



soccer
Pages 15 & 16



basketball
Page 14

Kuwaiti delegates advocate for Gulf identity, cybersecurity

Opinion

Will the wandering come back to the children of Israel?

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

DID the wandering come back to the children of Israel? Why Palestine? Why should the Jews specifically be in it? This question was asked by Napoleon Bonaparte, and he also answered it, since the start of his campaign against Egypt at the beginning of the 19th century. At that time, most of Europe was suffering from their practices.

Therefore, Napoleon decided to kill two birds with one stone, which was to separate Egypt from Syria by establishing a demographic barrier of one color, and getting rid of the Jews of Europe.



Al-Jarallah

That is why he issued his call to the Jews of the world to return to Palestine, because his idea was based on the so-called "national states", which was rejected by the Jews of Europe.

At that time, most of the continent's capitals had agreed to get rid of the Jews, especially after years of conflict between them and the Europeans.

That is why the comedian Palmerton, who later became the British Prime Minister, came up with the idea of sending Jews to another country. Among the suggestions were Argentina, Uganda, and one of the Russian regions.

However, the plan changed after the elimination of the Ottoman Empire. The British leaders remembered Napoleon's call and made Palestine a national homeland for the Jews. The Balfour Declaration resulted from those ideas. What is strange is that Balfour himself was one of the greatest opponents of the Jews. The Foreigners Law was issued in 1905, and one of its articles stipulated that "Jews are forbidden from entering Britain".

In 1917, he got the opportunity to implement this law. At the same time, London would gain the sympathy of the Jews, separate Egypt and the Levant through that state, maintain its control over the strategic roads with India, and ensure that entity would be an advanced British and Western colonial base.

At that time, these countries were working with all their might to achieve their goal. There were no contradictory opinions, movements or parties that opposed this. No official was accused of treason, in contrast to what has been happening in the Arab world since the issue arose in the early 20th century.

That is why the Jewish state received all European and Western support, because it was an ideal solution to a problem that had troubled Europe for centuries.

The Arabs back then, like the ones today, did not agree on an issue, and therefore, dreams tickled their leaders. That is why they lost the war in 1948. Each of them wanted to invest in the cause for their own personal interests, like Jamal Abdul Nasser, who later raised the slogan "Liberating Palestine" with the intention of mass mobilization against the monarchy. That is why, four years after the so-called "Palestine Nakba", he turned against King Farouk. From that day, coups and military revolutions became an Arab fashion.

The Arabs fought four wars with Israel and lost three of them. The "October War" had its different calculations that led to putting the first nail in the coffin of Israel's future. Despite that, Sadat faced betrayal and rejection, and this nation did not benefit from that historical opportunity.

Today, after 75 years, nothing has changed in the Arab scene. The Palestinians have been dispersed around the world and divided in their decisions. In fact, they have become a good investment for the regimes.

The issue has also become a source of profit for the leaders of the fighting factions. Every time they enter a battle, these leaders turn it into a party of betrayal to the rest of the Arabs, while they roam the world and hoard money and wealth.

Therefore, within the given facts of the Palestinian and Arab reality, this issue will not be resolved as long as there are 20 mouthpieces, each shouting slogans that are far from the truth.

This will not happen as long as there are those who blow up, those who condemn, and those who denounce.

This will not happen as long as there is a Palestinian working to achieve Israel's goals. This is why we are not surprised if the world closes its eyes to the massacre that the people of Gaza are experiencing.

The Palestinian organizations did not agree on a unified position, and the Arabs are divided, each singing their own music, despite all that. Given that Allah's command will come to pass, will the wandering come back to the children of Israel?

Email: ahmed@aljarallah.com

Follow me on:



ahmedaljarallah@gmail.com

NewsWatch

JEDDAH: The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) said it will hold an exceptional summit on the situation in Gaza in the Saudi capital Riyadh next Sunday.

In a statement Monday, the OIC affirmed the summit came at the invitation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as Chair of the current Islamic Summit. (KUNA)

BEIRUT: Escalation of violence in southern Lebanon might lead the situation in the region to be out of control, said the UN Interim Forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL) on Monday.

In a statement, UNIFIL Official spokesman Andrea Tenenti indicated that the blue line area had witnessed increased gunfire. Tenenti indicated that there was a sorrowful incident from Aitaroun village in southern Lebanon, which led to the death of four civilians.

He reminded all parties that attacks against civilians in the area violated international law and could be considered as "war crimes". He called for an immediate ceasefire to prevent further casualties.

Israeli occupation drones attacked a civilian vehicle in southern Lebanon, leading to the death of four women. (KUNA)

NEW DELHI: Indian authorities announced on Sunday several actions including banning of construction, demolition and entry of heavy vehicles as air quality in New Delhi remained in Severe+ category.

The Indian Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change said in a statement that the Sub-Committee for operationalization of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) of the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas invoked all actions as envisaged under Stage-IV of GRAP Severe+ Air Quality.

This was decided as Delhi's average Air Quality Index clocked 454 on a 500 point scale as per the Central Pollution Control Board today evening. Any reading above 400 is considered dangerous even for the healthy people. (KUNA)

GAZA TOLL FROM MONTH-LONG WAR PASSES 10,000

Kuwait demands international accountability for Gaza crisis

'Genocide'

NEW YORK, Nov 6, (Agencies): Kuwait on Sunday reaffirmed its call for the international community to bear responsibility to the scale of which the Palestinian case has inclined to due to Israeli occupation repeated aggression.

This came during the Kuwait's UN permanent delegation's discourse, voiced by the diplomatic attaché Shaye Abu Shaiba ahead of the 4th committee of the General Assembly.

Abu Shaiba assured that the Palestinian issue continues to be the major case that troubles the Arab and Islamic world, expressing regret concerning the status and situation of such an advent of a humanitarian catastrophe that will stem a migration crisis.

These conditions will require a full support of the UN in providing relief and works for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA), stressing the need to grasp and adhere to the original and inalienable rights of Palestinian refugees to enable a return in accordance with candid international resolutions.

He also mentioned Kuwait's deprecation of the occupying Israeli forces killing 72 UNRWA humanitarian workers in Gaza in flagrant violation of Resolution No. 2286 of the Security Council, aimed to protect humanitarian activists.

While also pointing to the international community's duty in prompting and safeguarding all humanitarian works personnel and sturdily condone any threats on the UNRWA connotation.

The diplomatic attaché furthermore warned that Palestinians are facing genocide by occupying forces while the world witnesses such punitive raids and airstrikes resulting in the deaths of innocent people in addition to deliberate targeting of civilian facilities and electricity, water, food, and gas supplies.

Abu Sahaiba firmly opposed the continuation of such inhumane actions calling for the urgent need to remove any blockades structured to halt aid and food supplies from reaching the besieged, and to adhere with international resolutions of concern.

Kuwait's stance is firm with the Palestinian case, he added, and the need to obtain their legitimate right for an independent state with Al-Quds as the capital under the frameworks of justice

Continued on Page 5



A Palestinian wounded in Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip is brought to a hospital in Khan Younis, Sunday, Nov. 6, 2023. (AP)

ILO issues bulletin on impact of Israel-Hamas conflict

61% of employment lost in Gaza Strip

BEIRUT, Nov 6: At least 61 percent of employment, equivalent to 182,000 jobs, has been lost in the Gaza Strip since the start of the current Israel-Hamas war, a new ILO report estimates. The conflict in Gaza is also having a spillover effect in the West Bank, where an estimated 24 per cent of employment, equivalent to 208,000 jobs, has been lost over the same period.

The total estimated 390,000 job losses in the two areas that comprise the Occupied Palestinian Territory translate into daily labour income losses of USD \$16 million. These figures are projected to increase if military operations in Gaza intensify and the humanitarian crisis in the enclave continues to unfold.

The estimates were outlined in the ILO's first bulletin on the impact of the current Israel-Hamas conflict on the labour market and livelihoods in the Territory.

The humanitarian crisis in Gaza has severe implications on the labour market, employment prospects and livelihoods in the enclave and across the entire Occupied Palestinian Territory, the bulletin reports.

"Our initial assessment of the repercussions of the tragic current crisis on the Palestinian labour market have yielded extremely

worrying results, which will only worsen if the conflict continues," said ILO Regional Director for Arab States Ruba Jaradat.

"The ongoing hostilities not only represent an enormous humanitarian crisis in terms of loss of lives and basic human needs, they also represent a social and economic crisis which has caused vast damage to jobs and businesses, with reverberations that will be felt for many years to come," Jaradat added. She reiterated the call by the ILO Governing Body in its current session to promptly allow and facilitate, consistent with international humanitarian law, full, rapid, safe, and unhindered humanitarian access for the sustainable delivery of humanitarian aid to civilians throughout Gaza.

"We are working tirelessly with government, worker and employer partners, other UN agencies and humanitarian actors to provide immediate assistance to impacted workers and businesses. We will also support them in the longer term towards collecting vital labour market information and recovering jobs and enterprises, combined with social protection initiatives, to the utmost extent of our mandate," Regional Director Jaradat added.

Entire neighborhoods in Gaza have been destroyed, infrastructure has been severely damaged, businesses have closed, large-scale internal displacement has occurred, and the lack of water, food and fuel are crippling economic activity, the bulletin notes.

Even prior to the current conflict, the situation in the blockaded Gaza enclave was particularly dire. Gazans have long grappled with persistently high rates of poverty, vulnerability and one of the highest unemployment rates in the world, which stood at 46.4 per cent in the second quarter of 2023.

The ILO has prepared a three-phase response programme to address the impact of the crisis on the Palestinian labour market and livelihoods.

The first phase, which is already underway, focuses on relief works. It entails providing immediate assistance such as emergency livelihood support schemes to Palestinian workers. The workers include Gazans who, having lost their jobs inside Israel following the outbreak of the current conflict, are stranded in the West Bank.

The ILO has mobilised its internal resources and already channelled around \$1.1 million

Continued on Page 5

Day by Day

Iranian Nobel Peace Prize laureate on hunger strike

DUBAI, Nov 6, (AP): Nobel Peace Prize laureate Narges Mohammadi began a hunger strike Monday over being blocked together with other inmates from getting medical care and to protest the country's mandatory headscarves for women, a campaign advocating for the activist said.

The decision by Mohammadi, 51, increases pressure on Iran's theocracy over her incarceration, a month after being awarded the Nobel for her years of activism despite a decades-long campaign by the government targeting her.

Meanwhile, another incarcerated activist, the lawyer Nasrin Sotoudeh, reportedly needs medical care she has yet to receive. She was arrested while attending a funeral for a teenage girl who died under disputed circumstances in Tehran's Metro while not wearing a hijab.

The Free Narges Mohammadi campaign said she sent a message from Evin Prison and "informed her family that she started a hunger strike several hours ago." It said Mohammadi and her lawyer for weeks have sought her transfer to a specialist hospital for heart and lung care.

It did not elaborate on what conditions Mohammadi suffered from, though it described her as receiving an echocardiogram of her heart.

"Narges went on a hunger strike today ... protesting two things: The Islamic Republic's policy of delaying and neglecting medical care for sick inmates, resulting in the loss of the health and lives of individuals. The policy of 'death' or 'mandatory hijab' for Iranian women," the statement read.



KUNA photo

Despite relentless Israeli attacks and threats, Kuwait Specialized Hospital in Gaza remains operational, with medical personnel continuing to treat hundreds of patients and wounded individuals affected by the ongoing Israeli offensive, according to Dr. Suhaib Al-Hamss, the hospital's director.

THE Minister of Works departed amidst allegations and misconduct, leaving behind statements she knew were unfounded.

Regrettably, in our country, the pattern for executive leadership positions often involves departure without being held accountable. They may choose to resign, retire, or simply remain silent in the face of mistakes and imprudence.

In contrast, other countries take a different approach. When evidence of leadership misconduct surfaces in any role, the responsible official is promptly removed from their position and subjected to a thorough investigation for potential harm to public interests, state finances, projects, or administration.

Such actions are treated as criminal offenses, and the individual may face legal consequences, including imprisonment.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

Prayer Timings

Fajr	04:43	Asr	14:37
Sunrise ..	06:04	Maghrib ..	16:59
Zohr	11:32	Isha	18:17

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Rather hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind, with speed of 12-35 km/h.
By Night: Mild with light to moderate

Weather		Wind	with	Abdaly	32	16
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec		Jahra	32	20
Kuwait City	32	24		Salmiyah	30	24
Kuwait Airport	32	17		Nuwaisib	35	19
				Wafra	34	18

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

3rd edition of 'Be Cyber Safe' campaign launched

KPMG aims to train 10,000 students in cybersecurity this year

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: In continuation of its commitment to giving back to society, KPMG has launched the third edition of the 'Be Cyber Safe' campaign, providing cybersecurity workshops to young people aged 7-16 in schools across Kuwait.

As technology advances, children of all ages spend more time than ever on their devices. Whether it's for studying, playing games, or communicating with friends, technology has become an integral part of their daily routine. Consequently, parents and guardians are increasingly concerned about the impact of screen time on their children's safety. The KPMG Global Cyber Day program aims to make a difference in every community worldwide by helping young people and all those who support them learn how to protect themselves and others online.

Throughout November, KPMG cybersecurity professionals will help students, teachers, and parents become more cyber-aware through interactive classroom sessions, both in person and virtually. Our Global Cyber Day coincides with International Cyber Security Awareness Month, an internationally recognized campaign promoting cybersecurity among organizations and the public.



Majid Makki

Speaking about the program, Majid Makki, Partner and Head of Management Consulting and Technology Advisory at KPMG in Kuwait, said, "This is our third year running this program in Kuwait, and we are incredibly proud of what we have achieved. While the internet is an incredible place to learn, socialize, and have fun, the risks associated with online activities are real and continue to grow. We aim to reach out to schools, parents, teachers, and students to provide them with various tips and tricks on how to stay safe online."

KPMG Kuwait delivers the 'Be Cyber Safe' program through a group of KPMG Volunteers who are experts in cybersecurity and help various organizations in Kuwait protect their financial and personal data against cyber threats.

The workshop covers topics such as how to protect personal identity online, creating stronger passwords, identifying and avoiding phishing scams, addressing scams related to online gaming, posting on social media with sensitivity, and most importantly, how to handle cyberbullying. The course also touches upon the dangers of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and how hackers can use AI to track and utilize personal data.

In addition, KPMG also provides guidance documents for parents and schools on how to handle instances involving cyberbullying. These guid-

ance documents cover how parents and teachers can initiate discussions on internet safety with children at a young age.

By doing so, they can help children make informed choices and develop healthy online habits, ensuring their safety from potential risks.

Majid further adds, "This is our third year running this initiative and each year, we see young people becoming more aware of the dangers they face online. The awareness among the younger generation is a positive sign, as modern-day hackers are well-coordinated, sophisticated, and often target younger people. We also witness active participation from schools, which are willing to contribute and ensure their students' safety."

Last year, KPMG in Kuwait trained nearly 6,000 students under the 'Be Cyber Safe' program, with over ten schools participating. This year, KPMG aims to reach a total of 10,000 students. The 'Be Cyber Safe' program falls under KPMG's impact plan, which reflects KPMG's commitment to creating a better society.

If you are interested in having KPMG conduct this program at your school, please reach out to us at kw-fm-kpmgmarkets@kpmg.com and for more information on the initiative please visit: Get cyber smart - KPMG Kuwait.

Humanitarian and environs catastrophe committed by Israel in Gaza: Al-Jarallah

Day for Prevention of Use of Environment in Wars, Military Conflicts marked

By Suzanne Nasser

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: Under the patronage of the Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber, the "International Day for the Prevention of the Use of the Environment in Wars and Military Conflicts" was celebrated yesterday, which falls on November 6th of every year.

It coincides with the anniversary of the extinguishing of the last

Kuwaiti oil well that was ignited by Iraqi aggressors prior to their defeat in the war in Kuwait in 1991.

The celebration is organized annually by the Kuwait Society for Environmental Protection with the cooperation of the Kuwait Oil Company.

Representing Minister Al-Jaber in the celebration, which was held at the Jaber Al-Ahmad Oil and Gas Exhibition in Ahmadi City, was the Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for International Organization Affairs Abdulaziz Al-Jarallah.

In his speech, Al-Jarallah thanked the Kuwait Society for Environmental Protection and Kuwait Oil Company for holding the celebration, which reveals "their awareness of their societal responsibility to consolidate the importance of protecting the environment at the national level."

He emphasized "the support of the State of Kuwait to address environmental challenges and its essential role in fulfilling its responsibilities towards preserving the environment at the national and international levels according to the available capabilities."

Al-Jarallah said, "We remember with great pride the pivotal role played by the State of Kuwait in submitting General Assembly resolution No. 4/56 in 2001.

Kuwait had previously suffered from the use of the environment as a tool of war, after the burning of oil wells by the forces of the former Iraqi regime prior to their withdrawal from Kuwaiti territory in 1991, which caused one of the worst human-made environmental disasters in the 20th century."

The representative of the sponsor of the celebration denounced "the gross infringements and violations we are witnessing in the Gaza Strip by Israel, the occupying authority, especially those that constitute a violation of international resolutions and international humanitarian law, such as targeting thousands of defenseless civilians, including children and women, depleting Palestinian natural resources, and destroying the environment and all aspects of life, which exposes the sector to a grave humanitarian and environmental catastrophe."

Al-Jarallah stressed "the State of Kuwait's belief that protecting the environment is everyone's responsibility in times of conflict and war as well as in times of peace".

He called on the international community to "find deterrent solutions to ensure environmental protection in armed conflicts."

Al-Jarallah stressed the importance of "seriously considering the strengthening of international efforts to activate the principle of responsibility and accountability for crimes committed against the environment as a result of wars and conflicts."

Participation

He expressed hope that effective participation in the Conference of the Parties on Climate Change COP28, scheduled to be held in Dubai at the end of this month, will contribute to strengthening international cooperation on the issue of environment and climate.

Furthermore, the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Society for Environmental Protection Dr. Wijdan Al-Oqab, delivered a speech, which she began by affirming solidarity with Gaza and the Palestinian people, and supporting their right to "live in dignity and freedom in their independent state."

She also thanked the Minister of Foreign Affairs for his sponsorship of the celebration, and the ministry for its belief in the association's initiative about 23 years ago when His Highness the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad adopted it while he was Minister of Foreign Affairs. It led to the United Nations issuing a resolution declaring the anniversary of the extinguishing of the last Kuwaiti oil well as "the International Day for Preventing the Use of the Environment in Wars and Military Conflicts," which falls on November 6 every year.

Dr. Al-Oqab also thanked the Kuwait Oil Company, which is the association's strategic partner for its keenness to annually participate effectively in the responsibility of organization and reception.

She stressed that the International Day for Preventing the Use of the Environment in Wars and Military Conflicts this year chose the theme "Mines and their Environmental Repercussions."

Dr. Al-Oqab said, "This dimension is consistent with the course of events currently taking place in our Arab region, in light of what the occupied Palestinian territories are exposed to, especially the Gaza Strip, which is facing the horrors of genocide, oppression, displacement and other crimes. From an environmental perspective, what is happening is considered ecocide, and a disaster that tops the list of threats to human life, wildlife, and biodiversity, now and in the long term."

She called on international courts to "charge Israel with ecocide."

In the context of her talk about the environmental damage resulting from mine clearance, and its variation from one country to another, Dr. Al-Oqab touched on the topic of the mines planted by the Iraqi aggression in Kuwait in 1990, and Kuwait's wild environment, "which helped exacerbate the problem with the disappearance of large numbers of munitions and mines under the moving sand dunes and in the hollows of wet areas."

She revealed that the work teams responsible for clearing the country of mines faced many technical and logistical difficulties and problems while carrying out their tasks.

Dr. Al-Oqab explained that experts' estimates indicate that the total number of mines removed from Kuwaiti territory is approximately one million and 650 thousand mines. Among them are more than a million anti-personnel mines. History records that the highest number of mines planted per square kilometer was monitored in Kuwait, reaching 92 mines/square kilometers.



The Kuwaiti delegation at the meeting.

KUNA photo

GCC parliaments cooperation eyed

Two Kuwaiti MPs on Sunday stressed the significance of the 16th meeting of the GCC parliament's committee on parliament coordination and foreign relations, held in the Qatari capital, Doha.

Dr. Mohammad Al-Mehana and Fahad bin Jamea made the remarks to KUNA following the wrapping-up of the Gulf parliamentary meeting.

Al-Mehana said the conferees had explored a host of issues and subjects that are pertinent to the Gulf street, before presenting them to Gulf parliament

speakers during their next meeting on Tuesday.

He added that they had emphasized that it is essential for Gulf parliaments to hold coordinating gatherings on the sidelines of international gatherings with a view to ensuring uniform views on various regional and international causes.

For his part, bin Jamea echoed the same opinion that Gulf parliaments need to coordinate stances at world events and occasions. (KUNA)

'373 insured Kuwaitis working in GCC'

MUSCAT, Nov 6, (KUNA): Acting Director General of the Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS) Ahmad Al-Thunayan said on Monday there are 373 insured Kuwaitis working in GCC member countries.

Al-Thunayan made the remark to KUNA on the sidelines of the 22nd meeting of the heads of civil retirement and social security authorities held in Muscat, Oman.

He added that beneficiaries from the insurance protection extension system for GCC citizens working in Kuwait reached 15,412.

He pointed out that that he had proposed

during the meeting an awareness week named (Gulf week for the insurance protection extension system).

Al-Thunayan hailed the close ties of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and their keenness to enhance joint work and cooperation in the field of social care with the aim of developing and improving it to serve the citizens of the GCC countries.

The two-day meeting will review findings for the technical committee for civil retirement bodies in the GCC region during the three quarters of 2023, in addition to developing collection mechanisms.

'Recover funds as soon as possible'

KD 98.5 million owed to MoC

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: According to informed sources from the Ministry of Communications, the debts owed to the ministry amounted to KD 98.5 million as of the current fiscal year. Some of them are dues for telegraph, telephone, and telex services, others are distributed between cable segments and amounts for employees.

The sources warned against failure to collect these debts, considering that they are public funds that must be recovered as soon as possible by establishing a comprehensive supervisory system to address the reasons leading to the continued inflation of the debt, and finding an appropriate mechanism to follow up on the aforementioned dues.

In another development, the Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and the Minister of State for Communications Affairs Fahad Al-Shoula issued a decision to assign the Assistant Undersecretary for the Subscriber Affairs Sector Eng. Manae Al-Ajmi to carry out the duties of the Acting Undersecretary Ahmad Al-Mijren as of Sunday, in addition to his work, from November 5 to 9 until the latter returns from an official mission.

Regarding the referral of the Acting Undersecretary to the prosecution, the ministry confirmed that the news reports are completely false, and that the Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and the Minister of State for Communications Affairs Fahad Al-Shoula did not issue any decision to refer the acting undersecretary or any official from the ministry to prosecution during the past week.

FM in talks

Gaza on agenda

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Sunday a telephone call from his Jordanian counterpart Ayman Safadi.

During the phone call, they discussed the outcomes of the Amman meeting for the Foreign Ministers of Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Qatar, in addition to the Secretary of Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Executive Committee, in the light of joint efforts to end the Israeli occupation aggression on Gaza.

Both sides also discussed the meeting with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, and affirmed Arab's call for immediate ceasefire and allowing humanitarian aid to reach Gaza.

On his part, the Kuwaiti minister appreciated Jordan's role in reinforcing the Arab joint efforts to end this war that is threatening the security of the entire region.

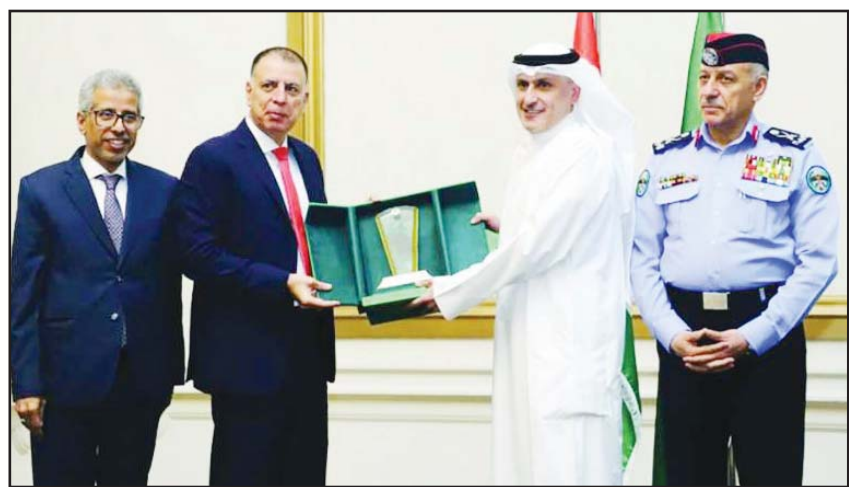
The ministry expressed appreciation for the role played by the media in reporting the news, but expressed its hope that information is accurate and obtained from official sources.



Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for International Organization Affairs Abdulaziz Al-Jarallah speaking at the conference.



Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for International Organization Affairs Abdulaziz Al-Jarallah awards Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Society for Environmental Protection Dr. Wijdan Al-Oqab.



Director of the General Administration for Narcotics Control, Brigadier General Muhammad Qabazard is presented a shield.

'Narcotics Control' wins award

Kuwait role in fighting drug smuggling networks hailed

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: The General Department of Narcotics Control in the Ministry of Interior won the competition for the best field cooperation and operational information at the Arab, regional and international levels.

This came in honor of its distinguished role in controlling drug smuggling networks, during the 37th Arab Conference for Heads of Drug Control Services, which was held last week, in the Jordanian capital, Amman, in the presence of representatives from the heads of the ministries of interior in the Arab countries, the League of Arab States, and Naif Arab University for Security Sciences, the United Nations Office on Drugs

and Crime, the International Criminal Police Organization, the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf and the Hemaya International Training Centre, reports Al-Rai daily.

The Minister of Interior of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Mazen Al-Fariyah, presented a shield and certificate of appreciation to the Director of the General Administration for Narcotics Control, Brigadier General Muhammad Qabazard, in the presence of the Secretary-General of the Council of Arab Interior Ministers, Dr. Muhammad bin Ali Koman, and the Director of Jordanian Public Security, Major General Obaidullah Al-Maaytah.

