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KUWAIT LAUNCHES 'AIR BRIDGE TO PALESTINIANS'



A Palestinian kid looks at the buildings destroyed in the Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip in Rafah on Sunday, Oct. 22, 2023. Inset: Palestinian medic takes a baby pulled out of buildings destroyed in the Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip in Rafah on Sunday. (AP)

Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Sunday a cable of condolence to the Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani over the death of Sheikhha Mariam bint Jassem Al-Thani, wishing her family patience over her demise.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Sunday a cable to the Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani over the death of Sheikhha Mariam bint Jassem Al-Thani, wishing her family and loved ones patience over her demise.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent on Sunday a to the Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani over the death of Sheikhha Mariam bint Jassem Al-Thani. (KUNA)

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DUBAI: A court in Iran sentenced two female journalists to up to seven years in prison for "collaborating" with the United States government among other charges, local reports said. Both have been imprisoned for over a year following their coverage of the death of Mahsa Amini while in police custody in Sept. 2022.

This is a preliminary sentencing that can be appealed in 20 days.

The two journalists, Niloufar Hammedi, who broke the news of Amini's death for wearing her headscarf too loosely, and Elaheh Mohammadi, who wrote about her funeral, were sentenced to seven and six years in jail respectively, reported the judiciary news website, Mizan on Sunday.

Tehran Revolutionary Court charged them with "collaborating with the hostile American government," "colluding against national security" and "propaganda against the system," according to Mezan. (AP)

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LONDON: Police said Sunday that a fourth person has died in Britain during a storm that pounded the U.K. and northern Europe with gale-force winds and torrential rain.

Derbyshire Police said a woman in her 80s was found dead at a home in Chesterfield, central England. Her death was being linked to flooding in the area.

In nearby Derby, the River Derwent reached its highest-ever recorded level on Saturday during a storm that brought 8 inches (200 mm) of rain to parts of Britain. (AP)

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CAIRO: The Somali National Army (SNA) conducted operations and killed two Al-Shabaab terrorists in the village of Saydhelow in Bay region, 35 km east of Baidoa, the administrative capital of the Southwest State, Somali News Agency (SONNA) announced Sunday.

According to SONNA, the army seized a motorbike and AK47 rifle that the terrorist militants had after they killed them.

The SNA is intensifying the operations against the terrorist group of Al-Shabaab to liberate the whole country and eradicate them, it added. (KUNA)

Israeli strikes extend beyond Gaza

Flames of conflict could ignite other fronts

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah announced, Sunday, the launch of relief operations through 'Air Bridge to Palestinians in Gaza Strip'.

Speaking to KUNA, Sheikh Salem stated that this initiative is in response to call of the Palestinian people and as per directions of HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

This is an extension of Kuwait's unwavering position by the Palestinian cause, and an attempt to alleviate suffering brought about by the Israeli occupation.

The Kuwaiti Air Bridge launching on Monday and continuing on daily basis this current week, consists of humanitarian relief plane loads carrying of urgent supplies and medical necessities to Gaza Strip through Al-Arish area in the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt.

Overseeing the initiative are Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defense, the Air Force, Health Ministry, and contributing to it are Kuwait Red Crescent Society, Kuwait Relief Society and other humanitarian establishments.

Vice President of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society Anwar Al-Hasawi revealed that a plane is scheduled to take off today with 40 tons of medical, relief and food supplies, provided by the society and other charitable societies, in addition to three ambulances, one of which is from the society, for helping the Palestinian people.

Al-Hasawi also revealed that another plane carrying 10 tons of medical and relief supplies will take off Tuesday.

He said the society will continue to provide aid within the air bridge in response to the directives of the political leadership.

In latest development, Israeli warplanes struck targets across Gaza overnight and into Sunday, as well as two airports in Syria and a mosque in the occupied West Bank allegedly used by militants, as the 2-week-old war with Hamas threatened to spiral into a broader conflict.

Israel has traded fire with Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group on a near-daily basis since the war began, and tensions are soaring in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, where Israeli forces have battled militants in refugee camps and carried out two airstrikes in recent days.

For days, Israel has seemed to be on the verge of launching a ground offensive in Gaza as part of its response to Hamas' deadly Oct. 7 rampage. Tanks and tens of thousands of troops have massed at the border, and Israeli leaders have spoken of an undefined next stage in operations.

A convoy of 17 aid trucks was allowed to enter Gaza from Egypt on Sunday, Egypt's state-

run media reported, the second shipment into the territory since Israel imposed a complete siege two weeks ago. On Saturday, 20 trucks entered.

Relief workers said far more was needed to address the spiraling humanitarian crisis in Gaza, where half the territory's 2.3 million people have fled their homes. The U.N. humanitarian agency, known as OCHA, said Saturday's convoy carried about 4% of an average day's imports before the war and "a fraction of what is needed after 13 days of complete siege."

The Israeli military said the humanitarian situation was "under control," as OCHA called for 100 trucks a day to enter.

Israel repeated its calls for people to leave northern Gaza, including by dropping leaflets from the air. It says an estimated 700,000 have already fled, but hundreds of thousands remain. That would raise the risk of mass civilian casualties in any ground offensive.

Israeli military officials say Hamas' infrastructure and underground tunnel system are concentrated in Gaza City, in the north, and that the next stage of the offensive will include unprecedented force there. Israel says it wants to crush Hamas, but officials have also spoken of carving out a possible buffer zone to keep Palestinians from approaching the border.

Hospitals packed with patients and displaced people are running low on medical supplies and fuel for generators, forcing doctors to perform surgeries with sewing needles, using vinegar as disinfectant, and without anesthesia.

The World Health Organization says at least 130 premature babies are at "grave risk" because of a shortage of generator fuel. It said seven hospitals in northern Gaza have been forced to shut down due to damage from strikes, lack of power and supplies, or Israeli evacuation orders.

Shortages in critical supplies, including ventilators, are forcing doctors to ration treatment, said Dr. Mohammed Qandeel, who works in Khan Younis' Nasser Hospital. Dozens of patients continue to arrive and are treated in crowded, darkened corridors, as hospitals preserve electricity for intensive care units.

"It's heartbreaking," Qandeel told The Associated Press. "Everyday, if we receive 10 severely injured patients we have to manage with maybe three or five ICU beds available."

Palestinians sheltering in U.N.-run schools and tent camps are running low on food and drinking dirty water. A power blackout has crippled water and sanitation systems. OCHA said cases of chicken pox, scabies and diarrhea are on the rise because of the lack of clean water.

Heavy airstrikes were reported across Gaza, including in the southern part of the coastal strip, where Israel has told civilians to seek refuge. At the Al-Aqsa hospital in Deir al-Balah, south of the evacuation line, several bodies wrapped in white shrouds were lined up outside on the ground.

Khalil al-Degran, a hospital official, said more than 90 bodies had been brought in since early Sunday, as the sound of nearby bombing echoed behind him. He said 180 wounded people had arrived, mostly children, women and the elderly who had been displaced from other areas.

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Education minister quizzed on KISR contracts

Parliament probes armament deal penalties

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: The fact finding parliamentary committee, which is assigned to investigate the violations related to the armament deals concerning the Eurofighter aircraft and Caracal helicopters, held a meeting on Sunday with the representatives of the Ministry of Defense.

During the meeting, the committee discussed a number of important questions about the results of the meetings held by chairman of the Airbus Company and the senior officials of the Ministry of Defense, the reasons behind refraining from enforcing the penalties for the technical errors in the engines of the aircraft, providing spare parts, and ensuring the readiness of the aircraft during the contract term.

It is worth mentioning that the chairman of the committee MP Adel Al Damkhi had disclosed earlier that a report on the issue will be ready to be referred to the National Assembly at the beginning of the upcoming parliamentary term, and that the report will include the facts and recommendations concluded by the committee.

Meanwhile, the parliament's committee for foreign affairs held a meeting on Sunday during which they discussed the bill for amending law No. 21/1964 concerning boycotting Israel and banning normalising relations with it.

MP Abdulwahab Al-Essa asked the Minister of Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research Adel Al-Manee if any new recruitment contracts were recently signed by the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR). If yes, he wanted details about those contracts including the number of contracts, the qualification of the appointed individuals, and if the contracting process met the relevant regulations including interviewing the nominated applicants.

The lawmaker wanted to know the legal bases upon which KISR established Kazema Sharehold-

ing company for promoting patents and production of KISR one year ago.

He wanted to know the criteria adopted to appoint the board of directors of the company, asking if their qualifications meet with the requirements of the positions they occupy.

In another development, MP Jarrah Al-Fawzan submitted parliamentary questions to His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, asking about the progress of the strategic alternative draft. In case it is completed, he said he wanted a copy of it.

Al-Fawzan wanted to know the institutions that contributed to preparing the draft, and if it considered the increasing inflation rates and ways to control prices.

He said he wanted copies of the studies upon which the draft was prepared, and he also wanted to know the number and classes of the beneficiaries of the strategic alternative draft, as well as the categories that will not be considered as the beneficiaries, the way of calculating the minimum amount of pension, and if the beneficiaries include the national workers in the private sector.

Furthermore, Al-Fawzan submitted parliamentary questions to the Minister of Commerce and Industry and State Minister for Youth Affairs Mohammad Al-Aiban, asking about the procedures adopted to appoint the deputies of the chairman of Kuwait General Administration of Customs (KGAC).

He said he wanted copies of the CV of the deputies showing their qualifications, career path, and experiences, as well as the reasons behind appointing them as deputies of the chairman of KGAC.

Meanwhile, MP Abdullah Al-Anbai asked the Minister of Finance Fahad Al-Jarallah to inform him about the number of employees in the companies owned by the government, how many among them are Kuwaitis and expatriates, and details about their qualifications, job titles, ages and salaries.

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Prayer Timings			
Fajr	04:34	Asr	14:46
Sunrise ..	05:54	Maghrib ..	17:11
Zohr	11:32	Isha	18:28

Local

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

Contractors will replace faulty units, fines warned

Education ministry inks 14 AC maintenance contracts worth KD7.3 mln

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: The Ministry of Education (MoE) has successfully resolved the air conditioning predicament within its schools and educational establishments. This was made possible by the signing of 14 maintenance contracts, worth 7.3 million dinars, each spanning the duration of 3 years.

These contracts are evenly distributed, with two assigned to each educational district, mirroring a similar allocation for the ministry’s central office.

Within these air conditioning contracts, the Educational Facilities and Planning Sector introduced provisions mandating that the contracted companies must “replace 30 percent of the existing air conditioning units with new units with identical specifications and technical standards of the highest quality. This replacement should be executed within a maximum timeframe of 3 months from the project’s commencement,” reports Al-Rai daily.

In accordance with the specifications document, a copy of which has been obtained by the daily, non-compliance with these requirements results in the Ministry’s prerogative to initiate the replacement of the units at the contractor’s expense, accompanied by a 15 percent administrative charge.

Furthermore, the Ministry is not obliged to provide a warning, and it retains the authority to impose fines and deduct any losses or damages resulting from delays in fulfilling these requests from the contractor’s remuneration for services provided to the Ministry or other government entities, without necessitating legal proceedings.

The document clearly outlines the time frame for executing work orders: 6 hours in any given area, and 12 hours in cases necessitating the replacement of the air conditioning units’ compressors. If the repair duration exceeds these limits, the contracting company is required to disassemble the unit and trans-

Weather		
cloudy with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 06-26 km/h.		
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	35	27
Kuwait Airport	36	23

Abdaly	37	21
Jahra	37	25
Salmiyah	32	28
Ahmadi	31	30
Nuwaisib	34	23
Wafra	37	20

Housing Crisis

Nightmare haunts 92,000 families

‘Mafia obstructing solution; half of salary goes on rent’

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: The housing crisis continues to top the list of crises and problems that citizens have been suffering for years. Despite the billions spent annually on loans and housing projects being built in a number of new areas, about 92,000 citizens are still waiting in a long queue for their turn to obtain their

dream house.

Even though the problem has led to research and debate, and much ink has been spilled to find out its causes, reasons, and ways to solve it, it still haunts Kuwaitis, as there is now a third generation waiting for its turn.

Al-Seyassah seeks to reach clear answers to a number of questions related to this thorny issue, the most prominent of which is perhaps - How long will the citizens suffer from the consequences of this crisis that forces them to move from one apartment to another, as the number of their family members increase while they are waiting for government housing? Can the entry of the private sector and the local banking sector accelerate the solution to the housing crisis?

Is there a solution to this stubborn knot? Are there parties who do not have an interest in resolving the crisis?

We pose these questions and more to a number of former housing ministers and those with experience in the field of real estate, as part of the following investigative report.

A number of Kuwaiti youth, members and heads of popular committees in some areas of the country called for seeking assistance from the private sector to solve the housing crisis as soon as possible.

They affirmed that the sector has enormous potential that will enable it to solve the problem and reduce the waiting period, which has now reached about a decade and a half.

They said, “There is a mafia that is obstructing the solution to the housing crisis for its personal interests. Citizens are paying half of their salary per month on the rent of the apartments where they live”.

They called on the government to increase the rent allowance or speed up the solution to the crisis.

A member of the South Sabah Al-Ahmad Residents Committee Ali Sanasiri said the state is building housing cities, but the problem lies in the delay of contracting companies in implementation.

Construction

He indicated that the city, which is supposed to be delivered within three years, remains under construction for seven years, which leads to an accumulation of housing requests and costs the state more rent payments to citizens.

Sanasiri said he was surprised by the long wait for citizens to receive residential care, stressing that some married their children before receiving residential care.

He stressed the importance of the government and the National Assembly to join forces to find realistic solutions to the long-standing housing crisis.

Sanasiri called on MPs to adopt realistic solutions to the crisis instead of making bright promises.

Meanwhile, Adel Al-Ajmi, a member of the Northwestern Sulaibikhat Residents Committee, revealed that he has been waiting to obtain residential care for eight years.

He called for reducing the period of residential care to no more than five years.

Al-Ajmi said a citizen pays no less than KD 450 per month to rent an apartment, and the rent allowance of KD 150 is not enough in light of the financial load that burdens the citizens.

He indicated that there are some who deliberately obstruct the solution to the housing crisis.

Al-Ajmi called on the private sector to solve the housing crisis as soon as possible, especially since this sector has enormous potential to solve the problem.

Furthermore, a Kuwaiti citizen Hussein Al-Matar revealed that he has been waiting for housing care since 2016 and that he suffers from paying the rent, which is more than half of his salary.

He said he was surprised by the government’s refusal to increase the rent allowance to around KD 300.

Al-Matar said he rents an apartment in Jabriya for KD 600, and his salary is around KD 1,000, which means more than half of his salary goes for paying rent.

He suggested that the state hand over the apartment to the citizen until he receives housing care, and in this way it will provide the rent allowance that it pays to the citizen.

Also, the Chairman of the Mutlaa Residents Committee Khaled Al-Enezi said, “The solution is not just offering lands, but it requires relying on contracting companies affiliated with the private sector to prepare the infrastructure. Is it reasonable for a citizen to be given a plot in South Saad Al-Abdullah, for example, and then wait for four years until the infrastructure is ready?”

Al-Enezi called on the government to increase the rent allowance or speed up the solution to the housing crisis so that citizens do not have to wait a decade and a half to receive housing care, especially since a family with four children needs an apartment with a higher rent, and as the number of children increases, the citizen is forced to go to a larger apartment, and he eventually receives residential care when he approaches retirement.

Uncertainty

He said the government uncertainty further obstructs the solution to the housing crisis, as the minister does not stay in office for more than a year, and when he is replaced, a new housing minister is brought in who draws up new policies and plans for housing.

Al-Enezi affirmed his rejection of the idea of a real estate developer, clarifying that he believes it is not suitable for the Kuwaiti people at the present time, especially since real estate development can only take place in building residential towers, and the citizens have not yet accepted the idea of living in an apartment forever. This is especially since some multi-storey buildings are subject to negative practices, such as what is happening in the Sawaber complex.

He added that there is a mafia that controls decision-making and it is in its interest not to solve the housing crisis.

On a related development , a Kuwaiti citizen Bu Hamad, who has been waiting for housing care for nearly ten years, refused vertical construction as a solution to the housing crisis, irrespective of its specifications, especially since the Constitution refuses to differentiate between one citizen and another in terms of rights and duties.

He stated that the continuation of the housing crisis affects those with limited income in light of the increasing cost of rents for citizens waiting for housing care.

In addition, a Kuwaiti citizen Bader Al-Baidan explained that he got married in 1983 and waited for residential care for 22 years until he obtained it in 2005. The long waiting period costs the state in rent. The solution to the housing crisis could be through direct contracting between the state and international contracting companies that can complete housing cities in the shortest possible time.

KIB takes part in 2nd National Urban Forum for Kuwait state

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) recently participated in the Second National Urban Forum for the State of Kuwait, a collaborative effort between UN-Habitat and the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development. The forum, which took place at the Kuwaiti Graduates Society, was held under the theme “The Road of Kuwait Cities 2035: Achievements and Challenges.”The Bank’s participation falls in line with its commitment to playing a key role in the sustainable development of the country and its position in the world economy.

Commenting on the Bank’s participation, Nawaf Najia, Executive Manager of the Corporate Communications Unit at KIB, said: “At KIB, we are always keen to take part in vital events organized in Kuwait, especially those that help highlight the scope of our comprehensive social responsibility program and further embed Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) as a core pillar of our strategy. To this end, we are delighted to have had the opportunity to participate in the Second National Urban Forum, which allowed us to learn more about the emerging urban challenges facing Kuwait and its ambitious Vision 2035.”

He added: “In light of the significant urban population growth combined with the ever-changing demographic needs, the forum served as a great platform to bring together key stakeholders to promote best practices in urban development towards creating thriving, resilient cities. We enjoyed being part of

the conversation and look forward to taking part in similar events in the future.”

The Second National Urban Forum aimed to create a shared understanding of urban challenges and opportunities by hosting a series of discussions and conferences

focused on the theme of building resilient cities. Among its key highlights, the forum provided a comprehensive review of national urban policies and their effectiveness in prompting sustainable development.

It also featured discussions that revolved around strategies to enhance urban resilience to climate change and ensure the inclusivity of urban development . More importantly, it encouraged collaboration between governments, the private sector, civil society, and international organizations to achieve sustainable urban development.

It is worth noting that KIB spares no effort to reinforce its leading position as a proactive advocate of sustainable development in Kuwait. Accordingly, the Bank strives to contribute to the progress and economic growth of

the nation, in line with its endeavors to integrate environmental, social, and governance strategies into its policies and decisions.



Nawaf Najia

87 absconders nabbed

345 people arrested for drug use

By Munaif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: A total of 345 individuals were arrested over suspicions of using drugs, and were referred to the Drugs Control General Department for necessary action.

According to the case file, based on instructions from the Assistant Undersecretary for Public Security, Traffic and Operations Sector Affairs, Major General Abdullah Al-Rajaib, rescue officers rushed to the location with paramedics.

Rescue patrol officers were able to arrest 345 people suspected of using narcotic substances and refer them to the Directorate General for Drug Control within a week.

Bid to keep pace with rising population

MEW to increase water productivity

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: According to informed sources in the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, the ministry seeks to increase its water productivity by 288 million imperial gallons until 2028 through four projects.

The first project includes 75 million imperial gallons per day from the Nu-waiseeb station, the second 60 million gallons per day from the second phase of the Doha West Station, 120 million gallons through the second and third phases of the Zour North station, and 33 million gallons per day from the first phase of the Al-Khiran station.

The current production capacity of seven stations affiliated with the Ministry amounts to a total of 682.8 million imperial gallons per hour.

The sources said the ministry is seeking to increase its water productivity with the aim of keeping pace with the steady increase in the population and expanding the construction of new residential cities that mainly need electricity and water services.

They indicated that the four projects are included in the ministry’s plan and will be offered successively through the Central Agency for Public Tenders, provided that coordination is made with the Ministry of Finance to provide the necessary budgets for their proposal and implementation.

In parallel, the ministry announced the activation of the electronic messaging system to send and receive correspondence with companies, in continuation of the efforts of the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy for digital transformation.

In a press statement issued yesterday, the ministry asked all companies wishing to register to fill out the form via the ministry’s website (scanning the code at

Air bridge hailed

‘We thank Kuwait’

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: The Ambassador of the State of Palestine Rami Tabboub says the decision to launch the Kuwaiti air bridge to provide relief to the Palestinian people is nothing but an extension of the honorable positions of this dear country towards the Palestinian people and their just national cause, and the firm support for the rights of our people to achieve their freedom and independence, and to establish their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

In a press statement issued yesterday, Ambassador Tabboub said, “Time and time again, the State of Kuwait declares in word and deed that its relationship with Palestine is an organic relationship with its roots in the earth and its branches in the sky.”

He expressed his appreciation and gratitude to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmed Al-Nawaf, and the government and people of the State of Kuwait for their role in helping the Palestinian people who are being subjected to genocide in the besieged Gaza Strip.

the top of the page) or to visit the Public Registry Department on the second floor of the Ministry’s building to fill out the form and get it approved.

It stressed that the manual receipt of correspondence and documents will be stopped three months after the announcement.

Cloudy weather, scattered rain expected on Tuesday and Wed

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: Meteorologist Muhammad Karam, said Kuwait will experience cloudy to partly cloudy conditions in the days ahead, accompanied by northerly to northeasterly winds.

However, a transition is anticipated on Tuesday when the winds will shift to light to moderate southeasterly, bringing with them scattered rain on both Tuesday and Wednesday. Some thunderstorms may occur intermittently due to the influence of the African monsoon depression on the Arabian Peninsula, reports Al-Rai daily.

Karam added the prospects for rain Tuesday and Wednesday may be accompanied by thunder. He anticipated relatively stable weather conditions for Thursday and Friday, followed by a resurgence of clouds on the subsequent Saturday, with a chance of rain expected on Sunday, Oct 29. Karam also pointed out that the maximum daytime tem-

peratures are expected to gradually decline, ranging between 34 and 35 degrees Celsius.

However, he ruled out any significant impact from the hurricane anticipated to affect the coast of the Sultanate of Oman in the coming days.

Meteorologist Fahd Al-Otaibi stated that the anticipated Oman hurricane is likely to transform into a tropical storm after hitting the coast of Oman, potentially causing thunderstorms and strong wind. He stressed that the hurricane’s impact would be limited to the coasts of the Sultanate and northern Yemen.

Regarding Kuwait’s weather outlook in the coming days, Al-Otaibi indicated that the country should expect cloudy to partly cloudy conditions. There is a possibility of scattered light rain towards the end of the weekend, and rain chances are expected to return in the middle of the following week.

diwaniya

ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

‘Media needs to spread real facts, images of Israeli atrocities’

“I tweeted, wrote, read, followed, and watched all or a large part of what was circulated about Palestine, the recent plight of Gaza, and the brutal massacres that our people there experienced,” columnist **Iqbal Al-Ahmad** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

“Away from politics and close to humanity, I can say that the people of Kuwait are humane to the degree they dealt with the issue, with pure humanity.

“I know that there will be those who will respond that some, and they are a few, were far from objectivity and close to sectarian, religious or other influences, but I repeat and confirm once again that in this corner I only mean one thing, and I only write on one point -- humanity and nothing else -- Humanity, with all its emotions, rights, and the absence of injustice.

“There are those who are taken by enthusiasm and taken by humanity to the extreme, and this is a very good thing in situations like the one we are currently experiencing, as we watch and follow the events in Gaza and the amount of human destruction.

“There are those whose feelings are mixed with gloating due to the positions of some Palestinians during the Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait in 1990. There are those who were silent and refrained from commenting or expressing their point of view for reasons that they maintain, and there are also those who mixed the issue of Hamas, the affiliation of Hamas and Iran, and Iran’s relationship with the issue, so they remained silent and when they spoke, they mixed the rope with a crossbow.

