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MP to disclose Ministry of Commerce wrongdoings on Tuesday session

## Committee weighs raising minimum pension to KD 1,000

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah recently met with the National Assembly officials at Bayan Palace to discuss various issues.

Present at the meeting were Assembly Speaker Ahmed Al-Saadoun, the Assembly Office members, Deputy Speaker Muhammad Al-Mutair, Secretary Osama Al-Shaheen, Observer MP Falah Al-Hajri, Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee Chairman MP Muhannad Al-Sayer, Financial and Economic Affairs Committee Chairman MP Shuaib Al-Muwaziri, Parliamentary Priorities Committee Chairman MP Abdullah Fahad and Secretary General Khalid Saad Busleeb.

On the other hand, the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee on Monday discussed the bill on increasing the minimum pension amount to KD1,000.

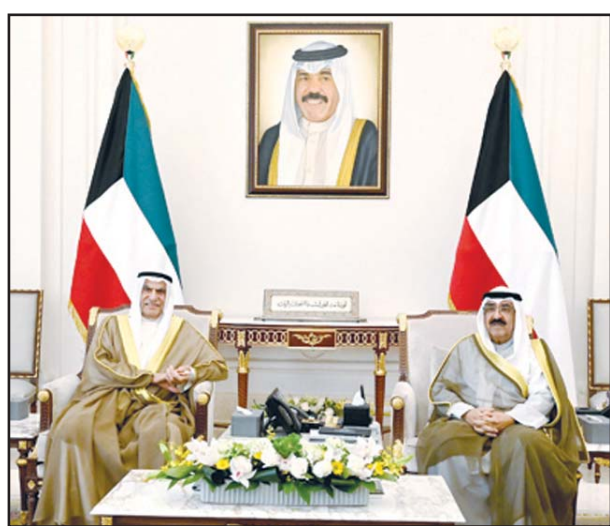
Member of the committee MP Hamad Al-Elyan confirmed that the government has approved the bill and it has no objection to increasing salaries to more than KD 1,000 provided the legal retirement age is increased as well. He explained the retirement age increase will be slight and gradual, starting after a number of years to ensure it is not applied on most of the current employees. He said the government justified this procedure, stating that the allocation of funds for this increment necessitates the amendment of the law on establishing the Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS).

He said the government asked for the assistance of the

Assembly in providing cash for this purpose through the issuance of laws on developing non-oil revenues and imposing taxes like selective and major companies taxes. He added the government affirmed that those receiving high salaries in the public or private sector will not be covered by the proposed increment.

Meanwhile, MP Hamdan Al-Azmi urged the citizens to attend the session scheduled for Tuesday to witness deliberations on his grilling motion against Minister of Commerce and Industry and State Minister for Youth Affairs Muhammad Al-Aiban. He said the grilling motion will reveal violations and crimes at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, which have had a negative impact on the Assembly and the reputation of Kuwait.

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Crown Prince Diwan photo

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives National Assembly Speaker Ahmed Al-Saadoun.

### Opinion

## Prime Minister, lead or go

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

ARTICLE 50 of the Kuwait Constitution stipulates that, "The system of Government is based on the principle of separation of powers functioning in cooperation with each other in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. None of these powers may relinquish all or part of its competence specified in this Constitution."

I chose to start with this article to highlight the extent of the political and administrative rift between the government and the National Assembly, and how the latter has encroached on the powers of the former, which, for three decades, has not been able to perform its duty to the fullest extent.

This is because it allowed the parliamentarians to interfere in the core of its work. The ministers even underestimated this text when they allowed the parliamentarians to decide what they should do.

This does not exist in any other country. It is in fact a strange situation that some successive governments have adopted, either because their boss was weak or tainted with errors or corruption due to which he was unable to confront them, or because the minister's electoral and personal agenda differs from the program of the Council of Ministers, or because of the absence of solidarity.

Therefore, it was not objectionable for a parliamentarian or a parliamentary committee to request the presence of the minister and the university director and impose on them demands that contradict the Constitution, and for the minister to submit to them as if nothing had happened. Meanwhile, the Prime Minister did nothing, other than implement the "infamous" decision away from any financial, social and cultural considerations and losses in relation to the co-education system in Kuwait University.

Also, when the minister was asked to cancel his decision regarding medical scholarships in Egypt and Jordan and when he did not yield to the parliamentarians, the government forced him to resign. His successor then canceled that decision and reinstated scholarships to these two countries.

Undoubtedly, this indicates the fact that the Council of Ministers takes into account the concerns of the parliamentarians, and even a group of them, in order to provide support that did not satisfy some of the ministers or its head, or that it was infiltrated. Therefore, something that was not taken into account occurred.

Here is an interpellation awaiting the Prime Minister, and the Minister of Commerce and Industry accepted it, as he did not receive a group of parliamentarians due to which accountability was awaiting him.

In all of this, the game of deals began. This happened from the first moment the interpellation was announced. Today Kuwaitis must wait to see the birth of benefits for the parliamentarians, and the further weakness of the government, while the people lament their luck.

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## MoH shuts 12 private medical facilities in first eight months

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi, the Minister of Health, disclosed that the private medical sector comprises 20 hospitals, with an additional 82 human medicine centers, 163 dental centers, and 89 clinics operating beyond regular working hours, reports Al-Rai daily.

Furthermore, he went on to say 522 full-time clinics are affiliated with the same sector, while responding to a query from MP Hamad Al-Obaid.

Al-Awadhi reported 549 violations were recorded against clinics and medical centers from January 1, 2023, to September 1, 2023, resulting in the complete closure of 12 private medical facilities during the same period.

Al-Awadhi clarified that the private medical sector employs 3,680 doctors, 1,592 dentists, and 13,524 support medical professionals.

Regarding the monitoring mechanism, he outlined the involvement of specialized technical, engineering, and administrative committees from the Ministry of Health, who conduct periodic inspections.

Violations, he said, are addressed in response to complaints, requests from legal authorities, or joint committee initiatives in collaboration with government agencies.

The identified violations are then submitted to the Health Licensing Department for verification of issued licenses before being forwarded to the Ministry for subsequent action by competent legal authorities and the medical liability agency.

In terms of financial control over clinics and medical centers, Al-Awadhi emphasized the approval of price lists by the Health Licensing Department, ensuring conformity with officially approved prices. Complaints about conflicting prices are reported to the Ministry, and the Medical Liability Authority investigates the matter.

## Shifa toll rises

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip, Nov 13, (Agencies): Battles around hospitals have forced thousands of Palestinians to flee from some of the last shelters in northern Gaza while stranding critically wounded patients, including newborns, and their caregivers with dwindling supplies and no electricity, health officials said Monday.

The Israeli military has urged Palestinians to flee south on foot through what it calls safe corridors. But its purported drive to separate civilians from Hamas militants has come at a heavy cost, with more than two thirds of the territory's population of 2.3 million having already fled their homes.

As Israeli troops encircled Gaza's Shifa Hospital over the weekend, thousands fled, while hundreds of patients and displaced people remained, according to officials. World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said Shifa "is not functioning as a hospital anymore."

Another hospital in Gaza City, Al-Quds, was forced to shut down Sunday because it ran out of fuel. The Palestinian Red Crescent, which operates the facility, said Israeli forces are stationed nearby and that preparations are being made to evacuate some 6,000 patients, medics and displaced people.

Both sides have seized on the plight of hospitals, particularly Shifa's, as a symbol of the larger war, now in its sixth week. The fighting was triggered by Hamas' unprecedented Oct. 7 surprise attack into Israel, and Israel's response has brought unseen levels of death and destruction to Gaza.

For Palestinians, Shifa evokes the suffering of civilians. Thousands of people displaced by airstrikes that have destroyed entire city blocks have sought shelter in its darkened corridors. Doctors running low on supplies perform surgery there on war-wounded patients, including children, without anesthesia. One medic shared a photo showing nine premature babies in a shared crib.

Israel says Hamas shields itself among civilians and the hospital, Gaza's largest, is a prime example of that, claiming that the militants have a command center in and beneath the medical compound. Israel has not provided photos or videos to back up the Shifa claims, though it has shared footage of militants operating in

Continued on Page 5



Palestinians line up for food during the ongoing Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip in Rafah on November 13, 2023. (AP)

## Migrant boat capsizes off Yemen, 49 missing

SANAA, Nov 13, (AP): A migrant boat capsized off the coast of war-torn Yemen, leaving dozens of people, mostly from the Horn of Africa, missing, Yemeni officials said Monday.

Khalid al-Subeihi, an official with the Yemeni coast guard in the coastal city of Mocha, said the boat with 75 migrants on board capsized Sunday.

He told The Associated Press that 26 people survived but at least 49 others remain missing.

Another coast guard official, Lt. Col. Olwan al-Qameri, said the search was still underway Monday.

Citing an unnamed coast guard official, Yemen's state-run SABA news agency reported that the boat capsized due to strong winds and that all those on board - including women and children - fell into the water.

The shipwreck was the latest sea disaster involving African migrants seeking a better life in oil-rich Gulf countries.

## Zain Group 9-month net income KD 172m

— Details Page 9 —



KUNA photo

The 18th edition of Dubai Expo for Aviation 2023 kicked off on Monday, Nov 13, with the participation of more than 1,400 participants from 148 countries and more than 300 specialists in the field of aviation, defense and space. — See Page 9

## US strikes hit Iran-linked facilities

### News watch

VIENNA: In October, the OPEC Reference Basket (ORB) fell by USD 2.82, or 3.0 percent, to an average of USD 91.78/b, the organization said on Monday.

The ICE Brent front-month contract fell by USD 3.89, or 4.2 percent, to USD 88.70/b, and the NYMEX WTI contract fell by USD 3.96, or 4.4 percent, to average USD 85.47/b, it said in its periodical report.

The ORB steepened on concerns over geopolitical tensions in the Middle East. (KUNA)

WASHINGTON: The US Department of Defense announced Sunday the death of five US special operations forces in a helicopter crash in the Mediterranean Sea.

"We mourn the tragic loss of five US service members during a training accident in the Mediterranean Sea late Friday evening," the Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III said in a statement today.

"While we continue to gather more information about this deadly crash, it is another stark reminder that the brave men and women who defend our great nation put their lives on the line each and every day to keep our country safe." (KUNA)

QUETTA, Pakistan: Pakistan on Monday opened three new border crossings to expedite the deportation of Afghans living in the country illegally, officials said.

Nearly 300,000 Afghans have left Pakistan in recent weeks since authorities started arresting and deporting foreign nationals without papers after the Oct. 31 deadline for migrants without legal status to leave the country voluntarily. (AP)

WASHINGTON, Nov 13, (AP): The U.S. military conducted airstrikes on two locations in eastern Syria involving Iranian-backed groups, hitting a training location and a weapons facility, according to the Pentagon and U.S. officials. It marks the third time in a bit more than two weeks that the U.S. has retaliated against the militants for what has been a growing number of attacks on bases housing U.S. troops in Iraq and Syria.

In a statement, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said the strikes targeted sites near Abukama and Mayadin and were used by Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps as well as Iran-backed militias.

"The President has no higher priority than the safety of U.S. personnel, and he directed today's action to make clear that the United States will defend itself, its personnel, and its interests," Austin said.

A U.S. official said one site also included weapons storage. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss details of a military operation.

The militant groups, many operating under the umbrella of the Islamic Resistance in Iraq, have carried out nearly 50 attacks since Oct. 17 on bases housing U.S. personnel in Iraq and Syria.

## Gov't fires Braverman

## Cameron makes shock return as UK's new foreign secretary

LONDON, Nov 13, (AP): Former British Prime Minister David Cameron made a shock return to high office on Monday, becoming foreign secretary in a major shakeup of the Conservative government that also saw the firing of divisive Home Secretary Suella Braverman.

Cameron, who led the U.K. government between 2010 and 2016, was appointed by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak in a Cabinet shuffle in which he sacked Braverman, a divisive figure who drew anger for accusing police of being too lenient with pro-Palestinian protesters.

She was replaced by James Cleverly, who had been foreign secretary.

Cameron's appointment came as a surprise to seasoned politics-watchers. It's rare for a non-lawmaker to take a senior government post, and it has been decades since a former prime minister held a Cabinet job.

The government said Cameron was being appointed to Parliament's unelected upper chamber, the House of Lords. The last foreign secretary to serve in the Lords, rather than the elected House of Commons, was Peter Carrington, who was part of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government in the 1980s.

Cameron, 57, said Britain was "facing a daunting set of international challenges, including the war in Ukraine and the crisis in the Middle East."

## Prayer Timings

Fajr ..... 04:48 Asr ..... 14:33  
Sunrise .. 06:10 Maghrib .. 16:54  
Zohr ..... 11:33 Isha ..... 18:14

# Local

## Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

**By Day:** Rather hot and relatively humid specially over coastal areas with light variable wind, to light to moderate southeasterly wind, with speed of 06-28 km/hr and some scattered clouds will appear later on.

## Weather

**By Night:** Mild to rather cold, humid specially over coastal areas and clouds will increase gradually with light to moderate southeasterly wind to southerly wind, with speed of 08-30 km/hr with a chance for scattered rain.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	29	22
Kuwait Airport	31	18
Abdaly	31	17
Jahra	31	20
Salmiyah	28	24
Nuwaisib	30	20
Wafra	30	17

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

## 25.5 pc in Kuwait suffer from diabetes: Dr Al-Duwairi

# 'Balanced exercise-nutrition regimen lowers diabetes risk'

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13, (KUNA): Following a healthy lifestyle -- based on research, medical protocols, and a balanced exercise-nutrition regimen -- lowers the risk of diabetes, said health experts on Monday.

Speaking to KUNA a day ahead of the World Diabetes Day on November 14, Dasman Diabetes Institute Director Dr. Qais Al-Duwairi indicated that diabetes research in Kuwait had reached a point where numerous medical disciplines were put together to better counter diabetes providing hope for many who suffer from this illness.

New research, which began in 2022, focused on the chemical, immune, and genetic factors causing diabetes, said Al-Duwairi, noting that finding early signs of the illness helped individuals to better assess the situation and implement viable countermeasures.

Those who suffered from diabetes unknowingly could also benefit from the Dasman Institute's research, he indicated, adding that studies on the matter were published in 93 scientific articles.

Dr. Al-Duwairi commended the cooperation with other institutes in formulating diabetes research and countermeasures in Kuwait including Kuwait University (KU), the Ministry of Health, and others.

The Dasman Institute is the only organization in the Middle East that provided the DAFNE (DDI) program, a mechanism geared towards the nutritious and insulin needs of those suffering from type-1 diabetes, he noted.

