



soccer
Pages 14-16



Ramadan Kareem

رمضان كريم

Congratulatory cables exchanged with Arab, Muslim leaders

Amir receives Ramadan greetings from senior officials

KUWAIT CITY, March 10, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received congratulatory cables from Their Highnesses Chief of the National Guard Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and Prime Minister Sheikh Dr. Mohammad Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah on the occasion of the Holy month of Ramadan.

Their Highnesses expressed their sincere congratulations, asking Allah the Almighty to bless the dear homeland in this holy month, and to bestow His Highness the Amir with health and wellbeing. In response, His Highness the Amir sent cables of thanks, including appreciation for their messages, asking Allah Almighty on this month to bless the homeland, as well as citizens with safety, security and prosperity.

Also:

KUWAIT CITY: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah exchanged congratulatory cables with the leaders of Arab and Muslim countries on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan. His Highness the Amir prayed to Allah the Almighty to bless the Arab and Muslim nations in this month and bestow health upon them.



Amiri Diwan photo
His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives US Ambassador Karen Sasahara on Sunday who handed her credentials during a ceremony at Bayan Palace. Senior state officials attended the ceremony. — See Also Page 2

31 more enlist, including 2 women for April 4 poll

Deputy PM visits Election Dept

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, March 10: Thirty-one citizens, including two women, filed their candidacy for the upcoming parliamentary election on Sunday — the seventh day of the registration period for candidates.

This increases the total number of candidates for the election on April 4, 2024 to 194 including six women; all of whom are standing for election in the Third Constituency.

The 31 candidates who registered on Sunday are as follows:

First Constituency: four men (Ibrahim Mohammad Al-Beloushi, Abdulrahman Khalawi Al-Shimali, Abdulrahman Mohammad Al-Ajmi and Meteb Aayed Al-Anzi)

Second Constituency: four men (Khalid Aayed Al-Anzi, Saud Khalid Al-Babtain, Hazzaa Metleg Al-Hadba and Walid Khalid Shehab)

Third Constituency: four men and two women (Jarrah Khalid Al-Fawzan, Khalid Ibrahim Al-Sallal, Abdulwahab Mohammad thanks Al-Babtain, Noora Jassem Al-Darweesh, Hani Hassan Husain and Huda Shaheen Al-Hamadi)

Fourth Constituency: 10 men (Ahmed Duha Al-Daihani, Bader Sayyar Al-Shemari, Bader Nasser Al-Mejaweb, Thamer Metaieb Al-Abdali, Abdullah Ahmed Ashkanani, Ibaidd Mohammad Al-Mutairi, Fawaz Awad Al-Sulaimani, Fawaz Masher Al-Dhefai, Mohammad Mubarak Al-Fajji and Musaed Mohammad Al-Mutairi)

Fifth Constituency: seven men (Ahmed Kamaluddeen Al-Sulaimi, Hamdan Salem Al-Azmi, Khalid Saree Al-Hajri, Khalid Abdullah Al-Mutairi, Ayedh Muhsen Al-Ajmi, Mubarak Fahd Al-Hajri and Meshabeb Hamlan Al-Sahli)

The Election Affairs General Department in the Ministry of Interior will continue receiving the applications of candidates until the end of the 10-day registration period on March 13, 2024.

Meanwhile, Director of the Election Affairs General Department Brigadier Ahmed Al-Hajri announced that the department will receive the candidates from 10:00 am to 1:30 pm during the holy month of Ramadan. He added the relevant police stations will receive the candidates from 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm to finalize the candidacy procedures.

In a relevant development, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and acting Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Al-Sabah visited the Election Affairs General Department recently to make sure the necessary measures are being taken.

Continued on Page 5



Photo by Mohammad Morsi
Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and acting Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Al-Sabah visited the Election Affairs General Department recently to make sure the necessary measures are being taken.

Transparency triumph

Kuwait advances 22 spots in Corruption Perception Index

KUWAIT CITY, March 10, (KUNA): Chairman of the Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) Abdulaziz Al-Ibrahim announced Sunday that Kuwait improved 22 ranks in the latest Corruption Perceptions Index released by Transparency International.

Al-Ibrahim, during a meeting of the supreme committee for coordinating Kuwait's strategy to enhance integrity and combatting corruption, laid out the latest developments regarding the execution of initiatives and strategic project that were launched in 2019 until 2024.

In his speech at the meeting, Al-Ibrahim noted to the committee's achievements since its launch produced many legislations such as the right to access information, the Conflict of Interest Prevention Law and its executive regulations.

Other legislations included the amendment to some provisions of the Penal Code to extend the scope of criminal liability to persons charged with corruption crimes.

Continued on Page 5

75 nutrition clinics open

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

KUWAIT CITY, March 10: Director of the Food and Nutrition Department at the Ministry of Health Dr. Nawal Al-Qaoud allocated 75 nutrition clinics, distributed among primary health care centers, general hospitals, and specialized centers, to offer advice on the dietary patterns to be followed during the month of Ramadan.

In a press statement issued yesterday, Dr. Al-Qaoud explained that the 51 of those clinics are distributed in primary health care centers, and 24 in general and specialized hospitals, and in the food and nutrition departments. The doctors and therapeutic nutritionists in these clinics provide diet consultations and develop nutritional plans in order for the person

Continued on Page 5

Kuwait judicial body, UN sign MoU on boosting cooperation

KUWAIT CITY, March 10, (KUNA): Kuwait Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies (KIJS) and the United Nations signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on Sunday aimed at enhancing cooperation between the two sides.

The MoU signed by Director-General of the KIJS Justice Hani Al-Hamdan and UN Secretary General's Representative in Kuwait Ghada Al-Taher with attendance of Undersecretary of the Ministry of Justice Hashem Al-Qallaf.

Al-Hamdan added MoU aims to exchange experiences and will provide an opportunity to enable Kuwait's expertise to expand from local to international level.

Continued on Page 5



KUNA photo
Photo during the signing ceremony.



KUNA photo
The Kuwaiti Ambassador to Jordan and the Director of Al-Salam Humanitarian Society pose in a group photo following the arrival of the aid plane.

48th relief plane lands in Amman

Kuwait's 48th plane loaded with relief supplies for the Palestinians in Gaza arrived at the Marka International airport in Jordan's Capital Amman, carrying 40 tons of food sent by Al-Salam Society for Humanitarian and Charitable Works.

Ambassador of Kuwait to Jordan Hamad Al-Marri stated to KUNA and Kuwait TV after the plane's arrival that it is a continuation of the directives of the Kuwaiti leadership to support the brothers in the Gaza Strip, due to the blatant Israeli occupation aggression as well as starvation, the effects of which have become evident recently on Palestinian people.

The relief aid is an extended series of Kuwaiti popular and official support, which has stood with the Palestinian cause since its beginning

and struggle of the brotherly Palestinian people in the face of the Israeli occupation, added Al-Marri.

He noted that the aid that arrived Sunday will be sent urgently in coordination with the Jordanian Air Force and the Hashemite Charitable Organization to ensure its arrival in Gaza as soon as possible.

The ambassador expressed his gratitude and appreciation to all the efforts exerted by the concerned authorities, in Kuwaiti and Jordanian, to facilitate and operate the Kuwaiti relief bridge.

In turn, Director of Al-Salam Society Dhari Al-Buajjan said in a statement that the association is keen to provide the appropriate quality of food to be air dropped on Gaza. (KUNA)

Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Sunday His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Dr. Mohammad Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace.

His Highness the Amir also received Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Acting Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Saud Al-Sabah. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received a letter from the Gambian President Adama Barrow on means of cementing bilateral relations in all domains, as well as issues of mutual interest.

The letter was received by Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya during a meeting with Gambia's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Mamadou Tangara at his office on Sunday. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Dr. Mohammad Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah received, Sunday, a multitude of Kuwaiti association and institution representatives at Bayan Palace.

He received chairs and members of Kuwait Insurance Federation, Kuwait Fishermen Union, Kuwait Transparency Society, workers Union of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET), and Kuwait University faculty. His Highness the Prime Minister and his guests discussed numerous local topics, praising the ideas put forward by specialists that would benefit Kuwait and its citizens. (KUNA)

Ramadan Timings

Iftar Monday..... 17:55
Imsak..... Tuesday.... 04:42



Kuwait relief team distributes aid to Palestinians in Rafah, Gaza Strip.

Kuwaiti doctors conduct surgeries at Gaza hospitals

KRCS distributes food packages to displaced Palestinians

GAZA, March 10, (KUNA): Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) distributed on Sunday food packages for hundreds of displaced Palestinians in the city of Rafah, South of the Gaza Strip on the occasion of the approaching of Ramadan.

KRCS started the distribution process in cooperation with the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS), which helped brief the Kuwaiti institute about 1.5 million displaced Palestinians living in tents and in dire humanitarian conditions due to the continuation of the Israeli occupation aggression for the sixth month in a row.

Head of the KRCS Operations Sector and the Kuwaiti medical team Dr. Musaad Al-Enezi told KUNA that this campaign comes upon the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and his keenness on humanity and Philanthropy.

Al-Enezi said that the campaign coincides with the approaching holy month of Ramadan, and the distributed food packages include basic nutritional supplies and flour.

He pointed out that the Kuwaiti team is divided into three groups, one team performing medical operations in Gaza's

European Hospital, one in Kuwait Specialized Hospital, and one relief team in the camps area.

He expressed his hopes in increasing the amount of aid and relief campaigns in coordination with the concerned parties to help ease the "difficult situation" of the displaced Palestinians.

Hundreds of displaced Palestinians expressed appreciation to Kuwait's leadership, government and people for constantly sending aid and relief since the October 7 war on Gaza.

Continued on Page 5

Prayer Timings

Fajr 04:45 Asr 15:21
 Sunrise .. 06:04 Maghrib .. 17:53
 Zohr 11:58 Isha 19:10

Local

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

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

By Day: Warm and partly cloudy with light to moderate freshening at times southeasterly wind to northeasterly wind, with speeds of 15-50 km/h with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times and a chane for

Weather

rising dust over open areas.

By Night: Rather cold with light to moderate freshening at times northerly wind to northwesterly wind, with speeds of 12-45 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear and a chance for fog forming over some areas.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	28	18
Kuwait Airport	29	12
Abdaly	30	14
Jahra	30	16
Salmiyah	23	19
Nuwaisib	28	13
Wafra	30	15

Grants, gifts illegal in public office, recommends forum

'Kuwait pioneer in ratifying human rights, humanitarian accords'

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, March 10: The first forum, which was organized recently by the Permanent Committee for Civil and Political Rights at the National Office for Human Rights under the title "A Legal Perspective on Civil and Political Rights Practices in Kuwait", concluded by issuing a set of recommendations, mostly at the level of modern trends in the constitutional judiciary and supreme courts regarding the protection of political rights and intellectual freedoms.

The most prominent among these recommendations were:-

1. The necessity to amend law No. 65/1969 regarding public meetings and gatherings to fill the legislative vacuum that resulted from the ruling of the Constitutional Court concerning public meetings, and to remove confusion and ambiguity in the interpretation of the articles of the law as a result of the lack of clarity in the definitions and standards contained therein.

2. The issuance of a new law for regulating public meetings in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and consistent with what the Constitutional Court decided regarding public meetings.

3. The need for the legislator to codify the provisions regulating the exercise of the right to strike in a way that does not disturb public order, respects public morals and does not harm the rights of others in accordance with specific regulations.

4. The strike should not be resorted to except after exhausting the means of amicable settlement, and that it be by a decision of the general assembly of the labor organization with sufficient notice of the intention to organize the strike.

5. The strike must be for a temporary period, and should not lead to the paralysis of public facilities, in addition to explicitly stipulating in the election law the condition of good reputation as one of the conditions that must be met by anyone running for the National Assembly elections.

6. The need to issue legislation to establish the State Council as a judicial body to consider administrative issues in accordance with article 171 of the Constitution.

Meanwhile, at the level of illicit gain crimes, the committee recommended that grants and gifts be considered illegal in public office in order to fill the legal gaps in the illicit gain crime, and criminalize acts not related to money, such as nepotism and favoritism in public office.

It also recommended amending the provisions of law No. 2/2016 concerning establishing the Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority by granting the Public Prosecutor the authority to issue a financial disclosure order.

The committee stressed that revealing unjustified wealth is one of the corruption investigation procedures granted to Nazaha.

It also affirmed the need to expand the scope of those subject to law No. 2/2016 concerning establishing Nazaha to include all public employees and those of similar status.

Furthermore, with regard to combating corruption and ensuring the independence of the judiciary, the committee recommended strengthening the role of the judicial inspection in directing

and guiding the requirements of impartiality and independence, and establishing a code of ethics and conduct for the judicial profession, in addition to the need for the Kuwaiti legislator to adopt the purely judicial formation of the Supreme Judicial Council without representation from the executive authority.

Also, regarding the issue of the rights and obligations of expatriate workers, the committee recommended the need to simplify the procedures for recruiting workers by making them electronic and subjecting them to the supervision of the Public Authority for Manpower.

It also recommended the need to establish a special department for domestic workers in the court to consider their cases, amend its law by adding the statute of limitations and making it two years, educate society about their rights in the private sector, and educate them about their rights under Kuwaiti law.

In addition, regarding the rules governing decisions related to deportation of foreigners in Kuwait, it was recommended to amend paragraph 5 of article 1 of decree law No. 20/1981, which immunizes some administrative decisions from judicial appeal before the Administrative Department. This is based on the fact that such immunization contradicts the provisions of the Constitution, stipulating the right to litigation and the separation of powers, and also undermines the principle of legality.

The authorities concerned with decisions to administratively deport a foreigner must take into account, when exercising their authority in this regard, the human rights guaranteed by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and other international charters.

Among these guarantees is enabling the foreigner to state his defense regarding the acts attributed to him that are believed to be a reason for his deportation, in addition to urging the agencies enforcing administrative deportation decisions against the foreigner to adhere to the provisions of the law and its purposes and to take into account the humanitarian aspects.

In the same context, the forum opened with a speech delivered by the Vice President of the National Office for Human Rights Dr. Siham Al-Fraih, in which she pointed out that Kuwait is a pioneer not only at the regional level but also at the Arab level in ratifying many human rights and humanitarian agreements.

She affirmed that its efforts went beyond that to transforming those agreements into laws, implementing and practicing them.

Dr. Al-Fraih said, "The National Office for Human Rights is the defender of basic rights and freedoms in the country. Its monitoring of any violation against any Kuwaiti or non-Kuwaiti person is our commitment to international human rights standards."

She concluded by emphasizing the necessity of joining hands and building bridges of cooperation between the National Office for Human Rights, civil society organizations and government bodies to achieve many initiatives and programs that aim to enhance awareness of human rights.

In addition, the Chairman of the Permanent Committee for Civil and Political Rights at the National Office Ambassador Khaled Al-Mughamis said civil and political rights are considered one of the basic pillars of the human rights system. Therefore, the Committee on Civil and Political Rights organized its first forum aimed at correcting national legislation and the practices of legal enforcement agencies in the field of civil and political rights.

Banks role wins praise

Kuwait Investment Forum marks 125 years of Kuwaiti-UK relations

KUWAIT CITY, March 10: The Kuwait Investment Forum, a collaborative effort between The Business Year Foundation and the Kuwait Banking Association held in London, marked a significant milestone: the 125th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Kuwait and the United Kingdom.

According to reports from Al-Qabas daily, senior officials from both nations' banking and financial sectors, along with notable economists, gathered to discuss avenues for cooperation across several domains.

The conference, inaugurated by Dr. Anwar Al-Mudhaf, Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Economic and Investment Affairs, saw the presence of esteemed dignitaries including Kuwaiti Ambassador to the UK Bader Al-Awadi and UK Ambassador to Kuwait Belinda Lewis.

Additionally, Sheikh Ahmad Duaij Al-Sabah, Chairman of the Kuwait Banking Association and the Commercial Bank of Kuwait, graced the event alongside key figures from Kuwait's financial landscape.

Panel discussions at the forum cen-

tered around finance, investment, bilateral ties strengthening, Kuwaiti-British partnerships, and technological innovation.

Sheikh Ahmad Duaij Al-Sabah highlighted the enduring economic collaboration between Kuwait and the UK, emphasizing the pivotal role of Kuwaiti banks in fostering growth and development. He stressed their commitment to digital transformation and adoption of advanced technologies to enhance operational efficiency and customer satisfaction.

Moreover, Sheikh Ahmad Duaij Al-Sabah articulated Kuwaiti banks' ambitions to expand their global footprint, particularly in London, to facilitate international trade and serve a broader client base. He commended the Central Bank of Kuwait's efforts to position Kuwait as a financial hub and promote financial technology innovation.

The Chairman praised the UK's advancements in technology and innovation, advocating for ongoing collaboration to promote digital payment solutions, cybersecurity technologies, and Sharia-compliant products.

The Kuwait Investment Forum underscored the commitment to bilateral cooperation and explored opportunities for mutual growth and prosperity, reaffirming the enduring bond between Kuwait and the UK.

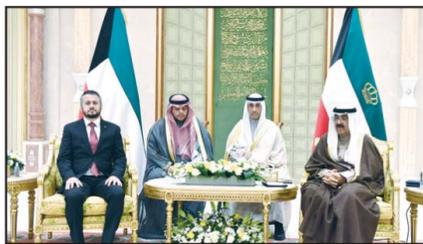


Dr. Al-Fraih

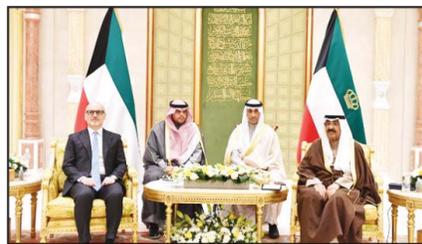


HH the Amir receives the Tunisian ambassador.

KUNA photos



Albanian ambassador



Italian ambassador

HH Amir receives credentials of diplomats

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Sunday the Ambassadors of Albania, Myanmar, Tunisia, US and Italy who

handed their credentials during a ceremony at Bayan Palace. Senior state officials attended the ceremony. (KUNA)

'Kuwaitis, residents live longer due to better health and social services'

Course on promoting health of elderly concludes

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, March 10: The Health Promotion Department, in coordination with the Elderly Committee in Primary Health Care Department, concluded an intensive training course on promoting the health of the elderly in Kuwait, as part of its periodic activities to raise the technical level and continuing education of the category of health education graduates working in the Ministry of Health in various locations.



Dr. Al Bahwa

In this context, the Director of the Health Promotion Department Dr. Abeer Al-Bahwah explained that the number of elderly people over the age of 65 years in the country has reached 130,524, including 77,893 citizens, accounting for 60 percent, and 52,631 residents, accounting for 40 percent. This is according to the latest statistics of the Public Authority for Civil Information for the year 2023, which indicated that the Kuwaiti elderly constitute five percent of the total Kuwaiti population in the country.

There is a noticeable increase in the number of elderly people over the age of 65 years around the world, due to the improvement of many health and social services as well as the decline in fertility rates.

According to the World Population Prospects Report for 2019, the total percentage of the elderly has reached approximately nine percent, and this is expected to increase to 16 percent by the year 2050.

It may reach 25 percent of the total population in some countries, in addition to the three-fold increase in the number of elderly people over the age of eighty.

Dr. Al-Bahwah stressed the importance of educational courses and periodic activities to raise awareness about the health of the elderly and shed light on many health concepts and problems specific to this group.

She said the course hosted a number of consultant doctors specialized in geriatrics, during which they talked about mental deficiency, how to diagnose and prevent it, and about recurrent falls among the elderly and its causes.

Court rejects four petitions

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, March 10: The Court of Cassation, presided over by Judge Sultan Buresli, rejected four petitions submitted by four defendants in the Army Fund case through which they had requested the invalidation of the ruling that convicted them, after the Public Prosecution declined to express its opinion due to its violation of the law.

The petitions were submitted by Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, Samir Marjaan, Hamad Al-Banwan, and Ali Al-Asker.

The Court of Cassation decided to abstain from pronouncing punishment against the former Prime Minister His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak and one of the employees of the Ministry of Defense, provided that they adhere to good conduct.

It also ruled that Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak and the other defendants be jointly fined a sum of KD 22.8 million for the charges leveled against them.

Other Voices

Kemal Ataturk ... Kuwait roads

By Ahmad alsarraf

The Ottoman Empire was founded in 1299 and its disintegration began in 1908 before it collapsed completely in 1922 with its successive defeats against various parties, and the allies divided the lands of the countries that were under their control, and here a brave officer in the Turkish army, Mustafa Kemal, appeared on the stage. Ataturk, the hero of the Battle of Gallipoli.

During this battle he defeated Britain, seizing power and establishing a completely new state in 1923, becoming its first president, and achieving within 15 years one of the rarest and greatest coups in the life of a people, establishing a Turkish secular national state, almost out of nothing, turning it into a state close to its surroundings.

The European Union is advanced in every field, and its achievements have become a source of inspiration for dozens of world leaders, and a comprehensive reform experience has paved the way for Turkey to emerge from its ancient heritage into a new and modern world, and for it to become the only Islamic state capable of competing with the powerful countries of the world in its own backyard, and the only Islamic state that is a member of NATO, the country had it not been for Erdogan's retreats, would have become part of the European Union.

In the first five years of his rule, Ataturk accomplished his most dangerous and influential achievements, which included:

1. Comprehensive political and constitutional reforms, in which he modernized the political and legal system of Turkey, declaring the establishment of the Republic, after abolishing the archaeological institution of the Ottoman Empire, and issuing a modern secular and democratic constitution for the country in 1924.

2. He carried out profound cultural and educational reforms aimed at modernizing society and promoting modern education, through a completely new

curriculum for all levels, prohibiting religious sermons in schools. He also carried out comprehensive reforms in the structure of the educational system.

3. He made radical linguistic changes, making the Turkish language more compatible with European languages, abolishing the Arabic alphabet after replacing it with Latin, with minor additions. He also simplified the rules of the language, and deleted many of the vocabulary that he considered foreign to it.

4. Ataturk introduced a set of legal and judicial reforms, abolished old traditional laws, and established a new civil judicial system, in a European spirit.

5. He carried out comprehensive economic reforms, implemented the Turkish economic modernization program, issued a series of economic laws, and encouraged industry and trade.

6. Ataturk also implemented comprehensive social reforms, including demolishing all Sharia courts, issuing laws that were completely equal between the sexes, and reforming the family system. He prohibited men and women from wearing their old fashioned attire, and prohibited wearing the hijab. He also comprehensively modernized life in Turkey, paving the way for what Türkiye has become today.

The area of Turkey is 800 thousand square kilometers, and its population is 85 million. We do not number more than one and a half million, and our land area does not exceed 18 thousand square kilometers.

However, during the past five years, we have failed to advance a single step in any field, and we have even failed in paving a few kilometers of state roads, education has continued its fatal deterioration for half a century, to the point that it has become a burden that no one wants to approach, and this has turned it into an impossible task, and thus it has become outside the priorities of any government.

Our educational and cultural situation is disastrous, and despite the government's recent good moves, in more than one direction, and this is what we should thank it for, they are much less than what is required, and much slower than they should be. Time is not on our side and history will not be kind to us, so what do we do?

☐ ☐ ☐

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diwaniya

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Fact-finding committees flout law; challenge issue in courts

“HERE I present a stark portrayal borrowed from the administrative proceedings of Kuwait University: the relentless assault of fact-finding committees upon the faculty,” columnist **Dr Falah Muhammad Fahd Al-Hajri** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

“With a borrowed brush, I sketch a scene reminiscent of an afflicted eye, tears mingling with the red ink of injustice. Since the inception of Kuwait University on October 8, 1966, certain leaders have sought to quash dissenting voices, birthing the concept of fact-finding committees.



