



Kuwait extends loan repayment deadline for SMEs

Support hailed

By Fares Al-Abdan
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17: The Council of Ministers has taken a significant step to support entrepreneurs, particularly those funded by the National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprises, especially those who may be facing financial challenges.

In response to a proposal put forth by the Minister of Trade and Industry and the Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Muhammad Al-Aiban, the Council of Ministers has approved a 6-month postponement for loan installments owed by entrepreneurs who own small and medium enterprises financed by the National Fund.

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Opinion

We live in anxiety

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

IT seems that we are outside the region, or even the world, as if we are on a planet light years away from here, considering what is happening in the region. It seems as if the country is without a prime minister who is enjoying a long vacation even though internal or external events require him to be at the helm of his work.

Certainly, Kuwait must be present in all files and should have its say, as it did throughout the past six decades, especially with regard to its regional and global political role.

Whenever you ask a minister about an issue, he tells you that His Highness the Prime Minister is on vacation, and no step can be taken without his presence.

In local affairs, parliamentary agendas are filled with intimidations and threats to grill more than four ministers. There is also the threat to hold His Highness the Prime Minister personally accountable. As the session approaches, there must be an effective movement internally.

Also, with regard to crystallizing the vision for the next stage, a parliamentary group of 48 MPs announced its plan, and is waiting for the ministerial coordination committee to agree on the plan, even though it does not meet the people's ambitions.

Indeed, since the announcement of the formation of the new Council of Ministers, we have not seen any achievement either in health, housing, or infrastructure sectors, or in addressing citizens' loans, or the problems of retirees and students.

Rather, all that we see are published pictures of His Highness the Prime Minister on his long vacation; this of course leaves citizens multiplying fifties by sixths.

Even when the chief executive officer in any country goes on leave, there is a team or office that monitors and works to develop a solution to the problems, informs the boss of the problems first and foremost, and makes proposals for solutions, which are quickly approved.

This is due to the fact that the responsibilities placed on the shoulders of the fourth man in the state are much greater than any duties or comfort.

There is no doubt that everyone needs to relax, but not in times of the complex circumstances transpiring in the region. The local and regional challenges are many, and the drums of war are beating to the point of deafening the ears.

As the Council of Ministers is deaf, have some of our officials become disconnected from reality to this extent?

In other countries, officials do not leave the field, but instead follow people's concerns and learn about what is disturbing their lives.

Some of them even disguise themselves in order to avoid attracting attention, follow the work of government departments, and not miss out on events, as vacations are canceled in the event of any emergency.

Even in countries with long-standing democracy, the person responsible for monitoring is never absent, because he is followed by the people and the representatives. What if many files are open regarding developments, some of which determine the national destiny?

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Day by Day

IN nearly all Gulf nations, barring Kuwait, and indeed globally, there exists a platform for citizens to communicate with the ruler or the designated decision-maker.

This platform allows them to raise concerns about injustices, flawed implementation of laws, or judicial decisions marred by errors.

In some countries, the ruler is surrounded by individuals pursuing their own interests or influential people whose counsel can detrimentally impact the public at large.

The people desire an ombudsman court comprising honorable individuals, overseen by authoritative figures capable of monitoring its operations and decisions.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

Minister urged to stay amid grilling

Sasahara appointed as new US Ambassador to Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17: The US Senate has unanimously confirmed Karen Sasahara as the new Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Kuwait. Ambassador Sasahara's appointment received the final vote earlier today, and she is now set to be sworn in and will arrive in Kuwait shortly to assume her diplomatic duties, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Ambassador Sasahara brings a wealth of experience to her new role, having previously held several key positions within the US State Department. She served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for North Africa since November 2020, and before that, she



Sasahara

held the position of Chargé d'Affaires at the US Embassy in Jordan. Her diplomatic career also includes a role as Consul General in Jerusalem and Senior Advisor to the Office of Intelligence and Research.

Notable among her previous assignments, she served as Deputy Chief of Mission in Sana'a, Yemen, from July 2013 to June 2015 and as Foreign Policy Advisor to the Commanding General of Special Operations Command Central at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida from 2012 to 2013. Her diverse diplomatic experience also spans assignments in Baghdad, Beirut, Mexico City, London, Jeddah, and Washington.

Karen Sasahara's remarkable career at the US Department of State has been recognized with multiple performance awards, including five high-level awards in the Foreign Service. In addition to her diplomatic expertise, she is multilingual, with proficiency in Arabic, Spanish, French, and Russian.

Allegations of manipulation surface

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17: MP Daoud Marafie urged the Minister of Public Works Dr. Amani Bqamaz not to resign before facing the grilling motion, as several facts will be exposed to the citizens.

He explained that the minister has been working on filling some positions which remained vacant for a long time. The process adopted by her is aimed at winning the loyalty of some MPs whose support she wants in the grilling motion.

The cases of appointment of supervisory officials in violation include one related to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, which published a job advertisement and gave only three days of deadline to apply. When the violation was highlighted, another advertisement was published to change the deadline to ten days.

The committee assigned to conduct the recruitment process consists of nine members

but actually they are only five. One member is counted as three because he occupies three different positions. Another member is counted as two because he occupies two different positions. This means if only those two officials met, they will be counted as five, which means the quorum is available and then the decision they take for recruitment will be enforced. This process is considered as manipulation of the defined regulations aimed at achieving the desired conclusions, even if they are illegal.

In another development, MP Hamad Al-Elyan, a member of the fact finding committee formed by the National Assembly to investigate the corruption case of the Public Institution for Social Security during the term of the former chairman of the Board of Directors Fahad Al-Rajaan, disclosed that the committee will soon complete its report on the matter.

He revealed that several meetings have been conducted with representatives of different relevant institutions including State Audit Bureau (SAB) and Fatwa and Legislation Department, in addition to senior officials from the Ministry of Justice as well as the whistleblower in the case Dr. Fahad Al-Rashed.

Al-Elyan wondered why only two individuals

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Israel airstrikes hit Gaza's designated safe area



Palestinians evacuate a child after an Israeli airstrike on Khan Younis, Gaza Strip, Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2023. (AP)

Aid access sought

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip, Oct 17, (AP): Israel bombed areas of southern Gaza where it had told Palestinians to flee to ahead of an expected ground invasion, killing dozens of people on Tuesday in attacks it says are targeted at Hamas militants that rule the besieged territory.

With no water, fuel or food being delivered to Gaza since Hamas' brutal attack on Israel last week, mediators struggled to break a deadlock over delivering supplies to increasingly desperate civilians, aid groups and hospitals.

U.S. President Joe Biden prepared to head to the region as he and other world leaders tried to prevent the war from sparking a broader regional conflict. Violence flared Tuesday along Israel's border with Lebanon, where Iranian-backed Hezbollah militants operate.

In Gaza, dozens of injured were rushed to hospitals after heavy attacks outside the southern cities of Rafah and Khan Younis, residents reported. Basem Naim, a senior Hamas official and former health minister, reported 27 people were killed in Rafah and 30 in Khan Younis.

An Associated Press reporter saw around 50 bodies brought to Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis. Family members came to claim the bodies, wrapped in white bedsheets, some soaked in blood.

An airstrike in Deir al Balah reduced a house to rubble, killing nine members of the family living there. Three members of another family that had evacuated from Gaza City were killed in a neighboring home. The dead included one man and 11 women and children. Witnesses said there was no warning before the strike.

The Israeli military said it was targeting Hamas hideouts, infrastructure and command centers. "When we see a target, when we see something moving that is Hamas, we'll take care of it," Lt. Col. Richard Hecht, an Israeli military spokesman, said.

A strike in the Bureij refugee camp in central Gaza killed a top Hamas commander, Ayman Nofal, the group's military wing said - the most high-profile militant known to have been killed so far in the war. Nofal was in charge of Hamas militant activities in the central Gaza Strip and was associated with the creation of the group's "joint operations" room that coordinated between Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad and other militants in the territory.

The U.N. human rights office decried "appalling reports" that civilians who were trying to flee to southern Gaza were killed by a military strike. Spokeswoman Ravina Shamdasani urged Israeli forces to avoid "aerial bombardments, indiscriminate or disproportionate attacks" and to "take precautions to avoid - and in any case, to minimize - loss of civilian life, injury to civilians and damage to civilian objects."

Israel sealed off Gaza since the militant attack on southern Israel Oct. 7 killed over 1,400 people, mostly civilians, and resulted in some 200 taken captive in Gaza. Hamas militants in Gaza have launched rockets every day since, aiming at cities across Israel.

Israeli strikes on Gaza have killed at least 2,778 people and wounded 9,700, according to the Gaza Health Ministry. Nearly two-thirds of those killed were children, a ministry official said.

Another 1,200 people across Gaza are believed to be buried under the rubble, alive or dead, health authorities said. Emergency teams struggled to rescue people while cut off from the internet and mobile networks, running out of fuel and exposed to unceasing airstrikes.

On Monday Israeli warplanes struck the headquarters of the Civil Defense in Gaza City, killing seven paramedics. Another 16 medics and doctors have been killed on the job, Gaza officials said.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Tuesday that his country's retaliation against Hamas aims to eradicate the group's political and military rule over Gaza.

Public-private sector cooperation key

Finance minister seeks investment collaboration

ABU DHABI, Oct 17, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Finance Minister Fahad Al-Jarallah stressed Tuesday the importance of concerted efforts between public and private sectors in various regional and international forums in order to highlight the promising investment climate in the State of Kuwait.

This came in remarks to KUNA during his visit to the pavilion of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority and the Kuwaiti Public-Private Partnership Authority in the Eighth World Investment Forum.

Highlighting the image of the Kuwaiti investment scene is a responsibility for all concerned bodies to help shed light on the investment map in Kuwait, he added.

He pointed out the importance of participating in regional and international forums, which would attract foreign investments, expand cooperation with markets in the world, and keep pace with developments and investment and technical activity in a way that enhances sustainable development in Kuwait.

The forum aims to facilitate dialogue and action on global and emerging investment and development challenges.

It also discusses the main investment challenges resulting from multiple global crises, revitalizing investment in food security, and the transition to low-carbon energy, health systems, supply chain resilience, and how to enhance productive capacities in the poorest countries. Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) has seized opportunity during its participation in the Global Investment Forum in Abu Dhabi to highlight promising investment opportunities in the country to achieve the desired goals of diversifying economy and backing private sector entrepreneurship in national economy.

During this event which will last until Friday, the authority plays a vital role in alluring investments to the country through offering several services and privileges, and facilitating government procedures as well as enhancing the country's image.

KIO's London office faces legal action for violations

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17: The Minister of Finance and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the General Investment Authority, Fahd Al-Jarallah, has referred the violations of the Kuwaiti Investment Office in London to the Public Prosecution, through a report submitted to the Attorney General, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The report came after the investigation committee completed its first report on the observations and violations that were monitored from 2018 to 2022, which included illegal entry, disclosure of confidential information, and destruction of information related to the authority, in addition to many other violations.

It is noteworthy that the decision to form the committee was previously issued by former Finance Minister Abdul Wahab Al-Rasheed following his interrogation by MP Mubarak Al-Hajraf, to investigate what was mentioned in the interrogation axes.



A bullet hole is seen on the outside of an office building in Brussels, Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2023, close to where two Swedish soccer fans were shot by a suspected Tunisian extremist on Monday night. (AP)

Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) discussed along with Union of Automobile Agents in the country mechanisms boosting cooperation on electric car projects, as well as suggestions and recommendations guaranteeing suitability of such vehicles with extremely hot climates.

KIRS in a press release on Tuesday mentioned that the meeting handled outcome of first project conducted by the institute and supported by Kuwait Foundation for Advancement of Sciences (KFAS).

Project Manager Dr. Hedab Al-Hamawi stated that the two parties considered new projects comparing performance of four-wheel drive electric vehicles using charging ports powered exclusively by solar energy. (KUNA)

BRUSSELS: The Muslim Council of Belgium, the representative body of the Islamic faith in the country, Tuesday condemned in the strongest terms the attack committed in Brussels on Monday evening which cost the lives of two people.

The Council in a statement called on the authorities "to show the greatest firmness to protect our national community and to shed light as quickly as possible on this importation of conflicts which do not concern us."

A man opened fire in the capital on Monday evening, killing two people and seriously injuring a third. The 45-year-old man was shot dead by Belgian police in a café in Brussels earlier today.

Presenting its sincere condolences to the families of the victims, the Council called "for solidarity and vigilance, but also for balance and the refusal of stigmatization in these difficult times." (KUNA)

Prayer Timings

Fajr 04:31 Asr 14:49
Sunrise .. 05:50 Maghrib .. 17:16
Zohr 11:33 Isha 18:33

Local

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

Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

By Day: Rather hot, relatively humid over coastal areas and clouds will increase with light variable wind to light to moderate southeasterly wind with speeds of 08-28 km/h.

Weather

By Night: Mild, relatively humid and partly cloudy with light to moderate southeasterly wind to light variable wind with speeds of 08-35 km/h with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times.

Station **Max Exp** **Min Rec**
Kuwait City 35 27

Kuwait Airport	35	27
Abdaly	36	22
Jahra	37	27
Salmiyah	34	27
Ahmadi	34	28
Nuwaisib	35	25
Wafra	36	23

BRI's development initiative consistent with New Kuwait's vision: envoy

'China's trade with Belt and Road countries doubled in 2013'

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17: The Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Kuwait Counselor Liu Xiang says the Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed the "Belt and Road" initiative in 2013. Over the past decade, the countries along the "Belt and Road" have been working to embody the Silk Road's spirit of peace and cooperation, openness, tolerance, mutual learning and mutual benefit.

In his speech during the symposium on the high-quality joint construction of the "Belt and Road" between China and Kuwait the day before yesterday evening, he explained that his country had signed cooperative documents for the "Belt and Road" initiative with more than 150 countries and more than 30 international organizations. A multi-layered and multi-level infrastructure network is being formed, based on the framework of "six corridors, six roads, and multiple countries and ports."

China's trade in goods with the Belt and Road countries doubled from USD 1.04 trillion in 2013 to USD 2.07 trillion in 2022, with an average annual growth of 8 percent. Two-way investments between China and the Belt and Road countries exceeded USD 270 billion during that period.

This contributed to stimulating investment worth nearly a trillion dollars, creating more than 3,000 cooperation projects, providing 420,000 job opportunities, and lifting about 40 million people out of poverty.

Last month Jinping and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad held a historic meeting in the Chinese city of Hangzhou. The two leaders drew a road map to deepen the strategic partnership, and jointly build a high-quality "Belt and Road" between the two countries.

Counselor Liu Xiang said, "Our symposium today is a step to implement the outcomes of the two leaders' meeting. The two sides must make joint efforts in the next stage.

The Chinese side is ready to work with the Kuwaiti side to advance the joint construction of the Belt and Road in the long term, and create a better future for Chinese-Kuwaiti relations."

Meanwhile, the Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development Dr. Khaled Mahdi affirmed that the

Chinese-Kuwaiti relations are more than distinguished.

He revealed that the State of Kuwait is the first country in the Middle East to respond to the Chinese President's initiative in 2014, and this was a moral commitment to the Belt and Road Initiative, which was followed by many consultations and agreements.

Dr. Mahdi indicated that the first of these agreements was the recent visit of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad to China, where a group of memorandums of understanding and agreements were signed that will take the principle of implementation.

He said, "There are two questions that are always asked about the extent of the Kuwaiti side's seriousness about entering into the initiative. The recent agreements that were signed brought us into a great atmosphere of seriousness for implementation, which is what Kuwait will move with China towards implementing these agreements. That is why the agreements came in specific areas and were not just a comprehensive framework.

The symposium will address a group of amended projects related to the energy, transportation, and housing sectors, which are vital and important sectors within the New Kuwait 2035 vision. This vision was developed with the Chinese side, and a joint five-year plan was developed between the two sides, which is the 2024/2028 plan to implement the projects."

The Kuwaiti Ambassador to China Jassem Al-Najem confirmed Tuesday that the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a development initiative that is consistent with the vision of New Kuwait, according to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA).

This came during his participation as a representative of Kuwait in the celebration of the book launch of Chinese President Xi Jinping, within the activities of BRI's third forum and the tenth anniversary of the initiative.

In a phone call to KUNA, Al-Najem said that this initiative constitutes a real opportunity to revive the Silk Road project and create a vital commercial region that contributes to the prosperity of the global economy.

Kuwait is the first country in the Middle East to take the initiative to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for cooperation with China in BRI after its announcement in September 2013, he pointed out.

Al-Najem underlined the depth of the historical bilateral ties that go back over 50 years between Kuwait and China, citing a recent visit by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, during which the prospects for cooperation were consolidated and several MoUs were signed in various fields.

He also stressed Kuwait's keenness on its strategic partnership with China and ways to support and develop it in various fields in a way that contributes to achieving mutual benefit and common interests.

See Also Page 10



Photo by Rizk Taufiq

Editor-in-Chief of the Arab Times and Al-Seyassah newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah receives the Libyan Ambassador Suleiman Al-Saheli.

Editor-in-Chief receives Libyan envoy

Editor-in-Chief of the Arab Times and Al-Seyassah newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah received in his office at Al-Seyassah yesterday, the Libyan Ambassador to Kuwait, Suleiman Al-

Saheli. Friendly conversations were exchanged, and common issues were discussed, especially those related to the media field.

Cabinet nods cut in plots cost

Goal to support citizens, alleviate burdens: PAHW

By Abdul Nasser Al-Aslami

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17: The Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) announced the Cabinet's approval of its proposal to reduce the value of the symbolic price for government plots allocated for housing purposes in South Khaitan, Abu Halifa and Sabahiya to KD 5,000 per plot.

In a statement issued yesterday, PAHW affirmed that it will soon announce, through its official accounts and the media, to citizens benefiting from the decision the mechanism for returning the difference in financial amounts, as the symbolic price of one plot ranged between KD 10,000 and KD 15,000 depending on the area.

PAHW explained that the goal is to support citizens and alleviate their burdens, especially since they are building and finishing their homes currently. It will continue to support plot holders and accelerate the pace of contract work on projects being implemented, and operate public services in conjunction with citizens' housing, based on the recommendations of the Council of Ministers.

PAHW stressed the keenness of the State Minister for Housing Affairs and his directives regarding cooperation with all relevant government agencies to complete citizens' transactions smoothly, and to work on reducing their financial burdens in order to achieve the public interest.

According to informed sources, the total value of the amounts that are supposed to be returned to the accounts of the citizens concerned with the aforementioned decision is about KD 16 million. The value of the amount that will be returned to plot owners in Khaitan is KD 14 million and 480 thousand, after reducing the value of one plot from KD 10,000 to KD 5,000. KD 775,000 would be returned to plot owners in Sabahiya, and KD 855,000 in Abu Halifa, where the value of a plot was KD 15,000.

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'Let students work': The Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled addressed the Minister of Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr. Adel Al-Manea to allow students to combine student reward with work in the private sector, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to a statement issued by the Ministry of Interior, the directives of the Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Interior come within the framework of developing work mechanisms in the private sector, which enables Kuwaiti youth to gain practical and professional experience while they are studying, and to invest their time in a way that benefits them and develops their practical skills.

This project also contributes to addressing demographic imbalances by providing young manpower to work in various professions needed by the labor market, in addition to the project's role in refining students' time and money management skills and developing a sense of responsibility and self-reliance.

In addition, the Public Authority for Manpower called on private sector companies, as a matter of social and national responsibility, to open the doors of employment and benefit from national cadres of male and female university and institute students, because of the great importance of the project in developing the labor market and providing Kuwaiti youth with the posts.



KUNA photo

National Assembly Speaker Ahmad Al-Sa'adoun meets the World Bank's resident representative in Kuwait Ziyad Al-Naket.

Speaker receives WB rep.

Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker Ahmad Al-Sa'adoun received on Tuesday in

his office the World Bank's resident representative in Kuwait Ziyad Al-Naket. (KUNA)

Life easy for West Abdullah Mubarak

New 'Govt Mall' inaugurated

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17: The Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and the Minister of Communications Fahad Al-Shoula affirmed that the opening of the Government Center Mall in West Abdullah Al-Mubarak comes as a continuation of the ministry's plan to open government buildings in all governorates of the country.

In a press statement issued yesterday on the sidelines of the center's opening ceremony, Al-Shoula said the mall will have a number of ministries and government agencies that serve the people of the area, in order to facilitate the completion of their transactions using advanced work methods, saving them time and providing all facilities to them.

He explained that this project is considered one of the achievements that was implemented in coordination with various state agencies in order to improve government performance, keep pace with the era of the modern state, and move towards an integrated world in various fields.

The ministry is proceeding according to a plan and time schedule to implement its development projects in accordance with the comprehensive development plan of the state. The ministry has made long strides in order to complete its program for providing comprehensive government service centers.

Meanwhile, the acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Communication Dr. Ahmad Al-Majren announced the opening of the Government Center Mall in Sabah Al-Ahmad City within the next two weeks.

He affirmed that these offices serve both citizens and residents, and save effort and time in obtaining government services, especially in remote areas.

Dr. Al-Majren explained that the government mall in West Abdullah Mubarak area includes 80 percent of government services. The rest of the services are being completed. There are currently four ministries providing their services, and soon other ministries will start doing the same, including the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in addition to the Public Authority for Disabled Affairs and other entities.

The West Abdullah Mubarak Center is the tenth center to be opened to provide government services to citizens and residents.

In another context, Dr. Al-Majren revealed that the postal privatization project is ready and will hopefully see the light soon.



Al-Shoula



KUNA photo

Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah holds talks with the head of the regional delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mamadou Sow.

FM meets ICRC regional chief

Palestinian areas, Gaza discussed

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Tuesday Head of Regional Mission of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Mamadou Sow, to discuss the latest developments of the Palestinian territories and the Gaza Strip.

During the meeting, the Foreign Minister stressed the ICRC's role and noble humanitarian efforts, especially regarding the deliver of humanitarian, medical and relief aid to those in need, emphasizing the need to stop the ongoing escalation in Palestine, occupied territories, and the Gaza Strip.

The minister also underlined the need to protect civilians, ensure the opening of crossings to deliver humanitarian and relief supplies to the people of Gaza, and mobilize international efforts in this context, a statement by the Foreign Ministry said.