The official touched on the impact of education in the battle against diabetes, revealing that in 2022, there was a decrease by 60 percent in type-1 diabetic cases as well as a reduction by eight percent in accumulative sugar levels for those suffering from this type.

He affirmed that 50 percent of patients following the 2022 Dasman Institute diabetes protocol managed to decrease dependency on medication by 50 percent.

Dr. Al-Duwairi also pointed out that the percentage of diabetic patients in Kuwait had reached 25.5 percent according to recent statistics.

On his part, an endocrinology consultant at Sabah Hospital Dr. Zaidan Al-Mazidi said that diabetes amongst children was on the rise, indicating that 41 out of 100,000 cases annually were diagnosed with diabetes, especially amongst children under 14.

Type-1 diabetes, which is dependent on insulin, is rampant among children and unfortunately, there are high numbers of children suffering from that in Kuwait, said Dr. Al-Mazidi.

He indicated that several factors led to type-1 diabetes amongst children including genetics and sometimes, certain viruses.

He added that symptoms of the disease included extreme thirst, frequent need to urinate, hunger, severe weight loss and fatigue, behavioral shifts, and fruity-smelling breath, which are all indicators that parents should take their children and get them checked.

Diabetes could lead to cardiovascular disease, nerve damage, kidney failure, eye problems, immune deficiency, and Osteoporosis, he indicated.

Dr. Al-Mazidi's colleague and endocrinology consultant Dr. Adel Redha spoke about gestational diabetes, which occurs during pregnancy.

If left without supervision and medication, women could develop type-2 diabetes, he said, stressing that it was important to maintain a healthy lifestyle during and after pregnancy to avoid this ailment.

According to WHO estimation and data, the number of diabetics increased from 108 million in 1980 to 422 million in 2014. Early deaths due to diabetes increased by three percent in 2000-19. The number of deaths in 2019 reached two million.



Dasman Diabetes Institute marks World Diabetes Day.

KUNA photo

# Gulf countries 'top' world in type-2 diabetes, say experts

'Rate high in Kuwait ; disease leads to multiple organ failure'

By Marwa Al-Bahravi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: Dr. Walid Al-Dhahi, an endocrinology and diabetes consultant and the Chairman of the Kuwait Diabetes Society, highlighted the dangers of the high rate of diabetes in the country.**

In a press statement issued yesterday on the sidelines of the Kuwait Diabetes Society's celebration of the World Diabetes Day with the cooperation of the Endocrinology Unit of Farwaniya Hospital, Dr. Al-Dhahi said the Gulf countries are first in the world in terms of type 2 diabetes, and second in type 1 after European countries.

He explained that Kuwait needs a national program supported by a package of laws adopted by the National Assembly to confront this disease. There are similar successful national programs in many countries of the world, such as Australia.

There are many challenges faced by the state and relevant institutions to combat this disease at various levels, as according to World Health Organization's estimates, rates of infection are expected to double in the next thirty years, due to which it has become necessary to combine efforts to confront this great challenge.

Diabetes is linked to many other diseases, such as high blood pressure, cholesterol, and atherosclerosis.

Dr. Al-Dhahi warned that irregular blood sugar levels lead to weak immunity, which has recently been observed in the spread of COVID-19 infection rates among diabetic patients more than others.

Meanwhile, Head of the Internal Medicine Department at Farwaniya Hospital and the Treasurer of the Kuwait Diabetes Society Dr. Naila Al-Mazidi said the celebration includes many activities and events to educate the public about the importance of maintaining blood diabetes levels through healthy eating habits, exercising, and following a healthy lifestyle.

She highlighted the distribution of awareness brochures to the public and the provision of free medical consultations as well as check-ups for patients suffering from diabetes, blood pressure, and cumulative blood sugar, through the doctors, pharmacists and nutritionists participating in the event.



Albanian ambassador



Greek ambassador

## Two envoys take post

Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Monday a copy of the credentials of Greece's new ambassador to Kuwait Ioannis Plotas.

The Foreign Minister wished the new ambassador good luck in his diplomatic work and further cooperation between the two friendly countries. During the meeting, they discussed the latest regional and international developments. The Minister of Foreign Affairs also received on Monday a copy of the credentials of Albania's new Ambassador to Kuwait.

The Foreign Minister wished the new ambassador good luck in his diplomatic work and further cooperation between the two friendly countries. During the meeting, they discussed the latest regional and international developments. (KUNA)



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah receives Sheikh Salman bin Ibrahim Al-Khalifa, President of the Asian Football Confederation.

## HH PM meets AFC president

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received President of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Sheikh Salman bin Ibrahim Al-Khalifa and his accompanying delegation in Bayan Palace on Monday

in the presence of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

The meeting was attended by head of the office of His Highness the Prime Minister Hamad Al-Amer. (KUNA)

## Robotics, science subjects in course

# Support for talented Kuwaitis

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: The Public Authority for Youth was quoted as saying the Youth Creativity League project organized by the Authority for the fifth season aims to support talented and creative Kuwaiti youth and develop them to reach the path of success and excellence, reports Al-Rai daily.

Acting Deputy Director General of the Authority for the Youth Development Sector, Dr. Mishaal Al-Janoubi, said in a press statement today, on the occasion of the start of the project activities, that the fields included in this season are the Holy Qur'an, robotics, the scientific journal, scientific research, mathematics, and drawing, in addition to youth debates.

Al-Janoubi pointed out that the preliminary qualifiers in the field of mathematics, for training in the field of debates workshops have already begun, with competitions for the rest of the fields to be held one after the other in youth centers.

He singled out the great demand from young people to register in the league this season in various fields, saying they are divided into three levels -- beginners (from 7-10 years), intermediate (from 11-14 years), and advanced (from 15-18) years.

He added this is one of the national programs within the country's development plan and clearly focuses on encouraging creativity and technological production for young people based on scientific foundations, noting the distinguished cooperation between the Authority and a number of state agencies related to youth work to make the project activities successful, most notably the Ministry of Education.

Al-Janoubi said that the Creativity League proved to be a great success, as evidenced by the Kuwaiti school debate team winning first place in the sixth international

## Killer term hiked From 7 to 10 years

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: The Court of Appeals increased the imprisonment term of a Kuwaiti citizen, who was accused of killing a young man using a knife during a quarrel in Raqqa, from seven years to ten years.

According to the case file, officers from the General Department of Criminal Investigations had arrested the suspect following his quarrel with the victim, during which he stabbed the latter in the heart using a knife and killed him.

During investigations, the suspect insisted that he stabbed the victim in self-defense during the quarrel, and had not intended to stab him to kill him.

During the court session, he had denied the charge of premeditated murder.

school debate championship in the Arabic language, which was held in Qatar last September, in addition to its remarkable contribution to building and refining the personalities of students.

He called on young Kuwaitis to register in the rest of the youth league areas they wish to, via the Public Authority for Youth website ([www.youth.gov.kw](http://www.youth.gov.kw)) and to follow the Authority's platforms via the social media to learn about the places and times of qualifiers, all of which are free.



KUNA photo

Chiefs of Staff of the Arab Gulf states discuss enhancing the process of joint cooperation between the GCC states.

## GCC discuss military cooperation

Chiefs of Staff of Armed Forces of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries held their meeting Monday in Muscat, the Sultanate of Oman.

An official statement to KUNA said that Acting Chief of the General Staff, Major General Engineer Dr. Ghazi Shemmeri headed the Kuwaiti delegation. The top military officers discussed topics related to strengthening the cooperation process between the six GCC countries and topics on their agenda related to matters of mutual interest.

The meeting is part of efforts aimed at exploring means of consolidating joint cooperation among GCC states in military fields.

It was preceded by a meeting of the GCC Preparatory Committee of Assistant Chiefs of Staff for Operations and will be followed by the GCC Joint Defense Council comprising defense ministers of member states.

The GCC consists of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Oman. (KUNA)

# 'Markaz' strategic partner in second MoneyTech summit

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz" participated in the second edition of the MoneyTech Summit as a "strategic partner", reinforcing its position as a leading provider of innovative investment solutions that serve its growing client base. Organized by Al-Jarida Summits on 12 November, 2023 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Kuwait City, the event brought together renowned experts from the fintech, banking, telecommunications, and other related industries.

Building on last year's success, the various sessions throughout the Summit explored the latest technology-driven trends in the financial sector, including digital banking innovations, the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on Kuwait's financial services sector, and the intricacies of Shari'ah-compliant fintech solutions.

Commenting on Markaz's participation as a strategic sponsor, Mr. Abdullatif W. Al-Nusif, Managing Director, Wealth Management and Business Development at Markaz, said: "Supporting the Money-

Tech summit for the second consecutive year stems from Markaz's commitment to raising awareness of emerging trends and nurturing innovation in Kuwait's financial sector.

This sponsorship also enforces our key CSR pillars of building human capacity, aligning the business environment with sustainable development principles, and promoting good governance in the business environment."

"As the fields of technology and finance continue to converge, our aim at Markaz is to play an active role in initiatives that shed light on the latest market developments and showcase the opportunities in the ever-evolving financial technology landscape, in order to empower clients and investors to make informed investment decisions by leveraging the knowledge shared." Al-Nusif added.

The Summit provided a platform for thought leaders, innovators, and industry experts to share their insights and foster partnerships to shape the future of fintech locally, regionally, and on a global scale.



**Al Omar: KFH continues its leadership in supporting education and attracting national talents**

**KFH signs collaboration agreement with American Int'l University**

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has signed a collaboration agreement with the American International University (AIU) as part of its social responsibility and commitment to promoting education, students, and youth.

The signing ceremony was attended by KFH Group Chief Human Resources and Transformation Officer, Zeyad Abdullah Al Omar, Mr. Nael Al Awadhi, a member of AIU's Board of Trustees, and other attendees from both parties.

Al Omar affirmed, in a press release, that KFH remains committed to supporting and assisting public and private academic institutions in their efforts to qualify the nation's youth. He noted that this aligns with

KFH's focus on supporting and developing young national talents, as well as KFH's strategy in education, development, and training.

Al Omar pointed out that such agreements contribute to the development of society and introduce ambitious young people to the importance of self-development, in addition to enhancing efficiency, promoting academic attainment, and working in the private sector. He added that the private sector is an appealing atmosphere for individuals aspiring to grow their skills and excel in their careers.

Al-Omar emphasized KFH's interest in training and Kuwaitization of the workforce. He noted that KFH provides integrated and advanced

programs in collaboration with the largest international academic institutions.

He added that KFH endorses the endeavors of universities to channel the students' potential towards enhancing their creativity through specialized activities and programs pertaining to behavioral, professional, technological, and accounting skills associated with Islamic economics and banking practices. Additionally, leadership programs and other advanced comprehensive programs are designed in accordance with the latest market demands and aligned with international educational and development standards.

Mr. Nael Al Awadhi, a member of AIU's Board of Trustees, stressed

that the main goal of education is to improve society in all fields.

He explained that: "The American International University believes that one of its most important responsibilities is to promote the nationals and help them gain the best skills and capabilities that will elevate Kuwait to the rank of developed countries."

"The university believes that this advancement should be in academic and professional collaboration with the private and public sectors, which are the main artery of the country's economy," he added.

Al Awadhi stressed that the signing of the collaboration agreement with KFH is a real breakthrough for training and educating and for the exchange of information and expertise.



Zeyad Al-Omar and Nael Al-Awadhi exchange the partnership agreement.

**Move to set up postal company**

MoC completes preparing draft law: official

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

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: The acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Communications Dr. Ahmad Al-Mijren says the ministry has completed preparing a draft law to establish the Kuwait Postal Company.**

In a press statement issued Sunday, Dr. Al-Mijren explained that the Council of Ministers approved the draft law establishing the Kuwait Postal Company, which the ministry finished preparing in coordination with the Fatwa and Legislation Department, which reviewed it and made comments on its first version until it was finalized in its

final form.

On October 31, decision No. 218 of 2023 was issued for referring the draft law to the National Assembly.

The company will be a public Kuwaiti shareholding company with a capital of KD 50 million and will enjoy an independent legal personality. It will carry out its activities and achieve its purposes in accordance with the provisions of this law and its statute, and will be managed on a commercial and investment basis and supervised by the competent minister.



Dr Al-Mijren

The company's purpose is to carry out all work related to postal services and related services inside and outside the country and to manage facilities and related businesses. The law specifies the company's capital with all its components, the number of shares and the value of the share, in accordance with what will be stated in the company's bylaws.

This company will replace the postal sector in the Ministry of Communication within six months from the date of issuance of its statute.

All of the rights of the postal sector shall be transferred to it, including the right to usufruct, rent, and the applicable contracts and agreements concluded by the sector with third parties.

It bears all obligations of the sector and is fully responsible for them, and all transfer procedures

are binding on all, after the Council of Ministers approves the evaluation of real estate assets.

The purpose of this project is to develop postal services of all kinds, in addition to regulating the work of companies working in the field of mail by granting licenses to local companies to practice work in the field of mail in all its fields.

Dr. Al-Mijren said the adoption of this law will help in the future to facilitate the follow-up of the work of companies operating in the field of mail, as well as ensure the ability to evaluate the quality of the services they provide to customers in accordance with the law and regulations issued by the concerned minister in order to implement the general policy of the postal facility in order to provide these services to the satisfaction of the beneficiaries.

**'Authority working on more projects'**

**PAHW's investment projects witness progress: Al-Hulaila**

**By Abdul Nasser Al-Islami**  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: The Acting Deputy Director General for Investment Affairs and Private Sector Projects at the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) Eng. Anwar Al-Hulaila said the investment projects carried out by PAHW, the tenders it offers, and the contracts it provides are witnessing progress in their completion with the cooperation of the private sector and relevant government agencies.

In a press statement, Eng. Al-Hulaila explained that PAHW is working to launch more investment projects based on an organized methodology in application of investment and bidding regulations in a manner that commensurate with the nature of the private sector's work. This is done by preparing the necessary studies for each investment project.

Work is underway to complete the implementation of infrastructure and road works and to begin building construction work for the investment opportunity S2 located in Sabah Al-Ahmad City by the project company on an area of 1.28 million square meters, which includes service and craft spaces in addition to storage spaces and labor housing.



Eng Anwar Al-Hulaila

PAHW has managed 47 contracts for leasing gas stations in its projects with the Kuwait Oil Company on areas of 357,000 square meters, with a return of up to KD 1.47 million annually.

**Benefit**

It is working in coordination with Kuwait Oil Company to establish a main gas station located on Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah Road adjacent to the residential city of Al-Mutlaa, on an area of 60,000 square meters, which includes the station, commercial facilities, restaurants, parking and rest services for trucks, and green spaces.

