



# MPs CALL FOR SPECIAL SESSION IN SUPPORT OF PALESTINE

## Saudi, US push for civilian protection

### 'Honor Khor agreements'

CAIRO, Oct 14, (KUNA): The Arab Parliament called on Saturday for respecting international agreements pertaining to Khor Abdullah issue between Kuwait and Iraq.

This came in reaction to the Iraqi Federal Court annulling the agreement back in September fourth.

The call was made after unanimously voting in favor of a draft proposal submitted by parliament member and Kuwaiti National Assembly MP Khaled Al-Otaibi at the opening Arab Parliament fourth session.

At the session, MP Al-Otaibi stressed the importance of respecting signed treaties between Kuwait and Iraq, which were internationally recognized.

He affirmed that both countries must be eager to expand cooperation in all domains, avoiding any developments that might cause strife in relations.

He reiterated Kuwait's respect of international resolutions namely UNSC resolution 833/1993 concerning the UN Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission.

Al-Otaibi stressed the importance completing the demarcation of the Kuwaiti-Iraqi maritime border beyond the border mark No. 162 according to concerned international law.

The Kuwaiti lawmaker said the Khor Abdullah agreement, an internationally treaty, had attained constitutional and legal recognition and should be implemented in accordance with article 102 of the UN charter.

The article stated, "Every treaty and every international agreement entered into by any Member of the United Nations after the present Charter comes into force shall as soon as possible be registered with the Secretariat and published by it."

"No party to any such treaty or international agreement which has not been registered in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article may invoke that treaty or agreement before any organ of the United Nations."

### NewsWatch

**KUWAIT CITY:** The Amiri Diwan on Friday mourned demise of Sheikh Khalifa Jassem Mohammad Al-Ali Al-Sabah who passed away at the age of 67. (KUNA)

**BRUSSELS:** NATO will hold a major nuclear exercise next week, the alliance's chief said Thursday, an announcement that came after Russia warned it would pull out of a global nuclear test ban agreement.

NATO's "Steadfast Noon" exercise is held annually and runs for about a week. It involves fighter jets capable of carrying nuclear warheads but does not involve any live bombs. Conventional jets and surveillance and refueling aircraft also routinely take part. (AP)

**QUETTA, Pakistan:** Gunmen shot and killed six construction workers overnight in the volatile southwestern Baluchistan province, Pakistani police said Saturday.

Police officer Hidayatullah Dashti said gunmen opened fire overnight at eight construction workers in the city of Turbat, about 377 miles (about 606 kms) south of Quetta - the capital of the province. (AP)

**LAHORE:** Pakistan said Friday that police arrested several suspects behind this week's killing of a member of an outlawed anti-India militant group in an attack inside a mosque.

The arrests took place in multiple raids over the past two days, said Usman Anwar, the police chief in eastern Punjab province where a pair of gunmen walked into a mosque in the city of Daska on Wednesday. (AP)

**KABUL, Afghanistan:** A blast struck a Shiite mosque during Friday prayers in Afghanistan's north, a police spokesperson said. He confirmed there were casualties but did not give a figure or other details about the incident.

Taliban footage from the mosque in the city of Pol-e-Khormri, the provincial capital of Baghlan, showed debris strewn over a red-carpeted floor, scattered personal items and bodies covered with shrouds. (AP)



A demonstration in support of the Palestinians held at Al-Erada Square on Friday, October 13, 2023, witnessed the attendance of parliament members. Photo by Samer Shaker



Palestinians wait at the Rafah border crossing between the Gaza Strip and Egypt on Saturday, Oct. 14, 2023. Israel carried out some limited ground operations ahead of an expected broader land offensive against Gaza's militant Hamas rulers following their attack into southern Israel a week ago. (AP)

### 7,000 soldiers deployed following raised threat alert

## France boosts boots on ground after school attack

ARRAS, France, Oct 14, (AP): France will mobilize up to 7,000 soldiers to increase security around the country after a teacher was fatally stabbed and three other people wounded in a school attack by a former student suspected of Islamic radicalization, the president's office said Saturday.

Some schoolchildren, parents and personnel returned to the Gambetta-Carnot school in the northern city of Arras as it reopened Saturday morning to reconnect and seek support, after the attack Friday that rattled France in a context of global tensions over the Israel-Hamas war.

Counterterrorism authorities are investigating the stabbing, and the suspected assailant and several others are in custody, prosecutors said. The suspect had been under recent surveillance by intelligence services for radicalization. Court documents viewed by The Associated Press show he is from the Ingushetia region in Russia's Caucasus Mountains, which neighbors Chechnya. Authorities had initially identified him as Chechen.

The French government heightened the national threat alert, and President Emmanuel Macron ordered up to 7,000 soldiers deployed by Monday night and until further notice to bolster security and vigilance around France, his office said. The "attack emergency" threat posture allows the government to temporarily mobilize the military to protect public places among other measures.

The attacker's exact motive remains unclear, and he is reportedly refusing to speak to investigators.

At the school Saturday morning, police stood guard as adults and children arrived. Classes were canceled, but the school reopened for those who wanted to come together or seek support. One mother said she came with her 17-year-old daughter in a show of defiance against extremism, and to overcome the fear of returning to a site where children were locked down for hours after the stabbing.

Another mother came to seek guidance from counselors about how to support her two sons, who witnessed the attack in their schoolyard.

"As adults, we are managing with difficulty to take a step back, but for them, they're children," said Emily Noge, arriving at the school with her sons and partner. "They initially thought

it was an exercise, so keeping things separate, to say that we've passed from an exercise to something dramatic, is very tricky for them."

"It's always the same moments that come back: The schoolyard, the chairs to protect themselves, the stabbings, the whys. 'Why us? Why Arras? Why the teachers? Why were good teachers. They were there to protect us,'" she said.

For many in France, the attack echoed the killing of another teacher, Samuel Paty, almost exactly three years ago near his Paris area school. He was beheaded by a radicalized Chechen later killed by police.

The suspect in this week's attack had been under surveillance since the summer on suspicion of Islamic radicalization, French intelligence services told AP. He was detained Thursday for questioning based on the monitoring of his phone calls in recent days, but investigators found no sign that he was preparing an attack, Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said.



A riot police officer stands guard after a man armed with a knife killed a teacher and wounded two others at a high school in northern France, Friday, Oct. 13, 2023 in Arras. (AP)

## Kuwait's external debt down 5.4 pct

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14, (Agencies): According to data from the Central Bank of Kuwait, the total external debt of Kuwait decreased by 5.4% during the first half of 2023, amounting to 19.3 billion dinars, in contrast to the 20.4 billion dinars reported at the end of the first quarter of 2023.

Kuwait's external debt, encompassing both government and private sector obligations, experienced a decline from its recent peak in the second quarter of 2023, as well as in the fourth quarter of 2022, where it stood at 19.7 billion dinars, and the third quarter at 19.5 billion dinars.

Comparatively, in the second quarter of 2022, the total debt amounted to 18.9 billion dinars. It's important to note that Kuwait's external debt comprises the debt held by the private sector, which includes local banks, investment companies, exchange firms, insurance companies, and non-financial private enterprises.

Historically, Kuwait's total external debt was approximately 18.7 billion dinars in 2018, and in 2019, it decreased to 16.1 billion dinars, the lowest in five years. In 2020, it increased to 18.9 billion dinars, and in 2021, it reached a record high of 21.8 billion dinars. By the end of 2022, it had decreased to 19.7 billion dinars.

In other news, GCC Secretary General Jassim Al-Budaiwi affirmed the strength of the Gulf economy as one of the top world economies.

Al-Budaiwi made the statement to KUNA, late on Thursday, during a reception held by Kuwait Banking Association, honoring heads of Kuwaiti banks taking part in the annual Economics meetings of the World Bank Group and the World Fund in Marrakech, Morocco.

### Stay ... Go!

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

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14:** MPs Saud Al Asfour, Shuaib Shaaban, Hamad Al-Elyan and Jarrah Al-Fawzan called for organizing a special parliamentary session to show solidarity with the Palestinians. The call was received with support from a large number of MPs.

The demonstration held at Al-Erada Square witnessed parliamentary presence. MPs Abdullah Al-Mudhaf, Hani Shams and Bader Nashmi Al-Anzi expressed their strong solidarity with the Palestinian rights.

MP Abdullah Al-Mudhaf said supporting the Palestinian issue is necessary not only on Islamic and Arab bases but also on humanitarian ground.

He stressed that anyone with a humanitarian sense has to support the right of Palestinian people to defend their nation against the Israeli occupation until they obtain their independence.

### Massacres

MP Al-Mudhaf said he wondered the double standards shown by the international community when dealing with this issue, in terms of staying silent about the Israeli massacres and attacking the Palestinians when they resist the occupation of their homeland.

In this regard, MP Bader Nashmi Al Anzi said he came to Al-Erada Square along with his children in order to teach them that the Palestinian issue is their issue as well.

He said he received this message from his parents and he is delivering it to his children so that the Palestinian issue will continue to survive.

MP Hani Shams stressed that every Arab and Muslim individual should support the Palestinian rights, stressing that the National Assembly will prioritize the bills that call for criminalising any form of normalization of the relations with Israel as well as insist on boycotting Israel.

Meanwhile, the Arab Parliament, headed by Speaker Abdulrahman Al-Asousi held its third general assembly of the fourth term in Cairo on Saturday, October 14.

During the session, they discussed the proposals submitted for stopping the Israeli attacks on Gaza and identifying the popular and parliamentary efforts to support the Palestinian people and enhance solidarity with their rights.

### Statement

The Arab Parliament approved the Kuwaiti proposal to title the session as "Solidarity with Gaza", and issued a statement to hail the steadfastness of the Palestinian people.

It called upon the parliaments of all friendly countries to support the Palestinians who are exposed to massacre that are targeting civilians including women and children, and buildings and properties such as hospitals, houses and vehicles in addition to causing a humanitarian catastrophe by cutting off water and electricity supply and preventing ambulances from carrying the victims to hospitals.

The Arab Parliament totally rejected the calls for the Palestinians to evacuate Gaza, indicating that he considers such calls as an attempt to end the Palestinian issue based on unfair grounds.

During the session, they discussed the reports of Foreign Affairs Committee concerning political and security issues, particularly the ongoing crisis in Gaza and the Israeli attacks on the Palestinian cities.

In Saudi, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken called Saturday for protecting civilians in the Gaza Strip and Israel as he intensified his diplomatic outreach across the Middle East and beyond for an international response to prevent the Israel-Hamas war from expanding.

Blinken met with Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan in Riyadh before stopping in the United Arab

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## Prayer Timings

Fajr .....	04:29	Asr .....	14:52
Sunrise ..	05:48	Maghrib ..	17:19
Zohr .....	11:34	Isha .....	18:36

# Local

## Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

**By Day:** Hot and humid specially over coastal areas with light to moderate variable wind to southeasterly wind with speeds of 10-32 km/h.

**By Night:** Rather hot to mild

## Weather

and relatively humid over coastal areas with light to moderate southeasterly wind changing to northwesterly wind with speeds of 08-32 km/h.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	39	30
Kuwait Airport	41	23

Abdaly	41	24
Jahra	42	27
Salmiyah	33	29
Ahmadi	36	31
Nuwaisib	42	24
Wafra	41	22

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

## Moroccan King presides over opening of first session of third legislative year

**Our will is to build and rebuild: King Mohammed VI**



King Mohammed VI declares the opening of the third legislative term.



A KRCS volunteer distributes food parcels to children in the Gaza Strip.

### KRCS continues aid to Gaza

Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) continued delivering humanitarian aid to Gaza Strip on Saturday, to ease the suffering of Palestinians affected by the Israeli occupation force attacks.

In a statement to KUNA, KRCS Secretary General Maha Al-Barjas said that there is a severe shortage of humanitarian aid in Gaza as all crossing are closed, adding that the society's team in the strip will continue distributing aid despite the difficult conditions.

The team delivered thousands of

meals and food baskets, said Al-Barjas, noting that Kuwait is the first country to deliver aid to Palestinians.

KRCS is currently coordinating with the Egyptian Red Crescent and Palestine Red Crescent Society to deliver humanitarian aid to Gaza Strip as soon as crossings are opened, she said. She said that Kuwait's philanthropists and the private sector are continuously donating and supporting the society's online campaign "Relief Palestine". (KUNA)

## MEW exports, imports power from GCC electricity network

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: The Ministry of Electricity and Water exported 13,448 megawatts to the Gulf interconnection network in the month of September, and imported 10,270 megawatts, which is a difference of 3,421 megawatts.

According to the ministry's statistics for the month of September, electricity was supplied to 572 plots in all housing sectors (private, industrial, commercial, government, investment and agricultural) with a total electrical load amounting to 112,496 kilowatts.

The private housing sector came in first place with 339 plots, then the gov-

ernment sector with 45 plots, followed by the agricultural sector with 16 plots, then the industrial and commercial sector with 14 plots each, and then the investment sector with 10 plots.

The statistics showed that the number of Kuwaiti employees appointed in the ministry during the month of September was two, thus bringing the total number of employees in the ministry to 33,561. This includes 32,690 Kuwaitis and 871 non-Kuwaitis in all technical and administrative sectors of the Ministry.

The statistics stated that the percentage of Kuwaiti employees compared to the total number of employees in the ministry reached 97.4 percent.

### Panel visits Mutla'a City

## Residents problems discussed

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: Members of the parliament's Environment, Food and Water Security Affairs Committee visited Mutlaa Residential City where they were received by the Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) Eng. Rashid Al-Enezi, the Deputy Director General for Planning and Design Affairs Eng. Nasser Khurabit, and a number of PAHW employees, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

During the visit, a meeting was held in the presence of representatives of some government agencies and bodies, including the Ministry of Public Works, the Ministry of Interior and the Kuwait Municipality, in addition to representatives of the environment, sports, agriculture and fisheries bodies.

Acting Director General of PAHW Eng. Rashid Al-Enezi said, "The meeting discussed some issues of concern to the Kuwaiti residents of the city, the obstacles related to the sewage station for the residential city of Mutla'a, and urgent alternatives that can be implemented in conjunction with delivering electricity to the ready residential plots, especially providing temporary treatment plants and starting to implement the

green tree belt for the city and also provide security".

Al-Enezi indicated that the members of the committee discussed the extent of compliance with the provisions of the environmental law and public safety in addition to achieving the condition of quality work.

He announced that electricity has reached 80 government buildings out of 113 buildings in the city of Mutlaa, adding that work is being carried out in coordination with the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy to complete the remaining buildings.

Al-Enezi revealed that PAHW has handed over 22 buildings to the beneficiaries and will work to hand over the remaining ready public buildings to the relevant government agencies in preparation for their operation to serve the city's residents, based on the instructions of the Council of Ministers in this regard, and to accelerate the pace of the remaining work in the other buildings.

Regarding street lighting works, Eng. Al-Enezi affirmed that tenders for street lighting contracts have been issued for the main roads, and the procedures for signing their contracts are being completed.

As for the street lighting tenders for the suburbs from N6 to N11, he said they will be settled next week, and the procedures for technical, financial and legal studies of the submitted offers will be completed in preparation for its awarding, adding that work is expected to begin at the start of next year.



Eng Al-Enezi

### Al-Seyassah Report

RABAT, Oct 14: King Mohammed VI, accompanied by Crown Prince Hassan and Prince Rachid, chaired, on Friday evening in Rabat, the opening of the first session of the third legislative year of the eleventh legislative term.

Upon the King's arrival at the Parliament headquarters, and after saluting the flag to the tunes of the national anthem, he reviewed a group of the Royal Guard.

Subsequently, His Majesty was greeted by Rachid El Alami, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Al-Naam Mayara, Speaker of the House of Advisors, Mohammed Yacoubi, Governor of the Rabat-Salé-Kénitra region, Governor of the Rabat Prefecture, and the two General Clerks of the two Chambers of Parliament.

King Mohammed VI delivered a speech before members of the two chambers of Parliament in the presence of the President of the World Bank, Mr. Ajay Banga, and the Director General of the International Monetary Fund, Ms. Kristalina Georgieva, who are participating in the annual meetings of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund held in Marrakesh in the period between October 9 and 15.

In this speech, His Majesty the King stressed that "our will is to build and rebuild," in the wake of the tragic earthquake that struck the Kingdom and left "thousands of martyrs and many wounded, may God heal them."

### Stressed

In this regard, he stressed "the necessity of continuing to provide assistance to afflicted families, accelerating the rehabilitation and reconstruction of affected areas, and providing basic services."

The King pointed out that "despite the horror of the tragedy, what alleviates the feelings of pain and inspires pride is the manifestations of sincere solidarity and spontaneous solidarity with their afflicted brothers."

On the other hand, His Majesty the King highlighted that this tragedy showed "the victory of authentic Moroccan values, which enabled our country to overcome adversity and crises, and which always make us stronger and more determined to continue our path, with full confidence and optimism," explaining that "those are the noble spirit and values, which runs through all of our veins, and which we consider to be the basic foundation of the unity and cohesion of Moroccan society."

He stressed his keenness to fortify the family with major projects and reforms. Among them are "workshops for mainstreaming social protection, which we consider a basic pillar of our social and development model."

### Program

He pointed out that at the end of this year, the direct social support program will be activated, which will contribute to raising the standard of living of the targeted families, fighting poverty and fragility, and improving social and human development indicators.

The King confirmed that he directed the government to implement this program, according to a comprehensive vision, and within the framework of the principles of the law - the framework related to social protection, which was approved by Parliament, stressing the need for the program to constitute a successful model in its implementation, on the basis of the targeting system for the unified social registry, and for it to benefit from the effectiveness provided by modern technologies.

He also stressed the necessity of respecting the principles of solidarity, transparency, and fairness, and granting support to those who deserve it, calling on the government to work to give priority to the rationalization and efficiency of the social support programs currently in place, and to ensure the sustainability of financing methods.

The King stressed the need to adopt good governance for this project, in all its dimensions, and to establish a special mechanism for tracking and evaluation, to ensure its continuous development and evaluation.

## FM discusses Gaza war with his 'counterparts'

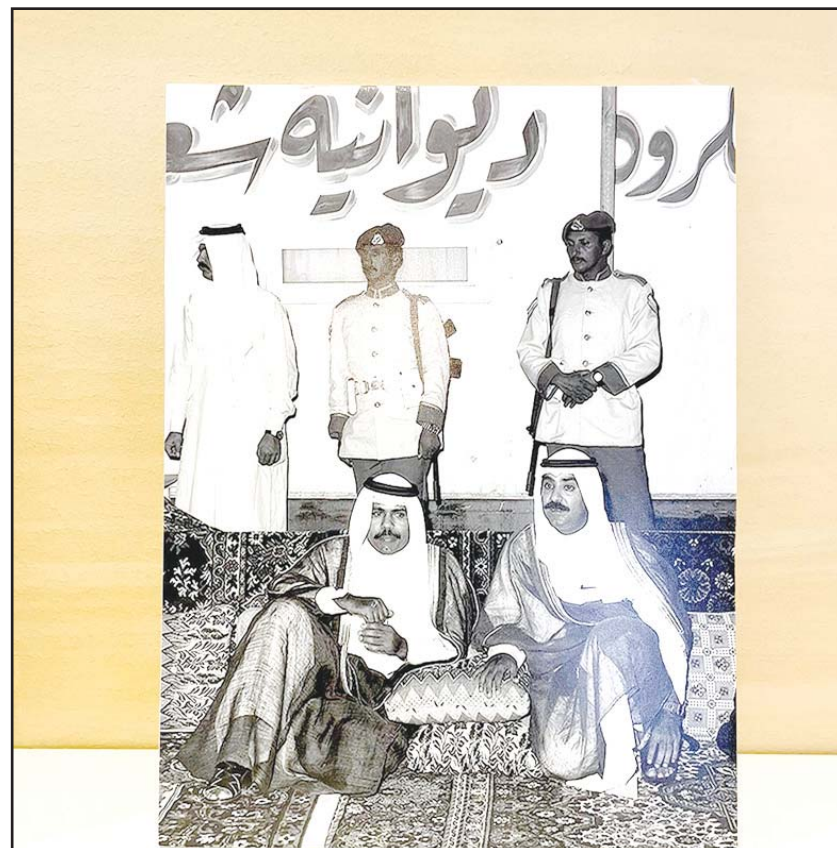
KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14, (KUNA): Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber AlSabah received a phone call Friday from Bahraini counterpart Dr. Abdullatif Al-Zayani that tackled the dangerous escalation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and Gaza Strip joint GCC action. They mulled means to mobilize international efforts to de-escalate the situation in the Palestinian Territories and Gaza Strip and save the lives of innocent civilians. They also discussed the efforts to allow the provision of humanitarian and relief aid to Palestinians in Gaza Strip.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs also discussed, in a phone call, Friday with Omani counterpart Badr Al-Busaidi the dangerous escalation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and Gaza Strip. They mulled means to mobilize international efforts to ensure the security and safety of Palestinian people in Gaza Strip and de-escalate the situation in the Palestinian Territories to save the lives of innocent civilians. They also discussed efforts to allow the provision of humanitarian and relief aid to Palestinians in Gaza Strip.

Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah then discussed, in a phone call, Friday with Saudi counterpart Prince Faisal bin Farhan the dangerous escalation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and Gaza Strip. They mulled means to mobilize international efforts to ensure the security and safety of Palestinian people in Gaza Strip and de-escalate the situation in the Palestinian Territories to save the lives of innocent civilians. They also discussed efforts to allow the provision of humanitarian and relief aid to Palestinians in Gaza Strip.



Sheikh Salem



File photo: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

### Poets Diwaniya ... Kuwait's rich heritage

By Salem Al-Methen

Kuwait's Nabat Poets' Diwaniya, established in 1977, is a rich Kuwaiti literature heritage.

The diwaniya aspires to present its Kuwaiti heritage during its participation in the Abu Dhabi Poetry Festival 2023.