For his part, Mamadou Sow presented a review of the efforts made by the ICRC within the framework of the planned immediate humanitarian response and the urgent needs of the people of Gaza.

He expressed his deep appreciation for the pioneering and distinguished humanitarian role played by the State of Kuwait in supporting the afflicted and affected peoples, and lauded the continuous Kuwaiti

support offered to the organization and its humanitarian activities around the world.

The meeting also discussed the close cooperation relations between Kuwait and the International Committee of Red Cross and their future prospects, and ways of strengthening international humanitarian action and supporting joint activities in response to humanitarian crises and disasters in the region.

Meanwhile, the International Islamic Charitable Organization (IICO) continues on Tuesday to support the current humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip by implementing multiple various relief projects with the aim of containing the chaos there as a result of the ongoing Israeli occupation's aggression against Gaza.

Deputy Director General of IICO Ibrahim Al-Bader confirmed to KUNA that IICO is working hard to secure urgent relief aid and is harnessing all its capabilities to keep pace with the humanitarian situation in Gaza.

IICO has been working through its partners inside Palestine since the outbreak of events in Gaza to implement several relief projects, including those related to medical affairs, by supplying the Ministry of Health with medical supplies, treatments, surgical and emergency tools, operating electric generators, and sponsoring 150 nurses and pharmacists, he said.

Also, IICO is trying to strengthen the capabilities of several hospitals in Gaza, including Al-Durrah Children's Hospital, Al-Karama Hospital, Hayfa Charity Hospital, and others, with the aim of maintaining the medical and civilian staff, he added.



Al-Bader

diwaniya

كيوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

‘Ample experience crucial to replace those in executive posts’

“THE minister of finance spearheads an extensive pension reform initiative, as reported in last Sunday’s edition of Al-Rai. This has been a longstanding demand, extending beyond retirement arrangements and the introduction of new talent. The focus should also encompass accountability and a careful selection of replacements,” columnist **Turki Al-Azemi** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

“The prolonged absence of leadership in key positions is concerning, indicating a potential for chaos due to the resulting leadership vacuum. Our apprehensions and warnings revolve around this.

“Consequently, it’s crucial to appoint individuals with ample experience in executive roles to succeed those retiring. Based on the information we’ve gathered, it’s imperative to advertise vacant leadership positions. This will enable seasoned professionals with extensive experience and distinguished academic backgrounds to apply.

“The emphasis should move away from the notion of “young blood.” Maturity is a fundamental criterion for an influential leader. They should possess a forward-thinking vision and demonstrate tangible accomplishments. It’s not necessary for them to be current employees of the organization, as a leader is defined by specific attributes and well-established standards.

“This retirement campaign is comprehensive, aiming to retire not only individuals in high-ranking positions who evade accountability but also the detrimental practices of quotas, favoritism, and nepotism. The concept of exceptions in accountability must be discarded, treating everyone equally before the law. This includes those who view their positions as a means for swift wealth accumulation or leaders who have failed to enhance performance or have been involved in financial or administrative misconduct.

“Do they not observe the evolving world around us? Do they not comprehend or think? The disconcerting silence from our beloved, wise, and experienced individuals is perplexing. They witness the continuation of a corrupt approach that shatters the aspirations of future generations. Private educational institutions and health centers are now profit-driven entities. Other sectors face similar challenges.

“Embracing the transition to a digital government and diversifying income streams beyond oil necessitates an understanding of the ongoing shifts in the global economy and the modern approach to work. Competencies and skills should be prioritized alongside productivity and numerical data.

“When we witness the establishment of major factories, strategic partnerships driving commercial zones, and international medical centers overseeing the operation of our health facilities, with talented individuals leading our institutions, we can affirm that we stand at the brink of the desired development.

“Seek individuals of integrity and do not shy away from speaking the truth in the face of the arrogant and stubborn, driven solely by monetary gain and influence. We seek a nation-building endeavor; otherwise, it’s a path we ought to retire.”

Also:

“Given the widespread repercussions of Operation Al-Aqsa Flood, a pressing concern is whether it will escalate into a regional war. This question arises from multiple compelling pieces of evidence observed since the outset of Operation



Al-Azemi

Al-Aqsa Flood,” columnist **Dr Dana Al-Enezi** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

“Firstly, Israel is waging a destructive war against the Gaza Strip, aiming to restore its shaken dignity and reassure its citizens, preventing a surge in emigration and preserving the dream of Greater Israel. Israel’s actions hint at a potential ground invasion to eradicate Hamas, the resistance movement, within the Gaza Strip.

“Several pieces of evidence support this concern. Israel’s call-up of 300,000 reserve forces strongly suggests preparation for a ground invasion, potentially leading to a regional war according to Israel. The United States has moved its largest aircraft carrier, the “Gerald Ford,” to the eastern Mediterranean, expressing full support for Israel and supplying advanced combat weaponry. England has also deployed warships in the region to support Israel. The overwhelming Western support for Israel in its war on Gaza further reinforces this.

“It is inferred that there is an understanding or a Western, primarily American, green light for Israel to take whatever action it deems necessary in Gaza to eliminate Hamas, even if it requires a ground invasion, disrupting Israeli expansion ambitions.

“The critical factor that could trigger a regional war is Israel’s ground invasion of the Gaza Strip. The West, especially the United States, seems prepared for such an eventuality, intensively protecting Israel.

“Israel has hinted at a ground invasion despite recognizing the complexities of Gaza, possibly convinced that it’s unavoidable after suffering a significant defeat. Should Israel proceed with an invasion, it could ignite a regional war.

“Statements by parties supporting Hamas continually warn Israel against continuing its war and anticipate a response if a ground invasion occurs. These warnings are considered serious, and in the event of an invasion, Hezbollah and various resistance movements are likely to be involved, along with their supporters from regional countries. They would oppose Israel’s plan to eliminate Hamas, fearing its repercussions on armed resistance against the Zionist occupation and the Palestinian cause.

“In summary, the potential outbreak of a regional war hinges on Israel’s continuation of its war in Gaza, potentially leading to a ground invasion. Israel’s intentions suggest a serious likelihood of a ground invasion, which could escalate into a regional war, involving the West in defending Israel, exposing it to battle fronts on all its borders.

“To avert this dire scenario, there is a pressing need for strong proactive mediation involving China, Kuwait, and Qatar to calm the situation and revive the Palestinian issue, which has been largely neglected since the Arab Spring uprisings.”

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“When the last ministerial formation was issued, the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs were merged and placed under the management and supervision of one minister, which came as a shock to some people. Some among them even went so far as to turn the matter into a mockery, the reasons for which are clear,” columnist **Ahmad Al-Mulaifi** wrote for **Annahar** daily.

“Merging some ministries and dismantling others is one of the suggestions that I had previously submitted to His Highness the former Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled to create an unconventional ministerial formation.

“There are two ministries in the Ministry of Education and Higher Education that must be separated. The goals and outcomes of each ministry differ from the

other, and require different mentalities and a great effort that a single minister cannot handle. I say this from experience.

“Likewise, the Ministry of Finance’s goal is to monitor budgets and collect state funds resulting from the provision of services. There is also the need to establish a Ministry of Investment as the second source of income, if not the first, at times when the oil prices decline. For this, a specialized minister is also required to follow up on it.

“We return to the merging of the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, and the reason to merge them. These are two ministries that deal with reason and thought, which means they are responsible for directing the national discourse in the country.

“Citizens and residents gather by their own free will to hear this speech fifty times a year in mosques in the Friday sermons and the two Eid sermons.

“If this opportunity had been utilized correctly and taken advantage of in a targeted and deliberate manner for directing the national discourse to focus on values and morals and for addressing the negative aspects of actions and words left by the media discourse on radio and television, it would have been possible to address many of the wrong practices and deviant behavior and instill the values of good citizenship in citizens, and good behavior among all residents.”

□ □ □

“Indeed, we need to establish foundations and standards, and focus on the positive aspects of life and the turning points we are going through,” columnist **Dr. Thaher Hadi Al-Markaz** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

“Through the challenges that individuals face in various situations and experiences, and mistakes that they learn from, their personality is refined. Day after day, they become mature in the sea of life, riding its waves, armed with knowledge, experiences and skills through which they can achieve successes and reach social levels to serve their country, religion and society.

“We have many examples throughout the human ages and civilizations that rose up and developed with knowledge and science.

“In Kuwait, we have reached a developed stage through achievements and successes at the individual and societal levels, starting with laying the basic building block for the state organization through the 1962 Constitution, which established political life, organized laws, and activated the role of the individuals, institutions, and NGOs.

“All of this contributed to achieving progress and prosperity, placing Kuwait on the international map and making it a center for humanitarian work through the efforts of the wise political leadership.

“In our current time, and with the challenges we are experiencing at the individual and state levels, we need a real critical review that examines the political, economic and social reality to identify the deficiencies and address them by activating the role of the law and its institutions. Conferences and discussion circles must be held at the state level to reach radical solutions to problems, which could be the reason for Kuwait not being among the countries of the developed world.

“National anti-corruption plans should also be activated to confront this scourge that the entire world suffers from, and eliminate all negative consequences that hinder the desired progress.”

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary

E-addiction ... epidemic threatening young people

Arab, Muslim values at risk

By Najeh Bilal
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17: The conference “Arab and Gulf Family Issues in Light of Digital Transformation” was inaugurated yesterday by the Center for Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Studies under the auspices of the Ministry of Interior.

The participants emphasized the advantages of modern technology and the enormous potential and capabilities it has made available to humans, but warned of the negative repercussions of modern technology on the Arab and Muslim family and its values, traditions and role.

The speakers at the conference highlighted the seriousness of the phenomenon of electronic addiction, which has become an epidemic threatening young people.

They stressed on the role of social media in spreading rumors, lies, and falsifying facts in some cases, in addition to spreading the culture of violence and hatred, due to which they called on parents to set limits and controls on children’s use of mobile phones.

Director of the Center for Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Studies Dr. Yaqoub Al-Kandari said, “The conference comes in the context of the center’s constant and ongoing keenness to pay attention to issues related to the family, women and society, based on its belief in the role of the family.

Modern technology has played a major role in social issues in the Gulf, the Arab world and the world as well as in the family, and has led to extraordinary transformations in human beings.”

Dr. Al-Kandari explained that the era of technology began in the mid-nineties and was accompanied by warnings to protect families. At the beginning of the current millennium, social media increased in power and brought about tremendous changes. It continues to have many effects in an era in which the mobile phone has transcended the boundaries of time and space.



Dr. Al-Kandari

Meanwhile, the Secretary General of the International Organization for the Empowerment of Women and Capacity Building Dr. Taghreed Al-Hajli highlighted the importance of the conference in protecting the Arab and Gulf families from the dangers of digital transformation when it is used negatively.

Furthermore, a faculty member at the Saad Al-Abdullah Academy for Security Sciences Dean Dr. Mutlaq Al-Mutairi said technological development and social media have made a phone extend beyond its role as a means of communication.

He explained that the mobile phone has become a television, a camera, a recorder, and a newspaper. Digital transformation has benefits, including that it brought the family closer together with their children studying abroad, made the world more open, became a platform for opinion, and helped scientific researchers. On the other hand, the most prominent disadvantage is children’s addiction to the Internet and social media, so the family must not leave the phone in the hands of their children 24 hours a day.

Other negative aspects include the large number of traffic accidents resulting from the use of a mobile phone while driving, its contribution to some people becoming atheists, and its contribution to the spread of rumors and lies. This has become more dangerous with the emergence of artificial intelligence and its ability to falsify facts.

In the same context, Professor of Criminal Sociology and Crime at the Saad Al-Abdullah Academy for Security Sciences Dean Dr. Bader Al-Khubaizi stated that modern technology has positive effects on various social, political, educational and psychological levels. However, one of its most prominent negatives is the availability of unethical websites on the Internet, which negatively affects teenagers and young people, as well as exposure to fraud, bullying, threats, blackmail, and the dissemination of strange ideas that violate religious values, in addition to its negative role in disturbing people through hacking. Addiction to sitting in front of smartphones causes mental illness and social violence, and leads to an increase in crime rates.

In addition, a professor at the International University of Science and Technology Dr. Sami Al-Azmi said, “Electronic addiction has become a pathological epidemic that threatens young people, the mainstay of societies, causing serious harm to the efforts to achieve development. These harms are increasing in light of the weakness of religious motivation among children.”



A group photo of the participants at the conference ‘Arab and Gulf Family Issues in Light of Digital Transformation’.

Students on scholarship excluded from ‘transfer’

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17: The First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior, Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled, issued a decision excluding scholarship and academically licensed members of the Ministry from transportation, while restricting the transfer of officers from the rank of lieutenant to major to field work only.

Resolution No. 1194 of 2023 included amending some provisions of Resolution No. 20-2021 related to regulating the transfer of members of the police force, as it added a final paragraph to Article 3 that states, “Those who are on scholarship and those who are academically licensed are excluded from all of the above.”

The decision, a copy of which was obtained by Al-Seyassah, stated: “Article No. 4 of the aforementioned Ministerial Resolution No. 30-2021 shall be amended to become, without prejudice to Clause No. 10 of Article 3 of this decision, the transfer of officers from the rank of lieutenant up to the rank of major to Field work only, not administrative work, and “specialized officers, scholarship students, and those with academic license are excluded from this.”

In Article 3 of the decision, a paragraph is added that states: “Scholarship students and those with academic leave are excluded from this.”

In Article 4, a new article is added, No. 7 bis: “The provisions of this decision do not prejudice the jurisdiction of the Undersecretary to transfer members of the police force who are on scholarship and study leave without adhering to the dates specified for transfer in this decision.”

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‘Unfit’ meat for sale: In continuation of efforts to combat spoiled food in various consumer distribution markets, inspectors from the Commercial Control Department in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry closed meat sales outlets in four central markets in the Salmiya area for selling spoiled and adulterated meat, in violation of consumer protection decisions, reports Al-Rai daily.

The Ministry inspectors during a field tour of consumer markets, discovered the meat section of four markets were actively involved in thawing frozen meat, displaying it, and selling it to consumers. The sources added that the legal procedures are being completed, in preparation for referring the violators to the prosecution to take the appropriate legal procedures.

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Kitchen fire tackled: Firefighting teams swiftly managed to control a minor fire in the fifth floor kitchen of a restaurant in a commercial complex in the Sharq area.

The General Fire Force’s Public Relations and Media Department reported that the Central Operations Department received an alert early this morning regarding a fire and dispatched a fire-fighting team from Al-Hilali Center to the location.

Lunar eclipse Oct 28

Scattered rainfall expected on Thursday

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17: Meteorologist Issa Ramadan expects clouds to increase in the coming days, starting Wednesday, with the first depressions approaching the region, as the winds shift to the southeast, and the winds become active on Thursday in the midst of increase in humidity, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Ramadan said in a statement said the temperature has begun to drop significantly, and starting Thursday there is a chance of scattered rain that will continue until Friday morning, and it will be the first good news for the region.

He stated that scattered clouds will continue on Saturday and Sunday, with northwest-

erly winds and moderate autumn weather at night, and the chances of seasonal rain will return again at the end of the month with the continuation of low weather in November.

□ □ □

Lunar eclipse Oct 28: Al-Ajiri Scientific Center announced that the skies of Kuwait and the world will witness a partial lunar eclipse on October 28, which is expected to occur at 11 pm, reports Al-Rai daily.

The center stated, “the eclipse will be observed at 10:34 hours, while the moon will be in the center of the eclipse at 11:13 minutes,” indicating that “the end of the eclipse will be at 11:53 minutes.”

‘No change seen in working hours’

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17: The Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Dr. Adel Al-Mana, has issued a decision regarding flexible working hours in the ministry’s sectors, reports Al-Rai daily.

An educational source said according to the decision the timings remain the same as those approved by the former Minister of Education, Dr. Hamad Al-Adwani, with the exception of the Information Systems

Department, where the working hours of its employees were moved forward from 7 am to 2 pm. For the rest of the sectors the timings remain the same from Sunday to Thursday, 7 hours per day.

The source said that these dates were approved at the request of all sectors of the ministry during a meeting with the administrative sector who confirmed their desire to continue working on the same patteer without any change.

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Work in some power stations not dangerous, says minister

EPA team, MEW experts visit Doha East and West stations

By Mohammed Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17: The Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Dr. Jassim Al-Ostad says the work in some power stations does not fall within the category of arduous or hazardous professions.

In response to a parliamentary question by MP Marzouq Al-Ghanim, Dr. Al-Ostad explained that the ministry held several meetings with representatives of the Public Institution of Social Security and the Ministry of Health's Occupational Health Department about including the work in power stations and water distillation plants among the difficult and hazardous professions. There are ongoing communications between the two parties in this regard. The Public Institution of Social Security said the Occupational Health Department concluded

Radical solutions to housing issue, PAHW way of handling it discussed

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17: A symposium titled "The Housing Issue... Where to?" was held in the office of Lawyer Abdullah Al-Elaj recently, with the participation of urban planner and housing activist Fawaz Al-Mutairi, and the Head of the Voluntary Committee of Mutlaa City Mishal Al-Hajri.

They discussed a number of radical solutions to the housing issue, and the way the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) dealt with it.

It started with Lawyer Al-Elaj stressing that he considers the housing plan to be "fragile" even though there are 92,000 housing applications from citizens waiting for a solution to the problem, according to statistics of August.

He revealed that the signs of the crisis began in 1999, indicating that PAHW deleted about 30 applications three months ago due to missing requirements.

Lawyer Al-Elaj said he wondered what can be done in order to meet the 92,000 outstanding applications.

He highlighted the inability of the relevant government agencies to link the Mutlaa City project to Jahra Road.

Lawyer Al-Elaj said, despite the calls to overcome all obstacles facing the Mutlaa city project on the residential map, he wondered how PAHW could remain without an appointed general director for an entire year despite all citizens' need for it.

Meanwhile, Fawaz Al-Mutairi, during the same symposium, said the citizens have been working hard and then dividing their monthly salary for themselves and the real estate dealers for many years, which he considers as a form of slavery.

He wondered why the governments charge public money "rent allowance" in increasing amounts and for whose benefit.

Al-Mutairi indicated that what

the representatives are proposing, other than the housing crisis, is a "provocation to the citizens."

He said controlling the real estate prices is in the government's interest primarily, citing the era of the nineties during which the price of real estate was affordable.

Al-Mutairi said, "Thus, 50 percent of government applicants were exempted from finding housing for themselves because they took the loan that covered the household expenses", warning against tampering with the housing plan by some landlords.

Furthermore, Mishal Al-Hajri said housing has become a dream for most Kuwaiti families in light of the rise in real estate prices and rents, adding that there are more than 200,000 families suffering from the housing crisis, and the state is tired of paying them rents worth KD 30 million per month.

He stressed that many heads of household are no longer able to meet their obligations, which amount to more than 50 percent of their salary, adding that they still dream of implementing housing projects and building their dream house.

that these works do not fall within the category of arduous, dangerous, or harmful jobs in accordance with Kuwaiti occupational environmental standards.

A committee was formed by the undersecretary of the ministry through resolution No. 382/2023, for making field visits to work sites, reviewing the type of work and describing it, estimating the extent of its danger, damage, and difficulty, and determining the proportions in that regard.

Question

In the parliamentary question submitted by MP Marzouq Al-Ghanim to the minister, he stressed that work in power stations and water distillation plants is considered one of the jobs in which workers are exposed to occupational and health risks.

He revealed that a team from the Environment Public Authority and the ministry's engineers visited the Doha East and West stations and came to the conclusion that workers in the two stations are exposed to health damage and pollutants at a concentration higher than the permissible limits and submitted its report to the undersecretary of the Ministry of Electricity and Water to take the necessary measures to categorize work in those stations as difficult and risky.



A photo from the event.

Gulf Bank sponsors two Youth Companies to represent Kuwait in Regional INJAZ Competition

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17: As part of its continuous support for youth, Gulf Bank, in cooperation with INJAZ Kuwait, announced its sponsorship for the Company Program competition, which took place in May 2023.

The two winning projects from Company Program competition, organized by INJAZ Kuwait, will be representing the State of Kuwait in the regional Company Program Competition. The competition is scheduled to be held in Qatar at the end of this month, with the participation of 14 countries from the Arab region.

The two winning projects were 'Raskla', which won the Best Student Company Award in the university students' category, and 'B-one', which won the Best Student Company Award in the high school students' category.

On this occasion, Gulf Bank's Assistant Manager of Corporate Communications, Ms. Maysoun Al-Attar said: "We have confidence in the minds and competencies of our youth in representing the State of Kuwait in the regional competition, and we will continue to provide all kinds of support to ensure that they are prepared for it."

Al-Attar also stressed Gulf Bank's keenness to support the high school and university students throughout all stages of the local competition - noting that around 100 volunteers from Gulf Bank participated in the preparation period, providing contestants with plenty of guidance, assistance and mentorship.

Partnership

She added: "At Gulf Bank, we are proud of our long-lasting partnership with INJAZ, of which spans over 17 years, and has witnessed the adoption and support of many ideas and companies; some of which have now become contributors to the economic and business ecosystem in Kuwait today."

Al-Attar affirmed Gulf Bank's commitment to support youth and develop their professional work skills, as it helps them keep pace with the requirements of the job market and its rapid changes both locally and globally. This is also part of Gulf Bank's 2025 strategy which centralizes youth, and Kuwait Vision 2035, which emphasizes the importance of investing in youth.

Al-Attar noted that the successful partnership between Gulf Bank and INJAZ Kuwait, has resulted in training around 26,000 male and female students throughout 2022 and 2023 - covering various aca-

demical levels, ranging from primary to university levels, including fresh graduates.

For her part, the CEO of INJAZ Kuwait, Ms. Laila Hilal Al-Mutairi, commented stating that there is a lot of hope in the two companies that were qualified to compete in the regional competition - which is characterized by its competitiveness, distinguished ideas, and innovative projects.

Al-Mutairi stated that INJAZ continues to succeed due to the various companies who believe in the association, and continue to support INJAZ's activities and programs.

She further indicated that the partnership with Gulf Bank is extraordinary, as it has been a strategic partnership that spans over many years. And Gulf Bank has continued to be a key supporter of the association's activities, by providing volunteers and training programs for students.