**Opportunities**

Regarding the investment projects in Jaber Al-Ahmad City, the investment opportunities J2 and J3 located in the city are witnessing progress in the implementation of site works.

The J2 project contains a commercial center consisting of office space and exhibitions with a total area estimated at 148 thousand square meters.

The J3 project includes a commercial complex as well as 21 residential buildings containing 204 apartments of different sizes and adjacent villas for rent through the project investor on an area of 217,000 square meters.

The sector is working through the relevant committees on an evaluation of the investment opportunity S5, which includes developing three public parks for commercial uses in suburbs A, C, and D of the Sabah Al-Ahmad residential city on a total area of more than 35,000 square meters.

In addition, it is also working on the evaluation work related to the investment opportunity Q1 located in Qairawan, which contains a commercial complex and a health club on a total area of 6,920 square meters and for a specific investment period of 22 years.

**Kuwaiti smart application hailed**

**Swiss network to study Kuwaiti dust storms in cooperation with Al-Ujairi**

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: The Director General of the Al-Ujairi Scientific Center, Engineer Yousef Al-Ujairi, said there is cooperation with the Swiss network (meteoblue) concerned with weather sciences and weather conditions to monitor and follow the weather situation via satellites and carry out studies on the atmosphere of Kuwait and link it to the seasons.

He pointed out that "the center and the network have completed a study on the dust that visited Kuwait this year, and work is underway to link it with the amount of rain observed and explain the state of the connection between them in light of the efforts made to combat desertification and increase the size of agricultural cover, in addition to another study to measure the level of rain during the past years and then link it with the current season, reports Al-Rai daily.

Regarding the free Kuwaiti smart application that the center recently launched, Al-Ujairi said, "It is considered the first electronic application for astronomy, monitoring weather conditions, prayer times, services for the state of the sea, the moon, the sun, and other information in Kuwait and the Middle East," noting that "the center has introduced new developmental steps to support astronomy." And

monitoring astronomical phenomena, weather conditions, and prayer times through the use of smart phone applications, whether via the (Apple or Android) system."

He stated that "the application can be used in both Arabic and English and the aim is to provide data on astronomical phenomena and seasons to all segments of society, as it can provide calendar services to non-Arabic speakers."

He explained, "It allows users to learn about prayer times and the remaining time, in addition to Kuwait's mosques, their geographical locations, and the spatial proximity of users to them, in addition to providing services for viewing the Al-Ujairi calendar and what happened on this day, in addition to the state of the tide and sea from the north of Kuwait to its south, and knowing Official holiday dates.

He stated, "The application also shows information related to astronomy, the agricultural calendar, and planting and harvesting dates for vegetables and fruits in Kuwait. It provides calendar data and information for years to come, as users can search using it for seasons, Hijri dates, the calendar, events, and official holidays according to the electronic calendar it provides."

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<b>BHD 61.000/-net</b>	<b>BHD 136.198/-net</b>

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

## LOCAL

## PM chairs weekly meeting

## Kuwait Cabinet reviews outcomes of extraordinary Arab-Islamic Summit

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13, (KUNA): The Kuwait Cabinet on Monday reviewed the extraordinary Arab-Islamic Summit, recently concluded in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, expressing utmost support for its outcomes, especially the unequivocal stance in support of the Palestinian people.

During its weekly meeting chaired by His Highness Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the Cabinet also reviewed speech of His Highness the Amir's Representative to the Summit, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who branded "indescribable" crimes committed against the Palestinian people in Gaza as the Israeli occupation is leading an unjustified collective punishment that goes to all relevant international and humanitarian resolutions.

While addressing Arab and Muslim leaders, His Highness Sheikh Mishal called on the international community, specially the UN Security Council, to

shoulder its responsibility facilitating an immediate halt of the bloodshed and provide international protection for the Palestinian people, welcoming at the same time the UN General Assembly's decision to call for a humanitarian truce; reflective of the magnitude of the crisis in Gaza.

In this vein, Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdulla Al-Jaber Al-Sabah briefed the Cabinet with the Summit's final communique, which stressed the importance of implementing resolutions issued by the OIC and the League in that regard while emphasizing the rights of the Palestinian people to freedom and independence based on the June 4, 1967 border and East Jerusalem as the capital of a Palestinian state.

National Assembly upcoming sessions and the State Audit Bureau 2022-2023 report were also of the key topics discussed during the meeting, according to Deputy Premier, Minister of State for Cabinet and National Assembly Affairs Essa Al-Kanderi.

## PAM inks co-op deal with AMIDEAST

## Move aims to launch English language program, develop skills in the aviation industry

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13, (KUNA): The Public Authority for Manpower signed a cooperation agreement with the American Middle East Institute (AMIDEAST) to launch an English language program and develop technical skills in the aviation industry.

The authority said in a press statement on Monday that the program will be through Boeing Airlines and targets job seekers who hold a diploma as a minimum and are interested in working in the aviation field.

She added that the program will start on December 10 and continue until March 7, 2024.

It is available free of charge to male and female citizens who wish to work in the field of aviation and apply for it through the link ([www.tinyurl.com/CareerSkillsAE](http://www.tinyurl.com/CareerSkillsAE)).

Its duration is 90 training hours, including 60 hours in the field of English and 30 hours in the field of vocational rehabilitation.

She explained that the signing of this agreement comes as a continuation of the authority's procedures for coordination and cooperation with civil society institutions and the private sector in adopting development initiatives and contributions to prepare national cadres and qualify them professionally to work in the private sector.

The statement quoted Acting Director General (Manpower) Marzuq Al-Otaibi as



Officials signing the cooperation agreement. KUNA photo

praising the members of AMIDEAST and the important role of training programs in developing professional skills and qualifying Kuwaiti youth and recent graduates to work in the private sector.

In turn, the Regional Director of the AMIDEAST Institute, Samar Khalif, expressed, according to the statement, her thanks and gratitude for the efforts made by the authority in supporting Kuwaiti youth and honing their skills through specialized training courses, expressing the institute's readiness to harness its energies for community service in the State of Kuwait.

## Prime Minister,

## Continued from Page 1

Regarding questionable certificates that were issued by Egypt or Jordan or Greece or the Philippines, or even the United States and some other countries, and the many scandals in this regard, announcements were issued by a number of Egyptian representatives during one of the sessions of the People's Assembly about the discovery of the sale and forgery of certificates in medicine, engineering, and law. The same was announced by the Jordanian representatives.

However, this did not stop some of the parliamentarians who benefited electorally from this matter, and they pressed for the cancellation of the decision to prevent scholarships.

Here we can only say, "May Almighty Allah protect Kuwait from internal invaders when those with fake certificates become doctors, or supervise construction projects."

What is even worse in this regard is when some parliamentarians pushed to force Sharia graduates to be appointed to the judiciary and public prosecution. There is no doubt that these people will become judges and prosecutors. This is one of the wonders that were invented in Kuwait.

In this regard, it must be said that there are parliamentarians who intend to change Kuwaiti social and cultural behavior. In doing so, they will surpass the Taliban and ISIS, as the government, which is supposed to be an independent executive authority, submits to them without the slightest resistance as if it were robbed of its will.

Just for historical purposes, there are ministers who did not agree to indulge in the game of exchanging interests, such as one of the ministers of Electricity and Water who refused to appoint an engineer whose certificates were questionable, or another who assumed political responsibility for a fire incident in a hospital room while others actually refused to assume this position to preserve their reputation. Unfortunately, they were punished politically and electorally. It was expected that the condition of the rest of the ministers would be like this, and that the Prime Minister would be able to take on the challenge.

However, all this did not happen because the majority of the ministers or their prime minister, irrespective of whether they were in the current government or some successive governments, did not fully understand the meaning of Article 50 of the Constitution, and so they gave up their powers in a bid to seek safety that did not come through. This is due to the fact that National Assemblies are known to operate on the principle of "give and take" even if that is at the expense of the people and the state. That is why Kuwait is experiencing this political confusion.

In some countries, the government was dismissed several times. In Italy, for example, 56 governments were formed within 30 years. In Jordan, par-

liaments were dissolved many times until the state system stabilized.

Therefore, we beg to ask - Why does Kuwait not benefit from the experiences of others, even if the National Assembly was dissolved 40 times, or the government was dismissed 60 times? Isn't Kuwait worth the sacrifice? Or are people's interests above all considerations, even if it comes at the expense of the nation's fate?

We hope that the Prime Minister will re-read the lofty speech in the current session, and realize the messages contained between its lines, so that he will either lead or go.

## Committee weighs

## Continued from Page 1

In addition, MP Dawoud Maarefi forwarded queries to Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Jaseem Al-Ostad about the employees who were granted judicial arrest power. He wants to know if these employees are qualified for such a task, if they were trained to write legal minutes, if they completed legal studies and training courses, if the list of nominated employees was submitted to the Civil Service Commission (CSC) for assessment and approval prior to the issuance of recruitment decisions, criteria for the appointment of the team leader of employees with judicial arrest power, if the team leader is from any department at the ministry, list of employees granted such power as per decision number 278/2023, their qualifications, jobs, years of experience, departments, and number of violations recorded from 2010 to 2023 including the total amount of fines imposed by the ministry.

In other news, Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdulla Al-Jaber Al-Sabah affirmed Kuwait's commitment to the Amiri Decree issued in 1967 regarding the war against the Zionist entity, denying the entry or reception of any official Zionist person or delegation in the ceremony hall at the Kuwait Airport, reports Al-Rai daily.

He said this in response to a parliamentary query from MP Dr. Hamad Al-Matar, regarding "the validity (of report) of the entry of a delegation from the Zionist entity into the country on October 3, 2023, and its reception in the ceremony hall at Kuwait Airport."

The minister explained that "Kuwait was, is, and will continue to be committed to what was stated in The Amiri Decree issued in 1967 declaring the establishment of a defensive war between the State of Kuwait and the Zionist gangs in occupied Palestine, and its absolute belief in the legitimacy of the Palestinian cause and the rights of the brotherly Palestinian people, and its firm commitment to supporting the Palestinian Arab right to confront the Israeli occupation, and to stand by the brotherly Palestinian people and support their choices and support all efforts aimed at reaching a just and com-

prehensive solution to the Palestinian issue.

He pointed out that "after reviewing the entry and exit records at the Kuwait International Airport on October 3, 2023, it became clear that no Zionist person or official delegation entered or was received at the ceremony hall on the aforementioned date."

## Battles leave

## Continued from Page 1

residential neighborhoods and positioning rockets and weapons near schools and mosques.

Both Hamas and the hospital staff at Shifa deny the Israeli allegations.

A U.N. health official said many displaced families and patients with moderate injuries fled the hospital over the weekend. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief reporters, said most of the remaining patients could only be relocated with ambulances and other special procedures.

Mohammed Zaqout, the director of hospitals in Gaza, said those who remain include about 650 patients, 500 medical staff and around 2,500 displaced Palestinians sheltering inside hospital buildings. That's down from more than 20,000 people reported to be at the hospital on Saturday by the Health Ministry in Hamas-ruled Gaza.

The ministry said 32 patients, including three babies, have died since the hospital's emergency generator ran out of fuel on Saturday. It said 36 babies, as well as other patients, are at risk of dying because there is no way to power life-saving medical equipment.

The death toll due the Israeli occupation forces besiegement and interruption of health services in Al-Shifa Hospital had increased to 20 as seven new fatalities were announced, the Gaza Strip's health authorities said on Monday.

Gaza Health Ministry Spokesman Ashraf Al-Qidra said in a press statement that seven Palestinian patients were killed due to oxygen depletion, which raised the number of deaths inside the hospital three days ago to 20 patients.

There has been no food for the rest of the patients, medical staff, and displaced people for three days, he added. Since last night, the Israeli occupation forces escalated its violent raids on the cities of Khan Yunis and Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip, targeting several residential homes, which resulted in the death of dozens of Palestinians and dozens of injuries.

Medical Aid for Palestinians, a U.K.-based charity that has supported Shifa's neonatal intensive care unit, said transferring critically ill infants is complex. "With ambulances unable to reach the hospital ... and no hospital with capacity to receive them, there is no indication of how this can be done safely," CEO Melanie Ward said. She said the only option was to pause the fighting and allow in fuel.

## Panel agrees with minister to solve problems of 300 medical students

Need to remedy discrimination and inequality: Al-Olayan

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: During a meeting today, the Education, Culture and Guidance Affairs Committee called for addressing the negativities of the decision to stop sending medical specializations to some countries and to stop transferring the specialization and scholarship headquarters to their respective universities, in order to limit its effects, reports Al-Anba daily.

The head of the committee, MP Hamad Al-Olayan, said in a statement to the National Assembly media center that the committee has agreed with the Minister of Education and Higher Education to quickly address the problem of 300 male and female students studying medical specialties in Egyptian and Jordanian universities by including them on scholarships.

## Solutions

Al-Olayan indicated that the meeting was held at the request of the minister of higher education to develop solutions to address some of the problems and observations from the previous decision.

He stated that the minister and the competent authorities clearly listened to the committee's opinion, which was conveyed by the consensus of its members who emphasized the need for solutions so that the quality of education does not suffer, calling it a red line for all members.

Al-Olayan stated that the committee unanimously in-



Deputy FM Sheikh Jarrah Jaber chairing the preparatory meeting for the 20th session of the joint Kuwaiti-British steering group. KUNA photo

## Deputy FM chairs Kuwaiti-British steering group meet

Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chaired on Monday a preparatory meeting of the 20th edition

of the Kuwaiti-British Steering Group in London next December. Sheikh Jarrah Al-Sabah will head the Kuwaiti delegation in

the 20th meeting, while Minister of State for Middle East Lord Tariq Ahmad will represent the British side. (KUNA)

formed the minister that the previous decision taken to stop scholarships in medical specialties in Egypt and Jordan lacks equality by preventing those on scholarship, while allowing people who study at their own expense.

He called "this is discrimination and inequality that must be remedied," noting that the decision resulted in the deprivation of 300 scholarship students who were approved for admission and study at these universities.

He said that the committee agreed on a vision to allow the 2023-2024 batch of students studying in medical specialties

in Egypt and Jordan to be sent directly and included in foreign missions according to the conditions approved before the decision was taken.

He explained that the committee asked the minister to search for other alternatives and expand into Gulf universities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of Qatar, saying the minister has promised to look into this issue.

