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## Minister of Public Works Bugamaz hands in resignation

'Dodging responsibility'

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: Minister of Public Works Amani Bugamaz on Sunday submitted her resignation to HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Earlier, MP Jenan Bu Shehri referred to Bugamaz as 'the minister of Limac and contractors'

In a press statement, she disclosed that the minister did not fulfill her constitutional oath, because she protected the interests of contractors, instead that of the citizens.

Bu Shehri said 167 queries have been forwarded to Bugamaz, including eight questions on Kuwait International Airport and the contracting company Limac. The minister was asked why the tender was

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#### **Opinion**

#### To Hamas and Al-Qassam ... fear Allah towards the people of Gaza

#### **By Ahmed Al-Jarallah**

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

THIS morning, the war on Gaza completed its 24th day, and there are no signs on the horizon of a ceasefire on the killing, which is taking its toll on the living, and destroying everything on that land.

Being under all this fire, it is necessary to be frank, and speak in a loud voice to the point of shouting, in the hope that those who are deaf will hear that the Al-Qassam adventure, which was known to four commanders inside the Gaza Strip, was neither up to the challenge that they had timed for nor were they as intelligent as the late President Anwar Sadat in terms of timing.

The late Egyptian president chose the timing of the October War carefully. It was based on one faction, which was the Egyptian people whose army had "the best soldiers on

It is true that the Arabs, not just the Egyptians, regained their pride on that day. However, anyone who reads the outcome of the October War knows from the first moment that the man was not about to "erase Israel from existence," because of the international balance of power then and now, which does not accept such a thing to even come close to happening.

The Western world worked to create Israel in order for it to survive. This fact prompted Sadat to describe that war as a "war of stirring up the issue," which he declared several times after the cessation of military operations.

From the moment of the meeting with US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and the threat he brought to Cairo, the man realized that "99 percent of the cards in the game are in Washington's hands" - this was Sadat's famous phrase but the Arabs were not convinced at that time. Despite that, he went to the "101 Kilometer Tent" negotiations, and declared a truce as a prelude to a major settlement, which he got. This was because the world was in a situation that needed a bold decision. It had been accusing the Arabs of not wanting peace, especially since the Israeli "propaganda" sweeping Western societies was repeatedly publishing Ahmed Al-Shugairi's slogan, which was adopted by the late Egyptian president Jamal Abdul-Nasser, -"We will throw the Jews into the sea."

At that time, only the Muslim Brotherhood objected to Sadat's position in Egypt, not because they sought to liberate Palestine, but rather their goal was to seize power, even at the expense of the land and people of Egypt.

That is why fate allowed them to seize the reins of power in the year 2012 after the January 25 Movement that overthrew the late President Mohamed Hosni Mubarak. Within one year, the Egyptian people discovered that they were the group most attached to Israel.

On that day, that group indirectly agreed to the Israeli plan Giora Eiland, which was based on the establishment of a state in Gaza and Sinai and self-rule in the West Bank.

That day, President Mahmoud Abbas revealed that the ousted President Mohamed Morsi had addressed the matter to him.

However, why am I recalling these facts?

What is happening today in Gaza, and the fetichism that the Al-Oassam Brigades had ignited, has found someone riding its wave. They are the leaders of Hamas (who are from the Muslim Brotherhood) abroad who have become experts in investing the blood of the Palestinian people.

They announced from behind the television screens that they had achieved victory over Israel, and that it would soon disappear.

These people live on an imaginary idea, because they did not see the great Western support for Israel and the flood of weapons and money that landed in Tel Aviv.

These people must be convinced that the dreams of birds did not apply to reality. On October 6, 1973, by a historical coincidence, it was a Saturday, a holiday for the Jews. Egypt had great military capabilities, and it was not besieged, but it also found Arab support.

As for Saturday, October 7, which is also a holiday for the Jews, Al-Qassam acted alone, and did not take into account the Israeli reaction.

This is why, after the end of the war, Nasrallah's saying, "If I had known," will also be repeated, but in the words of Yahya Sinwar.

Before October 7, Israel was politically disintegrated. Its streets were crowded with demonstrations for rejecting Benjamin Netanyahu's policy, and were on the verge of exploding from within.

This process came to reunify it and save Netanyahu from three corruption cases in which he is accused of.

Therefore, instead of him going to prison, the Al-Aqsa Flood Operation made him an Israeli leader similar to David Ben-Gurion.

It must be said - The killing and demolition practiced by Tel Aviv in the Gaza Strip is not equivalent to the losses it incurred. The number of Gazan casualties reached past 8,000 dead and about 19,000 wounded, while about 250,000 housing units were destroyed, and 22 hospitals were out of service.

Israel's toll to date is 1,450 dead and 6,000 wounded. The wounded are receiving the best medical care, while

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## **BIDEN PRESSES FOR TWO-STATE SOLUTION** Gaza toll passes 8,000

Kuwait's 'no-normalization' policy stands

#### By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip, Oct 29: Thousands of people broke into aid warehouses in Gaza to take flour and basic hygiene products, a U.N. agency said Sunday, in a mark of growing desperation and the breakdown of public order three weeks into the war between Israel and Gaza's militant Hamas rulers.

Tanks and infantry pushed into Gaza over the weekend as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced a "second stage" in the war, which was ignited by Hamas' brutal Oct. 7 incursion into Israel. Israel also pounded the territory from air, land and sea.

Gaza's Health Ministry said the death toll among Palestinians has passed 8,000 mostly women and minors. It's a toll without precedent in decades of Israeli-Palestinian violence, and one that is expected to climb even more rapidly as Israel presses its ground offensive. Over 1,400 people have died on the Israeli side, mainly civilians killed during the initial Hamas onslaught.

The bombardment over the weekend - described by Gaza residents as the most in-

tense of the war - knocked out most communications in the territory late Friday, largely cutting

off the besieged enclave's 2.3 million people from the world.

Communications were restored to much of Gaza early Sunday.

Sunday it had struck over 450

militant targets over the past 24 hours, including Hamas com-

mand centers and anti-tank missile launching positions. It said

more ground forces were sent

into Gaza overnight, and circu-

lated footage showing tanks and

The warehouse break-ins were

"a worrying sign that civil order

is starting to break down after three weeks of war and a tight siege on Gaza," said Thomas

White, Gaza director for the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees,

known as UNRWA. "People are

scared, frustrated and desperate.'

UNRWA provides basic ser-

vices to hundreds of thousands

of people in Gaza. Its schools

across the territory have been

transformed into packed shelters

housing Palestinians displaced by the conflict. Israel has allowed

only a small trickle of aid to enter

from Egypt, some of which was stored in one of the warehouses

that was broken into, UNRWA

Juliette Touma, a spokes-

person for the agency, said the

crowds broke into four facilities

on Saturday. She said the warehouses did not contain any fuel,

which has been in critically short

supply since Israel cut off all

shipments after the start of the

Humanitarian

that they would soon allow more

humanitarian aid to enter Gaza,

though details remained unclear.

affairs of COGAT, the Israeli de-

fense body responsible for Palestinian civilian affairs, said Israel

had established a "humanitarian

zone" near the southern city of

Khan Younis and recommended

But he provided no details on

the exact location of the zone or

how much aid would be avail-

able. He also said Israel has

opened two water lines in south-

ern Gaza within the past week.

The AP could not independently

verify that either line was func-

tioning.
Meanwhile, as the 3-week-old

Israel-Hamas war enters what

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu says could be a "long and difficult" new stage, US

President Joe Biden is calling on

Israeli and Arab leaders to think

hard about their eventual postwar

reality.

It's one, he argues, where fi-

nally finding agreement on a

long-sought two-state solution

to the Israel-Palestinian conflict

"There's no going back to the status quo as it stood on Oct. 6,"

Biden told reporters, referring

to the day before Hamas mili-

tants attacked Israel and set off

the latest war. The White House

says Biden conveyed the same

message directly to Netanyahu

during a telephone call this past

crisis is over, there has to be a vi-

sion of what comes next, and in

our view it has to be a two-state

The push for a two-state solu-

tion - one in which Israel would

co-exist with an independent

Palestinian state - has eluded

U.S. presidents and Middle East

diplomats for decades. It's been

put on the back burner since the

last American-led effort at peace

talks collapsed in 2014 amid

disagreements on Israeli settle-

ments, the release of Palestinian

solution," Biden said.

"It also means that when this

should be a priority.

week.

that Palestinians flee there.

Elad Goren, the head of civil

Israeli authorities said Sunday

said.

troops operating in open areas.

The Israeli military said



Palestinians mourn their relatives killed in the Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip, in a morgue in Khan Younis, Sunday, Oct. 29, 2023. (AP)



The sixth relief aid plane, filled with 40 tons of necessities and supplies, departed Kuwait on Sunday, heading to Egypt to provide assistance to the people of the Gaza Strip. This initiative came in line with the Kuwaiti leadership's directives and reflected the people's solemn support to the Palestinian people.

UN coordinator praises Kuwaiti banks

## **Kuwait focuses on integrating disabled into workforce**

#### Newswatch

**KUWAIT CITY:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences Sunday to Bahraini King Hamad bin Issa Al-Khalifah on the demise of Sheikhah Nora bint Salman bin Hamad Al-Khal-

In the cable, His Highness the Amir prayed to Almighty Allah to bestow mercy upon her soul. (KUNA) 

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

Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. His Highness the Crown Prince received First Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled Al-Ah-

Further, His Highness received Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister

Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY: Kuwait's Embassy in Lebanon, Sunday, called on nationals currently in Lebanon to contact the embassy and provide them with their information on the number (0096171171441). (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29, (KUNA): Kuwait's social affairs minister on Sunday said that his ministry is committed to plans that cater to the needs of the country's disabled people, which includes integrating them into the local job market.

Such plans require state-wide cooperation as part of efforts to provide better services to this cohort, Sheikh Feras Al-Sabah told KUNA to open a state-organized program aiming to provide job opportunities to Kuwait's disabled people.

People of disabilities have inalienable rights to proper training and qualifications, which would subsequently propel them into the job market, Kuwait's Public Authority for Disability

Sheikh Feras

Affairs (PADA) acting chief Al-Humaidi Al-Mutairi underlined, saying the continued support for them was the by-product of "fruitful" cooperation among state bodies, in addition to the UN's resident coordinator in Kuwait Ghada Al-Taher.

On national support for the disabled, the UN's resident coordinator said that local banks have recently opened their doors to provide them with jobs, an initiative she hailed as a testament to their capabilities and qualifications in spite of their disabilities.

The aforementioned program is a collaborative effort that brings together a number of state bodies, including Kuwait University and PADA, in addition to the country's oil and banking sectors.

### 12,000 deported in last 3 months

**By Munaif Naif** 

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: According to security sources, the deportation department affiliated with the General Department of Correctional Facilities deported about 12,000 male and female expatriates in the months of August, September and October, in order to limit violators of the residency law and other

They explained that the department, in the month of October, deported about 4,300 male and female residents, some of whom were caught violating public morals, or violating the residency and labor laws, and others were marginal workers and absconders.

They affirmed that security campaigns will continue to be held by all sectors of the Ministry of Interior.

prisoners and other issues. Palestinian statehood is something that Biden rarely addressed in the early going of his admin-

**Continued on Page 5** 

Max Exp

**Station** 

Kuwait City

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

## 'We will see among you doctors, engineers, teachers'

Minister pledges more efforts to exploit human resources

#### **Other Voices**

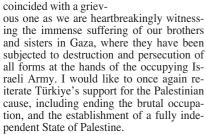
## 'Türkiye ready for the great leap towards next century'

October 29 of each year is a day of joy and pride for Turkish citizens as we cel-ebrate in Türkiye and around the world the anniversary of our Republic, which was proclaimed in 1923 by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. The declaration of the Republic of Türkiye marks, among other things, a triumphant foundation of a new nation-state with ambitious goals.

This year, however, we are more enthusiastic than ever before. On October 29, 2023, Türkiye enters a historic milestone: the 100th anniversary of the Republic of Türkiye. This centenary is a testament to our nation's resilience, growth, and unwavering commitment to progress with an eye to the

future. I would like to thank our friends in Kuwait who did not leave us alone with their messages of celebration and shared our enthu-

However, it is very unfortunate that this momentous occasion



Tuba Nur Sönmez

#### A tough yet successful journey

Since its formation in 1923, Türkiye has undergone a process of massive transformation, starting under the leadership of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the founder of our Republic. Türkiye has transitioned from a newly-born Republic into a strong multi-party democratic state with competing economy, admirable military strength and well-developed

However, Türkiye's 100-year journey of progress was hardly a linear one. Along the way, there were challenges to overcome, struggles we have been through and the battles that had to be fought.

First of all, Türkiye has been fighting multiple terror groups, at times simultaneously, to secure its citizens and to protect its territorial integrity and democracy. We have been effectively combatting terrorists of all stripes, ranging from clandestine FETÖ to the ethnic separatist PKK terrorism, and the leftist DHKP-C to religiously motivated terrorist groups such as Al Qaeda and DAESH. Through this epic struggle, we dealt a heavy blow to terrorist organizations and ruined their evil plans.

Not just that, our counter-terrorism efforts have proved to be vital for the security and stability of the whole region. As such, Türkiye has been on the forefront of efforts to increase awareness of the international community on the threat of terrorism.

Secondly, our nascent democracy has been almost periodically the target of military coups. The most recent attempt occurred on the night of July 15, 2016, when a clandestine faction within the Turkish army under the direct order of Fetullah Gülen (terrorist mastermind), attempted to overthrow the democratically elected government of Türkiye. Thanks to the steadfast leadership of our President, and unwavering determination of our nations, the coup plotters could not reach their objective.

Alhamdulillah, none of these challenges were able to stop us from pursuing the path of development, welfare, democracy and

However, it is the last two decades of our Republic that witnessed all-out transformation and breakthrough in almost all realms

#### Great leap towards the century of Türkiye

Over the last 20 years, Türkiye went through an era of "silent revolution", whereby comprehensive democratic reforms addressed our people's long-standing grievances, dramatically changing the political landscape for the good. Ambitious plans and innovations have been introduced in the areas such as education, health, infrastructure defence industry, and economy.

Since 2002, Turkish GDP has tripled with an annual growth rate of 5.4%. Major public infrastructure investments bridges, ports, railways along with increased production capacity and the leap in export fueled the Türkiye's decades-long surge in growth.

Despite grim global financial conditions and global trade volume that dropped by 1.8% from the last year, our economy maintained its strong growth performance in the second quarter of 2023, as we tried to compensate for the economic effects of the twin powerful earthquakes that hit 11 provinces in southern Türkiye on Feb. 6, causing extensive damage and killing and injuring tens of thousands of people.

We have implemented a healthcare transformation program with a series of reforms and infrastructure investments -most notably city hospitals-that significantly improved our healthcare system and the quality of care our people receive. This transformation contributed to a drastic drop in infant and maternal mortality, along with supporting efforts to expand tertiary care and research and development efforts. In addition to that Türkiye has boosted its hospital capacity significantly, making it even better than in many advanced economies as manifested during the Covid-19 pandemic

Türkiye's advancement in high-tech innovation has also been noteworthy. In 2022, Türkiye rolled out the country's first domestically-produced electric car, fulfilling a 60-year-old dream.

In addition to that, Türkiye has built a vigorous defence sector over the last 20 years. In 2022 Türkiye's arms export hit a record of \$4.4 billion which was almost \$100 million in the 2000s. This revolution in defence industry enabled our country to move from being the world's third-biggest receiver of weapons to the twelfth-biggest defence product exporter.

Certainly, the star of our defence industry has been unmanned combat aerial vehicles (UCAV) or drones. We introduced first indigenous jet-powered unmanned combat aerial vehicle, Bayraktar Kızılelma, whose

serial set to begin in 2024. This year we concluded a landmark deal with Kuwait regarding purchase of Turkish Bayraktar TB2 drones which will be greatly contributing to military capabilities of the armed forces of Kuwait.

All these past advancements provide us necessary inspiration to look confidently to the future and to achieve even more.

As Türkiye embarks on this ambitious journey, it extends an open invitation to the global community to join hands in building a better future. The Century of Türkiye is not just a vision for Türkiye, but a promise to humanity — a promise of progress, pros-

In celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Republic of Türkiye, we celebrate a century of triumphs, and look forward with hope and determination to the next 100 years: The Century of Türkiye.

I take this opportunity to wish health, happiness and long life to His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and His Highness the Crown Prince, Sheikh Mishaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, as well as the friendly people and Government of Kuwait. Tuba Nur Sönmez

Ambassador of the Republic of

## **Kuwait Amir congratulates Turkiye**

Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations Sunday to President of Turkiye Recep Tayyip Erdogan on his country's national day.

His Highness wished the president a long healthy life and more development

and prosperity for Turkiye.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah also sent a cable of congratulations to President of Turkiye Recep Tayyip Erdogan on his country's na-

His Highness wished the president a long healthy life and more development and prosperity for Turkiye.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah then sent a cable of congratulations to President of Turkiye Recep Tayyip Erdogan on his country's Na-



Sheikh Mubarak with the Austrian am-



Sheikh Mubarak with the Austrian am-

#### Sheikh Mubarak attends ceremony

## 'We seek to strengthen trade ties between Kuwait, Austria

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: The Chairman of the Kuwait-Austria Friendship Business Association, Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, stressed on the importance of the bilateral relations between the two friendly countries, emphasizing the strength of the relations that have been reinforced in several areas, and via various forms of trade exchange, which the association seeks to promote and push further in a manner that reflects the ambition of both sides, and that benefits the business sector, and revitalizes commerce between the two countries to fulfill the aspirations of the

Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah extended his congratulations to His Excellency Karl Nehammer, Federal Chancellor of the Republic of Austria, on the occasion of his country's National Day, during his participation in the ceremony of the Austrian embassy held in Kuwait on this occasion. Moreover, Sheikh Mubarak also offered congratulations to the Austrian Ambassador to Kuwait, Marian Wrba, and the embassy staff, who in turn stressed the importance of the business sector and its

contribution to strengthening bilateral relations between the two friendly countries, praising all the efforts to achieve the two countries' awareness of further cooperation in the commercial area, to reflect the strength of the friendly relations between the two governments and its citizens.

Sheikh Mubarak said during attending the ceremony that Kuwaiti investment and capital is looking for an attractive environment in which development opportunities and security are available simultaneously, and this is what we see evident in the Republic of Austria, which extends its hand in this field.

Sheikh Mubarak also thanked the political leadership of the Republic of Austria for its continued honorable stances

It is worth noting that the celebration of the Austrian National Day returned this year to its previous state, after two years of restrictions, and the war in Ukraine cast a shadow on the celebration, which has been held annually since 1965 on October 26.



Bouraki and Zain's team with the winners of the Zain Hackathon challenge.

'50 women sponsored in hackathon'

#### 'Al-Sammak' stays for 13 days

## Chilly and longer nights ahead

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: The Al-Ujairi Scientific Center announced the second stage of the season, known as "Al-Sammak," commences today and will extend for 13 days, bringing with it cooler nighttime temperatures, reports Al-Rai daily.

According to the center, during the Al-Sammak period, the evenings will be notably chilly, with humidity carried in by the sunrise, and the nights growing longer.

One distinctive characteristic of this season is the sensation of cold water, particularly in the morning, which also enhances the likelihood of rainfall.

The center also noted that the duration of nighttime hours significantly increases during this stage, spanning 12 hours and 53 minutes, with sunrise occurring at 5:58 am. According to the Al-Ujairi calendar, the dawn prayer is at 4:38 am, and sunset arrives early at 5:00 pm.

Man deported again: The Ministry of Interior is looking into how a citizen from an unidentified Gulf nation who had been deported from the country after serving in jail returned to Kuwait in spite of his biometric fingerprints are stored in the system, reports

A security source said the suspect was ar-

rested during a security check in the Nahda area and was detained in preparation for his deportation again after learning how he entered the country.

The source stated that the accused refused to cooperate with the security personnel when asked about how he entered, suggesting that there was collusion on the part of an employee at a land port, which enabled him to return after his deportation.

Food imports from Ukraine: The Department of Food Safety and Consumer Protection in Ukraine, as reported by the Ukrainform website, Kuwait has officially granted access to its markets for the import of poultry meat and related products from Ukraine, reports Al-Rai daily.

This development adds Kuwait to the list of countries endorsing the import of various Ukrainian agricultural goods.

Other nations on this expanding list includes Azerbaijan, which has approved the import of both poultry meat and dairy products, the Republic of North Macedonia, which has given the nod to import of processed domestic animal food, and the Republic of Albania, which has opened its doors to Ukrainian dairy products.

## Zain supports upskilling women in cybersecurity

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: Continuing its ongoing support for cybersecurity programs and contributing to empowering local female talents in this vital topic, Zain has sponsored the '50 Women in cybersecurity in Kuwait' hackathon challenge. The initiative aimed at upskilling women and girls in programming, coding, and cybersecurity, and was organized by ESK Holding under support from the National Cybersecurity Center (NCSC).

The event was joined by 50 women and girls who participated in several hackathon competitions, including the Zain Hackathon challenge that covered specific cybersecurity-related skills. Zain's team was part of the judges panel that evaluated the teams and picked the winners who met the outlined standards. Present during the awarding segment was the Director of the National Cybersecurity Center Major General Mohammed Bouraki.

Zain's support to this unique initiative came under its Group-wide Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DE&I) strategy, as well as its efforts to raise cybersecurity awareness in the community and encourage aspiring female Kuwaiti coders.

Many of Zain's initiatives center around youth and education development. As digital skills are gaining accelerating importance in the future of education and the economy, the company has put the development of programming and digital competencies of young men and women at the forefront of its priorities.

Zain Group is proud to be among the first telecom providers in the region to have established a Diversity and Inclusion office, as an indicator of how seriously the company takes the subject of uplifting its entire workforce and benefiting society. The remit of this function is to nurture a diverse and inclusive culture through a series of carefully crafted programs and initiatives.

In a previous step to support cybersecurity programs, Zain recently sponsored the Kuwait Hackathon, the nation's biggest cybersecurity competition of its kind. The successful initiative was launched by CODED Academy under support from the National Cybersecurity Center and came in response to a parliamentary initiative that was adopted by Kuwait's government and supported

By Abdel Nasser Al-Aslami

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: The Minister of Justice, Minister of State for Housing Affairs, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Public Authority for Minors' Affairs Faleh Abdullah Al-Rakba revealed that the coming period will witness an intensification of efforts, plans and programs for developing services and work mechanisms by exploiting the available material and human capabilities and expertise.

In his speech delivered on the occasion of his patronage of a ceremony honoring a number of outstanding students under the authority's sponsorship in the presence of members of the authority's Board of Directors, its executive cadres, and a number of parents, public figures, and media professionals, Al-Rakba highlighted the presence of plans to develop and enhance communication with the public and beneficiaries of the authority's services.

He said, "There will be a new shift in the authority that will enable it to work with greater capacity and efficiency in the field of caring for and securing the needs of our minor children and those under care.

The authority, over the past few years, was able to realize many achievements, and develop the funds through a sound and balanced investment policy that achieved high returns with low risk rates, through the following:

■ Enhancing the participation of the authority's cadres at all levels in enhancing development strategies, plans and programs in various areas of work in a way that enhances the opportunities for efficient and effective implementation, in parallel with training and qualification programs for national cadres to increase their productivity and ability to meet aspirations.

Intensifying efforts to automate and digitize the authority's work and services within the framework of the digital transformation plan adopted by the state, which the authority was among the first government agencies to implement, out of its desire to achieve more rapid, easy, and effective communication with the clients.

Intensifying coordination and cooperation efforts with all relevant governmental, civil and private agencies by signing more memorandums of under-



standing and cooperation, implementing electronic connectivity programs and facilitating correspondence and communication mechanisms within the framework of an integrated program to enhance institutional partnership. Continuing social, humanitarian and recreational activi-

ties for those in care and their families, in addition to supporting the activities of many charitable, social, religious, health, educational and community organizations in general. ■ Continuing the development of the charitable triads and their contributions to charitable work in various fields and

Minister Al-Rakba expressed his gratitude for the academic excellence of those under the authority in the various stages of education, as it represents success in facing challenges and taking advantage of opportunities with di and perseverance, which he hoped would be their weapon in all aspects of life and in the future.

The minister said, "Your success and excellence represent a source of pride and optimism for us, your families, and your dear country Kuwait, which looks forward to continuing, through you and through the arms of its children in all locations, to realize more achievements in various fields.'

Meanwhile, the Acting Director General Eng. Hamad Al-Barjas said in his speech during the honoring ceremony that, "The authority contributes to qualifying, developing and motivating our sons and daughters under the authority to face the challenges of the future and achieve Kuwait's future vision.'

He explained that the authority provides various packages of services and initiatives aimed at enhancing the excellence of its sons and daughters of all ages, an example of which is supporting many educational and pedagogical activities. It attaches great importance to the awareness programs and psychological and mental rehabilitation for those under its care by organizing recreational, awareness-raising and religious activities aimed at developing their knowledge, abilities and skills in modern ways that suit all age groups. During the last period, it was keen to enhance communi-

cation with those under its care through various direct and electronic means of communication in order to closely identify the demands and needs, and work to provide the necessary material and human resources to meet them appropriately and quickly. Al-Barjas assured that the tireless efforts and endeavors

would continue in this context to achieve the authority's lofty mission and its noble goals towards those sponsored who have contributed in the past and will contribute in the near future in continuing the process of progress and advancement of Kuwait.

He said, "We will see among you doctors, engineers, teachers, lawyers, researchers, and administrators. Thanks to your excellence and diligence, you will occupy the most important positions, as your predecessors among those under care did throughout the authority's history, which extends about nine decades of loyalty and giving."

### Lunar eclipse prayers in 95 mosques on Sat

By Abdul-Nasser Al-Aslami

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: On Saturday evening, a total of 95 mosques in the country held a lunar eclipse prayer in compliance with the traditions (Sunnah) and teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

The sky of Kuwait at that time witnessed a partial lunar eclipse that began at 10:34 pm, and the moon was in the middle of the eclipse at 11:13 pm.