Dr. Falah Al-Hajri

“I refrain from delving into the university’s extensive history or the ongoing struggle of the Faculty Association against successive administrations, particularly concerning the contentious issue of fact-finding committees. Instead, I focus on the emergence of the Independent Academic List in the mid-nineties, a beacon of truth amidst the turmoil.

“In my impartial inquiry, I ask: what is the true purpose of these committees? Were they established in accordance with the law? To answer these questions objectively, I turn to Dr. Ibrahim Al-Hamoud, who defines the fact-finding committee as a tool wielded by university administrations to gather evidence, fabricate charges, or shield individuals from scrutiny.

“The Public Universities Law 76-2019 mandates the inclusion of a Faculty Association representative in investigation and disciplinary proceedings, ensuring fairness. However, administrations often sidestep this requirement by convening fact-finding committees, thereby circumventing proper oversight.

“In my view, the primary objective of these committees is to neutralize the influence of the Faculty Association representative, facilitating unfettered pursuit of their agenda. This may entail vindictive attacks on faculty members or clandestine efforts to conceal wrongdoing, depending on their loyalty.

“The presence of the association’s representative serves as a bulwark against unjust persecution, leading to exoneration for many faculty members subjected to investigation.

“In conclusion, Dr. Ibrahim Al-Hamoud asserts that fact-finding committees are illegitimate constructs that flout the provisions of Law 76/2019. Faculty members should refrain from participating in their proceedings and challenge their authority before the judiciary, sending a clear message that they reject their validity.”

Also:

“When considering the Constitution and the internal regulations governing the National Assembly’s operations, the role of the Speaker emerges as pivotal. Thus, it’s imperative to entrust this position to an individual capable of leading the Council with impartiality and objectivity,” columnist **Dr Faisal Al-Sharifi** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

“The Kuwaiti Constitution underscores the significance of the Speaker’s role, ranking it third in protocol after the Amir and Crown Prince. Endowed with a range of responsibilities, the Speaker serves as the Council’s representative, spokesperson, and overseer of administrative and financial matters. They also represent the Council in legal proceedings and supervise its General Secretariat, ensuring adherence to constitutional provisions and laws.

“Among the Speaker’s duties are maintaining order within the Council, presiding over sessions, managing the budget, signing contracts, and exercising powers akin to a minister in managing Council affairs. Additionally, they establish protocols for visitor attendance and may take disciplinary action if necessary.

“While various Presidents of the Council may excel in these competencies to different degrees, their effectiveness ultimately hinges on their impartial management of sessions and interactions with the government and MPs. Upholding the principles of separation of powers and cooperation is paramount.

“The Speaker’s efficacy lies in their comprehension of their legal mandate and broad powers conferred by the Constitution. Hence, it is incumbent upon those selected to safeguard this position’s integrity and guide the National Assembly in fulfilling its legislative and oversight functions.

“Choosing the Speaker of the National Assembly is a national responsibility shared by representatives and the government. Whether through direct election or neutral ab-

stention, the selection should prioritize political stability and the ability to chart a consensus-driven legislative path beneficial to the nation and its citizens.”

“A story of the highest morals and integrity... In 1954, the Syrian Parliament members were surprised to see Parliament Speaker Dr Nazim Al-Qudsi sitting on the seats of the members, instead of the speaker’s seat,” columnist **Ahmad Al-Dawas** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Before they asked him for a justification for his action, he presented to them a copy of Al-Rai Al-Aam newspaper, and then he addressed the lawmakers: ‘Colleagues! Al-Rai Al-Aam newspaper accused me of ordering the opening of a street that passes near a piece of land I own in order to increase its value. From this moment on, I put myself before you in the position of the accused. I request the formation of a parliamentary committee that will go to the land in question and assess if the accusation is valid. If the accusation is proven true, I urge you to lift my immunity and put me on trial.’

“Indeed, a committee was formed, went to the location and returned with a report on the falsehood of the accusation. Then, the speaker stood before the Parliament and announced: ‘I waive my right to file a lawsuit against the distinguished journalist, Mr Ahmed Asa -- Editor-in-Chief of Al-Rai Al-Aam newspaper -- out of respect for the freedom of the press and in appreciation of his concern for public interest.’

“This happened in Syria one day. They were great men and it was a beautiful time with great men, as no one among them entered the Parliament poor and left rich. When Urwa bin Muhammad entered Yemen as its governor, he said: ‘O people of Yemen, this is my camel, and if I leave with more than it, then I am a thief.’

“The story of Orwa bin Muhammad is one of the stories of honesty and morals. It is morally obligatory for the members of the Parliament and the ministers to fear Allah in serving their country, Kuwait. They should swear to Allah that they will perform their work with integrity and honor, and that their desire to enter the Parliament should not be for financial gains, as if someone entered poor today and comes out rich a few months later.”

“Fake certificates... I trust those who said that the ‘rational’ government is currently studying all academic certificates obtained from abroad since 2000. As for what came before that, the rational government ‘has no morals’ to review these certificates due to their abundance. We always tend to move towards humiliation, which is the most righteous of all, and that is enough. The government has been reviewing certificates since 2000, including the certificates obtained from the prestigious Assiut University, which competes with Harvard University!” columnist **Ahmad Al-Dawas** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“The government may agree that those who obtained fake certificates before 2000 paved way for those who followed in their footsteps and they were the first to be held accountable. What will happen after if the forger is discovered later... No heads will be cut off, no souls will be taken. The procedures are summed up with withdrawing the certificates. If there are dues for the State, they will be recovered, and each of the forgers will return to where he works, strengthened and honored. If someone who is keen on obtaining a certificate through the big door does not succeed, he enters the window with the dinar ring, thereby, obtaining the certificate. He takes someone’s place and the opportunity for the deserving! This means the matter will go unnoticed and it will not be referred to the judicial authorities!

“Many people, from whom the certificate was withdrawn due to forgery, were not affected by such measure even though they are known! We say loudly: The story lies in restoring the State’s prestige, so a deterring punishment must be imposed, not just withdrawing the certificate and recovering the allocations! For the information of the ‘rational’ government, forgery is still active despite the successive scandals and despite what has been said about the issue. The certificate shops are fully operational and they have enough customers for the next 10 years. This number is expected to increase unless the snake’s head is cut off. The method of cutting the snake’s head is known only to those who are keen on restoring the prestige of the State...”

— **Compiled by PFX Fernandes**

‘Military sectors must maintain readiness, vigilance’

Work jointly for nation’s security, stability: Sheikh Fahad

KUWAIT CITY, March 10: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense, Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, highlighted the paramount importance of maintaining peak readiness, vigilance, and preparedness among personnel within the Ministries of Defense and Interior, reports **Al-Qabas** daily.



Sheikh Fahad

According to reports, he stressed the necessity of ongoing cooperation and coordination between military sectors to safeguard the nation’s security and stability.

Sheikh Fahd Al-Sabah made these remarks during his inspection tour of key sites along Kuwait’s northern border, including Bubiyan, Warba, and Muskan Islands, as well as the naval platform “Faner Boubyan”

of the Kuwaiti Naval Force, Mubarak Port, and border security points managed by the Ministries of Defense and Interior.

Accompanied by high-ranking military officials, his visit aimed to assess and reinforce Kuwait’s defense capabilities.

During his tour, Sheikh Fahd conveyed greetings and appreciation from Kuwaiti leadership to the personnel of the Ministries of Defense and Interior,

commending their dedication and sincerity in serving the nation. He emphasized their heroic contributions to upholding Kuwait’s security, stability, and territorial integrity.

Interacting with commanders at the military sites, Sheikh Fahd Al-Sabah received detailed briefings on their units’ tasks and duties.

He was briefed on the high level of preparedness and readiness demonstrated by personnel, as well as the depth of military coordination and cooperation between the Ministries of Defense and Interior. This collaborative effort encompasses executing common tasks, duties, and joint exercises aimed at enhancing national security.

‘Arrest Ramadan street vendors, replace, wash garbage containers, keep it clean’

Place cleaners at polling stations: Minister Al-Mashaan

KUWAIT CITY, March 10: The Minister of Municipality, Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan, called on the directors of hygiene departments in the municipality branches in the six governorates to launch campaigns against street vendors spread throughout the regions on the first days of the month of Ramadan, reports Al-Qabas daily.

During the minutes of her meeting with those responsible for hygiene in the municipality’s branches in the governorates, a copy of which the daily obtained, Al-Mishaan stressed the necessity of replacing damaged garbage containers in residential areas and washing dirty containers, on a weekly basis, according to the contract, and activating it immediately. She added, she will go on inspection rounds in the governorates to ensure the extent to which each governorate, according to its various departments, carries out the tasks assigned to it.



Dr. Al-Mashaan

Meanwhile, the minister directed officials to cooperate with the Ministry of Education regarding preparing the schools designated as election centers or committees during the polling day, corresponding to next April 4, in all aspects, especially with regard to the cleanliness of their internal and surrounding facilities, such as parking lots and others, and ensuring the smooth entry and exit of voters from the polling centers without obstacles.

She said this work can be done in cooperation with the ministries of Interior and Justice on polling day and preparing the electoral committees, including providing tables, chairs and halls, and creating the best conditions during the election, whether for judges, voters, or even candidates.

This is in addition to the presence of cleaners in uniform on polling day to provide services, while ensuring the cleanliness of the electoral committees, and following up on everything related to the public appearance, with the presence of all municipal officials on polling day, in order to deal with emergency developments.

Al-Mashaan requested intensifying the use of automatic sweepers daily in all regions of Kuwait, in addition to sweeping the emergency lanes on all roads roads, especially in the densely populated governorates, such as Farwaniya, Jahra, and Al-Ahmadi, and cleaning markets in the governorates using small machines such as the Mubarakiya and

MPW announces multiple road repair contracts

KUWAIT CITY, March 10: The Ministry of Public Works has announced a series of contracts for extensive maintenance of road infrastructure across Kuwait. These contracts are open to local, Gulf, and international companies, with a specified implementation period of 1,095 days, reports **Al-Qabas** daily.

The objectives of these contracts include, general maintenance of roads, squares, small construction works, emergency repairs, and miscellaneous tasks such as asphalt or tile installations; maintenance and construction of pressure and gravity lines in the sanitary sewage network, including cleaning, photography, seal openings, and connection of government buildings or residential plots and aintenance, replacement, and reconstruction

of sewers, including cleaning and construction of rainwater sewer lines.

This is in addition to the installation and maintenance of road signs, traffic signs, safety barriers, and roadside grilles; planning and maintenance of road and parking lot surfaces, as well as installation of reflective ground traffic signs and plastic poles, comprehensive maintenance of agricultural areas and related infrastructure and maintenance of external and border roads in the southern region of Kuwait.

Moreover, the Ministry proposed a maintenance contract specifically for Al-Salmi Road, with the goal of enhancing highway efficiency, improving safety measures, and addressing asphalt maintenance and bridge expansion joint issues.

Brayeh Salem markets, public places, beaches, and other crowded places.

Al-Mishaan identified the tasks assigned to hygiene inspectors during the coming period, which are:

- Implementing campaigns against violators in commercial, investment and industrial areas in coordination with other parties, according to the specified schedule.

- Implementing a campaign on grocery stores and “food trucks” in residential areas and everything that occupies the road.

- Organizing campaigns against street vendors throughout the regions on the first days of the month of Ramadan.

- Putting pressure on cleaning companies and oblige them to clean periodically, monitor the places of garbage spread in the regions, and monitor the performance of the companies’ workers.

- Field visits by hygiene managers to monitor their sites.

- Follow up on cleaning neglected sites, such as Al-Wafra and Abdali farms, Kabd and camel farms, Al-Khuwaisat chalets, and barren areas.

- Replacing damaged containers in residential areas and washing dirty containers, on a weekly basis, according to the (inactive) contract, and activating it starting in the coming days.

- Violation of commercial and investment complexes in the event of failure to place sufficient containers and remove the violating containers therein.

- Cleaning the open areas after the end of the camping season, and ensuring that the deposit is not refunded until after ensuring that the camping site is completely clean, by bringing a paper in the name of the license holder, extracted from the Environment Public Authority, proving the cleanliness and safety of the place.



Dozing off at work.

Alarming rise in physical inactivity rates in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, March 10: According to Dr. Abeer Al-Bahwa, the Director of the Health Promotion Department at the Ministry of Health, Kuwait is witnessing a worrying trend in physical inactivity rates. Among adults aged 18 and above, approximately 61% of males and a staggering 75% of females are not engaging in sufficient physical activity, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

Dr. Al-Bahwa highlighted these concerning statistics, emphasizing the critical need for action to combat this trend. She pointed out that the holy month of Ramadan presents a valuable opportunity for individuals to incorporate exercise into their routines, thus reducing inactivity and improving overall health. This call to action is especially pertinent given the rising rates of obesity and diabetes across the country.

The situation is equally alarming among younger demographics, with 79% of males and 90% of females aged 11 to 17 falling into the category of physically inactive. For the elderly population aged 70 and above, the rates are similarly high, standing at 76% for males and 85% for females.

Addressing this issue requires a comprehensive approach that spans various sectors. Dr. Al-Bahwa stressed the importance of collaboration across ministries to promote health awareness and implement policies that encourage physical activity across all age groups. She underscored the need for a systematic approach tailored to the unique challenges faced by Kuwait in combating physical inactivity.



Tackling the blaze.

Garage on fire

Firefighters swiftly contained a blaze that broke out among several vehicles at the Amghara scrapyard, averting any casualties, reports **Al-Rai** daily. According to the General Fire Force, teams from the Tahrir and Jahra Al-Harfi centers responded promptly to extinguish the fire engulfing a section of the garage at the Amghara scrapyard. Working diligently, the teams successfully subdued the flames and prevented their escalation. Fortunately, there were no reports of major injuries resulting from the incident.

Contracts inked to improve infrastructure in two areas

KUWAIT CITY, March 10: The Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs, Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan, has signed two project contracts today for infrastructure works in the Qortuba and Yarmouk regions, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

During a press conference which was held on the sidelines of signing contracts to improve the infrastructure of the two regions, replace the sewage and rainwater networks, and radially repair their roads, Al-Mashaan explained that this signing is the beginning of repairing the roads of the rest of Kuwait’s regions.

For his part, the official spokesman for the Ministry of Public Works, Ahmed Al-Saleh, announced that the Ministry has prepared the tender documents for the basic maintenance of Kuwaiti governorates’ roads and highways.

25 فبراير
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INDO-KUWAIT FRIENDSHIP

Move aims to address complaints about poor quality and limited variety of goods

'Social Affairs' to do away with Ramadan baskets distribution

KUWAIT CITY, March 10: The Ministry of Social Affairs has initiated a significant overhaul of Ramadan basket distribution, issuing a directive to the Federation of Cooperative Societies to replace traditional baskets with purchase balances added to shareholders' cards, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This move aims to address complaints about the poor quality and

limited variety of goods in the baskets while providing shareholders the freedom to procure items aligned with their actual needs during the holy month.

The decision follows a history of manipulations, violations, and financial discrepancies observed in previous basket distributions, which led to serious repercussions for shareholder funds and cooperative integ-

ity. Investigations revealed unsold baskets accumulating in association stores, highlighting a disconnect between provided items and shareholder needs.

The Ministry clarified that the purchase balance distribution will be calculated based on factors such as Ministry approval, the financial health of cooperatives, and their annual profits relative to the

allocated balance amount. Each cooperative's distribution will be tailored to its financial solvency, ensuring alignment with its financial position.

In other initiatives, nominations have begun to honor pioneering projects in Gulf social work during the upcoming meeting of the Council of Ministers of Affairs in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries,

aimed at recognizing innovative projects and fostering community development.

Moreover, Minister of Social Affairs, Family, and Childhood Affairs, Sheikh Firas Al-Malik, recently honored outstanding employees for their role in launching electronic voting in cooperative society elections, reflecting the Ministry's commitment to trans-

parency and efficiency.

On the occasion of International Women's Day, Al-Malik extended congratulations to Kuwaiti women, acknowledging their pivotal role in societal advancement and affirming Kuwait's support for women's empowerment across all sectors, highlighting their contributions as partners in development and leaders in progress.

Municipal Council member Al-Amir proposes 'solar panel regulations'

Focus on three main axes

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, March 10: The Municipal Council member Munira Al-Amir submitted a proposal to create a schedule in the regulations for regulating construction works that are currently being discussed in the Municipal Council. It includes the requirements and specifications for installing solar panels on government and private sites and buildings, in addition to setting regulatory mechanisms for government and private projects in the future so that there is a clear map for them.

Al-Amir expressed her hope that the regulation would serve as a general guide for construction in order to keep pace with everything that is happening in the world, and to include and regulate all aspirations, encourage the construction of smart, environmentally friendly buildings that are self-reliant on their energy production, and

build true integration in state agencies that achieves the well-being of society.

In her proposal, Al-Amir focused on three main axes:



Munira Al-Amir

1. Creating a new table in the regulations that includes the requirements and specifications for installing solar panels on government and private sites and buildings, with the help of the expertise of specialized sectors, most notably the Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy.

2. Establishing mechanisms to participate in the licensing of places or units for producing electrical energy from solar energy for individuals and companies, in coordination with the Ministry of Electricity and the relevant authorities.

3. Establishing initial standards and controls to be implemented in the event of a request to allocate spaces for such projects, so that they are implemented according to a clear map consistent with the initial data of the state's structural plan.

Al-Amir drew attention to the situation of Kuwait with regard to electrical energy, and

the degree of need to raise the country's energy production capabilities to complete its development path.

She expressed her concern about what she hears from time to time from officials and from reports issued in this regard that Kuwait is on the verge of exceeding its production capacity of electrical energy.

Al-Amir said one of the solutions proposed for Kuwait is the idea of exploiting its permanent sun and high temperatures to produce electrical energy from a renewable source such as solar energy, as is happening throughout the world, even in the surrounding Gulf countries as well, which have preceded Kuwait in this regard. The Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and even Jordan and Egypt possess real production and not just ideas or endeavors.

She explained that the political leadership is making effective moves to conclude international agreements to establish solar energy stations on a global level to produce electrical energy in Kuwait. They are also working on the participation of the private sector and individuals in the production of electrical energy from solar energy, and its distinctive efforts in this framework, by agreeing to purchase energy from others in accordance with the established procedures.



Minister of Information and Culture Al-Mutairi with football stars at the 'Kuwait Football History' Museum.



Important pictures and documents in the 'Kuwait Football History' Museum.

KHS opens Kuwait football museum

Kuwait Heritage Society (KHS) opened on Saturday the museum of Kuwait football history at Youm Al-Bahhar Village under the auspices and in presence of Minister of Information and Culture Abdul-Rahman Al-Mutairi.

The exhibits include relics, photos and documents belonging to national football stars of the golden age that are strongly

reminiscent of their achievements on the local, regional and continental levels.

The museum falls in the framework of the Heritage Society's effort, in cooperation with the Public Authority for Sport and the Ministry of Information and Culture, to immortalize the iconic players who formed the history of sports in Kuwait. (KUNA)

Project 90 percent completed

Al-Shaddadiya Industrial City to be Kuwait's largest industrial hub

KUWAIT CITY, March 10: Abdullah Al-Jouan, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Public Authority for Industry, said the completion rate of the Al-Shaddadiya Industrial City project exceeds 90%, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The project, spanning an area exceeding 5 square kilometers and containing 1,036 plots, is scheduled to be unveiled in May, adhering to the specified timeline.

During an inspection tour, attended by key ministers including the Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, and the Minister of State for Housing Affairs, Dr. Salem Al-Hajraf, and the Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of Works, Dr. Noura Al-Mishaan, Al-Jouan highlighted the significance of the Al-Shaddadiya Industrial City project.

It aims to meet the requirements for economic and industrial growth, providing the foundation for the development

of an integrated industrial hub equipped with cutting-edge technologies.

Al-Jouan emphasized the project's pivotal role in advancing industrial development, increasing the contribution of non-oil manufacturing industries to the GDP, and creating employment opportunities through the localization of small and medium industries. The project also aims to elevate the quality and international recognition of Kuwaiti industries, diversify income sources, and align with the vision of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad and the support of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Dr. Mohammed Al-Sabah.

Furthermore, Al-Jouan revealed plans to establish industrial clusters in petrochemical, plastic, biopharmaceutical, and food industries within the Al-Shaddadiya Industrial Project. These clusters will serve as models for industrial growth, fostering technological innovation and application across various sectors beneficial to Kuwait's economy.

Kuwait housing authority faces legal hurdles over contracting firm's deal

KUWAIT CITY, March 10: The Public Authority for Housing Welfare has reportedly signed a deal with a contracting firm but the deal will have to wait for a court verdict due to outstanding debts owed to subcontracting companies for several years, reports Al-Jarida daily.

A source familiar with the issue said the company has inked deals with the ministries of Oil and Public Works for study, design, construction, and maintenance of housing facilities for expatriate workers in the Al-Shaddadiya.

The company reportedly sublets these projects to local companies and utilizes their resources and labor through special contracts, which substantiate the subcontractors' entitlement to financial dues.

However, it has been alleged that the company has committed fraud against these subcontracting firms, involving substantial sums of money totaling hundreds of thousands of dinars.

Presently, the company is executing a contract for the construction, completion, and maintenance of public buildings for government entities in the South Abdullah Al-Mubarak area, valued at 25.896 million dinars.

However, there has been minimal involvement from the Public Authority for Housing Welfare regarding residential projects, despite being cognizant of a judicial ruling mandating the seizure of the company's funds due to fraudulent practices against other entities. Al-Jarida possesses documentation affirming the existence of an executive seizure report against the debtor.

This situation raises concerns about the plight of small or medium-sized companies accredited to state ministries, particularly regarding the challenges faced by subcontractors in securing their rightful dues.

While the primary contractor can evade payment obligations and continue to secure new projects without consequences, subcontractors are left struggling to sustain their operations. This issue has exacerbated the trend of awarding contracts to entities offering the lowest bids, often neglecting subcontractors' financial rights.

It is noteworthy that the company's problematic dealings extend beyond its operations in Kuwait, as it previously defaulted on a significant debt owed to subcontractors after completing a large-scale project in Baghdad.

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Society's summary of bylaws to be published in Official Gazette

MoSA okays setting up Kuwait Leukemia and Lymphoma Society

KUWAIT CITY, March 10: Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs Sheikh Firas Saud Al-Sabah issued a decision on the official declaration of Kuwait Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, reports Al-Anba daily.

Article One of the decision states that "Kuwait Leukemia and Lymphoma Society shall be registered in accordance with the bylaws of the ministry, and a summary of its bylaws shall be published in the Official Gazette.

Article Two: The provisions of this decision shall be effective from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette. The competent authorities shall implement the decision.

Following is a summary of the Society's bylaws:

The Kuwaiti Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, headquartered in the State of Kuwait, has been registered in the Ministry of Social Affairs for unlimited purposes. It will follow up scientific studies and research to improve medical services for patients with scientific blood diseases; serve as an indicative work platform between patients and therapists to exchange opinions and experiences; publish special awareness lectures for cancer patients; facilitate access to blood cancer specialists; educate the community about the disease, its causes and symptoms; submit proposals to the concerned entities; participate in international conferences and workshops; and organize and participate in sports events for health care workers.

31 more

Continued from Page 1

He issued directives to ease procedures and provide assistance to the candidates during his visit.

Furthermore, Former MP Khalid Ayed Al-Anzi, who filed his candidacy for the Second Constituency, disclosed that his top priorities include unifying the citizenship categories and authorizing the court to rule on citizenship cases. He considers the citizenship issue a safety valve for maintaining national security, while warning about the spread of racist speech on social media.