## problem

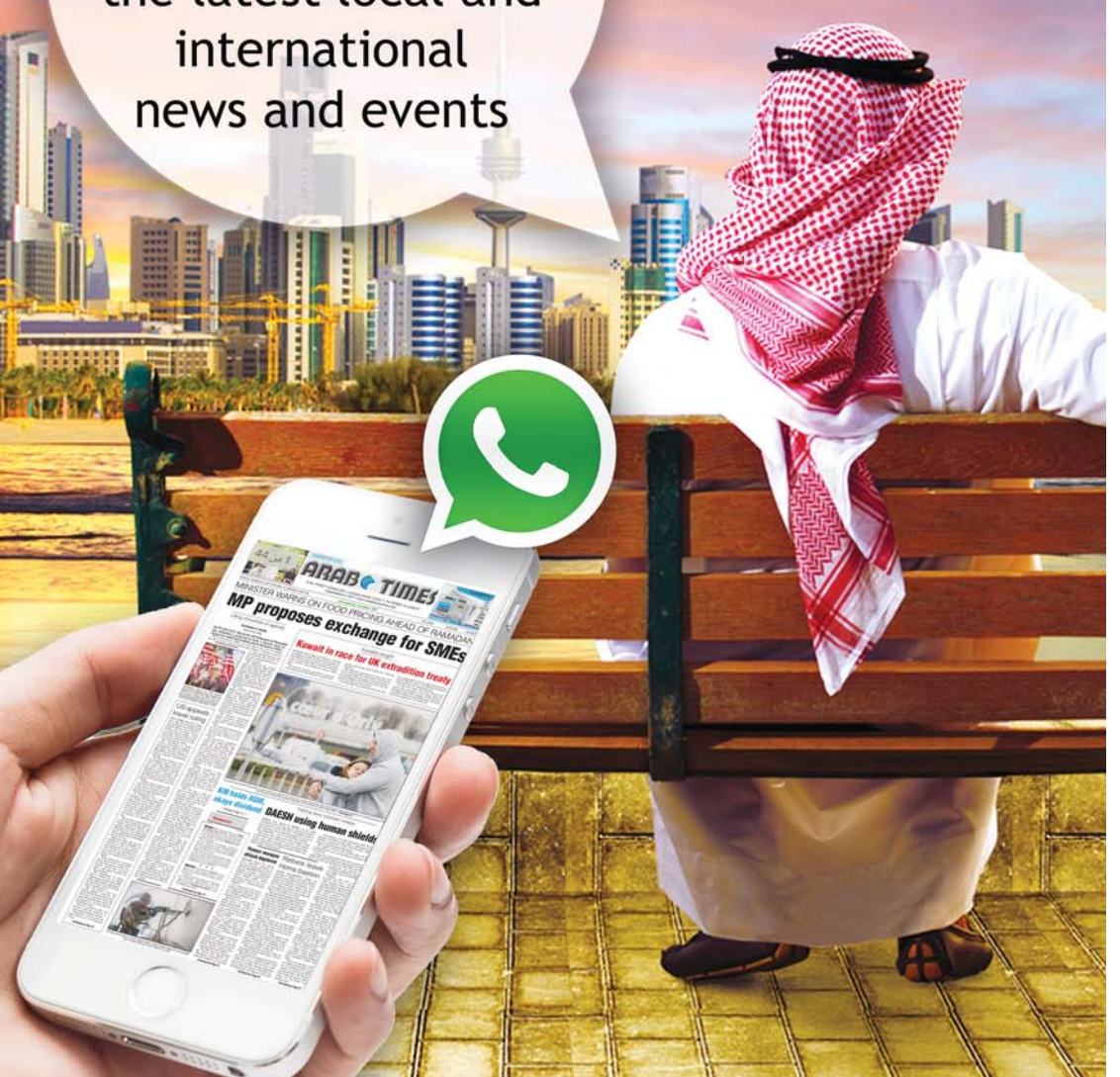
Al-Olayan indicated that the minister's request to hold a meeting with the committee came from his feeling that

there was a problem that must be solved, pointing out that the minister promised to convey the committee's vision in a close meeting to the Academic Accreditation Authority and reach a decision to treat these cases of students in Kuwait, and take the decision next Thursday.

Al-Olayan said, "We informed the minister at the conclusion of the meeting that if a decision is not issued before the end of next Thursday, the committee will call for another meeting next week to follow up on this matter and inquire about the reasons for not issuing this decision."

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## Africa

## Kenya important player

## Nations to thrash out plastic pollution treaty

NAIROBI, Kenya, Nov 13, (AP): Efforts to create a landmark treaty to end global plastic pollution advance Monday in Nairobi as most of the world's nations, plus petrochemical companies, environmentalists and others affected by the pollution gather to discuss draft language for the first time.

It's the third gathering in a compressed five-meeting schedule intended to complete negotiations by the end of next year.

Power dynamics and positions became clear in the first two rounds of talks in Paris and Punta del Este, Uruguay and echo some of the same positions as in international climate talks, and with good reason - many of the players are the same. Plastic is largely made from crude oil and natural gas, giving oil-producing countries and companies a large stake in any treaty.

Global negotiators last met in Paris in June and agreed to produce initial treaty text before reconvening in Nairobi. The draft was published in early September. The UN Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution is charged with developing the first international, legally binding treaty on plastic pollution on land and at sea.



Ruto

Nairobi is a significant location to host this third session, as the East African country is a global leader in fighting plastic pollution. In a groundbreaking move in 2017, Kenya banned the manufacture, sale and use of single-use plastic bags, which were hugely popular for carrying things but were also strewn across the landscape. In what is one of the strictest bans on the products, lawbreakers face fines and up to four years in jail.

## Renewable

Two years later, Kenya banned single-use plastic like cutlery, straws and PET bottles from parks, forests, beaches and other protected areas. Kenya under the government of **William Ruto** is also an important player in environmental matters as home to United Nations Environment Programme headquarters. Kenya generates more than 70% of its electricity from renewable sources.

Church leaders throughout Africa issued an open letter this month through the charity Tearfund saying that Africa faces "mountains of plastic pollution, dumped or burnt," and called on their delegates to continue to speak out boldly "for a treaty which delivers change for our most vulnerable brothers and sisters."

In Nairobi, Norway and Rwanda are leading a "high ambition coalition" of governments that want to end plastic pollution by 2040 by cutting production and limiting some chemicals used in making plastics.

Saudi Arabia, on the other hand, is leading a group of countries that have large petroleum industries and prefer to focus on recycling and waste management. This coalition wants nations to set their own action plans instead of across-the-board limits.



**Can Idi Amin be rehabilitated?:** The question is animating some in this East African country two decades after the death of one of Africa's most infamous leaders.

Amin, who took power by force in Uganda in 1971 and ruled until he was removed by armed groups of exiles in 1979, died in Saudi Arabia in 2003. His passing was barely acknowledged in Uganda, and some of Amin's supporters over the years have unsuccessfully lobbied for his remains to be returned home, underscoring his tainted legacy.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, whose rebel group was among those that ousted Amin with the help of Tanzanian troops, regularly dismisses Amin, and once even described him as "a primitive dictator." There are no monuments to Amin in Kampala, the capital, where not even a street is named after him.

But some Ugandans want to change that - not to emphasize Amin's tyrannical rule but to highlight any positive aspects of it, including what they say was his commitment to local industry as well as African solidarity. They have incited fierce debate over Amin's legacy at a time when many Ugandans are hungry for political change after nearly four decades of Museveni's presidency. Museveni, in power since 1986, has not said when he would retire.

The effort to memorialize Amin is led by a former lawmaker from Amin's home region who asserts that Amin was defamed by international reporters who sometimes falsified stories about him. He says Amin deserves a more balanced verdict but he faces resistance from those who say Amin should just be forgotten.



**EU condemns escalation of violence in Darfur:** The European Union Sunday condemned the recent "dramatic escalation of violence in Darfur."

According to credible eyewitness reports more than a thousand members of the Masalit community were killed in Ardama, West Darfur, in just over two days, during major attacks carried out by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and its affiliated militias, said EU High Representative Josep Borrell in a statement.

"These latest atrocities are seemingly part of a wider ethnic cleansing campaign conducted by the RSF with the aim to eradicate the non-Arab Masalit community from West Darfur, and comes on top of the first wave of large violence in June," he said.

The EU is working together with the International Criminal Court and other international partners to monitor and document human rights violations in order to ensure accountability of the perpetrators and contribute to ending the culture of impunity in Sudan, said Borrell.



**Floods kill at least 31 in Somalia:** Floods caused by torrential rainfall have killed at least 31 people in various parts of Somalia, authorities said Sunday.

Since October, floods have displaced nearly half a million people and disrupted the lives of over 1.2 million people, Minister of Information Daud Aweis told reporters in the capital Mogadishu. They have also caused extensive damage to civilian infrastructure notably in the Gedo region of southern Somalia, he said.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, or OCHA, which has given \$25 million to help mitigate the impact of flooding, warned in a statement Thursday of "a flood event of a magnitude statistically likely only once in 100 years, with significant anticipated humanitarian impacts."

"While all possible preparatory measures are being pursued, a flood of this magnitude can only be mitigated and not prevented," OCHA said, recommending "early warning and early action" to save lives as "large-scale displacement, increased humanitarian needs and further destruction of property remain likely."



Former Philippine Senator Leila de Lima issues a statement to reporters after she goes out of the Muntinlupa City trial court on Nov 13, 2023 in Muntinlupa, Philippines. (AP)

## Asia

## 80 people freed from Australian migrant centers

## Long-jailed Philippine ex-sen granted bail

MANILA, Philippines, Nov 13, (AP): A Philippine court on Monday ordered the release on bail of a former senator jailed more than six years ago on drug charges she said were fabricated to muzzle her investigation of then-President Rodrigo Duterte's brutal crackdown on illegal drugs. Two other non-bailable drug cases against her have been dismissed.

The European Union Parliament, some American lawmakers and United Nations human rights experts have long demanded the release of Leila de Lima, who was detained as an opposition senator in February 2017 in what they say was political persecution by Duterte and his allies and a major blow to Philippine democracy.

Duterte, whose stormy six-year term ended in June last year, insisted on her guilt, saying that witnesses testified that she received payoffs from imprisoned drug lords.

Regional Trial Court Judge Gen. Gito reversed an earlier decision Monday and granted de Lima's request for bail while being tried in a final drug case.

Dozens of de Lima's supporters cheered after the decision was announced by the court in suburban Muntinlupa city in the capital, where armed police escorts brought her from detention in a security convoy.

"It's really an indescribable feeling. I'm starting from zero the life that they tried to destroy," de Lima told The Associated Press shortly after her bail was approved. Lawyers said they hoped she could return home on Monday.

## Ended

"It's a long human rights nightmare that has ended," Catholic priest Fr Robert Reyes, a key de Lima supporter, said at the court. "But there is still a lot of work to do to exact accountability for what happened to her."

As the chief of the country's Commission on Human Rights in 2009, de Lima led an investigation into widespread killings of drug suspects under then-Mayor Duterte in southern Davao city. She failed to find any witnesses who were willing to testify publicly against the local leader. She then served as the country's justice secretary.

In 2016, Duterte won the presidency by a wide margin on an anti-crime platform and de Lima was elected to the Senate and pursued an investigation into his campaign against illegal drugs. Authorities moved early to build cases against her, obtaining tes-

Jalisco drug cartel on a street in the capital. The brazen attack left him with three bullet wounds, while his two bodyguards and a bystander were killed. (AP)

**Dentist fatally shot patient:** A surgical dentist in Puerto Rico fatally shot a patient who entered his office Friday and allegedly assaulted the dentist and his secretary, police said.



Pakistani laborers, mostly women, sort through empty bottles at a plastic recycling factory in Hyderabad, Pakistan, April 30. Efforts to create a landmark treaty to end global plastic pollution advance on Nov 13 in Nairobi as most of the world's nations, plus petrochemical companies, environmentalists and others affected by the pollution gather to discuss draft language for the first time. (AP)

## US, SKorea sharpen deterrence plans over NKorean nuke threat

SEOUL, South Korea, Nov 13, (AP): The United States and South Korea on Monday updated a bilateral security agreement with the aim of more effectively countering North Korea's evolving nuclear and missile threats.

The move followed high-level military talks in Seoul, where the allies also discussed enhancing three-way defense exercises with Japan and improving information-sharing on North Korean missile launches.

US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin was in Seoul for annual security talks with South Korean military officials, including Defense Minister Shin Won-sik, which were focused on boosting nuclear deterrence against North Korea. They also talked about how the allies could coordinate over broader geopolitical issues, including Russia's war on Ukraine and China's regional assertiveness, Austin said.

Tensions between the Koreans are at their highest point in years as the pace of both North Korea's weapons tests and South Korea's combined military exercises with the United States have intensified in a cycle of tit-for-tat.

During their Security Consultative Meeting, Austin and Shin signed a new version of their countries' Tailored Deterrence Strategy agree-

ment, which was revised for the first time in a decade to address the growing threat of the North's military nuclear program.

Shin said the new document spells out that the United States would mobilize its full range of military capabilities, including nuclear ones, to defend the South in the event of a North Korean nuclear attack. He also said the document will provide a template for the allies to strategize how South Korea could assist US nuclear operations in such events with its conventional capabilities but didn't elaborate further.

"Our deterrence commitment to the ROK remains ironclad - that includes a full range of our nuclear, conventional and missile defense capabilities," Austin said at a news conference, referring to South Korea's formal name, the Republic of Korea.

Austin said the US deployments of major military assets to South Korea in recent months, which included a US nuclear ballistic missile submarine, a nuclear-capable B-52 bomber and aircraft carriers, demonstrated the US commitment to defense of the South. He said another US aircraft carrier battle group will travel to the region soon in a further show of force.

## Also:

**CANBERRA, Australia:** Eighty people, including convicted criminals considered dangerous, have been released from Australian migrant detention centers since the High Court ruled last week that their indefinite detention was unconstitutional, the immigration minister said Monday.

A member of Myanmar's persecuted Rohingya Muslim minority won freedom Wednesday when the court outlawed his indefinite detention.

Australia has been unable to find any country willing to resettle the man, identified only as NZYQ, because he had been convicted of raping a 10-year-old boy, and authorities consider him a danger to the Australian community.

The court overturned a 2004 High Court precedent set in the case of a Palestinian man, **Ahmed Al-Kateb**, that found stateless people could be held indefinitely in detention.

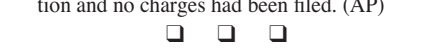
Immigration Minister **Andrew Giles** said NZYQ is one of 80 people who had been detained indefinitely and have been freed since Wednesday's ruling.

The 41-year-old victim was reportedly upset about recent dental work he had done, a police statement said.