“Here I reiterate and confirm that the humanity that emerged from the people of Kuwait, represented in the positions, whether written or material or moral support, did not come out of nowhere, but rather because this people lived the plight of the occupation and the assault on humanity, before the assaults took place on the ground,

“This alone is enough to make us, all Kuwaitis, struggle with the Palestinian people, not with weapons, but with feelings and pressure by any means possessed by any person, by returning the compass of humanity to its natural place, after the Zionist and Western media played with it, mixing the North with the South and the East with the West.

“Likewise, US President Joe Biden announced during his visit to Israel his full solidarity with the criminal, and granted Israel a certificate of innocence from the brutal massacres in Gaza, especially the bombing of the Baptist Hospital in Gaza, and the spread of the bodies and body parts of children carried by grief-stricken parents in nylon bags, with utter premeditated disregard and from many Western quarters, this horrific crime.

“When pictures of children, women, and even helpless men are published, and the Israeli military machine has trampled on their dignity and humanity with an amount of hatred and racism, this has increased the amount of racism with which the Israeli and Western people have been tainted, and when the American Presi-



Iqbal Al-Ahmad

dent Biden gives the instrument of acquittal to Israel from the massacres that were brutalized against the people of Gaza, without waiting for the results of the fact-finding of the perpetrator of this crime, this can only be called a lack of neutrality and an inhumane treatment of this crime in all the meanings of the word.

“The media and the media is the people’s weapon. It is the one which has the power to turn the facts upside down, and it is capable of turning the perpetrator into a victim and the victim into a criminal, when humanity is lost, and when truth is absent.

“Therefore, our weapon, those of us who have any simple capabilities in the field of media, journalism, or anything else, is to use the media to spread the real, heartbreaking facts and images that the Israelis have been committing for many years, the most recent of which is what happened in the Baptist Hospital.”

Also:

“The Rafah border crossing, situated in the southern region of the blockaded Gaza Strip, serves as the primary lifeline and humanitarian gateway for the over two million residents of this densely populated 360-square-kilometer area,” columnist **Fahd Amash Al-Jabri** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

“Regrettably, it was only recently opened to facilitate the delivery of essential humanitarian aid, medical provisions, and other vital supplies. This development comes at a time when Israel, the occupying force, enforces a comprehensive blockade on the Gaza Strip, curtailing access to electricity, water, and fuel.

“This harsh measure seems to be part of an overt attempt to coerce the Gaza population into forced displacement from their homes.

“It is as though Israel has not heeded the lessons from its previous confrontations with resistance groups in Gaza over the years, including the events of 2007, 2009, 2012, 2014, and 2019. In response to Operation Al-Aqsa Flood, Tel Aviv has returned to its ineffective strategy of weakening the resistance by maintaining the siege and incessantly targeting residential buildings, public infrastructure, and United Nations-affiliated shelters.

“This campaign reached its zenith with the bombing of the Baptist Hospital in the Gaza Strip, resulting in the tragic loss of more than 500 lives, most of whom were women, children, and the elderly.

“According to the Palestinian Ministry of Health in the Gaza Strip, the total number of casualties has now reached 4,385, including 1,590 children, 1,050 women, and 150 elderly individuals. Moreover, 4 hospitals in the northern and central parts of the Gaza Strip have been incapacitated due to direct Israeli attacks. Fourteen health centers have also been rendered non-operational due to power outages and fuel depletion.

“Not content with these violations and aggressions, Israel has publicly declared its intent to initiate a ground operation in the Gaza Strip’s second phase. This is transpiring against the backdrop of a troubling silence and tacit cooperation between Western nations and Israel in the ongoing tragedy unfolding in Palestine.

“Today, we call upon the League of Arab States and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to move beyond mere condemnation and disapproval. Instead, it is imperative for the international community to assume a proactive

stance and collaborate to support our brethren in Palestine.

“This support should encompass exerting pressure on the United Nations to lift the blockade on the Gaza Strip, halt Zionist aggression, and ensure the permanent opening of the Rafah crossing for humanitarian aid and safe passage. The delivery of these vital supplies should be conducted under the auspices of the United Nations and its associated organizations and entities.”

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“The first session of the 17th legislative term ended with parliamentary-governmental cooperation that led to the approval of four important laws,” columnist **Mohammad Al-Ruwaihel** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

“Now we are heading to the second session amid a parliament-government disagreement regarding the priorities of the coordination committee between the National Assembly and the government.

“According to what is broadcasted by some media outlets, it is clear to the observer that the disagreement over these priorities has become apparent, especially with regard to the issues of amnesty, freedoms, and improving the standard of living of citizens.

“There is no doubt that the citizens were happy with this agreement and this cooperation between the two authorities. In fact, they were the reason for its emergence due to their optimism in the new phase.

“But they were frustrated during the parliamentary recess, which was an opportunity for the government to present individual achievements, such as repairing roads, filling leadership positions, and improving the standard of living for citizens, which would have increased its popularity and ensured its stability. However, that did not happen. This is what will complicate the upcoming political scene, and confuse the coordination committee, and can even be exploited by its political opponents to overthrow it.

“The parliamentary-governmental consensus is a path to the desired stability, provided that it is a fruitful and constructive cooperation for the benefit of the country and the people, and not for the survival of the two authorities, if the goal is for them to remain in their seats for the longest period of time. Considering that citizens represent the basic pillar of this stability, it made us, as observers, certain that the role of the council was and still is positive. In fact, the government was even given an opportunity to prove its seriousness in achieving and cooperating, but it failed to perform its role.

“The government and the prime minister not only gained the confidence of the political leadership, but also gained the confidence of 48 representatives and the majority of the people, something that had not happened to any of the previous governments in the political history. This qualified it to realize the achievements and aspirations of the citizens and repair everything that was destroyed during the previous periods. However, it did not take advantage of this opportunity. It is as if it collided with an impenetrable dam whose strength it did not realize and did not prepare itself to overcome. It will stumble unless it realizes its reality and deals with it wisely in the next stage with the start of the next session.”

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary



Al Hammad and Al Jassim in a group photo with the Human Resources and Public Relations team.



A view of stc's booth during Watheefti career fair.



Nawaf Al-Mishri, Haya Bouresli, and Muhammad Al-Saeed during the panel discussion on the critical competencies for success in the workplace.

‘Diverse opportunities for young, motivated candidates’

stc ends sponsorship of 2nd Watheefti career fair

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: Kuwait Telecommunications Company – stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait , concluded its sponsorship and participation in the 2nd Watheefti career fair. The event was held at the Arena Kuwait in 360 under the patronage of His Excellency the Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Dr. Adel Ali Al Manea . stc’s involvement in the event reflects its ongoing commitment to provide career opportunities to Kuwaiti nationals while supporting educational activities, under the “upgrade” umbrella, and to empower the future generation through various initiatives.

The opening ceremony witnessed the attendance of the Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Dr. Adel Al-Manea . Chief Human Resources Officer at stc, Eng. Ahmad Al-Hammad, and the General Manager of Corporate Communications, Danah Al-Jasem also attended the opening ceremony, in addition to the Human Resources and the Public Relations teams from stc, and many prominent executives and senior officials from the public and private sectors.

Watheefti Career fair is considered one of the biggest in the country, as the second edition witnessed the participation of more than 120 private and governmental entities representing various vital sectors of the country. During the fair many workshops and discussion panels were organized covering various functional, administrative and life aspects that concern every job seeker or new employee, presented by a group of the most prominent trainers, speakers

and specialists.

During the career fair, stc organized one of the workshops at the event, which was titled ‘Jobs of the Future’. The workshop was led by engineer Nawaf Al-Mishri, Talent Acquisition Manager at stc. Through his vast experience in talent acquisition, Al-Mishri provided key insights on the current job market in Kuwait and the future outlook of the opportunities that lie ahead for individuals. The workshop was attended by students eager to embark on their future career journeys.

Through its active participation stc also joined the ‘Critical Competencies for Success in the Workplace’ panel discussion, which witnessed the participation of Al-Mishri, Haya Borisly – Senior Strategic HR Business Partner at stc, and Mohammad Al-Saeed – HR Business Partner at stc. The discussion touched upon key competencies vital in today’s dynamic workplace, from adaptability to emotional intelligence and the importance of continuous learning. Emphasizing both technical and soft skills, the panelists highlighted the need for professionals to evolve with the changing demands of the business world.

As part of its participation, members from stc’s recruitment team were present at stc’s booth , providing students and fresh graduates with more information about the various positions available at stc, as well as the Company’s dynamic work environment. The recruitment team also conducted interviews and guided interested candidates in fulfilling the resume submission process foran opportunity to begin their professional journey with stc.

Commenting on the initiative, engineer Ahmad Al Hammad, Chief Human Resources Officer of stc, said,

“At stc, we strongly believe in the importance of empowering the future generation, who will one day become the leaders of our economy, through constructive programs and events that provide an essential learning curve.

Our participation in the 2nd Watheefti career fair, the largest of its kind, reflects the commitment we uphold to our community in providing diverse opportunities to young, motivated candidates who wish to begin their career journey with stc. Our active participation is a testament to our commitment to shaping a vibrant professional landscape in Kuwait, fostering skills and paving the way for our future leaders.”

Through its sponsorship and participation, stc aims to demonstrate its robust commitment to attracting and hiring Kuwaiti talent, aligning with the Kuwaitization law and the Company’s strategic approach to empowering the younger generation across various levels and professions.

Al Hammad added, “As we conclude our participation, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the event’s dedicated organizers and to our dynamic team at stc. The synergy of such events and our participation exemplifies stc’s unwavering commitment as a digital leader to provide a platform for the future generation of Kuwait.

Moving forward, we will continue to play an active role in initiatives that support the community across various aspects that empower the younger generation. Such initiatives strongly align with our educational ‘upgrade’ initiative, which holds the objective of fostering innovation, driving growth, and most importantly, empowering the nation’s future leaders to steer Kuwait towards unparalleled success and prosperity.”

Manhunt ‘launched’ as drug addict threatens cops, flees

160 law-breakers rounded up in Jleeb

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: The security authorities are investigating a person accused of drug abuse who managed to escape in the Sabah Al-Nasser area, after threatening the rescue personnel with a knife, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

The daily reported members of the Farwaniya police force, while carrying out their duty in the Sabah Al-Nasser area received a report about a suspected abnormal situation, and upon heading to the location of the report, they saw a car parked with two people inside, one of them got out and started crying while the other was fast asleep inside the vehicle.

A security source told **Al-Rai**: “Securitymen caught the man who was in an abnormal state. Upon checking his data, it appeared that he was a Kuwaiti citizen born in 1994. Upon searching the vehicle, they found a small bag containing a quantity of Shabu, 10 narcotic pills, and a bottle of alcohol, in addition to two radios, and a knife. He was seized, along with his companion, who turned out to be a bedoun, born in 1987.”

The source added, “When the security men asked the Kuwaiti to get into the patrol car, he pulled out a knife and tried to assault them, then fled to an unknown destination, while his companion was detained and referred to the General Administration for Drug Control. The securitymen are looking for the escapee.

□ □ □

MEW to adopt ‘e-messaging’

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: The Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy made an official announcement regarding the implementation of their electronic messaging system for both sending and receiving correspondences with both individuals and companies, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

The Ministry has called upon interested companies to complete the registration process by filling out the necessary form on the Ministry’s website or by visiting the Public Registry Department located within the Ministry’s building, where they can fill out the form and have it approved.

The Ministry has provided specific requirements for companies looking to complete the registration process, including the submission of an authorization letter from their company.



Neatly packed drugs seized from the trafficker.

Drug pusher nabbed: Investigators from the Al-Firdous police station successfully concluded an operation to apprehend a drug dealer in the Salmiya area using a meticulously planned ambush.

A confidential source in the security sector told **Al-Anba** daily that an Asian has been arrested for selling narcotics -- heroin and shabu, to young people.

Acting on a tipoff received by Investigations Director of Farwaniya Governorate, securitymen got a warrant issued by the Public Prosecution, lay siege for the man and caught him red-handed

Following this intelligence, detectives from the Al-Firdous police station were tasked with monitoring and gathering information about the suspect. Through extensive surveillance and diligent tracking, it was determined that he was actively engaged in drug sales to the youth in the Salmiya and Hawalli regions.

The securitymen then raided the man’s apartment in and found 22 sachets of heroin, 30 sachets of

shabu, 8 pieces of hashish, narcotic pills, and a precision weighing scale.

During interrogation the suspect confessed to his involvement in the illegal narcotics trade. The suspect, along with the seized contraband, was subsequently referred to the Public Prosecution for further legal action.

□ □ □

160 law-breakers held: The General Administration of Residence Affairs Investigation announced the arrest of 160 violators, during a surprise campaign, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

According to security sources those arrested are 15 street vendors, 24 car washers, 5 bootleggers from whom 120 bottles of homemade alcohol has been seized, 5 expatriates caught working for an unlicensed bakery inside a building in the Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh area, and two working for fake servants’ offices.

The sources added legal measures are being taken against the violators and they have been referred to the competent authority.

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Govt discusses priorities to be taken up before Assembly panel

Plan to increase salaries of retirees who earn less than KD700

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: The government is seeking to approve pension money for retirees whose salaries are less than 700 dinars, so that the salary of each of them will reach 1,000 dinars. reports Al-Qabas daily.

Meanwhile, the informed sources reiterated that work continues to reach the best mechanisms to provide justice to retirees, in addition to benefiting from their expertise, albeit some of them so that the areas of Kuwait can benefit from them.

At the level of government-parliamentary work, the source indicated that the government discussed the priorities that will be discussed today with the Priorities Committee in the National Assembly, revealing a government-parliamentary consensus - in principle - on 18 priorities that were recently discussed in the government-parliamentary coordination committee.

The source stated that the government does not

mind approving a large part of these priorities in the next session, but some of them require caution and more comprehensive studies, so the approval of some priorities may be delayed.

The source explained that the strategic alternative is one of the priorities that may take a longer time to be approved due to its complexity and subject to further studies by the relevant state authorities, noting that there is continuous coordination between the authorities in this regard.

MoSA assures that all donations reaching those deserving in Gaza

MoFA keen to monitor foreign transfers: Al-Mutairi

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs Abdulaziz Sari Al-Mutairi affirmed that all donations to Gaza reach those who de-

serve it.

In a press statement issued yesterday, he affirmed the keenness of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to monitor foreign transfers, as they go to associations and destinations approved by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, whether in Gaza or in countries close to it.

Al-Mutairi explained that the ministry, since the beginning of the crisis in Gaza, took the initiative to communicate with the relevant charities. All requests to collect donations submitted by these parties were directly approved. Coordination was also made with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to find out the mechanism for these donations to reach those affected in Gaza.

MoC to involve private sector in future projects

‘54pc of fiber optic network project complete’

By Mohammed Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: Informed sources at the Ministry of Communications revealed that 54 percent of the fiber optic network project has been completed in all governorates.

They said the ministry is moving towards developing the communications sector and involving the private sector in future projects in line with the state’s economic policy aimed at making room for the private sector to contribute to development programs, including telephone, postal and Internet services.

The sources explained that the areas that were completed within the fiber optic network project in Ahmadi Governorate are 15 in total - Finta, Fintas Agricultural,

Old Mangaf (Blocks 1 to 4) - New Mangaf (Blocks 5 to 7), Abu Halifa, Fahaeel, Fahad Al-Ahmad, Sabahiya, South Sabahiya, Egaila, Coastal Strip, Mahboula, Ahmadi, Sabah Al-Ahmad City, Pearl of Al-Khiran (A1, A2, A3), and Khiran Project.

Seven areas in Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate were completed, which are Masayel, Funaitees, Abu Fatira, Adan, Qusour, West Abu Fatira and the coastal strip “Al-Masila.

The areas covered by the fiber optic network project (the third phase) in Ahmadi and Mubarak Al-Kabeer governorates, are 37 in total including Sabhan Industrial Area, Khiran Chalets, Zour, Al-Nuwaiseeb, West and North Central Al-Ahmadi, and Ali Sabah Al-Salem.

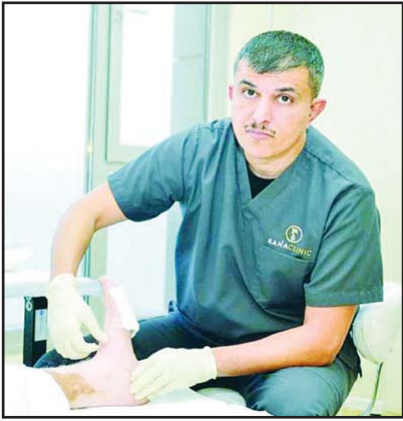
‘Kuwait possesses necessary expertise’

Dr Al-Hamidi highlights causes of death resulting from diabetic foot

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: Dr. Nasser Al-Hamidi, a General Surgery Consultant and Head of the Diabetic Foot Treatment Unit at Farwaniya Hospital, has highlighted a concerning trend -- deaths resulting from diabetic foot disease which now surpass those attributed to breast cancer in Kuwait, reports Al-Rai daily.

Dr. Al-Hamidi underscored the significant impact of diabetes on Kuwaiti society, driven by unhealthy dietary choices and a lack of physical activity. He emphasized that diabetic foot disease’s primary causes include peripheral nerve inflammation, peripheral artery blockages, elevated blood sugar levels, and hypertension. When the production of insulin is insufficient or its utilization is impaired, patients lose sensation in their feet.

Dr. Al-Hamidi reassured that Kuwait possesses the necessary expertise and medical equipment to treat this ailment, comparable to international standards. He issued a stern warning against unverified remedies and “Al-Hawaj” concoctions, noting that they can exacerbate diabetic foot issues.



Al-Rai photo
Dr Nasser Al-Hamidi

healing, and tissue swelling. In cases where peripheral arteries are affected, the patient’s feet may turn blue due to impaired blood flow.

Suffering

Notably, not all patients experience these symptoms, particularly those suffering from neuropathy who may not feel pain or experience mobility issues. Dr. Al-Hamidi stressed the importance of daily foot examinations and diligent monitoring.

Effective treatment hinges on swift intervention, strict blood sugar and blood pressure control, wound care, pressure reduction, and minimal weight-bearing on the affected foot during the recovery process. Antibiotics and infection-fighting medications are often administered, with a focus on meticulous wound cleaning and dead tissue removal to prevent worsening infections, particularly in cases of abscesses and necrotic tissue.

Dr. Al-Hamidi concluded by listing specific care instructions for diabetic foot patients, emphasizing the significance of appropriate footwear, daily foot checks, proper hygiene, nail care, regular medical follow-ups, blood sugar control, early detection of complications, and the treatment of minor wounds to prevent bacterial infiltration and tissue damage.

Causes

As for the causes of diabetic foot, Dr. Al-Hamidi emphasized that factors include loss of sensation due to peripheral neuritis, which results in the inability to perceive pain from wounds, as well as peripheral artery blockages as a diabetes-related complication, elevated blood sugar and hypertension also contribute.

Dr. Al-Hamidi stressed the importance of careful shoe selection by diabetic patients to ensure proper blood circulation in the feet. Both men and women are advised against wearing high heels or going barefoot due to the risk of injuries, given the reduced sensation in their feet.

He outlined several symptoms associated with diabetic foot issues, including loss of sensation, temperature irregularities, tingling, numbness, changes in skin color, slow wound

Parliament probes

Continued from Page 1

In addition, MP Abdulaziz Al-Saqabi submitted parliamentary questions to the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs and State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Essa Al-Kandari, asking for a presentation on the establishment of the third phase of the project for the development of Al-Shaheed Park assigned to the Amiri Diwan to follow up and monitor.

He said he wanted copies of the relevant contract signed by the Amiri Diwan and the contracting company showing the cost of the third phase compared to the costs of the first and second phases.

Al-Saqabi said he wanted to know the expected dates to complete the third phase, and the reasons behind the delay in completion, if any.

Also, Al-Saqabi asked the Minister of Information and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi to provide him with a copy of the visual presentation made by Al-Mutairi in the Cabinet meeting held on October 2, 2023 concerning the contract for designing and preparing the Kuwaiti booth in the Expo 2025 to be held in Osaka, Japan.

He wanted a copy of the tender, and details of the procedures followed to settle the tender with the contracting company, and whether the design of the booth reflects the Kuwaiti traditional culture.

Al-Saqabi asked if the Ministry of Information conducted an assessment of the Expo 2022. If yes, he wanted to know the recorded observations.

Israeli strikes

Continued from Page 1

Israel’s military has said it is striking Hamas members and installations, but does not target civilians. Palestinian militants have fired over 7,000 rockets at Israel, according to the military, and Hamas says it targeted Tel Aviv early Sunday.

The military says it plans to step up airstrikes ahead of the “next stages of the war,” without elaborating.

More than 1,400 people in Israel have been killed in the war - mostly civilians slain during the initial Hamas attack. At least 212 people were captured and dragged back to Gaza, including men, women, children and older adults. Two Americans were released on Friday in what Hamas said was a humanitarian gesture.

The deaths caused by Israeli barbaric aggression on the Gaza Strip went up to 4,651 while 14,245 were injured, said the Palestinian health authorities in the enclave on Sunday.

The authorities added in a statement that 1,873 children were among the dead, and 1,023 women and 187 elderly.

At least 24 massacres were committed during the past 24 hours leaving 266 martyrs including 177 children mostly in the south of Gaza.

The government media office in the Gaza Strip noted that 70 percent of Gaza residents are now homeless and stranded in more than 220 Shelters and gathering centers.

The office also said that 50 percent of residential buildings were completely damaged due to the Israeli occupying ag-

gression strikes.

Syrian state media meanwhile reported that Israeli airstrikes have targeted the international airports in the capital, Damascus, and the northern city of Aleppo. It said the strikes killed one person and damaged the runways, putting them out of service.

Israel has carried out several strikes in Syria, including on the airports, since the war began. Israel rarely acknowledges individual strikes, but says it acts to prevent Hezbollah and other militant groups from bringing in arms from their patron, Iran, which also supports Hamas.

In Lebanon, Hezbollah said six of its fighters were killed Saturday, and the group’s deputy leader, Sheikh Naim Kasseem, warned that Israel would pay a high price if it starts a ground offensive in Gaza. Israel struck Hezbollah targets Sunday in response to rocket fire, the military said.

Israel also announced evacuation plans for another 14 communities near the Lebanon border. Kiryat Shmona’s 20,000 people were told to evacuate last week.

In the Israeli-occupied West Bank, 90 Palestinians have been killed in clashes with Israeli troops, arrest raids and attacks by Jewish settlers since the Hamas attacks, according to the Palestinian Health Ministry. Israeli forces have closed crossings into the territory and checkpoints between cities, measures they say are aimed at preventing attacks. Israel says it has arrested more than 700 Palestinians since Oct. 7, including 480 suspected Hamas members.

Israeli forces killed at least five people there early Sunday, according to the Health Ministry. Two were killed in an airstrike on a mosque in the town of Jenin, which has seen heavy gunbattles over the past year.

The Israeli military said the mosque compound belonged to Hamas and Islamic Jihad militants who had carried out several attacks in recent months and were planning another one.

The internationally recognized Palestinian Authority administers parts of the West Bank and cooperates with Israel on security, but it is deeply unpopular and has been the target of violent Palestinian protests.

Elsewhere, Turkish presidential airplane took off from Ankara to Egypt on Sunday carrying 20 specialized doctors onboard to provide medical assistance to Gaza.

Anadolu News Agency stated that in addition to doctors, the plane was transporting medication and medical supplies to help establish field hospitals in coordination with Egyptian Health Ministry.

Turkish Minister of Health, Fahrettin Koca, mentioned that he discussed the matter with Egyptian counterpart Khaled Abdulghaffar and field hospitals are meant to take place in Al-Arish Airport and Rafah crossing.

The Turkish Minister explained that necessary equipment and ambulances would be sent via ship to Egypt later on.

Israeli occupation continues to intensify air strikes on Gaza, which has been under siege since October 7 as the Israeli occupation forces banned the supply of food, water, medicine and fuel causing the humanitarian situation to deteriorate.