The festival will be held from October 12 to 15, under the patronage of Abu Dhabi's Crown Prince Sheikh Khalid bin Mohammad bin Zayed Al-Nahayyan, with the participation of poets, researchers and media figures from different countries around the world. (KUNA)

## 'Breast cancer most common in women'

'Colon cancer prevalent in men'

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: Director of the Health Promotion Department Dr. Abeer Al-Bahwa says breast cancer is the most common type of cancer affecting women in the country, followed by thyroid cancer, and then uterine cancer. Among men, colon cancer is the most common type of cancer, followed by prostate cancer and then lung cancer.

In a press statement issued to Al-Seyassah at the Health Promotion Department's inauguration of the Breast Cancer Awareness Month, during which many awareness activities are held in coordination with civil society organizations, Dr. Al-Bahwa explained that colon cancer was ranked third most common cancer among women in Kuwait until 2018.

### Increased

However, the rates of uterine cancer gradually increased, surpassing colon cancer and ranking third in 2019. This is as per the statistics approved by the Kuwait Center for Cancer Control. It also indicated a recent increase in the rate of prostate cancer, which now ranks second instead of leukemia, which was in second place until 2018.

Dr. Al-Bahwa praised the efforts exerted by the Ministry of Health to raise awareness about the importance of early detection of breast cancer.

She stressed that the increase in the number of new cases discovered each year is the result of awareness about the importance of early detection of the disease.

Dr. Al-Bahwa revealed that the rate of new breast cancer infections among citizens and residents, according to the latest statistics of the Kuwait Center for Cancer Control, is 709 new cases, including 359 Kuwaiti women (35.4 percent of the total Kuwaiti patients and 272 non-Kuwaiti women (38 percent of the total non-Kuwaiti

patients). She stressed the need to perform a mammogram test periodically every year for women over the age of forty or those who have a personal or family history of the disease or any type of cancerous tumor.

Dr. Al-Bahwa clarified that a mammogram is an imaging of the breast with low doses of radiation, and the radiation will show any tumors or invisible changes in the breast.

She highlighted that many events were held this year with the cooperation of several ministries, including the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health's Primary Health Care Department, and other parties such as Kuwait University, the Community Development Center, and the National Cancer Awareness Campaign (CAN).

She warned of the appearance of many signs associated with breast cancer, and stressed the need for women to consult a specialist doctor if one of these signs appears. These signs include the appearance of a hard, painless mass in the breast or under the armpit, inflammation and swelling of the breast, discharge from the nipple, change in the size and shape of the breast, wrinkles in the skin and nipple reflex, or a feeling of itching or blistering in a rash around the breast.

Regarding the methods of detecting the disease, Dr. Al-Bahwa explained the three methods of tests, including self-tests methods. This includes testing in the lying position which requires the woman to lie on her back, place a pillow under the right shoulder, feel the right breast with the insides of the three middle fingers of the left hand, apply circular, light, and firm pressure without lifting the hand from the skin, and monitor the movement of the finger up and down. This can also be done in a standing position in front of the mirror.

The clinical test represents the second method of examination, which is the test conducted by doctors and specialized trainers in hospitals, and then finally the radiological test using mammogram.



Dr. Al-Bahwa

### Winter Club holds sports event

## Bid to raise cancer awareness

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti Winter Games Club organized a series of sports and social events on Saturday to raise awareness about breast cancer, coinciding with World Breast Cancer Month in October. The event saw the participation of both male and female ice hockey school players, club members, parents, and female activists dedicated to the cause.

Club President Fuhaid Al-Ajmi, speaking to reporters after the activities held at the club's facility, highlighted the club's social responsibility toward its members and the families of male and female players. The aim was to educate attendees about breast cancer, emphasizing preventive measures.

Al-Ajmi mentioned that early tests for breast cancer were conducted during the event, and participants were provided with

information on treatment and essential prevention measures. This effort was carried out in collaboration with various health authorities and health advocates in the field.

He stressed the significance of these activities in encouraging club members to actively engage in community development aligned with the principles of sportsmanship. He also commended the enthusiastic participation of those who were passionate about this cause.

Hanan Al-Khalidi, a member of the "Cancer Survivors" team, emphasized that their participation in these activities served to convey a crucial message to women. The message was that a breast cancer diagnosis is not the end, given advancements in medical treatments. Furthermore, it underscored the importance of early and regular examinations to expedite treatment and recovery.

# 'Is that permitted for Israel ... and forbidden for Palestine?'

"Numerous news outlets and countless social media activists from various non-Muslim and non-Arab countries are exerting significant effort to disseminate videos and images of the ongoing events in Palestine, particularly in relation to the "Jerusalem Flood" operation. They often accompany these visuals with negative and unjust comments directed at the Palestinian people as a whole," columnist **Hussein Al-Rawi** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

"One might wonder about the motivations behind such behavior -- whether it stems from ignorance, media bias, or religious and ideological conflicts. The root of the issue, however, traces back to the war in 1948, when Arab countries clashed with armed Zionist militias, leading to the occupation of Palestinian territories.



Hussein Al-Rawi

"Israel is viewed by many as the occupying force in Palestine, which was once a land of freedom and independence where diverse religions and religious sects coexisted harmoniously. The occupation initiated by Israel has involved aggression, killings, destruction, and displacement of the Palestinian people.

"The world community has borne witness, through screens and images, to the Israeli army and police mercilessly taking the lives of Palestinian women, children, girls, young men, and the elderly. Yet, there seems to be a discrepancy in how the actions are labeled: when Palestinians seek revenge for their country, themselves, their honor, and their families against Israelis, it's labeled as terrorism.

"While some may not align with or support Hamas, it's acknowledged as a Palestinian resistance movement against the Israeli occupation and aggression. Hamas is seen as fighting for their homeland and its people, encompassing men, women, and children. Meanwhile, Israel receives support from various countries to maintain its oppressive stance against the Palestinian people.

"Many individuals, including the author, stand firmly against the killing of defenseless civilians anywhere on Earth, and condemn all forms of terrorism. However, it's questioned why Hamas is branded as a terrorist organization when it targets Israeli civilians, while Israel's actions against the Palestinian people do not receive the same label."

**Also:**

"The primary objective of ship control and inspection within ports is to consolidate the efforts of countries overseeing a specific geographical region. This coordination aims to monitor and regulate substandard ships that pose hazards to maritime safety and environmental cleanliness during their voyages," columnist **Dr Abdul Amir Al-Faraj** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

"These ships fail to comply with relevant international standards and agreements, notably the International Convention on the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) and its amendments, as well as the International Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution (MARPOL).

"All Gulf Cooperation Council countries, including Kuwait, have ratified the MARPOL convention. Kuwait stands as a prominent nation in this domain, aligning with fellow Gulf Cooperation Council countries. They have collectively endorsed the Riyadh Memorandum of Understanding, a significant international regional agreement focused on establishing a framework for inspecting and controlling ships.

"The memorandum, adopted by six member states, was initiated during a meeting in Riyadh in June 2004, attended by representatives from Gulf Cooperation Council countries. Maritime administrations, under the auspices of the International Maritime Organization, signed this memorandum.

"Functioning as one of the regional memorandums of understanding tied to port state control, this memorandum organizes the control and inspection of foreign ships visiting national ports. Its purpose is to verify the adherence of these ships to global and local standards, especially international agreements concerning navigation safety and marine environment preservation.

"The memorandum imposes specific obligations on the maritime administrations of the signatory nations.

"Undoubtedly, this memorandum significantly prioritizes port security and their facilities, aligning with border security requirements. It addresses organized criminal activities and the potential for terrorist acts. Port security responsibilities extend beyond designated security personnel, encompassing all individuals working at or frequently visiting ports or port facilities. Hence, it's crucial to ensure comprehensive training in security awareness and consistent, effective methodologies for everyone involved.

"With a strong emphasis on preserving its ports and ensuring the safety of various types of ships, Kuwait is urged to maintain its leadership in this domain. Continuous and comprehensive training courses are recommended to enhance the proficiency of sea port workers and elevate the quality of control and inspection processes within ports."



"There is no doubt that everyone in Kuwait is proud of the 1962 Constitution, which was ratified by the late Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah (May God have mercy on him) on November 11, 1962. It constituted a milestone in the history of political life in the country", columnist **Wael Al-Mutawa** wrote for **Annahar** daily.

"Kuwait has gone through historical milestones throughout its democratic journey, from its inception through the constitutional document in 1938 until the birth of the 1962 Constitution, which is the most important and most prominent document in the country's history.

"The 1962 Constitution constituted a qualitative shift, changed the landscape, regulated the relationship between the ruler and the people, and affirmed the civil rights of the citizens. It created a house for the nation that included 50 representatives, chosen by the people through the ballot boxes. These 50 individuals were supposed to be the elite of Kuwaiti men and women.

"The legislator has defined the role of the representative as monitoring and legislating. Tools were established for the members of the National Assembly to monitor the work of the government and the ministers. Among these tools is directing parliamen-

tary questions. Ministries and agencies are supposed to respond to these questions.

"However, the legislator has established a more stringent tool, which is grilling (one of the oversight tools), through which a member of the National Assembly can accuse a member of the executive authority based on information that raises doubts about a specific topic.

"Interpellation is an MP's right to investigate facts and monitor the performance of the executive authority. The Constitution guarantees this right in article 100. The truth is that interpellation is used in most democratic countries, and it is an absolute right of the representative with which no one disputes. However, in Kuwait, interpellation has deviated from its goal, where it is sometimes not intended for reform or course correction.

"Justice requires that the representative read the interpellation topics, listen and watch his colleague's interpellation, and also listen to the minister's responses. After that, he can judge whether he supports or opposes the interpellation.

"I believe that injustice is more severe when a minister is sentenced and his political career is ended by supporting a motion of confidence in the minister before the grilling session."



"For several years, there has been a media campaign that aims to distort everything that is Kuwaiti, irrespective of whether it is at the level of individuals or institutions and at the level of achievements or failures," columnist **Ahmad Al-Mulaifi** wrote for **Annahar** daily.

"With its methodology, capabilities, and continuation, I do not believe that this campaign is the result of a coincidence or event. Rather, I am certain that it is an artificial, organized, and paid-for campaign.

"Yes, Kuwait is not a virtuous city. It has failures as well as achievements, and it has good and bad like any neighboring country or the world. However, what is happening on the scene is a media attack that erases every achievement and highlights every failure, and sometimes even fabricates things, and repeats old incidents that cannot happen again. This is either by chance or by mere passing criticism.

"Of course, this does not mean that everyone who criticizes or highlights failures is part of this organized campaign or is driven by either money or against the nation, or the disease of fame. There are those whose heart burns for the nation and they express pain through their criticism. Such a person is honest when he is wrong, and he rejoices when an achievement is made. He is not deprived of his right or his status or the status of those in charge of him is not belittled.

"However, there are those who lead the smear campaign carefully and professionally, only to be followed by well-intentioned people, creating an atmosphere of despair.

"This ongoing campaign, led by professionals from inside and outside Kuwait, is met with a negative attitude from state agencies, especially the media, which has left the field free for any party to tamper with it, and directs minds and ideas in the direction it wants.

"Besides implementing the law and being firm in its implementation or even proposing a stricter amendment to it, what is also required is a counter-media campaign carried out professionally and systematically that works in several directions, including exposing this media campaign and those behind it, responding quickly to the rumors and refuting them, and presenting the achievements in an objective, professional and not exaggerated manner, as well as instilling national values and defending the homeland without vulgarity."



"Since the start of Toofan al-Aqsa' (Operation Al-Aqsa Storm) operation when Hamas launched a surprise attack on the areas known as the Gaza Strip by land, sea and air, a question has been raised about the feasibility of this operation, and whether Hamas was right or wrong", columnist **Abdulaziz Al-Fadhli** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

"From the results, I believe that the gains of the operation outweigh its losses, as it has shown the world the fragility of the Zionist entity's army. It is weaker than a spider's web, as its failure in the intelligence and military aspects has been proven.

"This operation also inflicted on the Zionist enemy losses that it had not suffered in 50 years, as the announced number of deaths reached 1,100 people so far and is subject to increase.

"Hamas was also able to capture hundreds of Israelis, some of whom hold high military ranks, which will contribute to raising the ceiling on prisoner exchanges, and may lead to the emptying of Palestinian prisoners and detainees from Israeli prisons.

"The operation revealed to us some of the hypocrites who live among us and are falsely affiliated with our nation, those who condemned the operation while remaining silent for a long time about the Zionist attacks on holy sites, women and children, and the unjust siege imposed on the people of Gaza!

"This operation exposed the double standards and the blind eye with which America and the West view the Palestinian-Zionist conflict. At a time when they consider the occupying state's killing of civilians as a form of self-defense, we see them condemning the launch of rockets by Hamas in response to the Zionist attacks and calling it terrorism!

"This operation revived the nation's spirit of pride, and spread joy among the Arab and Islamic peoples who saw how the noses of the arrogant Zionists were buried in the dirt!

"It renewed the spirit of brotherhood among Muslims. We saw support for the people of Gaza at various levels - official and popular - through marches, festivals, statements, donations and political stances, and our country Kuwait was at the forefront of that.

"On the other hand, there are those who believe that this operation led to the loss of Palestinian lives and property. We respond to these people by saying that no one achieved freedom without sacrifices. Our brothers in Palestine are ready to sacrifice the most precious things in order to liberate Al-Aqsa Mosque and Palestine.

"It is shameful for America and some European countries to issue a joint statement expressing their support for Israel, while the Arab League and the Organization of the Islamic Conference remain silent and abandon supporting the people of Palestine!"

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary



View of contestants in the 'Kuwait Hackathon'.

## 286 take part in 'Kuwait Hackathon' contest

The Kuwait University organized the "Kuwait Hackathon" competition in the field of cybersecurity, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

The event was organized under the patronage and presence of the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled, featuring the active participation of 286 contestants spanning over 12 hours.

The Code Academy held in collaboration with the National Center for Cybersecurity said Kuwait Hackathon Competition is recognized as the largest cyber-

security competition in Kuwait in which the contestants are divided into 72 teams.

Hashem Behbehani, the Chief Operating Officer of Code Academy, "During the 12-hour duration, the teams are tasked with overcoming various challenges, which include hacking into certain websites and formal systems."

Behbehani emphasized that the primary objective of this competition is to showcase the cybersecurity talents within Kuwait while also fostering a culture of cybersecurity awareness and expertise in the country.

# 'Unawares' Kuwaitis caught with drugs on travel return

Court sends suspects to jail

### Other Voices

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: A drug experiment conducted by young Kuwaitis during their travel in Thailand, were caught on the wrong foot when they entered the country, reports Al-Rai daily.**

Many of them brought along with them drugs, albeit in small quantities, and were caught by the customs authorities at the Kuwait International Airport. They were charged with attempting to smuggle drugs into the country and were referred to the Public Prosecution.

In Thailand, certain drugs are sold legally and publicly, which led these individuals, who were unaware of the legal consequences, to face punishment at home upon their return.

**Experiences**

Some of them who shared their experiences said they experimented the drugs openly available in Thailand but as time went by they found it difficult to kick the habit or break free from it and ultimately ended up bringing the drugs into Kuwait.

One of the 'victims', a 24-year-old woman, unknowingly carried drugs inside her makeup kit and was arrested at the airport.

Another admitted to being influenced by certain aspects of Thai nightlife and started with a hashish cigarette, gradually escalating to narcotic pills.

Unable to quit, he brought drugs concealed in his pants upon returning from Thailand; while some others, not realizing the substances were drugs, purchased them officially, believing they were sweets due to their legal status in Thailand,

# The 'Trojan Horse' Gaza

By Ahmad alsarraf

I cannot foresee the eventual resolution of the ongoing Hamas threat. However, I hope that Israel will acknowledge the reality and embrace the two-state solution. It is unrealistic to expect nearly 8 million people to abandon their dreams of living in peace, free from violence, displacement, and restrictions.



alsarraf

I recently shared a tweet in both Arabic and English: "I strongly oppose Hamas.

I do not support military operations. I abhor discrimination, abduction, and torture.

I firmly condemn their actions in the past three days."

Simultaneously, I condemn the actions of Israelis towards the Palestinian people over the last 27,740 days." I remain steadfast in my stance against Hamas and my concerns regarding the schemes of the Muslim Brotherhood and what they represent.

I also cannot overlook the official Palestinian position during the brutal Saddam Hussein invasion, despite Kuwait being a significant supporter of Palestine.

However, as a human and someone who values freedom, I cannot sustain negative feelings and hatred for 33 years, especially when it's not certain that the entire Palestinian population was against the liberation of Kuwait and supported Saddam Hussein.

Even if all Palestinians held the same opinion regarding the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, which is not verified, it does not negate their right to return home, attain independence, dignity, and peacefully coexist with their neighbors. I stand with them, just as I stand with Ukraine's right to defend

their country.

Many analysts insist on their belief that there is a conspiracy that allowed Hamas to breach Israel's seemingly impenetrable borders, enter homes, kill hundreds, and take many as prisoners of war.

This theory suggests that Israel had meetings with Hamas, agreeing to disable surveillance cameras and remove monitoring equipment to enable Hamas to breach cities, kill hundreds, and capture Jewish individuals, including Americans.

Subsequently, Israel would pursue and eliminate hundreds of Hamas members, initiate a war against Gaza, mobilize 300,000 reservists at a daily cost of one billion dollars, deploying fighter jets and helicopters to destroy homes, buildings, and services in Gaza, killing thousands of Palestinians by cutting off water, electricity, and blocking the entry of essential supplies.

Strangely, proponents of this theory fail to provide a compelling reason for two parties to agree to such a deadly course of action. Additionally, no Israeli party has presented a similar narrative, considering nearly 50,000 Israelis are tasked with monitoring the borders.

Furthermore, those who doubt that Hamas managed to breach Israeli borders overlook the fact that history is replete with similar incidents, dating back to the 'Trojan Horse'.

Nehemia Shtrasler, a prominent Israeli journalist, wrote in Haaretz on October 10, 2023: "Hamas' surprise attack on Israel is the worst failure in the country's history."

It surpasses even Yom Kippur in its seriousness. The surprise was more profound, the 'concept' more misguided, the neglect more severe, the blow to morale worse, the chaos more overwhelming, the shock more profound, and the civilian casualty toll the highest ever. 'Netanyahu: resign now.'



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and brought them back to Kuwait in their bag.

Following their confessions, the Criminal Court

in Kuwait decided to put them behind bars.

## CSC clarifies jobs priority

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: The Civil Service Commission (CSC) has reiterated its emphasis on government agencies regarding appointment priorities, clarifying that preference in appointment after a Kuwaiti citizen should be given to the non-Kuwaiti children of Kuwaiti women, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

Head of CSC Dr. Issam Al-Rubaian highlighted in a circular sent to government agencies that CSC had previously issued circular No. 3/2017 for giving preference to non-Kuwaiti children of Kuwaiti women.

He explained that it is a requirement that whoever is appointed should be of Kuwaiti nationality. If there is none, the next priority should be given to non-Kuwaiti children of Kuwaiti women, followed by citizens of Arab countries, in accordance with the amendment to clause No 1 of article 1 of the civil service law.

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# MEW yet to achieve Amiri desire to produce 15% renewable energy

'Some undeserving employees collect house allowance'

Kuwait imports 297MW from GEIN

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: Informed sources in the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy revealed that Unit No. 11 of the Al-Zour South Electricity and Water Distillation Station was out of service at six in the evening last Tuesday, prompting the ministry to declare a state of emergency and import 297 megawatts from the Gulf Electrical Interconnection Network (GEIN).

The sources said "the imported capacity did not cover the shortfall in production, which made the monitoring center ask the distribution networks sector to disconnect the power supply to the Abdali farms until electrical production was rectified balanced with consumption rates."

The sources added, the power outage at the Abdali Farms lasted for about two hours, attributing the decrease in production rates to the power station sector to a number of units shutting down for maintenance purposes in preparation for the next summer season.

## «Mujezat Al-Shifa»: Beebread combats kidney failure and enhances kidney function

The nutrition consultant at Mujeza Company explained that bee bread originates in the beehive after anaerobic fermentation of the pollen stored in the hexagonal eyes, which the bees mixed with nectar, salivary enzymes, and secretions of the glands in their brains. It is fermented by yeasts and beneficial microbes found in the pollen, and fermentation helps make it easier to digest. Pollen and increasing its nutritional value.

Ahmed revealed a study conducted by Professor Maryam Bakour with her colleagues in the Department of Pharmacology at Sidi Mohammed Ben Abdullah University in Marrakesh on laboratory rats who suffered experimental kidney failure from titanium oxide, which is toxic to kidney cells. They were fed with bee bread in graduated doses for a month, and the analysis showed that the functions of the kidneys were impaired. The tissue integrity of the kidneys also improved steadily with higher bee bread dosage.



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

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: According to informed sources, the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy has not yet succeeded in achieving the desire of the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad to produce 15 percent of renewable energy in the country by the year 2030.**

They said the ministry's total production of renewable energy in the past 11 years amounted to 1,910 megawatts, which is not enough to operate two large government buildings, as it is produced from photovoltaic panel projects on top of the buildings of the Ministry of Electricity and Water and a number of other small projects.

The sources said they were surprised by the ministry's target to achieve 4,500 to 5,000 megawatts of renewable energy in 2030 within its written and announced plan, when it was only able to produce 1,910 megawatts in the 11 years since the launch of the Amiri vision.

### Accelerate

They called for the ministry to accelerate the implementation of its current plan, which aims to produce 4,780 megawatts by 2028, by implementing several projects through specialized international developers, providing the necessary budgets, and coordinating with the responsible authorities to speed up the tendering, awarding and implementation procedures.

The sources highlighted studies that have proven that the cost of producing a kilowatt of renewable energy ranges between 3.5 to 5 fils, which is much less than the cost of a kilowatt produced from traditional energy, which costs 35 fils per kilowatt. This means that using alternative energy saves the state treasury approximately KD 2 billion annually, as it currently uses oil to operate tradi-

tional power plants.

