



# HIGH HOPES FOR KUWAITI GOV'T, PARLIAMENT COOPERATION

## Crown Prince to inaugurate new session



Crown Prince Diwan photo  
His Highness the Crown Prince being handed the eighth annual KDIPA report for the financial year of 2022-2023.

### Crown Prince receives KDIPA report

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Monday Minister of Finance and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Fahad Al-Jarallah, Deputy Chairman Wafa Al-Qatami, Director General Sheikh Dr. Mishal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and members of the board.

During the reception, His Highness the Crown Prince was hand-

ed the eighth annual KDIPA report for the financial year of 2022-2023. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah also received on Monday Acting Chairman of the State Audit Bureau (SAB) Abdulaziz Al-Saraawi at Bayan Palace, where he presented His Highness with the Bureaus report on concerned state agencies' audit and review results and final accounts for the fiscal year 2022-2023. (KUNA)

### Opinion

## Don't stifle press freedom lest becoming 'Brethren of Purity'

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

IT seems that Kuwait, or rather the current government, is determined to change the nature of society by proposing a unified media law, which received a lot of disapproving reactions based on its contents.

Therefore, attempts to beautify it through meetings, either with the parliament's Educational Committee, or with media representatives, will only lead to further stifling of freedoms.

It is evident that decision-makers have not yet realized that gagging people's mouths has a negative impact on everyone. This is because it will be an occasion for spawning many incubators of insolence and disrespect on social media. There is no doubt that this will lead to more social and political unrest in the country.

If the cybercrime law - the scandal - imposed heavy penalties on some social media users, which prompted many of them to emigrate from the country or hide under fake names and accounts and harm the symbols of the state and all people, then it also created a new reality that Kuwait was not accustomed to throughout its history. This is because journalism operates according to ethical standards and political considerations, and it also has its own rules recognized in the world.

Today, in light of the four laws that punish journalism and journalists, the space for freedom has greatly narrowed.

That is why, when we called in 2006 to reconsider the current publications and newspapers law, we were pointing the finger at the wound caused by the huge penalties and fines imposed on writers and newspapers. With the failure to amend them and with the spread of social media, the issue became more complex.

In the new proposal, there are penalties that are harsher than those currently in Law No. 3/2006.

This matter in itself paralyzes the press and publications sector and leads to the migration of some people abroad, even through electronic sites that aim to disturb the stability of the country, or that operate for the ones who pay more.

There are many people from the region lurking in Kuwait.

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### Newswatch

**KUWAIT CITY:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Monday sent a cable to the President of India Droupadi Murmu expressing wholehearted condolences over the tragic accident of two trains collision in southeast India.

His Highness the Amir expressed deepest sympathy over the accident in district of Andhra Pradesh which left many dead and others injured, and wished the injured a speedy recovery.

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**MUSCAT:** Oman is using Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology and electronic platforms to facilitate voting amid Shura Council elections, an initiative hailed as innovative in its aim to reach to accelerate a national digital drive.

Hailing the endeavor as "unprecedented," Transport and Telecommunications Undersecretary Dr. Ali Al-Shaibani said that the applications used to simplify voting in these elections are "cutting-edge and modern."

The use of such tools have paid dividends by ensuring that the elections pan out in a "smooth and seamless" manner, according to Information Ministry undersecretary Mohammad Al-Bloushi, hailing the platforms as user-friendly and basic. (KUNA)

**DUBAI:** Iranian authorities arrested a leading human rights lawyer Sunday after she attended the funeral of a teenage girl who died after being injured weeks ago in a mysterious incident on Tehran's Metro.

The report by the semiofficial Fars news agency, which is close to the country's security forces, said authorities detained Nasrin Sotoudeh on a charge of violating Iran's mandatory headscarf, or hijab, law.

Many other Iranian news outlets republished the report and said there were multiple arrests at the funeral of Armata Geravanad, who also was not wearing a headscarf at the time she was injured. (AP)

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

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30:** The Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah will inaugurate the Parliament second regular session of the 17th legislative term on Tuesday at 10:00 am (local time).

Ahead of the second regular session of the 17th legislative term on October 31, citizens are looking forward with high hopes for cooperation between the government and parliament to build a bright future for the country.

In an indication of positive discourse between the executive and legislative authorities, the cabinet had expressed gratitude recently to the Kuwaiti leadership and the National Assembly for their support of the government's efforts to drive the country's development plans forward.

The cabinet also commended the efforts of the government-parliament coordination committee, an entity, which contributed to boosting coordination between those particular branches of the state.

On its part, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah had directed government entities to rapidly finish infrastructural constructions at housing projects in Al-Mutla and Sabah Al-Ahmad areas in coordination

with supervising efforts of the government-parliament committee.

The National Assembly had scheduled October 15 as the date for an extensive MPs meeting to draw a map for the upcoming session of parliament on October 31, highlighting in the process the joint priorities with the government as a nucleus of upcoming cooperation.

The upcoming session would feature a number of prominent issues and laws centering on the state's strategic reserve, further benefits for retirees, amending the election laws, real estate financing, and more.

The government had submitted its list of parliamentary priorities, which includes laws concerning traffic, residents' visas, developing the northern region of Kuwait, real estate funding and mortgage, taxes on companies, and other prominent issues.

He indicated that the state's Budget 2023-24 was approved during this period, which would contribute to the development of the country.

Speaker of the National Assembly Ahmad Al-Saadoun affirmed that the first regular session of the 17th Legislative term had produced several laws in line with the people's desires for development namely in the housing sector, National Assembly election laws, health insurance and providing more benefits for housewives.

He revealed that the MPs had presented 313 draft laws during the first regular session as well as 276 proposals, adding that the number of inquiries by MPs to the government had reached 514 while parliamentary reports amount to seven.

Speaker Al-Saadoun noted that investigations by parliament reached three during this period, while requests for discussions amount to four, complaints and petitions were at 95, and one lifting of immunity request.

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# TENS OF THOUSANDS SHELTERING IN FEAR

## Gaza hospitals in danger zone



Palestinians leave their homes following Israeli bombardment on Gaza City, Monday, Oct. 30, 2023. (AP)

### Israel expands ground assault

**KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip, Oct 30, (Agencies):** Israeli troops and tanks pushed deeper into Gaza on Monday, advancing on two sides of the territory's main city, as the U.N. and medical staff warned that airstrikes have hit closer to hospitals where tens of thousands of Palestinians have sought shelter alongside thousands of wounded.

Video circulating on social media showed an Israeli tank and bulldozer in central Gaza blocking the territory's main north-south highway, which the Israeli military earlier told Palestinians to use to escape the expanding ground offensive. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians who remain in the north would no longer be able to escape if the road is blocked since it's the only useable route south.

When asked whether forces had positioned on the road, Israeli military spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari said "we expanded our operations" but would not comment on specific deployments.

The video, taken by a local journalist, shows a car approaching an earth barrier across the road. The car stops and turns around. As it heads away, a tank appears to open fire, and an explosion engulfs the car. The journalist, in another car, races away in terror, screaming, "Go back! Go back!" at an approaching ambulance and other vehicles. The Gaza Health Ministry later said three people were killed in the car that was hit.

The militant Hamas movement ruling Gaza released a video Monday purporting to show three women captured during its Oct. 7 attack inside Israel. One of the women delivers a brief statement, likely under duress, criticizing Israel's response to the hostage crisis.

Hamas and other militants captured around 240 people during the deadly raid and have said they will release them in return for thousands of Palestinian prisoners held by Israel. Israel has dismissed the offer.

The Israeli advances put their forces on both sides of Gaza City and the surrounding areas of northern Gaza, in what Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called a

"second stage" of the war ignited by Hamas' brutal Oct. 7 incursion. Casualties on both sides are expected to rise sharply if Israeli forces expand their ground operation and end up battling Palestinian militants in dense residential areas.

Though Israel ordered Palestinians to flee the north, where Gaza City is located, and move south, hundreds of thousands remain, in part because Israel has also bombed targets in so-called safe zones. Around 117,000 displaced people hoping to stay safe from strikes are staying in hospitals in northern Gaza, alongside thousands of patients and staff, according to U.N. figures.

The death toll among Palestinians passed 8,300, mostly women and children, the Gaza Health Ministry said Monday. The figure is without precedent in decades of Israeli-Palestinian violence. More than 1.4 million people in Gaza have fled their homes.

Over 1,400 people have died on the Israeli side, mainly civilians killed during Hamas' initial attack, also an unprecedented figure.

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### World Bank warns

## Oil prices at risk amid Israel-Hamas conflict

**WASHINGTON, Oct 30, (AP):** The World Bank reported on Monday that oil prices could be pushed into "uncharted waters" if the violence between Israel and Hamas intensifies, which could result in increased food prices worldwide.

The World Bank's Commodity Markets Outlook found that while the effects on oil prices should be limited if the conflict doesn't widen, the outlook "would darken quickly if the conflict were to escalate."

The attack on Israel by the militant organization Hamas and the ensuing Israel military operation against Hamas have raised fears of a wider Mideast conflict.

And the threat of escalation looms.

Israeli tanks and infantry pushed into Gaza over the weekend as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced a "second stage" in the war. Hamas officials have called for more regional assistance from allies, including Iran-backed Hezbollah in Lebanon.

The World Bank report simulates three scenarios for the global oil supply in the event of a small, medium or large disruption.

Effects should be limited if the conflict doesn't widen in a "small disruption" scenario - as oil prices are expected to decline from current levels of roughly \$90 a barrel to an average of \$81 a barrel next year, the World Bank estimates.

### Day by Day

A WISE man says: There are three things that cannot be taken back: a word if it is spoken, an arrow if it is shot, and time if it passes.

Imam Ali bin Abi Talib says: "When you elevate someone beyond their worth, be prepared for them to devalue you in return." Minds are abundant, yet not all are truly thoughtful. Consider the numerous lavish shoes hiding worn-out socks within.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar



KUNA photo  
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense, Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah (center), emphasized during a Ministry of Defense meeting on Monday the need for the Kuwaiti military to maintain readiness and vigilance in response to regional developments that may pose a threat to the country's security. — See Page 2



Prayer Timings			
Fajr .....	04:39	Asr .....	14:40
Sunrise ..	05:59	Maghrib ..	17:04
Zohr .....	11:32	Isha .....	18:22

# Local

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

## Spain envoy praises historical event

# Kuwait Airways adorns skies of Barcelona ... three flights a week

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: Kuwait Airways celebrated the launch of its scheduled commercial flights to the city of Barcelona in the Kingdom of Spain, with three flights per week on Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.

On the occasion, the CEO of Kuwait Airways, Captain Ahmad Mohammad Alkreebani, said, "Today we are pleased to celebrate the launch of Kuwait Airways' first flight to the Spanish city of Barcelona, which is one of the most important travel destinations in Europe. This comes within the framework of the company's strategy to expand its network of destinations and provide options."

Alkreebani mentioned that this development provides wider options to our valued travellers throughout the year, explaining that Kuwait Airways identified this particular destination as having a special character in the choices of our customers, which meets the airlines ambitions by providing a new destination within its network of routes distributed around the world.

Alkreebani added, "Kuwait Airways' choice of the Spanish destination, Barcelona, came after a careful and comprehensive study of the requirements of the local and global market. The city of Barcelona contains many tourist, historical, cultural, and sporting attractions rich in diverse cultures, in addition to distinguishing it as a suitable destination for spending holidays throughout the year. It is one of the most important tourist and cultural cities in Europe, which includes the best tourist areas and the best football clubs in the world."

Alkreebani said, "Kuwait Airways currently

has a new, young fleet supported by the latest technology that keeps pace with all the aspirations of customers in the aviation sector, from entertainment, seat comfort, distinguished service, and facilitation in completing travel procedures for passengers entering Terminal 4, and with the presence of this fleet and the services that were announced by the company, such as "Limousine service, Just Upgrade for Royal, First Class, and Business Class passengers, BLUEFI for all our valued customers during the trip, Airport Upgrade service, which allows customers to upgrade their seats 3 hours before the flight, and Home Check In service for Royal and First Class passengers and many more services.

This will contribute significantly to implementing the established plans and achieving the desired goals. It will also support the services provided to the valuable customers in providing them with a complete package of a safe and exciting travel trip on board the Blue Bird."

Alkreebani concluded his statement by emphasizing Kuwait Airways' continuous endeavour to provide everything new and diverse to serve all segments of valued customers who prefer the Blue Bird as a carrier for their flights.

The Ambassador of Spain to the State of Kuwait, H.E. Miguel Moro Aguilar along with two embassy officials attended the historical event and added, "I am glad to be at the T4, Kuwait Airways Terminal, this morning along with our Kuwaiti friends from Kuwait Airways in the first direct flight ever to Barcelona, Spain. In slightly more than one year we have seen the start of Kuwait Airways' flights to Madrid, and now to

Barcelona."

Aguilar added, "The route to Madrid has soon become a very successful initiative, both for the company and for our bilateral relations, which are in a steady progress in hand with this historic direct connection between the two friendly nations. The flight to Barcelona, the second city of Spain and one of the most beautiful and popular tourism destinations in Europe will undoubtedly open the door to more people-to-people contacts, more business, and opportunities of all kinds to the benefit of both civil societies.

My deep appreciation today to the Kuwait Airways Management for their genuine interest for Spain, that I am sure it will only be positive both for the company and for the welfare of our bilateral relations."

The inaugural ceremony on the launch of flights to Barcelona was attended by Kuwait Airways' Chief Executive, Captain Ahmad Mohammad Alkreebani, the Director of Corporate Communication, Public Relations and Marketing, Khalid Al-Bustan, the Ambassador of the Republic of Spain to the State of Kuwait, H.E. Miguel Moro Aguilar, members of the diplomatic corps, and numerous officials.

The first flight to Barcelona witnessed convenient services being provided to the passengers, from their check-in at Terminal 4, completing their travel procedures with ease and enjoying the Company's services on board its diverse fleet of aircraft. The passengers also expressed their satisfaction for the company's adherence to on time schedule of its flights and for choosing Kuwait Airways to travel to their preferred destination.



Alkreebani and Aguilar pose for a souvenir photo.



The ribbon-cutting ceremony at the inauguration.

# 'Gaza 'catastrophe' pains us'

We mark 100 years in grief, sadness: Turkish envoy



The Ambassador of Turkey to Kuwait Tuba Nur Sönmez and the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Housing Fahad Al-Ruqubah during the cake-cutting ceremony.



Photos by Samer Shaqir  
The ambassador and the Kuwaiti minister and other dignitaries at the ceremony.

## KIB encourages customers for good savings, investment skills

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) is continuing its support of the national financial awareness campaign, 'Let's Be Aware' (Diraya), by raising banking literacy among all members of society. The Bank realizes the importance of disseminating the culture of savings and investment and is keen on introducing the various services and products it offers to help customers manage their financials.



Fahad Alsarhan

In this regard, Fahad Alsarhan, Senior Manager from the Marketing Department and the Corporate Communications Unit at KIB, said: "We continue to strive to raise customers' awareness around the importance of enhancing their savings skills and methods and utilizing the investment products and tools offered by the Bank.

These services increase their revenues and savings rates and allow them to achieve various goals, such as affording their children's high-quality education, launching a private business project, and ensuring a comfortable, safe retirement plan."

Discussing the different products offered by banks, Alsarhan pointed out that the investment deposit is a sum of money that customers deposit with their bank to be invested on their behalf, allowing them to earn returns over set periods.

Another product banks offer is investment funds, a shared investment tool that allows customers to invest their money in diverse industries and different formats, such as shares, Sukuk, money markets, and more. In addition, banks offer investment savings accounts, which differ from investment deposits as they allow customers to withdraw and deposit funds at any time.

Alsarhan also highlighted KIB's Al Dirwaza Account, one of the more recently launched savings accounts, which is available exclusively to retail customers. Al Dirwaza comes as a draw-based investment savings account, established on the Wakala investment principle.

Considered the strongest of its kind and one of the best tools introduced yet for savings and investment, it offers annual expected profits of up to 2% disbursed on a monthly basis -where the customer gets an expected profit of 2% for the first three months from the account opening date and up to 1% expected rate onward.

The expected profits are automatically deposited in the customer's account on the first day of the beginning of each month.

It is worth noting that KIB constantly aims to provide a safe and advanced banking experience that suits its customers' lifestyles and ensures their comfort.

The Bank remains committed to its comprehensive and new strategy, which focuses on delivering a more advanced and rich experience, based on its main 'Bank of Life' slogan.

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: The Ambassador of Turkey to Kuwait Tuba Nur Sönmez says, "There are 2.2 million people in Gaza, half of whom have been forcibly displaced and have no place to hide or escape. They are trapped inside a small strip of land, and face daily bombing in an all-out collective punishment campaign. The fall of any civilian victim is a tragedy, regardless of the religious or national identity of the victim. However, the recent Israeli aggression cannot be justified by hiding behind the concept of self-defense."**

Ambassador Sönmez said this in her speech during the event held yesterday evening on the occasion of the centenary of the founding of the Turkish Republic, in the presence of the Minister of Justice and the Minister of State for Housing Affairs Faleh Al-Rakba. She said, "This evening is supposed to be the most joyful time of the year for us as we enjoy the joy of celebrating our National Day.

However, we find ourselves moved by the grief of the humanitarian catastrophe unfolding in Gaza. Although our hearts are full of excitement, they also carry the weight of sadness.

The indiscriminate killing, bombing of schools and hospitals, destruction of basic infrastructure, siege, cutting off of basic services, and preventing vital aid - all these acts constitute clear violations of international law. Unless we extinguish this fire immediately, it will lead us into a new spiral of violence that will threaten the stability of the entire region."

The Turkish Ambassador praised the humanitarianism demonstrated by the State of Kuwait to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people.

She said, "Although we have a much older historical friendship, diplomatic relations between Turkey and Kuwait will reach its 60th anniversary in 2024.

Therefore, next year we will celebrate 60 years of friendship with joyful activities, God willing. We proudly describe the level of our relations with Kuwait as outstanding, as these relations are built on some strong foundations.

The event was attended by the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Housing Fahad Al-Ruqubah, as well as various senior officials and diplomatic mission heads in Kuwait.

Under the guidance of His Excellency President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad, our relations have reached an ideal level and will continue to grow stronger.

The friendship between our leaders had a great impact on our bilateral relations, paving the way for enhancing our co-operation in various fields."

Ambassador Sönmez highlighted that bilateral trade between Turkey and Kuwait is growing every year, adding, "In 2022, our trade volume reached USD 955 million US, which is an all-time record. Although the numbers are rising, they do not reflect our true potential, and we have a shared vision to diversify business relationships to include new sectors such as defence, technology and healthcare."

She revealed that the Kuwaiti government signed a contract this year to purchase Turkish Bayraktar TB2 drones, which are arguably the most popular drones in the world.

## Nod to senior posts for 155 at Awqaf Ministry

By Abdul Nasser Al-Aslami

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: Head of the Workers Union at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Bandar Al-Nasafi welcomed the Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Rahman Al-Mutairi's move to end the suffering of 155 people by approving them for supervisory positions in Islamic studies, which had been stuck for many years, and placing them under the Civil Service Commission (CSC).

In a press statement, Al-Nasafi said he hoped to end all the grievances of the employees in the ministry, as this problem has been unresolved for more than 10 years.

He said, "It is a grievance that we have always spoken about with most of the former ministers, and with CSC. There was push and pull here and there, and the ministers did not fall short of achieving it but the Service Commission was tough about this issue.

We thank Allah for ending everyone's suffering and accrediting them all. This opens the way for promotions for those who fulfill their conditions, because it was an obstacle that had closed the door for everyone, and we were unable to move.

## Weather

**By Night:** Mild and partly cloudy with light variable wind, with speeds of 06-22 km/h.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	32	23
Kuwait Airport	32	19

Abdaly	33	17
Jahra	33	20
Salmiyah	30	25
Ahmadi	30	27
Nuwaisib	32	20
Wafra	33	18

## MoE hired teachers die in Gaza

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: Several Palestinian teachers who were hired by the Ministry of Education to work in Kuwait embraced martyrdom in Gaza, as a result of the barbaric Zionist aggression on the Gaza Strip, reports Al-Rai daily.

An educational source told the daily some Palestinian teachers contracted for the current academic year were mar-

tyred during the continuous bombing and raids by the occupation forces on the besieged Gaza Strip.

The source explained that "the Palestinian embassy in Kuwait informed the ministry of the martyrdom of some teachers, and it will provide the ministry with all statistics soon, in addition to some others who would prefer to cancel their contracts.

## 'Be vigilant in current scenario'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30, (KUNA): The extraordinary developments in the region required the Kuwaiti military to be ready and vigilant in case of any threat to the security of the country, said Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah on Monday.

In a press statement following a meeting of the Ministry of Defense, Sheikh Ahmad said that the ministry was keen on following the directives of the country's leadership,

affirming that the army was ready and able to fend off any threat or attack directed at Kuwait.

He stressed that continuous training and keeping up with the latest defense technology would safeguard Kuwait and develop the army's military strategies.

He also highlighted the importance of bolstering cooperation amongst the army's units to serve the country and protect it against any harm.



Students during their visit.

## Diabetes prevention lectures held

## DDI hosts high school students

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: Dasman Diabetes Institute (DDI), founded by Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, recently received a group of students from Al-Asmaa Bint Al-Harith Girls High School. The students were provided with diabetes prevention lectures by the diabetes educators and nutritionists as well as physical activity training by the medical fitness team at the institute to raise the students' awareness. In addition, the students were taken on a general tour at the institute

to brief them about the ongoing activities and projects at DDI.

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

## Japanese envoy praises Kuwait global humanitarian character

By Sarah Safar

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30, (KUNA): Japanese Ambassador to Kuwait Morino Yasunari on Monday lauded Kuwait's global humanitarian role in aiding those affected by natural or man-made disasters.

Speaking to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) after meeting Kuwait Red Crescent Society's (KRCS) Chairman Dr. Hilal Al-Sayer, Ambassador Yasunari learned about the scope of KRCS's local and international humanitarian programs, and its role in aiding and supporting affected and needy families in other countries, and expressed his appreciation for all of its efforts.

He added that Japan will donate USD 10 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the International

Red Cross in response to the dire and deteriorating situation in Gaza.

On his part, Dr. Al-Sayer expressed his delight at Ambassador Yasunari's visit to KRCS's headquarter to learn about its local and global activities and accomplishments.

He said that their meeting discussed KRCS's aid in assisting the people of Gaza via Kuwait's humanitarian air bridge, adding that KRCS is always eager to help needy families in Kuwait by providing them with food, education and medical treatment through charitable projects.