In addition, people chanted prayers that Almighty Allah would lift the affliction from the nation. The imams called on worshippers to uphold righteousness, piety, and charity in such circumstances, as this should be the habit of the be-

Some explained that the solar eclipse prayer and the lunar eclipse prayer are confirmed traditions of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). When it occurs, people should pray two rak'ahs (two units of prayers) in congregation or individually. In each rak'ah, there are two standing in each unit and two recitations and two bows. In normal prayer, there is only one bowing per unit of prayer and two prostrations, after which the imam delivers a sermon and urges for repentance and doing good deeds, such as supplication, remembrance,

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A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

## 'Shun emotional reactions, teach children Palestinian cause facts'

"When will we realize that emotional and exaggerated reactions often have immediate and instantaneous effects, while there are more balanced and rational reactions whose effects remain long-term," columnist Iqbal Al-Ahmad wrote for Al-Qabas daily

'What happened in some Kuwaiti schools, as an expression of sympathy for what is happening inside Gaza, was an action by the administrations of these schools. I personally see that it only leads to a state of panic and fear among students, especially children,

and nothing else. "What happened in the court-yards of some of our schools in terms of performing military marches and parades, carrying wooden models in the shape of weapons, and carrying nylon bags as if inside them were the remains of the victims, children and adults, in resemblance to what the scenes conveyed to us from the stricken land of Gaza, and spread-



ing the red color on the ground and the bodies or clothes of the students as an expression. Also about this difficult situation, it is an act that will only lead to terror and fear in the hearts of our children, more than it proves historical information about the nature of the Palestinian issue and the reason for what is happening.

"It would have been more effective for the administrations of these schools to allocate a full day, or an hour, at the beginning of the school day, to talk about the Palestinian issue, the history of Palestine, and how the Palestinian people were robbed of their right to the ratesiman people were rooted of their right to their homeland, by presenting the facts in a simpli-fied manner according to the energy and feelings of the children and according to the understanding and perception of the young person.

"It would be more beneficial if these schools provided the opportunity for students of all ages and groups to have a public discussion about the interpretation of what is happening, and how the whole world has come to support the Palestinian right. Explain what Palestine means to Arabs and Muslims? How was the voice of demand for Palestinian rights absent for so many years?

"It would have been more effective to educate our children and students about the role of the media in playing with facts and falsifying them, the goal behind that, and how the ABC of ethics stipulates the necessity of objectivity and transparency in presenting the facts as they are, not as the Zionist media does to win

the emotions and support of the Western world.

"This type of dealing with this humanitarian catastrophe, which our people in Gaza and Palestine are still experiencing, is what builds within these children and students information that they can research more than the state of intimidation and panic that all of them experience at the end of the school day

"It would have been more beneficial for the Ministry of Education to establish a general framework for dealing with this issue, and it may be required to compel all schools at all levels to deal with this tragic situation in a uniform manner in all Kuwaiti schools and in methods that suit all ages in a way that adds important historical information about the defeated Palestinian people according to his order, which was eaten up by the Zionist military machine and media, not to fill their hearts, especially children, with terror and panic without them realizing what they are see-

ing... And why.

"This is my point of view, and I respect any opposing point of view, even if I do not agree with it.

"Did you kill a Palestinian today? This is a phrase that filled the billboards in the streets of Kuwait.

"Our support for the Palestinian cause cannot be by publishing phrases calling for killing, regardless of the two parties involved. There are a thousand means and a million phrases and sentences that can be used to express solidarity, far from killing, blood and body bags. Where is the follow-up and oversight?'

#### Also:

"I thought Hamas was a jihadist, but the West and many Western and Eastern regimes see it as a terrorist organization that kills innocent people, including the elderly, women and children," Dr Adel Fahd Al-Mishaal wrote for Al-Rai daily.

"I thought that the Hamas movement represented the true Islamic religion, but many countries are fighting it and trying to restrict it in an attempt to dry up the sources of terrorism.

"I thought that the Canaanites were the first to inhabit Palestine at the beginning of the third millennium BC, while the West confirms that the Jews are the original inhabitants, even if they belong to more than one country and culture, even if they are a socially and culturally heterogeneous people.

"I thought that the Hamas movement was committed to the Arab Islamic humanitarian values in dealing with the enemy, but the media machine insists that it is a ruthless movement, as it cuts off the heads of children and cooks them with boiling water, as a European officer did to some Turkish officers and soldiers who were prisoners of war in World War I.

"They do not respect the rights of prisoners, and therefore they execute every prisoner and then claim that he died naturally. They resemble those who betrayed the promises they made to Muslims. They killed men and women when Jerusalem surrendered centuries ago. They even turned the mosque into a stable and committed

crimes, a war they are proud of to this day. "For those who want more, many Arab media professionals and thinkers including Dr. Abdullah Al-Nafisi, Muhanna Al-Muhanna, Dr. Mustafa Al-Feki, Dr. Abdul-Wahab Al-Mesiri, and others, have spoken about the crimes committed by the Western colonialists, and these names are only to be mentioned and

"Damn this civilized world, which possesses a huge media, political, diplomatic, economic and war machine since the fall of the Ottoman Empire after World War I, and now controls almost everything in the world in various fields, using all means that make the victim the killer without any sense of shame.

"Yes, the cause of World War I and World War II was the Hamas movement through its ideology based on sedition, usury, and enlightenment, and the result was the death of millions of European people.

"Yes, the Hamas movement possesses an atomic bomb that it dropped on Japan, and it has dangerous chemical weapons that it used against the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Republic of Iraq, in addition to Afghanistan, which is responsible for the spread of drugs, the high crime rate, the ozone hole, and the decline of democracy in the world in general and in the Arab world in particular. It is responsible for the spread of illiteracy, disease, and hunger in the South American continent.

"This is an introduction wanted by the Western

world, which claims humanity and respect for international laws, and broadcasts it through a huge media machine that has moved public opinion against Hamas, against Arabs, and even against Muslims.

"Palestine will remain our cause and our identity in Al-Aqsa Mosque and the rest of the mosques there and in the churches, including the Greek Orthodox Church, which was bombed and there were victims

"After World War II and the founding of the United Nations, the West began looking for tension in its life in order to create a political and economic project out of it to terrorize its different peoples in language, customs and traditions, despite the Christianity they embrace, knowing that the Prophet Jesus, peace be upon him, was born in Palestine, but the West uses religion whenever it is in its interest and declares its secularism when necessary, and that was through the Cold War against the Soviet Union, followed by the fight against terrorism through Islamophobia.

The Islamic religion is a religion of peace, and when the Jewish peoples were subjected to persecution, there was the Holocaust, and there was hostility from the European people, and the Jews did not find security and safety except under the rule of Islamic countries, and the reality of Andalusia is only evidence of that, as the rights of Jews and Christians were fully preserved.

"However, the Jewish state committed a series of massacres over the decades, including the bombing of the King David Hotel, where the British Prime Minister lived during his last visit, noting that when it was bombed by Jews in 1946 AD at the hands of a Zionist organization called "Irgun," ninety-one people were killed.

"I am surprised by some Palestinian leaders and organizations that did not express their position in support of Palestinian rights and the killing, burning, and extermination that is happening in Gaza. If their position was due to their ideological disagreement with Hamas, then this is a national disaster within the Palestinian home, and I do not know why I remembered the martyr Naji Al-Ali who was assassinated by filthy hands with the connivance of even filthier than them, and even the shoes of "Handala" are purer than them.

"The greatest calamity that will remain in the conscience of the international world is that the West is demanding that "Hamas" be held accountable while no voice dared hold the Zionist entity accountable for its crimes against the Arab people in Palestine, Leba-

non, Egypt and Jordan.
"We in Kuwait have not forgotten the position of the Hamas movement regarding the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait in 1990, as it supported the Kuwaiti right, even though the Muslim Brotherhood movement did not support the Kuwaiti right.

"At that time, some of their leaders announced that they were against the occupation of Kuwait, but at the same time they were against the presence of the coalition forces to liberate Kuwait. As if there was any diplomatic or military solution by one of the Arab or Islamic countries capable of liberating Kuwait.

"Yes, we in Kuwait will not forget the Lebanese Republic, which was the first country to condemn the occupation, and we will not forget the Hamas movement, which was the first Islamic movement to condemn the occupation, despite the bad position of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

"Kuwait still supports the Palestinian cause and has risen above its wounds because it believes in the importance of that Arab Islamic cause.

'In conclusion, as I am in my 70s, I will only stand with the Palestinian people, and I have full confidence and belief in death, just as I have faith in the Islamic religion, and that the end of the Zionist entity is inevitably coming, and what is happening now are only precursors that precede the nation's movement across the different generations. Then the prophecy in which he believes will be fulfilled. Muslims, as well as many religious Jews, will see the disappearance of Israel at

"Despite the continuous brutal targeting of Gaza City and attempts to force the residents of Gaza to leave, it is important for the Palestinian people to remain steadfast on their land. They must continue their battle against the brutality of Zionist massacres. They must be fully aware of the danger of Judaizing the Palestinian plots, and that the Zionists are imbued with a culture of eliminating those religiously and racially different from them and abolishing the rights of Palestinian nationalism," columnist Wasmiya Al-Musallam wrote for Al-Anba daily.

"Therefore, international efforts must be exerted to stop the brutal massacres and indiscriminate bombing. It is necessary to save the city of Jerusalem and all the occupied Palestinian territories from the clutches of Judaization that targeted their landmarks and holy places. They have to end the merciless killings and mass destruction in a genocide committed by the occupation army exhibiting criminal behavior against innocent children, women and men. No one was spared.

"The tragic reality has made our hearts bloody, hurt our feelings and brought tears to our eyes. There is no humanity and compassion for what is happening in terms of the siege of Gaza, starvation and oppression without electricity, water or medicine, as well as the destruction of hospitals, besieging the Gaza Strip, isolating it from the world, and depriving the Palestinian

people of their legitimate rights.

"The land of Palestine and Al-Quds Al-Sharif is blessed. It contains the Al-Aqsa Mosque. It is the landing site and residence of the prophets. The Isra and Mi'raj are linked to Jerusalem, which was called 'Jerusalem', because God blessed and sanctified it. This is where our Prophet Muhammad, may God's prayers and peace be upon him, walked from the Sacred Mosque in Makkah to Al-Aqsa Mosque . From there, our Prophet Muhammad, may God's prayers and peace be upon him, ascended. May God grant him peace and blessings in heaven.

"We call on the Arab and Islamic countries, and all international and human rights institutions, to intensify their efforts to contain the war and prevent it from expanding. They must look for ways to stop the Israeli military operations that claimed the lives of innocent people. International humanitarian laws must be respected and the unjust siege on Gaza must be stopped. There is no solution to the Palestinian issue except the two-State solution. The Palestinian people must take their right to have their land and homeland. They must live on their land in peace and dignity.

"We all hope that Palestine and Al-Aqsa Mosque will be liberated from the Zionist enemy, just as Saladin al-Ayyubi liberated it from the Frankish Crusaders in the Battle of Hattin in 1187 AD. Souls and limbs yearn and fly with the wings of joy to visit the city of faith, Jerusalem, until the victory from God and conquest are achieved."

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary

## **MoE** to implement fingerprint attendance system in schools

Strategy devised for food security

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: The Ministry of** Education (MoE) is in the process of implementing a fingerprint attendance system in schools, having recently finalized the contract with the supplier.

Despite opposition within the public education sector of the ministry, which favored maintaining the existing system, the ministry proceeded with the contract.

An official source told Al-Rai daily, many regions have not yet been informed of the installation date for these devices, although it is anticipated to take place in the coming weeks. This delay is expected because the ministry did not cancel the tender and continued the process of awarding the contract.

The implementation of this decision involves several steps, with one of the most crucial being the development of the organizational structure of schools. This includes defining roles and responsibilities for specific positions and determining their hierarchical relationships. These changes are unlikely to occur during the current academic year.

The Ministry of Education has assured the Teachers' Association that teachers will not be subject to fingerprinting, as their profession is distinct from other government roles governed by the regulations of the Civil Service Commission. Sources have emphasized that teaching is a demanding profession unlike other occupations.

Former Education Minister Dr. Hamad Al-Adwani had issued a letter to the Civil Service Commission, rejecting equating teaching with other professions. He cited various obstacles related to school structure and the challenges of implementing fingerprinting in the teaching profession.

Food security plan: Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi, the Minister of Health, has stated that the Supreme Committee for Enhancing the Food, Drug, and Water Security System, as per Cabinet Resolution No. 640, has formed short-term and long-term strategies to fortify the resilience against potential risks and disruptions in order to bolster the food security system, reports Al-Rai daily.

In response to a parliamentary query put forth by MP Muhammad Al-Mahan, Al-Awadhi clarified that the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition is a contributing member of the committee, responsible for assessing the state of food security in Kuwait and exploring avenues for its reinforcement.

The National Security Service has also played a role in generating the committee's report, while the Authority has submitted its recommendations and ideas for enhancing the food security system to the Secretary-General of the Council

Minister Al-Awadhi emphasized that the PAFN does not possess a direct mandate for increasing food and agricultural production rates, as this falls within the purview of specialized bodies such as the Ministry of Commerce & Industry and the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fisheries Resources. Instead, the Authority's role involves reviewing policies and regulations in conjunction with the relevant authorities and ensuring the safety of the food supply.

Furthermore, he highlighted the existence of the Food Security Department within the Authority, operating under the community nutrition affairs sector. Its primary responsibility is to collaborate with governmental entities, both domestically and internationally, in identifying fundamental and strategic food commodities, especially in scenarios involving peacetime, wartime, or emergencies. This collaboration takes place in continuous coordination with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Additionally, the Authority actively engages with relevant institutions, both internal and external, to develop research and studies concerning food and nutrition security. This is achieved through the Authority's membership in the Supreme Committee for Enhancing the Food, Drug, and Water Security System, as authorized by Cabinet Resolution No. 640.



Drugs paraphernalia seized.



#### 'Illegal' meds seized

#### Drug addicts arrested

**By Mansour Sultan** 

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: The Ahmadi Security Directorate has referred two young men to the Directorate-General for

Drugs Control following their arrest yesterday morning in The Al-Seyassah daily said the men, who are in their 20s, were seen seated in the car near a residential complex.

A police patrol on routine duty in the area suspected their

movements inside the vehicle and discovered they were doing drugs.

The young men were then searched, and police found in their possession shabu, hashish cigarettes, and a bag containing chemicals and drug paraphernalia. Meanwhile, The General Department of Criminal Investi-

gation (Capital Governorate Investigation Department), has seized an Asian man in possession of a large quantities of medicines (growth hormone) which he was selling without a prescription or medical license, reports Al-Rai daily.

The Public Relations and Security Media Department at the Ministry of Interior stated large quantities of Percabalin pills, believed to be psychotropic substances, were found with the accused. The suspect and the contraband have been referred to the competent.

#### UN official hails Kuwait's humanitarian efforts

#### **Bv Nasser Al-Khamri**

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29, (KUNA): UN Secretary General representative in Kuwait Ghada Al-Taher applauded Kuwait's humantitarian efforts and its prominent role in resolving conflicts, a policy globally appreciated.

In an interview with KUNA on Sunday, Al-Taher said that His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah are following in the footsteps of Kuwait's late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in the humanitarian field.

Kuwait had always been a pioneer in easing the suffering of people in need around the world, as well as supporting infrastructure development, especially in hospitals and schools, she noted.

The establishing of Kuwait Arab Economic Development (KFAED) on 31 December 1961, prior to joining the UN on 15 May 1963, shows the importance of development of countries in need, she said. Kuwait is fully committed to achieving the goals of its 2035 vision, and is an active member in the UN community, she added.

Kuwait plays an important role in resolving conflicts and brokering talks to de-escalate tensions in the Middle East and around the world, said Al-Taher. In this context, she spoke of the three donors conferences Kuwait hosted for Syria, the Yemeni talks in 2016 and the country's efforts in ending the Gulf crisis.

The UN official congratulated Kuwait on receiving the UN Human Rights Council membership for 2024-2026. The current situation in the region poses a new challenge for the council's membercountries to resolve the issue and protect human rights, she said.

As for Kuwait's humanitarian work, Al-Taher underlined the country's historic efforts in the field, noting the Kuwaiti humanitarian aid to Gaza Strip is still continuous, while Kuwait had also previously sent aid to Libya, in the after math of Hurricane Danielle, she added.

Meanwhile, she noted that the UN organizations play a huge role in the face of natural disasters' impact. They deliver urgent humanitarian aid to those affected, provide shelter and tents, medical aid and reuniting families after natural di-

As for the Israeli occupation force's military operations against Gaza Strip since October 7. the official said that about two million people are living under siege, lacking electricity, water and food. She added that hospitals went out of service and the UN lost 29 employees as a result of the Israeli attacks

The UN demands an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, as well as the release of prisoners and these demands are unnegotiable, Al-Taher said, adding that the killing of children and women in Gaza is a violation of the international law.

Al-Taher had been working in the humanitarian and development field with different organization since 1996. She dealt with important files including, Syria, Libya, Sudan, Nigeria and other zones of conflicts.

### **Kabd sleuths** nab fraudster

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: Kabd detectives have arrested a man in his late thirties who was wanted by law in connection with five cases of bank card fraud, reports Al-Anba daily. According to a security

source, the suspect requested to borrow a bank card from his friend to refuel his car, and failed to return the card. He later discovered that

the man had made multiple purchases worth less than 25 dinars each time from local online shopping platforms. The victim then gave

police the details of the suspect and the vehicle which turned out to be a rented car. Securitymen then moved to the vehicle's location and arrested the suspect.

During questioning, the accused confessed to carrying out five similar crimes by enticing other young



#### Specialists seek to correct misinformation regarding chronic disease

## MoH organizes awareness, educational campaign on psoriasis

## 'Kuwaiti parliamentary team's Rome visit boosts bilateral ties'

Meetings with Italian MPs fruitful: Ambassador Al-Qahtani

ROME, Oct 29, (KUNA): Kuwait's Ambassador to Italy Nasser Al-Qahtani Saturday commended the successful visit of the parliamentary friendship committee delegation to Rome, saying it is a pillar of Kuwaiti diplomacy to mobilize Italian parliamentary support and deepen bilateral relations.

Speaking to KUNA in a statement, Al-Qahtani said the visit contributed effectively to strengthening parliamentary relations between

the two countries and their peoples, and showed the depth of relations between the two sides.

He referred to the 60th anniversary of establishing the diplomatic ties between Kuwait and Italy next year.

The meetings with Italy's MPs were fruitful, and included the spirit of friendship and deep talks on the distinguished diplomatic ties on all levels and means of boosting them, he noted.

He pointed out that Italian parliamentary leaders praised Kuwait's wise policy, and its fundamental role in building and strengthening stability and maintaining peace in the strategic region and the

The ambassador stressed the importance of the parliamentary committee delegation, lauding its efforts in highlighting the current events of common concern.

#### Liberating

He pointed to Italy's strong position and its effective participation in liberating Kuwait.

He said Italy continued its firm solidarity with, and support to, Kuwait's legitimate demands to respect international law in terms of the conventions signed between countries that include the Khor Abdullah agreement for regulating navigation in the waterway between Kuwait

and Iraq.
The delegation, led by MP
Mohammad Al-Huwaila and included MPs Fares Al-Otaibi, Bader Al-Shammari and Bader Al-Enzi, concluded its visit to Rome.



Kuwait's Ambassador to Italy Nasser Al-Qahtani with the parliamentary friendship committee delegation.



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Ministry of Health organized an awareness and educational campaign in the Avenues Mall on chronic psoriasis.

The campaign hosts a group of specialists and doctors to introduce the chronic disease and ways to treat it and

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29, (KUNA): The mitigate its effects, whether with topical medications or ways to strengthen immunity.

> Through the campaign, specialists seek to correct misinformation revolving around psoriasis, such as considering it only a skin disease.



A photo from the awareness and educational campaign.

#### Ministry provides full support to group

#### MoSA praises Expo 965 exhibitions

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: On the sidelines of the conclusion of the fifth annual exhibition of the Expo 965 Group, which was held for five days under the patronage of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad, the Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs Sheikh Firas Al-Malik praised the efforts exerted to preserve the Kuwaiti heritage identity, affirming that the works dis-

played are distinguished. He highlighted his full confidence in the efforts made by the group, and called for further efforts.

Sheikh Firas Al-Malik affirmed that the Ministry of Social Affairs provides full support to the Expo 965 Group.

Meanwhile, Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs Abdulaziz Sari, in his speech during the closing ceremony, said the ministry continues to cooperate and partner with the Expo 965 Group due to their great efforts in preserving the excellence of craftsmen and preservers of Kuwaiti heritage and their cooperation in representing Kuwait in this field on a regu-

In parallel, during the Fourth Gulf Forum for Heritage and Handicrafts, which was held on the sidelines of the closing day of the forum with the participation of representatives of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, the participating Gulf teams praised the efforts of the Kuwaiti team in uniting work to preserve the Gulf identity.

Dr. Moza Ghobash said, "We must work to preserve the heritage, learn about the Kuwaiti experience, and benefit from it to bring together Gulf teams.'

The representative of the Bahraini delegation Mohammed Al-Janahi called for concerted efforts to achieve Kuwait's pro-

posal to have a unified Gulf team. The head of the Sharjah Institute for Heritage team Abdulaziz Al-Musallam indicated that there is a disconnection from the Arab and Gulf identity among new generations, which calls for the preservation of

Also, the representative of Omani team Abdullatif Al-Ansari said the team is ready to participate with the Gulf team, adding,

Meeting held

#### **Arab planning agency** urges coop with Egypt

CAIRO, Oct 29, (KUNA): The Arab Planning Institute (API) underlined on Saturday it is important to work with, and share expertise and potential with the Egyptian Planning Ministry, in a bid to prop up bilateral cooperation. Speaking to KUNA following his

meeting with Egyptian Minister of Planning and Economic Development Hala Al-Said, Kuwait-based API's Director-General Abdullah Al-Shami said his agency is willing to offer all its available potential and programs to Egypt in all development domains.

Arrangements in this regard would be worked out and put in place in the near future, Al-Shami stressed.

On her part, the Egyptian minister said she looks forward to promoting cooperation with the API in the field of preparing research and providing consulting services and institutional

She added that her meeting with the API chief aimed at bolstering cooperation between the institute and Egypt's National Development Institute.

"We have 300 personal museums in Oman

ready for that purpose."

The representative of the Qatari team Hussein Rajab affirmed that work is underway to implement the Kuwaiti idea in

Also, the participants in the forum agreed to establish the Gulf Expo, especially since there is an interest from UNESCO in documenting the crafts of human heritage, in addition to the reasons for promoting the national industry in the Arab countries and contributing to the global pact for the development of craft industries, which achieves

USD 11 billion annually.

They recommended establishing a Gulf volunteer team that will work on implementing the current recommendations, with Kuwait as its headquarters.

'These birds inhabit diverse ecosystems'

### More than 400 species of migratory birds use Kuwait land as transit hub

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: Dr. Sarah Al-Dosari, a researcher at the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), revealed that Kuwait serves as a transit hub for around 400 species of migratory birds, following three major migration routes spanning from Eastern Europe and Central Asia to Africa and India, reports in Al-Rai daily.

Dr. Al-Dosari made this announcement during a symposium organized by KISR on the occasion of World Migratory Bird Day recently. Despite its compact geographical size, Kuwait stands as a pivotal meeting point for migratory birds, boasting a rich diversity of both resident and migratory avian species.

She emphasized that these migratory birds inhabit diverse ecosystems, including coastal regions, freshwater lakes, agricultural areas, and desert landscapes. Their numbers surge during the spring and fall migration seasons.

The field of acoustics has undergone significant development, underscoring the importance of observing and researching bird populations. Birds are invaluable indicators of environmental well-being and equilibrium. One modern approach to studying avian behavior is through the practice of environmental acoustics, which equips researchers with the tools to identify bird species, evaluate their diversity, and gain insight into their behavior by analyzing their vocali-

It is worth noting that each living species possesses a distinct vocal fingerprint, enabling their identification, with the potential to convert this vocal signature into

a form of communication. The progress in environmental acous-



Map showing major migration routes

tics is owed to the availability of userfriendly recording devices. These portable instruments are easy to deploy and can function for extended periods, offering the capability to schedule sound recordings at specific intervals.

They also facilitate access to challenging environments, including dense forests, remote deserts, and deep seas. Additionally, they are cost-effective compared to alternative equipment.

In a noteworthy development, Dr. Al-Dosari unveiled the establishment of an "environmental acoustics techniques" center within the institute. This center is dedicated to conducting research and studies while exploring optimal methods for establishing natural reserves.

Khaled Al-Hajri, the leader of the Green Line Environmental Group, highlighted the crucial role of Kuwait's geographical location in attracting migratory birds, contributing to the enhancement of the nation's biodiversity and environmental vitality. In a statement, Al-Hajri called for collaboration among various stakeholders to ensure the well-being of both resident and migratory organisms within the country.

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#### Dr Al-Sayer meets Mamadou Sow

#### KRCS hails ICRC efforts in delivering humanitarian aid to 'needy' people

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29, (KUNA): Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) Chief Dr. Hilal Al-Sayer hailed on Sunday the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) efforts in delivering humanitarian aid to those who are in need.

In a statement to KUNA, after meeting ICRC Head of Regional Delegation for the GCC countries, Mamadou Sow, Al-Sayer asserted KRCS interest in areas of cooperation and coordination with international humanitarian organizations, especially International Committee of the Red Cross, for the benefit of humanity.

The statement added that the two officials discussed the close cooperation between the two sides and their future prospects, in addition to discussing frameworks for strengthening international humanitarian work and supporting joint activities in response to humanitarian crises and disasters in the region.

Al-Sayer provided a detailed explanation of Kuwait's efforts to

support the people in the Gaza Strip against the Israeli aggression attacks, which require international intervention and humanitarian organizations to stop them and open the crossings to deliver humanitarian aid.

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

He praised the cooperation and response that distinguished KRCS's efforts within the framework of interaction within the humanitarian work system to improve the conditions of those affected by disasters and crises, especially at the level of Middle Eastern countries.

Sow also stated that the KRCS is considered one of the most important partners of the ICRC, calling for more cooperation and coordination with the Committee in many countries suffering from difficult humanitarian conditions.



