Myanmar is holding its first joint naval exercise with Russia, state media reported Tuesday, with the countries carrying out maneuvers in the Andaman Sea.

Reports in the state-run Global New Light of Myanmar newspaper said that the maritime security exercise with Russia was being held until Thursday, 157 kilometers (85 miles) west of Myeik in Myanmar's far south. Some Russian navy vessels sailed from Yangon to take part, state television MRTV reported.

The three-day joint drill involves aircraft and naval vessels and focuses on defending against threats from air, sea and land as well as other maritime security measures, the reports said.

Russia is a major supporter and arms supplier of Myanmar's military government, which was installed after the army seized power and ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in February 2021. Russia defends Myanmar's military government in international forums, and the ruling generals return the favor by generally supporting Moscow's foreign policy agenda.

Myanmar has been treated as a pariah state by many Western nations since the military takeover and the violent suppression of protests against it, which has led to the deaths of thousands of civilians and given rise to an armed resistance movement in many parts of the country. (AP)

Group seizes district capital: Armed resistance groups fighting Myanmar's military government seized a district capital in the north Monday after taking state offices and a police station in a four-day offensive, according to residents, the country's major opposition coalition and media reports.

Kawlin in Sagaing region is the first administrative capital seized by the resistance forces in continuing strife since the army seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in February 2021.

Sagaing has been a stronghold of armed resistance to the army, which has responded with major offensives using ground troops supported by artillery and air strikes, burning down villages and driving hundreds of thousands of people from their homes.

Loosely organized resistance groups opposed to army rule, known as the People's Defense Force, or PDF, have sprung up around the country since the army's takeover. They have made alliances with well-established armed ethnic minority groups such as the Kachin and Karen, who have been fighting in border areas for greater autonomy from the central government for more than half a century.

Kawlin, which is about 200 kilometers (125 miles) north of Mandalay, the country's second biggest city, is the principal town of Kawlin district. (AP)

Indonesia's chief justice removed: The chief justice of Indonesia's top court was dismissed from the post after an ethics council found him guilty Tuesday of making last-minute changes to election candidacy requirements.

Constitutional Court Chief Justice Anwar Usman committed the ethical violation that cleared the way for President Joko Widodo's eldest son to run for vice president next year, Jimly Asshiddiqie, the chief of the court's Honorary Council, known also as the ethics council, said in the majority decision.

Usman "was proven to have committed a serious violation of the code of ethics and behavior of constitutional justices" by violating the principles of impartiality, integrity, competence, equality, independence, appropriateness and decency, Asshiddiqie said.

The ruling came less than a month after the Constitutional Court, in a 5-4 decision, carved out an exception to the minimum age requirement of 40 for presidential and vice presidential candidates, allowing the president's son, Gibran Rakabuming Raka, 36, to seek the post. (AP)

Court considers overturning convictions: An Australian court will consider overturning a woman's convictions for killing her four children, a government inquiry reported on Wednesday months after she was pardoned for the crimes due to new evidence that the siblings had died of natural causes.

Overturning Kathleen Folbigg's convictions would end a legal battle that has reached the highest level of Australia's court system to clear her of responsibility for her children's deaths, which happened over a decade between 1989 and 1999.

Folbigg, 56, was freed in June after spending 20 years in prison when the New South Wales state government pardoned her on three counts of murder and one of manslaughter.

The pardon was based on the interim recommendations of a state inquiry into new scientific evidence that created reasonable doubt that Folbigg had smothered her children, as prosecutors had alleged at her trial.

The inquiry's final report recommended on Wednesday that the state Court of Criminal Appeal consider clearing Folbigg's criminal record. (AP)



Park Sang-hak, (center), a refugee from the North who runs the group Fighters for a Free North Korea from a small Seoul office, and South Korean conservative activists prepare to release balloons bearing leaflets condemning the North Korean leader during an anti-North Korea rally against the 99th anniversary of Kim Il Sung's birth, called 'The Day of the Sun,' at the Imjingak Pavilion near the border village of Panmunjom in Paju, South Korea, on April 15, 2011. (AP)

NKorea threatens to respond to anti-Pyongyang propaganda leaflets with 'shower of shells'

North Korea criticized rival South Korea on Wednesday for removing a law that banned private activists from sending anti-Pyongyang propaganda leaflets to the North, insisting that such activities amount to psychological warfare and threatening to respond with a "shower of shells."

The statement published by North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency was the first time state media commented on the September decision by South Korea's Constitutional Court to invalidate a 2020 law that criminalized leafleting. The decision was based on concerns that it excessively restricted free speech.

The ruling came in response to a complaint filed

by North Korean defector-activists in the South. They included Park Sang-hak, who has been a frequent target of the North Korean government's anger for his yearslong campaign of flying leaflets across the border with giant balloons.

Park and other defectors from the North for years have used huge helium-filled balloons to launch leaflets criticizing the leadership of North Korean ruler Kim Jong Un, his nuclear weapons ambitions and the country's dismal human rights record. The leaflets are often packaged with US dollar bills and USB sticks containing information about world news.

North Korea is extremely sensitive about any outside attempt to undermine Kim's authoritarian lead-

ership as he maintains tight control over the country's 26 million people while severely restricting their access to foreign news.

The law, crafted by the previous liberal government in Seoul that pursued inter-Korean engagement, was passed six months after the North expressed its frustration over the leaflets by blowing up an inter-Korean liaison office in the North Korean border town of Kaesong in June 2020.

Tensions between the Koreas are at their highest point years as the pace of both Kim's weapons tests and the South Korea's combined military exercises with the United States have intensified in a tit-for-tat cycle. (AP)



Members of the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army hold the group's flag as they pose for a photograph on a captured army armored vehicle in Myanmar, on Oct. 28. The leader of Myanmar's army-installed government said the military will carry out counter-attacks against a powerful alliance of ethnic armed groups that has seized towns near the Chinese border in the country's northeastern and northern regions, state-run media reported Nov. 3. (AP)



Blinken



Ruto

Africa

'De-escalate tensions': US Secretary of State **Antony Blinken** has urged Rwanda and Congo to de-escalate tensions and withdraw troops from their border following increased fighting that has displaced nearly 7 million people.

Blinken spoke separately by phone with Congolese President Felix Tshisekedi and Rwandan President Paul Kagame about the "volatile situation and worsening humanitarian crisis along the border," the State Department said.

Its statement said Blinken advocated for a diplomatic solution to the tensions.

Fighting between M23 rebels and militias loyal to the Congolese army has intensified in the eastern Congo provinces of Ituri, North and South Kivu and Tanganyika. (AP)

S.Africa min, bodyguards robbed: South African police are on a manhunt for suspects who robbed a government minister at gunpoint and disarmed her two bodyguards of their pistols on a busy Johannesburg highway, police said Tuesday.

The robbery took place while Transport Minister Sindisiwe Chikunga's bodyguards were changing a punctured tire in the early hours of Monday morning.

Three gunmen allegedly appeared from bushes, ordered the bodyguards to lie on the ground before taking their firearms, and then pointed a gun at Chikunga and robbed her of some personal items.

"A manhunt has since been launched following this unprecedented incident," police spokeswoman Athlenda Mathe said.

The minister told lawmakers during a parliamentary briefing Tuesday that the ordeal had traumatized her. (AP)

Drone strikes kill 14: A series of drone strikes around the town of Kidal in northern Mali have killed at least 14 people in

Lat/Am

Chile prez calls for referendum on constitution proposal

'Annul Bukele re-election bid in El Salvador'

SAN SALVADOR, Nov. 8, (AP) — As President Nayib Bukele seeks reelection, a growing number of voices are urging electoral authorities to reverse their acceptance of the popular leader's candidacy, arguing it is a clear violation of El Salvador's constitution.

Bukele has gained the unwavering support of many in this Central American nation of 6.5 million people after his fierce crackdown on the Mara Salvatrucha and Barrio 18 gangs halted what had been near-constant terror in their day-to-day lives.

But many experts and international watchdog groups say that security has come at the expense of human rights and say Bukele's heavy-handed moves have slowly eaten away at the nation's already delicate democracy.

They are calling for the Supreme Electoral Tribunal to annul Bukele's candidacy in the February election, though the body already accepted him and have given no indication they might change course.

Petitions

Two lawyers, a citizen and another political party on Tuesday were the latest to ask for Bukele's candidacy to be annulled, joining similar petitions already filed by parties like the conservative Republican National Alliance.

The appeals to the Supreme Electoral Tribunal argue that reelection is prohibited by the country's constitution.

"It's illegal, it's unconstitutional," said Salvador Enrique Anaya, among the lawyers to question Bukele's candidacy. "At least seven constitutional provisions prohibit the immediate reelection of a president."

Despite clear term limits, a set of Supreme Court judges put in place by Bukele's supporters in congress said in 2021 that it would be legal for the leader to seek reelection and ordered the electoral tribunal to allow it.

For Bukele's many supporters it was welcome news, and "Bukele 2024" T-shirts and hats began popping up in

markets in the capital, San Salvador.

The president's critics say it was just the latest in a series of moves to consolidate his power and undermined the lack of effective checks and balances.

Since taking office in 2019, Bukele has suspended constitutional rights indefinitely to fight gangs, imprisoning tens of thousands in a "mega-prison." His government has gone after political opponents, activists, critics and journalists and heavily controlled messaging has been bolstered by an army of social media accounts reproducing government propaganda.

While Bukele's critics are sounding alarms, the Biden administration has said little on the upcoming election.

"There has to be a broad debate about the legality and legitimacy of the election, but it is a debate for Salvadorans," Brian Nichols, assistant U.S. secretary of state for Western Hemisphere affairs, said ahead of a meeting with Bukele last month.

Last week, in a 4-0 vote, with one abstention, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal approved Bukele's bid for the presidency, saying he and his vice presidential running mate, Félix Ulloa, met "the legal requirements" to run.

Bukele celebrated the decision on X, formerly Twitter, writing: "Legally registered! And without any votes against."

On Monday, the four judges of the tribunal who voted to approve Bukele's candidacy reiterated that they will obey the 2021 Supreme Court resolution.

Also:

SANTIAGO, Chile: Chilean President **Gabriel Boric** on Tuesday received the new constitution draft and called for a national plebiscite next month so citizens can decide whether the new charter will replace the country's dictatorship-era constitution.

Chileans, who in September of last year resoundingly rejected a proposed constitution that had been written by a left-leaning convention, will decide on Dec. 17 whether to accept the new document that was largely written by

conservative councilors.

"The definitive time for citizens has begun, and now it is their voice and their decision that truly matter," Boric said during a formal ceremony in Congress to formally deliver the document and sign the decree that calls for the vote.

After Chileans rejected the proposal for what many characterized as one of the world's most progressive constitutions, they must now decide whether to vote for a document that some warn goes to the other extreme.

One of the most controversial articles in the proposed new document says that "the law protects the life of the unborn," with a slight change in wording from the current document that some have warned could make abortion fully illegal in the South American country. Chilean law currently allows the interruption of pregnancies for three reasons: rape, if the fetus is unable to survive and risk to the life of the mother.

Another article in the proposed document that has sparked controversy says prisoners who suffer a terminal illness and aren't deemed to be a danger to society at large can be granted house arrest. Members of the left-wing opposition have said the measure could end up benefiting those who have been convicted of crimes against humanity during the dictatorship of Gen. **Augusto Pinochet** (1973-1990).

The new proposed document, which says Chile is a social and democratic state that "promotes the progressive development of social rights" through state and private institutions, is also being opposed by many local leaders who say it scraps tax on houses that are primary residences, a vital source of state revenue that is paid by the wealthiest.

Boric's government has vowed to remain neutral in the debate over the new proposed text although several of the administration's allies have already said they oppose the new document.

the rebel stronghold, the town's mayor said Tuesday.

Kidal Mayor Arbakane Ag Abzayack told The Associated Press that the town's

deputy mayor and a local councillor were among the victims.

Residents say victims of the first drone strike Tuesday included children who had



Supporters greet El Salvador's President Nayib Bukele after he presented himself as the presidential candidate for the New Ideas Party in San Salvador, El Salvador, on Oct. 27. (AP)

gathered in front of the former U.N. peace-keeping camp that was vacated a week ago. A second strike hit near an auction site.

The Malian army has not commented on the attacks, but a few days ago it announced that it had used drones to target terrorist positions in the former UN base in Kidal. (AP)

'Public holiday on Nov 13': The Kenyan government announced Monday a surprise public holiday on Nov. 13 for a nationwide tree planting day, part of its ambitious plan to plant 15 billion trees by 2032.

Interior Minister Kithure Kindiki made the announcement via a gazette notice posted on the social network X, formerly known as Twitter, following a cabinet meeting held last week and chaired by President **William Ruto**.

"The Government has declared a special holiday on Monday, November 13, 2023, during which the public across the Country shall be expected to plant trees as a patriotic contribution to the national efforts to save our Country from the devastating effects of Climate Change," said Kindiki.

Kenya's current forest cover currently stands at about 7% but the government has set aside more than \$80 million this financial year, as it bids to increase tree cover to more than 10%. (AP)

oil down

The price of Kuwaiti oil went down by USD 1.82 to USD 88.07 per barrel on Tuesday in contrast to USD 89.89 pb last Monday, said the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Wednesday.

At the global scale, the price of the Brent crude saw a drop by USD 3.57 to USD 81.61 per barrel, the same case with the West Texas Intermediate, which fell by USD 3.45 to USD 77.37 pb. (KUNA)

Despite frequent and devastating heat waves, droughts, floods and fire, major fossil fuel-producing countries still plan to extract more than double the amount of fossil fuels in 2030 than is consistent with the Paris climate accord's goal of limiting global temperature rise, according to a United Nations-backed study released Wednesday.

Coal production needs to ramp sharply down to address climate change, but government plans and projections would lead to increases in global production until 2030, and in global oil and gas production until at least 2050, the Production Gap Report states. This conflicts with government commitments under the climate accord, which seeks to keep global temperature rise below 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit).

governments plan more fossil fuel production despite climate pledges

The report examines the disparity between climate goals and fossil fuel extraction plans, a gap that has remained largely unchanged since it was first quantified in 2019.

"Governments' plans to expand fossil fuel production are undermining the energy transition needed to achieve net-zero emissions, creating economic risks and throwing humanity's future into question," Inger Andersen, executive director of the United Nations Environment Programme, said in a statement.