Yasunari



diwaniya

كِيوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

The tragedy of Gaza and the struggle of its people

“For the sake of brevity, I am taking notes from the Hamas raid,” columnist **Abdullah Bishara** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

“First: In an operation that was unprecedented in its plan, its goals, and its effects, the Palestinian Hamas organization launched an attack on land, sea, and air, in which it was able to take hostage more than two hundred people, and kill 1,400, according to the announced statistics. Through this attack, it took the Palestinian cause to new dimensions. Different from what it was, and these dimensions will affect the PLO in a chapter of changes, which may affect its staff and its method of work, and also in the composition of its decision-makers, with an Arab and international approach other than the one we know at Arab and international level.

“Second: The strategy of the PLO, which the head of the organization and his apparatus committed to during the past years, has entered a different chapter that carries transformations that result in direct casualties to the method adopted by Abu Mazen, who is distinguished by his rare ability to absorb harm and shocks and block the horizons of hope, and I imagine that the engineers of the surprise attack will have a say. Influencing the course of the future, I do not imagine that the doors of hope will be opened in the future; unless surprises emerge that remove the reality in which the issue lives.

“Third: The “Hamas” suicide guerrilla operation came, and its engineers are aware of the severity of the confrontation that the operation will produce, and they are aware of the possibilities of brutality that the people of Gaza and the West Bank will experience in bloodshed, destroying the livelihood mechanisms on which the struggling people depend, imposing the restrictions of siege, and conjuring up everything that harms them, in a wide open process of revenge in its time, geographical and bloody context.

“Fourth: The state of torment and abuse will not be limited to the geography of Gaza and the West Bank. Rather, it is clear that its effects will spread to neighboring countries, and perhaps to all areas and all locations where Palestinian refugees are present in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and other regions, and it is not unlikely that it will affect the Palestinians of Israel. The fear is that the Israeli government will exploit this possibility to displace its Palestinian citizens, as all possibilities are possible, including waves of flight and the possibility of immigration, which neighboring countries fear.

“Fifth: We talk about the impact of the incident on neighboring Arab countries, whose leadership at the Cairo summit was expressing fears about the dangers of the influx of refugees towards them, and the burden these human waves carry on neighboring countries crowded with the troubles of life, and seeking to achieve progress in the lives of their citizens, who live on hopes for this improvement, especially since some of them are suffering from societal rupture resulting from their opposition to the ruling regime, as we see in the reality of Syria, which is experiencing an internal division resulting from the regime’s inertia and its inability to develop and open up.

“Sixth: The neighboring Arab countries, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Egypt, will not be able to repel or contain the toll generated by the Hamas operation and its effects on the strategy of these countries in dealing with the Palestinian issue. There is no doubt that the Palestinian issue has entered an environment different from what it was, and Abu Mazen is no longer representing its future possibilities. Its current developments call for statesmen who evaluate opportunities, carefully study the possible, eliminate the impossible and raise the possibilities of the acceptable.

“Seventh: Whoever assumes the leadership of the upcoming Palestinian trend must realize that the paths of the upcoming negotiations and the efforts of the global community do not accommodate the proposals of “Hamas”, which through its process has placed the issue in a different position than in ancient times, and it is regrettable to admit that the incident weakened the paths, which could have been out of it will bring out a project that is better than the possibilities for the future.

“There is no room to ignore the changes in convictions, which were evident at the Cairo Conference, as well as in the positions of the United States, which were represented in the statements of President Joe Biden, which show the depth of the strategic interdependence between the United States and Israel, and also illustrate the intensity of the opposition, European support for the operation, and its insistence on condemning its perpetrators.

“Eighth: It is possible to monitor the Arab and international trend in dealing with the issue within the limits of what is possible in the fastest possible time, and it is clear that there is universal weariness with the continued difficulty in finding a solution to it, with a push to revive the negotiation mechanism, in cooperation with all parties to achieve the consensus, which was confirmed by the Cairo summit, in a solution that includes a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza, with Jerusalem as its capital. It is inevitable to emphasize that the negotiation process requires American acceptance to revive the negotiation approach, as there is no solution without American participation.

“Ninth: Because the operation was unprecedented, neither in its mechanisms, nor in its audacity, nor in its outcome, the language of denunciation and condemnation from the United States, Europe, and some other countries was sharp in criminalizing Palestinian guerrilla action, without indicating the blockage of the outlets of hope for the Palestinian people, who have been waiting for some justice for more than eighty years, with global harassment confronting the struggle, including the right to be angry at the cruelty of neglect and denial. The American President has shown exaggeration in his words and in his neglect of the Palestinian tragedy, and generous in his generosity with Israel, and my feeling is that political action to move the issue forward will be postponed until after the American elections, and the “Hamas” process will be present in all future negotiations, with a decline in positive interaction by Washington



Abdullah Bishara

and Europe.

“Tenth: The Hamas operation was carried out in complete isolation from massive arrangements for the possibility of confrontation, which would inevitably come from Israel, with the weight of its power and the extent of its dissatisfaction with the success of the operation, without detection from its intelligence. It is clear that those who planned the operation wanted it to be suicidal, satisfied with its success and depicting it as a suicide operation. A rich suicide bomber in its harvest, without considering the calculations of the measures that Israel may take that undermine the safety of the people of Palestine, especially in besieged Gaza, with the certainty that the Israeli attack has always been huge and harmful when compared to the scale of what Palestinian organizations are doing.

“Since the operation, we have been following the escalation of destruction in the lives and homes of Palestinians, the loss of hope, the proliferation of worries, and the escalation of the death toll, both young and old, with uncertainty surrounding the paths to the future.

“Eleventh: Israel received global support that it did not deserve, in which its political, financial and military harvest increased. It also provided it with a collective, uncompromising Western position with global follow-up on what happened to it, with media recruitment and unprecedented diplomatic mobilization, in complete disregard for the misfortunes that the Palestinian people have been experiencing since 1948.

“Twelfth: The Cairo conference did not achieve what the Egyptian government had planned, whose strategy for the conference was to come up with an approach that was compatible with developments in the issue in light of the Hamas raid and the Israeli reaction. Washington and Europe accepted it with strong momentum to resume negotiations with serious energy that would bring the chances of success closer.

“The European position was solid in insisting on two conditions that the conference must accept: condemning Hamas and affirming Israel’s right to defend itself.

“The conference ended without consensus, and I think that insisting on this position will confront the issue in the Security Council, in the United Nations committees, and perhaps in every meeting in which Europe and the United States participate.

“We will read a lot about upcoming events that emerged from the reality of the Hamas raid, the contents of which cannot be predicted, with a consensus on the fundamental changes that we will learn about later, especially regarding the reconstruction of Gaza and the United Nations Relief and Refugee Agency, and the most disturbing thing that may happen in the atmosphere of the United Nations is the presence of these people. The incident is in every resolution related to the issue of Palestine, and in the discussions of the General Assembly, not only in this session, but for many sessions to come.”

**Also:**

“The nation of a billion is watching from behind the screens what our people in Palestine in the Gaza Strip are being subjected to in terms of the bombing by the criminal Israeli raids against all of humanity, which have not ceased since the “Al-Aqsa Flood” on October 7, in which thousands of defenseless civilians were killed and many innocent families were displaced as a result,” columnist **Abdullah Muhammad Al-Afasy**, wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

“This reveals two basic facts that have become necessary in our world.

“The first is the ugly face of Israel, which is getting uglier and more immoral day after day, crossing all the red lines known to humanity and which the Western world, which is supposed to be civilized in its human values, praises theoretically.

“As for the second and practically established fact, it is the impotence of the nation of a billion people, whose dictionary is filled, in vain, throughout a long history, with expressions of denunciation and diplomatic reproach that carry within them nothing but submission to the will of the Israeli savagery and his crimes.

“Of course, we cannot ignore the tireless efforts made by some countries, led by Kuwait, which has a consistent historical position towards supporting the Palestinian cause, whether from the political leadership, the government, the representatives, or the people.

“Everyone is terrified for Palestine, the victim that is obligatory for every person of conscience to move with everything they have to intervene in saving this people, who have become martyrs in their entirety. They do not expect from Muslims anything but shrouds for their martyrs who fall daily without being counted amid the daily massacres carried out against them.

“Perhaps the irony is that everyone is well aware of the Zionist ambitions that aim to change the temporal and spatial reality of the Holy blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque.

“What is the Arab and Islamic community waiting for to abandon its soft power and take a collective stance that reflects its anger at the Zionist usurpation based on falsifying facts, usurping rights and lands, and trying to change the historical reality of Jerusalem and its Islamic features?

“All the efforts made by the Arabs amounted to nothing more than prayers, donations of money, and soft condemnation.

“Activists on social media launched a campaign to provide the besieged sector with the Internet, and those involved in that campaign appealed to the American billionaire Elon Musk to provide the services of his company for Starlink satellites, as he did in Ukraine, which reflects a clear deficiency even in the ceiling of hopes.

“It may be acceptable to expect a reasonable person to negotiate, but when the other party is driven by a hostile ideology and declared historical ambitions, the negotiating table cannot be relied upon.

“Here the question is legitimate: Isn’t it time for the international, Arab and Islamic community to awaken consciences? In the face of this bitter reality, you cannot negotiate with a tiger when your head is inside its mouth.”

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary

Promoting integrity, anti-corruption values



KUNA photo

A number of representatives of government agencies participating in the training program.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30, (KUNA): Kuwait Anti-Corruption Public Authority (Nazaha) organized Monday a training program entitled “The role of the anti-corruption public authority in promoting integrity and anti-corruption,” at Nazaha’s headquarters with the participation of 45 government agencies and 88 participants in an effort to enhance continuous cooperation with state agencies.

Assistant Secretary General for the Administrative and Financial Affairs Sector at Nazaha Saleh Al-Taneeb said in a press statement that the program aims to promote values of integrity, anti-corruption and transparency among employees in public and private sectors and in the society at large, as he presented the program that includes a group of Nazaha specialists.

Through this two-day program, they delved into the law establishing Nazaha, the provisions related to financial disclosure, the United Nations Convention against Corruption and its main areas, and Nazaha’s role in implementing the agreement internationally, he explained.

During the program, they explored the mechanism for receiving reports, ways to protect whistleblowers, monitoring and following up on the recovery of funds abroad, in addition to an explanation of the financial disclosure system, the dates for submitting statements and penalties, and the mechanism for examining those statements, he added.

Nazaha identified 74 incidents of corruption from 2021-2023

2nd nurse deported for backing Israel

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: The Anti-Corruption Authority “Nazaha” revealed that it was able to monitor 74 incidents of suspected corruption from 2021 to 2023, by monitoring social networking sites and the media, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

The legal auditor in the Corruption Detection and Money Recovery Department of the Authority’s Corruption Detection and Investigation Sector, Abdullah Fahd Al-Adwani, told **Al-Rai**, “A total of 146 suspicious operations were monitored since the executive regulations entered into force in 2016.”

Al-Adwani added, “Nazaha is following up on news and information about facts that may constitute suspicions of corruption crimes stipulated in Article 22 of Law 2/2016 regarding the establishment of the Authority, and the provisions for financial disclosure,” explaining that “the information and news under follow-up about suspicious facts are being evaluated.”

Corruption crimes that are monitored from various sources, in accordance with the formal and objective conditions that must be met in suspicions of corruption crimes mentioned in Article 22, and what is raised about any public job is subject to the provisions of the law establishing the Authority.”

Al-Adwani stressed that “the Commission initiates its procedures whenever the formal and objective conditions are met, and the information is serious and reliable, and it is also verified whether the issue has previously been discussed by the Commission or not,” indicating that “monitoring sources include various media outlets, including local and international newspapers, And social networking sites.

□ □ □

**Indian nurse deported:** The Ministry of Interior has expelled another Indian nurse from Kuwait who was working in Al-Sabah Hospital, after she supported Israel in its war against Palestine, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

She is the second expatriate of Indian nationality to work in the Ministry of Health, as she published her solidarity and support on the “WhatsApp” application and described the Palestinians as terrorists, and even published the Israeli flag alongside the message.

Informed sources told **Al-Rai** that the nurse admitted during her interrogation that she supports Israel, in the complaint filed by lawyer Bandar Al-Mutairi.

□ □ □

**Jail for street brawl:** The Court of Appeals sentenced a Kuwaiti citizen to six-month imprisonment with hard labor for hitting another citizen in front of his wife on a public road as well as crashing into his vehicle and damaging it. The court acquitted the second defendant and his brother from charges of beating the first defendant, because one of them did not allow the other the right of way, says **Al-Seyassah**.

The first and second defendants were charged with fighting, each causing the other the injuries described in the medical report, and intentional damage of properties, with the intent to cause harm. The first defendant caused damage to the second defendant’s vehicle, and the second defendant caused damage to the first defendant’s vehicle.

The third defendant, who is the brother of the first defendant, was also charged with threatening the first defendant with the intention of preventing him from filing a complaint

Ban on Tik Tok hearing Dec 3

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: The Administrative Court has set Dec 3, 2023, to look into the lawsuit to ban the ‘Tik Tok’ application in Kuwait to allow the government lawyer to prepare the response.

According to a lawsuit filed with the Administrative Court the applicant has requested that the “Tik Tok” website and platform be blocked in Kuwait, pointing out that it publishes materials that contradict the morals, customs and traditions of Kuwaiti society.

The plaintiff stated in his lawsuit that “the Telecommunications Authority law authorizes the Authority to block any electronic application that violates the state’s laws in public interest.”



Chalet proved too heavy.

Crane driver hurt

By Mansour Sultan  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

An Asian crane driver was injured and suffered multiple fractures following a crane accident in Kabad.

The daily added, this happened when the driver was attempting to lift a prefabricated chalet.

The Public Relations and Security Media Department of the Ministry of Interior said patrol men supporting the Jahra Security Directorate went to the site of the report and took the man to the hospital.

He has been admitted to the intensive care unit. The incident is being investigated by securitymen.

against his brother.

During the court session, lawyer Muhammad Al-Sayegh, who was representing the second defendant and his third brother, argued that the first defendant’s statements were unreasonable, and that the documents lacked evidence of the validity of the accusation.

He urged the court to acquit his clients of the charges, and to convict the first defendant in accordance with the law.

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# ‘Jahra Health Zone to witness qualitative shift in its services’

MoH opens Emergency Dept at new Farwaniya Hospital

**By Marwa Al-Bahrawi**  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: The Director of Jahra Health Zone Dr. Jamal Al-Duaij says the health zone, which serves one million people, will soon witness a qualitative shift in the services it provides. Work is underway to develop the internal medicine departments, specifically those related to diabetic foot, as 30 percent of Kuwaitis and residents suffer from diabetes.**

During a celebration held by the Jahra Health Zone on Sunday on

the occasion of World Psoriasis Day, Dr. Al-Duaij said there are developments that the health zone will witness soon, which will be the first of their kind in Kuwait and will motivate people to work.

He explained that work is underway to develop the nuclear medicine sector and radiology departments. There is the ambition to provide more advanced services in the internal medicine and ophthalmology departments. The staff working as administrators and technicians aspire to provide better services. Also, there is great support from the minister of health and the acting undersecretary of the Ministry of Health.

The new Jahra Hospital is considered a cornerstone and is supported by the Jahra Hospital for Communicable Diseases and Jahra Hospital 3 for long-stay patients who need chronic medical care. There are ideas to call it “Jahra Medical City” due to the large facilities there.



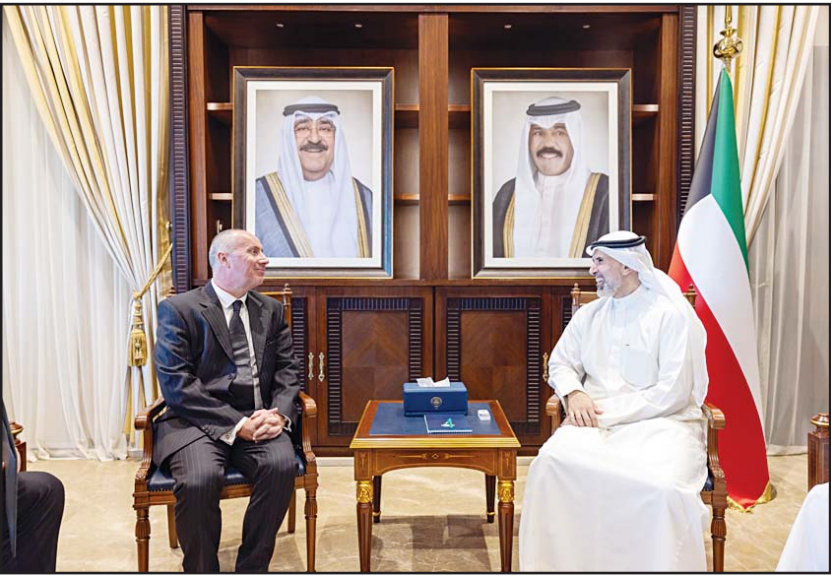
KUNA photo  
Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah with the UNAMI head.

## Kuwait’s FM receives UNAMI head

Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Sunday UN Secretary-General’s Special Representative for Iraq and Head of the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert on the occasion of her visit to the country.

During the meeting, both sides tackled the latest developments of the search for Kuwaiti martyrs’ remains, and UNAMI activities to help Iraq.

Moreover, both sides discussed the issue of demarcation of the maritime border between Kuwait and Iraq. (KUNA)



KUNA photo  
Kuwait’s Deputy FM Sheikh Jarrah Jaber receiving the Hungarian ambassador.

## Deputy FM receives Hungarian envoy

Kuwait Deputy Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received on Monday Hungarian Ambassador to the country Andras Szabo, where they touched on bilateral ties. (KUNA)

## Don’t stifle

Continued from Page 1

Does the decision-maker and those pushing for the legislation of the so-called “unified media law”, realize where this proposal is heading to?

Where is the guarantee for the freedom of opinion and expression? Or is this law a step towards changing the social and political nature of Kuwait, and later amending the Constitution to strip it of its soft power, which the world attests to?

The new proposal contains violations of several articles of the Constitution, starting with Article 7, because it violates the principles of justice, freedom and equality.

Likewise, Article 36 states that, “Freedom of opinion and scientific research is guaranteed, and every person has the right to express his opinion and publish it verbally, in writing, or otherwise.”

Article 37 states that, “Freedom of the press, printing, and publishing is guaranteed in accordance with the terms and conditions stipulated by the law.”

In all of this, we must salute the Kuwaiti judiciary, which stands tall in its stances, and did not act on articles that suppress freedoms, or refrain from pronouncing a ruling because judges realize that freedom of press is a force supporting the path of justice.

Nonetheless, it remains to be said that this flawed proposal needs amendment, and more freedoms and openness. However, if it is approved as it is, the newspapers will turn into messages from “Ikhwān al-Safā” (Brethren of Purity). If this happens, it will be a disgrace to Kuwait.

## Crown Prince

Continued from Page 1

Meanwhile, MP Dawoud Maarefi has clarified that his grilling motion against former Minister of Public Works Amani Bugamaz does not end with her resignation.

A decree No 204. 2023 was issued Monday accepting the resignation of Minister of Public Works Dr. Amani Bugamaz.

Further, another decree No. 205. 2023 was issued appointing the Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Dr. Jassim Mohammad Al-Ostath as Acting Minister of Public Works.

He pointed out that although he cannot object to the resignation as a constitutional action, he is dissatisfied; because he wants to reveal the truth regarding the violations and corruption at the Ministry of Public Works during the term of Bugamaz. He intends to submit the grilling file to HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al- Sabah to follow up the issue with the latter.

He said it is unacceptable that a minister dodges responsibility and questioning through resignation, and then stays at home to enjoy the exceptional salary. He emphasized the need to question Bugamaz about the disasters caused by the delay and negligence in the maintenance of roads, citing traffic accidents which led to many deaths and serious injuries.

He added the rainy season will start soon and he expects many problems to emerge due to the bad condition of the roads. He asserted it will not be easy to question the incoming Public Works minister, considering the short period in office.

In a relevant development, the grilling motions of Maarefi and MP Mubarak Al-Tasha are still in the agenda of the inaugural session of the National Assembly on Tuesday; but these motions will be removed from the agenda, because of the resignation of the concerned minister.

In addition, MP Muhammad Al-Regaib called for referring the issues cited in the grilling motions to the Court of Ministers in order to cut the way for any senior official to dodge responsibility through resignation.

Meanwhile, MP Hamad Al-Medlej asked Minister of Commerce and Industry and State Minister for Youth Affairs Muhammad Al-Aiban about the number of real estate exhibitions licensed and monitored from 2013 to 2017, licensing regulations and requirements, list of concerned institutions, copies of all relevant correspondences and decisions, method of verifying information about real estate projects showcased in exhibitions, responsibilities of the organizers of exhibitions and the ministry in case the participants commit violations, and penalties imposed on those who committed violations if any.

MP Falah Al-Hajri asked Minister of Justice and State Minister for Housing Affairs Faleh Al-Raqaba if it is true that only three graduates from the Islamic Sharia College are appointed as public prosecutor C per year, legal basis of this move which violates the principles of equal opportunities and justice, if it is true that the committee tasked to interview the applicants ignored the regulations and submitted the results directly to the justice minister instead of the Supreme Judiciary Council, if it is true that the committee leaked the list of nominated applicants before the approval of the Supreme Judiciary Council or justice minister — a violation of the

Constitution and relevant laws, and if it is true that one of the nominees was removed the list for security reasons. He argued that if this is true, it means the security institutions did not assess the applicants in order to remove those with security problems before the exams and interview.

## Gaza hospitals

Continued from Page 1

Israeli forces appeared to be driving deeper into Gaza from the north. Video released Monday by the military showed armored vehicles moving among buildings and soldiers taking positions inside a house.

Meanwhile, crowded hospitals in northern Gaza came under growing threat. Strikes hit near Gaza City’s Shifa and Al Quds hospitals and the Indonesian and Turkish hospitals in northern Gaza in recent days, the U.N. and residents said Monday.

All 10 hospitals operating in northern Gaza have received evacuation orders, the U.N.’s office for the coordination of humanitarian affairs said. Staff have refused to leave, saying evacuation would mean death for patients on ventilators.

Tens of thousands of civilians are sheltering in Shifa Hospital, the territory’s largest. Israel accuses Hamas of having a secret command post beneath the hospital but has not provided much evidence. Hamas denies the allegations.

Strikes hit within 50 meters (yards) of Al Quds Hospital after it received two calls from Israeli authorities on Sunday ordering it to evacuate, the Palestinian Red Crescent rescue service said. Some windows were blown out, and rooms were covered in debris. It said 14,000 people are sheltering there.

Israel says it targets Hamas fighters and infrastructure and that the militants operate among civilians, putting them in danger.