The Palestinian Ministry of Health stated that seven hospitals and 21 medical centers are no longer in working order.

October

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Al-Ajeel participates in digital transformation discussion panel

‘KFH’s digital leadership a competitive advantage’

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: As part of the Bank’s strategic partnership with the National Leadership Institute (NLI), Kuwait Finance House (KFH) Executive Manager Digital Transformation, Tareq Al-Ajeel participated in the first discussion panel on the significance of digital transformation. The conference brought together participants from different sectors, notable financial institutions, and field experts.

During the discussion panel, Al-Ajeel stated that KFH online application has achieved massive success and was ranked first on Apple store, primarily for its efficiency, ease of use and innovative banking and financial solutions. “At the end of Q3 of 2023, KFH customers carried out more than 152 million digital banking transactions through KFHonline on mobile and website, with a growth of about 40% compared to the same period last year,” he added.

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

He went on to say that KFH has maintained its strength and leadership in offering distinguished digital banking services, noting that the pandemic contributed to accelerating the digital transformation journey of KFH which made significant



Tareq Al-Ajeel during the event.

leaps prior to the pandemic phase.

He revealed that during the total lockdown, KFH continued serving its customers round the clock through its online digital platforms.

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

He noted that Open Banking and Application Programming Interface (API) are reshaping the bank-

ing sphere, therefore banks must adopt and benefit from these applications to improve their overall performance and enhance customer experience.

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

It is worth noting that KFH’s participation in the Breaking Barriers conference stems from its keenness to develop and empower the national leadership capacities, in addition to its interest in enhancing the education system in Kuwait by participating in all the relevant initiatives and events, which constitute a valuable opportunity to address challenges and explore new avenues that contribute to accelerating knowledge transfer, empowering the next generation of national talents, focusing on scientific innovation and forming purposeful partnerships for rising leaders amid a rapidly developing global scene.



A group photo of the panelists.



A general photo of the attendees.

AUK collaborates with Al-Manakh to hold panel discussion promoting sustainability in business

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: The College of Business and Economics (CBE) at the American University of Kuwait (AUK) collaborated with Al-Manakh, Kuwait’s first climate change non-governmental organization (NGO), to hold a panel discussion promoting sustainability in business. The event fostered a culture of sustainable practices among its attendees, a testament to CBE’s unwavering commitment to the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME).

Ms. Mariam Alsaad served as a moderator representing Al-Manakh and introduced the panelists: Mr. Hussain Jassim, owner of Sanity Store, Kuwait’s first zero-waste store that sells sustainable products; AUK alumna Ms.

Hind AIKhatrash, owner of Leap Loves Green, the first Kuwaiti company offering sustainable female products; and Ms. Ebtisam Al Haddad, GM, strategic planning department at the Commercial Bank of Kuwait.

The discussion delved into the urgency of addressing climate change, strategies for improving energy efficiency, and the impact of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors in business. The advantages of sustainability in business was also underscored, including resource conservation for operational efficiency, brand enhancement, business resilience, and cost reduction in debt and equity.

Each panelist elaborated on their approach to incorporating sustain-

ability into their organizations, inspiring students to embrace individual and collective responsibility and implement sustainable practices too. The discussion emphasized the transformative impact students can have in shaping a more sustainable future.

AUK’s dedication to fostering a culture of sustainability is not only evident in its curriculum but also in the various initiatives and discussions it promotes, all aimed at instilling environmental and social responsibility in its students and the wider community. As an advocate for sustainability, AUK continues to make significant contributions towards a more sustainable and responsible future, setting an example for educational institutions worldwide.

Agency refers documents to ministry

CAPT receives 4 bids for tender tied to small ships

By Mohammed Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: The Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) announced that it had received four bids for the tender for the first phase of operating and maintaining the cathodic protection system for the quay wall and berth for small ships in Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port.

According to sources in the Ministry of Public Works, the agency referred the documents of the four submitted and competing bids for implementing the tender to the ministry to study them and submit the necessary recommendations regarding them within 30 days.

The tender work aims to cover iron metal structures and pipes with some materials to protect them from corrosion as a result of their surfaces being exposed to contact with soil or water. The ministry allocated KD 9 million within its budget for the current fiscal year of 2023/2024. The project will increase its budget during the next fiscal year once implementation begins.

In a related context, CAPT decided to refer the tender documents for studying and designing infrastructure improvement works in Shamiya and Shuwaikh to the Ministry of Public Works for study.

It highlighted that eight bids for the tender have been opened according to what is written in the price list, provided that the ministry submits the necessary recommendation within 30 days.

Article 29’s removal eyed from original draft of residency law

Mol, parliamentary panel draft recommendations

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: The Ministry of Interior, in collaboration with the Parliamentary Interior Affairs and Defense Committee, has drafted a memorandum of recommendations for the amendment of the Foreigners’ Residence Law, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Among the prominent proposed changes is the removal of Article 29 from the original draft, which had been submitted to the National Assembly in 2020 during the tenure of the former minister of Interior, Anas Al-Saleh.

Article 29 in question previously outlined that individuals who proactively reported to the relevant authorities about an agreement to engage in the crime of residency trafficking, as specified in Article 18 of this law, before its execution, would be exempt from penalties.

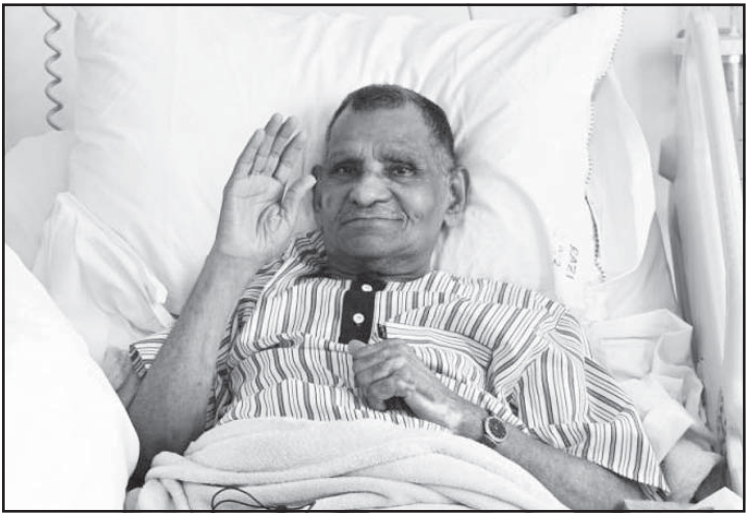
Additionally, the court could consider exemption if the report occurred after the crime had been committed but before any investigations had commenced.

Moreover, if the informant assisted in the arrest of the remaining perpetrators, they could be considered for leniency. Foreign nationals who reported the occurrence of such crimes and provided evidence to support their claims were granted a specific period, as determined by the Ministry of Interior, to transfer their residence to a different employer.

Failure to do so within the stipulated time-frame would result in deportation, with the expenses being borne by their sponsor or employer.

The Civil Service Council has agreed to raise the age for scholarship and study leave regulations to up to 50 years, for those wishing to obtain an academic diploma or bachelor’s degree in addition to postgraduate studies, Master’s and Doctorate, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The Civil Service Commission explained that this decision came out of interest in encouraging national cadres to complete their educational attainment, in a way that contributes to the development and skills in various academic specializations commensurate with the needs of government agencies.



Abbas Al-Badri

Al-Rai photo

Abbas’ credits contain over 200 songs

Artiste Al-Badri passes away at 78

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: The distinguished artiste Abbas Al-Badri, whose artistic career spanned nearly half a century, and was famous for presenting many successful songs and garnering a large fan base in the Gulf states and the Arab world, passed away at the age of 78, reports Al-Rai daily.

His singing debut witnessed cooperation with major artistic names, including with composer Ibrahim Al-Soula in presenting a song characterized by the Samaritan color.

This cooperation continued in many songs, as his credits contain more than 200 songs.

One of his most famous works is the song “Khaleejiya”, which achieved great success and his followers still remember it to this day, and most artistes sing it during public concerts, in addition to the song “Ghali Le Ybad”, which is considered one of the most prominent Kuwaiti songs that lives in the memory of the music lovers.

Probe panel to ‘check’ into power theft cases

By Mohammed Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: The Public Prosecution formed an investigation committee to check on the incident of attempting to infiltrate electricity and water billing systems to uncover the truth.

The committee includes representatives from the Department of Experts and Kuwait University, and excludes representatives from the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, considering that the ministry is a party to the case. This is within the framework of the efforts made by the

Public Prosecution and Electricity in this case.

According to informed sources at the Ministry of Electricity and Water, the case, which began with the arrest of a number of defendants by the Department of Anti-Electronic Crimes for their attempt to hack the ministry’s systems, is still pending with the Public Prosecution.

The Ministry of Electricity and Water had previously provided its testimony regarding everything related to the details of this case and how its employees working in the relevant departments of the customer services sector entered readings and issued customer invoices.

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Specialist Dermatologist and Venerologist

Diploma American Academy of Aesthetic Medicine

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Master's Degree in Cardiology

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طبيب ممارس عام

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Diabetes (UK)

Dr. S. M. Sultana

General Physician & Diabetologist

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دكتور رشمي لاكسمان

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ماجستير في أمراض النساء والولادة

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Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

د. سواتي ب كاباديا

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جلدوم الأكاديمية الأمريكية

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د. أمجد صلاح

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Dr. Amgad Salah

Radiologist

Head of the Radiology Department

د. سوشما نارايان

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د. إنغا سادادا

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طب الأسنان

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الصيدلية

Pharmacy

العيادات

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فحص كورونا

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أمراض القلب

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المختبر

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Dermatology & Venereology

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الأشعة

Radiology

التجميل والليزر

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Complaints And Suggestions

World News Roundup

Europe

6 dead in Russia rocket strike: A missile strike on a mail depot in the eastern Ukrainian city of Kharkiv killed six people, Ukrainian officials said Sunday.

A further 16 people were injured in the blast late Saturday, which is believed to have been caused by a Russian S-300 rocket, Kharkiv governor Oleh Syniehubov said on social media.

All of the victims were employees of private Ukrainian postal and courier service Nova Poshta.

In a statement, the company said that the air raid siren had sounded just moments before the attack, leaving those inside the depot with no time to reach shelter. It announced that Sunday would be a day of mourning for the firm.

Ukrainian President **Volodymyr Zelenskyy** described the strike as an attack on an “ordinary civilian object.”

“We need to respond to Russian terror every day with results on the front line. And, even more so, we need to strengthen global unity in order to fight against this terror,” he wrote on social media.

“Russia will not be able to achieve anything through terror and murder. The end result for all terrorists is the same: the need to face responsibility for what they have done.”

Elsewhere in the Kharkiv region, three people were injured in Russian shelling on the city of Kupiansk, Syniehubov said. (AP)



Zelenskyy

Berisha charged: Albania’s former prime minister Sali Berisha said Saturday that prosecutors charged him with corruption and money laundering in connection with a land deal involving a Tirana property.

Berisha, 79, said the prosecutor’s office in charge of cases against senior officials or major cases, ordered him not to leave the country. Berisha also said his son-in-law, 50-year-old Jamarber Mallezi, was arrested on the same charges at the Tirana International airport. Berisha said both he and Mallezi are innocent.

“On these charges I declare that they are absolutely without any basis and purely and fully political accusations from (current prime minister) Edi Rama,” he said at a news conference late Saturday. Rama did not immediately respond to Berisha’s claim. (AP)

Meloni splits from partner: Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni announced Friday that she is separating from her partner and the father of their young daughter after nearly a decade together.

In a statement posted on social media, Meloni said her relationship with Andrea Giambruno had ended. She said their paths had diverged “for some time.” But the announcement came after Giambruno, an on-air television personality, was caught on audio seemingly making lewd remarks to colleagues.

An Italian satirical news program, Striscia la Notizia, aired two nights’ worth of programming on Giambruno this week, using backstage clips and audio. Striscia is a primetime program of the Mediaset broadcaster of the late Silvio Berlusconi, whose Forza Italia party is a junior partner in Meloni’s government.

This week marks the first anniversary of Meloni’s government, Italy’s first headed by a woman and first hard-right-led administration since the end of World War II. (AP)

‘Rights of residents violated’: Italy violated the human rights of residents living in and around Naples by failing to manage a 15-year garbage and pollution crisis that contributed to higher mortality rates from cancer in the area, the European Court of Human Rights ruled.

The preliminary verdict announced Thursday from the Strasbourg-based court is the second major one in recent years to find that Italy’s failure to collect, treat and dispose of tons of waste in the Campania region adversely affected residents’ personal well-being.

Residents of the area have long complained about adverse health effects from the dumping, which has poisoned the underground wells irrigating the farmland that provides vegetables for much of Italy’s center and south. The area is known as the “land of fires,” since the accumulated waste is commonly burned, spewing toxic fumes for kilometers (miles).

Authorities say at least some of the contamination is due to the local Camorra mob’s multibillion-dollar racket in disposing of hazardous waste. (AP)

‘Expand deportations’: Chancellor Olaf Scholz says Germany needs to start deporting “on a large scale” migrants who don’t have the right to stay in the country, adding to increasingly tough talk on migration since his coalition performed badly in two state elections earlier this month.

Scholz’s comments in an interview with weekly Der Spiegel were published Friday, as a leading German opposition figure called for the center-left chancellor to dump his quarrelsome coalition partners and instead form a government with conservatives to deal with migration issues.

Scholz has signaled an increased desire to take personal charge of migration over the past two weeks, following a pair of regional elections in which voters punished his three-party coalition, which has squabbled publicly on a wide range of subjects. Mainstream conservatives won both votes and the far-right Alternative for Germany made significant gains. Last week, Scholz announced legislation to ease deportations of unsuccessful asylum-seekers. (AP)



Britain’s Queen Camilla, (foreground right), greets jockey Frankie Dettori during a ceremony to unveil a statue created by Tristram Lewis, ahead of the British Champions Day at Ascot Racecourse, in Ascot, England on Oct 21. (AP)

Politics

Johnson suspends long-shot presidential bid

Americans’ faith in institutions sliding for yrs

WASHINGTON, Oct 22, (AP) — For many Americans, the Republican dysfunction that has ground business in the US House to a halt as two wars rage abroad and a budget crisis looms at home is feeding into a longer-term pessimism about the country’s core institutions.

The lack of faith extends beyond Congress, with recent polling conducted both before and after the leadership meltdown finding a mistrust in everything from the courts to organized religion. The GOP internal bickering that for nearly three weeks has left open the speaker’s position - second in line to the presidency - is widely seen as the latest indication of deep problems with the nation’s bedrock institutions.

“They’re holding up the people’s business because they’re so dysfunctional,” said Christopher Lauff, 57, of Fargo, North Dakota.

Part of that business, he said, is approving money for Ukraine to continue its fight against Russia’s invasion, something he says ultimately helps the U.S. - a point President Joe Biden stressed Thursday during an Oval Office address.

“We’re usually the knight in shining armor, but we can’t be that now,” said Lauff, a Democrat.

The disdain for Congress is just one area where Americans say they are losing faith. Various polls say the negative feelings include a loss of confidence or interest in institutions such as organized religion, policing, the Supreme Court, even banking.

“Trust in institutions has deteriorated substantially,” said Kay Schlozman, professor of political science at Boston College. Schlozman said she believes in government and the things it provides, such as national defense and access to health care, but “I also can very much understand why the American people can be cynical about government.”

The turmoil in the House and the federal case against Democratic Sen Robert Menendez of New Jersey, who is facing charges for bribery, show that both major parties are contributing to the dour outlook. The House has been without a permanent

leader since early October after a small cadre of right-wing Republicans pushed out a member of their own party, then-Speaker Kevin McCarthy. Subsequent attempts to replace him have failed.

“That is an example of exactly the kind of thing that I would say can’t foster trust of government among the American people - the multiple votes, the fractiousness within parties, of people being personally ambitious and not being willing to compromise” Schlozman said.

About half of adults (53%) say they have “hardly any confidence at all” in the people running Congress, according to a poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research that was conducted in October. That’s in line with 49% who said that in March. Just 3% have a great deal of confidence in Congress, virtually unchanged from March.

Confidence

About 4 in 10 adults (39%) have hardly any confidence in the executive branch of the federal government, compared with 44% in March. Most Republicans (56%) have low levels of confidence in the executive branch - which is overseen by a member of the opposing party, Democrat Joe Biden - compared with just 20% of Democrats.

About a third of adults (36%) say they have hardly any confidence in the conservative-majority Supreme Court, a figure that has remained steady in recent months. The polling reinforces that Democrats are more likely than Republicans to say their confidence in the Supreme Court is low. Black Americans are more likely than Americans overall, as well as more likely than white or Hispanic adults, to have hardly any confidence in the nation’s highest court.

One-third of US adults (33%) continue to have low levels of confidence in the Justice Department, with Republicans having less confidence than Democrats. This comes as former President Donald Trump rails against the department after being charged with mishandling classified documents and attempts to overturn the 2020

election results.

Rick Cartelli, 63, a health care worker in Rocky Hill, Connecticut, who identifies as an independent, said he is happy with his local and state government but the current environment, especially the chaos on Capitol Hill, has wiped out what little confidence he had in that institution.

Also:

WASHINGTON: US Republican businessman **Perry Johnson** suspended his long-shot bid for president on Friday after failing to gain traction in the race.

Johnson said the fact that he wasn’t permitted to participate in the debates played a major role in his decision. He accused the Republican National Committee of using “authoritarian power” to keep him off the debate stage despite the RNC contending he hadn’t met the necessary polling and donor qualifications.

“I’ve said it before and I’ll say it again, the people should decide the next president of the United States, not the head of the RNC and her cronies,” Johnson wrote in a statement. “With no opportunity to share my vision on the debate stage, I have decided at this time, suspending my campaign is the right thing to do.”

Johnson maintained he was only suspending his campaign, not officially withdrawing, and would keep a small political team on staff in case the trajectory of the race changed.

He is the third Republican candidate to pause or end his campaign in a primary contest in which former President Donald Trump holds a commanding lead in early polling. Miami Mayor **Francis Suarez** suspended his campaign in August, and former Texas congressman **Will Hurd** dropped out earlier this month.

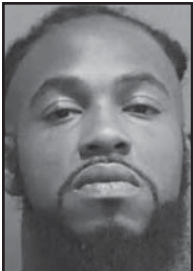
Johnson filed a complaint with the Federal Election Commission after failing to qualify for the first GOP presidential debate in August, claiming that he was left off the stage not because he hadn’t met the polling and donor qualifications but because he was “a political outsider.” He also didn’t qualify for the second debate.



Police officer Frank Malack escorts a group of migrants who illegally crossed the border from Poland into Germany during a patrol in a forest near Forst southeast of Berlin, Germany on Oct 11. Germany on Oct 16 notified the European Union’s executive branch of border controls at its frontiers with Poland, the Czech Republic and Switzerland, going a step beyond a move last month to strengthen checks on its eastern border. (AP)



Moevs



Drake Jr

America

Manhunt launched for suspect: Police in Tennessee launched a search Saturday for a suspect alleged to have shot and wounded two police officers in a community near Nashville.

The two officers were transported to a hospital and listed in stable condition following the shooting in La Vergne shortly before 2:30 pm, La Vergne Police Chief **Christopher Moevs** said during a press briefing.

Police identified the suspect as **John C. Drake, Jr.**, 38, who is the son of Metro Nashville Police Department Chief John Drake.

The police chief issued a statement Saturday confirming his son was the suspect in the shooting. Drake said they were estranged and over many years he has had only minimal contact with his son. The younger Drake is a convicted felon who “resorted to years of criminal activity,” he said.

“He now needs to be found and held accountable for his actions today. I hope that anyone who sees him or has information about him will contact law enforcement immediately,” Drake said in the statement.

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation said in a social media post that a statewide alert had been issued for Drake, who was wanted on two counts of attempted first-degree murder.

The shooting occurred at a Dollar General store while officers were investigating a stolen vehicle. The officers struggled with the suspect, who pulled a handgun and shot them, Moevs said. (AP)

Vehicle found, suspect missing: Authorities found the vehicle used by the suspect in the fatal shooting of a Maryland judge but asked the public to remain vigilant Saturday as they continued searching for the man.

Pedro Argote, 49, is suspected of gunning down the judge in his driveway hours after he ruled against him in a divorce case. The Washington County Sheriff’s Office said in a statement posted on Facebook that the silver Mercedes SUV that Argote was believed to be driving had been located in a wooded area in Williamsport, about 8 miles (13 kilometers) southwest of Hagerstown, where the judge was shot outside his home.

“Anyone with information on Argote’s location should immediately notify law enforcement,” the sheriff’s office said in its statement.

Circuit Court Judge Andrew Wilkinson, 52, was shot Thursday night, just hours after he

awarded custody of Argote’s children to his wife. Washington County Sheriff Brian Albert said it was a “targeted attack.”

During a news conference Saturday, Albert said local, state and federal law enforcement agencies are participating in the search for Argote. (AP)



Officers with the Frederick County Sheriff’s Dept. SWAT Team search for suspect Pedro Argote at the former Garden State Tannery plant in Williamsport, Md on Oct 21. Washington County Sheriff Brian Albert said authorities are ‘actively working’ to apprehend 49-year-old Pedro Argote for the ‘targeted attack’ of Maryland Circuit Court Judge Andrew Wilkinson. (AP)

Woman must pay restitution: An Iowa woman who falsely claimed to have cancer and documented her “battle” on social media will stay out of prison after a judge gave her probation and a suspended sentence.

Madison Russo, 20, never had pancreatic cancer, leukemia nor the football-sized tumor wrapped around her spine she that claimed in

postings on TikTok, GoFundMe, Facebook and LinkedIn. But over 400 people sent her donations. As part of the 10-year suspended sentence handed down Friday, she was ordered to pay \$39,000 in restitution and a \$1,370 fine. If she stays out of trouble for three years of probation, she’ll stay free.

The Bettendorf woman pleaded guilty in June to first-degree theft. In court on Friday, Judge John Telleen declined a defense request that would have wiped the conviction off her record if she completes probation successfully. He said people who deal with her in the future should know that she once engaged in a “criminal scheme,” and that “serious crimes must have serious consequences.” (AP)

Shooter gets 23 years: A shooter who ambushed New York City police twice in 12 hours, wounding two officers, has been sentenced to 23 years to life in prison.

Robert Williams, 47, pleaded guilty last month to two counts of attempted murder of a police officer in the February 2020 shootings in the Bronx.

But he said during his sentencing Friday that he didn’t have deadly intent.

“I apologize to my family, the precinct and the cop. I wasn’t trying to kill nobody,” Williams said, asserting that police had beaten and used a stun gun on him in the past. Prosecutors have said Williams told investigators after his arrest that he was “tired” of police.

Bronx Judge Ralph Fabrizio was unmoved. “Your actions are inexcusable,” the judge told Williams on Friday. On the night of Feb. 8, 2020, Williams walked up to a marked police van on a Bronx street, asked officers for directions and then fired into the van at them, wounding Sgt. Paul Stroffolino in the chin and neck, prosecutors said. Williams then ran off. (AP)

Migration

Central America scrambles

Governments to seek solutions to migration

PASO CANOAS, Costa Rica, Oct 22, (AP): The fleet of buses roared past the Panama-Costa Rica border. Hundreds of Venezuelan, Haitian and Ecuadorian migrants pressed their faces to the windows as they looked out onto a sign that read “Welcome to Costa Rica.” But few of them will see more of the country than the winding roads through foggy glass. That’s because last week Costa Rica and Panama announced that, amid a historic crush of people headed to the United States, thousands of migrants a day would be bussed from the jungle-clad Darien Gap through their territories to the Nicaraguan border. The move is the latest patchwork solution by governments in Central America that often have appeared more concerned with lessening the impact on their own nations than complying with pressure from the Biden administration to keep migration levels in check. Regional leaders will seek longer term solutions at a migration summit in Mexico on Sunday. Mexico’s president is **Andrés Manuel López Obrador**. For many undertaking the dangerous journey north, like María Angelys, a 30-year-old Venezuelan traveling with her 2-year-old daughter, the bus program sent a clear message: You’re not welcome. “There are tons of Venezuelans everywhere, and the reality is that they don’t want us here,” said Angelys, waiting in a Costa Rican detention facility for a bus. Angelys, who left Venezuela in October due to the economic crisis in her country, said she had hoped to rest after trekking days through the rugged jungle dividing Colombia and Panama. But conditions in Costa Rica’s migrant camp were so bad she wanted to continue on as fast as possible.