As world leaders convene for another round of United Nations climate talks at the end of the month in Dubai, seeking to curb greenhouse gases, Andersen said nations must "unite behind a managed and equitable phase-out of coal, oil and gas - to ease the turbulence ahead and benefit every person on this planet."

The report is produced by the Stockholm Environment Institute, Climate Analytics, E3G, International Institute for Sustainable Development, and UNEP. They say countries should aim for a near-total phase-out of coal production and use by 2040 and a combined reduction in oil and gas production and use by three-quarters by 2050 from 2020 levels, at a minimum. (AP)

Market Movements

08-11-2023

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts
EGYPT - EGX 30	+593.15	23,986.56	SAUDI - Tadawul	-17.21	10,928.76
PAKISTAN - KSE 100	+496.55	54,307.37	UAE - DFM	-24.5	3,965.21
PHILLIPINES - PSEI	+23.71	6,155.03	JAPAN - Nikkei	-105.34	32,166.48

Business

'Company in talks to sell loan portfolios amid branch closure'

BNP Paribas to close operations in Kuwait after two decades of local presence

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: In 2004, BNP Paribas obtained the first license granted to an international bank from the Central Bank of Kuwait to operate in the local market, and after about 20 years it is expected to pull down the shutters.

In this regard, responsible sources revealed to Al-Rai that BNP Paribas, which was founded in 2005 in Kuwait and runs a commercial branch that provides banking services to companies and institutions, as well as investment solutions, is planning to close its headquarters in Kuwait at the end of this year.

It is likely that on December 31 will be its last working day locally, according to initial expectations in this regard, noting that in addition to BNP Paribas, there is a branch of another Gulf bank that has informed the Central Bank of its desire to exit the local market as well.

BNP Paribas was preceded in the local market by Union National Bank - Kuwait Branch, which was removed from the register of banks at the Central Bank, as this came in accordance with Resolution No. 41 of 2021 and based on the approval of the Board of Directors of the Central Bank at its session held on August 23, 2021; and Articles 6 and 7 of Ministerial Resolution No. 39 of 2003 regarding the regulations for the bank registry system at the Central Bank.

The sources indicated that the Central Bank was informed some time ago of BNP Paribas's desire to close its branch in Kuwait, explaining that the supervisory regulator tried to discuss the challenges facing the foreign branch to operate in the local market, in a move aimed at addressing them and then pushing it to abandon the closure decision, which contradicts the state's efforts to open the way for the Kuwaiti economy in general and the banking sector in particular to attract foreign investors, especially major companies.

Strategic

However, the friendly discussions in this regard showed that the decision to exit was strategic and related to profit and loss targets, as the sources attributed the parent bank's approach in this regard to the inability of its branch in Kuwait to achieve the group's goals on the majority of its planned levels, most notably achieving the appropriate market share. And the profitability rate to be achieved.

The Central Bank also obligated foreign banks to invest their deposits locally and not transfer them abroad, and to regulate the pumping of their dollar liquidity into the group's treasury to the lowest level, which reduced the ability of these branches to compete and benefit the parent group in terms of liquidity.

The sources pointed out that "BNP Paribas" did not send an official request to the "Central Bank" for the expected closing date, but the indication that the headquarters will be closed at the end of this year unless any procedural changes occur that impose an extension of the closing date, is reinforced by the measures taken in terms of addressing the conditions.

Employees, in addition to stopping granting loans a while ago, and re-empting the deposit portfolio for its owners, which led the accounting department to not build any new deposit centers that would affect the closing

date of the headquarters.

The sources noted that, according to common procedural experiences in such cases, it takes about 3 years for BNP Paribas to fully exit the local market accounting for about 3 years, which is the period in which it is necessary to complete arranging the conditions of the deposit portfolio and return it to its owners before its scheduled dates, and the same applies to the portfolio. Credit, which will take the longest period to be liquidated, as this is linked to the terms of the loans granted, unlike deposits that the bank can pay off early for the long terms and wait for the short ones to be resolved.

Banking

However, according to circulated "unofficial" banking information, BNP Paribas officials succeeded in the recent period in reaching an initial agreement with banks to sell its cash loan portfolios and others that usually come in the form of bank guarantees, explaining that what facilitates this deal are the loans of foreign branches in general, which are based mainly to finance companies and not individuals as local banks target.

According to the traditional scenario, where financial centers process all transactions recorded at the bank branch for periods longer than the closing date, communication in the future with BNP Paribas clients will be from outside its usual headquarters in Kuwait, as it will be through the parent group's various channels and from any branch of the bank. In the region, as for the employees, the sources only coordinated with them to pay all their dues and terminate their contracts.

In general, there are a set of challenges that limit the ability of foreign bank branches to compete locally, which can be summarized as follows:

1. High operational costs, as foreign branches find themselves required to pay larger operating amounts in exchange for lower operating revenues, due to the narrow volume of business that they control locally and are usually confined to. In lending to companies and granting bank guarantees.

If some foreign branches in Kuwait maintain their positions in the local market better than other branches, this is due to strategic reasons only, related to the trends of their main groups and their overcoming narrow traditional profitability considerations for others related to broader gains, including the external expansion of the parent group.

2. The complications that have occurred in all markets in the recent period have reinforced the need for all major companies to reduce their expenses, including closing some unprofitable external windows, or reducing their momentum.

3. Despite the easing of regulatory restrictions on foreign banks licensed to operate in the country, especially on opening credits, the most recent of which was approved by the Central Bank before March 25, 2014 by allowing them to open more than one branch instead of relying on one branch, and approving the opening of representative offices for foreign banks. However, all branches of foreign banks in Kuwait (except one) did not take advantage of these mitigations and are submitting a request to open an additional branch.

By Mahmoud Shendi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: The real estate landscape in Kuwait has experienced a notable resurgence in recent months, primarily attributed to the Central Bank's decision to maintain stable interest rates. This strategic move has significantly influenced investor behavior, redirecting their funds from other avenues, particularly bank deposits, which have become more appealing due to higher interest rates.

The impact of this shift was particularly evident in October, as real estate transactions witnessed a substantial uptick. According to statistics provided by the Department of Real Estate Registration and Documentation at the Ministry of Justice, the total value of contracts and real estate agencies registered during this period soared by an impressive 48.2%. This surge brought the cumulative value to 323.40 million dinars, a significant leap from the 218.14 million dinars recorded in the preceding month of September.

Delving into the specifics of this robust real estate activity, the data revealed that trading in October encompassed contracts for 467 properties, amounting to a total worth of 314.39 million dinars. These transactions were diversely distributed among the various governorates, with private real estate taking the lead. A total of 330 private properties were traded, boasting a cumulative value of 141.01 million dinars. Following closely was investment real estate, comprising around 123 properties valued at 123 million dinars, and commercial real estate with 8 properties amounting to 83.63 million dinars.

The statistics further showcased the diversity of real estate deals, including 6 transactions in the craft sector valued at 10.51 million dinars,

Plans to boost oil & trade between both parties: Polat

Turkey seeks \$5 bln investment with Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8, (KUNA): Turkish Minister of Trade Omar Polat said on Tuesday that his country is seeking to raise the volume of investment with Kuwait to USD five billion.

This came in a news conference held Tuesday late following the opening of the commercial authority program at the Turkish Embassy, in the presence of Kuwait's Minister of Trade and Industry and the Minister of State for Youth Affairs Mohammad Al-Aiban and with the participation of 100 Turkish businessmen.

The Turkish minister stressed that Kuwait is a major economic, financial and oil power in the Gulf region and the Middle East.

Polat indicated that his country plans to increase oil purchases from Kuwait and Kuwait's purchases from Turkey including clothing, car spare parts, iron and steel products, and defense projects as well as others that will enable the two sides to achieve this number in the near future.

He elaborated that Kuwait's investment in Turkiye constitutes the backbone of the economic relations between the two countries, lauding commercial ties between them.

He said that Kuwait has an economic vision for 2035, including some important economic projects, most notably a large port, a huge free zone, and a number of giant development projects.

On relations with Muslim countries, the Turkish minister stressed that Turkey is working on enhancing relations with those countries and ensure more economic integration with African countries.

a deal in the warehouse sector worth 2.70 million dinars, and a transaction in the coastal strip amounting to 1.10 million dinars.

Geographically, Al-Ahmadi Governorate emerged as the focal point of real estate activities, witnessing the largest number of deals—approximately 117 properties changed hands in this region. In contrast, Al-Jahra Governorate



KUNA photo
Turkish Minister of Trade Omar Polat.

He revealed that the volume of Arab and Islamic investment in Turkey amounted to USD 50 billion out of USD 285 billion in Turkey.

As for foreign investment in Turkey, he said there are 85,000 international companies making direct investment, while they were about 5,000 21 years ago.

About 20 years ago, the number of tourists was 12 million annually, he said, hoping that tourists coming to Turkey will reach up to 56 million. Tourism revenue is expected between USD 55 and 56 billion, he noted.

The program inaugurated earlier in the day by the minister aims to develop bilateral trade cooperation and enhance commercial trade between the two countries.

recorded a smaller number of transactions, totaling only 26 deals.

This resurgence in real estate activity underlines the intricate interplay between economic factors, investor sentiments, and government policies, with the stability in interest rates playing a pivotal role in rejuvenating the real estate sector in Kuwait.

Keen vigilance in business continuity & employee readiness

KIB conducts business continuity simulation exercise to further strengthen response of Crisis Management Team

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) recently conducted a hands-on simulation exercise to ensure the readiness of its Crisis Management Team to face any disruptive incidents that could negatively affect the business continuity of the Bank's operations and customer services. The exercise included different scenarios designed to challenge KIB employees to deal with plausible scenarios like unavailability of systems, cyber-attacks and/or disruptions in communication and supply chain processes, in accordance with international best practices and standards in this field. The program comes as part of KIB's commitment to maintaining a solid business continuity posture and continuing to invest in training, technology, and best practices to protect its stakeholders.

In a proactive effort to reinforce preparedness and suitable responses, the simulation exercise involved key stakeholders and employees from various departments, all working together to navigate simulated scenarios. "We take our commitment to business continuity seriously," said Moudi AlMahmoud, Head of Business Continuity at KIB's Risk Management Department. "The simulation allowed us to assess our readiness, identify areas for improvement, and ensure that our team is well-prepared

to respond effectively to any real perceived threats."

AlMahmoud noted that participants in the simulation demonstrated a high level of awareness and competence in handling various crisis situations. "This crisis simulation is seen as a confidence-building exercise for the Business Continuity Management (BCM) stakeholders, whilst providing assurance to the Bank's Executive Management and the Board about the readiness of BCM infrastructure and the overall integrity of its operations to face any disruption," she added.

On his part, Feroz Noorani, Chief Risk Officer/General Manager of Risk Management at KIB, said: "At KIB, we strive to constantly update the Bank's systems, processes and upgrade infrastructure, keeping pace with all technological developments to provide continuity of services at high levels of integrity and confidence. While maintaining a high level of financial and banking services provided to customers through the Bank's various digital channels, and automated processes, we continue to simultaneously ensure that KIB employees are able to rapidly intervene in the event of any emergency or crisis so that business continuity is constantly maintained."

Noorani also pointed out that the Bank is constantly keen to develop the capabilities of its employees, by providing them with periodic training and development opportunities in technical spheres. These learnings and life-case studies enhance their knowledge and refine their

KIPCO appoints Abbouchi as Group Senior VP-Investments

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: KIPCO - Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) - has announced the appointment of Mr Samer Abbouchi as Group Senior Vice President - Investments. With two decades of experience in finance and investment banking, Mr Abbouchi will make an important contribution to the development of KIPCO's investments in the financial and real estate sectors.

Sheikha Dana Nasser Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, KIPCO's Group Chief Executive Officer, said: "We are delighted that Samer is joining our investment team at KIPCO. He

brings with him a wealth of experience in investment banking in the local and regional markets, which will add great value to the executive team."

On his part, Mr Abbouchi said: "I am very pleased to be joining KIPCO and have the opportunity to work with the Group CEO and the executive team to implement the company's strategy."

Prior to joining KIPCO, Mr Abbouchi was Deputy GM - Investment Banking at Gulf Bank. He started his career with Ernst & Young, then joined Global Investment House where his last position was Senior Vice President - Investment Banking. Mr Abbouchi holds a BA in Business Administration from the American University of Beirut, an MBA from London Business School and is a CFA Charter holder.

skills, boosting performance and efficiency levels, especially those related to dealing with threats and different risk scenarios.

Noorani added that KIB continues to be the only Kuwaiti bank that holds ISO 22301 certification since 2013, having to go through an annual surveillance audit performed by ISO accredited "BSI" of the U.K. to maintain the high standards of Business

Continuity Systems.

It is worth noting that KIB is always keen on providing an advanced digital banking experience to maintain its leading position in the market. The Bank applies the best and safest international standards in the banking sector, supported by the latest technologies that elevate customers' experiences, in line with its main slogan "Bank of Life."

Strong growth reported in B2B enterprise

Zain KSA net profit soars 234% to reach SAR 285 mln in Q3 '23

RIYADH, Nov 8: Zain's operation in Saudi Arabia (KSA) achieved its highest quarterly revenues, exceeding SAR 2.5 billion (USD 673 million) in Q3 2023 ending 30 September 2023, a notable 10% increase compared to the SAR 2.3 billion generated in Q3 2022. The operator also recorded SAR 285 million (USD 76 million) in Net Profit, a massive increase of 234% compared to the corresponding period in 2022.

The company's strong financial performance also reflected the gains achieved by the tower infrastructure sale and leaseback deal that generated net gains totalling SAR 139 million (USD 37 million) during the quarter, as part of the total financial impact that

the company expects to reach SAR 1.1 billion (USD 293 million) over the 18-month period of the tower ownership transfer.

Sustained business growth across all sectors has fuelled Zain KSA's robust Q3 profit growth, which is particularly evident in the enterprise sector with strong demand for cutting-edge services and solutions such as cloud computing, the Internet of Things (IoT), and artificial intelligence. Beyond the growth in 5G revenue, Zain KSA has also witnessed a steady uptick in its consumer services and a surge in demand for Yaqoot digital services and micro-finance solutions offered through Tamam, its fintech arm.

Commenting on the financial results, Zain Vice Chairman & Zain Group CEO and Zain KSA Vice-Chairman, Bader Al-Kharafi, said, "This all-time high revenue and impressive net profit growth accomplishment in Q3 2023 underscore the effectiveness of the Zain Group and Zain KSA teams' joint efforts in driving operational and financial strategies, which are firmly grounded in innovation and strategic investments. Management's focus remains on maximizing our impact across technology, economy, and society, particularly by enhancing our robust 5G services ecosystem within the community and enterprise sector."