The incident occurred in the north coastal town of Manati, which is west of San Juan, the capital of Puerto Rico.

No further details were immediately available.

Police said the case was under investigation and no charges had been filed. (AP)



**Poor medical care in women's jail:** A women's prison in Mexico plagued by food poisoning and poor medical care has now been hit by a wave of eight suicides in the last 4 1/2 months, authorities confirmed.

The federal prisons bureau confirmed the suicides in a statement, and said it was taking steps to improve the situation at the women's prison in the state of Morelos, south of Mexico City.

The office said it had changed prison managers and increased sports, cultural and handicraft activities for the prison's approximately 1,000 inmates.

Reports from earlier this year found that conditions were harsh at the prison, with inmates often served rotting food. The governmental National Human Rights Commission said 400 inmates suffered food poisoning in outbreaks in 2022.

That report said the women were not given appropriate medical care after falling ill; many were not given medications because none were available. (AP)

**bonds**

The Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) announced the most recent issues of CBK Bonds and related Tawarruq at a total value of KWD (240) millions for (6) months with Rate of Return (4.500%).

**KOC valve issue impacts output**

The Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Company (KIPIC) announced Sunday that a sudden interruption of fuel gas supplies to the Zour Refinery due to a technical problem in one of the main valves of the Kuwait Oil Company led to an almost total halt of production operations at the refinery. In a press statement, the KIPIC pointed out that technical teams at the refinery are working to restart operation of the production units gradually. It will take approximately ten days to return to the previous production levels, it expected. The KIPIC affirmed that it is taking all necessary measures to ensure supplies of low-sulfur fuel to power generation stations and water desalination plants as well as the refinery products exportation would not be affected. (KUNA)

Aramco has been recognized on the world stage for its adoption of Internet of Things (IoT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology. The company's A'amer platform, which revolutionized the management of residential and commercial facilities and services at the company's Dhahran headquarters, won the Infrastructure & Building Award at the World Smart City Awards in Spain. The awards event took place at the Smart City Expo World Congress on Wednesday, November 8, in Barcelona. Aramco's award for A'amer, which elevates urban living through integrated citywide services, was collected by the company's Community Services team.

**Aramco wins global award**

Talal Al Marri, Aramco Senior Vice President of Community Services, said: "We are thrilled to be recognized on the world stage for our work in smart city development, which is essential to meet the changing needs and expectations of urban communities. Our aim is to provide not only basic services like transportation and utilities but also a range of amenities and services that enhance people's quality of life. As our understanding of cities evolves, so too must their infrastructure to reflect an increasingly interconnected, technology-driven and more sustainable way of living." (Business Wire)

**Market Movements** 13-11-2023

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts
UAE - DFM	+13.65	3,982.93	SAUDI - Tadawul	-43.89	10,789.75
JAPAN - Nikkei	+17.00	32,585.11	PHILLIPINES - PSEI	-45.75	6,116.14
EGYPT - EGX 30	+44.30	23,954.96			
PAKISTAN - KSE 100	+1,127.05	56,526.71			

# Business

Operating profit up by 64.6% to reach KD 6.4 million

## Kuwait Insurance Company achieves KD10.7 mln profit



### FINANCIAL RESULTS 9 MONTHS 2023

**172** Million KD  
**NET INCOME**  
↑ 13%

REVENUE ↑ 11%

**1.4**

Billion KD

EBITDA ↑ 8%

**530**

Million KD

EPS

**40**

Fils

CUSTOMERS ↑ 0.2%

**52**

Million

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13:** Kuwait Insurance Company announced the financial results for the first nine months of the current year, where the profit for the current period amounted to KD 10.7 million (USD 34.7 million), with Earnings Per Share of 57.8 fils (US Cents 18.8). Upon applying the new accounting standard IFRS 9, the net profit for the current period is KD 9.6 million (USD 31.2 million) as shown in the income statement, in addition to KD 1.1 million (USD 3.6 million) which is shown in the retained earnings for the current period, compared to KD 9.5 million (USD 31.2 million) with Earnings Per Share of 51.8fils (US cents 16.8) for the same period last year.



Sami Sharif, CEO

Retained earnings for the current period increased to KD 77.5 million (USD 251.6 million) compared to KD 74.7 million (USD 242.5 million) for the same period last year, which shows an increase of 3.7% and the company has zero debt.

The Gross Written Premium for the current period amounted to KD 42.4 million (USD 137.7 million) compared to KD 39.7 million (USD 128.8 million) for the same period last year, which shows an increase of KD 2.7 million (USD 8.8 million), equal to 6.8%.

Insurance and reinsurance expenses decreased to KD 25.9 million (USD 84.1 million) for the current period from KD 26.7 million (USD 86.8 million) for the same period last year, which shows a decrease of 3%.

The Operating Profit for the current period amounted to KD 6.4 million (USD 20.8 million) for the current period compared to KD 3.9 million (USD 12.7 million) for the same period last year, which shows an increase of KD 2.5 million (USD 8.1 million), equal to 64%.

Mr. Sami Sharif, CEO, stated that, to make them comparable, the new accounting standard IFRS 17 has been applied to the results of the first nine months of this year, as well as to the results of the first nine months of last year, retrospectively, so that they are comparable. Mr. Sharif, who is also an actuarial expert, added that the implementation of the new accounting standard may lead to the fluctuations in profit that may be positive or negative, during the first two years, and these fluctuations will decrease and gradually normalize by the end of the second year of its implementation.

Mr. Sharif also said that, the successes we are achieving are the results of the huge effort made in the previous years to build the foundation, which has enabled us to enjoy the sustainable growth in profits and in premiums. The company has won the award for the "Most Financially Stable Insurance company" in Kuwait for the year 2023, from the "The Global Economics" magazine, the institution specialized in issuing annual classifications in the fields of economics and business. In addition to this, the "International Finance" magazine awarded the company as the "Best Company in General Insurance" for the year 2023.

Mr. Sharif mentioned that in addition to the sales and profits, the company still maintains the Credit Ratings from AM Best and Moody's credit rating agencies as A- (Excellent) and A3 respectively, both with a stable outlook and we are proud in continuing with these ratings as we lead among the various local and regional companies of the insurance sector.

We still look forward to accomplishing a lot in the coming period to enable the company to face the challenges in the future that may arise from regional and global developments. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed in achieving our goals, including the Board of Directors, the shareholders, and the company's employees.

**Modest increase of 0.1%**

### Gold nears three-week low on dollar strength

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13:** On Monday, gold prices approached a three-week low, influenced by the strengthening dollar, while investors eagerly awaited U.S. inflation data to glean further insights into the future trajectory of interest rates in the world's largest economy, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The detailed price movements unfolded as follows:

**Gold Spot Transactions:**

Gold saw a modest increase of 0.1 percent in spot transactions, reaching \$1,938.12 per ounce by 07:14 GMT. The incremental rise reflected the cautious sentiment prevailing in the market ahead of key economic indicators.

**U.S. Gold Futures:**

U.S. gold futures experienced a more noticeable 0.3 percent uptick, reaching \$1,942.50. This futures market movement hinted at a degree of optimism or positioning among traders amid the prevailing uncertainties.

**Weekly Gold Performance:**

Last week's gold performance was notable, with a 2.8 percent decline marking its poorest weekly showing in over a month. The slump was primarily attributed to statements by U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell, which tempered expectations of potential interest rate reductions.

**Analyst Insights:**

Nicholas Vrabel, a representative of ABC Refinery, emphasized the market's current focus on whether the forthcoming Consumer Price Index (CPI) data would influence the Federal Reserve to either pause or raise interest rates. Consequently, he noted that market movements remain relatively subdued as investors await this pivotal data point.

**Upcoming Consumer Price Data:**

The eagerly anticipated release of consumer price data in the United States is scheduled for tomorrow, Tuesday. This economic indicator is expected to provide crucial insights into inflation trends, which could, in turn, influence the Federal Reserve's monetary policy decisions.





## Event well-organized and first of its kind in Kuwait

# Rhetorics celebrates 1st-year anniversary with public speaking competition

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: Rhetorics - Public Speaking Academy in Kuwait commemorated their first-year anniversary by organizing a Public Speaking Competition for their students on 10th November at Contemporary Art Platform auditorium in Shuwaikh. Eighty-five people, including parents, students, and well-wishers, attended the inaugural tournament and the event was well-organized & first of its kind in Kuwait.

Students participated in 5 Categories – Story Telling for Kids aged 6 to 7 years, Prepared Speeches for Tweens aged 8 to 10 years, Prepared Speeches for Teens aged 11 & above, Impromptu Speaking & Debate Competition for mixed age groups.

### Awareness

Most of the topics were related to 17 UN Sustainable Goals – Creating awareness for Poverty, Hunger etc. Winning Speeches in Tweens Category (aged 8 to 10 years) was Miss Rua Iyer who spoke about the Impact of Poverty while in Teens Category (aged 11 & above), Miss Ishanvi won the first place for her speech about facing our F.E.A.R.

Miss Amanda won the first place in Storytelling category, Mr. Jayden won the first place in Impromptu Speech category while Mr. Aditya & Mr. Rehan won the first place in Debate Category.

Ms. Amreen Bano was the Master of Ceremony, and she engaged the audience throughout the evening with her energy and enthusiasm.

The founder of Rhetorics, Mr. Raajesh Venugopal, gave the welcoming speech. He focused on the value of fostering confidence, ex-



Participants of the public speaking competition pose for a group photo during the awarding ceremony.

pressing emotions, and the benefits of public speaking for improving students' educational experiences.

The Contemporary Art Platform's excellent auditorium and appealing culture complemented the hard work

of all the participants who produced a high-caliber performance. Rhetorics is a Public Speaking

academy based in Kuwait that specializes on teaching children and teenagers between the ages of five

and seventeen how to effectively communicate through public speaking.

3,368 children took part in the competition

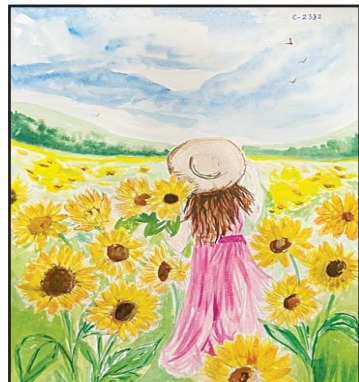
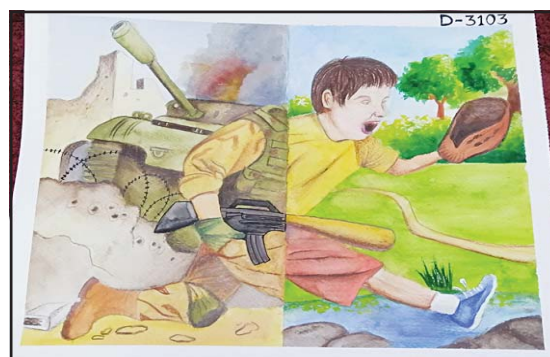
# Kala (Art) Kuwait holds NIRAM 2023 Children's Day Painting Competition on Online Platform

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: Kala (Art) Kuwait conducted "NIRAM 2023" Children's Day Painting Competition on Online Platform, on Friday, 10th November 2023 at 2 pm. Students from more than 26 Indian Schools in Kuwait have taken part in the painting competition.

"NIRAM-2023" the popular painting competition conducted on the occasion of Children's Day celebration by marking the 134th birthday of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the First Prime Minister of India. Kala (Art) Kuwait is delighted to celebrate its 19th Anniversary of "NIRAM" Painting Competition which was opened for all students of Indian Schools in Kuwait. There were 4182 online entries out of which 3,368 children took part in this competition.

In view of the recent announcement by the Kuwait Ministry regarding halting all celebrations and concerts until further notice, students were participated in the competition from their own homes using the current technologies. The competition was held in four groups in drawing and painting. Each group was notified the subjects one hour before the competition starts through Kala (Art) Kuwait's website and the contestant's emails, and each group was given until 5 pm to upload the completed drawing to the designated emails. Clay Modeling Competition also conducted for 7th to 12th Standard Students.

The results of the Competitions will be announced by the organizing committee as well as the judging committee on 1st December 2023 through leading news Medias and also Websites. Kala (Art) Kuwait announce exclusive prizes for the winners as first place with gold coin & gold medal, second place with silver medal and third place with bronze medal along with memento, certificate & special gifts. Besides the 1st, 2nd, & 3rd, there will be 75 participants to Merit Prizes and Ten (10) percent of the participants will be awarded with consolation



Some of the entries in the competition.

prizes. Participation Certificates also will be provided to all participants.

The organizers proudly express their satisfaction on the successful comple-

tion of the competition and take this opportunity to thank all Children, Parents, Management and Teachers of all Indian schools in Kuwait and all our

Sponsors for their active participation and wholehearted support for making the program a grant success. Kala(Art) Kuwait has once again proved beyond doubt that it upholds the interests of all Art lovers in Kuwait and will continue its support for promotion of Art (Kala), according to the officials of Kala (Art) Kuwait, Mr. Jaison Joseph, President, Mr. Ragesh P. D., General Secretary, Mr. Ashraf Vithura, Treasurer and Mr. Mukesh V. P., Media Secretary.

## Couple plans to visit 80 countries in 2 years

### South Korean world traveler couple reaches Kuwait

By M. Irfan Shafiq

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: With God's protection and guidance, we should be able to conquer our fears and live a life full of determination. It is God that commands us to have courage! This phrase fits true on a Korean couple Park Hyeon Min and Shin Hwa Seon who set out on a world trip in their car. In the journey, the couple is on their way to destination and has reached Kuwait.

After the successful planning of two months, Park Hyeon Min from South Korea and his wife Shin Hwa Seon set off on a world tour for the past six months and started their journey from Russia. So far, they have traveled to 13 countries, while the couple plans to visit 80 countries in 2 years.

In a special conversation with the media, they said that what cannot be done if a person tries. Traveling the world is our dream and we will achieve this goal in two years.



The South Korean world traveler couple pose for a photo.

## The Conversation

### Psychology of participation

# 4 reasons teens take part in social media challenges

By Kapil Chalil Madathil & Heidi Zinzow  
Clemson University

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

Social media challenges are widespread - both in the stunts they involve and the reasons why people do them.

But why do young people take up challenges that pose a threat to health, well-being and, occasionally, their very lives?

We are an engineering professor who specializes in understanding how humans interact with computers and a psychology professor with expertise in mental health, specifically traumatic stress and suicide.

Together with our research team, we conducted a series of studies to try to understand what motivates teens and young adults to participate in different challenges.