They explained that the ministry has 17 future projects to produce energy from photovoltaic panels by exploiting the spaces in its buildings, facilities and stations, with the aim to achieve self-sufficiency in renewable energy instead of relying on traditional energy that drains millions in its production.

It is true that these projects have been included in the ministry's plan for more than seven years, but it did not see the light yet, and is transferred from one fiscal year to another.

The sources warned of the continued state of stagnation and inaction that the ministry is experiencing, and its inability to propose and implement projects related to the production of renewable and alternative energy instead of relying on the Gulf interconnection network to compensate for the shortage of electricity. This includes accelerating the implementation of its integrated plan for the construction of new stations through international developers to finance, build and operate the power and water production stations, and through independent suppliers globally and in the Gulf countries, successfully.

**Housing allowance:** The Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Communications Affairs, Fahd Al-Shoula, revealed there are some employees in the legal department who collected about 60 thousand dinars in the form of housing allowance in spite of them obtaining a house, reports Al-Rai daily.

This happened because they have failed to update their data in this regard.

He stressed that "the municipality follows up on the observations made by the Audit Bureau on a regular basis, and works to avoid them, and in this regard a committee has been formed by the municipality to respond to the observations made by the Audit Bureau.

It is noteworthy to make a mention that Al-Shoula had recently issued a decision to organize and determine the mechanism for disbursing housing allowance and updating the data of the municipality employees.



KUNA photo  
Minister Plenipotentiary and UN's Deputy Permanent Representative Faisal Al-Enezi.

## Move for self-rule in Sahara

# Kuwait renews support for Moroccan initiative

NEW YORK, Oct 14, (KUNA): Kuwait renewed its support regarding the Moroccan initiative for self-rule in the Moroccan Sahara as it aims to reach a solution among all parties. This came during Kuwait's speech, delivered by Minister Plenipotentiary and UN's Deputy Permanent Representative Faisal Al-Enezi on Wednesday at a session of the fourth Committee of the UN General Assembly, where he stressed on the need to respect the unity and sovereignty of Morocco.

Al-Enezi praised UN's efforts for holding meetings to discuss all parties' concerns regarding the Sahara issue and reaching a consensual political solution. He added,

"We realize the importance of resuming meetings in the same format and with the same four participants, namely Morocco, Algeria, Mauritania and the Polisario, in accordance with Security Council Resolution 2654." Al-Enezi added, "An important issue that is not addressed in the discussion

related to decolonization," is Iran's seizure of UAE's three islands Abu Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tunbs.

Al-Enezi considered any practices or actions carried out by Iran on the three islands to be "null and void and has no effect on the right of the UAE's sovereignty," reiterating Kuwait's call on Iran to respond to the UAE efforts to resolve the issue through direct negotiations or resorting to the International Court of Justice.

Regarding Palestine, Al-Enezi expressed Kuwait's concern on the escalation in the Gaza Strip and the occupied Palestinian territories, which resulted from the continuous violations and attacks by the Israeli occupation forces on the Palestinian people.

He called on the international community to take responsibility for stopping the violence and providing protection to the Palestinian people as well as ending the "provocative" practices of the occupation forces.



Photo by Ahmad Srour

A group photo of the participants.

## KUNA concludes correspondents' skills course

KUNA Center for Development of Media Skills concluded on Thursday a training course themed "preparing the correspondent," a program that involved KUNA personnel, the Public Authority for Youth and the Qatari News Agency.

The program, presented by the editorial secretary at the vision of economic affairs, Mahmoud Boushehri, addressed basic tasks of the press correspondent,

work mechanisms between the correspondent and the headquarters, challenges in desk and fields works, general journalistic

guidelines, news sources and factors. The program blended theoretical and practical lessons.

The center, founded in December 1995, is one of the leading media training centers at the national level. (KUNA)

## Saudi, US

### Continued from Page 1

Emirates as he sought ways to help civilians trapped in between the fighting and to address the worsening humanitarian crisis. Israel's military has ordered half of the Palestinian territory's population to evacuate in advance of an expected ground assault, but there are were few good options for those fleeing as border crossings remained closed.

Blinken also called Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi to seek his country's help in preventing the war from spreading, asking Beijing to use whatever influence it has in the Mideast. Blinken's spokesman declined to characterize Wang's response but said the U.S. believes it and China have a shared interest in the region's stability.

In Riyadh, Blinken and Faisal stressed the importance of minimizing the harm to civilians as Israel prepared for an anticipated incursion against Hamas a week after the militant group's unprecedented attack against Israel.

"As Israel pursues its legitimate right, to defending its people and to trying to ensure that this never happens again, it is vitally important that all of us look out for civilians, and we're working together to do exactly that," Blinken said.

"None of us want to see suffering by civilians on any side, whether it's in Israel, whether it's in Gaza, whether it's anywhere else," Blinken said.

The Saudi minister said the kingdom was committed to the protection of civilians.

"It's a disturbing situation," he said. "It's a very difficult situation. And, as you know, the primary sufferer of this situation are civilians, and civilian populations on both sides are being affected and it's important, I think, that we all condemn the targeting of civilians in any form at any time by anyone."

Elsewhere, Palestinians struggled Saturday to flee from areas of Gaza targeted by the Israeli military while grappling with a growing water crisis after Israel stopped the flow of resources to the region ahead of an expected land offensive a week after Hamas' bloody, wide-ranging attack into Israel.

Israel renewed calls on social media and in leaflets dropped from the air for Gaza residents to move south, while Hamas urged people to stay in their homes. The U.N. and aid groups have said such a rapid

exodus would cause untold human suffering for hospitalized patients, older adults and others unable to relocate.

The evacuation directive covers an area of 1.1 million residents, or about half of the territory's population. The Israeli military said "hundreds of thousands" of Palestinians had already heeded the warning and headed south. It said Palestinians could travel within Gaza without being harmed along two main routes from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. local time.

It was not clear how many Palestinians remained in north Gaza by Saturday afternoon, said Juliette Touma, a spokesperson for the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees. "What we know is that hundreds of thousands of people have fled. And that 1 million people have been displaced in total in one week," she said.

Families in cars, trucks and donkey carts packed with possessions crowded a main road heading away from Gaza City as Israeli airstrikes continued to hammer the 40-kilometer (25-mile) long territory, where supplies of food, fuel and drinking water were running low because of a complete Israeli siege.

Water has stopped coming out of taps across the territory. Amal Abu Yahia, a 25-year-old pregnant mother in the Jabaliya refugee camp, said she waits anxiously for the few minutes each day or every other day when contaminated water trickles from the pipes in her basement. She then rations it, prioritizing her 5-year-old son and 3-year-old daughter. She said she is drinking so little herself, she only urinates every other day.

Near the coast, the only tap water is contaminated with Mediterranean Sea water because of the lack of sanitation facilities. Mohammed Ibrahim, 28, said his neighbors in Gaza City have taken to drinking the salt water.

The Israeli military's evacuation would force the territory's entire population to cram into the southern half of the Gaza Strip as Israel continues strikes across the territory, including in the south.

Rami Swailem said he and at least five families in his building decided to stay put in his apartment near Gaza City. "We are rooted in our lands," he said. "We prefer to die in dignity and face our destiny."

Others were looking desperately for ways to evacuate. "We need a number for drivers from Gaza to the south, it is necessary #help," read a post on social media. Another person wrote: "We need a bus number, office, or any means of transport," posted another.



# October

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## Palestinian ambassador to Kuwait attends memorial gathering

# Women's center shares pain of Palestinian teachers in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: The rapid response of Kuwaiti Red Crescent Society teams as they entered the Gaza Strip left everyone in awe, reports Al-Rai daily.

The Women's Cultural and Social Society orchestrated a heartfelt memorial gathering, uniting Palestinian male and female teachers from

Kuwaiti schools who had tragically lost loved ones in the unjust Zionist bombing of the Gaza Strip.

In attendance at the event, held on a Thursday evening at the association's headquarters in the Khalidiya area, were the Palestinian Ambassador to Kuwait, Rami Tahboub, as well as Ahmed Al-Din, a member of

the Kuwaiti Progressive Movement, and a significant number Kuwait citizens and residents.

Ambassador Tahboub commended the Women's Cultural Association, the Kuwaitis Committee for Jerusalem, and the Teachers' Association for their pivotal roles in organizing the protest.

He remarked, "This stands as the most significant demonstration and proof that our male and female teachers are not standing alone; they are embraced by their extended family in Kuwait. Profound gratitude is owed to the sisterly State of Kuwait, led by His Highness the Amir and His Highness the devoted Crown

Prince, and to every Kuwaiti -- men, women, elders, and children. We pledge to be your support in all circumstances."

Discussing Kuwait's aid to the Palestinian people, Tahboub emphasized, "Kuwait has provided all it could, and continues to extend beyond its means. The presence of

the Kuwait Red Crescent Society and the speed at which their teams entered the Gaza Strip astonished everyone."

He further added, "I also took part in the launch of the urgent relief campaign organized by the Ministry of Social Affairs in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs."



Eaman Al Roudhan honors Sheikhha Majda Al Sabah for her contribution.



A photo from the session.

### Sheikha Majda presents insightful talk

## Zain hosts informative mental health session for employees

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: Continuing its series of informative talks for employees, Zain recently hosted a special session on mental health on the occasion of World Mental Health Day, celebrated around the globe on 10 October. The insightful talk was presented by philanthropist, entrepreneur, and advocate for mental health and wellbeing Sheikhha Majda Jaber Al Humoud Al Sabah, and was attended by Zain Kuwait CEO Eaman Al Roudhan, the executive management team, and many Zain employees.

The session came under Zain's internal initiative for promoting mental health, entitled BE WELL, which encompasses the company's strategic goals for catering to its employees' mental wellbeing. Zain continuously enriches its direct relationship with its staff in and out of the workplace environment, catering to their most important needs by hosting similar gatherings that cover health-related priorities, including mental health.

During the session, which was held at the Zain Innovation Campus (ZINC), Sheikhha Majda Al Sabah stressed on the importance of maintaining mental health, while pointing out the best tips for creating the perfect balance between one's personal and professional lives. Sheikhha

Majda openly and candidly spoke about her own personal journey and challenges with mental health, underlining the importance of destigmatizing this crucial topic.

Zain regularly hosts health-related sessions and programs to cater to its employees' wellbeing, giving them the chance to check up on their physical and mental health while at the office. Such activities include routine checkups for blood pressure and sugar levels, vaccinations, blood drives, and mental health initiatives and campaigns.

In 2021, Zain introduced a groundbreaking, first in the region mental wellness strategy named BE WELL. The inspired wellbeing program seeks to cultivate a holistic approach to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DE&I) and support Zain employees' mental wellbeing.

The program features numerous approaches that help employees cater to their mental health, like direct access to a smartphone app for self-help, free therapy and counseling sessions, workshops and talks, and more. The different tools work towards fostering a mindful and productive working environment for Zain employees.

### Municipality okays MC proposal

## Mechanism eyed to 'resolve disputes' between contracting, construction cos

By Inass Awad

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: The Kuwait Municipality approved the proposal of the Municipal Council member Munira Al-Amir for establishing a mechanism to resolve disputes between contracting and construction companies, and between citizens as well as within the municipality.

The decision issued by the municipality regarding the proposal included:

1. Forming a committee for this purpose, headed by the deputy director general for Survey Sector Affairs, with members constituting of safety license observers in Ahmadi Municipality and Farwaniya Municipality, Noha Al-Majed and Ahsan Al-Saffar from the Legal Department, and the Head of the Department of Deformities and Temporary Offices in the Urban Planning and Structural Planning Sector as a rapporteur.

Commenting on the adoption of her proposal, Munira Al-Amir said, "The adoption of my proposal for resolving disputes is a positive step that supports reducing the number of dispute cases between companies operating in the field of construction and contracting on one hand, and between citizens and owners of construction projects, on the other."

She highlighted the importance of the construction sector, as it is one of

the main engines of the economy in any country, the need to hasten in resolving problems that may arise within it and among its concerned parties, which necessarily means speeding up the completion and implementation of projects, as well as increasing the number of projects that are being worked on at the same time, and this is a necessary objective.

Al-Amir explained that the committee, which the municipality issued a decision to form, will, in its first session, establish mechanisms for the procedures that must be followed in the event of a dispute between citizens and contracting and construction companies, and make recommendations to resolve such disputes. This committee also has the right to seek the assistance of whomever it deems appropriate among the specialists and those with experience, when necessary, in order to provide realistic and appropriate solutions to the parties involved in the dispute.

The issuance of this decision is a positive factor that indicates the municipality's desire for the necessary intervention through its tools, to help in this important and necessary area. The evidence for this is the activation of this decision from the date of its issuance until the end of the fiscal year on March 31 when the step will be evaluated and worked to develop in the future.



Al Roudhan with Sheikhha Majda Al Sabah and Zain employees.

# Raids on 9 fake maids offices help detain 107 law violators

45 kilos of 'unfit' food seized; 4 arrested for drugs

By Mansour Sultan  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: Personnel from the Jahra Security Directorate have arrested a person of criminal record for possessing narcotic substance and drug paraphernalia.**

A security source said the suspect was caught in Taima, Jahra, on suspicion. The suspect was seated in a parked car and when police drove in his direction, he made a vain attempt to escape.

Following a search of his car, police found two bags of shabu and drug paraphernalia.

During preliminary interrogation the suspect admitted to owning the drugs seized from him and said they were for personal use.

On the other hand, yesterday morning, patrol men from the Ahmadi Security Directorate arrested a person who was using drugs and seized from him two cigarettes filled with hashish. He was caught at a checkpoint.

In yet another incident, the Umm Al-Hayman police caught two people and found in their possession a marijuana cigarette, a small blue-colored pill, two bags containing hashish, 9 Lyrica pills.

**107 people held:** The Ministry of Interior announced the arrest of 107 violators of the Residency and Labor Laws.

The MoI statement said the CID men raided nine fake servants' offices and took into custody the violators most of whom had run away from their sponsors.

The Public Relations and Security Media Department of the Ministry of Interior said one person was also charged with accepting bribe and 12 people were arrested for engaging in immoral activities.

All those arrested have been handed over to the Residence Investigation Department.

□ □ □

**Unfit food seized:** Inspectors from the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition Food Authority have seized 45 kilos of various types foodstuffs believed to be unfit for human consumption.

According to Al-Rai daily this happened during an inspection of a number of restaurants in the Sharq region.

The campaign was carried by the PAFN Inspection Department, Capital Governorate Branch, headed by Ali Al-Kandari, during which citations were issued against 25 restaurants for violating the laws and regulations. During the campaign 10 restaurant owners have signed pledges to rectify mistakes.

The restaurants were penalized for not complying with health requirements, including workers not holding health certificates.

## Traffic officer hurt; house elevator falls

By Munif Naif  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14:** A corporal officer working in the General Traffic Department has been admitted to the intensive care unit of Jaber Hospital after he was hit by a Kuwaiti citizen riding a motorcycle on the Sixth Ring Road opposite South Surra.

According to an informed security source, when the Operations Room of the Ministry of Interior received a report about a traffic officer being run over on the Sixth Ring Road opposite the South Surra area, security person-

nel and paramedics were immediately dispatched to the location.

Preliminary investigations revealed that the officer had stopped a motorcycle driver to issue a ticket against him, but the latter, in an attempt to escape, ran over the traffic policeman. As a result, he was seriously injured.

He was taken to Jaber Hospital where he was admitted to the intensive care unit.

Meanwhile, an elevator inside a house in Jaber Al-Ali fell from the second floor to the ground, causing injuries to an individual, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press statement, the Public Relations and Media Department of the Kuwait Fire Service Directorate explained that, when the Operations Room received information that an elevator in a house in Jaber Al-Ali area had fallen, it directed a fire team from Bairaq Fire Station to the location of the report. Upon their arrival, it was discovered that the elevator cabin in the house had fallen from the second floor to the ground, resulting in one person being injured. The incident was dealt with and the injured person was transported to the hospital by paramedics.

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## World News Roundup

## Europe

## Navalny lawyers detained

## Emotions run high as Poles prepare to vote

WARSAW, Poland, Oct 14. (AP): Poland is holding an election Sunday that many view as its most important one since the 1989 vote that toppled communism. At stake are the health of the nation's democracy, its legal stance on abortion, and the foreign alliances of a country on NATO's eastern flank that has been a crucial ally to Ukraine.

Political experts say the election will not be fully fair after eight years of governing by a conservative nationalist party that has eroded checks and balances to gain more control over state institutions, including the courts, public media and the electoral process itself.

Opponents of the ruling Law and Justice party fear it could be their last chance to preserve the constitutional system won at great cost through the struggle of many Poles, from former president Lech Walesa to the millions who supported his Solidarity movement.



Tusk

The election "will decide the future of Poland as a country of liberal democracy, a system that has been a guarantor of Polish success for the last three decades," the editor of the Rzeczpospolita newspaper, Boguslaw Chrabota, wrote in a

Friday editorial.

Supporters of the ruling party, however, are afraid that if Law and Justice is voted out, the opposition would take the country in a more liberal direction, including with new laws legalizing abortion and civil unions for same-sex partners.

Women in Poland currently have the right to abortions only in cases of rape or incest, or if there is a threat to their life or health.

Citizens who want a more liberal Poland also mobilized with two massive marches this year. Some interviewed in recent days by The Associated Press became very emotional or fought back tears as they described what they regard as corruption, democratic backsliding, propaganda and bitter divisions in Polish society since Law and Justice came to power in 2015.

"What has happened in Poland is a nightmare," said Maryla Kowalewska, 75. "Let's hope there is a total change in this country."

## Support

Recent polls show Law and Justice has more support than any other single party, but not enough to reach the majority in Parliament it would need to govern alone. It could be forced to seek support from a far-right party, Confederation, that is hostile to Ukraine.

The polls show that three opposition groups - Civic Coalition, Third Way and New Left - could together get a majority of seats in Parliament. The largest is the centrist Civic Coalition led by Donald Tusk, a former Polish prime minister and former European Union president.

Tusk has vowed to restore the rule of law and to rebuild ties with the EU that became severely strained under Law and Justice. The EU is withholding billions of euros in COVID-19 pandemic recovery funds from Warsaw, citing rule of law violations.

Small shifts for or against the smaller parties could significantly impact what coalitions will be possible after election day.

"So we have this situation of two sides who think that these are very high-stakes elections, two sides very determined and energetic. The emotions are very high, but the playing field is not even," said Jacek Kucharczyk, the president of the Institute of Public Affairs, a Warsaw-based think tank.

The main reason for the imbalance is Law and Justice's control of taxpayer-funded state media, which it uses to constantly bash opponents, Kucharczyk argued. But other factors could play a role in the election's outcome, including the party's political control over the electoral administration and the chamber of the Supreme Court that will validate the election.

There is also a high level of state ownership in the Polish economy, and the ruling party has built up a system of patronage, handing out thousands of jobs and contracts to its loyalists.

Wojciech Przybylski, editor-in-chief of Visegrad Insight, a policy journal focused on Central Europe, said the practice threatens the ability of the middle class to advance socially "without special connections to politics."

## Also:

**TALLINN, Estonia:** Russian authorities on Friday detained three lawyers representing imprisoned opposition leader **Alexei Navalny** after searching their homes, his allies said, a step that comes amid increasing pressure on the **Kremlin**'s critics.

The move was an attempt to "completely isolate Navalny," his ally **Ivan Zhdanov** said on social media. Navalny, 47, has been behind bars since January 2021, serving a 19-year prison sentence but has been able to get messages out regularly and keep up with the news.

The raids targeting **Vadim Kobzev**, **Igor Sergunin** and **Alexei Liptser** are part of a criminal case on charges of participating in an extremist group, Zhdanov said. All three were detained after the search, apparently as suspects in the case, Navalny's team said on Telegram. All three later in the day appeared in court and were ordered to pre-trial detention pending investigation and trial.

Independent Russian media also reported a raid at a law firm that employs another of Navalny's lawyers, **Olga Mikhailova**. According to reports, she is currently not in Russia.

Navalny, currently in Penal Colony No. 6 in the Vladimir region east of Moscow, is due to be transferred to a "special security" penal colony, a facility with the highest security level in the Russian penitentiary system, his spokeswoman **Kira Yarmysh** told The Associated Press.

**BERLIN:** A vehicle apparently packed with migrants left a highway in southern Germany at high speed on Friday and crashed as the driver tried to evade a police check, killing seven people and injuring 16, authorities said.

The accident happened near Ampfing, east of Munich on the A94 highway, which leads to the Austrian border. The van left the road and overturned. Police described the van, which had 23 people on board, as "a suspected smuggler vehicle." They said prosecutors had opened a homicide investigation.

Bavaria's top security official, state Interior Minister **Joachim Herrmann**, said that the dead included a young child. The injured were taken to nearby hospitals.



Armenian lawmakers attend the session of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia in Yerevan, Armenia on Oct 3. The Armenian parliament on Tuesday voted to join the International Criminal Court, which earlier this year indicted Russian President Vladimir Putin for war crimes connected to the deportation of children from Ukraine. (AP)

## Armenian president approves parliament's decision to join ICC

Armenian President Vahagn Khachaturyan approved the parliament's decision to join the International Criminal Court in a move that has further strained the country's ties with its old ally Russia.

Last week, Armenia's parliament voted to join the ICC by ratifying the Rome Statute that created the tribunal.

Countries that have signed and ratified the Rome Statute are bound to arrest Russian President Vladimir Putin, who was indicted for war crimes connected to the deportation of children from Ukraine, if he

sets foot on their soil.

Moscow last month called Yerevan's decision an "unfriendly step," and the Russian Foreign Ministry summoned Armenia's ambassador. Armenia later sought to assure Russia that Putin would not be arrested if he entered the country.

Armenian officials have argued the move has nothing to do with Russia and was prompted by what they call Azerbaijan's aggression against the country.

Lawmakers voted to ratify the Rome Statute by a vote of 60-22. The decision comes into force 60

days after the ratification, according to Armenian lawmakers.