Bader Al Kharafi

UBS reports pre-tax loss in Q3

UBS reported Tuesday a \$255 million pre-tax loss as the giant Swiss bank shed some 4,000 jobs globally, cut costs faster than expected, and reaped billions in asset inflows in the third quarter while moving forward with its government-orchestrated merger with rival Credit Suisse.

The Zurich-based bank said underlying profit before taxes came in at \$884 million in the first full quarter since the merger was

completed in June. Government authorities in Bern shepherded through the deal with bank chiefs to stave off a collapse of Credit Suisse and avert a financial crisis.

UBS, which is striving to rid of overlap between the two former rival banks, said underlying operating expenses of \$1.2 billion in non-core, legacy operation stemmed from efforts to reduce headcount and outsourcing

costs.

The bank said it was one quarter ahead of schedule in reaping savings from the restructuring operations, and the headcount was down more than 4,000 during the third quarter.

UBS tallied \$33 billion in net new deposits in its wealth management and personal and corporate banking segments, two-thirds of that from Credit Suisse clients. (AP)

Dhaka raises monthly minimum wage for garment workers

Authorities in Bangladesh announced a new salary structure on Tuesday for protesting garment factory workers with a 56% increase in the monthly minimum wage to \$113 from the previous \$75, a decision rejected by some workers' groups as too small.

State Minister for Labor and Employment Monnujan Sufian announced the decision after a meeting of a government-formed wage board made up of representatives

of factory owners and workers. She said the new pay structure will take effect Dec. 1. Critics say the influential factory owners should do more for the workers.

The decision came after weeks of violent protests by workers demanding a \$208 monthly minimum wage. Workers have demonstrated in the streets, attacked factories, fought with police and burned vehicles. The protests began after the Bangladesh Garment Manu-

facturers and Exporters Association offered to increase the monthly minimum wage by 25% to \$90.

The last increase in the minimum wage was announced in 2018. Workers say they currently need to work overtime to make ends meet. Kalpona Akter, president of the Bangladesh Garment and Industrial Workers Federation, said they were "extremely frustrated" over what she described as a paltry increase. (AP)

Biden-Xi meeting in the US still on track

No major breakthroughs expected

WASHINGTON, Nov 8, (AP): The anticipated meeting between President Joe Biden and Chinese leader Xi Jinping is on track for next week on the sidelines of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in San Francisco, but the White House is not expecting the face-to-face to result in major changes to the relationship between the two nations, according to a person familiar with the planning.

The White House announced late last month that U.S. and China had come to an agreement in principle for Biden and Xi to speak to each other in person on the sidelines of the summit - the first engagement between the leaders in what's been a tension-filled year between the world's two biggest economic powers. But with Biden set to arrive in San Francisco in a week for the summit, exact timing and other logistical details have not yet been formally announced.

The U.S. believes that the two sides will be able to make some modest announcements following their meeting, but the fundamental differences in the relationship will remain unchanged, according to the person, who was not authorized to comment publicly and spoke on the condition of

anonymity.

Jude Blanchette, chair of China Studies at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, said Biden and Xi were looking "to intentionally keep that bar low."

"What's going on here is an attempt to have a deep conversation where the two sides directly share their concerns, but more importantly that the meeting unlocks, especially in the Chinese system, space for further engagement in constructive work," Blanchette said.

There's been plenty of effort by both sides to lay the groundwork for the expected San Francisco meeting.

Summit

U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen is set to meet Thursday and Friday with Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng in San Francisco before finance ministers of the APEC member nations officially kick off the summit Saturday.

The meeting between the two senior government officials comes after Biden spoke with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi at the White House for about an hour late last month, when Beijing's top diplomat came to Washington for talks with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan. Xi similarly met with Blinken in June when the secretary of state traveled to Beijing for

talks with Wang.

Yellen last met with her counterpart He during a July visit to Beijing, when she urged Chinese government officials to cooperate on climate change and other global challenges and not to let sharp disagreements about trade and other irritants derail relations.

Biden and Xi last met nearly a year ago on the sidelines of the Group of 20 summit in Bali, Indonesia, a nearly three-hour meeting in which Biden objected directly to China's "coercive and increasingly aggressive actions" toward Taiwan and discussed Russia's invasion of Ukraine and other issues.

The already fraught relationship has become only more complicated since that Bali meeting. Differences have sharpened as a result of U.S. export controls on advanced technology; Biden ordering the shooting down of a Chinese spy balloon after it traversed the continental United States; and a stopover in the U.S. by Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen earlier this year, among other issues.

Beijing sees official American contact with Taiwan as encouragement to make the island's decades-old de facto independence permanent, a step U.S. leaders say they don't support. Under the "One China" policy, the U.S. recognizes Beijing as the government of China and doesn't have diplomatic relations with Taiwan, but it has maintained that Taipei is an important partner in the Indo-Pacific.

Cost of underestimating inflation's persistence could be painfully high

IMF 'warns' European Central Bank against prematurely declaring victory over inflation

FRANKFURT, Germany, Nov 8, (AP): The European Central Bank and other policymakers across Europe need to keep interest rates at current elevated levels until they're sure inflation is under control despite sluggish growth, the International Monetary Fund said Wednesday, warning against "premature celebration" as inflation declines from its peak.

The Washington-based IMF said that cost of underestimating inflation's persistence could be painfully high and result in another painful round of rate hikes that could rob the economy of a large chunk of growth.

The European Central Bank and the other central banks that aren't part of the 20-country eurozone "are reaching the peak of their interest rate cycles, while some have started to reduce policy rates," the IMF said in its twice-yearly regional economic outlook for Europe. "Nonetheless, a prolonged restrictive stance is still necessary to ensure that inflation moves back to target."

Historically, it takes an average of three years to return inflation to lower levels, while some anti-inflation campaigns have taken even longer, the IMF said. While central banks appear to have ended their series of hikes, a failure to finish the job and the resulting return to rate hikes could cost as much as a full percentage point of annual economic output.

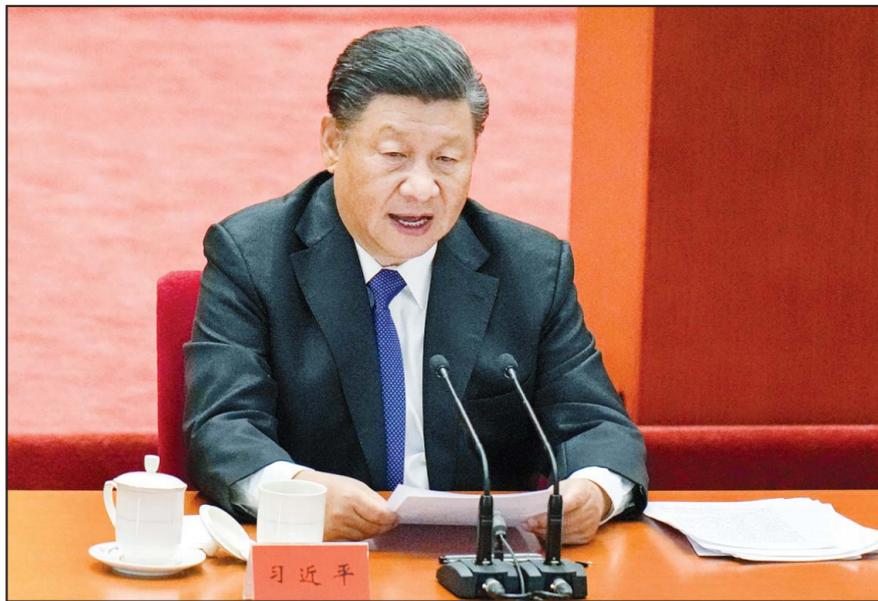
Warned

Alfred Kammer, director of the IMF's Europe department, warned against "premature celebration" as he spoke to journalists in connection with the outlook. "It is less costly to be too tight than too loose" with interest-rate policy, Kammer said. The ECB, which halted its rate increases at its Oct. 26 for the first time in over a year, "is in a good spot," he said.

Inflation in the eurozone peaked at 10.6% in October 2022, and has steadily fallen to 2.9% in October.

The European Central Bank has raised its benchmark deposit rate by fully 4.5 percentage points between July 2022 and September 2023, from minus 0.5% to 4%. Higher rates are the typical tool central banks use to control inflation, since higher rates mean higher borrowing costs for consumer purchases and financing new officials and factory equipment. That reduces demand for goods and eases pressure on prices, but can also hurt growth - a difficult tightrope act for the ECB.

The IMF said Europe was headed for "a soft landing" after the impact of the rate hikes and did not foresee a recession, while growth forecasts remained uncertain and could turn out better or worse than expected.



Chinese President Xi Jinping delivers a speech at an event commemorating the 110th anniversary of Xinhai Revolution at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Oct. 9, 2021. (AP)

Chinese leader makes no mention of internet controls

Xi urges countries unite in tackling AI challenges

BEIJING, Nov 8, (AP): Chinese President Xi Jinping said Wednesday that potential risks associated with artificial intelligence are challenges that countries should deal with together, remarks that come against the backdrop of China's rigid control of free speech on the internet.

At the same time, China has also maximized the internet's economic benefits and social media's propaganda contributions to the ruling Communist Party's authoritarian agenda.

Xi's prerecorded speech was broadcast at the opening of the World Internet Conference Summit in the eastern city of Wuzhen.

He called for common security in cyberspace instead of confrontation. He said China would work with other countries to address risks brought by the development of AI and expressed his objections to "cyberspace hegemony."

China is ready to "promote the safe

development of AI," he said, with the implementation of the Global AI Governance Initiative, a proposal launched by the Chinese government last month calling for an open and fair environment for AI development.

Publicity

Li Shulei, director of the Communist Party's publicity department, echoed Xi's remarks at the conference, saying China would work with other countries to "improve the safety, reliability, controllability and fairness of artificial intelligence technology."

The conference was first launched as an annual event in 2014 by the Chinese government to discuss internet development. China blocks most overseas news and social media sites, but lifts them in the Wuzhen area for the duration of the conference.

As recently as June, Chinese state-backed hackers foiled Microsoft's cloud-based security in breaching the

email accounts of officials at multiple U.S. agencies that deal with China ahead of Secretary of State Antony Blinken's trip to Beijing.

The surgical, targeted espionage accessed the email of a small number of individuals at an unspecified number of U.S. agencies and was discovered in mid-June by the State Department, U.S. officials said. They said none of the breached systems were classified, nor was any of the stolen data.

The hacked officials included Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo, whose agency imposed export controls that have stung multiple Chinese companies.

In September 2020, the Justice Department has charged five Chinese citizens with hacks targeting more than 100 companies and institutions in the United States and abroad, including social media and video game companies as well as universities and telecommunications providers.

For now, the monthlong war between Israel and Hamas in Gaza has led to a temporary rise in oil prices but has not disrupted the European economy, Kammer said.

Australia's leader calls for free and unimpeded trade to resume with China

BEIJING, Nov 8, (AP): Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese called for the "full resumption of free and unimpeded trade" with China in a meeting Tuesday with counterpart Li Qiang that marked the return of talks after a four-year hiatus.

A joint statement said the countries agreed to resume an annual leaders meeting, which had been halted by a sharp deterioration in relations during which China slapped tariffs and other restrictions on imports from Australia.

Ties have improved in the past year, and China has lifted some trade restrictions, which are estimated to have cost

Australian exporters up to 20 billion Australian dollars (\$13 billion) a year. China has been a major market for Australia in a range of goods including coal, wine, beef, barley and lobsters.

"We can grow the relationship while advancing our respective interests, if we wisely navigate when there are differences," said Albanese, the first Australian leader to visit China in seven years.

Li said China is willing to work with Australia to further strengthen dialogue and properly handle differences so that cooperation will be the main feature of their relations, China's

official Xinhua News Agency said. Relations spiraled downward in recent years as the Australian government began to view China as a potential security threat.

Australia's parliament banned covert foreign interference in domestic politics, a move sparked by suspicion of Chinese interference. Soon after, the government banned Chinese-owned telecommunications giant Huawei from rolling out its 5G network in Australia due to unspecified security concerns.

China was angered by Australia's call for an inquiry into the origins of the COVID-19 virus and the country's

deepening security ties with the United States, notably the AUKUS agreement that also includes Britain and will provide Australia with submarines powered by U.S. nuclear technology.

Albanese, who has acknowledged differences with China throughout his trip, named climate change, food security and transnational crime as areas in which the two nations can cooperate.

Li said China is ready to strengthen cooperation in energy and mining and in new areas such as green development, the digital economy, scientific and technological innovation and the health industry, Xinhua reported.

Washington in rivalry with China

US plans to build a 553-million dollar terminal at Sri Lanka's Colombo port

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, Nov 8, (AP): The U.S. announced a \$553 million project Wednesday to build a deep-water shipping container terminal in Sri Lanka's Port of Colombo as it competes with China in international development financing.

The project is billed as providing critical infrastructure for the South Asian nation with the potential to "transform Colombo into a world-class logistics hub at the intersection of major shipping routes and emerging markets," according to the U.S. International Development Finance Corp.

The DFC loan of \$553 million for the West Container Terminal will "expand its shipping capacity, creating greater prosperity for Sri Lanka - without adding to sovereign debt - while at the same strengthening the position of our allies across the region," said DFC Chief Executive Officer Scott Nathan.

The announcement comes as Sri Lanka is struggling to recover from a dire financial and economic crisis.

The Port of Colombo has been operating near its capacity since 2021, and the new terminal will cater to growing economies in the Bay of Bengal, the DFC said.

The DFC will make a direct loan to the consortium developing the terminal, which is 51% owned by India's largest port operator, Adani Ports & Special Economic Zones Ltd. The other partners are Sri Lanka's John Keells Holdings, which has a 34% share, and the Sri Lanka Ports Authority with the remaining 15%.

Nathan said that with the loan, Sri Lanka will be the "2nd biggest exposure" for his institution in the Indo-Pacific region, after India.

"It's high priority for the United States to be active in the Indo-Pacific region," he told reporters in Colombo after visiting the site of the new terminal.

Established

The DFC was established five years ago in response to Beijing's massive global infrastructure building campaign, known as the Belt and Road Initiative. Through it, Beijing has invested tens of billions of dollars each year to build roads, railways, ports and airports, typically in developing nations, to foster trade and goodwill toward China.