Stopped

Angelys and her daughter are among more than 420,000 migrants to cross the Darien Gap this year. They wind their way through Central America and Mexico to the US-Mexico border, where US authorities say they’ve stopped migrants more than 1.8 million times in the first 11 months of this fiscal year. The volume even prompted the Costa Rican government to declare a state of emergency in late September. It was a drastic step in a country long known for its open asylum laws and hospitality. “We don’t have the capacity to take on this flow of people,” Jorge Rodríguez, the vice minister to the president, said. “Aid has been generous, but it’s not enough.” Buses pick migrants up from camps in eastern Panama, and transport between 1,500 and 2,000 people a day across Costa Rica’s border. They’re dropped off in cramped detention facilities where most sleep on green army cots, bunk beds, cardboard or in tents on the ground where some say liquid from portable toilets leaks. Migrants are not permitted to leave the fenced-off buildings, once a factory, until they buy a bus ticket. A number of migrants told The Associated Press on Monday that they hadn’t eaten since the weekend. Most migrants buy their own bus tickets, paying \$30 per person. “You’re Costa Rica and you have a hundred thousand Venezuelan, Chinese, Indians and Ecuadorians in your territory. What do you do? You can’t afford to send them back. This is the least bad option for them,” Adam Isacson, an analyst tracking migration for the Washington Office on Latin America said. It “keeps the migration out of sight, out of mind,” he added, but passes the problem along to the next country. Rodríguez, the vice minister, said while camps “don’t have the best conditions,” it is still better than before when migrants slept on the street. The government is working to address the situation, he said, but still needs training for aid staff, as well as donations of food, beds and vaccines to stop the spread of disease. Angelys, the Venezuelan mother, was among dozens of people waiting in line at Western Union inside the facility for hours for a transfer of \$200 from her husband in Chicago to buy bus tickets. She cradled her daughter as other children played and slept on the ground nearby.

Quickly

“On one hand, I see it as really good, you get out of the country quickly,” she said. “The objective is the United States, no? Not to stay here. But there are many more that don’t have the money.” Others like 25-year-old Venezuelan migrant Ebrard Sánchez spent his last \$120 paying for the government-organized buses from Panama to Costa Rica. The ride was a welcome respite for his wife and 7-year-old son after being robbed in the jungle. Without anyone to transfer the \$90 they needed to board the bus to the Nicaragua border, the family had been in the migrant camp for five days waiting for one of the few bus trips donated by companies or aid groups. Sánchez said they would have never climbed aboard if they had known they wouldn’t be able to leave the facility. “We honestly feel as if we were in prison,” he said. “All we want to do is work, and everyone is closing their doors on us.” Despite two officials and a dozen migrants in the camp telling the AP that migrants are not allowed to leave the camp, Rodríguez, the vice minister, said migrants are not prohibited from exiting, but that doing so would be illegal due to their migratory status. Other countries on the path north - which have long been the source of migration - have scrambled to cope in different ways. In Nicaragua, migration has seen little control, and by most accounts is speedy. Daniel Cano, a 27-year-old Venezuelan who had made it to southern Honduras with his wife and dog, said they crossed Nicaragua in 13 hours without problems. Other migrants who recently crossed Nicaragua said authorities made them get on buses that delivered them directly to the Honduran border. Honduras offers its own host of problems. Migrants can move freely, unlike in Costa Rica, but they lack basic sanitation and are living in deplorable conditions. Denilson Borges, coordinator for Doctors without Borders in the Honduran city of Danlí, said the number of migrants crossing Honduras has created a health emergency. Doctors are treating everything from respiratory infections to injuries from violent attacks. Last month, Honduras President Xiomara Castro called it “a humanitarian crisis” requiring a regional response.



This image from a video released by the Armed Forces of the Philippines, shows a Chinese coast guard ship with bow number 5203 after bumping a Filipino supply boat as they approach Second Thomas Shoal, locally called Ayungin Shoal, at the disputed South China Sea on Oct 22. (AP)

Asia

Australian PM announces China visit

China ships hit boats in S.China Sea: Manila

MANILA, Philippines, Oct 22, (AP): A Chinese coast guard ship and an accompanying vessel rammed a Philippine coast guard ship and a military-run supply boat Sunday off a contested shoal, Philippine officials said, in an encounter that heightened fears of an armed conflict in the disputed South China Sea. A top Philippine security official told The Associated Press there were no injuries among the Filipino crew members and an assessment of the damage to both vessels was underway. The official said that the two incidents near Second Thomas Shoal, where China has repeatedly tried to isolate a Philippine marine outpost, could have been worse if the vessels were not able to maneuver rapidly away from the Chinese ships. The official spoke on condition of anonymity due to a lack of authority to publicly discuss the matter. China’s sweeping territorial claims in the South China Sea, including over islands closer to Philippine shore, have raised tensions and brought in the United States, a longtime treaty ally of the Philippines.

Disruption

The US ambassador to Manila, MaryKay Carlson, wrote on X, formerly Twitter, that “the United States condemns the PRC’s latest disruption of a legal Philippine resupply mission to Ayungin shoal, putting the lives of Filipino service members at risk.” She used the initials for China’s formal name, the People’s Republic of China, and the name the Philippines uses for Second Thomas Shoal. She added that Washington was standing with its allies to help protect Philippine sovereignty and to support a free and open Indo-Pacific region. The Chinese coast guard said the Philippine vessels “trespassed” into what it said were Chinese waters “without authorization” despite repeated radio warnings, prompting its ships to stop them. It blamed the Philippine vessels for causing the collisions. “The Philippine side’s behavior seriously violates the international rules on avoiding collisions at sea and threatens the navigation safety of our vessels,” the Chinese coast guard said in a statement posted on its website. A Philippine government task force dealing with the South China Sea said the collisions occurred as two Philippine supply boats escorted by two Philippine coast guard ships were heading to deliver food and other supplies to the military outpost that has been under a Chinese blockade. The actions of the Chinese ships were “in utter blatant disregard of the United Nations Charter, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea” and international regulations that

aim to prevent sea collisions, it said. Near-collisions have happened frequently as Philippine vessels deliver supplies to Filipino marines and sailors stationed on the disputed shoal. But this was the first time Philippine officials have reported their vessels being hit by China’s ships. In the past, Chinese officials have played down claims that the Chinese vessels enforcing Beijing’s territorial claims were in fact paramilitary ships disguised as fishing boats. Despite the Chinese efforts, one of the two boats managed to maneuver and deliver supplies to the small contingent stationed on board a marooned warship, the BRP Sierra Madre, the task force said. The South China Sea is one of the world’s busiest trade routes. The disputes involve China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei, and are regarded as a flashpoint in a delicate fault line in U.S.-China rivalry in the region. In early August, a Chinese coast guard ship used a water cannon against one of two Philippine supply boats to prevent it from approaching Second Thomas Shoal. It outraged President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and prompted the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila to summon the Chinese ambassador to convey a strongly worded protest. Washington reacted by renewing a warning that it is obligated to defend the Philippines as a treaty ally. The Chinese Foreign Ministry accused Washington of “threatening China” by raising the possibility of activating the U.S.-Philippine mutual defense treaty. Beijing has repeatedly warned the U.S. not to meddle in regional territorial disputes. The European Union ambassador to Manila, Luc Veron, said the incidents, “their repetition and intensification, are dangerous and very disturbing.” The EU, he added, joins the Philippines “in its call for the full observance of international law in the South China Sea.” A 2016 arbitration ruling set up under the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea invalidated Beijing’s claims on historical grounds to virtually the entire South China Sea. China refused to participate in the arbitration sought by the Philippines, rejected the decision and continues to defy it.

Also:
CANBERRA, Australia: Australian Prime Minister **Anthony Albanese** said he will visit **China** in early November to meet President **Xi Jinping**, making the announcement Sunday hours before he departed for the United States to meet with President **Joe Biden**. The Chinese visit dates were confirmed a day after **Beijing** agreed to review the crippling tariffs it levied on Australian wine that have effectively

blocked trade with the winemakers’ biggest export market since 2020. Albanese will become the first Australian prime minister to visit China in seven years when he travels to Beijing and **Shanghai** on Nov. 4-7. “It’s in Australia’s interest to have good relations with China,” Albanese told reporters at Australian Parliament House, adding that his focus in the coming days will be on the visit to the **United States**. “With Australia’s closest partner, talking about the future of our alliance, the future which has been upgraded by the AUKUS arrangements, a future based upon our common values, our commitment to democracy, and our commitment to the international rule of law and stable order throughout the globe,” Albanese added, using the acronym for Australia, the **United Kingdom** and the United States. Under the trilateral pact, the U.S. and **Britain** will cooperate to provide Australia with a fleet of submarines powered by U.S. nuclear technology to counter a more assertive China. Albanese said he will meet with Xi and Premier **Li Qiang** in Beijing and then attend the China International Import Expo in Shanghai. The visit to China and a potential breakthrough in the wine dispute mark a further repair in relations since Albanese’s center-left Labor Party won elections last year after nine years of conservative government in Australia. China has agreed to review its tariffs on Australian wine over five months, Albanese’s office said. In return, Australia has suspended its complaint against its free trade partner to the World Trade Organization. China confirmed that the two sides had reached a consensus on resolving the issues “appropriately” regarding Australian wine. “We are willing to work with Australia to continue to meet each other halfway through dialogue and consultation and jointly promote the stable and healthy development of bilateral economic and trade relations,” the Chinese Ministry of Commerce said. A similar dispute resolution plan led to China removing tariffs on Australian barley. Albanese said reopening the Chinese wine market would be worth more than 1 billion Australian dollars (\$631 million) to exporters. “We’re very confident that this will result in once again Australian wine, a great product, being able to go to China free of the tariffs which have been imposed by China,” Albanese said. “It is important that we stabilize our relationship with China. That is in the interests of Australia and China, and it is indeed in the interests of the world that we have stable relations and that is what this visit will represent,” he added.



Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese speaks to the media during a press conference at Parliament House in Canberra Oct 22. Albanese will visit China in early November, his office said Sunday hours before he was set to fly to the United States to meet President Joe Biden. (AP)



Aweis



Sanusi

Africa

Car bombing kills 6: An explosives-laden car detonated at a military facility on the outskirts of Somalia’s capital Satalay and killed at least six people, four of them soldiers, police said. Police spokesman Sadik Dodishe said nine others, including five soldiers, were wounded in the suicide bombing at the military facility in the Elasha Biyaha area of the Lower Shabelle region. The Islamic extremist group al-Shabab claimed responsibility. The group frequently carries out such attacks. Photos shared on the social media platform X showed the extent of the damage caused by the explosion, which destroyed the security base and several civilian houses in the vicinity. “The sound of the explosion was deafening ... and I saw a plume of smoke going up in the sky,” witness Ayan Hussein, a resident of Elasha Biyaha, said by phone. She said she saw several injured people being carried into an ambulance. Somalia’s federal government has battled al-Shabab for years. Security forces stepped up their assault on the group in recent months, including trying to dismantle its propaganda network. (AP)

Protests victims remembered: Many Nigerians on Friday remembered the victims of the historic protests against police brutality which took place three years ago, with Amnesty International’s Nigeria office said in a statement listing the names of at least 15 of the protesters are still being detained illegally. In October 2020, thousands of Nigerians staged nationwide protests to kick against the abuses of the now-disbanded Special Anti-Robbery Squad, or SARS. In the economic hub of Lagos, security forces opened fire on demonstrators, prompting global condemnation. A government-commissioned inquiry described the shooting and resultant deaths as a massacre. At least 15 protesters arrested three years ago are still held in Lagos prisons, the majority without trial and some being tortured, Amnesty International’s Nigeria office said in a statement listing the names of the victims. In Lagos, a small group of people held a rally to demand justice for victims of police brutality. “Nobody is going to be happy when you are unjustly killing people, suffering them, oppressing them,” said Adebawale Adebayo, one of the organizers and a Nigerian actor popularly known as Mr. Macaroni. Across various social media platforms, the #EndSARS hashtag trended in Nigeria as many spoke about the continuing abuses allegedly committed by Nigerian police officers. “Our investigation shows the Nigerian authorities’ utter disdain for human rights,” **Isa Sanusi**, director of Amnesty International Nigeria, said, echoing accusations against the government that protesters were targeted while their demands for justice were neglected. (AP)



A migrant and his daughter cover themselves from the sun, as they wait for a Honduras Migration transit permit to continue their way north to Guatemala, and hopefully make it to the Mexico-United States border, in Danlí, Honduras on Oct 11. According to Honduras’ immigration agency, at the country’s southern border with Nicaragua, more than 18,300 migrants entered the town last week. (AP)

part of their country’s 150-year involvement in slavery in South Africa. King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima were leaving the Slave Lodge

building in central Cape Town when a small group of protesters representing South Africa’s First Nations groups -- the earliest inhabitants of the region around Cape Town -- surrounded the royal couple and shouted slogans about Dutch colonizers stealing land from their ancestors. The king and queen were put into a car by security personnel and quickly driven away as some of the protesters, who were wearing traditional animal-skin dress, jostled with police. The Dutch colonized the southwestern part of South Africa in 1652 through the Dutch East India trading company. They controlled the Dutch Cape Colony for more than 150 years before British occupation. Modern-day South Africa still reflects that complicated Dutch history, most notably in the Afrikaans language, which is derived from Dutch and is widely spoken as an official language of the country, including by First Nations descendants. King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima made no speeches during their visit to the Slave Lodge but spent time walking through rooms where slaves were kept under Dutch colonial rule. The Slave Lodge was built in 1679, making it one of the oldest buildings in Cape Town. It was used to keep slaves -- men, women and children -- until 1811. Slavery in South Africa was abolished by the English colonizers in 1834. (AP)

Turkish electrical control equipment manufacturer XKoren Electric has intensified its global expansion strategy with a 50 million Euro investment. (Business Wire)



Turkish XKoren Electric accelerates Middle East investments

Turkish electrical control equipment manufacturer XKoren Electric has intensified its global expansion strategy with a 50 million Euro investment. Striving to position itself as a leading global provider of eco-friendly electrical control equipment during the green energy transition, XKoren will extend its cutting-edge smart switchgear solutions, manufactured in its state-of-the-art facility, to 14 markets, including the Middle East with the "Made in Türkiye" label.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) predicts that global investments in clean energy will surpass 1.7 trillion Euro by the end of 2023. This equates to 60% of total energy investments for the year. Such projections amplify opportunities for electrical equipment manufacturers to prioritise the shift towards sustainable energy production, focusing on clean energy solutions.

XKoren Electric is well known in its home markets for its comprehensive solutions featuring low voltage protection and control products, and has an impressive and extensive customer network in Türkiye. Hasan Kaytan, the CEO of XKoren, commented,

"In an era marked by a shifting energy paradigm, with a resolute commitment to green and clean energy, we are dedicated to establishing XKoren as a global brand at the forefront of the control equipment industry's transformation."

In 2020, XKoren embarked on a global expansion journey powered 100% by Turkish capital and domestic production. Driven by the vision of providing comprehensive solutions to customers in regional markets, the Middle East market is one of the initial destinations on this path. (Business Wire)

Market Movements

22-10-2023

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts
EGYPT	-	EGX 30	+511.89	22,128.49	
SAUDI	-	Tadawul	-120.30	10,534.26	

Business

9.1% increase amidst regulatory reforms

Kuwait sees surge in licensed real estate brokers and evaluators

Kuwait, China forge strong economic ties for mutual growth and prosperity

Minister Al-Aiban underscores accommodating digital economy

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22, (KUNA): The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Mohammad Al-Aiban stated Kuwait's keenness for China to have an active role in developing its contributions to housing cities, infrastructure and energy projects and for these contributions to have a solid impact on Kuwait's economy.

The Ministry of Commerce said in a press statement Sunday that Al-Aiban discussed with his Chinese counterpart the development of trade exchange between both sides, following the end of the economic conference of trade ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and China, which was held in the Chinese city of Guangzhou.

During this meeting, they discussed developing trade exchange, diversifying trade relations between them, and expanding cooperation in non-oil fields, it explained.

Investment

The non-oil fields that have been addressed are construction, free zone, economic zone, manufacturing, digital transformation, renewable energy, environmental protection, and others, in addition to investment in both countries, it indicated.

Kuwait looks forward to enhancing the level of trade cooperation between both countries and further deepening cooperation in the investment field, the statement quoted Al-Aiban as saying.

He underlined that China is one of the largest exporters of imports to Kuwait and one of Kuwait's largest trading partners in the non-oil field.

Al-Aiban delved into the recent visit of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to China signing the bilateral cooperation agreement for the years 2024-28 between both sides.



Minister of Commerce and Industry during the meeting with his Chinese counterpart.

KUNA photo

Multiple agreements included many areas to enhance the current gains in cooperation in the field of oil and expand cooperation in non-oil fields, he pointed out, adding that these agreements and memorandums of understanding are being followed up and work is underway to implement them.

On his side, Chinese Minister of Commerce Wang Wentao confirmed that Kuwait has become one of the crucial countries for China with regard to renewable energy, infrastructure projects, energy, housing and other projects.

Wentao pointed to the high rates of investment between them, expressing hope that the volume of investment will increase further by the Kuwaiti side in the promising fields in China in innovation, artificial intelligence, the production of electric cars, and other

matters and new projects on the economic scene.

He pointed to the importance of the Chinese economy and its growth, which witnessed a significant increase in gross domestic product (GDP) this year and overcame the COVID-19 crisis.

Infrastructure

Kuwaiti Minister of Commerce and Industry Mohammad Al-Aiban underscored Sunday establishing adequate infrastructure to accommodate the growing digital economy, and adapt to arising challenges.

Minister Al-Aiban, also State Minister for Youth Affairs, stated this at the Commerce Ministers conference held between Gulf Countries and China at Chinese city of Guangzhou, mentioned a statement issued by the Ministry.

The Minister explained that digital economy encompasses trade, electric services, data analysis and artificial intelligence.

Al-Aiban spoke of the importance of trade facilitations, saying that the future of trade and investments relies on smooth sailing trade and eradicated obstacles.

He clarified that to keep up with expanding international trade, new policies and adequate mechanisms must be adopted.

The Minister commented on trade relations between Kuwait and China saying that it had scene underwent significant leaps over past few years, as China is considered Kuwait's largest non-oil commodity supplier, and the second major oil buyer.

Mubarak Al-Kabeer port, stated Al-Aiban, is an opportunity for broadening

horizons, as it sets out to create direct navigation lines, and augment supply chains.

He added that the strategic partnership between the two nations banks on Kuwait vision 2035 vision, and the Chinese Belt and Road initiative, through comprehensive program on economic cooperation and reviving the Silk Road.

The Silk Road project, expounded the Minister, reflects Kuwait's strategic vision of a financial and commercial regional and international hub, regaining its pioneering position in the field.

He stated that the resumption of free trade negotiations between GCC and China contributes to deepening relations, creating work opportunities and broadening horizons. The Minister hailed organizing such conferences to develop ties and achieve mutual benefit.

By Ahmad Fathi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: The number of licensed real estate brokers in Kuwait has experienced a significant uptick in 2023, rising by 9.1%. This brings the cumulative total of licensed brokers in the country from 1,351 at the end of December 2022 to 1,474 at the close of July 2023 after successful completion of tests and training programs.

The data from the Ministry of Commerce reveals that, on a monthly basis, the cumulative number of licensed brokers increased by 0.2%, reaching 1,474 brokers in July, compared to 1,471 brokers in June. This growth points to the expansion of the real estate brokerage sector in Kuwait.

Moreover, the number of licensed real estate evaluators in Kuwait has witnessed a remarkable increase, soaring from 62 evaluators at the end of December 2022 to 142 by the end of July. These evaluators play a crucial role in determining the fair values of real estate, a vital component for real estate transactions, investment decisions, and budget evaluations. Their expertise safeguards the rights of property owners and shareholders, ensuring a fair representation of assets.

Challenges

Real estate evaluators have faced numerous challenges, such as the lack of accreditation from banks and limited property data for evaluation. However, the Ministry of Trade and Industry has taken steps to address these issues. In March 2023, the Minister issued a resolution forming a committee to study and regulate the real estate evaluator profession, aiming to overcome obstacles and improve the industry's practices.

The committee is entrusted with updating regulations, identifying issues, proposing solutions, and coordinating with relevant authorities to streamline real estate evaluation processes. The committee's work is expected to be completed in one month, culminating in a comprehensive report submitted to the Minister.

In Kuwait, real estate brokerage and real estate appraisal are separate professions, each serving distinct functions. While real estate brokerage involves mediating real estate transactions for a fee, real estate appraisal focuses on determining the value of properties.

To work as a real estate broker in Kuwait, certain conditions must be met, including citizenship, age, legal capacity, and a clean legal record. Training programs and tests are required to obtain a real estate brokerage license, and brokers must have an independent office dedicated to their brokerage activities. Kuwait's real estate industry is experiencing growth and regulatory changes, reflecting the evolving landscape of real estate transactions in the country.

Initiative seeks to equip participants with an in-depth understanding of capital markets functions

Boursa Kuwait holds awareness workshop on sustainable finance

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: In its continuous efforts to raise financial awareness in the investment community and shed light on the latest developments and trends in the international investment community to participants in the Kuwaiti capital market, Boursa Kuwait organized a series of sessions and workshops during the month of October, the latest of which was a collaboration with the Certified Financial Analysts Society (CFA) and its chapters in Kuwait and Bahrain on sustainable finance, held on Wednesday, October 18, 2023.

Commemoration

The workshop was held in commemoration of World Investor Week, which ran its seventh installment this year. World Investor Week is an initiative launched by the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) and supported by the World Federation of Exchanges (WFE). The annual event brings together stock exchanges, capital market authorities and asset management firms to champion the cause of investor education and safeguarding.

Mr. Naser Meshari Al-Sanousi, Senior Director of Marketing and Communication at Boursa Kuwait spoke on the occasion, saying, "Boursa Kuwait continuously partners with local and international institutions to develop and enhance the market, and deepen its participants understanding of the latest tools and financial instruments used in the international investment community. Boursa Kuwait is proud of its strategic partnership with the CFA Society, and continues to collaborate



Photos during the awareness workshop on sustainable finance organized by Boursa Kuwait in commemoration of World Investor Week.

with the Society for the sixth year in a row, in an effort to raise financial literacy levels and awareness in the Kuwaiti capital market through organizing awareness sessions and workshops with informative topics, in addition to enriching the Boursa Academy website with content that empowers investors.

The session was conducted by Ms. Zeeba Askar, Chartered Financial Analyst from the CFA Society Bahrain, who provided attendees with an over-

view of sustainable finance, its market size, examples of effective sustainable capital market issuances in the region.

The session also delved into an examination of the guidelines for bonds and sukuk, which are a form of fixed income, and detailed the different types of bonds, including green and social bonds. Ms. Askar also spoke about the increasing relevance of sustainable bonds in a variety of industries including energy, infrastructure, transport, informa-

tion technology & communications (ICT), essential services and food security, as well as affirming their versatility and wide applications across various sectors.

Ms. Zeeba Askar, President of the CFA Society Bahrain, was ecstatic about her collaboration with Boursa Kuwait and the opportunity to share insights on sustainable capital markets with a focus on green and social bonds, saying, "This session provided a pragmatic and informative overview of sustainable fi-

nance, including region-specific insights and actionable guidance for sustainable bond investments. Developing sustainable capital market instruments will shape the future of the industry and create business opportunities while serving to achieve the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals."