Entrepreneurial

She added: "Throughout its journey, INJAZ Kuwait has trained more than 120,000 male and female students in various training programs, which aim to hone the skills of young people when it comes to job preparation, entrepreneurship and financial knowledge. We are always looking forward to providing everything that serves our youth and prepare them to face future challenges."

It is noteworthy the Company Program teaches students entrepreneurial skills, how to prepare for the job market, and provides them with sufficient financial education. The students get an opportunity to establish and manage a real company, and go through the full stages of establishing a new project. They begin by developing a business plan, feasibility studies, team building, raising capital, and finally creating and selling a product or service.

In addition to the Company Program, there are other various training activities offered by INJAZ Kuwait, of which include: Innovation Camp, Personal Finance, Career Success, Head Start, Job Shadow Day, and the Company Program.

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

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

We live

Continued from Page 1

In those countries, there is a government office that reports directly to the prime minister or whoever is in charge of the matter. It measures the concerns of public opinion and problems, but takes opinions that are in the interest of the state, works to crystallize them into proposed laws, monitors the implementation of the laws, extracts the bad from them, and works to amend them.

As for what we have, there are laws that have become outdated and are no longer valid for this era. When any problem occurs, the response is that the law restricts us to its provisions, whether it is in the municipality, finance, public works, investments, internal and external, and many other institutions.

With all these problems and crises facing the region including Kuwait, the first executive official is absent, and the Council of Ministers becomes effectively without a head, as if Kuwait is left to the unknown. This calls for the question - Isn't this what raises concerns about what lies ahead if things continue like this?

Unfortunately, we do not have field officials knocking on the doors of problems and working to solve them, as is done in countries around the world. We live in anxiety, and perhaps in distress.

Minister urged

Continued from Page 1

have been convicted, one of whom has been released according to a special amnesty decree, despite the huge sums of money that were stolen and distributed to 12 different countries.

He revealed that the committee discovered the confusion and lack of coordination among the relevant institutions.

Al-Elyan stressed that there is no verified information about the death certificate of the former chairman of the Public Institution for Social Security Fahad Al-Rajaan who was announced dead in Europe.

He said the investigation is aimed at finding all the involved individuals and verifying if pressure is being imposed by some parties to cover some suspicious offi-

cial.

The lawmaker added that the committee will summon a number of former senior officials including former ministers of Finance to obtain all the necessary information.

Meanwhile, MP Fares Al-Otaibi asked the Minister of Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research Adel Al-Mane'e about the reasons behind suspending the master degree program in the College of Law in Kuwait University, and why the university administration procrastinated in fulfilling the requests of the graduates who wish to complete their higher studies in Kuwait. He wanted to know when the master degree programs in the College of Law will resume.

Furthermore, MP Fahad Al-Masoud submitted parliamentary questions to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Oil Saad Al-Barak, asking for copies of the two most recent strategies prepared by the Kuwait National Petroleum Corporation (KNPC), along with the bases and criteria prepared to implement the strategies, and the office assigned to implement the strategies.

Kuwait extends

Continued from Page 1

This decision has been met with positive feedback, with Representative Abdul Wahab Al-Issa expressing that it aligns with the demands presented by the Committee for Improving the Business and Small Enterprise Environment.

Representative Jarrah Al-Fawzan has described this postponement as a well-deserved and necessary step, emphasizing the need for the government to comprehensively address the Small Enterprise Fund, including tackling previous issues and holding accountable those who may have been negligent.

Informed sources have revealed that the postponement will benefit between 700 to 800 borrowers, out of the 990 entrepreneurs who received loans from the National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprises to kick-start their projects.

Some entrepreneurs had faced difficulties in meeting their repayment schedules, largely due to having signed borrowing contracts with the fund before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.



October

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Egyptian Embassy’s military office marks Great Arab Victory Day



Part of the audience during the Great Arab Victory Day celebration.



Ahmed Al-Jarallah, Saud Al-Farhan, Hamad Al-Amir and Bassam Al-Qassas extend their congratulations.



Sheikh Dr Abdullah, Ambassador Shaltut, Brig-Gen Rajab honor Ahmed Al-Jarallah.



Sheikh Dr Abdullah Mishal



Ambassadors of Bahrain, Palestine, Yemen, Iraq, Morocco and Oman.



Ahmed Al-Jarallah, Ayman Abdulrahim, Wanis, Hussain Ibrahim, Omru Hussain.



Honoring of a martyr is received by a member of his family.



Al-Movan briefs Sheikh Dr Abdullah, Ambassador Shaltut over the participation of the martyrs office.



Some of the diplomatic female attendees.

Photos by Rizk Taufiq

Golden jubilee of October 1973 victories

By Suzan Nasser

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17: On the anniversary of the Great Arab Victory Day, a ceremony was organized by the military office of the Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt to mark the golden jubilee of the October 1973 victories. Several officials and members of Kuwaiti society were among the guests at the event.

Leading the guests were the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Defense Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Mishal Mubarak Al-Sabah, Deputy Commander of Kuwait Air Force Major General Bandar Al-Muzain, Deputy Commander of the Naval Force Brigadier General Mohammad Al-Eid, several members of the ruling family, diplomats, businesspersons, and media figures.

The ceremony began with the Kuwaiti and Egyptian national anthems, followed by a speech delivered by the military attaché Staff Brigadier General Mohamed Rajab, in which he said, “The October victory will remain immortal in the history of Egypt and the Arab nation. That glorious war demonstrated the authentic nature of the Arab nation and the role of the wise and rational leadership in various Arab countries.”

He expressed pride and appreciation to the State of Kuwait for its generous hospitality, and its distinguished and continuing role in supporting Egypt to achieve the com-

mon interests of the two countries.

Meanwhile, the chief guest of the ceremony Undersecretary of the Ministry of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Al-Mubarak conveyed the congratulations of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Ahmed Al-Fahad on this occasion.

He said, “The October victory will remain a source of pride for every Arab in the Arab world, and evidence that Arab solidarity is a reality. The Egyptian soldier fought side by side with his Arab brother in the battles in defense of the land, values, and people.

Kuwait did not waver even for a moment in its support of Egypt in its war against the Zionist entity. It did not hesitate to offer whatever capabilities it had for that clear victory, so it pushed its sons to the battlefield represented by the Yarmouk Brigade, which represented a third of its army since the War of Attrition and even great victory.”

Minister Sheikh Abdullah Al-Mubarak concluded by praying for Palestine that Allah may protect it from all evil and harm as it defends its legitimate rights.

In turn, the Egyptian Ambassador to Kuwait Osama Shaltut praised “the glorious October victory, which restored our pride and dignity, and revealed to the world our strength when united.

Kuwait enjoyed precious participation with its army in the epic of the great victory on the northern and southern fronts through the Jahra Brigade in Syria and the Yarmouk Brigade in Egypt.

The Kuwaiti forces performed well and were praised by everyone, after they participated shoulder to shoulder with their brothers, which confirms the importance of Arab solidarity.

Egypt did not forget the Kuwaiti position. Hence, when the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait occurred, it rose up to declare its firm political, military and popular position to stand with the Kuwaiti right. The blood of the Egyptians was shed on the land of Kuwait, so that we could confirm once again, with Arab blood, that we are brothers and sisters.

Furthermore, the Dean of Journalism and the Editor-in-Chief of Al-Seyassah and Arab Times newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah gave a televised speech, in which he spoke about the heroes of October victory particularly about President Anwar Sadat.

He said, “Great Egypt will not fall. Kuwait and Egypt have something greater between them, after the blood of the people of the two countries spilled on one land.”

In addition, President of the Kuwait Journalists Association Adnan Al-Rashed praised the October victory and the Arab participation, as well as the role of Kuwait in always supporting Arab rights.

During the event, the visitors toured an exhibition of paintings by Egyptian and Kuwaiti hands, expressing the depth of relations between the two countries. The Kuwaiti martyrs who participated in the liberation war were also honored.

«Mujezat Al-Shifa»: Royal jelly enhances the protection of the liver and kidneys from the side effects of medications

Nutrition Consultant at Mujezat Al-Shifa Company, Dr. Hoda Ahmed, revealed a study conducted by Professor Maria Graça at the Faculty of Science at the University of Coimbra in Portugal in January 2020, regarding the benefits of eating royal jelly in protecting liver and kidney cells from the side effects of medications, which may lead to kidney and liver failure. They found that giving infected experimental mice a dose of 200 mg/kg of animal weight for a week showed a strong protective response against kidney poisoning.



Ahmed said: Royal jelly is a safe food substance that can be safely consumed by liver and kidney patients to help them overcome the stage of complications and deterioration and also help in treating them by taking their medications while protecting them from their harmful side effects.

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World News Roundup

Politics

Nez runs for Congress

GOP in Nevada split over '24 nominations

RENO, Nev, Oct 17, (AP): Nevada’s dueling contests of presidential nominees have split the field of Republican contenders, with Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis opting to compete against former President Donald Trump in the caucus run by the state GOP while three major rivals face off instead in the early state-run primary.

Though DeSantis’ supporters were among those warning that the Nevada Republican Party had created rules that tilted the process in favor of Trump, the Floridian announced Sunday he would run in the Feb. 8 caucus and try to win delegates that help a candidate become a nominee.

Former United Nations ambassador Nikki Haley on Monday filed as a candidate for the Feb. 6 primary, run by the state. The primary offers an opportunity to prove electability, at least symbolically, before crucial contests in South Carolina and a slate of primaries on Super Tuesday.

Former Vice President Mike Pence and South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott on Friday also filed for the primary.

Nevada holds a prominent place in the 2024 nominating contests as the third state to weigh in on the GOP field next year.

The Nevada GOP says it will only award delegates to the Republican national convention based on the results of its caucuses. The party has also barred candidates from participating in the caucuses if they also run in the primary election.

Earn

Andrew Romeo, the communications director for the DeSantis campaign, said in a statement on X, formerly known as Twitter, that the governor is committed to “earning every single delegate available as he works to earn the Republican nomination for president, and Nevada is no exception.”

“It is disappointing that the Nevada Republican Party changed the rules against the will of the people just to benefit one candidate,” Romeo said. “However, Ron DeSantis will fight to overcome these tactics, just like he will stop the Democrats’ attempts to bend the rules in their favor in November 2024 when he challenges, and ultimately defeats, Joe Biden - something Republicans failed to do in 2020.”

Former New Jersey Gov Chris Christie, Republican businessman Vivek Ramaswamy and North Dakota Gov Doug Burgum are among the other GOP candidates who filed earlier to participate in the caucus along with Trump.

President Joe Biden and eight others, including self-help author Marianne Williamson, have filed to run in the Democratic presidential preference primary Feb. 6 in Nevada.



US President **Joe Biden’s** 2024 campaign launched an account on **Donald Trump’s** Truth Social on Monday, attempting to poke online fun at the Republican candidate he may well face again in next fall’s election.

Under the handle @BidenHQ, the campaign posted: “Well. Let’s see how this goes. Converts welcome!” It began its time on Truth Social by following just one account: Trump’s.

The former president has built a commanding early lead in the Republican primary, setting up a potential 2020 rematch, despite Trump being indicted in four separate cases and facing 91 criminal charges.

Biden’s campaign noted its move on X, the social media platform formerly known as Twitter, writing, “We just joined Truth Social, mostly because we thought it would be very funny.”

Campaign

It added, “Follow us there for truths and retruths or whatever they call them.” A senior campaign aide said their joining might make Truth Social a little fun.

It’s not the first time the Biden campaign has attempted to troll conservatives online, coopting their messaging and online spaces. In July, it turned a clip of staunch Trump supporter and Republican U.S. Rep. **Marjorie Taylor Greene** of Georgia comparing Biden to Presidents **Franklin D. Roosevelt** and **Lyndon B. Johnson** into an online ad.



Former **Navajo** Nation President **Jonathan Nez** announced Monday that he’s running for Congress.

Nez, a 48-year-old Democrat, will vie for the seat occupied by incumbent **Eli Crane**, a Republican who has represented Arizona’s redrawn 2nd Congressional District since last year.

The district covers a large portion of northern and eastern Arizona and includes 14 of the 22 federally recognized tribes within the state.

“I grew up in a rural, low-income home, in a long-overlooked community where my family lived paycheck-to-paycheck, worried about how we’d make ends meet. I understand the struggles that many Arizona families are facing right now,” Nez said in a statement Monday.

Nez was born in Tuba City and grew up in Shonto, both located on the vast Navajo reservation.

He was the Navajo Nation’s president from 2019-23 after serving four years as the tribe’s vice president.

Nez lost in his presidential reelection bid last year and now hopes to become the first Native American to represent Arizona in Congress.



Democratic Gov **Andy Beshear** and Republican Attorney General **Daniel Cameron** accused each other of taking extreme stands on abortion policy Monday night as they wrangled over an issue that’s become a flashpoint in their hotly contested campaign for governor in **Kentucky**.

During an hourlong debate at Northern Kentucky University in Highland Heights, Kentucky, the rivals fielded questions over education, taxes, public safety and the monthlong strike by autoworkers, which has spread to Ford’s highly profitable Kentucky Truck Plant in Louisville.

The candidates tried to one-up the other in their support for public education. Some of their sharpest exchanges during the televised debate, however, came when asked to lay out their stands on abortion.

Their remarks, which took place about three weeks before the Nov 7 election, came against the backdrop of Kentucky’s current abortion law, which bans the procedure except when carried out to save a pregnant woman’s life or to prevent a disabling injury.

Beshear said that his challenger celebrated the abortion ban’s passage and pointed to Cameron’s long-running support for the law as written, without exceptions for pregnancies caused by rape or incest.

“My opponent’s position would give a rapist more rights than their victim,” Beshear said. “It is wrong. We need to change this law. We need to make sure that those individuals have that option.”



A Ukrainian APC fires towards Russian positions near Avdiivka, in the Donetsk region, Ukraine, Friday, April 28, 2023. A dayslong attempt by Russian forces to storm a strategically important city in eastern Ukraine appears to be running out of steam, Kyiv officials claimed on Oct 16 as the Kremlin’s war entered its 600th day

Russia sending more forces to eastern Ukraine city after its assault slows

Russia is throwing more units into its effort to take a key eastern Ukraine city, Western analysts say, after apparent setbacks that have slowed its dayslong onslaught.

The attempt to storm Avdiivka, a heavily defended city that stands in the way of Moscow’s ambition of securing control of the entire Donetsk region, is Moscow’s most significant offensive operation in Ukraine since the start of the year, the UK defense ministry said Tuesday.

The Kremlin’s push to claim Avdiivka comes after months of fending off Ukraine’s counteroffensive, which Kyiv launched some 16 months after Russia’s full-scale invasion.

Both sides are looking for battlefield advantages ahead of winter. They are also looking to secure future weapons supplies for what is shaping up as a protracted war of attrition.

The Kremlin’s forces deployed to Avdiivka are likely making slow progress and sustaining high casualties in what is proving a costly effort, the UK defense ministry said on X, the social media platform formerly known as Twitter.

The pace of Russia’s attack on the heavily fortified target has reportedly slowed in recent days since its launch last week, a Washington-based think tank said.

Citing the Ukrainian General Staff, the Institute for the Study of War said Ukrainian forces pushed back 22 Russian attacks on Monday, down from 30 reported assaults the previous day. Kyiv officials said Russia mounted up to 60 attacks per day in the middle of last week.

Also:

MOSCOW: The lower house of the Russian parliament on Tuesday gave preliminary approval to a bill

revoking the ratification of a global nuclear test ban in what Moscow has described as a move to put itself on par with the **United States**.

The State **Duma** voted unanimously to rescind the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty known as the CTBT, in the first of three required readings. The final vote is scheduled for later this week.

The vote follows a statement from Russian President **Vladimir Putin**, who warned earlier this month that Moscow could revoke its 2000 decision to ratify the bill to “mirror” the stand taken by the United States, which has signed but not ratified the nuclear test ban.

Speaking during Tuesday’s session, Duma speaker Vyacheslav Volodin said the Russian move was a response to what he described as the U.S. “boorish attitude to performing its obligations to ensure global security.”

Europe

Czech govt faces no-confidence vote in Parliament

Polish election marks huge win for Tusk

WARSAW, Poland, Oct 17, (AP): Three opposition parties that vowed to restore democratic standards in Poland together won over 54% of the votes in the nation’s weekend parliamentary election, putting them in a position to take power, according to a complete ballot count reported Tuesday.

The conservative Law and Justice party, which has governed the country for eight turbulent years, won slightly over 35% of the votes, making it the single party with the most votes. But the party and its leader Jarosław Kaczyński lost their majority in parliament and appeared to have no way to hold onto power.

The official ballot announced by the National Electoral Commission aligns closely with an exit poll released after voting ended Sunday.

Turnout was nearly 75%, a record that surpassed the 63% turnout of 1989, a vote that triggered the collapse of the oppressive Soviet-backed communist system.

Law and Justice had been taking the country on an illiberal path, taking control of courts in a manner that violated the country’s constitution. The party politicized state institutions, including taxpayer-funded public media which it used as a crude propaganda tool to praise itself and vilify opponents.

The result was a huge victory for Donald Tusk, the head of the largest opposition group, Civic Coalition. He appeared likely to return to his past

role as Polish prime minister, a job he held from 2007-14. He also served as the European Council president, a top job in the bloc, from 2014-19.

Tusk’s success is all the more remarkable given that state media went into overdrive to portray him as a stooge of Germany and Russia. That portrayal, which appeared baseless, also won him much sympathy.

The result was a huge relief for Poles concerned about the country’s international isolation at a time of war across the border in Ukraine and the constant bickering with the European Union. Many feared it could cause the country’s eventual ejection from the 27-member bloc.

Help

Young people and women were among those who voted in droves to get rid of the Law and Justice party, which won in 2015 vowing to fight corruption and help even out economic inequalities. While its social spending did help many Polish pensioners and families, the party has increasingly faced allegations of corruption.

The National Electoral Commission said that Law and Justice won slightly over 35% of the votes, and the far-right Confederation, a possible ally, about 7%.

Three opposition groups won a collective of 53.7%, enough for a comfortable majority in the 460-seat lower house of parliament, or Sejm; The Civic Coalition garnered 30.7% of the vote while the centrist Third Way got

14.4% and the New Left about 8.6%.

The three ran on separate tickets so they are not formally part of the same coalition, but all promised to cooperate to restore the rule of law.

The opposition, which had a razor-thin majority in the outgoing Senate, has now obtained an overwhelming majority of 66 out of 100 seats in that upper chamber. The Senate is far less powerful than the Sejm, but still has some limited influence over the legislative process. Law and Justice will only have 34 seats.

Also:

PRAGUE: The Czech coalition government on Tuesday faced a parliamentary no-confidence vote over opposition claims that it is incompetent in handling the economy and in controlling immigration.

The main opposition centrist ANO (YES) movement led by populist billionaire **Andrej Babis** accused the government of failing to deal with high inflation driven by energy prices and a new wave of migration, among other issues. Inflation has been on the decline this year, dropping from 17.5% in January to 6.9% in September.

The government has rejected the allegations.

The two opposition parties, including ANO and the anti-migrant Freedom and Direct Democracy party, are unlikely to oust the five-party coalition government led by Prime Minister **Petr Fiala**, which has a comfortable majority in the lower house of Parliament.



Democratic Gov Andy Beshear speaks during a gubernatorial debate against Republican Attorney General Daniel Cameron at Northern Kentucky University, in Highland Heights, Ky on Oct 16. (AP)



Buyer



Adams

America

NYC limits shelter stays: New York City Mayor **Eric Adams** announced Monday that he is limiting shelter stays for migrant families with children to 60 days, bidding to ease pressure on a city housing system overwhelmed by a large influx of asylum seekers over the past year.

The Democrat’s office said it will begin sending 60-day notices to migrant families who live in shelters, though they could reapply for housing if they are unable to find a new place to live. The city also will provide “intensified casework services” to help families secure housing, according to a news release.

It’s the mayor’s latest attempt to provide relief to the city’s shelter system and finances as it grapples with more than 120,000 international migrants who have come to New York, many without housing or the legal ability to work. More than 60,000 migrants currently live in city shelters, according to his office. (AP)



3 plead guilty in theft scheme: Three members of a California family pleaded guilty Monday to conspiracy for their role in a ring that shipped \$600 million worth of stolen catalytic converters from California to New Jersey, federal prosecutors said.

Brothers Tou Sue Vang, 32, and Andrew Vang, 28, along with their mother, Monica Moua, 58, were part of “a national network of thieves, dealers, and processors” who provided the stolen auto anti-smog devices to a metal refinery for more than \$600 million, according to a statement from the U.S. attorney’s office.

Twenty-one people from California and New Jersey have been charged in the case,



Britain’s Prime Minister Rishi Sunak gestures while talking to 6th form students during a visit to a school in north London, England on Oct 16.

prosecutors said. The three Sacramento family members pleaded guilty to conspiring to transport the devices in return for more than \$38 million. (AP)



Georgia deputy kills man: A Black man who spent more than 16 years imprisoned in

Florida on a wrongful conviction was fatally shot Monday by a sheriff’s deputy in Georgia during a traffic stop, authorities said.

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation, which is reviewing the shooting, identified the man as Leonard Allen Cure, 53.

Cure had been represented in his exoneration case by the Innocence Project of Florida.

The group’s executive director, Seth Miller, said he was devastated by news of the death, which he heard from Cure’s family.

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation said a Camden County deputy pulled over Cure as he drove along Interstate 95 near the Georgia-Florida line. He got out of the car at the deputy’s request and cooperated at first but became violent after he was told he was being arrested, a GBI news release said. (AP)



Buyer’s request rejected: Former US rep **Steve Buyer** cannot defer his surrender next month to serve a nearly two-year prison sentence resulting from his insider trading conviction because there was overwhelming evidence of his crimes, a federal judge said Monday.

Judge **Richard M. Berman** ruled there was no substantial question nor any close question of law to warrant letting the Indiana Republican remain free until his appeal is decided. He said prosecutors had presented “compelling testimony and documentary evidence” of Buyer’s crimes and “devastating evidence of an attempted cover-up.”