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Using oil, gas as weapon a far cry in fast-changing global scenario'

"We find ourselves in an era of Arab fragility, witnessing the loss of our brethren while we remain passive observers. Our brethren neither seek our participation in their jihad nor the dispatch of arms; instead, they desire the utilization of the oil and gas weapon, as was effectively done in 1973, causing substantial impact on Europe and the United States," columnist **Yaqoub Yousef Al-Omar** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"They wish for its implementation now, a notion echoed by the majority of Arab peoples. Regrettably, we must acknowledge that the circumstances have evolved since that united Arab decision.

"The era of a comprehensive Arab boycott against Israel has passed, and the sentiments within the Arab world have shifted, with some even demonizing the resistance against the Zionists. Sympathy for our brethren in Gaza and demonstrations of support for the Palestinian cause are now primarily from Arab and Islamic peoples, differing from certain governments.

"The Arab governments are no longer governed by a single will, and the unified solidarity of the past may be challenging to restore.

"Nevertheless, Arab peoples still retain their collective sentiments, untouched by external influences. It is vital to remember that the path to independence often involves paying a significant price, as demonstrated by the Algerian revolution with a million martyrs and the ongoing sacrifices of the Palestinian struggle.

"In Kuwait, we take pride in our government's unwavering policy supporting our Palestinian brethren. Normalization with the enemy is not on the table until the Palestinian issue is resolved, granting Palestinians an independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital.

"Despite the UN resolution, Israel's expansionist ambitions persist. We remember the principled stance of Mr. Marzouq Al-Ghanim, who expelled the Israeli representative from a parliamentary meeting, rightfully condemning them as child killers.

"The daily tragedy of children's deaths in Gaza, with hundreds losing their lives, exemplifies the grim reality of the Zionist entity's war.

"We question the notion of self-defense when it involves killing children in their homes. Such actions constitute war crimes, not self-defense. We call upon America and Europe to reflect on their human rights rhetoric, which often proves to be an empty slogan.

"Arab weakness aligns with the ineffectiveness of the Arab League in addressing regional issues, following the same path of inertia that characterizes the broader Arab state of affairs.

"While it may seem fantastical, there was a time when oil-producing countries could unite to curtail oil and gas supplies to America and Europe, demanding pressure on Israel to accept the UN's two-state solution.

"This approach is currently challenging, given Arab weakness and American dominance, turning past achievements into distant dreams. Nev-

ertheless, we maintain hope, recognizing that ultimate assistance comes from a higher power."

Also:

"The State of Kuwait's journey to independence and liberation is attributed to the grace of God Almighty and the unwavering support of the leaders and people of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, with Saudi Arabia and the UAE at the forefront," columnist **Jaber Al-Hajri** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

"This momentous chapter in our history unfolded when Saddam Hussein's army invaded Kuwait and subjected it to occupation in 1990, erasing its existence from the map.

"This exceptional historical leader, King Fahd bin Abdulaziz, may God have mercy on his soul, was fully prepared to make any sacrifice for the liberation of Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia made a tremendous and invaluable effort in that endeavor.

"We recall the indomitable and heroic stance of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may God have mercy on him, and may he rest in peace, the founding father of the United Arab Emirates, who committed the wealth of the Emirates to the cause of liberating Kuwait.

"We also remember the sacrifices made by His Highness Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed, may God prolong his life, the President of the Emirates, who led a group of Emirati army heroes into Kuwait City at the dawn of Liberation Day. The Emirates army, led by him, proved to be among the best and most valiant.

"The Qatari army also played a significant role in the liberation of Kuwait, especially in the Battle of Khafji, following the orders of the late Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani, may God rest his soul, the Amir of Qatar at the time, who stood as a prominent figure in the liberation of Kuwait. Bahrain, under the leadership of the late Sheikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa, may God have mercy on him, the Amir of Bahrain, provided unwavering support for the cause.

"The role of Oman, under the leadership of Sultan Qaboos, may God have mercy on him, was invaluable in contributing to the liberation of our country from the treacherous invader.

These positions taken by the leaders and people of our Gulf region during Kuwait's darkest days, when it was ruthlessly occupied, its people oppressed, and its very existence threatened, are beyond denial or disregard. We must not fall into the trap of ingratitude or neglecting the debt we owe to these nations.

"We should hold the utmost respect and appreciation for their actions, preserving their goodwill, and paying heed to the sentiments expressed.

"Supporting our brothers in Gaza should not come at the expense of tarnishing our relations with our Gulf brethren. The UAE, under the directive of His Highness Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed, is responsible for the treatment of a thousand Palestinian children in its hospitals.

"Saudi Arabia, under the leadership of King Salman bin Abdulaziz and Crown Prince Prince Mohammad bin Salman, has initiated a significant humanitarian effort to aid Gaza, complemented by diplomatic endeavors and substantial pressure to halt the war. Bahrain, in a show of solidarity with the people of Gaza, has severed ties with the Zionist entity.

"Therefore, there is no contest of benevolence or denial regarding the actions taken by our Gulf brothers. All are deeply affected by the ongoing atrocities in Gaza and contribute within their means.

"Kuwait, as a nation with a rich heritage, will not tolerate any infringement upon the unity of its Gulf brethren and will not be a platform for divisive actions. It abides by its principles and values while prioritizing its highest interests and respect for its laws."

□ □ □

"We expect that the next session will be very heated for many reasons, the first of which is the intention of a number of lawmakers to interrogate several ministers," columnist **Eng Talal Al-Enezi** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

"Second: The agenda is full of popular bills, most of which will not be rejected by the government and will cause conflict.

"Third: I believe that the period of experimentation and permission for the government has ended. Whoever says 'wait, wait' is delusional, because more than five months have passed and we have not seen even a glimmer of hope in approving any bill or correcting any defect or any wrong situation. This was manifested in the speech of the representative of His Highness the Amir, HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad. He criticized the government and the legislature, thereby, expressing the opinion of a large number of Kuwaiti people.

"Therefore, I expect an exceptional session and the lawmakers must take into account the promises they made to the citizens during their election campaigns. Unfortunately, none of these promises have been fulfilled so far.

"Intellectual terrorism in Kuwait, specifically on political matters, is abnormal. It includes betrayal, all kinds of accusations including treason, just to be criticized in a logical and polite manner.

"This failed policy will harm the users, whether the ministers or lawmakers. The people know the previous and current positions and they can compare and conclude.

"On a personal note, I do not like to engage in this kind of conversation, but the situation has become unbearable. Once you do not follow their wishes or criticize the performance of the government or lawmakers, all kinds of charges will fall on you.

"Praise God, our positions have been clear and consistent with all the successive governments. We criticized all former prime ministers and their ministers. We held seminars and wrote articles criticizing and guiding them. We will not accept someone who comes today just to hurl accusations."

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary



Yaqoub Al-Omar

Firm closed for tampering with foodstuff expiry dates

Beating marks on body burnt in car



The cable thieves in police custody.

Cable thieves held

The Jahra Governorate Investigation Department, representing the General Department of Criminal Investigation, has successfully apprehended a two-member gang involved in the theft of electrical cables, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

The Security Media Department stated that, following thorough research, investigation, and the verification of information, legal authorization was obtained. A team was assembled from the Sulabiya Investigation Office and dispatched to the Amghara region, where the gang's activities were centered.

When the suspects were spotted, they tried in vain to escape on foot leaving behind their loot, but they were chased and arrested.

During the investigation, they admitted to their involvement in the theft of electrical poles and cables, which they cut from poles and sold in the scrap market.

They also confessed to carrying out several similar thefts in different regions of Kuwait.

Foreign firms can join

Municipality 'eyes' new plan for cleaning areas

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: An official at the Municipal Council, Mishal Al-Azmi, stressed that the municipality will make a qualitative shift in the new contracts by changing the hygiene methodology with artificial intelligence, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

He said the cleaning process will be centralized instead of a provincial system for the purpose of follow-up and monitoring and added, "We have finished establishing a sector specialized in cleaning and services and are currently waiting for the new structure."

He disclosed the municipality will open the door for foreign companies to participate in new cleaning contracts.

This is done in order to reach a high and satisfactory level, the cleaning process must be controlled and soon the Municipality will submit an integrated study on cleaning problems that includes appropriate and applicable solutions by forming joint teams between the municipality and Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs to follow up on the problems of farms and other such establishments.

He added, some compare the level of cleanliness in Kuwait to European countries and this is unfair. Nonetheless, the municipality supports the idea of placing hygiene containers underground in industrial and commercial areas.

He went on to say all services provided by the municipality to the public are free except for collecting one dinar per month.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: After tons of adulterated meat and fish were recently seized, commercial control inspectors at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry confiscated more than 1.5 tons of adulterated cheese, and thousands of "stickers" prepared for use by a company in Hawalli that has a warehouse in Shuwaikh.

The daily said the cheese packets were being prepared to be distributed for sale to various outlets in the country.

Sources told **Al-Rai** daily that "the company was caught changing the validity dates of its products and as a result the Public Prosecution.

Inspection

The sources went on to say, "During the inspection at the company's headquarters various types of cheese were found and the company had removed the old expiry date tags and replaced them with new tags (from November 2023 until November 2024) to show they are good for human consumption.

The sources pointed out that "the recently seized quantities of adulterated food are pushing commerce officials to increase the frequency of field tours and inspections to preserve consumer health and rights," indicating that "control movements in the current period include all sectors, and it is planned to increase the number of campaigns and coverage."

□ □ □

Murder not ruled out: A security source said the body that was found inside a burned car in Jahra when the firefighters put out the fire bore traces of beating on the head following which the Criminal Evidences Department has not ruled out murder.

The case has now been referred to the prosecution.

□ □ □

Motorist killed: A collision that occurred this morning on the New Sabah Al-Ahmad City Road resulted in the death of the motorist when he lost control of his vehicle and drove into the cement base of a bridge, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

The death was instantaneous. The accident was dealt with by the Al Kout Fire Brigade.

□ □ □

Nod to labor support: In confirmation of what the **Al-Seyassah** daily published last October 17, under the title 3 new incentives for Kuwaitis working in private sector jobs, the Government Communication Center announced that the Council of Ministers has approved granting labor support to holders of intermediate certificates and below -- Chapter Five employers immediately after their registration with the Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS), reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The Center stated in a press statement that the Council also approved counting the work experience in the government and private sectors for workers in the private sector (Part Three) for the same category to disburse labor support.

The center stated that this approval came after a presentation by the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled encouraging and empowering citizens to start entrepreneurship and work in the private sector.

□ □ □

130 expats arrested: The General Administration of Residence Affairs Investigation continues its rigorous efforts to apprehend individuals in violation of the law, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

A total of 130 expats are now in custody under the Residence Investigation Department's watchful eye. Among them, five individuals are facing charges related to the promotion of narcotic drugs, while another five were caught in possession of 55 bottles of alcohol, three were operating fake maid offices employing daily workers, two individuals were deemed medically unfit, and one was promoting prostitution in the massage parlor.

Other Voices

Our battle against Israel and ignorance

By Ahmad alsarraf

There is no doubt that our battle against Israel, and all other hostile forces, is much easier than our battle with ignorance!

Some ignorant people on the X platform said, and they constitute the overwhelming majority of people who tweeted that it was our oil and money that liberated our homeland in 1991, and this is morally offensive and wrongful estimation to reduce the role of America, Britain, Saudi Arabia, and 30 other countries.

For example, how much money Kuwait must pay America, to send more than six hundred thousand soldiers, among its best sons, to liberate Kuwait, and potentially tens of thousands of them subsequently lost their lives in battles with an oppressive regime that was known for no hesitation in using any "unconventional" means to annihilate its enemies?

Aren't these ignorant tweeters ashamed to claim that America's only concern was our oil, or our petrodollars? Is there a price that could have compensated for the loss of this terrible number of the lives of its soldiers?

I happened to be present in the first days of liberation in Dammam and Khafji regions, and I saw the huge warehouses that America had rented and equipped with all means of cooling, to be temporary warehouses to preserve the bodies of thousands of soldiers, whom I expected to be exposed to death by gases and other chemical weapons, especially given Saddam's precedents and actions with his people.

This is evidenced by how could a smug mind be so naive and believe, even for a moment, that everything that Kuwait had in its days could have tempted a superpower, such as America, to make all those sacrifices in order to obtain it, even though it did not originally demand it, and this does not mean here, America was acting for the sake of protecting us.

There is no doubt that it was acting according to its

interests, which coincided with our interests in liberating our homeland, and money was not at the core of the issue.

What about Saudi Arabia, which participated with one hundred thousand soldiers in the liberation war, and opened its lands and airspace to the coalition forces to begin the battle, and exposed itself to high risks due to Saddam's madness and recklessness, and it knew very well the extent of the grave dangers to which it would be exposed, and yet it participated effectively in the liberation battle. Iraq ended up firing 43 missiles at Saudi Arabia. Did it also do what it did for the sake of "our oil and our petrodollars"?

The liberation war cost huge sums of money, which could have been spent on developing the region had it not been for the stupidity of Saddam and other bloody leaders who plagued the nation.

The United States pledged to liberate Kuwait, recruited 600,000 American soldiers, and estimated the cost of the liberation operation at \$61 billion, from American taxpayers' money.

However, it was subsequently agreed that Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Germany and the Emirates would pay \$53 billion as a contribution to the final cost, and thus it cost America approximately ten billion dollars, and this is the opposite of what some people believed and still believe, and all this information can be found from its accurate and reliable sources on the Internet.

Kuwait's share of the total cost of the liberation war amounted to only \$16 billion. After the liberation, it did not give a single barrel of oil for free to any party, and America did not ask for anything at all!

Whoever wants the right to hate America and strongly denounce its support for Israel in its recent horrific aggression against Gaza, must not blind us to the truth, which is that it is the one who restored our homeland to us, and it is the only one who can "today" defend our existence!

We hope that these words will silence the biased and naive voices, and that we will know that our real battle is with ignorance, and not with any other enemy.

□ □ □

e-mail: a.alsarraf@alqabas.com.kw

Allowances for 112 staff 'back'

By Munaif Naif Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: The Ministry of Interior has restored the allowances to workers in the Central Operations Department 112 after suspending them for some employees, upon directives of the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior, Sheikh Talal Al-Khalid. Informed sources told **Al-Seyassah** that the value of the allowances is about 300 dinars and includes "the regular and night shift allowance and food."

In a related context, the employees expressed their sincere thanks to the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior for returning the allowances, appreciating his role in caring for the ministry's employees.

The **Al-Seyassah** daily had published an appeal from employees in Operations Room 112 to Sheikh Talal in its issue issued on October 25.

HAPPY Diwali

SWEET TREATS

كويات هندية أصيلة
PREMIUM SWEET TREATS
PURE DESI GHEE PREPARATION

"PRE-BOOK YOUR DIWALI JOY WITH MUGHAL MAHAL SWEETS AND GET SPECIAL DISCOUNTS."

FREE DELIVERY AVAILABLE FOR ORDERS 2KG+ SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

ORDER NOW - 97644421 / 97531096 / 1800 188

www.mughalmahal.com

14th relief aid plane for Gaza heads to Egypt

Kuwait's KRCS relief aid supplies reach Gaza Strip: official

'Breastfeeding rate among Kuwaiti mothers increases'

Call to implement Baby-Friendly Hospitals Initiative

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: The coordinator of the program to enhance maternal, infant and young child nutrition and the project to combat child obesity at the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) Dr. Mona Al-Sumaie highlighted the increased demand by Kuwaiti mothers for breastfeeding, as the breastfeeding rate has reached 93 percent and the rate of early initiation of breastfeeding in the first hour after birth was 64 percent, according to the results of the nutritional surveillance program in the State of Kuwait for the year 2021.

In a press statement issued Saturday on the occasion of the celebration of World Breastfeeding Week under the slogan "Empowering Breastfeeding: Making a Difference for Working Parents", Dr. Al-Sumaie revealed that the percentage of breastfeeding practiced exclusively with breast milk in the first six months of the newborn's life reached 13 percent among Kuwaiti women, which is an increase of up to three percent



KUNA photo
Head and team members of the Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition Promotion Program.

compared to what it was in 2020.

Importance

She highlighted the importance of the celebration in focusing on breastfeeding and demonstrating the impact of paid maternity leave, as well as supporting the workplace and providing a breastfeeding-friendly environment on the continuation of breastfeeding, local laws and legislation, administrative decisions regarding the implementation of the Baby-Friendly Hospitals Initiative, and ministerial decisions regarding the protection of breastfeeding, and the implementation of the Kuwait Code to regulate the marketing of breast milk substitutes.

Dr. Al-Sumaie explained that the program to promote maternal, infant

and young child nutrition seeks to encourage, support and protect breastfeeding by enabling mothers and their families to begin breastfeeding early or immediately after birth and to continue exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of the newborn's life and then give it appropriate complementary foods while continuing to breastfeed until the age of two years and above.

In cooperation with professionals at the Ministry of Health, government and private hospitals that provide maternity services are being urged to implement the Baby-Friendly Hospitals Initiative and include the ten steps necessary for successful breastfeeding within the quality standards of their services.

Work is underway to increase

breastfeeding support resources by qualifying a larger number of medical personnel specialized in treating problems that mothers may face during breastfeeding in breastfeeding clinics affiliated with government and private hospitals and in some health centers.

Training

Dr. Al-Sumaie urged the need for supporting the training of female counselors in the field of breastfeeding in the community with the cooperation of the Perth Kuwait group, adding that about 30 female counselors are trained and qualified annually to provide support to mothers through the Perth Kuwait program to support mothers and infants.

She affirmed that this program was linked to the project to combat childhood obesity in the State of Kuwait, because of the major role that breastfeeding has proven by studies and research in the field of obesity prevention.

Dr. Al-Sumaie stressed the necessity of activating the role of the media in spreading awareness and mobilizing the support of all those concerned with implementing the provisions of the national strategy to enhance the nutrition of mothers, infants, and young children.

She insisted that breastfeeding is considered one of the best investments in the health of children and mothers, adding that choosing to not breastfeed has major health and financial impacts on the individual, family and community levels.

GAZA, Nov 6, (KUNA): The third and fourth batches of Kuwait Red Crescent Society's (KRCS) relief aid supplies arrived in the Gaza Strip, said an official on Sunday.

Speaking to KUNA, head of the Palestinian voluntary teams operating in Gaza affiliated with KRCS Ahmad Abu Diyeh said that the society's batches of necessary supplies were part of the Kuwait humanitarian air bridge, which carried tons of medical supplies.

The supplies would be distributed to hospitals in southern Gaza within the following hours, he revealed, noting that there were difficulties in sending material to medical facilities in northern Gaza Strip due to the brutal Israeli aggression's bombardment of the area.

On his part, head of the Gaza Health authority's storage department Dr. Mohammad Hamad commended the Kuwaiti swift response to the health needs in the heavily bombed Gaza Strip.

The Kuwait humanitarian air bridge continues for over ten days to deliver relief aid, transporting 170 tons of medical supplies, food, ambulances to the Gaza Strip.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's 13th air bridge plane loaded with 40 tons of food and medical supplies arrived at Egypt's Al-Arish Airport on Sunday before being delivered to Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip.

Sent by the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS), the flight contains urgent food and medical supplies that are dire-

ly needed by Gazans amid their severe woes and sufferings due to the Israeli occupation aggression, KRCS Team Leader Abdulaziz Al-Turaiji said in a remark to KUNA.

He emphasized that it is necessary for everyone to show solidarity with, and support for, the people of Gaza, who have been subject under nonstop bombardments by Israeli occupation aircraft.

In this context, he voiced thanks and gratitude to Egyptian authorities for their great efforts to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian and relief aid to Gazans.

The Kuwaiti humanitarian air bridge, consisting of relief planeloads carrying urgent supplies and medical necessities to the Gaza Strip through Egypt's Rafah Crossing Point, was launched on October 23.

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

Israeli occupation has been committing atrocious crimes and launching violent attacks on Gazans since October 7, killing thousands and injuring tens of thousands.

In the meantime, the 14th plane within the Kuwaiti relief air bridge took off Monday, heading to the Egyptian city Al-Arish, carrying 10 tons of medical necessities, to be delivered to Gaza Strip.



KUNA photo
Kuwait's 13th plane loaded with 40 tons of food, medical supplies arrives at Egypt's Al-Arish Airport.

Union renews appeal to finance minister

Diesel, gasoline crisis 'hits' fishing sector

By Abdul Nasser Al-Aslami

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: As the crisis of diesel and gasoline allocated to fishermen enters its fifth day, Head of the Kuwait Fishermen Union Dhafer Al-Sawyan warned of expected increases in fish prices due to the lack of supply.

In a press statement, Al-Sawyan stressed that the non-disbursement of the diesel and gasoline quota to fishermen for the current month, and the cessation of some fish boats from entering the sea had clear effects on the supply of shrimp and fish in Sharq and Fahaheel markets, indicating that prices will rise in the coming days, and the victim will be the consumer.

In this context, the union renewed its appeal to the minister of finance and the support committee to stand with the fishing sector before it collapses.

In a press statement, the union said,

"The issue of suspending the monthly diesel and gasoline quota has become a painful reality that worsens daily, as if there are hidden hands fighting the fishermen and do not want stability for the fishing sector.

The problem increases as the days pass without diesel or gasoline. Fish boats are piling up in front of the gas stations in Sharq and Fahaheel (Al-Kout), which renders the fishermen jobless, let alone the debts that they have accumulated.

This means more losses and frustrations, and will lead to reduced supply of fish and shrimp and the disappearance of local fish from the markets in the coming days, which in turn will affect prices."

The union called on the officials of the relevant authorities to solve the problem from its roots and quickly work to disburse the share of subsidized diesel and gasoline so that fishermen can return to the sea and carry out their duty in providing food security.

UAE hosts event Nov end

'Kuwait to send at least 2 negotiators for COP28 climate change conference'

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: MEED magazine reported that the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation is planning to send a delegation of at least two negotiators to the COP28 climate change conference scheduled to be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, at the end of this November. The two negotiators will form part of a larger Kuwaiti delegation that will participate in the conference, according to informed sources in the industry, reports Al-Anba daily.

The magazine quoted a source as saying, "At the present time, it is expected that two or three members of the Kuwaiti delegation will play the role of negotiators specifically to make efforts to ensure that the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation obtains the results it seeks from the climate conference."

Earlier this month, the magazine reported what was stated by the Vice Chairman and CEO of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, Sheikh Nawaf Al-Saud, that the corporation is currently looking to expand its production inside Kuwait as well as abroad.

Kuwait aims to boost its production capacity to 4 million barrels per day of oil by 2035, while its current production capacity is about 2.9 million barrels per day. It also plans to invest \$10 billion annually over the next five years to raise production to a short-term goal of 3.2 million barrels per day.

Meanwhile, the country is currently preparing to drill its first offshore oil well as part of efforts to boost production.

Kuwait Oil Company's first offshore exploration and drilling operations for oil and gas are expected to be completed in 2026.

The magazine said that if the drilling results are encouraging and as hoped, it is possible to begin new production operations, which will enhance Kuwait's production of oil and gas.

In addition to utilizing new offshore resources, Kuwait is also looking to onshore exploration and enhanced oil extraction to provide additional supplies.

Kuwait is also looking to boost heavy oil production to reach its planned target, noting that it currently produces 60,000 barrels per day from heavy oil facilities.

The magazine explained, quoting Sheikh Nawaf Al-Saud, that in order to achieve the targeted production capacity of 4 million barrels per day by 2035, Kuwait has plans to invest a total of \$410 billion, of which \$300 billion will be in the form of traditional investment in the field of exploration and production, while it will be spent the remaining \$110 billion in the field of "energy transition and maintaining the competitiveness of this oil production capacity."



November

Room Promotion



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

Promo period from 1st – 30th November 2023 Terms & conditions apply*

Decree issued to allow purchase of electricity, water from 'others'

Nod given to receive bids for preparing phase 1 of GCC railway project

By Mohammed Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: The Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) has given permission to the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART) to complete bids for a detailed study, design the project agreement, and

prepare documents for the tender of phase one of the railway project after the authority opened nine bids submitted for the tender.

According to PART sources, completing the agreement's bids will happen by completing the shortcomings in the documents submitted by the companies competing for the agreement.

It is noteworthy that the first

phase includes connectivity with the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council. The route of this phase extends from the southern border with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Nuwaiseeb) all the way to the passenger station in Kuwait City, behind Kuwait International Airport on the Seventh Ring Road, extending north through the Silk City to Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port.

This phase covers 111 kilometers of the Gulf Cooperation Council route, and 154 kilometers until Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port. This route contributes to the process of transporting passengers, freight operations, and transporting goods to and from Boubyan in the future. The total length of this phase is 265 kilometers.

Meanwhile, the Amiri Decree has

been issued under No. 207/2023 amending the Decree No. 57/2022, to allow the purchase of electricity and water from others, reports Al-Rai daily.

The decree stipulates in its first article that Clause No. 11 of Article Two of Decree No. 57/2022 referred to, be replaced with the following clause: Purchasing energy and water from others, in light of

the controls and procedures determined by the ministry, in accordance with the legislation in force inside Kuwait.

It is noteworthy that Decree 57/2022 had restricted the purchase of renewable energy from inside Kuwait only, while the latest amendment allows the purchase of energy and water from others in general.



'Al Mulla and Prof. Begain recognize Zain's support.'

Company participates in KCST's 2nd career fair

Zain offers private-sector career opportunities to fresh graduates

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: In an effort to contribute to providing career opportunities to fresh graduates and bolstering the national workforce in the private sector, Zain has participated in the second career fair of the Kuwait College of Science and Technology (KCST). The company's participation in this event came for the second year running.

The opening ceremony, held at the college's campus in Doha, was attended by KCST Board of Trustees Vice Chairwoman Danah Al Mulla, KCST President Prof. Khalid Al Begain, and Zain's HR and Corporate Affairs teams. The event featured some of Kuwait's biggest companies and organizations, and was attended by students, fresh graduates, and

job seekers.

Zain is always eager to participate in career fairs all year round in line with its Human Resources strategy, which closely focuses on supporting the education sector hand in hand with various universities, colleges, and educational institutions in Kuwait (both public and private), with the aim of providing students and graduates with career opportunities in the private sector.

Through its booth, Zain introduced students and graduates to its leading experience in the telecom sector, as well as its internal policy and wonderful workplace environment. The company also presented the available job vacancies, provided a detailed explanation of the nature of work at its various

departments, and answered questions and inquiries from visitors.

This was the second career fair organized by the Kuwait College of Science and Technology, and featured tens of private-sector companies and government agencies. The event focused closely on careers in the fields of technology and engineering that are consistent with the academic degrees offered by KCST.