Armenia had started the process of joining the tribunal more than 20 years ago, but in 2004 the Constitutional Court ruled that the Rome Statute contradicted the country's constitution at the time, putting the process on pause. The constitution has been amended twice since then. In March, the Constitutional Court ruled that the obligations for signatories outlined by the Rome Statute are in line with the existing constitution. (AP)

## Politics

## US House Republicans in disarray

## GOP picks Jordan as speaker nominee

WASHINGTON, Oct 14. (AP): Republicans chose firebrand Rep. Jim Jordan as their new nominee for House speaker during internal voting Friday, putting the gavel within reach of the staunch ally of GOP presidential front-runner Donald Trump.

Electing Jordan, a founding member of the Freedom Caucus, to the powerful position second in line to the presidency would move the GOP's far right into a central seat of U.S. power. A groundswell of high-profile backers including Fox News' Sean Hannity publicly pressured lawmakers to vote Jordan into the speaker's office after the stunning ouster of Kevin McCarthy.

Jordan, of Ohio, will now try to unite colleagues from the deeply divided House GOP majority ahead of a public vote on the floor, possibly next week. Republicans split 124-81 in Friday's private vote, though a second secret ballot nudged his tally higher.

## Track

"I think Jordan would do a great job," McCarthy, R-Calif., said ahead of the vote. "We got to get this back on track."

Frustrated House Republicans have been fighting bitterly over whom they should elect to replace McCarthy to lead their party after his unprecedented ouster by a handful of hardliners. The stalemate between the factions, now in its second week, has thrown the House into chaos, grinding all other business to a halt. Lawmakers left for the weekend, and are due back Monday.

Attention swiftly turned to Jordan, the Judiciary Committee chairman and founder of the far-right Freedom Caucus, after Majority Leader Steve Scalise abruptly ended his bid when it became clear holdouts would refuse to back his nomination.

But not all Republicans want to see Jordan as speaker.

## Hunter Biden's investigations lead to ethical concerns about president

WASHINGTON, Oct 14. (AP): Ethical concerns are casting a shadow over President Joe Biden as he seeks reelection amid ongoing investigations into his son Hunter Biden and a presidential impeachment inquiry, with a new poll showing that 35% of US adults believe the president himself has done something illegal.

An additional 33% say they think the president behaved unethically, but not illegally. And 30% say Biden did nothing wrong, according to the poll. The results of the survey by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research reflect both a vast political divide and skepticism about the morality of government leaders.

House Republicans have launched an impeachment inquiry into Biden, seeking to tie the presi-

dent to the foreign business dealings of his 53-year-old son. Hunter Biden is facing a separate criminal indictment by a special counsel after a plea deal in a tax and gun case fell apart.

Republicans have been investigating Hunter Biden for years, since his father was vice president. While questions have arisen about the ethics surrounding the Biden family's international business, no evidence has emerged so far to prove that Joe Biden, in his current or previous office, abused his role or accepted bribes.

The survey's findings point toward a US political system riven with cynicism and suspicion. Having fractured along partisan lines, the public largely appears to judge Biden as much based on his party affiliation as the known facts.

wing of the party has already demanded severe budget cuts that he has promised to deliver, and aid to Ukraine would be seriously in doubt. Investigations into Biden and his family would push to the forefront.

House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries immediately gathered his party on the Capitol steps to urge Republicans against giving the gavel to Jordan - an "extremist extraordinaire" - and encourage GOP lawmakers to partner with them to reopen the House.

Overwhelmed and exhausted, anxious GOP lawmakers worry their House majority is being frittered away to countless rounds of infighting and some don't want to reward the speaker's gavel to Jordan's wing, which sparked the turmoil.

evening. (AP)

**Murder suspect on the run:** Georgia authorities on Friday searched for a man accused of murder who fired at and injured a deputy before running off into the woods in DeKalb County.

DeKalb County police said sheriff's deputies in the Stone Mountain area were attempting to take Demetrius Nicholas into custody on a murder warrant, when he fired at them and fled, news outlets reported.

One deputy was grazed, either by a bullet or flying glass from the car in which he was riding, authorities said. He was treated at an area hospital and released. (AP)

**'Dismiss civil lawsuit':** The Mississippi sheriff who leads the department where former deputies pleaded guilty to a long list of state and federal charges for the torture of two Black men has asked a federal court to dismiss a civil lawsuit against him.

Michael Corey Jenkins and Eddie Terrell Parker were abused in a case of extrajudicial violence that even the sheriff they're suing called the worst case of police brutality he had ever seen. (AP)



US Rep Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee and a staunch ally of former President Donald Trump, talks with reporters as House Republicans meet again behind closed doors to find a path to elect a new speaker after House Majority Leader Steve Scalise, R-La., dropped out of the race Thursday night, at the Capitol in Washington on Oct 13.



James



Van der Sloot

## America

**Officers won't face charges:** Police officers in upstate New York will not face criminal charges in connection with the death of a man who doused himself with hand sanitizer and then caught on fire when one of the officers shot a stun gun at him, the state attorney general's office said Friday.

Jason Jones, 29, was taken off life support in December 2021 after having spent six weeks in intensive care following the fire at the Catskill police station.

Attorney General **Letitia James**' office released a report on Jones' death and the officers' actions, concluding that a prosecutor would not be able to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the officers committed crimes. (AP)

**11 sent to hospital after leak:** An ammonia leak at a Southern California business sent 11 people to the hospital Friday morning, authorities said.

The leak was reported shortly before 9:15 am in a commercial building in Buena Park, the Orange County Fire Authority said.

The building was evacuated and 12 people were decontaminated, with 11 being sent to hospitals where they were in stable condition, the fire authority said. (AP)

**Van der Sloot to plead guilty:** Court records filed Friday indicate **Joran van der Sloot**, the chief suspect in Natalie Holloway's 2005 disappearance, intends to plead guilty in a federal case accusing him of trying to extort money from the

missing teen's mother.

A federal judge set an Oct 18 plea and sentencing hearing for van der Sloot in Birmingham, Alabama. He had previously

entered a plea of not guilty in the case.

Emails sent to van der Sloot's attorney and a spokeswoman for federal prosecutors were not immediately returned Friday



Britain's King Charles III talks to guests during a reception the 2022 and 2023 Queen Elizabeth Prize for Engineering during a reception at Buckingham Palace in London, on Oct 12. (AP)

## Africa

## Peacekeepers repatriated

## Congo says to ease military rule in east

GOMA, Congo, Oct. 14. (AP) Congo's president said he will gradually ease the state of military rule in the conflict-riddled east and lift some restrictions imposed more than two years ago.

Speaking to the nation, President **Felix Tshisekedi** said there would be a gradual easing of the state of siege in North Kivu and Ituri provinces, which includes ending a curfew, allowing peaceful demonstrations and for people to live normal lives.

The announcement comes more than two months ahead of presidential elections, when Tshisekedi hopes to secure a second term.

He implemented the state of siege in 2021, allowing military and police to take control from civilian institutions, in an attempt to stem rising violence.

More than 120 armed groups are fighting in the region, mostly for land and control of mines with valuable minerals, while some groups are trying to protect their communities.

"I have taken the firm resolution to lead the populations of the provinces of Ituri and North Kivu towards a gradual and progressive easing of the regime and the restriction of the state of siege," said Tshisekedi.

Civil society and rights groups have criticized the state of siege, accusing security forces of exploiting their power against the population.

"It has failed in its stated purpose of rapidly improving the security situation. Military authorities have instead used their extraordinary powers to further undermine people's rights with impunity, including freedoms of expression and assembly, and the right to justice," said Amnesty International.

Despite military rule, violence in the region has continued and intensified. At least one militia linked to the Islamic State group has expanded its presence, while rebel groups such as M23 have seized towns, displacing tens of thousands of people.

The United States Embassy in Congo said Thursday that it was greatly concerned about the increased violence in North Kivu province, where M23 is active, and the ensuing loss of lives and displacement. It called on the government to redouble its efforts to protect civilians.

## Abuse

Meanwhile, The United Nations said it will repatriate nine peacekeepers from a South African contingent in eastern Congo who were accused of sexual assault and other abuse.

The UN decided to immediately repatriate the peacekeepers and a senior officer of the South African army "due to the seriousness of the allegations against them," the organization said in a statement on Friday.

The senior officer allegedly tried to hinder a probe into the allegations and threatened other peacekeepers. Two other indicted senior officers will also be replaced, the UN said.

More than 12,000 UN peacekeepers are deployed in eastern Congo, where more than 100 armed groups are active.

The UN said its preliminary assessment found that the nine peacekeepers were "fraternizing after curfew hours" in prohibited bars where prostitution takes place. The soldiers were also alleged to have assaulted staff of the peacekeeping mission and the military police who were trying to arrest them, the statement added.

South African authorities have indicated their "full cooperation, in particular through the deployment of a national investigator," the U.N. said, promising that victims would be assisted and that the peacekeeping mission would remain committed to upholding U.N. standards.

Such accusations of sexual abuse by UN peacekeepers are not new in various parts of the world, from Congo to Haiti where peacekeepers are deployed. The victims in many instances are children.

The abuses are particularly rampant in Congo, which accounted for one-third of the nearly 2,000 sexual abuse and exploitation complaints made against the U.N. worldwide in 2017.

## Also:

**NAIROBI, Kenya:** Kenya's Cabinet on Friday approved the deployment of 1,000 police to lead a multinational peacekeeping mission to Haiti to combat gang violence.

The country's parliament must now sign off on the resolution.

From Jan. 1 until Aug. 15, more than 2,400 people in Haiti were reported killed, more than 950 kidnapped and another 902 injured, according to the most recent UN statistics.

Kenya's high court on Monday barred the deployment, approved by the U.N. Security Council earlier this month, for two weeks until a challenge to the deployment filed by a local politician is heard on Oct. 24.

On Thursday, Interior Minister **Kithure Kindiki** appeared before a national assembly committee on the deployment and said parliament's approval should be sought before any troops are sent.

The minister was accompanied by the Inspector General of Police **Japhet Koome**, who confirmed that training had started for the first group of officers to be sent to Haiti.

**CAPE TOWN, South Africa:** South African authorities said they conducted raids across five provinces Thursday to break up a coal-smuggling syndicate they blamed for stealing more than \$26 million in coal, degrading state-owned power plants and contributing to an electricity crisis.

The criminal gang diverted trucks carrying high-grade coal to power stations, stealing the coal to sell, and replacing it with sub-standard product, the country's tax and revenue agency said in a statement. The substandard coal has caused crippling damage to the country's power plants, authorities said.

The South African Revenue Service worked with other law enforcement agencies to carry out the search and seizure operations in the **Gauteng, Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal, Free State and Limpopo** provinces. No arrests have been made yet, national police spokesperson Brig. **Athlenda Mathe** said.

Africa's most advanced economy is in the midst of a power crisis that has resulted in scheduled rolling blackouts because its coal-fired stations are not generating enough electricity for the country's 62 million people.

The state-owned power utility, Eskom, produces about 95% of South Africa's electricity.



New Zealand National Party leader and Prime Minister elect Christopher Luxon, second left, with his wife Amanda, second right, and children Olivia and William, right, greet supporters at a party event in Auckland Oct 14 following a general election. (AP)

## Asia

## Indonesia's former agriculture minister arrested

## Ex-businessman Luxon wins NZ poll

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Oct. 14. (AP) Conservative former businessman Christopher Luxon will be New Zealand's next prime minister after winning a decisive election victory Saturday.

People voted for change after six years of a liberal government led for most of that time by Jacinda Ardern.

The exact makeup of Luxon's government is still to be determined as ballots continued to be counted.

Luxon arrived to rapturous applause at an event in Auckland. He was joined on stage by his wife, Amanda, and their children, William and Olivia. He said he was humbled by the victory and couldn't wait to get stuck in to his new job. He thanked people from across the country.

"You have reached for hope and you have voted for change," he said.

## Promised

Supporters chanted his campaign slogan which promised to get the country "back on track."

Outgoing Prime Minister Chris Hipkins, who spent just nine months in the top job after taking over from Ardern in January, told supporters late Saturday he had called Luxon to concede.

Hipkins said it wasn't the result he wanted.

"But I want you to be proud of what we achieved over the last six years," he told supporters at an event in Wellington.

Ardern unexpectedly stepped down as prime minister in January, saying she no longer had "enough in the tank" to do the job justice. She won the last election in a landslide, but her popularity waned as people got tired of COVID-19 restrictions and inflation threatened the economy.

Her departure left Hipkins, 45, to take over as leader. He had previously served as education minister and led the response to the coronavirus pandemic.

With most of the vote counted, Luxon's National Party had about 40% of the vote. Under New Zealand's proportional voting system, Luxon, 53, is expected to form an alliance with the libertarian ACT Party.

Meanwhile, the Labour Party that Hipkins leads was getting only a little over 25% of the vote - about half the proportion it got in the last election under Ardern.

And in a result that would be particularly stinging for Labour should it lose the seat, National was in a tight race for Ardern's old electorate seat, Mount Albert. The seat has long been a Labour stronghold and was also held by another former Labour prime minister, Helen Clark.

The National Party candidate for the seat, Melissa Lee, told The Associated Press she was feeling excited but also nervous about the final result in Mount Albert.

"It's been Labour since 1946. It has been the biggest, safest Labour seat forever," she said. "It would be fantastic if we won it."

Lee said that when she was door-knocking, people had told her they were tired of the current government and were concerned with the state of the economy and the spiraling cost of living.

David Farrar, a longtime conservative pollster, said there was still a good chance that Labour would end up holding the seat once all the votes were counted. However, he said, his initial impression of voting throughout the country was that it was turning out to be a "bloodbath" for the left.

Luxon has promised tax cuts for middle-income earners and a crackdown on crime. Hipkins had promised free dental care for people younger than 30 and the removal of sales taxes on fruit and vegetables.

Also at stake in the election is the government's relationship with Indigenous Maori. Luxon has promised to axe the Maori Health Authority, which he says creates two separate health systems. Hipkins says he's proud of such co-governance efforts and has accused Luxon of condoning racism.

## Also:

**CANBERRA, Australia:** Australians voted in a referendum Saturday against enshrining in the nation's constitution a mechanism for Indigenous people to advise Parliament on policies that affect their lives.

Proponents said creating an Indigenous Voice via the constitution would recognize the special place that Indigenous people have in Australian history while giving them input in government policies.

Opponents argued it would divide Australians along racial lines without reducing Indigenous disadvantages.

Bipartisan support regarded as essential in Australia for success-

fully changing the constitution never emerged, and Indigenous leaders were divided on the idea.

The Aboriginal people of Australia's mainland are culturally distinct from Torres Strait Islanders who come from an archipelago off the northeast coast. So Australia's Indigenous population is known collectively as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

They accounted for 3.8% of Australia's population in 2021, a 23.2% increase in five years, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Indigenous Australians are the most disadvantaged ethnic group in Australia. Indigenous men have a life expectancy of 71 years and Indigenous women 75 years. That's 8.6 years shorter than other Australian men and 7.8 years shorter than other Australian women.

The proposal called for establishing "an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice" that would advise Parliament and the government on Indigenous matters.

If the "yes" vote had won, the constitution would have been rewritten to say the Voice "may make representations" to Parliament and government "on matters relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples." Parliament would "have power to make laws with respect to the composition, functions, powers and procedures" of the Voice.

**JAKARTA, Indonesia:** Indonesia's former agriculture minister was arrested by the country's anti-graft commission on accusations of bribery, abuse of power and fraud involving contracts with private vendors.

**Syahrul Yasin Limpo** had resigned his position as agriculture minister last week to focus on the impending legal proceedings against him, and he was formally named as a suspect on Wednesday by the Corruption Eradication Commission, known as the KPK.

Footage late Thursday showed Limpo arriving at the commission's office in handcuffs and wearing a black leather jacket, black hat and a mask. He did not respond to journalists' questions.

Limpo's lawyer, **Febri Diansyah**, said it was unfortunate that the KPK forcefully arrested his client at his home at night after he had informed the commission that Limpo would come to the KPK on Friday for questioning.



Kenya Cabinet Secretary for defence Aden Duale speaks during the joint press conference after a signing defence cooperation agreement in Nairobi, Kenya on Sept 25, 2023. The US and Kenya signed a defense agreement Monday that will see the East African nation get resources and support for security deployments as it is poised to lead a multi-national peacekeeping mission to Haiti to combat gang violence. (AP)



Fernández



Gustafson

## Lat/Am

**Ecuadorians pick new prez:** The contest comes Sunday, and whoever wins the prize - a job that starts on Christmas - will face a difficult, if not impossible, task. What awaits is a shorter-than-normal 15-month run as president of Ecuador, which is engulfed in a surge of violence tied to drug trafficking.

The runoff election pits an heir to a banana empire, Daniel Noboa, and an attorney, Luisa González.

In a different year or in another country, their business and lawyering experience might help them deliver on campaign promises. But all that Ecuadorians want is safety, and they are demanding to get it in a tiny fraction of the time that has taken other countries to address the issue.

"There's nothing that fails like success," said **Lowell Gustafson**, a Latin American politics professor at Villanova University. "Whoever wins this election is going to have to deal with this ... but I don't know what can be expected from the president in that kind of short time with what sure look to be virtually intractable problems." (AP)

**Case against Milei launched:** A prosecutor launched a criminal case Friday against Argentina's frontrunner in this month's presidential elections, accusing Javier Milei of deliberately causing a drop in the Argentine currency when he encouraged citizens not to save in pesos.

Milei denounced the move as political persecution, just days ahead of the Oct. 22 polling.

President **Alberto Fernández** had called for the investigation in a complaint filed Wednesday, saying that the right-wing populist candidate was trying to scare the public and that his actions were "a severe affront to the democratic system."

Prosecutor Franco Picardi on Friday referred a criminal case to a federal judge, going off Fernández's accusation that claimed Milei and other candidates on his party's ticket were inciting public fear - a charge that carries possible prison terms of up to six years. Federal Judge Maria Servini will later decide whether there is enough evidence to indict. (AP)

**5 dead in Mexico prison riot:** Five

men were killed in a fight between inmates at a prison in Mexico's Gulf coast state of Tabasco, authorities said Friday.

Four of the five inmates killed in the riot late Thursday were on trial or serving sentences for rape, homicide or other violent crimes, the state police department said.

Police said control of the prison had been regained, and that nobody else had been injured or escaped. About 16 prisoners were detained in relation with the killings.

The police department blamed a "fight between groups" from different cell



Presidential hopeful of the Liberty Advances coalition Javier Milei waves to supporters during a campaign rally in Salta, Argentina on Oct 12. Elections are set for Oct 22. (AP)

blocks. But photos and videos apparently made by inmates and posted on social media suggested the dead men may have been killed in retaliation for extorting money from fellow inmates. (AP)

## Prison fills with gang members:

With tattoo-covered faces, and wearing white shirts and shorts, gang members captured during El Salvador's state of exception are gradually filling the country's new mega prison.

Unveiled earlier this year, the prison 45 miles (72 kilometers) southeast of the capital now holds some 12,000 accused or convicted gang members, barely a quarter of its 40,000 capacity.

Prisoners here do not receive visits. There are no programs preparing them for reinsertion into society after their sentences, no workshops or educational programs.

The exceptions are occasional motivational talks from prisoners who have gained a level of trust from prison officials. Prisoners sit in rows in the corridor outside their cells for the talks or are led through exercise regimens under the supervision of guards. They are never allowed outside.

President Nayib Bukele ordered its construction when El Salvador began making massive arrests early last year in response to a surge in gang violence. (AP)

## IMF, World Bank meetings kick off in Morocco

The plenary session of the annual meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) kicked off Friday in the Moroccan city of Marrakech with Kuwait participation.

In a message directed to participants in the meeting, King Mohammed VI of Morocco called for considering global finance system and working on improving it to be fairer and take into consideration the interest of all.

He indicated that economic, social and political developments witnessed in recent years require "reforming institutions and rules governing multilateral system," calling for taking

into account the destinies of all countries.

For his part, head of the annual meetings in 2023, Ukrainian Finance Minister Serhiy Marchenko affirmed that there are pressing challenges that have impacts on global economies, including slow growth, high inflation, climate shocks, and food shortages.

He stressed the effects of these challenges on countries of the world, especially the low- and middle-income ones, which calls for diversifying funding sources to enable these countries to obtain necessary funds to overcome the effects of challenges. (KUNA)

## crude oil rises

Kuwait crude oil rose by USD 1.68 to USD 91.95 per barrel on Friday compared to USD 90.27 pb on Thursday, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said on Saturday.

In international markets, Brent crude futures rose by USD 4.89 to settle at USD 90.89 pb and those of the West Texas Intermediate oil moved up by USD 4.78, settling at USD 87.69 pb. (KUNA)

Minister of Finance Fahad Al-Jarallah heads Kuwait's delegation. (KUNA)



## Market Movements

13-10-2023

PHILIPPINES - PSEI

Change +3.28  
Closing pts 6,266.34



UK

JAPAN

EUROPE

- FTSE 100  
- Nikkei  
- Euro Stoxx 50

Change -45.18  
Closing pts 7,599.60

-178.67  
32,315.99  
-62.11 4,136.12

# Business

## Initiative aims to boost Kuwaiti capital market for global success

# Boursa Kuwait organizes 'Financial Asset Managers Day' in Dubai

## Kuwait's imports 'surge' over 14% to KD734.5 million in H1

Exports witnessed a decline to 12.7 bln dinars

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14:** Official data revealed that the bill for imported goods in Kuwait rose by more than 14%, to 734.5 million dinars during the first half of the current year, as the value of Kuwait's imports from January until the end of June 2023 was about 5.83 billion dinars for 18.7 million tons of goods, compared to 5.1 billion dinars for 16.8 million tons of goods during the same period in 2022, reports Al-Anba daily.

from January to March 2023, Kuwait imported about 9.46 million tons of goods, worth 2.96 billion dinars, compared to 8.38 million tons of goods, worth 2.38 billion dinars during the same period in 2022, and from April to June 2023, it imported about 9.25 million tons at a cost of 2.87 billion dinars, compared to 8.5 million tons at 2.7 billion dinars for the same period in 2022.