KRCS' Chief Dr Hilal Al-Sayer and ICRC Head of Regional Delegation for the GCC countries in a group photo.

### Kuwait Pavilion at Expo 2023 Doha welcomes VIPs to an exclusive introductory tour on sustainability

DOHA, Qatar, Oct 29: The Commissioner General of the Kuwaiti Pavilion at the highly anticipated Expo 2023 Doha, Engineer Samira Al Kandari, hosted an exclusive introductory tour of the Kuwaiti pavilion on Thursday 26th October 2023. Guests were treated to an immersive experience that highlighted Kuwait's efforts in combating desertification, managing water resources, and promoting sustainable development.

The VIP reception offered special hospitality to distinguished guests, including His Excellency Mr. Bader bin Omar Al Dafa, Commissioner-General of Expo Doha 2023; Mr. Dimitri Kerkentzes, Secretary-General of the Bureau International des Expositions; Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to the State of Qatar, His Excellency Mr. Khaled Al Mutairi, along with several other notable figures, were guided through the pavilion. The tour included detailed insights into Kuwait's efforts and initiatives in environmental awareness and sustainability.

His Excellency Mr. Bader bin Omar Al Dafa remarked, "Expo 2023 Doha serves as a pivotal platform on a global level, where nations come together to showcase their advancements and work collectively towards addressing global challenges. This event symbolises the collective dedication of countries to sustainable progress, innovation, and fostering a deeper mutual understanding of climate change. The Kuwaiti Pavilion, with its exemplary portrayal of Kuwait's environmental and cultural initiatives, is a testament to the coun-



Officials at the Kuwaiti Pavilion.

try's alignment with these values. The strong representation from the Gulf at the Expo underscores our region's collective aspirations and the overarching goals of Expo 2023

Engineer Samira Al Kandari, Commissioner General of the Kuwaiti Pavilion at Expo 2023 Doha, introduced the various areas of the pavilion, noting: "The Kuwaiti Pavilion has been intricately crafted to showcase Kuwait's environmental efforts and endeavours. It consists of two distinct segments, representing both Kuwait's historical and contemporary symbols, where children can partake in interactive activities, attendees can utilize informative areas

for meetings and conferences, and a peaceful central corridor evokes the ambiance of the Ahmadi Oasis."

Specialised zones within the pavilion offer diverse experiences, including interactive displays of Kuwait's natural reserves, an educational museum showcasing environmental harmony, and an agricultural area for experiencing Kuwait's key crops. The presentation area provides informative screens and a suspended garden inspired by water towers.

The Kuwaiti Pavilion welcomes guests to Expo 2023 Doha, showcasing the country's commitment to sustainable development and environmental preservation.

### **To Hamas**

#### **Continued from Page 1**

the people of Gaza are suffering from the siege imposed on them with no water, food, or medical equipment.

Let us put this in a better perspective - The Gazans began to declare publicly their boredom with the current situation. Everyone who spoke among them, or who made their voice heard, was accused of being a Zionist and an Israeli agent? The accusation even reached the heads of the Arab Gulf states, which, from the first moment of the aggression, had mobilized to stop the massacre.

Were the President of the UAE, the King of Saudi Arabia, the King of Bahrain, the Amir of Kuwait, and others required to take up arms and go to Gaza, while those who are trading in the issue from the so-called "axis of resistance" and who invited this war are making deals on behalf of the blood of the Palestinians?

Everyone advised that the hostages held captive by Al-Qassam be released, but the foolishness has no cure. This is why we reiterate that this stage requires a decision-maker like the late Anwar Sadat, and a unified Palestinian national authority, so that each party does not open 21 factions at its expense.

#### Minister of

#### **Continued from Page 1**

awarded to Limac although it was ranked the fifth in terms of the price offer, variation orders, imposing penalties on Limac and progress of the Terminal Two project. She added that Bugamaz responded to the queries, but the latter asked to keep the answers at the Secretariat General of the National Assembly to prevent the MPs from obtaining copies and to prevent publication in the Assembly website. She argued this should not be the attitude of a Public Works minister, stressing this is the behavior of an employee at Limac keen on protecting the company from parliamentary and public over-

She accused Bugamaz of hiding the truth to mislead the people, the political leadership and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. She went on to say that when Bugamaz was asked if the companies nominated to sign contracts for road maintenance have local agents as promised earlier; the minister did not mention Chinese First Way Company, which is

connected with the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART) through a contract valued at KD88 million to maintain Damascus Street, the roads in South Surrah, Faisal Road and Fifth Ring Road with the Arab Group as its local agent.

In addition, MP Mubarak Al-Tasha considers the resignation of Bugamaz a way of dodging responsibility. He intends to submit a proposal to form a parliamentary committee to investigate violations at the Ministry of Public Works during the term of Bugamaz.

Meanwhile. MP Abdulkareem Al-Kandari has confirmed his intention to grill Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah if the latter accredits the credentials of newly appointed American Ambassador to Kuwait Karen Sasahara. He was quick to affirm that he hails the official position of Kuwait towards the Palestinian issue and the ongoing Israeli attacks on Gaza.

Moreover, MPs Hani Shams and Ahmed Lari submitted a proposal for Kuwait Credit Bank to amend the maximum amount of loan installment to become five percent of the borrower's salary. They explained that the proposal is aimed at alleviating the suffering of borrowers and their families, because of cutting a large percentage of their salaries to pay loans for the

On the other hand, MP Khalid Al-Otaibi asked Minister of Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research Adel Al-Manea why the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) delayed filling up vacant college dean positions.

repair or construction of their houses.

#### Gaza toll

#### **Continued from Page 1**

Elsewhere, Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah reaffirmed the country's steadfast stance against normalization until the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the 1967 borders, in alignment with international resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative.

During a press conference, he emphasized, "This position is resolute, unambiguous, and unwavering."

Sheikh Salem further expressed, "The ongoing events in Gaza constitute a retaliatory conflict, not an act of defense. What we are witnessing is a case of collective punishment and war crimes in Gaza. Over this period, we have sadly witnessed the loss of 7,000 lives, among which 3,000 are innocent children." He questioned, "How can 3,000 children perish in just 23 days without it being considered a war crime?

He also highlighted, "The Security Council's inability to halt the ongoing loss of life and destruction in Gaza is a regrettable situation. I earnestly hope that influential nations will promptly halt the hostilities, facilitate humanitarian aid into Gaza, and work towards a lasting resolution for the Palestinian predicament."

He affirmed that Kuwait demanded the immediate end of the war in Gaza and called for the entry of humanitarian assistance and finding a sustainable and final solution for the Palestinian

In regards to relief aid efforts, Sheikh Salem revealed that an air bridge was established to deliver necessities and supplies to the people of Gaza, noting that the six planeload of the initiative left Kuwait today to deliver 40 tons of supplies, continuing the efforts of pervious days.

He welcomed the calls by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to hold an urgent Arab Summit, saying that the State of Kuwait welcomed all efforts to end the war in the Gaza Strip, an international demand reflect by third of the UN member-states.

The Kuwaiti Foreign Minister also added that Kuwaiti government and National Assembly share a stance on the Palestinian cause and there were government-parliamentary efforts to legislate more laws forbidding dealings with the Zionist entity.

Concerning parliament discussions over accepting the credentials of the new US Ambassador to Kuwait, Sheikh Salem said that the documents were approved and the delay in the US diplomat presence in Kuwait was attributed to matters in Washington.

"Once the Ambassador arrives in Kuwait, her credentials as Ambassador will be approved," he affirmed.

Residents living near Shifa Hospital, Gaza's largest, meanwhile said Israeli airstrikes overnight hit near the hospital complex and blocked many roads leading to it. Israel accuses Hamas of having a secret command post beneath the hospital but has not provided much evidence. Hamas denies the allegations.

Tens of thousands of civilians are sheltering in Shifa, which is also packed with wounded patients.

"Reaching the hospital has become increasingly difficult," Mahmoud al-Sawah, who is sheltering in the hospital, said over the phone. "It seems they want to cut off the area." Another Gaza City resident, Abdallah Sayed, said the Israeli bombing over the past two days was "the most violent and intense" since the war started.

## **CAPT turns down MEW request**

MoC collects KD 250K till date from travellers

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

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29:** The Central Agency for **Public Tenders (CAPT)** has rejected the request of the Ministry of Electricity and Water to award a tender to select a consultant for a project to supply, install, operate and maintain the first phase of gas turbine units operating on a combined cycle system to produce 3,600 megawatts in Nuwaiseeb due to its high cost.

The agency told Al-Seyassah daily that the single bid amounted to 13,979 million dinars, which is approximately 3.3 times the estimated value of 4,240 million.

On a parallel line, the sources revealed that the refusal to award the tender brings the situation to square one after an effort and a marathon of procedures that extended for more than two years between the ministry and the agency.

The sources said the tender will be floated again and with new procedures that will take a longer time.

The sources pointed out that the tender is the first step to implementing the important project according to the ministry's plan, which is expected to be commercially operated between 2028-2029 to produce 75 million imperial gallons of water, in addition to electricity. Meanwhile, official sources in

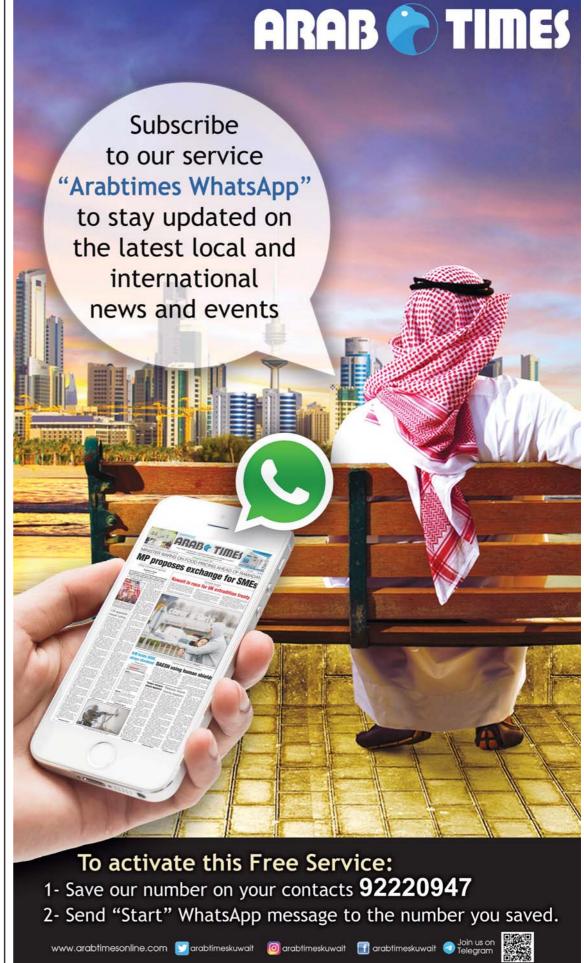
the Ministry of Electricity and Water said the Ministry of Communications has collected 250 thousand dinars, through its office at the Kuwait International Airport T1, from residents and Gulf travelers, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The sources stated that this amount was collected by the ministry since the launch of the service and the link with the Ministry of Interior's systems on September 6 last, indicating that it was at the forefront of the service ministries that coordinated with the Interior Ministry to implement this service along with a number of other government agencies.

The sources explained that the value of the proceeds during this limited period is a breakthrough for the ministry, especially since this money had accumulated in the form of outstanding telephone bills over years that the ministry provided to them.

The sources pointed out that the ministry's office works 24 hours a day inside the airport, noting that the traveler can pay the bills through the "KNet" card to facilitate procedures for travelers.

The sources indicated that the ministry is working to open similar offices in other airports soon to facilitate customers and not disrupt their travel plans.



### **World News Roundup**

#### **Europe**

#### **'Peace talks**'

### Charles seeks to look ahead in Kenya 'visit'

LONDON, Oct 29, (AP): King Charles III wants to look to the future when his state visit to Kenya starts on Tuesday. But first he will have to confront the past.

As Charles prepares for the four-day trip to Kenya, he is facing calls to address the legacy of eight decades of British colonial rule, as well as complaints that foreigners still own large swaths of rich farmland, and that the UK has failed to accept responsibility for the crimes of British soldiers stationed in Kenya.

The trip will also be closely watched around the world, because it's the king's first state visit to an African nation and his first to a Commonwealth member since he ascended the throne last year. It comes at a time when the UK and the royal family is under pressure to reexamine the history of colonialism and apologize for its role in the

trans-Atlantic slave trade. Behind the history and sym-

bolism, Britain is keen to buttress its modern relationship



with Kenya, which includes cooperation on counterterrorism and efforts to boost trade that totals more than 1.1 billion pounds (\$1.3 billion) a year. Charles will underscore his commitment to environmental protection with visits

to a national park to see vital conservation work undertaken by the Kenyan Wildlife Service.

The king has already shown a willingness to address difficult issues, opening the royal archives to researchers studying the monarchy's links to the slave trade. Before assuming the throne, he acknowledged the "appalling atrocity of slavery" during a speech on the Caribbean island of Barbados.

"History never disappears," said Nick Westcott, a professor of diplomacy at SOAS University of London and a former director of the Royal African Society. "I think that's how he sees it genuinely himself that we shouldn't paper over the past, pretending what didn't happen, that you have to face up to it. But then the objective is to look at the future.

Charles, the UK's head of state, travels abroad at the request of the U.K. government and only when he's been invited by the host country. The hope is that the glamour and goodwill generated by a visit from one of the most well-known men on Earth will strengthen the ties between Britain and Kenya.

Kenyan President William Ruto invited Charles and Queen Camilla for the visit beginning in Nairobi on

#### **Ambitious**

In the age of colonialism, Kenya was one of the jewels of the British Empire. It was the starting point for an ambitious railway project linking the Indian Ocean coast with the African interior, and the destination for thousands of white settlers who built coffee and tea plantations.

But the colonial administration also replaced Black leaders, pushed local people off their land and imposed crippling taxes.

That set the stage for the Mau Mau Rebellion of the 1950s, which hastened the end of colonial rule, but continues to cloud relations between the UK and Kenya. Colonial authorities resorted to executions and detention without trial as they tried to put down the insurrection, and thousands of Kenyans said they were beaten and sexually assaulted by agents of the

In 2013, the UK government condemned the "torture and ill-treatment" that took place during the rebellion as it announced a 19.9 million-pound settlement with more than 5,000 victims

Kenya became independent in 1963, but the country has maintained close, if sometimes troubled, ties with

Charles and Queen Camilla plan to tour a new museum dedicated to Kenyan history, visit the site where Kenya declared its independence and lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior in Uhuru Gardens.

For the UK and allies like the United States, Kenya is a strategically important hub of relative stability and democracy in East Africa, as they combat the threat from Islamic extremists based primarily in neighbor-

ing Somalia. Two years ago, the UK and Kenya signed an economic pact designed to boost trade and investment between the two countries and renewed a defense agreement that underpins cooperation on counterterrorism efforts and allows British soldiers to train in Kenya.

LONDON: An independent probe on Friday found "serious failings" in how NatWest Group's private and exclusive Coutts Bank shut down the account of the right-wing British politician Nigel Farage.

Law firm Travers Smith was appointed to conduct a review in the wake of Farage's so-called "debanking" at Coutts Bank, which has a long-established reputation of being the private bankers to members of Britain's royal family and nobility.

Farage, who was one of the most prominent politicians behind Britain's departure from the European Union, claimed in July that his account was closed because of his political views. The ensuing furor led to the departures of the CEOs of both Coutts and Nat-

The investigation by Travis Smith found failures in how NatWest treated confidential information and how it communicated with Farage. NatWest CEO Alison Rose was forced to quit after acknowledging that she had discussed Farage's personal details with

VALLETTA, Malta: Talks on Ukraine's plan for peace kicked off in Malta on Saturday, with the participation of more than 65 countries - but not Russia,

Maltese and Ukrainian officials said. The two-day meeting of national security delegates is the third round of such talks in recent months. Ukraine sees them as an opportunity to win support for President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's 10-point peace plan from countries across the globe, especially as the conflict in the Middle East risks shifting the focus away from Ukraine.

Russia, which wasn't invited to any of the meetings, has dismissed the initiative as biased.

"Ukraine's diplomatic efforts are paying off, as international support for the Ukrainian peace formula is growing," the head of the Ukrainian presidential office, Andriy Yermak, wrote on X – formerly known

as Twitter – ahead of the opening session. The initial round of talks in Copenhagen in June saw just 15 participants, rising to 43 for the second round in Jeddah in August.



Former US Vice President Mike Pence arrives to speak at an annual leadership meeting of the Republican Coalition on Oct 28, in Las Vegas. (AP)



In this photo provided by the Serbian Ministry of Interior, detained migrants are seen near the border between Serbia and Hungary, Serbia, on Oct 28. Serbian police have arrested six people and seized automatic weapons after a shooting between migrants near the country's tense border with Hungary killed three people and injured one. (AP)



Madison



Wood

#### **America**

YouTube suspends LAPD account: The Los Angeles Police Department said Saturday its YouTube account was suspended by the company after the department posted video of a violent assault in an attempt to get the public's help and that its appeal for reinstatement was denied.

The department's announcement was posted on social media site X, formerly known as Twitter.

LAPD Officer Drake Madison said Saturday he did not have details on when the department was notified of the suspension or when its appeal was denied. YouTube, which is owned by Google, did not immediately respond to an emailed request for comment Saturday.

"The YouTube channel for LAPD HQ has been temporarily suspended after we posted a video of a brutal attack in Pacific Division asking for the public's help in identifying the suspects. We have appealed the suspension and have been denied," the department said. (AP)

#### Man held in double shooting: A

21-year-old Louisiana man was arrested early Saturday in a fatal double shooting that happened near a Donaldsonville High School football game, authorities said. The shooting happened about 8:30 pm

Friday about a block from Floyd Boutte Memorial Stadium in Donaldsonville, where the city's high school team was playing Patterson High School for homecoming, The Advocate reported. Malik Fowler, of Gonzales, faces charges

of second-degree murder, attempted second-degree murder, illegal use of weapons, simple criminal damage to property and disturbing the peace, the Ascension Parish sheriff's office said. Fowler was being held in the Ascension Parish Prison, awaiting arraignment. It was unclear if he had an attorney who could speak on his behalf.

Fowler is accused of fatally shooting Tyree Parker, 21, of Donaldsonville, and critically injuring another man who had multiple gunshot wounds.

Sheriff's spokesman Donovan Jackson said detectives learned that Fowler had been acquainted with the victims and had been in an argument with them before allegedly firing the fatal shots. Detectives don't believe the shooting was tied directly to the football

#### **Politics**

#### Phillips announces primary challenge to Biden

### Pence drops out of '24 presidential race

NEW YORK, Oct 29, (AP): Former US vice president Mike Pence on Saturday dropped his bid for the Republican presidential nomination, ending his campaign for the White House after struggling to raise money and gain traction in the polls.
"It's become clear to me: This is not

my time," Pence said at the Republican Coalition's annual gathering in Las Vegas. "So after much prayer and deliberation, I have decided to suspend my campaign for president effective today."
"We always knew this would be an

uphill battle, but I have no regrets,' Pence went on to tell the friendly audience, which reacted with audible surprise to the announcement and gave him multiple standing ovations.

Pence is the first major candidate to leave a race that has been dominated by his former boss-turned-rival, derscore just how much Trump has transformed the party. A former vice president would typically be seen as a formidable challenger in any primary, but Pence has struggled to find a base of support.

#### Discuss

He chose the Las Vegas event to announce his decision, in part so he could continue to voice his support for Israel and to make his case one last time as a candidate that the isolationist and populist tides that have swept the Republican Party pose a danger to its future and embolden the nation's enemies, according to two people close to Pence who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss his thinking.

Pence's decision, more than two months before the Iowa caucuses that he had staked his campaign on, saves him from accumulating additional debt, as well as the embarrassment of potentially failing to qualify for the third Republican primary debate, on Nov 8 in Miami.

But his withdrawal is a huge blow for a politician who spent years biding his time as Trump's most loyal lieutenant, only to be scapegoated during their final days in office when Trump became convinced that Pence somehow had the power to overturn the results of the 2020 election and keep both men in office - which he did not.

While Pence averted a constitutional crisis by rejecting the scheme, he drew Trump's fury, as well as the wrath of many of Trump's supporters, who still believed his lies about the election and see Pence as a traitor.

Among Trump critics, meanwhile, Pence was seen as an enabler who defended the former president at every turn and refused to criticize even Trump's most indefensible actions.

#### Viewed

As a result, an Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research from August found that the majority of US adults, 57%, viewed Pence negatively, with only 28% having a positive view.

mer Indiana governor and congressman had insisted that while he was well-known by voters, he was not "known well" and set out to change that with an aggressive schedule that included numerous stops at diners and Pizza Ranch restaurants.

Pence had been betting on Iowa, a state with a large white Evangelical population that has a long history of elevating religious and socially conservative candidates such as former Arkansas Gov Mike Huckabee and former Pennsylvania Rick Santorum.

He tried to confront head-on his actions on Jan 6, 2021, explaining to voters over and over that he had done his constitutional duty that day, knowing full well the political consequences. It was a strategy his campaign and outside supporters believed would help defuse the issue and earn Pence the respect of a majority of Republicans, whom they were were convinced did not agree with Trump's actions.

But even in Iowa, Pence struggled to gain traction.

He had an equally uphill climb raising money, despite yearslong relationships with donors. Pence ended September with just \$1.18 million in the bank and \$621,000 in debt, according to his most recent campaign filing. That debt had grown in the weeks since and adding to it could have taken Pence, who is not independently wealthy, years to pay off.

CONCORD, NH: For months, Dean Phillips called for a Democratic primary challenge to President Joe Biden, drawing no public interest from governors, lawmakers, and other would-be alternatives.

The 54-year-old Minnesota congressman finally entered the race himself on Friday in an event outside New Hampshire's statehouse, saying, "It is time for the torch to be passed to a new generation of American leaders.'

Phillips is highly unlikely to beat Biden. Ŝtill, his run offers a symbolic challenge to national Democrats trying to project the idea that there is no reaity – even as many Americans question whether the 80-year-old Biden should serve another term.

He said in his speech that he would try to fix the economy and warned about high prices and "the chaos at our border" - all issues that are potential vulnerabilities for Biden as he heads into a likely rematch against former President **Donald Trump**. And Phillips is trying to engage New Hampshire Democrats angry at Biden for diluting their state's influence on the 2024 Democratic primary calendar, noting that the state had historically been "first to vet presidential candidates like me."

Biden has long cast himself as uniquely qualified to beat Trump again after his 2020 win, and top Democrats have lined up behind him while also positioning themselves for a future primary run. His re-election campaign issued a

statement Friday saying it was "hard at work mobilizing the winning coalition that President Biden can uniquely bring together" to beat Trump.

Though Biden won't officially run in New Hampshire's primary and will rely on a write-in campaign, the president is planning to head next week to Phillips' home state for an official event and fundraiser.

game or the schools, Jackson said. (AP)

Prosecutor refiles case: A Missouri prosecutor has dropped and refiled the murder case against Pamela Hupp, a killing that inspired a TV miniseries.

Lincoln County Prosecuting Attorney Mike Wood charged Hupp with first-degree murder in July 2021, accusing her of killing her friend, Betsy Faria, a decade earlier. Faria's husband, Russ, spent time in prison for the crime before his conviction was overturned.



Brian Sweeney, (center), father of shooting victim Angie Sweeney, attends a candlelight vigil with his son and the mother of the shooter, Marcia Gillespie, in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario on Oct 27. A man killed four people, including three children, before turning a gun on himself in the northern Ontario city in what police are calling a case of intimate partner violence. (AP)

On Friday, Wood told the St Louis Post-Dispatch that his office decided to refile the case to petition for a closer venue. The original case had been moved on a change of venue to Springfield, about four hours away from Lincoln County. Wood hopes the move will ease the finan-

cial and travel burden on prosecutors, witnesses and Faria's family. "It was too much to ask of witnesses and

Besty Faria's loved ones," he said. Phone calls seeking comment Saturday from Hupp's attorney were unanswered

2 avoid prison time: Two former New York City jail guards have avoided prison time for what authorities called their failure to intervene in a teenage inmate's suicide attempt for nearly eight minutes until it was too late to save him from serious brain damage in 2019.

Daniel Fullerton and Mark Wilson received conditional discharges after pleading guilty to misdemeanor official misconduct in May and September, respectively, the Daily News reported Friday. They will not serve any time in jail if they stay out of trouble for a year.

Fullerton, Wilson and two other officers were charged in connection with 18-yearold Nicholas Feliciano's suicide attempt at the Rikers Island jail complex on Nov. 27. 2019. The other officers' cases remain pending. Feliciano suffered permanent brain damage and needs long-term medical care.

#### Lat/Am

#### **Searchers comb debris**

### More 'help' arrives in Acapulco, Otis toll up

ACAPULCO, Mexico, Oct 29, (AP): More resources are arriving on Mexico's battered Pacific coast, and the death toll from Hurricane Otis is growing as searchers recover more bodies from Acapulco's harbor and under fallen trees and other storm debris.

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said Saturday that his opponents are trying to inflate the toll to damage him politically, but few expect the latest mark of 39 dead to be where it stops. Hundreds of families are still awaiting word from loved ones.

Otis roared ashore early Wednesday with devastating 165 mph (266 kph) winds after strengthening so rapidly that people had little time to prepare.

Kristian Vera stood on an Acapulco beach Saturday looking out toward dozens of sunken boats, including three of her own, all marked by floating buoys or just poking



Mexico's over Pacific coast, the 44-year-old fisher felt fortunate. Earlier in the day, she watched a body pulled from the water and saw families coming and going, looking for their loved ones. Mexican authorities raised Otis' official toll to 39 dead and

Despite losing her livelihood in Otis' brutal pass through

that number will likely grow, in part because of the number of people who rode out on boats during what had started as a tropical storm and in just 12 hours powered up into a catastrophic Category 5 hurricane.

10 missing Saturday. But Vera and others suggested

Vera took turns with four others swimming out with empty gas jugs for flotation to try to raise their sunken boats from the shallow harbor.

#### Caring

Leaning against a small wooden fishing boat like her own, tipped on its side on a beach strewn with trash and fallen trees, she explained that some of the people who died were either fishers caring for their boats or yacht captains who were told by their owners that they needed to make sure their boats were OK when Otis was still a tropical storm.