Organizing workshops and developing informative content on its Boursa Academy Online platform and social media channels comes as part of Boursa Kuwait's Corporate Sustainability strat-

egy which aims to meaningful impact on the communities where it operates. Through these initiatives, the bourse seeks to equip all market participants with an in-depth understanding of the functioning of capital markets and various tools and techniques required to make informed investment decisions and effectively meet investors' needs. It is also in line with Goal 4 – Quality Education – and Goal 17 – Partnership for the Goals – of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

CHNT Group attend Confab on Electric Power Supply Industry

On October 20th, the 24th Conference on The Electric Power Supply Industry kicked off in Xiamen, attended by more than 2,500 representatives from AESIEAP (Association of the Electricity Supply Industry of East Asia and Western Pacific) member countries and regional member units.

It was also attended by related service organizations such as energy and power enterprises, industry organizations, technical equipment manufacturers, and scientific research and consultation.

As a world-renowned provider of smart energy solutions, CHNT Group made its debut with the theme of “low-carbon energy, moving forward with intelligence” to discuss with industry customers the green, low-carbon and sustainable future of energy and electricity.

During the Conference, Nan Cunhui, Chairman of CHNT Group, gave a keynote speech, focusing on the transformation of low-carbon energy wisdom.

Nan Cunhui also shared the vivid practice of CHNT Group’s continuous innovation and development around the power new energy industry and joining hands with ecosystem partners. (Business wire)

CSX boss wants railroad to keep improving service

CSX reported a 24% drop in the railroad’s third-quarter profit Thursday as it hauled 2% less freight, but the CEO said customers are noticing that its trains are running more smoothly.

The Jacksonville, Florida-based railroad said it earned \$846 million, or 42 cents per share, in the quarter. That’s down from \$1.1 billion, or 52 cents per share, a year ago. The results fell just short of the 43 cents per share that Wall Street was expecting, according to a survey of analysts done by Fact-Set Research.

The railroad’s results show a mix of demand across various industries with a strong 19% jump in auto shipments and 9% growth in coal carloads nearly offsetting weak demand for consumer products and agricultural shipments. CSX improved the speed of its trains to an average of 17.6 mph in the quarter from 15.8 mph a year ago showing that its network was operating smoothly.

“Over the third quarter, our efforts centered on delivering the reliable customer service that has allowed us to remain resilient and successfully maneuver through mixed markets,” said Joe Hinrichs, CSX president and chief executive officer. (AP)

Collaboration aims to help enterprises transform into AI-first organizations

Infosys and Google Cloud expand their alliance

BENGALURU, India, Oct 22: Infosys, a global leader in next-generation digital services and consulting, today announced that it is expanding its alliance with Google Cloud to help enterprises build AI-powered experiences leveraging Infosys Topaz offerings and Google Cloud’s generative AI solutions.

As part of the expansion, Infosys will create the new global Generative AI Labs to develop industry-specific AI solutions and platforms, which will help enterprises infuse generative AI into their business processes. Infosys will also train 20,000 practitioners on Google Cloud’s gen AI solutions, including Vertex AI and Duet AI in Google Workspace, to ensure organizations have the professional services expertise and resources to successfully develop, implement, and manage any type of generative AI project.

This alliance between Infosys and Google Cloud builds on Infosys’ existing data, analytics & AI expertise on Google Cloud. Infosys is actively working with Google Cloud to develop a suite of transformative AI platforms and industry solutions for a range of business

scenarios, including Consumer AI, autonomous supply chain, autonomous marketing, anti-money laundering and customer services transformation. A wide range of its existing platforms and solutions are being enhanced with Infosys Topaz and Google Cloud generative AI capabilities. These include Infosys Live Enterprise Application Management Platform, Infosys Applied AI Platform, Infosys Customer Intelligence Platform, Infosys Data Streams, and Infosys Supply Chain AI Platform among others.

The joint capabilities will help create a strong foundation for enterprises towards AI-enabled transformation. For example, Infosys Topaz and Google Cloud generative AI recently helped a leading consumer goods company in successfully launching an AI Twin to assist in real time planning of marketing spend, promotion, and product supply across markets. In another case, for a major telecommunications company, Infosys built a new data and AI capability on Google Cloud to drive growth through digital channels and support the end-to-end customer journey from pros-

pecting to servicing. Infosys AI-powered solutions use insights to improve customer experience, drive sales, and redefine client’s digital business strategy for long term success.

Salil Parekh, CEO, Infosys, said, “Infosys has been long making investments in the AI space. We are leveraging generative AI to deliver transformative business solutions as well as integrating it in many of our offerings to accelerate productivity. The combined strength of Google Cloud’s generative AI capabilities, Infosys Cobalt, and Infosys Topaz will help enterprises transform and future-proof their business, built on strong digital, cloud, and next-generation AI capabilities.”

Thomas Kurian, CEO, Google Cloud, said, “Generative AI is fundamentally changing how businesses operate, from enabling supply chain managers to operate more sustainably to helping marketers more efficiently create campaigns. Through our expanded partnership with Infosys, we will give our mutual customers the resources and skills needed to use generative AI today to create real-world value for their organizations.”

Demand high for electrification skills

SME launches Training and Electric Vehicle Certification

SOUTHFIELD, Mich., Oct 22, (Business Wire): SME, the nonprofit committed to accelerating new manufacturing technology adoption and building North America’s talent, has expanded its capabilities to serve the quickly-evolving talent needs in the electrification market today with new training and an Electric Vehicle (EV) Fundamentals certification. This expansion builds upon SME’s long history serving the automotive industry’s talent needs, as well as accelerating technology advancements such as additive manufacturing, automation, and SMART manufacturing.

SME is committed to supporting the industry’s transition to battery electric vehicles (BEV) and will remain dedicated to closely evaluating the evolving needs of the industrial and educational spheres. As a nonprofit whose purpose is to advance manufacturing to drive competitiveness, resiliency and national security, SME will actively identify upcoming challenges and opportunities to position North America at the forefront of electric vehicle design and production.

EVs are expected to make up 50% of auto sales by 2030; potentially creating over 150,000 new jobs related to the production and maintenance of electric cars, according to the Economic Policy Institute. Additionally, the growth of EVs is also likely to spur job creation across the broader electrification ecosystem. According to a report published by the nonprofit Rewiring America, it is estimated that the U.S. can create some 25 million jobs by 2035 if the economy moves on from fossil fuels to electrification. It is predicted that as charging infrastructure expands and electricity generation shifts toward renewables, new roles will emerge to support the transition to cleaner transportation.

As a nationally recognized certifying body for over 50 years in manufacturing, SME obtained input from industrial and academic experts to develop a Body of Knowledge that encompasses the technologies, job roles, competencies, and skills critical to the electrification industry. The training roadmap takes learners through broader manufacturing areas that are foundational to automotive assembly, electric vehicle production, and e-mobility manufacturing.

In addition, electrification-specific training is designed to incorporate key learning objectives to prepare learners whether individuals have no background in vehicle production and assembly, or they have experience but need to tailor their knowledge to the EV market. Topics like lithium battery handling and safety, high-energy batteries, and electric vehicle components and manufacturing are covered in-depth. The training, along with the certification, prepares individuals to thrive in a variety of job roles, including assembly technician, production associate, team assembler, manufacturing technician, battery pack assembler, quality control inspector, electric motor assembler, and maintenance technician.

SME’s efforts to upskill workers for electric vehicle manufacturing include support from industry groups and states; especially those with heavy concentrations of automotive companies. “The Michigan Manufacturers Association (MMA) applauds SME’s national launch of curriculum and industry-recognized certification supporting individuals working in the assembly and production of electric vehicles,” said MMA President and CEO John J. Walsh. “And as a partner with the SME Education Foundation on expanding the SME PRIME school network to at least 49 Michigan high schools by 2025, we excitedly anticipate the integration of the new curriculum and credentials into PRIME’s career pathways for students.”

“To ensure all of North America’s talent has the capabilities needed to adopt new technologies and advance manufacturing, SME has undertaken extensive research into labor demands for EV manufacturing and electrification, including leveraging insights from industry leaders,” said Jean-

nine Kunz, SME’s chief workforce development officer. “Our collaboration with manufacturers, schools, and workforce organizations will embed in-demand EV expertise and competencies into nationwide career development programs and technical education.”

Based on the rising national demand, states are seeing the need to prepare for this emerging industry, including South Carolina, the number one passenger vehicle exporter in the U.S. The state’s automotive industry employs 75,000 and has seen an overall \$9.6 billion capital investment from automakers and suppliers in the EV industry since 2017 according to the South Carolina Department of Commerce.

“The success we envision as a state in the electric vehicle industry hinges not only on cutting-edge technology but also, and even more crucially, on developing a skilled workforce,” said Brad Neese, vice president, South Carolina Technical College System - Division of Economic Development. “A talent pipeline that is skilled and ready to work serves as the driving force towards achieving our goals.”

Similarly, Michigan is focused on upskilling its workforce to maintain leadership in automotive manufacturing amid the transition to electric vehicles. “There’s no denying that Michigan, which is home to nearly 19 percent of all U.S. auto production and over 60 percent of the country’s mobility and vehicle R&D spending, is a powerhouse of automotive manufacturing and innovation,” said Walsh. “As the auto industry’s transition to electrification accelerates, the need for workers with EV-related skill-sets is increasingly critical to Michigan’s leadership position in the automotive and mobility space.”

“With EV technology revolutionizing the automotive industry, there is a unique opportunity for thousands of individuals to harness its potential into a promising career,” said Robert “Bob” Willig, executive director and CEO of SME. “SME’s strong partnerships with industry and education, commitment to advancing emerging technologies, focus on upskilling the nation’s workforce and dedication to validating competency through certification will all contribute to supporting the evolution of U.S. manufacturing in this way.”

SME is committed to supporting the industry’s transition to battery electric vehicles (BEV) and will remain dedicated to closely evaluating the evolving needs of the industrial and educational spheres. As a nonprofit whose purpose is to advance manufacturing to drive competitiveness, resiliency and national security, SME will actively identify upcoming challenges and opportunities to position North America at the forefront of electric vehicle design and production.

SME has led the manufacturing industry in providing industry-recognized certifications for over 50 years, including Lean Certification in partnership with AME and The Shingo Institute, Additive Manufacturing Certification in partnership with America Makes, Certified Manufacturing Associate (CMfgA), Certified Manufacturing Technologist (CMfgT), Certified Manufacturing Engineer (CMfgE), Robotics in Manufacturing Fundamentals (RMF) in partnership with REC and FIRST, and now the just-released Electric Vehicles Fundamentals certification.

Established in 1932 as a nonprofit organization, SME represents the entire North American manufacturing industry, including manufacturers, academia, professionals, students, and the communities in which they operate. Together we share one common belief: Manufacturing holds the key to economic growth and prosperity. SME accelerates new technology adoption and inspires and builds North America’s talent and capabilities in order to advance manufacturing as a diverse, thriving and valued ecosystem that drives competitiveness, resiliency and national security.

Apple supplier Foxconn ‘subjected’ to tax inspections by Chinese authorities

Details on searches scanty

BANGKOK, Oct 22, (AP): Foxconn, a Fortune 500 company known globally for making Apple iPhones, was recently subjected to searches by Chinese tax authorities, state media reported Sunday.

Foxconn, a Taiwanese -headquartered company officially registered as Hon Hai Precision Industry Co., Ltd, had its offices in Guangdong and Jiangsu provinces searched by tax officials, according to a report in the Chinese state-run Global Times newspaper.

The Ministry of Natural Resources also inspected Foxconn offices in Henan and Hubei provinces, where the company has major factories. Foxconn employs hundreds of thousands of workers across China.

The report did not provide more details about the searches, including when they occurred or what was found.

However, the report quotes an expert who said that “while Taiwan-funded enterprises, including Foxconn, are sharing in dividends from development and making remarkable progress in the mainland, they should also assume corresponding social responsibilities and play a positive role in promoting the peaceful development of cross-strait relations.”

Tensions have been high between China and Taiwan in recent years. China claims the democratic self-governing island of Taiwan as part of its own territory. The sides split in 1949 after a civil war and have no official relations but are linked by billions of dollars in trade and investment.

The Chinese Communist Party regularly flies fighter planes and bombers near Taiwan to enforce its stance that the island is obliged to unite with the mainland, by force if necessary.

The tensions have occasionally spilled over into the economic realm. In recent years, China has banned pineapples, grouper fish and other agricultural products from Taiwan for import.

However, it has largely refrained from targeting Taiwanese companies that operate on the mainland.

Foxconn does the vast majority of its manufacturing in China. The company did not respond to a request for comment.

The company’s founder, Terry Gou, announced in August that he would be running as a candidate in Taiwan’s presidential elections, which will be held early next year. He then resigned from his seat on the board of Foxconn. Gou is seen as a China-friendly candidate whose politics mostly align with the Kuomintang, the island’s current opposition party.



A high-speed electrical multiple unit train is ready to depart in Bandung, Indonesia, September 7, 2023.

CGTN: How has BRI become a popular platform for international cooperation?

BEIJING, Oct 22, (PRNewswire): John Ross, a British writer and senior fellow at the Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies, made the remarks on Wednesday at the thematic forum on think tank exchange of the third Belt and Road Forum (BRF) for International Cooperation, where international dignitaries shared their appreciation of the BRI, underlining the popularity of the joint construction of the Belt and Road as an international public good and as an international platform for cooperation.

“And that is what is the two real poles in the world today,” he added.

Over the past 10 years, the BRI has evolved from ideas into actions and from a vision into reality. Speeding trains and trucks have become trade symbols in the new era, just like camel caravans in the past. Hydro stations and wind plants have helped in removing the development bottleneck for developing countries. Brand new airports, harbors, and industrial parks have brought fresh momentum to regional growth.

So far, more than 150 countries and over 30 international organizations have signed Belt and Road cooperation agreements, with the initiative extending from the Eurasian continent to Africa and Latin America.

“When countries embrace cooperation and act in concert, a deep chasm can be turned into a thoroughfare, land-locked countries can become land-linked, and a place of underdevelopment can be transformed into a land of prosperity,” said Chinese President Xi Jinping on Wednesday when delivering a keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the BRF.

Looking back on the past decade, Xi said the achievements demonstrate that the Belt and Road cooperation is on the right side of history. “It represents the advancing of our times, and it is the right path forward.”

The BRI has been an important partner in the implementation of the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals agenda, said Irina Georgieva Bokova, former director-general of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, at the thematic forum.

A consensus reached among the delegates attending the BRF is that by promoting the Belt and Road cooperation, China is pursuing modernization not for itself, but for all developing countries through joint efforts.

Belt and Road projects have created new job opportunities, driven trade prosperity, promoted the economic development of dozens of countries and improved the living standards of local people, said former Czech Prime Minister Jiri Paroubek at the thematic forum.

“It is actually the most important economic project nowadays in the world,” he said.

A key driver for a global community with a shared future, a vision proposed by China and aligned with the BRI, is globalization, which is deeply embraced by the majority of countries across the world, particularly those in the Global South.

Globalization as a growing trend not only provides access to international

markets, enabling countries to increase their exports and attract foreign investments, but also fosters the transfer of technology and knowledge, which can promote innovation and capacity building. It is deepened as the BRI facilitates connectivity throughout the world.

The BRI “is a powerful engine for making globalization irreversible, because it will stay the course, and it will remain irreversible only if it could be more inclusive,” said Grzegorz Kolodko, former deputy prime minister of Poland, at the thematic forum.

“That is what is called here in China ‘win-win,’” he said.

In a world of mistrust and distorted narratives, the Global Civilization Initiative (GCI), a concept proposed by China, has become a vital force in challenging cultural hegemony, as noted by Ong Tee Keat, chairman of the Center for New Inclusive Asia, as he delivered a speech at the thematic forum.

He said that BRI critics are seeking to reshape global discourse to scrutinize China’s influence, but China’s three initiatives and the BRI aim to combat misinformation by providing facts and figures, which empowers civil societies and thoughtful individuals particularly from the Global South.

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China, Gulf Arab states eye closer trade ties

RIYADH, Oct 22, (KUNA): China and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member countries share a common desire to bolster bilateral trade relations, a joint statement said on Sunday.

The statement was adopted after talks that brought together Chinese and GCC commerce ministers in the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou.

Such a goal entails outlining lucid and detailed strategies aiming to “deepen” bilateral cooperation and trade ties, which includes the establishment of a “multidimensional” trade system linking the GCC and Beijing, according to the statement.

As part of efforts to bring the aforementioned goal to fruition, the statement underscored plans to enhance

the volume of trade between the Gulf Arab region and Beijing through adopting “digital platforms” that can be instrumental to bring forth an upturn in ties, it added.

On the global transition towards a “digital economy,” the statement said it was imperative to turn to electronic platforms that deal with logistics and storage given their increasing signifi-

cance towards broad development, the statement said.

Greater cooperation is not limited to increasing trade volume, it also includes introducing common initiatives that involve investment and sovereign funds in both regions, in addition to others that deal with vital sectors such as energy and finance, it added.



Top leaders of prominent companies weigh in with their views

Bosses, workers grapple with Israel-Hamas war fallout



Rockets from the Israeli Iron Dome air defense system maneuver to intercept a rocket fired from the Gaza Strip, in Ashkelon, Israel, Thursday, Oct. 19, 2023. The fallout from the Israel-Hamas war has spilled into workplaces everywhere, with corporate leaders from the highest ranks of prominent companies weighing in with their views while workers complain of their own voices not being heard. (AP)

We want to know that our lives matter as much as the other employees that have been shown support

NEW YORK, Oct 22, (AP): Starbucks accused a union representing thousands of its baristas of damaging the brand and endangering co-workers with a pro-Palestinian tweet. The CEO of a prominent tech conference resigned amid backlash for his public statements suggesting that Israel was committing war crimes. Company bosses vowed never to hire members of a university's student groups that condemned Israel. Meanwhile, Islamic rights advocates say much of the corporate response has minimized the suffering in Gaza, where thousands have died in Israeli airstrikes, and created an atmosphere of fear for workers who want to express support for Palestinians. Jewish groups have criticized tepid responses or slow reactions to the Oct. 7 Hamas rampage that killed 1,400 people in Israel and triggered the latest war. The fallout from the Israel-Hamas war has spilled into workplaces everywhere, as top leaders of prominent companies weigh in with their views while workers complain their voices are not being heard. People from all ranks have been called out for speaking too forcefully - or not forcefully

enough - making it nearly impossible to come up with a unifying message when passions run deep on all sides. Many U.S. corporations have strong ties with Israel, particularly among tech and financial firms that have operations and employees in the country. Executives at J.P Morgan Chase & Co., Goldman Sachs, Google and Meta were among dozens who swiftly condemned the Hamas attacks and expressed solidarity with the Israeli people in public statements, social media posts or even corporate earning calls. Many pledged millions of dollars in humanitarian aid and detailed efforts to safeguard employees in Israel. Some chief executives poured out their personal anguish. In a LinkedIn post and a letter to employees, Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla said he has been constantly on the phones with friends and relatives in Israel and expressed his horror at hearing of "civilians of all ages targeted and killed in cold blood, hostages taken and tortured." He implored employees to check on each other and said Pfizer launched a humanitarian relief campaign. "It is not enough to condemn

these actions - we ourselves must take action," Bourla wrote. Backlash against opposing views has been swift, including responses to a tweet from Web Summit CEO Paddy Cosgrave suggesting Israel was committing war crimes. "I'll never attend/sponsor/speak at any of your events again," former Facebook executive David Marcus stated on X, formerly known as Twitter. Faced with a growing boycott to next month's Web Summit, a prominent European gathering of thousands of tech leaders, Cosgrave resigned Saturday, saying that his "personal comments have become a distraction from the event, and our team, our sponsors, our startups and the people who attend." His resignation came a few days after he released a long message denouncing the Hamas attacks and apologizing for the timing of his initial tweet while defending his overall views on the conflict. But companies continued withdrawing from the conference, including Google, Meta, German tech conglomerate Siemens, and U.S. chipmaker Intel. Jonathan Neman, CEO of restaurant chain Sweetgreen, was

among several company leaders who vowed never to hire Harvard students who belonged to groups that cosigned a statement blaming Israel for the violence. The international law firm Winston & Strawn rescinded a job offer to a New York University student who wrote a message in the Student Bar Association bulletin saying Israel was entirely to blame for the bloodshed. The Council on American-Islamic Relations, an Islamic civil rights group, denounced the backlash against the students and statements from U.S. corporate leaders that "lack any meaningful display of sympathy toward Palestinian civilians." Those reactions combined, the organization said, are leaving "Palestinians and those in support of Palestinian human rights isolated at their place of work and fearful of possible consequences" for discussing how the conflict has affected them. Isra Abuhasma, a data scientist in the Chicago area, was among several professionals who expressed similar thoughts on social media, saying in a LinkedIn post that she was "risking her entire career" by expressing her views on the conflict.

Abuhasma, a Palestinian American who has worked for a real estate firm and other companies but recently took a break to stay home with her two young children, said she fears her posts will make it difficult to find a new position. But she said her parents raised her to be proud and vocal about the Palestinian cause. "It's my identity," Abuhasma said. "What good am I in my job if I compromise my own morals and ethics?" One of the biggest disputes erupted at Starbucks after Starbucks Workers United, a union representing 9,000 workers at more than 360 U.S. stores, tweeted "Solidarity with Palestine" two days after the Hamas attack. The tweet was taken down within 40 minutes, but the company said it led to more than 1,000 complaints, acts of vandalism and angry confrontations in its stores. Starbucks filed a lawsuit to stop Starbucks Workers United from using its name and a similar logo. Workers United, the parent union of Starbucks Workers United, responded with its own lawsuit saying Starbucks defamed the union by implying it supports terrorism. It wants to continue using the company name. Starbucks Workers United tweeted a longer message on Friday denouncing Israel's "occupation" and "threats of genocide Palestinians face" while also condemning antisemitism and Islamophobia. Angela Berg, founder of workplace consultancy firm Perelaks, said companies with strong opinions about the war should express them, but "the critical thing is that they acknowledge the existence of the experience of the other side." Those trying to stay on the sidelines, Berg said, need to explain their reasons to employees. As the humanitarian catastrophe deepened in Gaza, more company leaders addressed the situation, including Accenture CEO Julie Sweet, who said the company was splitting a \$3 million donation between the Israel's Magen David Adom emergency services and the Palestinian Red Crescent. But companies that have kept a low profile have gotten pushback. Allison Grinberg-Funes, who is Jewish, wrote in a LinkedIn post that she was disappointed by the failure of her colleagues to reach out immediately after the Hamas attacks. While they eventually reached out, Grinberg-Funes said in an interview with The Associated Press that she remains disappointed her employer, Liberty Mutual, didn't publicly condemn the attacks. The Boston-based content designer for the insurance company said the silence is part of a wider "lack of support" for the Jewish community that she and her friends have observed in the workplace. "We want to know that our lives matter as much as the other employees that have been shown support," said Grinberg-Funes, 33, who has family and friends in Israel. Liberty Mutual did not respond to a request for comment.