The judge noted that a jury capped a nine-day trial by returning its March verdict in less than four hours. Prosecutors say he made illegal stock trades based on insider information while working as a consultant after serving in the House from 1993 to 2011. (AP)

Politics

1 killed in protest

Venezuela and oppn reach electoral deal

NEW YORK, Oct 17, (AP): Venezuela’s government and opposition have reached an agreement on new electoral conditions that once signed Tuesday will trigger relief from US energy sanctions on President Nicolás Maduro’s administration, according to a person familiar with the outline of deal.

Venezuela’s government agreed to open up the electoral process, including allowing European Union observers and creating a process for lifting bans that have blocked his top opponents from running for president, to level what is widely seen as an unfair playing field, the person said Monday.

If Maduro doesn’t live up to his end of the bargain, the sanctions will be imposed again, according to the person, who insisted on not being quoted by name as a condition to discuss the agreement before it was signed.



Maduro

Venezuela’s government and opposition were scheduled to resume their Norway-mediated dialogue in Barbados on Tuesday, the Norwegian Embassy in Mexico said. But it appeared an agreement was already within reach because a signing ceremony was scheduled for Tuesday afternoon.

Mexico hosted multiple rounds of talks in 2021 and 2022. When the sides last met, in November 2022, they agreed to create a UN-managed fund to finance health, food and education programs for the poor while the US government agreed to allow oil giant Chevron to pump Venezuelan oil.

Colombia and other countries have tried in recent months to restart negotiations between the sides, but Maduro has demanded that the US drop economic sanctions and unfreeze Venezuelan funds held overseas as a condition of resuming talks.

Norway’s statement Monday said the two sides had decided to resume the dialogue “with the objective of reaching a political agreement.”

Sanctions

On Monday evening, Maduro said on Venezuela’s national television that “we are going to move ahead with sanctions or without sanctions. If we manage to get them lifted, great, if they’re kept in place, we move forward and we will overcome.”

US State Department spokesman Matthew Miller welcomed the announcement of negotiations in Barbados and said in a statement that the US government would “continue its efforts to unite the international community in support of the Venezuelan-led negotiation process.”

Earlier Monday, a US official who requested anonymity to discuss the sensitive negotiations said there was no “deal” between the US government and Venezuela.

The official said the Biden administration supported Venezuelan-led negotiations and was prepared to provide relief from sanctions in response to concrete actions toward holding competitive elections.

The dialogue formally began in September 2021, but President Maduro’s delegates walked away from negotiations in October 2021 after Colombia-born businessman Alex Saab was extradited on money laundering charges from Cape Verde to the US. Maduro conditioned a resumption on the release of Saab.

The political, social and economic crisis that has come to define Venezuela has evolved since it began a decade ago as a result of a global drop in the price of oil, Venezuela’s most valuable resource, mismanagement by the self-proclaimed socialist administration and government repression of its opponents.

A brief period of relative economic stability has again been shaken by jumping food prices, business closures and another wave of emigration.

Some members of the Venezuelan opposition celebrated Norway’s announcement.

Luis Florido, a former exiled opposition lawmaker, said on X that only through negotiations would Venezuelans be able to restore democracy through the ballot box.

Also:

BOGOTA, Colombia: Colombia’s government and the rebel group known as FARC-EMC on Monday signed a three-month cease-fire and formally began peace talks, as President Gustavo Petro tries to bolster his plans to pacify rural areas ahead of regional elections that will take place at the end of October.

In an event that took place in the township of Tibu, near Colombia’s border with Venezuela, both sides also agreed to cease attacks on civilians and set up a group that will monitor the cease-fire and could include United Nations personnel.

“Peace today seems to have been eclipsed when sirens, bombs, shouts of pain and desperation can be heard in places like the Middle East, Europe or sub-Saharan Africa” said Camilo González, the government’s lead negotiator. “These peace talks (in Colombia) are a bet on life and freedom.”

FARC-EMC are currently Colombia’s third largest armed group, with around 3,500 members. The group is led by left-wing guerrilla fighters who refused to join a 2016 peace deal between Colombia’s government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia in which more than 12,000 rebels laid down their guns.

The talks with the FARC-EMC are part of President Petro’s total peace strategy, which includes negotiating with various armed groups.



GUATEMALA CITY: One person died and at least two more were injured by gunshots near a pro-democracy demonstration in Guatemala on Monday, local authorities said.

Victor Gomez, spokesman for the volunteer firemen in Malacatan, near the border with Mexico, said it was not clear whether the victims were protesters themselves, or just caught nearby.

The incident marked the beginning of a third week of demonstrations against Attorney General Consuelo Porras, who protesters accuse of attempting to undermine a popular vote for progressive President-elect Bernardo Arévalo.

Videos from Malacatan circulating on social media painted a chaotic picture. Some appear to show civilians and police officers fleeing as bursts of gunfire are heard. In one recording, a vehicle and a police patrol are burning. It is not clear who fired the shots.

In response to the incident, Guatemalan President Alejandro Giammattei said authorities were “carrying out corresponding investigations” and promised more details in due course.

The National Police later announced the arrest of 11 people.



US Special Representative for North Korea who is also US Ambassador to Indonesia, Sung Y. Kim, (top center), delivers his remarks during his trilateral meeting on North Korea with South Korean Special Representative for Korean Peninsula Peace and Security Affairs Kim Gunn, (left), and Japanese Foreign Ministry’s Director General for Asian and Oceanian Affairs Hiroyuki Namazu, (right), in Jakarta, Indonesia on Oct 17. (AP)

Asia

Seoul slams North Korea

NZ’s Hipkins to stay on as Labour leader

WELLINGTON, New Zealand, Oct 17, (Agencies): Defeated New Zealand Prime Minister Chris Hipkins said Tuesday he will continue to lead his liberal Labour Party - for now, at least - despite its big election loss over the weekend.

“I’ve still got a bit of fight left in me,” Hipkins told reporters.

Hipkins made the comments after a meeting with his party’s caucus, during which there was no immediate move to oust him. Still, Hipkins acknowledged that he and others in the party would be reflecting on their futures over the coming months and figuring out what would be best for the party going forward.

“Obviously the election result was one that was very disappointing to us as a team,” Hipkins said.

Former businessman Christopher Luxon will be the nation’s next prime minister after his conservative National Party won 39% of the vote during the election, by far the largest share of any single party.

Under New Zealand’s proportional system, National plans to form a coalition with the libertarian ACT Party.

The two parties combined hold only a slim majority, which could evaporate once the remaining 20% of outstanding votes are counted. In that instance, the parties would also need the support of a third party, New Zealand First, which is led by 78-year-old maverick Winston Peters.

Luxon said he wouldn’t be revealing the “blow-by-blow” details of the negotiations between the various parties until a deal is finalized.

“We had a mandate on Saturday night. We’re going to work our way through our arrangements,” Luxon told reporters.

He said the only roles that were locked in so far were his own as prime minister, and his deputy, Nicola Willis, as finance minister.

The final vote tally will be announced in early November.

Hipkins spent just nine months as prime minister after replacing Jacinda Ardern, who unexpectedly stepped down after five years in the top job. She won the last election in a landslide, but this time the Labour Party won just 27% of the vote.

Also:

TOKYO: South Korea lambasted North Korea on Monday for its suspected arms transfer to Russia, amid persistent speculation that the two nations may have reached an arms deal during a rare summit between their leaders last month, Yonhap News Agency reported.



It is one of the largest drug seizures in waters off Puerto Rico reported this year. A record \$50 million worth of cocaine was seized in 2021 off the island’s southeast region.

The US territory is considered a transit

point for drugs heading to the US mainland and other countries. (AP)



Amazon river falls to lowest: The Negro River, the Amazon’s second largest



Venezuelan President of the National Assembly Jorge Rodríguez, (left), shakes hands with Venezuelan opposition delegate Gerardo Blyde Pérez in Mexico City, Aug 13, 2021. Venezuela’s government and opposition resume their dialogue, mediated by Norway, with talks scheduled for Oct. 17, 2023 in Barbados, Norway’s embassy in Mexico said on Oct 16, 2023 in a brief statement. (AP)

nor countries and for everybody else across the world, and attention by the international community,” he said.

More than 1 million Rohingya refugees have fled from Myanmar to Bangladesh over several decades, including about 740,000 who crossed the border starting in August 2017, when Myanmar’s military launched a brutal counter-insurgency operation following attacks by a guerrilla group.

The United States said last year that the oppression of Rohingya in Myanmar amounts to genocide, after U.S. authorities confirmed accounts of atrocities against civilians by the military in a systematic campaign against the ethnic minority. The Rohingya, who are Muslim, face widespread discrimination in Buddhist-majority Myanmar, with most denied citizenship and many other rights.

Tuesday’s meeting was attended by delegates from Bangladesh, Britain, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and the United States, as well as representatives of Rohingya-led organizations. There was no representative from Myanmar, said Babar Baloch, a U.N. spokesman.

TOKYO: Japan criticized Russia’s announcement that it’s joining China in banning the imports of Japanese seafood in response to the release of treated radioactive wastewater from the wrecked Fukushima nuclear power plant.

Russia said it will start implementing import restrictions on Japanese seafood on Monday, nearly two months after the tsunami-wrecked Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant started releasing treated and diluted radioactive wastewater into the ocean.

The wastewater discharges, which are expected to continue for decades, have been strongly opposed by fishing groups and neighboring countries including South Korea, where hundreds of people have protested. China immediately banned all imports of Japanese seafood the day the release began in August, badly hurting Japanese seafood producers and exporters.

crude oil up

Kuwait crude oil rose USD 2.25 during Monday's trading sessions to reach USD 94.20 per barrel (pb) compared with USD 91.95 pb last Friday, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said Tuesday.

Benchmark Brent futures dropped USD 1.24 to USD 89.65 pb and West Texas Intermediate lost USD 1.03 to USD 86.66 pb. (KUNA)

Nordisk named as one of the best companies to work in Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman for 2023

Novo Nordisk Gulf Cluster, an affiliate of the global healthcare company with more than 90 years of innovation and leadership in diabetes care, has been recently recognized as one of the best places to work in 2023.

The certification covered Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain and it substantiates Novo Nordisk commitment to fostering a culture that provides a first-class employee experience while delivering on the company mission to help employees outperform.

Best Places to Work is an international HR certification program providing employers in different countries the opportunity to learn more about the engagement and satisfaction of their employees and honor those who deliver an outstanding work experience with the highest standards in regards to working conditions.

In a statement from Venkat Kalyan, Vice President and General Manager of Novo Nordisk Gulf Cluster, he said "This certificate showcased our dedica-

tion to creating a workplace that values and supports our talented team members.

This achievement reflects the extraordinary commitment we have demonstrated in cultivating a positive workplace culture and nurturing a supportive community.

It also embeds our diversity and inclusion mindset. This remarkable achievement is a testament to the unwavering dedication, exceptional talent, and collaborative efforts demonstrated by each

member of Novo Nordisk."

Selim Ortega Kiziler, People and Organization Director commented "Employee engagement is our key priority, which is well aligned with our NNWay Essentials. We will keep Development and Wellbeing as essential core of our employee experience in Gulf Cluster"

The certification highlights successful companies across the gulf countries that are going above and beyond to keep their workforce engaged even in challenging periods. (AP)

Market Movements				17-10-2023			
		Change	Closing pts			Change	Closing pts
↑	PHILIPPINES	- PSEi	+82.07	6,280.90	↓	EUROPE	- Euro Stoxx 50
	JAPAN	- Nikkei	+381.26	32,040.29		DUBAI	- DFM
	SAUDI	- Tadawul	+1.03	10,731.40		PAKISTAN	- KSE 100
	EGYPT	- EGX 30	+1,041.60	22,073.95			-31.17
						-5.89	4,118.69
						-191.99	3,937.46
							49,527.88

Business

Kuwait keen on developing economic legislations to be Gulf's financial hub

Key steps and initiatives revealed

NEW YORK, Oct 17, (KUNA): State of Kuwait is keen on developing economic legislations to execute vital projects that would ultimately contribute to transforming the Arab Gulf nation to a financial hub, a diplomat has said.

"The State of Kuwait's strategy aims at encouraging and promoting contribution of private sector to development of infrastructure, therefore it placed a partnership program between public and private sectors," and established an authority for this purpose, diplomatic attache Meteb Al-Enezi told a UN committee discussing the global trade law.

He said the authority has a mandate of providing financial and technical assistance for public-



KUNA photo of the Permanent Delegation of Kuwait to the United Nations.

private-partnership (PPP), aimed at benefitting from expertise of private sector to promote com-

petitiveness and innovation.

The authority, said Al-Enezi, announced many promising projects in energy, water, waste water management, education, health, transport, telecommunications and real estate.

Legislations

The State of Kuwait, he added, sought to develop cyber-related legislations to develop trade and economic activities.

"My country seeks to implement an international financial, economic and commercial system," he said and that Kuwait was upgrading e-government services coupled with exploration of means to address cyber crimes, citing establishment of the cybersecurity agency.

Al-Enezi, meanwhile, said Kuwait supported an international cross-border law to address economic disputes around the globe.



KUNA photo of KDIPA's pavilion at the Global Investment Forum in Abu Dhabi.

KDIPA seizes an opportunity to showcase Kuwait's promising investment prospects

ABU DHABI, Oct 17, (KUNA): Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) has seized opportunity during its participation in the Global Investment Forum in Abu Dhabi to highlight promising investment opportunities in the country to achieve the desired goals of diversifying economy and backing private sec-

tor entrepreneurship in national economy.

During this event which will last until Friday, the authority plays a vital role in alluring investments to the country through offering several services and privileges, and facilitating government procedures as well as enhancing the country's image.



Sheikh Abdullah Nasser Al-Sabah, the Chairman of Burgan Bank with other delegates during the WBG and IMF Annual Meetings 2023 in Marrakech, Morocco.

Burgan Bank Chairman hosts dinner reception for Kuwait's financial decision-makers

Burgan Bank participates in WBG and IMF Annual Meetings 2023 in Marrakech

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17: Burgan Bank recently took part in the 2023 Annual Meetings of the Boards of Governors of the World Bank Group (WBG) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which was held in Marrakech, Morocco. Representing Burgan Bank among the world's most influential decision-makers in the global banking and financial markets were Sheikh Abdullah Nasser Al-Sabah, Chairman; Mr. Faisal Mansour Sarkhou, Vice Chairman; Mr. Abdullah Mohammad Al-Sharekh and Mr. Mazen Issam Hawwa, Board Members; and Mr. Abdullah Abdulmajeed Marafie, Deputy General Manager of Investments and Treasury.

On the sidelines of the meetings in Morocco, the Bank's management also participated in a reception organized by the Kuwait Banking Association (KBA), which aimed to showcase the strength of Kuwait's economy and its sound financial and banking system, in addition to highlighting the importance of the foreign assets of Kuwaiti banks in the global financial system. Apart from offering a notable platform for knowledge exchange and greater collaboration opportunities in the banking world, the event provided a unique opportunity to highlight the progress achieved by Kuwait in all areas related to the financial sector. It was attended by notable Kuwaiti government officials, senior bankers and other elite economic figures from local, regional and international banks and institutions.

Commenting on Burgan's participation in the 2023 Annual Meetings, Sheikh Abdullah Nasser Al-Sabah, Chairman of Burgan Bank, said: "We are honored to be part of such a path-defining event where global market trends are born from interdisciplinary discussions and vital solutions are reached thanks to the collective desire to build a path toward welfare for the people of the world. For decades, Burgan Bank has made it its prime objective to develop banking products and services that contribute to the community's holistic growth and enable its members to enjoy a better quality of life. That's why it is always a wonderful opportunity to take part in the Annual Meetings and share the Bank's wealth of region-focused experience and insights."

Global impact

As customary of the Annual Meetings, central bankers, ministers of finance and development, private sector executives, representatives from civil society organizations, and academics from around the world gathered over the course of the event to discuss the most pressing topics that have a global impact on financial markets as well as macroeconomics and microeconomics. Leading this year's Annual Meetings agenda were discussions on macro challenges, digitization and fintech, climate and sustainability, combating inequality, and geoeconomics.

With Burgan's comprehensive strategy centered on sustainability, digital transformation, and human capital development, and in line with the event's agenda, the Bank representatives contributed fruitfully to the global conversation by sharing some of the Bank's most notable efforts in providing the market with novel products and services that tackle arising needs and growing aspirations with finesse and creativity.

"Burgan Bank's slogan, Driven By You, is a true reflection of the institution's core philosophy, which is reflected in the Bank's commitment to identifying new challenges



Photos during the prestigious VIP dinner reception under the auspices of Burgan Bank's Chairman.

and addressing the market's ever-changing needs to ensure fulfillment and holistic development for more members of its community," added Chairman Al-Sabah. "In light of the emerging and evolving challenges facing global and domestic financial markets, convening with like-minded leaders and change-makers is of utmost importance to discuss vital issues and concerns in order to drive position action and

streamline best practices that ultimately contribute to economic development."

As a proactive corporate citizen and member of the Kuwaiti community, Burgan Bank continues to participate in all global or domestic efforts that ensure sustainability and prosperity for the Kuwaiti people and communities worldwide.

Burgan Bank recently hosted a prestigious VIP dinner reception

under the auspices of the Bank's Chairman, Sheikh Abdullah Nasser Al-Sabah, at the Assoufid Golf Club Marrakech, for all the Kuwaiti delegations taking part in this year's Annual Meetings of the Boards of Governors of the World Bank Group (WBG) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The reception sought to encourage the exchange of views, experiences, and ideas with monetary and financial policymakers from within Kuwait's banking sector. With more than 50 high-profile guests, who were present in Marrakech for the event, the evening was marked with numerous fruitful conversations that hold the key to limitless market growth within the financial industry in Kuwait.

Rare opportunity

"It was an honor to host this reception on behalf of Burgan Bank, as it allowed us to bring together key figures from within Kuwait's banking industry, in a rare opportunity to connect and engage beyond the bounds of our traditional industry events. On the heels of the IMF meetings, this was a great opportunity for us to continue building on the important conversations that had been initiated during these meetings; connecting and building bridges with potential partners to usher in positive industry change," commented Chairman Al-Sabah. "The full extent of what we can achieve as humans, financial institutions, or decision-makers cannot be measured by the value of our individual ideas, but the potential that sharing those ideas holds."

Among the distinguished and honorable guests of the dinner reception were His Excellency Mr. Fahad Abdulaziz Al-Jarallah, Kuwait's Minister of Finance, His Excellency Mr. Jassem Mohamed Al-Budaiwi, Secretary General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, His Excellency Ambassador Abdullatif Al-Yahya, Kuwait's Ambassador to Morocco, and Sheikh Ahmed Duaij Al-Sabah, Chairman of the Kuwait Banking Association (KBA), as well as all top executives and senior management representatives from all Kuwaiti banks taking part in this year's international confab. The reception was also attended by Burgan's delegation at the IMF Annual Meetings, including Mr. Faisal Mansour Sarkhou, Vice Chairman; Mr. Abdullah Mohammad Al-Sharekh and Mr. Mazen Issam Hawwa, Board Members; and Mr. Abdullah Abdulmajeed Marafie, Deputy General Manager of Investments and Treasury.

Throughout the dinner reception, which tastefully entwined traditional Kuwaiti hospitality and rich Moroccan culture, many guests were encouraged to expand on the primary topics of discussion that the Annual Meetings 2023 agenda focused on, such as macro challenges, digitization and fintech, climate and sustainability, combating inequality, and geoeconomics. It was also an excellent opportunity to encourage closer ties and connections between the key financial decision-makers and banking thought leaders in Kuwait.

It serves to note that the Burgan dinner reception was a true reflection of the Bank's active role in driving important and valuable conversations around the role of the banking and financial sector, and how its participants can grow around sustainability and environmental, social, and governance (ESG) principles, promising growth and development for the institutions and their surrounding communities.

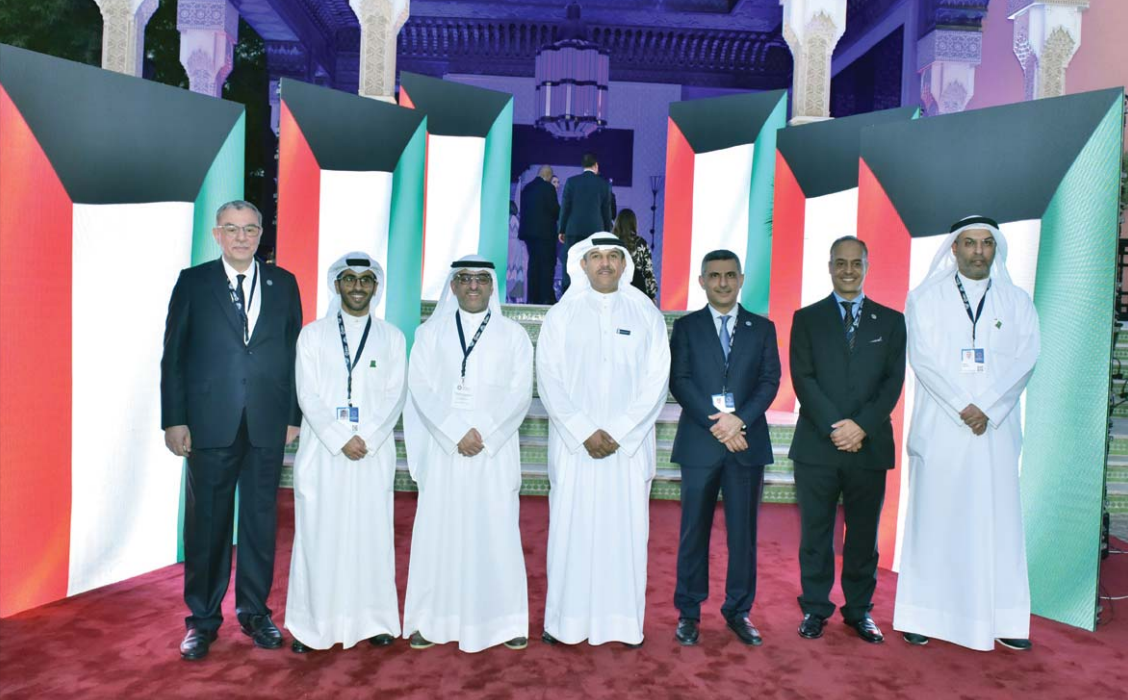
KFH concludes participation in IMF and WBG meetings in Marrakech



Abdulwahab Iesa Alrushood and KFH delegation with Minister of Finance Fahd Al-Jarallah and Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council Jassem Al-Budaiwi.