He criticized the dismissal of some prosecutors, just because of their citizenship category. He added about 70 officers and non-ranking officers were excluded from the graduation ceremony for those who completed a training course for the same reason. He said Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and acting Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Al-Sabah is held responsible for this attitude. He argued the minister should bear political and constitutional responsibilities, since the

Constitution does not discriminate among citizens according to the category of their citizenship.

Former MP and Third Constituency candidate Abdulwahab Al-Babtain stated that amending the Election and National Assembly laws will be his top priorities in case he wins in the election. He emphasized the need for proportional representation to strengthen parliamentary team work and the national fabric. He said the Shiite, Sunni and tribal candidates can be on the same electoral list as long as they agree on the same work program.

For the first time in the history of parliamentary elections in the country, a deaf and mute citizen — Ayedh Muhsen Al-Ajmi — is standing for election in the Fifth Constituency. Through a sign language interpreter, he stressed the need for representation of disabled citizens in the Assembly to fulfill their demands. He highlighted the directive of HH the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to fully support the disabled. He disclosed that his priorities include the disabled, retirees and Bedouins.

Former MP Hamdan Al-Azmi has emphasized the need for political stability and settlement of disputes rather than the issuance of legislation at the moment. He said there have been attempts to distort democracy through the accusations hurled at the Assembly. He stressed that having an Assembly is much better than losing it.

Candidate Thamer Metaieb Al-Abdali asserted that since the beginning of democracy in Kuwait, there have been three problems: parties that do not believe in democracy, lack of a clear vision by successive governments and bad formation of governments. He called on HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Dr. Mohammed Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah to choose the ministers carefully and according to their capacity, not quota. He will focus on improving the citizens' standard of living and solving the vital issues related to education, healthcare and housing welfare.

Candidate Meshabeh Hamlan Al-Sahli said the housing issue and writing off the citizens' loans will be his top priorities.

Former MP Obaid Mohammad Al-Mutairi has unveiled his plan to vie for speakership if he wins in the parliamentary election, stressing that this is the right of every MP.

Al-Mutairi also affirmed that he respects the election result, since it reflects the citizens' opinion.

Kuwait advances

Continued from Page 1

Al-Ibrahim added that law 120/2023 regarding electing parliament members, better known as the Higher Commission for Elections) while 83 percent of national strategic initiatives have been completed and assessed.

He pointed out to other achievements such as enhancing fight against corruption at national, regional and international level, especially with Civil society institutions, associations and regulatory bodies.

Al-Ibrahim added that a visual presentation was held by the planning and follow up committee in Nazaha about the achievements of the committee.

He affirmed on the importance of doubling efforts in executing Kuwait commitment to the United Nations agreement for combating corruption and improve the country's position in international indices.

Kuwait judicial

Continued from Page 1

For her part, Al-Taheer stated to KUNA that the partnership between the two sides will enhance technical cooperation, exchange capabilities in various fields that are related to law and justice in Kuwait, and will hold joint programs online or in person in collaboration with UN agencies.

Al-Taheer noted that the MoU is a framework for furthering the strategic partnership between UN and KJLS to have a highly efficient judicial and legal system in Kuwait.

One of the objectives of the KJLS is to train Members of the Public Prosecutor's Office and Legal Advice and Legislation in which helps them to practice their work more efficiently.

75 nutrition

Continued from Page 1

to maintain a healthy lifestyle. These clinics will operate throughout the month of Ramadan to ensure safe and healthy fasting, especially for those with chronic diseases such as diabetes, blood pressure, heart diseases, etc.

During the month of Ramadan, numerous principles of healthy nutrition serve to assist fasting individuals in adopting a wholesome lifestyle and correcting unhealthy dietary habits. They include breaking fast with dates, followed by a cup of soup and a glass of water. The main dish can be eaten after performing prayers. Care must be taken not to eat too much food especially sweets. Using small plates and eating balanced quantities with less fat during the period from breakfast to suhoor (late night meal) will help. It is important to reduce the consumption of fried foods and fats as much as possible. An air fryer will be a good tool to use for preparing meals.

Dr. Al-Qaoud stressed the need to divide the food quantity into three meals - Breakfast, Ghabqa and suhoor, to ensure the availability of fresh vegetables and fruits in every meal, and to drink an ample amount of water from the time of breakfast to suhoor time.

She highlighted the importance of adopting home cooking, avoiding fast food, and reducing the consumption of sweets and juices that are high in sugar.

As for children, Dr. Al-Qaoud said their meals should be monitored, especially sweets and other food items with high sugar content commonly eaten during the Girgian festival.

KRCS distributes

Continued from Page 1

On Saturday, a medical team from Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) had entered Gaza and performed some critical surgeries for Palestinians injured at a number of hospitals in the Gaza Strip.

On Saturday, a team from Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) has embarked on performing some critical surgeries for Palestinians injured at a number of hospitals in the Gaza Strip.

Speaking to KUNA in a statement on Saturday, team member Dr. Mohammad Haider said they initiated their mission with performing some surgeries at Gaza European Hospital and Kuwait Specialized Hospital, in cooperation with health authorities in the Strip.

Haider, a surgery consultant, added that the number of those injured is large, and they need more efforts from all medical teams coming from all over the world to the Strip. Meanwhile, head of surgery department at Gaza European Hospital, Dr. Emad Al-Hout said the Kuwaiti team provided psychological support to all doctors working in the Strip, noting that Kuwait's doctors performed some pancreas and heart surgeries.

He thanked His Highness the Amir, the Kuwaiti government and people for their support to Palestinians, hoping for more medical support.

The Kuwaiti medical team includes four consultants: Orthopedic Surgeon Consultant Dr. Hussein Qwaian, Urology Consultant Dr. Faisal Al-Hajri, Anesthesia Consultant Dr. Mohammad Shamsah, Surgery Consultant Dr. Mohammad Haider, and Administrative Coordinator Abdurrahman Al-Saleh.

The team arrived Thursday in Egypt's City of Al-Arish, north of Sinai, by a Kuwait Air Force plane loaded with food supplies and urgent medical relief.

In other news, the Egyptian Army on Sunday continued airdrops of humanitarian and relief aid in the Gaza Strip in collaboration with the global coalition.

The army's spokesperson Col. Abdulhafedh Ghareeb said in a statement that the continuation of providing support to relief the Palestinians who lack of basic needs came per President Abdulfattah Al-Sisi's directives.

He added that the Egyptian air force in collaboration with Jordan and other countries carried out a number of trips with the global coalition to drop urgent humanitarian and relief assistance on the affected areas in the Northern Gaza strip.

A number of military aircraft, including from Egypt and UAE, have taken off from Al-Arish Airport loaded large quantities of food supply and urgent relief material and dropped them on north of the Strip, he noted.

Col. Ghareeb affirmed that this comes as a part of Egypt's active role in supporting regional and international efforts of providing humanitarian and relief aid to the affected Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

Egyptian President Abdelfattah El-Sisi has assured that Cairo is making every possible effort to safeguard and assist the Palestinians by actively working towards implementing a cease-fire in Gaza and delivering essential aid supplies.

In a statement marking "the martyr's day," on Saturday president El-Sisi saluted the steadfast Palestinian people on Palestine's soil. "Your plight is our plight and your pain is our pain," he said.

The world, since months ago has been witnessing a great tragedy in the neighboring dear Palestine, where thousands of martyrs have been falling in the Gaza Strip, El-Sisi said.

Egypt will continue its bid to enforce a cease-fire, dispatch aid supplies and relieve the afflicted from this colossal catastrophe, he said, re-affirming that Cairo would do everything possible to enable the Palestinian people attain their legitimate right to establish an independent state.

Call to address environmental issues tied to gas, oil industries

Harmful 'fossil resources' need to be replaced: Dr Al-Atiqi

KUWAIT CITY, March 10, (KUNA): Deputy Prime Minister and Oil Minister Dr. Imad Al-Atiqi called on Sunday for addressing issues recently raised about industry of gas and oil, "fossil resources" harmful to environment and should be replaced with other sources of energy.

Al-Atiqi, after concluding his visit to the OAPEC headquarter and meeting its Chief Jamal Al-Loughani, confirmed the importance of strengthening relations between OAPEC and the State of Kuwait.

In a press statement, he praised the various activities done by the organization, saying that "OAPEC in one of the unique and pioneering organizations". He also praised the positive measures within the framework of improving and activating the organization's work, restructuring it, and expand its activities to include more energy resources and follow up with other issues such as climate change and energy transformations.

He explained that energy policy makers and decision makers in the oil and gas producing and exporting countries are facing great challenges to maintain their interests and have to defend them in a way that doesn't negatively affect the environment.

During the visit, Minister Al-Atiqi reviewed the activities and tasks of the general secretariat of OAPEC, its periodic reports, forums, conferences, and training sources. He also reviewed the plan to develop the organization's business and restructure it in line with the global developments taking place in the global energy industry.

'229 posts vacant at power ministry'

KUWAIT CITY, March 10: The Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy has 229 vacant supervisory positions, reports Al-Jarida daily quoting sources. Sources confirmed that the ministry is committed to the decisions of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) on regulating promotions and Ministerial Resolution No. 103/2019 on the additional conditions for appointment to supervisory posts.

Sources added the ministry has forwarded all grievances regarding promotion by selection to the CSC in compliance with the decree on the procedures for submitting and deciding on grievances against administrative decisions.

In another development, sources revealed that the cost of water projects implemented in Wafra Housing City is estimated at KD14.289 million; indicating these projects include the main water line with a diameter of 800 mm from the reservoirs in Wafra to the housing city and a water line with a diameter of 1,200 mm from Zour Water Complex to the Wafra reservoirs. Sources said the ministry is keen on completing all energy and water projects, especially those related to the new housing cities, in coordination with the concerned government agencies.

Kuwait Science & Engineering Competition: ... ten years of nurturing the young scientists

KUWAIT CITY, March 10: The Kuwait Science and Engineering Competition's 10th edition, sponsored by His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad, under the theme "Challenge and Provide", was held last week, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The event which ran over two days and featured 83 scientific research projects and engineering designs. Talal Al-Kharafi, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Science Club, highlighted the competition's significance in realizing the club's vision to support young researchers and innovators.

Al-Kharafi emphasized the Science Club's commitment to its societal role by assembling a specialized team and a jury of 50 academics to foster a conducive environment for scientific research. The club has been organizing the competition since 2012 and conducts free workshops and courses throughout the year to prepare government school teachers and students for participation.

Private schools also contribute by organizing annual scientific exhibitions, enhancing their students' scientific research skills.



Deputy PM and Minister of Oil, Dr. Imad Al-Atiqi, during the visit to OAPEC headquarters. KUNA photo



Left: Amal Al-Hamad and Ghada Al-Ghanim (right) being honored. Al-Qabas photo

'Inspiring Gulf woman'

GCC honors two female Kuwaiti innovators

KUWAIT CITY, March 10: In a new episode of the excellence of Kuwaiti women, and their appreciation regionally and internationally, the General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council -- among a number of Gulf women on International Women's Day -- honored two Kuwaiti innovators, Ghada Al-Ghanim, Secretary-General of the Cultural Social and Humanitarian Society, as an "inspiring Gulf woman," and Amal Al-Hamad, who is the first female ambassador to head the delegation of the Gulf Cooperation Council to the European Union in Brussels from 2006 to 2017, among the pioneers working in the General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council, reports Al-Qabas daily.

In his speech during the ceremony held by the secretariat under the slogan "Inspiring Gulf Woman," the Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Jassem Al-Budaiwi, welcomed the attendees, praising the role of Gulf women at all levels.

Al-Budaiwi reviewed some of the achievements

and numbers achieved by Gulf women at the Gulf and global levels, expressing his aspiration that women will achieve more achievements in the future.

In a statement to Al-Qabas about this honor, Al-Ghanim said: "What we received is a tribute to Kuwait and its people," calling on Kuwaiti women and Gulf women in general to persevere in their work with conviction to achieve their aspirations and goals.

She added: "There are some situations that may provoke a person or belittle others, and we must take advantage of that to prove the opposite," citing a previous demand by a member of the National Assembly for laws that limit women's freedom. At that time, the reaction of Kuwaiti women was to correct this concept.

Al-Ghanim stressed that it is easy for a woman to be successful when she believes in her abilities to work and insists on achieving the goal she is working for.

Kuwait's Endowment Forum marks Sec-Gen's 30th 'versary

KUWAIT CITY, March 10: Minister of Justice, Endowments and Islamic Affairs Judge Faisal Al-Gharib inaugurated the 27th Endowment Forum, organized by the Secretariat General of Endowments under the slogan, "30 Years of Leadership," and under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at the Grand Hyatt Hotel recently, reports Al-Anba daily.

Al-Gharib said the forum coincides with the Secretariat General's 30th foundation anniversary. He thanked His Highness the Amir for sponsoring the event, indicating the latter's generosity and unwavering support greatly contribute to the success of the activities of the Secretariat General.

He pointed out the country is truly proud of the Secretariat General, which has had remarkable achievements in many fields internally and externally, especially those related to community service. "It took a qualitative leap

in endowment work in the country. It is a pioneer in advancement in various fields. The slogan, "30 Years of Leadership," reflects the long years full of achievements and projects, while focusing on successes and endowment leadership throughout its history," he added.

He affirmed the Secretariat General contributed abundantly to the needy locally and globally; thereby, strengthening Kuwait's position as a global humanitarian center through its endowment funds and projects in coordination with banks keen on contributing to community development, in addition to relief efforts for those afflicted by natural disasters and wars in various countries in coordination with Kuwaiti official and civil institutions.

He stated that the forum reviews broad aspects of the contributions of the Secretariat General throughout its history and the milestones in its local, regional and global development projects.

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World News Roundup

Europe

Kate appears in photo

Moldova faces threats from Russia, says FM

CHISINAU, Moldova, March 10, (AP): The past two years have been the hardest and most tumultuous for European Union candidate Moldova in more than three decades as it faces threats from Russia in multiple spheres of public life, the country's foreign minister says.

Since Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, its neighbor Moldova has faced a litany of crises that have at times raised fears the country is also in Russia's crosshairs. These included errant missiles landing on its territory; a severe energy crisis after Moscow dramatically reduced gas supplies; rampant inflation; and protests by pro-Russia parties against the pro-Western government. Moldova has also taken in the highest number of Ukrainian refugees per capita of any country.

"This past two years without exaggeration have been by far the most difficult in the past 30 years," Mihai Popsoi, appointed foreign minister in late January, told The Associated Press in an interview.

Moldova gained independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, but Russia continues to see the country - sandwiched between Ukraine and EU member Romania - as within its sphere of influence.

Moldovan officials have repeatedly accused Russia of conducting a "hybrid war" against the country - funding anti-government protests, meddling in local elections and running vast disinformation campaigns to try to topple the government and derail Moldova from its path toward full EU membership. Russia has denied the accusations.

Last week, Moldova's national Intelligence and Security Services agency said it has gathered data indicating "unprecedented" plans by Moscow to launch a fresh and sprawling destabilization campaign as Moldova gears up for a referendum on EU membership and a presidential election later in the year.

"We know that the Kremlin is going to invest a lot of energy and financial resources through their proxies to try to get their way," said Popsoi, a lawmaker from the governing Party of Action and Solidarity who also serves as deputy prime minister.

Bribe
"They're trying to bribe voters and use citizens to bribe them," he added. "The Russians are learning and adapting, and they're trying to use the democratic process against us ... to topple a democratic government in Moldova."

Tensions have also periodically soared in Moldova's Russia-backed breakaway region of Transnistria - a thin strip of land bordering Ukraine that isn't recognized by any UN member countries but where Russia maintains about 1,500 troops as so-called peacekeepers, guarding huge Soviet-era weapons and ammunition stockpiles.

Shortly after the war started, a string of explosions struck the region; an opposition leader was found fatally shot in his home last July; and anxieties soared last month when some feared the region would ask to be annexed by Russia. Instead, the region appealed to Russia for diplomatic "protection" amid what it said was increasing pressure from Chisinau.

Popsoi acknowledged that the situation with Transnistria is tense, and he worries that the speculation could adversely impact investment. "The situation will remain tense as long as the front line is 200 miles away," he said.

The 37-year-old minister noted the testing period Moldova has been through has nevertheless also been transformative for his country, which has a population of about 2.5 million people.

"When we look at the energy security of Moldova, two years ago there was very little," he said. "Now Moldova is quite independent or has alternatives and can choose where to buy gas and electricity."

Also:

LONDON: The first photo of Kate, the Princess of Wales, since her abdominal surgery nearly two months ago was issued Sunday along with a statement thanking the public for its support.

The photo of her in a chair surrounded by her three children was credited to her husband, William, Prince of Wales and heir to the throne, and was said to be taken earlier in the week in Windsor.

"Thank you for your kind wishes and continued support over the last two months," Kate said on social media. "Wishing everyone a Happy Mother's Day."

It follows weeks of wild speculation on social media about her whereabouts since she left a hospital Jan. 29 after a nearly two week stay following planned surgery. She hadn't been seen publicly since Christmas Day.

The royal family has been under more scrutiny than usual in recent weeks, because both Kate and King Charles III can't carry out their usual public duties because of health problems.

Royal officials say Charles is undergoing treatment for an unspecified form of cancer, which was discovered during treatment for an enlarged prostate. The monarch has canceled all his public engagements while he receives treatment, though he's been photographed walking to church and meeting privately with government officials and dignitaries.

Although the palace initially said it would only provide significant updates and that she would not return to royal duties before Easter - March 31 this year - it followed up with a statement last month amid the rumors and conspiracy theories by saying she was doing well and reiterating its previous statement.

PRISTINA, Kosovo: Kosovo's Central Electoral Commission on Saturday approved referendums in four Serb-majority municipalities to be held on April 21 on whether to oust their ethnic Albanian mayors whose election last year raised tensions between Serbia and Kosovo.

The commission's decision passed with eight votes in favor and two abstentions, according to a statement.

The commission also confirmed a petition held in January in which about one-fourth of around 45,000 eligible voters in four municipalities in northern Kosovo - Northern Mitrovica, Leposavic, Zvecan and Zubin Potok - where most of Kosovo's ethnic Serb minority lives, were in favor of the new vote. At least 20% of eligible voters was needed.

The petition was one alternative accepted by Kosovar Prime Minister Albin Kurti to meet a constitutional rule to redo the municipal elections. After the April 21 vote on whether to oust the four mayors, Kosovar President Vjosa Osmani is expected to set a date for an early municipal election in that area.



Popsoi



Republican presidential candidate former US President Donald Trump speaks at a campaign rally on March 9, in Rome, Ga. (AP)



This undated photo issued on March 10 by Kensington Palace shows Kate, Princess of Wales with her children, Prince Louis, (left), Prince George and Princess Charlotte, taken in Windsor, England, by Prince William earlier this week. The Princess of Wales shared a message on social media thanking the public for their continued support and wishing people a Happy Mother's Day. (AP)



McLaughlin



Formella

America

Police shoot armed man: Police in New Hampshire shot and killed a man during a foot chase after he was taken down by a police dog and pulled a weapon Friday evening, the state Attorney General John Formella said.

New Hampshire State Police troopers killed Joseph Russell, 36, during the pursuit that began while they were assisting Rochester Police Department officers, Formella said in a statement.

Rochester police were searching for Russell in connection with multiple vehicle thefts and saw him driving in the city about 21 miles (33.8 kilometers) northwest of Portsmouth.

Police intercepted Russell on Route 16, where he abandoned his vehicle and ran away. The officers also learned Russell was carrying a firearm, Formella said.

The Rochester officers and state troopers spotted Russell in a residential area and began pursuing him and ordering him to stop. A trooper released a police dog, which brought Russell to the ground.

Officers reported they saw Russell draw a gun, and two troopers fired at him. Russell died at the scene, Formella said. (AP)

Rescue effort launched: Two people were rescued and emergency crews were attempting to rescue a third Saturday at a ski area on the Northeast's highest mountain, a news report said.

The New Hampshire State Police told WMUR-TV that crews had been working since Saturday afternoon to rescue three people at Tuckerman Ravine, a popular area for skiers and hikers on New Hampshire's Mount Washington.

Authorities said the people involved may have serious injuries, WMUR reported.

The New Hampshire Department of Public Safety, which oversees the state police, directed questions about the rescue to the US Forest Service. The Forest Service and New Hampshire Fish and Game authorities did not immediately respond to an email seeking additional information. (AP)

DOJ opens investigation: The Department of Justice has launched a criminal investigation into the Boeing jetliner blowout

Politics

US president regrets using term 'illegal'

Trump blasts Biden over Riley's death

ATLANTA, March 10, (AP): US President Joe Biden said Saturday that he regretted using the term "illegal" during his State of the Union address to describe the suspected killer of Laken Riley, as his all-but-certain 2024 GOP rival, Donald Trump, blasted the Democrat's immigration policies and blamed them for her death at a rally attended by the Georgia nursing student's family and friends.

Biden expressed remorse after facing frustration from some in his party for the use of the term to describe people who arrived or are living in the US illegally.

"I shouldn't have used illegal, it's undocumented," he said in an interview with MSNBC's Jonathan Capchick taped in Atlanta, where the president was meeting with small business owners and holding a campaign rally.

Trump, campaigning in Rome, Georgia, at the same time, assailed Biden for the comments.

Apologized

"Joe Biden went on television and apologized for calling Laken's murderer an illegal," he said to loud jeers and boos. "Biden should be apologizing for apologizing to this killer."

The back-and-forth underscored how Riley's murder has become a flashpoint in the 2024 campaign and a rallying cry for Republicans who have seized on frustrations over the Biden administration's handling of the US-Mexico border during a record surge of migrants entering the country. An immigrant from Venezuela who entered the U.S. illegally has been arrested and charged with her murder.

Trump was joined at his rally by Riley's parents, her sister and friends and met with them before he took the stage. They were welcomed with a standing ovation and large signs handed out by the campaign that featured Riley's photograph. "We share your grief," Trump told them in his remarks.

Trump, in a speech that lasted nearly two hours, hammered Biden on the border and for mispronouncing Riley's name during his State of the Union address this past week.

"What Joe Biden has done on our border is a crime against humanity and the people of this nation for which

Biden signs \$460 billion package of spending bills passed by Congress

WASHINGTON, March 10, (AP): US President Joe Biden on Saturday signed a \$460 billion package of spending bills approved by the Senate in time to avoid a shutdown of many key federal agencies. The legislation's success gets lawmakers about halfway home in wrapping up their appropriations work for the 2024 budget year.

The measure contains six annual spending bills and had already passed the House. In signing it into law, Biden thanked leaders and negotiators from both parties in both chambers for their work, which the White House said will mean that agencies "may continue their normal operations."

Meanwhile, lawmakers are negotiating a second package of six bills, including defense, in an effort to have all federal agencies fully funded by a March 22 deadline.

"To folks who worry that divided government means nothing ever gets done, this bipartisan package says otherwise," Senate Majority

Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said after lawmakers passed the measure Friday night just hours before a deadline.

He said the bill's passage would allow for the hiring of more air traffic controllers and rail safety inspectors, give federal firefighters a raise and boost support for homeless veterans, among other things.

The Senate passed the bill by a vote of 75-22. Lawmakers sought votes on several amendments and wanted to have their say on the bill and other priorities during debate on the floor. It had been unclear midday if senators would be able to avert a short shutdown, though eventual passage was never really in doubt.

"I would urge my colleagues to stop playing with fire here," said Sen. Susan Collins, the top-ranking Republican member of the Senate Appropriations Committee. "It would be irresponsible for us not to clear these bills and do the fundamental job that we have of funding government. What is more important?"

he will never be forgiven," Trump charged, alleging that Riley "would be alive today if Joe Biden had not willfully and maliciously eviscerated the borders of the United States and set loose thousands and thousands of dangerous criminals into our country."