The central themes of the career fair included advanced electronics, telecommunications, 5G technology, cybersecurity, data analysis, app development, computer engineering, cyber forensics, the internet of things (IoT), artificial intelligence (AI), computer science, and more.

Kuwaiti delegates

Continued from Page 1

On the other hand, Jame'e - a member of the Executive Committee in the Inter-Parliamentary Group - confirmed that they reached an agreement on some common issues; such as developing the Gulf identity and strengthening cybersecurity.

He said the Foreign Relations Coordinative Committee presented a report, including recommendations that will be referred to the GCC Assembly scheduled for Tuesday with the speakers of GCC parliaments and consultative councils in attendance.

Kuwait's delegation is headed by National Assembly Speaker Ahmed Al-Saadoun and it consists of Inter-Parliamentary Group Undersecretary MP Hamad Al-Matar, Secretary MP Muhammad Al-Mahan, Treasurer MP Hamad Al-Obaid and members MPs Dawoud Maarefi, Falah Bin Jame'e and Shuaib Shaaban.

In a relevant development, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Qatar Khalid Badr Al-Mutairi hosted a dinner in honor of Al-Saadoun, and the Inter-Parliamentary Group and Arab Parliament delegations. Kuwaiti members of the Arab Parliament MPs Ahmed Lari, Hamdan Al-Azmi, Khalid Al-Otaibi and Muhammad Al-Hewaila attended the event.

Meanwhile, the parliamentary committee tasked to investigate and follow up the points in the grilling motions filed by MPs Mubarak Al-Tasha and Dawoud Maarefi against former Minister of Public Works Amani Bugamaz held its first meeting on Monday.

Moreover, MP Abdulaziz Al-Saqabi forwarded queries to Minister of Health Ahmed Al-Awadhi about the contracts signed with companies supporting Israel if any. He asserted this is a violation of law number 21/1964 on boycotting Israel. He said he obtained information that Kuwait's Health Office in the United Kingdom signed a contract with AXA Company, which supports and cooperates with Israel by investing in the weapons manufacturing sector and Israeli banks supporting illegal settlement on Palestinian land. If this is true, he wants to know the value of the contract, factors considered in signing a contract with the aforementioned company, and if the criteria adopted by the Health Ministry include a stipulation on banning contracting with companies supporting Israel.

MP Majed Al-Mutairi forwarded queries to Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Sheikh Firas Al-Malik Al-Sabah about Kuwait Transplant Society. He wants to know the legal basis upon which the society carries out activities in line with law number 55/1987, if the society's regulations allow it to receive cash from foreign institutions that is banned for public profit organizations, if the society signed an agreement with Abu Dhabi Health Services Company, if it received cash based on this agreement, number of times the society sent donated organs to other countries, if the concerned ministry monitors the soci-

ety's payments to the families of donors, and if it is legal for the society to contact foreign institutions and show the information about donors.

Al-Mutairi also asked the minister of commerce and industry about the procedures followed by Kuwait General Administration of Customs (KGAC) regarding the shipment of human organs to other countries, required approvals for such shipments, institution or department tasked to check and approve such shipments, if KGAC has employees specialized in dealing with such shipments, and if there is coordination between the ministries of Health and Interior on allowing human organ shipments.

He explained that his queries are aimed at finding the truth about the alleged legal, financial and administrative violations; stating that human organs are sold and smuggled in violation of Law No. 55/1987.

MP Khalid Al-Tamar asked Minister of Health Ahmed Al-Awadhi about the organizational structure of the Palliative Care Center; qualifications of employees at the center including the manager, observer and head of departments; procedures followed in contacting the patient's family before receiving him at the center, and if the family is banned from contacting the patient's doctor.

61% of

Continued from Page 1

US dollars towards emergency relief interventions and preliminary data collection. It is also working on allocating further internal resources to implement its response plan.

The second stage - or review phase - entails data collection and impact analysis in order to help plan, prioritize and fine-tune interventions.

Finally, the recovery phase will focus on job creation through employment intensive infrastructure recovery and other means, as well as on social protection measures and recovery of jobs and businesses.

Kuwait demands

Continued from Page 1

and comprehensive peace, as a strategic option in accordance with relevant international references and resolutions to better tackle the Arab peace initiative.

Meanwhile, the Kuwait specialized hospital in the Gaza Strip continues to operate despite the brutal Israeli occupation's bombardment and threats to annihilate the facility, said an official on Monday.

Medical staff keeps on receiving daily hundreds of patients and scores of wounded due to the vicious Israeli onslaught on the Gaza Strip, said Director of the hospital Dr. Suhaib Al-Hamss.

He affirmed that the Zionist regime had crossed all the red lines and international laws, but despite the dire situ-

ation, the hospital continued to serve the around 350,000 residents of Rafah city.

With the number of displaced coming from the north rising, there is currently around a million people in the area, he noted.

The Emergency Room (ER) of the hospital received 500 cases suffering from respiratory and skin diseases, fever, and stomach problems directly related to the Israeli inhumane military assault, he revealed, adding that major operations were suspended and all efforts were now directed towards the ER and other departments.

He affirmed that a batch of medical supplies was delivered from the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) in the last few days in addition to Kuwaiti charities and generous donors.

Elsewhere, Israeli forces severed northern Gaza from the rest of the besieged territory and pounded it with intense airstrikes overnight into Monday, setting the stage for an expected push into the dense confines of Gaza City and an even bloodier phase of the month-old war.

Already, the Palestinian death toll passed 10,000, the Health Ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said Monday. The ministry does not distinguish between fighters and civilians. Some 1,400 Israelis have died, mostly civilians killed in the Oct. 7 incursion by Hamas that started the war.

The figures mark a grim milestone in what has quickly become the deadliest round of Israeli-Palestinian violence since Israel's establishment 75 years ago, with no end in sight as Israel vows to remove Hamas from power and crush its military capabilities.

Casualties are only likely to rise as the war turns to close urban combat. Troops are expected to enter Gaza City soon, Israeli media reported, and Palestinian militants who have had years to prepare are likely to fight street by street, launching ambushes from a vast network of tunnels.

The Israeli military said late Sunday that it had cut off northern Gaza from the south, calling it a "significant stage" in the war. On Monday, it said that aircraft struck 450 targets overnight and ground troops took over a Hamas compound. A one-way corridor for residents to flee south remains available, according to the military, for the hundreds of thousands of Palestinians who remain in Gaza City and other parts of the north.

Some 1.5 million Palestinians, or around 70% of Gaza's population, have fled their homes since the war began. Food, medicine, fuel and water are running low, and U.N.-run schools-turned-shelters are beyond capacity, with many sleeping on the streets outside.

Mobile phone and internet service went down overnight, the third territory-wide outage since the start of the war, but was gradually restored on Monday, according to the Palestinian telecom company Paltel and internet access advocacy group NetBlocks.org. Aid workers say the outages make it even harder for civilians to seek safety or even call ambulances.

Kuwait's strategic partnership with China within 'Belt & Road'

Dr Al-Enezi participates in Beijing confab

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: Senior political researcher in the Council of Ministers, Dr. Dana Al-Enezi, praised Kuwait's constant work to strengthen Kuwaiti-Chinese relations and raise them to the level of strategic partnership, within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative.

This came in a statement by Dr. Al-Enezi, following her participation in the conference (The Global South Working Together to Promote Modernization) from October 25 to November 3, in Beijing, in response to the invitation of the Chinese Communist Party in cooperation with the Chinese Foreign Ministry, within the framework of enhancing cultural and intellectual exchange between the countries of the South.

Statement

According to the statement, Dr. Al-Enezi presented a working paper at the conference, entitled "Consolidating the global governance system by strengthening work mechanisms and collective interest," in which she appreciated the great role played by Chinese President Xi Jinping in establishing a global governance system that would confront collective challenges and promote development, peace and justice in the world, based on his presentation of the issue of "building an international community with a shared future," derived from Chinese history and culture based on development, peace, the spirit of coexistence, cultural communication, and the priority of development.

In the midst of the conference activities, Al-Enezi attended a two-day workshop on the Chinese experience of modernization and development, and she also visited the Chinese Communist Party Museum.

She also visited Guangzhou Province in Fujian Province, for the purpose of learning about the efforts of the Chinese government

Kuwait takes part in Asia Pacific Regional Conference in Bahrain

MANAMA, Nov 6, (KUNA): Kuwait is taking part in Asia and Pacific regional conference, which kicked off Monday in Bahrain with wide international participation. The conference's theme is economic empowerment for women and young entrepreneurs.

Chief of the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, Sheikh Hind bint Salman voiced her joy to KUNA at having to organize this conference, and called it a great opportunity to exchange stories of success.

She also touched on the importance of Asia and the Pacific as a region saying it is an old and economically growing relation.

As for head of Bahraini Tam-

keen, Maha Mafeez, she stated that the fund aims to provide support to private sector and bolster its role in achieving national development.

Tamkeen is working towards putting forth solutions via programs, initiatives, and job opportunities, she explained.

The conference is comprised of various discussion panels and activities as well as an exhibition showcasing products of Bahraini entrepreneurs.

The International Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW International), founded in 1930 by Dr. Lena Madessin Phillips, is one of the most influential networks of business and professional women in the world.

Municipality chief holds meet

'Do not extend cleaning cos contract'

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: Director General of Kuwait Municipality Eng Saud Al-Dabbous has confirmed the directive of the Public Sanitation Committee not to extend the contracts of cleaning companies under any circumstances, while adhering to the periods specified in the contracts, reports Al-Rai daily.

Al-Dabbous told the daily that he had a long meeting with directors, supervisors, and heads of cleaning departments in the Municipality branches in the governorates recently.

to spread its civilization and transfer its own experience in development and modernization to various parts of the world, as part of its efforts to strengthen a global governance system, the most important of which is the extent of the strong interest in the Dahua region in the field of human development, especially raising children. She also visited the exhibi-

He instructed these departments to submit a periodic report on the general performance of companies and to hold accountable those proven to be negligent in implementing the terms of the contracts. "This trend will bring about a radical change in the way cleaning contracts are dealt with," he added.

He also stressed the need to hold accountable any employee who fails to perform his work, warning that he will take the necessary action against sanitation inspectors and employees in case of failure.

tion hall of the BRICS countries. "We foster a cooperative work environment and enhance the spirit of teamwork, with the aim of providing what is best for the Chinese people," she said.

Al-Enezi discussed with members of the Communist Party ways to enhance strategic cooperation between Kuwait and China within the framework of the initiative.

عمليات الخفجي المشتركة

AL-KHAFJI JOINT OPERATIONS

الشركة الكويتية لنفط الخليج
KUWAIT GULF OIL COMPANY (K.S.C.)

ارامكو لأعمال الخليج
ARAMCO GULF OPERATIONS

TENDER ADVERTISEMENT

Aramco Gulf Operations Company Limited ("AGOC") and Kuwait Gulf Oil Company (K.S.C.) ("KGOC"), (Al Khafji Joint Operations) invites intending bidders to participate for the **Tender No.: GT809PC23 - Construction of New Industrial Security Forces Building.**

Each intending bidder may purchase the tender documents upon payment of **Saudi Riyals Five Hundred (SR 500) or Kuwaiti Dinars Forty (KD 40) only** which is non-refundable by visiting our Contracts Department at Al- Khafji, Saudi Arabia, or KGOC Main Office in Al-Ahmadi, Commercial Affairs Group. The bidder may visit our KJO website: www.kjo.com.sa and follows the path; E- Services □ Tendering □ Contractors □ Ongoing Tenders to review part of tender documents, before purchasing.

The sale of Tender Documents will be effective from **November 5, 2023, until 12:00 Noon, November 22, 2023.**

Attending the Pre- Tender Meeting and Site Visit are Mandatory

A Pre-Tender meeting will be held for interested bidders at KJO Auditorium, Office Park Building, at Al-Khafji Joint Operations, Saudi Arabia, **at 10:00 AM local time on November 22, 2023.** A site visit will be held soon after the pre-tender Meeting.

The bid proposal shall be delivered by hand- delivery or thru courier service to the Contracts Department in Al- Khafji Joint Operations, Al- Khafji, Saudi Arabia on or before the closing date **14:00 Hours, Monday, December 25, 2023** of the time stipulated in the tender document.

For more Information, You May Contact The Following Nos.

Tel. No.: +966 (13) 765 4483 E- Mail: ctdtenders@kjo.com.sa

Website: www.kjo.com.sa

World News Roundup

Europe

'Too many are coming'

Scholz faces pressure to halt asylum-seekers

BERLIN, Nov 6, (AP): Chancellor **Olaf Scholz** was to meet Germany's 16 state governors on Monday to address ways to deal with large numbers of migrants, an issue that has become a huge political problem for the government.

Shelters for migrants and refugees are filling up and Scholz, who faces enormous pressure from the opposition and elsewhere to halt that trend, has said that "too many are coming." The country also has seen more than 1 million Ukrainians arrive since the start of Russia's war in their homeland.

Over recent weeks, there has been a flurry of government activity, including legislation to ease deportations of unsuccessful asylum-seekers, to stiffen punishment for smugglers and to allow asylum-seekers to start working sooner, and the introduction of temporary checks on the Polish, Czech and Swiss borders.

The center-left Scholz also has discussed the issue twice with the conservative opposition leader since state elections last month brought poor results for his quarrelsome three-party coalition and gains for a far-right party.

He faces pressure for results at Monday's meeting with the state governors, who want more money from the federal government to deal with the costs of hosting migrants.

But "the key to being able to integrate people better is simply the number - we must end irregular migration so that we can do justice with good integration to the people seeking protection here," Hendrik Wuest, the conservative governor of North Rhine-Westphalia state, told ARD television.

Wuest said measures that could help include ensuring faster asylum proceedings for migrants from countries from which fewer than 5% of applicants are granted asylum. He also pointed to the idea of conducting proceedings in Africa, for which there also is sympathy in parts of Scholz's party.

Scholz, whose government is trying to negotiate agreements for countries to take unsuccessful asylum-seekers back in exchange for more opportunities for legal immigration, has signaled skepticism.



Scholz

Ballistic missile test launched successful: The Russian military on Sunday reported a successful test launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile designed to carry nuclear warheads from a new nuclear submarine.

The report comes as tensions are soaring between Russia and the West over the fighting in Ukraine. Adding to those tensions, President Vladimir Putin last week signed a bill revoking Russia's ratification of a global nuclear test ban in a move that Moscow said was needed to establish parity with the United States. The Russian Defense Ministry said in a statement that the Emperor Alexander III strategic missile cruiser fired the Bulava missile from an underwater position in Russia's northern White Sea, and hit a target in the far-eastern region of Kamchatka. It wasn't immediately clear from the statement when the test launch occurred.

The Emperor Alexander III is one of the new Borei-class nuclear submarines that carry 16 Bulava missiles each and are intended to serve as the core naval component of the nation's nuclear forces in the coming decades. According to the Defense Ministry, launching a ballistic missile is the final test for the vessel, after which a decision should be made on its induction into the fleet.

Technician dead as it battles storm damage: French power network operator Enedis said Sunday that one of its technicians was killed as it battles to restore electricity to hundreds of thousands of homes in the wake of major storms.

The 46-year-old man killed Saturday was working in a rapid-reaction force deployed in the Brittany region of northwest France that was battered Thursday by Storm Ciarán. Packing record-breaking winds and rain, the storm killed 14 people across Europe.

Enedis said that police were investigating the man's death. French media reported that the technician was electrocuted while working on a power cable.

Enedis said Sunday that it was still working to restore power to 112,000 homes in Brittany and another 25,200 in the adjacent Normandy region.

Another storm, Domingos, that followed in Ciarán's wake and thumped western France's Atlantic coast also caused power outages and other damage, with another 110,000 homes still without electricity on Sunday, Enedis said.

Ferry towed back into a harbor: A ferry that ran aground last month off southeastern Sweden and started leaking oil into the Baltic Sea arrived at a Swedish harbor where its tanks will be emptied, Sweden's coast guard said.

The Marco Polo had been sailing between the cities of Trelleborg and Karlshamn when it ran aground Oct 22, prompting the evacuation of 75 passengers and crew. The boat started leaking oil that fouled a section of Pukavik Bay, affecting an estimated 500 or more birds.

No new leaks were reported as the ship was towed in the port of Karlshamn, the coast guard said.

The ship's German operator TT-Line said more than 300 tons of heavy fuel oil remaining aboard the ship would be emptied at the port and that there would be an "in-depth investigation" into what happened.

"We would like to apologize to all residents and those affected," said Anette Wugk, a spokeswoman for TT-Line in Sweden. "We have never experienced anything like this in our 65-year history."

Authorities and volunteers have cleared an estimated 50 cubic meters (almost 1,800 cubic feet) of oil and oil waste from the affected areas so far.

'Unite in seeking EU membership': Bosnia to unite in seeking EU membership. The European Commission chief urged Bosnia to speak "with one voice," regardless of the country's different ethnic groups, so that it can move forward toward joining the European Union after gaining candidate status last year.

The remarks by EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen came as she wrapped up her tour of Western Balkan EU hopefuls in Bosnia's capital of Sarajevo.

"My first message is basically re-emphasizing that Bosnia-Herzegovina's future is in (the) European Union and how much we want to have you as a full member," she said. "The work you've done in your first year ... shows that the country can deliver."



Visitors walk through an exposition 'Achievements of Russia', a part of the International exhibition 'Russia' at VDNKh (The Exhibition of Achievements of National Economy) in Moscow, Russia on Nov 4. The vast show was put together under a decree from President Vladimir Putin and is seen as encouraging patriotism in the runup to the presidential election in March. (AP)



US Republican presidential candidate Florida Gov Ron DeSantis waves to attendees, while carrying his son Mason, after speaking at the Republican Party of Florida Freedom Summit on Nov 4, 2023, in Kissimmee, Fla. (AP)



Mata



Pureval

America

Shooting kills boy, 5 hurt: Cincinnati officials are expressing outrage and horror at a drive-by shooting that sent more than a score of bullets into a crowd of children, killing an 11-year-old boy and striking four other children and an adult.

Police Chief Terri Theetge told reporters Sunday that an occupant of a sedan fired 22 rounds "in quick succession" into a crowd of children just before 9:30 p.m. Friday on the city's West End. A 53-year-old woman was hit along with the boy who died; three other boys aged 12, 13 and 15; and a 15-year-old girl. One victim remained hospitalized in stable condition.

Mayor **Aftab Pureval** called the shooting "sickening and unimaginable" and said it occurred in a vibrant neighborhood next to a local park and near a historic elementary school.

Pureval said the neighborhood, which is full of young children, is suffering "unimaginable trauma." On Saturday and on Sunday morning, he said, people were "shouting messages of love and support to each other through open windows, but they were too wary to go outside."

"The parents, and the kids themselves we talked to, don't feel safe, and I frankly can't blame them," he said.

Theetge said it was too early to say whether the shooting was random or targeted, and she declined to discuss other aspects of the investigation. She urged whoever was responsible to turn themselves in, vowing "we will find you and we will bring you to justice." (AP)

California officer resigns: A California police officer involved in a controversial shooting last year has resigned after the discovery of racist text messages he wrote, including some making light of the shooting, a police chief says.

Mark McNamara, who joined the San Jose Police Department in 2017, quit last week after being notified of an investigation into his offensive messages, Police Chief **Anthony Mata** told the Bay Area News Group.

Mata said McNamara was being investigated by the department's internal affairs unit for an unrelated and unspecified matter, and that led to the revelation that he "had sent disgusting text messages that demonstrated racial bias."

A dossier of text messages show McNamara

TALLAHASSEE, Fla, Nov 6, (AP): A Florida governor wins reelection by record numbers and later finds himself running as a party conservative in a crowded presidential primary. In New Hampshire, he tip-toes around the explosive abortions rights issue, discusses ongoing Israeli military operations, promises he'll secure the Mexican border and warns that the current administration's fiscal insanity will cause more inflation, not reduce it.

While it sounds like Republican Gov Ron DeSantis in 2023, this was former Florida Democratic Gov. Reubin Askew in 1984. Askew dropped out of the race after finishing eighth in New Hampshire. DeSantis is looking to avoid a similar fate as he prepares for the third GOP debate this week in his home state.

If DeSantis or former President Donald Trump eventually is elected president next year, it would be the first time Americans have chosen a Floridian to lead them. Trump was a New York snowbird with a second home in Palm Beach when he was first elected, but he later lost as a full-time Floridian.

So while Florida is home to Disney World's Hall of Presidents, that's not the place to look for representation from the nation's third largest state. And even if home court advantage gives DeSantis an opening to talk about his accomplishments in the Sunshine State, there's no historic evidence to suggest it will help him in the race itself.

"I really have no idea why this is the case," said former Gov. Jeb Bush, who was considered the frontrunner for the 2016 Republican presidential primary before Donald Trump's ascent reshaped the party.

Florida has long been influential in national politics - never more so than in 2000 when there were five weeks of recounts and court challenges before George W. Bush carried the state and won the presidency, by 537 votes. And more and more Floridians have sought

the presidency as its population has exploded and Republicans chased Democrats out of power in Tallahassee.

Early in the 2016 presidential cycle, many political observers thought former Gov. Bush or Sen. Marco Rubio would win the Republican nomination to challenge Democrat Hillary Clinton. Trump at first wasn't taken seriously by either campaign - until he blasted both of the Floridians with insults as he rose to the top of the GOP pile.

It wasn't the moment for either. Bush would have been the third member of his family to become president, and Trump's nickname of "Low Energy Jeb" seemed to stick at a time when voters were in no mood for an establishment candidate with a whiff of inevitability, maybe even entitlement.

Campaign

Rubio brought youthful energy to the campaign, but he never found his footing against a brawling candidate who specialized in branding and dubbed him "Little Marco." Rubio tried to match Trump with branding of his own, taunting Trump about the size of his hands at one point, but the shift in strategy only seemed to diminish him further - and by then Trump was well on his way to the GOP nomination.

By 2020, Trump had become a Floridian himself, changing his residence and voter registration to Florida, a state he desperately needed to win to earn a second term in the White House. He did carry the state but lost to President Joe Biden in the Rust Belt, thus adding his name to the list of Floridians who lost a presidential bid. That list keeps growing but includes Askew, Bush, Rubio, and former Sen. Bob Graham.

There is another notable asterisk. President Andrew Jackson was the first territorial governor of Florida in 1821, but it was a short stint to keep him busy as he tried to retire. It's described as "a troublesome few months" before he returned home to Tennessee and eventually ran for the White House from the

Volunteer State.

"If you track Jackson's progress towards being a presidential candidate, Florida has very, very little to do with it," said Daniel Feller, a Jackson historian and professor emeritus at the University of Tennessee.

Also:

DES MOINES, Iowa: Iowa Gov **Kim Reynolds** plans to endorse **Ron DeSantis** for president, giving the Florida governor's 2024 campaign a boost as he struggles to show progress against **Donald Trump** in the Republican primary, two people familiar with the matter said Sunday.

DeSantis has pinned his chances of emerging as an alternative to Trump alternative squarely on Iowa. Reynolds is well-liked within the GOP and will break with long-standing Iowa tradition to endorse DeSantis. Iowa's governor typically stays neutral before the caucuses that kick off the Republicans' nomination calendar in January.

The people familiar with the matter spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity before a Monday rally in Des Moines where Reynolds is expected to announce her endorsement. The Des Moines Register and NBC News first reported the anticipated endorsement.

Reynolds had introduced DeSantis at political events in Iowa and appeared with Florida first lady **Casey DeSantis** - without publicly declaring her support. But the governor often noted her shared policy priorities and accomplishments, including a bill banning abortion at six weeks of pregnancy.

Reynolds, who is in her second term, had left open the possibility of lending her support to a candidate in the Jan. 15 caucuses.

She had introduced Trump at an event in March. But Trump has accused her of disloyalty for weighing an endorsement before the caucuses and tried to take credit for her winning the governorship. His campaign quickly criticized her on Sunday.

mara talking to two unnamed recipients and referring to the March 27, 2022, shooting of K'au Green, according to the chief.

McNamara shot and wounded Green, who is Black, after Green appeared to have quelled a fight that broke out inside an eatery near San Jose State University. Green disarmed one of the people in the fight, and was backing out of the front door, holding a confiscated handgun in the air, when he was shot, according to police. (AP)



A Federal Police officer speaks into his radio as he and a colleague track down a group of migrants who have illegally crossed the border from Poland into Germany, while on patrol in a forest near Forst south east of Berlin, Germany, on Oct 11. (AP)

a police statement.

Investigators identified a 24-year-old male relative of the woman who was seen leaving the crime scene on foot as a suspect. Detectives believe the man "took the victim's head with him when he left the residence," the police statement said.

The man was arrested Friday morning in San Francisco, police said. The case is still under investigation, according to officials.

The suspect had recently been released from a California prison after being incarcerated for assault with a deadly weapon, according to police. (AP)

Texas man convicted: A Texas man has been convicted of manslaughter in the fatal shooting of a Moroccan immigrant who had pulled into the driveway.

A Caldwell County jury on Thursday rejected a murder charge and convicted 67-year-old Terry Duane Turner of the lesser count in the October 2021 shooting death of 31-year-old Adil Dghoughi outside Turner's home in Martindale, about 30 miles (50 kilometers) south of Austin.

Family members of Dghoughi, who lived in Austin, have said he was lost and prosecutors said he was trying to leave the driveway when he was shot.

Turner said he shot in self-defense and testified that he thought Dghoughi pointed a gun at him, but no weapon was found inside the vehicle. Turner testified that he was concerned someone was trying to rob or harm him when he saw a strange vehicle in his driveway about 3:30 am, grabbed a gun and then went outside to confront the driver. (AP)

Asia

Ardern to join group

SKorea plans to launch its first military spy sat

SEOUL, South Korea, Nov 6, (AP): South Korea said Monday it plans to launch its first domestically built spy satellite at the end of this month to better monitor rival North Korea, which is expanding its arsenal of nuclear weapons.

The plan was unveiled days after North Korea failed to follow through on a vow to make a third attempt to launch its own reconnaissance satellite in October, likely because of technical issues.

Jeon Ha-kyu, a spokesperson for the South Korean Defense Ministry, told reporters Monday that the country's first military spy satellite will be launched from California's Vandenberg Air Force Base on Nov. 30.

The satellite will be carried by SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket. Under a contract with SpaceX, South Korea plans to launch four more spy satellites by 2025, according to South Korea's Defense Acquisition Program Administration.