"That night I was so worried because I live off of this, it's how I feed my kids," Vera said. "But when I began to feel how strong the wind was, I said, 'Tomorrow I won't have a boat, but God willing Acapulco will see another day.

Earlier Saturday, Security Secretary Rosa Icela Rodríguez said in a recorded video message with López Obrador posted to the platform X that the probable cause of death for the 39 was "suffocation by submersion." She said that the victims had not yet been identified and that investigations continued. identified and that investigations continued.

The new death toll was an increase of 12 over the initial tally of 27 announced Thursday. But the storm's human toll was becoming a point of contention. Rodríguez also said the number of missing rose to 10.

In Acapulco, government workers and volunteers cleared streets, gas station lines wrapped around the block for what fuel was to be had, and some lucky families found food essentials as a more organized relief operation took shape four days after the storm hit.

Military personnel and volunteers worked along Acapulco's main tourist strip. They sliced through fallen palm trees and metal signs. Cellphone signals were partially recovered near some of the most luxurious hotels, and authorities placed a charging station for people to charge their phones.

#### Visible

But on the periphery of the city, neighborhoods remained in total chaos. The government presence found in the touristic center was not visible in other areas. With no signal, no water and no food, people young and old trudged through foot-deep mud and flooded streets to get to large warehouses someone had found full of food. They carried away bags of food

Aid has been slow to arrive. The storm's destruction cut off the city of nearly 1 million people for the first day, and because it intensified so quickly on Tuesday little to nothing had been staged in advance.

Authorities had the difficult task of searching for the dead and missing.

One military officer, who did not want to give his name because he was not authorized to speak to media, said that searchers in his area had found at least six bodies and that his own unit had found one. It was difficult to find bodies because they were often covered in trees and other debris, he said.

Most families anxiously hunted for water, with some saying they were rationing their supplies. The municipal water system was out because its pumps had no power.

Officials said the military presence would grow to 15,000 in the area, and López Obrador called on the armed forces to set up checkpoints in the city to avoid

The president said the national electric company told him that service had been restored to 55% of customers in the affected area but that more than 200,000 homes and businesses remained without power.

The federal civil defense agency tallied 220,000 homes that were damaged by the storm, he said.

#### Also:

**MANAUS:** The Negro River, the major tributary that runs through the Brazilian Amazon, has reached historic lows, revealing millennia-old carvings previously hidden under water.

The engravings deeply etched into the black rock along the riverbanks represent human faces, animals and other figures, and are thought to be 1,000 to 2,000 years old, archaeologists said.

"They allow us to understand the way of life of prehistoric populations," Jaime de Santana Oliveira, an archaeologist with Brazil's National Historic and Artistic Heritage Institute, said.

The scientists think other rocks at the site were used to sharpen arrows and stone tools.

The Ponto das Lajes archaeological site is located in the rural area of Manaus, the largest city and capital of Amazonas state. From there, locals and tourists can observe the "Meeting of Waters," which occurs when the dark, Coca-Cola-colored Negro River and the pale, clay-colored Solimoes River converge without merging and run parallel to each other over several miles.

The petroglyphs first were spotted in 2010, when another bad drought struck the region, but had not been observable since then before the current drought.

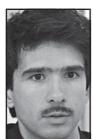
Low river levels in Amazonas have turned once navigable rivers into endless sand banks and mud, leaving hundreds of communities isolated. Public authorities have scrambled to get food and water to those communities in recent weeks.



People gather for a rally to mark the first anniversary of the harrowing crowd surge that killed about 160 people in a Seoul alleyway, at the Seoul Plaza in Seoul, South Korea on Oct 29. Inset: Family members of the victims offer prayers. (AP)



A man walks past palm trees downed by Hurricane Otis, in Acapulco, Mexico on Oct 27. (AP)



**Africa** 

5 kids die in boat accident: Authorities say five children died Saturday in Kenya after a boat they were riding in at a popular amusement park capsized in the country's western Uasin Gishu County.

Police said the children were visiting Amazement Park with other students and teachers from the Arap Moi Primary School in Eldoret when they broke off from the group to take a boat ride on a man-made lake.

They were preparing to take their exams for receiving the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education, according to police. The tests, typically taken by Kenyan eighth graders before they move on to secondary school, are set to start countrywide on Mon-

day.

Another student, who was to set to take a test that assesses sixth-graders, survived the incident and was rushed to a hospital, according to a police statement.

Angry parents stormed the school demanding to know the whereabouts of their children after news of the capsizing reached them, the statement said. (AP)

2 dead in protests: Protests in Mozambique over disputed local election results resulted in the deaths of a police officer and a civilian Friday, a corruption watchdog group said. Police reported a total of 70 arrests in four cities but not any fatalities.

The unrest followed Thursday's official validation of the election results, which gave the ruling Frelimo party victory in 64 out of 65 municipalities. A consortium of election observers had reported widespread ballot stuffing, voter intimidation and falsification of results in favor of Frelimo in the Oct 11 elections.

Demonstrators barricaded streets during the protests, which were concentrated in Mozambique's capital, Maputo, and the northern cities of Nampula and Nacala.

In Maputo, main opposition party Renamo led its supporters in a march. Other groups of protesters blocked main avenues with piles of burning tires and trash. Riot police and plainclothes officers dispersed crowds with tear gas and bursts of AK-47 gunfire into the air.

The police officer was killed in Nampula and the civilian in Nacala, according to the Center for Public Integrity, a Mozambican anti-corruption organization. At least two other people in Nampula were seriously injured by tear gas grenades, including a 6-year-old child, local television channel TV Sucesso reported.

Police spokesperson Orlando Mudomane said 60 people were arrested in Nampula, four in Maputo, and the remainder in Nacala and the central city of Quelimane. Police were seen arresting several people inside the headquarters of Renamo's Maputo branch.

Mudomane said 10 people were injured during Friday's protests, but he did not confirm any deaths.



#### **Indonesia troops recover bodies of 6 workers**

### 'Xi-Biden meet wouldn't be smooth-sailing'

BEIJING, Oct 29, (AP): China's foreign minister considers that the road to an expected meeting between President Xi Jinping and US President Joe Biden would not be "smooth-sailing" and that both sides must work together to achieve results, the foreign ministry said on Sunday.

Wang Yi met with Biden, as well as secretary of state Antony Blinken and national security advisor Jake Sullivan, during a three-day visit to Washington. Both sides agreed to work toward a bilateral meeting at the upcoming Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum summit in San Francisco in November.

In an statement released by China's foreign ministry summarizing the discussions with members of the "US strategic community," Wang said that the road to the bilateral meeting would not be "smooth sailing" and that they could not rely on "autopilot" to make it happen.

Wang's three-day visit to Washington came at a time when tensions between the two countries remain high, including over US export controls on advanced technology and China's more assertive actions in the East and South China seas.

The statement said that although there are still many issues to be resolved, both sides believe that it is both beneficial and necessary for the US and China to maintain dialogue.

The meeting is the latest in a series of high-level contacts between the two countries as they explore the possibility of stabilizing an increasingly tense relationship at a time of conflict in Ukraine and Israel.

According to the foreign ministry statement, Wang also said that China and the US needed a "return to Bali," in a reference to Xi and Biden's previous meeting at a G20 summit last year, where both officials discussed issues relating to Taiwan, US-China trade tensions as well as cooperation to address issues like climate change, health and food security.

Wang said that the two countries must "eliminate interference, overcome obstacles, enhance consensus and accumulate results."

Other issues discussed between Wang and Biden included military exchanges between the US and China, as well as financial, technological and cultural exchanges and cooperation, as well as the crises in the Middle East and Ukraine.

#### Also:

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malay Rulers' Council Conference in Malaysia announced on Friday Sultan İbrahim Sultan Iskandar from the southern state of Johor to be the country's next

The announcement was made in a statement issued by the Keeper of the Royal Seal Syed Danial Syed Ahmad.

Sultan of Perak, Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah, will be appointed deputy king, also for five years, the statement added.

Sultan Ibrahim will take over from current King Al-Sultan Abdullah on Jan 31, 2024, the keeper of the rulers' seal said in the statement.

JAYAPURA, Indonesia: Indonesian security forces said Saturday they have recovered the bodies of six traditional gold mining workers who had been missing since a separatist attack at their camp in the restive Papua region almost two weeks ago.

Gunmen stormed a gold panning camp in the Yahukimo district of Highland Papua province on Oct. 16, killing seven workers and setting fire to three excavators and two trucks. said Faizal Ramadhani, a national police member who heads the joint security force.

Hours later, a two-hour shootout took place between members of the joint security forces of police and military and the rebels occupying the camp, Ramadhani said.

The West Papua Liberation Army, the military wing of the Free Papua Organization, has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Eleven workers who had hid in the jungle were rescued safely after Indonesian security forces cleared the camp. However, they only found one body, and the six other victims had been declared missing until their rotting bodies were recovered early Friday near a river, a few kilometers from the camp. Two of the remains were charred and the four others had gunshot and stab wounds, Ramadhani

It was the latest in a series of violent incidents in recent years in Papua, where conflicts between indigenous Papuans and Indonesian security forces are common.

Rebel spokesman Sebby Sambon confirmed the group's fighters carried out the attack. He said the group had warned all workers to leave Indonesian government projects as well as traditional gold mining areas, or they would be considered part of the Indonesian security forces. 'The West Papua Liberation Army

is responsible for the attack Oct. 16 at Yahukimo's gold panning camp," Sambom said in a statement provided to The Associated Press on Saturday. "Because they were outsiders and were part of Indonesian intelligence.' Indonesia's government, which for

decades has had a policy of sending Javanese and other Indonesians to settle in Papua, is trying to spur economic development to dampen the separatist movement. Papua is a former Dutch colony in the western part of **New Guinea** that is

much of Indonesia. Conflicts between indigenous Papuans and Indonesian security forces are common. Papua was incorporated into Indonesia in 1969 after a U.N.-sponsored ballot that was widely seen as a sham. Since then, a low-level insurgency has

ethnically and culturally distinct from

simmered in the region, which was divided into five provinces last year. Attacks have spiked in the past year, with dozens of rebels, security forces

and civilians killed. Data collected by Amnesty International Indonesia showed at least 179 civilians, 35 Indonesian troops and nine police, along with 23 independence fighters, were killed in clashes between rebels and security forces between 2018 and 2022.

Peaceful Renamo-led demonstrations have taken place across the southern African nation of 32 million since the elections. The results reduced the number of municipalities under Renamo control from eight to

A parallel count of the vote by the consortium of election observers concluded that Renamo beat Frelimo in the major cities of Quelimane, Nampula, Matola and Maputo. This would have put an opposition party in control of the capital for the first time since Mozambique's independence from Portugal

Frelimo and Renamo fought a bloody civil war between 1977 and 1992 in which over 1 million people are estimated to have

died. Following a peace settlement, Mozambique held its first democratic elections in

A dispute over the results of the 2014 general election resulted in more hostility between the parties and a new peace agreement was signed in 2019. (AP)

Sonko regains consciousness: A lawyer for Senegalese opposition leader Ousmane Sonko has said that the detained politician had regained consciousness but remains "in a very precarious condition" on

hunger strike.

Sonko, a popular figure with young Senegalese who placed third in the last presi-

dential election, first began refusing food after he was placed in detention in late July. He later suspended the protest measure following mediation but resumed a hunger strike on Oct. 17, according to lawyer Juan Branco.

Branco told The Associated Press that the opposition leader "is still being treated by a resuscitation team with the risk of a major relapse." That assessment comes after Sonko's supporters said earlier this week he had lapsed into a coma. Sonko's supporters believe the slew of

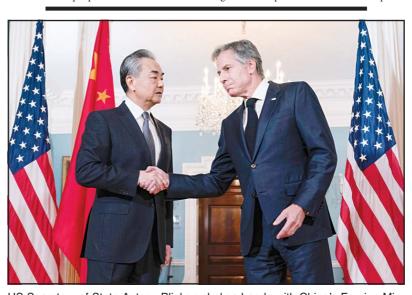
criminal allegations brought against him since 2021 are part of an orchestrated campaign to derail his political aspirations ahead of a presidential election in Febru-In June, Sonko was acquitted on charges

of raping a woman who worked at a massage parlor and making death threats against her. But he was convicted of corrupting youth and sentenced to two years in prison, which ignited deadly protests across the country. In late July, Senegalese authorities for-

mally dissolved Sonko's political party and placed him in detention. He is now facing charges of calling for insurrection, conspiracy against the state and other alleged crimes.

The government has not commented on Sonko's health since August, when he was transferred to a hospital "presenting a general weakness linked to his refusal to eat." He was later transferred to the intensive care unit for treatment before suspending his strike after the mediation effort.

Sonko was removed from the electoral roll by the Interior Ministry following his conviction. But this decision was overturned by a judge in the southern city of Ziguinchor, who ordered that he be allowed to have sponsorship forms for the presidential election in the same way as other candidates. (AP)



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken shakes hands with China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi after a bilateral meeting at the State Department in Washington on Oct 26. (AP)

#### FII7 in Riyadh ends with detailed debate on AI & trillions in investments for environment unlocked ahead of COP28

The final day of FII7 highlighted the new frontiers of investment and technology, focusing on space & aviation, biotech cybersecurity, robotics, venture capital, start-up nations and more.

A special Al summit was undertaken, featuring a discussion in global Al regulations featuring Dr Eric Daimler, Co-Founder & CEO of Conexus, Michael Kratsios, Managing Director of Scale Al and H.E. Sebastian Kurz, Former Federal Chancellor of the Republic of Austria.

Other speakers included John Curtius,

SAUDI

Founder Cedar Investment Management, Laurence Moroney, Lead AI Advocate and Google and Rami Qasem, EVP and Chief Commercial Officer, Beyond Limits.

The AI summit discussed recent data from Goldman Sachs Economics indicated that by 2025, Al-related global invest-ment could reach \$200bn, reflecting Al's game-changing potential to revolutionize productivity and reshape business processes as it moves into broader economic and societal use.

Nicolas Carey, co-founder and Vice

Chairman of Blockchain.com said "Al and the future of financial services will be highly correlated. It's not coincidence that technologies like block chain and Al are emerging simultaneously, they are highly symbiotic you need to have a lot of informatics and a lot of ability and ability to understand what these informatics are revealing to you."

The discussions covered how global regulatory agencies, national legislators and standard development organisations are beginning to develop frameworks to

maximize Al's benefits to society, whilst mitigating known, and unknown, risks. A special Global South Carbon Markets

conference united stakeholders from the Global South under the banner of mutual collaboration to set a collective agenda and define desired outcomes ahead of

together with the shared goal of shaping

the internal carbon market frameworks

that align with their climate objectives and

on a global scale. On the final day of FII7, the Institute also unveiled its Inclusive ESG Tool and Score at the annual FII flagship conference to improve the quality of data on ESG in emerging markets and empower companies in these markets to receive The executive-level conference served financial flows. The initiative has been as a platform for the Global South to come

developed in partnership with ESG Book, a global leader in sustainability data and technology. (PR Newswire)

support biodiversity conservation, all within the context of advancing climate justice

**Market** Movements 29-10-2023 Change Closing pts Change Closing pts Business - Tadawul +73.91 10,482.85 **EGYPT** - EGX 30 -175.55 23,086.72

#### Fed's preferred inflation index slightly declines

## Economic data varies drastically on both sides of Atlantic

#### By National Bank of Kuwait

#### **United States**

#### U.S. Economy Delivers Exceptional Performance

MI figures in the United States came in better than expected, indicating an expansion of business activity in the private sector. Composite PMI improved to 51, while manufacturing PMI came in at 50 from 49.8 previously. Furthermore, services PMI rose to 50.9 from 50.1 previously. Hopes for a soft landing will be encouraged following better than expected business activity as well as positive retail sales and employment figures. Additionally, major publicly traded corporations reported positive earnings which indicates that consumers and the U.S. economy remain resilient in the face of high interest rates, elevated energy prices, and rising geopolitical tensions. The U.S. dollar index held its strength following the release of the report, last trading at 106.18.

#### **Unemployment Claims**

Although the labor market is gradually cooling, conditions remain tight, with claims at the low end of their typical range. Unemployment claims came in at 210,000 up 10,000 from the previous week's figure and higher than expected by 2,000. Continuing claims, a reading on the number of people receiving ongoing unemployment assistance, climbed by 63,000 to 1.790 million in the week ended October 14th. Nancy Vanden Houten, Lead U.S. Economist at Oxford Economics, noted continuing claims increased for the third consecutive week, climbing to their highest level since May.

#### **Gross Domestic Product Proves Resilient**

As the word "recession" continues to ring in the ears of markets worldwide, the U.S. economy continues to defy the odds. The U.S. economy grew at its fastest pace in two years, aided by the seemingly robust labor market that seems to drive the power of consumer spending. Third-quarter GDP came in at 4.9%, better than the 4.5% expected by economists. As the narrative continues to differ between whether a recession is inevitable or if a "soft-landing" is achievable, the latest news continues to push economists towards the "soft-landing" side of the argument.

#### **Personal Consumption Expenditures**

September's figures showed a lack of movement in inflation, neither a sharp decline nor a rise with the recent data release. PCE inflation, the Fed's "preferred" inflation metric, came in-line with expectations. The

#### **Highlights**

- U.S. forward looking indicators improved.
- U.S. GDP came in better than expectations at 4.90%, from 2.1% previously.
- Fed's preferred inflation index slightly de-
- Eurozone composite PMI fell to 46.5 from 47.2 in September
- The European Central Bank left interest rates unchanged at 4%, as the market expected.
- UK PMI's remain in contraction territory.

headline YoY rate held steady at 3.4% for the 3rd consecutive month, while the core YoY rate fell to 3.7%, the lowest level since June 2021. This should come as welcome news to the Fed while yields moved lower following the data release with the policy-sensitive 2-year yield trading near 5%. Fed Funds futures markets continue to price no change at next week's FOMC.

The greenback traded sideways over the week and appreciated slightly, closing at 106.559.

#### **Europe**

#### **Eurozone PMI**

PMI numbers coming out of the Eurozone are sending recessionary signals, with October PMI readings near a 3-year low. The Composite PMI fell to 46.5 from 47.2 previously, the lowest since November 2020. Manufacturing PMI declined to 43.0 from 43.4 in September, while services PMI fell to 47.8 from 48.7 previously. The decline in business activity is led by the bloc's two largest economies - Germany and France - with the former showing contraction for the fourth straight month. An increase in geopolitical tensions and a further rise in energy prices are risk factors that could add to the woes of the bloc, as consumers are already struggling.

#### **European Central Bank Holds Interest Rate at 4%**

The European Central Bank left interest rates unchanged at 4%, as the market expected on Thursday, ending an unprecedented streak of 10 consecutive increases in borrowing costs while maintaining its guidance which signals steady policy ahead. Markets are now wondering how long the European Central Bank is going to keep rates elevated to bring inflation down to their 2% initial target. ECB president Christine Lagarde said that "she would not rule out another rate increase, adding that it was "totally premature" to discuss

The EUR/USD decreased over the week, closing at

#### **United Kingdom**

#### **United Kingdom PMI**

In the United Kingdom, composite PMI came in better than expected at 48.6 from 48.5 previously. Manufacturing PMI edged higher to 45.2 from 44.3. However, business activity in the services sector declined to a 9-month low coming in at 49.2 versus expectations of 49.4. The numbers indicate a contraction in all fronts of business activity, and the worry is that further contractions amid weaker employment and retail sales numbers will push the economy into a recession while having the highest inflation rate out of the G7 economies. In addition, the BoE's objective of getting inflation to its 2% level from 6.7% recorded in September has been complicated. Uncertainty is growing regarding the impact of its 14 rates hikes to date yet to be felt. Headline inflation failed to come down in September, and price growth in the services sector - which largely reflects stubbornly high pressures - has accelerated. The last monetary policy committee meeting that was held in September resulted in five members voting to pause, outnumbering the four who sought another increase. With that said, markets are expecting that Governor Andrew bailey and his colleagues will keep bank rates at a 15- year high of

The Sterling traded sideways and ended the week at

#### **Asia-Pacific**

#### Japan's Inflation

Tokyo's core consumer price index (CPI) which excludes volatile fresh food prices came in at 2.7% y/y versus the expectations of 2.5% y/y. Meanwhile the headline inflation rate came in at 3.3% y/y for October, accelerating from 2.8% the prior month. Higher food prices were a key contributor to the higher inflation figure, as well as higher fuel prices. Given higher than expected Japanese inflation, markets will watch next week's BoJ meeting closely.

#### **Australia's Inflation**

In a data release by the Reserve Bank of Australia on Wednesday, the consumer price index showed a 1.2% increase in Q3 from 0.80% seen in Q2. On an annual basis, CPI declined to 5.40% from 6.00% previously. The Australian dollar depreciated in value against the U.S. Dollar following this news release as investors expected a higher inflation print. Despite inflation declining, the new Governor Michele Bullock said, in her strongest reference yet to the threat of renewed price pressures. 'Our focus remains on bringing inflation back to target within a reasonable timeframe, while keeping employment growing,

The AUD/USD currency pair is up on the week, last trading at 0.6334.

**Kuwaiti Dinar** 

USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30895.

	Previous Week Levels				This Week's Expected Range		3-Month
Currencies	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	Forward
EUR	1.0592	1.0520	1.0693	1.0564	1.0450	1.0690	1.0613
GBP	1.2158	1.2068	1.2288	1.2122	1.2000	1.2275	1.2144
JPY	149.79	149.31	150.77	149.60	148.35	150.75	147.36
CHF	0.8918	0.8886	0.9034	0.9020	0.8900	0.8830	0.8931

## Kuwaiti banks log 46.5% profit surge

#### Increase of 386.7 mln dinars

#### **By Ahmad Fathi**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: Nine local banks reported a significant profit growth of 46.5 percent in the first nine months of 2023, representing an increase of 386.7 million dinars. This substantial rise elevated the combined profits of these banks from 830.55 million dinars in the same period in 2022 to 1.217 billion dinars in 2023.

In the third quarter of 2023 alone, the profits of these banks surged by 49.6 percent, or approximately 122.2 million dinars, reaching 368.7 million dinars, compared to 246.45 million dinars in the third quarter of 2022.

Leading the pack in profit growth was KFH, with a remarkable 124.3 percent increase, amassing profits of 461.5 million dinars in the first nine months of 2023. The National Bank of Kuwait followed closely, with profits amounting to 431.1 million dinars, showcasing a growth of 15.2 percent. The Commercial Bank recorded an impressive 139 percent increase in profits, reaching 99 million dinars.

Boubyan Bank secured the fourth position with a value of 61.1 million dinars, reflecting a growth of 25.7 percent, while Gulf Bank recorded a growth of 17.7 percent, totaling approximately 53.8 million dinars. "Ahli United" posted profits of 33.45 million dinars, a growth of 10.1 percent, and the National Bank reported an 18.7 percent growth, with profits reaching about 32.64 million dinars. On the other hand, Burgan Bank's profits stood at 30.1 million dinars, indicating a decrease of 26.9 percent, and Warba Bank recorded profits of 14.33 million dinars, reflecting a decline of 8.3 percent.

This significant increase in bank profits is attributed to an improved operating environment during the three months ending in September, compared to previous quarterly periods. The profits were further bolstered by the Central Bank of Kuwait's multiple interest rate hikes over the last two years to align with the U.S. Federal Reserve's interest rate increases. This move aimed to maintain the strength and competitiveness of the Kuwaiti dinar against the dollar and discourage the trend of selling the dinar and buying the dollar.

According to data from the Central Bank of Kuwait for the month of September, local banks demonstrated marked improvements in various aspects of their financial health. Notably, the total assets of local banks grew by 1.1 percent, reaching 85.428 billion dinars, up from 84.486 billion dinars at the end of De-

The net foreign assets of local banks increased by 2.9 percent, amounting to 10.655 billion dinars in September, compared to 10.354 billion dinars at the end of December.

However, shareholders' equity in local banks experienced a marginal decrease of 0.25 percent, with a total of 14.33 billion dinars in September, compared to 14.37 billion dinars in December

The balance of total cash credit facilities provided by banks to all sectors also grew during the first half of 2023 by 0.7 percent, totaling 52.828 billion dinars at the end of September, up from 52.447 billion dinars in December.

### **Net profit surges with an 18% increase**

## Gulf Bank holds Q3 2023 earnings webcast

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: Gulf Bank held its investors webcast on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, to present and discuss the Bank's financial performance for the third quarter of 2023. The webcast was organized by EFG Hermes and presented by Waleed Mandani, Deputy Chief Executive Officer & Acting Chief Executive Officer of Gulf Bank, and David Challinor, Chief Financial Officer of Gulf Bank. The discussion was moderated by Dalal Al-Dousari, Head of Investor Relations at Gulf Bank.

#### **Operating Environment**

Mr. Waleed Mandani, Deputy Chief Executive Officer & Acting Chief Executive Officer of Gulf Bank, commenced the webcast with key updates regarding Gulf Bank's operating environment during the third quarter of 2023. Mandani stated: "We continue to closely monitor the global, regional, and local economic and geopolitical environment. Although global economic growth has proved more resilient than expected so far in 2023, the outlook for next year could be weaker as the impact of tighter global monetary policy feeds through. Locally, core inflation stabilized at 3.4% yearon-year, still trending above the 2014-2019 annual averages, supported by solid consumer spending and expansionary fiscal policy. This has positively impacted the household lending, that continues to increase modestly during 2023.We acknowledge these industry-wide challenges and have proactively taken steps to navigate this environment effectively.'

On Major milestones achieved by Gulf Bank during the third quarter of the year, Mandani commented: "In addition to our strong financial performance, I would like to announce the successful launch of our brandnew mobile banking application. The application offers a seamless and user-friendly experience, enabling our customers to manage their accounts, conduct transactions, and access a wide range of financial services conveniently from their smartphones".

#### **Solid Financial Performance** Mr. Mandani summarized Gulf

Bank's third quarter 2023 financial performance with six key messages: 1. Net profit grew by 18% for the first nine months of 2023, to reach KD 53.8 million in comparison to KD 45.7 million reported for the same period in

2. Return on average equity increased to 10.0% for the first nine



Waleed Mandani

months of 2023 up from 9.0% at the same period last year.