Trump, who had made immigration a centerpiece of his campaign, has repeatedly vowed to mount the largest deportation in the nation's history if he wins.

He contrasted his rhetoric with Biden's - "I say he was an illegal alien. He was an illegal immigrant. He was an illegal migrant" - and accused Biden, who has long been seen as an empathetic leader, of having "no remorse. He's got no regret, he's got no empathy, no compassion, and worst of all, he has no intention of stopping the deadly invasion that stole precious Laken's beautiful American life." Trump said.

Biden earlier this year bucked activists within his party by agreeing to make changes to U.S. immigration

law that would have limited some migration. The deal that emerged would have overhauled the asylum system to provide faster and tougher enforcement, as well as given presidents new powers to immediately expel migrants if authorities become overwhelmed. It also would have added \$20 billion in funding, a huge influx of cash.

The changes became part of a short-lived bipartisan compromise that was quickly killed by Republican lawmakers after Trump made his opposition known.

After the deal's collapse, Biden has been considering taking executive action to try to curtail migration, but he's expressed frustration that his lawyers have yet to devise options that they believe can pass muster with federal courts. Biden, instead, has insisted that Congress take up the measure again, trying to flip the script on Republicans and arguing they are more interested in being able to talk about the issue in an election year than taking action to fix it.

that left a gaping hole on an Alaska Airlines plane this January, the Wall Street Journal reported on Saturday.

Citing documents and people familiar with the matter, the newspaper said investigators have contacted some passengers and

crew - including pilots and flight attendants - who were on the Jan. 5th flight.

The Boeing plane used by Alaska Airlines suffered the blowout seven minutes after takeoff from Portland, Oregon, forcing the pilots to make an emergency land-

ing. Boeing has been under increased scrutiny since the incident, when a panel that plugged a space left for an extra emergency door blew off a Max 9 jet. There were no serious injuries. "In an event like this, it's normal for the DOJ to be conducting an investigation," Alaska Airlines said in a prepared statement. "We are fully cooperating and do not believe we are a target of the investigation." (AP)

Ex-Uvalde mayor surprised: The former Uvalde mayor who ordered an investigation into actions by local police during the Robb Elementary School shooting said Friday he was surprised the report defended officers and believes the acting chief on the scene failed during the 2022 massacre.

"What I've seen so far, it's not quite what I was expecting," said Don McLaughlin, who stepped down as mayor of the small Texas city last year and is now the Republican nominee for a seat in the state Legislature.

The independent report released Thursday was commissioned by the city to determine if any of the 28 Uvalde Police Department officers and three dispatchers violated department policy in their response to the shooter who killed 19 students and two teachers. Nearly 400 law enforcement agents, including Uvalde police, rushed to the school but waited more than an hour to confront the teenage gunman who was inside a fourth-grade classroom with an AR-style rifle. (AP)



A man holds a candidate list before casting his ballot at a polling station in Espinho, northern Portugal on March 10. Portugal is holding an early general election on Sunday when 10.8 million registered voters elect 230 lawmakers to the National Assembly, the country's Parliament. (AP)

Africa

Tigray now peaceful

Abductions of students leave parents in 'shock'

KURIGA, Nigeria, March 10, (AP): Rashidat Hamza is in despair. All but one of her six children are among the nearly 300 students abducted from their school in Nigeria's northwest, riddled with Islamic extremists and armed gangs.

It has been more than two days after her children - ages 7 to 18 - went to school in the remote town of Kuriga in Kaduna state only to be kidnapped by gunmen. She was still in shock Saturday.

Authorities said at least 100 children aged 12 or younger were among the abductees in the state known for violent killings lawlessness and dangerous roads where people get regularly snatched.

The mass kidnapping in Kuriga was the third in northern Nigeria since last week; a group of gunmen abducted 15 children from a school in another northwestern state, Sokoto, before dawn Saturday, and a few days earlier 200 people, mostly women and children displaced by conflict, were kidnapped in northeastern Borno State.

The kidnappings are a stark reminder of the security crisis plaguing Africa's most populous country.

No group claimed responsibility for any of the recent abductions. But Islamic extremists waging an insurgency in the northeast are suspected of carrying out the kidnapping in Borno. Locals blame the school abductions on herders who are in conflict with the settled communities.

It's not the first time for a student kidnapping in Nigeria to shock the world. In 2014, Islamic extremists abducted more than 200 schoolgirls from Borno's Chibok, sparking the global #BringBackOurGirls social media campaign. A decade later, at least 1,400 Nigerian students have so far been abducted from their schools in similar circumstances. Some are still held captive, including nearly 100 of the Chibok girls.



Tinubu

Settling

Recalling Thursday's kidnapping, Nura Ahmad, a teacher, told the AP that students were just settling into their classrooms at the government primary and secondary school when gunmen "came in dozens, riding on bikes and shooting sporadically."

The LEA Primary and Secondary School, one of the few educational facilities in this area, sits by the road just at the entrance of the town, tucked in the middle of forests and savannah. Even with its decaying roof and wrecked walls, it gave parents hope for a better future for their children.

"They surrounded the school and blocked all passages ... and roads" to prevent help from coming before kidnapping the children in less than five minutes, Ahmad said.

Fourteen-year-old Abdullahi Usman braved gunshots to escape the captors.

"Those who refused to move fast were either forced on the motorcycles or threatened by gunshots fired into the air," Abdullahi said. "The bandits were shouting: Go! Go! Go!" he said.

Nigerian police and soldiers headed into the forests Friday to search for the missing children, but combing the wooded expanses of northwestern Nigeria could take weeks, observers said.

"Since this happened, my brain has been muddled," said Shehu Lawal, the father of a 13-year-old boy who is among those abducted.

"My child didn't even eat breakfast before leaving. His mother fainted (upon hearing the news)," he said. Some villagers like Lawan Yaro, whose five grandchildren are among the abducted, say their hopes are already fading.

Decide

"We are crying, looking for help from the government, but it is the gunmen that will decide to bring the children back," Yaro said.

But schools are not the only targets. More than 3,500 people have been abducted across Nigeria in the last year, according to the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project. Some were even kidnapped from their homes in the capital of Abuja. Last year, President **Bola Tinubu** took office after he successfully campaigned on the promise to tighten security and stop the kidnappings.

Experts say it is easy to smuggle in arms, used in kidnappings, over Nigeria's poorly policed borders. More than half of its 1,500-kilometer (932-mile) border with Niger, for instance, stretches across the northwest. Though mostly covered in woodland savannah, the region also has vast unpopulated and unoccupied forests where organized gangs hide and keep their kidnap victims.

In 2022, lawmakers passed a bill to penalize ransom payments, but Nigerian kidnappers are known for their brutality, forcing many families to succumb to their demands.

Nigeria's military continues to conduct air raids and special military operations in the region as well as respond to pockets of crisis across the country but is fatigued by the 14-year Islamist insurgency in the northeast. Armed gangs also keep on multiplying in the region where many are poor and often work with extremists, seeking to expand their operations.

The military previously said that sometimes kidnap victims were used as "human shields" to prevent aerial bombardments of the forests where their captors hide.

Also:

NEBAR HADNET, Ethiopia: The cruel realities of war and drought seem to have merged for **Tinseu Hiluf**, a widow living in the arid depths of Ethiopia's Tigray region who is raising four children left behind by her sister's recent death in childbirth.

A two-year war between federal troops and regional forces killed one of her own sons, the rest of whom are already adults. And now, a lack of food stemming from the region's drought has left the youngest of the children she is raising malnourished.

She tries to forage seeds among the scarce greenery of the desert's yellow, rocky landscape. But she recently resorted to traveling to the nearby Finarwa health center in southeastern Tigray to try to keep the 1-year-old baby alive.

"When hungry, we eat anything from the desert," she said. "Otherwise, nothing."

She joined several other mothers seeking help at the center in the remote administrative area of **Nebar Hadnet**. A mother of five complained that she had no breastmilk for her eight-month-old baby. Another with 1-year-old twins said she needed sachets of baby food to keep "my babies alive."

Tigray is now peaceful but war's effects linger, compounded by drought and a level of aid mismanagement that caused the U.N. and the U.S. to temporarily suspend deliveries last year.



In this image made from video, damaged houses are seen in a village affected by flash flood in Langgai, West Sumatra, Indonesia on March 10. Inset: In this image made from video, rescuers carry the body of a victim of a flash flood in Langgai, West Sumatra, Indonesia. (AP)

19 dead, 7 missing as landslide and flash floods hit Indonesia's Sumatra island

Torrential rains have triggered flash floods and a landslide on Indonesia's Sumatra island, killing at least 19 people and leaving seven others missing, officials said Sunday.

Tons of mud, rocks and uprooted trees rolled down a mountain late Friday, reaching a river that burst its banks and tore through mountainside villages in Pesisir Selatan district of West Sumatra province, said Doni Yusrizal, who heads the local

disaster management agency.

Rescuers by Saturday pulled out seven bodies in the worst-hit village of Koto XI Tarusan, and recovered three others in two neighboring villages, Yusrizal said.

Rescuers retrieved six bodies in Pesisir Selatan and three more in the neighboring district of Padang Pariaman, bringing the death toll to 19, the National Disaster Management Agency said on Sunday.

The agency in a statement said at least two villagers were injured by the flash flood and rescuers are searching for seven people who are reportedly still missing.

It said more than 80,000 people had fled to temporary government shelters after the flood and landslide buried 14 houses, while 20,000 houses were flooded up to the roof in nine districts and cities in West Sumatra province. (AP)

Lat/Am

El Salvador extends anti-gang emergency decree

Gangs attack police stations in Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti, March 10, (AP): Police and palace guards worked Saturday to retake some streets in Haiti's capital after gangs launched massive attacks on at least three police stations.

Guards from the National Palace accompanied by an armored truck tried to set up a security perimeter around one of the three downtown stations after police fought off an attack by gangs late Friday.

Sporadic gunfire continued Saturday, and one woman writhed in pain on the sidewalk in downtown Port-au-Prince with a gunshot wound after a stray bullet hit her in the leg.

The unrelenting gang attacks have paralyzed the country for more than a week and left it with dwindling supplies of basic goods. Haitian officials extended a state of emergency and nightly curfew on Thursday as gangs continued to attack key state institutions.

Dire

Caribbean leaders issued a call late Friday for an emergency meeting Monday in Jamaica on what they called Haiti's "dire" situation. They have invited the United States, France, Canada, the U.N. and Brazil to the meeting.

Members of the Caricom regional trade bloc have been trying for months to get political actors in Haiti to agree to form an umbrella transitional unity government.

But average Haitians, many of whom have been forced from their homes by the bloody street fighting, can't wait. The problem for police in securing government buildings is that many Haitians have streamed into them, seeking refuge.

"We are the ones who pay taxes, and we need to have shelter," said one woman, who did not give her name for safety reasons.

Another Port-au-Prince resident, who also did not give his name, described the massive attacks Friday.

"They (the gangs) came with big guns. We have no guns and we cannot defend ourselves. All of us, the children are suffering," said the man.

So far, efforts to broker a solution have been unsuccessful. Caricom, the 15-nation Caribbean bloc, said in a statement late Friday that "the situation on the ground remains dire."

The Caricom statement said that while regional leaders remain deeply engaged in trying to bring opposition parties and civil society groups together to form a unity government, "the stakeholders are not yet where they need to be."

Aware

"We are acutely aware of the urgent need for consensus to be reached," according to the statement. "We have impressed on the respective parties that time is not on their side in agreeing to the way forward. From our reports, the situation on the ground remains dire and is of serious concern to us."

"It is vital that this engagement be at as high a level as possible to send a clear message of unity between Caricom and the international community as we work together to provide the critical support to the Haitian people at this time of crisis for them," said the statement.

In February, embattled Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry agreed to hold general elections by mid-2025, and the international community has tried to find some foreign armed force willing to fight gang violence there.

Caricom has also pushed Henry to announce a power-sharing, consensus government in the meantime, but the prime minister has yet to do so even as Haitian opposition parties and civil society groups are demanding his resignation.

Henry, a neurosurgeon, was appointed as prime minister after the July 2021 assassination of President Jovenel Moise.

It was unclear whether Henry would be in Jamaica. The prime minister had traveled to Kenya to push for the U.N.-backed deployment of a police force from the East African country to fight gangs in Haiti. A Kenyan court, however, ruled in January that such a deployment would be unconstitutional.

Also:

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador: El Salvador's lawmakers have granted a request by President **Nayib Bukele** for the 24th consecutive one-month extension of an anti-gang emergency decree.

The vote by congress late Friday means that by March 27, the country will have spent a full two years under the decree, which suspends some rights.

Bukele has used emergency powers to round up 78,175 suspected gang members in sweeps that rights groups say are often arbitrary, based on a person's appearance or where they live. The government has had to release about 7,000 people because of a lack of evidence.

The measure was approved Friday with 67 votes in the 84-seat congress, where Bukele's party holds a majority.

The original 30-day state of emergency - approved on March 27, 2022, following a spate of 62 killings in one day - restricts the right to gather, to be informed of rights and have access to a lawyer. It extends to 15 days the time that someone can be held without charges.

El Salvador's homicide totals have dropped from 6,656 in 2015 - an average of about 18 per day - to 18 so far this year.

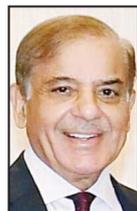
In all of 2023, there were about 214 homicides, or about one every two days.



People wait for news about the kidnapped LEA Primary and Secondary School Kuriga students in Kuriga, Kaduna, Nigeria on March 9. Security forces swept through large forests in Nigeria's northwest region on Friday in search of nearly 300 children who were abducted from their school a day earlier in the West African nation's latest mass kidnap which analysts and activists blamed on the failure of intelligence and slow security response. (AP)



Dalai Lama



Sharif

Subcontinent

Explosives detonate, 2 killed: A motorcycle packed with explosives went off in the northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar on Sunday morning, killing two people and severely injuring another, police said.

The motorcycle carried between 4 and 5 kilograms (9 to 11 pounds) of explosives when it detonated in the Board Bazaar area of Peshawar, said Kashif Abbasi, senior superintendent of police operations in Peshawar.

The explosives detonated prematurely, Abbasi added. He did not say what was the intended target.

Peshawar is the capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, which is a former stronghold of the militant Pakistani Taliban group, also known as the TTP. The city has seen several deadly attacks in recent years.

Prime Minister **Shehbaz Sharif** offered prayers for the victims. "We are fully determined to root out terrorism," he said, according to a statement from his office. (AP)

Tibetans march on Delhi streets: Hundreds of Tibetans in exile marched on the streets of New Delhi on Sunday to commemorate the 65th Tibetan National Uprising Day against China.

Over 300 protesters gathered near India's Parliament House and chanted slogans including "Tibet was never a part of China" and "China should leave Tibet."

The protesters carried Tibetan flags and photographs of their spiritual leader, the **Dalai Lama**.

The 88-year-old Dalai Lama has made the Indian hillside town of Dharmasala his headquarters since fleeing from Tibet after a failed uprising against Chinese rule in 1959. India considers Tibet to be part of China, though it hosts the Tibetan exiles.

The Dalai Lama denies China's claim that he is a separatist and says he only advocates substantial autonomy and protection of Tibet's native Buddhist culture.

The Tibetan government-in-exile in India accuses China of denying the most funda-

mental human rights to people in Tibet and vigorously carrying out the extermination of the Tibetan identity. (AP)

Zardari elected prez of Pakistan: Pakistan's lawmakers elected Asif Ali Zardari on Saturday as the country's president for

the second time.

He is the widower of assassinated former premier Benazir Bhutto and the father of former foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari.

Zardari secured 411 votes from national and provincial lawmakers. His opponent, Mehmood Khan Achakzai, who is backed



Members of the General Security Unit of the National Palace, USGPN, set up a security perimeter around one of the three downtown stations after police fought off an attack by gangs the day before, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti on March 9. Police and attack guards worked Saturday to retake some streets in Haiti's capital after gangs launched massive attacks on at least three police stations. (AP)

by the party of imprisoned former Prime Minister Inran Khan, received 181 votes.

The Pakistani presidency is a largely ceremonial role. Zardari was previously in the job between 2008 and 2013. Zardari was the joint candidate of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League, or PML-N, party of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his other political allies.

He was the favorite to win on Saturday because of his alliance with Pakistan's other political dynasty, the Sharifs, and his key role in talks to form a coalition government after the disputed national parliamentary election on Feb 8. (AP)

'Indian citizens duped': Indian authorities on Friday said they are in talks with Russia's government about the return of Indian citizens who were duped into working for the Russian army, a day after a federal investigation agency said it broke up a human trafficking network that lured people to Russia under the pretext of giving them jobs.

India's foreign ministry said the government has initiated action against a network of agents who duped the men into traveling to Russia.

"We remain committed to the early release of our nationals serving as support staff with the Russian army and their eventual return home," Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in New Delhi.

Jaiswal urged Indian citizens not to be deceived by offers by agents of support jobs with the Russian army. (AP)

SAUDI	- Tadawul	Change	Closing pts
EGYPT	- EGX 30	+40.74	12,618.62
		+1,619.41	32,919.95

Change Closing pts

Business

ECB signals upcoming rate cuts amid inflation concerns

US labor report fuels speculation for Fed rate cut in June

By National Bank of Kuwait

United States

Job Growth Remains Strong
Nonfarm payrolls advanced 275K in February following a combined 167K downward revision in the prior two months. Economists expected a reading of 198K. The unemployment rate rose and wage gains slowed. Average hourly earnings grew by 0.1% m/m, easing from 0.5% in January and slower than projections of 0.2%. The moderation in pay growth follows an outside jump in the prior month likely due to extreme weather. The unemployment rate climbed to 3.9% versus expectation of a match to the previous 3.7% figure. The data highlights a resilient jobs market that is beginning to soften. Fed policymakers will keep a close eye on this trend as they consider bringing down borrowing costs this year from a two-decade high.

Recently, officials have been stressing that they are in no rush to roll out rate cuts. Fed Chair Jerome Powell painted a patient and cautious outlook on the Fed's fight to bring inflation back down to the target. He noted that the Fed is "not far" from having the confidence it needs that price gains are sustainably moving towards that goal. "When we do get that confidence...it will be appropriate to begin to dial back the level of restriction so that we don't drive the economy into recession," Powell told lawmakers.

Markets started off the year expecting a reduction by the Fed sometime in the spring, and have since made strong changes to their bets. As of now, the probability for a June rate cut sits at 58%. Meanwhile, treasury yields traded sharply lower.

Europe

ECB Signals Upcoming Cuts
The European Central Bank kept borrowing costs at record highs last week, while carefully signaling it will lower rates later this year due to good progress in bringing down inflation. Policymakers indicated they were

Highlights

- Pointing to a cooler yet resilient labor market, the US jobless rate climbed to a two-year high in February even as hiring remained strong.
- The European Central Bank signaled it will lower rates later this year due to good progress in bringing down inflation. Markets now see an 80% probability for a rate cut in June, which would bring the bank's deposit facility rate down to 3.75% from 4.0%.
- The Bank of Canada left rates unchanged as expected, however did not provide a potential timeline for cuts, adding that underlying inflation was still too high.
- Looking at FX, the dollar index shed 1.25% of its value last week, sending the euro to a 7-week high of 1.0980. The pound saw a similar gain, ending the week 1.7% higher.
- Yields on the 2 & 10 year Treasuries did not react very strongly, ending the week at 4.46% and 4.09% respectively.
- Markets and especially the US Federal Reserve will now be watching in anticipation for next week's CPI release.

preparing for a first cut in interest rates, most likely in June, provided incoming data confirms the trend of lower prices. "We did not discuss cuts for this meeting, but we are just beginning to discuss the dialing back of our restrictive stance," ECB President Christine Lagarde told a press conference. She noted that inflation has been dropping towards the 2% target and is now expected to come in lower over the next two years than the central bank had anticipated just a few months ago. In its latest quarterly

Rates - 10 th March, 2024							
Currencies	Previous Week Levels				This Week's Expected Range		3-Month Forward
	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	
EUR	1.0947	1.0917	1.0980	1.0937	1.0805	1.1105	1.0982
GBP	1.2808	1.2798	1.2893	1.2857	1.2775	1.3070	1.2870
JPY	148.03	146.47	148.11	147.07	144.55	148.05	145.02
CHF	0.8778	0.8728	0.8782	0.8775	0.8730	0.8895	0.8695

economic projections, the ECB cut its forecast for price growth this year from 2.7% to 2.3% and said it now expects inflation to fall to 1.9% in summer 2025 and stay there until the end of 2026.

After declining for nearly 18 months, eurozone annual inflation dipped to 2.6% in February, mainly because of a steep fall in fuel costs which were previously boosted by Russia's war in Ukraine. The decline is also a major result of the ECB's steepest ever increase in borrowing costs. Nevertheless, underlying inflation excluding volatile food and fuel prices was at 3.1%, while an index for the price of services rose by nearly 4%. "There is a definite decline (in inflation) which is underway and we are making good progress towards our inflation target," Lagarde said. "We are more confident as a result, but we are not sufficiently confident." Markets are now pricing in three or four cuts this year, taking the ECB's deposit facility rate down to 3.25% or 3% from its current 4% level.

5% as widely expected, noting more time is needed for higher interest rates to bring inflation back to target. Governor Tiff Macklem declined to lay out a timeline for rate cuts, adding that he realizes monetary policy works slowly and causes pain to the economy. "We expect to see further progress but we think it's going to be slow, it's going to be uneven Fundamentally, we need to see more progress," he told Reuters in an interview after the rate announcement. Macklem reiterated that the central bank expected inflation to start dipping in the second half of the year but expressed concern on stubbornly high core inflation. "If core stays where it is, probably ... our forecast that total (CPI) comes down isn't going to materialize. So that's why we're putting a lot of focus on those core measures," he added. Overall inflation currently stands at 2.9% - still well above the bank's 2% target. The meeting suggests a low chance of a rate cut in April, with markets now pricing in just a 30% probability.

Canada

BoC Keeps Rates Unchanged
The Bank of Canada left its policy rate unchanged at

Kuwait

Kuwaiti Dinar
USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30715.

Saudi PIF overtakes Kuwaiti counterpart

KIA fund rises, but loses fifth place globally

KUWAIT CITY, March 10: The International Institute of Global Sovereign Funds has updated its ranking, with significant implications for the Saudi Public Investment Fund and the Kuwait Investment Authority Fund.

According to the Al-Qabas daily, the Saudi PIF has climbed to third place globally, overtaking its Kuwaiti counterpart, thanks to an 8% transfer of Aramco shares.

Recent reports highlight the transfer of Aramco shares, valued at over \$163 billion, to the Saudi sovereign wealth fund. This move has propelled the Saudi PIF's assets to \$940.2 billion, marking a substantial increase from its previous valuation of over \$770 billion.

With this surge, the Saudi PIF now stands ahead of the Al-Ajyal Fund, which holds assets totaling \$923.4 billion, according to the updated data from the International Institute of Global Sovereign Funds.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti Fund has also experienced growth, reaching assets exceeding \$120 billion this year,

Aramco reports \$121b profit in '23

DUBAI, March 10, (AP) - Saudi oil giant Aramco on Sunday reported it made \$121 billion in profit last year, down from its 2022 record due to lower energy prices.

The results still marked the company's second highest ever result, Aramco said, as members of the OPEC+ alliance continue to cut their production to try to boost global energy prices. However, lower results also squeeze the kingdom as it embarks on a massive development project under its assertive crown prince to wean itself off oil revenues.

Aramco had reported a \$161 billion profit in 2022, likely the largest ever reported by a publicly traded company.