Some of those projects have raised controversy, among them Sri Lanka's Hambantota Port, on its southeastern coast. Sri Lanka borrowed heavily from China to build the port and other infrastructure including an airport and a city being built on reclaimed land. The projects have failed to earn enough revenue to pay for the loans, and in 2017, Sri Lanka leased the seaport in Hambantota to China.

Sri Lanka's multibillion-dollar debts to Beijing have hindered efforts to resolve its financial woes and have often been cited as evidence by critics of the Belt and Road Initiative who claim China engages in debt-trap diplomacy.

The Chinese government rejects such accusations. The debt trap argument was "fabricated to disrupt and undermine China's cooperation with developing countries," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said during a daily briefing Tuesday.

Both neighboring India and China

are jostling for influence in Sri Lanka and both have already invested in expanding facilities at the Colombo port. India worries about a growing Chinese presence on the island, which is on one of the world's busiest shipping routes and in a region that India considers part of its strategic backyard.

The Colombo port also has a terminal run by China Merchants Port Holdings. Another Chinese project, a luxury oceanside development spanning over 269 hectares of reclaimed land called Port City, is being built by CHEC Port City Colombo Co., a unit of China Communications Construction Company.

The \$1.4 billion project to build an integrated resort and casino and conference center zone, a marina, apartments, a business district and green space has raised concerns in Sri Lanka and India that the development could become a virtual Chinese outpost or colony.

Financing

In development financing, the U.S. faces tough competition from Beijing, which has recalibrated its BRI initiative to be greener, safer and more sustainable, according to AidData, a research lab at William & Mary, a public university in Virginia.

Nathan said that sustainability and "local appropriateness" are very important elements of the DFC's work.

"We are not interested in giving money to projects that are not going to work," he said. "Of course, sometimes, mistakes happen. But rarely."

He called the Sri Lanka port terminal project "an investment in dynamics of the global economy, shipping and transshipment" and added that studies on the project "have demonstrated that dynamics with high confidence."

In a recent report, AidData said the U.S. is catching up with China in development finance after being overtaken by Beijing in total official financial flows to the developing world in 2007.

The gap has narrowed recently as China scaled back its lending while the U.S. sharply raised loans through the newly launched DFC.

The U.S. now provides about \$60 billion of development finance each year to low- and middle-income countries. Yet, at \$80 billion a year in aid and credit commitment, China remains the single largest official source of international development finance, AidData says.

For the past two decades, China has dominated global infrastructure finance with faster and bigger projects. Now it has rebooted with more stringent environmental, social and governance safeguards, said Bradley Parks, executive director of AidData.

He said, "this finding is a big deal because China's competitors in the global infrastructure market offer safety but not speed."

"Beijing, on the other hand, is squaring the circle between safety and speed. It is several steps ahead of its competitors in the global infrastructure market. It is laser-focused on giving leaders in the developing world exactly what they want: rapid delivery of big-ticket infrastructure projects without unreasonably high levels of risk," he said. "Whether the U.S. will be able to do the same is a big question mark."

Film

Nintendo developing live-action film based on 'Legend of Zelda'

TOKYO, Nov 8, (AP): Nintendo is developing a live-action film based on its hit video game "The Legend of Zelda," the Japanese company behind the Super Mario franchise said Wednesday.

The film, with financing from Sony Pictures Entertainment as well as its own investment, will be directed by Wes Ball, the American director of the upcoming "Planet of the Apes" film. It's being co-produced by Nintendo and Arad Productions Inc., which is behind the live-action Spider-Man films and headed by Avi Arad.

The move highlights Kyoto-based Nintendo's strategy to leverage various aspects of its business, including theme parks, merchandising and movies, to boost machine and software sales, and vice versa.

That strategy has met success. Its animation film "The Super Mario Bros. Movie," released earlier this year, has raked in more than \$1.3 billion and drew nearly 170 million people worldwide.

President Shuntaro Furukawa, briefing reporters online, said the company was pleased with the success of the Super Mario animation film, the first movie of which Nintendo was a direct producer.

The planned release date of the Zelda movie was not announced. Shigeru Miyamoto, the Nintendo executive who has spearheaded the creative innovations at the company for decades, said it will be released only when it's ready, while stressing that work on the project has been going on for a decade.

"I realize there are so many Zelda fans, and we cannot betray their expectations. That is a big hurdle. But we are ready," said Miyamoto.

Nintendo reported Tuesday an 18% rise in net profit for its first fiscal half, totaling nearly 271.3 billion yen (\$1.8 billion), up from 230 billion yen a year earlier.

Success

Nintendo officials said the success of the Super Mario film has translated into bigger sales for its Switch machines, as well as for game software with Super Mario themes.

The "Super Mario Bros. Wonder" game software, on sale since last month, has been selling at a record brisk pace, they said, totaling 4.3 million games sold in just two weeks.

The latest Zelda game called "Tears of the Kingdom," has been selling well, and Nintendo is hoping the planned movie will benefit from the popularity of the game, which stars a hero and a princess fighting against evil.

The Switch machine, already in its seventh year after its debut, is still doing well in sales, according to Nintendo.

Nintendo is banking on having more people come in contact with its intellectual property through official stores, including pop-ups,

theme parks and special events, and now movies.

In the US, Nintendo World has opened in Universal Studios in Hollywood, and the company is planning another in Orlando. The area for the park it already has in Japan will grow next year to include a section devoted to Donkey Kong, another Nintendo character, officials said.

Nintendo is also opening a museum devoted to its history and legacy in the ancient Japanese capital of Kyoto in March next year.

Also:

LOS ANGELES: The bad news: Humanity is extinct. The good news: Our robot descendants are fans of human culture. In "The Talos Principle II," you are an artificial intelligence on a mission to figure out how people screwed it all up, and maybe avoid repeating their mistakes. The 2014 original, from the Croatian developer Croteam, was one of the more challenging puzzle games of its generation. The studio is promising a wider array of 3D brainteasers in the sequel, with new techniques like gravity manipulation and mind transference - not to mention "questions about the nature of the cosmos and the purpose of civilization." If you dig mind-benders like Portal and The Witness, you probably already have Talos II on your wish list for Thursday on PlayStation 5, Xbox X/S and PC.

Variety



This image released by Netflix shows Michael Fassbender as an assassin in a scene from 'The Killer.' (AP)

Film

A terse, minimalist thriller for the nihilistic age

Assassin hides in plain sight in 'Killer'

By Jake Coyle

It's a noir staple to open with a bit of narration, but once the nameless hit-man protagonist of David Fincher's "The Killer" starts gabbing, he doesn't stop.

As Fincher's assassin (Michael Fassbender) awaits his target from a high, unfinished floor in a Paris building that looks out on the home of his mark, his inner monologue runs with a smooth, affectless monotone. His musings are a mix of professional tips ("Anticipate, don't improvise"), nihilistic existential observations ("Most people refuse to believe that the great beyond is anything more than a cold, infinite void") and sincere self-reflections ("I'm not exceptional, I'm just apart").

That last line is the most telling one. "The Killer" is a terse, minimalist thriller in the cool, cold-hearted tradition of Jean Pierre Melville's "Le Samourai." But while its methodical and solitary assassin acts and moves like cunning killers we've seen before, he blends into a modern background. He doesn't wear a trench coat or fedora; he dresses like a German tourist, with a dopey bucket hat. He shops for tools on Amazon. He picks up supplies at Home Depot. His position in Paris is an unused WeWork space.

In "The Killer," an agent of death is hiding in plain sight. He's an assassin for our homogeneous, corporate world operating in the same spaces we all do. He eats McDonalds. He drives a white Avis rental van that's the exact same as a dozen others in the rental car parking lot. Sameness is his superpower.

That also means that his nihilism is ours, too. "The Killer," which begins streaming Friday on Netflix, is a thriller where pointlessness isn't just lurking in the shadows. It's everywhere, even in a movie plot that grows increasingly resistant to offering the usual genre satisfactions. Fassbender's

hitman, a background actor supreme, is a lethal manifestation of our soulless environment.

In that opening scene, he boasts of having a batting average (1,000, he brags) 'better than Ted Williams.' Yet the job goes badly. In the ensuing turmoil, he races to erase his footsteps but not before a dissatisfied client has his girlfriend (Sophie Charlotte) nearly beaten to death at their clandestine Dominican Republic home.

He embarks on a location-hopping mission to eliminate those responsible, an odd twist for an assassin who, at length, preaches disaffection. Much doesn't quite fit in "The Killer." That he even has a live-in girlfriend - we barely see her and his thoughts never again turn back to her - seems unlikely.

Revenge

A revenge plot also doesn't quite suit such a dispassionate protagonist. "Forbid empathy," he says. And the movie, too, can be withholding of anything like emotion. The most distinct thing about Fassbender's killer is that, like Patrick Bateman bopped to Huey Lewis and the News, he listens exclusively to the Smiths.

There's much pleasure to be found in the unnamed hit man's proficiency, just as there is in Fincher's cool finesse. Here, the director - long known for his own meticulous rigor - is working with some regular collaborators, among them screenwriter Andrew Kevin Walker ("Seven"), composers Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross ("The Social Network") and cinematographer Erik Messerschmidt ("Mank"). And there's a kinetic thrill to seeing Fincher back in B-movie territory. (The script is based on a French graphic novel by Alexis "Matz" Nolent.)

Especially good is a nighttime sequence set in Florida that begins and ends with a bloodthirsty dog and in between features violent hand-to-hand combat that careens through glass and walls. The

scene, like several others in "The Killer," is a filmmaking feat of control. Fassbender, a natural at playing a loner (see "Shame"), is captivating throughout because he so possesses the movie's chief traits of guile and a deadpan sense of humor.

Everything here is tantalizingly close to calculated perfection that it comes almost as a surprise how "The Killer" ends up missing its mark. You could call it a feature of the film's existentialism, but "The Killer" increasingly is working, albeit proficiently, in a vacuum. Our hitman travels from place to place - always with fake passports with the names of TV characters like Felix Unger, Lou Grant or Sam Malone - but we don't get anywhere deeper with him or anything else. Meaningless may be the point in "The Killer," but at a certain point in this stylishly composed but empty vessel, you feel like pleading as another Fincher protagonist once did: What's in the box?

"The Killer," a Netflix release is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for strong violence, language and brief sexuality. Running time: 118 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four.

Also:

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

NASHVILLE, Tenn.: The CMA Awards are back Wednesday to honor the top artists in country music, with **Lainey Wilson**, **Jelly Roll**, **Ashley McBryde** and **Morgan Wallen** among the acts hitting the stage.

Wilson is the leading nominee for the second year in a row, competing for entertainer of the year along with **Carrie Underwood**, **Chris Stapleton**, **Morgan Wallen** and **Luke Combs**.

Stapleton, Dan + Shay and the War and Treaty are among the performers scheduled to take the stage at Nashville's Bridgestone Arena. The show airs live on ABC beginning at 8 p.m. Eastern and will stream the next day on Hulu.

Luke Bryan and **Peyton Manning** will host the ceremony, which will feature a musical tribute to the late singer-songwriter **Jimmy Buffett**.

Wilson is up for nine awards, including her collaborations with **HARDY** ("Wait in the Truck") and **Jelly Roll** ("Save Me.")

Rapper-turned-singer **Jelly Roll**, who earlier this year topped the CMT Music Awards, has five nominations, including best new artist.

Other best new artist nominees are **Zach Bryan**, **Parker McCollum**, **Megan Moroney** and **Hailey Whitters**. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: He's not just "McDreamy" anymore - **Patrick Dempsey** is now also People magazine's Sexiest Man Alive.

The "Grey's Anatomy" star and race car driver takes the mantle from "Captain America" star **Chris Evans**, who was 2022's selection. The pick was revealed on "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" Tuesday night.

"I've always been the bridesmaid!" Dempsey, 57, told the magazine about his initial reaction. "I'd completely forgotten about it and never even contemplated being in this position. So my ego is good."

The actor stars in the upcoming **Michael Mann** film "Ferrari." He told The Associated Press last year that he did all the driving himself, calling it "the best role I've ever had."

Dempsey has driven in several professional races, including the 24 Hours of Le Mans, and is part of the Wright Motorsports racing team, according to its website.

Dempsey said his three children are bound to tease him about his

People magazine selection and "pick on me and figure out every reason why I shouldn't be."

The People edition with Dempsey's cover story will be out Friday.

In addition to racing and acting, he founded the Dempsey Center, a Maine-based organization that provides care and resources for cancer patients, in honor of his late mother.



Buffett



Dempsey

Dempsey achieved heartthrob status as Dr. Derek Shepherd - nicknamed "McDreamy" - on "Grey's Anatomy," appearing in more than 250 episodes.

He plays Italian race car driver Piero Taruffi in "Ferrari," which arrives in theaters later this year. The film has received a waiver so that its stars can promote it with-

out breaking rules in the ongoing actors strike. (AP)

MADRID: Spanish author **Luis Mateo Diez** has been awarded the Cervantes Prize, the Spanish-speaking world's highest literary honor, Culture Minister **Miguel Iceta** said Tuesday.

The prizes are presented each April 23 on the anniversary of the death in 1616 of Miguel de Cervantes, author of "Don Quixote," in a ceremony attended by **King Felipe VI**.

Iceta praised Diez, 81, "for being one of the great narrators of the Spanish language, heir to the Cervantes spirit." (AP)

People & Places

Television

Jimeno speaks out

'Chantel' finale to see lot of drama

NEW YORK, Nov 8, (AP): The marriage between the stars of "The Family Chantel" has come to an end, but the hit reality show will have a fifth and final season. The split has been unsurprising for faithful fans of the show who've watched the couple's downward spiral.

"The damage is done already," said **Pedro Jimeno**, of the divorce. "It's not going to be any reconciliation in the future."

Jimeno, a native of the Dominican Republic, and Chantel Everett were standouts on TLC's popular "90 Day Fiancé" reality TV show, which has become an almost cult-like followed franchise. The original series, which debuted in 2014, follows couples navigating America's K-1 visa process, which allows foreign citizens who are engaged to Americans to move to the US and marry within 90 days. After marriage, they can apply to become a permanent US resident.



Jimeno

After their initial season four debut and appearances on other "90 Day Fiancé" shows, Jimeno and Everett earned their own series, the first spinoff to follow an individual couple. (The show's name came from the way Pedro, a native Spanish speaker, identified the Everett family.)