3. Gross loans and advances reached

KD 5.5 billion, slightly contracted

when compared to the same period of 4. The quality of our loan book remains resilient, as our non-performing loan ratio (NPL) as of 30 September 2023 is at 1.2%, coupled with a strong

NPL coverage ratio of 470% including

total provisions and collaterals. 5. As of 30 September 2023, our Tier 1 Ratio was 13.6% achieving a buffer of 160 basis points above regulatory minimums of 12%, and our Capital Adequacy Ratio was 15.8% achieving a buffer of 180 basis points above regulatory minimums of 14%.

6. Gulf Bank remains an 'A' rated bank by major credit rating agencies.

#### **Loan Growth Mix**

Mr. David Challinor, Gulf Bank's chief Financial Officer responded to questions raised by participants on the call related to loan growth mix between retail and corporate banking segments, Mr. Challinor commented: "I think it's fair to say that customer loan growth in the system this year has been much lower than we all anticipated at the beginning of the year. When we look at the CBK data to the end of September the total loans have only grown 1.4%. Last year this number was 7.7%. So, we're operating in a market that's very slow. Interest rates have curtailed some of the growth, but I also think the excess growth we saw in 2022, when the system grew 9%, has maybe caused an overhang for growth this year. In terms of the business mix, we continued to see good growth in retail as we've grown 3 times faster than the market this year in retail albeit in



Dalal Al-Dousari

a market that's very slow. We're aiming to continue this outperformance in retail for the remainder of the year.In terms of corporate, we booked some high-quality transactions in the quarter, but we continued to see customers repaying debt which offset the new deals and caused a small net contraction in growth of around 10 million. Looking ahead for next year, we expect the growth to improve from 2023 but likely to be much less that what we witnessed in 2022."

#### **Profit Margins**

Mr. Challinor commented on the outlook of profit margins of the Bank by saying: "We saw another quarter of margin expansion as it now stands at 221 basis points. If we look at the cost of funds first, its significantly slowing. On the asset side, we saw yields continue to expand. Particularly in the corporate business which effectively reprices straight away, and we had a rate rise in July, but also in retail where new loans are priced at the new higher rates and loans crossing 5 years also reprice higher. Going forward, and in the absence of any further rate rises, the margin will most likely be relatively stable in the short term but given all the moving parts it's very difficult to predict longer term at this stage.'

#### **Resilient Asset Quality**

Regarding the credit cost and asset quality of the Bank, Mr. Challinor stated: "Credit costs continued to be relatively low at 7.2 million for Q3. This is a cost of risk of 52 basis points. For the full year 2022 it was 49 points, and a year earlier it was 95 points. So, I'm happy with the way the portfolio is performing so far this year and in fact the underlying NPL generation, which



**David Challinor** 

I think is a key metric to look at, for the first 9 months this year, is actually lower than what we saw for the first 9 months of last year. So even though interest rates are much higher from one period to the next, the underlying NPL generation is less. When we look at Stage 2, the percentage is only 4.4%, which is the lowest it's ever been since the introduction of IFRS 9 in Kuwait back in 2019, and much lower than where the system is at. The NPL ratio is still very low at 1.2%, which was where it was a year ago. Total provisioning continues to be very high. Our total coverage including collaterals is running at around 470% so we're happy the way the metrics are trending around asset quality."

#### **Operating Expenses**

On the topic of operating expense and expected efficiencies, Mr. Challinor commented: "Total operating expenses was up 3% year to date versus last year. At the first half we were up 4% and last year for the full year it was 10%. So clearly the cost growth has slowed down significantly. We've also seen income grow at 6%, which is double the cost growth, so that's led to a further drop in the cost to income ratio. For Q3 its 45.8% which is the lowest it's been in the last 7 quarters. And this is despite ongoing costs relating to our transformation program. On the other side, we've obviously had lower volume related costs than last year given the market we're currently in, but nonetheless the slowdown in costs is positive. I've said before we'll be looking to extract further cost efficiencies when the transformation is completesome point next year, so we'd be looking to drive the cost to

#### Masdar signs 1GW clean energy agreement in Azerbaijan

Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company PJSC - Masdar, the UAE's clean energy powerhouse, has signed agreements for solar and onshore wind projects with a total capacity of 1 gigawatt (GW) in Azerbaijan, following the inauguration of the region's largest operational solar plant, the 230MW Garadagh Solar Park. The strategic agreements cover the progression of the first phase of a 10GW pipeline of renewable energy projects in Azerbaijan signed in June 2022. This follows the successful development of Garadagh, Azerbaijan's first foreign investment-based

independent solar power project, and the largest solar plant in the region.

The inauguration of Garadagh was overseen by HE Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan and HE Dr Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, UAE Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology, COP28 President-Designate, and Chairman of Masdar.

The 1GW clean energy agreements were signed by Masdar Chief Executive Officer, Mohamed Jameel Al Ramahi, Azerbaijan Minister of Energy, HE Parviz Shahbazov and Azerbaijan Minister of the Economy,

HE Mikayil Jabbarov.

Also in attendance at the inauguration were HE Suhail Al Mazrouei, UAE Minister of Energy; HE Mohamed Hassan Alsuwaidi, UAE Minister of Investment and Deputy Chairman of Masdar; HE Ahmed Ali Al Sayegh, Minister of State; HE Mohammed Murad Al Blooshi, UAE Ambassador to Azerbaijan, and HE Mohammed Saif Al Suwaidi, Director General of Abu Dhabi Fund for Development, and HE Elchin Bagirov. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Azerbaijan to the UAE attended.

HE Dr Sultan Al Jaber, COP28 President-Designate and Chairman of Masdar, said: "Garadagh is a testament to our shared commitment to diversifying the global energy mix. Azerbaijan's ambition to develop low and zero-carbon solutions through renewable energy, is exactly what the world needs at this time.

"The UAE is proud to support Azerbaijan's clean energy goals, to generate more than 30 percent of its overall energy capacity from renewables by 2030. We need all nations of the world to set out clear energy

transition plans with clear targets for renewable energy capacity. As the UAE prepares to host COP28 in November, our North Star for climate action must be to keep the ambition of limiting global temperatures to 1.5C within reach.

Speaking at the inauguration event, Dr Sultan Al Jaber also commended His Excellency President Ilham Aliyev and the nation of Azerbaijan for its commitment to a defined, strategic plan of action to develop new industries, new jobs and green economic growth. (PR Newswire)

#### Company says it's in 'best position' its ever been before holidays

## Amazon posts strong revenue and profits

NEW YORK, Oct 29, (AP): Amazon on Thursday began to see lower rates of growth in the past year as reported strong revenue and profits from the summer months driven by growth in online sales and its advertising business.

For the three months that ended on Sept. 30, the company said it earned \$143.1 billion in revenue, a 13% increase compared to the same period last year. Amazon made \$9.9 billion in profits, topping analysts' expectations and sending its stocks higher in after-hours trading.

In a prepared statement, Amazon CEO Andy Jassy said the company had a strong quarter as its advertising business grew robustly and it improved its delivery speed.

Deliveries to Amazon's Prime customers have been getting faster under a model where warehouses in eight regions across the country serve smaller areas. On a call with reporters on Thursday, Amazon's Chief Financial Officer Brian Olsavsky said, this year, packages were delivered at the fastest speed ever for U.S. customers.

"We're ready to make this a great holiday season for customers," Olsavsky said, adding Amazon's operations network and inventory are in the "best position" its ever been heading into the holiday sea-

Overall, consumers have have shown resilience in their spending despite rising interest rates and stubbornly high inflation that has steadily eased since last year. Excluding changes in foreign exchange rates, Amazon said Thursday its retail business grew by 6% during the third quarter. It was boosted by the company's popular Prime Day sales event held in July. Amazon is also seeing strong customer demand across categories like beauty, health and personal care items, Olsavsky said.

#### **Cautious**

"But we still see customers being cautious about price, trading down where they can and seeking out deals," he said.

Revenue from another sales event held earlier this month for Prime members will be included in Amazon's earnings for the October-December period.

Aside from the core e-commerce business, investors have been focused on the slowdown of Amazon Web Services, the company's profitable cloud computing unit also known as AWS. The unit had propped Amazon's earnings during a slowdown in online sales in the aftermath of the pandemic. AWS companies cut costs amid high inflation and broader concerns about the economy.

Jassy said on Thursday that AWS, which grew by 12%, continued to stabilize. Analysts surveyed by FactSet had expected growth of roughly 13%. Meanwhile, Amazon's cloud competitors have delivered mixed results. Earlier this week, Microsoft reported strong revenue for its flagship cloud platform, Azure, while revenue from Google's Cloud division fell below analysts' expectations.

#### **Opportunities**

Investors have expressed optimism about AWS and the opportunities it could provide Amazon in the growing AI race. Over the past few months, the company has been rolling out generative AI tools AWS customers can use to make their own applications. It made another aggressive move in September when it announced a \$4 billion investment in San Francisco-based Anthropic, an AI startup founded by former staffers from ChatGPT maker OpenAI, which currently has a partnership with Mi-

Under the deal, Anthropic is making AWS its primary cloud computing service and using Amazon's custom chips to train and deploy its generative AI

Additionally, Amazon has rolled out an update to its popular voice assistant Alexa with new AI features that make it more human-like. It also unveiled a new generative AI feature that summarizes product reviews for customers.

On Thursday, Amazon also reported its burgeoning advertising business grew by 25% excluding changes in foreign exchange rates.

The report comes as Amazon is facing regulatory scrutiny on several fronts. Last month, the Federal Trade Commission and 17 states filed a landmark lawsuit against the company, alleging the e-commerce giant was abusing its position in the marketplace through anti-competitive practices that boost prices for consumers on and off its platform.

The agency, led by Big Tech critic Lina Khan, is also challenging the company's business practices in separate lawsuit that accuses Amazon of duping consumers into enrolling in the Prime subscription program. Amazon denies both claims.

The company said it expects to earn between \$160 billion and \$167 billion during the fourth quarter.

## **UAW & Stellantis reach** tentative contract deal

Union adds strike at Tennessee GM factory

DETROIT, Oct 29, (AP): Jeep maker Stellantis reached a tentative contract agreement with the United Auto Workers union on Saturday as it escalated strikes against General Motors by adding a plant in Ten-

The Stellantis deal, which still must be ratified by members, leaves only GM without an agreement with the union. But the union walked out Saturday night at a GM factory in Spring Hill, Tennessee, in an effort to increase pressure on the company.

The Stellantis deal mirrors one reached earlier this week with Ford. The union says the contract also saves jobs at a factory in Belvidere, Illinois, that Stellantis had planned to

GM said it was disappointed with the additional strike at the Spring Hill assembly and propulsion systems plant "in light of the progress we have made." The company said in a statement that is has bargained in good faith with the union and wants to reach a deal as soon as possible.

A message was left Saturday night seeking comment from the union. UAW President Shawn Fain confirmed the Stellantis agreement in a video appearance Saturday evening and said that 43,000 members at the company still have to vote on the deal.

About 14,000 UAW workers who were on strike at two Stellantis assembly plants in Michigan and Ohio, and several parts distribution centers across the country, were told to drop their picket signs and return to work. So the agreement will end a six-week strike at the maker of Jeep and Ram vehicles

The pact includes 25% in general wage increases over the next 4 1/2 years for top assembly plant workers, with 11% coming once the deal is ratified. Workers also will get costof-living pay that would bring the raises to a compounded 33%, with top assembly plant workers making more than \$42 per hour. At Stellantis, top-scale workers now make around

Like the Ford contract, the Stellantis deal would run

through April 30, 2028.

Under the deal, the union said it saved jobs at an assembly plant in Belvidere, Illinois, that was slated to close, as well at an engine plant in Trenton, Michigan, and a machining factory in Toledo, Ohio.

"We've done the impossible. We have moved mountains. We have reopened an assembly plant that was closed," Fain

The deal includes a commitment by Stellantis to build a new midsize truck at its factory in Belvidere, Illinois, that was slated to be closed. About 1,200 workers will be hired back, plus another 1,000 workers will be added for a new electric vehicle battery plant, the union said.

"We're bringing back both combustion vehicles and electric vehicle jobs to Belvidere," Fain said.

Vice President Rich Boyer, who led the Stellantis talks, said the workforce will be doubled at the Toledo, Ohio, machining plant. The union, he said, won \$19 billion worth of investment across the U.S.

Fain said Stellantis had proposed cutting 5,000 U.S. jobs, but the union's strike changed that to adding 5,000 jobs by the end of the contract. In a statement, the UAW said the Stellantis agreement has

gains worth more than four times the improvements in the 2019 contract with the UAW. Through April of 2028, a topscale assembly plant worker's base wage will increase more than all the increases in the past 22 years. Starting wages for new hires will rise 67% including cost-

of-living adjustments to over \$30 per hour, the union said. Temporary workers will get raises of more than 165%, while workers at parts centers will get an immediate 76% increase if the contract is ratified. Like the Ford agreement, it will take just three years for new workers to get to the top of the assembly pay scale, the union said.

The union also won the right to strike over plant closures at Stellantis, and it can strike if the company doesn't meet product and investment commitments, Fain said.

Democratic U.S. Rep. Bill Foster, who represents Belvidere in Congress, said he's received indications that electric vehicles will be produced at the site. Stellantis had indefinitely shut down the plant in the spring.

#### **NerdWallet**

#### **Less boo for your buck**

## For 2nd 'Halloween' in a row, US candy inflation hits double digits

Spooked by the high price of Halloween candy? There's not much relief in sight.

For the second year in a row, U.S. shoppers are seeing double-digit inflation in the candy aisle. Candy and gum prices are up an average of 13% this month compared to last October, more than double the 6% increase in all grocery prices, according to Datasembly, a retail price tracker. That's on top of a 14% increase in candy and gum prices in October

"The price of candy has gotten to be outrageous," said Jessica Weathers, a small business owner in Shiloh, Illinois. "It doesn't make sense to me to spend \$100 on candy.

Weathers said she usually buys plenty of candy for trick-or-treaters and events at school and church. But this year, she only bought two bags and plans to turn off her porch light on Halloween when she runs out.

Other consumers are changing what they buy. Numerator, a market research firm, said its surveys show about one-third of U.S. consumers plan to trade down to value or store brands when buying candy for trickor-treaters this year.

Weather is the main culprit for the higher prices. Cocoa prices are trading at 44-year highs after heavy rains in West Africa caused limited production in the season that began last fall. Now, El Nino conditions are making the region drier and are likely to linger well into the spring.

"There may be no price relief in sight, at least through the first half of 2024," said Dan Sadler, principal of client insights for Circana, a market research firm. Kelly Goughary, a senior research analyst with Gro Intelligence, an agricultural analytics firm, said Ivory Coast - which produces around 40% of the world's cocoa - is already showing the signs of one of its worst droughts since 2003.

highs, Goughary said. India, the world's secondlargest sugar producer after Brazil, recently banned sugar exports for the first time in seven years after monsoon rains hurt the upcoming harvest. Thailand's output is also down.

Those costs, combined with increases for labor, packaging, and ingredients like peanuts, are pushing up prices for all kinds of candy. Discount grocer Aldi is advertising a 250-piece variety pack of Mars Inc. chocolate bars - including Milky Way, Twix and Snickers - for \$24.98. Two years ago, the same package was advertised at \$19.54.

Hershey Co. - which has raised its prices by 7% or more in each of the last seven quarters -acknowledged this week that higher prices are taking a toll on demand. Hershey's North American confectionary sales volumes fell 1% in the July-September period.

"We know that value and affordability continue to be top-of-the-line for consumers as budgets are stretched," Hershey's President and CEO Michele Buck said Thursday on a conference call with investors. Buck said Hershey is trying to meet consumers' needs with offerings in value stores and pack sizes at various price points.

Entrepreneurs with disabilities activate allies, rewrite the narrative.

Inna and Vladimir Giterman tinkered with several business ideas before finding their niche - and their version of the American dream - with crepes.

Both immigrants, and both deaf, the Gitermans started Crepe Crazy in 2007. What began as a momand-pop shop at festivals has grown into a full-blown family business with multiple food trucks, two brickand-mortar restaurants in Texas and a franchise location in Baltimore.

Everyone who works for the company, including

"deeply involved with the deaf community," Inna Giterman said in an email. Staff communicate using American Sign Language. Customers who can't sign still order with their hands: by pointing.

Crepe Crazy is one of roughly 1.8 million businesses in the United States that is owned by someone with a disability, according to the American Community Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau (though experts believe that number to be conserva-

And while the path to entrepreneurship is rarely easy, business owners with disabilities often need to overcome additional challenges, like societal misconceptions, barriers to financing, extra living costs

and lack of accommodations, among other things. Layers of funding barriers

Entrepreneurs often have to leverage personal savings, credit cards or even a personal loan to fund their business at the outset. But that's complicated for founders with disabilities, especially if they rely on Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid, which have income and asset limits, says Nikki Powis, director of small-business programs at the National Disability Institute (NDI).

"A person receiving SSI is only allowed to have \$2,000 in assets," Powis says. "That makes it very difficult to save money to start a business - and do it yourself - because you can't have more than \$2,000 in your bank account."

There are workarounds, including leveraging ABLE accounts, tax-free savings and investment accounts that don't count toward one's asset total. Business owners should also tap the expertise of a professional to help with benefits planning, Powis says, adding that the NDI can help connect people with those experts. (AP)

#### New tool to reduce \$5.4 trillion ESG investment gap in emerging markets

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia/LONDON, Oct 29, (PR Newswire): The Future Investment Initiative (FII) Institute, a global non-profit foundation dedicated to tackling global challenges, has unveiled its Inclusive ESG Tool and Score at the annual FII flagship conference to improve the quality of data on ESG in emerging markets and empower companies in these markets to receive financial flows. The initiative has been developed in partnership with ESG Book, a global leader in sustainability data and technology.

The FII Institute's Inclusive ESG Tool has been developed to empower companies in these markets improve sustainability efforts and results while helping investors identify current and future performance leaders.

While there has been a surge in ESG investing over the past decade, with an estimated USD \$38 trillion in sustainability-led assets now under management worldwide, emerging markets continue to receive less than 10 percent of ESG capital flows, despite accounting for 58 percent of global GDP. The new Inclusive ESG Tool has the potential to help reduce an ESG investment gap of USD \$5.4 trillion in emerging markets1.

Interviews conducted by FII Institute with leading global investors have revealed that ESG rating agencies are one of the main barriers to increasing investment in emerging markets, with a core challenge being that many rating agencies use KPIs that are not relevant to emerging markets.

In 2022, the Inclusive ESG Framework and Scoring Methodology developed by FII Institute met this need by answering the key question for investors: "What does good ESG performance look like in emerging

This year, with the unveiling of the Inclusive ESG Tool and Score, FII Institute recognized the need for metrics that are tailored specifically to the

challenges of emerging markets. Its systematic materiality approach emphasizes industry risk, ensuring an equitable evaluation of companies operating within diverse sectors. To promote transparency and accuracy, the score differentiates performance and disclosure analytics. The primary analytic of the toolkit

is the Inclusive ESG Momentum Score, which integrates current performance and ongoing change in companies' sustainability performance. It acknowledges corporate commitment in driving positive change by indicatfuture ESG performance. Combined with a company's current Performance Score and Disclosure Score, it provides a comprehensive and nuanced picture of corporate sustainability performance.

Based on the new score, FII Institute and ESG Book have co-developed a Top 250 Inclusive ESG Ranking to identify the most sustainable emerging markets companies. The ranking has launched alongside the new tool at FII Institute's flagship conference in Riyadh, FII7, which takes place from 24 - 26 October 2023. Richard Attias, CEO, FII Institute. said: "Our planet faces immense challenges, including global warming, a rapid decline in biodiversity, and an increasingly unbearable cost of living for many.

However, we are not without the means to address these issues. Our global financial markets are more interconnected and driven by change than ever before. Investing in ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) initiatives plays a pivotal role in the solution. These funds should be strategically directed toward emerging markets where their impact is most needed, all while ensuring the returns necessary for the vitality of these markets.

Dr Daniel Klier, CEO, ESG Book, said: "We are delighted to be collaborating with FII Institute to usher in a new approach to ESG data in emerging markets.

### Average long-term US mortgage rate rises for 7th straight week, 30-yr loan reaches 7.79%

NEW YORK, Oct 29, (AP): The average rate on the benchmark 30-year home loan rose for the seventh straight week, creating an increasingly high bar to home ownership for Americans.

The rate on the 30-year fixed mortgage is at 7.79%, up from 7.63% last week, Freddie Mac said Thursday. A year ago the rate was 7.08%.

As mortgage rates rise, they can add hundreds of dollars a month in costs for borrowers, limiting how much they can afford in a market already out of reach for many Americans. They also discourage homeowners who locked in far low rates two years ago, when they were around 3%, from selling.

The national median mortgage payment was \$2,155 in September, up 11%, or \$214, from a year ago, according to the Mortgage Bankers Association.

Sales of previously occupied U.S. homes in September fell for the fourth month in a row, grinding to their slowest pace in more than a decade.

The rate on the 15-year loan rose to 7.03% from 6.92%. A year ago the rate on the loan, which is popular with homeowners their home loan, was at 6.36%.

"Purchase activity has slowed to a virtual standstill, affordability remains a significant hurdle for many and the only way to address it is lower rates and greater inventory," said Freddie Mac chief economist Sam Khater.

The high rates are limiting applications for new mortgages. Wednesday the MBA reported that applications for new loans dipped to the slowest weekly pace since 1995. Meanwhile, the share of applications for adjustable rate mortgages rose to 9.5%, the higher since November. The soaring cost of borrowing money for a home has skewed the U.S. housing market.

Millions of people who locked in mortgages at this time two years ago at 3% or below cannot afford to, or refuse to move, due to the comparative cost of financing

Last week, the National Association of Realtors reported that sales of existing homes not only fell for the fourth consecutive month, but the pace of sales has ground to the slowest pace in more than a decade. At the same time the pace of new home sales continue to astound economists

for the opposite reason.

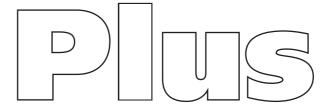
New home sales in last month jumped to 759,000, about 79,000 more than had been expected with prospective buyer flooding the only market where homes are available - those that were just built. "Homebuilders are offering buyers interest rate buydown incentives that funnel

demand into the newly-built segment," said Bill Adams, chief economist at Comerica. "They are also shrinking floorplans to boost affordability."

Adams says home builders are the "surprise winner" of attempts by the Federal Reserve to cool inflation through interest rate hikes.

## BARRIERS

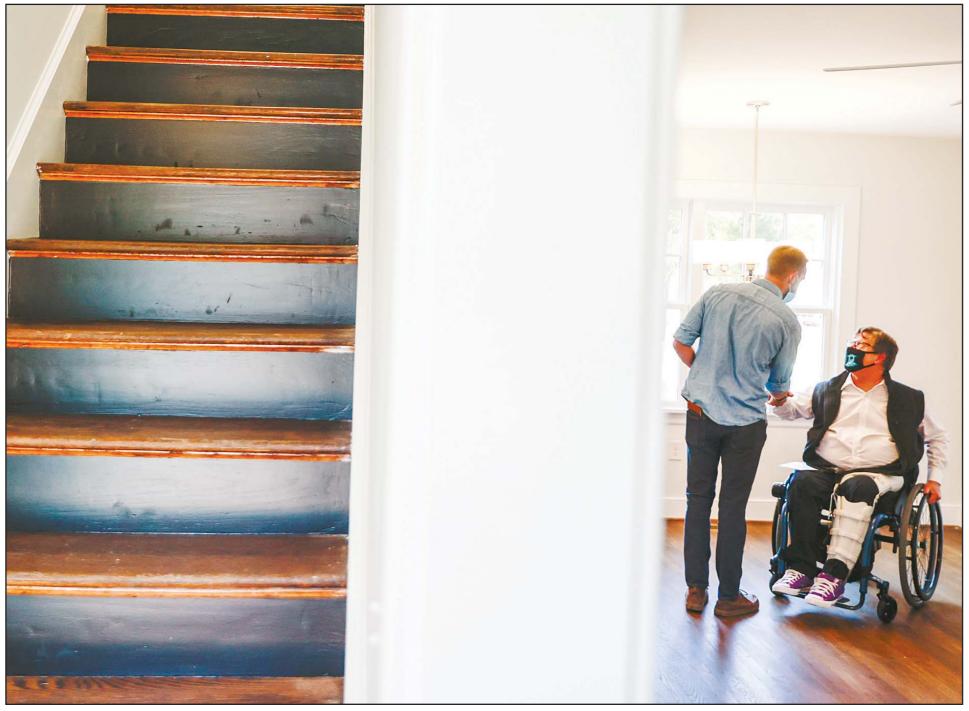
# Business





People who live with a disability are resilient as a default

## Entrepreneurs with disabilities rewrite narrative



BoundaryLess Living founder and CEO William Sweeney, chats with an attendee on Nov. 17, 2021 at a BoundaryLess Living adaptive living home in Richmond, Va. Roughly 1.8 million businesses in the U.S. are owned by someone with a disability, according to the American Community Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. And while the path to entrepreneurship is rarely easy, business owners with disabilities often need to overcome additional challenges, like societal misconceptions, barriers to financing and extra living costs, among other things. (AP)

#### **By Kelsey Sheehy** Nerd Wallet

nna and Vladimir Giterman **■**tinkered with several business ideas before finding their niche and their version of the American dream - with crepes.

Both immigrants, and both deaf, the Gitermans started Crepe Crazy in 2007. What began as a mom-and-pop shop at festivals has grown into a full-blown family business with multiple food trucks, two brick-and-mortar restaurants in Texas and a franchise location in Baltimore.

Everyone who works for the company, including the Giterman's two adult children, are either deaf or "deeply involved with the deaf community," Inna Giterman said in an email. Staff communicate using American Sign Language. Customers who can't sign still order with their hands: by pointing.

Crepe Crazy is one of roughly 1.8 million businesses in the United States that is owned by someone with a disability, according to the American Community Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau (though experts believe that number to be conservative).