Foreign trade data issued by the Central Administration of Statistics from January until the end of June 2023, the volume of trade exchange with Kuwait was about 18.5 billion dinars, as Kuwait recorded trade exchange from January until March 2023 to 9.56 billion dinars, and from April until the end of June about 8.98 billion dinars.

### Trade balance

The country's trade balance recorded about 6.88 billion dinars, 3.63 billion dinars for the first quarter of the year and 3.24 billion dinars during the second quarter.

The data revealed that the value of Kuwait's total exports witnessed a decline to 12.7 billion dinars during the first half of 2023, with a value of 3.12 billion dinars, compared to 15.84 billion dinars during the same period in 2022, and the majority of the decline in total exports came from a decline in revenues from oil and derivatives exports, with a value of 3.14 billion dinars, reaching 11.78 billion dinars, compared to 14.9 billion dinars for the same period in 2022.

As for the goods imported by Kuwait, cars accounted for about one billion dinars of merchandise imports during the first 6 months of the current year, as the value of the country's imports of automobiles amounted to tractors, bicycles, and other ground vehicles amounted to about 933.34 million dinars, amounting to 488 million dinars during the second quarter of the year, and 445.34 million during the first quarter of 2023. The value of the country's imports of watches, which are classified under the name of watchmaking items and their parts, amounted to about 44.7 million dinars, amounting to 23.9 million dinars. Dinar imports of watches during the second quarter of 2023, and 20.8 million dinars imports in the first quarter of the same year.

Kuwait's imports of medicines (pharmaceutical products) amounted to about 302 million dinars during the period from January to the end of June 2023, as the value of Kuwait's imports of these types during the first quarter of the current

year amounted to about 167.4 million dinars, while the value of imports for the second quarter of The same year, about 134.37 million dinars.

In addition, the value of Kuwait's imports of perfumes amounted to about 133 million dinars in 6 months, of which 66.38 million dinars were spent during the period from January to the end of March 2023 on aromatic oils, resinous material extracts, and perfume and softening preparations, and it also amounted to 66.62 during the period from April to the end of June of the current year.

Kuwait's imports of gold and precious stones amounted to about 320 million dinars in the first 6 months of 2023, as Kuwait's merchandise imports of natural or cultured pearls, precious and semi-precious stones, precious metals, and ordinary metals covered with a veneer of precious metals during the first quarter of 2023 amounted to about 143.76 million dinars, compared to 176.23 million dinars during the second quarter of the year.

Kuwait's imports of meat were recorded at about 109.26 million dinars during the first half of the current year, as Kuwait imported products from them at a value of 56.9 million dinars during the period from January to March, and 52.3 million dinars during the period from April to the end of the year. June 2023.

Kuwait's imports of dairy products, dairy products, bird eggs, and honey amounted to about 114.6 million dinars during the first half of 2023, as it imported products worth 57.49 million dinars during the period from January to the end of March, and 57.1 million dinars during the period from April to June.

The value of Kuwait's imports of fish, crustaceans, molluscs, and other plant invertebrates reached about 33.19 million dinars, including 15 million dinars in the value of imports for the first quarter of 2023, and 18 million dinars in the import bill for the second quarter of the year.

Kuwait imported coffee, tea, spices and avocado worth 36 million dinars during the first 6 months of the current year, amounting to 16.63 million dinars during the period from January until the end of March 2023, and 19.48 million dinars for the period from April until the end of June of the same year.

The value of Kuwait's imports of cocoa and its preparations (chocolate) reached 31.65 million dinars during the first 6 months of 2023, as the value of the country's imports of these types reached about 18.51 million dinars during the first quarter of 2023, and 13.14 million dinars during the second quarter of 2023.

The data showed that Kuwait's imports of cigarettes, shisha and related items amounted to 54.3 million dinars in the first 6 months of 2023, as the value of tobacco and its manufactured substitutes during the first quarter of 2023 amounted to about 27.58 million dinars, and 26.75 million dinars during the second quarter of the current year.

While Kuwait's imports of children's toys, entertainment and sports items and supplies during the first 6 months of the current year amounted to about 29.5 million dinars, with 15.13 million dinars during the second quarter of the year and 14.37 million dinars during the first quarter of 2023.

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14:** Boursa Kuwait organized a "Financial Asset Managers Day" on Wednesday, 11 October 2023 in collaboration with HSBC, the British-based multinational investment bank and one of the largest investment banks in Europe. Held in the bank's headquarters in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates, the initiative brought together representatives from eight licensed Kuwaiti investment companies with the Markets and Securities Services Desk at HSBC (HSBC MSS).

The Day opened with keynote speeches from the bank's senior management to the Kuwaiti investment companies, highlighting the latest trends and developments in the GCC and Middle East's capital markets as well as showcasing the bank's strategic vision and objectives in dealing with those trends. The presentations also delved into HSBC's role to meet the requirements of international investors looking for opportunities in GCC markets. Additionally, one-on-one meetings provided a platform for in-depth discussions on areas of interest, business opportunities, and potential collaborations.

HSBC handpicked eight investment companies using specific criteria, choosing the Kuwait Investment Company, Wafra Investment Company, Kuwait Financial Center (Markaz), the National Investment Company, KFH Capital, KAMCO Invest, Arzan Financial Group and NBK Capital.

At the event, Boursa Kuwait's Head of Markets Sector,

Noura Al-Abdulkareem, said, "We are pleased to collaborate with HSBC to organize the Financial Asset Managers Day initiative, which will facilitate cooperation and knowledge transfer between a world-renowned financial institution and Kuwaiti investment companies. Boursa Kuwait is committed to strengthening its partnerships and avenues of collaboration to meet the needs of investors in the Kuwaiti capital market. I would like to thank HSBC and the participating Kuwaiti companies for helping to make this event a success."

The Financial Asset Managers Day initiative aims to empower Kuwaiti investment companies to gain expertise and knowledge and utilize new products and services from world-renowned investment banks. Through this initiative, Boursa Kuwait also seeks to explore new opportunities for collaboration to contribute to the development of the Kuwaiti capital market.

Organizing these initiatives forms part of Boursa Kuwait's efforts to positively impact the capital market apparatus as part of its Corporate Sustainability strategy. The exchange launched several initiatives with investment institutions from around the world to develop the Kuwaiti capital market and highlight the opportunities it offers to the international investment community. The bourse is steadfast in its dedication to develop a more sustainable, brighter future for the Kuwaiti capital market and its participants.



Photos during 'Financial Asset Managers Day' organized by Boursa Kuwait.



## Paving way for financial excellence in Kuwait

# Gulf Bank participates in IMF meeting

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14:** Gulf Bank participated in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Meeting 2023, held in Marrakech, Morocco, from 9 to 15 October 2023, in the presence of a large number of monetary and financial policymakers from around the world.

The delegation from Gulf Bank comprised the Acting CEO, Waleed Khalid Mandani, Acting Deputy CEO, Sami Mahfouz, and Deputy General Manager of Corporate Communications, Mr. Ahmad Al-Amir.

The annual International Monetary Fund meeting serves as a vital platform for engaging with and heeding the perspectives of numerous government officials, academics, banking executives, and private sector enterprises from around the world. During this event, critical global issues are deliberated, encompassing topics such as the worldwide economic forecast, poverty alleviation, economic growth, and the efficacy of international aid.

Additionally, the International Monetary Fund meeting comprises several key committees, notably the Development Committee, the International Monetary and Financial Committee, the Group of Ten, the Group of Twenty-Four, and the Group of Thirty. The Monetary and Financial Committee's session is scheduled to focus on evaluating global economic performance, forecasting future trends, and examining developments in interna-



Group photo from the event.

tional financial markets. It will also analyze potential risks that could impact market trends and discuss crucial policies to mitigate the repercussions of these risks.

During the annual IMF meeting, the Gulf Bank delegation participated in a reception hosted by the Kuwait Banking Association. The event was attended by representatives from Kuwaiti banks and a significant number of participants from the meeting.

Gulf Bank's vision is to be the leading Kuwaiti Bank of the Future. The Bank is constantly engaging and empowering its employees as part of an inclusive and diversified workplace in recognition of every employee's role in delivering

customer excellence and serving the community at large. With its extensive network of branches and innovative digital services, Gulf Bank is able to give its customers the choice of how and where to conduct their banking transactions, all while ensuring a simple and seamless banking experience.

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



Kuwaiti Finance Minister Fahad Al-Jarallah meets with Jordanian Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Zeina Toukan.



Kuwaiti Finance Minister Fahad Al-Jarallah meets with Secretary-General of the Omani Minister of Finance Nasser Al-Jashmi.



Kuwaiti Finance Minister Fahad Al-Jarallah meets with Director of the Middle East and Central Asia Department at the International Monetary Fund Jihad Azour.

## Finance minister engages in high-level talks

**MARRAKECH, Oct 14, (KUNA):** Kuwaiti Finance Minister Fahad Al-Jarallah held several meetings on Friday on the sidelines of the annual meetings of the World Bank (WB) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) held in the Moroccan city of Marrakech.

He met with Jordanian Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Zeina Toukan on bilateral cooperation in the field of promoting the role of the WB's executive office to serve member states, including 11 Arab ones.

He then held a meeting with Secretary-General of the Omani Minister of Finance Nasser Al-Jashmi on several issues and economic and financial developments put on the agenda of WB and IMF meetings.

The Kuwaiti minister also met with Director of the Middle East and Central Asia Department at the International Monetary Fund Jihad Azour, and discussed means of promoting cooperation between Kuwait and the fund, especially in state-implemented projects.

## Kuwait Fund, Central American Bank ink MoU

**MARRAKECH, Oct 14, (KUNA):** Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) and the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) have signed a memo of understanding (MoU) to create a joint technical cooperation framework in developing countries' development finance field.

The memo was signed by KFAED's Director-General Waleed Al-Bahar and CABEI's Executive Vice President Jaime Palacios, KFAED said.

It is mainly aimed at bilateral coordination for response to humanitarian crises and natural disasters and as well as the exchange of information and technical expertise, it added in a press release.



Photo during the Kuwait Fund and Central American Bank signing of MoU.



**UAW breaks pattern of adding factories to strikes**

The United Auto Workers union isn't adding any factories to those that are now on strike, but its president says more walkouts could begin at any moment.

Until this week the union had been announcing additional factories on Fridays. But UAW President Shawn Fain told workers in a live video appearance that the companies started gaming the system, waiting until Fridays to make progress in bargaining.

"We will be calling out plants when we need to, where we need to, with little no-

vice," Fain said on Friday morning. "We're not sticking to one pattern or one system of giving these companies an extra hour or an extra day. They know what needs to happen and they know how to get it done."

Fain said the union is still bargaining hard with General Motors and Jeep maker Stellantis. But he criticized Ford, which said Thursday that it had reached the limit of how much money it will spend to settle the strike.

"I found a pathetic irony in that statement," Fain said, adding that it's workers who have reached their limits by not get-

ting raises for a decade and giving up what he called retirement security.

His statements came four weeks after the union began its walkouts against the Detroit automakers on Sept. 15.

The strikes started with one assembly plant from each company. The union later added 38 parts warehouses at GM and Stellantis, and then one assembly factory each from Ford and GM. The UAW then made a surprise move on Wednesday, escalating the strikes by adding a huge Ford pickup truck and SUV plant in Kentucky.



Workers hang their safety vests on a shipping and receiving sign as they change shifts on the picket line. UAW local 862 members strike outside of Ford's Kentucky Truck Plant in Louisville, Ky. on Thursday, Oct. 12, 2023. (AP)

# Biden awards \$7b for clean hydrogen hubs

## Bid to help replace fossil fuels in the US

**WASHINGTON, Oct 14, (AP): The Biden administration has selected clean-energy projects from Pennsylvania to California for a \$7 billion program to kickstart development and production of hydrogen fuel, a key component of President Joe Biden's agenda to slow climate change.**

Biden called clean hydrogen essential to his vision of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. by 2050. His goal is to establish seven regional hubs to help replace fossil fuels such as coal and oil with cleaner-burning hydrogen as an energy source for vehicles, manufacturing and generating electricity.

The seven hubs, which include projects in 16 states, will spur more than \$40 billion in private investment and create tens of thousands of good-paying jobs, many of them union positions, Biden said Friday at a cargo terminal in Philadelphia, where one of the hubs will be based.

He called the announcement transformational and said it would help create "a stronger, energy-secure economy" and combat "the existential threat of climate change."

"It's all part of my plan to make things in America," he said.

The projects selected are based in California, Washington, Minnesota, Texas, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Illinois. All but the California and Texas hubs include projects in multiple states. Pennsylvania has projects in two separate hubs.

The infrastructure law Biden signed in 2021 included billions of dollars to develop so-called clean hydrogen, a technology that industry and clean-energy advocates have long pushed as a way to reduce planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions produced by fossil fuels.

Some environmentalists call hydrogen a false solution because it frequently relies on natural gas as a fuel source.

Energy companies say fossil fuels can be used if the projects capture the carbon dioxide produced and keep it out of the atmosphere, a technology that has yet to be produced at commercial scale.

States and businesses have been competing for federal dollars in the new Energy Department program, which will create regional networks of hydrogen producers, consumers and infrastructure. The intent is to accelerate the availability and use of the colorless, odorless gas that already powers some vehicles and trains.

Among those selected were the Appalachian Regional Clean Hydrogen Hub, based in West Virginia, and the Philadelphia-based Mid-Atlantic Clean Hydrogen Hub, Pennsylvania, a battleground state of the highest importance to the Democratic president in next year's election, is in line to benefit from both projects.

Biden has made Philadelphia a regular stop for both official and campaign events, and partners in the proposed Philadelphia-area hub have labor unions that are key Biden supporters. The West Virginia-based hub includes major Pittsburgh-based natural gas companies that are active in the region's prolific Marcellus Shale reservoir, including natural gas producer EQT Corp., which expects its gas to flow through the controversial Mountain Valley Pipeline in West Virginia and Virginia.

Sen. Joe Manchin, a West Virginia Democrat who muscled approval of the \$6.6 billion pipeline through Congress in an unusual agreement with the White House this year, hailed the Appalachian hub.

"This means West Virginia will be the new epicenter of hydrogen in the United States of America," he said of the hub, which will receive up to \$925 million in federal spending. "West Virginia will be on the leading edge of building out the new hydrogen market."

The Appalachian hub will extend to Ohio and includes a \$1.6 billion facility under construction in northern Pennsylvania that is working to produce near-zero emissions hydrogen from natural gas.

"This is a big, big deal for ... Appalachia in particular, because these facilities are all based in areas where coal was king," said Perry Babb, president of Key-State, an owner and developer of the Pennsylvania site.

The Mid-Atlantic hub, which includes New Jersey and Delaware, will receive \$750 million and will make hydrogen through electrolysis - splitting water molecules using renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power, as well as nuclear power. The two largest projects are in California and Texas; each will receive up to \$1.2 billion.

The Alliance for Renewable Clean Hydrogen Energy Systems in California will produce hydrogen from renewable energy and biomass. The project is intended to provide a blueprint for decarbonizing public transportation, heavy-duty trucking and port operations - key emissions drivers in the state and major sources of air pollution.

In order to achieve ambitious climate goals, "we have to address these intensive industries," including ports, aviation, shipping and agriculture, as well as large power plants and cement and steel plants, California Gov. Gavin Newsom said Friday.

The Gulf Coast Hydrogen Hub will be centered in Houston, long the energy capital

of the U.S., and plans large-scale hydrogen production from both natural gas and renewables. "This historic investment will further cement Texas' position as the national leader in energy and hydrogen production," said Texas Gov. Greg Abbott.

The Minnesota-based Heartland hub, which includes projects in North and South Dakota, will receive \$925 million as it seeks to decarbonize fertilizer used in agriculture and advance use of clean hydrogen in electric generation and for cold climate space heating. It also plans to offer equity ownership to tribal communities and local farmers.

The Midwest hub in Illinois, Indiana and Michigan will receive up to \$1 billion and will use hydrogen in steel and glass production, power generation, heavy-duty transportation and sustainable aviation fuel. The hub plans to use renewable energy, natural gas and nuclear energy. The Pacific Northwest hub, based in eastern Washington, will extend to Oregon and Montana and will use hydropower and other renewable resources to produce clean hydrogen.

Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., called the \$1 billion hub "great news for the Pacific Northwest," adding that it will create thousands of jobs and "make sure that Washington plays a leading role in growing the green hydrogen economy."

Nearly every state had joined at least one proposed hub, and many have been working together, hoping to reap the economic development and thousands of jobs they would bring. Big fossil fuel companies, renewable energy developers and researchers in university and government labs are involved, too.

Environmental groups are skeptical, arguing that while hydrogen is a clean-burning source of power, it takes a great deal of energy to produce. When it's made with electricity from coal or natural gas, it has a bigger carbon footprint than simply burning the source fuel.

"We need strong guardrails to ensure that U.S. hydrogen does not create an emissions mess, and that we are not subsidizing hydrogen that is clean in name only," said Erik Kamrath, federal hydrogen advocate at Natural Resources Defense Council, an environmental group.

Anna Menke, senior hydrogen hubs manager at Clean Air Task Force, another environmental group, called the new hubs "a critical first step" to reduce emissions from carbon-intensive industries such as ammonia used for fertilizers and petrochemicals used in refining. New uses of hydrogen in sectors such as heavy-duty trucking, shipping and aviation are potential game changers, she said, adding: "We must ensure the program delivers on these promises."

**The Conversation**

California's new climate laws

## Corporate giants will have to disclose their emissions

By Lily Hsueh, Arizona State University

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

Many of the world's largest public and private companies will soon be required to track and report almost all of their greenhouse gas emissions if they do business in California - including emissions from their supply chains, business travel, employees' commutes and the way customers use their products.

That means oil and gas companies like Chevron will likely have to account for emissions from vehicles that use their gasoline, and Apple will have to account for materials that go into iPhones.

It's a huge leap from current federal and state reporting requirements, which require reporting of only certain emissions from companies' direct operations. And it will have global ramifications.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom signed two new rules into law on Oct. 7, 2023. Under the new Climate Corporate Data Accountability Act, U.S. companies with annual revenues of US\$1 billion or more will have to report both their direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions starting in 2026 and 2027. The California Chamber of Commerce opposed the regulation, arguing it would increase companies' costs. But more than a dozen major corporations endorsed the rule, including Microsoft, Apple, Salesforce and Patagonia.

The second law, the Climate-Related Financial Risk Act, requires companies generating \$500 million or more to report their financial risks related to climate change and their plans for risk mitigation.

As a professor of economics and public policy, I study corporate environmental behavior and public policy, including whether disclosure laws like these work to reduce emissions. I believe California's new rules represent a significant step toward mainstreaming corporate climate disclosures and potentially meaningful corporate climate actions.

Most of the companies covered by California's climate disclosure rules are multinational corporations. They include technology companies such as Apple, Google and Microsoft; giant retailers like Walmart and Costco; and oil and gas companies such as ExxonMobil and Chevron.

Many of these large corporations have been preparing for mandatory disclosure rules for several years. Close to two-thirds of the companies listed in the S&P 500 index voluntarily report to CDP, formerly called the Carbon Disclosure Project. CDP is a nonprofit that surveys companies on behalf of institutional investors about their carbon management and plans to

reduce carbon emissions. Many of them also face reporting requirements elsewhere, including in the European Union, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Singapore and cities like Hong Kong.

Moreover, some of the same U.S. companies, notably banks and asset managers that operate or sell products in Europe, have already started to comply with the EU's Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation. Those regulations require companies to report how sustainability risks are integrated into investment decision-making.

While California isn't the first place to mandate climate disclosures, it is the fifth-largest economy in the world. So, the state's new laws are poised to have substantial influence worldwide. Subsidiaries of companies that didn't have to report their emissions before will now be subject to disclosure requirements. California is in effect exercising its immense market leverage to establish climate disclosures as standard practice in the U.S. and beyond.

California also has a history of being a test bed for future federal U.S. policies. The U.S. government is considering broader emissions reporting requirements. But California's new rules go further than either the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission's proposed corporate climate disclosure rules or President Joe Biden's proposed disclosure rules for federal contractors.

The most controversial part of the new disclosure rules involves scope 3 emissions. These are emissions from a company's suppliers and its consumers' use of its products, and they are notoriously difficult to track accurately.

California's new emissions reporting law directs the California Air Resources Board, which will develop the regulations and administer them, to allow some leeway in scope 3 reporting as long as the reports are made with a reasonable basis and disclosed in good faith. It's also important to note that at this point the disclosure laws don't require companies to cut these emissions, only to report them. But tracking scope 3 emissions does highlight where companies could pressure suppliers to make changes.

The plethora of climate disclosure mandates globally suggest that policymakers and investors around the world perceive climate disclosures as driving actions that protect the environment. The big question is: Do disclosure rules actually work to reduce emissions?

My research shows that voluntary carbon disclosure systems like CDP's that focus on reporting corporate sustainability outputs, such as having science-based emissions targets, tend not to be as effective as those that focus on outcomes, such as a company's actual carbon emissions.

## Production hits 13.2m barrels per day

# US oil production hits all-time high, conflicting with the efforts to cut heat-trapping pollution

**WASHINGTON, Oct 14, (AP): United States domestic oil production hit an all-time high last week, contrasting with efforts to slice heat-trapping carbon emissions by the Biden administration and world leaders.**

And it conflicts with oft-repeated Republican talking points of a Biden "war on American energy."

The U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration reported that American oil production in the first week of October hit 13.2 million barrels per day, passing the previous record set in 2020 by 100,000 barrels. Weekly domestic oil production has doubled from the first week in October 2012 to now.

With the United Nations and scientists saying the world needs to cut carbon emissions - from burning coal, oil and natural gas - by 43% by 2030 and down to zero or close to it by 2050, several developed countries across the world are dangerously producing more, not less, fossil fuels, experts say.