Beyond the fighting, conditions for civilians in Gaza are continually deteriorating as food, water, medicine and fuel run dangerously low amid a weeklong Israeli siege.

On Sunday, the largest convoy of humanitarian aid yet - 33 trucks - entered the territory from Egypt. Relief workers say the amount is still far less than what is needed for the population of 2.3 million people. Another plane laden with Kuwaiti aid arrived at Egypt’s Al-Arish airport on Monday, carrying some 40 tonnes of humanitarian assistance for Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

The aid runs the gamut from essential healthcare supplies to a pair of fully-equipped ambulances, Kuwait Red Crescent Society deputy chief Dr. Anwar Al-Hasawi told KUNA.

The perpetual flow of Kuwaiti aid to the Gaza Strip comes as per the directives of Kuwait’s political leadership, he underlined, thanking state bodies including the foreign and defense ministries for their contributions towards the initiative.

The siege has pushed Gaza’s infrastructure nearly to collapse. With no central power for weeks and little fuel, hospitals are struggling to keep emergency generators running to operate incubators and other life-saving equipment. The U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, known as UNRWA, has been trying to keep water pumps and bakeries running. Last week, U.N. officials said hunger was growing.

On Saturday, crowds of people broke into four U.N. facilities and took food supplies in what the U.N called a sign that civil order was starting to break down amid increasing desperation.

Israel also opened two water lines in southern Gaza within the past week, according to the Israeli military body responsible for Palestinian civilian affairs. The Associated Press could not independently verify that either line was functioning. Communications were restored to most of Gaza on Sunday more than a day without phone and internet services.

Meanwhile, domestic pressure has increased on Israel’s government to secure the release of 239 hostages seized by Hamas fighters during the Oct. 7 attack. Desperate family members of the Israeli captives met with Netanyahu on Saturday and expressed support for an exchange.

The fighting has raised concerns that the violence could spread across the region. Israel and the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah have engaged in daily skirmishes along Israel’s northern border.

In the West Bank, Israel said its warplanes carried out airstrikes Monday against militants clashing with its forces in the Jenin refugee camp, the scene of repeated Israeli raids. Hamas said four of its fighters were killed there. As of Sunday, Israeli forces and settlers have killed 115 Palestinians, including 33 children, in the West Bank, half of them during search-and-arrest operations, the U.N. said.

The Israeli military said early Monday that its aircraft hit military infrastructure in Syria after rockets from there fell in open Israeli territory. Syrian opposition groups said strikes destroyed three trucks entering eastern Syria from Iraq, and soon after Iranian-backed militias fired rockets at U.S. positions in Syria.

Roughly 250,000 Israelis have been evacuated from their homes because of violence along the border with Gaza and the northern border with Lebanon, according to the Israeli military.

# November

## Room Promotion

Weekdays (Saturday - Wednesday)	
Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.
NOW	NOW
BHD 57.173/-net	BHD 128.000/-net
Weekends (Thursday & Friday)	
Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.
NOW	NOW
BHD 61.000/-net	BHD 136.198/-net

Promo period from 1<sup>st</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023      Terms & conditions apply\*



Additional benefits, rewards aim to enhance lifestyles of customers

stc welcomes new strategic partners to its ‘Qitaf’ program

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: Kuwait Telecommunications Company – stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, announced that it will be adding several new strategic partners for its ‘qitaf’ rewards program. The program aims to reward stc customers for their loyalty and support with amazing benefits that include merchant discounts, air miles, stc services, and more.

stc held a signing ceremony to commemorate the addition of the new strategic partners who included Talabat, Careem, Grand Cinemas, COFE App, Vinco, The Museum, House of X, and Venue 56. The signing ceremony was held at stc Head Office in the presence of Mr. Abdulaziz Al Duwaish - Marketing General Manager at stc, who represented the company in this event along with the team who handled the agreements with the new strategic partners, along with representatives from each partner’s executive team.

The celebratory event marked the official commencement of these partnerships, highlighting the mutual commitment to enhancing the offerings of the ‘qitaf’ rewards program for stc’s loyal customers.

The ‘qitaf’ rewards program enables stc customers to collect redeemable points by simply paying their postpaid bills or consuming the balance on their prepaid cards, where customers will receive 1 point for every IKD spent. The new onboarded partners will not only diversify the options available to members but also underscore stc’s commitment to continuously evolving and enriching the program. stc customers enrolled in the loyalty program can soon redeem their points for a selection of rewards from the program’s partners, including exclusive discounts, special offers, and unique experiences tailored to their preferences.

Commenting on the loyalty program, engineer Amer Atoui, Chief Consumer Officer at stc, said, “We introduced the ‘qitaf’ rewards program several years back as part of our customer-centric approach to rewarding our loyal customers for choosing stc as their preferred operator. This also strongly follows our ongoing objective of consistently focusing on methods to enhance our customers’ experience by providing exclusive offers and services that suit their lifestyle needs. Having said that, we are proud to welcome our new partners to the ‘qitaf’ rewards program

and are confident in their capabilities of providing our customers with unique and exclusive benefits that will further elevate their experience with stc. Our commitment to excellence and innovation remains unwavering, and we look forward to the continued success and growth of the ‘qitaf’ rewards program in the years to come.

He added, “The addition of these esteemed partners is a reflection of our dedication to staying ahead of the curve and anticipating the needs and desires of our customers. As we continue to expand and diversify the ‘qitaf’ program, it is essential for us to collaborate with brands that resonate with our customers and align with our values. As we move forward, customers can expect even more exciting collaborations and benefits as we relentlessly pursue our mission to make ‘qitaf’ a truly rewarding loyalty program that adds value to the lifestyle choices of our valued customers.”

To join the rewards program, customers can simply send a text message with the number 77 to ‘999’, download the my stc KW mobile application, visit stc’s website (www.stc.com.kw), contact the customer service hotline or visit one of stc’s branches located all around Kuwait.



Abdulaziz Al-Duwaish with Qitaf’s new strategic partners.

‘Vaccination against HPV free for citizens, KD 56 for expats’

MoH distributes 1st batch to all health centers

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: Informed health sources revealed the launch of the national campaign for vaccination against Human papillomavirus (HPV) in preventive health centers on Monday.

In an exclusive press statement, they affirmed that the Ministry of Health provides the vaccination free of charge to citizens and at about KD 56 per dose to expatriates.

The sources indicated that the Ministry of Health distributed the first batch of the vaccine to all preventive health centers in the country, amounting to 900 doses for each center, which will be followed by additional doses distributed to vaccination centers, hospitals and other relevant agencies.

They stressed the importance of vaccination against HPV to prevent cervical cancers, skin tags, tumors of the throat and mouth, and other cancerous tumors, indicating that this virus causes about 70 percent of cancers of the reproductive system and mouth.

The sources explained that the Ministry of Health approved the vaccine some time ago, and during the past few hours, it distributed the first batches of the vaccine to the centers, some of which have already begun the vaccination. However,

PM meets finance minister, KDIPA board

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30, KUNA: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace, Monday, Minister of Finance and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Fahad Al-Jarallah, KDIPA’s Deputy Chairman

other centers had many inquiries about the categories excluded from vaccination fees, such as wives and children of citizens, Bedouns, health workers, and others. This prompted public health officials to hold an expanded meeting yesterday in the presence of heads of preventive healthcare units to issue a detailed circular about the categories excluded from vaccination fees.

The sources went on to explain that the HPV vaccination ranges from two to three doses, and targets age groups from 9 to 45 years. Groups of ages from 9 to 14 years receive two doses, with the exception of immunodeficiency patients who receive three doses, similar to the age group from 15 to 45 years.

It is worth noting that Human Papillomavirus is a common virus that can affect different parts of the body. There are more than 100 types of HPV, including the strains of HPV that cause warts on the hands, feet, and face, as well as the rectum and anus. Human papillomavirus affects the genital area, and occurs as a result of a sexually transmitted infection. The infection is transmitted by touching

the skin. However, most strains of the virus are harmless, especially the type that causes genital warts.

There are some more dangerous strains of HPV, which may increase the risk of cancer, especially cervical cancer, and early detection helps treat the condition better.

In most cases, HPV does not cause signs and symptoms, but some symptoms can be observed, most notably the appearance of warts in the affected area. They are swollen lumps on top of the skin, and can appear a few weeks, months, or years after the infection occurs. These warts can be caused by a virus infection, such as the various forms of the human papilloma virus, but they do not cause harm.

In more serious cases, symptoms of HPV may not be noticed, but they may begin to appear as the cancer develops.

Cervical cancer is the most common type of cancer caused by the human papilloma virus, but there are some other types of cancer that can result from it, but they are rare, such as anal cancer, vulvar cancer, vaginal cancer, penile cancer, and laryngeal cancer.

Vazquez creates nation-wide pioneering initiative

‘50 Women in Cybersecurity in Kuwait’ marks its grand closing ceremony with a hackathon

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: This first-of-its-kind nationwide skilling initiative in Kuwait was created by Mercedes Vazquez as an award-winning business & technology executive, known for her public actions in community development, economic development and female participation as a baseline for active economic participation, who has been recognized in the United Arab Emirates and in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, organized by ESK Holding backed by the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait, U.S. Department of State in alignment with Kuwait’s National Center for Cybersecurity, with the sponsorship of the largest entities in Kuwait’s National Development: National Bank of Kuwait, Zain & Knet.

The “50 Women in Cybersecurity in Kuwait” pioneering initiative marked its closing ceremony with a hackathon that took place at the American University of Kuwait with the posture of enabling cyber resilience, innovation and holistic thinking to solve some of the world’s most pressing challenges in cybersecurity, where the 50 selected participants out of over 200 applicants co-innovated and delivered impact together, based on the cybersecurity challenges provided by National Bank of Kuwait, Zain & ESK Holding.

On October 28, 2023 the grand closing ceremony took place with an innovative cyber resilience competition, a participant’s pitch to hackathon judges, an awards ceremony and a certificate delivery ceremony in the presence of the U.S. Embassy officials, Kuwait’s National Center for Cybersecurity and prominent figures of the Kuwaiti society in the fields of innovation and technology.

The U.S. Embassy in Kuwait commends the dedication and initiative of the initiative’s creator, the participants, presenters and staff of the 50 Women in Cybersecurity program. Your contributions will not only strengthen Kuwait’s cybersecurity, but also help pave the way for increased leadership by women in Government Ministries and Private sector entities.

Mercedes Vazquez, creator of the 50 Women in Cybersecurity in Kuwait mentioned during the grand closing ceremony: “We aim to remove the stigma linked to cybersecurity careers, bridging and accelerating the closure of the gender gap for a secure, thriving, digitized and prosperous future for all. I am a firm believer of the transformational role of education to generate generational prosperity. It was inspiring to see the talent and innovation of the 50 selected participants who worked relentlessly to enable cyber resilience after being provided world-class education by cybersecurity experts who came to Kuwait from the United States and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for this pioneering initiative. In an increasingly interconnected world to address the role of women in a field that is ever-growing and to boost the economic inclusion as a baseline for active economic participation, addressing the role of women to bridge a digital divide for a resilient and thriving digitized knowledge-based economy. According to public statistics released in 2023, women held 25% of roles in cybersecurity globally and only 1% of them were in cy-



Top and above: some photos from the event.

bersecurity leadership roles.”

“It’s inspiring to observe the prominence of women in this field highlighted over the past day,” Mohammed Al Kharafi, COO – Head of Group Operations and Information Technology at National Bank of Kuwait said, “As industries evolve and new threats are introduced, it is imperative that we harness the collective intelligence and diversity of talents. The women here have set an impressive standard, and their achievements serve as an aspiration for professionals everywhere.”

**Empower**

“It is crucial to empower women in cybersecurity as inclusivity breeds strength and resilience. By encouraging diversity and bringing women into the fold, we tap into a vast pool of talent and perspectives, allowing us to better tackle the dynamic and complex challenges we face in the digital world. To build a truly inclusive environment, we must address the barriers that women often encounter when pursuing a career in cybersecurity. We must actively promote positive role models, showcase the achievements of women in cybersecurity, and highlight the exciting career opportunities available. Equal opportunities must be at the forefront of our efforts. Companies and organizations should encourage equitable hiring practices, ensuring that the selection process is based solely on skills, knowledge, and potential. By eliminating biases and promoting inclusivity, we empower women to pursue and thrive in cybersecurity careers. In conclusion, empowering women in cybersecurity is not merely a social or ethical duty, but a strategic imperative. By fostering inclusivity, breaking down barriers, and providing equal opportunities, we unlock the full potential of talented individuals, ultimately strengthening our security posture in an increasingly digital world. Together, let us create a future where women are equally represented, and empowered in the field of cybersecurity.

“I am grateful to be chosen to be part of the 50 Women in Cybersecurity initiative, I learnt critical thinking, tremendous innovation about cybersecurity and cyber networks that will help me in the advancement of my career and in my personal life as well. Based on scenarios we had to quickly overcome tremendous cybersecurity challenges together. A special thanks to Mercedes Vazquez, the U.S. Embassy and all the sponsoring companies, because of them I am now ready to be part of a cyber resilient thriving future,” Hajer Almuhanna, reporter at the Ministry of Information of the State of Kuwait.

“Participating in “50 women in cybersecurity in Kuwait” initiative created by Mercedes Vazquez GM of ESK Holding has not only aligned with my values but has also enriched my knowledge in numerous ways. By fostering a more inclusive and diverse cybersecurity workforce including women in technology which is the future, contributing to resilience in the face of emerging digital threats. I am honored to have been selected as one of the 50 participants under the sponsorship of the U.S. Embassy, promoting diversity and inclusion. Skills and knowledge gained from this initiative are incomparable to any other past courses and initiatives. I hope that my participation journey inspires other ladies to be involved in cybersecurity and to do the same. Together, we can create a stronger, more secure digital future with new initiatives created by powerful supportive women leaders like Mercedes Vazquez,” Fatimah Nabil, Senior Auditor at State Audit Bureau.

In a wider context, the “50 Women in Cybersecurity in Kuwait” nation-wide skilling initiative is also addressing Kuwait’s Vision 2035 through the pillars of human capital, tech-enabled GDP growth & world-class education.

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# World News Roundup

## Europe

**Ukrainians run to honor war victims:** Around 2,000 Ukrainians ran a one-kilometer race on Sunday in Kyiv, wearing bibs displaying the name of a person instead of a number.

Each runner chose one person to whom they dedicated their run. Spouses, children, friends, siblings, neighbors, and colleagues ran for someone they knew who either was killed, taken captive or injured during Russia's ongoing war in Ukraine under the government of **Volodymyr Zelenskyy**.

The crowd cheered the runners, and many in the audience wept while waiting for participants at the finish line. Amid the lively backdrop of Ukrainian songs, joy and sorrow intermingled in the air as life carried on despite the war.

The organizers of the run called it the "World's Longest Marathon" - "because no race has lasted as long as Ukraine has been fighting for its freedom."

Around 13,000 people across the world registered for the event. Those competing remotely could run any distance they wanted and were encouraged to post about it on social media.

The race was hosted by Nova Post, Ukraine's most prominent private delivery company, with the dual purpose of honoring the defenders and raising funds to bolster Ukraine's air defense system.

"We want to thank and support our defenders, doctors, rescuers, sappers, and volunteers - all the strong and resilient marathoners who do not stop even for a moment for the sake of each of us," said the project description. (AP)



Zelenskyy

**Russians remember Stalin's victims:** Russians commemorated the victims of Soviet state terror on Sunday, while the Russian government continues its crackdown on dissent in the country.

The "Returning of the Names" event was organized by the Nobel Peace Prize-winning human rights group Memorial.

The commemoration has traditionally been held in Moscow on Oct 29 - the eve of Russia's Remembrance Day for the Victims of Political Repression - at the Solovetsky Stone memorial to victims of Soviet-era repression, and centers on the reading out of names of individuals killed during Joseph Stalin's Great Terror of the late 1930s.

Since 2020, Moscow authorities have refused to grant a permit for the demonstration. This is allegedly owing to the "epidemiological situation" and a ban on holding public events, though supporters of Memorial believe the refusal is politically motivated.

Memorial itself was ordered to close by the Moscow authorities in November 2021. Although it was shut down as a legal entity in Russia, the group still operates in other countries and has continued some of its human rights activities in Russia.

Instead of a demonstration, on Sunday Muscovites and several Western ambassadors laid flowers at the Solovetsky Stone. The subdued event took place under the watchful eyes of police. (AP)

**Russia shot down 36 Ukrainian drones:** Russian air defense shot down over 30 Ukrainian drones over the Black Sea and the Crimean peninsula overnight Saturday, Russia's Defense Ministry said Sunday.

"The air defense systems in place destroyed 36 Ukrainian unmanned aerial vehicles over the Black Sea and the northwestern part of the Crimean peninsula," the ministry wrote on Telegram.

Local authorities in the southern Krasnodar region bordering the Black Sea said that a fire broke out at an oil refinery in the early hours of Sunday, but did not specify the cause. "The reasons for the incident are being established," a statement from local authorities said, amid claims in local media outlets that the fire had been caused by a drone strike or debris from a downed drone.

Drone strikes and shelling on the Russian border regions and Moscow-annexed Crimea are a regular occurrence. Ukrainian officials never acknowledge responsibility for attacks on Russian territory or the Crimean peninsula. In Ukraine, the country's air force said Sunday it had shot down five Iranian-made Shahed exploding drones launched by Russia overnight.

Close to the front line in the country's east, where Ukrainian and Russian forces are locked in a grinding battle for control, four police officers were wounded when a shell fired by Russian troops exploded by their police car in the city of Siversk, located in the partly occupied Donetsk province. (AP)

**Macron vows to enshrine women's rights:** French President Emmanuel Macron promised on Sunday to enshrine a woman's right to an abortion in the French Constitution by next year.

The president said on X, formerly Twitter, that a bill making this possible would be presented to his Cabinet by the end of this year so that "in 2024, the freedom of women to have an abortion will be irreversible."

Abortion in France was decriminalized under a 1975 law, but there is nothing in the constitution that would guarantee abortion rights.

It was the rollback of abortion rights in the United States after the US Supreme Court overturned a 50-year-old ruling last year and stripped women's constitutional protections for abortion that propelled France on a path toward unconditionally guaranteeing such rights.

Macron, honoring feminist Gisele Halimi in March, said he wanted to change the constitution in order "to enshrine the freedom of women to have an abortion, to solemnly ensure that nothing can stop or undo what will be irreversible." (AP)

**Lawmaker arrested:** A lawmaker with the far-right Alternative for Germany party who was recently elected to the state legislature in Bavaria was arrested on Monday, prosecutors said. Prosecutors in the city of Wuerzburg said that Daniel Halemba was arrested in the Stuttgart area, in a state that borders Bavaria, German news agency dpa reported. They said he is under investigation on suspicion of incitement and using symbols of unconstitutional organizations.

Halemba, 22, is a member of a fraternity, "Buerschenschaft Teutonia Prag zu Wuerzburg," that was raided in September on suspicion that there might be objects with Nazi symbols and racist documents on its premises.

Halemba's lawyer, Dubravko Mandic, has rejected the allegations, saying in a weekend statement that there's nothing to the accusations against the group's members. Four other members of the group are also under investigation.

Alternative for Germany, or AfD, saw significant gains in a pair of state elections on Oct 8 in Bavaria and neighboring Hesse. The anti-migration party finished third in Bavaria, taking 14.6% of the vote. Recent national polls have put its support at around 20%. (AP)

**Rescuers search for missing migrants:** Sea searches resumed on Sunday in the sea and along the coasts of southwestern Sicily, where a fishing boat carrying dozens of migrants became grounded, killing five people and leaving about 20 missing, rescuers said.

The bodies of five men were recovered on Saturday morning on the beach of Marinella di Selinunte, near Trapani, while 35 other men survived the shipwreck and were identified after reaching small towns nearby, the Coast Guard said.

"According to survivors' accounts the boat departed from Tunisia on Thursday night with about 60 people onboard," said Captain Daniele Governale, of the Palermo Coast Guard team that is coordinating search and rescue activities.

"That would leave about 20 people missing. But considering that wide searches at sea, also conducted by divers, for now gave no results, we have good hopes that some of them have survived and landed," Governale added. (AP)



A video screen is set up ahead of a vigil for the victims of Wednesday's mass shootings on Oct 29, outside the Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul in Lewiston, Maine. Inset: People gather at a vigil for the victims of mass shootings. (AP)

## More than 1,000 pay tribute to Maine's mass shooting victims

More than 1,000 people packed a cavernous church Sunday night, and hundreds more spilled outside, to hug, sing, weep and seek comfort in the wake of Maine's most deadly mass shooting.

The crowd gathered for the vigil at the Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul in Lewiston, where days earlier a gunman fatally shot 18 people.

Some people put their heads in their hands and

wept when the names were read aloud. At one point, members of the crowd raised their hands to say "I love you" in American Sign Language in honor of the four members of Maine's deaf community killed in the shooting. "We will not be defined by the tragedies that happened," said the Rev Todd Little from the First United Pentecostal Church. "Fear, anxiety and trepidation will not dictate our present or our future."

The vigil came two days after the body of suspected gunman Robert Card was found. The 40-year-old's body was discovered in a trailer at a recycling center in Lisbon Falls. Card died of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound though it was unclear when, authorities said. Card was also suspected of injuring 13 people in the shooting rampage Wednesday night in Lewiston. (AP)

## Politics

### Can House speaker unite GOP where others failed?

## Johnson holds favor with conservatives

WASHINGTON, Oct 30, (AP) - New US House Speaker Mike Johnson inherits many of the same problems that bedeviled Republican leaders with far more experience. At least for now, however, he holds favor with the ultra-conservative wing of his party that toppled previous House speakers. But can he unite House Republicans where others failed?

The Louisiana Republican emerged last week from the lower ranks of the House GOP leadership to ascend to speaker after lawmakers, driven by a faction of hard-liners, ousted Rep. Kevin McCarthy from the job and then rejected two more top-ranked Republicans in leadership as well as conservative favorite Rep Jim Jordan.

To his supporters, Johnson represented a turn to "decentralizing the power" from the speaker's office, with a goal of cutting government spending and engaging forcefully on socially conservative priorities.

### Threat

"The greatest threat to our national security is our nation's debt," Johnson said in a speech after taking the gavel.

While not a member of the hard-charging House Freedom Caucus, Johnson is seen by Republicans as a dyed-in-the-wool conservative unlike previous speakers such as McCarthy, R-Calif., or former Rep. John Boehner, R-Ohio.

During his four terms in the House, he has led an ardently conservative caucus called the Republican Study Committee. He also spearheaded a legal effort, championed by then-President Donald Trump, that sought to overturn the

2020 election results in key states that the Republican incumbent lost to Democrat Joe Biden.