And while the love was strong initially, the union was complicated by their families who many fans believe had too much influence. The honeymoon phase quickly ended, and last season, the couple experienced plenty of drama and heartbreak, resulting in a tumultuous relationship and accusations of infidelity and financial mismanagement.

The final season of "The Family Chantel," which begins Monday, follows them as they wrap up their shared marital responsibilities - including the contentious selling of their house - and prepare for their new lives.

"On the final season of 'The Family Chantel,' you're going to find a lot of drama, it's going to be (hard) and painful," said Jimeno. "I'm at peace with the marriage... I wish the best for Chantel."

The show airs at 9 p.m. Eastern on TLC. Jimeno spoke with The Associated Press about his current feelings toward Everett, regrets, and his future in reality TV.

Answers have been edited for brevity and clarity.

AP: What kind of place are you and Chantel in now post-divorce?

Jimeno: We're not on good terms. I follow my way, she goes her way. And right now, we are not talking at all... it's much better like that because in the end, I want to be separated from the family, and I want to heal myself and be a better person.

AP: Do you feel the show fairly portrayed you and Chantel over the course of the marriage?

Jimeno: Over the course, they weren't fair on my side. Last year, they only choose one side, Chantel's side... they (portrayed me) like a freaking user, like somebody wants to use her for papers, a machista (sexist) person, that I only want to do things my way and it wasn't like that. And I feel it wasn't fair for me because they only put her story, her side.

AP: Do you think the problems in your marriage were because of the issues you and Chantel had, or more due to the families' involvement?

Jimeno: Chantel had some issues, (her) family had some issues, and when you put those things together, you only hear one side of the story. You only hear her family talking about all the problems.

AP: And what about your family? They always had a lot to say as well.

Jimeno: My family, too. My family is not perfect - nobody's perfect. But in the end, I haven't spent that much time with my family. (My) family's in the Dominican Republic. I was here (in Atlanta). And I'm not going to defend my family at all... my sister, my mother, they're a little crazy sometimes. But in the end, they were not involved inside our relationship (as much as) the Family Chantel.

AP: How do you feel about criticism that you only married Chantel for a green card?

Jimeno: People need to understand I've been here for almost seven years already. If I wanted a green card, if I wanted a visa, I would've broken up after the first three years and be free... I believed in the marriage for that long, and in the end, everybody grow apart.

AP: Do you ever fear your visa status could be in jeopardy in the future?

Jimeno: I'm not scared to be deported anymore because I already have my citizenship. I'm American... I got my blue passport, I got all my stuff already, thank God.

AP: Now that you're divorced, are you dating?

Jimeno: I keep all my dating and stuff private. When the moment comes, it's gonna be revealed. But right now, I try to keep things a little private.

AP: Do you ever consider appearing on reality TV again?

Jimeno: I've been doing real estate, thank God, I've been doing great... And for reality TV show, I can say that's something I've been doing for almost 10 years, let's say. I've got a lot of experience... If they have opportunities to be on other shows, if they present it to me, I will think about it.

AP: Do you have any regrets?

Jimeno: The only thing is (everyone) can be better in the relationship. ... You only see those times when you're out the relationship (and) I say, "I can do this better, this better." But it's too late for those things. I hope she can find some better guy ... and I pray to God she can be happy.



Michael Stipe, of the band R.E.M., (center), speaks as he accepts the Video Vanguard award during the 1995 MTV Video Music Awards at Radio City Music Hall in New York on Sept. 7, 1995. Standing by are fellow band members, (from left), Mike Mills, Peter Buck and Bill Berry. Twenty-five years ago, R.E.M. released 'Up,' the band's 11th album. (AP)

Music

Band celebrates 'a very radical departure'

R.E.M. remasters 'Up' on its 25th year

NEW YORK, Nov 8, (AP): Twenty-five years ago, an R.E.M. album arrived that didn't sound like a typical R.E.M. album.

"Up," the band's 11th album which dropped in the fall of 1998, was a curious and challenging collection that split fans and critics alike but reveals more interesting things with each listen. A newly remastered reissue out Friday offers a chance to reevaluate.

"A lot of people may not have liked it because it didn't sound like 'R.E.M.,' whatever that is. But that was not the point. We were not trying to sound like R.E.M. We were trying to sound like the three guys that we were at the time," Mike Mills, bassist and band co-founder, tells The Associated Press.

"Up" peaked at No. 3 on the Billboard Top 200 and was certified gold, while single "Daysleeper" was a Top 20 alternative radio hit. Another single, "Lotus," peaked at No. 31 on both the alternative and mainstream rock charts.

"I think it rewards repeated listenings because there is a depth to it. It is not a surface record," said Mills. "I think that that R.E.M. fans will be rewarded with a deeper consideration. But it may not be to everyone's taste, and that's certainly fine as well."

In the liner notes for the Craft Recordings anniversary reissue, journalist Josh Modell calls it "the beautiful but misunderstood, complex but overlooked, difficult but incredibly rewarding red-headed stepchild of the R.E.M. catalog."

"Up" was created in the wake of turmoil for the group - Mills, singer Michael Stipe and guitarist Peter Buck. They had become a band of three after drummer and co-founder Bill Berry left the group.

"It was a fresh start for us as a three-piece," said Mills. "There were no blueprints, there were no roadmaps. We were just completely winging it as a three-piece band, and I think we did a really good job."

The 14-track album opens with one of the more challenging songs in the band's catalogue, "Airportman," a hook-less, electronic scar of a song that seemed less welcoming and more off-putting.

"Our feeling was this is a whole new R.E.M. and if you stuck with us this far and you can stick with us through this song, then you'll be rewarded in later times to come," said Mills. "It was kind of an act of defiance and a sly joke at the same time. I like the song. It's just a very strange song to start the record off."

Songs

The rest of the album includes the almost too-R.E.M.-"Lotus," the Beach Boys-ish "At My Most Beautiful" and the painfully beautiful "You're In The Air." Many of the songs curl into static or sonic distortion at the end, as if fire was licking at their edges. The last song, "Falls to Climb" is about a stoning, a bumper of a goodbye.

"It was meant to be jarring," said Mills. "There was no way that we were going to pretend that nothing had changed. We were a completely different band at that point. And so we decided to make a record of a completely different band. I think there are some truly beautiful moments. There are some powerful moments."

The Detroit Free Press called the album "one of the most gorgeous, enchanting works in the groundbreaking group's two-decade body of work." But Pitchfork was unmoved, saying it

was a "distant, impersonal record."

The San Antonio Express-News said it needed time to digest: "Though darker and less hook-y than any R.E.M. record to date, 'Up' will reward listeners whose attention span is longer than the average Top 40 single." Stereogum at the album's 20th anniversary said it was "one of the more flawed and fascinating documents of R.E.M.'s music."

"I expected people to be shocked and surprised," said Mills. "But, the truth is, our fans know to expect left turns from us. They know we tried not to repeat ourselves. We didn't want to make the same record twice. This just happened to be a very radical departure."

A deluxe 2-CD or Blu-Ray edition of "Up" out Friday also includes the band's previously unreleased set from a guest appearance on the TV series "Party of Five," which includes "Man on the Moon," "Losing My Religion," and "It's the End of the World as We Know It (and I Feel Fine)."

"Up" relied primarily on drum machines, loops and synthesizers, creating dreamlike moments akin to the band Radiohead, also experimenting with sounds and distortions at the time. Mills said R.E.M. were already heading in that direction.

"Peter had already bought a bunch of keyboards, vintage keyboards and old drum machines, and we were going to make something like this record anyway. But the degree to which we made that change was certainly enhanced by the circumstances," he said.

"We were just kind of fumbling and finding our way and we basically erased all the rules. We said whatever methods and rules we had used to this point, they're all out the window. We were trying to make it as liberating as possible."



A Christie's employee displays 'Bleu Royal,' a rare 17.61 carats internally flawless fancy vivid blue pear shaped diamond, during a preview at the Christie's, in Geneva, Switzerland, Thursday, Nov. 2. The 'Bleu Royal' sold at auction Tuesday, Nov. 7, for more than \$44 million, far outstripping the pre-sale estimate, Christie's said. (AP)



McCartney



Rania

Variety

SINGAPORE: Celebrities joined Britain's Prince William to walk the "green carpet" in Singapore on Tuesday for the third Earthshot Prize awards ceremony, where five winners ranging from solar-powered dryers to combat food waste to making electric car batteries cleaner were unveiled.

The Prince of Wales said at the first ceremony held in Asia that the solutions presented by all 15 finalists proved that "hope does remain" as the devastating effects of climate change are felt across the world.

Oscar winner **Cate Blanchett**, actors **Donnie Yen**, **Lana Condor** and **Nomzamo Mbatha**, as well as Australian wildlife conservationist **Robert Irwin** presented the award to winners in five categories: nature protection, clean air, ocean revival, waste elimination and climate change.

The winners, who each won 1 million pounds (\$1.2 million) to scale up their innovations, are:

■ **Acción Andina**, for a community-based initiative in South America bringing tens of thousands of local and indigenous people together to restore high forests in the Andes mountain;

■ **India's S4S Technologies**, for solar-powered dryers and processing equipment that helped millions of farmers to preserve their crops and combat food waste;

■ **Boomitra**, for removing emissions and helping boost farmer profits in **Asia, South America** and **Africa** by incentivising land restoration through a verified carbon-credit marketplace;

■ **Hong Kong company GRST**, for developing a way to make batteries for electric vehicles pollute less and are easier to recycle;

■ **Global non-profit organization WildAid Marine Program**, for working with governments to bolster enforcement to deter illegal fishing and strengthen ocean conservation.

"Our winners and all our finalists remind us that, no matter where you are on our planet, the spirit of ingenuity, and the ability to inspire change, surrounds us all,"

William said.

The winners were chosen by a 13-member council that includes **Jordan's Queen Rania**, Chinese business magnate **Jack Ma**, British fashion designer **Stella McCartney**, broadcaster **David Attenborough**, World

Trade Organization chief **Ngozi Okonjo-Iweale** and former NBA star **Yao Ming**.

Apart from the prize money, all 15 finalists - chosen from more than 1,100 nominations - will receive a year of technical support and resources to help them



Britain's Prince William, (second from right), Australian actress Cate Blanchett, (right), British actress Hannah Waddingham, (left), and US actor Sterling K. Brown, (second from left), pose on the green carpet for the 2023 Earthshot Prize Awards in Singapore, Tuesday, Nov. 7. (AP)

accelerate and expand their work.

The other finalists included a US company that found a way to recycle polycotton fabrics, which makes up half of all textile waste; a program to plant, grow and digitally track trees in **Sierra Leone's** capital Freetown, where 70% of trees have been cut down; an anti-smog movement in **Poland**, which has the dirtiest air in **Europe**; and a UK company making low-emission tires for electric vehicles.

The Earthshot Prize was launched in 2020 by William's Royal Foundation charity as a 10-year program to shore up innovative solutions and technologies against the planet's greatest environmental perils. (AP)

■ **GENEVA:** The largest fancy vivid blue diamond to ever come to auction sold Tuesday for more than \$44 million, far outstripping the pre-sale estimate, Christie's said.

The "Bleu Royal" - a ring featuring a fancy vivid blue pear-shaped diamond of 17.61 carats - was one of the standout pieces to go under the hammer at the auction house for Geneva's Luxury Week.

Christie's had estimated the ring would fetch around \$35 million.

The auction house said the sale made the "Bleu Royal" the most expensive jewel sold at auction this year.

Christie's said the gemstone would be handed over to another private collection for the first time in 40 years. (AP)

FDA and NIH focus on bridging research gap for obese patients

Limited drug testing in the obese fuels safety, efficacy worries

NEW YORK, Nov 8, (AP): More than 40% of American adults are considered obese, yet the medications many take are rarely tested in bigger bodies.

That's because they are not required to be included in drug studies. And often, they're explicitly excluded.

"Clinical trials and dosing instructions don't always ensure that drugs will be safe and effective for people with obesity," said Christina Chow, a drug researcher who's reported on the challenges of considering obesity in drug development. "There's no real emphasis for them to be studied at all."

Many widely prescribed drugs and over-the-counter medications work differently in people who are obese, but exactly how and at what dose often isn't clear. Research suggests that may include antibiotics and antifungal drugs used to treat serious infections, synthetic hormones used in Plan B emergency contraception and even ibuprofen, the common painkiller sold as Advil.

Evidence

The US Food and Drug Administration and the National Institutes of Health - agencies that regulate and fund drug testing - are putting new focus on the gaps in research. At a workshop last year, FDA Commissioner Dr. Robert Califf acknowledged a "deficit of evidence" about how medicines act in patients who are obese. The NIH now encourages researchers to consider the impact of excluding obese people in their studies, a spokesperson said.

At a recent medical conference, Chow presented a review of more than 200 studies for new drugs in the US last year. Of those, nearly two-thirds failed to mention weight or body mass index - a common assessment of obesity - meaning they wouldn't ensure inclusion of people with obesity, she said.

The studies that did cite weight were most often used to exclude people with obesity from participating, said Chow, who works for Emerald Lake Safety, a California company that investigates severe drug reactions. People with a body mass index or BMI of 30 or higher are considered obese.

Historically, certain populations have been left out of testing for fear of harm, including pregnant people and children. Women, racial and ethnic minorities and the elderly, too, have been underrepresented before recent efforts to bolster diversity.

The reasons for excluding people with obesity are longstanding and varied, said Dr. Caroline Apovian, a researcher at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston and co-author of Chow's study.

Participants willing to sign up for studies are often leaner and don't reflect the general population, she noted.

And researchers often worry that health complications that can come with obesity will cloud the results of their work.

"Sometimes patients with obesity have many more comorbidities than others. They'll have more diabetes, more heart disease, more strokes," she said.

But if drugs aren't studied in a condition that affects 42% of the US population, the real-world consequences can be dire, experts said.

Some drugs can become concentrated in fat tissues and not in the bloodstream. That means there will be less medication in the blood, leading to undertreatment, Apovian said.

Other drugs remain in the body longer in the obese. That could result in harmful drug interactions if another medication is added too soon.

An antipsychotic drug called Rexulti is often prescribed for people suffering from schizophrenia or major depressive disorder, Chow noted. Research has shown that in obese patients it may take much longer to reach the concentration of Rexulti needed to be effective. As a result, many patients - and their doctors - may stop treatment too early or conclude that the drug doesn't work.

Undertreatment

"Not treating or undertreating schizophrenia may be dangerous to themselves and the people around them," Chow said.