"Continuing to expand oil and gas production is hypocritical and not at all consistent with the global call to phase down fossil fuels," said climate scientist Bill Hare, CEO of Climate Analytics which helps track global actions and policies to curb climate change. "The U.S. support for expanded fossil fuel production will undermine global efforts to reduce emissions."

But the U.S. isn't alone in this. Hare pointed to Norway, Australia, the United Kingdom and Canada, adding France because of support of the company TotalEnergies. And the designated president of upcoming climate negotiations heads the United Arab Emirates national oil company, which has announced plans to boost drilling.

"From Exxon-Mobil to Shell, Guyana to Cote d'Ivoire, those with fossil resources seek to boost production and delay action to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions," said MIT professor John Sterman, a senior advisor at Climate Interactive, an organization that models future warming based on countries' proposed actions. He said that path will lead to "catastrophe."

Stanford University climate scientist Rob Jackson, who heads the emissions-tallying group Global Carbon Project, said no country or company wants to cut oil and gas production if someone else is going to sell oil anyway.

"We're in a fossil trap," Jackson said.

White House officials have long considered increased oil production inside the United States as a bridge to help soften the transition to renewable energy sources. Officials have closely tracked domestic production, noting that output has risen by an average of more than one million barrels a day over the past year. It's evidence that many of the oil price increases reflect the policy choices of other countries including Saudi Arabia on what is a globally priced commodity.

The Biden administration has committed several hundred billions of dollars in government incentives for mov-



The sun shines through the clouds as it begins to set behind a pumpjack, March 30, 2022, outside of Goldsmith, Texas. United States domestic oil production has hit an all-time high, contrasting with efforts to slice heat-trapping carbon emissions by the Biden administration and world leaders. (AP)

## The mother of all oil deals @ \$60 billion

By Kamel Al-Harami  
Independent Oil Analyst

\$60 billion was the price that ExxonMobil paid Pioneer to acquire about 1.3 million barrels per day of equivalent oil and gas to increase its throughput to two million barrels by 2027, or to own 16 billion of barrels of equivalent oil and gas.

It is the mother of all oil deals at a time when the International Energy Agency asserted that global demand for fossil fuels will peak before 2030. This demand must fall in order to avoid the worst impact on global warming, and in accordance with the Paris Agreement.

The biggest major oil company is firm on its assumption that oil and gas will remain with us, and that by 2050, oil and gas will still meet more than half of the global energy demand due to the growth of population and the slow transition into greener forms of

energy, and that it will stay longer than what others anticipate.

Furthermore, according to recent reports, the world is likely to fail in keeping the global temperature rise below two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, which is the target set by the Paris Agreement.

ExxonMobil is set to make profit on its acquisition from last Wednesday, the day it signed and acquired Pioneer, as it will make money at any oil level above \$34 a barrel. The current average price of West Texas crude oil is in the range of \$83 or net profit of \$49 per barrel. At the same time, it is putting the USA back on the energy map



Al-Harami

ing away from fossil fuels to limit the damage from climate change.

Just because the United States is increasing oil production, that doesn't mean it won't phase down emissions, said Samantha Gross, director of energy security and climate at the centrist Brookings Institution. She said U.S. oil is less carbon-intensive than other oil, an argument the UAE's oil company also makes.

"So long as oil is demanded," Gross said, "Demand drives production - we need to change the whole system to reduce oil demand."

"Replacing oil in power production is a lot easier than replacing oil in transportation," Gross said in an email. "We need changes in the transportation

sector, along with policies to reduce demand for transport - like teleworking, walkable neighborhoods and good public transportation."

The Energy Department's EIA in a separate document predicted global carbon emissions will rise, not plummet, through 2050.

"If the EIA is right, we'll add another trillion tons of CO2 pollution to the atmosphere by 2050 and millions of people will die," Stanford's Jackson said. "There's no other way to see it."

Republican senators and congressmen, including the House Energy and Commerce Committee, this year have repeated the phrase "Biden's War on American Energy."

by becoming the largest oil driller, and maintaining its grip on the gas supply to Europe, thereby avoiding the Russian threats of disruption to supply. It will be the biggest oil producer in the world by 2027 with about 15 million barrels of oil production per day, with ExxonMobil contributing more than two million barrels.

ExxonMobil is adamant that shale oil will remain for a long time beyond the year 2050. The payment of \$60 billion is proof, backed up by its board members and its shareholders. Rest of the story will be told in the coming years. Meanwhile, Pioneer shareholders are happy to receive 2.32 shares of ExxonMobil for each share of Pioneer.

It looks like the major international oil company has established itself to remain in the oil and gas sector for many years to come, certainly beyond 2050.

OPEC+ should be happy too!  
email: nafikuwaiti@yahoo.com

Jared Bernstein, chair of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, pushed back on that last month.

"There are thousands of available permits - places where oil companies could drill," Bernstein said. "They've been highly profitable. They've been highly productive. So, I don't think that's the problem."

Stanford's Jackson said the Biden administration has swung back and forth on energy exploration, approving the Willow oil project in Alaska but cancelling drilling permits in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

"It's clear that the Biden administration is not running a war against fossil fuels, or if it is, it's a very unsuccessful war," Climate Analytics Hare said.

## BUSINESS

## Czech parliament's lower house OKs govt plan

The Czech parliament's lower house on Friday approved dozens of measures proposed by the government designed to keep the ballooning budget deficit under control.

Czech citizens are a step closer to paying more for beer and medicine while businesses will face higher corporate taxes.

In the 200-seat house, 108 lawmakers from the ruling coalition voted in favor of the plan,

while 86 opposition members were against.

When the government introduced the package in May, Prime Minister Petr Fiala said the proposed cuts, tax increases and austerity measures are necessary because the pace of the debt rise is "threatening."

Fiala said Friday the measures should reduce the budget deficit by 97 billion Czech crowns (\$4.2 billion) next year and by 150 bil-

lion (\$6.5 billion) in 2025.

As a result, the deficit of 3.5% of the gross domestic product expected for this year should drop to 1.8% next year and to 1.2% in 2025.

The package still needs approval from the upper house, the Senate, where the coalition government has a majority, and presidential approval before becoming effective next year. (AP)

## Malaysia unveils a 2024 budget narrowing the deficit

Malaysia will progressively cut subsidies and launch new taxes including for luxury goods next year as part of economic reforms and to tighten its finances, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said Thursday.

Anwar, who took power last November, announced the measures while tabling 2024 federal budget in Parliament. He said the 393.8 billion ringgit (\$83.3 billion) budget is aimed at

fixing economic imbalances and helping people to cope with rising cost of living amid a global economic slowdown.

Anwar, who is also finance minister, said economic growth is likely to slip to 4% this year but could reach nearly 5% in 2024.

He said Malaysia's annual subsidies for fuel, food and other items were among the highest in the world but its taxes among the lowest. This year, for instance,

he said government subsidies and social assistance surged to 81 billion ringgit (\$17 billion) as global commodity prices rose. For 2024, the government allocated 52.8 billion ringgit (\$11.2 billion).

Anwar said a revamp was needed to ensure the funds targeted only needy citizens. At the moment, he said subsidies were of greatest benefit to the rich, as well as immigrants. (AP)

## Last hurdle to the gaming deal removed

## Microsoft's bid for Activision gets UK approval

LONDON, Oct 14, (AP) : Microsoft's purchase of video game maker Activision Blizzard won final approval Friday from Britain's competition watchdog, reversing its earlier decision to block the \$69 billion deal and removing a last obstacle for one of the largest tech transactions in history.

The Competition and Markets Authority's blessing was expected after it gave preliminary approval last month to a revamped Microsoft proposal meant to address concerns that the deal would harm competition and hurt gamers.

It signals certain victory in the Xbox maker's quest to acquire Activision, maker of the popular Call of Duty game franchise.

The companies had agreed to extend an original mid-July deadline to Oct. 18 to overcome the British regulator's objections. The approval also helps Microsoft avoid paying Activision a \$4.5 billion penalty if the deal doesn't close.

"The new deal will stop Microsoft from locking up competition in cloud gaming as this market takes off, preserving competitive prices and services for UK cloud gaming customers," the watchdog said.

Since the deal was announced in January 2022, Microsoft has secured ap-

provals from antitrust authorities covering more than 40 countries. Crucially, it got a thumbs-up from the 27-nation European Union after agreeing to allow users and cloud gaming platforms to stream its titles without paying royalties for 10 years.

## Resistance

But the deal faced resistance from British and American regulators who worried it would stifle competition in the video game industry. Top rival Sony also feared it would limit PlayStation gamers' access to Call of Duty, Activision's long-running military shooter series.

The U.S. Federal Trade Commission lost a court bid to pause the deal so that its in-house judge could review it. The FTC hasn't given up, appealing the decision and last month filing notice of its plan to resume that trial. That signals the U.S. regulator's intention to unwind the deal even after it closes.

In the meantime, the U.K. regulator was the last major obstacle to the transaction going through. The CMA's approval came after Microsoft updated its

offer in August.

Under the restructured deal, Microsoft will sell off cloud streaming rights outside of the EU and three other European countries for all current and new Activision games released over the next 15 years to French game studio Ubisoft Entertainment. British regulators had initially blocked the transaction in April over concerns Microsoft could withhold Activision titles from the emerging cloud gaming market, where players can avoid buying pricey consoles and stream games to their tablets or phones.

Then, in an unprecedented move, the U.K. watchdog delayed its final decision, saying it needed to reconsider and agreeing with Microsoft to put appeal proceedings on hold.

One factor was the EU's approval, granted after Microsoft promised to automatically license Activision titles royalty-free to cloud gaming platforms. Another "material change of circumstance" that the watchdog said it needed to consider, according to court documents, was an agreement Microsoft signed with Sony to make Call of Duty available on PlayStation for at least 10 years.

## China's inflation data show the economy is in doldrums

## Consumer prices remained flat in Sept

HONG KONG, Oct 14, (AP): China's economy remains in the doldrums, data released Friday showed, with prices falling due to slack demand from consumers and businesses.

Consumer prices remained flat in September compared with a year earlier, the National Bureau of Statistics said, while wholesale prices fell 2.5%. Exports and imports also fell last month as demand fell in overseas markets.

The faltering recovery of the world's second largest economy from the shocks of the COVID-19 pandemic is dragging on regional and global growth, though economists have said the worst might have passed. Trade ticked up slightly from the month before and manufacturing is showing signs of improvement.

## Growth

Earlier this week, the International Monetary Fund cut growth forecasts for China, predicting economic growth of 5% this year and 4.2% in 2024, down slightly from its forecasts in July.

The IMF attributed its downward revision to weaker consumer confidence, subdued global demand and a crisis in the property sector that has made a big dent in business activity. China is due to report economic growth data on Oct. 18 and economists are forecasting the economy grew at a 4.4% annual pace in July-September, down from 6.3% in the previous quarter.

Friday's data showed food prices dropped 3.2% in September, with the price of pork sliding 22% from a year earlier, a steeper decrease than the 17.9% drop in August.

Core inflation, which excludes food and energy prices, rose 0.8% from a year earlier, the statistics bureau said, similar to a 0.8% rise in August.

The recovery in domestic consumer demand has been much weaker than hoped for, and excess competition has provoked price wars in some sectors.

"September's inflation data re-

## EU warns China that European public could turn more protectionist if trade deficit isn't reduced

BEIJING, Oct 14, (AP) : The European Union's top foreign policy official warned Friday that public sentiment in Europe could turn more protectionist if the region's trade deficit with China is not reduced.

Josep Borrell, the EU high representative for foreign affairs, called for improved access for European companies that want to export to or invest in China. He said that political leaders in Europe could face pressure from voters to disengage from the world's second-largest economy.

"And we don't want to disengage and much less, much less, to decouple from China," Borrell said in a speech at Peking University, one of China's top schools.

The EU trade deficit with China topped \$17 billion in September, bringing the total for the first nine months of the year to \$170 billion, according to Chinese trade figures released Friday.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi acknowledged the European Union's concerns after talks with Borrell later Friday.

"China attaches importance to the economic and trade concerns of the European side and is willing to further deepen reform and open-

mind us that despite some firming in activity indicators recently, China's economic recovery remains challenged," Robert Carnell of ING Economics said in a report.

It forecast that consumer inflation will be at 0.5% for all of 2023 and only rise to 1% in 2024.

China's producer price index - which measures prices factories charge wholesalers - has fallen for a full year, though last month it contracted more slowly than in August.

Still, China's manufacturing sector is showing some signs of improvement. A survey of factory managers showed activity returning to growth. The official purchasing managers' index for September rose to 50.2 from 49.7 in

ing up and provide a more favorable environment for EU enterprises to operate in China," he said at a joint news conference with his European counterpart.

Wang said the Chinese side had also expressed concern about a recently launched EU investigation into subsidies for the Chinese electric vehicle industry. "We urge the EU to avoid protectionist behavior and be prudent in the use of trade remedy measures," he said.

## Groundwork

Borrell is the latest EU official to visit China as the two sides lay the groundwork for a leaders summit later this year. Energy Commissioner Kadri Simson is in Beijing this week and Economy and Trade Commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis came last month.

The EU and China need to rebuild trust so that they can jointly tackle common challenges including climate change, global health and the indebtedness of developing nations, Borrell said.

"We believe that despite our considerable differences, that should not be underestimated, there is a lot of scope, a lot of room for us to work together," he said.

China is trying to reduce ten-

August, the first time it had topped 50 in six months. A reading above 50 indicates an increase from the previous month.

## Rose

Car sales in China rose 4.7% in September from a year earlier, the China Passenger Car Association reported earlier this week. Passenger vehicle sales totaled 2.04 million units. The growth came ahead of the China's long Mid-Autumn and National Day holidays in October. It's typically a bumper time for car dealers as people buy vehicles ahead of the week-long national holidays.

And the real estate sector is muddling through the troubles brought on by a crackdown on heavy bor-

rowings over trade and other issues with the EU and the United States, both important export markets. A U.S. Senate delegation visited China earlier this week, following a series of visits by top administration officials as the two countries try to arrange a meeting between Presidents Xi Jinping and Joe Biden in November.

Borrell urged China to step up humanitarian assistance to Ukraine, suggesting it launch a high-profile cultural initiative because of the destruction of historical and cultural heritage in the war.

"We are not asking China to adopt the same standpoint as the European Union," he said, acknowledging that China has political constraints. "But we consider it essential that China makes a major effort to convince the people of Ukraine that China is not Russia's ally in this war."

He also said that although the EU has ties with Taiwan, it does not recognize the self-governing island as an independent country. He added that the EU opposes the use of coercion and provocation, and that the tensions between Taiwan and China must be resolved through dialogue, not force.

rowing by developers that has hamstrung many home builders.

"The housing market appears to have stabilized recently thanks to the latest round of property easing measures, which could drive a modest recovery in home sales and mortgage demand in the coming months," Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics said in a commentary Friday.

China's global trade remained muted in September, with both exports and imports falling from the same time a year earlier.

Imports and exports both slid 6.2% from a year earlier, although the economy declined at a slower rate compared to August after a slew of measures were released to support the economy.

## Ban to be first in Europe

## Stockholm to ban gasoline &amp; diesel cars from downtown commercial area in '25

STOCKHOLM, Oct 14, (AP): A ban on gasoline and diesel-fueled cars from a commercial district of Stockholm's downtown in 2025 will be the first for a European capital, a city official said Thursday.

The ban will take effect in a 20-block area of shops, pedestrian walkways and a few homes in order to curb pollution, reduce noise and encourage use of electric vehicles said Lars Strömberg, the city council member for the Greens who's in charge of the Swedish capital's transportation.

Many European capitals have restrictions on gasoline and diesel cars, but Strömberg says Stockholm's complete ban would be a first.

"We need to eliminate the harmful exhaust gases from (gasoline) and diesel cars. That's why we are introducing the most ambitious low-emission zone to date," Strömberg told The Associated Press. The idea is to create an "environmental zone" where only electric vehicles will be allowed. There will be some exceptions such as for emergency vehicles and transportation for the disabled.

In its budget for 2024, the left-leaning, environmentally-focused city council on Tuesday unveiled the plan for the target area just north of the city's famed Old Town. The municipal government controls a majority in the council, so the vote set for Nov. 23 is expected to be a formality.

"We are pretty proud, I must say," Strömberg said, adding that gradual expansion of the environmental zone would be decided in the first half of 2025.

## Evolving crisis 'ignites' anxiety among Venezuelans who want better economy

SAN JOAQUIN, Venezuela, Oct 14, (AP): The avocado trees across the road from Jose Hernandez's tin-roofed home help feed several retirees in the rural community of San Joaquin along a highway two hours southwest of Venezuela's capital.

He and his neighbors cut the avocados with the owner's permission and sell them to motorists at a nearby toll booth or on the streets of the nearby city of Valencia, which has not emptied out as much as San Joaquin from migration over the last decade.

They live day by day. Their pension these days amounts to \$3.70 a month, only 20 cents more than the cost of a gallon of bottled water. So no sales mean no food.

"Sometimes, we even have to barter avocados for food in other neighborhoods. We want jobs!" Hernandez, 67, exclaimed while sitting on his dusty, cement-floor porch with a neighbor. "He was a carrier, I sold merchandise downtown. Right now, there is no work. All the young people have already left. This neighborhood is desolate!"

The political, social and economic crisis that has come to define their South American homeland has evolved since it began a decade ago as a result of a global drop in the price of oil, Venezuela's most valuable resource, mismanagement by the self-proclaimed socialist administration and government repression of its opponents.

The latest phase has been particularly challenging after the economic stability that many experienced for several months overlapping 2021 and 2022 vanished. They again are grappling with constant food-price hikes, business closures and painful thoughts of migrating.

Amid this daily reality, Venezuelans are hearing election chatter as the opposition gets ready to hold a primary Oct. 22 to pick a candidate to challenge President Nicolás Maduro in a presidential election next year.

But apathy and disgust toward politics and politicians - be they Maduro, his allies or his adversaries - have

deepened among the young and old amid the litany of disappointments, corruption accusations, rampant misinformation and government repression.

Maduro's government managed to get Venezuela out of a hyperinflationary cycle at the end of 2021 with public spending cuts, tax increases and foreign currency injections. For a time last year, workers could pull out of their pockets a dollar or two and maybe even some worthless bolivares, the local currency. Practically everyone knew someone running a business from their home, such as selling sugar-free snacks via Instagram or offering group lessons on basic math.

The respite - coming after Venezuela's economy contracted 80% from 2014 into 2021 - even prompted some Venezuelans to return from Colombia, Peru, Ecuador and other Latin American countries that had hosted them for years but where they could not find work in a post-pandemic economy. It also slowed down the exodus from Venezuela.

But by January, the stability was gone. May 1 came and went without the president's traditional Labor Day announcement of a minimum wage increase. The last raise, in April 2022, put monthly pay at 130 bolivares, which at the time was worth \$30, but has now dwindled to \$3.70.

These days, a kilo (2.2 pounds) of chicken costs about \$2.40, a dozen eggs is \$2.25, and a liter (a little over a quart) of milk goes for \$2.

"Things got very difficult. Even getting sick is difficult because if you buy food, you can't buy medicine," Mayela Ramirez, 59, said standing by her front door in downtown Valencia, once home to multiple auto assembly plants. "I have a nephew who has a problem with his brain - he has like a ball growing there - and needs a biopsy, but he can't (afford it) because it is \$150, so we are doing raffles to raise money."

Ramirez helps her husband run his auto repair shop, but it is no longer uncommon for a week to go by without a single car being dropped off.

## Ex-Barclays Bank boss Staley banned from senior UK finance roles

LONDON, Oct 14, (AP): Britain's financial regulator said on Thursday that former Barclays Bank chief executive Jes Staley has been fined 1.8 million pounds (\$2.2 million) and banned from holding senior financial roles in the United Kingdom for misleading it over the nature of his relationship with the late sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

The Financial Conduct Authority said in a statement that Staley, a U.S. citizen, had "recklessly approved" a letter sent by Barclays to the FCA, which claimed the bank's former boss did not have a close relationship with Epstein.

But in email messages, Staley

described Epstein as one of his "deepest" and "most cherished" friends, according to the regulator. Staley had acted as a private banker to the disgraced financier during his previous time at JP Morgan, where he worked for more than 30 years.

Staley, 66, stepped down from Barclays in 2021 as criticism over his ties to Epstein, who killed himself in a federal jail in August 2019, a month after his arrest on federal sex trafficking and conspiracy charges.

"A CEO needs to exercise sound judgement and set an example to staff at their firm," said Therese Chambers, joint executive director of enforcement and

market oversight at the FCA.

Staley, she added, "failed to do this."

As a result, Chambers said it is "right" to prevent him from holding a senior position in the financial services industry.

The FCA's decision is provisional and Staley, who has previously said he "deeply regrets" his relationship with Epstein, can appeal at an ensuing tribunal.

Barclays said that following the FCA's decision, Staley was ineligible for, or would forfeit, bonuses and share awards totaling 17.8 million pounds (\$21.9 million).

The banking giant had already suspended all of Staley's

deferred bonuses and long-term share awards while the watchdog investigated.

Staley has said that he had no contact with Epstein once he joined Barclays in December 2015. Earlier that year, he and his wife sailed to Epstein's private island in the Caribbean for lunch.

Last month, JP Morgan Chase said it had agreed to pay \$75 million to the U.S. Virgin Islands to settle claims that the bank enabled Epstein's sex-trafficking acts.

JP Morgan also reached a confidential settlement with Staley, who it had sued for allegedly concealing his personal activities with Epstein from the bank.

# SAG-AFTRA President reacts to stalled talks with studios

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 14, (AP) — Fran Drescher has steered the actors guild through its months-long strike. On the heels of Hollywood studios abruptly breaking off talks with the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists this week, the actor and union president says she's baffled and disappointed.

The Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers announced Wednesday that they had suspended contract negotiations, saying the gap between the two sides was too great to make continuing worth it and characterizing their offer as good as the one that recently ended the writers strike. Drescher told The Associated Press in a Thursday interview that she did not understand why negotiations collapsed but that her union's resolve has not weakened.

The interview has been edited for clarity and brevity.

**AP:** Can you talk about what happened in your negotiations with the AMPTP?

**Drescher:** They had given us a proposal package. We worked for like 36 hours on it. We brought it back to them. We walked them through it and they left and then called a few hours later and said, "We're breaking negotiations." So it's not only baffling but wholly disappointing and counterproductive.

I've never really met people that actually don't understand what negotiations mean. Why are you walking away from the table? To what end do you hope that that will accomplish anything?

And actually, my members are more pumped up than ever. They feel so insulted by this, so degraded by this and dishonored by this that it's like, "Fran, do not cave. Remain strong. Hold onto your resolve because this can't be for nothing."

**AP:** Can you talk about the mood of the conversations before they broke off? Was there a sense that talks would be smoother after the studios reached a deal with the Writers Guild of America?

**Drescher:** With the writers guild also, they broke negotiations with that too. So now that a contract has been agreed upon, everybody's all warm and fuzzy. But at the time, I think it was very contentious. They don't like to give away ice in winter.

So I've never really dealt with this kind of affront, of indignation and a need to get their own way. I think that they're very used to getting their own way. I think that the idea that we want to go into a pocket to compensate for the lack of income that we cannot get for our working members in a streaming model is just so repugnant to them. And they just feel like, "Who are we to want to get compensated the way we used to be? Who are we to think that we deserve to make an honest wage that meets inflation? Who are we to challenge them in any way? We should be so lucky to get whatever they want because they're the bosses."

And I keep pointing out to them that that kind of business practice is unsustainable nowadays. It was maybe something that people bought into in the 20th century. But that "dog eat dog, the bottom line is the bottom line," it just doesn't pan out. And we can't think that way anymore. You can't go into a whole new business and not question how this is going to impact the foundational contributors to your business. And that's exactly what they did. And now they're like annoyed at us for pointing out the problem.

It's really like an alternate universe. I can't even believe it.

**AP:** This will officially be the longest strike in your guild's history next week. What are your thoughts on how we get here?

**Drescher:** Well, I think it's indicative of the fact that they stopped talking to us back on July 12 and didn't come back until less than 10 days ago. You know, we've only met with them a couple of times. Monday, half a day Wednesday, half a day Friday. That was what they were available for. Then this past week, it was Monday and a half a day on Wednesday. And then "Bye bye."

I don't even know what they're thinking. But I did say to them, "With all due respect, we have been waiting for you to come back." We wanted to avert a strike. We extended an unprecedented extension and we called them in the eleventh hour. ... They don't really want to negotiate. They just want us to like what they want us to like. They don't want us to have a mind. They don't want us to have a thought. They don't want us to have feelings or complain that we can't make a living and we can't support our families and we're having problems paying the rent.

They don't want to hear about it because they keep giving us this huge inflated number of how much they're spending on production and how much they're paying out to our union in salary. But it's all divided up amongst so many thousands of people that it doesn't add up to anything except for our highest paying earners, which I have zero problem with. And we're fighting for them as well with AI.

**AP:** So, what now?

**Drescher:** Well, they called and said, "We're walking away. We're breaking negotiations." Now, we're in the midst of a serious negotiating committee meeting. Everybody went out on the picket lines today (Thursday). The resolve is very strong.

So I think that they think that we're going to cower, but that's never going to happen because this is a crossroads and we must stay on course.

Film

Variety

# Features



Taylor Swift performs during 'The Eras Tour' in Los Angeles on Aug. 7, 2023. Swift is releasing her 'Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour' concert film on Oct. 13. (AP)

Film

Film is a replica of blockbuster concert performance

## In 'Eras Tour,' every seat is best seat

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 14, (AP) — It opens with a clock counting down until show time - the dropped stomach, rollercoaster slowly encroaching its apex sensation - and then, a gentle fake out. Taylor Swift is heard before she is seen. "It's been a long time..." her voice carries. Then the drop hits: an abridged performance of "Miss Americana & the Heartbreak Prince" into "Cruel Summer," a track that TikTok breathed new life into four years after its initial release on her 2019 album "Lover."

This is the moment it should be clear: "Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour" film is a near exact replica of her blockbuster concert performance, which recaps all 10 of her studio albums across 17 years of recorded work. There will be no narrative breaks, no behind-the-scenes footage, no additional ornamentation of the monolithic set (with the exception of a few CGI effects and album title cards to introduce each epoch.) The film delivers on the promise of its title: this is the Eras Tour in full - conveniently viewable at an AMC theater near you.

For those who've managed to snag tickets to the Eras Tour concert, it is the ability to relive the experience, likely with loved ones who weren't as lucky. For those who didn't attend, it's a chance to test expectations versus reality. But for everyone, it is the opportunity to have every seat in the house transform into the best seat in the house. "Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour" is all up close and personal footage from every vantage point, courtesy of Sam Wrench, who shot and directed it.

Where else but in this film can you be placed inches from Swift's moss-covered "evermore" album-era piano as she introduces "Champagne Problems" - so close as to examine phalanges as they press down on the final notes of the song's coda? And where else does it sound this good, highlighting sonic details that might've been missed in the stadium setting? Like guitars placed high in the

mix on "Look What You Made Me Do," differing slightly from the recording, or emphasis placed on moments fans have transformed into opportunities from insider participation, like when everyone shouts, "1, 2, 3, 4, let's go, ...!" in "Delicate," as inspired by a viral video?

Edits to the three-and-a-half-hour concert production are few on screen. Costume changes are cut down. Some songs are snipped, like "The Archer," "Cardigan," "Wildest Dreams," and "no body no crime." The "Speak Now" section is just one song long: "Enchanted," with "Long Live" soundtracking the end credits alongside images of "Eras Tour" bloopers and an endless exchange of friendship bracelets. On stage banter, too, is limited, mostly reserved for humor and exposition.

### Revenue

As previously reported, the concert film, compiled from several Swift shows at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, a suburb of Los Angeles, is expected to launch with \$100 million, or possibly more. Advance ticket sales worldwide have already surpassed \$100 million.

AMC announced that the concert film broke its record for highest ticket sales revenue in a single day. The theater chain Cinemark reported domestic pre-sale records are more than "10 times higher presales than any other cinema engagement event."

It's too early to tell, but all signs point to her usurping 2011's "Justin Bieber: Never Say Never" as the biggest concert film, ever. And for the premiere Wednesday night in Los Angeles, Swift shut down The Grove, a bustling mall just south of Hollywood, and watched her performance in an auditorium alongside a star-studded audience of Adam Sandler, Mariska Hargitay, actor Julia Garner, "Queer Eye" co-host Karamo Brown, country star Maren Morris, singer Hayley Kiyoko and Bachelor Nation's Becca Tilley.

It is massive, but nothing could exactly recreate the decibel-bursting exhilaration of a live music performance, particularly one at this scale. But in this format, Swift gets as close as possible - and for her, being an exception to the rule is par for the course. In a fractured, algorithmic music industry, Swift is a final exemplar of monoculture, a figure recognizable by most. And because of that fact, she's able to fully communicate her power in a concert film with little to no dialogue.

(That, admittedly, is something available to only her and Beyoncé, a superstar Swift has learned from and mirrored, in some ways. For example: Beyoncé limits traditional press appearances to instead present her own story in her own terms; Swift has begun to do the same. Relatedly, Bey will release a documentary chronicling her Renaissance World Tour, premiering at AMC theaters in North America on Dec. 1 in a similar agreement to Swift.)

The success of Swift's concert film, too, has something to do with the setting of a theater. Her revealing 2020 documentary, "Miss Americana," was released to Netflix and meant to be absorbed with a kind of intimacy. The viewer is with her in the backseat of a car, listening to her incredible candor about the pressures of being Swift, and in a particularly memorable moment, disordered eating.

A very different viewing experience, "Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour" is meant to be enjoyed communally - a shout-along affair where fans in bespoke cosplay can dance and sing and film the screen on their smartphones, breaking the rules of the traditional movie-going experience. Strangers become friends. And all the while, feeling closer to Swift than ever before.

"Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour," an AMC release, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association for some strong language and suggestive material. Running time: 168 minutes. Three stars out of four.

ARABIC TIMES

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2023

**LOS ANGELES:** In 2019, when the K-pop group Tomorrow X Together (TXT for short) first debuted, they were best known as the first BigHit Entertainment boy band since BTS. Those days went as quickly as they arrived.

The quintet of **Yeonjun, Soobin, Taehyun, Huening Kai, and Beomgyu** are one of the most influential contemporary K-pop groups, lovingly referred to as "K-pop's voice for Gen Z" for their high-concept, relatable albums and their fearless genre eclecticism. No two records are the same, but the accolades are many. Last year, TXT made their U.S. debut at Lollapalooza, the famed festival in Chicago. This year, they became the first ever K-pop group to headline it, a few months after their album, "The Name Chapter: Temptation," debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard 200.

On Friday, the TXT story continues, and they will release another album, "The Name Chapter: Freefall." There's a very specific, whimsical mythology behind it: "Temptation" centered on a narrative of young people on the brink of adulthood, feeling tempted by false illusions of an everlasting childhood, playing with imagery of Peter Pan and Neverland. "Freefall" breaks away from that place.

It is a "freefall into reality," as Huening Kai explains it to The Associated Press, speaking through an interpreter.

"The Name Chapter: Freefall" is about growing up and simultaneously celebrating youth, as evidenced in songs like the '80s-inspired synth-y new wave track, "Chasing the Dream," or more explicitly in the nu-metal opener "Growing Pain."

"Growing isn't easy," Taehyun says of the latter song. "Growing requires growing (through) pain all the time. That's why we have this kind of sound and look." (AP)

**MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay:** A buyer from Argentina paid \$36,000 for a manuscript of works, including seven unpublished stories, by legendary Argentine writer **Julio Cortázar** at an auction Thursday in the Uruguayan capital, Montevideo.

The bundle of 60-year-old sheets bound together with metal

fasteners bearing the inscription "Julio Cortázar. Historias de Cronopios y de Famas. Paris. 1952" was the basis for the writer's iconic "Cronopios and Famas" book, published in 1962.

The typewritten manuscript contains 46 stories that make up the heart of what ended up becoming one of Cortázar's most famous



Yeonjun



Cortázar

works.

Of the total stories, 35 were published in "Cronopios and Famas." Some were printed exactly as found in the manuscript that was once thought to be lost forever. It was discovered in Montevideo last year, while others underwent editorial changes. Three other stories were published in magazines before

Cortázar's death in 1984.

The seven unpublished works are: "Inventory," "Letter from one fame to another fame," "Automatic Butterflies," "Travels and Dreams," "Tiny Unicorn," "Mirror's Anger" and "King of the Sea."

Cortázar is one of Latin America's most celebrated writers, known for several groundbreaking

ing works that included innovative narrative techniques that influenced future generations of writers.

The 60 yellowed sheets had a starting bid of \$12,000 and were being auctioned by Zorrilla, an auction house in Montevideo, in partnership with the Buenos Aires art antique dealer Hilario. (AP)

## People &amp; Places

## Music

## Joyful soundtrack

## Sivan adopts 'frisky' vibes in new album

NEW YORK, Oct. 14, (AP) — **Troye Sivan** was initially going to begin his third full-length album with a ballad, a wistful song looking back at lost love. Then he thought better about it. Frisky was the way to go.

"I want people to know I'm OK. Things are good. Life is fun. Sex is great," he says in an interview. "From the second they click play on the album, I wanted to slap them across the face."

The first song - also the first single - is "Rush," a blast of house and EDM beats topped by a male chanting chorus, combining to create the vibe of a crowded nightclub or strobe-lit rave.

"It was a feeling that I knew that I was feeling in life that I hadn't yet managed to distill," Sivan says. "When we finally got 'Rush,' I was like, 'OK, this feels exactly the way that I want it to feel and communicates exactly what I wanted to communicate.'" "Rush" - complete with a video in which the first image is of a man's backside being slapped - was the last song added to "Something to Give Each Other," Sivan's 10-track full return after "Bloom" in 2018.

"I think that everything has been leading up to this," he says. "When I remember the first album, I remember being so stressed and in my head and full of self-doubt and imposter syndrome. On the second album, I was getting a little bit more confident and finding my feet and still didn't 100% know how to get from point A to point B."

"Something to Give Each Other" sees the Australian singer-songwriter play with more production effects, layer in interesting sounds and even duet on a song sung partly in Spanish, all in a proudly LGBTQ+ space.

## Pressure

"This time I just took my time. I went to places that I loved, worked with people that I love. And it really was like a joy," he says. "There wasn't a single day of making this album where I was like pulling my hair out, stressed, wanting to cry. And I'm really happy about that."

The new album has the potential to cement Sivan among today's pop elite. His debut "Blue Neighborhood," in 2015, and "Bloom" both reached the top 10 of the Billboard 200 album charts.

"I didn't really feel the pressure to prove anything this time around," he says. "I did feel a bit more free to play around and do what I think sounds coolest and what I think communicates the story best."

Sivan's list of collaborators over the years is long, including Ariana Grande, Alessia Cara, Charli XCX, Lauv, Zedd, Betty Who and PNAU. He featured on Kacey Musgraves' "Glittery," which saw him climb the Hot Country Songs chart in 2019. This time he teamed up with Guittarricad-elafuente for "In My Room."

Sivan, 28, says there's a thrill in crafting songs that keeps him coming back, describing it as an unpredictable process where control is illusory no matter how good you are.

"Without sounding corny, there's a layer of magic to it," he says. "You can go into the studio two days in a row, let's say, with the exact same people in the exact same studio. And one day it happens and the other day it doesn't. And I don't know what the difference is between those two days."

"Got Me Started" has a little of that studio magic. Sivan and producer Ian Kirkpatrick slowed down the chorus and then returned it to regular speed, creating a choppy and unsettled effect on Sivan's vocals.

"I think maybe previously I would have been like, 'Oh, you can't really hear my voice' and that would have maybe got in the way. Whereas now I'm like, 'No, this sounds really cool and I love it.' So I want to I want to just go for it," Sivan says.

For "One of Your Girls," a needy song with the lyrics "Give me a call if you ever get lonely/I'll be like one of your girls or your homies," Sivan turned to a vocoder, which synthesized his voice.

"The song only really clicked for me when I realized that we had to communicate this sort of like numbness, this dissociative feeling. And I was like, 'OK, we've kind of built this character of like a sad robot or something who's so desperate to connect and who is trying, but for whatever reason, can't cut through.'"

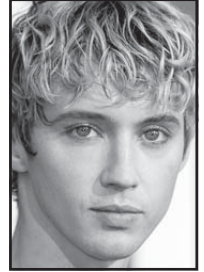
During the pandemic, Sivan offered fans the EP "In a Dream," which was experimental and uneasy, with the singer's bravado muted. In the interview, he reveals he was going through a breakup.

"I had had that low moment and the thing that I was craving more than anything was levity and fun and community and being with people," he says.

"That really set me on the path of this album and kind of made it super crystal clear what this album should look like, feel like, sound like."

## Also:

**LOS ANGELES:** "Set It Off," Migos' member Offset's sophomore solo album and first full-length since the death of his bandmate and cousin Takeoff, released Friday. It follows Migos' Quavo's second solo album, "Rocket Power," a lively and powerful tribute to Takeoff. "Set It Off" is characteristic Offset - energetic, empathetic trap with a stacked list of collaborators, as evidenced on "Jealousy," which features his wife **Cardi B** and samples a Three 6 Mafia track. "I've been working on this project for over two years now. This season is personal for me. It marks a new chapter in my life," Offset shared in a statement. "This body of work is healing for me and a letter to my fans and supporters."



Sivan



Poet Louise Glück appears at a ceremony honoring her with the National Humanities Medal in the East Room of the White House in Washington on Sept. 22, 2016. Glück's death was confirmed Friday, Oct. 13, by Jonathan Galassi, her editor at Farrar, Straus & Giroux. (AP)

## Obituary

## A poet of terse and candid lyricism

## Nobel laureate Glück dies at 80

NEW YORK, Oct. 14, (AP) — Nobel laureate Louise Glück, a poet of unblinking candor and perception who wove classical allusions, philosophical reveries, bittersweet memories and humorous asides into indelible portraits of a fallen and heartrending world, has died at 80.

Glück's death was confirmed Friday by Jonathan Galassi, her editor at Farrar, Straus & Giroux. She died of cancer at her home in Cambridge, Massachusetts, according to her publisher. A former student of Glück's, the Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Jorie Graham, said that the author had only recently been diagnosed.

"I find it very much like her that she only learned she had cancer a few days before dying from it," Graham said. "Her whole sensibility - both on and off the page - was cut that close to the spine of time."

In a career spanning more than 60 years, Glück forged a narrative of trauma, disillusion, stasis and longing, spelled by moments - but only moments - of ecstasy and contentment. In awarding her the literature prize in 2020, the first time an American poet had been honored since T.S. Eliot in 1948, Nobel judges praised "her unmistakable poetic voice that with austere beauty makes individual existence universal."

Glück's poems were often brief, a page or less in length, exemplars of her attachment to "the unsaid, to suggestion, to eloquent, deliberate silence." Influenced by Shakespeare, Greek mythology and Eliot among others, she questioned and at times dismissed outright the bonds of love and sex, what she called the "premise of union" in her most famous poem, "Mock Orange." In some ways, life for Glück was like a troubled romance - fated for unhappiness, but meaningful because pain was our natural condition - and preferable to what she assumed would follow.

"The advantage of poetry over life is that poetry, if it is sharp enough, may last," she once wrote.

In her poem "Summer," the narrator addresses her husband and remembers "the days of our first happiness," when everything seemed to have "ripened."

Then the circles closed. Slowly the nights grew cool; the pendant leaves of the willow yellowed and fell. And in each of us began

a deep isolation, though we never spoke of this, of the absence of regret.

We were artists again, my husband. We could resume the journey.

Poet Tracy K. Smith, a Pulitzer winner, said in a statement Friday that Glück's poetry had "saved" her many times.

"I think constantly of these lines from 'The Wild Iris': 'At the end of my suffering / there was a door.' And of these lines from 'The House on Marshland': 'The darkness lifts, imagine, in your lifetime.' It is as if her

spare, patient syntax forms a path into and through the weight of living," she wrote.

Glück published more than a dozen books of poetry, along with essays and a brief prose fable, "Marigold and Rose." She drew upon everything from Penelope's weaving in "The Odyssey" to an unlikely muse, the Meadowlands sports complex, which inspired her to ask: "How could the Giants name/that place the Meadowlands? It has/about as much in common with a pasture/as would the inside of an oven."

In 1993, she won the Pulitzer Prize for "The Wild Iris," an exchange in part between a beleaguered gardener and a callous deity. "What is my heart to you/that you must break it over and over," the gardener wonders. The god answers: "My poor inspired creation ... You are/too little like me in the end/to please me."

Her other books included the collections "The Seven Ages," "The Triumph of Achilles," "Vita Nova" and a highly acclaimed anthology, "Poems 1962-2012." Besides winning the Pulitzer, she received the Bollingen Prize in 2001 for lifetime achievement and the National Book Award in 2014 for "Faithful and Virtuous Night." She was the US poet laureate in 2003-2004 and was awarded a National Humanities Medal in 2015 for her "decades of powerful lyric poetry that defies all attempts to label it definitively."

## Guiding

Glück was married and divorced twice and had a son, Noah, with her second husband, John Darnow. She taught at several schools, including Stanford University and Yale University, and regarded her experiences in the classroom not as a distraction from her poetry, but as a "prescription for lassitude." Students would remember her as demanding and inspiring, not above making someone cry, but also valued for guiding young people in search of their own voices.

"You would hand in something and Louise would find the one line that worked," the poet Claudia Rankine, who studied under Glück at Williams College, told The Associated Press in 2020. "There was no place for the niceties of mediocrity, no false praise. When Louise speaks you believe her because she doesn't hide inside of civility."

A native of New York City who grew up on Long Island, New York, she was a descendant of Eastern European Jews and heir to an everyday creation not associated with poetry: Her father helped invent the X-Acto knife. Her mother, Glück would write, was the family's "maid-of-all-work moral leader," the one whose assessment of her stories and poems she looked to above all others. Glück was also the middle of three sisters, one of whom died before she was born, a tragedy she seemed to refer to in her poem "Parados."

Long ago, I was wounded. I learned

to exist, in reaction, out of touch with the world: I'll tell you what I meant to be - a device that listened. Not inert: still. A piece of wood. A stone.

Describing herself as born to "bear witness," Glück felt at home with the written word and regarded the English language as her gift, even her "inheritance." But as a teenager, she was so intensely ambitious and self-critical that she waged war with her own body. She suffered from anorexia, dropped to 75 pounds (34 kilograms) and was terrorized by her mortality. Her life, creative and otherwise, was saved after she chose to see a psychoanalyst.

"Analysis taught me to think. Taught me to use my tendency to object to articulated ideas about my own ideas, taught me to use doubt, to examine my own own speech for its evasions and excisions," she recalled during a 1989 lecture at the Guggenheim Museum. "The longer I withheld conclusion, the more I saw. I was learning, I believe, how to write, as well."

Glück was too frail to become a full-time college student and instead sat in on classes at Sarah Lawrence College and Columbia University, finding mentors in the poets-teachers Leonie Adams and Stanley Kunitz. By her mid-20s, she was publishing poems in The New Yorker, The Atlantic Monthly and other magazines.

Glück's debut book, "Firstborn," was published in 1968, and preceded a long stretch of writer's block that ended while she was teaching at Goddard College in the early 1970s. She had once believed that poets should avoid academia, but found the engagement with Goddard students so enriching she began writing poetry again, work she regarded as well beyond the "rigid performances" of "Firstborn." Out of her silence she discovered a new and more dynamic voice.