"The decrease mainly reflects driven by robust performances in technology stocks on American exchanges. However, this growth hasn't been sufficient to maintain its fifth-place position globally.

Consequently, the Saudi PIF secures the fifth position globally, surpassing

the impact of lower crude oil prices and lower volumes sold, and weakening refining and chemicals margins," the company said in its filing to the Tadawul stock market.

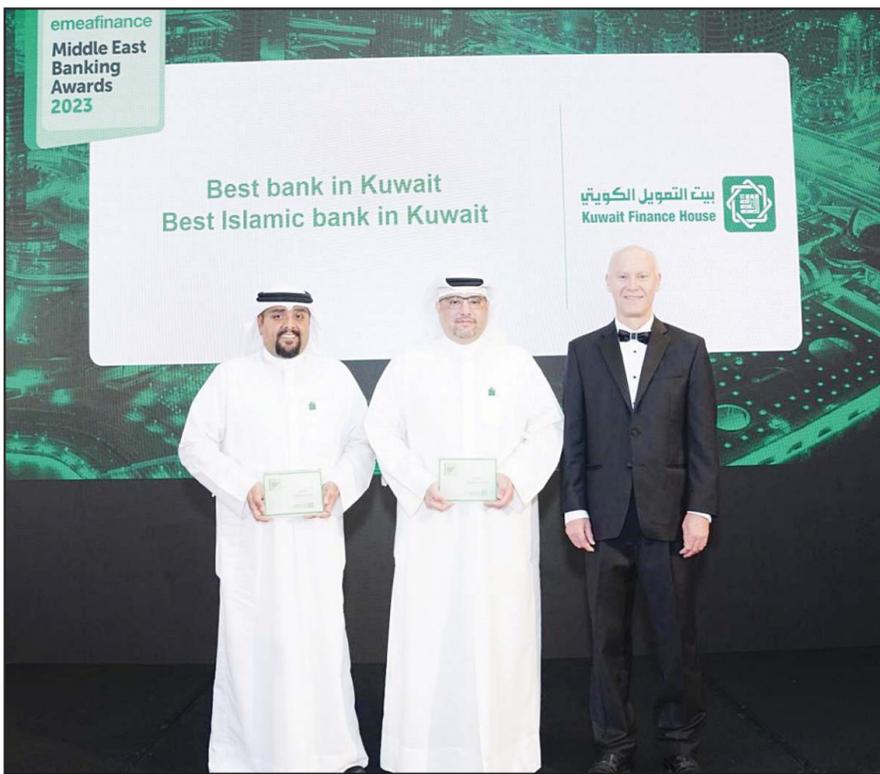
Despite being lower this year, Aramco boosted the dividends due to its stock holders to over \$31 billion in the fourth quarter, according to filings.

The energy giant had planned a conference call Monday to discuss its results.

Aramco reported overall revenue of \$440 billion last year, down from \$535 billion in 2022.

"Our resilience and agility contributed to healthy cash flows and high levels of profitability, despite a backdrop of economic headwinds," said Aramco CEO Amin H. Nasser in a statement.

the Al-Ajyal Fund, which now occupies sixth place. Within the Arab world, the Saudi fund ranks third, trailing behind the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, which holds fourth place globally and first place regionally with assets totaling \$993 billion.



Yousef Al-Ruwaieh and Talal AlArbeed awarded prizes.

AlArbeed emphasizes importance of innovation in financial sector

KFH sweeps 5 prestigious awards from EMEA Finance

KUWAIT CITY, March 10: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announced that it has been recognized with five prestigious awards at the 16th Annual EMEA Finance Middle East Banking Awards. This remarkable achievement highlights KFH's leadership in the banking industry, its commitment to providing exceptional financial services and products, innovative solutions, and impactful social responsibility initiatives. The awards recognize KFH's business quality, performance efficiency, and excellence that cater to the evolving needs of its diverse clientele.

KFH secured the following accolades: Best Islamic Bank - Middle East, Best Bank - Kuwait, and Best Islamic Bank - Kuwait, Best Product Launch (Zaheb)-Middle East, and Corporate Social Responsibility - Middle East Award.

These five awards from EMEA Finance further reflect the bank's position as a leader in Islamic banking and a trusted partner for its customers and communities.

The Best Bank - Kuwait award underscores KFH's position as a leading financial institution, recognized for its high standards of service, innovative products, and commitment to client satisfaction. This focus on customer experience is further underscored by KFH's Best Islamic Bank - Kuwait award. KFH delivers unparalleled Shariah-compliant financial solutions while adhering to the highest global standards, making the bank a benchmark for Islamic banking excellence.

During the awarding ceremony held in Dubai, KFH Deputy General Manager Public Relations and Media, Yousef Abdullah Al-Ruwaieh said: "It is an honor to receive the five prestigious awards from EMEA Finance. These accolades are a testament to the tireless efforts of our dedicated team, as well as KFH's leading position and commitment to offering solutions and initiatives that meet customer aspirations, foster sustainable growth, and adhere to the highest global standards."

He added: "We are pleased to win the Corporate Social Responsibility- Middle East Award. It reinforces KFH's

consistent efforts in social responsibility and strategic societal initiatives. It also highlights KFH's excellence in implementing various environmental and sustainability initiatives under the "Keep it Green" campaign. KFH remains committed to integrating social responsibility into its core operations, contributing to positive societal change."

Al-Ruwaieh emphasized that these awards celebrate KFH's unwavering dedication to social responsibility initiatives. The bank's commitment extends to various areas, including education, healthcare, environmental sustainability, community development, supporting people with special needs, students, and fresh graduates, and launching awareness campaigns and community activities, ultimately demonstrating its commitment to sustainable social development.

He added that KFH's dedication to innovation, customer-centricity, and social responsibility has been instrumental in its continuous growth and success. These awards serve as a further recognition of the bank's commitment to these core values as it seeks to solidify its position as a leading global Islamic financial institution.

Best Product Launch (Zaheb) - Middle East

Meanwhile, KFH Executive Manager Credit and Charge Card Products, Talal AlArbeed said that Best Product Launch (Zaheb)- Middle East award recognizes KFH's exceptional product launch within the corporate segment. It also signifies its dedication towards digital transformation and rolling out innovative financial solutions that cater to the evolving needs of corporate clients.

"These accolades are a testament to the collective efforts of our dedicated team who consistently strive to deliver exceptional value to our customers. The awards further reinforce our commitment to upholding the highest standards of Islamic banking practices and driving innovation within the financial sector," he said.

AlArbeed further added, "These awards reaffirm KFH's commitment to delivering innovative Sharia-compliant

financial solutions and fostering sustainable growth. The innovative services KFH provides reflect its commitment to digital development, catering to different customer segments and meeting their interests and aspirations in line with global standards."

He revealed that Zaheb platform affirms KFH's commitment to digital development, catering to different customer segments and meeting their interests and aspirations in line with global standards.

He added that since its launch, Zaheb has been succeeded in meeting a large part of e-payments requirements.

"The Zaheb platform is designed to cater to the needs of both merchant customers and owners of small and medium enterprises (SMEs). It specializes in offering two innovative payment methods: invoice links and QR code payments. Merchants can generate invoice links, which they can then share with their customers via email or SMS, for easy online payment. Additionally, the platform allows merchants to create dynamic or static QR codes that customers can scan to pay directly using their debit or credit card," added AlArbeed.

The EMEA Finance Middle East Banking Awards are a prestigious recognition program that celebrates outstanding achievements and contributions within the financial services sector across the Middle East region. The 16th edition of the awards witnessed participation from leading financial institutions across the region.

In addition, the EMEA Finance Awards are among the most important awards in the banking sector in Europe, Middle East and Africa region, which aim to honor banking institutions based on their financial performance, standards of service quality, and excellence in the banking sector. The prestigious financial magazine awards are based on basic criteria in the process of selecting the best banks, including the bank's market share, the growth of its products in the market, profitability, in addition to the quality of its business strategy, contributions, its role in the issuance markets, and innovation in products and services.

Firm ranked first in 'Best Mobile Operator' & 'Best ISP' categories

Zain maintains lead in Service Hero's Customer Satisfaction Index Awards

KUWAIT CITY, March 10: Zain has maintained its lead in the Service Hero Customer Satisfaction Index Awards after being ranked first in the 'Best Mobile Operator' category for the twelfth time and the 'Best Internet Service Provider' category for the eighth time in Kuwait's ICT sector for the year 2023.

The announcement was made during the special awards ceremony, attended by Zain Kuwait Chief Corporate Affairs and Relations Officer Waleed Al Khashti, President of Service Hero Faten Abu-Ghazaleh, and many executives and leaders from the winning companies.

Service Hero celebrated the country's best performing service providers in 2023, marking the fourteenth year of running the region's only consumer powered customer satisfaction index. Yet again, Zain came on top of the companies operating in the local ICT sector, being ranked first in the 'Best Mobile Operator' and 'Best Internet Service Provider' categories after receiving the highest number of votes from consumers in the Kuwaiti market for the above two categories.

Zain is proud to maintain its annual lead in this prestigious award, reflecting the leadership position it enjoys in the local ICT and digital service markets. The company ranked first for achieving the highest customer satisfaction scores by providing the best quality service standards.

The award came after an in-depth evaluation by Service Hero's independ-



Waleed Al Khashti receives Zain's awards from Faten Abu-Ghazaleh.

ent advisory council, which recognized Zain's leadership in offering the best innovative digital services, as well as its relentless pursuit of excellence and innovation with the aim of achieving superior digital lifestyle transformation for its customer base, the biggest in Kuwait.

Based in Kuwait, Service Hero manages the only consumer powered customer satisfaction index in the Middle East. The company is a member of ESOMAR and adheres to the global organization's principles and guidelines for self-regulation and ethical practice.

Service Hero is overseen by an In-

dependent Advisory Council to assure results that are impartial, objective, and accurately reflect consumers' preference, making the company's findings a credible benchmark that offers transparent and relevant insight for companies.

It is comprised of academics and business professionals representing leading institutions and corporate establishments in Kuwait and the UAE, including the American University of Kuwait, Australian College of Kuwait. Since 2010, Service Hero has measured 250,000 validated consumer assessments covering more than 500 private sector companies.

W Street's Magnificent 7 shrinks to a Fabulous 4

The small group of stocks that's been driving Wall Street to records is getting even smaller. Last year just a handful of companies were responsible for most of the U.S. stock market's total return.

According to S&P Dow Jones Indexes. Tesla and Apple have become not so magnificent after their stock prices fell through the year's first two months.

Ultimately are unable to generate enough earnings strength to justify lofty valuations and crowded sentiment positioning. Last year, when 10 stocks accounted for more than two thirds of the S&P 500's gain, it was nearly a record for narrowness of the market.

Some professional investors still see indications that smaller stocks could shoulder some of the market's leadership. The smallest stocks in the Russell 2000 index rose 1.4% in the year's first two months.

Investigation, reinstates him to board

OpenAI has 'full confidence' in CEO Sam Altman

NEW YORK, March 10. (AP) OpenAI is reinstating CEO Sam Altman to its board of directors and said it has "full confidence" in his leadership after the conclusion of an outside investigation into the company's turmoil.

destroyed it last year and made global headlines. "I'm pleased this whole thing is over," Altman told reporters Friday, adding that he's been disheartened to see "people with an agenda" leaking information to try to harm the company.

said little about what led its then-board of directors to fire Altman on Nov. 17. An announcement that day said Altman was "not consistently candid in his communications" in a way that hindered the board's ability to exercise its responsibilities.

Greg," Bret Taylor, the board's chair, told reporters Friday. "And similarly concluded that the board acted in good faith, that the board believed at the time that its actions would mitigate some of the challenges that it perceived and didn't anticipate some of the instability."

and another co-founder, Ilya Sutskever. Sutskever kept his job as chief scientist and publicly expressed regret for his role in ousting Altman. "I think Ilya loves OpenAI," Altman said Friday, saying he hopes they will keep working together but declining to answer a question about Sutskever's current position at the company.

the company's prior board, current executives, advisers and other witnesses. The company also said the law firm reviewed thousands of documents and other corporate actions. WilmerHale didn't immediately respond to a request for comment Friday.

World food 'price' index fell in Feb, says the FAO

KUWAIT CITY, March 10: The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) announced that the world food price index fell in February for the seventh month in a row, as the decline in the prices of all cereals was offset by the rise in the prices of sugar and meat, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

since February 2021. The grain index fell by 5% on a monthly basis, settling at 22.3% below its level of the previous year, thanks to expectations of a significant increase in corn yields in South America and competitive prices offered by Ukraine.

Tax season underway: Here are some tips to navigate it

NEW YORK, March 10, (AP): It's tax season in the U.S., and for many people, filing tax returns can be a daunting task that's often left until the last minute.

Whether you do your taxes yourself, go to a tax clinic or hire a professional, navigating the tax system can be complicated and stressful. Courtney Alev, a consumer financial advocate for Credit Karma, recommends you go easy on yourself.

IRS offers free guided tax preparation

KUWAIT CITY, March 10: Kuwait Telecommunications Company - stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, announced the competition of a significant milestone following the successful testing of 10Gbps utilizing the 6 GHz IMT (6425-7125MHz) spectrum, marking a historic first in the Kuwaiti market.

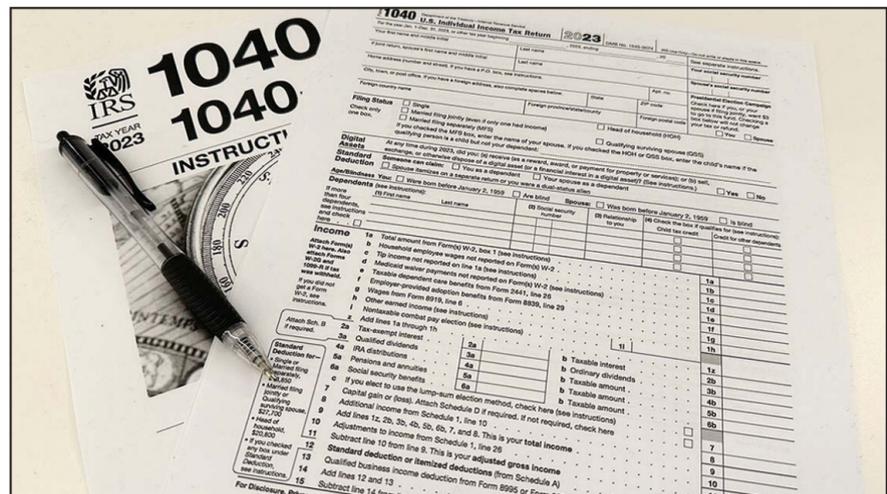
stc achieves 'groundbreaking' 10Gbps in a 1st ever 6GHz IMT frequency spectrum trial was conducted under the supervision and in collaboration with the Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) in Kuwait.

Another 'burst' of hiring shows off the resilience of the US job market

WASHINGTON, March 10. (AP) America's employers delivered another healthy month of hiring in February, adding a surprising 275,000 jobs and again showcasing the U.S. economy's resilience in the face of high interest rates.

to significantly raise pay. Gus Faucher, chief economist at PNC Financial Services, said he was impressed by the breadth of hiring last month: Among industries, health care companies added 67,000 jobs, government at all levels 52,000, restaurants and bars 42,000, construction companies 23,000 and retailers 19,000.

- When is the deadline to file taxes? Taxpayers have until April 15 to submit their returns from 2023. What do i need to file my tax return? While the required documents might depend on your individual case, here is a general list of what everyone needs: Social Security number W-2 forms, if you are employed 1099-G, if you are unemployed 1099 forms, if you are self-employed Savings and investment records Any eligible deduction, such as educational expenses, medical bills, charitable donations, etc. Tax credits, such as child tax credit, retirement savings contributions credit, etc.



An Internal Revenue Service 2023 1040 tax form and instructions are shown on Jan. 26, 2024 in New York. It's tax season in the U.S., and for many people, filing tax returns can be a daunting task that's often left until the last minute. (AP)

Friday's report gave the inflation fighters at the Federal Reserve some encouraging news: Average hourly wages rose just 0.1% from January, the smallest monthly gain in more than two years, and 4.3% from a year earlier, less than expected. Average pay growth has been exceeding inflation for more than year, but when it rises too fast it can feed inflation.

Even though the Labor Department's revisions shaved 167,000 jobs from its previous estimate of December and January hiring, acting Labor Secretary Julie Su noted Friday that even counting those downward revisions, job growth has averaged an impressive 265,000 over the past three months.

Tom O'Saben, director of tax content and government relations at the National Association of Tax Professionals, recommends gathering all of your documents in one place before you start your tax return and also having your documents from last year if your financial situation has drastically changed.

per year. If you have questions while working on your tax forms, the IRS also offers an interactive tax assistant tool that can provide answers based on your information. Beyond the popular companies such as TurboTax and H&R Block, taxpayers can also hire licensed professionals, such as certified public accountants. The IRS offers a directory of tax preparers across the United States.

How can i avoid mistakes in my tax return? Many people fear getting in trouble with the IRS if they make a mistake. Here's how to avoid some of the most common ones: Double check your name on your Social Security card. When working with clients, O'Saben always asks them to bring their Social Security card to double-check their number and their legal name, which can change when their people get married.

mail doesn't mean that there isn't an information document out there that you need to be aware of and report accordingly." O'Saben said. Make sure you report all of your income. If you had more than one job in 2023, you need the W-2 forms of each. What about the child income credit? Earlier this year, Congress announced a bipartisan agreement to enhance the current child tax credit. Currently, the tax credit is \$2,000 per child, but only \$1,600 is refundable. The bill would incrementally increase the maximum refundable child tax credit to \$1,800 for 2023 tax returns, \$1,900 for the following year and \$2,000 for 2025 tax returns.

Sponsorship as part of its continuous efforts to empower youth

Gulf Bank sponsors 'The Influencer' program to cultivate communication skills



Fatemah Al-Habib mediates among the graduates of the influencer program.

KUWAIT CITY, March 10: For the second consecutive year, Gulf Bank has announced its sponsorship of "The Influencer" program organized by LOYAC Academy of Performing Arts (LAPA) – an affiliate of the non-profit organization LOYAC. This sponsorship is geared towards providing outstanding training opportunities to empower teenagers aged 15 to 19 with crucial skills for effective public communication, ultimately preparing them for leadership roles in the future.

This year's edition of The Influencer program features four main categories: "Self-development: How to be an active and influential individual in your life and relationships," "Presentation and public speaking skills," "Oratory, recitation, and audience engagement

skills," and "Digital media content creation skills."

Ms. Fatemah Al-Habib, Assistant Manager of Corporate Communications at Gulf Bank, expressed her excitement about partnering with LOYAC and emphasized Gulf Bank's eagerness to support its commendable societal endeavors, particularly those aimed at youth.

Al-Habib also highlighted Gulf Bank's commitment to nurturing the professional skills and talents of youth, aligning with both Gulf Bank's 2025 strategy, which places youth at the forefront, and Kuwait's Vision 2035, which emphasizes the importance of investing in youth.

Gulf Bank's vision is to be the leading Kuwaiti Bank of the Future. The Bank is constantly engaging and empowering its employees as

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

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

Delivered to their doorsteps anywhere in Kuwait

NBK offers customers peace of mind with Eidiya Cash Delivery



Dr. Rawda Awwad giving her speech.



Dr. Iyad Abu Doush giving his speech.



Dr. Ahmad Alsaber receiving award.

Fostering legacy beyond classrooms

AUK awards faculty for pioneering research contributions

KUWAIT CITY, March 10: The American University of Kuwait (AUK) hosted the prestigious Faculty Intellectual Recognition Ceremony at the AUK theater, organized by the Office of Research and Grants (ORG). Dedicated to honoring the exceptional research endeavors of its esteemed faculty members spanning diverse disciplines, the ceremony was attended by AUK's entire faculty body.

AUK president, Dr. Rawda Awwad, emphasized how the faculty's contributions enrich the University's standing. "Your role in this journey is immeasurable. You've taken knowledge and turned it into a living, breathing part of our campus, pushing boundaries and inspiring not just our students but every one of us to think bigger and do better. It's your hard work and insight that have made AUK a place where education transcends the classroom, where ideas ignite change. What you provide our students goes beyond academics; it's the toolkit for success in life."

Dr. Iyad Abu Doush, ORG director, provided insightful statistics illustrating the faculty's outstanding research output. Notably, many publications garnered recognition in SCOPUS,



Awardees with Dr. Rawda Awwad and college deans.

which combines an expertly curated abstract and citation database with enriched data and linked scholarly literature across a wide variety of disciplines.

Acknowledging the scholarly achievements of faculty members across all colleges, Ms. Afsah Abdul-

lah, ORG research assistant, highlighted the pivotal role of research within the academic community. Dr. Iyad Abu Doush, Dr. Ahmad Alsaber, and Dr. Clark Stoekley were among the distinguished recipients awarded for their exemplary research endeavors that contributed significantly to their

respective fields.

The Faculty Intellectual Recognition Ceremony provided a platform to celebrate the remarkable achievements of AUK's faculty members, inspiring present and future generations of scholars to pursue excellence in research and academia.

KUWAIT CITY, March 10: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) always seeks to provide customers with an exceptional banking experience including top-notch products and services that cater to their different needs while ensuring utmost convenience. In this context, the bank is providing Eidiya Cash Delivery service to Private Banking, Privilege, Tahabi and Business Banking Plus Customers at their doorsteps, anywhere in Kuwait.

This service is exclusively waived off for our Private and Privilege Customers in Kuwait during the holy month of Ramadan. It can be availed 24/7 through Q'go Concierge by calling or sending a WhatsApp message to the designated number 1888125.

Eligible customers can request Eidiya Cash Delivery in different denominations including KD 1, KD 5, KD 10 and KD 20. The registration period for this offer is valid from 11 to 26 March, 2024, and delivery period will be from 29 March to 9 April 2024.

Speaking on this, Mohammed Akram Hashim, Head of segments, Consumer Banking Group at National Bank of Kuwait said, "NBK always stands out by providing customers with utmost convenience for an unmatched banking experience that caters to their needs and even exceeds their expectations."

"As we are approaching the holy month of Ramadan, we are offering our distinguished segments (Private, Privilege, Tahabi or Business Banking Plus Customers) the luxury of getting Eidiya delivered in cash to their doorsteps all over the areas of Kuwait 24/7 through our partner Q'go Concierge," he explained.

"All NBK's initiatives during national and religious holidays and occasions are meant to serve customers' needs, which are accurately identified through active communication with them, as NBK always seeks to remain closer to its customers," he noted.

NBK provides Privilege Banking Customers with an array of services, including: a dedicated Relationship Manager to take care of customer's banking needs, access to premium lounges, various investment solutions



Mohamed Akram Hashim



Eidiya Cash Delivery flyer

like SmartWealth and Watani Brokerage, Global Banking & International mortgage, premium teller services giving them priority when making financial transactions and deposits at branches, in addition to card home delivery service. Furthermore, Privilege customers have the priority status when calling the NBK Call Center on 1801801 available 24/7, as well as exclusive Home Banking and Concierge Service.



General photo of the ceremony.

'A Mid-Summer Night's Dream' reimagined'

William Shakespeare's famous play comes alive at FAIPS

KUWAIT CITY, March 10: On a pleasantly tranquil morning of February 12, 2024, FAIPS witnessed a grand spectacle as the students of Grade VI brought to life reimagined version of the famous play 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' by William Shakespeare, the greatest playwright to walk the face of the earth.