Abdulwahab Iesa Alrushood, (middle), Abdulaziz Al-Marzouq, Ofoq Oyan, Fahd Al-Saad, Ahmed Al-Sumait, Abdullah Al-Haddad, and Abdullah Al-Marzouq.



Abdulwahab Iesa Alrushood, (middle), Ahmed Al-Sumait, Fahd Al-Saad, Ofoq Oyan, Abdulaziz Al-Marzouq, Abdullah Al-Haddad, and Abdullah Al-Marzouq.



Abdulwahab Iesa Alrushood at the reception of the Union of Banks under the patronage of the Minister of Finance.



Abdulwahab Iesa Alrushood and the KFH delegation with the Minister of Finance Fahd Al-Jarallah and the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Banking Federation, Sheikh Ahmed Al-Duaij.

Bank represented by a high-level delegation headed by Alrushood

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17: Represented by a high-level delegation headed by Acting Group CEO, Abdulwahab Iesa Alrushood, Kuwait Finance House (KFH) concluded participation in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank Group (WBG) meetings held in Marrakech, Morocco. The meetings brought together regional and international banks, global credit rating agencies, leaders in banking sector, governors of central banks, ministers of finance and development as well as prominent government officials, scholars, and experts from all over the world.

KFH's delegation participated in different meetings with international officials to discuss major economic issues and updates in the financial and banking sector around the world. The delegation also held meetings with regional and global financial institutions to enhance relationships and explore further opportunities of cooperation in business, credit facilities, Interbank agreements, treasury products, activating money markets transactions, commercial financing, debt market, Sukuk issuance, in addition to credit facilities for sustainable projects (clean finance) and other business topics and agendas.

The meetings of IMF and WBG addressed matters of financial inclusion, digital transformation, sustainability, universal economic prospects and development, nature of risks and economic outlook in different markets. These subjects gave the event its importance, as most of the participants play a major role in economic decision-making and shaping the financial policy in their countries.

The roundtables and discussions during the annual IMF meetings represented a chance for KFH's delegation to showcase the role of Islamic finance services industry and its potential as a strategic alternative and a fundamental option in the global economy, discuss opportunities of joint projects and propose areas of cooperation and coordinate with Islamic banking entities.

KFH Group delegation includes: Abdulwahab Iesa Alrushood, Acting Group CEO, Ahmad Eissa Al Sumait, GM Treasury Kuwait, Abdullah Al Marzouq, Group Deputy GM Financial Institutions, Ufuk Uyan, Kuveyt Turk CEO, Abdulaziz Al Marzouq, KFH Capital CEO, Abdullah Al Haddad, Chief Investment Banking Officer KFH Capital, and Manager PR and Event Management Fahad AlSaad.

It is worth noting that KFH is keen on the active and positive participation in similar major economic conferences in order to highlight its role in leading the Islamic Finance Sector, discuss financial and business topics related to its global pioneering position, its significant geographical reach, and the high trust it enjoys of international bodies and major global banks.

- Highlighting KFH's role in Islamic finance sector and addressing matters of financial inclusion, digital transformation, sustainability.
- Meeting financial institutions to enhance relationships and explore further opportunities of cooperation.



Abdulwahab Iesa Alrushood

LinkedIn cuts more than 600 workers

LinkedIn said Monday it is laying off hundreds of employees amounting to about 3% of the social media company's workforce.

The Microsoft-owned career network is cutting about 668 roles across its engineering, product, talent and finance teams.

"Talent changes are a difficult, but necessary and regular part of managing our business," the company said in a statement.

The job cuts follow another more than 700 layoffs LinkedIn announced in May, as well as thousands more this year from parent company Microsoft, which has owned the professional-networking service since buying it for \$26 billion in 2016.

LinkedIn keeps growing and said its annual revenue surpassed \$15 billion for the first time in the fiscal year that ended

in June. The service, headquartered in Sunnyvale, California, makes money from advertisements on the platform as well as from users who pay to subscribe for premium features.

LinkedIn reports having about 19,500 employees.

Redmond, Washington-based Microsoft as of July had a global workforce of 221,000 full-time employees, with more than half of those in the U.S. (AP)

Rolls-Royce is cutting up to 2,500 jobs

Jet engine maker Rolls-Royce said Tuesday it's cutting up to 2,500 jobs globally as part of a corporate overhaul that its new CEO is carrying out.

The aerospace company was hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic that decimated demand for air travel. Tufan Erginbilgic, who took over as chief executive in January, said the layoffs are aimed at making Rolls-Royce "more streamlined and

efficient."

Rolls-Royce, based in Derby, central England, didn't disclose where jobs will be cut, but around half of its 42,000-person workforce is based in the United Kingdom.

The cuts will remove duplication and bring cost efficiencies in the latest stage of its "multi-year transformation," the company said.

"We are building a Rolls-

Royce that is fit for the future," Erginbilgic said.

The company slashed 9,000 jobs globally in 2020 as it grappled with the collapse of air travel during the pandemic.

The new turnaround plan also includes creating a new company-wide procurement division that can take advantage of Rolls-Royce's size to cut costs and reduce supply chain delays. (AP)

Talks on out-of-court settlement collapse

Facebook moderators accuse Meta of not negotiating sincerely

NAIROBI, Kenya, Oct 17, (AP): The lawyer representing 184 former Facebook content moderators based in Kenya who sued the site's parent company, Meta, over working conditions and pay told the judge Monday that Meta has not been sincere in trying to reach an out-of-court settlement as agreed in the last court session.

Lawyer Mercy Mutemi said the talks had collapsed and the former moderators want to proceed with a contempt of court case against Meta.

"The petitioners gave it their best effort. They attended every mediation. The respondents asked for information which we gave them. They kept saying they would get back to us by a certain date but only got back to us at the end of last week with a very small amount that cannot even take care of the petitioners' mental health," she told the court. She described Meta as "not genuine."

The moderators were employed via Sama, a San Francisco subcontractor that describes itself as an ethical AI company, to work in its hub in the capital, Nairobi. Their job entailed screening user content in 12 African languages and removing any uploads deemed to breach Facebook's community standards and terms of service.

Some of the petitioners have told The Associated Press that their job required them to watch horrific content for eight hours a day that overwhelmed many of them while being paid 60,000 Kenyan shillings, or \$414 a month.

They accused Sama of doing little to ensure post-traumatic professional counseling was offered. They are seeking \$1.6 billion in compensation.

Meta and Sama lawyers told the court they thought the mediation

was making good progress, with long hours involved, until the moderators' lawyer wrote to them in protest.

Justice Nduma Nderi said the failed talks were a "missed opportunity" to find a balance between the parties involved as opposed to the court issuing an order.

The parties will now appear at a hearing on Oct. 31 on the moderators' application to find Meta and Sama in contempt of court.

The lawsuit is the first known court challenge of its kind against Facebook outside the United States. In 2020, Facebook agreed to pay \$52 million to U.S. content moderators who filed a class action lawsuit after they were repeatedly exposed to beheadings, child and sexual abuse, animal cruelty, terrorism and other disturbing content.

Facebook and Sama have defended their employment practices.

Key leaders joining Belt and Road forum & their wish lists to Beijing



Participants of the Belt and Road Forum pose for a photo in Beijing, China, on Tuesday, Oct 17, 2023. (AP)

Russia aiming to redirect trade towards Asia

BEIJING, Oct 17, (AP): China is hosting its third international forum centered around President Xi Jinping's signature policy, the Belt and Road Initiative, which over the past 10 years has built infrastructure across continents, burdening some smaller countries with debt.

The forum brings a flurry of diplomacy to Beijing, including at least 20 heads of state and government, mostly hailing from developing markets in Southeast and South Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America.

Here are some key leaders visiting Beijing and an overview of their countries' involvement in the Belt and Road projects.

Russian president Vladimir Putin

Russian President Vladimir Putin landed in Beijing on Tuesday, on his first trip outside the former Soviet Union since the International Criminal Court issued a warrant for him in March over his alleged involvement in the mass abduction of children from Ukraine.

Putin's visit underscores China's economic and diplomatic support for Moscow amid the isolation brought by its war in Ukraine.

In an interview with Chinese state media ahead of his visit, Putin described BRI projects - which the U.S. has called a "debt trap" for smaller countries - as China's "desire for cooperation" in the global arena.

Russia has been aiming to redirect trade toward Asia after being shut out by the European Union over its Ukraine war. China-Russia trade soared 30% in the first half of the year and is expected to exceed \$200 billion this year, according to the Russian government.

One of Russia's priorities in terms of joint infrastructure projects with China is building the Power of Siberia-2 pipeline, which is set to traverse Mongolia and enable Moscow to sell more natural gas to China.

Sri Lankan president Ranil Wickremesinghe

Sri Lanka, along with Zambia, is one of the countries that have defaulted on their debt to China and other international lenders. The country's former president, Gotabaya Rajapaksa, stepped down in July 2022 amid protests over soaring inflation and a severe economic crisis.

Sri Lanka had accessed Chinese financing to build highways, a port, an airport and a coal power plant, raking in \$7 billion in debt.

As part of its efforts to repay Beijing, Colombo handed it over control of a strategic port, in a move often referenced by BRI critics as an example of China's "debt trap" diplomacy.

Last week, Sri Lanka reached an agreement with the Import-Export Bank of China to cover about \$4.2 billion of that debt as part of a broader restructuring plan involving deals with other international creditors including India and Japan.

Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe, who took office last year, is attending the forum as part of his first official trip to China. He is expected to hold a bilateral meeting with Xi.

Kenyan president William Ruto

One of the key BRI projects in Africa is the Mombasa-Nairobi Railway, extending for 592 kilometers (368 miles) and connecting Kenya's largest port to its capital.

Opened in 2017, China touts the project as a success story, saying it has supported Kenya's economic growth.

But work on a second section of the railway, which was meant to reach neighboring Uganda and serve other landlocked countries halted after Kampala pulled out and opted instead for a partnership with a Turkish firm. Kenya owes about \$6 billion to China, according to national data.

President William Ruto is expected to explore funding options for the remaining section of the railway during the Belt and Road summit.

Indonesian president Joko Widodo

In Southeast Asia, one of the most prominent BRI projects has been the construction of a high-speed 142-kilometer (88-mile)

railway linking Indonesia's capital, Jakarta, to the economic hub of Bandung. Indonesian President Joko Widodo inaugurated the \$7.3 billion China-funded project earlier this month.

He is expected to meet Xi and discuss a plan to extend the railway by about 700 kilometers (435 miles) to the city of Surabaya, as well as new potential investments in renewable energy projects and trade.

Hungarian prime minister Viktor Orban

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban is the only E.U. head of state or government to attend the Belt and Road forum.

Hungarian media reports last month suggested a Chinese-backed railway project connecting Budapest with Belgrade has hit snags and China would halt funding.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi earlier this month told his Hungarian counterpart the project would continue as planned.

Orban's participation as the sole E.U. leader at the event comes in contrast with the 2019 edition of the forum when then-Italian Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni attended right as Italy had formally joined the initiative.

Italy this year signaled its intention to drop out of the scheme as major China-backed infrastructure projects haven't materialized, while Italy's trade deficit with China has more than doubled, to 48 billion euros (around \$50 billion), since 2019.

Argentina's president Alberto Fernandez

Argentina's President Alberto Fernandez also arrived in Beijing on Tuesday. Argentina is one of the countries that joined the BRI relatively recently, in 2022, seeking Chinese investment in areas such as railways, nuclear energy, solar and hydropower, agriculture and digital infrastructure. Argentina has asked China to fully finance a new \$8.3 billion nuclear power plant.

China's focus in Latin America lies in green technology and the extraction of minerals, according to experts.

Chinese companies are involved in dozens of lithium extraction projects in Argentina and Chile, according to research by Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales in Buenos Aires.

Vehicle data can become a turbo for the European digital economy

MUNICH, Oct 17, (Business Wire): A new EU law aims to make data from connected vehicles usable - for the benefit of vehicle owners, to improve road safety and to enable sustainable digital innovation.

The EU Data Act was the main topic at the 11th Allianz Motor Day on October 17, 2023. Experts discussed the new regulation at the Allianz Center for Technology (AZT) in Ismaning.

Allianz's assessment was clear: "We welcome the EU Data Act," said Klaus-Peter Röhler, Member of the Board of Management of Allianz SE. "The new law stands for innovation and competition - it is a European initiative to strengthen the European digital economy. The new EU regulation follows a convincing principle: 'My device, my data' - we support this idea." Users of a connected car, according to the new legislation, will in future be able to demand from the manufacturer that the data collected in the vehicle be transferred to third parties. For "easily accessible data," the EU Data Act even requires the data to be made available in real time.

This, Röhler said, could lead to real innovations: "We want to convince our customers in car insurance, through attractive offers, to share their data with us. The EU Data Act would also give other companies and start-ups the chance to become inventive. Using millions of live camera and position data from vehicles could solve the parking-space problem in inner cities. This would not only be a win for drivers, it would also save significant amounts of energy, help climate protection and improve air quality. If vehicle data is used wisely, it has the potential to make our transportation system safer, cleaner and smarter overall."

With detailed data from the vehicle, completely new insurance offers can be provided and new services made available in the future. "In case of an accident, it would be possible to automatically record the extent of the damage in real time by evaluating position data and data from crash sensors. Allianz could immediately inform a towing service, reserve a rental car, order suitable spare parts and make a workshop appointment for our customer. In the case of serious accidents, medical assistance could be provided," Röhler said.

"In the past, the customer had to inform us. In the future, we'd contact our customers proactively, providing relief when customers need us most."

Röhler also pointed out that by using car data, Allianz can offer the fairest possible price to every customer. "We can calculate insurance offers that are significantly more risk-adjusted, taking into account both the driving style and whether the vehicle is equipped with safety systems and whether those are switched on or off. At the same time, the sensor and camera data can be used for the proper, correct and fair investigation of an accident and for liability clarification," Röhler said.

Data sent directly from the vehicle will take on special significance when

autonomous and AI-supported systems control the vehicle in the future. "Those affected - as well as society - have a right to know whether the human or the machine caused the accident," Röhler said.

A recent Allianz survey conducted in five European countries shows that a majority of car drivers are willing to share their car data with their insurer if they receive comprehensive service support in return: in Germany it's 53 percent, in Great Britain even 61 percent. "This is a very important message for us, which we can be proud of: our customers know that they can trust us, because we will handle their data with care and in their own best interest," Röhler said, commenting on the survey results.

Discussions at the 11th Allianz Motor Day also revolved around the question of how third parties can access in-car data in practice. The EU Data Act stipulates that "easily accessible data" must be transmitted in real time - but what data is that? And what price may the car manufacturer charge for transmitting the data to third parties? "Real competition can only emerge if vehicle manufacturers demand fair prices. Otherwise, third parties have no chance to innovate," Röhler said.

But what should an individual customer do with the data of their vehicle? And above all, how should they access the data and pass it on? This can only work if there is a very simple way for the individual to transfer the data in practice. "The EU Data Protection Act only creates the legal basis for the transfer of data from the vehicle to third parties. However, the legal framework is still missing that specifies in which technical way the data from the vehicle can be made usable for all market participants," Röhler said. "Legislators must find a practicable solution for this as quickly as possible, otherwise the treasure trove of data cannot be mined for the benefit of customers and of all participants."

1. Vehicle owners must be given full transparency about the data collected in their vehicle. Every car owner must be given a precise overview so that they know what data is being collected in their vehicle. In addition, it must be possible to see which of these data points can be transmitted to third parties in real time.

2. In order for car owners to be able to make good use of the newly acquired sovereignty over their vehicle data, a standardized minimum data set is needed to enable new services regardless of the car manufacturer and to allow data to be shared quickly and easily in real time via defined interfaces if the owner so desires.

3. Allianz calls for a regulated marketplace and an independent data trustee who ensures the secure exchange of vehicle data. This independent institution must ensure that authorized parties can access data.

4. So that drivers can benefit from the many conceivable innovations, we need fair prices for data transmission to third parties. The costs must be calculable to enable broad competition.

JSE collaborates with Xpansiv to launch voluntary carbon market

JOHANNESBURG/NEW YORK/LONDON/SYDNEY, Oct 17, (Business Wire): The Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) is proud to launch a new carbon market in collaboration with Xpansiv, the premier infrastructure provider for global environmental markets under a separate legal entity called JSE Ventures. This groundbreaking sustainability initiative will allow local participants to buy or sell carbon credits and renewable energy certificates that are held in either local or global registries.

Customers will be able to advance their sustainability goals as they will have full access to the functionality of the global Xpansiv platform for spot trading, auctions, or requests for quotes for both carbon offsets and renewable energy certificates.

According to the Atlantic Council, voluntary carbon markets increased four times from 2020 to 2022 surpassing two billion dollars in value - and African credits have seen an average growth of 36% on average over the

last five years.

"There is a heightened global focus on carbon markets and we saw this as an opportunity to bring an innovative solution to our market participants while positioning South Africa as a significant contributor to decarbonisation," says Leila Fourie, JSE Group CEO.

"An exciting aspect of operating the global environmental markets infrastructure is partnering with leaders like the JSE to enable new marketplaces to scale the energy transition and efficiently support climate finance," said John Melby, CEO, Xpansiv. "We look forward to working with the exceptional JSE team to promptly deliver a world-class carbon and renewable energy marketplace in Africa and to enabling new regional products and initiatives to thrive as the continent steps up its global climate ambition."

Formed in 2016, Xpansiv is a premier provider of environmental market technology including registry infrastructure, market data, and portfolio management platforms.

Grisham brings back ‘The Firm’ star McDeere in ‘The Exchange’

NEW YORK, Oct 17, (AP): Thirty-two years after “The Firm” launched his career as a legal novelist who churns out bestselling books that almost invariably become movies, John Grisham returns with a sequel starring Mitch McDeere.

In “The Exchange,” it’s 2000 and McDeere is now a high-powered partner at the world’s largest law firm, Scully & Pershing, having “established a reputation as a sort of legal SWAT team leader sent in by Scully to rescue clients in distress.” He lives a very privileged life in Manhattan with his wife and two young boys.

Grisham fans will love the first 37 pages, as McDeere travels back to Memphis for the first time since the events in “The Firm” and meets with an old friend. It’s an excuse for Grisham to fill in the 15-year time gap since Mitch and his wife Abby fled Memphis on the run from the Chicago mob, who was hunting him for his role exposing crimes at Bendini, Lambert & Locke, but it’s inconsequential to the new story Grisham has to tell.

That narrative kicks off when Mitch is called to Rome to take the lead on a case involving a Turkish company that built a \$400 million bridge to nowhere in the Libyan desert that Colonel Gaddafi (yes, it’s the year 2000 and the Libyan dictator is still alive) is now refusing to pay for. When Mitch assigns a London-based Scully associate to go on a fact-finding mission to the bridge, she is taken hostage and this legal thriller pretty much drops the adjective and just becomes a thriller.

Mitch’s job is not to legally outsmart his colleague’s captors, but to try and make sure she’s not beheaded by terrorists by working every angle to come up with their ransom. The action skips from New York to Rome to London to Tripoli to Istanbul and it’s very easy to imagine the establishing aerial shots in the movie version as the plot crosses continents.

Characters

Grisham fans will devour it; but there were times when this reader wished the action would slow down a little so we could spend some time with the characters. Mitch is always on the move - in a car, on a plane, in a boardroom - conversations are clipped, and the plot pace is furious.

Grisham certainly reflects the urgency of Mitch’s mission in his writing, but some of the best parts of the book are when the story gets a chance to breathe a little, as in this scene on a boat off the coast of Maine:

“Tanner inched the throttle up a notch and the wake grew wider. They were nearing a cove with the Atlantic not far away. The water was deep blue and flat, but an occasional wave sent mist over the boat and refreshed everyone. With his left hand, Mitch reached over and took hers.”

It’s not much, but in this frenetic novel, it’s a moment that conveys the love between Mitch and Abby without words and maybe, just maybe,

the promise of an extended future where they aren’t always on the run.

Also:

TIRANA, Albania: Albanian novelist **Ismail Kadare** was awarded the Grand Officer of the Legion of Honor title by French President **Emmanuel Macron** on Monday.

Macron arrived in Tirana after a summit of European Union leaders with Western Balkan countries earlier in the day. He didn’t attend the talks because of the attack in which a teacher was fatally stabbed and three other people were wounded at a school in northern **France**.

In a long speech describing Kadare’s different novels throughout his writing career and how he had resisted Albania’s communist government, Macron awarded the title “for his works, his courage to rise up against a dictatorial system ... and a defender of freedom, a great writer of humanity.”

Kadare, 87, has long been mentioned as a possible contender for the Nobel Literature Prize. He has been well-known internationally since his “The General of the Dead Army” novel was published in 1963 when Albania was governed by the communist government of late dictator **Enver Hoxha**.

Before Albania installed political pluralism after a students’ protest in December 1990, Kadare flew to France asking for political asylum. He lived in **Paris** and recently returned to Tirana.

Variety



This image released by Focus Features shows Dominic Sessa, (left), and Paul Giamatti in a scene from ‘The Holdovers.’ (AP)

Film

‘The Holdovers,’ a timeless tale of students and teachers

Payne recreates classic cinema

NEW YORK, Oct 17, (AP): The great films of the 1970s have long loomed in the imagination of filmmakers raised during one of the most fertile periods of American movies. But Alexander Payne wanted to take it a step further.

Payne’s latest film, “The Holdovers,” isn’t just set in 1970, it seeks to imbibe the humanistic spirit of films like “The Last Detail,”

“Harold and Maude,” “The Landlord” and “Paper Moon” - all movies he screened for his cast and crew. “We were very fully making a ’70s movie,” Payne says, recently speaking by phone from his desk in Omaha, Nebraska.

Payne, 62, shot “The Holdovers,” set at a New England boarding school, largely with filmmaking equipment and camera lenses from that period. He mixed it in mono. “We were trying to play the exercise of: We are in 1970 making this movie,” he says.