And while the path to entrepreneurship is rarely easy, business owners with disabilities often need to overcome additional challenges, like societal misconceptions, barriers to financing, extra living costs and lack of accommodations, among other things.

Layers of funding barriers Entrepreneurs often have to

leverage personal savings, credit cards or even a personal loan to fund their business at the outset. But that's complicated for founders with disabilities, especially if they rely on Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid, which have income and asset limits, says Nikki Powis, director of small-business programs at the National Disability Institute (NDI).

"A person receiving SSI is only allowed to have \$2,000 in assets, Powis says. "That makes it very difficult to save money to start a business - and do it yourself because you can't have more than \$2,000 in your bank account."

There are workarounds, including leveraging ABLE accounts, tax-free savings and investment accounts that don't count toward

one's asset total. Business owners should also tap the expertise of a professional to help with benefits planning, Powis says, adding that the NDI can help connect people with those experts.

'Yes, there are barriers and challenges, but you need to find people who are experts that can help you navigate that," Powis says. "And it should never stop somebody from moving forward with their dreams.

#### Overcoming stigma

Securing funding with business loans or venture backing often requires a higher bar for entrepreneurs with disabilities, too. In part because banks, loan officers and investors frequently underestimate what people with a disability are capable of accomplishing.

That stigma can color nearly every business interaction, from winning contracts and customers to leasing commercial real estate.

"I would say probably 99.5% of the people that I've talked to said they've experienced that at some level or other," Powis says, citing several examples.

These include one business owner who has lost contracts after the other party realized he had a disability. And a female founder who was told by an investor, "Come back to me when you have a male counterpart without a dis-

Community development financial institutions like DreamSpring and the Disability Opportunity Fund are working to get business loans to more entrepreneurs with disabilities. Organizations like 2Gether-International, a startup incubator for disabled founders, and Communication Service for the Deaf's Social Venture Fund also offer opportunities for funding, coaching and community with

#### Changing the narrative

Diego Mariscal sees disability as a strength rather than a weakness for entrepreneurs, and he started 2Gether-International to help rewrite the script surrounding people with disabilities.

"Oftentimes, you talk about disability as something that needs to be accommodated or fixed or cured," says Mariscal, who has cerebral palsy. But in reality, people who live with a disability are resilient as a default - and that's a 'competitive advantage," he says.

"As disabled people, we have to figure out how do you get dressed, how do you drive, how do you communicate. We have to figure out how to live in a world that is not built to fit our needs," Mariscal says. "Those skills, those survival skills, can be translated into entrepreneurship skills.

The Gitermans are changing the narrative, too, one customer at a time. While customers come to their food trucks and restaurants for tasty crepes, they also get a glimpse at a thriving business run almost entirely by deaf people. This leaves an impression.

"We appreciate that they come in for food because they know it's uniquely good," Inna Giterman said. "(But) it is more satisfying knowing that they leave with more than just a happy stomach." (AP)

Few close to achieving 2030 goals

## Companies in water-guzzling industries seek sustainability

Tech companies like Amazon and Apple, meanwhile, need large amounts of water to cool the computers in their sprawling data centers

Business owners with

disabilities often need

to overcome additional

challenges, like societal

misconceptions, barriers

to financing

WASHINGTON, Oct 29, (AP): Major corporations in water-guzzling industries such as clothing, food, beverage and technology want to be better stewards of the freshwater they use - especially as drought, floods and other extreme weather intensified by climate change threaten their supply chains. But of 72 companies ranked by a sustainability nonprofit over the past year, few are close to achieving 2030 goals set by the nonprofit.

Last year, Ceres launched an effort to press companies with large water footprints to protect those resources and address related financial risks. On Wednesday, the group released an analysis that included such powerhouses as Coca-Cola, General Mills and Amazon.

"There's no doubt that companies need to do better," said Kirsten James, senior program director for water at Ceres.

Ceres said the companies were

chosen from the four sectors based on factors including size and their impact on water. They were ranked based on a variety of factors, including commitments to protect the quantity and quality of the water they use, as well as the ecosystems that supply it. They were also assessed on whether they helped improve access to water and sanitation in communities where they do business. Ceres drew on publicly available information, including the companies' filings and other voluntary disclosures through March.

None of the companies scored above 70% of the points available. Almost a dozen scored well enough to be rated "On Track" to meeting the goals, with at least 50% scores.

That included Coca-Cola, which said its water use in 2022 was 10% more efficient compared to 2015. The company said it aspires to have 100% circular water use

- where every bit of water is used and eventually returned to the watersheds it has drawn from - at 175 locations by 2030.

But the company didn't say how likely it was to reach that target, nor how much progress it has made. Coca-Cola also said manufacturing its product isn't where most of its water footprint lies; rather, it's in growing what goes into it.

"The agricultural ingredients that we use use vastly more water to produce than the actual manufacturing process," said Michael Goltzman, vice president of Coca Cola and a sustainability head. "And it doesn't really matter where you are in the world.'

The index was produced with funding that included a grant from the Coca-Cola Foundation, a separate entity from The Coca-Cola Company. Ceres said the index wasn't funded directly by any of the companies evaluated,

and said its work isn't influenced

Tech companies like Amazon and Apple, meanwhile, need large amounts of water to cool the computers in their sprawling data centers. The Ceres index had both companies below 20% progress toward the nonprofit's targets.

Amazon spokesperson Kelly Nantel disputed the Ceres findings, saying it was "an inaccurate reflection of both our commitment and progress toward becoming water positive."

Apple did not respond to a mes-

Food company General Mills was among the companies furthest along in meeting the 2030 targets, at 65%.

Mary Jane Melendez, the company's chief sustainability global impact officer, said 85% of the company's water use is in agriculture. And extreme weather in the U.S. has affected the company in

recent years.

"We are seeing that there are challenges in getting ingredients out of the ground when these extreme weather events are hitting our key sourcing regions," said Melendez. She cited freezing and thawing that has hurt the company's sourcing of sugar beets and drought that has hit its oats supply.

Michael Kiparsky, director of the Wheeler Water Institute at the University of California, Berkeley, said that corporations' self-interest in protecting their operations from water vulnerability could motivate them to take bigger steps to protecting freshwater resources.

"Is there any official legal accountability to Ceres' metrics and reporting? Absolutely not. Does money talk? When it talks, it talks pretty loud," Kiparsky said.

James, of Ceres, said the nonprofit hopes to update its findings every two years.

editor's choice







Italian actress Sabrina Ferilli

# Sabrina Ferilli ... inspires, influences with her craft

A theater and film personality Sabrina Ferilli has made a significant impact in the world of entertainment through her work in both the theater and film industries. She is multi-talented, possesses a wide range of skills in her area of work and is widely seen as responsible for bringing captivating stories to life on both the stage and the silver screen, captivating audiences with her performances and artistic contributions.

As theater and film personality she often plays a pivotal role in shaping the cultural landscape and has the ability to influence and inspire people through her craft. Her dedication and passion in what she does best makes her the key personality in the world of entertainment, leaving a lasting legacy through her work in both mediums."

Italian Sabrina Ferilli, born on June 28, 1964, has won five Nastro d'Argento (including a special award in 2016 for civil engagement for her performance in Me, Myself and Her), a Globo d'oro, six Ciak d'oros and received four nominations for David di Donatello. In 2013, she was a protagonist of the Oscarwinning film La grande bellezza directed by Paolo Sorrentino.

Daughter of the former speaker of the Italian Communist Party's delegation at the Lazio's Regional Council, Sabrina Ferilli never kept secret her leftism. Firm and stubborn, she did not care about the first unsuccessful attempts to come on to the stage.

Her stubbornness was rewarded in the 1990, when she got a part in the Alessandro D'Alatri's film Americano rosso (1991). From that moment her success never ended. She lives with their two pets, a kitten and a tiny dog. Since she loves her privacy, she does not like to talk about their love affairs.

She is also a big AS Roma's (Football Team) fan: she launched the official presentation of the team, in the summer of the 1999, at the Olympic Stadium, and she is a member of the AS Roma's Fans Council (a consultive board composed by famous Roma's fans like the actor Alberto Sordi).

Typical Italian beauty, she also made an advertising campaign for a famous Spaghetti brand, a recent poll (in which Italian males from 15 to 34 years were asked to indicate one of the famous Italian women they would love) stated that Sabrina Ferilli is the most loved Italian woman.

She attended the Liceo Clasico Orazio ("Orazio classical high school") in Rome. After having unsuccessfully attempted to enter the Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia in Rome,

she began her career as a film actress in secondary parts, acting in Sweets from a Stranger by Franco Ferrini, and small roles in second-tier films at the end of 1980s.

In 1990, Alessandro D'Alatri cast her in a small role for the movie Red American. In 1993 she appeared in the comedy 'Anche i commercialisti hanno un'anima' alongside Enrico Montesano and Renato Pozzetto, 'Il giudice ragazzino' with Giulio Scarpati and in Marco Ferreri's 'Diario di un vizio'.

The following year she had a breakthrough role in The Beautiful Life by Paolo Virzì, which won her the Silver Ribbon for Best Actress, Best Supporting Actress. During the following years she has been involved in the movie Ricky Tognazzi and continues to appear in good comedies.

She has also worked in theater in some productions of Garinei and Giovannini comedies, including Rugantino and Let's Try More and made appearances in some television comedies. In 2000, she modeled for a Max calendar, which has sold over 1 million copies.

On 24 June 2001, to celebrate the scudetto for A.S. Roma, she performed a dance at Circus Maximus in front of hundreds of thousands of fans. She played a lead role in the controversial 2003 film The Water ... the Fire by Luciano Emmer which debuted at the Venice Film Festival.

She later participated in several Italian Christmas comedies known as "cinepanettoni": Christmas in Love, Christmas in New York, Christmas in Beverly Hills and Christmas Holiday to Cortina. She defended her work in less serious films by saying, "How do you call them? Cinepanettoni? Well, then I'm happy to be associated with it because I love panettons, turrus and pandora."

#### **Performance**

In 2008, she appeared in Virzì's Your Whole Life Ahead of You, once again winning the Silver Ribbon. In 2013, she was chosen as a judge in the twelfth edition of Friends of Maria De Filippi and also appeared in the subsequent season. In the same year, she starred in Eros Puglielli' TV series We Kiss Our Hands – Palermo New York 1958 on Canale 5, and was chosen as the opening presenter of the Roma Film Festival.

Her 2013 performance as one of the protagonists in The Great Beauty by Paolo Sorrentino helped the film to win the Oscar for Best Foreign Film Best Foreign Film on 2 March 2014. In December 2014, she debuted on the new Agon Channel with the talk show Contratto with Luca Zanforlin. On April 11, 2015, she appeared in the fourteenth edition of "Amici di Maria De Filippi" with Francesco Renga and Loredana Bertè.

In 2015, she starred with Margherita Buy in Io e lei by Maria Sole Tognazzi, a lesbian retelling of Edouard Molinaro's Il vizietto. The actress said she was very happy to have participated in a movie like this:

In a bigoted country like ours "Me and Her" can be important because it is a story that is not scary, to divide. I like to call it a homosexual story because the point of strength of this relationship is not gender, but feelings."

She was awarded a Golden Ciak at Best Actress for the film and was nominated for the David of Donatello for Best Actress Starring David of Donatello and Silver Ribbon for Best Actress Starring.

Beginning in April 2016, she was again in the jury of the 15th edition of "Amici di Maria De Filippi" with singers Anna Oxa and Loredana Bertè.

The beautiful Sabrina had a serene childhood and adolescence in which she gres up surrounded by love, but also with severe rules. Perhaps not everyone knows that she is not the only child, but she has a brother Pierpaolo and a sister Christine.

As for the actress's academic career, we know that after finishing middle school she enrolled in the Classical High School of Rome.

#### Benefit

Ferilli is not only a great actress, but she is also a stage woman and has shown that she knows how to face the cameras of great transmissions. Among these we can mention Amici di Maria DeFilippi, Italian's Got Talent, Amici Speciale, as a guest at C'è Posta per te and Sanremo.

In the winter of 2021 among the names of the guests of Sanremo 2022 the name of Sabrina Ferilli appeared. A great coup for the Sanremo event which was able to benefit from a great professional like her.

In 2022 Sabrina Ferilli was chosen as co-host of Amadeus for the Sanremo Festival. But for her, it wasn't there first time who took the Ariston stage because she had already been there in 1996 when she presented Pippo Baudo and in 2012 when she was a guest of the edition hosted by Gianni Morandi.

Although Sabrina Ferilli is a well-known character in the entertainment world, she has always been a lot jealous of her private life.

The fact that Sabrina Ferilli and Maria DeFilippi are great friends is by no means a mystery. The two artistes have known each other for many years and hang out not only in television studios, but also in private. There is no professional esteem and respect between them, but they are linked by a deep bond friendship.

Everything you have read up to now is all that is known about Sabrina Ferilli, but perhaps not everyone knows that she is an animal lover and has a dog named Nina and a cat named Romolo; she is a huge fan of Roma, but a small fan of Lazio; she loves it when Virginia Raffaele imitates her and she starred with Matilde Gioli in the film Ricchi di fantasia.



Flavio Cattaneo and Sabrina Ferilli

### ICON SHAPING CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

editor's choice



### People & Places

#### **Film**

#### **Fall's standouts**

### Strike dims spotlight on top performances

NEW YORK, Oct 29, (AP): The fallout from the actors strike, now past 100 days, has been widespread throughout the film industry. Movies large and small have postponed. Sound stages remain shuttered. Adjacent industries have been devastated.

Another effect is that some great performances haven't gotten the attention they deserve. For most movies, actors haven't been able to promote their

As the strike pushes into Hollywood's awards season, it's increasingly muting the reception for some of the best performances of the year. With so many out of work due to the strike, no one should cry for muzzled Oscar campaigns. But actors deserve the chance to take a much-deserved bow.



Interim agreements have permitted some of the fall's standouts - among them Sandra Hüller in "Anatomy of a Fall" and Cailee Spaeny in "Priscilla" - to hit red carpets and bask in standing ovations. And two of the year's biggest hits - "Barbie" and "Oppenheimer," both likely to be Academy Awards heavyweights debuted as actors walked out.

Hopefully, the strike will end in time for some of the stars of upcoming releases to get the attention they deserve, among them Andrew Scott in "All of Us Strangers," Aunjanue Ellis in "Origin," Emma Stone in "Poor

Carey Mulligan in "Maestro." But to give the best performances of September and October a little shine, here are some of the standouts you might have missed during the SAG-AFTRA work stoppage, and where to watch them.

Things," Jeffrey Wright in "American Fiction" and

Martin Scorsese's "Killers of the Flower Moon" boasts some of the best work in years by a pair of longtime Scorsese collaborators in Leonardo DiCaprio and Robert De Niro. But this is Lily Gladstone's movie. As Mollie Kyle, she's the preternaturally calm and graceful presence amid a churning hive of 1920s criminality. Some could fairly wish the film was more given over to Mollie's perspective, but Gladstone's gentle power in "Killers of the Flower Moon" doesn't need to assert itself. It's self-evident.

#### Isolate

Choosing just one performance to isolate in Alexander Payne's "The Holdovers" is a fool's errand. First, there's Paul Giamatti. In his second film with Payne, following "Sideways," he plays a curmudgeon instructor at a 1970s boarding school tasked with staying over Christmas break with a handful of students. Sessa, in his first film, is among them. Randolph, the school cook whose son has died in Vietnam, is there, too. Each is stellar in radically different ways but ultimately the same one: They comically and empathetically imbue their characters with humanity. (Playing

Jamie Foxx has a ball playing a flamboyant personal injury lawyer who sounds more like he's preaching from the pulpit than cross-examining a witness in Maggie Betts' "The Burial." Foxx's attorney takes a case out of his comfort zone in defending a mildmannered Mississippi funeral home owner (Tommy Lee Jones) against a corporate chain buying up local

Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi and Jimmy Chin's "Nyad" is first and foremost a showcase for Annette Bening, who gives a tenacious, vanity-free performance as the marathon swimmer Diana Nyad. But so much of what makes "Nyad" a touch more than a conventional sports drama is Jodie Foster's supporting turn as Bonnie Stoll, Nyad's close friend and trainer. "Nyad" is often less about its namesake than how the people in Nyad's life respond to her obsessive drive. Foster, a rare presence on movie screens these days, has seemingly only grown more confident and at ease

"Cassandro," another sports biopic with a courageous queer protagonist, chronicles the scrappy rise of Mexican American luchador Saúl Armendariz, a.k.a. Cassandro. Bernal ("Amores Perros" and "Y tu mamá también") pours himself into the inspirational story of the groundbreaking wrestler. It's among Bernal's most nimble transformations - not just physically in the ring but in embodying the sheer joy and undaunted spirit of a natural performer.

You may have noted Eve Hewson, daughter of Bono, in ensembles like Steven Soderbergh's "The Knick" or in the Irish comedy series "Bad Sisters." But John Carney's "Flora and Son," a charming movie about music and rebirth, gives her center stage. Hewson stars as a working-class single mother in Dublin whose online guitar lessons transforms her life and her relationship with her 14-year-old son (Orén Kinlan). Just as Carney's "Once" was a breakthrough for Glen Hansard and Markéta Irglová, Hewson is a revelation in "Flora and Son."

#### **Powerhouse**

Colman Domingo has long been a powerhouse on screen. But George C. Wolfe's "Rustin," a biopic of the civil rights leader Bayard Rustin, gives Domingo the kind of grand, historical platform that can define an actor. The film is set mainly during the run-up to the 1963 March on Washington, which Rustin was the architect of. Rustin was a complicated figure - a dedicated activist and an openly gay man - yet Domingo's

layered, astute performance captures him fully.
Even though Garth Davis' "Foe" is a bit of a dystopian soup, Aaron Pierre proves an arresting, penetrating presence. The film is led by committed performances by Saoirse Ronan and Paul Mescal, who play a couple living in an old farmhouse in a science-fiction future. But when a mysterious visitor (Pierre) arrives with disquieting news - Junior (Mescal) is to be sent to a space station - he becomes a regular, vaguely malevolent houseguest with unclear motives.

In Chloe Domont's high-finance drama "Fair Play," Phoebe Dynevor and Alden Ehrenreich start out lovebirds and end up bitter rivals, but the two actors steadfastly remain equally riveting throughout. The film, about two hedge fund analysts in a secret relationship, puts gender roles through a Wall Street meat grinder.

No, that's not a misprint. Marshawn Lynch, the former elite NFL running back known as "Beast Mode," is tremendous in a small role in Emma Seligman's raunchy lesbian teen comedy "Bottoms." Most of the movie belongs to Rachel Sennott and Ayo Edebiri -both chaotically brilliant - who play high-schoolers who start a quasi Fight Club in a convoluted scheme to bring them closer to their crushes. Lynch plays the teacher who sponsors them. It's not just a funny performance but a poignant one for the footballer. Lynch did it, he's said, because he had regrets about how he handled his own sister's coming out in high school.



Matthew Perry poses for a portrait on Feb. 17, 2015, in New York. Perry, who starred as Chandler Bing in the hit series 'Friends,' has died. He was 54. (AP)



This image released by Netflix shows Colman Domingo as Bayard Rustin in a scene from 'Rustin.' (AP)





#### **Variety**

BARCELONA, Spain: Barcelona aligned with The Rolling Stones for Saturday "clasico" game against Real Madrid when **Mick Jagger** showed up to see the home team wear special shirts featuring the iconic logo of his legendary rock group.

Jagger and fellow Stones member Ronnie Wood were in attendance at Lluís Companys Olympic Stadium, where Barcelona is playing this season while Camp Nou is being remodeled.

Barcelona's players wore special shirts for the game featuring the Rolling Stones iconic "hot lips" logo in place of its normal shirt sponsor. The shirts were also on sale. Also, before kickoff Barcelona displayed

a mosaic of burgundy and blue along with a huge Rolling Stones logo. Barcelona, which has a sponsorship deal with audio-streaming service Spotify, has

worn special shirts for recent "clasicos" featuring the logos of Spanish pop star Rosalía and Canadian rapper Drake. The "clasico" game between the Spanish

powerhouses is a must-see soccer game in Spain and abroad. (AP)

**LOS ANGELES:** Not so long before her platinum-selling single "Tennessee Orange" became inescapable on country radio, this year scoring Megan Moroney her first-ever CMA nominations (song of the year and artist of the year), the upand-comer was attending the University of Georgia. The life of a country musician? It wasn't supposed to happen.

"It is truly crazy because I went to school to be an accountant," Moroney tells The Associated Press. "And here we are."

Fate clearly had other plans. When she was a freshman, Moroney opened for singer John Langston at a sorority event, performing a few Miranda Lambert covers. There, she met Chase Rice, who told her she could open for her at the Georgia Theater - but she needed to write an origi-

"So, I wrote my first song, called 'Stay A Memory,' and I performed it," she says "I didn't put it out, but maybe one day I'll tease it.

After that show, she knew she wanted to move to Nashville and pursue music but first, she switched her major to focus on music business and interned with Sugarland's Kristian Bush, who'd later produce her stellar debut album, 2023's "Lucky."

After graduating in 2020, she moved to Nashville, and in 2022, released a debut EP, "Pistol Made of Roses," catching the attention of all-star songwriters who she'd eventually work with on "Lucky," like Lori McKenna, Luke Laird, and Jessie **Jo Dillon.** The rest is only history because of the strength of her songwriting - "emo

#### **Obituary**

#### Actor found dead of apparent drowning in LA home

## 'Friends' star Matthew Perry dead

LOS ANGELES, Oct 29, (AP): "Friends" star Matthew Perry, the Emmy-nominated actor whose sarcastic, but lovable Chandler Bing was among television's most famous and most quotable characters, has died at 54.

The actor was found dead of an apparent drowning at his Los Angeles home Saturday, according to the Los Angeles Times and celebrity website TMZ, which was the first to report the news. Both outlets cited unnamed sources confirming Perry's death.

"Matthew was an incredibly gifted actor and an indelible part of the Warner Bros. Television Group family," the company said in a statement. "The impact of his comedic genius was felt around the world, and his legacy will live on in the hearts of so many. This is a heartbreaking day, and we send our love to his family, his loved ones, and all of his devoted fans.

Perry's publicists and other representatives did not immediately respond to messages from The Associated Press seeking comment.

Asked to confirm police response to what was listed as Perry's home address, LAPD Officer Drake Madison told the AP that officers had gone to that block "for a death investigation of a male in his 50s."

Perry's 10 seasons on "Friends" made him one of Hollywood's most recognizable actors, starring opposite Jennifer Aniston, Courteney Cox, Matt LeBlanc, Lisa Kudrow and David Schwimmer as a friend group in New York.

As Chandler, he played the quickwitted, insecure and neurotic roommate of LeBlanc's Joev and a close friend of Schwimmer's Ross. During the show's hijinks, he could be counted on to chime in with a line like "Could this BE any more awkward?"

or another well-timed quip.
Perry was open about his long and public struggle with addiction, writing at the beginning of his 2022 million-selling memoir: "Hi, my name is Matthew, although you may know me by another name. My friends call me

Matty. And I should be dead." "Friends" ran from 1994 until 2004, winning one best comedy series Emmy

That's evidenced throughout "Lucky"

from the deceptively optimistic "Sad

Songs for Sad People," to the **Johnny** 

Cash and June Carter-referencing "Why Johnny" to the opener "I'm Not Pretty," with its Gen Z Taylor Swift

-level acuity: "Did you mean to double-

tap that Spring Break throwback from 2016 in PCB?," she sings on the track,

cowgirl" music, as she calls it.

Award in 2002. The cast notably banded together for later seasons to obtain a salary of \$1 million per episode for each.

By the "Friends" finale, Chandler is married to Cox's Monica and they have a family, reflecting the journey of the core cast from single New Yorkers trying to figure their lives out to several of them married and starting families.

The series was one of television's biggest hits and has taken on a new life - and found surprising popularity with younger fans - in recent years on streaming services.

Perry described reading the "Friends" script for the first time in his memoir, "Friends, Lovers and the Big Terrible Thing.

"It was as if someone had followed me around for a year, stealing my jokes, copying my mannerisms, photocopying my world-weary yet witty view of life. One character in particular stood out to me: it wasn't that I thought I could 'play' Chandler. I 'was' Chandler.'

#### Struggle

Unknown at the time was the struggle Perry had with addiction and an intense desire to please audiences.

"Friends' was huge. I couldn't jeopardize that. I loved the script. I loved my co-actors. I loved the scripts. I loved everything about the show but I was struggling with my addictions which only added to my sense of shame," he wrote in his memoir. "I had a secret and no one could know."

"I felt like I was gonna die if the live audience didn't laugh, and that's not healthy for sure. But I could sometimes say a line and the audience wouldn't laugh and I would sweat and sometimes go into convulsions." Perry wrote. "If I didn't get the laugh I was supposed to get I would freak out. I felt that every single night. This pressure left me in a bad place. I also knew of the six people making that show, only one of them was sick.

He recalled in his memoir that Aniston confronted him about being inebriated while filming.

"I know you're drinking," he re-

a reference to Southeastern Conference

(SEC) college football, social media

doom scrolling, the devastation of past

relationships and the universal experi-

as she puts it.

ence of "creeping or getting creeped on,"

It's also apparent on the acoustic self-worth ballad, "Girl in the Mirror," which

follows a simple chord progression and a

woman sacrificing her agency in a relation-

membered her telling him once. "We can smell it," she said, in what Perry called a "kind of weird but loving way, and the plural 'we' hit me like a sledgehammer."

In the foreword to Perry's memoir, Lisa Kudrow described him as "whip smart, charming, sweet, sensitive, very reasonable, and rational." She added, "That guy, with everything he was battling, was still there.

An HBO Max reunion special in 2021 was hosted by James Corden and fed into huge interest in seeing the cast together again, although the program consisted of the actors discussing the show and was not a continuation of

their characters' storylines. Perry received one Emmy nomination for his "Friends" role and two more for appearances as an associate White House counsel on "The West Wing.'

Perry also had several notable film roles, starring opposite Salma Hayek in the rom-com "Fools Rush In" and Bruce Willis in the the crime comedy 'The Whole Nine Yards.'

He worked consistently after "Friends," though never in a role that brought him as much attention or acclaim.