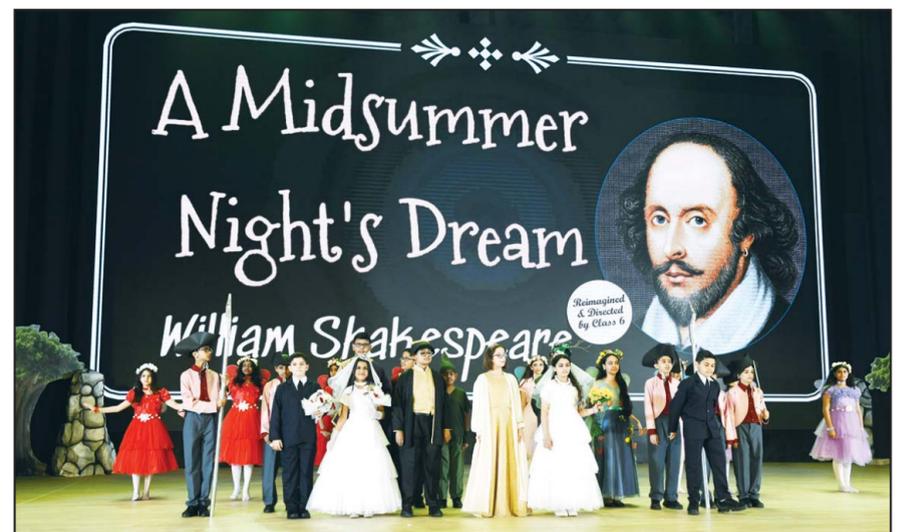
In a scintillating display of artistic brilliance, the stage of the school auditorium displayed the ethereal magic of Shakespeare's timeless classic-'A Mid-Summer Night's Dream. The auditorium shimmered with the excitement and anticipation of parents and esteemed dignitaries alike, as the event promised love, magic, and fun.

The distinguished personages of the day comprised of the Chief Guest, the Ambassador of Bangladesh to Kuwait, His Excellency Major General Mohd Ashikuzzaman and Ms. Athari Al Ajmi – Student Affairs Director, MOE along with the Principal, Mr. Ravi Ayanoli, Vice Principals, Headmistresses, Senior Mistresses, and proud parents.

The program commenced with the Principal's Address, where he extended warm wishes and best of luck to all participants. In addition, he shared the importance of activities like annual days and the role of parents' support in moulding the young students to leaders of tomorrow. As the address concluded, the stage seamlessly transformed into the enchanting court of Athens, immersing the audience into the whimsical world of the fairies in the woods, guided by the daydreaming Lucy, the central character.

The play had the goal of encapsulating the spirit of Shakespeare's original work while also imbuing it with the pure and innocent imagination of a child. The actors brought the iconic characters to life, each one embodying the essence of love, mischief, and mysticism with unparalleled finesse.

From the mischievous Puck to the romance of Hermia, Lysander, Helena & Demetrius every moment unfolded with an enchanting allure that left the audience bewitched. The young actors took the audience on a ride where they witnessed a melodious rendition by our young singers, followed by the



Photos during FAIPS' grand spectacle of the famous play 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' by William Shakespeare.

Fairies' dance, the sinister Dance of the Evil Spirits, Mother Earth's choristers, the French Poem and Song that added to the mirth of the forest and culminating with the energetic Hindi and Arabic dance.

Time stood still as the characters kept the audience spellbound by the magic of the unfolding scenes. As Lucy woke up from her dream, the play drew to a close

drawing applause from the audience who had witnessed a Shakespearean play from a different angle.

The maiden theatrical journey was an unforgettable experience for our esteemed guests and parents alike. The day was a celebration of the arts and creativity that flourish within the school and was a testament to the hard work, dedication, and passion of the

teachers and the students who put their heart and soul into bringing this magnificent production to life.

The chief guest Major General Mohd Ashikuzzaman appreciated the entire performance, particularly the novelty in the presentation of the Shakespearean play. The event came to an end with the vote of thanks by the Senior Mistress, Ms. Deepa Elezabeth George.

Warba Bank announces customer service hours during the Ramadan

KUWAIT CITY, March 10: During the holy month of Ramadan, Warba Bank is adjusting its service hours to better accommodate customers.

From Sunday to Thursday, branches will be open from 10:00 AM to 1:30 PM. From Saturdays through Wednesdays, the Avenues and Egaila branches will operate from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM and from 8:30 PM to 11:00 PM. Thursdays will have the same hours as the rest of the weekdays. The T4 Airport Branch (New Passengers Terminal) will have extended hours from 3:00 AM to 4:00 PM and

from 9:00 PM to 2:00 AM. Customers can still reach Warba Bank via phone on 1825555 or find them on social media platforms and online.

Mr. Abdullah N. AlShoail, Senior Director Branches, Retail Banking Group, assures that the bank is fully prepared to assist customers with their banking needs during Ramadan, including essential banking operations through Warba's mobile app.

It is worth mentioning that Warba Bank is one of the banks that achieved great successes in a short period of time, as it occupied a leading position in the field of digital Islamic banking services for individuals, and it is one of the most local banks in terms of the number of shareholders, and these are among the most prominent elements that make the bank close to all members of society.



AlShoail

'The Hunter' delivers thrilling sequel packed with dark secrets

By Bruce DeSilva

Cal Hooper fled a failing marriage, quit his exhausting job with the Chicago Police Department, and settled down in Ardnakelty, a fictional village nestled in the mountains of western Ireland, hoping to find some peace.

But in Tana French's "The Searcher" (2020), he discovered that Ardnakelty isn't a welcoming place. It's a rural community that's suspicious of outsiders.

Its residents are contemptuous of government authority and live by their own rules.

Cal knows he will never be one of them, but now, in "The Hunter," we find that he's at least tolerated, made a couple of friends, and even found

love with a local woman.

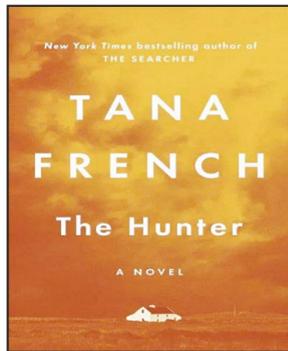
However, the new life he's built for himself is threatened when Johnny Reddy suddenly returns to town.

Johnny, who'd abandoned his family years ago, is a con man whose gifts, the author tells us, includes "taking every word out of his own mouth as gospel."

Cal feels "the urge to pat him down," but Cal's life in Ardnakelty depends on minding his own business.

o he tries to stay out of it, even when Johnny lures some of the villagers into a scheme to mine non-existent gold that supposedly washed down from the mountains.

Trey Reddy, a young girl Cal be-



This cover image released by Viking shows "The Hunter" by Tana French. (AP)

friend in "The Searcher," is Johnny's daughter.

She's a teenager now, but still too young, Cal says, to be trusted with something as momentous as her future.

Trey despises her father and wishes he'd never come back.

She also hates the people of Ardnakelty, who she blames for the unsolved murder of her older brother in the earlier book. So she hatches her own scheme - one that will wreak havoc on both the villagers and her father.

When Cal gets wind of what she's up to, he knows she is putting her life, and probably his, in danger.

He also knows he probably can't

talk her out of it.

The result is a suspenseful tale of revenge, justice, friendship and loyalty in collision, and of a young girl who must decide which conflicting values matter most.

The mood is dark, the tension is thick, and the stakes are high. And as usual, in a Tana French novel, the characters are well-drawn, the dialogue is superb, the settings are vivid, and the tight prose is often lyrical.

□ □ □

Bruce DeSilva, winner of the Mystery Writers of America's Edgar Award, is the author of the Mulligan crime novels including "The Dread Line." (AP)

Books

Variety



Actor-singer Luke Grimes poses for a portrait Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2024, in Nashville, Tenn. Grimes, best-known for his portrayal of the complex cowboy character Kayce Dutton on the hit show "Yellowstone," will release his self-titled debut album on Friday. (AP)

Music

From 'Yellowstone' to debut country album

Grimes ready to reintroduce himself

LOS ANGELES, March 10, (AP): There are countless reasons to self-title an album: it can be an introduction, an assertion of some definitive work, an easy avenue to labeling a collection of songs that feel otherwise impossible to classify. In the case of Luke Grimes, best-known for his portrayal of the complex cowboy character Kayce Dutton on the hit show "Yellowstone," it is also an invaluable tool.

Grimes' debut country album, "Luke Grimes," out Friday, is a declaration that speaks volumes: Think you know him? Guess again.

From a studio in Nashville, the actor-musician told The Associated Press that he hopes his album establishes "who I am, and where this music is coming from — and I'm trying to be honest here, I'm trying to do this the right way."

"Country music is at its greatest, I think, when it's really honest. So that was important to try to accomplish on this first album," he said.

That personal vulnerability differs from his job as an actor on "Yellowstone."

"The other thing that I do is to very much not be myself," he says. "To do that correctly is to take on a different persona, a different name, to say someone else's words, and in a lot of cases, someone else's clothes. The whole point is to escape who you really are and to make someone believe who you're not."

Though this is Grimes' debut album, he's no novice. Music has always been a part of his life — from listening to worship music and playing drums in church at age 11 to discovering the outlaw greats through his dad and on country radio, his first taste of secular music. (He links the two types of music: "People don't realize Hank Williams wrote, 'I Saw the Light,'" he says.) Later, he'd play drums in a Wilco-inspired Americana band in Los Angeles, and in 2012, write a country song for the film "Outlaw

Country," which he also acted in.

"I've never not played music," he says. "I always have a guitar. It keeps me inspired, too. And any time I've prepared to do anything creatively, music has been a huge part of that."

Produced by the legendary Dave Cobb, "Luke Grimes" the album is diaristic at times, an open-book record with songs about love, loss, God and rural living, universal topics from an artist with a knack for articulating truths, warts and all. Take "Oh, Ohio," for example.

Grimes says there are a lot of songs about love, heartbreak and hometowns in country music, and "Oh Ohio" — with its textured riffs, pedal steel and late-breaking percussion — accomplishes all of that while flipping the common conceit on its head: it's not so flattering about where he comes from.

"I didn't maybe feel like I totally belonged there," he said of his home state. "I just hadn't heard that in a lot of songs. Usually when you hear songs about people's hometown, it's kind of a love letter. And this was more of a breakup letter."

As for those who might not consider Ohio a hotbed for country music: "People sometimes confused 'country music' with 'Southern music,'" he says. "For me, country is rural... it's more roots, people of the land. And there's plenty of that in Ohio."

Aaron Raitiere, a songwriter for Cobb who contributed to two songs on the album — the slow-burn highway ballad "South on 75" and the Western stomp "Ain't Dead Yet" — says Grimes is a "musician in his soul."

"He may very well be one of the best songwriter/singer/performers of our generation, trapped in a superstar actor's body," Raitiere said. "If you go get famous making ketchup, it's hard to turn around and make mustard and have everybody

take you seriously, you know? But he's great."

One song on the album, "Ain't Dead Yet," was inspired by Kurt Cobain.

On the upbeat "Ain't Dead Yet," with its sing-along chorus ("I'm gonna love you 'till I die/And I ain't dead yet"), clap-along percussion, campfire harmonica and hazy guitar pedals, Grimes demonstrates a kind of creative range associated with artists in their vanguard.

"We were saying, 'Wouldn't it be funny to write a song, just as an exercise, if (Nirvana frontman) Kurt Cobain was country? Like, if he would have been born in a holler in Kentucky somewhere and hadn't died early and lived to be an old man and had a wife and kids, like, what would those songs sound like? And that literally was how that idea started," Grimes says. It's impossible not to hear the connection in the opening power chords.

Raitiere adds the Nirvana inspiration also comes from their desire to write a song anyone can play. "A lot of people learn to play an instrument on a Nirvana song," he says, adding that "Polly" was the first he ever learned. "So, we went the 'Nirvana Unplugged' route and threw it down a country lane."

"That's kind of the magical part of the whole process, that there are no rules," says Grimes.

The other magic? Getting to reveal more about himself to his listeners — and, in the process, connect with them.

"Certain albums that have stuck with me through the years, it's just kind of made me feel like there's someone out there that I can relate to," he says. "Whatever this feeling or emotion is that I don't know how to articulate, someone else has articulated it really well and through music, and in a way that I feel like a connection to. And so, if I could just do that for some people, then I think that'd be mission accomplished."

Features

ARAB TIMES
ARAB TIMES, MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2024

NEW YORK: Media magnate Rupert Murdoch, who turns 93 next week, has been married four times - and is engaged again, his representative said Saturday.

He plans to marry Elena Zhukova, 67, a Russian-born retired scientist he met last year.

Her ex-husband Alexander Zhukov is a billionaire energy investor and Russian politician - and his son, Lachlan, took his place in a media empire that spans continents and helped to shape modern American politics.

Last fall Murdoch stepped down as leader of both Fox News' parent company and his News Corp. media holdings - and his son, Lachlan, took his place in a media empire that spans continents and helped to shape modern American politics.

In 1952, Murdoch inherited a newspaper in his native Australia from his father. Over decades, he built a news and entertainment enterprise that became dominant in the United States and Britain, including ownership of such historic newspapers as The Times of London and The Wall Street Journal.

Fox News Channel, the 24-hour network founded in 1996, has profoundly influenced television, becoming a trusted news source among many conservative U.S. audiences and politicians.

It has also had very public struggles. Last year, it paid \$787 million to settle a defamation lawsuit related to its coverage of false claims about the 2020 presidential election results.

A few months earlier, Fox had ousted prime-time host Tucker Carlson, the network's most popular TV personality, whose political theories and fiery commentaries made him an influential force in GOP politics.

In addition to Fox News, Rupert Murdoch started the Fox broadcast network, the

first to successfully challenge the Big Three of ABC, CBS and NBC, with shows like "The Simpsons." He has also controlled the New York Post, another popular conservative outlet.

Murdoch has been married four times and shares six children with three of his wives.



Murdoch



Zhukova

Murdoch's family were said to be the model for the HBO drama "Succession." The family's wealth is estimated by Forbes to be about \$19 billion.

Murdoch's latest marriage, to model and actor Jerry Hall, ended in divorce after six years in 2022. They had no children together.

Previously, he was married to Patricia Booker, an Australian, with whom he had Prudence, and then to Scottish-born journalist Anna Torv, with whom he had Lachlan, James and Elisabeth. These four Murdoch children have the same stake in the family trust and an equal say in what

happens to the trust's voting stock upon Murdoch's death. He later married Chinese-born Wendi Deng, whom he divorced in 2013 after having two daughters, Grace and Chloe.

Last spring he was engaged to Ann Lesley Smith for about two weeks. (AP)

People & Places



Krystyna Pyszková of Czech Republic waves after she was crowned Miss World in Mumbai, India, Saturday, March 9, 2024. (AP)

Krystyna Pyszková from Czech Republic crowned Miss World 2024

Krystyna Pyszková of the Czech Republic was crowned Miss World at a glittering contest held in India on Saturday night. Yasmina Zaytoun of Lebanon was the first runner-up among 112 contestants in the competition held in Mumbai, India's financial and entertainment capital. "Being crowned Miss World is a dream come true. I am deeply honored to represent my country and the values of 'beauty with a purpose' on a global platform," Pyszkova said.

After the reigning Miss World, Karoline Bielawska of Poland, passed the crown to her, Pyszková waved to the large crowd at the Jio World Convention Center and hugged some of the other contestants. The event showcased the rich tapestry of India's culture, traditions, heritage, arts and crafts, and textiles to a massive global audience. The participants wore heavily embroidered skirts and blouses and danced to popular Bollywood songs.

The beauty competition returned to India for the first time in 28 years. India's Sini Shetty exited after making it to the final eight. Six Indian women have won the title, including Reita Faria (1966), Aishwarya Rai (1994), Diana Hayden (1997), Yukta Mookhey (1999), Priyanka Chopra (2000) and Manushi Chhillar (2017). The 71st Miss World beauty pageant was hosted by Bollywood filmmaker Karan Johar and Miss World 2013 Megan Young from the Philippines. (AP)

Comicon

Fans embrace nerdiness

Planet Comicon KC celebrates 25th yr

KANSAS CITY, Mo., March 10, (AP): Celebrities, artists and tens of thousands of fans proud to call themselves nerds are converging in Kansas City for the Missouri city's 25th annual Planet Comicon this weekend.

Devotees ranging from "Potterheads" - lovers of the popular Harry Potter series - to "furrries" - people dressed as cartoonish animals - can test niche trivia skills, compete in Pokémon battles and show off intricate, handmade outfits in homage to their fictional heroes.

Top guests include Ian McDiarmid, who CEO and founder Chris Jackson described as the "quintessential villain" in his portrayal of Star Wars' Emperor Palpatine, infamous for luring Darth Vader to the dark side.

Organizers expect record-breaking attendance this year at the three-day event, which began Friday and typically draws about 60,000 fans, Jackson said.

Spokesman Chris Phelan said "Midwestern hospitality" contributes to the convention's welcoming nature.

"Whether you wear a costume or you don't wear a costume, this is your place to be who you are," he said.

Jackson started out buying and selling comics at the now-famous San Diego Comic Convention in the 1980s. He tried to recreate those experiences in the first Planet Comicon in suburban Kansas City.

"I really wanted to bring in the creators so the fans could meet the people who created their comic books," Jackson said.

Roughly 1,200 people attended the first Planet Comicon, Jackson said, and the only celebrity guest was Star Wars' R2-D2 actor Kenny Baker.

Phelan said it's unique that Jackson continues to run Planet Comicon Kansas City compared to other large cons, which he said are typically run by corporations.

"Kansas City kept its hometown roots while still becoming one of the largest and longest-running comic book pop culture events in the entire country," he said.

Guests on Friday cosplayed as characters including Star Wars stormtroopers (who stayed in character and directed fans to "move along"), Darth Vader, Batman, Harley Quinn, Spider-Man and creepy, larger-than-life animatronics from "Five Nights at Freddy's."

"Scream" lovers wore the iconic Ghostface mask to honor the actors who played the killers in the original horror film, who also are at the fest.

"It's been nice, having been the nerd who was weird in the beginning now be the person who's cool for doing the same weird stuff I did in high school," said Kori Coudry, who wore pointed ear prosthetics and horns to cosplay as a demon from the video game "Baldur's Gate 3."

Jackson said the rise in cosplay at the event also led to more women participating.

"The comic shows were kind of a little boys club for many years, let's face it," he said. "But now, as you can see, when you wander the floor, you're going to see a much more broad base of people here. And I think that's really great."

Humorously, this year's gathering coincides with the Big 12 Women's Basketball Championship at Kansas City's nearby T-Mobile Center.



Karol G performs as part of the "Mañana Sera Bonito" tour at Azteca Stadium in Mexico City, Thursday, Feb. 8, 2024. (AP)



Robbie



De Niro

Variety

BEVERLY HILLS, California: The night before the Oscars isn't a time to rest in Hollywood. For quite a few nominees, including "Barbie" star Margot Robbie, it meant a stop at the historic Beverly Hills Hotel for the 15th annual Chanel and Charles Finch pre-Oscar dinner.

Robbie was in very good company, with other Oscar nominees including best supporting actress frontrunner Da'Vine Joy Randolph, as well as America Ferrera, Sandra Hüller, Justine Triet, Cord Jefferson, Jonathan Glazer and Celine Song, who all are expected at the Dolby Theatre on Sunday evening.

They packed into the picturesque patio of the storied Polo Lounge for cocktails before the private dinner on a clear, chilly night in Beverly Hills. Robert De Niro was among the earliest arrivals, but within no time the space was full of stars.

Kristen Stewart and her fiancé Dylan Meyer chatted with Daniel Kaluuya near a well-placed heat lamp, while Chloë Sevigny surveyed the room a few feet away. Elsewhere Judd Apatow and Leslie Mann found an elusive seat to sip their drinks, though Apatow leapt to his feet when JR came around to say hello.

Triet and her "Anatomy of a Fall" star Hüller stayed close together, John Mulaney and Olivia Munn conversed with David O. Russell, while Adrien Brody and Patrick Dempsey chatted in another corner and Netflix CEO Ted Sarandos made the rounds.

Music

Latina sensation named woman of the year

Karol G makes history at Billboard Awards

INGLEWOOD, Calif., March 10, (AP): Karol G made history at Wednesday night's Billboard Women in Music awards ceremony.

"This is the first time, ever, a Latina is named woman of the year," Karol G began her acceptance speech after a fiery performance of her reggaeton hit, "Amargura." And so, in honor of that incredible feat, she delivered the rest of her speech in Spanish.

The global superstar received the award at the YouTube Theater in Inglewood, California, after a lively introduction from her "Griselda" co-star Sofia Vergara.

Of course, Karol G is used to making history at this point. Last month, she became the first woman to win in the best música urbana category at the Grammys, a moment that may reflect changing perceptions of reggaeton and Latin hip-hop as exclusively "men's music." Last year, her album "Mañana Será Bonito," one of The Associated Press' picks for best of the year, became the first ever Spanish-language album by a female artist to hit No. 1 on the Billboard 200. (Not only that, but "Mañana Será Bonito" is the first Latin album - by a Latina - to reach No. 1 on the albums chart since Selena Quintanilla's posthumous "Dreaming of You," did in 1995 following her high-profile murder.)

A new award category heralding performers who are "global forces" were given to women from around

the world for their needle-moving contributions to their home countries, including Annalisa representing Italy, Sarah Geronimo from the Philippines and Luísa Sonza from Brazil, who performed and was joined by Demi Lovato for "Penhasco2," their Portuguese power ballad.

The second annual producer of the year award was given to PinkPantheress, known for her jungle and UK garage beats woven into songs that avoid easy classification.

"As a woman of color in electronic music - specifically 2-step, drum and bass, it's taken a lot for the genre to be recognized on a wider scale - a lot of people don't expect me to look the way I did, making the music I was making," she said in her speech. "Even now, people don't want to take my music seriously. But I'm just happy that I have the opportunity to be recognized in a specific field by the Billboard Women in Music Award."

Performers at the ceremony included Maren Morris, Young Miko, Tems, Victoria Monét - all of whom received awards, Charli XCX debuted a new song titled "So I," about "a person who is no longer with us," as she explained in her introduction.

Others in the crowd included Usher (a self-proclaimed "Oppenheimer" fan who also was wearing chaps), Ava DuVer-

nay, Michael Keaton, Molly Sims, Maya Rudolph, Tessa Thompson, James Marsden, Kerry Washington,

Rebecca Hall and Dominic Sessa

The event started somewhat humbly. Finch said 30 years ago he started hosting it because his friends "didn't have anywhere to go the night before the Oscars." It evolved to be one of the hottest tickets in town and 15 years ago Chanel joined in as a partner, bringing in even more star power with brand ambassadors like Stewart, Robbie, Lily-Rose Depp and Phoebe Tonkin.

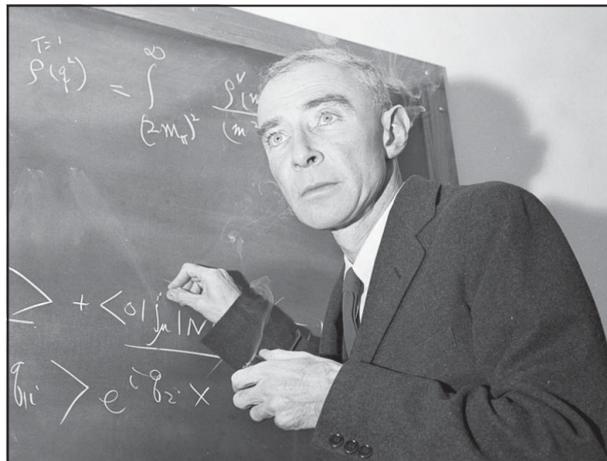
"I'm terrified of giving dinners," Finch said. "I seem like I'm really social, and I do it, but actually, it makes me really nervous."

Robbie, Oscar-nominated as a producer on "Barbie," was in good spirits before the big day. In addition to her red carpet looks, she utilized Chanel in the film too, with clothes, accessories and bags for her "stereotypical Barbie."