South Korea currently has no military reconnaissance satellites of its own and relies on US spy satellites to monitor moves by North Korea.

The possession of its own spy satellites would give South Korea an independent space-based surveillance system to monitor North Korea in almost real time. When operated together with South Korea's so-called three-axis system - preemptive strike, missile defense and retaliatory assets - the country's overall defense against North Korea would be sharply strengthened, according to Lee Choon Geun, an honorary research fellow at South Korea's Science and Technology Policy Institute.

Operated

Lee said US spy satellites produce much higher-resolution imagery but are operated under US strategic objectives, not South Korea's. He said the US also sometimes doesn't share satellite photos with highly sensitive information with South Korea.

Last year, South Korea used a homegrown rocket to place what it called a "performance observation satellite" in orbit, becoming the world's 10th nation to successfully launch a satellite with its own technology.

Observers say South Korea's 2022 launch proved it can launch a satellite that is heavier than the spy satellite, but that it needs more tests to ensure the rocket's reliability. Lee also said it's much more economical to use a SpaceX rocket to launch the spy satellite from the Vandenberg base.

North Korea is also eager to acquire its own spy satellite. But its two launch attempts earlier this year ended in failure for technical reasons. The country said it would make a third attempt sometime in October but did not do so and its state media have not provided a reason.

South Korea's spy agency told lawmakers last week that North Korea is likely receiving Russian technological assistance for its spy satellite launch program. The National Intelligence Service said North Korea was in the final phase of preparations for its third launch, which the NIS said would likely be successful.

The possession of spy satellites is part of ambitious arms build-up plans announced by North Korea leader Kim Jong Un in 2021. Kim said North Korea also needs more mobile intercontinental ballistic missiles, nuclear-powered submarines, hypersonic weapons and multi-warhead missiles to cope with intensifying US military threats.

Return

South Korea, the US and other foreign governments believe North Korea is seeking sophisticated weapons technologies from Russia to modernize its weapons programs in return for supplying ammunition, rockets and other military equipment for Russia's war in Ukraine. Both Russia and North Korea have rejected the reported arms transfer deal as groundless.

After North Korea's first failed launch in May, South Korea retrieved debris from the satellite and concluded it was too crude to perform military reconnaissance. Lee said the North Korean satellite would still be capable of identifying big targets like warships so it could be militarily useful for North Korea.

Meanwhile, South Korea on Monday deplored North Korea's designation of a "missile industry day" to mark its successful launch of a Hwasong-17 intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) in November last year. Yonhap News Agency reported.

"It is disappointing and deplorable that North Korea is celebrating an act that threatened not only the Republic of Korea but also the international community, while blatantly violating UN Security Council resolutions banning its development of ballistic missiles," Unification Ministry's spokesman Koo Byoung-sam told a press briefing.

Also:

WELLINGTON, New Zealand: Former New Zealand Prime Minister **Jacinda Ardern** will work alongside leaders from Conservation International to advocate for climate action and better treatment of the environment, the group said Monday.

Conservation International said Ardern has become its sixth Arnold Distinguished Fellow and would serve a two-year term to advocate internationally, especially on issues affecting the Pacific and Antarctica. The group said the role was considered part-time and came with a stipend.

It is one several new roles Ardern has announced since unexpectedly stepping down as prime minister in January. She is also completing dual fellowships at Harvard University's Kennedy School and writing a book on leadership.



WELLINGTON, New Zealand: A man accused of physically assaulting a woman at a US research station in Antarctica was then sent to a remote icefield where he was tasked with protecting the safety of a professor and three young graduate students, and he remained there for a full week after a warrant for his arrest was issued, documents obtained by The Associated Press show.

Stephen Tyler Bieneman has pleaded not guilty to misdemeanor assault over the incident last November at McMurdo Station. The case is due to go to trial Monday in Honolulu.

The National Science Foundation declined to answer AP questions about why Bieneman was sent out into the field in a critical safety role while under investigation. The case raises further questions about decision-making in the US Antarctic Program, which is already under scrutiny.

An AP investigation in August uncovered a pattern of women at McMurdo who said their claims of sexual harassment or assault were minimized by their employers, often leading to them or others being put in further danger.



Britain's Prince William (center) participates in a dragon boat event in Singapore on Nov 6. (AP)

Singapore

Prince William goes dragon boating

Singapore's PM plans to step down

SINGAPORE, Nov 6, (AP): Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said Sunday he planned to bow out and hand over power to his deputy, Lawrence Wong, late next year, before the 2025 general election.

Lee, 71, initially intended to retire before turning 70, but it was shelved because of the COVID-19 pandemic. He has served as head of the long-ruling People's Action Party, or PAP, and as prime minister since 2004. Last year, he named Wong, who is also finance minister, as his designated successor.

"I have full confidence in Lawrence and his team and there's no reason to delay their political transition. Therefore, I intend to hand over to DPM (Deputy Prime Minister) Lawrence before the next general election," Lee said at a party conference.

He said passing the baton to Wong before the national polls will allow the 50-year-old politician to win his own mandate and take the country forward.

"If all goes well, I will hand over (to Wong) by PAP's 70th birthday next year" in November 2024, Lee said without giving an exact date.

Pausing to hold back his tears, an emotional Lee said he was thankful for the time he had served, and that he would do his utmost to support Wong and his new team.

"After (handing over), I will be at the new PM's disposal. I will do wherever he thinks I can be useful. I will do my best to help him fight and win the next GE (general election)," Lee added.

Wong, who came to prominence in helping to coordinate Singapore's fight against COVID-19, will be the city-state's fourth leader since independence in 1965.

He was picked by PAP as the likely successor to Lee after then Finance Minister Heng Swee Keat, who was earlier tipped to succeed Lee, withdrew his nomination. Heng bowed out after the PAP, one of the world's longest-serving parties, suffered its worst election performance

in 2020. Although the PAP retained its super majority, it lost some seats and support slipped.

Lee is the eldest son of Lee Kuan Yew, who became Singapore's first prime minister and built the resource-poor city-state into one of the world's richest nations during 31 years in office. But it has also been criticized for tight government control, media censorship and use of oppressive laws and civil lawsuits against dissidents.



Britain's **Prince William** took to the waters in Singapore for a morning of dragon boating Monday, ahead of activities for the annual Earthshot Prize awards aimed at promoting solutions for the planet's environmental threats.

Donning a life vest and a black cap, the Prince of Wales sat in a long narrow boat as he paddled with athletes from the British Dragons club on the Kallang river. Working in pairs, William and the other 19 paddlers rowed vigorously to the steady beat of a drummer standing in the bow.

Triumphed

His boat triumphed in a brief race with another boat captained by British High Commissioner **Kara Owen**. It was not the first time for William, an avid sportsman who tried his hand at dragon boating with his wife, **Kate**, the Princess of Wales, during a tour of Canada in 2011.

Dragon boat racing, originating from China, can be traced back nearly 2,000 years before it became a modern international sport in 1976.

"I was lucky enough to be sitting next to him, and he is just a really nice guy," said **Laura Greenwood**, a British expat who is a member of the British Dragons. "He has dragon boated before, so he felt kind of confident in what he was doing ... It was quite fast pace, so he kept up really well."

William, 41, arrived Sunday ahead of the annual Earthshot Prize awards ceremony, the first to be held in

Asia. William and his Royal Foundation charity launched the global environment competition in 2020 to promote innovative solutions and technologies to combat global warming and repair the planet.

William is to address a star-studded award ceremony Tuesday, where winners will be named in five categories: nature protection, clean air, ocean revival, waste elimination, and climate change.

Each winner will get 1 million pounds (\$1.2 million) to help them scale up their projects for wider global reach. All 15 finalists, representing six continents and selected from 1,300 nominees this year, will receive help in expanding their projects.

Actors **Hannah Waddingham** and **Sterling K. Brown** will co-host the event, which will also be attended by wildlife conservationist **Robert Irwin** and celebrities including Oscar-winner **Cate Blanchett** and actors **Lana Condor** and **Nomzamo Mbatha**.

The prize's name refers to the late President **John F. Kennedy's** 1962 "moonshot" speech, which challenged Americans to reach the moon by the end of that decade. That inspired the prince and his partners to set a similar goal for finding solutions to environmental problems by 2030.

The inaugural ceremony was held in London in 2021 and the second in Boston last year.

William's office at Kensington Palace has said Singapore was chosen to host this year's ceremony because of its role as a "hub for innovation" in Southeast Asia.

During his four-day visit, his first to the city-state since 2012, William will also call on Singapore President **Tharman Shanmugaratnam** and meet with Prime Minister **Lee Hsien Loong**.

William also plans to attend the United for Wildlife summit, featuring representatives of law enforcement agencies, conservation groups and corporations working to combat trade in illegal wildlife products, estimated at \$20 billion annually.



Japan's Princess Kako visits the Qorichaca museum in Cusco, Peru on Nov 5. The Japanese princess is visiting to celebrate the 150th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and Peru. (AP)



Guterres



Waly

Subcontinent

Aid trickles in to Nepal villages: Aid trickled in to villages Monday in Nepal's northwest mountains flattened by a strong earthquake over the weekend as villagers searched through the rubble of their collapsed homes to salvage what was left of their belongings.

The magnitude 5.6 tremor struck just minutes before midnight Friday, killing 157 people, injuring scores and leaving thousands homeless. The US Geological Survey said that the quake occurred at a depth of 11 miles (18 kilometers). Nepal's National Earthquake Monitoring and Research Center confirmed that the epicenter was in Jajarkot, about 400 kilometers (250 miles) northeast of the capital, Kathmandu.

Authorities on Monday pressed on with efforts to bring food and other supplies, tents and medicines to the remote villages, many only reachable by foot. Roads were also blocked by landslides triggered by the earthquake. Soldiers could be seen trying to clear blocked roads.

Rescue and search teams said Monday that the first part of their mission - to rescue survivors, get the injured to treatment and search for bodies - was over.

"Now we are working on the second phase of our work to distribute relief material, get aid to the villagers, and at the same time we are collecting details about the damages," said government official Harish Chandra Sharma.

The National Emergency Operation Center in Kathmandu said that along with the 157 killed, at least 256 people were injured and 3,891 houses were damaged.

In Chepare, villagers were going through piles of rocks and logs that used to be their homes on Monday, looking for anything they could salvage. (AP)



Afghans fleeing Pakistan: Afghans fleeing Pakistan to avoid arrest and deportation are sleeping in the open, without proper shelter, food, drinking water and toilets once they cross the border to their homeland, aid agencies said Sunday.

Hundreds of thousands of Afghans have left Pakistan in recent weeks as authorities pursue foreigners they say are in the country illegally, going door-to-door to check migrants' documentation. Pakistan set Oct. 31 as a deadline to leave the country or else they'd be arrested as part of a new anti-migrant crackdown.

Afghans leave Pakistan from two main border crossings, Torkham and Chaman. The Taliban have set up camps on the other side for people to stay in while they wait to be moved to their place of origin in Afghanistan.

Aid agencies said Torkham has no proper shelter. There is limited access to drinking water, no heating source other than open fires, no lighting, and no toilets. There is open defecation and poor hygiene. UN agencies and aid groups are setting up facilities with thousands of people entering Afghanistan every day. United Nations Secretary-General is **António Guterres**.

Kayal Mohammad lived in the northwest Pakistani city of Peshawar for 17 years. He has five children and was deported to the Afghan border almost a week ago. He told The Associated Press he wasn't allowed to take any household belongings with him. Everything he and his family own remains in Pakistan.

His seven-year-old daughter **Hawa** weeps because she is cold. She drinks tea

for breakfast from a cut-up plastic bottle and sleeps without a blanket. (AP)



Afghans opium cultivation declines: Opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan plunged by an estimated 95 percent following a drug ban imposed by the de facto authorities in April 2022.

Opium cultivation fell across the country, from 233,000 hectares to just 10,800 hectares in 2023, leading to a corresponding 95 percent drop in the supply of opium, from 6,200 tons in 2022 to just 333 tons in 2023, according to a new research brief from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Vienna, issued Sunday.

UN officials noted that the near-total reduction of the opiate economy is expected to have long term consequences, highlighting the urgent need for enhanced assistance for rural communities, accompanied by alternative development support to build an opium-free future for the people of Afghanistan.

However, the sharp reduction has had immediate humanitarian consequences for many vulnerable rural communities who relied on cultivating opium for an income, as farmers' income from selling the 2023 opium harvest to traders fell by more than 92 percent from an estimated USD 1.360 billion for the 2022 harvest to USD 110 million in 2023.

"This presents a real opportunity to build towards long-term results against the illicit opium market and the damage it causes both locally and globally," said Executive Director of UNODC **Ghada Waly**, adding there are significant consequences and risks that need to be addressed for a positive and sustainable outcome, especially for Afghans. (AP)



Afghan refugee children warm themselves with fire in a camp near the Torkham Pakistan-Afghanistan border in Torkham, Afghanistan on Nov 4. A huge number of Afghans refugees entered the Torkham border to return home hours before the expiration of a Pakistani government deadline for those who are in the country illegally to leave or face deportation. (AP)

Saudi Arabia continues oil production cut

The Saudi Energy Ministry announced on Sunday that the Kingdom would continue the voluntary cut of one million barrels per day, which went into implementation in July of 2023 and later extended until the end of December 2023.

In a statement by an official source at the ministry, obtained by the Saudi Press Agency (SPA), the Kingdom's production in the month of December 2023 will be

approximately nine million barrels per day.

The source stated that this voluntary cut decision would be reviewed next month to consider extending the cut, deepening it, or increasing production.

The source also noted that this cut was an addition to the voluntary cut previously announced by the Kingdom in April 2023, which extends until the end of December 2024. (KUNA)

Dubai has achieved another remarkable global milestone by winning the bid to host and organize the 2024 World Cities Culture Summit (WCCS). This is the first time this will be held in the MENA region, taking place from October 30 to November 1, 2024. The announcement was made during a visit by a delegation from Dubai Culture and Arts Authority (Dubai Culture) attending this year's summit in São Paulo, Brazil, from October 25 to 27.

The World Cities Culture Summit focuses on creative cities that harness their potential in investing in the cultural and creative

sectors. These cities possess the capability to craft cultural policies aimed at supporting and developing cultural activities for the decades ahead. Moreover, the summit explores the vital role of culture in the prosperity of cities and helps establish environmentally conscious development foundations.

Founded in 2012 under the leadership of the then Mayor of London, the World Cities Culture Forum thrives on the exchange of innovative ideas and information to promote sustainable urban growth. In 2020, Dubai Culture joined this influential network, establishing Dubai and

Abu Dhabi as the sole Arab cities in the forum. Recognized as a pivotal international network shaping cultural policies, it focuses on the cultural dimension of urban centers. With over 40 global member cities, the network acknowledges culture as a crucial catalyst for both social and economic progress.

The summit's discussions shed light on cities that invest in cultural and creative sectors, with the aim of fostering and nurturing talent and competencies. This allows them to actively contribute to the transformation of cities into creative hubs for the future.

Dubai to host 2024 World Cities Culture Summit

Market Movements

06-11-2023

		Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts	
SAUDI	- Tadawul	+9.91	10,948.86	EGYPT	- EGX 30	-35.54	23,059.15
UAE	- DFM	+27.15	3,956.96				
JAPAN	- Nikkei	+758.59	32,708.48				
PAKISTAN	- KSE 100	+765.33	53,941.04				
PHILIPPINES	- PSEI	+88.76	6,078.03				

Business

IEA predicts sharp drop in oil demand growth for 2024

Oil prices decline amid macroeconomic concerns & divergent demand projections

By National Bank of Kuwait

Oil prices fell in October on intensifying macroeconomic worries linked to tight global monetary policy coupled with investor profit-taking and despite a rise in oil's geopolitical risk premium. The IEA expects oil demand growth to drop sharply in 2024 to 0.9 mb/d from 2.3 mb/d in 2023. The supply side picture, meanwhile, is complicated by uncertainty regarding likely OPEC+ production policy next year amid expectations of continued non-OPEC supply gains.

Oil prices declined sharply in October on intensifying global macroeconomic worries amid the prospect of 'higher for longer' central bank interest rates and despite the return of the geopolitical risk premium linked to the Hamas-Israel conflict - which petered out towards the end of the month with the conflict appearing contained - and better-than-expected US and Chinese economic data. Speculators also booked profits from oil's precipitous rise in the third quarter. International benchmark Brent crude ended the month at \$87.4/bbl (-8.3% m/m; +1.8% ytd), while local marker Kuwait Export Crude (KEC) fell to \$91.3/bbl (-6.7% m/m; +11.3% ytd), outperforming Brent in 2023 reflecting tighter medium-sour crude fundamentals. (Chart 1.) Money manager net length, meanwhile, remained elevated in October, jumping after the outbreak of hostilities in Gaza. (Chart 2.)

Global macroeconomic conditions look to be softening against the backdrop of tighter global monetary policy, though the world's two largest economies, US and China, both witnessed stronger-than-expected economic growth in Q3 2023. European economies, on the other hand, remain close to recession. The outlook for 2024 is proving difficult to gauge, though the International Monetary Fund in October did revise down slightly its forecast for world GDP growth to 2.9% (from 3.0% in June).

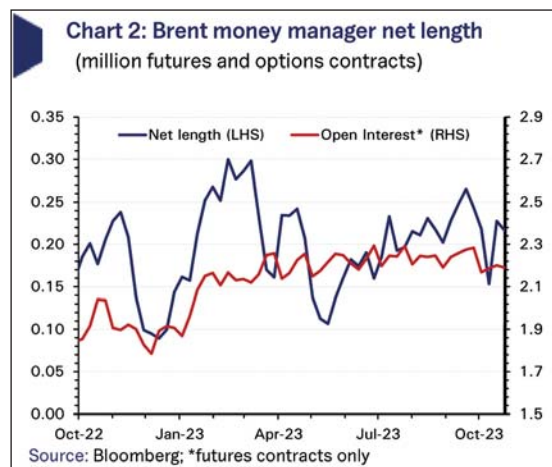
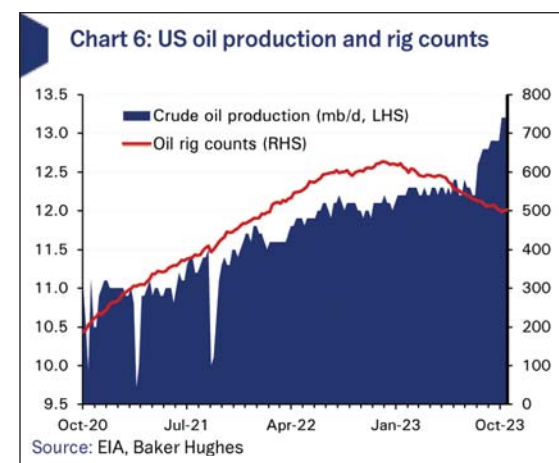
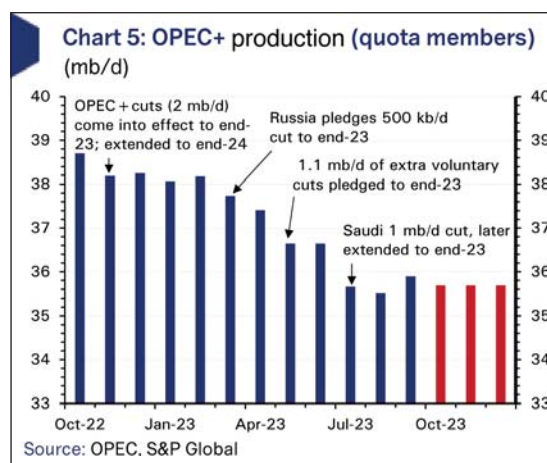
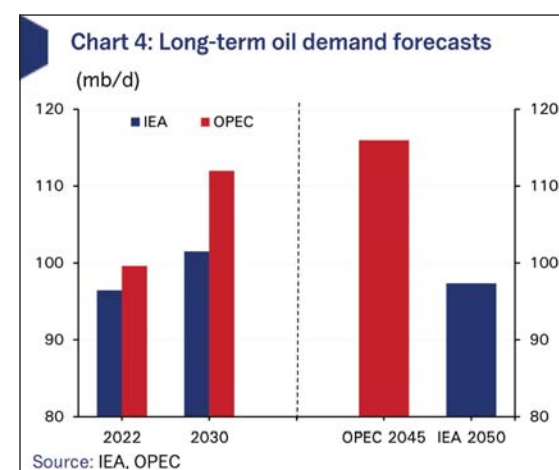
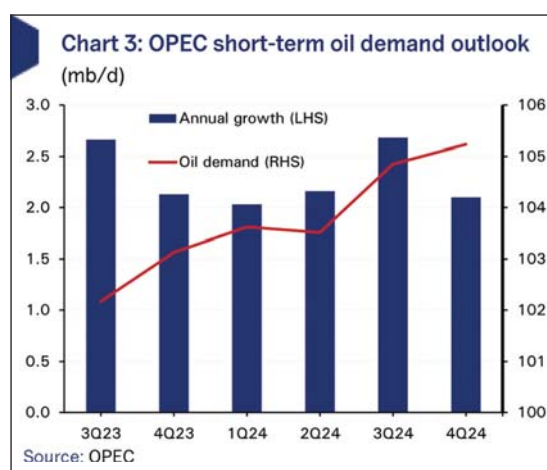
Reflecting the uncertainty, OPEC and the International Energy Agency (IEA) maintain widely divergent projections for oil demand in 2024. While the two organizations

are closely aligned on this year's demand growth forecast (2.3-2.4 mb/d), thanks to better-than-expected oil consumption in China, they differ significantly in their outlook for 2024. The IEA expects growth at 0.9 mb/d, below the historical annual average, while OPEC is far more bullish at 2.2 mb/d. (Chart 3.)

The IEA also published new medium-to-long term oil demand forecasts. The eye-catching projection here is its base case scenario which sees demand peaking at 102 mb/d by 2030 before declining to 97 mb/d by mid-century due to reduced road transportation fuel use resulting from increased electrical vehicle penetration and slowing rates of Chinese economic growth. OPEC, in contrast, raised its long-term oil demand forecast by 6.2 mb/d from last year's estimate to 116 mb/d by 2045, on stronger consumption in India, China and MENA. (Chart 4.)

On the supply side, combined data from OPEC secondary sources and S&P Global show aggregate OPEC+ production (excluding quota-exempt members) rising 372 kb/d to 35.9 mb/d in September. (Chart 5.) Oil output in Nigeria, while still significantly underperforming quota targets, led the gains (+141 kb/d to 1.39 mb/d) for the second consecutive month. Kazakhstan and Saudi Arabia also increased output, by 90 kb/d and 82 kb/d, respectively. Meanwhile, quota-exempt Iran only managed a modest production increase in September (+10 kb/d) but surging oil output gains this year of almost 500 kb/d have brought production to its highest level in five years (3.1 mb/d), despite US sanctions. The US, meanwhile, eased its sanctions on Venezuela, a step that could see oil flows rise by around 200 kb/d in the near term.

In Kuwait, output was flat month-on-month at 2.55 mb/d in September, according to official sources. Earlier in October, the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) unveiled its 2040 energy strategy, which includes \$410 billion in planned investments in both fossil fuel (\$300bn) and renewable energies (\$110bn). Seeking to maximize refined products output from the new Al-Zour refinery and satisfy exter-



nal demand for its crude, KPC reaffirmed its commitment to raise the country's crude production capacity to 4.0 mb/d by 2040, with an interim target of 3.2 mb/d by 2025/2026. KPC hopes that its \$110 billion investment in renewables will achieve Kuwait's 2030 target of sourcing 15% of its total energy requirements from renewables and KPC's 2050 target of carbon neutrality (2060 for the State of Kuwait).

In the US, weekly Energy Information Administration (EIA) data showed crude output surging to a record 13.2 mb/d in October, a substantial gain of 1.1 mb/d (+9.1%) year-to-date. (Chart 6.) Production growth in 2024 is not expected to be so robust, however, with the EIA estimating an annual average increase of just 374 kb/d to 13.2 mb/d (+2.9% y/y from an average of 12.8 mb/d in 2023). What is impressive, however, is that output gains have occurred while the number of actively drilling oil rigs has declined, by 18% ytd (to 504) as of October's close, according to Baker Hughes. Meanwhile, the Department of Energy (DoE) announced monthly solicitations to buy

barrels at or below \$79/bbl (for WTI) out to May 2024 in a bid to refill the US's partially depleted Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR), currently standing at 351 mb (down 39% from March 2022 levels). The DoE aims to acquire 6 mb for delivery in both December and January.

In the short term, still tight oil market fundamentals and present-though-waning geopolitical risk are combining to lift oil prices. We maintain our forecast of Brent to average around \$88/bbl this quarter. For 2024, uncertainty surrounding the outlook for oil demand and the path for OPEC+ voluntary supply cuts—due to be unwound in January—is complicating the picture. Nevertheless, with economic metrics pointing in a recessionary direction, amid continued tight monetary policy, oil demand growth is likely to slow in 2024. With non-OPEC supply gains likely to continue albeit at a slower rate, the onus to balance the market will once again fall on OPEC+ and Saudi Arabia especially to backstop any softness in oil prices. We see Brent averaging \$85/bbl in 2024.

Kuwait witnesses 2.3% drop in oil & gas sector financing in '23

Financing surges 97.9% in Sept

By Ahmad Fathi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: In the first nine months of 2023, financing provided by local banks to the oil and gas sector in Kuwait experienced a decline of 2.3%, totaling 1.375 billion dinars. This decrease represents a drop from the 1.408 billion dinars recorded during the same period in 2022, as reported in the monthly statistics released by the Central Bank of Kuwait for September.

The statistics reveal that monthly financing for the oil and gas sector for the month of September saw a notable increase of 97.9%, amounting to 6.2 million dinars. This surge came after the sector's financing levels had dipped to 298.7 million dinars in August. However, the most recent figure reflects the lowest monthly financing level in recent times, and it stands in stark contrast to the peak seen in April 2022, when financing reached 350.1 million dinars.

On an annual basis, the financing for the oil and gas sector saw a substantial decline of 89.2%, with the September 2023 figure amounting to 51.2 million dinars. This drop is in comparison to the 57.4 million dinars recorded in September 2022.

The decrease in financing for the oil and gas sector comes alongside a reduction in new credit facilities. Over the course of nine months, credit facilities have dropped by about 2.45%, amounting to 17 billion dinars in 2023. This decline is in comparison to the 17.474 billion dinars recorded during the same period in 2022.