Scholars of nonprofit management sound 'starvation cycle' alarm

Nonprofits more resilient by spending more on fundraising

Administrative costs, also known as overhead, encompass salaries, training, infrastructure, equipment and upkeep

By Telesilla Kotsi, The Ohio State University and Alfonso J. Pedraza Martinez, University of Notre Dame The Conversation is an independent and nonprofit source of news, analysis and commentary from academic experts. Most food banks, homeless shelters and other social services nonprofits constantly face hard decisions about how to use their limited funds. Should they spend as much as possible on meeting the immediate needs of people who need help? How much of their budget is appropriate to spend on new equipment, skilled managers and everything else required for an organization to thrive and endure? To help nonprofits tackle this quandary, we teamed up with two other business professors, Arian Aflaki and Goker Aydin, to develop a mathematical

model to guide nonprofits on how to divvy up their spending to optimize both current performance and future resilience through their spending priorities. Having observed how charity watchdogs like Charity Navigator rate nonprofits, our model takes into account that spending more on core programs leads to increased funding for a nonprofit. In consultation with the Indiana Hoosier Hills Food Bank, we also studied the relationship of administration costs with a nonprofit's capacity, which comprises the organization's infrastructure, equipment, staff and other resources. This capacity is crucial for the nonprofit's ability to meet its immediate and future needs. Building on this, our research challenges the conventional wisdom that nonprofits should allocate nearly all of their budget to program costs. We found that striking the right balance depends on an organization's existing

capacity. Our model indicates that new organizations and groups that are operating on small budgets need to spend a larger share of their revenue on administrative costs than larger, more established nonprofits. This investment lays a solid foundation for long-term resilience and ensures they are better equipped to serve their beneficiaries. As nonprofits grow and establish some level of capacity, the emphasis should then shift to fundraising. That approach allows them to gather the funding necessary to maximize their existing capabilities. Importantly, the share of spending for administration or fundraising should align with the organization's anticipated future needs. For instance, if a nonprofit expects to take on larger projects or greater responsibilities in the future, it would be prudent to increase administrative spending now to prepare for those

challenges. Administrative costs, also known as overhead, encompass salaries, training, infrastructure, equipment and upkeep. Donors and grantmakers often pressure nonprofits to devote as much of their budgets as possible to providing services, generally known as a nonprofit's program. Many funders even set admin and fundraising caps in grant agreements. These well-meaning practices can compel nonprofits to scrimp in ways that make them less effective. After years of investing too little money in, say, computers and professional development, nonprofits eventually have to pivot and devote more money to those neglected needs. Once their financial health is no longer shaky, those groups tend to cave again to their donors' concerns, cutting their budgets for fundraising and administrative activities. Scholars of nonprofit management

have sounded the alarm about this "starvation cycle," for two decades. But there are some signs that this loop might be breaking. Big donors like the Ford Foundation are now dedicating 20%-25% of their grants to cover overhead - or even providing their support with no strings attached, recognizing that for a nonprofit to be successful it needs to be well managed. Meanwhile, organizations that rate nonprofits, like Charity Navigator, are starting to broaden their criteria to look at an organization's overall well-being and impact, not just how they minimize spending on administration and fundraising. Rather than neglect urgent spending priorities, some nonprofits resort to misclassifying certain expenses. That is, they pay for administrative work with money designated as program related in their budgets. This strategy makes financial distress less likely but interferes with transparency and can undermine budget discipline. (AP)

editor's choice



Nollywood’s ‘The Black Book’ takes the streaming world by storm

Netflix thriller on Nigerian justice strikes a chord worldwide

ABUJA, Nigeria, Oct 22, (AP): A Nigerian action thriller that tells a gripping story of corruption and police brutality in Africa’s most populous country has reached record viewership numbers on Netflix charts globally. It’s a reminder of the power and potential of Nigeria’s rapidly growing film industry.

“The Black Book” has taken the streaming world by storm, spending three weeks among the platform’s top 10 English-language titles globally, peaking at No. 3 in the second week.

It garnered 5.6 million views just 48 hours after its Sept. 22 release and by its second week was featured among the top 10 titles in 69 countries, according to Netflix.

“Films are made for audiences, and the bigger the audience for a film, the better the chances of your message going out,” producer Editi Effiong told The Associated Press. “The reality for us is that we made a film, made by Nigerians, funded by Nigerian money, go global.”

Nollywood, Nigeria’s film industry, has been a global phenomenon since the 1990s when it rose to fame with such films as “Living in Bondage,” a thriller with Kunle Afolayan’s Aníkúlápó released in 2022 and peaking at No. 1 on Netflix’s global chart. It is the world’s second-largest film industry after India based on number of productions, with an average of 2,000 movies released annually.

Nollywood’s latest blockbuster, “The Black Book,” is a \$1 million movie financed with the support of a team of experts and founders in Nigeria’s tech ecosystem and is Effiong’s first feature film.

It tells the story of Nigeria’s checkered past, spanning a period of 40 years from when military regimes killed and arrested dissidents at will until the present day, when police brutality and abuse of power

remain rampant.

The film opens with the abduction of family members of the head of the Nigerian oil regulatory agency, aided by corrupt police officers working for top politicians.

To cover their tracks, the police kill a young man framed as the suspect in the kidnapping not knowing he was the only child of a former special operative who abandoned his weapons for the pulpit.

In his prime, the character of ex-officer-turned-pastor Paul Edima - played by Nigerian movie icon Richard Mofe-Damijo - was known as Nigeria’s “most dangerous man” with a past punctuated by assassinations and involvement in several coups across West Africa.

Inspired

Portrayed as a repentant man who has turned over a new leaf after being inspired by his favorite Bible passage 1 Corinthians 5:17, Edima feels compelled to take revenge for his son’s death after failing to convince authorities his son is innocent.

The issue of delayed justice is not new in Nigeria. Many on Friday remembered the deadly protests of 2020 when young Nigerians demonstrating against police brutality were shot at and killed. Three years later, rights groups say many victims of police abuse still haven’t gotten justice.

For Edima, justice for his son comes at a cost. One by one, he hunts down the officers behind his son’s death, leading him to the army general behind the plot - coincidentally his former boss.

“It is a fictional narrative but this is what Nigeria was,” Effiong told the AP.

He believes Nigeria is not doing a good job of teaching its history in the schools and letting young people understand how the country’s past is shaping the present.

“A society must be changed positively by art, and so there was an orientation on our part to, through the film we are going to make, reflect on this issue (of police brutality),” Effiong said.

While a government-commissioned panel of inquiry investigated the protest shootings in Nigeria’s economic hub of Lagos in 2020, Effiong attended its meetings and provided live updates via his page on the social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter. At the same time, pre-production for the movie already had begun.

“We must tell the truth in spite of the circumstances,” he said. “Justice is important for everyone: the people we like and the people we do not like - especially the people we do not like,” he said.

Some have said the movie’s plot is similar to that of the American action thriller John Wick. It is a surprising but flattening comparison that also testifies to the movie’s success, Effiong said.

The movie also has been lauded as signifying the potential of the film industry in Nigeria as well as across Africa. The continent’s streaming on-demand video (SVOD) market is expected to boast a robust 18 million subscribers, up from 8 million this year, according to a recent report from market intelligence firm Digital TV Research.

According to a Netflix spokesperson, entertainment with local stories remains the core of the platform’s main objective in sub-Saharan Africa. “Africa has great talent and world-class creatives, and we are committed to investing in African content and telling African stories of every kind,” Netflix said in a statement.

Variety



This image released by Netflix shows Bill Burr in a scene from ‘Old Dads.’ (AP)

Film

Netflix’s film is a Bill Burr career nadir

‘Old Dads’ recycles PC grievances

LOS ANGELES, Oct 22, (Agencies): The new Netflix movie “Old Dads” has a title problem. It really should be called “Old Dads Yelling at Clouds” or “Old Dads Raging at QR Codes.” It’s designed for people who find it hard to navigate the Netflix scroll and so blame millennials for being woke.

Bill Burr, who directs from a script by him and Ben Tishler, leads a meandering, unfunny assault on PC culture that would seem perfectly in place in the 1990s alongside “Illiberal Education” by Dinesh D’Souza and the rantings of Pat Buchanan. It’s so dated there’s even a mention of Halliburton.

The whiff of deep, old school morass about modern life comes from the moment the movie begins with the Miramax logo and a rock guitar solo, two clear signals we’re going back in time when making fun of Starbucks cup sizes was funny.

Burr, who plays a 51-year-old dad with a young son and another child on the way, is immediately ranting about the lack of parking spots, mechanical scooters, pre-school etiquette, Twitter, emotional learning, vaping and paper straws. Cutting edge humor, this is not.

Burr, who has also conspired to sully the reputations of onscreen buddies Bobby Cannavale and Bokeem Woodbine by inviting them into this mess, go on to mock trans identity and the notion of “check your privilege.”

“No offense, you’re just coming across a little old, you know? A little out of touch,” a younger guy tells Burr, who responds: “Like your generation? Filming yourselves while you’re flipping water bottles?”

The plot is loosey-goosey, never anything engrossing and more like a series of set pieces for

Burr to act badly. The three old dads once owned a high-end throwback jersey company - throwback at least is on brand - and have sold it, returning as employees to a 28-year-old new boss, who fancies himself a disruptor. “I appreciate you,” he tells them, which naturally enrages them.

Strap in for a lot of purposely baiting slurs and then amazement that there’s push-back. “Is it ever over with these people?” whines Burr’s dad, whose style of parenting is to rub dirt into a child’s wound to make them more macho.

While Burr is a boiling cauldron of grievances, Cannavale’s dad tries too hard being cool - saying things are “flek” and that he has “gotta bounce” - and Woodbine’s carefully curated life is suddenly under threat. Things go south for all of them when they “exercise free speech” - in other words, spew misogynist hate.

Warrior

Their friendships begin to rend and their wives - portrayed as either cold, needy or intimidating - begin bickering. Mostly because Burr is a Gen-X anti-social warrior, prone to go on an angry rant no matter the consequences. “What, you’re mad?” he screams at his pregnant wife. “Cause I’m honest?” No, ‘cause your toxic, dude.

In one scene, the three old dads try to trap a millennial into using the n-word when he sings along to N.W.A.’s “Straight Outta Compton.” Why? That will apparently expose the hypocrisy of the younger generation. But it doesn’t. It’s also a moment lifted from another earlier Netflix movie, “You People.”

There’s no way this cinematic slop would lead to a strip club, is there? You bet your G-string it does. That’s where Burr’s old dad comes to a realization, and where the others come to their own realizations. That they should be better men? No,

it’s too late for that. You can’t teach an old dad new tricks. As for you, gentle viewer, you’re better off watching water bottles flip in the air for 100 minutes.

“Old Dads,” a Netflix release streaming starting Friday, is rated R for “pervasive language, sexual material, nudity and brief drug use.” Running time: 104 minutes. Zero stars out of four.

Also:

LOS ANGELES: Hollywood’s latest attempt to delve into the opioid crisis is the glossy, starry “Pain Hustlers,” starring **Emily Blunt**, **Chris Evans** and **Andy Garcia**. Based on a New York Times Magazine article (which then became a book) by **Evan Hughes**, “Pain Hustlers,” on Netflix on Friday, Oct. 27, centers on a pharmaceutical startup, Insys Therapeutics, which engaged in criminal activities like bribery and kickbacks and misleading insurers to push their addictive oral fentanyl spray called Subsys. Blunt plays a high school dropout who gets a job at the company, run by Garcia, where she excels. Directed by **David Yates**, “Pain Hustlers” was not generally well received by critics at its Toronto International Film Festival premiere, but **Alyssa Wilkinson** wrote for Vox that, though predictable, “‘Pain Hustlers’ manages to be lively and moving.”

Meanwhile, the video game series “Five Nights at Freddy’s” is now a movie, available both in theaters and on Peacock on Friday, Oct. 27. The horror pic, from Blumhouse Productions, follows a security guard (played by “The Hunger Games” **Josh Hutcherson**) who accepts a job at an old family entertainment center, **Freddy Fazbear’s Pizza**, where the animatronic mascots are mobile and murderous after midnight.

CLEVELAND: The Cleveland Museum of Art has sued **New York City** authorities over their seizure of a headless bronze statue believed to depict the Roman emperor and philosopher **Marcus Aurelius**.

A warrant signed by a judge in Manhattan on Aug. 14 ordered the seizure of the statue, which the museum acquired in 1986 and



Nézét-Séguin



Muller

had been a highlight of its collection of ancient Roman art. The museum argues in its suit that the statue was lawfully obtained and that **Manhattan** District Attorney **Alvin Bragg**’s office has no legal authority to seize it.

The warrant was secured as part of an ongoing investigation into a smuggling network involving

antiquities looted from Bubon in southwestern Turkey and trafficked through Manhattan, a spokesperson for Bragg has said. The 76-inch (1.9-meter) statue dates from A.D. 180 to 200 and is worth \$20 million, according to the district attorney’s office.

The suit filed Thursday asks a judge to declare that the museum

is the rightful owner of the statue, which it calls “one of the most significant works in the (museum’s) collection” of some 61,000 objects. Museum officials have repeatedly told the district attorney that their evidence is insufficient and suggested other investigative avenues, according to the suit, but all have been refused. (AP)

People & Places

Film

Milestone unmet

Strike hits 100 days with no deal in sight

LOS ANGELES, Oct 22, (AP): While screenwriters are busy back at work, film and TV actors remain on picket lines, with the longest strike in their history hit the 100-day mark Saturday after talks broke off with studios. On the same day, the actors' union and an alliance representing major studios announced in a joint statement that negotiations will resume next week on Tuesday, with several studio executives expected to join. Here's a look at where things stand, how their stretched-out standoff compares to past strikes, and what happens next.

Hopes were high and leaders of the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists were cautiously optimistic when they resumed negotiations Oct. 2 for the first time since the strike began 2 1/2 months earlier.

The same group of chief executives from the biggest studios had made a major deal just over a week earlier with striking writers, whose leaders celebrated their gains on many issues actors are also fighting for: long-term pay, consistency of employment and control over the use of artificial intelligence.

But the actors' talks were tepid, with days off between sessions and no reports of progress. Then studios abruptly ended discussions Oct. 11, saying the actors' demands were exorbitantly expensive and the two sides were too far apart to continue.

"We only met with them a couple of times, Monday, half a day Wednesday, half a day Friday. That was what they were available for," SAG-AFTRA President **Fran Drescher** told The Associated Press soon after the talks broke off. "Then this past week, it was Monday and a half a day on Wednesday. And then, 'Bye-bye.' I've never really met people that actually don't understand what negotiations mean. Why are you walking away from the table?"

The reasons, according to the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, included a union demand for a fee for each subscriber to streaming services.

Subscribers

"SAG-AFTRA gave the member companies an ultimatum: either agree to a proposal for a tax on subscribers as well as all other open items, or else the strike would continue," the AMPTP said in a statement to the AP. "The member companies responded to SAG-AFTRA's ultimatum that unfortunately, the tax on subscribers poses an untenable economic burden."

Netflix co-CEO Ted Sarandos, one of the executives in on the bargaining sessions, told investors on an earnings call Wednesday, "This really broke our momentum unfortunately."

SAG-AFTRA leaders said it was ridiculous to frame this demand as though it were a tax on customers, and said it was the executives themselves who wanted to shift from a model based on a show's popularity to one based on the number of subscribers.

"We made big moves in their direction that have just been ignored and not responded to," Duncan Crabtree-Ireland, SAG-AFTRA's national executive director and chief negotiator, told the AP. "We made changes to our AI proposal. We made dramatic changes to what used to be our streaming revenue share proposal," Crabtree-Ireland said.

The studios said just after the talks broke off that the per-subscriber charge would cost them \$800 million annually, a figure SAG-AFTRA said was a vast overestimate.

The AMPTP later responded that the number was based on a union request for \$1 per customer per year, which was lowered to 57 cents after SAG-AFTRA changed its evaluation to cut out nonrelevant programming like news and sports.

The actors are in unscripted territory. Their union has never been on a strike this long, nor been on strike at all since before many of its members were born. Not even its veteran leaders, like Crabtree-Ireland, with the union for 20 years, have found themselves in quite these circumstances.

SAG-AFTRA says it is willing to resume at any time, but that it won't change its demands.

"I think that they think that we're going to cower," Drescher said. "But that's never going to happen because this is a crossroads and we must stay on course."

The writers did have their own false start with studios that may give some reason for optimism. Their union attempted to restart negotiations with studios in mid-August, more than three months into their strike. Those talks went nowhere, breaking off after a few days. A month later, the studio alliance came calling again. Those talks took off, with most of their demands being met after five marathon days that resulted in a tentative deal that its members would vote to approve almost unanimously.

Technology

Hollywood actors strikes have been less frequent and shorter than those by writers. The Screen Actors Guild (they added the "AFTRA" in a 2011 merger) has gone on strike against film and TV studios only three times in its history.

In each case, emerging technology fueled the dispute. In 1960 - the only previous time actors and writers struck simultaneously - the central issue was actors seeking pay for when their work in film was aired on television, compensation the industry calls residuals. The union, headed by future US President Ronald Reagan, was a smaller and much less formal entity then. The vote to strike took place in the home of actors Tony Curtis and Janet Leigh, the parents of current SAG-AFTRA member and vocal striker Jamie Lee Curtis.

Mid-strike, the actors and studios called a truce so all could attend the Academy Awards - a move forbidden under today's union rules. Host Bob Hope called the gathering "Hollywood's most glamorous strike meeting."

In the end, a compromise was reached where SAG dropped demands for residuals from past films in exchange for a donation to their pension fund, along with a formula for payment when future films aired on TV. Their 42-day work stoppage began and ended all within the span of the much longer writers strike.

A 1980 strike would be the actors' longest for film and television until this year. That time, they were seeking payment for their work when it appeared on home video cassettes and cable TV, along with significant hikes in minimum compensation for roles. A tentative deal was reached with significant gains but major compromises in both areas. Union leadership declared the strike over after 67 days, but many members were unhappy and balked at returning to work. It was nearly a month before leaders could rally enough votes to ratify the deal.



In this Friday, March 26, 2021 photo released by Anakle Films, a scene from the film Black Book. A Nigerian action thriller that tells a gripping story of corruption and police brutality in Africa's most populous country is doing record numbers on Netflix charts globally, another reminder of the power and potential of Nigeria's rapidly growing movie industry. (AP) — Details Page 11

Stage

Graham's play probes nation through soccer lens

A redemption tale in 'Dear England'

LONDON, Oct 22, (AP): Outside of families, few relationships are as intense as those between sports teams and their fans. In the case of England's bond with its national soccer team, it's not always been healthy.

James Graham's play "Dear England" looks at the state of the nation through the ups and downs - and there have been many downs - of England's men's soccer team. From 1966 World Cup champions to persistent underachievers dogged by a rump of hooligan supporters, the team became a source of national anxiety.

That changed under manager Gareth Southgate, who since 2016 has forged England's most cohesive squad in many years. Best known for his low-key manner and three-piece suits, Southgate transformed the team's fortunes and its culture, drawing new fans and instilling a newfound sense of pride.

That redemptive story inspired Graham to use sports "to make sense of the national moment" for a country that has been plunged into political instability and forced to question its place in the world since the UK's 2016 referendum decision to leave the European Union.

"I think that there is a self-defeating tailspin we get into when we get in trouble," Graham said, referring to both soccer and society. "As demonstrated in our political system right now. We keep doubling down on the failure."

"I think we could possibly afford ourselves a healthier response to losing whereby you then reset and reform and reinvent -- which is what Gareth tried to do," Graham told The Associated Press during a break in rehearsals.

Graham has become Britain's go-to writer for state-of-the-nation drama with an entertaining twist. He turned backroom 1970s parliamentary machinations into riveting drama in "This House," charted the rise of media

mogul Rupert Murdoch in "Ink" and skewered a TV game-show cheating scandal in "Quiz." Graham also scripted "Sherwood," a TV detective drama steeped in the divisive legacy of Britain's 1980s coal miners' strike.

Actor Joseph Fiennes, who plays Southgate with quiet intensity, said "there's an absolute sense of joy which is at the heart of James's writing" which lets the audience know "they're there to have fun."

"And when you have fun, that experience can take you to places and get you to challenge ideas about yourself -- identity, national identity, psyche, masculinity, mental health," said Fiennes, whose screen performances include the title role "Shakespeare in Love" and an authoritarian patriarch in TV drama "The Handmaid's Tale."

The play's title comes from the open letter Southgate wrote to the nation on the eve of the European championships in 2021, praising his team and their role in forging "a much more tolerant and understanding society" and stressing the sport's ability to "inspire and unite."

Failures

Graham frames it as a tale of redemption from a shattering moment in Southgate's career as a player -- his failed penalty kick in the semi-finals of the 1996 European championships that sent England out of the tournament.

Fiennes said that made Southgate "the patron saint of penalty failures" - and gave him a deep empathy for his young players and a determination to make things better for them than they were for him.

The psychology of make-or-break penalty kicks fascinates Graham, who as a 14-year-old watched Southgate miss that shot in 1996. He said it was the first time he felt "the universe saying, just because you want it doesn't mean you deserve it, or doesn't mean it's going to happen."



Writer James Graham speaks to actor Joseph Fiennes (not seen), on stage as they look at the script for the play based around the England soccer manager Gareth Southgate entitled 'Dear England' at the productions rehearsal studio in London, Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2023. Outside of families, few relationships are as intense as those between sports teams and their fans. In the case of England's bond with its national team, it's not always been healthy. James Graham's play 'Dear England' looks at the state of the nation through the ups and downs of England's men's soccer team. (AP)



Larson



Trump

Variety

NEW YORK: The next book by **Erik Larson**, widely known for the best-selling "The Devil in the White City," is a work of Civil War history inspired in part by current events.

Crown announced Wednesday that Larson's "The Demon of Unrest: A Saga of Hubris, Heartbreak, and Heroism at the Dawn of the Civil War" will come out April 30. Larson sets his narrative over a short but momentous time span, from **Abraham Lincoln's** election in 1860 to the firing on Fort Sumter five months later.

During a recent telephone interview, Larson said he was initially inspired by his reading of historical documents and how he could weave them into a "tick-tock" chronology of the country's fracturing and descent into armed conflict, driven by "the human element - the hubris, the personalities, the ambitions, the egos."

"And then comes January 6," he added, referring to the 2021 siege of the **US Capitol** by supporters of President **Donald Trump**. "I have to tell you, it was the weirdest thing watching this unfold on TV, because the documents I was going through could have been written today. Lincoln's primary concern had been about whether the electoral vote count would be disturbed, and then came the grave concern about the inauguration. It all has very contemporary resonance."

Larson's book will also feature such historical figures as Major **Robert Anderson**, the Union commander of Fort Sumter and a former slave holder who found himself battling Confederate forces; **Virginia** planter **Edmund Ruffin**, an impassioned and influential backer of secession; and the diarist **Mary Boykin Chesnut**, wife of a prominent **South Carolina** lawyer and politician who became a brigadier general in the Confederate Army. (AP)

BEIRUT: Lebanon International Book Fair,

held until October 23, is attracting large numbers of visitors, with the participation of 167 publishing companies and 322 booths from **Lebanon** and other Arab countries, as well as publishers from **Iran, France, UK, Belgium and Germany**.

Although some regional and international publishers did not take part in the fair, the event was still attended by large

numbers of visitors.

The fair also includes cultural seminars and workshops for children and students. (KUNA)

LOS ANGELES: In 2010, bestselling writer **Alan Wake** went on vacation in the Pacific Northwest and never came back. Turns out he's been trapped all these years in "the Dark

Place," trying to maintain his sanity and write his way out of the nightmare. Enter **Saga Anderson**, an FBI agent investigating a series of ritual murders that she thinks might be connected to the missing novelist. That's the setup for **Alan Wake II**. Remedy Entertainment's long-awaited sequel to a game that's become a cult favorite. If you were rattled by the **David Lynch-meets-Stephen King** vibe of the original, Remedy is promising to lean even further into the creepiness. The horror returns Friday, Oct. 27, on PlayStation 5/4, Xbox X/S and PC. (AP)

BURLINGTON, Vt.: A California man has been fined \$50,000 in **Vermont** for illegally importing carvings made from sperm whale teeth and walrus tusk across the US-Canadian border, federal prosecutors said.

The man and his wife arrived at the Hightgate Springs border crossing after buying nine Inuit carvings from an art gallery in **Montreal**, according to court papers. He told a US Customs and Border Protection officer that he was bringing back one stone statue from **Quebec**, court papers said. The officer inspected the trunk and found nine statues, including four made of ivory, the Vermont US attorney's office said.