"It just kind of serviced the moment and the story so it never felt forced or out of place. It felt very Barbie," Robbie said. "We got to also recreate some looks I love, one worn by Claudia Schiffer, who's just a great reference for Barbie in general. It was really fun."

She also said she's looking forward to cheering on Billie Eilish and Ryan Gosling, who are both performing nominated original songs live on the show Sunday, which begins an hour earlier than usual at 7 p.m. EDT.

"I'm so excited," Robbie said. "I think it's going to be amazing." (AP)



Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, creator of the atom bomb, is shown in his study at the Institute for Advanced Study, Dec. 15, 1957, in Princeton, N.J. RR Auction in Boston is taking bids on a rare 1945 report, as well as a letter to a journalist signed by "Opie" that describes the bomb as a "weapon for aggressors." By Saturday, March 9, 2024, bids for the report had topped \$35,000 while the letter was closing in on \$5,000. The auction ends Wednesday, March 13. (AP)

HEALTH/SCIENCE

Scientists plan to find out

How will animals react to April's total solar eclipse?

WASHINGTON, March 10, (AP): When a total solar eclipse transforms day into night, will tortoises start acting romantic? Will giraffes gallop? Will apes sing odd notes?

Researchers will be standing by to observe how animals' routines at the Fort Worth Zoo in Texas are disrupted when skies dim on April 8. They previously detected other strange animal behaviors in 2017 at a South Carolina zoo that was in the path of total darkness.

"To our astonishment, most of the animals did surprising things," said Adam Hartstone-Rose, a North Carolina State University researcher who led the observations published in the journal *Animals*.



Hartstone-Rose

While there are many individual sightings of critters behaving bizarrely during historic eclipses, only in recent years have scientists started to rigorously study the altered behaviors of wild, domestic and zoo animals.

Seven years ago, Galapagos tortoises at the Riverbanks Zoo in Columbia, South Carolina, "that generally do absolutely nothing all day ... during the peak of the eclipse, they all started breeding," said Hartstone-Rose. The cause of the behavior is still unclear.

A mated pair of Siamangs, gibbons that usually call to each other in the morning, sang unusual tunes during the afternoon eclipse. A few male giraffes began to gallop in "apparent anxiety." The flamingos huddled around their juveniles.

Researchers say that many animals display behaviors connected with an early dusk.

In April, Hartstone-Rose's team plans to study similar species in Texas to see if the behaviors they witnessed before in South Carolina point to larger patterns.

Several other zoos along the path are also inviting visitors to help track animals, including zoos in Little Rock, Arkansas; Toledo, Ohio; and Indianapolis.

This year's full solar eclipse in North America crisscrosses a different route than in 2017 and occurs in a different season, giving researchers and citizen scientists

opportunities to observe new habits.

"It's really high stakes. We have a really short period to observe them and we can't repeat the experiment," said Jennifer Tsuruda, a University of Tennessee entomologist who observed honeybee colonies during the 2017 eclipse.

The honeybees that Tsuruda studied decreased foraging during the eclipse, as they usually would at night, except for those from the hungriest hives.

"During a solar eclipse, there's a conflict between their internal rhythms and external environment," said University of Alberta's Olav Rueppell, adding that bees rely on polarized light from the sun to navigate.

Nate Bickford, an animal researcher at Oregon Institute of Technology, said that "solar eclipses actually mimic short, fast-moving storms," when skies darken and many animals take shelter.

After the 2017 eclipse, he analyzed data from tracking devices previously placed on wild species to study habitat use. Flying bald eagles change the speed and direction they're moving during an eclipse, he said. So do feral horses, "probably taking cover, responding to the possibility of a storm out on the open plains."

The last full U.S. solar eclipse to span coast to coast happened in late summer, in August. The upcoming eclipse in April gives researchers an opportunity to ask new questions including about potential impacts on spring migration.

Most songbird species migrate at night. "When there are night-like conditions during the eclipse, will birds think it's time to migrate and take flight?" said Andrew Farnsworth of Cornell University.

His team plans to test this by analyzing weather radar data - which also detects the presence of flying birds, bats and insects - to see if more birds take wing during the eclipse.

As for indoor pets, they may react as much to what their owners are doing - whether they're excited or nonchalant about the eclipse - as to any changes in the sky, said University of Arkansas animal researcher Raffaella Lesch.

"Dogs and cats pay a lot of attention to us, in addition to their internal clocks," she said.



A gorilla family is observed by people visiting the Fort Worth Zoo in Fort Worth, Texas, Friday, Feb. 23, 2024. Researchers will be standing by to observe how animals' routines at the zoo are disrupted when skies dim on April 8. They previously detected other strange animal behaviors in 2017 at a South Carolina zoo that was in the path of total darkness. (AP)

Weight-loss drug approved to cut heart risks in overweight patients

Marking paradigm shift in obesity treatment

LOS ANGELES, March 10, (AP): The popular weight-loss drug Wegovy, which has helped millions of Americans shed pounds, can now be used to reduce the risk of stroke, heart attacks and other serious cardiovascular problems in patients who are overweight or who have obesity, federal regulators said Friday.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved a label change requested by drugmaker Novo Nordisk that expands the use of semaglutide.

The decision was based on the results of a study that found that Wegovy cut the risk of serious heart problems - including heart attack, stroke and heart-related deaths. Higher-weight patients with heart disease but not diabetes were 20% less likely to experience those problems compared with patients who took placebo, or dummy shots, the study found.

Wegovy is the first medication approved to help



Donna Cooper shows her exercise bike at her home in Front Royal, Va., on March 1, 2024. Generally, Cooper maintains her fitness regimen with walks with friends. (AP)

prevent the potentially life-threatening events in this population, the agency said.

"Providing a treatment option that is proven to lower this cardiovascular risk is a major advance for public health," said Dr. John Sharretts, who directs FDA's divi-

sion of diabetes, lipid disorders and obesity.

The move will change the way many heart patients are treated, said Dr. Martha Gulati, a cardiologist at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. It confirms that the new class of obesity medications are useful for improving health, not just losing weight.

"The hope is that insurers will start understanding that this is not a vanity drug," said Gulati, who estimated that nearly 70% of her heart patients could be eligible for treatment.

Wegovy is a higher-dose version of Ozempic, the diabetes treatment that was previously approved to cut the risk of serious heart problems in people with that disease. The weight-loss drug typically costs about \$1,300 a month.

Novo Nordisk has also asked European Union regulators to expand the use of the drug for heart problems. EU regulators have not weighed in on the request.

The FDA cautioned that Wegovy carries the risk of serious side effects, including thyroid tumors and certain cancers. Other possible side effects can include low blood sugar; pancreas, gallbladder, kidney or eye problems; and suicidal behavior or thinking.



This image provided by NASA, processed by Kevin M. Gill, shows Jupiter's moon Europa captured by the Juno spacecraft on Sept. 29, 2022, with north to the left. (AP)

Jupiter's moon Europa may have less oxygen than expected, finding that might put a damper on life

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla., March 10, (AP): New research suggests there's less oxygen on the icy surface of Jupiter's moon Europa than thought - and that could affect what if any life might be lurking in the moon's underground ocean.

Even with little or no oxygen, microbes might still be bustling around in the ocean believed to exist miles (kilometers) beneath Europa's frozen crust. As for what else, "who knows," said NASA scientist Kevin Hand, who was not involved in the study published Monday in *Nature Astronomy*.

More work is needed to confirm these findings, which are contrary to earlier telescope observations of condensed oxygen in Europa's ice, indicating a higher oxygen concentration, said Hand.

The new study is based on data collected by NASA's Juno spacecraft during a particularly close flyby of Europa in 2022 - a distance of just 219 miles (353 kilometers).

A U.S.-European team calculated that between 13 pounds and 39 pounds (6 kilograms and 18 kilograms) of oxygen are produced every second at Europa's surface.

Previous estimates had a much wider spread, with as much as 2,245 pounds (1,100 kilograms) of oxygen produced per second. So "unless Europa's oxygen production was significantly higher in the past," the new measurements provide "a narrower range to support habitability," the researchers wrote.

This oxygen is formed, along with hydrogen, as Jupiter's radiation blasts Europa's global shell of frozen water.

Lead author James Szalay of Princeton University said Juno's flyby was the first time a spacecraft "directly sniffed" Europa's surroundings. "We

couldn't wait to peek behind the curtain of its complex environment," he said in an email.

While it's "a significantly narrower range than we previously thought, there's still a lot we can learn," Szalay said.

It's unknown how much oxygen escapes into the moon's atmosphere, how much remains in the ice and how much might find its way to the subterranean sea. NASA plans to launch the Europa Clipper this fall. The spacecraft will make dozens of close flybys of Europa - nearly the size of our moon - while orbiting the giant gas planet.

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SPORTS

Allgaier has flat tire

Smith wins another 'Xfinity Series' race

AVONDALE, Ariz., March 10, (AP): Chandler Smith won his second career Xfinity Series race on Saturday at Phoenix Raceway, earning a surprise victory for Toyota and Joe Gibbs Racing after Justin Allgaier crashed while holding a big lead with just four laps remaining.

The 21-year-old Smith took the lead after Allgaier's stunning crash and got a huge jump on the overtime restart, easily holding off Jesse Love and Sheldon Creed over the final two laps.

Allgaier's misfortune was caused by an ill-timed flat tire.

"I hate that happened to (Allgaier) - he definitely had it in the bag," Smith said. "But I'm so proud of everybody at Joe Gibbs Racing. It's good, finally, to get this first one off my back with these guys. Let's keep racking them up."

Love finished second in his No. 2 Chevrolet for Richard Childress Racing. Creed ended up third, giving Joe Gibbs Racing two of the top three cars. Austin Hill, who won the first two Xfinity races of the season, finished fourth.

It was an eventful afternoon for Smith, who was involved in a major wreck late in the race that collected several of the leaders, including teammate John Hunter Nemechek, Aric Almirola and Riley Herbst.

CAR RACING

Nemechek looked like he might have the car to beat after gaining four spots on a pit stop, but the race changed drastically a few minutes later when Nemechek and Smith made contact after the restart. It caused Nemechek to spin out in front of the field and hit multiple cars.

In all, 13 cars were involved and it brought out a red flag for track cleanup.

That opened the door for Allgaier, who looked like he would cruise to his third career victory in Phoenix. He was winning by about three seconds before his left rear tire went flat, causing the wreck.

"Going through the dogleg, I felt it come apart," Allgaier said. "I hate it that we tore up a race car. I hate that we're not in victory lane."

Allgaier finished 29th. Smith led the first 45 laps to earn a win in the opening stage. He won two stages at Las Vegas last week. Cole Custer, who started on the pole, won the second 45-lap stage and finished fifth.

Frankie Muniz - the actor-turned-race-car-driver - finished 30th in his second Xfinity start. The 38-year-old is most known for his role in "Malcolm in the Middle" from 2000-06.

Red Bulls top Dallas 2-1 in home opener

HARRISON, March 10, (AP): Emil Forsberg scored a goal and assisted on Lewis Morgan's game-winner in his home debut for the New York Red Bulls, sparking his new club to a 2-1 victory over FC Dallas on a very wet.

The victory gives New York two wins and a draw in its first three games, its best start in four years.

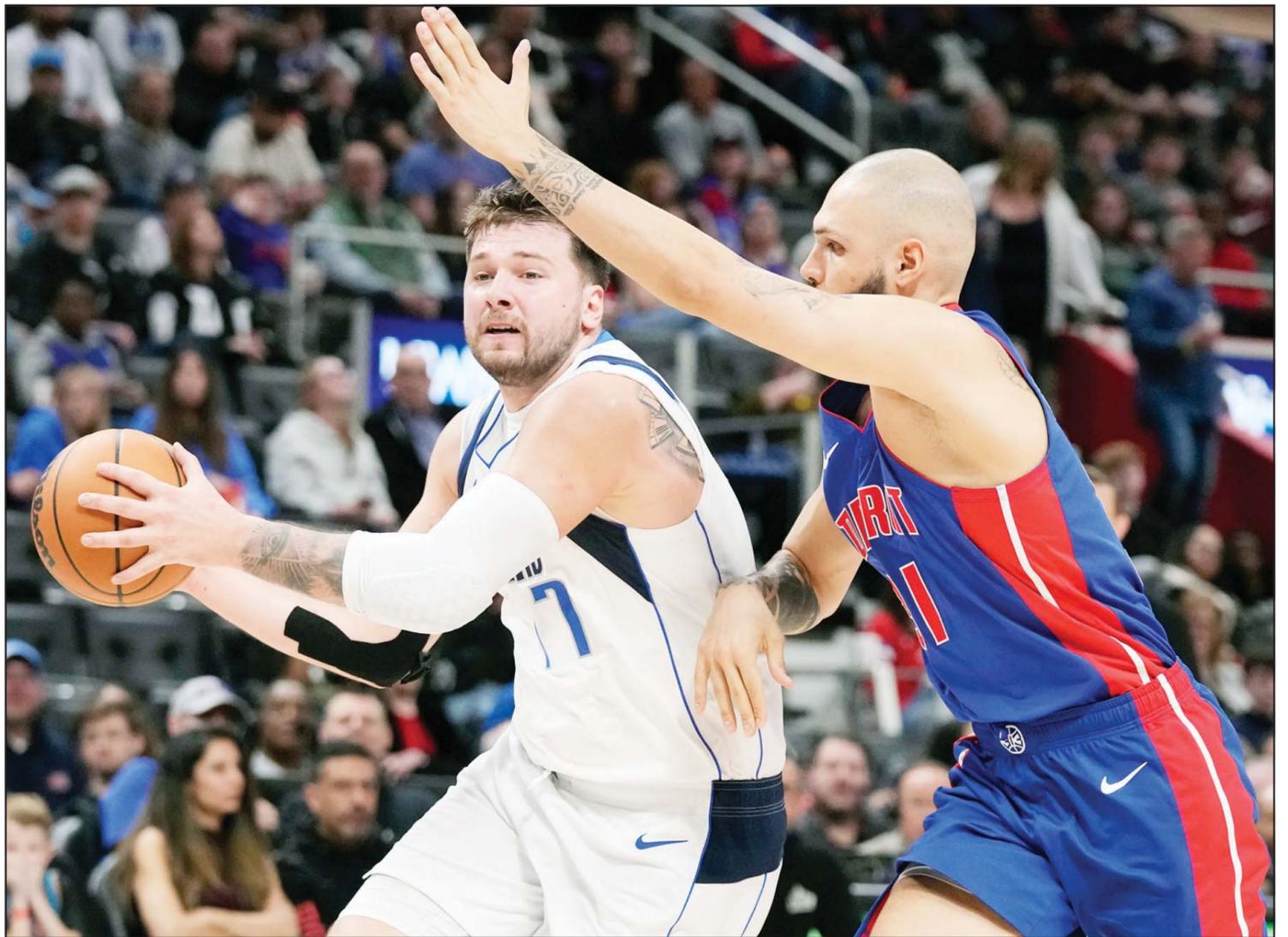
The Red Bulls signed the 32-year-old attacking midfielder for the Swedish National team from its sister club, RB Leipzig to a three-year contract in December.

On a rain-drenched pitch at Red Bull Arena, FC Dallas defender Ema Twumasi was whistled for dragging down Morgan inside the penalty area and Forsberg converted the penalty kick in the 30th minute for a 1-0 advantage at intermission.

Early in the second half the Red Bulls found a streaking Forsberg in the middle of the field and he, in turn, threaded a pass to Morgan in the center of the penalty area and he right-footed a shot into the lower left corner for the 2-0 advantage.

FC Dallas had difficulty showcasing its newest player. Dallas signed 25-year-old Croatian striker Petar Musa from Portuguese powerhouse Benfica and scored in his debut against CF Montréal.

Doncic is 1st in NBA to record 6 straight 30-pt triple-doubles as Mavs top Pistons



Dallas Mavericks guard Luka Doncic (77) is defended by Detroit Pistons guard Evan Fournier during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, March 9, 2024, in Detroit. (AP)

Celtics dim Suns' shine

DETROIT, March 10, (AP): Luka Doncic became the first NBA player to record six consecutive 30-point triple-doubles as the Dallas Mavericks pulled away in the second half and beat the Detroit Pistons 142-124 on Saturday night.

Doncic finished with 39 points, 10 assists and 10 rebounds, eclipsing Russell Westbrook's mark of five straight 30-point triple-doubles. He also extended his own record with a fifth straight 35-point triple-double.

Kyrie Irving added 21 points for Dallas, which has won two in a row after a three-game losing streak.

Cade Cunningham had 33 points, 10 assists and nine rebounds for the Pistons, who have lost 10 of 12. Simone Fontecchio added a career-high 27 points.

Celtics 117, Suns 107

In Phoenix, Jayson Tatum scored 29 points, Jaylen Brown added 27 and NBA-leading Boston beat Phoenix.

The Celtics came into the game on a rare two-game skid after dropping games to the Cleveland Cavaliers and Denver Nuggets. After Saturday's win, Boston still hasn't lost three in a row and improved to 49-14 overall.

The Suns - playing without injured All-Star Devin Booker - were led by Kevin Durant's 45

points on 18-for-26 shooting. Bradley Beal added 25 points while Jusuf Nurkic scored 11 and grabbed 11 rebounds.

Brown scored 18 points to lead the Celtics to a 62-50 halftime advantage and they never trailed in the second half.

Spurs 126, Warriors 113

In San Francisco, Keldon Johnson had 22 points and 11 rebounds, and a San Antonio team without Victor Wembanyama beat a Golden State team without Stephen Curry.

Jeremy Sochan and Malaki Branham each scored 20 points for San Antonio, which had

BASKETBALL

dropped seven of nine. Julian Champagnie had 17 points and seven rebounds.

Klay Thompson came off the bench to score 27 points for Golden State, which dropped consecutive games for the first time since Jan. 25-27 to the Kings and Lakers - also at home in Chase Center.

Both Curry and Spurs rookie Wembanyama sat out with right ankle injuries.

Nuggets 142, Jazz 121

In Denver, Nikola Jokic played through a bruised right arm that kept him out of shootaround and finished with 26 points, six rebounds and eight assists as Denver beat short-handed Utah.

Jamal Murray scored 37 points and Michael Porter Jr. added 19

points for Denver, which led by as many as 39 points in the first half, which helped to withstand a third-quarter letdown.

Keyonte George led Utah with 29 points and fueled the Jazz's third-quarter surge that made it more respectable and had the sell-out crowd buzzing over a potential historic collapse.

Hornets 110, Nets 99

In Charlotte N.C., Miles Bridges had 24 points and 10 rebounds, Brandon Miller added 23 points and Charlotte delivered another blow to Brooklyn's sagging play-off hopes.

Nick Richards added 15 points and 11 rebounds and Vasa Micic chipped in with 12 points and 10 assists for the Hornets (16-48), who snapped a six-game losing streak.

Cam Thomas returned from a six-game absence due to an ankle injury and scored 31 points, but the Nets (25-39) fell 4 1/2 games behind the Atlanta Hawks for the 10th and final play-in spot in the Eastern Conference with their third loss in four games.

Trail Blazers 125, Raptors 118, OT

In Portland, Ore., Deandre

Ayton returned from a right hand sprain and had a season-high 30 points and 19 rebounds to help the Trail Blazers beat the Raptors.

Dalano Banton had 25 points and Anfernee Simons added 23 to snap a three-game Portland losing streak. The Blazers (18-45) were playing the second of a back-to-back after a 123-107 loss to the Houston Rockets on Friday night.

Immanuel Quickley scored 29 points and Gary Trent Jr. added 23 for the Raptors, who have won just once in the last five games. Toronto (23-41) was coming off a 120-113 loss at the Phoenix Suns on Thursday.

Clippers 112, Bulls 102

In Los Angeles, Paul George scored 22 points, Kawhi Leonard added 19 and Los Angeles rallied for its third straight victory and fourth win in six games.

James Harden had his second triple-double of the season with 14 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists. Norman Powell came off the bench and scored 18 points, including a pair of 3-pointers early in the fourth quarter as the Clippers scored 11 straight points to open the period after trailing 85-83 after three. Ivica Zubac had 10 of his 16 points in the third quarter as Los Angeles came back from a 16-point deficit early in the period.

DeMar DeRozan had 24 points and 10 assists, but the Bulls had their three-game winning streak snapped. Nikola Vucevic added 22 points and 11 rebounds.

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This newspaper publication "Public Notice" is considered to be handwritten in purple and green ink on yellow paper. On the ninth day of the month of March, in the year two thousand and twenty-four of the Gregorian calendar, on the land of Kuwait Latitude 29.3697 degrees north and longitude 47.9783 degrees east, height above sea level: 16 meters, the Clan of the matvienko Family was established, consisting of: The natural living man :aleksandr; natural living woman :karina; natural living child a girl named :adelina. The current and future head of the matvienko Family Clan is the man :aleksandr. The decision is taken and shall come into effect from the moment of the establishment of the matvienko Family Clan; this decision is not subject to dispute, as we are endowed with conscience and reason by the will of the Almighty God, the Creator, and possess inherent Divine rights.

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American wins first race after six-week injury layoff

Shiffrin locks up World Cup slalom season title

ARE, Sweden, March 10, (AP): Mikaela Shiffrin made a triumphant return to the Alpine skiing World Cup after a six-week injury layoff Sunday, dominating the season's penultimate slalom for career win 96 and locking up her record-equaling eighth season title in the discipline.

Racing for the first time since hurting her left knee in a downhill crash in Italy, the American star posted the fastest times in both runs to beat Croatian prodigy Zrinka Ljutic by a massive 1.24 seconds and third-placed Michelle Gisin of Switzerland by 1.34.

"It was so nice to race again today and some nerves and all the emotions that I hoped to feel," Shiffrin said. "Really proud of my team, and for sure proud of myself to get back here and show the skiing. The second run was some of my best skiing. I am just so happy to be able to do that again this season."

Shiffrin had been out since she sprained the MCL and tibiofibular ligament in her knee in January, while also still recovering

from a bone bruise she had sustained at the start of the season.

"I felt great with my first run skiing, but if I could be like a little bit more clean, it would feel better, also on the knee, so this run was like... I wouldn't change one thing," Shiffrin said.

With her Slovakian rival Petra Vlhova out for the season after knee surgery, the American is the only remaining challenger for the slalom season title was Lena Duerr.

The German skier had to win both Sunday's race and the season-ending slalom at the World Cup finals in Austria next weekend to stay in contention, but finished fourth, 1.35 behind Shiffrin.

The season title is Shiffrin's eighth in slalom, making her the fourth skier to win eight crystal globes - the traditional prize in Alpine skiing - in a single classification.

SKIING

Kings keep alive playoff hopes in PSL

Malik gives Karachi last-ball win over Lahore

KARACHI, Pakistan, March 10, (AP): Shoaib Malik hit a boundary off the last ball to give Karachi Kings a three-wicket victory in a must-win game against two-time champion Lahore Qalandars in the Pakistan Super League on Saturday.

The win kept alive Karachi's hopes of a place in the playoffs with eight points from nine games. Lahore was already eliminated, beating only Quetta Gladiators and losing seven games in the absence of injured spinner Rashid Khan.

With three runs needed off the last delivery, Malik (27 not out) drove fast bowler Zaman

Khan's low full toss through point to guide Karachi to a winning 179-7 in a tense finish.

Lahore had posted 177-5 on the back of half centuries from Abdullah Shafique (55) and Fakhar Zaman (54) after Karachi captain Shan Masood

won the toss and chose to field.

Masood's decision to demote himself to No. 3 after struggling as an opener in his first season as Karachi skipper paid off as the opening pair of James Vince (42) and

Tim Seifert (36) provided a confident start of 59.