“The Holdovers,” which Focus Features will release Oct. 27 and expand on Nov. 10, is Payne’s first film in six years and it’s one of his best. Payne, the filmmaker of “Election,”

“Sideways” and “The Descendants,” has long made “the kind of films they don’t make anymore”: smart, funny, melancholic dramas for adults. And yet he’s kept making them. After decades of making contemporary films that in some way evoke a ’70s sensibility of cinema, he’s finally made the genuine article.

“I was just trying to replicate the experience of the movies I love as much as possible,” says Payne. “I don’t think it makes the movie quaint. I hope it lends it the warmth of nostalgia, the warmth of a lost time, maybe even some traces of memory.”

“The Holdovers” reunites Payne with Paul Giamatti nearly two decades after the actor’s memorable, merlot-loathing breakthrough performance in “Sideways.” This time, Giamatti plays a curmudgeonly Barton Academy classics teacher named Paul Hunham tasked to stay at school with a handful of kids without family plans over the Christmas break.

The set-up could be broad: a gang of outcasts and troublemakers sneaking joints while the widely loathed

Hunham chases them down the halls. And while there is some of that, Payne pares the group down to Hunham, Angus (Dominic Sessa), a bright student who’s one mishap away from being sent to a lesser school (and thus likely to Vietnam) and Mary (Da’Vine Joy Randolph), a grieving school cook whose son has recently died in the war.

Something remarkably tender and stirring follows. Digging into each character’s life, “The Holdovers” ruminates on privilege in class and race, while steadily building an anti-authoritarian streak for the much-espoused supposedly high-minded ideals of Barton.

If Giamatti’s “Sideways” character - a lonely unpublished writer with a manuscript no one wants to read - was in need of a road trip to jostle him out of a rut, his Hunham is likewise due for some self-reflection and maybe a little encouragement.

Reunion

For Payne, it was a long-overdue reunion.

“I wanted to work with that guy again for 20 years,” he says. “I was waiting for the right thing - and created it. I told (screenwriter) David Hemingson: ‘We’re writing for Paul Giamatti. That’s who we’re writing for.’”

“He’s just the best actor,” adds Payne. “He’s the finest actor. Not casting aspersions on others, I just think there’s nothing he cannot do.”

When Payne screened “The Holdovers” for buyers at last year’s Toronto International Film Festival, it prompted heated interest. Focus snapped it up for \$30 million - far more than is typical - a sign of the indie distributor’s belief in the movie as a crowd-pleaser and an awards contender. The three lead actors are likely to be in the Oscar mix.

But while Giamatti and Randolph are well-known performers, Cessa is appearing in his first film. After sifting through some 800 submissions, Payne felt like he still hadn’t found someone to play Angus. He and the casting director decided to call up the schools they were going to be shooting in to see if their drama departments had anyone to recommend.

“One of the schools we were going to be shooting was Deerfield Academy in Western Massachusetts. We called up the drama teacher who said, ‘Oh, yes, we have quite a few who would be happy to try out for your little movie.’ And Dominic was one of them.”

Cessa was a senior when he shot “The Holdovers.” He hadn’t acted in front of a camera before, though you’d be hard-pressed to tell by the naturalness of his presence on screen.

“What you see is some people are born with it. You see all these people in New York taking classes on film acting. This guy can just do it,” Payne says. “I learned a long time ago that the best actors are also the best technically. From day one, man, this guy could hit his marks and do his dialogue backward and forward. He’s built to do it. And then you see him go toe-for-toe with Paul Giamatti, give him a run for his money.”

Payne’s last film was his biggest budget gambit: “Downsizing,” a sci-fi satire of an overpopulated Earth in which people can be made miniature. After “Downsizing” struggled at the box office and found mixed reviews, Payne dabbled in a number of projects (he had been attached to direct, among others, “The Menu” and “Landscapers”), but “The Holdovers” is the one that stuck.

It started for him years earlier after seeing a similarly plotted 1930s French film by Marcel Pagnol called “Merlusse.” Payne, who had written all of his films except “Nebraska,” didn’t feel he had the right personal experience. (He attended an all-boys Jesuit day school in Omaha, Nebraska.) Instead he turned to Hemingson and “beveled the edges” of the witty and soulful script he turned in.

But as long-term and ’70s-oriented as making “The Holdovers” was, it struck Payne as a contemporary story, too. “Trump years and Nixon years,” he says.

“Gravity led me and my collaborators to 1970 for some reason. I can’t necessarily articulate it,” Payne says. “It’s obviously not a message film or any crap like that. As Marx would say, all films are political films.”

Space Museum in Washington, D.C. A small preliminary model, which is about 5 inches (12 centimeters) long, brought in \$55,000 at the auction. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: DreamWorks Animation’s “Ruby Gillman, Teenage Kraken” is about a



15-year-old with a secret. Ruby (voiced by **Lana Condor**) and her family are sea creatures who are passing as humans on land. Ruby is, in fact, not just an aquatic mammal, but one of the mightiest of all, a Kraken. Director **Kirk DeMico**’s film, which begins streaming Friday on Peacock following a theatrical run this sum-

mer, is a coming-of-age tale with monsters, mermaids and overprotective moms (**Toni Collette**). In his review, AP’s **Mark Kennedy** praised it as “a tale of generational sisterhood with the message to not hide your difference.”

Meanwhile, **Nida Manzoor**’s “Polite Society,” is a coming-of-age tale, too, but a much different

beast. In the directorial debut of the “We Are Lady Parts” creator, **Priya Kansara** and **Ritu Arya** play British-Pakistani sisters with divergent dreams. Ria (Kansara) pines to be a stuntwoman. Lena (Arya) has fading artistic hopes that are fast being consumed by an arranged marriage to (**Akshay Khanna**). (AP)

People & Places

Food

Debuts cookbook

Natasha riding high with simple dishes

NEW YORK, Oct 17, (AP): It started with a simple salad. **Natasha Kravchuk** began building a cooking mini-empire by combining cucumber, tomato and avocado. When a TV anchor shared the recipe on Facebook in 2015, the dish went viral.

"I think that was the recipe that kind of gave us the first lift," says Kravchuk, whose online hub Natasha's Kitchen has grown to some 13 million followers across social media. "I think that's trademark for what you can find on Natasha's Kitchen."

Kravchuk's philosophy is indeed mixed into that salad - flavorful food that doesn't take a long time, uses regular ingredients and doesn't hurt the pocket-book.



Kravchuk

"It's turning humble and just simple ingredients into something really delicious," she says. "That just has always carried through with me. I don't think you need saffron to make something taste incredible, you know?"

This fall, Kravchuk has put her expertise into her debut cookbook, "Natasha's Kitchen: 100+ Easy Family-Favorite Recipes You'll Make Again and Again," which includes dishes such as Salmon Piccata and Turkey Meatball Soup, and Crispy Bacon Jalapeno Poppers.

"It's approachable. You can look at the list of ingredients and be like, 'OK, I have most of those things already.' The steps are simple and they are recipes that work," she says.

The book is classic, chicken-soup cooking - and, indeed, there's a recipe for that on page 115. There's even a dish - Zuppa Toscana - inspired by an Olive Garden offering. "I make it better," she says, laughing.

There are American classics like baked mac and cheese and blueberry muffins, and gentle nods to Mexico, Italy, France and Asia. There's a heavy lean on traditional Ukrainian recipes passed down from Kravchuk's mother, like classic borscht and pierogies.

"We cook a little bit of everything now, but I think people trust our taste in food and they can relate to the values that we have," she says.

Persecution

Ukrainian-born Kravchuk and her family fled religious persecution in the 1980s and eventually found their way to Meridian, Idaho. At one point, they relied on food banks, a fact not lost on her these days. "I was telling my husband, 'God has a sense of humor to give this refugee a cookbook,'" she says.

She didn't start cooking until later in life and started blogging in 2009. "When I got married, I wanted to recreate the same foods we grew up loving and enjoy. So I started learning how to cook. I started going to the library, getting stacks of books, asking my mom, my mother-in-law for recipes and friends."

Susan Roxborough, Kravchuk's editor at Clarkson Potter, loved Kravchuk's personal story and her book proposal - especially the teriyaki salmon, with brown sugar, hoisin, soy sauce, garlic and ginger. She found the author down-to-earth and relatable.

"It was easy to imagine her as your next-door neighbor or maybe a fellow parent at a bake sale at your kid's school," Roxborough says.

Roxborough and her daughter made Kravchuk's pierogi together - a fun time bonding, as well as delicious - and says she's become obsessed with the recipe for Tres Leches Cupcakes. "It's dangerously good," she says.

The cookbook, which last week debuted at No. 2 on The New York Times' Advice, How-To & Miscellaneous list, contains a dozen or so reader favorites, but most of the recipes are new, split into breakfast, snacks, salads, soups, mains, sides and desserts. A battalion of over 300 testers have kicked the tires on each dish.

The book includes Kravchuk's mother's Ukrainian pancakes, which call for yeasted batter. She says they puff up like donuts when they hit the hot oil, and have a subtle sourdough-like flavor.

Another favorite is a chicken pot pie, which Kravchuk says is a top 10 favorite on her site. "It's such a comforting meal. There is just no comparison to store-bought," she adds. "It really isn't complicated. I think people realize that the first time they make it, that it's just such a comforting thing to make. And it reheats well, too."

Kravchuk spotted two items to put together during warm weather - beef bacon and corn - and came up with a dish that will cause every parent to slap their forehead because they didn't already do it by now. One of her nieces named it "Ba-Corn" and that simply can't be improved upon.

Kravchuk didn't follow the food world's traditional route for a rising chef.

Natasha Kravchuk's mom (or Baba, as her kids call her) "Baba's Fluffy Oladi Pancakes".

Serves: 6-8

1 cup water, warmed to 115°F; 1 cup buttermilk; 1 large egg, room temperature; 2 tbs extra-light olive oil or vegetable oil, plus more for the pan; 2 tbs sugar; 1½ tps instant yeast; 1¼ tps fine sea salt and 2¼ cups all-purpose flour

For Serving: Honey or jam of your choice and sour cream

1. In a large bowl, whisk together the water, buttermilk, egg, oil, sugar, yeast and salt. Add the flour, 1 cup at a time, whisking to incorporate each addition before adding more. Continue whisking until the batter is smooth with a thin, cake-batter consistency.

2. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap and let the batter rise at room temperature for 1½ to 2 hours, or in a warm place (about 100°F) for 1 hour. The mixture should become very bubbly and almost double in size.

3. In a large nonstick or cast-iron skillet over medium heat, add enough oil to coat the bottom of the pan. Working in batches, add heaping tablespoons of the batter to the hot skillet, spacing them just far enough apart that they aren't touching and can still be flipped easily. Cook the pancakes for about 1½ minutes per side, until golden brown, adding more oil as needed after flipping. Feel free to reduce the heat if you find they're browning too quickly. Continue with the remaining batter, keeping the skillet well-oiled between batches to ensure crisp, tasty, and beautifully golden edges on the pancakes.

4. Transfer the pancakes to a platter and serve warm with honey, raspberry sauce and sour cream.

This recipe yields a big batch, but you could halve the ingredients for a smaller number of servings. These also reheat very well, so you could make the entire batch and reheat them in the toaster.



This image released by Apple TV+ shows Robert De Niro, (left), and Leonardo DiCaprio in a scene from 'Killers of the Flower Moon.' (AP)

The Conversation

Scorsese's film explores Native American land theft

'Killers' illuminates dark history of US

By Torivio Fodder

University of Arizona

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



Director Martin Scorsese's new movie, "Killers of the Flower Moon," tells the true story of a string of murders on the Osage Nation's land in Oklahoma in the 1920s. Based on David Grann's meticulously researched 2017 book, the movie delves into racial and family dynamics that rocked Oklahoma to the core when oil was discovered on Osage lands.

White settlers targeted members of the Osage Nation to steal their land and the riches beneath it. But from a historical perspective, this crime is just the tip of the iceberg.

From the early 1800s through the 1930s, official US policy displaced thousands of Native Americans from their ancestral homes through the policy known as Indian removal. And throughout the 20th century, the federal government collected billions of dollars from sales or leases of natural resources like timber, oil and gas on Indian lands, which it was supposed to disburse to the land's owners. But it failed to account for these trust funds for decades, let alone pay Indians what they were due.

I am the manager of the University of Arizona's Indigenous Governance Program and a law professor. My ancestry is Comanche, Kiowa and Cherokee on my father's side and Taos Pueblo on my mother's side. From my perspective, "Killers of the Flower Moon" is just one chapter in a much larger story: The US was built on stolen lands and wealth.

In the standard telling, the American West was populated by industrious settlers who eked out livings from the ground, formed cities and, in time, created states. In fact, hundreds of Native nations already lived on those lands, each with their own unique forms of government, culture and language.

In the early 1800s, eastern cities were growing and dense urban centers were becoming unwieldy. Indian lands in the west were an alluring target - but westward expansion ran up against what would become known as "the Indian problem." This widely used phrase reflected a belief that the US had a God-given mandate to settle North America, and Indians stood in the way.

Starting in the 1830s, Congress pressured Indian tribes in the east to sign treaties that required the tribes to move to reservations in the west. This took place over the objections of public figures such as Tennessee frontiersman and congressman Davy Crockett, humanitarian organizations and, of course, the tribes themselves.

Forced removal touched every tribe east of the Mississippi River and several tribes to the west of it. In total, about 100,000 American Indians were removed from their eastern homelands to western reservations.

Reservation

But the most pernicious land grab was yet to come.

Even after Indians were corralled on reservations, settlers pushed for more access to western lands. In 1871, Congress formally ended the policy of treaty-making with Indians. Then, in 1887, it passed the General Allotment Act, also known as the Dawes Act. With this law, US policy toward Indians shifted from separation to assimilation - forcibly integrating Indians into the national population.

This required transitioning tribal structures of communal land ownership under a reservation system to a private property model that broke up reservations altogether. The General Allotment Act was designed to divvy up reservation lands into allotments for individual Indians and open any unallotted lands, which were deemed surplus, to non-Indian settlement. Lands could be allotted only to male heads of households.

Under the original statute, the US

government held Indian allotments, which measured roughly 160 acres per person, in trust for 25 years before each Indian allottee could receive clear title. During this period, Indian allottees were expected to embrace agriculture, convert to Christianity and assume U.S. citizenship.

In 1906, Congress amended the law to allow the secretary of the interior to issue land titles whenever an Indian allottee was deemed capable of managing his affairs. Once this happened, the allotment was subject to taxation and could immediately be sold.

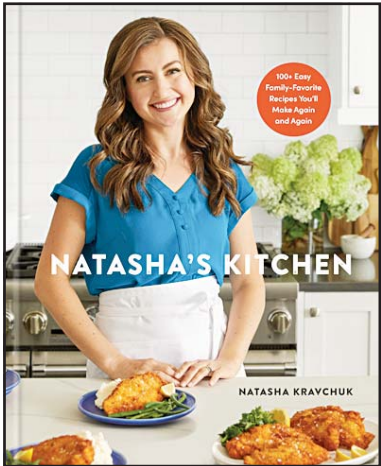
Indian allottees often had little concept of farming and even less ability to manage their newly acquired lands.

Even after being confined to western reservations, many tribes had maintained their traditional governance structures and tried to preserve their cultural and religious practices, including communal ownership of property. When the U.S. government imposed a foreign system of ownership and management on them, many Indian landowners simply sold their lands to non-Indian buyers, or found themselves subject to taxes that they were unable to pay.

In total, allotment removed 90 million acres of land from Indian control before the policy ended in the mid-1930s. This led to the destruction of Indian culture; loss of language as the federal government implemented its boarding school policy; and imposition of a myriad of regulations, as shown in "Killers of the Flower Moon," that affected inheritance, ownership and title disputes when an allottee passed away.

Today, about 56 million acres remain under Indian control. The federal government owns title to the lands, but holds them in trust for Indian tribes and individuals.

These lands contain many valuable resources, including oil, gas, timber and minerals. But rather than acting as a steward of Indian interests in these resources, the US government has repeatedly failed in its trust obligations. (AP)



This cover image released by Clarkson Potter shows 'Natasha's Kitchen: 100+ Easy Family-Favorite Recipes You'll Make Again and Again: A Cookbook' by Natasha Kravchuk. (AP)



Currie



Heinert

Variety

FORT MILL, S.C.: Ed Currie, the South Carolina hot pepper expert who cross-bred and grew the Carolina Reaper that's hotter than most pepper sprays police use to subdue unruly criminals, has broken his own world record with a pepper that's three times hotter.

Pepper X was publicly named the hottest pepper in the world on Oct. 9 by the Guinness Book of World Records, beating out the Reaper in Currie's decade-long hunt to perfect a pepper that he says provides "immediate, brutal heat."

Currie said when he first tried Pepper X, it did more than warm his heart.

"I was feeling the heat for three-and-a-half hours. Then the cramps came," said Currie, one of only five people so far to eat a entire Pepper X. "Those cramps are horrible. I was laid out flat on a marble wall for approximately an hour in the rain, groaning in pain."

Heat in peppers is measured in Scoville Heat Units. Zero is bland, and a regular jalapeno pepper registers about 5,000 units. A habanero, the record-holder about 25 years ago, typically tops 100,000. The Guinness Book of World Records lists the Carolina Reaper at 1.64 million units.

Pepper X's record is an average of 2.69 million units. By comparison, pepper spray commonly holstered by police is around 1.6 million units. Bear spray advertises at 2.2 million units.

Pepper X has been in the works since Currie last set the hottest pepper record in 2013 with the Carolina Reaper, a bright red knobby fruit with what aficionados call a scorpion tail. The goal was to offer an extremely hot pepper flavored with sweetness.

Pepper X is greenish-yellow, doesn't have the same shelf appeal and carries an earthy flavor once its heat is delivered. It's a crossbreed of a Carolina Reaper and what Currie mysteriously classifies as a "pepper that a friend of mine sent me from Michigan that was brutally hot."

The chemical in peppers that causes the burn is called capsaicin and not dangerous unless pounds of it are consumed. Even so, the minds of humans and other mammals perceive capsaicin as a threat and send a strong burning signal to the body. Because birds don't have the same reaction, they are able spread pepper seeds while sparing the plant.

The burning sensation spurred in humans also releases endorphins and dopamine into the body. Currie, who went all in to growing peppers after kicking drug and alcohol addictions, considers that kick a natural high. He shares his peppers with medical

researchers, hoping they can use them to cure disease and help people who suffer chronic pain or discomfort. For Currie, having the hottest pepper in

the world has been a two-decade obsession. It took 10 years to get Pepper X from the first crossbreed experiment to the record, including five years of testing to prove it

was a different plant with a different fruit and documenting its average heat over different plants and generations. (AP)



LOS ANGELES: National park officials are planning to gather and reduce the bison herd in Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota, rehoming the animals to a number of Native American tribes.

The "bison capture" has started and will continue through the week in the park's South Unit near Medora. The operation will be closed to the public for safety reasons.

The park plans to reduce its roughly 700 bison to 400. The park will remove bison of differing ages.

Bison removed from the park will be rehomed and come under tribal management, InterTribal Buffalo Council Executive Director Troy Heinert told The Associated Press.

The bison will provide genetic diversity and increase numbers of existing tribal herds, he said. The Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation and the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe will receive bison; more bison could go to other tribes, depending on demographics, said Heinert, who is Sicangu Lakota.

A helicopter will herd bison into a holding area, with a survey of the landscape and a population count before the gathering of the bison. (AP)



Martin Scorsese, director and co-writer of 'Killers of the Flower Moon,' poses at the Los Angeles premiere of the film, Monday, Oct. 16, at the Dolby Theater. (AP)

Keep special needs children away from electronic devices: Dr Abeer Awadh

Horseback riding ... healing experience for autistic people

KUWAIT, Oct 17, (KUNA): At several Kuwaiti horse stables, parents take their kids of special needs or diagnosed with autism to ride horses aiming to improve their condition, working with doctors and specialists to benefit from their successful experiences at treating those kids, and seek information from medical institutes on the positive effect of horseback riding.

Consultant Developmental Pediatrician Dr. Abeer Awadh said that any movement skill can have a good effect on autistic kids, whether it's horseback riding, swimming or any other sport, noting that it's important to keep them away from electric devices as much as possible.

She noted that its possible to heal autism if it was tackled in its early stages through using different treatment methods including horseback riding, as well as cooperation between parents, doctors and trainers.

On her part, owner of Al-Muzaini Equestrian Maai Al-Muzaini said to KUNA that three years ago, she established Al-Muzaini Equestrian in Abu AlHassany area to help treat her son and as she saw his condition improve, she opened the stable offering services for low fees for the sake of kids with special needs and autism to help them get treated as well.

Al-Muzaini explained that the horse's walk impacts blood circulation of kids with autism which in turn helps increase their concentration, in addition to the horse's body warmth that helps in calming them down.

Training

Through successful experiences, it is shown that autistic kids do not necessarily have to enroll in specific training courses because horseback riding is enough to start their healing process, Al-Muzaini added, noting that it can also help hyperactive kids.

Al-Muzaini also started a monthly seminar called "you're not alone" to exchange expertise between mothers and benefit from successful experiences, in addition to organizing a periodic session to communicate with horses, aimed

at enhancing the kid's linguistic skills.

On her part, Specialist Samar Al-Kandari said to KUNA that during her experience treating kids with special needs or autism at Kuwait Riding Center (KRC Stars), she noticed that most cases of autism improved, as well as their psychological health and social skills, stressing the need to enroll them in training sessions at an early age for better results.

Dr. Dalal Al-Mansouri, who also works as a trainer at KRC Stars, said that autistic kids don't have a sense of danger, so they let the kids sit on the horse without a saddle to help simulate a sense of caution and be more stable on the horse.

Balance

In a statement to KUNA, Reem Al-Sabbagh, a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA), noted the importance of horseback riding in enhancing social skills and emotional understanding, considering it encourages empathy and understanding the non-verbal communication through interacting with horses, adding that this method can help alleviate stress, enhance calmness, movement skills and balance.

On his part, horseback riding coach for kids with special needs and autism Ahmad Al-Omran said to KUNA that he uses Hippotherapy, a technique he learned in Germany, to help improve the kid's back, hip and leg muscles which essentially helps them balance and leads to feeling more confident.