Kuwaiti-Chinese research center to increase heavy oil production

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: The Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research and China Oilfield Services Co., Ltd. (COSL) have signed a memorandum of understanding on technology for developing the heavy oil industry, and agreed to establish a joint research center to develop and increase heavy oil production and solve field problems in Kuwait.

Informed sources told Al-Seyassah daily, that the goal of the joint research center to be established is to benefit from Chinese expertise in this field, noting that

several workshops were held last week that included experts from both sides in heavy oil to discuss ways of cooperation in addressing the main problems in this field.

The daily explained that the new research institution will comprise joint teams from both sides to conduct research related to heavy oil and exchange technology to meet the challenges of developing fields and their reserves, which will help increase production, especially since the Chinese partner has advanced technology and rich experience in this field.

In particular, personal monthly facilities provided by banks saw a significant decrease of 32.5%, with the total amounting to 2.71 billion dinars for the same period in 2023. This fall in personal facilities stands in contrast to the 4.02 billion dinars reported for the first nine months of 2022.

The financing landscape for the oil and gas sector in Kuwait has been marked by fluctuations throughout 2023. This year, oil and gas financing has oscillated, with instances of decline followed by periods of growth. For instance, financing fell from 152.6 million dinars in December to 78.8 million dinars in January. It then saw a significant increase in February, reaching 243.3 million dinars. Subsequently, the trend reversed with a decline in March to 61.2 million dinars, followed by an uptick in April to 159.2 million dinars. May saw a further increase to 274.3 million dinars, but June witnessed another dip to 169.1 million dinars. July saw financing at 84.9 million dinars, but it jumped again in August to reach 298.7 million dinars.

The cumulative balance for financing in the oil and gas sector provided

by local banks exhibited a decline on an annual basis. This decrease amounted to 10.4%, totaling 291 million dinars. Specifically, it fell from 2.804 billion dinars in September 2022 to 2.513 billion dinars in the same month in 2023.

Additionally, the cumulative balance for oil and gas financing decreased by 5.2% over the course of 2023, reaching 2.513 billion dinars in September. This decline is in comparison to the balance of 2.651 billion dinars reported at the end of December. Notably, the balance for oil financing has experienced fluctuations. During September 2022, it reached its highest level in two years. It was reported at 2.804 billion dinars, indicating an increase.

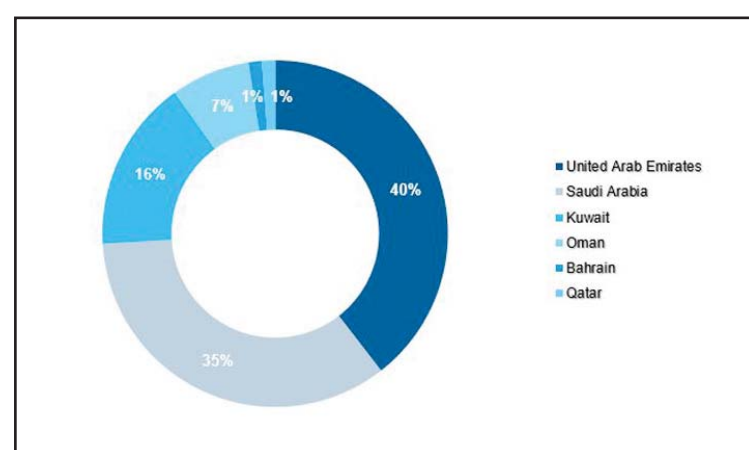
The balance of total cash credit facilities, covering various sectors provided by banks, increased during the first nine months of 2023. The growth amounted to 0.7%, reaching 381.7 million dinars. This increase is in comparison to the 52.447 billion dinars recorded in December, which grew to 52.828 billion dinars by the end of September.

Firm leads with \$7.0 bln transaction

Q Holding secures leading transaction in 9M 2023

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: Q Holding leads the top GCC M&A transactions during 9M 2023 as per a report recently issued by the Investment Banking Department at Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz". The report highlights the USD 7.0 billion transaction that was announced by the Emirati company whereby it revealed its plans to merge ADQ Real Estate and Hospitality Investments and IHC Capital Holding's entities, including Modon Properties, Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Company, and various other assets under the Q Holding umbrella.

In the second position, Jazan Integrated Gasification and Power Company secured the second-largest transaction by finalizing its acquisition of the Jazan Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle (IGCC) plant from Saudi Aramco, valued at USD 4.8 billion. The acquisition was phased out with the first group of IGCC assets acquired for USD 7.2 billion on the 18th of October 2021 financed through senior debt facilities. The Saudi Public Investment Fund took on the following transaction, penning a binding agreement with Saudi Basic Industries Corporation to acquire the shares of Saudi Iron and Steel Company, for a total estimated enterprise value of USD 3.3 billion, with the final sales price to be disclosed as the closing date approaches. Moreover, Brookfield Asset Management and the consortium of CVC Capital Partners Limited and Francisco Partners submitted substantial billion-dollar bids with intentions to acquire UAE's Network International. Initially, CVC Capital and Francisco Partners jointly presented a cash offer of 387 pence per share, totalling approximately USD 2.7 billion for the complete 100% ownership of Network International. Subsequently, following this announcement, Canadian-based Brookfield Asset Management also submitted a non-binding offer to acquire the entire Network International at a rate of 400 pence per share, estimated to be around USD 2.7 billion. Lastly, Fairfax Financial Holding Company Limited announced



Geographical Distribution by Number of Announced Pipeline Transactions (9M 2023)

intentions to acquire an additional 46.3% stake in Gulf Insurance Group for KD 263.7 million (USD 858.4) from Kuwait Projects Company Holding. Post transaction, Fairfax will be the largest shareholder in Gulf Insurance Group owning approximately 90.0% of the company.

GCC M&A Decline

According to Markaz's report, the GCC market sealed a total of 128 transactions throughout 9M 2023, which implies decline of 22% year over year. United Arab Emirates claimed the lion's share with 77 closed transactions, followed by Saudi Arabia closing a total of 30 transactions. Apart from Qatar and Saudi Arabia, all other markets in the region saw a substantial year-over-year decline in their M&A activities.

Acquirers and Targets

Consistent with historical trends, the majority of transactions completed in both the initial nine months of 2023 and 2022 were carried out by acquirers from the GCC. Specifically, during the first nine months of 2023, GCC acquirers took the lead, being responsible for a substantial 73% of the total completed transactions, leaving foreign acquirers with a 27% share. GCC acquirers also dominated the market during the initial three quarters of 2022 as they accounted for 71% of the total number of closed transactions with

foreign counterparts contributing a noteworthy 24%. The residual 6% encompasses transactions for which the buyers remained undisclosed.

Furthermore, GCC acquirers primarily invested in companies within their local markets and in international markets, and targeted regional companies to a lesser extent. Throughout 9M 2023, GCC acquirers closed a total of 80 transactions within their local markets, compared to 99 transactions in 9M 2022. In addition, GCC acquirers sealed 63 cross-border transactions throughout 9M 2023, relative to 64 cross-border transactions in 9M 2022. It's noteworthy that UAE buyers spearheaded the cross-border activity, representing approximately 60% of the total number of closed cross-border transactions, while Saudi Arabia and Qatar followed, contributing 19% and 13%, respectively.

Foreign Buyers

Shifting focus, it is worth noting that GCC targets experienced a slight decrease in foreign buyer interest during this period. They concluded a total of 34 transactions, which was marginally lower than the 39 transactions in the preceding year, marking a 13% year-over-year decline. Notably, UAE targets continued to be the prime attraction for foreign buyers, finalizing 25 transactions in the initial three quarters of 2023.

BUSINESS

TIM approves acquisition offer by KKR

Italian communications company TIM said Sunday that its board of directors has approved the binding acquisition offer by the KKR investment company, following months of negotiations. In a statement, TIM said the approval took the form of a majority vote. The offer assumes that the closing will occur by summer 2024. The deal faces scrutiny by European Union anti-trust authorities.

The board rejected a non-binding offer for Sparkle, TIM's undersea cable unit.

Italian state TV said the government, under the deal with KKR, would be a significant shareholder. Corriere della Sera said the finance ministry would hold about a 20% stake. The operation will permit TIM to reduce nearly half of its more than 30 billion (\$31.5 billion) in debt and reduce the number of employees, the Milan daily said.

The binding offer values NetCo - TIM's fixed network assets but excluding Sparkle - at 18.8 billion euros (some \$20 billion), said a statement from TIM. (AP)

Panama to revoke contract for Canadian mining company

Facing a second week of impassioned, nationwide protests, Panama's National Assembly has nearly passed a new law revoking a controversial mining contract in an environmentally vulnerable part of country.

The bill passed a second debate late on Wednesday and now faces a final vote Thursday in which no changes can be made.

Panama's legislature first agreed a contract extension with Canadian mining company First Quantum and its local subsidiary, Minera Panama, in March.

The resulting protests - the largest since a cost of living crisis last July - have sparked a series of backtracks from President Laurentino Cortizo.

The new bill not only repeals that contract but extends a moratorium on all concessions for mining activities until the country's Code of Mineral Resources is reformed.

Before legislators debated the extraordinary measure, Cortizo first proposed a national referendum on the contract. Eight lawsuits were also filed with Panama's Supreme Court arguing it was un-

constitutional.

Initially it was unclear how persuasive environmental objections would prove against the mine's demonstrated economic promise. It is the largest private investment in Panama's history and already creates roughly 3% of the country's gross domestic product. Now, however, popular protests have materialized into serious legislative and legal challenges, which pushed First Quantum's shares into a 47% freefall since markets opened on the Toronto Stock Exchange at the start of this week. (AP)

Australian PM calls for co-op ahead of meeting with China's Xi

BEIJING, Nov 6, (AP) - Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese struck an optimistic tone ahead of his meeting with Chinese leader Xi Jinping on Monday, calling for cooperation while emphasizing that the two countries will continue to have differences.

Albanese is the first Australian prime minister in seven years to visit China as the two countries have recently begun to repair a relationship that had crashed over trade and security differences.

"What I've said is that we need to co-operate with China where we can, disagree where we must and engage in our national interest," Albanese said in Beijing.

"I think there are promising signs we've already seen, a

number of the impediments to trade between our two nations removed and an uplift already, substantial uplift in the trade between our two nations."

His visit is largely symbolic, and comes near the 50th anniversary of the first trip by an Australian prime minister to the People's Republic of China. He is planned to meet with Xi later Monday.

Interference

China and Australia's relations nose dived in recent years as suspicions of Chinese interference in Australian politics increased. China, in turn, was angered by Australia's call for an inquiry into the origins of the COVID-19 virus.

China levied official tariffs and unofficial trade barriers that are

estimated to have cost Australian exporters up to 20 billion Australian dollars (\$13 billion) a year for commodities such as coal, wine, beef, barley and lobsters.

In the past few months, China and Australia have publicly signaled that resolutions were in sight for the trade issues. Further, Australian journalist Cheng Lei was released in October after three years in detention under charges of espionage, a case that had come to be a focal point in the tensions.

Even as Albanese has largely sounded upbeat during his visit, Australia is still actively pursuing a security partnership with the United Kingdom and the United States that is viewed as countering China's influence in the region.



Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, left, gestures as he meets with China's President Xi Jinping at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China, Monday, Nov. 6, 2023. Albanese is on a three-day visit to China. (AP)

AGOA trade forum kicks off in SA on Thursday

African countries to seek extension of duty-free access to US markets

JOHANNESBURG, Nov 6, (AP) - The extension of the U.S. program allowing sub-Saharan African countries duty-free access to U.S. markets is expected to be high on the agenda of the U.S. Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) trade forum that will begin in South Africa on Thursday.

Officials including U.S. trade representative Ambassador Katherine Tai and deputy assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Joy Basu will meet African leaders and officials in Johannesburg over the next three days to discuss, among other issues, the possible extension of AGOA and ways to improve its benefits for African nations.

The forum kicks off days after U.S. President Joe Biden announced his intention to boot Niger, Uganda, Central African Republic and Gabon off the list of beneficiaries as they have failed to comply with the eligibility criteria.

AGOA is U.S. legislation that allows sub-Saharan African countries duty-free access to the U.S. market provided they meet certain conditions, including adherence to the rule of law and the protection of human rights.

It was last extended in 2015 for a 10-year period and will expire in September 2025, with a decision of its possible extension reliant on U.S. Congress.

"We absolutely expect African countries benefiting from AGOA to push for its extension, because they have seen real benefits, even though some have benefitted more than others," said professor John Stremlau, an international relations expert.

He said that AGOA was particularly important as it was supported by both Republicans and Democrats to encourage economic development in Africa.

South Africa's trade minister, Ebrahim Patel, told lawmakers in his country last week that they would lobby for the extension of AGOA, citing massive benefits to the country's businesses exporting to the U.S.

Saudi-Arab-African Economic Conference kicks off Thursday

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, Nov 6. (PR Newswire) - The Saudi-Arab-African Economic Conference kicks off in Riyadh on Thursday, 9 November 2023, at the Hilton Riyadh Hotel. The event will bring together leaders and decision makers, and an elite group of Saudi, Arab, and African officials; financial, business, and investment leaders from the government and private sectors; trade federations, international organizations; and prominent figures in academic circles and think tanks. His Excellency the Saudi Minister of Finance, Mr. Mohammed bin Abdullah Aljadaan, said that the Royal endorsement to hold this conference reflects the leadership's keenness to consolidate the Kingdom's relations with the African continent, which plays a vital role in the global economy. The event is part of the Kingdom's efforts to enhance economic cooperation and seize investment opportunities in both nations.

The Minister added "This conference aims to consolidate the foundations of the Saudi, Arab, and African partnership in a number of economic and investment aspects such as achieving food security; strengthening agricultural, industrial, mining, and commercial partnerships; concluding new partnerships between African and Saudi entities; creating a platform for

beneficiaries of AGOA, with exports to the U.S. through the act estimated at \$3 billion in 2022.

Biden said in a letter addressed to members of U.S. Congress that despite intensive engagements with Niger, Uganda, Central African Republic and Gabon, they hadn't addressed U.S. concerns "about their noncompliance with the AGOA eligibility criteria."

He said that Niger and Gabon had failed to establish or make continual progress toward the protection of political pluralism and the rule of law, while citing the Central African Republic and Uganda as having committed gross violations of internationally recognized human rights.

The U.S. government recently suspended most financial assistance to Gabon after a military coup earlier this year.

In May, Biden threatened to remove Uganda from AGOA and impose sanctions following the passing of a controversial anti-gay law. That law, which allows the death penalty for some homosexual offenses, has widespread support at home, but has been condemned by rights campaigners and others.

In a tweet, Uganda's government spokesman Ofonto Ofonto appeared to dismiss the expected impact of Uganda's AGOA delisting, saying that sanctions-hit Cuba and Iran "have offered more to the world than many African AGOA beneficiaries."

But over the years, Ugandan officials, including longtime President Yoweri Museveni, have seen AGOA as a beneficial program, even if the country failed to fulfil its potential as a beneficiary.

South Africa's own continued participation in AGOA came under scrutiny this year when U.S. lawmakers from both the Republican and Democratic parties questioned its eligibility to participate in AGOA, citing allegations that it supplied Russia with arms amid its war with Ukraine.

They also called on the forum to be held in a different country to send a message to South Africa about the impact of its close ties to Moscow.

exporters and importers of both sides; and highlighting opportunities for cooperation in the energy sector to boost economic growth."

H.E. elaborated the conference will provide a platform for both global and regional development funds and programs to explore ideas and projects through the conference's sessions and in-depth conversation. The event will also highlight investment opportunities in Saudi Arabia and Africa.

The conference agenda includes seven sessions in participation of several Highnesses and Excellencies, as well as leaders and decision makers in the financial and investment fields. The session topics include: the role of sustainable energy partnerships and its importance in facilitating access to energy sources; strengthening cooperation frameworks to achieve food security; investing in business development, infrastructure, and human capital; industry and mining; harnessing tourism for growth; and enhancing cooperation to achieve sustainable development. The conference will also witness the signing of a number of agreements.

Those interested in attending the Economic Conference may register through the following link: <https://saacc.info/>

Yellen hosts Chinese Vice PM He for talks in San Francisco

Talks take place ahead of APEC summit

WASHINGTON, Nov 6, (AP) - U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen will host Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng for two days of talks this week, the latest in a series of high-level talks between U.S. and Chinese officials as the world's two largest economies aim to ease tensions, the Treasury Department announced Monday.

The Yellen-He talks set for Thursday and Friday come ahead of the start of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in San Francisco which starts November 11. President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping are expected to meet next week during the summit, what would be the first engagement between the two leaders in nearly a year.

"As a foundation, our two nations have an obligation to establish resilient lines of open communication and to prevent our disagreements from spiraling into conflict," Yellen wrote in a Washington Post op-ed to spotlight the upcoming meeting. "But we also know that our relationship cannot be circumscribed to crisis management."

Diplomat

The meeting between the two senior government officials comes after Biden spoke with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi at the White House for about an hour late last month, when Beijing's top diplomat came to Washington for talks with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan. Xi similarly met with Blinken in June when the secretary of State traveled to Beijing for talks with Wang.

Yellen last met with her counterpart He during a July visit to Beijing, when she urged Chinese government officials for cooperation on climate change and other global challenges and not to let sharp disagreements about trade and other irritants derail relations.

She's expected to amplify the message on climate during her talks with He in San Francisco. Treasury in a statement said that Yellen will also underscore that the Biden administration "will take targeted action to advance our national security and that of our allies, and protect human rights, but we do not use these tools to seek economic advantage."

Tensions between the two countries remain high, including over U.S. export controls on advanced technology. The Biden administration has also taken Beijing to task for economic practices that it says have put U.S. companies and workers at a disadvantage.

The U.S. has also criticized China's lending practices under its \$1 trillion Belt and Road Initiative, a network of projects and maritime lanes that snake around large portions of the world, primarily Asia and Africa. Critics, including the Biden administration, say China's projects often create massive debt and expose nations to undue influence by Beijing.

Yellen in her op-ed wrote she would raise during the meetings the administration's "serious concerns with Beijing's unfair economic practices, including its large-scale use of non-market tools, its barriers to market



Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, left, shakes hands with Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng during a meeting at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing, China, July 8, 2023. Yellen is hosting He for two days of talks this week. (AP)

Google's antitrust headaches compound with another trial, this one targeting its Play Store

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov 6, (AP) - Google on Monday will try to protect a lucrative piece of its internet empire at the same time it's still entangled in the biggest U.S. antitrust trial in a quarter century.

The latest threat will unfold in a San Francisco federal court, where a 10-person jury will decide whether Google's digital payment processing system in the Play Store that distributes apps for phones running on its Android software has been illegally driving up prices for consumers and developers.

The trial before U.S. District Judge James Donato is scheduled to last until just before Christmas and include testimony from longtime Google executive Sundar Pichai, who is now CEO of the company's parent, Alphabet Inc.

Pichai recently took the witness stand in Washington D.C. during an antitrust trial pitting Google's long-running dominance of internet search against the U.S. Justice Department's attempt to undercut it on the grounds the company has been abusing its power to stifle competition and innovation.

The case targeting Google's Play Store is being brought by Epic Games, the maker of the popular Fortnite video game, which lost in a similar 2021 trial focused on many of the same issues in Apple's iPhone app store.

Although a federal judge sided with Apple on most fronts in that trial, the outcome opened one potential crack

in the digital fortress that the company has built around the iPhone.

The judge and an appeals court both determined Apple should allow apps to provide links to other payment options, a change that could undermine the 15% to 30% commissions that both Apple and Google collect on digital purchases made within a mobile app. Apple is appealing that part of the ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court, where Epic is also challenging most elements of the case that it lost.

Epic is now taking aim at Google's commission system, even though Android software is already set up to allow other stores, such as Samsung's

installed on its phones, distribute apps that work on the operating system. Even so, Epic maintains that Google still maintains a stranglehold on the Android app ecosystem and the payment system attached to it - and has paid hundreds of millions of dollars to stifle competition.

Much like Apple did in its trial, Google defends its commissions as a way to be compensated for all money that it invests into its Play Store and asserts that the controls over it are a way to protect the security of the tens of millions of people in the U.S. who download apps for phones powered by Android.



Google CEO Sundar Pichai leaves the federal courthouse in Washington, Monday, Oct. 30, 2023. (AP)

access and its coercive actions against U.S. firms in China."

The U.S. has also repeatedly raised concerns about China's assertive actions in the East and South China seas.

The U.S. military last month released a video of a Chinese fighter jet flying within 10 feet (three meters) of an American B-52 bomber over the South China Sea, nearly causing an accident. Earlier

in October, the Pentagon released footage of some of the more than 180 intercepts of U.S. warplanes by Chinese aircraft that occurred in the last two years, part of a trend U.S. military officials call concerning.

The U.S. also has renewed a warning that it would defend the Philippines in case of an armed attack under a security pact, after Chinese ships blocked

and collided with two Philippine vessels off a contested shoal in the South China Sea. Beijing has released its own video of close encounters in the region, including what it described as footage of the USS Ralph Johnson making a sharp turn and crossing in front of the bow of a Chinese navy ship. The U.S. destroyer also was captured sailing between two Chinese ships.

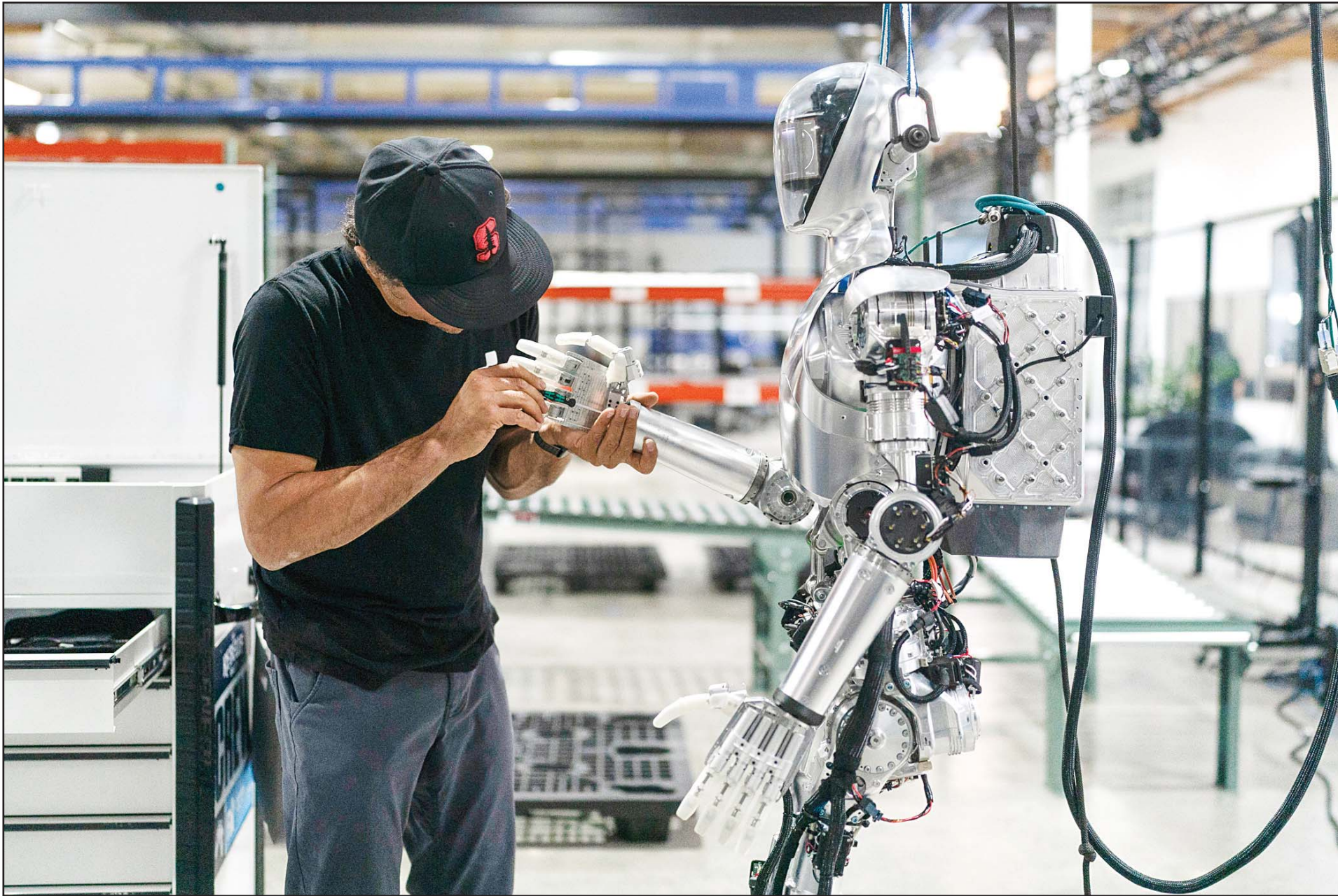
TECHNOLOGY

Business Plus



Most of the current prototypes are clumsy and impractical

Humanoids are here, but do we really need them?



Joel Carrasco performs maintenance on humanoid robot Figure 01 at Figure AI's test facility in Sunnyvale, Calif., Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2023. Figure plans to start with a relatively simple use case, such as in a retail warehouse, but aims for a commercial robot that can be 'iterated on like an iPhone' to perform multiple tasks to take up the work of humans as birth rates decline around the world. (AP)

"That led to development of a new robot that was not really a humanoid, but had several characteristics of a humanoid," he said via an emailed message. "But the changes resulted in a new robot that could handle boxes faster, could work longer hours, and could operate in tight spaces, such as a truck. So humanoid research led to useful non-humanoid robot."

Some startups aiming for human-like machines focused on improving the dexterity of robotic fingers before trying to get their robots to walk.

Walking is "not the hardest problem to solve in humanoid robotics," said Geordie Rose, co-founder and CEO of British Columbia, Canada-based startup Sanctuary AI. "The hardest problem is the problem of understanding the world and being able to manipulate it with your hands."

Sanctuary's newest and first bipedal robot, Phoenix, can stock shelves, unload delivery vehicles and operate a checkout, early steps toward what Rose sees as a much longer-term goal of getting robots to perceive the physical world to be able to reason about it in a way that resembles intelligence. Like other humanoids, it's meant to look endearing, because how it interacts with real people is a big part of its function.