In 2015, he played Oscar for a CBS reboot of "The Odd Couple" that aired for two seasons. He told the AP that playing Oscar Madison, the character originally made famous in the 1960s series by Walter Matthau, was a "dream role." He also said he was surprised how much he enjoyed being filmed again in front of a live audience.

"I didn't realize I missed it really until it actually happened, til we actually shot the pilot and there was a studio audience there and I realized, 'Wow, I really like this. This is nice," he said. "You kind of ham up for the people in the audience. My performance never got better than when there was an audience there."

Perry was born Aug. 19, 1969, in Williamstown, Massachusetts. His father is actor John Bennett Perry and his mother, Suzanne, served as press secretary of Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau and is married to "Dateline" correspondent Keith Morrison.

ship and learning to reclaim autonomy afterward. "I think 'Girl in the Mirror' has the most important message of all the songs

on the record," she says.

It's the tear-jerker live, too. "That's the one where girls are hugging their friends, group crying, like, having a full-on therapy session. All roads lead to the career-making

"Tennessee Orange," where Moroney, a Georgia Bulldog through and through, puts on University of Tennessee colors for a partner. It's a football love song, one about the concessions people make in the name of affection and intimacy - and the track that fast-tracked Moroney into the country spotlight.

"It's, like, not a conventional love song," she says. "I think people can tell that I don't write too many of those because I'm just like, not great at it. But it's like, 'I'm not madly in love with you, but I will wear a color for you and a shirt because I care about you.' I think that was just my cheeky songwriting coming through with that one. But yeah, I definitely don't belong in Tennessee Orange as a Georgia Bulldog.

For that reason, she didn't expect "Tennessee Orange" to be her breakout hit. "If I would have thought, like, 'what is my breakout moment going to be?' It wasn't going to be a song that was recorded, mixed, mastered and turned in in 48

hours," she says. "That's the thing about putting out music," she adds. "You just don't know what's going to resonate with people." (AP)



Paola Cortellesi poses after winning the special jury award for the movie 'There's Still Tomorrow' at the award ceremony of the 18th Rome Film Festival in Rome, Saturday, Oct. 28. (AP)

#### Health advisers to review gene therapy for blood disorder

## A new treatment for sickle cell disease may be coming

NEW YORK, Oct 29, (AP): The only cure for painful sickle cell disease today is a bone marrow transplant. But soon there may be a new cure that attacks the disorder at its genetic source.

On Tuesday, advisers to the Food and Drug Administration will review a gene therapy for the inherited blood disorder, which in the US mostly affects Black people. Issues they will consider include whether more research is needed into possible unintended consequences of the treatment.

If approved by the FDA, it would be the first gene therapy on the US market based on CRISPR, the gene editing tool that won its inventors the Nobel Prize in 2020.

The agency is expected to decide on the treatment in early December, before taking up a different sickle cell gene therapy later that month.

Dr. Allison King, who cares for children and young adults with sickle cell disease, said she's enthusiastic about the possibility of new treatments.

"Anything that can help relieve somebody with this condition of the pain and the multiple health complications is amazing," said King, a professor at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. "It's horribly painful. Some people will say it's like being stabbed all over."

#### Mutation

The disorder affects hemoglobin, the protein in red blood cells that carries oxygen. A genetic mutation causes the cells to become crescent-shaped, which can block blood flow and cause excruciating pain, organ damage, stroke and other problems.

Millions of people around the world, including about 100,000 in the US, have the disease. It occurs more often among people from places where malaria is or was common, like Africa and India, and is also more common in certain ethnic groups, such as people of African, Middle Eastern and Indian descent. Scientists believe being a carrier of the sickle cell trait helps protect against severe malaria

Current treatments include medications and blood transfusions. The only permanent solution is a bone marrow transplant, which must come from a closely matched donor without the disease and brings a risk of rejection.

No donor is required for the onetime gene therapy, "exa-cel," made by Vertex Pharmaceuticals and CRISPR Therapeutics. This new treatment involves permanently changing DNA in a patient's blood cells.

The goal is to help the body go back to producing a fetal form of hemoglobin - which is naturally present at birth but then switches to an adult form that's defective in people with sickle cell disease.

When patients undergo the treatment, stem cells are removed from their blood and CRISPR is used to knock out the switching gene. Patients get medicines to kill off other flawed blood-producing cells and then are given back their own altered stem cells.

The treatment has been tested in a relatively small number of patients thus far, the nonprofit Institute for Clinical and Economic Review said in an evidence report.

In a briefing document released Friday before the advisory committee meeting, Vertex said 46 people got the treatment in the pivotal study. Of 30 who had at least 18 months of follow-up, 29 were free of pain crises for at least a year and all 30 avoided being hospitalized for pain crises for that long.

The company called the treatment "transformative" and said it has "a strong safety profile.

Victoria Gray, of Mississippi, the first patient to test the treatment, shared her experience with researchers at a scientific conference earlier this year. She described suffering with terrible bouts of pain since childhood and receiving high-dose pain medications and sometimes blood transfusions. She described feeling she "was being reborn" the day she got the gene therapy. Now, she's able to run around with her

'No free drugs'

#### **China's zero-COVID** drive hero Wu dies

BANGKOK, Oct 29, (AP): Wu Zunyou, an epidemiologist who helped drive the country's strict zero-COVID measures in China that suspended access to cities and confined millions to their homes, died on Friday. He was 60.

An announcement from China's Center for Disease Control and Pre-



Wu's death gave no cause, but said that "rescue measures failed."

Wu's health had been poor. He disappeared out of the public eye for months last year while battling cancer.

earned his master's and doctorate from the University of California, Los Angeles, had spent much of his early career working on HIV/Aids prevention in China.

Wu was instrumental in developing China's flagship policy in the HIV epidemic among intravenous drug users, according to his biography on the UCLA website. In recognition of this work, he was awarded the 2005 International Rolleston Award. Later, he was also awarded a UNAIDS Gold Medal in 2008 for his overall work.

Yet, as China battled the COVID-19 virus, Wu came to be criticized by some for his choice to publicly voice support for the country's strict virus control measures even as the weaknesses of the strategy became more pronounced.

"Dynamic zero-COVID is appropriate for China's reality, and is the best choice to control our country's current COVID situation," he said in April 2022, during the height of Shanghai's lockdown.

The strategy bought China time in the early days of the pandemic, but by 2022, as the virus became more and more easily spread, it showed signs of strain.

#### Also:

WASHINGTON: The COVID-19 treatments millions of Americans have taken for free from the federal government will enter the private market next

week with a hefty price tag.
Pharmaceutical giant Pfizer is setting the price for a five-day treatment of Paxlovid at \$1,390, but Americans can still access the pills at no cost -for now. The less commonly used COVID-19 treatment Lagevrio, manufactured by Merck, also will hit the market next week.

Millions of free, taxpayer-funded courses of the pills will remain at pharmacies, hospitals and doctor's offices across the country, US Health and Human Services officials said Friday. People on private insurance may start to notice copays for the treatments runs out of the COVID-19 treatments they received from the government.

kids and work a full-time job. "My children no longer have a fear of losing their mom to sickle cell disease," she said.

But the FDA is asking an outside panel of gene therapy experts next week to discuss a lingering issue that often comes up when discussing CRISPR: the possibility of "off-target effects," which are unexpected, unwanted changes to a person's genome. The FDA is looking for advice on whether the company's research on such effects was adequate to assess the risk or whether additional studies are needed. While the agency doesn't have to follow the group's advice, it often Some teachers see upsides

## Chatbots might disrupt math classes

NEW YORK, Oct 29, (AP): For as long as Jake Price has been a teacher, Wolfram Alpha - a website that solves algebraic problems online - has threatened to make algebra homework obsolete.

Teachers learned to work around and with it, said Price, assistant professor of mathematics and computer science at the University of Puget Sound. But now, they have a new homework helper to contend with: generative artificial intelligence tools, such as ChatGPT.

Price doesn't see ChatGPT as a threat, and he's not alone. Some math professors believe artificial intelligence, when used correctly, could help strengthen math instruction. And it's arriving at a time when math scores are at a historic low and educators are questioning if math should be taught differently.

Artificial intelligence can serve as a tutor, giving a student who is struggling with a problem immediate feedback. It can help a teacher plan math lessons, or write math problems geared toward different levels of instruction. It can show new computer programmers sample code, allowing them to skip over the chore of learning to write basic code.

As schools across the country debate banning AI chatbots, some math and computer science teachers are embracing them as just another tool.

#### Limitations

"Math has always been evolving as technology evolves," said Price. A hundred years ago, people were using slide rules and doing all of their multiplication with logarithmic tables. Then, along came cal-

Price makes sure students have the skills to solve problems on their own. Then, he discusses the limitations of the technologies they might be tempted to use when they get

"Computers are really good at doing tedious things," Price said. "We don't have to do all the tedious stuff. We can let the computer do it. And then we can interpret the answer and think about what it tells us about the decisions we need to make.'

He wants his students to enjoy looking for patterns, seeing how different methods can give different or the same answers and how to interpret those answers to help make decisions.

Min Sun, a University of Washington education professor, thinks students should use chatbots like personal tutors. If students don't understand a mathematical operation, they can ask ChatGPT to explain it and give examples.

She wants teachers to use Chat-GPT as their own assistant: to plan math lessons, give students feedback and communicate with parents.

Teachers can also ask ChatGPT to recommend different levels of math problems for students with different mastery of the concept, she said. This is particularly helpful for teachers who are new to the profession or have students with diverse needs, Sun said.

"It gives you some initial ideas and possible problem areas for students so I can get myself more prepared before walking into the classroom," Sun said.

Make gaming accessible to people with disabilities

## **Gaming helps combat social isolation**

NEW YORK, Oct 29, (AP): Mark Barlet founded AbleGamers in 2004. It's a nonprofit that works to combat social isolation among people with disabilities using "the power of video games." Most recently, his organization worked with Sony to help create its new Access controller for the Play-Station, designed to make it easier for people with disabilities to play.

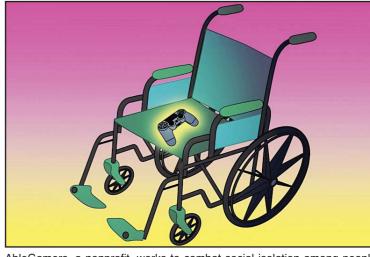
Question: When did you begin consulting for Sony on this controller?

Answer: We've had a relationship with Sony for other projects for a while. Sony has been on the forefront on the software side of creating accessible experiences. But about five years ago, they reached out to us and said, we have an idea. Can we talk to you about what this idea is?

Q: And what was the idea?

A: They wanted to create a controller that really supported players with disabilities and wanted to learn from our organization on what the experience was like - what were they solving? When they came to us, they were looking at what do we need to worry about - this disability or this disability? And we talked to them about how disabilities, you know, show me a person with multiple sclerosis and I'll show you a person who can be, hard of hearing, I can show someone who has a visual impairment or a motor impairment. So thinking on the label of a disability is not the approach to take. It's about the experience that players need to bridge that gap between a game and a controller that's not designed for their unique presentation in the world. Q: How are gamers with disabilities

playing without these controllers? A: I mean, oftentimes it was cobbling things together in order to play. It was making compromises on how they could position a standard controller in a really unique way or 3D printing a solution that helped them reach this button over here or over there or gravitating away from consoles and maybe moving into PC gaming where there were many more options at the time for USB type things to plug in. It was really about compromising and finding what best got us there. Those solutions oftentimes came with drawbacks like fatigue, discomfort and various things



AbleGamers, a nonprofit, works to combat social isolation among people with disabilities using 'the power of video games.

**Q:** Why are video games important for your community?

A: The reality is people with disabilities are 56% more likely to be socially isolated than their non-disabled friends. Think about what gaming is today - we game with our friends. we game with our families. There's so many social interactions that belong in gaming. And when you look at someone, especially a profoundly disabled person, you know, a system that allows them a good controller and a well-crafted video game gives them an opportunity to really get out there and make friends and find those shared loves that we build friendships on. And the other thing is the fact that

I'm disabled isn't the defining factor of who I am. It's that we're sharing this game and I'm good at it. And so that creates these rich social experiences that oftentimes people with disabilities have a much harder time having because of the accouterments that come with being disabled.

Q: People are being gaming for decades now. Why do you think it's taken this long for the industry to create accessible controllers? A: I'll say I think it's the hard, hard

work of organizations such as myself who have really taken to task developers from gaming and our console makers on the importance of gaming to people with disabilities. The advent of social media was a catalyst as well. My organization, you know, has been talking to developers since 2004. But all of a sudden social media is allowing people with disabilities themselves to amplify that message and to hold creators to task. I think that kind of came together and we saw companies really jump into this as an important issue that we need to fix. The last five years I have seen the game accessibility movement go from indie studios working on some features, to triple-A games, being able to be played by people who identify as blind. In five years, it's been breathtaking.

**Q:** What about the representation of people with disabilities in video games? Is that something that you would also like to see more of? A: I would like to see more of it.

And I will tell you, making games is a long path. Game companies are working on that. We have sensitivity readers in our organization and we're getting scripts and we're getting mocap (motion capture) ideas from game companies so that they can represent disabilities in a really unique way. So there are people with disabilities reading scripts on storylines of individuals with disabilities to make sure it's accurate. And so I think we're going to see more representation in the future.

A year ago, if you asked Daniel Zingaro how he assesses his introductory computer science students, he would say: "We ask them to write code.

But if you ask him today, the answer would be more complex, said Zingaro, an associate professor at the University of Toronto.

Zingaro and Leo Porter, a computer science professor at University of California San Diego, authored the book Learn AI-Assisted Python Programming with GitHub Copilot and ChatGPT. They believe artificial intelligence will allow introductory computer science classes to tackle big-picture concepts.

A lot of beginner students get stuck writing simple code, Porter and Zingaro said. They never move on to more advanced questions - and many still can't write simple code after they complete the course.

"It's not just uninteresting, it is frustrating," Porter said. "They are trying to build something and they forgot a semicolon and they'll lose three hours trying to find that missing semicolon" or some other bit of syntax that prevents a code from running properly.

Chatbots don't make those mistakes, and allow computer science professors to spend more time teaching higher-level skills. The professors now ask their

students to take a big problem and break it down to smaller questions or tasks the code needs to do. They also ask students to test and debug code once it's written. "If we think bigger picture about

what we want our students to do, we want them to write software that is meaningful to them," Porter said.

Magdalena Balazinska, director of the University of Washington's Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science and Engineering, embraces the progress artificial intelligence has made. With the support of AI, human

software engineers get to focus on the most interesting part of computer science: answering big software design questions," Balazinska said. "AI allows humans to focus on the creative work.' Not all professors in the field

think artificial intelligence should be integrated into the curriculum. But Zingaro and Porter argue that reading a lot of code generated by artificial intelligence doesn't feel like cheating. Rather, it's how a student is going to learn. 'I think a lot of programmers read

a lot of code, just like how I believe the best writers read a lot of writing," Zingaro said. "I think that is a very powerful way to learn."



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#### **Stubbs claims Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship**

Celine Boutier of France celebrates with the winner's trophy after winning the final round of the LPGA Maybank Championship in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. (AP)

## Boutier wins LPGA Malaysia after epic 9-hole playoff

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, Oct 29, (AP): In fading light and with another thunderstorm approaching, Celine Boutier made a birdie on the ninth playoff hole to defeat Atthaya Thitikul and win the Maybank Championship on the LPGA

In a marathon playoff, both players made near identical shots on several holes and saw potential winning putts lip out as they stayed tied through eight tense holes, which included sitting out a 90-minute storm delay at the Kuala Lumpur Golf and Country Club course.

At the ninth playoff hole on the par-3 15th, the Thai player narrowly missed her birdie putt, opening the door for Boutier, who showed no nerves in landing her 6-foot putt to clinch her fourth title of the season, including wins at the Women's Scottish Open and the Evian Championship for

Both Boutier and Thitikul finished on 21-under 267 after 72 regulation holes.

Boutier shot an 8-under 64 with eight birdies, which would have been nine had her birdie putt on the 18th not lipped out. Had that gone in the Frenchwoman would have held a two-shot clubhouse lead over Thitikul, but the Thai player made birdie on the final hole for a 68 to force what became a lengthy playoff in hot, humid conditions in Malaysia.

"I didn't expect it to be that long, to be honest," Boutier said of the playoff. "I felt like we were both very close to winning a few times, and I just felt like we just had to make a birdie essentially. I knew she wasn't going to make a mistake, so I had to go for it and give myself the best chances

#### GOLF

American Rose Zhang, who had a one-stroke lead going into the final round, shot a 71 to finish at 19 under, two shots behind the leaders in a tie for third with Thai player Jasmine Suwannapura (70).

Chien Peiyun (68) of Taiwan was fifth at 18-under 270. American Nelly Korda and Canadian Brooke Henderson both shot 66 to finish 17 under in a tie for sixth.

The Maybank Championship was the third of four LPGA events on the tour's Asian swing. Minjee Lee of Australia won last week's stop in South Korea in a playoff. The final

tournament is next week's Toto Classic in Japan.

Australian Jasper Stubbs won at the second playoff hole to claim the Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship on Sunday and an invitation to the 2024 Masters and a spot in next year's British Open at Royal Troon.

Stubbs came from six shots back to finished tied with Chinese pair Sampson Zheng and Ding Wenyi at 1-over 285 at Royal Melbourne and force a playoff.

The 22-year-old Stubbs and Ding both made birdie at the tricky par-4 18th, but Zheng could only make par and was

Stubbs and 18-year-old Ding headed back to play the 18th again and while the Australian found the back of the green, Ding hit his approach into a greenside bunker.

Stubbs then put his 13-metre birdie putt to within a whisker of the hole, and when Ding's par putt lipped out, the Australian tapped in for the win and entry to the 2024 Masters and British Open.

Stubbs shot 69 in regulation with four birdies, three of which came in the last nine holes, and two bogeys on the Royal Melbourne composite course that was last used for international competition at the 2019 Presidents Cup.

#### **Ohio State still unbetaen**

## 1st win over Sooners since '97

LAWRENCE, Kan., Oct 29, (AP): Devin Neal ran for 112 yards and the go-ahead touchdown for Kansas with 55 seconds left, Oklahoma's Dillon Gabriel threw incomplete to the end zone on the final play of the game, and the Jayhawks beat the sixthranked Sooners 38-33 on Saturday.

Kansas snapped an 18-game losing streak to the Sooners in their final matchup before Oklahoma departs the Big 12 for the Southeastern Conference.

The Jayhawks (6-2, 3-2 Big 12) looked as if they'd given away an opportunity to win the game when Jason Bean was picked off with 2:29 to go. But their defense forced the Sooners (7-1, 4-1) to punt, and after two long completions and a fourth-down throw that picked up 37 yards, Neal scampered in from 9 out to give Kansas the lead back.

Bean threw for 218 yards and two interceptions, both in the fourth quarter, while running for 62 yards and a score. Daniel Hishaw also had two TD runs for the Jayhawks, who had not beaten Oklahoma since October 4, 1997.

Gabriel threw for 171 yards with three touchdown runs and Tawee Walker ran for

146 yards and a score. Georgia 43, Florida 20

In Jacksonville, Carson Beck threw two touchdown passes in his hometown, Daijun Edwards ran for two scores and Georgia dominated Florida to extend its winning

The two-time defending national champion Bulldogs (8-0, 5-0 Southeastern Conference) have now won three in a row and six of seven in the rivalry known as "The

#### **FOOTBALL**

World's Largest Outdoor Cocktail Party." Georgia scored on its first four possessions and stuffed the Gators (5-3, 3-2) early and

Beck completed 19 of 28 passes for 315 yards. Edwards ran for 95 yards and now has four TDs in the last two games in the

#### Ohio State 24, Wisconsin 10

In Madison, Marvin Harrison Jr. caught two touchdown passes, TreyVeon Henderson rushed for 162 yards in his first game in over a month and Ohio State remained unbeaten by defeating Wisconsin for the 10th straight time.

Flordia State 41, Wake Forest 16 Winston-Salem, Keon Coleman needed

only one arm to snag one of his two touchdown catches while Trey Benson took a



Northwestern quarterback Brendan Sullivan, (left), runs with the ball past Maryland defensive back Dante Trader Jr., during the second half of an NCAA college football game, in Evanston, III. Northwestern won 33-27. (AP)

short pass and broke loose for an 80-yard score that helped Florida State overpower Wake Forest, keeping the unbeaten Seminoles in firm control of the Atlantic Coast

Washington 42, Stanford 33

In Stanford, Michael Penix Jr. threw four touchdown passes and Washington held off a fierce comeback attempt to beat Stanford for its 15th straight win.

The Huskies (8-0, 5-0 Pac-12) got their passing game going well enough to hold off the Cardinal (2-6, 1-5) and extend the second-longest winning streak in the nation.

Texas 35, BYU 6

In Austin, Maalik Murphy threw for 170 yards and two touchdowns in his debut as the starting quarterback for Texas in a win

Murphy, a redshirt freshman, replaced Quinn Ewers, who was sidelined with an injury to his throwing shoulder sustained in last week's win at Houston. He completed 16 of 25 passes.

Oregon 35, Utah 6

In Salt Lake City, Bo Nix threw for 248 yards and two touchdowns to lead Oregon to a victory over Utah, which had an 18-game home winning streak snapped by the loss

Troy Franklin tallied 99 yards and a touchdown on eight catches for the Ducks. Bucky Irving added 83 yards and a touchdown on the ground. Oregon (7-1, 4-1 Pac-12) won in Salt Lake City for the first time since 2016. The Ducks racked up 390 total yards and forced two turnovers.

#### Penn State 33, Indiana 24

In State College, Drew Allar threw three touchdown passes, including a 57-yarder to KeAndre Lambert-Smith with 1:46 to play, and Penn State's defense forced a late safety

Allar hooked up with Khalil Dinkins and Tyler Warren for touchdowns and Nick Singleton ran for another score for the Nittany Lions (7-1, 4-1 Big Ten), who recovered after blowing a 10-point lead in the fourth

Mississippi 33, Vanderbilt 7

In Oxford, Jaxson Dart threw for one touchdown, ran for another and Mississippi scored on five consecutive first-half possessions in a win over Vanderbilt.

Ole Miss (7-1, 4-1 SEC) eliminated any upset hopes with a 26-0 blitz by going 5-of-5 in the red zone, opening a 23-minute stretch that spanned to the 7:40 mark in the second period.

Notre Dame 58, Pittsburgh 7

In South Bend, Xavier Watts had two of Notre Dame's four interceptions, Audric Estime rushed for 114 yards and three touchdowns, and the Fighting Irish overwhelmed

Watts and the Notre Dame defense made life miserable for Pitt quarterback Christian Veilleux, a redshirt sophomore making his third start. The Fighting Irish (7-2) scored 23 points off five Pitt turnovers - including a fumbled punt that Ramon Henderson recovered in the end zone or a touchdown - and have won seven of their past eight meetings with the Panthers (2-6).

Georgia Tech 46, North Carolina 42

In Atlanta, Haynes King threw a 5-yard touchdown pass to Brett Seither with 4:28 remaining and Georgia Tech handed North

Carolina its second straight loss. Overcoming an early two-touchdown blitz by North Carolina (6-2, 3-2 Atlantic Coast Conference) and a 10-point deficit in the fourth quarter, Georgia Tech shredded the Tar Heels defense for 635 yards.

King was 23 of 30 for 287 yards and four touchdowns, two of them to Seither. Dontae Smith rushed for 178 yards and another score.

#### Wind cancels season opener

**Change Name** I, Murtaza, holder of passport no. M6255410, do herby change my name to Murtaza (as given name) Jetaji (as surname) for all purposes. I will henceforth be known in the name Murtaza Jetaji and I also undertake to carry out this name change in all my documents.

SOELDEN, Austria, Oct 29, (AP): Strong winds forced the cancellation of the season-opening men's World Cup giant slalom Sunday after 47 of the 73

Gusts high up on the Rettenbachferner glacier initially prompted organizers to lower the start gate,

skiers in the first run had

started.

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which reduced run times by

nearly 10 seconds. As winds on the course became too strong, the jury interrupted the race after 47 starters, before calling it off as conditions failed to im-

The International Ski and Snowboard Federation said the race was canceled "due to the extreme wind at the moment and the forecast with increasing wind for the rest of the day, for safety and fairness to all racers.'

#### SKIING

FIS race director Markus Waldner said the race will be rescheduled, with date and venue likely to be announced in the coming

It is the third time in the last seven years the race had to be canceled because of

# Kansas 'downs' Oklahoma for Durant scores 26 pts as Suns easily handle Jazz



Utah Jazz forward John Collins and Phoenix Suns Grayson Allen scramble for the ball. (AP)

#### Wizards bounce back defensively, top winless Grizzlies

PHOENIX, Oct 29, (AP): Kevin Durant scored 26 points, Eric Gordon added 21 and the Phoenix Suns easily handled the Utah Jazz 126-104 on Saturday night.

The Suns dominated the majority of the game, never trailing after the first few minutes. They opened a 16-point lead by halftime and led by 30 midway through the third quarter after Grayson Allen threw down a

one-handed dunk in traffic. Phoenix was playing without twothirds of its star trio. Devin Booker (ankle) missed his second straight game while Bradley Beal (back) has missed all three games this season.

Durant - plus the Suns' supporting cast - was plenty to handle against the Jazz. Allen added 17 points, while Jusuf Nurkic had 10 points, seven rebounds and six assists. Phoenix poured in 40 points in the third quarter to put away the

#### **BASKETBALL**

Durant was a methodical 8 of 11 from the field and hit all nine of his free throws. The 13-time All-Star added seven assists.

The Jazz had 19 turnovers in a performance. Markkanen had 19 points, making five 3-pointers. Collin Sexton scored 14 points over the bench while rookie Keyonte George, the 16th overall pick out of Baylor, added 12 points, seven rebounds and six assists.

Phoenix took a 66-50 lead at halftime after shooting 54% from the field. Gordon scored 21 points in the first half on 9-of-12 shooting, including 3 of 6 from 3-point range. Durant added 14 points and five assists.

#### Wizards 113 Grizzlies 106

In Washington, the Washington Wizards were already facing a bit of a gut check after allowing 143 points in their season opener.

Coach Wes Unseld Jr. liked his

team's response.