For these studies, from January 2019 to January 2020, we interviewed dozens of high school and college students in both the United States and south India who had participated in social media challenges. We also analyzed 150 news reports, 60 public YouTube videos, over a thousand comments on those YouTube videos, and 150 Twitter posts - all of which were specifically about the blue whale challenge. This challenge, popularized in 2015 and 2016, was reported to involve progressively risky acts of self-harm that culminate in suicide.

We identified four key factors that motivate young people to participate in a challenge: social pressure, the desire for attention, entertainment value and a phenomenon called the contagion effect.

**Social pressure**  
Social pressure typically comes when a friend encourages another friend to do something, and the person believes they will achieve acceptance within a particular social group if they do it.

We found that participation in challenges that promote a good cause, such as the ice bucket challenge, often resulted from direct encouragement. Ice bucket challenge participants, for example, would complete the challenge and then publicly nominate others to do the same.

Meanwhile, young adults who engaged in riskier challenges primarily wanted to feel included in a group that had already participated in such a challenge. This was true for the cinnamon challenge, where participants rapidly consumed cinnamon and sometimes experienced lung damage and infection. For example, 38% of research participants who engaged in the cinnamon challenge acknowledged that they were seeking peer acceptance, rather than being directly encouraged to participate.

"I think I did it because everyone I was going to school with did it at the time," said one student who saw the challenge as popular among their peers. "And I figured there has to be something about it if everyone was doing it."

**Seeking attention**  
A form of attention-seeking behav-

ior exclusive to participants of the ice bucket challenge was a wish to be recognized for supporting a commendable cause.

However, the attention-seeking behavior we observed among teens and young adults often led to participants innovating a more hazardous version of a challenge. This included enduring the associated risks longer than others.

For example, one participant in the cinnamon challenge swallowed powdered cinnamon for a period longer than their peers. "It was definitely peers, and like I said, you know, the attention," they said. "Seeing other friends posting videos and who could do the challenge longer."

**Entertainment**  
Many young adults participated in these challenges for amusement and curiosity. Some were intrigued by the potential reactions from people who witnessed their performance.

"It seemed like fun, and I personally liked the artist who sings the song," said one participant about the Kiki challenge. The challenge involves dancing next to a moving car after stepping out of it to Drake's song "In My Feelings."

Others were interested in experiencing the sensations associated with executing the challenge. They wondered if their responses would mirror the other individuals they had observed doing it.

One participant said it was "mostly curiosity" that motivated them to do the cinnamon challenge: "Just because, seeing other people's reactions, I kind of wanted to see if I would have the same reaction."

**Contagion effect**  
Challenges, even those that are seemingly benign, can spread quickly across social media. This is due to the contagion effect, where behaviors, attitudes and ideas spread from person to person. How content creators depict these challenges on digital media platforms also contributes to the contagion effect by encouraging others to participate.

After analyzing digital media content related to the blue whale challenge, we found YouTube videos about this challenge often violated the Suicide Prevention Resource Center's nine messaging guidelines. This means the posts exhibited risk factors for promoting contagion of harmful behaviors. Specifically, of the 60 YouTube videos we analyzed regarding the blue whale challenge, 37% adhered to fewer than three guidelines, categorizing them as primarily unsafe. The most commonly violated guidelines involved failure to avoid detailed or glorified portrayals of suicide and its victims, to describe help-seeking resources, and to emphasize effective mental health treatments.

Our research also explored how participants viewed challenges after doing them. Half of those who engaged in a risky challenge indicated that if they had understood the physical danger or potential risk to their social image, they might have opted not to do the challenge. (AP)

For International Islamic Art Day, what will inspire your creation?  
First you'll visit the Home of Kind Words exhibition (created by children), and then, using designs that you saw, you'll create your own

Islamic Art Day Clay Workshop, for children ages 6 - 12, Saturday, 18 November, 4 - 6 PM, DAI Baha, American Cultural Centre. For more information or to register, email amricanieducation@gmail.com

# McDonald finds creative freedom with 'Juicy Scoop' podcast

Television

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 13, (AP) — When "Chelsea Lately" aired its final episode on E! in 2014, Heather McDonald, a staff writer and regular panelist on the show, needed a new gig. As a stand-up comedian, her performance schedule wasn't as consistent as a full-time job — then she heard about a fellow comic who launched a podcast to get his name out there and sell more tickets.

"I was like, 'If a podcast can help do that, I'm going to do that,'" McDonald says.

She launched "Juicy Scoop with Heather McDonald" in 2015. Now, nearly 800 episodes later with more than 200 million downloads, it regularly ranks among the top comedy podcasts on Apple's charts.

Twice a week, McDonald releases a free episode sharing the latest celebrity gossip and pop culture headlines, TV recaps, and anecdotes. She bounces topics off guests and interviews people with juicy stories.

McDonald strives to avoid anything truly divisive — like politics. But despite her best efforts, she found herself in the middle of a debate about the coronavirus vaccine after she collapsed during a 2022 stand-up set in Arizona. Footage of her fainting was used in a video compilation that peddled misinformation about vaccine side effects.

Before she collapsed, McDonald had joked that she'd never contracted the virus.

"I fainted right after that. And I have never fainted before or after,"

she says calling the timing "unbelievable." For the record, she says, she still hasn't had the coronavirus and is indeed vaccinated.

She's still not sure why she fainted and a variety of tests have indicated that there's nothing wrong. But despite being debunked, the video of her collapse still goes viral every few months, she says.

"It has done nothing but hurt my career because the pro-vaccination people think that I am like a puppet for the anti-vaxxers. And the anti-vaxxers call me names for getting vaccinated," McDonald says. "I say everyone make their decisions for themselves and I have no say in the matter."

Exclusive

What she does have say in is the creative direction of her podcast, a freedom that McDonald says is rare.

"I love working for myself. I love saying whatever I want to say and knowing that if I never get hired to do another TV job, it doesn't really matter," she says.

The free episodes are also recorded on video and uploaded to YouTube. With her job security, McDonald likes to keep some of her opinions within a tighter, paying circle. There are exclusive "Juicy Scoop" episodes available via subscription through Patreon for options ranging from \$5 to \$50 per month.

"When you have a TV show, even if you wrote and created and

started in it, it can still get canceled. When you have something like this, it just doesn't," she says of podcasts as a medium.

The show is about fun, not hard facts, she maintains.

"I am a comedian with an opinion. I do not have a journalistic background. I do as much research as I find interesting. I screw up names, things pop in my head in the moment, so they're not thought out," she says.

Spencer Pratt is one of McDonald's popular guests. A former cast member on MTV's "The Hills," he is willing to play up a villainous side on reality TV. On "Juicy Scoop," he's charming and funny.

Pratt said people approach him now to bring up his "Juicy Scoop" appearances.

"It's why I keep driving out to the Valley," he joked (that's where McDonald records her podcast.)

McDonald fosters an intimacy with her guests and fans alike, book-marking her stories with directives like "Don't tell anyone this" or "Keep this between us" to solidify the closeness she says she feels to her subscribers.

"They say, 'I feel like you're my friend.' I'm from a generation of women that we really did talk on the phone a lot," she says. "It comes naturally for me to talk, be a storyteller."

McDonald does still tour and perform comedy gigs — even if it's not her main job anymore.

Variety



This image released by A24 shows Nicolas Cage in a scene from 'Dream Scenario.' (AP)

Film

Nicolas Cage transforms from drab to disturbingly comic

## Strange fame paradox in 'Dream Scenario'

By Jocelyn Noveck

**Q**uick: What's a good adjective for Nicolas Cage's screen presence? Mercurial, perhaps? Volcanic? Volatile?

How about mundane, schlubby, average? Not the page we'd think to turn to in our Roget's Thesaurus.

Yet here Cage is, channeling his inner drabness to chillingly comic effect in Kristoffer Borgli's "Dream Scenario." As Paul Matthews (heck, even the name is drab), a college professor at nowhere famous, he performs his job with perfect mediocrity, and seems a fairly mediocre husband and dad, too. With his graying beard, wire-rimmed specs and shiny bald spot, Cage's Paul is the guy in the room you ignore.

Until, suddenly, you can't. Because something weird starts happening. Paul starts appearing in people's dreams. Everyone's dreams.

The premise is delicious — and precarious. It recalled for me the setup in a very different movie, "Yesterday," where only one guy on Earth remembers the Beatles. It makes for a fantastic beginning, but you immediately worry how they'll manage to keep it going.

But Borgli, the Norwegian writer-director making his English-language debut here (Ari Aster coproduces), is aiming for a broader statement about the nature of fame. And while the topic, which he's broached before, may not be original, it's ripe for exploration in the right hands — especially with an actor as inventive and unpredictable as Cage. Fame can be intoxicating, this film is saying, but it can and probably will turn on you in an instant, unless you're Taylor Swift (OK, we added that last part).

We begin on an autumn day by a suburban swimming pool, where Paul is raking leaves near his teen daughter. Scary things start dropping from the heavens, and suddenly the girl is grabbed by an unknown force and lifted, screaming, into the sky. Dad? He

does nothing to help.

It's only the girl's dream. But then there are more. Paul and his patient wife, Janet (Julianne Nicholson, reliably excellent) run into someone at the theater, and she too has dreamed about Paul. At a dinner party, several guests discover to their shock that they've been dreaming about the same person. Yep, Paul.

What's happening? On campus, Paul's students, who mostly chat among themselves during his unremarkable lectures on evolutionary biology, start listening — they're dreaming about him, too.

In many of these dreams, Paul stands by, inexplicably, as others experience peril — slithering alligators, for example. But in real life, for once, Paul has the floor — a man who until now seethed with frustration over his unrealized ambitions as others succeeded. Now, everyone is interested in him.

Development

Borgli never stops to analyze the science of this bizarre development, and frankly, Paul doesn't either. He takes a meeting with a snarky group of branding experts (led by Michael Cera, perfectly cast) who want to market him up the wazoo. They can get him a Sprite commercial! Well, Paul doesn't want that — he just wants a book deal for his biology research. But his ears perk up at the idea of an endorsement from Barack Obama. ("I know Malia," one of these young professionals says.)

One young woman even lets on to Paul that in her dreams, the two have great sex. This is too stunning for the schlubby Paul to ignore, especially when she invites him home to recreate the dream. Needless to say, it doesn't go as well in real life. In fact, the dénouement is utterly, agonizingly humiliating.

And then, everyone's dreams change. Suddenly Paul is the one causing harm. His students, terrified,

don't want to see him anymore. He gets sent home from a dinner with friends. He can't even sit in a coffee shop and read a book without a fellow diner spitting on his food.

As for the branding consultants, well, they inform Paul that Obama is off the table — but hey, they could get him time with Joe Rogan or maybe Tucker Carlson.

We won't spoil the ending, but let's just make the obvious point that Borgli is not making a rom-com — is there a word for "horror-com"? We walk away from this funny, sad, scary film acutely reminded that if fame has two sides, one of them is pretty darned horrible.

And perhaps, as you walk home from the multiplex this time, you might even revel in the fact that nobody's paying attention. Obscurity can be underrated.

"Dream Scenario," an A24 release, has been rated R by the Motion Picture Association "for language, violence and some sexual content." Running time: 102 minutes. Three stars out of four.

Also:

**LOS ANGELES:** A powerhouse performance by **Colman Domingo** fuels the Netflix drama "Rustin," streaming Friday Nov. 17, about the civil rights pioneer and March on Washington architect **Bayard Rustin**. The film, directed by **George C. Wolfe**, chronicles the run-up to the indelible 1963 march where **Rev. Martin Luther King** delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech. "Rustin," the first narrative feature from **Barack** and **Michelle Obama's** production company Higher Ground, is a portrait of grassroots activism and of the often under-sung Rustin, an openly gay man combating injustice on numerous fronts. In his review, the AP's **Mark Kennedy** praised Domingo's "debonair, frisky, droll, passionate and utterly captivating" performance. (AP)

Features

ARABO TIMES

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2023

nia."

"The Marvels," which added \$63.3 million in overseas ticket sales, may go down as a turning point in the MCU. Over the years, the franchise has collected \$33 billion globally — a point Disney noted in reporting its grosses Sunday.

But with movie screens and



Larson



Vellani

streaming platforms increasingly crowded with superhero films and series, some analysts have detected a new fatigue setting in for audiences. Disney chief executive **Bob Iger** himself has spoken about possible oversaturation for Marvel.

"Over the last three and a half years, the growth of the genre

has stopped," Gross wrote in a newsletter Sunday.

Either way, something is shifting for superheroes. The box-office crown this year appears assured to go to "Barbie," the year's biggest smash with more than \$1.4 billion worldwide for Warner Bros.

Marvel has still produced

recent hits. "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3" launched this summer with \$118 million before ultimately raking in \$845.6 million worldwide.

Sony's "Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse" earned \$690.5 million globally and, after rave reviews, is widely expected to be an Oscar contender. (AP)

## People &amp; Places

## Television

## Longest-tenured team

## Buck &amp; Aikman break NFL broadcast record

NEW YORK, Nov 12, (AP): Joe Buck and **Troy Aikman** were nicknamed "The A Team" when they joined Cris Collinsworth to form Fox's top NFL broadcast crew in 2002.

There were even promotional ads shot featuring Aikman dressed as Mr. T.

Buck and Aikman have long outlived that and have added something else neither could have imagined. In their 22nd season together, they have become the NFL's longest-tenured broadcast team. The first 20 years were at Fox before they moved to ESPN's "Monday Night Football" last year.



Aikman

Buck and Aikman surpassed the legendary duo of Pat Summerall and John Madden, who worked together for 21 years on CBS and Fox. Summerall and Madden split up after the 2001 season when Summerall went into semi-retirement and Madden moved to "Monday Night Football."

"It means a lot to me because my dad (the late Jack Buck) was a partner to both Pat and John. I knew them when I was a kid," Buck said. "I know there was a lot of respect there. It's just the years just kind of fly by and somebody goes, 'Oh, by the way you are passing Madden and Summerall.' That was surprising to me."

The Buck-Aikman-Collinsworth booth lasted for three seasons (2002-04) before Collinsworth left for NBC in 2005 after it got the rights to "Sunday Night Football." Aikman thought he would only be doing games for a couple of seasons before moving on to something else.

"The fact that I'm still doing it 23 years later is shocking to me, but I think there's a lot of good fortune and luck that goes into that," Aikman said. "There's some other great broadcast teams that, for various reasons that had nothing to do with themselves, weren't able to continue. So the fact that even recently ESPN regarded our work that they wanted both of us just means a lot."