The man, who was living in **Cambridge, Massachusetts**, at the time, admitted that the four were made from walrus tusk and Customs and Border Protection seized them. The US Fish and Wildlife Service later determined that three of those carvings were made of sperm whale teeth and the fourth was made of walrus tusk, prosecutors said. (AP)



From left to right: Mexican director Michel Franco, American actress Jessica Chastain, actor Peter Sarsgaard, Mexican producer Erendira Nuñez, and the Film Festival Director, Daniela Michel pose for the photographers at the press conference for the film Memory during the Morelia Film Festival in Morelia, Mexico, Saturday, Oct. 21. (AP)

The Conversation

Stigma attached to ‘baby blues’ still lingers

New treatment for postpartum depression offers hope

By Nicole Lynch and Shannon Pickett
Purdue University

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

Postpartum depression can affect anyone, and it often sneaks in quietly, like a shadow in the corners of a new mother’s life. It presents significant challenges for around 1 in 7 new mothers, affecting their emotional well-being and overall quality of life and that of the newborn.

Many - if not most - women experience the “baby blues,” or generalized feelings of sadness, worry, unhappiness and exhaustion, in the initial days after giving birth. In most cases, these mood changes are resolved in the first two weeks after having a baby. In contrast, the symptoms of postpartum depression endure for more extended periods, sometimes lingering for up to three years.

The symptoms can also start during pregnancy. Research shows that more than half of women who experience depression symptoms during pregnancy will develop postpartum depression too.

A much more rare and severe psychiatric disorder following delivery is called postpartum psychosis. Its onset is rapid and severe, with hallucinations, delusions and emotional distress, along with bizarre and sometimes dangerous behaviors. About 1 or 2 in 1,000 women experience postpartum psychosis after giving birth.

We are a clinical nurse specialist and a licensed mental health counselor, and together we have over 45 years of experience as educators and clinicians.

Intervention

With proper awareness, education and intervention, perinatal mood disorders are nearly 100% treatable. We want women to realize that they are not alone, they are not to blame, and with help they can be well again.

Following pregnancy, many women experience normal changes that can mimic symptoms of depression, such as sadness, worry and exhaustion. The transition to motherhood, particularly with a new baby in the home, can be overwhelming. However, it’s essential to distinguish between these common adjustments and more concerning signs of depression.

If you or someone you know finds themselves experiencing any of the following symptoms persistently for over two weeks after giving birth, it’s crucial they reach out to their doctor, nurse or midwife. Here are some of the most-reported symptoms of postpartum depression:

- Lack of bonding and feeling disconnected from the baby or experiencing a lack of interest in them.
- Restlessness or moodiness and feeling unusually agitated or irritable.
- Persistent feelings of sadness, hopelessness or being overwhelmed.
- Experiencing physical symptoms such as persistent headaches, other body aches and pains or digestive issues that don’t resolve.
- A profound lack of energy or motivation, making daily tasks feel daunting.
- Significant changes in appetite and either eating too little or too much.
- Disturbed sleep patterns, such as sleeping too much or too little, even when given the opportunity to rest.
- Difficulty concentrating or making decisions, or experiencing memory problems.
- Overwhelming feelings of guilt, worthlessness or inadequacy as a mother.
- A notable decline in interest or pleasure in activities previously enjoyed.
- Isolating from friends and family, avoiding social interactions.
- Thoughts of harming the baby or themselves. These should be taken extremely seriously and warrant immediate attention.

Some risk factors associated with higher likelihood of postpartum depression include life stress, depression history, maternal anxiety, lack of social support, infrequent exercise, unintended pregnancy and intimate partner violence.

People dealing with depression not only have to manage their symptoms but may also face the stigma and discrimination that these conditions often bring. There is an expectation that new parents will be happy after delivery. Sad-

ness, stigma, shame or guilt greatly affects a person’s willingness to seek help. Studies show that many people opt not to seek treatment to avoid being perceived as unfit parents by health care providers or family.

As a nurse and a mom who has experienced postpartum depression, I (Nicole Lynch) frequently share my story with others. Years ago, another mom shared with me how helpful it was to hear that she wasn’t alone. Knowing that other women - dedicated parents who love their children - can feel this way and that things can get better gave her hope.

Throughout my career, I (Shannon Pickett) have worked with several mothers and prospective parents who have struggled with postpartum depression. For instance, I worked with one woman for several years about her anxiety and her struggle to conceive. After years of trying, she finally became pregnant. Both she and her husband were overjoyed and could not wait to become parents.

The pregnancy went smoothly and there were no complications. She had never shown any signs of depression previously, but once the baby was born, that changed. My client had trouble bonding with the baby and did not want to hold or console her new son when he needed soothing.

Her husband would often step in to comfort the infant and would ask my client, “What is wrong with you?” It caused frustration within their marriage because the father felt as though he was doing the caregiving alone and that my client was withdrawn. She had planned to take a break from therapy for a bit after the baby was born, but her husband encouraged her to reach out to schedule an appointment.

I could tell right away that she was struggling with postpartum depression. She barely smiled, had difficulty engaging in and concentrating on our conversation and cried throughout most of the session.

We talked a lot about the guilt she felt over not wanting to be around her son or hold him, even though she had fought for so long to become a mother. After receiving a proper diagnosis and starting an antidepressant medication, my client was able to recover and bond with her son. The medication did take a few weeks to get into her system, so the results were not instant. Maintaining her sessions and using her support system were important for her recovery as well.

While postpartum depression can affect anyone regardless of their socioeconomic status or their background, some women affected by social inequalities have increased risk of many common postpartum mental disorders and their adverse consequences.

Untreated

One study found that new mothers with low incomes, those who had not earned a college degree, were unmarried or were unemployed were 11 times more likely than women with no risk factors to have clinically elevated depression scores three months after having a baby.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that about 20% of pregnant women were not asked about depression during a prenatal visit, and more than half of women with postpartum depression remain untreated for their symptoms.

What’s worse, there is a lack of access to mental health services for women after delivery. Many promising treatments are underexplored, especially in scientific studies. While more people are talking about postpartum depression, there is still stigma around seeking help.

It’s vital to remember that postpartum depression is a treatable condition. Seeking help from health care professionals is a courageous and necessary step.

In August 2023, the Food and Drug Administration approved the first oral medication, Zuruvae, specifically intended to treat severe depression after childbirth. It holds promise for addressing the complex array of symptoms associated with postpartum depression and offers newfound hope for affected mothers and their families.

If you are experiencing symptoms of postpartum depression, consider finding a therapist in your community for either telehealth or in-person sessions.

There are also postpartum support groups that meet in person and online. (AP)

Vaping products cannot be reused or recycled

Disposable e-cigarettes pose new environmental dilemma

WASHINGTON, Oct 22, (AP): With the growing popularity of disposable e-cigarettes, communities across the US are confronting a new vaping problem: how to safely get rid of millions of small, battery-powered devices that are considered hazardous waste.

For years, the debate surrounding vaping largely centered on its risks for high school and middle school students enticed by flavors like gummy bear, lemonade and watermelon.

But the recent shift toward e-cigarettes that can’t be refilled has created a new environmental dilemma. The devices, which contain nicotine, lithium and other metals, cannot be reused or recycled. Under federal environmental law, they also aren’t supposed to go in the trash.

US teens and adults are buying roughly 12 million disposable vapes per month. With little federal guidance, local officials are finding their own ways to dispose of e-cigarettes collected from schools, colleges, vape shops and other sites.

“We are in a really weird regulatory place where there is no legal place to put these and yet we know, every year, tens of millions of disposables are thrown in the trash,” said Yogi Hale Hendlin, a health and environmental researcher at the University of California, San Francisco.

Waste

In late August, sanitation workers in Monroe County, New York, packed more than 5,500 brightly colored e-cigarettes into 55-gallon steel drums for transport. Their destination? A giant, industrial waste incinerator in northern Arkansas, where they would be melted down.

Sending 350 pounds of vapes across the country to be burned into ash may not sound environmentally friendly. But local officials say it’s the only way to keep the nicotine-filled devices out of sewers, waterways and landfills, where their lithium batteries can catch fire.

“These are very insidious devices,” said Michael Garland, who directs the county’s environmental services. “They’re a fire risk and they’re certainly an environmental contaminant if not managed properly.”

Elsewhere, the disposal process has become both costly and complicated. In New York City, for example, officials are seizing hundreds of thousands of banned vapes from local stores and spending more than \$1 each for disposal.

Vaping critics say the industry has skirted responsibility for the environmental impact of its products, while federal regulators have failed to force changes that could make vaping components easier to recycle or less wasteful.

Among the possible changes: standards requiring that e-cigarettes be reusable or forcing manufacturers to fund collection and recycling programs. New York, California and several other states have so-called extended product responsibility laws for computers and other electronics. But those laws don’t cover vaping products and there are no comparable federal requirements for any industry.

Environmental Protection Agency rules for hazardous waste don’t apply to households, meaning it’s legal for Americans to throw e-cigarettes in the garbage at home. But most businesses, schools and government facilities are subject to EPA standards in how they handle harmful chemicals like nicotine, which the EPA considers an “acute hazardous waste,” because it can be poisonous at high levels.

In the US, the push to manage disposable e-cigarettes has chiefly come from schools, which can face stricter regulation if they generate more than a few pounds of hazardous waste per month. Monroe County schools pay \$60 to dispose of each one-gallon container of vapes.



Vaping products are bagged and confiscated, during a spot raid of a tobacco store by members of New York Sheriff’s Joint Compliance Task Force (SJTCTF), Wednesday Sept. 27, 2023, in New York. Communities across the US are confronting a new vaping problem: how to get rid of millions of disposable e-cigarettes that are considered hazardous waste. The devices contain nicotine, lithium and other materials that cannot be reused or recycled. (AP)

More than two thirds of the e-cigarettes collected by the county come from schools.

“Our schools were very relieved because they had confiscated so much of this material,” Garland said. “If you think of all the high schools across the country, they are in a very difficult place right now.”

The lithium in e-cigarette batteries is the same highly sought metal used to power electric vehicles and cellphones. But the quantities used in vaping devices are too small to warrant salvage. And nearly all disposable e-cigarette batteries are soldered into the device, making it impractical to separate them for recycling.

Disposable e-cigarettes currently account for about 53% of the multi-billion US vaping market, according to US government figures, more than doubling since 2020.

Consequences

Their rise is a study in unintended consequences.

In early 2020, the Food and Drug Administration banned nearly all flavors from reusable e-cigarettes like Juul, the cartridge-based device blamed for sparking a nationwide surge in underage vaping. But the policy didn’t apply to disposables, opening the door to thousands of new varieties of fruit- and candy-flavored vapes, almost all manufactured in China.

In recent months the FDA has begun trying to block imports of several leading disposable brands, including Elf Bar and Esco Bar. Regulators consider them illegal, but they have been unable to stop their entry to the US and the devices are now ubiquitous in convenience stores, gas stations and other shops.

FDA’s tobacco chief, Brian King, said in a statement that his agency “will continue to carefully consider the potential environmental impacts” of vaping products.

In 2020, New York City outlawed the vast majority of e-cigarette types, banning flavors that can appeal to youngsters.

City employees conduct thousands of inspections annually, and last year issued more than 2,400 citations to corner stores and bodegas selling illegal flavored products. Adding to the challenge are THC vapes sold at hundreds of unlicensed marijuana shops, a separate but related problem that has mushroomed since New York’s legalization of recreational pot.

Since last November, officials have seized more than 449,000 vape units, according to

city figures. New York City is spending about \$1,400 to destroy each container of 1,200 confiscated vapes, but many more remain in city storage lockers.

“I don’t think anyone ever considered the volume of these in our community,” said New York Sheriff Anthony Miranda, who leads a task force on the issue. “There’s a tremendous amount of resources going into this effort.”

A recent lawsuit against four large vaping distributors aims to recoup some of the city’s costs.

For now, New Yorkers who vape can bring their used e-cigarettes to city-sponsored waste-collection events.

Ultimately those vapes meet a familiar fate: They are shipped to Gum Springs, Arkansas, to be incinerated by Veolia, an international waste management firm. The company has incinerated more than 1.6 million pounds of vaping waste in recent years, mostly unsold inventory or discontinued products.

Veolia executives say burning e-cigarettes’ lithium batteries can damage their incinerators.

“Ideally we don’t want to incinerate them because it has to be done very, very slowly. But if have to, we will,” said Bob Cappadona, who leads the company’s environmental services division.

Veolia also handles e-cigarettes from Boulder County, Colorado, one of the only US jurisdictions that actively tries to recycle e-cigarette batteries and components.

Historically, Boulder has had one of the highest teen vaping rates in the country, peaking at nearly 33% in 2017.

“It was like someone flicked the switch. Suddenly e-cigarettes were everywhere,” said Daniel Ryan, principal of Centaurus High School.

Beginning in 2019, county officials began distributing bins to schools for confiscated or discarded e-cigarettes. Last year, they collected 3,500.

County staffers sort the devices by type, separating those with removable batteries for recycling. Disposables are packed and shipped to Veolia’s incinerator. Shelly Fuller, who directs the program, says managing vape waste has gotten more costly and labor intensive with the shift to disposables.

“I kind of miss the days when we had Juuls and I could take each battery out and recycle them very easily,” Fuller said. “No one has time to dismantle a thousand Esco Bars.”

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Highly anticipated battle between Ankalaev & Walker declared a no-contest

Makhachev retains lightweight belt with first-round KO of Volkanovski

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates, Oct 22, (AP): Lightweight champion Islam Makhachev watched featherweight champion Alexander Volkanovski enter the octagon inside Etihad Arena on Yas Island in Abu Dhabi to the 1981 hit "Land Down Under" by Australian band Men At Work.

Moments later, it was Makhachev who went to work at UFC 294.

Makhachev (26-1-0) used a devastating kick with his left leg to the Australian's right temple, then quickly pounced and used nine hammering blows with his left hand before referee Marc Goddard stopped the fight at the 3:06 mark of the first round Saturday.

"I have a great team. We always did this in the locker room, in the training - pushed me very hard," Makhachev said. "I showed him a couple of low kicks, couple of body kicks and then changed to head kick. I want to say thank you to this guy (Volkanovski). He's a real champion."

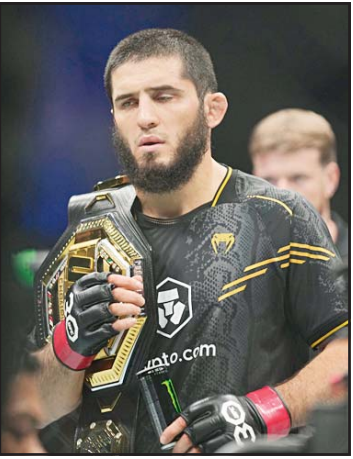
MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

The Russian fighter's compliment referred to Volkanovski (26-3-0) taking the fight on just 11 days' notice after Makhachev's original opponent, Charles Oliveira, withdrew with a cut.

The victory brought closure to a rivalry that started when Volkanovski gave Makhachev what might have been the toughest test of his career in their epic 155-pound championship bout at UFC 284 in February.

Makhachev defeated Volkanovski with what many felt was a controversial unanimous decision after five competitive rounds.

On Saturday, Makhachev left no doubt.



Russia's Islam Makhachev reacts after he is declared winner in his lightweight bout against Australia's Alexander Volkanovski during UFC 294, at the Etihad Arena in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. (AP)

"Great setup, good kick," Volkanovski said. "It's hard, never like losing. He's a great champion, what are you going to do? Credit it to him."

Makhachev's win ties him for the third-longest win streak in UFC history (13).

Asked who he wanted next, Makhachev replied, "I never choose. (UFC president) Dana (White), give me someone."

In an action-packed co-main event, Khamzat Chimaev (13-0) remained undefeated with a majority decision over former welterweight king - and arguably the No. 1 pound-for-pound candidate - Kamaru Usman (20-4), who took the middleweight bout on short notice, replacing the initial opponent, Paulo Costa.

"I was a school kid when he was fighting," Chimaev said of Usman. "This bout to me means big things."

Judges scored the bout 29-27 twice with a 28-28 on the third card.

In the highly anticipated light heavyweight battle between No. 2 Magomed Ankalaev (18-1-1) and No. 7 Johnny Walker (21-7-0), it was declared a no-contest at 3:13 of the first round. Ankalaev landed what was deemed an unintentional knee while Walker was down and the bout was paused.

After audio replays indicated Walker was dazed and confused during a brief exchange with ringside physician Dr. Garry Hartstein, the bout was stopped.

Walker was visibly upset and had to be held back from charging Ankalaev before UFC CEO Dana White finally entered the ring and was able to simmer down the situation.

The match was thought to provide a potential title shot for the winner.



Jack Dahlgren of the United States swims to win the bronze medal in the men's 200-meter butterfly final at the Pan American Games in Santiago, Chile. (AP)

Malinin romps to second straight title

WASHINGTON, Oct 22, (AP): Ilia Malinin stood in the center of the ice at Credit Union of Texas Event Center as stuffed animals thrown from the crowd fell around him, and raised his arms to both soak in the spotlight and almost sheepishly acknowledge the adulation.

The 18-year-old skating star performed a near-flawless free skate Saturday night to easily defend his crown

FIGURE SKATING

at Skate America, the opening event of the Grand Prix season. Malinin landed four quads and never bobbled on any of his seven jump sequences, piling up a career-best 310.47 points to easily outdistance second-place Kevin Aymoz of France.

Aymoz delivered a crowd-pleasing program to finish with 279.09 points

and take the silver medal, and Shun Sato of Japan scored 247.50 to round out the podium - two steps down from Malinin, but what felt like two dozen flights of stairs.

"I didn't think it was a flawless long program. There's a lot of things I can work on," said Malinin, who has been drilling on his artistry since last season, "but when I sit here and look at the score, I have no words for it."

In the pairs competition, Annika Hocke and Robert Kunkel became the first German team to win a Grand Prix event since Aljona Savchenko and Bruno Massot when they scored 184.23 points to edge Lia Pereira and Trennt Michaud of Canada.

Malinin chose to open with the triple axel, rather than the quad that he was the first to land in competition, and then threw down a quad lutz - the second-hardest jump behind the quad axel.

Madden shines at Pan Ams on first day of competition

Leal dominates street skateboarding, eyes Oly

SANTIAGO, Chile, Oct 22, (AP): Paige Madden, the 23-year-old Olympic swimmer from Alabama, broke the 400-meter freestyle record of the Pan American Games to win the gold medal on Saturday and boost the United States to the top of the medal chart in Chile on the first day of competition.

Near the end of the day, the U.S. had nine gold medals out of the 20 medals its athletes had won. Mexico

had five gold medals, with Brazil and Canada next with four each.

Madden's new record in the biggest multi-sports event of the Americas is 4 minutes, 06.45 seconds, topping the mark set by Canada's Emily Overholt at the games in Toronto in 2015 by almost two seconds.

Madden, a silver medalist in the 4x200 freestyle relay at the Tokyo Olympics, is expected to earn more medals for the U.S next year in Paris.

The U.S. won four gold medals in the pool on Saturday, and it could have been more if it weren't for Brazil's and Canada's 4x100 meter freestyle relay teams, men's and

women's, respectively.

Canada's victory gave swimmer Maggie Mac Neil, one of the stars of the games in Chile, her first gold, with more likely to come in her remaining six events. The Canadians beat the U.S. team by 0.67 seconds.

The 23-year-old China-born Mac Neil earned a gold medal in the 100-meter butterfly at the Tokyo Olympics.

Mexican divers and Olympic medalists Gabriela Agúndez and Alejandra Orozco made a 1-2 in the 10-meter platform to confirm their regional dominance in the sport.

Mexico had a special celebration for the gold medal of shooter Edson Ramirez. He also secured a spot at the Paris Olympics in the men's 10-meter air rifle event. Four years ago in Lima, he took the Pan American Games' silver medal.

Brazil won two of its gold medals of the first day in skateboarding, men's and women's event. The 15-year-old sensation Rayssa Leal dominated her rivals in the morning and 24-year-old Lucas Rabelo, returning from an ACL injury in his left knee, reached the top in Santiago. It was the sport's debut in the games.

PAN AMERICA GAMES

Once a sports powerhouse, Cuba only secured one medal on Saturday. Weightlifter Arley Calderón lifted 154 kilograms (339 pounds) in his first attempt to beat his rivals in the 61kg division.

The sport is debuting in the largest multisport event on the continent.

The teenager nicknamed "Fadinha" (Little Fairy in Portuguese) has become one of the biggest names in the sport since she won a silver medal at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. She showcased her board flips, slides and grinds to score a total of 236.98 points in Santiago.

Her compatriot and friend Pamela Rosa finished with the silver medal, 25 points behind. American Paige Heyn, another 15-year-old, won the bronze medal.

Dressed in black, Leal looked effortless throughout the competition, spending more time on her cellphone than watching her adversaries. A different scenario awaits the Brazilian in Paris, with her most likely rival being once again 16-year-old Momiji Nishiya of Japan, the gold medalist at the sport's Olympic debut in Tokyo.

Leal is Brazil's youngest-ever Olympic medalist. Three years since Tokyo, she no longer displays a braces-filled smile and doesn't dance as much between runs. But her talents continue to spark the skateboarding frenzy among tens of thousands of teenagers back home.

In April, the Brazilian returned to Japan and took the X Games title for a second time. She is second in the World Skate rankings behind Nishiya.

Brazilian fans first saw Leal in a video when she was just a 7-year-old attempting a heel flip over three stairs while wearing a blue dress. She tumbled twice, but on the third attempt - wearing wings - landed perfectly. American skateboard legend Tony Hawk shared the clip of what he called a "fairytale heelflip" on social media.

Michigan routs Michigan State

Ohio State edges Penn State in pivotal Big Ten showdown

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Oct 22, (AP): All-American Marvin Harrison made all the difference for No. 3 Ohio State in a pivotal Big Ten match-up, making 11 catches for 162 yards and late touchdown as the Buckeyes beat No. 7 Penn State 20-12 on Saturday.

The Buckeyes smothered Drew Allar and the Nittany Lions (6-1, 3-1 Big Ten), extending Ohio State's winning streak in the series to seven games.

Penn State needed 58 minutes to convert a third or fourth down and didn't get into the end zone until 29 seconds were left in the game. Penn State failed to convert on its first 15 third-down attempts.

Kyle McCord was 22 for 35 for 286 yards and the Buckeyes (7-0, 4-0) put up 367 total yards, a season-high against Penn State's stingy defense.

Michigan 49, Michigan State 0

East Lansing, J.J. McCarthy threw three of his career-high four touchdown passes in the first half and Michigan routed Michigan State.

The Wolverines (8-0, 5-0 Big Ten) were dominant from the start and didn't let up, predictably a year after the Spartans roughed up some of their rivals in the Michigan Stadium tunnel.

Florida State 39, Duke 20

In Tallahassee, Jordan Travis accounted for three touchdowns, including a 2-yard run early in the fourth quarter that gave Florida

minutes and the Sooners held on to beat UCF.

Gabriel, who transferred before the 2022 season, connected on 25 of 38 passes for 253 yards.

Texas 31, Houston 24

In Houston, CJ Baxter rushed 16 yards for a touchdown with 5½ minutes left in the fourth quarter, and Texas stopped Houston on 4th-and-1 in the final minute on the way to a win over Houston.

Jonathon Brooks rushed for 99 yards and Xavier Worthy had 92 receiving yards and a touchdown for Texas (6-1, 3-1 Big 12).

Oregon 38, Washington State 24

In Eugene, Bo Nix threw for 293 yards and two touchdowns while setting the NCAA record for most career starts and Oregon rebounded from its first loss of the season with a victory over Washington State.

Nix started in his 54th college game and the Ducks (6-1, 3-1 Pac-12) became bowl eligible after a disappointing 36-33 loss at rival Washington last weekend.

Virginia 31, North Carolina 27

In Chapel Hill, Mike Hollins ran for three touchdowns and Malik Washington had the go-ahead scoring catch in the fourth quarter to help Virginia beat North Carolina, shaking up the Atlantic Coast Conference race with its first road victory over a top-10 opponent.