Corey K ispert scored all of his 22  $\,$ points in the first half, and the Wizards held off the winless Memphis Grizzlies 113-106 in their home opener Saturday night.

It's a new era in Washington following the departures of Bradley Beal and Kristaps Porzingis and the arrival of new team president Michael Winger. Little is expected of the Wizards in 2023-24, but Washington took advantage of 18 turnovers by the Grizzlies after losing 143-120 to the Pacers three days earlier.

76ers 114, Raptors 107

In Toronto, Joel Embiid and Tyrese Maxey each scored 34 points, and the Philadelphia 76ers beat the Toronto Raptors 114-107 on Saturday night to give new coach Nick Nurse his first win against his former team.

Kelly Oubre Jr. scored 18 points and Tobias Harris had 15 as the 76ers won their fourth straight over the Raptors.

Toronto fired Nurse in April after

five seasons as head coach. Nurse led Toronto to the NBA championship in 2019 and was voted NBA Coach of the Year in 2020. Fans rose for a brief standing ovation when Nurse was honored with a video tribute during a first-

Nurse said the Raptors also gave him several framed photos and other mementos from his decade with the team. Nurse was an assistant to Dwane Casey for five seasons before landing the top job.

The 76ers again played without guard James Harden. Hoping to be traded, the 2018 MVP arrived late to training camp and said before the season that his fractured relationship with team president Daryl Morey couldn't be repaired.

Harden also did not travel with the team for Thursday's seasonopening loss at Milwaukee. Maxey didn't take a shot in the

first quarter but finished 7 for 9 from 3-point range. The rest of the Sixers went 3 for 19 behind the arc. Pistons 118, Bulls102

In Detroit, Jalen Duren had 23

points and 15 rebounds as the Detroit Pistons overcame a careerhigh 51 points from Zach LaVine to

beat the Chicago Bulls 118-102 LaVine's effort was the first 50-point game of the NBA season and made him the first Bulls player with 50 points and no assists since Michael Jordan did it against the Miami Heat on Nov. 6, 1996. LaVine had been a game-time

decision with back spasms. Cade Cunningham added 25 points and 10 assists for the Pistons, who ended a 15-game losing streak to the Bulls, while Alec Burks added

18 off the bench.

Rookie Ausar Thompson had nine points, 12 rebounds and five assists in Detroit's home opener. He also helped hold LaVine to two points in the final eight minutes.

DeRozan scored 20 for the Bulls, but Nikola Vucevic with 12 was the only other Bull to reach double fig-

Pelicans 96, Knicks 87

In New Orleans, Brandon Ingram poured in an array of mid-range pullups, turnarounds and fades. Zion Williamson kept finding ways to power toward the rim and finish with touch.

The Pelicans tandem presented problems for a Knicks team playing a second road game in a different city in less than 24 hours.

Ingram scored 26 points, Williamson added 24 and New Orleans remained unbeaten on this young NBA season with a 96-87 victory over New York on Saturday

Williamson said that when he and Ingram are on the court together in the fourth quarter, "we kind of give each other that look, like, all right,



Cleveland Cavaliers forward Evan Monley shoots as Indiana Pacers center Myles Turner defends. (AP)

Willie Green wants it. Williamson, who missed most of last season because of a hamstring injury last Jan. 2, has now scored at least 23 points in each of New Orleans' first two games. Against New York, he hit difficult leaners or one-handed floaters through crowds of defenders, sometimes while being fouled. Several of his baskets brought the crowd to its feet in full voice as he celebrated by flexing his

And that's how Pelicans coach

biceps on each side of his head. Pacers 125, Cavaliers 113

In Cleveland, Aaron Nesmith scored a career-high 26 points and Tyrese Haliburton had 21 points, 13 assists and eight rebounds, sending the Indiana Pacers to a 125-113 victory over the short-handed Cleveland

Cleveland played without three starters, including All-NBA shooting guard Donovan Mitchell (right hamstring soreness). Point guard Darius Garland (left hamstring strain) and center Jarrett Allen (left ankle bone bruise) also remain out.

Nesmith, who signed a three-year contract extension earlier in the week, had 17 points in the first half and finished with nine rebounds. The 6-foot-5 forward was acquired last summer in a trade with Boston, where he spent his first two seasons.

Myles Turner had 20 points and 12 rebounds for Indiana, which outscored the Cavaliers 29-12 in the second quarter and won its second straight game to open the season. Bennedict Mathurin and Jalen Smith added 13 points apiece.

Timberwolves 106, Heat 90

In Minneapolis, Naz Reid relished the roar from the Minnesota crowd roar during introductions and the fast chant of his name late in the game, further affirmation he's in the right place even though he comes off the bench.

Reid scored 25 points on 10-for-14 shooting in 28 minutes, sparking the Timberwolves to a 106-90 victory in their home opener over the short-handed Miami Heat .

Anthony Edwards finished with 19 points after a late flurry for the Wolves (1-1), who outscored the Heat 24-4 over a 7:45 stretch in the fourth quarter that lasted into the

Tyler Herro scored 22 points on 8-for-23 shooting and Bam Adebayo added 19 points for Miami, which played without starting forwards Jimmy Butler (rest) and Kevin Love (bruised left shoulder) on the second half of a back-to-back set of games.

#### **Argentine the favourite for award**

## Messi, Haaland, Mbappe & De Bruyne in fierce battle for Ballon d'Or

PARIS, Oct 29: All eyes of the global soccer community are firmly fixed on the Chatelet Theater in Paris, France. They eagerly anticipate the grand spectacle of the latest Golden Ball Awards ceremony.

This edition of the prestigious award has ignited intense excitement across all corners of the football world. It is set to witness an ardent contest for the most coveted accolade in the sport—the Ballon d'Or, awarded to the world's finest player.

In the previous edition of 2022, Frenchman Karim Benzema claimed the title, propelled by his remarkable achievements with Real Madrid during the 2021-2022 season when he clinched both the Spanish League and Champions League titles.

However, it seems that the acco-

lade's honor in this year's edition will surpass even that achievement, as Argentine superstar Lionel Messi has left an indelible mark with his national team, positioning him at the forefront of contenders for this prestigious award.

At the age of 36, Messi is back in fierce contention for the title, having led Argentina to World Cup victory in 2022. This historic triumph occurred 36 years after the nation's second World Cup win in 1986, with the legendary Diego Maradona as the star of the team. Messi played a pivotal role in securing the title, undoubtedly meriting the Golden Ball for the best player in the 2022 World Cup. He also finished as the second-highest goal scorer in that tournament, notching 7 goals.

Just two months after his World Cup triumph, Messi was bestowed with the "Best" award by FIFA for the world's top player in 2022. He further claimed the French League title with Paris Saint-Germain before moving to his current club, Inter Miami. He continued his winning streak, securing the "League Cup"

#### SOCCER

championship and the title of top scorer in this edition, along with the Best Player Award.

However, Messi is poised to face formidable competition from several other players vying for France Football magazine's Ballon d'Or award, with Norwegian striker Erling Haaland leading the pack. Haaland

accomplished a historic treble last season, triumphing in the English League, the Cup, and the European Champions League with his team.

The ceremony will also feature the presentation of two other prestigious awards: the "Kopa" for the best young player and the "Yashin" for the best goalkeeper. The nominees in both categories comprise 10 outstanding individuals, making it challenging to predict the eventual winners, given the remarkable talent among these nominees.

While Messi aims to solidify his legacy by winning the Ballon d'Or for the eighth time, Haaland dreams of clinching this prestigious award for the very first time. Despite the many formidable names among the 30 candidates, including Kylian Mbappe, Kevin De Bruyne, İlkay



Lionel Messi and Erling Haaland.

Al-Arabi against Kazma

takes the center stage

tor Osimhen, their chances of outprove to be a daunting task.

Gundogan, Julian Alvarez, and Vic-shining Messi and Haaland may



Fighters preparing for the championship.

## **Extensive 'preparations' underway for** upcoming Int'l Martial Arts Champ'ship

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: The prestigious Emerald Hall located not only put up substantial finanorganizing committee of the Fourth Kuwait International Martial Arts Championship for Professionals, under the leadership of Meshal Al-Fajji, the

#### **MIXED MARTIAL ARTS**

owner of Sports Promotion Company (KSP) and the representative of the World Boxing Council (WBC) in Kuwait, has successfully concluded its rigorous preparations for the upcoming tournament.

The championship is set to take place on November 4th, at the

in the Salwa area.

This highly anticipated event will feature a total of eight professional fights, equally divided between boxing and Muay Thai. Among the highlights is a thrilling boxing showdown for the coveted KSP belt for the Middle East, pitting Adnan Al-Qazwini against Jarrah Al-Anzi. Additionally, another fierce contest will decide the KSP belt for the Middle East in Muay Thai, with Lebanese fighter Muhannad Al-Maghribi facing off against the Tunisian contender Hatem Jouaa.

The organizing committee has

**Khaled El Anzi** 

cial and in-kind rewards for the victors of these eight confrontations but also made tickets available through the Eventtat applica-

The tournament enjoys the generous sponsorship of Al-Rawdatain Water Bottling Company, the Harley Agency, Davidson Kuwait, Al-Hafiz Trading Company, Al-Dhahia Juice, and the renowned "Fatfat" Restaurant. This support promises to elevate the championship to new heights and ensure an unforgettable experience for both athletes and spec-

## Calvert-Lewin scores 50th EPL goal for Everton in 'win' over West Ham

LONDON, Oct 29, (AP): **Dominic Calvert-Lewin's** second-half strike secured a 1-0 win for Everton at West Ham in the Premier League on Sunday.

The striker scored six minutes after halftime at the London Stadium as Everton won for only the third time in the league this season.

Calvert-Lewin, who has had to contend with a slew of injuries, scored his 50th league goal for the club and he joined Romelu Lukaku, Duncan Ferguson and Tim Cahill in reaching the half-century.

Receiving the ball in the box, he turned smartly and steered a shot low into the corner.

Abdoulaye Doucoure could have

#### SOCCER

doubled the visitors' lead, but his shot was saved by Alphonse Areola.

The win was Everton's third in six games in all competitions as Sean Dyche's team look to recover from a troubled start to the season that saw they fail to win any of their opening five league fixtures.

West Ham substitute Said Benrahma had the chance to even the score late on with a volley, but was denied by Everton goalkeeper Jordan Pick-

It was Everton's first game since the death of club chairman Bill Ken-

His passing was commemorated at the start of the game, along with England great Bobby Charlton, who died earlier this month. Pictures of both were projected on giant screens inside the stadium before kick off, while wreaths were laid by West Ham manager David Moyes, who was formerly in charge at Everton, and Dyche.

They were joined by England great Geoff Hurst.

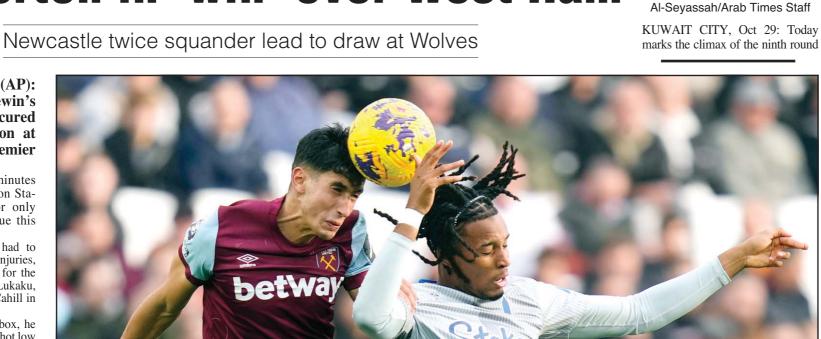
A wreath was also seen in the directors' box.

Once the game started Everton's players did their part by securing the much-needed win for the team that looks likely to be involved in another relegation battle this season.

Wolverhampton twice came from behind to draw 2-2 at home against Newcastle, which has failed to win their last two Premier League games that have come after midweek Champions League matches.

Callum Wilson scored a first-half double for Newcastle, including a contentious penalty, to move to seven goals from just nine appearances in the Premier League but it was not enough against a determined Wolves, who seemed to take inspiration from a sense of injustice in a feisty second half.

Wilson, starting in place of the in-



West Ham's Nayef Aguerd competes for the ball with Everton's Youssef Chermiti (right), during the English Premier League soccer match between West Ham United and Everton at the London stadium in London. (AP)

#### jured Alexander Isak, acrobatically capitalized on goalkeeper Jose Sa's error to put Newcastle in front after 22 minutes but Mario Lemina headed the hosts level with his first goal

for the club 14 minutes later. Wolves then fumed when referee Anthony Taylor pointed to the spot on the stroke of halftime, with minimal apparent contact when Hwang Hee-chan was guilty of a loose touch in his own box and Fabian Schar went down as he stepped in to take possession.

Wilson kept his cool after a lengthy VAR check and ignored the jeers to put Newcastle back in front despite Sa getting a strong hand to the spot kick.

Hwang made amends in the 71st minute with an equalizer that extends Wolves' unbeaten run to five.

Newcastle made the trip south coming off a 1-0 home loss to Borussia Dortmund in the Champions League and still reeling from the loss of Sandro Tonali, who was serving the first game of a 10-month ban for betting offenses.

Earlier this month, Newcastle drew 2-2 at West Ham after beating Paris Saint-Germain 4-1 in the Champions League.

Wolves lost in-form Portugal forward Pedro Neto to a hamstring injury in the 74th

#### **Khaled El Anzi** Hernandez, Tunisian Khaled Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff Belhaj and Brazilian Vinicius, will be joined by Qatari profes-

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: This afternoon, the Kuwait Club's firsthandball team are gearing up for a training camp in the Bahraini capital, Manama. The camp is scheduled to last until November 5, after which the team will journey to Dammam, Saudi Arabia, to partake in the 2023 Super

#### **HANDBALL**

Globe Club World Cup.

The delegation, led by Sameh Al-Hajri, the game director for the White Castle, consists of key personnel including Technical Director Haitham Al-Rashidi, Brazilian assistant Thiago Oliveira, Brazilian physical trainer Luis, goalkeeping coach Ali Al-Khader and Dr. Yassine Booker. The squad of 20 players, which includes Portuguese professionals Angel

Kuwait Club embark on Manama training camp rain. Marzo recently concluded his stint with Qatari club Al-Anabi in the Asian qualifiers



Kuwait Club player is challenged as he makes a goal attempt.

of the Al-Ittihad Volleyball Refresher Championship, with a lineup of thrilling matches. Al-Qadsia face Al-Sahel at 6:00 pm in Al-Tadamon Hall, while Kuwait take on Al-Tadamon 6:30 pm in Abu Halifa Hall. Over at Al-Ittihad

Hall in the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex, Al-Shabab go head-to-head with Yarmouk. The highlight of the evening unfolds at 7:00 pm in the same hall, as the eagerly anticipated battle between Al-Arabi and Kazma takes center stage.

As per the tournament format, the top-ranked team at the end of the initial round will meet the fourth-ranked team, while the second-ranked team will face the third-ranked team in the semifinals. The victorious teams from

#### **VOLLEYBALL**

these matchups will vie for the coveted Federation Championship title on November 6.

At present, Burgan lead the tournament standings with 21 points, closely pursued by Al-Kuwait and Al-Qadsia, each amassing 18 points. These three teams have secured their places in the semifinals. The final ticket to the golden square remains contested between Kazma and Al-Arabi, both currently holding 12 points.

Meanwhile, Al-Shabab Yarmouk hold 6 points, Al-Sahel 2 points, and Al-Tadamon 1 point.

With such tight standings, the encounter between Kazma and Al-Arabi promises to be a fiercely competitive and thrilling showdown, unlikely to be easily resolved.

Kuwait's star player, Saif Al-Adwani, has also joined the team's training, while the medical staff is diligently working on rehabilitating other injured players ahead of the tournament. This includes Abdullah Al-Gharabally and Fawaz Al-Shammari, although Muhammad Amer will remain absent until January.

It's worth noting that the "Super Globe" tournament has placed Kuwait in the second group, alongside Argentinian clubs San Fernando and German club FOX Berlin.

Meanwhile, the Japanese handball team secured their place in the 2024 Paris Olympics by defeating the Bahraini with a score of 32-29 in the final match of the Asian qualifiers held at the Qatari Al-Duhail Hall. This thrilling victory ensured their Olympic qualification after intense competition.



New Zealand's Richie Mo'unga catches the ball during the Rugby World Cup final match between New Zealand and South Africa at the Stade de France in Saint-Denis, near Paris. (AP)

# Sports

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## **Kolisi inspires South Africa to a place in history**

Springboks overcome All Blacks for 4th Rugby World Cup title

PARIS, Oct 29, (AP): Siya Kolisi clutched the Webb Ellis Cup tightly then raised it high after helping South Africa make Rugby World Cup history with a fourth title, earning himself a place among the greats as only the second captain to win it back-to-back.

Four years after dominating England, this final against New Zealand were much harder. The Springboks overcame the resilient All Blacks 12-11 on the back of flyhalf Handre Pollard's four penalties, doing so on a rain-soaked night at Stade de France when All Blacks captain Sam Cane felt the gloom as the first player red-carded in a final.

#### RUGBY

South Africa repeated its 1995 success over New Zealand and denied the All Blacks their own chance to win a fourth title in their record fifth final. Kolisi's mind turned quickly to the millions of fans celebrating back home - in city centers, farms, townships, anywhere.

It was a hard road to victory, at the same stadium where South Africa beat England in the 2007 final.

Since England's success in 2003, the Springboks and the All Blacks have shared all five titles. This tournament, however, was touted as the right time for the northern hemisphere to topple the south again.

Especially after a titanic 13-8 defeat to Ireland dropped South Africa into second place in its pool to set up a showdown with host France, won 29-28. Then the Springboks were two



South Africa's Siya Kolisi holds the trophy aloft during presentation ceremony after the Rugby World Cup final match between New Zealand and South Africa at the Stade de France in Saint-Denis, near Paris. (AP)

minutes away from losing the semifinal to rank outsider England before Pollard's long kick sent them through to the final by 16-15.

After holding the trophy aloft, Kolisi kissed his right sweatband, then roared a victory cry loud enough to rattle windows in Johannesburg, Cape Town and everywhere else back home.

As South Africa's players celebrated, Kolisi climbed up the stadium stairs to see a special friend high up in the stands - tennis great Roger Federer, whose mother is South African. Federer clenched his fist in celebration as he leaned over to celebrate with Kolisi.

Cane will fly home with regrets He was issued the red card for a high tackle on center Jesse Kriel. Three other players were sin-binned - two Springboks and one All Black - in a

chaotic match. Fullback Beauden Barrett scored the only try in the left corner, setting up a tense last 20 minutes.

He became the first player to score in two World Cup finals and scored the first try conceded by South Africa in a final. But flyhalf Richie Mo'unga's touchline conversion attempt went wide and ultimately preserved the winning margin.

Both sides finished with 14 players as left winger Cheslin Kolbe was sin-binned for a deliberate knock on. Center Jordie Barrett took the penalty

'One of my toughest fights in the last 10 years'

right post but it sailed wide with Kolbe holding his head in his hands, unable to watch. Cane was sin-binned but referee

shot from nearly 50 meters wide of the

Wayne Barnes pulled out the dreaded red after the punishment was upgraded late in the first half following a bunker

Real's Tchouaméni injured

## **Gundogan calls for more 'frustration' from Barça**

MADRID, Oct 29, (AP): Barcelona faced criticism from one of their own players following the loss to Real Madrid in the first "clasico" of the season in the Spanish league, with veteran midfielder Ilkay Gundogan saying he wanted to see more "frustration" and "anger" from his teammates.

Madrid's celebrations, meanwhile, were dented by the club's announcement on Sunday that midfielder Aurélien Tchouaméni fractured his left foot during the 2-1 win against the Catalan rival on Saturday.

Gundogan, who put Barcelona ahead with a goal in the sixth minute, said he expected to see more emotion from his teammates in the locker room after the home loss.

"I don't want to say something wrong," he said. "But I was on the dressing room and of course, people are disappointed, but especially after such a big game and such a result, I wished more frustration, more anger, you know, and more disappoint-

The 33-year-old former Manchester City midfielder, who signed with Barcelona in the summer, said the lack of emotion was "a little bit of the problem."

"There has to be more emotion, especially when you lose, when you know you can perform better, you can do better in certain situations, and you just don't react," he said. "We need to make a good step in that, otherwise Real Madrid or even Girona is going to run

The loss dropped Barcelona four points behind both Madrid and Girona, which sit at the top of the table after 11 rounds. Girona defeated Celta Vigo 1-0 on Friday for their ninth win of the season.

Barcelona came into the "clasico" unbeaten in all competitions. They won their first three matches in the group stage of the Champions League.

Gundogan said that, as one of the veterans in the squad, he was also to blame for the lack of emotion in the locker room.

"I didn't come here to lose these types of games," he said. "There's also some responsibility from myself, from a more experienced player, to not allow the squad to just let things happen. No, we need resistance."

Jude Bellingham, the 20-year-old England international who has 13 goals in 13 matches since joining Madrid from Borussia Dortmund this season, led the comeback with goals in the 68th minute and in secondhalf stoppage time.

#### SOCCER

Tchouaméni played the entire match for Madrid despite the foot injury. Madrid said exams showed that the France player has "an incomplete stress fracture in the second metatarsal of the left foot." The club said his progress will "be monitored," but this type of injury is likely to sideline him for at least a month. He is not expected to undergo surgery.

Tchouaméni has been key for Madrid this season, being a regular starter for coach Carlo Ancelotti. He appeared in all 14 games for the club, scoring once in a league game against Girona.

Madrid's next game is against Rayo Vallecano in the Spanish league on Sunday. Barcelona visit Real Sociedad on Saturday.

## **Heavyweight champ Fury survives scare from** ex-UFC fighter Ngannou to win split decision

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, Oct 29, (AP): Reigning WBC heavyweight champion Tyson Fury's appearance against an MMA fighter making his boxing debut figured to be another show to go along with his other ventures.

Francis Ngannou proved, however, he wouldn't be the pushover so many anticipated.

Ngannou not only shockingly took Fury the 10-round distance, he came within one judge's scoreboard of pulling off the upset early Sunday morning. Juan Carlos Pelayo of Mexico scored the fight 96-93 for Fury and Alan Krebs of the United States gave him a 95-94 victory. Ed Garner of Canada gave the fight to Ngannou at

"That definitely wasn't in the script," Fury said. "Francis is a hell of a fighter - stronger, big puncher and a lot better boxer than we all thought he would ever be.'

Fury remained undefeated at 34-0-1 with 24 knockouts.

Ngannou, whose UFC record was 17-3, knocked down Fury in the third round, but this was a missed opportunity at a major upset. Ngannou landed only six of 38 punches in the final two rounds, according to CompuBox, compared to 14 of 37 for Fury.

#### **BOXING**

Fury landed more punches overall (71-59), but Ngannou hit the mark

with more power shots (37-32). "I feel fantastic," Ngannou said. "I'm very happy. It didn't go my way, but I want to thank ... the kingdom of Saudi Arabia (for) the opportunity to prove people wrong one more time.'

Fury's championship belt was never on the line in this bout, though it counts as an official fight. He was a prohibitive minus-1,800

favorite, according to FanDuel Sportsbook, though some late money came in on Ngannou. "He was very awkward," Fury said.

"He wasn't coming forward. He was standing back waiting for me to land my punches and then try to counter. He's a good fighter. He's given me probably one of my toughest fights in the last 10 years.'

Fury relied on his jab early and switched to left-handed briefly in the second round when Ngannou made some headway and even opened a cut above Fury's left eye. Then with 43 seconds remaining in the third round, Ngannou sent Fury to the floor with a left hook, the seventh time he has been knocked down in his career.



Argentina's Paulina Gramaglia (left), and Kendall Bodak of the United States, eye the ball during a women's soccer match at the Pan American Games in Vina del Mar, Chile. (AP)

#### **US reach soccer semis at Pan Ams**

The United States Under-19 women's national soccer team have shown at the Pan American Games that they will have a lot of talent coming through the pipeline for the

next few years.

The Americans dominated their rivals in every match in Chile, advanced to the semifinals with one game in hand and on Saturday thrashed Argentina 4-0 to secure the top spot in Group B.

Sixteen-year-old Kendall Bodak scored her first goal in the tournament in the 15th minute with a header so unmissable that she didn't even have to jump.

Five minutes later, 18-year-old Charlotte Kohler netted the second from close range after 17-year-old Emeri Adames assisted with the through ball in the middle of the Argentine defense.

Ngannou staggered Fury early in the fourth, but Fury stayed on his feet and the rest of the round was fairly even after that. Fury appeared to gain control late in the fifth round and carried it over into the sixth, but Ngannou showed in the seventh he wasn't going anywhere as both boxers traded blows. Ngannou delivered three powerful

lefts early in the eighth and then staggered Fury with two strong combinations midway through the round. Fury found himself holding on as Ngannou grabbed the momentum.

Fans chanted "Francis! Francis!" early in the 10th round, and just the fact the fight went the distance was an upset in itself.

Recording artists Kanye West and Eminem also attended, as did soccer star Cristiano Ronaldo, UFC headliner Conor McGregor and current and former boxing greats such as Sugar Ray Leonard and Manny Pacquiao.

Taking on this fight is the latest venture for the 35-year-old Brit, who has appeared in the WWE and been the focal point of a Netflix reality series. The money, a reported \$50 million, to open the country's entertainment festival called Riyadh Season, also likely piqued his interest.

The host country did its part in making Fury-Ngannou a stand-alone event. That fight was inside 26,000-seat Kingdom Arena, and the preliminary bouts were in a nearby outside venue constructed for this night.

Recording artists Lil Baby and Becky G performed in the main arena before both boxers entered. Then each fighter took his place on a throne wearing robes fit for a king.

If Fury figured to be in his element in a boxing ring, this was definitely a move out of the comfort zone for Ngannou, the Cameroon native, Las Vegas resident and former UFC heavyweight champion more accustomed to fighting in an octagon cage. Former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson, who also made the trip to Saudi Arabia, helped Ngannou get ready for his boxing debut.



India's Ravindra Jadeja plays a shot during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup match between India and England in Lucknow, India. India won by 100 runs. (AP)

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