Johnson's role in the Trump-backed lawsuit quickly became a rallying point for Republicans, who vigorously booed a reporter's question about that election on the night that the congressman became nominee for speaker. On the House floor, many cheered when Democrats said Johnson was an architect of the objections to the 2020 results.

Trump, who is running for a second

White House term, enthusiastically backed Johnson and said he will be "a fantastic speaker." Trump's allies saw Johnson's rise as a chance to give renewed rigor to their efforts to impeach Biden.

"I think Mike Johnson will approach this like a lawyer and like a tactician, not like a California lottery winner," said Rep. Matt Gaetz, taking a swipe at how McCarthy once won \$5,000 from a lotto ticket. Gaetz, R-Fla., was the leader of the band of Republicans who ousted McCarthy.

While Biden will rely on a write-

in stable condition and one was in critical condition. Police said the shooting stemmed from a dispute between two groups. They did not reveal whether they had arrested anyone or identified any suspects.

The shooting happened around 5 a.m.



Ukrainians participate in a one-kilometer race in Kyiv, Ukraine on Oct 29. Around two thousand Ukrainians registered for the event, called 'The World's Longest Marathon', with the dual purpose of honoring the country's military and raising funds to bolster Ukraine's air defense system. (AP)



After signing a declaration of candidacy to run for president, Dean Phillips walked out of the New Hampshire Statehouse to address the crowd, on Oct 27, on Concord, Minn. (AP)



Gwynne



Bercaw

## America

**SC upholds woman's jail term:** The Ohio Supreme Court has upheld a 65-year prison term imposed on a central Ohio woman who pleaded guilty to stealing jewelry and other valuables from several dozen elderly residents at nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

Former nurse's aide **Susan Gwynne** pleaded guilty in 2016 to 46 of 101 charges, including burglary, theft and receiving stolen property. As part of a plea deal, she acknowledged stealing jewelry, watches and other items from residents of senior living facilities.

Gwynne told the judge she began stealing items from patients' rooms to support her cocaine habit while working as a nurse at an assisted living facility in 2004. She said she was later fired but kept going to facilities in Delaware County and Franklin County in her uniform and stealing from rooms. Investigators found more than 3,000 items at her home.

The high court's decision Wednesday follows a tangled history of appeals. (AP)

**Arrest made in fatal shooting:** A man has been arrested in Tampa, Florida, in a mass shooting that erupted during Halloween festivities early Sunday. Two people were killed and 18 injured, police said.

At least two shooters opened fire just before 3 a.m. in the Ybor City area, Tampa Police Chief **Lee Bercaw** said during a news conference at the scene. Later Sunday he said detectives arrested Tyrell Stephen Phillips, 22, in connection with the shooting. He was charged with second-degree murder with a firearm.

"My heart goes out to the families," Bercaw said in a news briefing posted online. He called the gun violence "extremely tragic" and said police would not tolerate it.

Earlier, authorities said one suspect was in custody and at least one other was being sought, but Bercaw did not immediately say Sunday afternoon whether police were seeking anyone else after Phillips' arrest. (AP)



Nigeria

‘Deadliest tragedies’

Explosion off Nigeria highlights aging ships

OKITIPUPA, Nigeria, Oct 30, (AP): It was the dead of night when the ship caught fire, **Patrick Aganyebi** remembers, but the flames made it seem as bright as day.

The explosion that night woke him and knocked him to the floor. He tucked his phone and his ID card in his pockets, strapped on a life jacket and made his way to the upper deck. As the flames barreled toward him, he prepared to jump nearly 100 feet (30 meters) into the sea.

Five workers were killed and two others presumed dead in the blast on the *Trinity Spirit*, a rusting converted oil tanker anchored 15 miles (24 km) off the coast of Nigeria that pulled crude oil from the ocean floor. Aganyebi said, that he and two fellow crewmen escaped, rescued by a pair of fishermen as the burning vessel sank along with 40,000 barrels of oil.

The *Trinity Spirit*’s explosion in February of last year stands among the deadliest tragedies on an oil ship or platform in recent years. The Associated Press’ review of court documents, ship databases, and interviews with crew members reveals that the 46-year-old ship was in a state of near-total disrepair, and the systems meant to ensure its safe and lawful operation - annual inspections, a flag registry, insurance - had gradually fallen away.

The *Trinity Spirit* fits a pattern of old tankers put to work storing and extracting oil even while on the brink of mechanical breakdowns. At least eight have been shut down after a fire, a major safety hazard, or the death of a worker in the last decade, according to an AP review. More than 30 are older than the *Trinity Spirit* and still storing oil around the world.

Jan-Erik Vinnem, who has spent his career studying the risks of offshore oil production, said he’s sometimes shocked when he sees pictures of oil ships in Africa.

“I call them ‘floating bombs,’” he said.

The *Trinity Spirit* was part of a class of vessels that extracts oil offshore and stores it at sea. They are known as floating production storage and offloading units - FPSOs - or as FSOs, floating storage and offloading units, when used only for storage. Since the 1970s, they’ve become increasingly popular for developing oil in deep waters and in places where no pipelines exist. According to the environmental group SkyTruth, there are some 240 in operation today.

Stay

FPSOs are unlike most ships for one key reason: They stay in place. Once attached to the ocean floor, they can linger at the same oil field for years or even decades. They may be surveyed by in-country regulators or hired inspectors, but they operate outside the normal flow of shipping traffic and the added safety and legal inspections that take place in port.

“If a vessel is sitting in a country’s domestic waters and is not going around trading ... then you’re not going to have that same level of oversight,” said Meghan Mathieson, strategy director at the Canadian-based Clear Seas Centre for Responsible Marine Shipping.

More than half the current fleet of FPSOs are recycled oil tankers, according to Oslo-based Rystad Energy, which keeps data on the ships. Senior analyst Edvard Christoffersen said that without a major repair, most oil ships have hulls built to last about 25 years. But some FPSOs are used far longer, sometimes to dangerous effect.

In the same month that the *Trinity Spirit* caught fire, inspectors found problems with an aging FPSO moored off the coast of Malaysia. The *Bunga Kertas* was built as an oil tanker in the 1980s, and press coverage of its conversion to an FPSO in 2004 said the vessel had an intended service life of 10 more years.

But it was 18 years later when a safety issue on the *Bunga Kertas* led to a pause in operations. The ship’s hull had “integrity issues,” according to stakeholder Jadestone Energy. Four months later a diver was killed while repairing the damage. Petronas, the operator at the time, did not respond to a request for comment.

Until this fall, another aging ship floating off the coast of Yemen seemed dangerously close to spilling a massive amount of oil. The *FSO Safer* was built in the same year as the *Trinity Spirit*, and became a floating hazard over years of neglect amid the country’s civil war. Seawater had leaked into the ship’s engine room by 2020.

Break up

“It could break up at any time - or explode,” the United Nations said in a statement this spring.

The ship held more than a million barrels of oil - risking a spill that could have decimated fisheries in the Red Sea, threatened desalination plants and washed oil on the shores of countries around the Horn of Africa, according to the UN. After years of alarm and negotiations, the oil was transferred onto another tanker this August, but the rusting *Safer* remains off Yemen’s coast, awaiting funds to be scrapped.

Age isn’t the only measure of a ship’s health: Climate, storms and wave patterns can add stress to ship components or increase the pace of corrosion, just as careful maintenance can extend a ship’s life.

But the fleet’s growing age is well known in the industry. The average hull age of FPSOs has increased from 22 to nearly 28 years since 2010, according to Rystad Energy. The American Bureau of Shipping - one of several companies known as classification societies that certify vessels’ safety - launched a working group in 2021 to address the challenges of older FPSOs, noting that 55 ships were approaching the end of their intended lives.

“A lot of these things are foreseeable,” said Ian Rably, a maritime security expert who helped sound the alarm about the *Safer*.

“If they are not well maintained and not watched carefully,” Rably said, “they can sink, they can spill, and they can, as the *Trinity Spirit* showed, blow up.”

There has been little to no public explanation of what led to the *Trinity Spirit*’s explosion, though multiple Nigerian agencies had responsibility for overseeing the ship. The *Trinity Spirit* had been on the same oil field for more than two decades. According to Aganyebi, after the ship arrived in Nigeria, it was never brought to shore for major upgrades or repairs.

Warning signs began years before it caught fire. In 2015, the American Bureau of Shipping canceled its classification and ceased inspections of the ship. There’s no record the *Trinity Spirit* had insurance after that point, according to Lloyd’s List Intelligence. In the next several years, the ship lost its privilege to fly the flag of Liberia, becoming a stateless vessel.



Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu speaks at the 10th Beijing Xiangshan Forum in Beijing, on Oct 30. Shoigu said Monday the United States is fueling geopolitical tensions to uphold its ‘hegemony’ and warned of the risk of confrontation between major countries. (AP)

Asia

4 former Hong Kong student leaders jailed

Russia envoy accuses US of fueling tensions

BEIJING, Oct 30, (AP): Russia’s defense minister accused the United States on Monday of fueling geopolitical tensions to uphold its “global dominance by any means” and warned of the risk of confrontation between nuclear-armed countries.

Speaking at a defense forum in Beijing, Sergei Shoigu also accused NATO of trying to expand its footprint in the Asia-Pacific under the pretense of seeking dialogue and collaboration with regional countries.

“Washington for years has deliberately undermined and destroyed the foundations of international security and strategic stability, including the system of arms control agreements,” Shoigu said at the Xiangshan Forum, China’s biggest annual event centered on military diplomacy.

He added that the US and its Western allies are threatening Russia through NATO’s expansion “to the east.” Shoigu also reiterated Moscow’s stance that Russia was open to negotiations about the war in Ukraine under what he described as the right conditions.

Steady

“The Western line of steady escalation of the conflict with Russia carries the threat of a direct military clash between nuclear powers, which is fraught with catastrophic consequences,” he said.

Shoigu’s speech followed that of Zhang Youxia, China’s second-ranking military official and vice chairman of the Central Military Commission, who opened the three-day event in the absence of former defense minister Gen Li Shangfu, who would have normally hosted the event.

Li was removed from his position last week after a two-month absence from public view. The government has not provided any reason for his removal.

The Beijing event, attended by military representatives from dozens of countries, is an occasion for China to project regional leadership and boost military cooperation. The U.S. is represented by a delegation led by Xanthi Carras, the Defense Department’s leading official on China.

Zhang said China was “willing to develop military ties with the U.S. on the basis of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation.”

China suspended military communication with the U.S. in August 2022 to show its displeasure over a visit by former U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi

to self-ruled Taiwan, which Beijing considers part of its territory.

Without directly naming the US, Zhang criticized “certain countries” that “keep stirring up troubles around the world.”

China claims it’s neutral in Russia’s war on Ukraine but maintains close ties with Russia, with frequent state visits and joint military drills between the two nations. It has similarly sought to project a mediator role in the Israel-Hamas war, though experts say Beijing’s influence in the conflict is limited.

Zhang reiterated threats by the Chinese government regarding any efforts toward Taiwan’s independence, saying that “no matter who tries to split Taiwan from China in any form, China and the Chinese military will never allow that to happen.”

Also:

**HONG KONG:** A Hong Kong court dismissed a gun charge Monday against a Washington state senator who had been arrested after he carried a gun into the Chinese territory in what he called an “honest mistake.”

Republican **Jeff Wilson** self-declared that he was carrying the gun at the airport Oct. 21, has a clear criminal record in Hong Kong and made his admission in an open manner, the prosecution said at the court hearing.

Principal Magistrate **Don So** approved the arrangement for a bind-over order rather than a plea to possessing an unlicensed firearm, saying he was inclined to believe Wilson was innocent.

The bind-over order requires Wilson to keep the peace and avoid committing further firearms offenses for two years. The magistrate said Wilson would be fined 2,000 Hong Kong dollars (\$255) for breaching the order if he doesn’t comply.

With the case dispensed without a conviction, Wilson is free to leave the territory. A statement posted earlier on the Longview lawmaker’s website had said that while the gun was not registered in Hong Kong, it is registered in Washington.

Hong Kong has stricter gun laws than the **United States**. Those convicted of carrying a firearm without a license can be fined up to 100,000 Hong Kong dollars (\$12,800) and sentenced to up to 14 years in prison.

According to his website, Wilson was traveling with his wife for a five-week vacation in Southeast Asia. He discovered the weapon during the flight between **San Francisco** and Hong

Kong, it said.

The court heard that Wilson had told a customs inspector it was “a horrible accident” after his arrest. His luggage had passed through security in Portland before he transited in San Francisco, he said during an earlier interview with the inspector.

HONG KONG:

Four former student leaders from the University of Hong Kong were sentenced to two years in prison on Monday for inciting people to wound others through their praise of a man who stabbed a police officer before killing himself in 2021.

**Kinson Cheung, Charles Kwok, Chris Todorovski and Anthony Yung** are being held responsible for their roles in passing a motion in the students union council. The motion expressed “deep sadness” and appreciated the “sacrifice” of the man who took his own life.

The resolution came against the backdrop of widespread public anger against the police, who were condemned as being heavy-handed in quelling the 2019 pro-democracy protests.

Handing down the sentences, Judge **Adriana Noelle Tse Ching** said the words they used were likely to incite hatred against the police. The charge the four were facing was a serious offense and a lenient sentence would send “the wrong message” to society, she said.

**Leung Kin-fai** stabbed a police officer with a knife before turning the weapon on himself on July 1, 2021, the anniversary of the former British colony’s handover to Chinese rule in 1997. Leung was described by the city’s authorities as a “lone wolf” domestic terrorist who was politically radicalized.

The passing of the motion drew criticism from the university and Hong Kong’s security bureau, prompting Kwok and his peers to apologize and retract the resolution. Some student leaders also stepped down from their posts.

But their apology did not end the political storm, and police arrested the four in August 2021.

They were originally charged with advocating terrorism under a national security law imposed by Beijing following the 2019 protests. But that charge was dropped after they pleaded guilty to an alternative charge of incitement to wound with intent last month.

killed in security raids after the attack.

The Islamic State group had claimed responsibility for the attack, but the government of Prime Minister **Sheikh Hasina** rejected it, saying the domestic group was behind it. (AP)

Opposition leader arrested:

Authorities in Bangladesh arrested a key opposition figure from the Bangladesh Nationalist Party on Sunday and sent him to prison after hours of detention. The party had called for a nationwide strike after violent clashes with security forces a day earlier.

Media reports said at least three civilians died in the violence, which included an arson attack in the nation’s capital, Dhaka, on Sunday. Dozens of others were injured during the strike.

At least one police officer was killed and scores were injured Saturday when a massive rally by tens of thousands of opposition activists turned violent, police said. The opposition is demanding the resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the transfer of power to a non-partisan caretaker government to oversee general elections next year.

Almost nine hours after detention, police late Sunday arrested **Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir**, the secretary general of the Nationalist Party led by former prime minister Khaleda Zia, Hasina’s main rival, said Faruk Hossain, deputy commissioner of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police in charge of media. (AP)



This image from video provided by Bolaji John shows the burning *Trinity Spirit* anchored 15 miles off the coast of Nigeria, which caught fire on Feb 2, 2022. The ship had no insurance, no flag, and had fallen into a state of disrepair. Five workers were killed and two others left unaccounted for in the blast. (AP)



Alamghir



Sheikh Hasina

Subcontinent

**Train crash kills 13 in India:** A passenger train crashed into another in southern India on Sunday, killing 13 people and injuring 25, officials said.

The incoming train slammed into a stationary train in Andhra Pradesh state’s Vizianagaram district, causing a derailment of at least three rail cars, senior railway officer Saurab Prasad said.

Prasad said a preliminary investigation found human error was the cause.

Train crashes are common in India and are often blamed on human error or outdated signaling equipment.

In June, more than 280 people were killed in one of the country’s deadliest rail crashes in decades when two passenger trains rammed into each other in eastern India. (AP)

Suspect detained:

A former Jehovah’s Witness has been detained on suspicion of setting off an explosive device that killed three people and wounded 50 others at a denomination gathering in southern India, authorities said Monday.

Hundreds of Witnesses were at a local prayer session Sunday at the Zamra International Convention Center in the town of Kalamassery in Kerala state when the explosion took place. An improvised explosive device placed inside a tiffin box was believed responsible, the state’s top police officer, Sheik Darvesh Saheb, said.

The suspect was identified by police as Dominic Martin, a former member of the Jehovah’s Witnesses who posted a video on Facebook claiming responsibility for the blast before surrendering to the police. Martin, a local, said in the video he decided to carry out the blast because he feels the Jehovah’s Witness theology is wrong. (AP)

HC commutes death sentences of 7:

Bangladesh’s High Court on Monday commuted the death sentences of seven Islamic militants to life in prison for their role in a 2016 attack on a cafe in the capital, Dhaka, that killed 20 people, mostly foreigners.

A special anti-terrorism tribunal in 2019 sentenced the seven members of a banned militant group to death in the attack that triggered a major crackdown on extremists.

The group behind the attack on the Holy Artisan Cafe, the Jumatul Mujahedeen Bangladesh, wants to establish Sharia law in the secular Muslim-majority nation of more than 160 million.

He said that the High Court found that the men were guilty of hatching conspiracy,



Rescuers and others stand after two passenger trains collided in Vizianagaram district, Andhra Pradesh state, India on Oct 29. The crash happened when an incoming train slammed into a stationary train, leading to derailment of at least three rail cars. (AP)





Women recovering from cancer star in a basketball match to raise awareness of the disease.

Photos by Mervat Abduldayem

Kuwait breast cancer survivors do well at basketball game

Wonderful experiences, true heroism and unyielding will were shown by breast cancer survivors, who have already started to spread women's awareness of the importance of early detection of the disease.

At Kazma Sports Club hall, the CAN team of women recovering from breast cancer defeated Soroptimist 18-16, as part of the activities of the national campaign for cancer awareness, in cooperation with the Women's Voluntary Association for Community Development. (KUNA)

Cricket Team embarks on historic T20 World Cup journey

KCC Board President hosts special get together for Kuwait National Men's Team

TEAM KUWAIT

MOHAMED ASLAM CAPTAIN

SHIRAZ KHAN VICE CAPTAIN

USMANCANI IBRAHIM

YASIN ISHAK

RAVJIA SANGARJAN

MEET BHAVSAR

PARVINDAR KUMAR

SAYED MONIB

CLINTO VELODKARAN ANTO

DIJU SHEELI

MOHAMED SHAFEEQ

ILYAS AHMED

BILAL

MIRZA AHMED

NIMISH LATHEEF

Kuwait National Men's Cricket Team line-up

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: KCC Board President Haider Farman hosted a special get together to wish all the luck to the Kuwait National Men's Team led by Captain Aslam which is all set to depart to Kathmandu (Nepal) Cricket Association of Nepal-CAN on a dream journey of a potential spot in the ICC - International Cricket Council T20 World Cup scheduled to take place in the West Indies and the US in June 2024.

During the get together, the Kuwait National Men's team were rewarded a cash prize of 30,000 USD (1500\$ each) by the KCC Board President Haider Farman along with KCC Director General Sajid Ashraf and Kuwait National Team Manager Mahmoud Abdullah for being crowned champions earlier this month in the ICC Asia A T20 World Cup Qualifiers where they beat Maldives, Qatar (hosts) and Saudi Arabia comprehensively to qualify for the final round (Asia) which is hosted by Nepal (28th Oct-6th Nov).

KCC members & senior officials Robert Dsouza, Naveen Jayan, Saud Qamar, Syed Tanveer, ShehanShahika, Abdullah Meer and Tahir Khan also participated in the felicitation of the Kuwait National Men's Team.

KCC Board has arranged a practice match against Oman on the 28th of October in Kathmandu and will then take



KCC Board President Haider Farman with the Kuwait National Men's Cricket Team.

on Hong Kong in their first group match on the 30th of October, followed by UAE (31st Oct) and then Bahrain on the 2nd of November.

The other group consists of Oman, Malaysia, Nepal (hosts) and Singapore. The

top two teams from each group will play cross semifinals followed by finals.

The two finalists (winners and runners up) will QUALIFY for the historic ICC T20 World Cup 2024 in the US & the West Indies.

Wishing our boys best of luck with all the faith and belief as based on talent and ability along with all the preparation that's been going on for many months, they are more than capable of taking any opposition down.

TEAM KUWAIT

MOHAMED ASLAM CAPTAIN

SHIRAZ KHAN VICE CAPTAIN

USMANCANI IBRAHIM

YASIN ISHAK

RAVJIA SANGARJAN

MEET BHAVSAR

PARVINDAR KUMAR

SAYED MONIB

CLINTO VELODKARAN ANTO

DIJU SHEELI

MOHAMED SHAFEEQ

ILYAS AHMED

BILAL

MIRZA AHMED

NIMISH LATHEEF

Kuwait National Men's Cricket Team line-up

MATCH SCHEDULE

DATE	TIME	TU GROUND	MULPANI GROUND
30-OCT-23	9:00 AM	SINGAPORE VS NEPAL	BAHRAIN VS UAE
	1:30 PM	OMAN VS MALAYSIA	HONG KONG VS KUWAIT
31-OCT-23	9:00 AM	SINGAPORE VS OMAN	BAHRAIN VS HONG KONG
	1:30 PM	NEPAL VS MALAYSIA	UAE VS KUWAIT
2-NOV-23	9:00 AM	OMAN VS NEPAL	HONG KONG VS UAE
	1:30 PM	MALAYSIA VS SINGAPORE	BAHRAIN VS KUWAIT
3-NOV-23	11:00 AM	SF 1: 1ST A VS 2ND B	SF 2: 1ST B VS 2ND A
6 NOV. 23	11:00 AM	FINAL: WINNER SF 1 VS WINNER SF 2	

Match schedule

Kuwait KMCC holds Palestine Solidarity Conference

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: Kuwait Kerala Muslim Culture Center (KMCC) State Committee has organized Palestine Solidarity Conference at Abbasia United Indian School. Acting President Iqbal Maviladam presided over the ceremony. Mubeen Ahmed, the Secretary General of FIMA, inaugurated the function. Sharafuddin Kanneth, the General Secretary welcomed the audience and Treasurer Harris Valliyoth presented the Palestine Solidarity Resolution.



The resolution criticized the world's nations for not reacting to the genocide of the Palestinian people by the Zionist regime of Israel. Vice President MK Abdul Razak gave the keynote speech. The entire audience stood up with Palestinian solidarity placards and slogans to express their full support for the Palestinian people in response to Israel's murder.