The emergency contraception drug Plan B One-Step is another example. Studies suggest that levonorgestrel, the active drug, may not work as well in people with obesity, possibly leading to drug failure and pregnancy, said Dr. Alison Edelman, an OB-GYN and researcher at Oregon Health & Science University, who studies contraception and obesity. But the FDA says the data are limited and conflicting, so there's not enough evidence to require a label warning.

Even a drug as common as ibuprofen, sold as Advil, may not relieve pain in people at higher weights when taken as directed, research shows.

But without adequate testing and clear instructions, doctors won't know how to adjust dosing for obesity, said Dr. Colleen Tenan, a board member of the Association of Clinical Research Professionals.

"It's very hard to be a physician and say that I'm going to prescribe out of the normal range," she said.

Change is coming, but progress is slow, Edelman said. In 2019, the FDA issued draft guidance on hormonal contraception that asks study sponsors to lift restrictions on body mass index and include obese women. Even though the guidance isn't final, it already has changed how she and some other researchers structure their studies, she said.



A group photo of DDI Mobile Clinic team at the Ishbiliya Girls Primary School.

DDI holds awareness outreach at Ishbiliya Girls Primary School

Dasman Diabetes Institute, founded by Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences recently organized an awareness outreach at Ishbiliya

Girls Primary School, to conduct basic and preventive medical testing such as blood glucose and vital signs, as the Institute believes in the impor-

ance of conducting early checkups and spreading awareness on diabetes to contribute to the prevention of this condition and its complications.

The Conversation

Sitting all day is terrible for your health

5-minute walk breaks help prevent diabetes

By Keith Diaz

Columbia University

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

The Research Brief is a short take about interesting academic work.

To reduce the harmful health effects of sitting, take a five-minute light walk every half-hour. That's the key finding of a new study that my colleagues and I published in the journal *Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise*.

We asked 11 healthy middle-aged and older adults to sit in our lab for eight hours - representing a standard workday - over the course of five separate days. On one of those days, participants sat for the entire eight hours with only short breaks to use the bathroom. On the other days, we tested a number of different strategies to break up a person's sitting with light walking. For example, on one day, participants walked for one minute every half-hour. On another day, they walked for five minutes every hour.

Our goal was to find the least amount of walking one could do to offset the harmful health effects of sitting. In particular, we measured changes in blood sugar levels and blood pressure, two important risk factors for heart disease.

We found that a five-minute light walk every half-hour was the only strategy that reduced blood sugar levels substantially compared with sitting all

day. In particular, five-minute walks every half-hour reduced the blood sugar spike after eating by almost 60%.

That strategy also reduced blood pressure by four to five points compared with sitting all day. But shorter and less frequent walks improved blood pressure too. Even just a one-minute light walk every hour reduced blood pressure by five points.

In addition to physical health benefits, there were also mental health benefits to the walking breaks. During the study, we asked participants to rate their mental state by using a questionnaire. We found that compared with sitting all day, a five-minute light walk every half-hour reduced feelings of fatigue, put participants in a better mood and helped them feel more energized. We also found that even walks just once every hour were enough to boost mood and reduce feelings of fatigue.

Lifestyle

People who sit for hours on end develop chronic diseases including diabetes, heart disease, dementia and several types of cancer at much higher rates than people who move throughout their day. A sedentary lifestyle also puts people at a much greater risk of early death. But just exercising daily may not reverse the harmful health effects of sitting.

Because of technological advances, the amount of time adults in industrialized countries like the US spend sitting has been steadily increasing for decades. Many adults now spend the majority of their day sitting. This problem has only gotten worse since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. With the migra-

tion to more remote work, people are less inclined to venture out of the house these days. So it's clear that strategies are needed to combat a growing 21st century public health problem.

Current guidelines recommend that adults should "sit less, move more." But these recommendations don't provide any specific advice or strategies for how often and how long to move.

Our work provides a simple and affordable strategy: Take a five-minute light walk every half-hour. If you have a job or lifestyle where you have to sit for prolonged periods, this one behavior change could reduce your health risks from sitting.

Our study also offers clear guidance to employers on how to promote a healthier workplace. While it may seem counterintuitive, taking regular walking breaks can actually help workers be more productive than working without stopping.

Our study primarily focused on taking regular walking breaks at a light intensity. Some of the walking strategies - for example, one-minute light walks every hour - did not lower blood sugar levels. We don't know if more rigorous walking would have provided health benefits at these doses.

We are currently testing over 25 different strategies for offsetting the health harms of prolonged sitting. Many adults have jobs, such as driving trucks or taxis, where they simply cannot walk every half-hour. Finding alternative strategies that yield comparable results can provide the public with several different options and ultimately allow people to pick the strategy that works best for them and their lifestyle. (AP)

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Ball State scores last 10 to defeat Northern Illinois 17-10

Central Michigan keeps bowl hopes alive rallying to beat Western Michigan



Creighton's Trey Alexander, front, drives against Florida A&M's Keith Lamar during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game on Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2023, in Omaha, Nebraska. (AP)

Alexander's 20 points lead Creighton over Florida A&M

Baylor rallies to beat Auburn 88-82

Illini rallies past Morehead State

Tennessee women open season with 93-64 win over Florida A&M

OMAHA, Nebraska, Nov. 8, (AP): Trey Alexander scored 18 of his 20 points in the first half, and No. 8 Creighton opened with a 105-54 victory over Florida A&M.

The Bluejays, coming off an NCAA Elite Eight appearance, turned in a mostly polished performance against the overmatched Rattlers of the Southwestern Athletic Conference.

Steven Ashworth, sixth nationally in 3-point shooting at 43.4% last season, was 5 of 7 from distance and finished with 17 points and four assists. Baylor Scheierman had 15 points and eight rebounds.

Keith Lamar had 16 points to lead the Rattlers, who lost four of their top five scorers from last season.

Baylor 88, Auburn 82

In Sioux Falls, S.D., Ja'Kobe Walker scored 15 of his 28 points in the second half to help Baylor rally to a win over Auburn at the Sanford Pentagon.

Baylor used a 22-10 run over the final 8 minutes of the game to overcome an eight-point deficit.

BASKETBALL

Over the final three minutes, Baylor's RayJ Dennis scored seven of his 15 points including a 3-pointer to tie the game at 77-77.

Auburn Freshman Aden Holloway scored 14 of his 19 points in the second half to lead the Tigers.

Johni Broome, a First Team All-SEC selection for Auburn, also had a big second half, scoring nine of his 16 points after the break.

San Jose State 72, UC Irvine 64

In San Jose, Calif., Trey Anderson had 19 points in San Jose State's 72-64 win against UC Irvine in the season opener for both teams.

Anderson was 7-of-9 shooting, including 2 for 3 from 3-point range, and went 3 for 4 from the line for the Spartans. Tibet Gorener scored 17 points and added five rebounds. Myron Amey Jr. had 12 points and shot 3 of 8 from the field and 6 for 6 from the line.

Bent Leuchten finished with 14 points and six rebounds for the Anteaters. Devin Tillis added 12 points for UC Irvine.

HUC Riverside 76, UC Merced 69

In Riverside, Calif., Barrington Hargress scored 16 points as UC Riverside beat UC Merced 76-69 in the season opener for both teams.

Hargress was 6-of-7 shooting (3 for 4 from 3-point range) for the Highlanders. Jhaylon Martinez added 13 points while going 3 of 9 and 7 of 8 from the free-throw line, and he also had 10 rebounds. Luke Turner was

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., Nov. 8, (AP): Jewel Spear and Karoline Striplin each scored 20 points and No. 11 Tennessee opened its season with a 93-64 victory over Florida A&M to spoil a homecoming for new Rattlers head coach Bridgette Gordon.

Spear made five 3-pointers and Striplin was 8-of-9 shooting, including three baskets in the final 4:13. Rickea Jackson added 13 points and Kaiya Wynn had 12 for Tennessee. Jillian Hollingshead grabbed a game-high 12 rebounds to help the Lady Vols hold a 47-25 advantage on the glass.

Spear sank a wide open 3-pointer from the corner, off a nice drive and assist from Destinee Wells, just before the halftime buzzer to extend Tennessee's lead to 47-30 at halftime. Spear was 5 of 9 from 3-point range in the first half and scored 16 points. Florida A&M committed 11 turnovers in the first half.

Ahriahna Grizzle scored 16 points, Hailee Brennen added 13 points and Ivet Subirats had 12 for Florida A&M.

4-of-11 shooting, including 1 for 5 from 3-point range, and went 2 for 4 from the line to finish with 11 points, while adding six rebounds.

The Bobcats were led in scoring by Chris Bramah, who finished with 27 points. Aidan Sevilla added 17 points, four assists and two steals for UC Merced. Jaron Mertle also had 12 points and six rebounds.



Auburn forward Chris Moore (5) goes up for a layup during an NCAA college basketball game against Baylor, Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2023, in Sioux Falls, S.D. (AP)

Illini 81, Morehead St 61

In Champaign, Ill., senior guard Genesis Bryant scored a career-high 32 points, Kendall Bostic had a double-double and 23rd-ranked Illinois beat Morehead State 81-61 in a season opening matchup.

Illinois established a 13-2 lead when Bostic made a pair of layups. Bryant and Adalia McKenzie each had one, Jada Peebles made a jump shot and Brynn Shoup-Hill made a 3-pointer.

Illinois finished the first quarter up 20-11 after shooting 9 for 18 and never trailed.

The Illini's 24-point second quarter matched Morehead State's first-half total and they led 44-24 at halftime.

The 5-foot-6 Bryant, in her second year at Illinois following two seasons at North Carolina State, finished 12-for-16 shooting, including 2 for 5 from 3 and 6 for 7 from the foul line. Bostic had 15 points and 13 rebounds.

Veronica Charles scored 16 points for Morehead State.

Lo. Marymount 109, Westcliff 68

In Los Angeles, Alex Merkviladze had 18 points in Loyola Marymount's 109-68 victory over Westcliff in the season opener for both teams.

Merkviladze shot 8 for 12, including 2 for 5 from beyond the arc for the Lions. Keli Laupepe scored 15 points, shooting 6 for 10, including 2 for 5 from beyond the arc. Justin Wright

shot 5 of 9 from the field and 4 for 5 from the line to finish with 14 points.

The Warriors were led by Jamal Briscoe and Justin Boateng, who each scored 13 points. John Duff put up 12 points, two steals and two blocks.

Nevada 77, Sacramento St 63

In Reno, Nev., Jarod Lucas scored 18 points as Nevada beat Sacramento State 77-63 in the season opener for both teams.

Lucas shot 4 for 14 (1 for 6 from 3-point range) and 9 of 9 from the free-throw line for the Wolf Pack. Kenan Blackshear added 14 points while going 6 of 12 from the field, and he also had seven rebounds. Hunter McIntosh had 12 points and shot 5 for 8, including 2 for 3 from beyond the arc.

Duncan Powell finished with 15 points and eight rebounds for the Hornets. Zee Hamoda added 11 points for Sacramento State. Austin Patterson also put up nine points.

Boise State 89, Vanguard 55

In Boise, Idaho, Chibuzo Agbo had 19 points in Boise State's 89-55 win against Vanguard in the season opener for both teams.

Agbo added seven rebounds for the Broncos. O'Mar Stanley scored 16 points and added seven rebounds. Cam Martin had 12 points, 13 rebounds, four assists and two steals.

Weber St 96, Benedictine 62

In Ogden, Utah, Dillon Jones had 26 points in Weber State's 96-62 season-opening win against Benedictine at Mesa.

Jones added 14 rebounds and three steals for the Wildcats. Steven Verplancken Jr. was 5-of-11 shooting, including 2 for 7 from 3-point range, and went 4 for 4 from the line to add 16 points. Blaise Threatt had 15 points and was 5-of-7 shooting and 4 of 4 from the free-throw line.

Montana 107, Northwest Indian 59

In Missoula, Mont., Aanan Moody had 25 points and Montana won its season opener with a 107-59 victory over Northwest Indian.

Moody was 10-of-13 shooting (3 for 5 from 3-point range) for the Grizzlies. Money Williams scored 19 points, going 4 of 9 from the floor, including 1 for 3 from 3-point range, and 10 for 10 from the line. Brandon Whitney had 15 points and finished 6 of 10 from the field.

Rice 101, Saint Thomas 57

In Houston, Sam Alajiki scored 17 points as Rice beat Saint Thomas 101-57 in the season opener for both teams.

Alajiki finished 5 of 5 from 3-point range for the Owls. Max Fiedler scored 16 points and added 11 rebounds and six assists. Noah Shelby was 4-of-7 shooting, including 3 for 4 from 3-point range, and went 3 for 3 from the line to finish with 14 points.

Calvin Williams finished with 20 points for the Celts. Nick Anderson added eight points for Saint Thomas. Andrew Adebayo also put up seven points.

KALAMAZOO, Michigan, Nov. 8, (AP): Hayden Wolff threw for 333 yards and three touchdowns and Western Michigan continued its push to bowl eligibility beating Central Michigan 38-28 in a back-and-forth game.

Western Michigan (4-6, 3-3 Mid-American Conference) has won consecutive games for the first time this season. The Broncos led 21-7 at halftime before Central Michigan (5-5, 3-3) scored three touchdowns in the third quarter for a 28-21 advantage.

The Broncos reestablished control with a 17-point fourth and held Central Michigan scoreless. Jalen Buckley's 52-yard touchdown run pulled Western Michigan into a 28-all tie with 8:53 remaining.

FOOTBALL

On the first play of the Chippewas following drive, WMU's Aaron Wofford recovered Marion Lukes' fumble after his 17-yard run. On the second play of the Broncos' ensuing drive, Wolff threw a 41-yard scoring pass to Leroy Thomas with 7:51 left. Palmer Domschke's 27-yard field goal with 1:37 left sealed it.

Buckley had a 117 yards on the ground in 23 carries and scored two touchdowns. Kenneth Womack had 135 yards receiving on 12 catches.

Central Michigan's Jase Bauer threw all three of his scoring passes in the third to give the Chippewas their first lead of the game. He threw scoring passes of 10 and 3 yards to Mitchell Collier and 67 yards to Tyson Davis in just under a four-minute span.

Lukes ran for 147 yards on 27 carries and scored a touchdown for Central Michigan.

Ball State 17, Northern Illinois 10

In Dekalb, Ill., Jackson Courville made a 36-yard field goal as time expired and Ball State scored the last 10 points to beat Northern Illinois 17-10.