But Lahore came back strongly when fast bowler Tayyab Abbas (2-23) got the big wicket of Kieron Pollard (3) and Seifert was run out after a major misunderstanding with Malik.

Irfan Khan scored a brisk 35 off 16 balls with six boundaries before Lahore skipper Shaheen Shah Afridi (1-37) knocked back his middle stump in the penultimate over. Zaman conceded just five runs off his first five balls but Malik stayed calm to seal the game for host Karachi off the final delivery.

CRICKET

Poirier knocks out up-and-comer Benoit Saint Denis

O'Malley retains bantamweight belt with unanimous decision over Vera

MIAMI, March 10, (AP): Sean O'Malley emphatically defended his bantamweight belt Saturday night, unanimously outpointing Marlon "Chito" Vera in UFC 299.

In a fight that he controlled from the opening round, O'Malley (18-1) outclassed Vera with his quickness, precision striking and footwork.

The champion threw 344 punches, landing more than 50% of them. He was the more active fighter throughout, hurting Vera (23-9-1) with shots to the body, knees to the face, and countering nearly every one of Vera's connections with one of his own.

It was O'Malley's first defense of his bantamweight title after stopping former champion Aljmain Sterling 51 seconds into the second round at UFC 292 last August.

UFC CEO Dana White called the performance a "clinic" by O'Malley, who is fast becoming one of the biggest stars in the sport. White added that the card was the fourth-highest grossing UFC event ever, with a gate of \$14.14 million.

"He's on his way," White said of O'Malley, who some believe has star

power of Conor McGregor. "He's the biggest star ever in bantamweight history. You can say that right now."

Vera handed O'Malley the only defeat of his career nearly four years ago by landing a leg kick that caused O'Malley's right foot to go numb in the first round of UFC 252.

MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

O'Malley has often downplayed that loss - the kick shut down the peroneal nerve in his lower leg, causing temporary loss of feeling - and vowed to dominate in the rematch.

"That one feels good getting that one back," O'Malley said. "I'm guessing we can all agree that I'm undefeated still."

He added that he wants to fight featherweight champion Ilia Topuria next.

"Dana," he said, "Give me a jet to Spain, baby."

Immediately after the five-round fight, O'Malley sat down on the canvas after Vera hurt him late with a shot to the body - one that could have been much more significant if it was landed



Sean O'Malley, right, lands a blow against Marlon Vera during a bantamweight title bout at the UFC 299 mixed martial arts event in Miami. (AP)

earlier in the match.

"I tried to stay toe to toe with him and catch him," said Vera, the Ecuadorian fighter who received a massive amount of cheers from the fans at Kaseya Center. "At the end of the fifth round I landed a nice body that hurt him, but I ran out of time."

Former interim lightweight champion Dustin Poirier knocked out up-and-comer Benoit Saint Denis with a right hand in the second round of their lightweight match. Saint Denis had hurt Poirier with punches in the early round before the veteran dropped him with a right hook at 2:52 in the second round. The victory moved Poirier into a tie for the fourth-most wins in UFC history with 22.

Jack Della Maddalena stretched his winning streak to 17 with the biggest victory of his career. He stopped Gilbert Burns in the third round of their bout with a crushing knee to the head, moments after it appeared Burns had secured a fight-clinching takedown. Della Maddalena followed the knee with a series of elbows on the ground for a TKO victory at 3:43 in the final round of the 170-pound fight.

Yara Al-Hunaidi crowned show jumping champion

KUWAIT CITY, March 10: Yara Al-Hunaidi, riding "Valmira," clinched the championship title at the "Key Tower" show jumping competition held at Hawally Club, organized with the participation of riders from various local clubs. Sponsored by Zain Tel-

SHOWJUMPING

ecom, KGL, and Kuwait International Bank, the event received support from the Kuwait Equestrian Federation.

In the intense eighth main heat at a height of 140 cm, Al-Hunaidi secured the first position with an impressive time of 51.21 seconds, without incurring any penalty points. Following closely, Ali Al-Kharafi claimed second and third place, with Fawaz Al-Subaie securing

the fourth spot. Noteworthy performances were also delivered by Abdullah Al-Awadi, Hamad Al-Hajri, Ghazi Al-Huraiwi, and Fawaz Rashid. Hamad Al-Musaybih, Director of Corporate Relations at Zain Telecommunications Company, awarded the champions.

The sixth round, featuring a height of 130 cm, witnessed Ali Al-Kharafi emerging victorious, while the ninth round at 120 cm saw Tala Barakat securing the top spot.

Raghad Al-Dabbous led the tournament's refereeing committee, with members including Lama Abdel-Al, Dr. Yahya Al-Hadban, and Walid Al-Jassem. The event showcased the prowess of talented riders and exemplified the strong support from various sponsors and the Kuwait Equestrian Federation.



Hamad Al-Musaibih in the middle of the Grand Prix champions.

Excitement builds as Kuwait gears up for IIHF Division 4 Ice Hockey Championship

KUWAIT CITY, March 10: The Kuwait Winter Games Club officially declared its readiness to host the 2024 International Ice Hockey Federation World Championship (IIHF) Division 4 in April. The tournament will feature the participation of teams from Mongolia, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the host country, Kuwait.

ICE HOCKEY

Khaled Al-Mutairi, Vice President of the Kuwait Winter Games Club, conveyed in a statement to KUNA that the club is currently undertaking comprehensive maintenance for the ice rink, changing rooms, and medical clinic to align with the stringent requirements of the IIHF. He emphasized that these maintenance efforts are geared towards presenting the tournament in the best possible light, showcasing Kuwait's commitment to the sport of ice hockey.



Khaled Al-Mutairi, Vice President of the Kuwait Winter Games Club.

Al-Mutairi highlighted the enthusiasm and seriousness of the Kuwaiti team regarding the upcoming tournament, stating that the team is poised to engage in training camps as a crucial component of their preparation for the championship.



Novak Djokovic, of Serbia, returns to Aleksandar Vukic, of Australia, at the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament in Indian Wells, Calif. (AP)

League leaders PSG draw again

Inter continue good run as Sassuolo, Cagliari win relegation fights

PARIS, March 10, (AP): French league leader Paris Saint-Germain drew 2-2 at home to Reims on Sunday as Kylian Mbappé was left on the bench for the second straight league game.

It was defending champion PSG's third straight league draw and the attack looked tame without him. Mbappé came on in the 73rd minute with the score 2-2.

He curled a shot just wide soon after, missed the ball attempting a bi-

cycle kick and looked frustrated after shooting straight at the goalkeeper from 20 meters out. PSG is 10 points clear of second-place Brest with nine games remaining.

Mbappé scored both goals on Tuesday as PSG beat Real Sociedad 2-1 to reach the Champions League quarterfinals. But coach Luis Enrique is rotating his players to prepare for next season without Mbappé, who is leaving this summer.

Reims took the lead after seven minutes following a defensive blunder from right back Achraf Hakimi, who lost the ball in the penalty area allowing midfielder Marshall Munetsi to score.

SOCCER

PSG equalized 10 minutes later when Reims captain Yunis Abdelhamid tried to defend a corner and deflected the ball into this own net. Last week, Abdelhamid's careless backpass allowed Lille striker Jonathan David to score.

Gonçalo Ramos started in attack and put PSG 2-1 up in the 19th minute after Reims failed to clear a cross and the ball fell kindly to him. The visitors pulled level just before the break when Emmanuel Agbadou's pass found striker Oumar Diakité, whose shot beat goalkeeper Keylor Navas and went in off the post.

Lens continued its push for a Champions League spot next season by ending second-place Brest's unbeaten run with a 1-0 home win in the French league.

Ruben Aguilar headed home in the 32nd minute after midfielder David Pereira da Costa's cross bounced back off the post.



PSG's Lucas Hernandez (left), and Reims' Junya Ito battle for the ball during the French League One soccer match between Paris Saint-Germain and Reims at the Parc des Princes stadium in Paris, France. (AP)

Lens moved up to fourth place and level on points with Monaco in third. Monaco can move one point behind Brest if it wins at Strasbourg on Sunday.

Brest was unbeaten in 13 league games since losing at Monaco on Nov. 5. The visitors came close to equalizing in the second half, when Hugo Magnetti had a shot saved by France goalkeeper Brice Samba and Uruguay forward Martín Satriano hit the post.

Lens played in the Champions League this year for the first time since 2002 and is gaining momentum for a return. Brest has never qualified for Europe's elite competition and never finished higher than eighth in the French top flight.

Coco Gauff rallies to avoid early exit

Djokovic wins in return to Indian Wells after 5-year absence

INDIAN WELLS, March 10, (AP): Novak Djokovic made a winning return to the desert, beating Aleksandar Vukic 6-2, 5-7, 6-3 in his first match at the BNP Paribas Open in five years.

The 24-time Grand Slam singles champion joined Rafael Nadal as the only players to win 400 matches in ATP Masters 1000 series events. The top-ranked Djokovic is a five-time champion at Indian Wells, tied with Roger Federer for most by a male, but hadn't played in the event since 2019.

"Five years is quite a long time

TENNIS

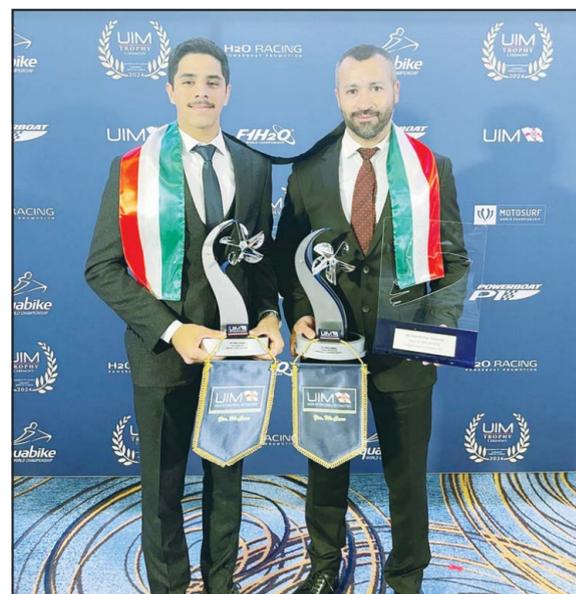
for a professional tennis player, but at the same time playing here the last time in 2019 felt like yesterday," Djokovic said. "I connected with the crowd and everyone I haven't seen in five years very quickly"

Coco Gauff and Aryna Sabalenka also won - barely - rallying to win their opening matches in third-set tiebreakers.

Gauff edged Clara Burel 2-6, 6-3, 7-6 (4). The U.S. Open women's champion trailed 4-0 and then 5-2 in the third set, leaving her a game away from becoming the second top American upset by Burel this year. The No. 47-ranked player from France beat No. 5 Jessica Pegula in the second round of the Australian Open.

Sabalenka, the two-time Australian Open champion who lost to Gauff in the final at Flushing Meadows, fought off four match points before outlasting American Peyton Stearns 6-7 (2), 6-2, 7-6 (6).

The No. 2 seed will face Emma Raducanu, the 2021 U.S. Open women's champion who reached the third round when No. 30-seeded Dayana Yastremska had to retire after Raducanu had taken a 4-0 lead.



The Kuwaiti racers Yousef Al-Abdulrazzaq and Fares Ramadhan.

UIM honors two Kuwaiti world champions

PARIS, March 10, (KUNA): In a ceremony held at the Union Internationale Motonautique (UIM) headquarters in Monaco on Saturday, world champions of the 2023 season were honored, including Kuwaiti racers Yousef Al-Abdulrazzaq and Fares Ramadhan. Al-Abdulrazzaq secured the top spot in the general rankings of the recent world aqua-bike championship in Indonesia, while Ramadhan claimed first place in the moto-surfing championship.

Notably, Al-Abdulrazzaq established a world record for the most vic-

tories in the aqua-bike championship division GP1. Expressing his delight at being invited to the UIM ceremony, he pledged to proudly raise Kuwait's flag in upcoming podium ceremonies.

In his statements to KUNA, Ramadhan expressed gratitude to the UIM for the recognition, highlighting that he is the first Kuwaiti moto-surfer to clinch a world title. He dedicated this remarkable achievement to His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and promised to pursue further accomplishments in the future.

The third-seeded Gauff advanced to face Lucia Bronzetti in the third

round. The Italian knocked off No. 32 Anhelina Kalinina 6-3, 6-4.

But Pegula was eliminated in the second round again Saturday, with Anna Blinkova of Russia beating her 6-2, 3-6, 6-3.

Naomi Osaka knocked out another seeded player, ousting No. 14 Liudmila Samsonova of Russia, 7-5, 6-3. The four-time Grand Slam champion who returned to competition this year after giving birth won the 2018 BNP Paribas title. She will next face No. 24 Elise Mertens.

No. 12 Victoria Azarenka, who won the event twice, was upset by American Caroline Dolehide 7-5, 2-6, 6-3.

Djokovic avoided an upset by pulling away from the No. 69-ranked Vukic in the third set of his first match since falling to Jan-nik Sinner in the semifinals of the Australian Open.

Djokovic won Masters 1000 titles last year at Cincinnati and Paris, but couldn't play in the first two of the year in Indian Wells and Miami, still prevented at the time from traveling to the U.S. as a foreigner who was not vaccinated against COVID-19.

He won in the desert in 2008 and 2011, then three straight times from 2014-16. The 36-year-old from Serbia is 400-86 in ATP Masters 1000 events. Nadal, who withdrew just before the event, has 406 victories in the nine tournaments at the level below the Grand Slams.

In late matches, fourth-seeded Daniil Medvedev beat Roberto Carballes Baena 6-2, 6-3, and Gael Monfils topped eighth-seeded Hubert Hurkacz 6-0, 7-6 (5), 6-2. No. 12 Taylor Fritz and No. 28 Cam Norrie, both past champions at Indian Wells, moved into the third round along with No. 13 Grigor Dimitrov. No. 14 Ugo Humbert and No. 21 Adrian Panatta, both advanced, while Arthur Fils, another Frenchman, ousted No. 23 Alejandro Davidovich Fokina 6-3, 6-4.



Red Bull driver Max Verstappen of the Netherlands leads the field after the start during the Formula One Saudi Arabian Grand Prix at the Jeddah Corniche Circuit, in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. (AP)

Sports

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Verstappen cruises to victory at Saudi Arabian GP

Dutchman extends dominant start to F1 title defense

JEDDAH, March 10, (AP): Max Verstappen stayed firmly on course for another season of dominance in Formula 1 on Saturday by winning the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix.

Even after just two races, and despite turmoil at Red Bull, Verstappen seems in near-total control on the track as he aims for a fourth consecutive title this year. Still, he had to share the attention with 18-year-old Oliver Bearman, who was a surprise seventh in his first F1 race as a Ferrari stand-in.

"A fantastic weekend for the whole team and also for myself. I felt really good with the car," Verstappen said.

The Dutch driver won easily ahead of his teammate Sergio Perez by 8.6 seconds on the road, 13.6 once a time penalty for Perez

MOTOR RACING

was factored in. Ferrari's Charles Leclerc was third.

"It was a bit of a boring race because Red Bull were a bit too quick and behind we had a bit of a gap, but we took the maximum points we could today," Leclerc said.

Verstappen started on pole and held off Leclerc at the first corner, as he did last week at the season-opener in Bahrain which he won, before quickly building his lead.

The only interruption came when Lance Stroll's crash brought out the safety car. Verstappen came into the pits for a tire change and after the restart easily passed Lando Norris - who hadn't stopped - to retake the lead.

Perez had a five-second penalty because Red Bull released him from a pit stop into the path of another car, but that didn't matter since he finished far ahead of Leclerc.

Verstappen has won nine races in a row going back to last season, and 19 of the last 20 races in total. The next race in Australia on March 24 offers him the chance to match his own record of 10 consecutive wins, set last year.

Saturday's race was the 100th podium finish of Verstappen's career and his 56th win, a signal of just how dominant his recent title-winning seasons with Red Bull have been.

Bearman was seventh for Ferrari, one day after the British driver was called up as an emergency replacement for Carlos Sainz Jr., who needed an operation to treat appendicitis.

Oscar Piastri took fourth for McLaren, with Aston Martin's Fernando Alonso fifth and George Russell sixth for Mercedes.

Behind Bearman, McLaren's Lando Norris held off Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton in a fight for eighth place. Nico Hulkenberg was 10th for Haas' first point in F1 since the Singapore Grand Prix in September.

Verstappen's second win of the season followed speculation over his future at Red Bull.

Verstappen had suggested Friday that he might reconsider his relationship with the team if his mentor Helmut Marko were to leave Red Bull, but Marko told German broadcaster Sky Sport on Saturday that he was staying.

"I always said that, what is most important is that we work together as a team and that everyone keeps the peace," Verstappen said after the race.

"And that's what we, I think, we all agree on within the team. So hopefully from now onwards that is also fully the case and everyone is trying to focus in the same direction. And I think the positive out of all this is that it didn't hurt our performances, so it's a very strong team."

The team's parent company last week dismissed a complaint of alleged misconduct by Red Bull team principal Horner toward a team employee. Verstappen's father Jos has been sharply critical of Horner, claiming the team could "explode" if he remains in charge.

The employee whose complaint sparked the investigation has since been suspended, a person with information on the matter told The Associated Press on Thursday. The person requested anonymity because Red Bull hasn't revealed details of the investigation.



Kuwait Club youth team captain receives the championship title from an official.

Kuwait Club secure championship title

Kuwait teams get the go-ahead for Arab Youth Championship, Gulf Games

By Khaled El Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, March 10: During its recent meeting, the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Handball Association sanctioned the involvement of the national teams in two upcoming tournaments. The Sixth

HANDBALL

Arab Youth Championship set to take place in Casablanca, Morocco, from April 21-30. Additionally, the participation of senior team in the inaugural Gulf Games for those born in 2006-2007, scheduled in the

UAE from April 16 to May 2, was green lit. This aligns with the strategic plan to ready our national handball teams for the upcoming Asian qualifiers leading to the World Cup finals next summer.

Faisal Siwan, the Director of the national teams, emphasized the Association's commitment to meticulously prepare and equip the national teams, ensuring their readiness to participate and achieve positive results in international competitions.

In another development, the jun-

ior handball team at the Kuwait Club secured the championship title after defeating Al-Qurain 39-28 in the final match held at the Al-Daiya Hall. Al-Qurain claimed the runner-up position, while Al-Arabi secured third place by winning the third and fourth place match against Yarmouk, 21-20.

Following the conclusion of the tournament, Vice President of the Kuwait Handball Association, Shabib Al-Hajri, Secretary-General of Handball at Al-Qurain Club,

Abdulaziz Yalos, and Administrator of the "Kuwait Handball" team, Faisal Al-Enezi, awarded the winning teams.

Shabib Al-Hajri commended the participating teams' performance, highlighting the clubs' dedication and collaboration with the Federation to achieve optimal results. He emphasized the positive impact of focusing on age levels, fostering player development and challenging them according to their abilities, ultimately nurturing future talents for the national teams.



Aston Villa's Youniso Tlemeni (left), and Tottenham Hotspur's Pape Matar Sarr battle for the ball during the English Premier League soccer match at Villa Park, Birmingham, England. (AP)

Arsenal hold off Brentford

Son stars as Tottenham 'rout' Champions League rivals Villa

BIRMINGHAM, England, March 10, (AP): Tottenham boosted its bid to qualify for the Champions League by routing 10-man Aston Villa 4-0 in the Premier League on Sunday.

Fifth-placed Spurs moved to within two points of Villa in fourth with a game in hand.

Goals from James Maddison, Brennan Johnson, Son Heung-Min and Timo Werner secured a resounding victory at Villa Park.

Villa's cause wasn't helped by John McGinn being sent off in the 65th, but Unai Emery's team was already trailing 2-0 by that point.

Maddison opened the scoring in the 50th when poking home Pape Sarr's cross from the right.

Johnson doubled Spurs' lead three minutes later after an assist from Son.

Villa captain McGinn had described the clash as "the most important game in the club's recent history," but his sending off effectively killed off any hopes of a comeback from the home team.

He was shown a straight red for taking down Destiny Udogie and from there Villa's challenge collapsed.

Son lashed in Spurs' third in the first minute of stoppage time after a cross from Dejan Kulusevski and substitute Werner rounded off the win three minutes later, with Son the provider again.

Kai Havertz's late goal secured Arsenal's 2-1 win over Brentford.

Havertz had been somewhat fortunate to avoid a second booking for a dive in the area earlier in the second half, a decision that proved crucial when he was on hand to head home a cross from Ben White in the 86th minute.

That extended Arsenal's Premier League winning streak to eight games in 2024 and atoned for a howler by goalkeeper Aaron Ramsdale that had gifted Brentford an equalizer just before the halftime break.

"Massive win for us," Havertz said. "It wasn't nice, especially after conceding so close to the (halftime) whistle. We spoke to each other and wanted to turn it around."

Arsenal had been on a stellar scoring run, netting a combined 21 goals in its last four league games but couldn't quite replicate that at-

SOCCER

tacking prowess against Brentford despite taking the lead when Declan Rice headed home another cross from White in the 19th.

Arsenal continued to dominate but Ramsdale's mistake in first-half injury time gave Brentford an equalizer out of nothing. The goalkeeper, who was given a rare start because Arsenal's regular No. 1 David Raya is on loan from Brentford, dawkled on the ball and allowed Yoane Wissa to slide in and block his clearance so that the ball looped into the empty net.

Ramsdale made amends with two good saves in the second half, though. He was caught off his line in the 55th and nearly beaten by Ivan Toney from almost 40 yards but managed to swat the ball away while backtracking.

The goalkeeper showed his best side with a good one-handed save in the 71st to tip a header from Nathan Collins over the bar.

Arsenal then had another spell of heavy dominance and Rice hit the crossbar from long range in the 74th after being teed up by Odegaard following a corner.

The sustained pressure finally paid off when White picked out Havertz for the late winner that kept Arsenal's title charge on track.

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, March 10: Badr Al-Mutawa, the captain of the Al-Qadisiya team and former Azraq star, secured the Best Player Award during the eighteenth round of the Zain Premier League. This recognition reflects his outstanding performance in the current season, a remarkable feat considering he is now 39 years old. Al-Mutawa has become a pivotal figure in local football, notably achieving goal No. 163 in the league competition by scoring against Al-Shabab in the eighteenth round. This historic goal surpasses the record set by former Syrian scorer and current Al-Fahaheel coach, Firas Al-Khatib.

Al-Mutawa attributes his achievement to the collective effort of the Al-Qadisiya players, the guidance of the coaching staff, and the unwavering support from the Yellow fans in various circumstances. Despite approaching his fortieth birthday in January, Al-Mutawa continues to prove his goal-scoring prowess, displaying remarkable performance levels and the ability to play for over 70 minutes. This suggests that he remains a formidable force for years to come, posing a challenge for

the top scorer title.

In acknowledgment of Al-Mutawa's excellence, Al-Shabab players conducted a ceremonial pass of honor before facing two teams, expressing appreciation for his milestone goal. His teammates at the "Yellow Castle" also celebrated him before the start of training.

SOCCER

Looking ahead, Al-Qadisiya coach, Dr. Muhammad Al-Mishaan, emphasized the importance of continued training to prepare the team effectively for the upcoming match against Al-Salmiya in the first round of the championship group competitions, known as the "League of Six." Other notable matchups in this round include leaders Kuwait Club facing Al-Fahaheel, and Al-Arabi meeting Al-Nasr.

Following this round, the league is set to pause as the national team gears up to face Qatar on March 21 and 26 in the third and fourth rounds of the first group competitions for the joint Asian qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup and the 2027 Asian Cup.



Badr Al-Mutawa, joined by Al-Qadisiya teammates to celebrate his historic 163rd goal.