Hamza Payyannoor (Metro Medical Care), Fas Mohammad Ali (Medex Medical Care), Krishnan Kadalundi (OICC), KCA Rafique (KKMA), Ilyas Moulavi (KIC), Muhammad Sharif PT (KIG), Sunash Shukur (KKIC) & Ahmed K Maniyur (ICF) addressed the solidarity meeting. Ex-KMCC office bearers AK Mahmood, Basheer Batha and Siddique Valiyakath also spoke at the function. In support of the Palestinian people, Wajid Kollam sang a poem. Organizing Secretary Siraj Eranhikkal cast vote of thanks for the solidarity meeting which was started with Qiraat by Jafar Tarol. The solidarity meeting was led by state office bearers MR Nasar, NK Khalid Haji, Shafi Kollam, secretaries Gafoor Wayanad, Fazil Kollam, Shahul Bepore and Ilyas Venniyur.



Photos during the solidarity conference.



Market Movements				30-10-2023								
	SAUDI	-	Tadawul	Change	Closing pts		JAPAN	-	Nikkei	Change	Closing pts	
	UAE	-	DFM	+53.02	10,535.87						-294.73	30,696.96
	EGYPT	-	EGX 30	+52.21	3,838.76							
	PAKISTAN	-	KSE 100	+348.93	23,435.65							
				+527.30	51,485.75							

# Business

## Inflation steady as population surpasses 2019 peak

# Kuwait non-oil activity moderate; oil prices stage rally

By National Bank of Kuwait

Non-oil economic activity has continued to moderate in recent months, according to various sector-level indicators. Growth in consumer spending and domestic credit has slowed following strong performances last year, while the stock market dropped in Q3 as investors worldwide worried about the impact of ‘higher for longer’ interest rates. On a more positive note, project awards continued to trend higher in Q3 – boding for stronger investment spending next year – and there are signs that real estate activity is stabilizing after previous falls. Meanwhile, higher oil prices will boost the fiscal position and provide more space for infrastructure investment. Oil prices were lifted in Q3 by tighter market fundamentals and, in October, by the return of the geopolitical risk premium as the world focused on the unfolding crisis in Gaza and potential regional escalation.

On the domestic political front, ahead of the start of the new parliamentary session at the end of October, the government submitted a plan of its legislative priorities. In accordance with the government’s 4-year economic framework outlined in July, the priorities include: development of the northern region; the corporate tax law; the residency law; amendments to tender laws; and the real estate financing and mortgage laws. Parliament, for its part, is expected to prioritize bills to reform the strategic alternative (i.e. public wages structure), pensions and real estate financing laws. The extent to which the two branches of the political system find common ground on these and other reforms will determine the degree of progress on key economic diversification and fiscal sustainability objectives.

### Oil surges in Q3 on OPEC+ supply cuts

Oil prices surged in Q3, boosted by OPEC+’s extensive production cuts and better-than-expected global oil consumption data. Kuwait Export Crude stood at \$98/bbl at the end of the quarter, up 26% from end June. Prices suffered a sharp 11% pullback in the first week of October on profit-taking and renewed global recession worries, before the conflict in Gaza pushed prices back up as the risk premium resurfaced. KEC stood at \$94/bbl at mid-month.

Global oil supplies are expected to remain tight in Q4 2023 while Saudi and Russia continue to drive OPEC+ cuts. For Kuwait, crude production has hovered at around 2.55 mb/d during May-August, largely in line with its reduced OPEC+ quota versus 2.68 mb/d pre-May. However, the lower target has been challenging for Kuwait, as the country looks to maximize use of the steadily ramping-up 650 kb/d Al-Zour refinery in order to supply low-sulphur diesel/gasoil and fuel oil to international markets and for which it needs additional crude. That has had to come by redirecting crude otherwise meant for export.

### Consumer spending growth normalizing

Consumer spending growth has continued to trend softer following its exceptional post-pandemic surge. Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) data showed growth in credit and debit card transactions easing to 7.8% y/y in Q2 2023, down from 13% in Q1. The slowdown takes place against a background of higher borrowing costs and an uncertain global macroeconomic backdrop. While there could be more moderation ahead, the consumer outlook for 2024 should be supported by expectations of steady (or even slightly falling) interest rates next year as well as expansionary government spending.

### Real estate sales soft in Q3 but outlook improving

Real estate sales stood at KD678 million in Q3 2023, down 16% y/y but slightly up on the quarter. Residential sector sales (KD355 mn) fell again, but at -18% y/y recorded the slowest decline since Q4 2022. Investment sector sales (apartments and apartment blocks) rose 6% q/q to KD212 million, while commercial sales, at KD111 million, fell 2% q/q. The Q3 data taken overall point to a more stable market following the declines seen in previous quarters. This is particularly so given what could have been usual seasonal weakness in sales through the summer period. Sales have previously been pressured by high property valuations (affecting residential demand), higher borrowing costs and by investors taking a ‘wait and see’ approach on near-term economic conditions.

Our calculations based on Ministry of Justice data show price increases in the residential sector remaining generally flat (+0.2% y/y) in Q3 2023, while prices in the investment segment continue to fall slightly (-3.1% y/y).

### Project awards activity on track for best year since 2017

Encouragingly, project awards continued to gather momentum in Q3, with the value of contracts awarded rising 6% q/q to KD683 million. This was the largest quarterly figure since Q3 2018.

Highlights

- Various sector-level indicators point to non-oil economic activity moderating in recent months, including slowing growth in consumer spending and bank credit. The local stock market has also been weak.
- Some of this reflects a normalization following a strong performance last year. But ‘higher for longer’ interest rates and other global uncertainties, including the conflict in Gaza, also weigh on the outlook.
- There have been some positive economic signals recently, with project awards hitting a multi-year high in Q3, the real estate market stabilizing after previous falls, and oil prices rising strongly.
- On the domestic political front, parliament will shortly resume with the government’s legislative priorities set to include northern zone development, corporate tax and real estate financing laws.

mentum in Q3, with the value of contracts awarded rising 6% q/q to KD683 million. This was the largest quarterly figure since Q3 2018.

Admittedly, 83% of this was related to just two transport sector projects. But with KD1.86 billion worth of contracts signed in Q1-Q3, 2023 is shaping up to be the best year since 2017. While the Al-Zour Petrochemicals project and government capex spending is uncertain – the budget called for a 15% cut in outlays – the outlook for awards remains positive, especially with oil prices (and thus fiscal spending) expected to remain elevated. The resumption of expatriate inflows in 2023 post-pandemic (see below) can also be interpreted as a sign of improving projects activity. MEED Projects expects KD3 billion in contract awards in the next two quarters, mostly concentrated in the power and water sectors.

### Inflation moderate, but stable

Consumer price inflation has been broadly steady in recent months, standing at 3.7% y/y in September, albeit up from 3.3% at the start of the year. Core inflation (i.e. excluding food and housing) has also edged up but is lower than the headline rate at 3.4%.

While year-on-year inflation has remained steady at

Table 1: Population (period-end)						
	Population (period-end, '000)			% y/y		
	Kuwaiti	Non-Kuwaiti	Total	Kuwaiti	Non-Kuwaiti	Total
Dec-19	1,432	3,344	4,776	2.1	3.9	3.3
Dec-20	1,460	3,211	4,671	2.0	-4.0	-2.2
Jun-21	1,473	3,154	4,628	1.8	-3.5	-1.8
Dec-21	1,489	2,897	4,386	2.0	-9.8	-6.1
Jun-22	1,502	2,962	4,464	2.0	-6.1	-3.5
Dec-22	1,518	3,219	4,737	1.9	11.1	8.0
Jun-23	1,531	3,293	4,824	1.9	11.1	8.0

around this level since March, price growth at the quarterly level eased in Q3, to 0.5% q/q from 0.9% in Q2 and 1.1% in Q1. Prices in the housing services (mostly rents) category, the largest component by weight, rose by 3.1% y/y in September, while price growth in the food & beverages category softened to a three-year low (+5.7% y/y), in line with easing global food price inflation. A combination of base effects, softer credit growth and normalizing consumer spending growth should see the headline rate slow further towards 3.0% by year-end.

### Population surpasses 2019 peak for the first time

According to the latest demographic data from the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI), Kuwait’s total population reached 4.82 million in H1 2023 (+8% y/y), finally topping its pre-pandemic level, on a steady but slowing rise in the number of Kuwaitis (+1.9% to 1.53 million) and a more marked gain in the number of expatriates (+11% y/y to 3.3 million). (Table 1.)

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti employment increased 2.9% y/y in H1 to 462K, with the public sector adding 8.2K (net) employees and the private sector shedding 1.3K (net) positions to 73K. The number of expat workers (excluding domestic workers) grew by a substantial 13% y/y in H1, in line with the post-pandemic improvement in the economy. This has helped resolve some of the labor shortages witnessed in the aftermath of the pandemic. The number of domestic workers, however, rose at an even faster 16% y/y.

### Credit growth still slowing, household lending improves

2023 has been a weak year for domestic credit growth, barely expanding in the year-to-August (+0.4% ytd) and slowing to 2.2% y/y, a multi-year low. Business credit

inched up by just 0.2% ytd (+0.3% y/y) and household credit by 0.9% through August (+3.0% y/y). The latter, after a very slow start to the year, has picked up, posting in August its third decent month in four. Higher interest rates, less bank price competition and normalizing growth following a very strong 2022 are some of the factors behind the weak performance so far this year. Lending growth is unlikely to improve in H2 2023 as, historically, H2 tends to be weaker than H1.

Meanwhile, after a decent start to the year, resident deposit growth has weakened, declining in the three months to August and pushing down the year-to-August increase to only 1.4% (+0.8% y/y). The decline has been driven by weakening private-sector (+1.7% ytd; +3.9% y/y) and public-institution deposit growth (-14.9% ytd; -21% y/y), while government deposit growth has been positive (+30% ytd; +12.2% y/y). Within private-sector KD deposits, the outflow from current and savings accounts (CASA) continues unabated, with the ytd decrease widening to 9% while time deposits remain on an uptrend, increasing by 12% ytd.

The Central Bank of Kuwait hiked the discount rate by a cumulative 2.75% since March 2022, nearly half of the US Fed’s cumulative 5.25% over the same period. The Fed appears to be close to ending its hiking cycle, with its dot-plot projections suggesting one final hike before year-end while the futures market signals no more hikes.

### Equities fall as foreign investment dwindles

Kuwait’s stock market saw further losses in Q3 2023 as investor confidence weakened on global economic concerns and specifically the adverse effect on growth of higher-for-longer monetary policy. The turmoil in Gaza in October compounded investor worries. With bond yields at a more-than-decade high and interest rates elevated the risk-reward premium of equities has diminished. Kuwait’s All-Share index fell 2.0% q/q, dragged down by a 1.7% m/m decline in September and a further 2.2% decline so far in October (as of October 20).

The weakness was consistent with the broader negative trend in regional and global equity markets, with the MSCI GCC and S&P 500 down 3.2% and 3.6% q/q, respectively. Trading was thinner, with average daily turnover falling to KD40.5 million in Q3 (-22% y/y), the lowest in three years, reflecting a much-reduced investor appetite. Official figures indicate that foreign investors were net sellers in the past two quarters, with net outflows of KD31 million, in stark contrast to the consistently strong net inflows since mid-2020. Looking ahead, market confidence could remain fragile until growth and inflation prospects improve and geopolitical risks diminish.

Table 2: Key economic data	Estimates/forecasts							
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
(KD billion)								
Nominal GDP	36.6	41.7	41.3	32.4	42.1	54.8	50.3	53.2
(percent change)								
Real GDP	-4.8	2.5	-0.5	-8.9	1.2	8.4	-0.7	3.3
Oil	-9.2	2.4	-1.0	-8.9	-1.0	12.1	-4.3	3.3
Non-oil	1.2	2.6	0.0	-8.9	3.8	4.3	3.6	3.4
Inflation (% y/y, average)	1.5	0.6	1.1	2.1	3.4	4.0	3.5	2.5
(percent of GDP)								
Fiscal balance (before FGF transfers)	-8.9	-3.1	-9.5	-33.2	-10.3	11.8	-3.7	-1.3
Revenues	43.7	49.3	41.6	32.4	44.3	52.5	46.0	44.7
Oil	39.0	44.2	37.2	27.1	38.6	48.7	41.3	39.8
Non-oil	4.7	5.1	4.5	5.3	5.7	3.8	4.7	5.0
Expenditures	52.6	52.4	51.1	65.6	54.6	40.7	49.7	46.0
Public debt	19.0	13.9	9.9	10.7	4.4	3.0	2.9	2.7
Current account balance	3.4	11.2	10.1	1.4	26.8	35.3	32.5	31.5
Exchange rate (KD per US\$1, average)	0.303	0.302	0.304	0.307	0.302	0.307	...	...
CBK discount rate (percent, end-year)	2.75	3.00	2.75	1.50	1.50	3.50	...	...
Kuwait export crude price (\$/bbl, avg)	51	69	64	41	70	100	85	87
Oil production (million b/d, average)**	2.70	2.74	2.68	2.44	2.41	2.71	2.59	2.68

Source: Central Statistical Bureau, Ministry of Finance, Central Bank of Kuwait, NBK estimates.

\*Based on estimated figures by CSB and NBK. \*\* Uses JODI/OPEC direct communication figures.

# Kuwait foreign bank deposits drop by 14% in first 9 months

## Central bank aims to enhance cash flow

By Ahmad Fathi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: During the first 9 months of 2023, local banks’ deposits with foreign banks experienced a 14% decrease, totaling 925.7 million dinars, down from 6.614 billion dinars in December to 5.688 billion dinars in September.

On an annual basis, this marked a 4.8% decline, equivalent to 290.6 million dinars, compared to 5.978 billion dinars in September 2022. However, on a monthly basis, deposits increased by 4.4%, about 241.8 million dinars, compared to the end of August when it stood at 5.446 billion dinars.

Conversely, foreign banks’ deposits with local banks saw a 0.07% increase during the first 9 months of 2023, amounting to 3.7 million dinars. This rise took the total from 5.041 billion dinars at the end of December 2022 to 5.038 billion dinars in September. On an annual basis, these deposits decreased by 0.35% or 17.7 million dinars, given that they were 5.02 billion dinars in September 2022. Yet, they increased by 2.8% on a monthly basis, approximately 140.8 million dinars, compared to 4.897 billion dinars at the end of last August.

In terms of foreign currencies, private sector deposits in foreign currencies held in local banks decreased by 6%, totaling 108 million dinars. This decline brought the total from 1.774 billion dinars in December 2022 to 1.666 billion dinars in September. However, on a monthly basis, deposits increased by 0.7%, around 11.9 million dinars, as they were at 1.654 billion dinars in August. On an annual basis, there was a 0.5% increase, totaling 9 million dinars, considering the amount was 1.657 billion dinars in September 2022.

The Central Bank of Kuwait aims to enhance cash flow between the banking sector and the national economy while emphasizing the attractiveness of the Kuwaiti dinar as a stable vessel for savings. The Central Bank’s actions align with its conservative policy to keep the Kuwaiti dinar appealing and competitive in comparison to the US dollar, especially amid global economic conditions and geopolitical developments that impact inflation rates.

Regarding interbank deposits, these experienced a 7.4% decrease over the 9 months, totaling 137.7 million dinars. This decrease brought the amount from 1.867 billion dinars in December to 1.73 billion dinars in September. On a monthly basis, interbank deposits increased by 26%, approximately 357.7 million dinars, after they stood at 1.372 billion dinars in August. On an annual basis, there was a 15.5% decline, equivalent to 317.5 million dinars, considering the amount was 2.047 billion dinars at the end of September 2022.

Central Bank data for the past year shows that interbank deposits experienced continuous growth from the beginning of 2022 until February 2023, followed by continuous declines from March to August, and then a return to growth in September.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: Zain Group a leading provider of innovative technologies and digital lifestyle communications operating in seven markets across the Middle East and Africa, announced the publication of its latest annual Thought Leadership Report entitled, ‘Building Inclusive Societies Through Connectivity’. The report was launched during GITEX Global 2023 in Dubai, UAE and highlights the various phases of connectivity that Zain has operated over four decades, and the profound impact this connectivity has had on society.

Through acquisitions of operating companies across the Middle East and Africa since its establishment in 1983, Zain underwent rapid and significant transformation and growth, expanding from a national public sector monopoly to a regional private sector telecom

## Prices decline due to technical & geopolitical setbacks

## Kuwaiti firms deploy treasury stocks to boost prices

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30, (KUNA): Decline in activities in the third quarter at Boursa Kuwait -- the stock exchange -- had led over 45 listed companies to activate the financial tool of treasury stocks to regain price levels.

The decline was attributed to various technical aspects and geopolitical reasons.

Treasury stocks are previously owned stocks by companies bought back from shareholders.

This leads to the decrease of outstanding shares — stocks authorized, issued, and bought by investors — in the open market.

In this regard, economists told KUNA during separate interviews that the decision to activate treasury stocks

was to maintain and secure shareholders’ finances from being affected by global crises where financial tools were endangered.

The activation of treasury stocks was due to companies knowing the results of their annual activities and profits, which leads to an increase in share values and planned distribution at the end of the year, said economist Nayef Al-Enizi.

Al-Enizi indicated that the companies opting for treasury stocks had positive estimations for the last nine months of 2023; therefore, such companies were keen on retaining the stocks and selling or distributing them when the value goes up to make a profit.

He also noted that the huge decline of

stocks caused concerns for main shareholders, who feared their financial position being shaken in front of banks and other shareholders, leading to finding means to project their secure position for those involved in the market.

Most companies try to show their security in light of the recent decline of stocks due to geopolitical reasons, he indicated.

On his party, financial analyst, Haitham Al-Shakhs said that activating the treasury stock purchase by no more than 10 percent gave companies leeway to move financially in the future.

The step would also lead to distributing stocks for shareholders and companies to enable them to regain composure.

## ‘Building inclusive societies through connectivity’

# Zain Group releases its 2023 Thought Leadership Report



Zain Group announces the publication of its latest annual Thought Leadership Report.

leader, showcasing forward thinking, visionary strategy, and a strong focus on ensuring community and societal transformation.

In many respects, Zain’s story shows how the region has adapted and evolved through the adoption of advanced technologies. Also, by the company focusing on ensuring it provides inclusive services to all segments of society including the most vulnerable, leads to further growth and developments in the communities it operates in.

Bader Al-Kharafi, Zain Vice-Chairman and Group CEO commented, “Our 2023 Thought Leadership Report is inspiring by the story it tells of Zain’s journey over its 40 years of dedication, commitment, and forging the road ahead on a path to providing state-of-the-art communications services across Zain markets ensuring that its

products and services are inclusive, scalable and address the connectivity needs and expectations of our stakeholders.”

Al-Kharafi continued, “We take pride in the knowledge that the company enabled economic growth and development, embraced technology, overcome adversity, and worked determinedly to uphold human rights and promote dignity, fairness and equality through providing meaningful connectivity leading to equitable systemic change to millions. We pledge to continue to be a force for good.”

The power of meaningful connectivity served as a great transformative tool for both the business and society leading to greater and more inclusive access to education, health services, employment, skill development, financial services, and economic upliftment.



trade tops the agenda as Germany's Scholz meets Nigerian leader on West Africa trip

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz met with Nigerian President Bola Tinubu on Sunday to discuss trade and investment opportunities during a West Africa tour, as the European country looks to diversify its trade partners and expand economic partnerships in the energy-rich region.

In his third trip to Africa since he took office in 2021, and his second this year, Scholz pushed for further development of Nigeria's capacity to meet local needs even as Germany seeks improved trade relations with its second-largest trading partner in sub-Saharan Africa. Germany-Nigeria trade volume is estimated to be about 3 billion euros annually.

Major aspects of the two countries' cooperation include working with Nigeria to help tackle regional and global issues such as migration, security and rampant coups in West and Central Africa, Scholz told Tinubu during their meeting in the capital of Abuja.

"There are a lot of chances not just from gas and oil ... but for better using the capacities of your country, but also for going into investments for the future, which is about hydrogen," said Scholz. Experts have described Africa as a potential exporter of hydrogen energy amid calls for energy transition.

The German leader, who has come under enormous domestic pressure to address issues related to migration to Germany, suggested "co-management (of the issue) which is benefiting the two countries the best."

A framework is also being developed with the European Union to improve migration and ensure among other things that "those who have no the right to stay in my country can go back and should go back and this is part of something that is a win win story for the two countries," Scholz said.

Before his meeting with Tinubu, Scholz told Lagos-based Punch newspaper that Germany has a "considerable demand for natural gas" and "concrete amounts" of supplies should be agreed on in negotiations between Nigerian gas producers and German gas traders.

Nigeria has Africa's largest proven gas reserves - estimated to be 202 trillion cubic feet - and has been keen on working toward helping meet Europe's needs after Russia sharply reduced natural gas flows following its war with Ukraine. Germany, though, has diversified its gas supplies from Russia since the war.

The Nigerian leader said he had a "very deep discussion" on gas investments with the German chancellor and sought Germany's support in helping to address the country's security and economic challenges. (AP)

G-7 backs strong supply chains for energy, food

Group promises to maintain a free and fair trading system

TOKYO, Oct 30, (AP): Trade and economy officials from the Group of Seven wealthy democracies strengthened their pledge Sunday to work together to ensure smooth supply chains for essentials like energy and food despite global uncertainties.

The nations promised to maintain "a free and fair trading system based on the rule of law and enhancing economic resilience and economic security," officials said in a joint statement.

Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa, who co-hosted the two-day event in the western city of Osaka, pointed to Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the Israel-Hamas war as the latest threats to stable energy and food supplies.

"We nations that share important values have a position of responsibility amid growing uncertainties," she said in closing the meeting, stressing democracy, inclusiveness and human rights.

Worries are growing among developed nations about maintaining a stable supply of computer chips as well as essential minerals, like lithium, which are critical these days amid the demand for electric vehicles and other green energy.

The G-7 includes the U.S., Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and

Britain. The European Union, Australia, Chile, India, Indonesia and Kenya were invited to take part in the two-day meeting, as were economic organizations such as the World Trade Organization.

The G-7 nations reiterated their criticism of what they called in their joint statement "Russia's brutal, unprovoked, unjustifiable and illegal war of aggression against Ukraine."

The participants discussed how trade policy can contribute to tackling climate change, strengthening food security, promoting digital trade and working toward sustainable development.

Trade is one sector where growing political tensions with China have been playing out, although China was not directly mentioned in the meetings.

China, while absent at the meetings, loomed as a focal point. China has imposed export curbs on two metals used in computer chips and solar cells - gallium and germanium - that it said were intended to "safeguard national security."

At the G-7 summit in Hiroshima in southwestern Japan earlier this year, participants referred to "economic coercion" in an oblique reference to China's leveraging some nations' dependence for economic items. That phrase was again used at the Osaka G-7.