"We want to be able to provide labor to the world, not just for one thing, but for everybody who needs it," Rose said. "The systems have to be able to think like people. So we could call that artificial general intelligence if you'd like. But what I mean more specifically is the systems have to be able to understand speech and they need to be able to convert the understanding of speech into action, which will satisfy job roles across the entire economy."

Agility's Digit robot caught Amazon's attention because it can walk and also move around in a way that could complement the e-commerce giant's existing fleet of vehicle-like robots that move large carts around its vast warehouses.

"The mobility aspect is more interesting than the actual form," said Tye Brady, Amazon's chief technologist for robotics, after the company showed it off at a media event in Seattle.

Right now, Digit is being tested to help with the repetitive task of picking up and moving empty totes. But just having it there is bound to resurrect some fears about robots taking people's jobs, a narrative Amazon is trying to prevent from taking hold.

Agility Robotics co-founder and CEO Damon Shelton said the warehouse robot is "just the first use case" of a new generation of robots he hopes will be embraced rather than feared as they prepare to enter businesses and homes.

"So in 10, 20 years, you're going to see these robots everywhere," Shelton said. "Forever more, human-centric robots like that are going to be part of human life. So that's pretty exciting."

6
If we can just get humanoids to do work that humans are not wanting to do because there's a shortfall of humans, we can sell millions of humanoids, billions maybe

WASHINGTON, Nov 6, (AP): Building a robot that's both human-like and useful is a decades-old engineering dream inspired by popular science fiction.

While the latest artificial intelligence craze has sparked another wave of investments in the quest to build a humanoid, most of the current prototypes are clumsy and impractical, looking better in staged performances than in real life. That hasn't stopped a handful of startups from keeping at it.

"The intention is not to start from the beginning and say, 'Hey, we're trying to make a robot look like a person,'" said Jonathan Hurst, co-founder and chief robot officer at Agility Robotics. "We're trying to make robots that can operate in human spaces."

Do we even need humanoids? Hurst makes a point of describing Agility's warehouse robot Digit as human-centric, not humanoid, a distinction meant to emphasize what it does over what it's trying to be.

What it does, for now, is pick up tote bins and move them. Amazon announced in October it will begin testing Digits for use in its warehouses, and Agility opened an Oregon factory in September to mass produce them.

Digit has a head containing cameras, other sensors and animated eyes, and a torso that essentially works as its engine. It has two arms and two legs, but its legs are more bird-like than human, with an inverted knees appearance that resembles so-called digitigrade animals such as birds, cats and dogs that walk on their toes rather than on flat feet.

Rival robot-makers, like Figure AI, are taking a more purist approach on the idea that only true humanoids can effectively navigate workplaces, homes and a society built for humans. Figure also plans to start with a relatively simple use case, such as in a retail warehouse, but aims for a commercial robot that can be "iterated on like an iPhone" to perform multiple

tasks to take up the work of humans as birth rates decline around the world.

"There's not enough people doing these jobs, so the market's massive," said Figure AI CEO Brett Adcock. "If we can just get humanoids to do work that humans are not wanting to do because there's a shortfall of humans, we can sell millions of humanoids, billions maybe."

At the moment, however, Adcock's firm doesn't have a prototype that's ready for market. Founded just over a year ago and after having raised tens of millions of dollars, it recently revealed a 38-second video of Figure walking through its test facility in Sunnyvale, California.

Tesla CEO Elon Musk is also trying to build a humanoid, called Optimus, through the electric carmaker's robotics division, but a hyped-up live demonstration last year of the robot's awkwardly halting steps didn't impress experts in the robotics field. Seemingly farther along is

Tesla's Austin, Texas-based neighbor Apptironik, which unveiled its Apollo humanoid in an August video demonstration.

All the attention - and money - poured into making ungainly humanoid machines might make the whole enterprise seem like a futile hobby for wealthy technologists, but for some pioneers of legged robots it's all about what you learn along the way.

"Not only about their design and operation, but also about how people respond to them, and about the critical underlying technologies for mobility, dexterity, perception and intelligence," said Marc Raibert, the co-founder of Boston Dynamics, best known for its dog-like robots named Spot.

Raibert said sometimes the path of development is not along a straight line. Boston Dynamics, now a subsidiary of carmaker Hyundai, experimented with building a humanoid that could handle boxes.

Warnings grow louder and more urgent as 2024 approaches

AI tools threaten to amplify US election misinformation

NEW YORK, Nov 6, (AP): The warnings have grown louder and more urgent as 2024 approaches: The rapid advance of artificial intelligence tools threatens to amplify misinformation in next year's presidential election at a scale never seen before.

Most adults in the U.S. feel the same way, according to a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy.

The poll found that nearly 6 in 10 adults (58%) think AI tools - which can micro-target political audiences, mass produce persuasive messages, and generate realistic fake images and videos in seconds - will increase the spread of false and misleading information during next year's elections.

By comparison, 6% think AI will decrease the spread of misinformation while one-third say it won't make much of a difference.

"Look what happened in 2020 - and that was just social media," said 66-year-old Rosa Rangel of Fort Worth, Texas.

Rangel, a Democrat who said she had seen a lot of "lies" on social media in 2020, said she thinks AI will make things even worse in 2024 - like a pot "brewing over."

Just 30% of American adults have used AI chatbots or image generators and fewer than half (46%) have heard or read at least some about AI tools. Still, there's a broad consensus that candidates shouldn't be using AI.

When asked whether it would be a good or bad thing for 2024 presidential candidates to use AI in certain ways, clear majorities said it would be bad for them to create false or misleading media for political ads (83%), to edit or touch-up photos or videos for political ads (66%), to tailor political ads to individual voters (62%) and to answer voters' questions via chatbot (56%).

The sentiments are supported by majorities of Republicans and Democrats, who agree it would be a bad thing for the presidential candidates to create false images or videos (85% of Republicans and 90% of Democrats) or to answer voter questions (56% of Republicans and 63% of Democrats).

The bipartisan pessimism toward candidates using AI comes after it already has been deployed in the Republican presidential primary.

In April, the Republican National Committee released an entirely AI-generated ad meant to show the future of the country if President Joe Biden is reelected. It used fake but realistic-looking photos showing boarded-up

storefronts, armored military patrols in the streets and waves of immigrants creating panic. The ad disclosed in small lettering that it was generated by AI.

Ron DeSantis, the Republican governor of Florida, also used AI in his campaign for the GOP nomination. He promoted an ad that used AI-generated images to make it look as if former President Donald Trump was hugging Dr. Anthony Fauci, an infectious disease specialist who oversaw the nation's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Never Back Down, a super PAC supporting DeSantis, used an AI voice-cloning tool to imitate Trump's voice, making it seem like he narrated a social media post.

"I think they should be campaigning on their merits, not their ability to strike fear into the hearts of voters," said Andie Near, a 42-year-old from Holland, Michigan, who typically votes for Democrats.

She has used AI tools to retouch images in her work at a museum, but she said she thinks politicians using the technology to mislead can "deepen and worsen the effect that even conventional attack ads can cause."

College student Thomas Besgen, a Republican, also disagrees with

campaigns using deepfake sounds or imagery to make it seem as if a candidate said something they never said.

"Morally, that's wrong," the 21-year-old from Connecticut said.

Besgen, a mechanical engineering major at the University of Dayton in Ohio, said he is in favor of banning deepfake ads or, if that's not possible, requiring them to be labeled as AI-generated.

The Federal Election Commission is currently considering a petition urging it to regulate AI-generated deepfakes in political ads ahead of the 2024 election.

While skeptical of AI's use in politics, Besgen said he is enthusiastic about its potential for the economy and society. He is an active user of AI tools such as ChatGPT to help explain history topics he's interested in or to brainstorm ideas. He also uses image-generators for fun - for example, to imagine what sports stadiums might look like in 100 years.

He said he typically trusts the information he gets from ChatGPT and will likely use it to learn more about the presidential candidates, something that just 5% of adults say they are likely to do.

The poll found that Americans are more likely to consult the news media

(46%), friends and family (29%), and social media (25%) for information about the presidential election than AI chatbots.

"Whatever response it gives me, I would take it with a grain of salt," Besgen said.

The vast majority of Americans are similarly skeptical toward the information AI chatbots spit out. Just 5% say they are extremely or very confident that the information is factual, while 33% are somewhat confident, according to the survey. Most adults (61%) say they are not very or not at all confident that the information is reliable.

That's in line with many AI experts' warnings against using chatbots to retrieve information. The artificial intelligence large language models powering chatbots work by repeatedly selecting the most plausible next word in a sentence, which makes them good at mimicking styles of writing but also prone to making things up.

Adults associated with both major political parties are generally open to regulations on AI. They responded more positively than negatively toward various ways to ban or label AI-generated content that could be imposed by tech companies, the federal government, social media companies or the news media.

editor's choice



BTS's Jung Kook's solo debut, 'Golden,' is no-skip pop bliss

LOS ANGELES, Nov 6, (AP): Jung Kook, the youngest member of the K-pop group BTS, released his triumphant debut solo album on Friday. The heavily Anglophonic "Golden," a reference to his nickname of "the golden maknae," ("golden youngest" in Korean), is one of the strongest pop debuts of the year, a direct reflection of his love of retro-pop sounds.

There was a period this summer where Jung Kook's single with Latto, "Seven," was inescapable; a sunshine-y UK garage number counting down all the days of the week in which he'll love you, girl - or maybe he'd do something else, depending on whether you're listening to the clean or explicit version of the track.

It hit No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100. To date, Jung Kook is the only member of BTS to reach that height as a soloist. A "golden" artist indeed.

The hook on "Seven" is undeniable, one of many on "Golden." Across this release, Jung Kook demonstrates a deep understanding of pop performance - and how, in the modern era, that requires innovative collaborations, heavily featured throughout his solo album.

Ed Sheeran plays guitar on "Yes or No"; Shawn Mendes co-wrote the piano ballad "Hate You." Major Lazer is featured on the breathy-bass banger "Closer to You" and DJ Snake is on the Bieber-esq. dance-pop "Please Don't Change." Rapper Jack Harlow is on the single "3D," which hit No. 5 on the Billboard Hot 100.

It might be an unfavorable comparison in the current cultural moment, particularly in the conversation following the release of Britney Spears' "The Woman in Me" memoir. But "3D" recalls the early, peak days of Justin Timberlake's 2000s solo career - "Justified" and "Suit

and Tie," those Timbaland and Pharrell collaborations and onward.

There is a reason, at the time, JT's musical talent was undeniable, when he was largely considered one of the greatest pop performers of recent history - and make no mistake, that's the only JT tradition Jung Kook appears to be pulling from. (Well, that, and finding incredible success as a soloist separate from the group that made him an idol. But with the exception that BTS is taking a break, while NSYNC broke up for two decades.)

The greatest song, however, is the latest single: the funky Michael Jackson-channeling "Standing Next to You" may very well be one of the year's most addictive pop singles.

And even then, it is one of many no-skips songs on "Golden," an album of pop bliss.



Love can bring great joy and great pain; no wonder it is the source material for great art. For **Jamila Woods**, the Chicago-based neo-soul musician and poet, romantic love is a featured topic on her third studio album, "Water Made Us."

Her first full-length project since 2019's "Legacy! Legacy!" explores all the ins and outs of love, such as falling in it (like in the up-tempo funky track "Practice"), being burned by it (the fluid R&B of "Good News") and healing from love lost (the mid-tempo "Wolfsheep").

Before releasing her debut album, "Heavn" in 2016, Woods was known for her work as a poet.

On "Water Made Us," that talent shines through lyrics that perfectly describe the many nuances of relationships, the bliss and the tragedy.

That is abundantly apparent in songs like "Wreckage Room," where she addresses her lover, "Don't feel sorry if you leave/Love don't mean you saving me."

This 17-track collection highlights Woods' soulful vocal tone, but occasionally veers into rap. It's a return to her spoken word roots, like on the psychedelic opening track "Bugs," and the aforementioned "Practice."

Collaborations on this album aren't limited to the traditional feature - such as the verses contributed by **Peter CottonTale** ("Thermostat"), **Saba** ("Practice") and **duendita** ("Tiny Garden") - where an artist sings or raps on a particular section of the song. Instead, on an interlude like "let the cards fall," Woods engages in a brief conversation with visual artist and poet **Krista Franklin** along with the model and "Pose" actor **Indya Moore**. In this music-free track, supported only by the ambient noise of literal cards, the three begin to scratch the surface of what trust in a relationship looks like. It's Franklin who speaks the song title: "Send it some positive vibration and reframe your question/And I'm just gon let the cards fall."

Overall, "Water Made Us" is most successful when Woods leans into her singular R&B performance to convey universal experiences. In "Still," she tells an ex-lover "I finally gave your shirt away/I wore it better than you ever did" with biting acuity, shifting near the songs end to admit what many would be too afraid to: "I guess I'll never get over you."

That's why Wood's phenomenal writing is so quotable - here, centered around healing, heartbreak and love. Like that last four-letter word, this album is complex and beautiful.

Music

Variety

Features

ARABIC TIMES

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2023



This image released by A24 shows Jacob Elordi in a scene from 'Priscilla.' (AP)

Film

Atlanta industry actors and crew at a crossroads

Struggles in the 'Hollywood of the South'

LOS ANGELES: The North American box office had one of its slowest weekends of the year, due in large part to "Dune: Part Two's" absence from the lineup.

Moviegoers had many other options to choose from. The video game adaptation "Five Nights at Freddy's" repeated its first-place ranking, followed by "Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour" still going strong. **Sofia Coppola's** "Priscilla" expanded nationwide and "Oppenheimer" returned to IMAX screens. Several well-received indies opened as well.

But this was the weekend that Warner Bros. and Legendary's "Dune: Part Two" was supposed to open, before the SAG-AFTRA strike prompted many studios to shuffle release dates in anticipation of a lengthy dispute that has stopped movie stars from promoting their films. The "Dune" sequel starring **Timothée Chalamet** and **Zendaya** was pushed to March 2024, and no major blockbusters moved in to take its Nov. 3 spot.

Even with "Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour" still bringing Swifties to the multiplex, and prestige offerings including **Martin Scorsese's** "Killers of the Flower Moon" and **Alexander Payne's** "The Holdovers," overall ticket sales are likely to be around \$64 million for the weekend, making it one of the slowest of the year.

"It's hard to reverse engineer, but 'Dune 2' would have certainly been the No. 1 movie and it would have been a bigger overall weekend," said **Paul Dergarabedian**, the senior media analyst for Comscore. "The strikes have had a profound impact on this marketplace. But this left a lot of opportunity for films like 'Priscilla,' 'The Holdovers' and 'Radical' to get more of a spotlight."

In its second weekend, "Five Nights at Freddy's" picked up an additional \$19.4 million to take first place, according to studio estimates Sunday. It's a hefty 76% drop from its first weekend. That's not unexpected given that the movie is also streaming on Peacock and that viewership for films targeting intense and niche fandoms are often wildly frontloaded. But taking in \$217 million globally against a reported \$20 million production budget makes it a hit for Universal Pictures and Blumhouse.

ATLANTA, Nov 6, (AP): A lighting technician is mowing lawns. A camera assistant is teaching guitar again. An actor has thought about shifting careers.

For more than a decade, work had been nonstop in Atlanta's booming film industry thanks to Georgia's extremely generous tax break. Dubbed the "Hollywood of the South," metro Atlanta became a ubiquitous backdrop for huge projects, including Marvel films and Netflix's "Stranger Things."

As soundstages sprouted up, the insatiable need for crews turned the city into a prime destination for both behind-the-scenes workers seeking to break into the entertainment industry and "journeymen" actors wanting a reprieve from the hustle of Los Angeles or New York. But work dried up last winter and has been at a near-standstill ever since the industry's writers went on strike in May and actors joined them in July.

Writers reached a deal late last month, but with the actors strike still ongoing, countless Atlanta-based performers, as well as members of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, are grappling for financial survival and with whether they'll even return to the industry.

"I wake up every morning and I'm like, s---, I wish I could be on set right now," said Ed O'Hare, a 29-year-old set lighting technician who broke into the industry shortly after college by doing janitorial work at a local studio.

O'Hare said he rose through the ranks thanks to his eagerness to learn the crafts, eventually discovering a passion for lighting. Fellow technicians quickly took him under their wing and helped him get hired on productions, including the Benicio Del Toro-led thriller "Reptile," despite his lack of experience: "I've been told by multiple people that I couldn't have done that in L.A. or New York," he says.

Having now gone nearly five months without film work, O'Hare has been relying on a combination of savings, unemployment checks and odd jobs he's been doing for his grandmother's neighbors, including lawn-mowing and pressure washing. It's been enough for him to scrape by, though he's also considering getting a bartender job like he had in college.

In the meantime, O'Hare has attended some classes

hosted by IATSE, reuniting with industry colleagues as they brush up on technical skills and learn new ones, including soldering.

There's a recurring joke during the classes, O'Hare says. Whenever the instructor asks for questions, someone is always quick to respond with the key one: "Yeah, when are we going back to work?"

Like his union, which has held unity rallies, O'Hare said he supports the writers and actors for fighting for what they deserve. He hopes the actors will soon reach a deal, though a recent breakdown in negotiations had quelled some optimism. Even with a deal, O'Hare knows it could still be months before he's back on set.

Projects

Alex Buhlig, 34, moved from Atlanta to LA in 2015 as an aspiring camera assistant. But all the calls he got kept coming from Georgia.

Buhlig was back in Atlanta in less than a year, working primarily on commercial projects, independent movies and reality shows until 2017 when he joined IATSE - and was soon asked to work on the blockbuster "Godzilla: King of the Monsters."

"A month prior to working on 'Godzilla,' I had been doing indie films whose entire budget was \$10,000," Buhlig recalls, laughing. "It's a testament to how busy Atlanta was at the time."

In recent months, Buhlig, now a second camera assistant, has been relying on sporadic work commercial and music video work, but "if the strike continues through next year, that's unsustainable."

"I've got to figure something else out," said Buhlig, who has also been piecing together hours as a guitar teacher, a job he's held in the past while "trying to avoid doing the restaurant thing again."

Buhlig says he recently had to pull some money from his pension since his bank account was running low but considers himself "extremely fortunate" since he has health care coverage and doesn't have a family depending on him.

He knows others are in tougher positions. "The strike will definitely push people out of the industry - it probably already has," Buhlig said. "Because if you had just gotten started or you weren't working

recently, I couldn't imagine going through something like this."

Despite Atlanta's large role in the industry, the local chapter of the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists has only about 3,700 members - less than 3% of total membership.

Yet Atlanta's actors praise the sense of community and the relatively low cost of living - though affordability has taken a big hit in recent years.

"I have found more community here in the city of Atlanta (over the past five years) than I had in LA in 40," actor Ethan Embry told cheering rallygoers this summer.

Embry, who started as a child actor before starring in the teen rom-com "Can't Hardly Wait" and Netflix's "Grace and Frankie," later told the AP: "It's not the same fight for survival that Los Angeles has. Everything in Los Angeles feels like a competition. Here, everything feels like you're in it together."

Bethany Anne Lind credits Atlanta's post-2008 filming boom with boosting her then-fledgling acting career, saying she likely got some small roles because studios didn't want to spend money to fly someone else out.

But now that she's more established, with a memorable supporting role in Netflix's "Ozark," Lind says it's been hard to land meatier parts. She feels Atlanta-based actors are frequently overlooked by casting agents who still focus on New York and Los Angeles talent pools.

Lind is a prominent speaker at local rallies, yet feels slightly envious of colleagues in Hollywood, who picket outside studios daily - Atlanta may have the second-most number of soundstages in the nation, yet picket lines are a rarity because studios are headquartered elsewhere.

"It's very strange to see my friends in LA and New York getting out there, like sweating their faces off every day and not being able to be a part of that," Lind, who signed an open letter this week urging SAG-AFTRA not to accept "a bad deal," says. "There would be something cathartic about being able to put my body into it that I think we do miss out on here."

Over the summer, as she focused her energy on her children and vegetable garden, Lind began to contemplate whether she should shift careers.

"Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour" took second place, with fourth weekend earnings at an estimated \$13.5 million for the AMC release. Playing only on Thursdays through Sundays, the film has made an astonishing \$231.1 million globally to date.

In third place, "Killers of the Flower Moon" was down only



Chalamet



Zendaya

25% in its third weekend, with \$7 million from 3,786 screens, which brings its domestic total to \$52.3 million. The \$200 million film was financed by Apple Original Films with Paramount overseeing its theatrical run.

After a healthy opening in New York and Los Angeles last weekend, "Priscilla," based on **Priscilla**

Presley's 1985 memoir "Elvis and Me," expanded to 1,359 screens where it earned \$5.1 million over the weekend to take fourth place.

Coppola's well reviewed film starring **Cailee Spaeny** and **Jacob Elordi** attracted an audience that was predominately younger (75% under 35) and female (65%). The hope is that A24 release will have

a long life into awards season.

"The Holdovers," a Focus Features release, also expanded slightly to 64 theaters this weekend, where it grossed an additional \$600,000. Next weekend the **New England**-set period drama starring **Paul Giamatti** as a curmudgeonly prep school teacher will expand to over 800 locations. (AP)

People & Places

Film

'Master's touch'

Quagliata's stained glass legacy in film

VALLE DE BRAVO, Mexico, Nov 6, (AP): It's as if **Narcissus Quagliata** is painting with light.

He sprinkles the crushed, colorful glass onto a template of his own design before baking the powder-coated pane at nearly 1,500 degrees Fahrenheit for almost an entire day. Once cooled, a translucent, stained-glass image emerges.

"The light, with the glass, moves you to the core," said Quagliata, an 81-year-old master of his craft, on a recent day at his studio in Valle de Bravo, near Mexico City. "It's profound."

Over the last five decades, Quagliata has created these stained-glass artworks for sacred spaces, private homes and public exhibitions, using a fusible glass technique he considers his most precious legacy.



Quagliata

The scope of Quagliata's invention can be seen in "Holy Frit," a documentary recently released in US. In the film, the Italian artist serves as a mentor-like figure for Tim Carey, a young American colleague who found himself facing the greatest challenge of his artistic career.

In 2015, Carey was appointed lead artist for a colossal project, a stained-glass window the size of an American football field for a new church building in Leawood, Kansas. By 2017, "The Resurrection Window" would become the focal point in Resurrection's sanctuary - the home base for the largest United Methodist congregation in the US.

"My hope is the window acts like a sacrament, as a visible means of grace through which God communicates and says: I'm here," Hamilton said in "Holy Frit."

But first Carey needed to figure out how he and his team would pull off the 161-panel window, with each panel measuring 4 feet by 5 feet, in a few years' time.

Carey created 76 sketches before getting the pastor's approval. What he kept silent, though, was a technical dilemma: he had no idea how to mix more than one color in a panel, as his sketch proposed. So, he called the maestro.

"Narcissus is like the Steven Spielberg of stained glass," Carey said in "Holy Frit."

Technique

Before Quagliata perfected his fusing technique, stained-glass panels primarily were separate pieces held together by lead strips. A few artists tried to merge colors with extreme heat, but most failed.

It's simple chemistry, Quagliata said. Each color possesses minerals which determine its cooling temperature, so even if blue and red could fuse inside an oven, the glass would break up in the end.

"Fusible glass means you can create an image with glass and no lead," Quagliata said. "You can use 80 colors and it won't break."

Though he had spent the last four decades mastering his craft, "The Resurrection Window" made Quagliata nervous. He had never before depicted 90 human figures in fusible glass.

The power of light and glass struck him in the 1960s, soon after he left Rome to become an artist in the United States. Walking through the Metropolitan Museum of Art, in New York, 19-year-old Quagliata saw works by painter Marc Chagall and was hit with a powerful dose of inspiration.

Before long he moved to California, where the surge of the Arts and Crafts Movement convinced him to let go of his dreams of becoming a traditional painter like Picasso and embrace painting through stained-glass instead.

"I kept thinking: What I would do with red glass, with blue glass?" Quagliata said.

In "The Resurrection Window," Christ's skin is yellow. Light-red patches frame the nose. Bright layers of purple, pink and green coat his eyes. The design was Carey's, but the subtle fusion of colors was Quagliata's work.

Members of the congregation wept on the day the panel was hung in the church.

"Fusing glass is spontaneous," Quagliata said. "It awakens a genuine feeling that is rare in religious painting."

In the glassworks and watercolors that he keeps in the studio where he has lived since the early 2000s, no religious motifs can be seen. A masculine figure in red portrays a prisoner, while a blue profile depicts what could have been a Greek sculpture sunk by the Romans in the sea.

Defined

"My career is defined by three things: the first one is the light; another one is the love for the human figure - very beautiful or very distorted - and finally the approach towards something social."

"The Resurrection Window" took a while to complete, but The Dome of Light, in Taiwan, which holds a special place in his heart, took even longer. The stained-glass piece is made of 1,152 panels, distributed along 30 meters (98 feet) in diameter, and it took Quagliata and his 20 assistants five years of hard work.

"When I came back, I was depressed for months," Quagliata said. "It was like winning the Olympics and coming back to perform in a local race."

What took him out of his sadness was answering a question: When was I the happiest as an artist? And it became clear. He was young and could barely pay his studio's rent, but he was energetic and the faith he put in his glassworks was enough to devote his life to them.

"I told myself, instead of thinking about the past, think about what you want in the future and do it as adventurously and passionately as you did when you were young," Quagliata said.

And so, he learned how to teach remotely. He faced his fears of technology and - coached by his daughter, an experimental video artist - he started crafting a digital masterclass.

He also remodeled his studio and says he hopes to take in students from abroad.

"I'm more than 80 now, so I don't like to travel anymore," Quagliata said. "But if I'm healthy, instead of going out to the world to teach, I'd love the world to come to me."



American Ballet Theater's principle dancer Herman Cornego rehearses for a performance at the Shanghai Grand Theater in Shanghai, Thursday, Nov. 2. The American national ballet company is returning to China for the first time in a decade for shows in Shanghai and Beijing in the latest sign strained relations between the United States and China are beginning to thaw. (AP)

Television

Longest running streaming character

Connelly proud of 'Bosch's legacy



Michael Connelly, creator and co-writer of 'Bosch,' poses at the season two premiere of the Amazon original series in West Hollywood, Calif., on March 3, 2016. Connelly's 'The Lincoln Lawyer' is also a Netflix series. (AP)



Jaffe

Pugacheva

Variety

SHANGHAI, China: American Ballet Theatre returned to China on Thursday for the first time in a decade in the latest sign that strained US-China relations are beginning to improve.