## Retired

Aikman and Buck hardly knew each other when they were paired together. Buck was hired by Fox when it started doing NFL games in 1994 and split time between regional games and working in the studio the first eight seasons. When Aikman retired from the Dallas Cowboys after the 2000 season, he was hired by Fox and was assigned to the network's No. 2 team with Dick Stockton and former Cowboys teammate Daryl Johnston.

It didn't take long though for the two to strike up a friendship, similar to what Buck did with Tim McCarver and John Smoltz, who were his baseball partners at Fox.

"I think you need to put as much work on the personal relationship as you do the professional. I don't know that everybody does that," Buck said. "I know a lot of stories of broadcast partners that have been together for a nice chunk of time that didn't really enjoy being with each other. I just can't imagine being in that situation in this kind of a job when you're relying on each other in front of millions of people live."

The Buck-Aikman move to "Monday Night Football" has also boosted what can still be considered one of the premier packages in sports.

This season's average of 15.4 million viewers is up 14% over last season. Part of the bump can be attributed to nearly the entire schedule also airing on ABC due to the writers strike delaying the fall television season.

Through nine weeks, the NFL is averaging 17.2 million viewers per game, a 7% increase over last season. It is also the league's highest average viewership at this point since 2015.

Both noted that doing the Thursday night games on Fox from 2018 to 2021 was great preparation for Monday night. It also means seeing more of the league compared to the same teams multiple times.

"You have a good feel for what the importance is for the teams that you're covering that night and where they fit into the bigger picture along with two or three of the hottest stories in the league," Buck said.

It's also clear the move to "Monday Night Football" has energized both, especially Aikman, who said his memories of watching football weren't from Sundays but from Monday nights.

"To be a part of that history and lineage is really special. But in addition to that, ESPN paid a lot of money for us to be there in that booth and call the games. And so we didn't want to disappoint anybody or let anybody down. We wanted to live up to what the expectations were of us and why we were brought over."

"So it was good. And it continues to be good."

## Also:

**LOS ANGELES:** Season 21 of "NCIS" is delayed due to the actors' strike but fans can get their fix with the franchise's first international spin-off, "NCIS: Sydney." Debuting Tuesday on CBS, the series follows a task force of US and Australian law enforcement investigating naval crimes in waters connecting the Indian and Pacific oceans known as Indo Pacific. Episodes will also stream on Paramount+.

Meanwhile, the new limited series "A Murder at the End of the World" has a "Knives Out" vibe but with **Emma Corrin** as the detective. When a reclusive billionaire (Clive Owen) hosts a retreat in a remote location and one of the guests ends up dead, Corrin's character Darby launches an investigation. The show also stars **Brit Marling**, who co-created, wrote and directed the series with **Zal Batmanglij**. The first two episodes drop Tuesday on FX on Hulu.



Taylor Swift performs at the Monumental stadium during her Eras Tour concert in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Thursday, Nov. 9. (AP)

## Music

## Cat Power replicates Dylan's 1966 concert

## PinkPantheress provides IRL charms

LOS ANGELES, Nov 13, (AP): How do you become introduced to PinkPantheress?

Is it the viral, UK garage-sampling TikTok hits "Break It Off" or "Pain"? Or is it more recent - an inescapable song of the summer, "Boy's a Liar Pt. 2," featuring Ice Spice? Or "Angel," her contribution to the Mark Ronson-produced "Barbie" soundtrack? Or something else entirely?

There are countless ways in, but the destination is the same: sugary hooks that satiate, her sweet soprano carrying an addictive chorus above hybrid production. And as of Friday, it's culminated in "Heaven Knows." The debut full-length record from the UK star, who keeps her real name hidden, features 13 tracks she also co-produced.

"Heaven Knows" is sometimes hyperpop, sometimes ornamented with the sound of pan flutes ("Blue"), sometimes 2000s emo-by-way-of-My Chemical Romance-inspired church organs (that's "Another Life," featuring the Nigerian artist Rema of "Calm Down" fame), and sometimes something else entirely.

Any kind of momentum after virality is rarer than the initial 15 minutes of fame. PinkPantheress is an exception because of the tools she wields: Her songs, up until this point, have been remarkably short - a minimalistic sensibility born from her understanding of what works on TikTok, often crafting snippets of a track, seeing if it works on the platform, and building them out from there. It's sharpened her ability to identify a hook that works in a song about failed adventures in love (or romance, more specifically,

she name checks on "The aisle" and throughout "True Romance") as well as death.

The latter is apparent on "Ophelia," which begins with harps and finds its coda in the sound of a bubbling brook, a direct reference to the demise met by the doomed noblewoman in Shakespeare's "Hamlet."

In the middle of "Heaven Knows" is "Internet Baby (interlude)," led by a memorable hook and the repeated refrain of "I am not your internet baby." In the context of the song, it is a declaration to a needy love interest, but in the context of the album, it is a reminder that PinkPantheress' online successes have offline resonance.

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"Cat Power Sings Dylan: The 1966 Royal Albert Hall Concert" is a faithful song-by-song recreation, without the boos, of **Bob Dylan's** infamous concert - from the tour where he played electric guitar for the first time.

Unlike Dylan's divisive 1966 shows, no one seeing singer-songwriter **Cat Power** in 2022 when this was recorded - also at the famed Royal Albert Hall - was likely so angered or surprised by what they heard that they felt compelled to walk out or hurl insults. Her acoustic first set, followed by second set complete with a full, plugged-in band, is rightfully met with thunderous applause.

Back in 1966, when Dylan angered folk music traditionalists by plugging in and playing his new songs backed by a band, fans stomped their feet, jeered and walked out. In Manchester, England, one attendee was so an-

gered that he famously yelled "Judas!" at Dylan just before he launched into "Like a Rolling Stone."

The moment gained fame on bootlegs that wrongly attributed perhaps the most famous heckle in rock history to the Royal Albert Hall concert in London.

Of course, Cat Power, otherwise known as **Chan Marshall**, returns not to the Manchester Free Trade Hall but to the Royal Albert Hall for this live recreation of the famous show. But it's not a copy. She puts her own stamp on the material while not deviating from Dylan's 1966 arrangements.

She delivers the first set solo acoustic just as Dylan did, alone with harmonica and guitar. She serves up spine-tingling versions of some of Dylan's best work including "Visions of Johanna," "Desolation Row" and "Mr. Tambourine Man."

Then she returns in the second set with a full band to deliver purer Dylan: "Ballad of a Thin Man," "Just Like Tom Thumb's Blues" and closing, just as Dylan did, with "Like a Rolling Stone," one of the greatest rock songs ever written.

Unlike the original Dylan show, which he released in full in 1998, Cat Power's electric set is more of a celebration than a tussle with the audience.

Cat Power could never replicate that combative energy, but she doesn't have to. While remaining faithful to the songs and the live arrangements, she shines a light on Dylan's genius and the beauty of the music nearly 60 years after the original concert, while leaving her own mark.



This cover image released by Warner UK shows 'Heaven Knows' by PinkPantheress. (AP)



Mersal



Nygard

## Variety

**CANDAD:** Peter Nygard, who once led a women's fashion empire, was found guilty of four counts of sexual assault in a Canadian court on Sunday but was acquitted of a fifth count plus a charge of forcible confinement.

The jury handed down the verdict on the fifth day of deliberations following a six-week trial in **Toronto**.

Nygard, 82, had pleaded not guilty to all charges, which stemmed from allegations dating back from the 1980s to the mid-2000s.

Five women - whose identities are protected by a publication ban - had testified that they were invited to Nygard's Toronto headquarters under pretexts ranging from tours to job interviews, with all encounters ending in a top-floor bedroom suite where four of them were sexually assaulted.

Multiple complainants told the jury similar stories of meeting Nygard on a plane, at an airport tarmac or at a nightclub and then receiving invitations to come to headquarters. All five women said their meetings or interactions with Nygard ended with sexual activity that they did not consent to. (AP)

□ □ □

**NEW YORK:** English-language editions of a Vietnamese novel set everywhere from **Saigon to Paris** and of the latest publication of poetry by **Egypt's Iman Mersal** are this year's winners of National Translation Awards.

The awards were announced Sunday by the American Literary Translators Association.

Thuân's novel "Chinatown," translated from the Vietnamese by **Nguyen An Ly**, won in the category for prose. The poetry prize was given to Mersal's "The Threshold," translated from the Arabic by **Robyn Creswell**.

The winning translators will each receive \$4,000.

"ALTA is incredibly proud to recognize Nguyn An Ly and Robyn Creswell for their masterful translations from Vietnamese and Arabic respectively, in this

the 25th year of the National Translation Award," **Elisabeth Jaquette**, executive director of the translators association, said in a statement.

Previous winners include **Peter Constantine's** translation from the Russian of stories by **Anton Chekhov**, **Martin Aitken's** translation from the Norwegian

of **Karl Ove Knausgaard's** "The Morning Star" and **D.M. Black's** translation from the Italian of Dante's "Purgatorio." (AP)

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**ROCHESTER, N.Y.:** Fans have pushed the Fisher-Price Corn Popper into the National Toy Hall of Fame, elevating it from perpetual finalist to 2023 inductee, alongside baseball cards, Cabbage Patch Kids and NERF foam toys, the Hall of Fame announced Friday.

The Fisher-Price push toy that encourages babies to walk was chosen by fans, who were invited to celebrate the Toy Hall of Fame's 25th anniversary by voting for one of five toys that had made it to the finals more than once but were passed over. The rest of the so-called "Forgotten Five" included the pogo stick, My Little Pony, PEZ dispensers and Transformers.

Baseball cards, Cabbage Patch Kids and NERF toys were voted in in the usual way from among a field of 12 finalists, with input from a panel of experts.

The winners are on permanent display at the National Toy Hall of Fame, which is located inside The Strong National Museum of Play in Rochester, New York. (AP)



Mexican singer Peso Pluma performs in concert at the Foro Sol in Mexico City, Saturday, Nov. 11. (AP)





**'Dressage represents the pinnacle of horse training'**

## Equestrian dressage gains popularity in Kuwait: Sheikha Fajr Badr

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: The equestrian discipline of horse dressage, officially introduced in Kuwait in November of the previous year (2022) through three local championships at the Hunting and Equestrian Club and the Kuwait Equestrian Center, has witnessed a surge in participation during the ongoing 2023-2024 season. This growth is attributed to the backing and acknowledgment provided by the Kuwait Equestrian Federation for this artistic form of equestrian sport.



Sheikha Fajr Badr Al-Sabah

Sheikha Fajr Badr Al-Sabah, an accomplished horsewoman, expressed her gratitude in a press statement, highlighting the pivotal role played by Sheikh Sabah Mubarak Al-Sabah in establishing the Dressage Academy. Sheikh Sabah, known for his profound passion for horses and his role as a breeder and owner of racehorses in the United Kingdom and Ireland, has been instrumental in promoting and enhancing various equestrian disciplines globally.

Sheikha Fajr Al-Sabah emphasized that horse dressage is a sport rooted in the art of horsemanship, teaching horses specific movements to be executed with precision and

### EQUESTRIAN

without resorting to violence. According to the International Equestrian Federation, dressage represents the pinnacle of horse training, with both rider and horse executing a sequence of predetermined movements committed to memory.

She expressed her gratitude to Sheikh Sabah Al-Mubarak, the founder of this sport in Kuwait, who has organized five tournaments thus far to bolster and nurture the growth of this novel equestrian pursuit in the country.

### Cricket World Cup takeaways

## India dominate, England flop, Afghans arrive & Kohli shines



India's Virat Kohli bowls a delivery during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup match between India and Netherlands in Bengaluru, India. (AP)

NEW DELHI, Nov 13, (AP): After 39 days and 45 matches, the long group stage of the Cricket World Cup is over and four teams remain in the running for the title.

It's India vs. New Zealand and South Africa vs. Australia in the semi-finals this week.

Before that, it's time to have a look at the big storylines to emerge from the tournament:

#### Home advantage

Playing at home has never been so important in 50-over World Cups. The nation that was host or co-host has won the last three tournaments - India in 2011, Australia in 2015 and England in 2019 - and the Indians have swept through the group stage of this edition with nine straight wins in front of their own fans. They knew the conditions the best, they are most aware of the benefits of batting first or chasing in all venues, and are most comfortable in the environment. Before 2011, only once had a host nation won the event - Sri Lanka in the 1996 tournament it co-hosted with Pakistan and India, and the Sri Lankans only staged two games in total amid security concerns.

England need revamp  
The English arrived as the premier team in white-ball cricket, given their status as the World Cup holders in the Twenty20 and 50-over formats. The team that helped to revolutionize the ODI game with an ultra-aggressive approach has grown old, though, and English cricket authorities have taken their eye off the 50-over game in favor of focusing on a red-ball reset of the test team and introducing The Hundred, a contentious new domestic tournament. Together with the players maybe believing their own hype, as well as an unlikely downturn in form, England has put in one of the worst title defenses imaginable, winning three games and finishing in seventh place. England moved out of last spot by winning their last two games. So it's back to the drawing board for the English, who'll need to develop a fresh young team for the 2027 World Cup.

#### Afghanistan arrive

Looking at the big picture, the story of this World Cup has to be the coming-of-age displays of Afghanistan, for so long an easy-beat in international cricket and now a team widely admired because of their journey to the elite. Beating England in week two shook the tournament but wins over Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Netherlands have proved that it was no fluke, and a sensational victory over Australia appeared to be on the cards before Glenn Maxwell's astonishing exploits. This, remember, is a team that has come a long way quickly in the face of many challenges such as security threats,

ruined infrastructure and persistent poverty. It's an inspirational story in a sport that can often cut off access for low-ranking teams to the top events and a sixth-place finish will be celebrated by many.

#### Enduring Kohli

No cricketer plays with more pressure on his shoulders than former India captain Virat Kohli. You wouldn't know it from his performances at this World Cup. This might ultimately go down as Kohli's World Cup, with "The King" - as he is sometimes referred - hitting two unbeaten hundreds and five half-centuries, including a 95 against New Zealand that saw him fall going for a match-clinching six. He averaged 99 and led the scoring list with 594 runs in the group stage and that takes in a duck against England. He even took a wicket - his first in ODIs since 2014 - in the last league game against Netherlands. At 35, approaching 300 ODIs and freed from the cap-

### CRICKET

taincy, Kohli might never have been so good and that's saying something for a player selected by the ICC as the best men's cricketer of the 2010s. Watch out Sachin Tendulkar - your record for most runs in ODIs (18,426) is not safe.