Al-Omran recommended using old European horses because they are calmer than Arabian ones which can be unstable if they are not specifically trained for this field.

He called upon the concerned authorities to establish a center specialized in Hippotherapy to all those with special needs and autism, to make equestrianism free or with a minimal price and open more equestrianism centers in Kuwait.

Al-Omran noted his keenness on raising awareness about equestrianism and its therapeutic effect via his podcast where he interviews trainers, players and specialists in nutrition



KUNA photo
A person with special needs or diagnosed with autism is riding a horse.

Recognized for exceptional coverage and advancements in 5G

stc wins Best 5G Indoor User Experience at SAMENA Council's LEAD Awards 2023

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17: Kuwait Telecommunications Company – stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, announced its prestigious win of the 'Best 5G Indoor User Experience' award at the SAME-NA Council's Leadership & Excellence (LEAD) Awards 2023 in Dubai, UAE. The award reflects stc's unwavering commitment to delivering cutting-edge 5G solutions with exceptional indoor coverage to its customers.

stc received the award after submitting all the supporting documents requested by SAMENA Council's LEAD Awards during the nomination period. Following a rigorous review of the various initiatives launched by stc to enhance indoor 5G coverage, the Company emerged as a winner of the award. Nasser Al Hamlan – General Manager of Network Planning & Design at stc attended the ceremony in Dubai and accepted the award on behalf of stc.

Offerings

The recognition also reflects the wide range of innovative offerings introduced by stc, including new-to-market solutions that leverage the Company's strong and widespread 5G network. Through its strategic vision of enabling digital transformation in Kuwait, stc focused throughout the past several years on investing in developing and enhancing its 5G infrastructure, providing individual customers and corporates with the highest quality solutions through its reliable high-speed connectivity.

As the first operator to deploy nationwide 5G coverage at the C-band in 2019, stc leveraged its expertise in its stride to offer the most advanced technical solutions to strengthen its 5G offerings. The Company focused on enhancing the user experience and 5G coverage by delivering Sub-3GHz 2.1GHz 5G NR with national wide implementation since mid-2020. Additionally, the Company successfully accomplished the widest scale of 5G deployment coverage on Sub-3GHz 2.1GHz leading other mobile service providers in the MENA region in 2021. Sub-3GHz 2.1GHz 5G NR added 4G/5G collaborations, 5G Carrier Aggregation and precise indoor/outdoor inter-operability to stc's 5G network. The development extended the 5G mobile experience to wider areas and enclosed indoor environments while expanding NR uplink connection capacity, thereby accelerating smart services that enable digital transformation



Mr. Nasser Al-Hamlan, Director General of Network Planning and Design at stc, received the award on behalf of the company.

in line with Kuwait vision 2035.

One of stc's more notable achievements has been the introduction of 'FULL 5G,' a groundbreaking technology exclusive to stc's network. 'FULL 5G' takes 5G experiences to new heights by providing faster speeds, lower latency, and improved coverage, thanks to the expansive Sub-3GHz wide network deployment. Compatible router users can enjoy this redefined 5G experience through a complimentary upgrade, further exemplifying stc's commitment to its customers.

stc's commitment to excellence extends to its enterprise offerings as well, including 'Dedicated Access' services exclusively available to SMEs and large enterprises. These solutions encompass dedicated data access, dedicated internet access, and on-demand digital services like CCTV and Cloud PBX.

Commenting on the award, engineer Fahad Al Ali, Chief Technology Officer of stc, said, "The 'Best 5G Indoor User Experience' award from SAME-NA Council's LEAD Awards 2023 is a testament to stc's dedication to providing superior 5G experiences to its customers, strengthening its position as a leader in the digital transformation journey of Kuwait. At stc, we have always been driven by a relentless pursuit of excellence in delivering the most



Fahad Al Ali, stc Kuwait CTO

advanced and seamless 5G experiences to our customers. This award is a reflection of our hard work and commitment to innovation and customer-centricity."

Al Ali added, "Since our pioneering nationwide deployment of 5G coverage in 2019, we have continuously pushed the boundaries of what is possible with 5G technology. Our focus on enhancing indoor user experiences, expanding coverage, and introducing groundbreaking technologies like 'FULL 5G' has set us apart in the industry. We understand that connectivity is at the heart of the digital transformation jour-

ney, and we are dedicated to providing our customers with the best-in-class 5G services."

Al Ali concluded by thanking SAMENA Council and the judging panel for their recognition of stc the LEAD Awards. He also thanked the management team at stc for their unwavering support, as well as all stc employees that played a role in implementing and upgrading the indoor 5G coverage solutions to ensure the best user experience for stc's valued customers.

It is worth noting that SAMENA Council's Leadership & Excellence Awards recognize the efforts of regional technology providers, corporates, telecom operators, regulators, and digital space players, focusing on acknowledging efforts on four main fronts: Business Excellence, Leadership in Regulatory Enablement, Leadership in User Experience, and Innovation Excellence. The awards this year recognized the application of advanced mobile connectivity in the region, with a primary focus on 5G development.

To find out more about stc's events, promotions, and sponsorships, follow stc's official social media platforms, visit one of stc's branches, download mystc mobile application, visit www.stc.som.kw or contact the customer service center by dialing 102 for around the clock assistance.

Medical experts to cover vital issues

1st conference on adolescent health aims to raise awareness

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17: The City Clinic Group in association with Kuwait Medical Association and Kuwait Pediatric Association is organizing the first ever International Conference on Adolescent Health titled 'Sense and Essence of Adolescence' from Oct 25 to Oct 27, 2023.

Day One (25th October) of the conference is a CME (Continuing Medical Education) with 7 CME points aimed at General Practitioners and Pediatricians working in Kuwait. Registration is free. The venue of the CME will be Radisson Blu, Salmiya.

Day Two (26th October) of the conference is for Kuwaiti Students, Teachers, Faculty and Parents.

Day Three (27th October) of the conference is for

Expatriate Students, Teachers, Faculty and Parents. The venue will be Carmel School Auditorium, Khaitan.

The speakers Medical Experts from CMC Vellore, India and Kuwait with several years of expertise in the field of Adolescent Medicine. The panel has speakers specialized in Adolescent Medicine, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Pediatric Infectious Diseases and more.

Dr. Mona Basker - Senior Professor, Adolescent Medicine (CMC Vellore, India and University of Toronto, Canada)

Dr. Valsan Philip Verghese - Senior Professor, Pediatric Infectious Disease (CMC Vellore, India and University of Alberta, Canada)

Dr. Sathya Raj - Professor, Child and Adolescent

Psychiatry (CMC Vellore, India and Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists)

Dr. Reshmi - Asst. Professor Adolescent Medicine (CMC Vellore, India)

This conference is aimed at creating awareness on Adolescent Health, helping parents and teachers deal with adolescent issues in a non-judgmental manner and for adolescents to understand their freedom with boundaries so that together we can build a better tomorrow for these budding young adults.

Conference/ Poster competition registration for students!

Registration open. Contacts 1880020 Email: cityclinicworkshop23@gmail.com

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Sabitzer sends Austria to European Championship

Match between Belgium and Sweden suspended

BRUSSELS, Oct 17, (AP): Substitute Marcel Sabitzer scored from the penalty spot shortly after entering the game to secure a 1-0 win for Austria at Azerbaijan and send his country to next year's European Championship in a day overshadowed by a deadly shooting in Brussels which saw Belgium's game against Sweden halted at halftime.

"Due to the incidents in Brussels earlier tonight, play is suspended. Our thoughts are with all those affected," a post from the Belgian national team read on X, formerly known as Twitter.

European soccer governing body UEFA confirmed the Group F match had been called off following consultation with both teams and local police.

SOCCER

The score was 1-1 at the time. Viktor Gyokeres gave Sweden a 15th-minute lead, but Romelu Lukaku had Belgium level just after the half-hour.

Belgium had already qualified for Euro 2024 while Sweden's chances of a top-two place had been ended by Austria's victory earlier.

Thousands of soccer fans were kept inside Belgium's national stadium for about 2 1/2 hours after a game between host Belgium and Sweden was suspended at halftime following a gunman fatally shooting two Swedes in Brussels before kicking off.

The European Championship qualifier was being played some 3 miles (5 kilometers) from the shooting in



Belgium's Romelu Lukaku (left), is challenged by Sweden's Filip Helander during the Euro 2024 group F qualifying soccer match between Belgium and Sweden at the King Baudouin Stadium in Brussels. (AP)

the center of the Belgian capital city, with over 35,000 fans attending the match.

With the suspect still at large, Belgian authorities kept fans inside the venue for security reasons before

they started the evacuation around midnight local time.

Fans chanted "All together, All together" inside the King Baudouin Stadium after the match was halted, with thousands of supporters from

both sides also shouting "Sweden, Sweden!"

After losing 3-2 to Belgium in Vienna last week in the fight for Group F supremacy - Austria's only defeat in seven qualifying games so

far - Sabitzer and his teammates knew a win in Baku would secure a spot at the tournament hosted by Germany.

With several key players sidelined because of injuries, Austria struggled

to create real chances in the first half. It was awarded a penalty just minutes into the second half after a hand ball. Sabitzer was clinical in converting with a strike into the corner in the 48th.

Sabitzer, who plays for Borussia Dortmund, recently returned to competition after recovering from an adductor injury he picked up last month in a Champions League match against PSG.

Austria finished with 10 men after striker Guido Burgstaller was sent off in stoppage time for a second yellow card.

Austria became the seventh team to qualify after Belgium, France, Portugal, Scotland, Spain and Turkey, along with host Germany.

Cristiano Ronaldo scored twice for Portugal in a 5-0 demolition of host Bosnia in Group J.

Bruno Fernandes, Joao Cancelo and Joao Felix also scored with all goals coming in the first half.

Iceland routed Liechtenstein 4-0 and Slovakia won 1-0 at Luxembourg in the same group.

Netherlands came away from Greece with a 1-0 win in Group B to revive their hopes. Virgil Van Dijk's penalty in second-half stoppage time sent the Netherlands above their opponents and into second in their group. Both have 12 points.

Wout Weghorst earlier failed to convert his penalty.

"We do not have a specialist for penalties, corners and free kicks," said Netherlands coach Ronald Koeman. "When Virgil was behind the ball for the second one, I suddenly thought 'Surely it won't be one of those evenings when this one goes wrong too.' But Virgil took it well and decided the match."

Ireland thrashed Gibraltar 4-0 in the group's other game.

France have already qualified from Group B.

England slams Farrell critics and semifinal underdog status

Erasmus thinks Springboks' running game might be key in Rugby World Cup defense

PARIS, Oct 17, (AP): Playing pretty rugby has never been high on the Springboks' agenda, especially when it comes to the business of winning a World Cup in tense knockout games.

South Africa director of rugby Rassie Erasmus still claimed something of an evolution for the defending champions on Monday after a scintillating victory over host France in an ultra-close quarterfinal kept the Boks in with a chance of retaining the title, and getting their country's name etched on the trophy for a record fourth time.

The Springboks are unlikely to ever go too far from the power game that has always defined them, but Erasmus and coach Jacques Nienaber have spoken often this year about finding another method of attack to complement - and not replace - South Africa's big pack of forwards. That's meant more backline tries.

The primary motivation for that is, of course, winning. Aesthetics are of little consequence.

"As a team we don't want to be this wonderful rugby playing team that the whole world loves," Erasmus said. "But we do want to score tries."

The Springboks ground to the 2019 title with a massive focus on scrummaging, lineout mauls and tactical kicking. The South African brains trust of Erasmus and Nienaber concluded that was 2019 rugby and few teams wouldn't know what South Africa would bring. How to stay a step ahead has largely revolved around putting faith in playmaking flyhalf Manie Libbok to release a backline with razor-sharp wings in Cheslin Kolbe and Kurt-Lee Arendse a little more often.

They were both on the scoresheet against France as the first three of South Africa's four tries were scored by backs, even if they were more well-timed counter-punches than free-flowing attacking moves.

Backs scored 66% of South Africa tries at the 2019 Rugby World Cup. The speedsters have 76% of their tries at this World Cup so far. It's not a mas-

sive shift, but a significant tweak.

Erasmus said the change came a year ago when South Africa lost 30-26 to France in an epic physical battle. France worked out the Springboks, but Erasmus also said they found referees were finding it much harder to officiate the Boks' constant "close-contact work."

"We had to adapt. Also to try and score tries through more open, fluent, running rugby. And you could see in our try-scoring tally there's a lot scored by our backs, more than our forwards," Erasmus said.

"If you only rely on a certain aspect of the game which is very tough for the referee to referee and he gets two (decisions) wrong but you are only relying on those three or four of five opportunities that you get, 50% of your opportunities are gone. But if you fire shots in open play, general play from the top of lineouts or counterattack, it's clearer decisions for the referee and easier to make."

RUGBY

South Africa's forwards ground down England in the 2019 final in Japan before adding the coup de grace with two tries out wide. The English are the semifinal opponents next weekend in France, and have noticed that new willingness for South Africa to go wide, and go at any time.

"(With) South Africa, those threats are all across the field," England attack coach Richard Wigglesworth said. "But (Manie) Libbok and their outside backs . . . incredible ball movement, talented runners, they get the ball into space early and let those guys do the damage."

Booing by England supporters greeted the name of captain Owen Farrell when the team was announced before their Rugby World Cup quarterfinal in Marseille on Sunday.

Farrell is a divisive figure for his tackling technique, captaincy of a mediocre team, and debate about his

best position. He was suspended for England's first two Rugby World Cup games and in his absence George Ford impressed in wins against Argentina and Japan.

But Farrell and England had their best performance in two years on Sunday to beat Fiji 30-24 and reach the semifinals.

Farrell's drop goal in the 72nd minute broke a 24-24 deadlock, and his 78th-minute penalty ended Fiji hopes. Farrell hauled in 20 points.

He doesn't have to prove anything, England attack coach Richard Wigglesworth said on Monday.

"The tallest trees catch the most wind and he seems to catch a fair bit," Wigglesworth said. "He is incredibly serious about his career, he's an incredibly proud Englishman . . . and he was brilliant for us as we knew he would be."

"That was the maddening part of any noise, we knew what was coming."

Wigglesworth gave the inside backs combination of Farrell, Manu Tuilagi and Joe Marchant a pass. Tuilagi and Marchant scored England's only tries in the first 23 minutes.

"It was good at times; we created a few opportunities that we didn't take," he said. "We looked reasonably sharp early on. We just need to make sure there is a balance. What that looks like this week might be different from last week in terms of what the opposition pose and what we want to do with the ball."

They face South Africa on Saturday in Paris. They were crushed by the Springboks in the 2019 final in Japan and Wigglesworth brushed off England being a heavy underdog.

He said he was reassured by England's experience of tight matches and record of winning World Cup knockout matches.

"Why does everyone turn up to sport? Because you don't know the result beforehand," he said. "It would be boring if you knew the result, wouldn't it? We are not there for a holiday; we are not there just to turn up."



Fiji's Ilaisa Droasese, (right), and England's Elliot Daly challenge for the ball during the Rugby World Cup quarter-final match between England and Fiji at the Stade de Marseille in Marseille, France. (AP)

Fritz, Ruud advance as top two seeded players out of Jiangxi Open

TOKYO, Oct 17, (AP): Top-seeded Taylor Fritz and second-seeded Casper Ruud both won their opening matches Tuesday at the Japan Open.

Fritz beat 18th-ranked Cameron Norrie 6-4, 6-3 and Ruud defeated wild-card entry Yosuke Watanuki 7-6 (8), 6-3. Fritz, ranked 10th in the world, had 13 aces and broke Norrie three times to improve to 7-6 against the British player.

The 25-year-old American will next play Japanese wild-card Shintaro Mochizuki, who beat Tomas Martin Etcheverry 6-4, 7-6 (5).

Ruud will next face American player Marcus Giron.

Other winners included Alex de

TENNIS

Minaur, Alexei Popyrin, Ben Shelton, Cristian Garin and Diego Schwartzman.

Top-seeded Beatriz Haddad-Maia and second-seeded Magda Linette were both eliminated in the first round of the Jiangxi Open.

Nao Hibino upset Haddad-Maia 7-6 (2), 6-3, while Valeria Savinykh beat Linette 7-5, 3-6, 7-6 (3).

Sixth-seeded Anna Blinkova also lost, falling to Chinese qualifier You Xiaodi 6-1, 6-1, while Hong Kong Open winner Leylah Fernandez defeated wild-card Guo Hanyu 6-1, 6-3.

Other winners included Aliaksandra Sasnovich, Varvara Grach and Ulrikke Eikeri.



Hubert Hurkacz of Poland returns a shot to Andrey Rublev of Russia during the men's singles final match of the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament at Qizhong Forest Sports City Tennis Center in Shanghai, China. (AP)

VAR officials recalled after failure to award Diaz's goal for Liverpool against Tottenham

MANCHESTER, England, Oct 17, (AP): Two soccer officials involved in Luis Diaz's wrongly disallowed goal for Liverpool against Tottenham last month will return to Premier League duty this weekend.

Video Assistant Referee Darren England and his assistant, Dan

Cook, have been recalled for the first time since their error in Tottenham's 2-1 victory.

England will be the fourth official for Brentford's game against Burnley on Saturday and Cook is an assistant for Sheffield United's match against Manchester United on the same day.

Their failure to award what would have been an opening goal for Diaz prompted Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp to call on the Premier League to have the game replayed. It also led to the Professional Game Match Officials Limited, which is the governing body of referees in England, to announce changes to video review protocols.

SOCCER

The body admitted the mistake after VAR failed to award Diaz's goal, despite replays clearly showing the forward was inside when he scored. When audio of the decision-making process was released, it became evident the video review official mistakenly believed the goal had been awarded by the onfield officials and did not overrule that call. Diaz had, however, been whistled for offside.

Liverpool issued a statement saying they would "explore the range of options available given the clear need for escalation and resolution."

Klopp went further when calling for a rematch.

"I'm used to wrong and difficult decisions, but something like this never happened and so that is why I think a replay is the right thing to do," he said.

After that loss, Liverpool dropped further points in a draw with Brighton the following week. Tottenham, meanwhile, moved to the top of the standings after a 1-0 win over Luton.

Changes to protocol implemented by the PGMOL include improved communication between Video Assistant Referees. It also said it would reiterate that the speed of decision-making must not be at the expense of accuracy.

Best of the Rest

Disqualification reversed:

NASCAR on Monday rescinded Ryan Blaney's disqualification at Las Vegas Motor Speedway when series officials found a problem with the template used during post-race inspection.

The reversal restored Blaney's sixth-place finish from Sunday's race, which had been stripped hours after the checkered flag for an alleged illegal front shock on his Ford. The disqualification dropped Blaney to last in the race and would have crippled his championship chances.

Blaney went from last in the round-of-eight field to seventh, but his deficit below the cutline was reduced significantly.

"NASCAR has shown a tremendous amount of integrity throughout the process which has led to this conclusion," Team Penske said in a statement that lauded the reversal. "We are proud of the effort and the results by the No. 12 team during the 2023 season. We look forward to continuing the pursuit of the NASCAR Cup Series Championship."

NASCAR did not reveal what about the template used in the inspection led to the initial disqualification.

"Monday morning during its race weekend debrief, NASCAR discovered an issue with the damper template used for inspection. NASCAR then conducted a detailed investigation, and has restored the No. 12's stage and race finishing positions from Sunday," NASCAR said in a statement.

NASCAR has two more races to set the championship-deciding final field of four drivers. Kyle Larson

won at Las Vegas to clinch the first spot in the finale. (AP)



Woods announces loaded field:

Tiger Woods has another world-class field for his Hero World Challenge in the Bahamas. Still to be determined is whether he is part of it.

Woods on Monday announced 19 players in the 20-man field for Albany Golf Club the first weekend of December, which includes every eligible member of the U.S. Ryder Cup team, along with two players who were left off the team.

Missing is Brooks Koepka. The Hero World Challenge is sanctioned by the PGA Tour, and Koepka is suspended from that for being part of the rival Saudi-funded LIV Golf League. The PGA champion was a captain's pick for the Ryder Cup.

Woods has not played competitively since withdrawing from the Masters after making the cut. He had ankle surgery a short time later for injuries related to his February 2021 car accident, though he was seen hitting wedges during a foundation event at Pebble Beach last week.

Viktor Hovland, the two-time defending champion in the Bahamas, is among three players from Europe's winning Ryder Cup team in Rome.

Sponsor exemptions were awarded to Rickie Fowler and Justin Thomas. Both are among the top 25 in the world ranking, which illustrates the strength of the field. Players must be among the top 50 to get an exemption, part of the provision for the unofficial event getting world ranking points.

The criteria allows for an exemption to be used on the tournament host - Woods - if he needs one. (AP)

President of Qatar Handball Federation commends strong performance of Blues

Kuwait among favorites to qualify for Paris Olympic Games: Al-Shaabi



Ahmed Al-Shabi, the President of the Qatar Handball Federation.

DOHA, Oct 17: Ahmed Al-Shabi, the President of the Qatar Handball Federation, expressed his admiration for the impressive technical prowess displayed by Kuwait national handball team. He highlighted how their recent achievement of a bronze medal at the Asian Games in China has reignited their competitive spirit.

Al-Shaabi voiced his confidence that Kuwait strong contenders to secure a spot in the 2024 Paris Olympics. He emphasized the team's rich history and their historical dominance in previous tournaments.

HANDBALL

He also underlined the readiness and strength of the Gulf teams participating in the Asian men's handball qualifiers for the Summer Olympics in Paris. These teams demonstrated their mettle in the China Asian Cup, with Qatar, Bahrain, and Kuwait securing the top three positions.

The men's Asian qualifiers for the 33rd Summer Olympic Games, "Paris 2024," will be hosted by Qatar, commencing today and continuing until October 28.

The draw for the Paris 2024 qualifiers placed Kuwait in the second group

Oscar-winner Michelle Yeoh elected to be IOC member

MUMBAI, India, Oct 17, (AP): Oscar-winning actor Michelle Yeoh has been elected as a member of the IOC.

The International Olympic Committee on Tuesday voted in eight new members to make a total of 107 drawn from royal families, sports officials, current and former athletes plus leaders from politics and industry.