The New York-based troupe's 85 dancers prepared for opening night at the Shanghai Grand Theater, where they were to perform "Classic Old and New," a program of three varied works encompassing contemporary as well as classical choreography, said Susan Jaffe, the group's artistic director.

The tour marks a revival of cultural exchanges between China and the United States. The Asian nation will also host a series of performances starting next week by the Philadelphia Orchestra, marking the 50th anniversary of the orchestra's historic visit to China in 1973.

After four nights of performing in Shanghai, ABT will move to Beijing, where it will stage its highly acclaimed version of "Giselle," a classical romantic ballet, at the National Center for the Performing Arts from Nov. 9 to Nov. 12.

"It's a very special year for me," said Jaffe, who took over as the company's artistic director less than a year ago and last performed in China in 2000 as a principal dancer.

"Ballet is a universal language," she added. "We share emotion and beauty and form and musicality and love through our art form, and for Americans to be able to share this love and this universal language with the Chinese people at this moment in time of cultural exchange I think is a very healing experience for everyone - for us, and we also hope for the Chinese people."

The shows were initially scheduled for 2021 but were postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Zhang Xiaoding, general manager of the Shanghai Grand Theatre, said it had been looking forward to resuming its relationship with ABT as soon as possible following the pandemic restrictions.

A 43-year-old Shanghai resident, Zhu Xiaoyi, who took ballet classes during her school years, prepared to watch the inaugural performance of "Classic Old and New" on Thursday. She said cultural exchanges between the U.S. and China "are very necessary" at this time.

"I hope that through cultural exchange ... communications and exchanges in other fields can increase," she said.

Washington and Beijing have made overtures to each other in recent weeks as they prepare for a meeting between presidents Joe Biden and Xi Jinping later this month at the Asia-Pacific Economic

Cooperation summit in San Francisco. (AP)

kind of telling a new story. And that to me is refreshing and fun. It's a real joy to be in the writing room I got to admit, it's a huge ego boost. All these people are talking about something new created, a character you created.

AP: How many different adventures can Harry Bosch and these characters have on screen?

Connelly: I keep writing about them, so hopefully we won't run out of book material. But also - especially with "Bosch (Legacy)" - it's a life of its own. Yeah. We use some books as kind of like baseline story.

AP: But you're going beyond the books?

Connelly: We are in an area where we're really exploring stories that are not taken from the books, and that's very fun to do. And believe it or not, then I take some of that stuff and put it in the books. For example, Maddie becoming a police officer was in the show before it was in any of my books. Now it's in my books.

AP: Is Harry Bosch anything like you?

Connelly: Little things to make him an outsider. But he wasn't sharing my DNA. I was lucky and it got published. And then they wanted another Harry Bosch story and then another. And so eventually you can't keep that separation and you start sharing. There's leakage from my life into his.

AP: What similarities do you have?

Connelly: Most notably is that we have daughters who are the exact same age and went to the same schools, and his daughter happens to say stuff my daughter has said to me.

So that to me was a big bridge between me and my character.

AP: The father-daughter relationship has become a trademark for you?

Connelly: I was a journalist for 14 years and I covered the police. I was smart enough to say, 'This is what I have that maybe other writers don't have,' so I'd be a fool not to use that authenticity to my book. So, Harry Bosch started out as a cop, and he was an outsider.

AP: Any chance that Harry Bosch and Mickey Haller will appear on screen together, like they do in the books?

Connelly: That would be difficult to do. You know, if we could solve the war in Ukraine, we might be able to bridge the gap between Netflix and Amazon. But they're competitors and maybe it was a mistake for me to take one series to one and one to the other. But I got two TV shows going and they're both really good. So, I don't really regret it. But there is a small regret that in the books it's important that these guys cross paths... Mickey and Harry might never be in a TV show together.

for prison terms or fines for denigrating the armed forces, Pugacheva hasn't been charged. She came back to Russia in May to attend the funeral of fashion designer Valentin Yudashkin, where Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov was seen kissing her hand.

She later left the country, but returned this week, Russian news agencies reported Friday. Her reason for leaving Israel wasn't reported.

Church spokesman Vakhtang Kipshidze was quoted by state news agency RIA-Novosti as saying that Russians "who accompanied their departure by insulting their people or if they made controversial statements should apologize. This also applies to Alla Borisovna," Pugacheva's patronymic. (AP)

The new play opened at the River & Rail Theatre Company's Old City Performing Arts Center in Knoxville for an exclusive engagement on Friday, Nov. 3, in the format of a live staged reading. The script, by playwright Amy Uptgraft and the members of the Veteran's Spouse Project's Heart to Script Writing Group, shares stories of veteran and active-duty military spouses that emerged through a series of writing workshops. (Agencies)

weeks after Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022.

In September 2022, she sparked widespread attention by both supporters and opponents of the conflict by saying that Russian soldiers were dying for "illusory goals" and that the country had become "a pariah."

She also provocatively suggested that authorities should name her a "foreign agent" - a status already applied to her husband Maxim Galkin, an actor and comedian.

Although Russia enacted a law after the start of the war in Ukraine that calls



From left: Actors Josh Andres Rivera, Tom Blyth, Rachel Zegler, Hunter Schafer and director Francis Lawrence pose for a photo at the European premiere of 'Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes' at the Zoo-Palast, in Berlin, Sunday, Nov. 5. (AP)

for prison terms or fines for denigrating the armed forces, Pugacheva hasn't been charged. She came back to Russia in May to attend the funeral of fashion designer Valentin Yudashkin, where Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov was seen kissing her hand.

She later left the country, but returned this week, Russian news agencies reported Friday. Her reason for leaving Israel wasn't reported.

Church spokesman Vakhtang Kipshidze was quoted by state news agency RIA-Novosti as saying that Russians "who accompanied their departure by insulting their people or if they made controversial statements should apologize. This also applies to Alla Borisovna," Pugacheva's patronymic. (AP)

The new play opened at the River & Rail Theatre Company's Old City Performing Arts Center in Knoxville for an exclusive engagement on Friday, Nov. 3, in the format of a live staged reading. The script, by playwright Amy Uptgraft and the members of the Veteran's Spouse Project's Heart to Script Writing Group, shares stories of veteran and active-duty military spouses that emerged through a series of writing workshops. (Agencies)

The new play opened at the River & Rail Theatre Company's Old City Performing Arts Center in Knoxville for an exclusive engagement on Friday, Nov. 3, in the format of a live staged reading. The script, by playwright Amy Uptgraft and the members of the Veteran's Spouse Project's Heart to Script Writing Group, shares stories of veteran and active-duty military spouses that emerged through a series of writing workshops. (Agencies)

The new play opened at the River & Rail Theatre Company's Old City Performing Arts Center in Knoxville for an exclusive engagement on Friday, Nov. 3, in the format of a live staged reading. The script, by playwright Amy Uptgraft and the members of the Veteran's Spouse Project's Heart to Script Writing Group, shares stories of veteran and active-duty military spouses that emerged through a series of writing workshops. (Agencies)

International doctors to share insights at symposium

Kuwait launches annual AIDS and STDs Conference

Child welfare raises concern

Adoption 'matching' AI tool shows limited success in US

NEW YORK, Nov 6, (AP): Former social worker Thea Ramirez has developed an artificial intelligence-powered tool that she says helps social service agencies find the best adoptive parents for some of the nation's most vulnerable kids.

But an Associated Press investigation has found that the Family-Match algorithm has produced limited results in the states where it has been used, raising questions about the ability of artificial intelligence to solve such enduring human problems.

Two states dropped the tool with only a few adoptions at the end of their initial pilots. Social workers in Florida, Georgia and Virginia told AP that Family-Match wasn't useful and often led them to unwilling families. Florida agencies, on the other hand, reported a more positive experience with the algorithm, saying that it assisted them in tapping into a broader pool of prospective parents.

Ramirez declined interview requests but said in an email that "Family-Match is a valuable tool and helpful to users actively using it to support their recruitment + matching efforts."

Here are some takeaways from the investigation:

Ramirez, of Brunswick, Georgia, where her nonprofit is also based, got her start building a website meant to bring prospective adoptive parents together with mothers giving up their babies for adoption.

Counseling

Ramirez marketed her website to anti-abortion counseling centers, which seek to persuade women to bring their pregnancies to term.

"Could we make Roe v. Wade obsolete by raising adoption awareness? I think so," Ramirez wrote in a 2012 blog post about her website. Ramirez said in an email that Family-Match is not associated with the program for mothers with unwanted pregnancies.

Ramirez recruited research scientist Gian Gonzaga, asking if he would team up with her to create an adoption matchmaking tool based on compatibility, to help child welfare agencies find adoptive parents for foster children. Gonzaga had previously managed algorithms that powered the online dating site eHarmony.

"I was more excited about the project than anything I've heard for all of my career," Gonzaga said in a promotional Family-Match video posted to YouTube.

Gonzaga ultimately joined the board of directors of Ramirez's nonprofit, Adoption-Share.

Gonzaga, who worked with his wife Heather Setrakian at eHarmony and then on the Family-Match algorithm, referred questions to Ramirez. Setrakian said she was very proud of her years of work developing the Family-Match model.

An eHarmony spokesperson said the company had no involvement with Family-Match and called the pair "simply former employees."

From former first lady Melania Trump to governors' offices in Georgia and Virginia, Ramirez has worked connections to land contracts.

Virginia and Georgia officials dropped Family-Match after their trial runs only produced one or two adoptions a year. Tennessee said they killed a pilot before rolling it out because of technical issues.

Months after Georgia quit Family-Match, Ramirez met with a staffer at Governor Brian Kemp's office and appeared at a statehouse hearing to request \$250,000 to fund a statewide expansion.

The state reversed course and in July signed a new agreement to resume using the technology. Adoption-Share is allowing Georgia to use Family-Match for free, a state official said.

Ramirez also has won support from public figures.

In New York, she rang the opening bell of the New York Stock Exchange with the then-Miss Utah USA beauty queen. In Florida, Ramirez initially distributed her tool for free thanks to a grant from the Jupiter, Florida-based Selfless Love Foundation, founded by Ed Brown, the former CEO of the company that makes Patrón tequila, and his wife, Ashley Brown, an ex-model and advocate for foster children.

Causes

The Browns fundraise for the foundation's causes at an annual Palm Beach-area gala that has spotlighted Adoption-Share's work. Selfless Love Foundation marketing director Shelli Lockhart said Adoption-Share's grant ended in October 2022, and that the foundation was "so proud of the work we did together" to increase the number of adoptions but declined to clarify why the grant ended.

Once the philanthropic dollars dried up, the state government picked up the tab, awarding Adoption-Share a \$350,000 contract last month.

In May, Family-Match was selected to benefit from a fundraiser promoted by then-St. Louis Cardinals pitcher Adam Wainwright aimed at helping the organization grow "to address the pressing need for foster and adoptive families in Missouri," according to a press release from Adoption-Share. Ramirez posed for photos on the baseball field next to Darrell Missey, director of the Missouri Children's Division, which was considering Adoption-Share's proposal.

Ramirez has highlighted the tool's penetration in Florida's privatized child welfare system as she has tried to court philanthropic support and new business in New York City and Delaware.

This year, Adoption-Share won a contract with the Florida Department of Health to build an algorithm for public health officials focused on children with the most severe medical needs and disabilities, who may never be able to live independently. The contract represents a significant expansion beyond Adoption Share's work with child welfare agencies because medically fragile children can require lifelong caregivers.

"The power dynamics are different because the child can't just leave," said Bonni Goodwin, a University of Oklahoma child welfare expert. "The vulnerability piece increases."

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: Head of the Infectious Diseases Department at Jahra Hospital 2 Dr. Osama Al-Baqsmi announced the launch of the annual Kuwait AIDS and Venereal Diseases Conference today, which will shed light on AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases, and the latest methods of diagnosis and treatment.

In a press statement, Dr. Al-Baqsmi explained that the conference, which is being held under the auspices of the Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi for two days, includes 12 scientific lectures presented by four visiting consultant doctors from outside Kuwait, as well as local contributions about AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases, diagnostic and therapeutic, and their vaccinations.

It aims to limit the transmission of these diseases, shed light on the latest diagnostic methods, and familiarize doctors with the nature of these diseases, the latest treatment methods, and how to deal with them and limit their transmission.

The conference's message is to educate medical staff about the nature of AIDS, as well as enhance community awareness through the presence of imams of mosques, members of the Ministry of Interior and Information, social workers from the Ministry of Education, and primary health care doctors.

He revealed that there are 39 million infected people in the world, 21 million of whom are undergoing treatment, and there are 190,000 in the Middle East.

Infected

Dr. Al-Baqsmi went on to explain that the Joint United Nations Program on AIDS mentioned it in its annual report for 2022 about the performance of countries, which was published last July. Kuwait ranked first in the Arab world, as 94 percent of those infected were diagnosed, 93 percent of them underwent treatment, and 92 percent adhered to treatment completely, which resulted in the concentration of the virus in the blood being "zero".

The report made it clear that Kuwait is first in the Arab world in achieving high standards of success, and that it is advanced globally, as the goal and standard of success required of every country is to reach 95 percent, and aspire to reach it during the next few years.

Kuwait provides medical treatment according to the latest treatment protocols, and conducts AIDS screening at multiple stages and points, including screening blood donors. Testing is mandatory before marriage, in pregnant women's clinics, sexually transmitted disease clinics, before employment, and before starting dialysis.

Achievements

One of the achievements realized by Kuwait is that an infected woman can become pregnant six months after taking the treatment, and give birth to healthy children without a cesarean section.



A section of audience at the annual conference on AIDS and reproductive illnesses.

KUNA photo

Kuwait aims to meet 95/95/95 objective by 2035

Kuwait leads Arab world in AIDS combat with 94 pct success, UN report reveals

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6, (KUNA): Kuwait took the first place on Arab and Middle Eastern levels in meeting the indices of combating acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) with 94 percent, as per United Nations report.

Health Ministry Assistant Undersecretary and Chief of permanent national committee of AIDS, Dr. Al-Munther Al-Hasawi, stated this upon inaugurating the annual conference on AIDS and reproductive illnesses on Monday.

He explained that Kuwait had achieved the 90/90/90 indicator meaning that 90 percent of infected people are aware of their infection, 90 percent of diagnosed people are receiving treatment and 90 percent of those receiving treatment have undetected viral load.

Since then, Dr. Al-Hasawi went on, Kuwait had taken quick steady steps towards achieving the 95/95/95 objective by 2035. However, he expects the arrival at these results before then.

Dr. Al-Hasawi assured that these are not merely numbers on pages but are true objectives based on scientific research.

He stated that if all countries managed to meet these objectives by 2030, number of infections and

of infection, and she can become pregnant and give birth to healthy children.

Dr. Al-Baqsmi stated that the average lifespan of an infected person who is committed to treatment is very close to the average lifespan



KUNA photo

Health Ministry Assistant Undersecretary and Chief of permanent national committee of AIDS, Dr. Al-Munther Al-Hasawi.

deaths would drop dramatically; a drop of 30 million new infections, seven million of which are children and 21 million deaths caused by the disease.

Effects

This, he added, will carry clearly defined financial and economic effects into the world.

Kuwait is now working towards achieving the fourth 90 indicator, the one designated for quality of life, mentioned Dr. Al-Hasawi.

Director of Al-Jahra Health District and Director of Infectious Diseases Hospital Dr. Jamal Al-Duaij praised the efforts made to hold the conference, adding that medical teams are working hard in supporting citizens' health security in venereal diseases fields, notably AIDS (immune deficiency syndrome).

He added that Kuwait is updated with the latest medical examinations in this specific field, noting that the fastest and most accurate diagnostic methods, which does not exceed 15 minutes is currently available.

President of the Conference and Head of the Infectious Diseases Department Dr. Osama Al-Baksami stated that the medical sector stands with a new era vibrant with rapid discoveries and developments in treating and diagnosing AIDS and venereal diseases with modern technologies equipped with the latest scientific and medical methods.

Al-Baksami added that the conference includes scientific session that highlights the latest developments in the field of AIDS and venereal diseases, as well as interactive dialogue sessions to spread awareness and to prevent the spread of such diseases.

pan in society, and he is expected to live in good health for decades provided that he adheres to treatment.

He revealed that treatment is one pill a day, and its complications are almost negligible.

MEDICAL CLASSIFIEDS

Take care of your health



To advertise in this page please call: (+965) 24813566 Ext.: 513 or E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

For your ads on this page

Call: **24813805** E-mail: **advt@arabtimesonline.com**

www.arabtimesonline.com

مرکز شفاء الجزيرة الطبي
SHIFA AL JAZEERA MEDICAL CENTRE
الفروانية FARWANIYA

Obstetrics & Gynecology

Our gynecology department, the most dependable one in Kuwait, offers below services:

- Special Care and treatment during prenatal and postnatal periods.
- Treatment of other gynecological problems such as disturbances of menstruation recurrent miscarriages etc.,
- Diagnosis and treatment of infertility cases.
- Treatment of patients with high-risk pregnancies; managing complex problems related to reproductive endocrinology and infertility
- Screening programmes for early detection of tumours, breast cancer, cervical cancer, ovarian cancer etc.

Dr. Rehab Mohamed
MBBS, MS
(Mansoura University, Egypt)
17 years' experience

Behind Maghateer Commercial Complex & Opp. Police station - Farwaniya

24 734 000 **60 749 749**
www.shifaaljazeera.com.kw

Harrington runs away with TimberTech Championship title

Van Rooyen's eagle putt seals victory at World Wide Technology

Mavs bounce back from first loss with a win over Hornets

Durant scores season-high 41 points, Suns snap 3-game skid

DALLAS, Nov 6, (AP): Luka Doncic scored 23 points after a rare scoreless first quarter point and the Dallas Mavericks bounced back from their first loss with a 124-118 victory over the Charlotte Hornets on Sunday night.

Grant Williams added 18 points, including a trio of 3-pointers in the fourth quarter, and rookie Dereck Lively II had 15 points, 14 rebounds and a big fourth-quarter block.

LaMelo Ball scored 23 of his 30 points in the fourth quarter of his first 30-point triple-double, getting 13 assists and 10 rebounds. But Charlotte couldn't hold a 15-point first-half lead a night after rallying for a one-point victory at Indiana.

Doncic was 8 of 15 after his 0-for-4 start - but was 1 of 9 from long range - while finishing with 12 rebounds and nine assists.

Suns 120, Pistons 106

In Detroit, Kevin Durant had a season-high 41 points, Eric Gordon scored 21 points and short-handed Phoenix beat Detroit to snap a three-game losing streak.

Phoenix was without guards Devin Booker (calf) and Bradley Beal (back). Grayson Allen had 14 points and Josh Okogie scored 10 points, taking advantage of more playing time and shots with the standout guards out with injuries.

BASKETBALL

Cade Cunningham had 26 points, six assists and six turnovers for the Pistons, who have lost four in a row. Detroit coach Monty Williams faced his former team for the first time in the regular season after matching up in the preseason.

Pistons rookies Marcus Sasser scored a season-high 22 points and Ausar Thompson had 14 points while Killian



Dallas Mavericks guard Luka Doncic (77) shoots against Charlotte Hornets forward P.J. Washington (25) and guard Theo Maledon, right, in the second half of an NBA basketball game Sunday, Nov. 5, 2023, in Dallas. (AP)

Hayes added 13 points.

Cavaliers 115, Warriors 104

In Cleveland, Donovan Mitchell scored 31 points and Cleveland beat Golden State to end a 16-game losing streak against the Warriors.

Darius Garland added 24 points and seven assists, Evan Mobley had 13 points and 16 rebounds and Max Strus scored 15 points for Cleveland, which had lost its first three home games. The Cavaliers beat Golden State for the first time since Dec. 25, 2016, spanning 12 regular-season and four playoff losses.

Stephen Curry scored 28 points and made seven of 11 3-pointers, and Draymond Green had 18 points and eight assists for the Warriors.

Raptors 123, Spurs 116, OT

In San Antonio, Scottie Barnes scored 17 of his 30 points in the fourth quarter and had 11 rebounds and Toronto overcame a 22-point deficit to force overtime and beat San

Antonio.

Dennis Schroder and O.G. Anunoby each had 24 points to help Toronto win for the first time on the road this season.

Keldon Johnson had 26 points, Zach Collins added 21 points and 11 rebounds and Victor Wembanyama had 20 points for San Antonio. The Spurs had won two in a row, both at Phoenix.

Grizzlies, 112, Trail Blazers 100

In Portland, Oregon, Desmond Bane had 30 points and Memphis beat Portland for its first victory in the first seven games of the season.

Jerami Grant led Portland with 27 points. The Trail Blazers had won three in a row.

LOS CABOS, Mexico, Nov 6, (AP): Erik van Rooyen made a 16-foot eagle putt on the par-5 closing hole Sunday to win the World Wide Technology Championship, a day after Matt Kuchar squandered a six-stroke lead with a late meltdown.

Playing alongside Kuchar at Tiger Woods-designed El Cardonal at Diamante on the tip of Baja California, van Rooyen played the back nine in 8-under 28 in a 9-under 63. The 33-year-old South African finished at 27-under 261 for his second PGA Tour victory, two strokes ahead of Kuchar and Camilo Villegas.

Kuchar and Villegas each shot 66, with the 45-year-old Kuchar parring the final four holes. Tied for the lead on 18, Kuchar - after van Rooyen and Villegas hit fairway-wood second shots near each other on the green - hit his approach left of the green and chipped 20 feet past the hole.

On Saturday, Kuchar was six strokes ahead at 24 under when he pulled his drive on 15 left into dense bushes and made a quadruple-bogey 8. He then bogeyed the par-3 16th, and ended up tied for the lead with Villegas.

Van Rooyen opened play Sunday with a bogey on the par-5 first and made birdies on Nos. 2 and 6. In his back-nine charge, he birdied Nos. 10-12, 14, 16 and 17 and closed with the eagle. He also won the 2021 Barracuda Championship.

In Boca Raton, Florida, Padraig Harrington ran away with the TimberTech Championship for his second PGA Tour Champions title of the year, birdieing six of the first seven holes in a seven-stroke victory.

A shot ahead after opening rounds of 67 and 66 on The Old Course at Broken Sound, Harrington shot a 7-under 64 to finish at 16 under in the second of three Charles Schwab Cup playoff events and final playing of the tournament in Florida.

GOLF

The 52-year-old Irish player has six champions victories, also winning the Dick's Sporting Goods Open in June. He's set to be inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame next year.

Bernhard Langer, the 66-year-old German star with a tour-record 46 victories, tied for second at 9 under with Charlie Wi, who earned a spot next week in the season-season Charles Schwab Cup Championship and wrapped up a full tour exemption for next year. Langer, the winner last year at Broken Sound, had a double bogey on 17 in a 70. Wi closed with a bogey-free 64.

The top 36 in the Cup standings qualified for the season finale in Phoenix and earned full exemptions for next season. Wi jumped from 54th to 35th, and Rob Labritz took the 36th spot.

Next year, the second playoff event will have a new sponsor and be played in Arkansas.

Chastain wins season finale

Blaney earns 1st NASCAR Cup title

AVONDALE, Arizona, Nov 6, (AP): Ryan Blaney only had to beat Kyle Larson and William Byron to win his first NASCAR championship.

He needlessly added Ross Chastain to his list, too, racing him pointlessly hard in an attempt to win the race Sunday at Phoenix Raceway. When he couldn't pass Chastain, Blaney angrily ran into the back of his car.

It was a side of Blaney his team and competitors know very well.

The public? Not so much.

The soft-spoken third generation racer from Ohio used a pugnacious second-place run at Phoenix to win the Cup title in a drive that showcased a fire that apparently blazes inside the typically mild-mannered Blaney.

The clash with Chastain followed an earlier deliberate collision by Blaney with Martin Truex Jr. Blaney also raced Larson extremely hard and he'd had it with Chastain, the leader and eventual race winner, with 53 laps remaining when Blaney ran into the back of Chastain.

Blaney's behavior was relayed to Byron, who dates Blaney's youngest sister, Erin.

Larson was watching and waiting to pounce in case Blaney made a mistake. The championship was guaranteed to the highest-finishing driver between Blaney, Larson, Byron and Christopher Bell, but Bell broke a brake rotor early and was eliminated with a last-place finish.

CAR RACING

Blaney became the first Ohio-born driver to win the Cup title and followed teammate Joey Logano, who won for Penske a year ago. It was an amazing finish for Ford Performance, which struggled most of the season but came on late with Blaney, who won two of the final six playoff races.

The title was the fourth in the Cup Series for Penske, but first time "The Captain" has consecutive Cups. His IndyCar program won back-to-back championships in 2016 and 2017 with Simon Pagenaud and Josef Newgarden and Penske has 44 total championships across motorsports.

Blaney noted how important it was to win for Penske; the 86-year-old was recently hospitalized with shingles and missed Blaney's win at Martinsville Speedway last Sunday. Penske was in Phoenix and calmly watched the race from a suite, but made his way to the frontstretch to congratulate his 29-year-old driver.

Blaney for sure needed it on Sunday, and used an expletive to admit he deliberately ran into Chastain.

Team Penske has won three Cup titles in the past six seasons, and Blaney has driven for Penske since 2013, when he was 19 years old. He said it was a goal this entire week to add consecutive NASCAR titles to Penske's legacy.

Blaney is the son of former Cup driver Dave Blaney, who made 473 Cup starts over 17 seasons. Dave Blaney was a World of Outlaws champion, his brother, Dale, was a sprint car



Ryan Blaney, center right, receives the NASCAR Cup Series Championship trophy from NASCAR president Steve Phelps, center left, after winning it at Phoenix Raceway, Sunday, Nov. 5, 2023, in Avondale, Ariz. (AP)

US athletes finish Pan Am Games with more gold medals but fewer podiums

SANTIAGO, Chile, Nov 6, (AP): The United States roster of 631 athletes at the Pan American Games finished on the top of the medal table for the 17th time, as expected, but with fewer podiums than four years ago in Lima.

American athletes in Chile won 124 gold medals, two more than in Peru. Medal tables at sports events traditionally take into account gold, silver and bronze to place teams.

The U.S. also won 75 silver and 87 bronze in Santiago, totaling 286. In 2019, the American tally was 293 medals.

Women of three team sports on Sunday helped the U.S. beat the number of gold medals obtained in the previous Pan American Games: softball, water polo and rugby sevens.

Many athletes were much more interested in spots at the Paris Olymp-

ics than in the color of their medals. Among those were the men's and women's water polo teams; B-girl "Sunny" Choi, who will compete in the first Olympic break dancing tournament; and boxer Joshua Edwards.