#### Star Performers

Aside from Kohli, there have been a number of star performers. South Africa opener Quinton de Kock has been the most devastating batter with 591 runs, 23-year-old New Zealand allrounder Rachin Ravindra has been a revelation as the first batter to score three centuries and 565 runs on his World Cup debut and Maxwell's tournament-high 201 not out to lead Australia to victory over Afghanistan last week might be the greatest innings in any World Cup. Of the bowlers, Adam Zampa's spin has been a comfort blanket for the Australians after a slow start, especially in his 3-21 against England, and he led the wicket tally with 22. For India, pacer Jasprit Bumrah has taken 17 wickets and Mohammed Shami has snared two five-wicket hauls and comfortably the best average among specialist bowlers in the tournament.

## Crew advance to East semifinals

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Nov 13, (AP): Columbus scored three goals in the first 33 minutes and the Crew advanced to the Eastern Conference semifinals with a 4-2 victory over Atlanta United in the rubber match of a first-round MLS Cup series on Sunday night.

Columbus (17-9-9) upped its unbeaten streak at home in all competitions to 17, but the third-seeded Crew will hit the road for a semifinal match-up with No. 2 seed Orlando City on Nov. 25. Top-seeded FC Cincinnati will host the fourth-seeded Philadelphia Union in the other semifinal, also

## Pinto praises competitive spirit in training, Kuwait gear up for India



Players take a break during a training session.

### Blues in search of replacement for Al-Dhafiri

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: The technical staff of Kuwait, under the guidance of Portuguese coach Rui Pinto, is actively seeking a substitute for the injured player Ahmed Al-Dhafiri. Al-Dhafiri has been officially ruled out due to injury and will not be able to participate in the upcoming match against India, scheduled for the day after tomorrow in the opening round of the joint qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup**

finals in the United States of America and Mexico, as well as the 2027 Asian Cup in Saudi Arabia.

Rui Pinto is currently considering three players - Abdulaziz Wadi, Athbi Shehab, and Badr Tariq - to take Al-Dhafiri's place. Wadi, returning to the national team after a lengthy absence due to injury, seems to be the front-runner for this position. In today's training session, Pinto is emphasizing specific technical and tactical strategies for the upcoming match and focusing on how to approach the Indian team. He is also closely monitoring the players who will be in the starting lineup, ensuring they execute the instructions precisely while keeping a watchful eye on

the opponent's key players. Pinto is pleased with the high morale of all players.

In the goalkeeping department, there is a competition between Suleiman Abdel Ghafour, Abdel Rahman Kamil, and Abdel Rahman Al Majdali to secure the team's defense. Pinto has praised the com-

### SOCCER

petitive spirit in training, particularly due to its positive impact on the team. The odds of Abdul Ghafour returning as the national team's goalkeeper seem to be strong, given his experience.

Meanwhile, the Indian team will conduct their training at Mohammed Al-Hamad Stadium in Al-Qadisiyah Club this evening and will conclude

the training at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium tomorrow, Wednesday, where the match is scheduled to take place.

In a separate development, Kuwait Olympic team coach Emilio Peixe addressed the players before the start of the team's first training at their camp in the Emirate of Sharjah on Saturday. Peixe urged the players to give their maximum effort in both training and the upcoming matches against the UAE and Tajikistan, scheduled for the 16th and 19th of this month. The training camp is in preparation for the AFC U-23 Cup finals, which will be held in Qatar from April 15 to May 3 next year and serves as a qualification for the 2024 Paris Olympics. Daily training sessions involve all selected players under Peixe's supervision.

### 'Goal is to minimize the risk of injuries'

## Kuwait handball team undergo physical testing

By Khaled El Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: The technical team of Kuwait national handball, under the guidance of Algerian coach Saeed Hegazy, initiated physical assessments focusing on fitness and strength for the first-team players at the commencement of local training for Kuwait. This training serves as part of the preparations for the 21st Asian Championship, a crucial event doubling as the 2025 World Cup qualifiers, set to take place in the Kingdom of Bahrain from January 11 to 25.**

Assisting coach Mohamed Masoudane and physical therapist Mahdi Al-Bakous actively participated in conducting the physical fitness evaluations for the players.

Al-Bakous emphasized that the primary objective of these tests is to safeguard the players' health. Conducting these assessments plays a crucial role in preventing the recurrence of muscle injuries that some players have faced in previous periods, both before and after their involvement with the Blue Club in various tournaments.

### HANDBALL

He further explained, "Our goal is to minimize the risk of injuries, adequately prepare the players, and enhance their physical development so they can be fully prepared for the upcoming matches."

## A remarkable triumph for Inspire Kuwait



Head of the tournament's organizing committee Hussein Al-Sheikh.



Kuwait handball intensify their training.

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: The Inspire Kuwait International Championship for cars and motorcycles concluded at the Kuwait City Motor Sports Circuit in the Arifjan area, featuring 250 participants from Kuwait, the Gulf, and various Arab countries. The winners in the car category were Ahmed Al-Anazi (Class 180), Firas Al-Rifai (Class 200), Mohammed Al-Abdullah**

### MOTOR RACING

(Class 220), Yousef Al-Hindi (Class 240), Yousef Al-Sayegh (Class 270), and Fahd Al-Ibrahim in the electric car category. In the motorcycle competitions, top honors went to Ahmed Al-Attar (cc1000 category), Muhammad Al-Abad (cc1300 category), Muhammad Burashid (Extreme Bike), and Sadiq Al-Tamimi secured the first place in the classic car category.

Expressing delight, Dr. Falah Al-Mahawish, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Inspire Sports Club for cars and motorcycles, commended the tremendous success of the tournament and expressed hope for continued success in future events.

Hussein Al-Sheikh, the head of the tournament's organizing committee, affirmed that the competition proceeded smoothly without any protests from the participants. He remarked, "The competitions were thrilling and intense at every stage, witnessing the establishment of world records."

### Prince William & Alex attend Bobby 'funeral'

MANCHESTER, England, Nov 13, (AP): Prince William headed the list of dignitaries who attended the funeral of Manchester United and England great Bobby Charlton on Monday.

The future king of England attended the service at Manchester Cathedral in his role as president of the Football Association.



Malmo FF team members celebrate after winning in the Allsvenskan's last round between Malmo FF and IF Elfsborg in Malmo, Sweden. (AP)

# Sports

Latest sports scores at — <http://sports.arabtimesonline.com>

Al-Qassar, Al-Kharafi, and Behbehani standout performers

## Kuwait gymnastics team return home with 6 medals

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: The Kuwait girls' rhythmic gymnastics team concluded their successful stint at the

Second Baku International Junior Women's Championship, returning home adorned with a total of 6 medals

— 4 silver and 2 bronze. The standout performers contributing to Kuwait's achievement were

Raya Al-Qassar, Nabila Al-Kharafi, and Talia Behbehani. Raya secured a bronze medal with the hoop, while Nabila claimed 3 silver medals in the general individual, freestyle performance, and mace categories. Talia earned a silver in freestyle performance and a bronze in the mace category. Meanwhile, Sarah Al-Bannai and Lian, while not medaling, demonstrated commendable performances, with Behbehani securing a fifth position in the overall singles competition.

## Bahrain team join Kuwait Hockey League

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: Bahrain Ice Hockey Club team marked their debut in the Kuwaiti Local League Championship for the 2023-2024 season, engaging in a match against the league leaders, the Warriors.

Fahid Al-Ajmi, President of the Kuwaiti Winter Games Club, the organizing body for this local tournament, highlighted that Bahrain's team, participating since the 2018-2019 season, is pivotal for laying the groundwork for a consistent Gulf league in this



The Bahrain team in action.

Bahraini team, expressing appreciation for their visits to Kuwait and their adherence to the tournament schedule for their matches.

### GYMNASTICS

Abdul Latif Murad, the Secretary General of the Kuwait Gymnastics Federation, expressed heartfelt gratitude to the parents of the players for their efforts in managing the team's delegation and shouldering the challenges of travel. He also acknowledged their sponsorship of all expenses for the tournament participation. Murad highlighted the Federation's commitment to its plan and program for preparing the girls' team.

Emphasizing that their participation in this significant tournament was part of a streamlined approach, with reduced external engagements and approval from the General Sports Authority to participate in key events such as the Baku Championship.



Some of the winners with their coaches.

### ICE HOCKEY

Winter Olympic sport.

Al-Ajmi further pointed out that Bahrain's involvement in the championship would foster the exchange of experiences, thereby elevating the technical proficiency of the players. He noted that the robust technical standards of the tournament motivated the Bahraini team to join the competition alongside five other local teams. Al-Ajmi warmly welcomed the

# Kuwait College of Science and Technology win title



Faisal Al-Maqseed, President of the School Sports and Higher Education Federation honored as the finalists celebrate on the podium.

Kuwait Technical College secure third place

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: The Kuwait College of Science and Technology team won the Warba Bank Volleyball League title in the third Higher Education Sports after beating Kuwait University 26-24, 23-25, 25-27, 27-25, 15-8 in thriller at the Gulf University Hall. Meanwhile, The Kuwait Technical College team secured the third-place position by defeating the Public Authority for Applied Education team with a score of 3-0.

The event was attended by Faisal Al-Maqseed, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait School Sports Federation and Higher Education, Hamad Musaed Al-Sayer, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Warba Bank, and Hamed Al-Hazeem, Deputy Director General of the Public Authority for Sports for the Sports Sector, along with officials from various participating universities.

Faisal Al-Maqseed, President of the School Sports and Higher Education Federation, emphasized the federation's commitment to promoting sports activities in the Ministry of Education's schools and universities. The aim is to foster sports awareness and provide students with opportunities to

develop their athletic talents, encouraging them to reach professional levels and engage with local and international clubs. Al-Maqseed expressed satisfaction with the technical and physical prowess displayed in the final match, celebrating the Kuwait College of Sci-

### VOLLEYBALL

ence and Technology's achievement of the "Warba Bank League" title in the third edition.



Alaves' Abdel Abqar jumps for the ball with Barcelona's Robert Lewandowski during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between Barcelona and Alaves at the Montjuic stadium in Barcelona, Spain. (AP)

## Timberwolves overpower Warriors

## Maxey has career-high 50 pts, 76ers edge Pacers for 8th straight win

PHILADELPHIA, Nov 13, (AP): Tyrese Maxey scored a career-high 50 points, Joel Embiid had 37 points and the Philadelphia 76ers improved to 8-1 with their eighth straight victory, beating the Indiana Pacers 137-126 on Sunday night.

Maxey was 20 for 32 from the field and had seven rebounds, five assists and three blocks in the first of two straight games in Philadelphia between the teams. His previous high was 44 against Toronto on Oct. 28, 2022.

### Rockets 107, Nuggets 104

In Houston, Fred VanVleet scored 26 points, Alperen Sengun added 23 and Houston beat Denver for its sixth straight victory, its longest winning streak since taking seven straight in January 2021.

Nikola Jokic had his fourth triple-double of the season for Denver, finishing with 36 points, 13 rebounds and 11 assists. The defending champion Nuggets dropped to 8-2.

### Timberwolves 117, Warriors 110

In San Francisco, Anthony Edwards scored 33 points and Minnesota overpowered Golden State for its sixth straight victory.

Karl-Anthony Towns added 21 points

and a season-best 14 rebounds for Minnesota in the first of two straight games between the teams in San Francisco.

### Mavericks 136, Pelicans 124

In New Orleans, Kyrie Irving made 7 of 10 3-pointers and scored 35 points. Luka Doncic had 15 of his 30 points in a 42-point third quarter and Dallas beat short-handed New Orleans.

In the first of two straight games between the teams in New Orleans, the Mavericks shot 20 of 53 from long range. Dallas iced it in the third quarter, making 8 of 13 3-pointers and outscoring the Pelicans 42-31.

### Lakers 116, Trail Blazers 110

In Los Angeles, Anthony Davis had 30 points and 13 rebounds, Rui Hachimura scored eight of his 19 points in the final 3:43 and Los Angeles overcame LeBron James' injury absence to beat Portland.

James missed a game for the first time this season, sitting out because of a bruised left calf. The leading scorer in NBA history injured his shin in a collision with Kevin Durant during the first quarter in Phoenix on Friday night.

### Grizzlies 105, Clippers 101

In Los Angeles, Desmond Bane scored 27 points and Memphis won for the second time this season, beating reeling Los Angeles.

### Thunder 111, Suns 99

In Phoenix, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 35 points, Jalen Williams had 31 and Oklahoma used a big fourth quarter

to beat Phoenix.

Gilgeous-Alexander and Williams combined to make 24 of 38 shots (63%) and the Thunder shot 49%. The Suns shot 38%, making 2 of 21 shots in the fourth quarter.

### Nets 102, Wizards 94

In New York, Mikal Bridges had 27 points and 13 rebounds and Brooklyn recovered to beat Washington and after blowing a 17-point lead.

Rookie Bilal Coulibaly, Victor Wembanyama's teammate last season in France, had a season-high 20 points for Washington.

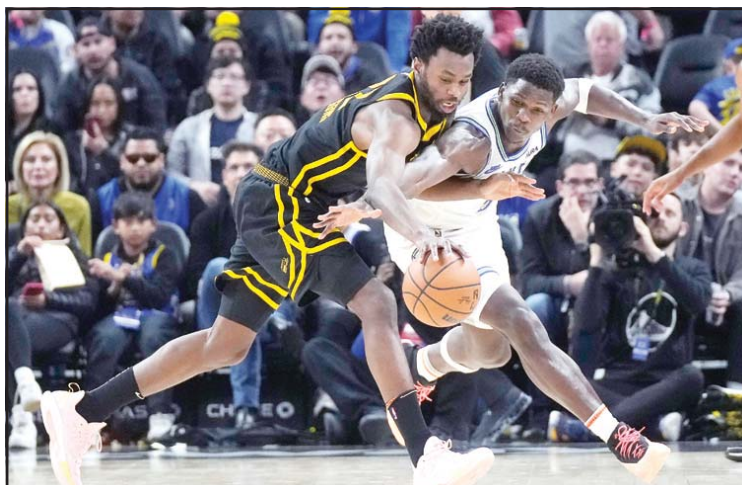
### Knicks 129, Hornets 107

In New York, Julius Randle had 23 points, five rebounds and five assists and New York scored a season high in its victory over Charlotte.

R.J. Barrett scored 24 points, Jalen Brunson had 23 points and Immanuel Quickley had 17 points. The Knicks shot a season-high 54% to win their third straight game.

### Heat 118, Spurs 113

In San Antonio, Duncan Robinson scored 26 points, Bam Adebayo added 24 points and 11 rebounds and Miami beat San Antonio for its fifth straight victory.



Golden State Warriors forward Andrew Wiggins (left), reaches for the ball next to Minnesota Timberwolves guard Anthony Edwards during the first half of an NBA basketball game in San Francisco. (AP)