James Jackson had the clinching interception with 26 seconds left, picking off Drake Maye's pass with the Tar Heels (6-1, 3-1) reaching midfield on a drive for a winning score.

FOOTBALL

State its first lead, and the Seminoles rallied to beat Duke.

The Seminoles (7-0, 5-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) extended their winning streak to 13 and became the league's lone remaining unbeaten after North Carolina lost to Virginia.

Washington 15, Arizona State 7

In Seattle, Michael Powell returned a fourth-quarter interception 89 yards for a touchdown and Washington overcame Michael Penix Jr.'s three turnovers to beat Arizona State.

Powell stepped in front of Trenton Bourget's throw on fourth-and-3 from the 12 and sprinted down the left sideline to help Washington (7-0, 4-0 Pac-12) win its 14th straight, sidestepping Bourget near the 20 for a 12-7 lead with 8:11 left.

Oklahoma 31, Ucf 29

In Norman, Dillon Gabriel threw three touchdown passes against his former team, Oklahoma stopped a two-point attempt in the closing



UCLA quarterback Ethan Garbers (4) scrambles during an NCAA college football game against Stanford, Saturday, Oct. 21, 2023, in Stanford, Calif. UCLA won 42-7. (AP)

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Asian qualifying teams for Oly enjoy rest day

President of International Handball Federation praises Kuwait



Dr Hassan Mustafa with Qayed Al-Adwani during the Paris Olympic qualifiers.

By Khaled El Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

DOHA, Oct 22: The President of the International Handball Federation, Dr. Hassan Mustafa, has expressed his admiration for the remarkable progress achieved by the players of Kuwait national handball team in the recent Asian Games held in China.

HANDBALL

During this event, Kuwait secured a commendable third place and a coveted bronze medal, marking an end to a 17-year absence from the Asian podium. Dr. Mustafa also commended the team's current participation in the Asian qualifiers for the 2024 Paris Olympics, currently taking place in the Qatari capital, Doha.

In an exclusive statement to Al-Seyassah, Hassan Mustafa acknowledged the relatively young age of most of the Kuwaiti players and their limited experience on the international stage. Despite this, they performed admirably, and Dr. Mustafa sees great potential in this team for the future. He emphasized Kuwait's historical significance as one of the founders of handball in the Asian continent and the nation's enduring legacy in the sport.

Dr. Mustafa noted Kuwait unique identity, their transformation into a well-organized team under the guidance of a dedicated coach who meticulously orchestrated the players' actions to execute predefined strategies.

This transformation bore fruit with the recent achievement of the Asian Cup bronze medal.

He expressed his hope that the team would receive increased attention and

support to sustain their excellence and growth, ultimately regaining their position as a leading force in the Asian handball landscape.

Dr. Mustafa also commended the exceptional organization by the Qatar Handball Federation in hosting the Asian qualifiers for the Paris Olympics, highlighting Qatar's consistent commitment to excellence in the organizational aspects of sporting events.

Additionally, Dr. Mustafa recognized the high standards of the teams participating in the Paris 2024 qualifiers, such as the resurgent Japanese team and the competitive Chinese squad. He emphasized the International Federation's dedication to supporting both lower-level and high-level countries to further enhance the sport's global prominence.

Today, the Asian qualifying teams for the Paris Olympics will enjoy a day of rest, with the tournament set to re-

sume its exciting competitions tomorrow. In the upcoming round, Kuwait will face off against the Kazakh at eleven o'clock in the morning, marking the fourth and final round of the preliminary stage in the second group. In the same group, Bahrain will compete against Iran. Meanwhile, in the first group, the Emirates will face India, China will play against Korea, and Qatar will meet Saudi Arabia.

On a separate note, Kuwait junior handball team secured a victory against their Bahraini counterparts with a final score of 30-23 in the second trial match between the two teams. This match was held at the Arena Mall in Sabah Al-Ahmad Marine City, following a previous tie with a score of 28-28 in the first trial. The Handball Federation aims to utilize these matches to prepare the junior team for future competitions and opportunities.

Al-Arabi eye top spot vs Al-Riffa

Al Kuwait depleted against Aleppo

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: Al-Arabi aim to achieve multiple objectives when they face Bahrain's Riffa at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium tonight at nine o'clock. This clash marks the third round of the third group competitions in the AFC Cup.

Earlier in the evening, at seven o'clock, Iraqi side Al-Zawraa will lock horns with Lebanese team Al-Najma at Basra Stadium, both being part of the same competitive group.

Currently, Al-Riffa lead the group standings with 4 points, narrowly edging out Al-Arabi based on goal difference. Al-Zawraa follow in third place with one point, similarly determined by goal difference compared to Al-Najma.

In this competition, Al-Arabi kicked off on the right foot, securing a 2-1 victory against Al-Zawraa and subsequently playing to a goalless draw against Al-Najma as their guests.

Al-Arabi are eager to capitalize on home advantage and the support of their fans to secure a victory that would enable them to seize the top position in the standings, distancing themselves from the shared leadership and making progress towards securing a direct qualification spot. Moreover, they aim to replicate their previous victory over the Bahraini team, recalling the dramatic turnaround from a two-goal deficit to a valuable 3-2 win in the previous edition of the competition.

Notably, Al-Arabi and Al-Riffa have clashed on five occasions, with four of those encounters taking place in the Gulf Club Championship. Their history

includes two draws with a scoreline of 1-1, while they exchanged wins in two matches, with Al-Arabi prevailing 2-1 and Al-Riffa securing a 2-0 victory.

Despite Al-Arabi's recent stability in terms of positive results domestically, they have been grappling with player absences, with key individuals like Khaled Khalaf missing the previous match against Al-Fahaheel. Notably, Nigerian Anayo Iwala and Senegalese Mamadou Thiam were also absent, as well as Saif Al-Hashan. Furthermore, Salman Al-Awadi, Suleiman Abdul-Ghafour, and Sultan Al-Anazi have been serving suspensions imposed by the AFC due to events in the match between Al-Seeb and Oman in the last edition. The suspensions of Al-Awadhi, Abdul-Ghafour, and Al-Enezi are set to conclude today, making them eligible to rejoin "Al-Akhdar" in the fourth round.

SOCCER

Under the guidance of Bahraini coach Hisham Al-Mahoozi, Al-Riffa are determined to secure a positive result in today's match, bolstering their chances of advancement before the next encounter between these two teams in early November.

Meanwhile, Al-Kuwait will be without the services of four key players in their upcoming match against Al-Ittihad Al-Ahly Aleppo of Syria, scheduled for tomorrow in the third round of the second group competitions of the AFC Cup. The absent players include Ahmed Al-Dhafiri, Ali Hussein, Ahmed Al-Zenki, and Youssef Al-Khubaizi.

Both Al-Dhafiri and Hussein are sidelined due to injuries sustained during their recent match against Khaithan last Friday in the fifth round of the Zain Premier League. The coaching staff has decided to provide them with intensive medical treatment to aid in their recovery.

Morikawa wins Zozo Championship for first title in more than two years

INZAI CITY, Japan, Oct 22, (AP): American Collin Morikawa called winning the Zozo Championship in Japan "incredible," a special way to close the season for a player whose great grandparents emigrated from the country.

But more important was a victory - anywhere, any victory - after a 27-month winless streak on the PGA Tour that started prompting questions about his game.

GOLF

He broke through Sunday with a 7-under par 63 for a six-shot victory at the Narashino Country Club just outside Tokyo.

"It feels so good, I can't even explain it," Morikawa said of his sixth PGA Tour win. "I knew I was going to get here at some point. It's like getting your first win, your first major."

He said he realized that people were asking questions about why he had not won for so long. He said the victory was extra special since his wife Katherine Zhu was in the gallery and gave him a kiss when he came off No. 18.



Collin Morikawa of the United States poses with the trophy after winning the PGA Tour Zozo Championship at the Narashino Country Club in Inzai on the outskirts of Tokyo. (AP)

"She hasn't been to a win since - it's been a long time since she's actually been at the tournament since we won. So it's nice to have her here," he said.

Morikawa added that he hadn't done much to change his game, but acknowledged "the thoughts in your head start piling up." He said part of the challenge was not to overreact to losing.

"I had to really look back and ask myself what's wrong," he said. "What's the reasoning behind finishing second - that versus a win. This win means the world. Being in Japan and being half Japanese. A lot has come through over the past week."

Americans Beau Hossler and Eric Cole were in second, six back with closing-round 70s.

Morikawa is clearly at home in Japan. He said he arrived last week with his wife and they began eating their way through the Japanese capital - everything from high-end to street food.

"We spent four days, four full days just eating," he said. "Like, you know, visiting around, looking around Tokyo, but truly eating. We would eat at seven to eight spots. That's a lot."



Players train on the eve of AFC Cup games.

Ronaldo on target as Al-Nasr edge Damac

Salmiya secure victory over Al-Jahra in thriller

Newcastle soar ahead of Dortmund showdown

Champs League resumes at Man United in mourning for Charlton

LONDON, Oct 22, (AP): The Champions League resumes Tuesday at Manchester United where one of the competition's most storied clubs are mourning its all-time great Bobby Charlton.

Charlton, who died Saturday aged 86, survived the fatal air crash at Munich in February 1958 that devastated the then-champion of England on their journey home from a European Cup game.

He lifted the trophy 10 years later as captain of a team rebuilt by manager Matt Busby who had been seriously injured at Munich, where eight players died.

Charlton was a beloved director on the Man United board when it was European champion again in 1999 and 2008 under another Scottish manager, Alex Ferguson, who he had helped bring to the club.

The main stand is named for Charlton at Old Trafford where Man United will host Copenhagen on Tuesday and pay tribute to a man who helped define its illustrious history.

Charlton "was a hero to millions," the club said in a statement. "Not just in Manchester, or the United Kingdom, but wherever football is played around the world."

Manchester United started this Champions League campaign in Munich and it has not been a happy return after playing last season in the second-tier Europa League.

Back-to-back defeats - 4-3 at Bayern Munich and twice wasting leads in a 3-2 loss at home to Galatasaray - have



Sheffield United's James McAtee, (left), challenges for the ball with Manchester United's Marcus Rashford during the English Premier League soccer match between Sheffield United and Manchester United at Bramall Lane in Sheffield, England 2023. (AP)

left United last in Group A and added pressure on manager Erik ten Hag.

Arsenal also lost three weeks ago, 2-1 at Lens and now have back-to-back games against Sevilla, starting Tuesday in Spain. The Europa League title holders fired their coach José Luis Mendilibar after a slow start to the season including draws in its first two Group B games.

Newcastle also had a slow start to the season but have surged to an eight-game unbeaten run - including a 4-1 beating of Paris Saint-Germain - ahead of hosting Borussia Dortmund on Wednesday.

SOCCER

In their first Champions League campaign for 20 years, Newcastle are top of the blockbuster group that also includes seven-time champions AC Milan, which play at PSG on Wednesday.

Defending champions Manchester City are cruising to the knockout rounds with two wins before going to Swiss champions Young Boys on Wednesday.

If the Champions League group phase often seems predictable, Bayern Munich is one reason.

The German champions haven't lost a group game since 2017 and hasn't dropped a point since 2020, though needed an 83rd-minute winning goal at Copenhagen three weeks ago. Next up Tuesday in Istanbul is Galatasaray.

In Germany this week, Leipzig host Red Star Belgrade on Wednesday after losing 3-1 to Man City.

Union Berlin's debut Champions League campaign has been a story of heartbreak, losing to both Real Madrid and Braga on goals scored deep into added time. Union next host Napoli on Tuesday, when Madrid are at Braga.

Benfica are along with Manchester United perhaps the biggest surprise among teams with no points after two games.

Mourinho sent off as last-gasp Roma pip 10-man Monza

MILAN, Oct 22, (AP): Stephan El Shaarawy scored in the final minute to help Roma snatch a confidence-boosting 1-0 win over Monza, which had played more than half the match with 10 men.

Roma coach Jose Mourinho furiously celebrated the goal, which gave his team only their fourth league victory of the season.

SOCCER

However, Mourinho will not be on the bench for next weekend's match at former club Inter Milan after he was sent off in stoppage time for making a crying eyes gesture at Monza coach Raffaele Palladino as both sets of staff bickered on the touchline.

Roma appeared to have turned things around after a miserable start to the season and had managed back-to-back league wins before the international break.

Their hopes of another increased when Monza defender Danilo D'Ambrosio was somewhat harshly

shown a second yellow card four minutes from halftime and sent off.

Monza goalkeeper Michele Di Gre-



Roma's Romelu Lukaku controls the ball, during the Italian Serie A soccer match between AS Roma and AC Monza, at Stadio Olimpico, in Rome. (AP)

gorio made two huge saves either side of that dismissal, first pushing a point-blank Houssein Aouar header over the bar and then stopping Andrea Belotti's effort on the line with his foot.

Roma hit the woodwork twice in the second half through Romelu Lukaku and Sardar Azmoun.

□ □ □

Warmed Omari endured a nightmarish afternoon, scoring an own goal and giving the ball away for the other, as Rennes lost ground in the race for European spots after a 2-1 defeat at Lorient in the French league.

Lorient snapped a five-game winless streak to move out of the relegation zone while Rennes stayed eighth with just one win in its last eight games.

Omari turned a cross from Lorient forward Aiyegun Tosin into his own net in the fourth minute. Omari's clearance initially bounced off the post, but the Rennes centerback couldn't sort out his feet and bundled the rebound over the goal line.



Ben Shelton of the U.S. holds the winning trophy aloft during the awarding ceremony in the men's singles final of Japan Open tennis championships in Tokyo, Japan, Sunday, Oct 22, 2023. Shelton won over Aslan Karatsev of Russia in the final. (AP)

Sports

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Hat trick for Atletico's Griezmann

Ramos rules as Sevilla grind out draw against Real Madrid

SA pull off great escape to edge England, make World Cup final

NZ loom

PARIS, Oct 22, (AP): The Springboks finally broke the English scrum, and once again their hearts, to reach the Rugby World Cup final and have a chance at back-to-back titles.

Defending champions South Africa were second-best to England's smart tactics and precise execution for the best part of 70 minutes of their semifinal at Stade de France on Saturday before what's becoming a traditional great escape by the Boks saw them steal a thriller 16-15 and set up a title decider next weekend against their fiercest rivals, New Zealand.

One of them will win a record fourth World Cup and, with England's agonizing exit, the trophy is set to stay in the southern hemisphere once again.

By next Saturday night, the southern hemisphere will have won nine out of 10 Rugby World Cups.

South Africa's brute force at scrum time won it against England, as it so often does. But it only came in the dying minutes of another white-knuckle

RUGBY

knockout game at this World Cup as replacement props Ox Nche and Vincent Koch produced a huge, desperate heave to win a penalty for South Africa near halfway and set up replacement flyhalf Handre Pollard for the game-winning kick with under two minutes left.

Pollard nailed it, as he did with a late kick in another epic 29-28 Springboks win from behind in the quarterfinals against host France.

"It's unbelievable. It's a lot of relief in this moment," Pollard said. "Frustrated we weren't at our best tonight, especially in that first half. We knew we had so much more to give but fair play to England, they put us under pressure in exactly the right areas.

"But, jeez, the fight we showed never giving up, it is what we stand for as a team and as a nation."

England led for the entire match before Pollard's boot - from about 50 meters - swung the Springboks into a second straight Rugby World Cup final at the very death and cruelly denied the English again. South Africa have beaten England in the quarterfinals, semifinals and in two finals at the Rugby World Cup, including the title game four years ago.

"After a difficult loss like this all that stands with me is how proud I am to be English," said England captain Owen Farrell, who also lost in the 2019 final to South Africa. "You can always look back at things but South Africa are a top, top side. They have shown that over the course of the World Cup."

England were minutes from sweet revenge for all those painful Springboks experiences having executed their gameplan to perfection to be in control for most of the match at Stade de France. England sent kick after kick from scrumhalf Alex Mitchell at the base of the ruck or from Farrell at flyhalf down onto the Springboks, who struggled with the high bombs all day in the rain in Paris.

England won almost every contestable kick, and was sharper in every facet, and Farrell gave the white shirts the scoreboard dominance they deserved with four penalties in the first half and a drop goal from long range early in the second half for a 15-6 lead.

The drop goal evoked memories of Jannie de Beer's five drops for South Africa to flatten England in the quarterfinals of the 1999 Rugby World Cup. The 15-6 scoreline was the same that England lost to the Boks in the 2007 final in Paris. England fans, who came to France this time with very limited expectations given the team's dire pre-tournament form, belted out "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot."

England, surprisingly, was rumbling toward the final having been written off before a ball was kicked in France.

And then it turned.



Kuwaiti judo team pose for a photo after successful conclusion of their international training camp in the Spanish city of Malaga.

Kuwait judo team conclude training camp in Spain

The Kuwaiti judo team have successfully concluded their international training camp in the Spanish city of Malaga, spanning a duration of 10 days. This rigorous preparation is part of their readiness for the upcoming Abu Dhabi Grand Slam Championship, set to commence tomorrow, featuring participants from 81 countries.

Faisal Al-Hamad, the treasurer of the Judo Federation and the head of the delegation, expressed his satisfaction with the team's preparation for the tournament, recognizing

its significance as a qualifying event for the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris.

Al-Hamad highlighted that the

JUDO

team not only achieved their objectives during the international camp but also engaged in an open international friendly tournament, which featured world champions from the Andalusian city. The

primary aim of their participation was to immerse the team in the competitive tournament atmosphere and draw upon the valuable experiences of elite international players.

Underlining their commitment to the cause, Al-Hamad affirmed that the youthful Kuwaiti team have been thoroughly readied for the Abu Dhabi Championship, with ongoing efforts to prepare them for future participation in the Olympic Games.

Dalot scores winner as Man U beat Sheffield United

Arsenal rally from 2 goals down to draw at Chelsea

LONDON, Oct 22, (AP): Arsenal rallied from two goals down to remain unbeaten in the Premier League after a 2-2 draw with Chelsea at Stamford Bridge.

Chelsea had looked headed for their biggest statement win yet under Mauricio Pochettino after Cole Palmer converted a first-half penalty and Mykhailo Mudryk caught Arsenal goalkeeper David Raya out of position with a lob from a tight angle shortly after the restart.

But Chelsea goalkeeper Robert Sanchez made an even bigger mistake at the other end to gift Arsenal a way back into the game. His pass into midfield in the 77th minute was intercepted by Declan Rice, who had an open net to hit from 25 yards out and didn't miss.

That rejuvenated the visitors and substitute Leandro Trossard equalized

in the 84th by tapping in a cross at the far post.

The halftime break had featured a tribute for Bobby Charlton, the England great whose death was announced earlier in the day, with applause ringing out around Stamford Bridge.

Both teams entered the match in good form as Chelsea had won their last two league games after a shaky start under Pochettino, while Arsenal beat defending champion Manchester City at home in the previous round before the international break.

But Chelsea were by far the better team for the first hour, as Pochettino's decision to field a starting lineup without a recognized striker paid off.

And the hosts were awarded a penalty for a handball by William Saliba after

the defender's outstretched arm blocked a header from Mudryk. Palmer calmly sent Raya the wrong way to open the scoring in the 15th minute.

Rice - one of three midfielders in the game who cost more than 100 million pounds along with Chelsea's Enzo Fernandez and Moises Caicedo - had Arsenal's best chance to equalize in the 20th minute when he was played through on goal by Martin Odegaard, but his finish with the outside of his boot went wide of the far post. Chelsea substitute Nicolas Jackson had the final chance of the game in stoppage time but his low shot was smothered by Raya.

The draw put Arsenal level on points with Man City atop the standings, although Tottenham can reclaim the lead

SOCCER

with a win over Fulham on Monday. Chelsea aren't, nine points behind.

Diogo Dalot made sure Manchester United could pay tribute to Bobby Charlton with a win.

Dalot curled in a long-range strike in the 77th minute to give United a 2-1 win over Sheffield United in an emotionally charged Premier League match played just hours after the announcement that Charlton - United's greatest ever player - had died at the age of 86.

United captain Bruno Fernandes laid a wreath at the center of the field before the game, and both teams took part in a tribute that included a period of applause in Charlton's honor. It wasn't a convincing performance by United against a team that are in last place in the standings with just one point, but Erik ten Hag now has back-to-back league victories for the first time this season.

BARCELONA, Spain, Oct 22, (AP): Sergio Ramos showed that he is still the boss of the box after the 37-year-old defender put in a characteristically tenacious performance to help Sevilla grind out a hard-fought 1-1 draw against his former club Real Madrid.

Ramos was playing his first game against Madrid since returning to the Spanish league last month with Sevilla, his boyhood club.

David Alaba scored an own-goal to put Sevilla ahead in the 74th, but Dani Carvajal equalized for the league leaders with a header four minutes later.

Antoine Griezmann scored a hat trick for Atletico Madrid in a 3-0 win at 10-man Celta Vigo. Diego Simeone's team are in second place, three points behind Madrid with one game in hand.

Girona are also three points back in third.

Ramos started his career with Sevilla but soon moved to Madrid, where he won 22 trophies in 16 seasons - including four Champions League titles - before leaving in 2021. After two frustrating years with Paris Saint-Germain, the former Spain defender returned to Sevilla.

Ramos saved a goal-bound shot by former teammate Toni Kroos in the first half. The center back also had two late scoring chances to almost snatch the win for the hosts.

Ramos featured in some run-ins with Antonio Rudiger, who arrived at Madrid last season in part to fill the hole left by the aging Ramos. In one clash, Ramos grabbed the cheeks of Rudiger while the Germany defender held him as they exchanged words.

Ramos also clashed with Jude Bellingham, Madrid's new star. Ramos elbowed Bellingham in the head during a corner and earned a yellow card for a foul on him in the second half.

Ramos, who scored several big goals in his career for Madrid, almost bagged a winner from two headers with the score at 1-1. Madrid keeper Kepa Arrizabalaga was able to push the ball onto his post, and Ramos later sent the ball high with his second header in stoppage time.

The game's final stretch was marred

SOCCER

by a tussle between several players after Vinicius Junior pushed Sevilla goalkeeper Orjan Nyland. That led to more serious shoves by several players, including Ramos and Vinicius.

When the final whistle blew, Ramos embraced with Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti. The day before the game Ancelotti heaped praise on his former player, saying that Ramos' stoppage-time equalizer in the 2014 Champions League final was a key moment in his career.

"I loved seeing him again," Ancelotti said about Ramos after the game. "I said hello to him and wished him the best."

The match was also the debut of former Uruguay coach Diego Alonso on Sevilla's bench. Alonso replaced José Mendilibar before the recent international break to try and turn around Sevilla's season with the club near the relegation zone.

The draw let Sevilla inch into 13th place.

Sevilla host Arsenal in the Champions League group stage on Tuesday, while Madrid is at Braga in Portugal.

Griezmann's hat trick on the road put more pressure on Rafa Benítez, whose Celta team remained in the drop zone after just one win in 10 rounds.

Celta lost goalkeeper Ivan Villar in the 22nd when he received a direct red card for fouling Alvaro Morata with the open goal behind them. Vicente Guaita took over in goal but he could do nothing to stop Griezmann from picking the hosts apart.

Griezmann converted the resulting penalty, adding a second after a solo run in the 64th and capped a group passing move in the 70th. The France forward has seven goals in the league this season, only surpassed by Bellingham's eight.

Shortly after the game against Madrid, Sevilla said they had expelled a fan from their stadium and filed a complaint with police after the spectator allegedly displayed "xenophobic and racist behavior." Sevilla did not specify what the behavior was, or any intended target. Madrid star Vinicius Junior, who is Black, has been targeted by racist abuse by rival fans on several occasions.

Brais Méndez scored from a pass by Takefusa Kubo to give Real Sociedad a 1-0 win over Mallorca before the Basque side visits Benfica on Tuesday in the Champions League.