Ball State's Kial Kelly tossed a

6-yard touchdown pass to Tanner Koziol to tie the game 17-all with 3:44 remaining. On the ensuing possession, Tyler Potts had a strip sack of Rocky Lombardi and Kyrion Mims recovered the ball at the Northern Illinois 41-yard line with 2:13 left.

The Cardinals converted twice on third down to keep the drive alive before Courville's kick split the uprights.

Kelly completed 15 of 25 passes for 115 yards and added 66 yards on the ground with a 6-yard touchdown run. Marquez Cooper had 93 yards rushing on 25 carries for Ball State (3-7, 2-4 Mid-American Athletic Conference).

Lombardi was 15-of-26 passing for 141 yards and had a 4-yard touchdown run. Trayvon Rudolph's 35-yard TD run gave Northern Illinois (4-6, 3-3) a 17-10 lead with 10 minutes to play.

Ohio 20, Buffalo 10

In Buffalo, N.Y., Sieh Bangura ran for a pair of short-yardage touchdowns to help Ohio beat Buffalo 20-10.

Bangura finished with 78 yards rushing on 17 carries, and his 1-yard touchdown run capped the scoring with 1:55 remaining. He also scored from the 2-yard line late in the third quarter to give Ohio (7-3, 4-2 Mid-American Conference) a 10-3 lead.

Buffalo running back CJ Ogbonna had a 2-yard touchdown run to cap an eight-play, 75-yard drive that tied it 10-all with 13:30 to play.

Gianni Spetic's 25-yard field goal gave the Bobcats a 13-10 lead. On the ensuing possession, Ohio's Keye Thompson forced Cole Snyder to fumble the ball and the Bobcats recovered it. Bangura added his second TD run eight plays later.

Kurtis Rourke threw for 121 yards on 14-of-21 passing for Ohio.

Snyder completed 14 of 21 passes for 171 yards for Buffalo (3-7, 3-3). Ogbonna and Ron Cook Jr. combined for 95 yards rushing on 28 carries. Ohio had only 242 yards of offense but held Buffalo to 295.

McIlroy unveils Boston entry

Woods to own & play for Florida team in TGL, his tech golf league

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Florida, Nov. 8, (AP): Tiger Woods couldn't be more involved with prime-time TGL unless he had built the arena. He helped develop the tech-infused golf league. He's playing in it. And now he's a team owner.

Woods and his TGR Ventures and David Blitzer, the investor who has ownership in all four major U.S. sports leagues, were announced Tuesday as owners of Jupiter Links GC, the sixth and final team for the first-of-its-kind golf league that starts in January.

Woods, Rory McIlroy and former Golf Channel president Mike McCarty are founding partners in TMRW Sports, the sports and entertainment company behind TGL.

"Having the opportunity to not only compete, but also own a team to represent Jupiter is an exciting next chapter for me," Woods said Tuesday.

Woods referred to TGL as a "modern twist of traditional golf" that ultimately will make it more accessible by leaning the glitz of technology. Key to the modernization is playing in SoFi Center in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, an arena that holds some 1,600 spectators.

Teams will go head-to-head for nine holes of alternate shot and six holes of singles, starting off by hitting shots from real turf into a screen 20 times larger than a standard simulator, and then shifting to actual shots from 50 yards or closer to a green complex that can turn 360 degrees to create different angles.

They putt on a synthetic surface in which contours can change.

Play starts Jan. 9. The two-hour matches - two teams at a time - will be televised on ESPN on Mondays and/or Tuesday, ending before the Masters. The prize fund is \$21 million, with \$9 million going to the winning team and players eventually getting equity in the league.

Technology is one thing. Woods also said the two-hour window is key to attracting fans.

"Generally, golf takes about five or six hours to play. In today's world, with all of our smartphones, it is hard for anybody to go five to six hours without looking at their phones. So the shorter the time, the better it is."

Three players from the four-man teams compete in each match. Woods hasn't competed since the Masters because of lingering leg injuries from a February 2021 car crash outside of Los Angeles. But he expects to be front and center for TGL.

"It's exciting that this group of guys is coming together for a two-hour window and we're just going to basically hit balls, talk a lot of (trash) and people are going to be gambling on absolutely everything, each and every shot. Every shot there's going to be a wager."

McCarley, the CEO of TMRW Sports and TGL, said a gaming



Tiger Woods lines up a putt on the 16th hole during the weather delayed second round of the Masters golf tournament at Augusta National Golf Club Saturday, April 8, 2023, in Augusta, Ga. (AP)

partner and international media rights are being negotiated ahead of the January debut. Also to be completed is other team names and branding, along with filling out team rosters.

McIlroy is part of Boston Common, led by Fenway Sports Group, and is joined by New England native Keegan Bradley, Adam Scott and Tyrrell Hatton.

The other teams are Atlanta Drive, led by Arthur Blank of the Atlanta Falcons; Los Angeles Golf Club, led by a group fronted by Alexis Ohanian, Serena and Venus Williams and limited partners

GOLF

that include Alex Morgan and Michelle Wie West; New York, led by Steven Cohen of the New York Mets; and San Francisco, led by Avenue Sports Fund with private equity executive Marc Lasry and Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry.

Blitzer adds to the roster of high-end investors for the six teams.

He is the first person to hold equity in five North American sports teams - co-managing partner of the Philadelphia 76ers (NBA) and New Jersey Devils (NHL), along with owning a 25% stake in the Cleveland Guardians (MLB) and a minority stake in the Washington Commanders (NFL). He also is a stakeholder in Real Salt Lake (MLS), along with being general partner in Crystal Palace FC in the Premier League.

Blitzer is a self-described sports fanatic, though he once was quoted as saying he would "never make an investment just for the fun side of the equation."

"At the end of the day, I've got to believe there's a return, that the investment makes a lot of sense. The fun comes along with it," Blitzer said Tuesday.

"The idea of really creating the next evolution of professional golf rang really clearly to me," he said. "And when I think about what's happening today in technology, and the innovations they're bringing here ... I was sold very quickly."

The concept of team play - outside of the Ryder Cup or Presidents Cup - was introduced last year by Saudi-funded LIV Golf and its 12 teams.

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Ski racing finally starts on new 'WC' downhill course
 LAGHI CIME BIANCHE, Italy, Nov. 8, (AP): Racing finally began Wednesday on a new downhill ski course that starts in Switzerland and finishes in Italy, a year after World Cup races were canceled there because of a lack of early-season snow. The first training run was completed under sunny blue skies ahead of Saturday's inaugural men's World Cup downhill on the Gran Becca track.

SPORTS

Fierce competition as Kuwait University and College of Science and Technology advance

Al-Waha High School, Mohammed Abdullah Al-Muhaini High School qualify for soccer final

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: Kuwait University and the Kuwait College of Science and Technology clinched their tickets to the semifinals of the Warba Bank Volleyball League for the third edition of the higher education sports games. They emerged victorious after defeating Saad Al-Abdullah Academy

and the American University, setting the stage for a thrilling face-off against the College of Technology and the Public Authority for Applied Education.

The ultimate showdown will take place next Sunday, pitting the two triumphant teams against each other, while the semifinal runners-up will battle it out to determine the third-place finisher.

Dr. Salman Haji, Vice Chairman of the Supreme Committee overseeing the tournament and a member of the School Union's Board of Directors, affirmed that the volleyball league matches have been marked by intense competition as teams vie for a spot in the coveted semifinals. The champions and runners-up from the previous edition have successfully secured their places in the semifinals after leading their respective groups.

On another note, the Warba Secondary Football League entered its final stage following an exciting journey. Al-Waha High School earned their

place in the final match by defeating Youssef Al-Athbi in a penalty shootout that ended 4-3, following a goal-less draw during regular time. The team from Mohammed Abdullah Al-Muhaini High School also clinched their spot in the final after a 5-4 penalty shootout victory over Sabah Al-Nasser High School, once again after a goal-less regular time. The eagerly awaited final match is scheduled for next Monday at Al-Jahra Square Stadium.

In the Farwaniya area, today marks the commencement of the semifinal competitions.



Participating schools in action.



Youssef Al-Ruwaih and Faisal Al-Sari welcome the jet ski team.

'KFH remains dedicated to promoting youth and sports by implementing quality initiatives'

KFH welcomes Kuwait jet ski team winners

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) participated in welcoming the Kuwait National Jet Ski Team to congratulate them on their outstanding accomplishments in winning medals and achieving top rankings in the recently concluded Water Jet World Series held in Arizona, US.

KFH Group Deputy General Manager Public Relations and Media, Youssef Al-Ruwaih expressed his pride at the ongoing partnership between KFH and the Kuwait National Jet Ski Team. He emphasized that this partnership is part of the bank's social responsibility and commitment to supporting youth and distinguished Kuwaiti athletes.

Al-Ruwaih praised all athletes and members of the national team who represented Kuwait in various sports events. He also expressed his confidence in the abilities of Kuwaiti athletes to succeed in different areas.

He emphasized KFH's dedication to maintaining its support for youth and sports through various initiatives that align with its sustainability strategy.

He pointed out that KFH has succeeded in translating social initiatives into innovative progress by relying on digital technology and modern applications in cooperation with creative Kuwaiti youth. KFH also sponsored various sporting events, confirming its keenness to pay attention to sports and youth activities and encourage a healthy lifestyle.

Al-Ruwaih said that KFH is the first bank in Kuwait to launch the platform (You Are Our Pride) to honor distinguished people in various fields. He stated that Kuwaiti talents have succeeded in winning big awards under this initiative in world-wide competitions.

Praise and appreciation
On behalf of the Kuwait Sea Sports Club (KSSC) members, Secretary General Khalid Al-Foudari expressed KSSC's appreciation for KFH's unwavering support and strategic partnership. He noted that KFH is the only entity from the banking sector that provides continuous support and attention to the team each year.

Meanwhile, Mohammad Burbayea, a member of KFH's Strategic Partnership initiative and the winner of the gold medal in the senior professional category, commended KFH's support. He said that KFH's support for Kuwaiti youth and sports showcases the bank's excellence and leading role in social responsibility.

Members of the Kuwait National Jet Ski Team also commended KFH's continuous support and its employees for their constant encouragement during competitions.

Al-Qadsia lodge protest against Kazma, demand to be declared winners

Volleyball Super Cup set for Monday

By Khaled El Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY Nov 8: The eagerly anticipated Super Volleyball Cup Championship is set to kick off in its ninth edition for the 2023-2024 sports season next Monday.

VOLLEYBALL

The opening matches will see Kuwait face off against Al-Arabi, followed

by Al-Qadsia taking on Kazma. These matches will be held at the Al-Itihad Hall in the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex. The victorious teams from these encounters will secure a spot in the final match scheduled for the following Thursday, while the teams that don't advance will compete for third and fourth place on the same day.

The Volleyball Super Cup features four competing teams, consisting of the league champions and runners-up, along with the cup champions and runners-up. For this edition, based on

last season's performance, the participating teams are Kuwait, Al-Qadsia, Kazma, and Al-Arabi.

This prestigious tournament, now in its ninth edition, first took off in the 2014-2015 season. The inaugural edition was claimed by Al-Qadsia, and in the following season, Kazma emerged as the champions. Subsequently, Al-Kuwait secured the title in the next three seasons. In the 2018-2019 season, the tournament was not held, allowing Al-Kuwait to clinch the title once more. Kazma went on to dominate for three consecutive seasons from 2019-2020 until 2021-2022, with the most recent season, 2022-2023, seeing Kazma emerge as the champions once again.

In a separate development, Al-Qadsia have officially lodged a protest with the Volleyball Federation concerning the participation of Kazma player Abdul Rahman Al-Mutawa in the third- and fourth-place match against Al-Qadsia, which concluded the last Al-Itihad Refresher Tournament, which Kazma secured a 3-0 victory.

Al-Qadsia based their protest on the fact that during the semi-final match between Kazma and Burgan in the same tournament, the player received a final disqualification, which should have rendered him ineligible to play in only two matches. Al-Qadsia contended that the player's participation in the match between Kazma and Al-Qadsia for third and fourth place was in violation of the rules and regulations. As a result, "Al-Qadsia are demanding that Kazma be declared the losers of the match with a score of 0-3."



In this file photo Qadsia and Kazma players vie for the ball.

Al-Qadsia aim to continue good start

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: Today marks the culmination of the third round of the General Basketball League with two thrilling matches set to take place. The action begins with Al-Qadsia facing off against Al-Qurain at 5:00 pm, followed by a showdown between Kazma and Al-Sulaibikhat at 7:00 pm. Both matches will be hosted at the Basketball Association hall within the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex.

In the first match, Al-Qadsia enter the competition with a solid 4 points, while Al-Qurain hold 2 points. Al-Qadsia are eager to secure more points and continue their impressive performances, while Al-Qurain aspire to put a halt to their string of defeats, despite the formidable strength of their opponents and their great potentials.

The second match features "Al-Sulaibikhat" with 4 points squaring off against their rivals, "Kazma," with 2 points. Boyan Lazig, the Slovenian coach of the Kazma Basket, places his trust in a talented group of stars, including Ahmed Al-Balushi, Abdulaziz Al-Hamidi, Abdullah Al-Ibrahim, and the American player Chapman.

BASKETBALL

On the other side, the national coach of Al-Sulaibikhat Basket, Fahd Barjas, relies on the dedicated efforts of his players, such as Fahd Al-Nashi, Badr Al-Mutairi, Adel Nafi, and the American player Clipfert. It promises to be an exciting clash between these two teams.

Al-Kuwait qualification hopes hinge on victories over Al-Wehdat & Al-Kahraba



Kuwait Club Serbian coach Boris Bonjak addressing the media.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: Boris Bonjak, the Serbian coach for Kuwait, emphasized the critical need for victory against Al-Wehdat and Al-Kahraba to secure qualification. He expressed his disappointment in the team for squandering scoring opportunities, which allowed Al-Ahly Aleppo Union to make a comeback in the match. He emphasized that the early lead should have been reinforced with another goal to decisively shape the outcome of the game and prevent any chance of a comeback by the opponent.

SOCCER

In the recent match, Kuwait played to a 1-1 draw with Al-Ahly Aleppo, which took place in the second group of the fourth round of the AFC Cup

competition. As a result, "Al-Abyad" raised their points to 6, holding a goal difference advantage over Al-Wahdat of Jordan. Meanwhile, Al-Kahraba of Iraq claimed the top spot in the standings with 7 points, leaving Ahly Aleppo at the bottom with two points.