As the host nation, Japan focused on how China has banned imports of

Japanese seafood after the recent massive release of treated wastewater from the Fukushima nuclear plant, which experienced reactor meltdowns in 2011.

Yasutoshi Nishimura, the Japanese minister in charge of trade and the economy, said G-7 nations expressed support and understanding for Japan's position, stressing the safety of Japanese food based on scientific evidence, including that from Fukushima. Japan will continue to press for the food bans to end, he told reporters.

Nishimura also said the guest nations that took part in the G-7 meeting, including Australia and India, were potentially powerful allies in strengthening the supply chain in valuable materials.

Bilateral agreements on the sidelines included one between Britain and Japan to work together on mineral-supply chains that both sides said were essential to achieve clean energy and effective national defense.

Japan also reached a deal with the EU on digital data exchanges, affirming a commitment to work together on standards to facilitate digital-sector trade, including online exchanges.

Kamikawa also met with U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai and reaffirmed bilateral ties in support of "the free and fair economic order," and traded notes about the importance of women playing bigger roles on the G-7 stage.



Travelers walk by a Communist Party's logo decorated at the departure hall of Beijing Daxing International Airport, in Beijing on Oct. 24, 2023. China's leaders are expected to search for ways to mend the country's fractured property market, create jobs for millions of unemployed youths and spur faster growth in a meeting that reportedly began Monday, Oct. 30 in Beijing. (AP)

Leaders maneuver to get slowing economy back on track

China holds major financial confab

BANGKOK, Oct 30, (AP): China's leaders are expected to search for ways to mend the country's fractured property market, create jobs for millions of unemployed youths and spur faster growth in a meeting that reportedly began Monday in Beijing.

The National Financial Work Conference, usually held twice a decade, is expected to further fortify leader Xi Jinping's control of the country's \$61 trillion financial sector. It follows the announcement last week of plans to issue 1 trillion yuan (\$330 billion) in bonds for infrastructure projects and disaster prevention.

By dipping deeper into deficit, the government is looking to counter a sharp slowdown in housing construction. Economists say the challenge lies in finding ways to ensure sustainable, balanced growth while unwinding massive debt held by real estate developers, local governments and regional banks.

The gathering, held behind closed doors and without any formal public announcement Monday, will tackle such long-term reforms, Takehiko Nakao, former president of the Asian Development Bank, said in an interview with China's CGTN network while attending an international financial conference in southern China's Guangzhou.

"Overall, the financial sector in China has made progress but at this moment they face challenges," said Nakao. While longer-term reforms are likely on the agenda, he suggested that more immediate problems such as the real estate sector are a priority.

The last financial work conference was held in 2017, but disruptions from the COVID-19

pandemic caused it to be postponed in 2022.

The sudden death last week of former Premier Li Keqiang, an English-speaking economist who represented a generation of politicians schooled during a time of greater openness to liberal Western ideas, was seen by many observers to symbolize the shift toward stronger party controls.

Li was sidelined in a leadership shakeup last year. Since then, Xi has conducted a thorough reshuffle of economic and financial leadership positions and set up an entity called the Central Financial Commission, seen as a move to coopt and weaken other regulators like the China Securities Regulatory Commission.

Last week, Xi reportedly visited the central bank, or People's Bank of China, a rare step that underscores the party's consolidation of controls over markets and financial institutions.

A newly appointed finance minister, Lan Fo'an, will be taking on a substantial challenge given the tide of debt that has engulfed many local governments as revenues from land concessions, a major source of funding, have dried up with a property downturn.

Although the economy, the world's second largest, expanded at a 4.9% annual pace in the first nine months of the year, close to the government's target of about 5%, the International Monetary Fund has warned that debts of local governments have risen to hazardous levels, raising the level of total government debt to nearly 150% of the country's GDP.

While retail sales and other services have revived since China ended its stringent anti-virus controls late last year, the jobless rate for young

Chinese topped 20% earlier this year and demand has yet to fully bounce back.

Dipping deeper into deficit by issuing bonds will help counter the steep slowdown in housing construction as Chinese hold onto their savings while developers struggle to deliver new homes they've already sold.

As officials convened their meetings in Beijing, a court in Hong Kong adjourned until Dec. 4 a winding-up hearing for property developer China Evergrande, which got caught short when regulators began cracking down on excessive borrowing two years ago. Fears of a possible Evergrande default in 2021 rattled global markets, but they eased after the central bank said its problems were contained and Beijing would keep credit markets functioning.

With more than \$300 billion in liabilities, Evergrande is the biggest of dozens of developers that have defaulted. Its efforts to restructure overseas debts have been hindered by the detention of its chairman, Hui Ka Yan, in an investigation into unspecified suspected crimes.

Country Garden, another major developer, failed last week to meet a deadline to pay interest on a dollar bond. The company, based in the southern Chinese city of Foshan, had about \$187 billion in liabilities as of June.

The government has adopted various measures to try to contain fallout from the property crisis. It has eased controls on housing purchases and reduced the amount of funds banks must hold as reserves. It has adopted measures to support private industries, which provide the lion's share of jobs in China. It has also promised tax relief for small businesses and rural families.

KFH launches the Shari'a-compliant digital bank in Kuwait, 1st of its kind

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: In a special ceremony, Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has announced its first Shari'a-compliant digital bank in Kuwait, Tam Digital Bank. The ceremony was attended by KFH Chairman, Hamad Abdulmohsen Al Marzouq, members of the Board of Directors, the Executive Management represented by KFH Acting Group Chief Executive Officer, Abdulwahab Iesa Al Rushood, Chief Executive Officer KFH Kuwait, Khaled Yousef AlShamlan, and the bank's executive management team.

Acting Group Chief Executive Officer, Abdulwahab Iesa Al Rushood said: "We are gathered today to witness a historic moment for KFH by launching Tam, the first shari'a-compliant digital bank in Kuwait. We have selected the name with meticulous consideration to represent this significant leadership milestone in KFH's digital banking transformation journey. With its modern youthful design, user-friendly and efficient usage, along with innovative banking services backed with advanced technology, we are confident that Tam will fulfill customers' desires and exceed their expectations. At KFH, we take account of factors such as convenience, speed, quality, safety, and innovation in line with our motto "Easy Banking Experience".

AlRushood added: "Tam Digital Bank has been set up as a result of various factors, including KFH's unprecedented digital transformation strategy and its cutting-edge infrastructure. These factors are particularly important as digitization has become deeply ingrained in Kuwaiti youth and society as a whole. Additionally, KFH's name has always been associated with leadership at various levels including strong financial performance, advanced technological infrastructure, innovative banking solutions, wide geographical reach, financial inclusion, sustainability, social responsibility, global credibility, leading position, and exceptional cadres, competencies, and talents. Tam Digital Bank is a new achievement that confirms KFH's digital leadership and continuous endeavor to enhance the customer experience, the youth in particular, meet their aspirations by keeping pace with financial technology, which is at the heart of the Bank's business."

AlRushood explained: "To open a Tam account, customers must be at least 15 years of age, have a civil ID,

and a smart phone to download Tam application. There is no need for submitting any document or visiting the branch. When opening an account, customers will have access to a wider array of banking services, offers, reward points and much more."

Al Rushood concluded his speech by extending his gratitude to the Board of Directors for their unwavering support, the executive management and team for their meticulous execution and successful completion of this strategic project, Tam digital bank.

Chief Executive Officer KFH Kuwait, Khaled Yousef AlShamlan

Chief Executive Officer - KFH Kuwait, Khaled Yousef AlShamlan said, "We are pleased to officially announce the launch of TamDigital Bank, which constitutes an added value for customers in general and the youth in particular. Tam is not only for completing banking transactions, but it is a substantial leap in digital transformation initiatives. It is also a novel channel of high-quality banking services by offering innovative and unique digital banking experience that aligns with the modern lifestyle of youth."

During the Tam Showcase, AlShamlan added: "Tam Digital Bank combines a user-friendly and creative banking platform with a social media integration that enables customers to engage with offers and rewards."

AlShamlan added: "Through Tam, youth will receive many benefits, including (opening an account, transferring student allowance, tracking expenses, transferring funds), in addition to rewards program, points, offers and exceptional discounts that meet all their needs, as well as a 24/7 customer service."

"At KFH, we provide unlimited support to youth in terms of digital banking services, exclusive offers and discounts, community and academia events, training and much more," he added.

AlShamlan pointed out that KFH is leading the digital banking arena and has succeeded in launching many digital banking services and solutions for the first time in Kuwait with the aim of enhancing customer experience and offering easy, fast, and secure banking services.

AlShamlan thanked everyone who contributed to the development of the Tam Digital Bank and emphasized that the ultimate success will be measured by the positive experience customers will have through this revolutionary platform.



The TAM team answers some questions related to the TAM digital bank.



Hamad Al-Marzouq is at the forefront of the audience, with Ahmed Al-Fares, Abdul-Wahab Al-Rashoud, Hamad Al-Barjas, Abdul-Aziz Al-Nafisi, Moaz Al-Osaimi, and Salah Al-Muraikhi among others.



Obituary

A lifetime devoted to theater, art, and artistic integrity

# Theater advocate and playwright Brustein dies at 96

NEW YORK, Oct 30, (AP): Robert Brustein, a giant in the theatrical world as critic, playwright, crusader for artistic integrity and founder of two of the leading regional theaters in the country, has died. He was 96.

Brustein died on Sunday at his home in Cambridge, Massachusetts, according to an emailed statement from Gideon Lester, the artistic director and chief executive of the Fisher Center at Bard University and a decades’ long family friend. Lester said he heard the news from Brustein’s his wife, Doreen Beinart.

Known as a passionate and provocative theater advocate who pushed for boundary-breaking works and for classics to be adventurously modernized, Brustein founded both the Yale Repertory Theatre and the American Repertory Theatre at Harvard.

Some of the works he championed upset critics and playgoers unused to nontraditional productions, but he was unapologetic. “I know I’m out of step,” he told The New York Times in 2001. “I’m so out of step I’m almost in step.”

Even in his 80s, Brustein continued offering his opinions on everything from art to politics, lashing out at the Tea Party and describing the pain of breaking ribs on his own blog. He was a distinguished scholar in residence at Suffolk University, a professor of English emeritus at Harvard University and longtime critic at The New Republic.

Born in New York City, Brustein earned a bachelor’s from Amherst and a master’s and Ph.D. from Columbia. A Fulbright scholar, he taught at Cornell, Vassar and Columbia, where he taught drama. He was dean of the Yale School of Drama from 1966-1979 and during that time founded the Yale Repertory Theatre.

Yale Rep, a champion of new work, has produced several Pulitzer

Prize winners and nominated finalists. Many of its productions have advanced to Broadway and together have garnered 10 Tony Awards and more than 40 nominations.

After a painful, highly publicized dismissal from Yale, Brustein in 1979 switched to Harvard, where he taught English and founded the American Repertory Theatre in 1980. Then in 1987, he founded the Institute for Advanced Theatre Training, a two-year graduate program. He retired as artistic director from A.R.T. in 2002 but continued serving as its founding director.

Over the course of his long career as director, playwright, and teacher, Brustein aided the artistic development of such theater artists as Meryl Streep, Christopher Walken, Cherry Jones, Sigourney Weaver, James Naughton, James Lapine, Tony Shalhoub, Linda Lavin, Adam Rapp, William Ivey Long, Steve Zahn, Wendy Wasserstein, David Mamet and Peter Sellars.

**Classics**

At both Yale Rep and A.R.T., Brustein told The Boston Globe in 2012, he embraced popular theater with a nationalistic streak: “We were trying to liberate American theater from its British overseers. We were trying to find an American style for the classics,” he said.

Brustein’s own full-length plays include “Demons,” “The Face Life”

and “Spring Forward, Fall Back” and “Nobody Dies on Friday,” based on the real-life relationship between Lee Strasberg and his student Marilyn Monroe.

His work has been produced at the Vineyard Playhouse on Martha’s Vineyard, at Theater J in Washington, D.C., and the Abington Theatre in New York. “Playwriting is not so much a craft as an obsession,” he once observed.

His trilogy on the life and work of William Shakespeare includes “The English Channel,” which was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize; “Mortal Terror”; and “The Last Will,” a witty play which takes place inside a tavern on the eve of Shakespeare’s theater career and presents the young poet as an intellectual kleptomaniac. Brustein published his first book on Shakespeare, “The Tainted Muse: Prejudice and Presumption in Shakespeare and His Time,” in 2009.

Brustein was a staunch believer that theater should be first and foremost an art form, not just a political platform. He once criticized the African-American playwright August Wilson for declaring that Black people should not participate in colorblind casting but should form their own separatist companies. The pair then aired their differences in 1997 in a high-profile confrontation at New York’s Town Hall.

Brustein, a tall man with a deep voice, also wrote “Shlemiel the First,” based on the stories of Isaac Bashevis Singer and set to traditional klezmer music. The light, absurd comedy, which gently mocks the lavishness of other musicals, premiered in 1994 at the American Repertory Theatre and was close to making it to Broadway. It was revived in 2011 by Theatre for a New Audience.

Variety



This image released by Universal Pictures shows Josh Hutcherson, (left), and Piper Rubio in a scene from 'Five Nights at Freddy's.' (AP)

Film

Tammi explores the dark side of animatronics

## Horror meets family drama in ‘Five Nights’

**LOS ANGELES:** It hardly mattered that “Five Nights at Freddy’s” was released simultaneously in theaters and on streaming this weekend. Fans flocked to movie theaters across the country to see the scary video game adaptation on the big screen, which made \$78 million to top the North American box office, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Universal Pictures bet on a day-and-date release on the weekend before Halloween, sending it to 3,675 theaters in the US and Canada, while also making it available for Peacock subscribers, the subscription streaming service owned by NBCUniversal. The movie also opened in 64 markets internationally, where it’s expected to gross \$52.6 million, giving the film a \$130.6 million global launch - the biggest of any horror released this year.

“It was an extraordinary debut,” said **Jim Orr**, the president of domestic distribution for Universal, who praised Blumhouse, the filmmakers and the studio’s marketing department for the targeted campaign.

“Our marketing department continues to be one of the great superpowers we have at Universal,” he said.

Blumhouse, the company behind “Paranormal Activity,” “Get Out” and recent horror hits like “M3GAN” and “The Black Phone,” produced “Five Nights at Freddy’s,” which was directed by **Emma Tammi** and stars **Josh Hutcherson**, **Mary Stuart Masterson** and **Matthew Lillard**. The popular video game series, in which a security guard has to fend off murderous animatronic characters at a run down family pizza restaurant, **Freddy Fazbear’s Pizza**, was created by **Scott Cawthon** and first released in 2014.

While the game’s fanbase was strong, and passionate, the movie took many years to make. Producer **Jason Blum** said in an interview with IGN earlier this year that he was made fun of for pursuing an adaptation.

“Everyone said we could never get the movie done, including, by the way, internally in my company,” Blum said. They made the film with a reported \$20 million production budget.

And it paid off: “Five Nights

at Freddy’s” is his company’s biggest opening of all time, surpassing “Halloween’s” domestic and global debut. It’s also Blumhouse’s 19th No. 1 debut, which Orr noted is an “amazing accomplishment.”

The opening weekend audience was predominately male (58%) and overwhelmingly young, with

LOS ANGELES, Oct 30, (AP): Just in time for Halloween comes “Five Nights at Freddy’s,” a video game adaptation with the potential treat of demented Chuck E. Cheese-like animatronic creatures running amok. But the trick turns out to be on us.

The movie - built from developer Scott Cawthon’s video game about anthropomorphic robots killing people - poorly fits into this vehicle and the problems start with the creatures themselves.

Yes, they have unsettling bright eyes and teeth. But, c’mon, one wears a bow tie, like a guest on PBS. They’re more threadbare than eerie. Yes, they stomp around like The Terminator but one is a chubby chicken with the slogan “Let’s Eat.” They look about as scary as overgrown Care Bears with a drinking problem. One is, we’re not kidding, a cupcake.

Caught between PG and R, as well as lost at the crossroads of inadvertent comedy and horror, the PG-13 “Five Nights at Freddy’s” has to go down as one of the poorest films in any genre this year.

Like the video game, our hero here is a night watchman who is mysteriously hired to look after the ruins of an abandoned children’s pizza-and-games restaurant. We learn that it was shuttered in the ‘80s due to a raft of missing kids.

Josh Hutcherson plays the guard with a mix of hotheadedness and compassion. “Just do your job and you’ll be fine,” he is advised. “Don’t let the place get to you.”

Why has he taken this silly job? To keep custody of his young sister, Abby (a very good Piper Rubio), proving he’s a good guy. Other actors include the great Mary Stuart Masterson, slumming it as his aunt, and Matthew Lillard chewing scenery as if it were a slice of pepperoni.

Director Emma Tammi - using a script credited to her, Cawthon and Seth Cuddeback - do their damndest to fill the film up with a backstory and a reason for there to be murderous animatronic characters in the first place. So we have family betrayal, the lifetime pain of an abducted sibling, a possible romantic

interest and a plot so tortured it should have a cameo in “Saw.”

“I made a mistake. I don’t want this,” our hero screams toward the end and you can feel the movie theater’s paying audience agreeing wholeheartedly.

There are so many questions that will keep you awake. Why was “Talking in Your Sleep” by the Romantics used so heavily? Why do the scriptwriters not understand human decay? Why does the dialogue often veer from flirty to angry so abruptly in the same scene? Why is it revealed only in the last 10 minutes that the maniacal Care Bears can talk?

It’s ironic that much of the coolest action happens in a dreamstate. You may need to nudge your seatmates awake to rejoin the show when that happens. Maybe that’s why “Talking in Your Sleep” was needed?

The filmmakers were the rare attempt in a horror flick to make a kids’ ball pit scary, but the absolute lowest point is when the supposedly murderous animatronics - Freddy Fazbear, Bonnie, Chica and Foxy - host a kiddie dance party. It’s as if even they can’t overcome their inner nature, having originated from Jim Henson’s Creature Shop. This whole thing should have remained a game.

“Five Nights at Freddy’s,” a Universal Pictures release in theaters and streaming on Peacock starting Friday, is rated PG-13 for “strong violent content, bloody images and language.” Running time: 110 minutes. Zero stars out of four.

**Also:**

**NEW YORK:** A new documentary, “Uncharitable,” directed by **Stephen Gyllenhaal**, addresses the challenges faced by nonprofits, emphasizing the need for operational investment. The film tells the story of **Dan Pallotta**, an advocate who pioneered innovative fundraising methods, such as bike rides and road races, to support causes like AIDS and cancer research. Pallotta argues that nonprofits often face unfair pressure to cut salaries, reduce operating

costs, and delay long-term investments, hindering their mission fulfillment.

The documentary aims to broaden awareness and reach a wider audience, encouraging donors to focus on the impact of charities rather than superficial financial metrics. With support from philanthropic leaders like **Darren Walker**, CEO of the Ford Foundation, Pallotta seeks to reshape the conversation around charitable giving.

While nonprofit leaders, researchers, and workers have supported parts of Pallotta’s argument, his personal campaign stems from his experiences. In 2002, the for-profit fundraising company he founded, Pallotta TeamWorks, faced criticism for taking a significant cut of funds raised during events and eventually folded. Pallotta later authored a book and a TEDTalk, both titled “Uncharitable,” which serve as the foundation for the documentary.

For nearly two decades, researchers and nonprofits have warned against starving organizations of essential operating expenses, often referred to as overhead. Studies in 2004 by the Urban Institute and in 2009 by The Bridgespan Group highlighted that underinvestment in basic infrastructure diminishes nonprofit effectiveness. This issue was compounded by ratings agencies like GuideStar and Charity Navigator, which emphasized fiscal data at the expense of assessing an organization’s impact.

In 2013, major rating agencies challenged the “overhead myth,” urging donors to consider a charity’s results and impact rather than focusing solely on administrative and fundraising expenses. Recently, Charity Navigator introduced changes to its rating methodology to emphasize an organization’s mission achievement rather than financial data.

Despite these changes, ratings agencies still recommend that 65-70% of a nonprofit’s revenue be spent on programming. Effective altruism, embraced by some donors and foundations, encourages efficiency but also exerts pressure on nonprofits to reduce standing costs.

at Freddy’s” is his company’s biggest opening of all time, surpassing “Halloween’s” domestic and global debut. It’s also Blumhouse’s 19th No. 1 debut, which Orr noted is an “amazing accomplishment.”

The opening weekend audience was predominately male (58%) and overwhelmingly young, with



Lillard



Masterson

an estimated 80% under the age of 25 and 38% between the ages of 13 and 17.

While the numbers aren’t surprising for anyone who knows the game’s audience, it is still notable for a generation not known for making theatrical moviegoing a priority.

“It’s great to get that kind of

audience in theaters,” Orr said.

Audiences gave the film an A- CinemaScore, which could be promising for future weekends too.

“It’s a very young demographic,” said **Paul Dergarabedian**, the senior media analyst for Comscore. “It won’t be lost on any of the other studios or video game

manufacturers. This door has been kicked wide open.”

It’s also notable that so many chose theaters even though it was also available to watch at home.

“In some cases streaming can be additive and complimentary to theatrical,” Dergarabedian said. “Clearly audiences wanted that communal experience. (AP)



People & Places

Stage

Big ‘milestone’

Brown ‘plants’ her flag on Broadway

NEW YORK, Oct 30, (AP): **Krystal Joy Brown** has planted her flag on Broadway - first professionally and now personally.

The singer and actor just bought an apartment a few blocks from where she's earning a living at the Hudson Theatre, making one of the biggest commitments of her life. "This is where I'm supposed to be," she says. "This is the place, I think, where dreams happen."

How perfectly appropriate that Brown is co-starring in a musical love letter to Broadway - a critically acclaimed revival of Stephen Sondheim's "Merrily We Roll Along."



Brown

in time from 1976 to 1957 as it examines the friendship of three artists.

The show - starring Jonathan Groff, Daniel Radcliffe and Lindsay Mendez - starts with unhappiness, broken marriages and hurt feelings, only to end with hope. It's a bittersweet tale about youth and dreams and how we all eventually career off the tracks.

This is tricky show business: Alcoholics become teetotalers as the show progresses. Divorces lead to secret assignments, which lead to previous marriages.

"The devil is in the details with all of Sondheim's work. You have Easter eggs in every single song and every single show," Brown says. "I just would want Sondheim to be proud of me and to be proud of what we've done with the piece."

Brown plays Gussie Carnegie, a Broadway diva married to self-centered writer Frank Shepard. Their marriage is breaking down when we first meet her and then we watch as she leaves her devoted first husband for Frank.

Powerful

As we go back in time, we learn she was a secretary for her first husband and through sheer force of will - changing her name, taking acting classes and undergoing plastic surgery - remade herself into a diva.