As four years ago, Brazil finished second in the medal with its best Pan American Games campaign in history; 66 gold, 73 silver and 66 bronze, a total of 205.

Like the U.S., Brazil did not send most of their top athletes to Chile.

The track and field competitions in Chile took place with few top

PAN AM GAMES

competitors, as most of them finished their season in September. The few stars in Chile included U.S. wrestler Kyle Snyder, Brazilian gymnast Rebeca Andrade and Canadian swimmer Maggie Mac Neil - all won gold medals.

Mexico had its best Pan American Games in history with a mix of veteran and young athletes, who brought 52 gold, 38 silver and 52 bronze, relegating Canada to fourth place in gold medals.

champion, and their father, Lou, was credited with multiple Midwest titles.

Chastain won the race in a Chevrolet for Trackhouse Racing and is the first driver to win the season finale while not racing for the championship since Denny Hamlin in 2013, one year before this current elimination format began.

Larson and Byron finished third and fourth for Hendrick Motorsports, while Bell of Joe Gibbs Racing didn't finish and was scored 36th. They were the only four drivers eligible for the title Sunday.

Kevin Harvick finished seventh in the final race of his Cup career.

Even after his clash with Chastain,

there was still a final round of pit stops to come when a Kyle Busch spin brought out the final caution of the race with 37 laps remaining. Blaney was second when he headed to pit road but it was Larson and the No. 5 Hendrick team that had the fastest pit stop.

Larson was the first of the title contenders off pit road, while Blaney lost four spots and was sixth on the last restart. Blaney made up some quick ground and eventually caught Larson, but had to race door-to-door for several laps against the 2021 champion before finally clearing him with 20 laps remaining.

Larson was the first of the title contenders off pit road, while Blaney lost four spots and was sixth on the last restart. Blaney made up some quick ground and eventually caught Larson, but had to race door-to-door for several laps against the 2021 champion before finally clearing him with 20 laps remaining.

Larson was the first of the title contenders off pit road, while Blaney lost four spots and was sixth on the last restart. Blaney made up some quick ground and eventually caught Larson, but had to race door-to-door for several laps against the 2021 champion before finally clearing him with 20 laps remaining.

Larson was the first of the title contenders off pit road, while Blaney lost four spots and was sixth on the last restart. Blaney made up some quick ground and eventually caught Larson, but had to race door-to-door for several laps against the 2021 champion before finally clearing him with 20 laps remaining.

Larson was the first of the title contenders off pit road, while Blaney lost four spots and was sixth on the last restart. Blaney made up some quick ground and eventually caught Larson, but had to race door-to-door for several laps against the 2021 champion before finally clearing him with 20 laps remaining.

Larson was the first of the title contenders off pit road, while Blaney lost four spots and was sixth on the last restart. Blaney made up some quick ground and eventually caught Larson, but had to race door-to-door for several laps against the 2021 champion before finally clearing him with 20 laps remaining.

We're looking for

Talented Females (locally)

to join our thriving Female salon

- **Manicurists and Pedicurists:** Must be experienced providing high-quality nail services.
- **Receptionist:** Excellent communication and customer service skills.
- **Cleaning Ladies:** A commitment to maintaining a clean and hygienic salon environment.

To apply, please send your resume to whatsapp # +965 97226791 PLEASE DO NOT CALL

ARAB TIMES

Subscribe to our service "Arabtimes WhatsApp" to stay updated on the latest local and international news and events



To activate this Free Service:

1- Save our number on your contacts 92220947

2- Send "Start" WhatsApp message to the number you saved.

www.arabtimesonline.com arabtimeskuwait arabtimeskuwait arabtimeskuwait Join us on Telegram



SPORTS

Kuwait College of Science and Technology, American University clash in quarter-finals



Players in action during the volleyball match.

Kuwait University square off against Saad Al-Abdullah Academy

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: The Kuwait College of Science and Technology is set to compete against American University in the quarter-finals of the Warba Bank Volleyball League as part of the third sports tournament for higher education, organized by the Kuwait School Sports and Higher Education Federation.

Meanwhile, Kuwait University

will square off against the Saad Al-Abdullah Academy for Security Sciences. The matches are scheduled to take place in the Gulf University hall, and the victors of these two encounters will secure a spot in the semi-finals, where they will meet Kuwait Technical College, the reigning champions from the previous edition, along with the Public Authority for Applied Education, who are the champions of the second group.

Khaled Al-Madkhor, a member of the Supreme Committee for the Third Sports Games for Higher Education, emphasized the significance of the preliminary round competitions in the

group stage, highlighting the fierce competition among all participating teams striving to earn qualification for the quarter-finals. He explained that this season, the Warba Bank Volleyball League is employing a format where the first-place team directly advances to the final, while the quarter-finals will feature matches between the second and third-placed teams from each group, with the victors moving on to the semi-finals.

In another sporting event, within the Warba Bank Football League competitions for the secondary stage in the Farwaniya region, Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh High School faced a 5-1 defeat at the hands of Shujaa Ibn Al-Aslam High School. Hammoud Al-Jaber High

School secured a spot in the next round after winning 5-0 against Murshid Al-Bathal High School in Al-Rehab area. Today, they will meet Al-Sabah High School, along with Thunayan Al-Ghanem, while Salman Al-Farsi Secondary School will face off against Labeed Bin Rabia.

In the Jahra Educational Zone, Youssef Al-Athbi High School earned their place in the semi-finals by defeating Bin Qais 3-0, while Saad Al-Abdullah High School was beaten by Al-Waha High School 2-0. Today, Urwa Bin Al-Zubair High School will compete against Sabah Al-Nasser, and the second match will see Muhammad Abdullah High School take on Al-Muhaini with Khalid bin Saeed.

Yarmouk claim top spot

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: Yarmouk surged to the summit of the Zain League for the first division after a hard-fought 3-2 victory over Burgan in the fifth round, while Al-Tadamon and Al-Sahel battled to a goalless draw.

Yarmouk now boast 11 points, trailing Al-Tadamon by a mere two points, with Al-Sahel occupying the third position with 6 points. Burgan sits closely behind with 5 points, while Sulaibikhat remain in the last position without any points to their name.

SOCCER

Goran Mankovic, the coach of Yarmouk, expressed his jubilation after the triumph over Burgan, securing three valuable points and claiming the top spot in the league. He lauded the exceptional performance of all his players during the match and their determination to deliver a performance befitting their talents.

Mankovic highlighted the distinct feature of the match, which was the unwavering fighting spirit of his team and their consistent intensity throughout both halves. He noted that the forwards effectively



Coach of Yarmouk Goran Mankovic.

tively capitalized on the available opportunities.

He added, "Matches demand unwavering concentration, as there is no room for compensation. This was the message we conveyed to the players before the game, and it was evident through the seamless coordination and understanding among all three lines." Mankovic also mentioned that the players were given a well-deserved three-day break due to the tremendous effort they had put forth in the preceding period.

England and Brazil to face off at Wembley

RIO DE JANEIRO, Nov 6, (AP): Brazil's soccer confederation announced its national team will play a friendly against England at Wembley in March.

The contest will be England's first against a South American team in six years. The last time the two teams played in 2017, the match ended 0-0.

Brazil had already announced a friendly against Spain in March. South American national teams have long complained about the lack of a calendar to test themselves against European rivals.

"The objective is to always have Brazilian national team games against former world champions so we can have matches of a high technical level," Ednaldo Rodrigues, the president of the country's soccer confederation, said in a statement on Monday.

Later in November, Brazil will play two tough rounds of World Cup qualifying - the first at Colombia and the second against defending champions Argentina at the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro.

Al-Wahdat aim to maintain top spot against Al-Kahraba

Buoyant Kuwait face Al-Ahly Aleppo

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: Kuwait are determined to rekindle their momentum in the AFC Cup as they face off against Syrian side Al-Ahly Aleppo Union 8:00 pm at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium in the fourth round of the second group stage. Simultaneously, the Iraqi Al-Kahraba Club will host their Jordanian counterpart, Al-Wahdat.

SOCCER

Al-Wahdat lead the group with 6 points, while Kuwait follow closely with 5 points. Al-Kahraba stand at third place with 4 points, and Al-Ahly Aleppo are at the bottom of the group with just one point.

"Al-Abyad" initiated their campaign in the group matches with a goalless draw against Al-Kahraba. They secured a 2-1 victory over Al-Wahdat in the second round but ended up with a 1-1 draw against Al-Ahly Aleppo in the third round.

Kuwait's Serbian coach, Boris Bonjak, is optimistic about harnessing the high spirits of his players, following their impressive 4-1 triumph over Al-Fahaheel in the seventh round of the Zain Premier League. This victory catapulted them to the top of the league standings with 17 points, a two-point lead over their closest rivals, Al-Qadsia.

The coaching staff is eager to achieve multiple objectives in today's match.



In this file photo, Sami Al-Sanea tries to dribble pass two Syrian players.

They aim to compensate for the two points lost in the previous round against the Syrian team at the bottom of the group standings due to the draw. Additionally, they plan to capitalize on home advantage and the support of the crowd to secure a victory that would enhance their chances of topping the group if the results of the Al-Kahraba and Al-Wahdat match work in their favor.

Despite some key players being absent in recent clashes, Bonjak has a squad with standout performers in various positions. Notable players include Moroccan Mahdi Barahma, Tunisians Yassin Al-Khanisi and Yassin Ameri,

Bahraini Mohammed Al-Marhoon, as well as Mohammed Daham, Faisal Zayed, Fahd Al-Hajri, Sami Al-Sanea, Talal Al-Fadil, Ahmed Al-Zanki, Mishari Ghannam, and Ali Hussein.

On the other side, the Syrian Al-Ahly Aleppo Union arrived two days ago and trained at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium. Al-Ahly Aleppo currently sit in the sixth position in the Syrian League with 5 points, trailing 5 points behind the league leaders, Al-Fatwa. In their last match, Al-Fatwa secured a 1-0 victory over Al-Ahly Aleppo in a game that was postponed to the fourth round of the Syrian League.

Sporting KC oust top-seed St Louis

KANSAS CITY, Kansas, Nov 6, (AP): Defender Logan Ndenbe scored his second career goal with both coming this postseason and Daniel Salló had an assist and delivered an insurance goal in the second half as Sporting Kansas City eliminated St. Louis City, the top seed in the Western Conference, with a 2-1 victory on Sunday.

SOCCER

Sporting KC (13-14-8) grabbed a 1-0 lead at halftime when Ndenbe used assists from Alan Pulido and Salló to score in the first minute of stoppage time. Ndenbe has one assist and has never scored during the regular season in 37 starts and 43 appearances over the past two seasons.

Salló stretched the lead to 2-0 in the 73rd minute with assists from Gadi Kinda and Johnny Russell.

It was the fifth postseason goal for Salló, tying him with Miklos Molnar for second most in club history. Predrag 'Preki' Radosavljević set the record at eight in two separate stints with the club from 1996-2000 and 2002-03.

'Al-Abyad' fully prepared to defend their chances: Al-Hajri

Kuwait open Club WC campaign against San Fernando

By Khaled El Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

SAUDI ARABIA, Nov 6: The Kuwait Club's premier handball team embark on their journey in the "Saudi Super Globe 2032" Club World Cup, commencing today in Dammam and concluding on the 12th of this month. They kick off their campaign by facing the Argentinian club Fernando in the first round of matches in the second group.

Meanwhile, Poland's Kelce Kelce will also play in the fourth group. Al-Najma of Bahrain match is scheduled for 11:30 in the morning. Later in the day, the action continues with Al-Ahly of Egypt taking on Al-Nour of Saudi Arabia in the first group at four in the evening, followed by the tournament's opening ceremony. The day concludes with a match between Magdeburg of Germany and Al-Khaleej of Saudi Arabia in the third group.

HANDBALL

The tournament draw, held previously, placed "White Hand" in the second group alongside Fernando and the German Fox. The first group comprises Al-Nour of Saudi Arabia, Al-Ahly of Egypt, and Barcelona of Spain. The third group features Magdeburg of Germany, Al-Khaleej of Saudi Arabia, and Queensland of Australia. In the fourth group, you'll find Kelsey of Poland, Al-Najma of Bahrain, and Cal Heat of America.

"Al-Abyad" prepared for the Handball Club World Cup through a training camp in the Bahraini capital, Manama. The camp was led by game director Sameh Al-Hajri and included national coach Haitham Al-Rashidi, his assistant Thiago Oliveira, Brazilian physical trainer Luis, national goalkeeper coach Ali Al-Khader, and Tunisian physiotherapist Dr. Yassine Boukra. The



Al-Nasr Portuguese star Cristiano Ronaldo.

CR7 rested as Al-Nasr play Al-Duhail

DOHA, Nov 6: The Saudi Al-Nasr delegation, currently in Qatar for their AFC Champions League group stage match against Al-Duhail, will not have the presence of Portuguese star Cristiano Ronaldo.

Luis Castro, the Portuguese coach of Al-Nasr Saudi Arabia, has chosen to rest team captain Cristiano Ronaldo for today's match against Al-Duhail. This decision was made to avoid subjecting the Portuguese star to exhaustion from ongoing matches.

In addition to Cristiano Ronaldo, several other players, including Spanish defender Aymeric Laporte, Abdullah Al-Khaibari, Abdulaziz Al-Aliwa, goalkeeper Raghed Al-Najjar, and Nawaf

Bushel, will also be absent from Al-Nasr's squad for various reasons.

SOCCER

Currently, Al-Nasr lead Group Five with 9 points from 3 matches, followed by Persepolis with 6 points. Al-Duhail and Esteghlal Dushanbe both have one point each.

In a related context, the Al Ain delegation has arrived in Saudi Arabia in preparation for their match against Al-Fayhaa, their hosts, in the fourth round of the AFC Champions League's first group.

squad consists of 20 players, including 4 professionals: Qatari Frankis, Portuguese Hernandez, Brazilian circuit player Vinicius, and Tunisian Khaled Belhaj.

The team successfully brought back their injured players, Saif Al-Adwani, Abdullah Al-Gharabally, and goalkeeper Ali Safar. "Al-Ameed" is gearing up, through the Club World Cup, for a shot at the 26th Asian Club Championship title, scheduled to take

place in Kuwait from the 17th to the 27th of this month.

Game director Sameh Al-Hajri stated that the team's technical staff has devised a comprehensive program to prepare the team during the Bahraini camp period. Training was intense, with sessions held twice daily, both in the morning and evening. Additionally, the team played some practice matches against strong Bahraini teams in preparation for the tournament. Al-Hajri confirmed the return of the star player, Saif Al-Adwani, who has recovered from his injury and resumed training.

However, his colleague Muhammad Amer will remain absent due to his complete recovery from an injury. Most of the players have recuperated from minor injuries, and the team is now at full strength in preparation for the World Championship. Al-Hajri concluded by saying, "Al-Abyad are fully prepared to defend their chances in the World Cup, with hopes of achieving favorable results and an advanced position. Moreover, we are gearing up for our main goal, which is competing for the Asian Club Championship title. This championship is set to be hosted by Kuwait's Al-Qadsia Club from November 17th to 27th." It's worth noting that the World Cup draw placed the Kuwait Club in the second group alongside the Argentinian club San Fernando and the German club Foch Berlin.



Kuwait players preparing for their opening match against San Fernando.



Deputy Chairman of the Organizing Committee Khashman Al-Dhafiri.

Kuwait's Camel Race set for Saturday

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: Camel enthusiasts in Kuwait are gearing up for the third Camel Race, which will take place next Saturday, with widespread participation from camel owners across the country.

Khashman Al-Dhafiri, the Deputy Chairman of the Organizing Committee for this special event, has revealed that preparations are well underway for the third edition of the Camel Race. The race will kick off in two stages on Saturday morning, covering a distance of 23 kilometers for the first race and 15 kilometers for the second and final race.

Al-Dhafiri further noted, "The organizing committee, under the leadership of

Fahd Al-Ubawi, has allocated attractive financial prizes for the top three winners at the conclusion of these races, which showcase our rich historical heritage."

CAMEL RACING

He went on to explain that a total of 19 camels will be participating in this event, all of which will compete in the first race. The top eight finishers from the initial race will then qualify for the final, with the first three winners determined based on the results of the 15-kilometer race and the fastest completion time.



Red Bull driver Max Verstappen of the Netherlands (front), steers his car during the Brazilian Formula One Grand Prix at the Interlagos race track in Sao Paulo, Brazil. (AP)

Sports

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

Verstappen earns his record-breaking 17th win

Max wins Brazilian GP, Perez distances from Hamilton in fight for runner-up

SAO PAULO, Nov 6, (AP): Three-time champion Max Verstappen led from the start and won the Brazilian Grand Prix on Sunday. Sergio Perez of Red Bull finished in fourth place, distancing himself from Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton in one of the few competitions left this season - a position for runner-up.

Perez nearly took the podium position from third-place Fernando Alonso of Aston Martin, but the Spaniard saw the checkered flag 0.053 seconds before the Mexican.

The two raced for the position

in the three final laps of the race, with the Red Bull driver overtaking Alonso once and then losing the position.

"For me, it was like 30 laps," Alonso said after being chased by Perez. "I had the pressure from Checo but when he passed me two laps to the end, I thought, 'Okay, this is gone, the podium is not possible.' Then he braked a bit late into turn 1."

McLaren's Lando Norris was second at Interlagos.

Perez will leave South America 32 points ahead of Hamilton with

two races left - Las Vegas on Nov. 19 and Abu Dhabi a week later. His teammate and champion Verstappen said later at a press conference it is not up to him to help his fellow Red Bull driver secure the runner-up position, though.

MOTOR RACING

"It shouldn't always be on me to get the points," the Dutchman said.

Perez started the race at Interlagos in the ninth position and fan-favorite

Hamilton in fifth after a frustrating qualifying for the Red Bull driver on Friday. He showed some improvement during the sprint race on Saturday, and said later he was more confident for the grand prix.

"I was happy with the weekend," Perez told broadcasters. "I just know I could have had more if I didn't get unlucky on Friday (at the qualifying session)."

Ferrari's Charles Leclerc, who was going to start second, crashed during the formation lap before the start due to an engine issue.

"Disappointed to say the least. Lost the power steering and the engine power on the formation lap. It hurts," Leclerc said in his social media channels after the race.

A red flag after the second lap because of a crash involving Kevin Magnussen of Haas and Williams' Alex Albon gave Red Bull drivers more time in seeking improvements.

Verstappen earned his record-breaking 17th win and never lost the lead, while Perez had an aggressive drive to face Hamilton. In the 18th lap, the Red Bull driver overtook the

Mercedes for fifth place, much to the disappointment of Brazilian fans who support the seven-time champion.

Formula One will race in Sao Paulo at least until 2030, organizers announced Friday.

"The whole race was about the management of the tires," Verstappen said after the race. "Las Vegas will be new for everyone, full of surprises, I am sure."

"It is going to be very different from here. Low temperatures, street circuit, we don't know the track's grip," he added.

Real 'held' by Rayo, drop to second behind Girona

Williams brothers thrive

MADRID, Nov 6, (AP): Jude Bellingham couldn't come through this time and Real Madrid was held by Rayo Vallecano in their Madrid derby on Sunday to drop to second place in the Spanish league.

The 0-0 draw ended Madrid's perfect record at home and kept them from joining Girona at the top of the standings after 12 rounds.

Girona had moved three points clear with a 4-2 win at Osasuna. Madrid would have taken the lead on goal difference by beating Rayo.

Madrid controlled most of the match but couldn't capitalize on their scoring opportunities, with both Bellingham and Vinicius Junior unable to break through the Rayo defense.

Vinicius had a goal disallowed for offside in the 66th. Bellingham had a few good chances but wasn't able to find the target.

Bellingham has participated in more than half of the goals by Madrid this season and arrived with 13 goals in his first 13 matches since joining the Spanish powerhouse from Borussia Dortmund this season. In the four games Bellingham failed to score for Madrid this season, the club won only one - against Real Sociedad in September.

SOCCER

"We are upset with the result, but not with how we played," Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said. "Sometimes you win a match that you don't deserve to win and sometimes you don't win a match that you deserve to win. We are still doing well in the standings. We are still in the fight. There's no drama."

Madrid had won 11 straight against Rayo at home in the league. The Madrid clubs had not drawn in their last 21 league matches, with 19 wins for Madrid and only two for Rayo.

The result extended Rayo's unbeaten run in the league to an unprecedented eight games, with two wins and six draws. The club from southern Madrid had no attempts on target throughout the match at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

It was the sixth clean sheet for Madrid in the league this season. Their only loss was at Atletico Madrid in the other city derby.

Barcelona, which won 1-0 at Real Sociedad, remained in third place, two points behind Madrid. Rayo was ninth.

Brothers Iñaki and Nico Williams led Athletic Bilbao to a 3-2 win at Villarreal.

Nico set up a goal by Iñigo Ruiz de Galarreta two minutes into the match and scored the second in the 22nd. His older brother Iñaki added to the team's first-half lead in the 30th which proved enough to end a two-game winless run in the league.

The Basque Country club moved to fifth place, four points behind fourth-place Atletico Madrid, which lost 2-1 at Las Palmas on

Haaland feels better but doubt for Young Boys

MANCHESTER, England, Nov 6, (AP): Manchester City striker Erling Haaland is feeling better after sustaining an ankle injury at the weekend but is not guaran-

SOCCER

teed to play in the upcoming Champions League game against Young Boys, manager Pep Guardiola said Monday.

"I spoke with the doctor and him," Guardiola said of Haaland. "Yesterday he said he felt much better, but I don't know."

Haaland was substituted at halftime in City's 6-1 win against Bournemouth in the Premier League on Saturday after twisting an ankle. Guardiola said after that game that Haaland "didn't feel comfortable" and was withdrawn as a precaution.

Guardiola said he'll know after training later Monday if the Norway international is available against Young Boys, which City hosts on Tuesday.

"If he says, 'I am ready, I don't have pain,' I will consider him to play," Guardiola said.

City would secure a place in the round of 16 with a win.

The team's next game is against Chelsea in the Premier League on Sunday.



Kuwait basketball players pose with officials upon their arrival.

Warm welcome for the 3x3 basketball team

The President of the Basketball Federation, Dhari Burgess, alongside the Federation's Secretary, Thamer Al-Shanfa, and Muhammad Al-Hassawi, a member of the Federation's Board of Directors, extended a warm reception to the national

3x3 basketball team at Kuwait Airport. This gathering followed the team's commendable performance in the recent tournament held in Doha, where they secured both silver and bronze medals.

Dhari Burgess, President of

the Federation, commended the remarkable accomplishments of the national team players in the 3x3 Gulf Championship, which concluded its activities in the Qatari capital, Doha. He emphasized that the silver and bronze medals were well-deserved

acknowledgments of their outstanding efforts.

During the welcoming event at Kuwait Airport, Burgess remarked that the performance of our team showcased the continuous growth of Kuwaiti basketball, whether through the participation

of Kuwaiti clubs or the involvement of our national teams. He further noted that our team's victory over the Qatari team, who had previously clinched the silver medal in the Asian Games held in China, was a significant achievement.



Real Madrid's Joselu (left), duels for the ball with Rayo's Abdul Mumin during a Spanish La Liga soccer match between Real Madrid and Rayo Vallecano at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid, Spain. (AP)

Friday.

Villarreal, sitting 13th, had ended its five-game winless streak in the league with a win over Granada in the previous round. The hosts threatened to grab a point Sunday through goals from Gerard Moreno in the 86th and Alexander Sorloth in the 87th.

Eighth-place Valencia beat Granada 1-0 with a penalty kick converted by Pepelu seven minutes into first-half injury time at

Mestalla Stadium.

Granada, which stayed in second-to-last place, loudly complained about the penalty after Valencia forward Hugo Duro was apparently touched in the face by Granada defender Raúl Torrente.

It was the third straight league loss for Granada, which hasn't won in nine consecutive league matches.

Almeria's search for their first win of the season will continue after a 1-0 loss at Alaves.

MILAN, Nov 6, (AP): Romelu Lukaku lost his perfect penalty record in Italy but made up for it with a last-minute winner as two stoppage-time goals saw Roma snatch a 2-1 win over Lecce in Serie A.

Lukaku should have got Roma off to the perfect start but his spot kick was saved by Lecce goalkeeper Wladimir Falcone.

It was the first penalty Lukaku had failed to convert in Italy, having scored 14 times from the spot for Inter Milan.

The penalty had been awarded on video review after Federico Baschirotto was adjudged to have handled Paulo Dybala's strike in the second minute.

Dybala, who was returning from a month out with injury, almost gave Roma the lead in the 31st minute but he saw a first attempt accidentally blocked by Lukaku and, as the move continued, he volleyed narrowly wide of the left post.

Lecce broke the deadlock in the 71st when Lameck Banda raced down the left and cut inside past Roma defender Gianluca Mancini. He managed to evade another tackle to get the ball to Pontus Almqvist, who swept it into the bottom left corner.

It appeared as if Lecce was heading to its first win in seven matches but substitute Sardar Azmoun headed in Nicola Zalewski's cross in the first

minute of stoppage time. It was the Iran forward's first goal in Italy.

And the home crowd at the Stadio Olimpico went from despair to delight in less than three minutes as Lukaku then curled Dybala's through ball into the top left corner.



Juventus' Moise Kean (front), and Fiorentina's Luca Ranieri fight for the ball during the Serie A soccer match between Fiorentina and Juventus at Artemio Franchi Stadium, in Florence, Italy. (AP)

Roma moved level on points with seventh-place Fiorentina.

Juventus cut the gap to Serie A leaders Inter Milan back to two points with a 1-0 win at Fiorentina, which dominated the match for long periods. Inter won 2-1 at Atalanta on Saturday.

Fabio Miretti scored the only goal in the 10th minute, firing Filip Kostic's cross into the near bottom corner. It was a first senior goal for the 20-year-old Miretti, who has been at Juventus

SOCCER

since he was 8 years old.

Juventus have not conceded a goal for six straight matches.

A section of hardcore Fiorentina fans boycotted the match in protest as they felt it shouldn't have gone ahead at a time when the Tuscany region is struggling after devastating floods in the wake of Storm Ciarán.

They left their seats empty at one end of the stadium and were instead working to help clear the mud and standing water from homes and businesses.

There was a minute's silence before all Serie A matches this weekend in memory of the victims. In Florence, the two teams - normally fierce rivals - mixed together during that moment to show their solidarity.