Members' work at annual meetings includes approving recommended candidates as future Olympic Games hosts. They could be asked in Paris next July to change Olympic rules that would let IOC president Thomas Bach seek a third leadership term in 2025 beyond the current 12-year limit.

Yeoh, who has ties to the United Nations representing her home country Malaysia, was elected in a 67-9 vote by her new colleagues. The accolade came in the same year as her Oscar win for best actress in "Everything Everywhere All at Once."

Yeoh also is an international campaigner for road safety in partnership with her husband, Jean Todt, the former head of the Ferrari team in Formula One racing.

He was president of the motorsports governing body known by its French acronym FIA.

The only unanimous vote was the 76-0 result in favor of Cecilia Tait, a twice-elected congresswoman in Peru and a three-time Olympian in volleyball. Tait helped Peru's women take silver at the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

The first Israeli to win an Olympic medal, Yael Arad, also was elected Tuesday, 71-5. Now president of Israel's national Olympic body, she took silver in judo at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

Other new members include Hungarian government sports executive Balázs Fűrjes and officials from Germany, Michael Mronz, and Tunisia, Mehrez Boussayene.

Two recently elected presidents of governing bodies in Olympic sports got membership: Petra Sörling of Sweden from table tennis and Kim Jae-youl of South Korea from the International Skating Union.

The new members swore the Olympic oath in front of their colleagues before the closure of a three-day meeting in Mumbai, India.

Pacers hand Hawks 1st loss

Rockets down Spurs to remain unbeaten

WASHINGTON, Oct 17, (AP): San Antonio sat No. 1 overall pick Victor Wembanyama in a 99-89 loss to Houston on Monday night that saw the Rockets two first-round picks play well.

Amen Thompson, the fourth overall selection, and 20th pick Cam Whitmore finished with 15 points apiece and the Rockets (3-0) outscored San Antonio 36-13 in the final period to remain unbeaten.

The Spurs (1-2) led 79-65 after Doug McDermott's 3-pointer with 11:06 left to play. The Rockets battled back, taking an 88-87 lead on two free throws by Darius Days with 4:24 left to play. Whitmore followed with a 3-pointer, then hit two shots in the final 96 seconds, scoring 11 in the period.

Newcomer Fred VanVleet had 12 points and three steals for Houston. Aaron Holiday also scored 12.

Zach Collins paced the Spurs with 18 points, eight rebounds and five assists. Jeremy Sochan added 13 points and four steals.

Ters 127, Nets 119

Kelly Oubre Jr. had 21 points, Tobias Harris and Paul Reed scored 18 apiece and Philadelphia earned its first preseason victory, beating Brooklyn in New York.

BASKETBALL

Oubre added four rebounds, four assists, two steals and two blocks for Philadelphia (1-2). Harris grabbed nine rebounds and Reed snared five. De'Anthony Melton totaled 15 points, 10 assists, eight boards and four steals.

Cam Thomas led Brooklyn (1-2) with 18 points. Reserves Royce O'Neale, Tondro Watford and Lonnie Walker IV each scored 13. Nic Claxton made all six of his shots and scored 12.

Pacers 116, Hawks 112

Tyrese Haliburton and reserve Aaron Nesmith scored 15 points apiece to help Indiana earn its first victory by handing visiting Atlanta its first loss.

Haliburton added eight rebounds and Nesmith hit three 3-pointers for Indiana (1-2). Myles Turner scored 13 and blocked three shots. Jarace Walker, the eighth overall pick acquired in a trade with the Washington Wizards, scored four points on 2-for-8 shooting. First-round Ben Sheppard scored nine on 3-for-8 shooting from 3-point range.

Saddiq Bey finished with 21 points and 10 rebounds in 20 minutes off the bench to pace Atlanta (3-1). De'Andre Hunter had 16 points, while AJ Griffin scored 15. Kobe Bufkin, the 15th overall pick, totaled eight points, six rebounds and three assists in a start.

Cavaliers 120, Ra'anana 89

Rookie Emoni Bates came off the bench to score 16, leading Cleveland past visiting Maccabi of Israel.

Bates, a second-round selection this year and the only pick for Cleveland

(1-1), sank 6 of 12 shots with four 3-pointers. Ty Jerome had 15 points, six assists and four rebounds. Dean Wade scored 13 with eight rebounds. Damian Jones hit all seven of his free throws, scoring 11.

Maccabi, which plays in the Israeli National League, visited the U.S. last year, playing games against the Los Angeles Clippers, Portland Trail Blazers and Oklahoma City Thunder. Maccabi opened its trip this year with a 135-103 loss to the Brooklyn Nets on Oct. 12. The team will close out its visit with a game against the Minnesota Timberwolves on Tuesday.

Former NBA players Dwayne Bacon, Quindary Weatherspoon, Bruno Caboclo, Mamadi Diakite and Sindarius Thornwell all play for the Ra'Anana. Diakite scored a game-high 17 in 21 minutes. Weatherspoon and Bacon added 14 points apiece.

Suns 117, Trail Blazers 106

Kevin Durant and Devin Booker scored 19 points apiece and Phoenix cruised past visiting Portland.

Durant hit 6 of 10 shots with a 3-pointer and 6 of 7 at the free-throw line for the Suns (3-1). He added four assists and three rebounds, playing 15 minutes. Booker played three more minutes than Durant, sinking 6 of 11 shots with four 3s and four assists. Grayson Allen had 13 points and Bradley Beal scored 11.

Shaedon Sharpe had 19 points and Skylar Mays scored 18 to lead the Blazers (1-3). Scoot Henderson, the third overall pick this year, had eight points on 3-for-11 shooting with five assists in a start. First-rounder Kris Murray contributed 12 points, four rebounds and four steals. Murray missed all eight of his 3-pointers but made 6 of 7 from inside the arc.

Toumani Camara, a second-round selection by Phoenix who was acquired as part of the three-team trade that sent Damian Lillard to the Milwaukee Bucks, started and hit 1 of 2 foul shots. He missed all three of his shots but added three assists, a steal and a block in 13 minutes.

Jazz 114, Breakers 94

Lauri Markkanen finished with 15 points and seven rebounds in 17 minutes to lead Utah over visiting New Zealand.

Markkanen sank 5 of 12 shots with a 3-pointer for the Jazz (3-1). Jordan Clarkson hit two 3s and scored 12. Ochai Agbaji totaled 12 points, four rebounds, three assists and two blocks in 16 minutes off the bench.

All three of Utah's first-round picks played. Taylor Hendricks (No. 9 overall) had four points and four rebounds. Keyonte George (16th) scored eight, while Brice Sensabaugh (28th) scored six.

Former NBA player Anthony Lamb led the Breakers with 23 points and seven rebounds.

Kuwait's Malallah wins gold



Winners display their prizes on the podium.

Al-Mayas secures bronze at 13th Arab Bow and Arrow Shooting Championship

RIYADH, Oct 17: In the ongoing 13th Arab Bow and Arrow Shooting Championship held in Riyadh, shooter Abdullah Malallah clinched the gold medal in the men's compound bow and arrow shooting competition, while shooter Hanan Al-Mayas secured the

bronze medal in the women's event.

Obaid Al-Osaimi, the Secretary General of the Kuwaiti Arab Shooting Federation, expressed his delight, along with his fellow Board of Directors members, for the remarkable accomplishments achieved by Kuwait's talented male and female archers at the Arab Bow and Arrow Shooting Championship. He particularly cel-

ebrated the sight of the Kuwaiti flag flying high and the national anthem playing, despite the challenging competition against accomplished

team composed of Abdullah Mal Allah, Ahmed Al-Shatti, and Badr Al-Shalhi secured third place and the bronze medal. This achievement came after tough competition with the Saudi team, who clinched the gold medal, and the Iraqi team, who took home the silver. Additionally, the mixed team, featuring Abdullah Malallah and Hanan Al-Mayas, earned the bronze in the mixed team compound bow and arrow competition.

SHOOTING

Arab champions in the tournament.

Al-Osaimi further highlighted that in the team events for compound bow and arrow shooting, the Kuwaiti

Kuwait return from training camp in Dubai

Pakistan earn first-ever win in WC qualifying

ISLAMABAD, Oct 17, (Agencies): Pakistan's national soccer team won a World Cup qualifying game for the first time on Tuesday, beating Cambodia 1-0 in Islamabad to advance to the second round.

After the first leg in Phnom Penh finished 0-0, a half-volley from Harun Hamid was enough to secure victory at Jinnah Sports Stadium in a first home game for Pakistan since 2015.

It was also the first win for Pakistan, ranked 197th, since 2018. They next face Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan and Jordan, starting in November.

Pakistan were banned by FIFA in April 2021 for 15 months because of "undue third party interference" in their second ban in four years.

Pakistan will be joined in the second stage by nine other teams after two-leg, home-and-away series for the Asian Football Confederation's 20 lowest-ranked teams.

SOCCER

Singapore beat Guam 3-1 on aggregate after winning 1-0 on Tuesday.

Yemen were held 1-1 at Sri Lanka, Asia's lowest-ranked team at No. 202, but had done enough in their home leg to advance 4-1 on aggregate.

While, Afghanistan secured their place in the first group of teams competing in the 2026 World Cup qualifiers, set to take place in the United States, Mexico, and Canada, alongside the 2027 Asian Cup in Saudi Arabia. They achieved this by clinching a renewed victory over Mongolia with a single goal, advancing on 2-0 aggregate.

Joining the ranks of Qatar, India, and Kuwait, Afghanistan are now preparing for their campaign that commences on November 16, with a match

against Qatar, while Kuwait will face India on the same day.

Abdullah Al-Shalhi, the national coach of the Afghanistan team and former Nepal national team coach, recently announced the conclusion of his contract with the Afghan national team. He shared his well-wishes for their future success via social media, saying, "I announce the end of my contract with Afghanistan. I wish them success."

The Kuwaiti national team are returning from their camp in Dubai, where they faced the United Arab Emirates in a match that ended with a single-goal

loss. They also participated in a second match against the Syrian national team, marking their final encounter before hosting the Indian national team for the start of the qualifying campaign.

The players from Al-Azraq will rejoin their clubs today. Following this, the team will regroup immediately after the conclusion of the seventh round of the Zain Premier League on November 4th. Additionally, they will regroup after Al-Arabi and Kuwait's participation in the fourth round of the AFC Cup, scheduled for the 6th and 7th of the same month.

Khaled Ibrahim, captain of the Kuwaiti national team, clarified his recent absence from Al-Azraq's matches, citing a significant muscle strain. The medical team recommended his rest to prevent the risk of further injury. Ibrahim disclosed that he has been actively engaged in specialized training and a treatment program to facilitate his recovery, expressing optimism about returning to peak form for upcoming matches. He also expressed confidence in the team's collective abilities to compensate for any absences.



Players wait patiently for the commencement of their training session.



Utah Jazz guard Ochai Agbaji (30) drives as New Zealand Breakers forward Anthony Lamb, (left), defends during the second half of an NBA pre-season basketball game in Salt Lake City. (AP)

Al Arabi, Sulaibikhat play to draw

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17: In a recent friendly match held at Sabah Al Salem Stadium, Al Arabi and Sulaibikhat played to a 2-2 draw as part of their preparations for the upcoming league championship competitions.

The "Green" team's goals were scored

by Sufyan Bouchard and Nayef Hamid.

Al Arabi are gearing up to face Al Fahaheel in the fifth round of the Zain Premier League this Friday, while Sulaibikhat are set to meet Al Sahel on October 25th in the fifth round of the First Division League.



South Korea's Kim Tae-hwan (left), fights for the ball against Vietnam's Pham Tuan Hai during an international friendly soccer match in Suwon, South Korea. South Korea won 6-0. (AP)

Sports

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Kuwait's Paralympians ready for Asian challenge



KUNA photo

Kuwait Paralympians pose for a group photo prior to their departure for the Asian Paralympic Games in China.

41 athletes for Paralympic Games

HANGZHOU, China, Oct 17: The Kuwaiti contingent for the Asian Paralympic Games arrived in Hangzhou, China, where the tournament is set to take place from October 22 to 28. This international sporting event will see the participation of 3,000 athletes from 44 different nations, encompassing both men and women.

Mansour Al-Sarhaid, the Chairman of the Kuwait Paralympic Committee, leads the delegation. Kuwait is sending 41 talented athletes, both male and female, who will compete in four distinct sports: athletics, basketball, fencing, and table tennis.

Al-Sarhid expressed his confidence in the level of preparedness of the national teams, assuring that

PARALYMPICS

they have undergone comprehensive and satisfactory training ahead of the tournament. He articulated his aspirations for his athletes to attain remarkable achievements during this prominent event, which stands as the largest gathering of athletes on the Asian continent.

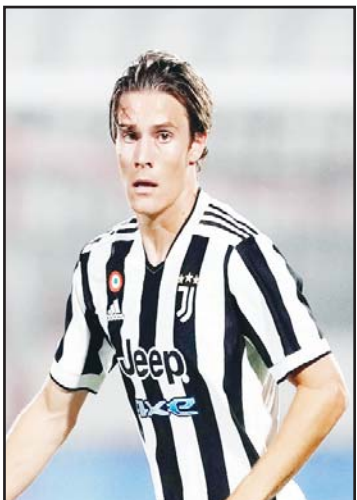
He attributed this confidence to the extensive support provided by key figures, such as the Minister of Trade and Industry, Muhammad Al-Aiban, the Minister of State for Youth Affairs, as well as the Director General of the General Sports Authority, Youssef Al-Baidan, and his deputy, Bashar Abdullah.

Nizar Ramadan, the coach of the athletics team, praised the excellent preparations, highlighting Faisal Al-Rajhi, a sprinter who underwent intensive training during a two-week camp abroad. The coach expressed hope for Al-Rajhi to secure a high placement across all competitions.

Faisal Al Rajhi, a middle and long-distance wheelchair racer, expressed his elation at being part of the Asian Games, the preeminent sporting event in Asia. He anticipated tough competition, particularly from world champions hailing from China and Thailand in wheelchair racing, emphasizing his ambition to secure top-tier results and leave a distinct Kuwaiti mark on the event.

In the realm of table tennis, Ahed Al-Rashidi was determined to deliver her best performance and acknowledged the formidable competition from elite Asian players. Her morale remained high as she prepared to take on the challenge.

Similarly, Malak Al-Enezi, a member of the athletics team, shared her commitment to contending for top positions. She noted the high spirits and optimal preparedness of her fellow athletes as they aspired to excel in the tournament.



In this file photo, Juventus' Nicolò Fagioli controls the ball during the 'Berlusconi trophy' soccer match between Monza and Juventus in Monza, near Milan, Italy. (AP)

Fagioli gets 7-month ban

ROME, Oct 17, (AP): Juventus midfielder Nicolò Fagioli was banned for seven months by the Italian soccer federation on Tuesday for betting violations.

Fagioli agreed to a plea bargain with the FIGC that included therapy for a gambling addiction.

The 22-year-old Fagioli, who has already been seeing a therapist for his problem, alerted the Italian soccer federation's prosecutor about the case and has been co-operating with authorities to mitigate his punishment.

That allowed the minimum ban of three years for players betting on soccer matches to be greatly reduced. Fagioli has reportedly never bet on matches involving Juventus.

□ □ □

More than 10 months after the Reyna family pressured U.S. Soccer Federation staff to give more playing time to **Gio Reyna** at the World Cup, the team have not yet adopted rules to prevent similar lobbying.

"That's something that U.S. Soccer leadership is discussing, and as of now, nothing's been put in place," coach **Gregg Berhalter** said Monday, a day ahead of the Americans' exhibition against Ghana. Gio Reyna didn't play in the Americans' World Cup opener against Wales on Nov. 21. The following day, the midfielder's father, former U.S. captain **Claudio Reyna**, sent a text message to then-USSF sporting director Earnie Stewart, according to a report last March for the federation by the firm **Alston and Bird**.

"What a complete and utter ... joke," Claudio Reyna texted. "Our family is disgusted in case you are wondering. Disgusted at how a coach is allowed to never be challenged and do whatever he wants."

Claudio Reyna sent a text message to then general manager Brian McBride that read: "Our entire family is disgusted, angry, and done with you guys. Don't expect nice comments from anyone in our family about US Soccer."

I'm being transparent to you not like the political clown show of the federation."

The report details complaints from the Reyna family dating to 2016.

"Witnesses reported that Mr. Reyna's past actions involved attempts to influence decisions by U.S. Soccer

DUBAI, Oct 17: Kuwaiti Jiu-Jitsu athletes showcased their prowess by securing a range of medals at the Jiu-Jitsu Challenge Championship held in the United Arab Emirates. The Kuwaiti Jiu-Jitsu champions achieved the following medal distribution: Ahmed

JIU-JITSU

Al-Sharaf, Jassim Dashti, Firas Al-Muzaini, Azzam Al-Muzaini, and Fares Al-Muzaini earned gold medals, claiming the top positions. Meanwhile, Khaled Al-Sharaf and Muhammad Al-Ali clinched second place, securing silver medals for their impressive performances.

SOCCER

53 minutes.

Coming back from a fractured leg in June, he played the first half of Saturday's 3-1 exhibition loss to Germany in his first appearance under Berhalter since the coach was rehired.

Berhalter says the family feud is in the past. The coach had said during a management conference after the tournament that he nearly sent a player home from Qatar for lack of effort during training, remarks clearly about Reyna.



Kuwaitis celebrate after the awarding ceremony.

Kuwaiti Jiu-Jitsu athletes showcase their prowess

'What the club need is real change and real investment'

Man United Sale: Ratcliffe bid, Sheikh Jassim withdrawing, Glazers could remain in control

MANCHESTER, England, Oct 17, (AP): Nearly a year after Manchester United was put up for sale, the storied English soccer club could still remain in the hands of the Glazer family - much to the dismay of the team's most fervent supporters.

News on Saturday that Qatari banker Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad Al Thani was withdrawing from the bidding process appeared to leave the door open for British billionaire Jim Ratcliffe. However, the owner of petrochemicals giant Ineos is reportedly only looking to buy a minority 25% stake in United, which would leave the Glazers as majority shareholders.

"Someone coming in as a minority partner and propping up the Glazers indefinitely is a nightmare scenario," Manchester United Supporters Trust spokesperson Chris Rumlitt told The Associated Press. "What the club need is real change and they need real investment and we struggle to believe that can happen whilst the Glazers own the majority of the shares permanently. Twenty-five percent for Ratcliffe could be OK, but only if it was the start of a clear path to 51%."

The Glazers, an American family that also owns the NFL's Tampa Bay Buccaneers, announced plans last November to seek new investment and instructed U.S. merchant bank Raine to oversee the process, which included the potential of a full sale.

Raine had previously conducted the sale of Chelsea to Todd Boehly and Clearlake Capital for 2.5 billion pounds (\$3 billion) plus a commitment of 1.75 billion pounds (\$2 billion) of further investment.

While the Glazers were prepared to consider offers for an outright buyout, United said at the time it planned to "explore strategic alternatives," which

always included the possibility of taking on new investment without the owners ceding control.

The late tycoon Malcolm Glazer bought United in 2005 for 790 million pounds (then about \$1.4 billion). United supporters have been critical of the leveraged nature of the Glazers' buyout that loaded debt onto the club, as well as a perceived lack of investment and the dividends taken out by the owners.

The team still had a series of successes on the field. Under the Glazers, United won the Champions League title in 2008, five Premier League titles, one FA Cup, five League Cups and the Europa League.

SOCCER

Ratcliffe, who was born in the Manchester area and has been a United fan since childhood, has long-harbored ambitions to buy the club. Through Ineos, he initially planned to buy out the Glazers' share of about 69% and spoke of a "modern, progressive, fan-centered approach to ownership."

He was also focused on helping United win the Champions League for the first time since 2008 and making it the "No. 1 club in the world once again."

Sheikh Jassim is the chairman of Qatar Islamic Bank and the son of a former Qatari prime minister. He was bidding to take 100% ownership of United, which appealed to fans who are desperate to rid the club of the Glazers.

He also vowed to clear the team's debt, while investing in the stadium, training center and playing squads in a bid to "return the club to its former

glories both on and off the pitch."

Ratcliffe and Sheikh Jassim were the only two bidders to publicly declare their intention to take control of United, while other minority investors were also reported.

It was anticipated the process would be concluded in time for the off-season transfer window, which opened in June, after a series of rounds of bidding.

It appeared to be a straight battle between Ratcliffe and Sheikh Jassim over who would be chosen as the preferred bidder. But as the process dragged on, fans became increasingly impatient and staged protests outside Old Trafford, while chants of "Glazers out" are regularly heard at games at the stadium.

News of Sheikh Jassim's plans to withdraw came after months of silence and uncertainty around the process, which raised questions about whether the Glazers intended to sell.

On Saturday, the news came that Sheikh Jassim was withdrawing from the process. While the size of his bid was not confirmed, a person with knowledge of his proposal told the AP it was almost double United's current market valuation of \$3.2 billion.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because of confidentiality restrictions around the process.

While concerns had been raised about Qatar's human rights record and the potential that United could be used as a "sportswashing" project, fans wanted to see the club compete with the exorbitant spending of Abu Dhabi-backed Manchester City.

Ratcliffe is one of Britain's richest people and is said to be worth \$15.1 billion.

He previously tried to buy Premier League club Chelsea and already owns French club Nice, cycling franchise Team INEOS, is one-third shareholder of the Mercedes-AMG Petronas Formula One team and competes in the America's Cup with sailing team INEOS Britannia.

Reports say he would seek to take over soccer operations at United after a sustained period of decline since the retirement of former manager Alex Ferguson. United has not won the Premier League since Ferguson's last title in 2013.

Over the past decade, the club have been overtaken by City, which won three trophies last season - the Premier League, Champions League and FA Cup. Liverpool have also won the Premier League and Champions League in recent years.

United have endured a turbulent period the post-Ferguson era. Erik ten Hag is their fifth permanent manager in that time.

Under Ten Hag, United won the English League Cup last season and secured a return to the Champions League. But the team have struggled this season and are currently in 10th place after losing four of their eight league games. They also face a fight to advance from the group stage of the Champions League after losing their opening two games.

United will reportedly hold a board meeting on Thursday, but it is not clear if Ratcliffe's bid will be voted on.