"This opportunity to represent and be the first Black Gussie is huge and it feels powerful," Brown says. "There are going to be children and kids and teenagers and college kids who are listening to the cast album or seeing this and will be able to see themselves in a Sondheim musical in a way that they may not have before."

The new revival directed by Maria Friedman has been cheered for its ability to hone in on the sadness and regrets in the story, and Brown's Gussie digs deep to show the woman's tortured soul, usually portrayed as merely avaricious.

"I when I was creating this particular version of Gussie, the first thing I thought of was all of the Black women in the '50s and '60s and '70s who were breaking barriers," she says. "You were making yourself up to be whatever was the most presentable and whatever would be the most palatable, whatever it took to survive."

Groff, who plays Frank Shepard, was at Brown's first audition and says that when she left the room afterward, everyone started high-fiving each other, knowing they'd found their Gussie.

"I think it's the hardest role in the show because you have to believably be a Broadway star, you have to have an insane instrument to be able to sing the things that she sings," he says. "And you have to dig so deep to get to that layer of tragedy and vulnerability."

"Merrily We Roll Along" represents Brown's sixth Broadway show. She was in "Hamilton," playing Eliza, when she landed the gig, and her other credits include "Hair," "Big Fish,"

"Leap of Faith" and "Motown the Musical" as Diana Ross. She also toured with "Rent" as Mimi.

"I'm just like every other actor who's like, 'Well, this is my last show. No one's ever going to hire me again. I have Imposter Syndrome. They're going to figure me out.' But every time I get a job, I'm like, 'Wow, this is amazing. This is terrifying.'"

To get into Gussie's character, Brown watched videos of Eartha Kitt, Diahann Carroll and Dorothy Dandridge. She also went back to a previous role: "There's sprinkles of Diana in this character, of course."

Sondheim's original "Merrily We Roll Along" lasted just 16 performances after opening four decades ago, but its revival will easily blow past that, becoming one of the hottest tickets of the season.

"He was ahead of his time. I think the audiences needed to catch up," says Brown. "As an audience, we've grown more mature to understand more complex storytelling."

Her show joins another Sondheim revival on Broadway - "Sweeney Todd" - and the late composer's last musical has just opened off-Broadway, "Here We Are."

Brown hopes audiences who leave "Merrily We Roll Along" are moved but also that they pick up the phone and reach out to an old friend.

"What I always hope is that people go home and call someone that they love and miss and that they think about someone that maybe they lost contact with."

Also:

**NEW YORK:** Everyone who enters Barter Theatre in southwestern Virginia is met and welcomed by **Katy Brown**, the producing artistic director.

It's a simple touch but a telling one for the 90-year-old theater in Abingdon that has forged a very human connection with its 8,000 residents. Barter Theatre is not just a theater; it's their theater.

"You can feel the ownership from the people that are here," Brown says. "Really being a part of your community in that way is vital to the future of regional theater."

Barter - a scrappy venue with roots in the Depression when patrons bartered goods for seats - may offer a roadmap as regional theaters struggle to reconnect with lagging post-pandemic audiences.

Lessons from other regional theaters - like embracing digital ways to connect, rethinking the traditional calendar and even re-configuring theater lobbies - could help.

"The theater companies that are succeeding have taken the time during COVID to ask themselves how they stay relevant once they reopen," said **Joshua Bornstein**, who leads the arts consulting nonprofit Odyssey Associates and lectures on theater management at Yale. "It's going to take a lot of creativity and a lot of risk."



This image released by Polk & Co. shows Krystal Joy Brown, (left), and Jonathan Groff during a performance of the revival of Stephen Sondheim's 'Merrily We Roll Along.' (AP)

Television

‘I wanted to do the best with ‘All the Light’

Levy honors father-daughter bonds

LOS ANGELES, Oct 30, (AP): Shawn Levy knew he had to direct the Netflix limited series "All the Light We Cannot See," when he read a scene between the main character Marie and her father.

"I remember being knocked out emotionally and deciding, "I don't want to share. I want to do all these episodes myself and I want to direct it like a four-hour movie," said Levy, who was also a fan of the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel it's based on.

Levy, a dad to four daughters, wanted to honor this father daughter relationship because it's "the heart of the show."

"I get it. I know when it looks fake, and I know when someone is doing right by this beautiful, intimate relationship between a daughter and her father."

Debuting Nov. 2, the story follows Marie (played by newcomer Aria Mia Loberti), alone and in hiding in German-occupied France and a Nazi soldier named Werner (Louis Hoffman). He's an orphan who was drafted against his will. The two connect because of a radio broadcast that had a pivotal presence in their childhoods.

Levy, who has years of experience producing and directing, says the project was a growth opportunity for him. Loberti, who is blind like her character, had never acted before. He spoke to The Associated Press about the series, and his pals Hugh Jackman and Ryan Reynolds. Remarks have been edited for clarity and brevity.

**AP:** Talk about the process to cast the protagonist Marie.

**Levy:** I increasingly felt like the way to do this best, not just right, but best, was to try and cast this lead role authentically. That meant casting someone who was low vision or blind themselves. And after a global search, I found Nelle Sutton to play the young Marie and Aria Mia Loberti to play the young adult Marie. But truly, it was a needle in a haystack level miracle to

find them. Even more astonishingly, they had never acted or even auditioned before.

**AP:** That must've been difficult because they both do a great job and you had to essentially teach them what to do.

**Levy:** They were clearly special but make no mistake, they had no idea what they were doing. And Aria, to her credit, she was already fiercely intelligent, but she knew what she didn't know. And that's a great place to start. She said to me, "I want to be great. I don't know how to be great. You need to teach me and you need to be relentlessly honest with me so I can figure out how to do this." It was cumulative. Certainly, day one was not the performance we were seeing on day 40.

**AP:** Were there a lot of rehearsals?

**Levy:** I don't subscribe to extensive rehearsals. This comes partly because I've directed a lot of newcomers and usually, they are kids. I don't think that a natural quality in a new actor is helped by extensive rehearsals. What I'm betting on is inherent personality, inherent realness and I want to do everything I can to preserve that. Usually, we do a table read or in this case, as everyone else was reading the script, Aria had memorized the script. She had memorized her lines in all four episodes. Again, this isn't a stage play. No actor memorizes the whole screenplay before you start, but Aria did.

**AP:** What did you learn?

**Levy:** I certainly learned how to be thoughtful and concise in my word selection when giving a directorial note. But mostly what I learned is how different the world can be in navigating it without sight, but also in how it treats people and presumes things about people who are without sight or have low vision. It gave me a very personal human experience that deepened my understanding and my empathy. I'm grateful.

**AP:** What have the last few months been like for you due to the Hollywood

strikes?

**Levy:** It's not hard like it is for many of my colleagues who are losing their homes or driving for Uber and finding ways to pay the bills every week while they are not allowed to work. It is creatively frustrating. I've tried to keep busy in the ways I could. I edited the half of "Deadpool 3" that we finished shooting before the strike. I mostly want to acknowledge how hard it is for the entire ecosystem of this industry, not only the striking guild members, but for the tens of thousands of others who cannot make a living in the meantime. These are very scary times.

**AP:** Speaking of "Deadpool," we already know Hugh Jackman will reprise his Wolverine character for the movie. Why does the public love the friendship between Jackman and Ryan Reynolds?

**Levy:** It's an adorable friendship and it's authentic. In fact, when I did "Real Steel" over a decade ago with Hugh Jackman, he told me, "If you ever meet Ryan Reynolds, you will be best friends. And if you ever work with Ryan Reynolds, you guys will never stop making things together." (Levy went on to direct Reynolds in "Free Guy" and "The Adam Project.") They're both genuinely good, kind men. They are authentic despite being way better looking than the rest of us and mega movie stars for decades.

**AP:** Talk about directing them together.

**Levy:** What's fascinating is you've got two guys who have a shared sweetness but they're playing characters who seriously don't get along. This goes back to the comics and what happens when you put a merc with a mouth alongside a taciturn, angry, Wolverine. You get comedic and narrative gold. Can I also add, it's not just that you get two of the biggest movie stars in the world on screen together. I'm the lucky son who gets them playing their most iconic, signature characters. That is a director's treat every day at work.



Producer-director Shawn Levy poses for a portrait in his office, Thursday, Oct. 12, 2023, in West Hollywood, Calif., to promote his limited-series 'All the Light We Cannot See' based on the best-selling novel. (AP)



Perry



Fairchild

Variety

**LOS ANGELES:** Matthew Perry was widely mourned this weekend by friends, co-stars and some very famous fans, including his childhood classmate, Canadian Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau**; his "Friends" mom **Morgan Fairchild**; and even **Adele**.

Perry, who played Chandler Bing on NBC's "Friends" for 10 seasons, was found dead at his Los Angeles home on Saturday. He was 54.

"This truly is The One Where Our Hearts Are Broken," "Friends" co-creators **Marta Kauffman** and **David Crane**, along with executive producer **Kevin Bright**, said in a joint statement Sunday.

"We are shocked and deeply, deeply saddened by our beloved friend Matthew's passing," Kauffman, Crane and Bright wrote. "We will always cherish the joy, the light, the blinding intelligence he brought to every moment - not just to his work, but in life as well. He was always the funniest person in the room. More than that, he was the sweetest, with a giving and selfless heart."

Perry's family also gave a statement to People Magazine, writing that they are heartbroken by the loss.

"Matthew brought so much joy to the world, both as an actor and a friend," the family said. "You all meant so much to him and we appreciate the tremendous outpouring of love."

Others, some who knew him, some who didn't, took to social media to express their grief.

Trudeau, who attended elementary school with Perry while their parents worked together, wrote a tribute on X, formerly Twitter.

"I'll never forget the schoolyard games we used to play, and I know people around the world are never going to forget the joy he brought them," Trudeau wrote. "Thanks for all the laughs, Matthew. You were loved - and you will be missed."

Perry's mother served as press secretary to Trudeau's father, **Pierre Trudeau**, during his time as prime minister.

Adele took a moment to talk about him during her show in **Las Vegas** on Saturday night. She recalled how his work made her laugh and said that even though she'd never met him, there is a strange thing that

happens sometimes when an entertainer dies that makes you feel personally sad.

"I just want to say how much I love what he did for us," she said to the cheering crowd.

Saturday Night Live also showed a tribute card for Perry during the weekend's episode. Perry once hosted the show, in 1997, which featured one sketch where he played **Matt LeBlanc**'s character Joey and **Colin Quinn** played Chandler.

Fairchild, who played Chandler's mother

on "Friends" wrote on X, that she was "heartbroken about the untimely death of my 'son'."

"The loss of such a brilliant young actor is a shock. I'm sending love & condolences to his friends & family, especially his dad," Fairchild wrote.

She had also worked with Perry's father, actor **John Bennett Perry**, on several television series.

Another frequent "Friends" co-star, **Maggie Wheeler**, who played his girl-

friend Janice, wrote, "The joy you brought to so many in your too short lifetime will live on. I feel very blessed by every creative moment we shared."

**Selma Blair**, who also appeared on an episode of "Friends," posted on Instagram that she was "broken hearted." (AP)

□ □ □

**ATLANTA:** A Georgia man has been arrested in connection with the death of the great-nephew of world-renowned singer and jazz pianist **Nat King Cole**, police said.

**Tracy Cole** was stabbed to death in Atlanta on Sept. 14. The 31-year-old died at the hospital. Investigators have charged **Ricardo Gayle**, 41, with his killing. He was taken into custody during a traffic stop Saturday.

Police said the men knew each other, according to WSB-TV.

Gayle was booked into the **Fulton County Jail** on several charges, including murder, aggravated assault and armed robbery.

Tracy Cole was the grandson of **Freddy Cole**, one of Nat King Cole's three brothers. The pioneering jazz star died in 1965. Freddy Cole was also a famous jazz singer and pianist who was inducted into the Georgia Hall of Fame.

A call to the Office of the Public Defender in Atlanta was not answered Sunday, and it was not immediately clear whether Gayle had retained a private attorney. Jail records did not list an attorney, and an attempt to reach a family member for a possible comment on Gayle's behalf was not successful. (AP)



Alba Rohrwacher smiles after winning the best actress award for the movie 'My Hair Hurts' at the 18th Rome Film Festival in Rome, Saturday, Oct. 28. (AP)





Photos from the event.

Group provides access to medical tests to promote early detection

Al Mulla Group holds breast cancer awareness sessions for employees

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: During Global Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October, Al Mulla Group - a leading diversified privately held Business Group based in the State of Kuwait - organized several information and awareness sessions on Breast Cancer for the Group employees, as well as facilitating special testing and checkups for them at leading medical testing centers in Kuwait. The first awareness session was held at the Group's Headquarters in Shuwaikh on October 23 in collaboration with the medical team at Royale Hayat Hospital, an affiliate of Al Mulla Group and a leading best luxury private hospital in Kuwait. The second session was held at the Headquarters of Al Mulla Engineering on October 25 in collaboration with a specialized medical team from the Ministry of Health in the State of Kuwait. Al Mulla Group also collaborated with MED CELL medical testing centers in Kuwait to provide various laboratory and medical tests to Group employees at special corporate rates during global breast cancer awareness month.

Chief Strategy Officer at Al Mulla Group Ms. Danah A. Al Mulla accompanied by members of the medical staff at Royale Hayat hospital, joined a group of female staff at our headquarters of Al Mulla Group in Shuwaikh, and received valuable information about the importance of early detection practices of breast cancer, and the medical support services that are currently available at the Royale Hayat Hospital.

**Information**

In parallel, the Managing Director of Al Mulla Engineering Ms. Anfah N. Al Mulla joined her team at the awareness session that was held at the Headquarters of Al Mulla Engineering in collaboration with the medical team from the Ministry of Health in the State of Kuwait and received informative illustrations on the importance of early detection practices of breast cancer as a measure of prevention, as well as guides to available medical support and healthcare services that are currently available at the public medical institutions in the State of Kuwait.

Commenting on the occasion, Chief Strategy Officer of Al Mulla Group Ms. Danah A. Al Mulla said: "I'm delighted to participate in the Breast Cancer Awareness initiative, which has been organized by our team at Al Mulla Group and Royale Hayat Hospi-

tal, to support our employees' well-being". She added: "At Al Mulla Group, we are committed to support public health initiatives that aim to reinforce our Core Values of positive social engagement and endorse healthy behaviors and life styles among our employees, leading to the prosperity and wellbeing of the community."

Meanwhile, the Managing Director of Al Mulla Engineering Ms. Anfah N. Al Mulla praised the collaborative efforts by the medical team at the Ministry of Health and said, "We are grateful for the great support from the medical team at the Ministry of Health and their professional doctors for sharing their time, efforts, and valuable information about this serious illness and shedding light on current preventative methods such as early detection, and basic treatment methods. We look forward to other opportunities of collaboration in the future to share knowledge about important health issues."

**Prevention**

During these events, the medical staff at Royale Hayat Hospital and the Ministry of Health including specialized doctors, and therapists presented general information and practical case studies about breast cancer symptoms, best practices of early detection methods, general health guides, and conducted blood pressure and blood sugar testing for the participants. Al Mulla Group employees were also able to conduct medical tests and examinations at MED CELL medical centers throughout the month, where they received information and guides on best practices of early detection as a measure of prevention.

These initiatives come as part of Al Mulla Group's commitment to its Corporate Governance and CSR policies that embrace the promotion of healthy life styles and well-being in the community at large, and among its employees in particular. Our collaborations with private hospitals, medical centers and institutions in the public health sector are reflective of our Core Values of Excellence, Innovation and Professionalism and our deeply rooted principle of being leaders in everything that we do, and giving back to the community whenever possible towards building healthy communities, promoting well-being, and contributing to a prosperous future for Kuwait.

For more information about Al Mulla Group visit [www.almullagroup.com](http://www.almullagroup.com)



A group photo from the Markaz breast cancer awareness seminar.

Event educates employees on causes, prevention and early detection

Markaz conducts seminar on breast cancer

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: Reiterating the importance of regular screening and self-examination in the battle against breast cancer, Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz" conducted an awareness seminar for its employees. Held in support of World Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October, the seminar was organized in collaboration with Taiba Hospital.

The awareness initiative comes in line with Markaz's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) strategy and one of its key pillars - Building Human Capacity - aiming at educating its employees and their families about the disease and encouraging them to undergo an annual screening.

Breast cancer is one of the leading causes of death among women worldwide and in the Middle

East, claiming the lives of hundreds of thousands of brave fighters annually. Early detection of the condition will increase the chance of cure and enable these individuals to live a prolonged and fulfilling life.

A highly engaging and interactive educational lecture by Dr. Laila Al Zaghal Al Majali, Head of Department, Obstetrics & Gynecology Consultant at Taiba Hospital, shed light on the causes, early symptoms and signs of the disease, risk factors, measures to reduce the chances, and the advancement in medical science in treating breast cancer. She also emphatically underscored the importance of breast self-examination and performing a mammogram screening and responded to questions from the

attendees.

Commenting on this initiative, Sondos Saad, Vice President of Media and Communications at Markaz, said: "At Markaz, we firmly believe that awareness programs play a pivotal role in making a discernible impact in combating breast cancer. As an institution with a social responsibility, we are deeply committed to nurturing healthy lifestyles within the community. This inspires us to engage in meaningful endeavors that empower people with knowledge and help us create a positive change in society."

Furthermore, Markaz extends support to its employees and their families to undergo screening for breast cancer through its internal soft rewards program "Hadiya," which offers exclusive discounts for them at several hospitals.



Al Mulla Group officials addressing the employees.



1 infant death, injuries tied to supplement

FDA warns about giving probiotics to preterm babies

NEW YORK, Oct 30, (AP): The US Food and Drug Administration is warning health care providers and the public about injuries and at least one death in premature infants who were given probiotic products in the hospital. The products, which supplement regular feeding and contain live organisms such as bacteria or yeast, can lead to invasive, potentially fatal infections or disease, the FDA has said.

One death this year and more than two dozen reports of injuries since 2018 may be tied to the supplements, FDA officials said in a statement. The agency said it is also investigating additional reports of injuries and deaths.

The agency issued warning letters to two companies accused of illegally marketing the probiotics products, including Abbott Laboratories, which was at the center of a recall and nationwide shortage of powdered infant formula last year. After a letter sent Tuesday, the Illinois firm agreed to halt sales of its Similac Probiotic Tri-Blend product and work with the FDA on additional corrective actions, the agency said.

Abbott officials said in a statement that the products were used by fewer than 200 hospitals and are not related to Similac powdered infant formulas sold in stores. FDA officials in September said Evivo with MCT Oil, a probiotic made by Infanant

Health of Norwalk, Connecticut, led to the death of a premature infant this year. Genetic sequencing confirmed that the bacterium that caused sepsis was the same germ found in the probiotic product.

Infant Health officials said in statement that the firm voluntarily recalled and discontinued the product. It was sold only for use in hospital settings and is not related to products available in retail stores.

Probiotic supplements may be used to prevent necrotizing enterocolitis, a dangerous infection affecting premature infants that inflames and kills intestinal tissue. The condition affects up to 9,000 infants a year, with a death rate of about 50%.

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Chevrolet clinch 42nd manufacturer championship

Blaney wins at Martinsville, secures shot at Cup Series title

MARTINSVILLE, Va., Oct 30, (AP): Ryan Blaney was in tears back in May when the crowd chanted “Blaney! Blaney! Blaney” after he snapped a 59-race losing streak with his win at Charlotte Motor Speedway.

He was so thrilled in that moment to get back to victory lane and rebuild his confidence after a winless 2022 season. Little did Blaney know at the time that his Coca-Cola 600 win jump-started his march into NASCAR’s championship race.

Blaney will race for his first Cup title after qualifying for the championship-deciding finale with a Sunday win at Martinsville Speedway. His third win of the season - equaling his career best - put him in the final four next week at Phoenix Raceway, where he will race Kyle Larson, Christopher Bell and William Byron for the Cup championship.

“All you want is a shot at a championship. You get your shot when the playoffs start, if you make ‘em, OK, you have a shot. But then your real shot is if you get to Phoenix, right?” Blaney said. “It’s just nice to have an opportunity to actually race for a championship.”

Byron, who led the Cup Series with six wins this season, earned the fourth and final slot in the championship by limping to a 13th-place finish. Byron had padded his position with bonus points earned all season and edged Denny Hamlin, who finished third at Martinsville on Sunday, by eight points to

qualify for NASCAR’s championship.

Blaney and Byron will race Christopher Bell and Kyle Larson next Sunday at Phoenix Raceway, where the Cup championship will go to the highest-finishing driver.

Larson and Byron gave Hendrick Motorsports a pair of Chevrolets in the final four, Bell is in a Toyota for Joe Gibbs Racing and Blaney drives a Ford for Team Penske. Blaney can give Roger Penske back-to-back titles following Joey Logano’s win last year.

Larson is the only driver in the field with a Cup title and returns to the final four for the second time in three years. Bell is back in the championship for the second consecutive year; Blaney and Byron are racing for the Cup title for the first time.

CAR RACING

Byron said his helmet fan stopped working during the race and he dropped to the ground outside his car following the race.

Hamlin was pretty much in a must-win situation Sunday after a mechanical failure last week caused him to crash and dropped him below the cutoff line for elimination at Martinsville. He wasted no time going after the win and led a race-high 156 laps.

But Hamlin lost ground after the final round of pit stops - when he and Blaney each took four tires - and he never could work his



Ryan Blaney celebrates in Victory Lane after winning a NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Martinsville Speedway in Martinsville, Va., Sunday, Oct. 29, 2023. (AP)

way back through the traffic to challenge for the win. Hamlin was also eliminated from championship contention at Martinsville last year on a last-lap Hail Mary move by Ross Chastain.

Blaney won for the third time this season, tying his career high, and led 145 laps. He

won twice in the playoffs but his win at the Virginia track was the first for Blaney, who hails from High Point, North Carolina, and considers the short track located 55 miles away his home track.

Martin Truex Jr., the regular season champion and pole-sitter Sunday, was eliminated

from title contention along with Tyler Reddick of 23XI Racing, Chris Buescher of RFK Racing and Hamlin.

Truex finished 12th to cap what has been a terrible playoffs for the Gibbs driver. He was flagged for speeding earlier in the race.

Chevrolet clinched its 42nd manufacturer championship when Sunday’s race began at Martinsville.

It marked the third consecutive year the title went to the bowtie brigade in NASCAR’s top Cup Series. Chevy already clinched both the Truck Series and Xfinity Series championships this season for its fifth national series sweep - first since 2012 that Chevy claimed all three national titles.

Chevrolet won its first manufacturer Cup championship in 1958 and later recording a streak of 13 consecutive titles between 2003 through 2015. Chevrolet has 850 Cup victories and 33 driver championships in NASCAR’s premier series, making it the winningest automaker in NASCAR’s 75-year history.