During the post-match press conference, Bonjak highlighted the necessity for the team to be more clinical in capitalizing on the available opportunities. He acknowledged that both he and the players were fully aware of the opponent's strength, which often exceeded their standing in the group's rankings.

The Kuwaiti coach underlined the importance of seizing the opportunity to qualify, emphasizing that the only viable path to do so is by securing victories against Al-Wehdat and Al-Kahraba.

We are ready for Inspire Championship: Dr Al-Mahawish

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: Dr. Falah Al-Mahawish, Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Kuwaiti Inspire Sports Club for cars and motorcycles, has announced the readiness of the organizing committee to kickstart the "Inspire Kuwait" Club Championship. This thrilling event is set to take place on November 10 and 11 at the Kuwait Motor Sports City in the Ar-Rifjan area.

Dr. Al-Mahawish commended the collaborative efforts of all committees involved in the tournament, as they have worked tirelessly to ensure the participation of a significant number of competitors.

Their dedication extends to enhancing the experience for motorsports enthusiasts and receiving support from the General Sports Authority, under the leadership of Director General Youssef Al-Baidan. Dr. Al-Mahawish

stated, "The Board of Directors was determined to overcome any hurdles to guarantee the tournament's success."



Dr. Falah Al-Mahawish, Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Kuwaiti Inspire Sports Club for cars and motorcycles.

cess.

We are deeply grateful for the unwavering commitment demonstrated by the committee members, each fulfilling their respective roles, from registering competitors from Kuwait, the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, and the Arab nations, to preparing the race circuit and adhering to international standards even before the championship commences."

MOTOR RACING

He emphasized that the organizing committee for the "Inspire Kuwait" championship has prioritized the implementation of comprehensive security and safety measures in accordance with the highest international technical standards governing motorsports.



Dortmund's Niclas Füllkrug (left) and Newcastle's Jamaal Lascelles jump for the ball during the Champions League Group F soccer match between Borussia Dortmund and Newcastle United in Dortmund, Germany. (AP)

Sports

Latest sports scores at — <http://sports.arabtimesonline.com>

City, Leipzig advance in Champs League



Kuwait deaf futsal team gear up for the World Cup.

Kuwait deaf futsal team set sights on World Cup

The Kuwait futsal hearing-impaired team bid farewell to Spanish shores on Tuesday evening as they embarked on their journey to Brazil to participate in the FIFA Futsal World Cup for Deaf, commencing this coming Friday.

Coach Salem Aman disclosed that the team's players engaged in an intensive eight-day training

camp in the Spanish city of Granada, thoroughly preparing for their maiden participation in the World Cup.

During their stay in the Andalusian city, the Kuwaiti team played two matches against their Spanish counterparts, who are the reigning world champions. The first match ended in a 2-2 draw, while the sec-

ond saw Kuwait narrowly losing with a score of 3-2.

The primary goal of the Spanish training camp, involving 14 players, was to gather valuable experience and acclimatize to the atmosphere of international matches. Aman expressed his satisfaction that none of the players sustained any injuries during these past days.

The Kuwaiti team will commence its journey in the World Cup in Sao Paulo, which extends until November 19, with an opening match against the Danish team on the first day of the competition tomorrow. The following day, they will face off against the British team, and next Sunday, they will confront the Swiss team.

Barcelona's winning run ends, PSG lose

MILAN, Nov 8, (AP): For European soccer veterans, it was a night to savor.

As Manchester City and Leipzig reached the knockout stage of the Champions League with two matches to spare, two emblematic players of Europe's old guard grabbed the spotlight.

Already the oldest Champions League outfield player, veteran Porto defender Pepe became the oldest scorer in the Champions League history when he rose in the box and headed home his team's second goal in a 2-0 win over Antwerp.

Pepe, who is 40 years, 254 days old, scored in stoppage time after Brazilian striker Evanilson put the hosts in front with a first-half goal.

"Today is a special day for me. It's my mother's birthday and I told her that I would do everything I could to score a goal," Pepe said. "This feeling is incredible, because anyone who reaches this age playing at this level - representing a big club like Porto - knows it takes a lot of work, a lot of sacrifice, a tremendous passion for this sport. I'll try to enjoy it as much as possible."

The previous record was held by Roma's Francesco Totti, who scored in Europe's top club competition at age 38 years, 59 days in 2014.

Porto has nine points and moved level with leader Barcelona, which lost



AC Milan's Rafael Leao (left) tries to hold off PSG's Achraf Hakimi during the Champions League group F soccer match between AC Milan and Paris Saint Germain at the San Siro stadium in Milan, Italy. (AP)

two.

And in Group E, another experienced player was also on top of his game: 33-year-old Ciro Immobile scored his 200th goal with Lazio as the Roman club revived their hopes of advancing with a 1-0 win over Feyenoord.

The Lazio captain scored from a sharp angle after getting around the goalkeeper late in the first half at the Stadio Olimpico. Lazio moved into second place in Group E with seven points. Atletico Madrid top the group with eight points after routing Celtic 6-0.

Dutch champion Feyenoord still has a chance in third with six points, while Celtic trail with one point.

Barcelona missed their chance to reach the knockout round of the Champions League with games to spare after a 1-0 loss to Shakhtar Donetsk.

It was Shakhtar's first win as a host in the group stage of the competition since it started playing away from Ukraine because of the war with Russia. A crowd of nearly 50,000 was in hand at Volksparkstadion in Hamburg.

"The whole team, including myself, have worked hard for that," Shakhtar midfielder Georgiy Sudakov said. "I would also like to thank all the supporters for their support tonight."

A draw would have been enough to secure Barcelona a spot in the round of 16 for the first time after two straight eliminations in the group stage of Europe's top club competition.

The result ended Barcelona's perfect Champions League record this season and moved Shakhtar into position to also advance from Group H.

Barcelona stayed with nine points and is tied with Porto, which defeated winless Antwerp 2-0 at home later on Tuesday. Shakhtar has six points in third place.

"It's a tough loss," Barcelona midfielder Oriol Romeu said. "We wanted to come here and secure our qualification but it wasn't possible. We have to try to rebound as quickly as we can."

Danylo Sikan scored the winner with a header in the 40th minute in the game that Shakhtar hosted in Germany because of the war.

SOCCER

1-0 to Shakhtar Donetsk in Group H's other match. Last-place Antwerp can no longer finish as one of the top two teams.

At San Siro stadium, it was another veteran - Olivier Giroud - who was cheered by his teammates after AC Milan recorded their first win and first goals in this season's Champions League to beat Paris Saint-Germain 2-1.

Aged 37 years, 38 days, Giroud became the oldest French goalscorer in the competition, overtaking Laurent Blanc.

Rafael Leao scored Milan's other goal and the result left the Group F wide open. Milan came from behind after conceding a ninth-minute opener from Milan Skriniar. Borussia Dortmund beat Newcastle 2-0 in the other match and now leads the group. The German team are a point above PSG, two above Milan and three above Newcastle.

Manchester City kept their perfect record to advance from Group G with a 3-0 win against Young Boys. Erling Haaland scored two goals as City also extended their unbeaten home run in European soccer's elite club tournament to 28 games. Phil Foden also netted.

German team Leipzig advanced with a hard-fought 2-1 win at Red Star Belgrade. Goals in either half from Xavi Simons and Lois Openda ensured back-to-back victories for Leipzig over the Serbian champion, giving it nine points, three behind City. Both Red Star and Young Boys have one point and can no longer finish among the top

Al-Ahly of Egypt battle Barcelona

Kuwait Club face stern test against Fox Berlin

Khaled El Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

RIYADH, Nov 8: In a challenging face-off, Kuwait Club's premier handball team are set to take on the formidable Fox Berlin, reigning champions of the German League. This high-stakes match is scheduled for 2:30 pm and marks a pivotal moment in the second group of the preliminary round of the 2023 World Cup of Handball Clubs, also known as the "Saudi Super Globe." The tournament is currently taking place in Dammam, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

In today's lineup of matches, the Polish team Kelece will square off against Cal Heat from the United States in Group Four, while Magdeburg of Germany are set to clash with Queensland of Australia in Group Three. Adding to the excitement, Al-Ahly of Egypt will engage in a fierce battle against Barcelona from Spain in Group One.

The matchup against Berlin holds immense significance, as both teams secured victories in the previous round against the third group's contender, Fernando of Argentina. The outcome of this contest could determine the group leaders and who advance to the next round to vie for the championship title. Germany's FOX Berlin are recognized for their stature as one of the strongest teams in Germany and Europe, boasting

HANDBALL

experienced players and an imposing physical presence. Their swift playing style positions them as strong contenders to reach the final stages of the tournament.

On the other side, Kuwait, under the leadership of their national coach, Haitham Al-Rashidi, have their sights set on the 26th Asian Cup Championship, a crucial event to follow, taking place in Kuwait from the 17th to the 27th of the current month. Al-Rashidi is pinning his hopes on the experience and prowess of four "Al-Abyad" professionals for the match against Berlin. These key players include Qatari star Frankis Marzo, who was the top scorer in the 2021 World Cup, Portuguese talent Angel Hernandez, Brazilian sensation Vinicius and Tunisian standout Khaled Belhaj, who was named the best player in the last match. The team also banks on the exceptional skills of goalkeeper Hassan Safar and the return of Saif Al-Adwani from injury. Additional support comes from players like Saleh Al-Moussawi, Abdulaziz Al-



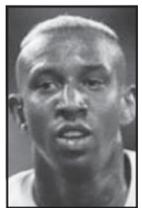
Al-Kuwait player makes a goal attempt during their opener against Fernando.

Talisca hat trick powers Al-Nassr over Al-Duhail

DOHA, Qatar, Nov 8, (AP): Anderson Talisca's hat trick gave Al-Nassr a 3-2 win over Al-Duhail in the Asian Champions League with Philippe Coutinho scoring both goals for the Qatari team.

The victory puts the Saudi Arabian team, which rested Cristiano Ronaldo, in control of Group E with four wins from four and needing just a point from the two remaining games to reach knockout stage. Al-Duhail were eliminated.

Coutinho, the former Liverpool and Barcelona star who joined Al-Duhail on loan in September, put the team ahead after eight minutes. Talisca leveled after 27 minutes and then added a second ten minutes later.



Talisca

Talisca completed his hat trick just after the hour to put Al-Nassr, still searching for a first continental championship, 3-1 ahead. Coutinho converted a late penalty.

Saudi Arabian title-holders Al-Ittihad lost 2-0 to Al-Quwa Al-Jawiya of Iraq. Despite the defeat, Al-Ittihad are still atop Group C with nine points from four games, two above Iranian team Sepahan, which routed AGMK of Uzbekistan 9-0.

SOCCER

Four-time winners Al-Hilal are without the injured Neymar but Aleksandar Mitrovic has been in fine form. The Serbian striker scored the second in a 2-0 win at Mumbai City, his 16th goal for the Saudi Arabian team in 16 games since joining from the English Premier League club Fulham. Brazilian forward Michael opened the scoring as Al-Hilal stayed on top of Group D.

Shammari, and Mishal Abbas Taha.

With high hopes and aspirations, Kuwait aim to achieve a positive result in today's showdown, or at the very least, avoid a significant defeat.

This match presents an opportunity for the players to gain invaluable experience by facing one of the most formidable European teams in the world of handball.

Palestinians to play Australia in 'home' game at neutral Kuwait

Wadi returns as Kuwait coach names squad

Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 8: Kuwait national team, led by Portuguese Rui Pinto, announced the squad for the 2026 World Cup and the 2027 Asian Cup qualifiers against India and Afghanistan.

The list witnessed the return of Wadi, who has been absent for more than a year due to injury, while Abdullah Al-Fahd, who was present on the Blue list in the recent period, was excluded due to injury.

The group also includes the Qatar, which will meet Al-Azraq on March 21 and 26.

Kuwait face India on November 16 at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium, and the Afghanistan on the 21st at Al-Ittifaq Club Stadium in Saudi Arabia.

Kuwait commenced their training at the Friendship and Peace Stadium. Football Australia says its Socceroos will play Palestine in a second-round 2026 World Cup qualifier at the neutral venue of Kuwait on Nov. 21.

"As a result of current circumstances in the region, the Asian

Football Confederation formally requested that this designated home fixture for Palestine be held at a neutral venue," Football Australia said in a statement.

Australian soccer administrators said the match would be played at Jaber Al-Ahmed International Stadium in Kuwait, five days after the Socceroos open the second round of Asian qualifying against Bangladesh in Melbourne.

Squad

Abdul Rahman Kamil, Fahd Al-Hajri, Mohsen Falah, Ahmed Al-Dhafiri, Reda Hani, Muhammad Dahham, Ahmed Al-Zenki, Faisal Zayed (Kuwait), Suleiman Abdul Ghafour, Salman Al-Awadi, Sultan Al-Anzi, Hassan Hamdan, Abdullah Ammar, Badr. Tariq, Hamad Al-Qallaf, Bandar Al-Salama (Al-Arabi), Abdulaziz Wadi, Khaled Ibrahim, Eid Al-Rashidi, Mubarak Al-Fanini (Al-Qadisiyah), Hamad Al-Harbi, Aqeel Al-Hazeem (Kazma), Athbi Shehab, Mahdi Dashti (Salmiya), Shabib Al-Khalidi (Hatta of the Emirates) and Abdul Rahman Al-Majdali (Fahaheel).

Meanwhile, the technical staff of the Olympic team, led by Por-

tuguese coach Emilio Peixe, chose 23 players for a training camp in in the UAE.

Jarah Al-Ateeqi added that the training will begin today and will continue for 3 days, noting that the Al-Azraq delegation will leave for Sharjah on November 12, where they will play two friendly matches, the first against the UAE na-

SOCCER

tional team on the 17th of the same month, and the second against Tajikistan on the 21st.

Squad

Abdul Rahman Al-Fadhli, Fahd Al-Azmi, Moaz Al-Anzi, Yousef Al-Haqqaan, Hassan Hajiya, Khaled Al-Fadhli, Abdul-Rahman Al-Daihani, Faisal Al-Shatti, and Jassem. Shamouh, Ahmed Khorshid, Badr Al-Mutairi, Dhari Al-Otaibi, Fahd Al-Harbi, Muhammad Al-Rashed, MUSAED Al-Shaya, Ibrahim Kamil, Sultan Al-Faraj, Fahd Ziyad, Saleem Al-Khatlan, Hamad Al-Taweel, Abdulaziz Asaad, Abdulrahman Al-Rashidi, and Abdulrahman Al-Anazi.