The season-ending championship race at Phoenix Raceway, where Larson, Bell, Blaney and Byron will race for the Cup title. The highest finishing driver among the final four claims the championship. Joey Logano won his second title a year ago by winning Phoenix, but has already been eliminated from the playoffs. Byron won at Phoenix in the spring.

Kings upset Lakers in OT, spoil LeBron’s 20th NBA anniversary

Denver rolls past Oklahoma City 128-95

SACRAMENTO, Calif., Oct 30, (AP): Malik Monk scored 11 of his 22 points in overtime and fed Kevin Huerter for a key 3-point-er with 32 seconds left, and the Sacramento Kings spoiled the 20th anniversary of LeBron James’ NBA debut in the same city with a 132-127 win over the Los Angeles Lakers on Sunday night.

De’Aaron Fox had 37 points and eight assists for the Kings, scoring eight points in the final six minutes of regulation after returning from an ankle injury earlier in the fourth quarter. Domantas Sabonis added 12 points and 15 rebounds.

James, the No. 1 overall pick in 2003 by the Cleveland Cavaliers, finished with 27 points, 15 rebounds and eight assists. Derek Richardson, who was one of the three referees for James’ debut game on Oct. 29, 2003, was part of the three-ref crew on Sunday night as well.

BASKETBALL

Anthony Davis added 30 points and 16 rebounds for the Lakers, who trailed by 15 before closing the fourth quarter on a 9-2 run to force overtime.

**Nuggets 128, Thunder 95**

In Oklahoma City, Nikola Jokic had 28 points and 14 rebounds to help Denver roll past Oklahoma City for its third straight win to open the season.

Michael Porter Jr. had 20 points and nine rebounds and Jamal Murray added 19 points and eight assists for the Nuggets.

Oklahoma City’s Chet Holmgren was the No. 2 pick in the 2022 draft, but he missed last season with a foot injury. He got a loud cheer when he



Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokic, (right), tries to grab a rebound between Oklahoma City Thunder forward Chet Holmgren (7) and guard Josh Giddey, (back), in the first half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Oct. 29, 2023, in Oklahoma City. (AP)



Sacramento Kings center JaVale McGee (00) dunks against Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James (23) in the first half of an NBA basketball game Sunday, Oct. 29, 2023, in Sacramento, Calif. (AP)

was introduced with the starters in his first regular-season home game and delivered a team-leading 19 points.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, a first-team All-NBA selection last season, scored just seven points on 2-for-16 shooting.

**Warriors 106, Rockets 95**

In Houston, Stephen Curry had 24 points, with four 3-pointers down the stretch, and Klay Thompson added 19 points to lead Golden State over Houston.

The Warriors led by as many as 16 before the Rockets began chipping away at the lead.

Draymond Green made his season-debut after missing the first two games with a sprained left ankle. His return to the starting lineup relegated Chris Paul to a reserve role, marking the first time the 12-time All-Star had come off the bench in his NBA career.

Jalen Green had 21 points and Alperen Sengun added 19 for the Rockets, who fell to 0-3 this season.

**Hawks 127, Bucks 110**

In Milwaukee, Trae Young scored 20 points to lead eight players in double figures, and Atlanta limited Damian Lillard to six points while routing Milwaukee for its first victory of the season.

Bogdan Bogdanovic added 17 points, Dejounte Murray had 15 and Jalen Johnson and Onyeka Okongwu finished with 14 apiece for the Hawks.

Lillard, who scored 39 points in his Bucks debut on Thursday, failed to score in the first half, missing all seven of his shots, including four from 3-point range. He also committed six of the team’s nine turnovers.

Giannis Antetokounmpo led the Bucks with 26 points and 11 rebounds. Malik Beasley added 18 points.

**76ers 126, Trail Blazers 98**

In Philadelphia, Joel Embiid had 35 points and 15 rebounds, Tyrese Maxey added 26 points and 10 boards, and James Harden watched it all from Philadelphia’s bench as the 76ers beat Portland.

Shaedon Sharpe led winless Portland with 20 points and Malcom Brogdon had 18.

Harden yanked his yellow hood over his head and laughed at times with his teammates - notably P.J.

Tucker - as he sat out a third straight game. The official listed reason: return to competition reconditioning.

**Clippers 123, Spurs 83**

In Los Angeles, Kawhi Leonard scored 21 points, Paul George added 19 and the Los Angeles stars schooled San Antonio rookie Victor Wembanyama in his first road game.

Wembanyama was held to 11 points, five rebounds, two assists and one block. He committed five of the Spurs’ season-worst 25 turnovers.

Russell Westbrook had 19 points and Ivica Zubac scored 16 for the Clippers, who had seven players in double figures. Westbrook and Zubac had a team-high eight rebounds apiece.

Devin Vassell led the Spurs with 14 points and Cedi Osman added 12 off the bench.

Sabalenka dominates with stunning victory over Sakkari

Pegula’s streak continues with win at WTA Finals

CANCUN, Mexico, Oct 30, (AP): Jessica Pegula improved to 48-0 in 2023 when winning the first set, grabbing 10 of the last 12 games to beat Elena Rybakina 7-5, 6-2 in the opening match of round-robin singles competition at the WTA Finals.

Neither woman had won a match previously at the season-ending championships for the women’s tennis tour. Pegula went 0-3 in Fort Worth, Texas, a year ago, while Rybakina is making her debut appearance at the event for the top eight players in the world.

Top-ranked Aryna Sabalenka, who lost the 2022 WTA Finals title match to Caroline Garcia, collected the first 11 games and overwhelmed Maria Sakkari 6-0, 6-1 in Sunday’s other singles match. Sabalenka is trying to become the first player since Serena Williams in 2013-14 to reach the final in consecutive years.

Sakkari is ranked No. 9 but moved into the field in Cancun when French Open finalist Karolina Muchova, who

is No. 8, withdrew because of an injured right wrist.

Pegula, who is ranked No. 5, trailed by a break at 5-3, and Rybakina served for the opening set there. But Pegula broke and reeled off four games in a row to take that set. That put her in good position to win, given her success as a front-runner this year.

This was the tour-leading 42nd victory on a hard court this season for Pegula, a 29-year-old American whose parents own the NFL’s Buffalo Bills and NHL’s Buffalo Sabres.

TENNIS



From left, Brazil’s Ana De Jesus Soares, Ashley Twichell of the United States and Brazil’s Viviane Eichelberger pose on the podium of women’s open water swimming 10km final at the Pan American Games on the outskirts of Santiago, Chile, Sunday, Oct. 29, 2023. (AP)

Välimäki outlasts Campillo in playoff to win Qatar Masters

DOHA, Qatar, Oct 30, (AP): Sami Välimäki beat Jorge Campillo in a playoff to win the Qatar Masters on Sunday for his second career victory on the European Tour.

Välimäki started the final round a shot off leader Campillo but caught up on the back nine to take the lead with a birdie on the par-three 17th, but Campillo birdied the par-five 18th to join Välimäki on 18 under and force a playoff. Välimäki was 3 under for the round and Campillo 2 under.

Campillo could only manage par

on the first playoff hole as Välimäki made birdie to secure his first win since the Oman Open in 2020, which he also won in a playoff. It’s the 11th European Tour win by a Finnish golfer and the first since Kalle Samooja won the Porsche European Open in June 2022.

Campillo was aiming to win the Qatar Masters for the second time after taking the title in 2020.

Scott Jamison and Nacho Elvira tied for third on 16 under, two shots off the leaders.

The WTA announced in September that it would be holding this tournament in Cancun under a one-year agreement. Some players, including

Rybakina, raised concerns this week-end that the temporary court was not ready for practice until too close to the beginning of competition.

Change Name

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CHANGED MY NAME FROM  
MUFADDAL TO MUFADDAL DANGE  
IN ALL MY DEALING AND  
DOCUMENTS. HAS CHANGED MY  
RESIDENCE ADDRESS OF HAKMI  
MOHALLA BEDAWA RAJASTHAN  
GARHI BANSWARA RAJASTHAN PIN  
CODE 327024. I WILL BE KNOWN BY  
THE NAME OF MUFADDAL (GIVEN  
NAME) AND DANGE (SURNAME.)



KFA expresses profound disappointment

KFA refers incidents during Qadsia, Al-Kuwait match to Disciplinary Committee

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: The Board of Directors of the Kuwait Football Association has decided to refer the incidents that occurred during the match between Al-Qadsia and Kuwait in the sixth round of the Zain Premier League, held at Mohammed Al-Hamad Stadium, to the Disciplinary Committee. The Disciplinary Committee will take the necessary legal actions in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Kuwait Football Association.

This decision was conveyed through an official statement released by the Federation on its social media platforms. The statement expressed the Kuwait Football Association's profound disappointment over the occurrences during

the match between Al-Qadsia and Al-Kuwait Club. It emphasized the complete rejection of such events that deviated from the norms of sportsmanship, warning that such behavior could adversely affect the Kuwaiti football community as a whole and cast a negative shadow on the sports system. The Federation further announced that these incidents are now under the jurisdiction of the Disciplinary Committee, which will enforce the appropriate legal measures in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Kuwait Football Association.

The Kuwait Football Association called for a commitment to the principles of sportsmanship, which should be upheld and enjoyed by all.



Fans clash during Al-Kuwait, Al-Qadsia match.

Successful finale for Kuwait Int'l Tennis Championship

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: The Kuwait International Men's Tennis Championship (2nd ITF M15 ZAHRA) reached a triumphant conclusion. The event took place on the courts of the Kuwait Tennis Federation at the International

tennis complex. The tournament's ultimate results showcased Peter Nesterov from Bulgaria as the first-place winner, securing the individual gold medal after defeating Goncalo Oliveira from Portugal in a two-sets-to-one showdown. In the doubles competition, the top honors went to the Slovenian pair of Bor Artnak and Mattek Dominik. The second place was claimed by the duo of Igor Dodon from Ukraine and Samuel Puskas from Slovakia.

Following the successful conclusion of this tournament, the stage is now set for the Kuwait International Men's Tennis Championship No. 3 (3rd ITF M15 ZAHRA), which commenced yesterday and will run until November 5.

**TENNIS**

Tennis Complex in Al-Zahraa and saw the participation of 47 skilled players.

The championship's final match garnered the presence of the Kuwait Tennis Federation's Board of Directors, including Vice Chairman Abdul Redha Jassim Al-Gharib, who had the honor of awarding the tour-



Peter Nesterov from Bulgaria receives the championship trophy.

Handball players appeal to officials to resolve reduction of their salaries

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: Several members of our national handball team have made an appeal to the Minister of State for Youth Affairs, the Public Authority for Sports, and the Kuwaiti Olympic Committee to intervene in resolving a pressing issue. This concerns the deduction of their salaries, allowances, and bonuses by their employers, even when they are on official missions representing Kuwait in various capacities on the international stage, including Arab, Asian, or global tournaments.

The players are experiencing a frustrating situation, as their allowances and bonuses are being deducted while they participate with the national team during official missions, despite the existence of Law No. (87) of 2017 pertaining to sports and Resolution No. (2) of 2022 regulating special leaves and sabbaticals in sports. These laws were established to ensure that the players' income remains intact during these missions, considering them as official representations of Kuwait abroad.

However, it has come to light that some government entities are not adhering to these legal provisions, causing both financial and psychological distress to the players. This situation leaves the players feeling uncertain and disheartened while representing Kuwait on the global stage.

The players are calling for a resolution to this issue and the creation of a supportive framework to safeguard their income from their employers. This, they believe, will have a positive impact on their performance levels when they participate with national teams and

clubs in international tournaments.

Three members of our top national handball team have faced these challenges, including their participation in the 19th Asian Games in China, where they secured a remarkable third place and the bronze medal after a 17-year absence. This achievement marked a significant comeback for Kuwait in the sport, earning the country a prominent position. Subsequently, they represented Kuwait in the Asian qualifiers for the 2024 Paris Olympics, recently held in Qatar. However, these players were dismayed to find their allowances and bonuses deducted from their salaries during this period, despite their of-

**HANDBALL**

official representation of Kuwait and their valid sporting licenses from the General Sports Authority. One player even had to withdraw from participating in the "Assad" due to the significant deductions he faced from his employer.

Additionally, one national team player has faced a five-year delay in promotions due to his foreign participation, which has cost him 5,000 dinars.

As Politics addresses this issue, it echoes the players' call to halt this injustice and urges ministries and government institutions to abide by the official laws set by the General Authority for Sports, especially the sports sabbatical laws, which are the rightful entitlement of the players. This will help secure their financial and moral rights in their relationships with their employers.



A file photo of Kuwaiti players celebrating.

**By Hassan Musa**  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: In the ever-competitive Zain Premier League, a shifting landscape saw Al-Arabi emerge as the biggest beneficiary of the sixth round. They managed to defeat Al-Jahra 3-2, boosting their total points to 14. This success allowed them to share the top position with Al-Kuwait," who played to a 1-1 draw in the high-stakes match against Al-Qadsia. This significant development came after the "White" and "Yellow" teams faced off at Mohamed Al-Hamad Stadium.

While Al-Arabi may lag slightly behind Al-Kuwait in goal difference, the partnership at the league's summit brought smiles and joy to the Al-Arabawiya fans, especially considering the chal-



Qadsia and Kuwait players vie for the ball during a Zain Premier League match.

SOCCER

lenging circumstances the team had endured. Several key players had been absent recently, impacting their performance in the Federation Cup tournament. In the previous week, Al-Arabi suffered a heavy 0-3 defeat at the hands of Bahrain's Riffa on their home turf.

Meanwhile, Kuwait couldn't capitalize on Al-Qadsia's recent struggles, both in local and AFC Cup competitions. Al-Qadsia had previously drawn with Khaitan 1-1 and Al-Ittihad Al-Ahly Aleppo of Syria with the same scoreline in the Asian Championship. The draw took Al-Qadsia's tally to 12 points, a position and result that left their passionate fans wanting more, especially after witnessing one of the team's best performances of the season.

Kazma, after a period of inconsistency, bounced back with a commanding 3-0 victory over Khaitan. This win propelled them to 10 points, bringing them closer to the league leaders, while Khaitan dropped to eighth place with five points.

Al-Salmiya also thrived during this round, securing a valuable 2-1 victory over Al-Shabab, elevating their total points to 9. This pushed them away from the relegation zone and closer to the top teams. On the other hand, Al-Shabab's defeat resulted in them falling to the ninth position, just above the bottom.

Al-Nasr had the toughest experience in this round, suffering a heavy loss to Al-Fahaheel. This defeat significantly impacted their standings, bringing them closer to the relegation zone. Meanwhile, Al-Fahaheel celebrated their first win, claiming seventh place. Although they're not far ahead of the teams below them, they sit ahead of Khaitan and Al-Shabab based on goal difference.

As for Al-Jahra, who currently hold the tenth and last place, they remain the only team yet to taste victory. Despite presenting strong and convincing performances, as seen in their latest match against Al-Arabi where they managed to take the lead twice, their lack of experience prevented them from maintaining that advantage, resulting in their fifth defeat.



Kuwait archery team with officials.

Four medals secured at Arab Championship

Al-Otaibi commends Kuwait archery team success

RIYADH, Oct 30: The President of the Kuwaiti Shooting Federation, Duaij Al-Otaibi, expressed his admiration for the accomplishments of the Kuwaiti archery team, who secured four medals at the recently concluded Arab Championship in Saudi Arabia. He regarded this achievement as a significant milestone, representing a crucial step toward greater excellence in upcoming Olympic sport tournaments.

Al-Otaibi conveyed his sentiments during a statement to the press following an honorary ceremony held at the Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Complex. He emphasized the federation's strong commitment to nurturing this sport, highlighting their efforts to enlist qualified coaches in order to build a robust foundation of male and female archers. He remained optimistic about future victories in the sport.

He particularly lauded the contributions of shooter Abdullah Malallah, who clinched the gold medal in the compound competition, and Hanan Al-Mayass, who secured the bronze medal in the women's category. Additionally, Al-Otaibi expressed his ap-

preciation for the Kuwaiti male and female archers who excelled in the team and mixed competitions. He also commended the unwavering support extended by the General Sports Authority to the Kuwaiti shooting club.

In a similar statement, archer Abdullah Malallah noted that the tournament featured fierce competition due to the participation of numerous Arab

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teams. He described the Kuwaiti archers' achievement of four medals as a remarkable feat for Kuwaiti archery sports.

Malallah further mentioned that this triumph in a highly competitive tournament would serve as motivation for them to pursue further successes on the continental and international stages. He dedicated this victory to the country's political leadership and the broader Kuwaiti shooting community.





In this file photo, president of Spain's soccer federation Luis Rubiales (left), stands next to Spain Head Coach Jorge Vilda after their World Cup victory at La Moncloa Palace in Madrid, Spain. (AP)

# Sports

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## Max dominates Mexico City GP for season 'record' 16th victory



Drivers race during the Formula One Mexico Grand Prix auto race at the Hermanos Rodriguez racetrack in Mexico City. Inset: Red Bull driver Max Verstappen of the Netherlands celebrates on the podium after winning the race. (AP)

Hamilton, Leclerc complete podium

MEXICO CITY, Oct 30, (AP) — Two perfect starts made for a record 16th win of the season for Formula One champion Max Verstappen on a wild Sunday for Red Bull at the Mexico City Grand Prix.

While Verstappen was cruising to another victory in a season of domination, a first-corner crash ruined the home race of his teammate Sergio Perez, who now finds himself barely clinging to second in the season championship ahead of Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton with three races left.

Verstappen started from third and won from the same spot as he did in 2021. Back then, he used the slingshot effect of the draft down the long starting straight at the Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez to whip to the outside and pass two cars.



Milan's Rade Krunic (left), and Napoli's Andre Zambo Anguissa jump for the ball during the Italian Serie A soccer match between Napoli and AC Milan at the Diego Armando Maradona stadium in Naples, Italy. (AP)

Milan squander 2-goal advantage to draw at Napoli

## Inter pip Roma to reclaim Serie A lead

ROME, Oct 30, (AP) — On a night when Romelu Lukaku was the focus of Inter Milan fans' ire, Marcus Thuram - who replaced the departed Belgium striker - scored in the 81st minute at the San Siro to finally break apart Jose Mourinho's defensive tactics.

While Mourinho was suspended and watched the match from the stands, Roma still sat back and absorbed attack after attack. In the first half alone, Roma conceded 12 shots without attempting a single shot of its own. By the end, Inter had produced 19 shots to Roma's three.

Inter twice hit the crossbar, first with Hakan Calhanoglu early on and then with Carlos Augusto in the final minutes. Inter moved two points ahead of Juventus, which beat Hellas Verona 1-0.

Roma stayed eighth, 11 points behind Inter. AC Milan remained third, three points back, after squandering a two-goal advantage in a 2-2 draw at defending champions Napoli.

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While the buildup was all about Lukaku facing his former club, Lukaku's biggest impact was clearing away Inter corners - giving Inter fans little chance to whistle at the player who left their club acrimoniously after last season and then joined a fierce rivals.

Mourinho was also formerly with Inter, having led the Nerazzurri to a treble of titles in 2010.

Thuram has been involved in nine goals already - four scores and five assists.

Napoli stormed back with goals from Matteo Politano and Giacomo Raspadori early in the second half against Milan after Olivier Giroud had scored a brace.

Raspadori scored with a precise free kick around Milan's wall - the first goal from a direct free kick in the Italian league this season.

Milan's United States international Christian Pulisic exited at halftime with an apparent muscular issue.

Napoli, which were without injured center forward Victor Osimhen, remained fourth, seven points behind Inter.

Napoli finished with 10 men after center back Natan picked up his

FIFA bans Rubiales of Spain for 3 years for misconduct

GENEVA, Oct 30, (AP) — FIFA banned ousted former Spanish soccer federation president Luis Rubiales from the sport for three years on Monday for misconduct at the Women's World Cup final.

FIFA did not publish details of the verdict reached by its disciplinary committee judges, who had investigated charges relating to "basic rules of decent conduct" and "behaving in a way that brings the sport of football and/or FIFA into disrepute."

Rubiales also is under criminal investigation in Spain for making contact with player Jenni Hermoso after the team's 1-0 victory over England on Aug. 20 in Sydney, Australia. He denied wrongdoing to a judge in Madrid who imposed a restraining order for Rubiales not to contact Hermoso.

At the final whistle in Sydney, Rubiales grabbed his crotch as a victory gesture in the exclusive section of seats with Queen Letizia of Spain and 16-year-old Princess Sofia standing nearby.

Rubiales was removed from office by FIFA judges during their investigation, and they also cited a third incident - "carrying the Spanish player Athenea del Castillo over his shoulder during the post-match celebrations" - in a ruling to explain why he was provisionally suspended.

The risk of witness tampering by Rubiales and his allies also was cited to justify the interim ban that is now confirmed to extend beyond the next men's

World Cup in 2026 being hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Rubiales resigned from his jobs in soccer in September after three weeks of defiance that increased pressure on him from the Spanish government and national-team players.

"After my swift suspension by FIFA, and the rest of the cases building against me, it is clear that I cannot return to the post," Rubiales said on Sept. 10 when finally giving up the federation presidency he had held since 2018.

Rubiales also had to give up his vice presidency of European soccer body UEFA which paid him 250,000 euros (\$265,000) each year. UEFA later thanked Rubiales for his service in a statement.

When Rubiales resigned, which was coordinated with an interview with a British cable news channel, he noted not wanting to be a distraction from Spain's bid to host the men's 2030 World Cup in a UEFA-backed project with Portugal and Morocco.

That bid has since been picked by FIFA as the only candidate to host the 2030 tournament in a plan that now also includes its former opponents Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay.

Rubiales can request details of the FIFA disciplinary verdict within 10 days and then file an appeal, soccer's world body said. He could file a further appeal at the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

second yellow in the 89th.

Milan are now winless against Inter, Juventus and Napoli - their three title rivals.

Claudio Ranieri's Cagliari became the first team in Serie A history to overturn a three-goal

deficit after 70 minutes, coming all the way back to beat visiting Frosinone 4-3 with a brace from Leonardo Pavoletti in stoppage time.

Also, Modena and Udinese drew 1-1 with Andrea Colpani and Lor-

enzo Lucca trading goals. It was the fifth goal this season for Colpani - leaving only Jude Bellingham (10 goals) and Bryan Mbeumo (6) among midfielders who have scored more in Europe's top five leagues this season.



Inter Milan's Marcus Thuram (front), duels for the ball with Roma's Diego Llorente during the Serie A soccer match between Inter Milan and Roma at the San Siro Stadium, in Milan, Italy. (AP)