Her second book, "The House on Marshland," came out in 1975 and is considered her critical breakthrough. But she continued to suffer years of what she called "brutal punitive blankness," when she tried everything from gardening to listening to Sam Cooke records to break out. Subsequent books such as "The Wild Iris" and "Ararat" became testaments to personal and creative reinvention, as if her older books had been written by someone else.

"I've always had this sort of magical-thinking way of detesting my previous books as a way of pushing myself forward," she told the Washington Square Review in 2015. "And I realized that I had this feeling of sneaking-up pride in accomplishment. Sometimes I would just stack my books together and think, 'Wow, you haven't wasted all your time.' But then I was very afraid because it was a completely new sensation, that pride, and I thought, 'Oh, this means really bad things.'"



Penelope Cruz attends the 'Ferrari' premiere during the 61st New York Film Festival at Alice Tully Hall on Friday, Oct. 13, 2023, in New York. (AP)

## Variety

**MINNEAPOLIS:** A man charged in the museum heist of a pair of ruby slippers that **Judy Garland** wore in "The Wizard of Oz" pleaded guilty Friday in a deal that could keep him out of prison due to his failing health, but only cleared up some of the mystery that dates back 18 years.

**Terry Jon Martin**, 76, pleaded guilty to a single count of theft of a major artwork. The shoes were stolen in 2005 from the Judy Garland Museum in the late actor's hometown of **Grand Rapids, Minnesota**, and recovered by the FBI in 2018.

No one was arrested until Martin, who lives near Grand Rapids, was charged this year. During his change-of-plea hearing in federal court in **Duluth**, Martin said he used a hammer to smash the glass of the museum door and display case to take the slippers. He said he thought the slippers had real rubies and that he had hoped to sell the gems. But when a fence told him the rubies were glass, he said he got rid of the slippers.

Martin did not say how he got rid of them or to whom he gave them, leaving the slippers' whereabouts during the ensuing years a mystery. He did say that the theft had nothing to do with trying to get insurance money, as some have speculated.

"Terry has no idea where they were and how they were recovered," Martin's attorney, **Dane DeKrey**, said afterward. "His involvement was that two-day period in 2005."

Under the plea agreement, DeKrey and federal prosecutor Matt Greenley recommended that Martin not face any time behind bars because of his age and poor health. Martin, who appeared in court in a wheelchair with supplemental oxygen, has advanced chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and struggles to breathe, DeKrey said. The proposed sentence would let Martin die at home, the attorney said. "He's basically slowly suffocating to death," DeKrey said. (AP)

**LOS ANGELES:** **Rudolph Isley**, a founding member of the Isley Brothers who helped perform such raw rhythm and blues classics as "Shout" and "Twist and Shout" and the funky hits "That Lady" and "It's Your Thing," has died at age 84.

"There are no words to express my feelings and the love I have for my brother. Our family will miss him. But I know he's in a better place," **Ronald Isley** said in a statement released Thursday by an Isley Brothers publicist. Further details were not immediately available.

A Cincinnati native, Rudolph Isley began singing in church with brothers **Ronald** and **O'Kelly** (another sibling, **Vernon**, died at age 13) and was still in his teens when they broke through in the late 1950s with "Shout," a secularized gospel rave that was later immortalized during the toga party scene in "Animal House." The Isleys scored again in the early 1960s with the equally spirited "Twist and Shout," which the Beatles liked so much they used it as the closing song on their debut album and opened with it for their famed 1965 concert at Shea Stadium. (AP)

**TITUSVILLE, Fla.:** **Bruce Weaver**, a

Florida-based photographer who captured a definitive image of space shuttle Challenger breaking apart into plumes of smoke and fire after liftoff, has died. He was 77.

A statement released by the North Brevard Funeral Home said Weaver died in his sleep Friday with his wife and family by his side. He was living in Titusville, Florida, along the state's Space Coast.

Working as a freelance photographer for The Associated Press, Weaver was among



Rudolph



Garland

hundreds of witnesses on the ground at the Kennedy Space Center who watched Challenger lift off from the launch pad carrying aboard **New Hampshire** schoolteacher **Christa McAuliffe** and six other astronauts on Jan. 28, 1986.

The space shuttle disintegrated 73 seconds later, killing all seven crew members. Launched on an exceptionally cold morning, Challenger was brought down by eroding O-ring seals in the right booster. (AP)

## The Conversation

## Experts aim to improve pediatric cancer care

## Cancer in kids is different from cancer in grown-ups

By Ranjini Bhattacharya  
University of South Florida

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

Cancer arises when cells accumulate enough damage to change their normal behavior. The likelihood of accruing damage increases with age because the safeguards in your genetic code that ensure cells function for the greater good of the body weaken over time.

Why, then, do children who haven't had sufficient time to accumulate damage develop cancer?

I am a doctoral student who is exploring the evolutionary origins of cancer. Viewed through an evolutionary lens, cancer develops from the breakdown of the cellular collaboration that initially enabled cells to come together and function as one organism.

Cells in children are still learning how to collaborate. Pediatric cancer develops when rogue cells that defy cooperation emerge and grow at the body's expense.

The cells in your body adhere to a set of instructions defined by their genetic makeup - a unique code that carries all the information that cells need to perform their specific function. When cells divide, the genetic code is copied and passed from one cell to another. Copying errors can occur in this process and contribute to the development of cancer.

In adults, cancer evolves through a gradual accrual of errors and damages in the genetic code. Although there are safeguards against uncontrolled cell growth and repair mechanisms to fix genetic errors, aging, exposure to environmental toxins and unhealthy lifestyle can weaken these protections and lead to the breakdown of tissues. The most common types of adult cancers, such as breast cancer and lung cancer, often result from such accumulated damage.

In children, whose tissues are still developing, there is a dual dynamic between growth and cancer prevention. On one hand, rapidly dividing cells are organizing themselves into tissues in an environment with limited immune surveillance - an ideal setting for cancer development. On the other hand, children have robust safeguards and tightly regulated mechanisms that act as counterforces against cancer and make it a rare occurrence.

## Mutations

Children seldom accumulate errors in their genetic code, and pediatric cancer patients have a much lower incidence of genetic errors than adult cancer patients. However, nearly 10% of pediatric cancer cases in the US are due to inherited genetic mutations. The most common heritable cancers arise from genetic errors that influence cell fate - that is, what a cell becomes - during the developmental stages before birth. Mistakes in embryonic cells accumulate in all subsequent cells after birth and can ultimately manifest as cancer.

Pediatric cancers can also spontaneously arise while children are growing. These are driven by genetic alterations distinct from those common in adults. Unlike in adults, where damage typically accumulates as small errors during cell division, pediatric cancers often result from large-scale rearrangements of the genetic code. Different regions of the genetic code

swap places, disrupting the cell's instructions beyond repair.

Such changes frequently occur in tissues with constant turnover, such as the brain, muscles and blood. Unsurprisingly, the most prevalent pediatric cancers often emerge from these tissues.

Genetic alterations are not a prerequisite for pediatric cancers. In certain pediatric brain cancers, the region of the genetic code responsible for cell specialization becomes permanently silenced. Although there is no error in the genetic code itself, the cell is unable to read it. Consequently, these cells become trapped in an uncontrolled state of division, ultimately leading to cancer.

Cells in children typically exhibit greater growth, mobility and flexibility. This means that pediatric cancer is often more invasive and aggressive than that of adults, and can severely affect development even after successful therapy due to long-term damage. Because the cancer trajectories in children and adults are markedly different, treatment approaches should also be different for each.

Standard cancer therapy includes radiotherapy or chemotherapy, which affect both cancerous and healthy, actively dividing cells. If the patient becomes unresponsive to these treatments, oncologists try a different drug.

## Therapies

In children, the side effects of certain treatments are amplified since their cells are actively growing. Unlike adult cancers, where different drugs can target different genetic errors, pediatric cancers have fewer of these targets. The rarity of pediatric cancer also makes it challenging to test new therapies in large-scale clinical trials.

A common reason for treatment failure is when cancer cells adapt to evade treatment and become drug resistant. Applying principles from evolutionary biology to cancer treatment can help tackle this.

For example, extinction therapy is an approach to treatment inspired by natural mass extinction events. The goal of this therapy is to eradicate all cancer cells before they can evolve. It does this by applying a "first strike" drug that kills most cancer cells. The remaining few cancer cells are then targeted through focused, smaller-scale interventions.

If complete extinction is not possible, the goal turns to preventing treatment resistance and keeping the tumor from progressing. This can be achieved with adaptive therapy, which takes advantage of the competition for survival among cancer cells. Treatment is dynamically turned "on" and "off" to keep the tumor stable while allowing cells that are sensitive to the therapy to out-compete and suppress resistant cells. This approach preserves the tissue and improves survival.

Although pediatric cancer patients have a better prognosis than adults do after treatment, cancer remains the second-leading cause of death in children under 15 in the US. Recognizing the developmental differences between pediatric and adult cancers and using evolutionary theory to "anticipate and steer" the cancer's trajectory can enhance outcomes for children. This could ultimately improve young patients' chances for a brighter, cancer-free future. (AP)

## The first exploration of a metal world

## NASA launches probe to study rare asteroid

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla., Oct 14, (AP) - NASA's Psyche spacecraft rocketed away Friday on a six-year journey to a rare metal-covered asteroid.

Most asteroids tend to be rocky or icy, and this is the first exploration of a metal world. Scientists believe it may be the battered remains of an early planet's core, and could shed light on the inaccessible centers of Earth and other rocky planets.

SpaceX launched the spacecraft into an overcast midmorning sky from NASA's Kennedy Space Center. Named for the asteroid it's chasing, Psyche should reach the huge, potato-shaped object in 2029.

"It's so thrilling," said Laurie Leshin, director of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Added Arizona State University's Jim Bell, part of the Psyche team: "What a great ride so far."

An hour later, the spacecraft separated successfully from the rocket's upper stage and floated away, drawing applause from ground controllers.

After decades of visiting faraway worlds of rock, ice and gas, NASA is psyched to pursue one coated in metal. Of the nine or so metal-rich asteroids discovered so far, Psyche is the biggest, orbiting the sun in the outer portion of the main asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter alongside millions of other space rocks. It was discovered in 1852 and named after Greek mythology's captivating goddess of the soul.

## Pressure

"It's long been humans' dream to go to the metal core of our Earth. I mean, ask Jules Verne," lead scientist Lindy Elkins-Tanton of Arizona State University said ahead of the launch.

"The pressure is too high. The temperature is too high. The technology is impossible," she said. "But there's one way in our solar system that we can look at a metal core and that is by going to this asteroid."

Astronomers know from radar and other observations that the asteroid is big - about 144 miles (232 kilometers) across at its widest and 173 miles (280 kilometers) long. They believe it's brimming with iron, nickel and other metals, and quite possibly silicates, with a dull, predominantly gray surface likely covered



This image from a video animation provided by NASA in October 2023 depicts the spacecraft Psyche approaching the asteroid Psyche. A NASA spacecraft has rocketed away on a six-year journey to a rare asteroid made of metal. (AP)

with fine metal grains from cosmic impacts.

Otherwise, it's a speck of light in the night sky, full of mystery until the spacecraft reaches it after traveling more than 2 billion miles (3.6 billion kilometers).

Scientists envision spiky metal craters, huge metal cliffs and metal-encrusted eroded lava flows greenish-yellow from sulfur - "almost certain to be completely wrong," according to Elkins-Tanton. It's also possible that trace amounts of gold, silver, platinum or iridium - iron-loving elements - could be dissolved in the asteroid's iron and nickel, she said.

"There's a very good chance that it's going to be outside of our imaginations, and that is my fondest hope," she said.

Believed to be a planetary building block from the solar system's formation 4.5 billion years ago, the asteroid can

help answer such fundamental questions as how did life arise on Earth and what makes our planet habitable, according to Elkins-Tanton.

On Earth, the planet's iron core is responsible for the magnetic field that shields our atmosphere and enables life.

Led by Arizona State University on NASA's behalf, the \$1.2 billion mission will use a roundabout route to get to the asteroid. The van-size spacecraft with solar panels big enough to fill a tennis court will swoop past Mars for a gravity boost in 2026. Three years later, it will reach the asteroid and attempt to go into orbit around it, circling as high as 440 miles (700 kilometers) and as close as 47 miles (75 kilometers) until at least 2031.

The spacecraft relies on solar electric propulsion, using xenon gas-fed thrusters and their gentle blue-glowing pulses.

An experimental communication system is also along for the ride, using lasers instead of radio waves in an attempt to expand the flow of data from deep space to Earth. NASA expects the test to yield more than 10 times the amount of data, enough to transmit videos from the moon or Mars one day.

The spacecraft should have soared a year ago, but was held up by delays in flight software testing attributed to poor management and other issues. The revised schedule added extra travel time. So instead of arriving at the asteroid in 2026 as originally planned, the spacecraft won't get there until 2029.

That's the same year that another NASA spacecraft - the one that just returned asteroid samples to the Utah desert - will arrive at a different space rock as it buzzes Earth.

## Trillions of tons of ice lost

## Experts count huge melts in Antarctic ice shelves

NEW YORK, Oct 14, (AP) - Four dozen Antarctic ice shelves have shrunk by at least 30% since 1997 and 28 of those have lost more than half of their ice in that time, reports a new study that surveyed these crucial "gatekeepers" between the frozen continent's massive glaciers and open ocean.

Of the continent's 162 ice shelves, 68 show significant shrinking between 1997 and 2021, while 29 grew, 62 didn't change and three lost mass but not in a way scientists can say shows a significant trend, according to a study in Thursday's Science Advances.

That melted ice, which usually pens larger glaciers behind it, then goes into the sea. Scientists worry that climate change - triggered melt from Antarctica and Greenland will cause dangerous and significant sea rise over many decades and centuries.

"Knowing exactly how, and how much, ice is being lost from these protective floating shelves is a key step in understanding how Antarctica is evolving," said University of Colorado ice scientist Ted Scambos, who

wasn't part of the study.

Scambos said the study gives insight into fresh water that's melting into the Amundsen Sea - "the key region of Antarctica for sea level rise" - that not only adds height to the ocean, but makes it less dense and salty.

The biggest culprits were giant icebergs breaking off in 1999, 2000 and 2002 that were the size of Delaware, he said. The study also looks at ice melting from warm water below.

Ice shelves are floating extensions of glaciers that act "like the gatekeepers" and keep the larger glacier from flowing more quickly into the water, the study's lead author said.

All told, Antarctic ice shelves lost about 8.3 trillion tons (7.5 trillion metric tons) of ice in the 25-year period, the study found. That amounts to around 330 billion tons (300 billion metric tons) a year and is similar to previous studies.

But the overall total is not the real story, said study lead author Benjamin Davison, a glaciologist at the

University of Leeds in the United Kingdom.

What's most important, he said, are the patterns of individual shelf loss. The new study shows the deep losses, with four glaciers losing more than a trillion tons on the continent's peninsula and western side.

"Some of them lost a lot of their mass over time," Davison said. "Wordie is barely an ice shelf anymore."

The Wordie ice shelf, which holds back four glaciers near the tip of the Antarctic Peninsula, had a big collapse in 1989, but has lost 87% of its remaining mass since 1997, Davison found. Neighboring Larsen A has lost 73% and Larsen B 57%. The largest of the Larsen ice shelves, Larsen C, has lost 1.8 billion tons (1.7 trillion metric tons) of ice, about one-eighth of its mass.

The biggest loss of all is in the Thwaites ice shelf, holding back the glacier nicknamed Doomsday because it is melting so fast and is so big. The shelf has lost 70% of its mass since 1997 - about 4.1 trillion tons (3.7 trillion metric tons) - into the Amundsen Sea.

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## Brown stars as Tulane overcomes Memphis

## Stanford rallies from 29-pt deficit, beats Colorado in 2nd OT on Karty field goal

BOULDER, Colo., Oct. 14, (AP): Deion Sanders had an uneasy feeling, even up 29-0 at halftime. Maybe not the worst collapse in Colorado history about to unfold, but uneasy anyway.

Stanford coach Troy Taylor didn't really change a thing, just watched as the Cardinal steadily staged the largest comeback in school history.

In a late-night thriller - the game started on Friday the 13th and finished on Saturday the 14th - this is a game that will be etched in the history of both programs.

Joshua Karty connected on a 31-yard field goal in the second overtime after tying the game in regulation, Elic Ayomanor had a school-record 294 yards receiving and Stanford rallied for a 46-43 victory over Colorado early Saturday.

"It's a special game for these guys to be down 29-nothing against a really good football team and just not quit," Taylor said. "We'll enjoy this one."

Not so for the Buffaloes, who were reeling from the largest blown lead in school history. The old mark was 28, set at Kansas on Nov. 6, 2010.

Sanders sensed something was amiss, too. Just a little bit of complacency creeping in.

Stanford safety Alaka'i Gilman picked off a floating Shedeur Sanders pass in the end zone to set the stage in the second OT for Karty, who also drilled a 46-yarder with no time left in regulation.

The Cardinal (2-4, 1-3 Pac-12) trailed big at halftime, with QBs Justin Lamson and Ashton Daniels unable to

## FOOTBALL

light a spark.

That is, until the second half when Daniels - with Lamson contributing - led Stanford on eight straight scoring drives. The Cardinal had 408 of their 523 yards in the second half and OT.

Daniels threw for 396 yards and four TDs. Ayomanor had 13 catches - all after halftime - and three TDs, including one to tie up the first overtime - a remarkable catch at that - and another for 97 yards that changed the game. His 294 yards receiving broke the school record held by Troy Walters (278)



Stanford safety Alaka'i Gilman (left), intercepts a pass intended for Colorado wide receiver Travis Hunter in the end zone in double overtime of an NCAA college football game in Boulder, Colo. (AP)

against UCLA in 1999.

Ayomanor and the Cardinal left the sell-out crowd stunned.

Colorado committed 17 penalties for 127 yards in a game that started at 8:20

p.m. local time and ended at 12:21 a.m.

Coach Sanders was still trying to wrap his mind about what happened at his post-game news conference.

Shedeur Sanders finished with 400

yards passing and five touchdowns and rushed for a team-leading 37 yards. He and the Buffaloes (4-3, 1-3) were clicking early, amassing a huge lead. It looked over.

It wasn't. Two-way standout Travis Hunter returned after missing three games following a late hit in the Colorado State game that sent him to the hospital with a lacerated liver. He had 13 catches for 140 yards and two scores. He also had five tackles.

Wide receiver Yulkeith Brown scored the go-ahead touchdown on a 9-yard run five seconds into the fourth quarter and Tulane rallied for a 31-21 victory over Memphis.

The Green Wave (5-1, 2-0 American Athletic Conference) trailed 21-17 when Brown scored - one play after he hauled in a pass from Michael Pratt for a 29-yard gain on third-and-12. Pratt padded the lead with an 11-yard touchdown pass to Lawrence Keys III. The insurance score came four plays after Kam Pedescleaux picked off a Seth Henigan pass to give Tulane the ball near midfield.

Henigan threw three unanswered

touchdown passes for the Tigers (4-2, 1-1) after the Green Wave took a 10-0 lead on Maki Hughes' 2-yard first-quarter touchdown run and Valentino Ambrosio's 26-yard field goal with 8:11 left in the second quarter.

Henigan connected with Demeer Blankumsee for a 17-yard score following the field goal. He fired a 28-yard scoring strike to Joseph Scales with 45 seconds remaining to put Memphis up 14-10 at halftime. The Tigers took the opening drive of the second half and marched 75 yards in nine plays, scoring on Henigan's 10-yard pass to Koby Drake for a 21-10 advantage.

Tulane closed to within four points at the 4:32 mark of the third quarter when Michael Pratt capped a 10-play drive with 1-yard TD run.

Pratt completed 19 of 31 passes for 259 yards for the Green Wave. Hughes carried 26 times for 130 yards. Chris Brazzell II had three catches for 103 yards.

Henigan completed 24 of 43 passes for 321 yards with two interceptions for the Tigers. Blankumsee and Roc Taylor both had 108 receiving yards.

## Warriors edge Lakers

## Top pick Wembanyama scores 23 in Spurs 'victory' over Heat

SAN ANTONIO, Oct. 14, (AP): Victor Wembanyama scored 23 points in 23 minutes to lead the San Antonio Spurs to a 120-104 preseason victory over the Miami Heat on Friday night.

Wembanyama, the No. 1 pick in this year's draft, sank 10 of 15 shots - 1 of 5 from 3-point range - and both of his free throws in his second preseason game. The 7-foot-4 center from France had 20 points and one block in 19 minutes in a 122-121 loss to Oklahoma City in the Spurs' preseason opener on Monday.

Wembanyama added four rebounds, four assists and three blocks on Friday and also had four of San Antonio's 13 turnovers. Devin

## BASKETBALL

Vassell hit 6 of 7 from beyond the arc and finished with 21 points with three assists for the Spurs. Jeremy Sochan pitched in with 10 points, six rebounds and three assists.

Jamal Cain was 6 of 8 on 3-pointers and finished with 24 points and 10 rebounds to pace the Heat. Duncan Robinson had 14 points and five assists.

Jaime Jaquez Jr., the 18th overall selection this year, did not play after scoring 13 in Miami's opener - a 113-109 win over the Charlotte Hornets.

## Warriors 129, Lakers 125

Rookie Trayce Jackson-Davis scored the



Golden State Warriors forward Kevon Looney (right), shoots as Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James defends during the first half of an NBA preseason basketball game in Los Angeles. (AP)

go-ahead basket on a tip-in with 32 seconds left, then blocked a shot by his former Indiana Hoosiers teammate Jalen Hood-Schifino at the other end to rally visiting Golden State over Los Angeles.

Stephen Curry scored 18 points in 21 minutes for the Warriors, who opened the preseason with a 125-108 win at home over the Lakers. Jonathan Kuminga scored 26 points on 9 of 12 shooting with three 3-pointers. Brandin Podziemski, the 19th overall pick this year, finished with 10 points, 10 assists and six rebounds.

LeBron James had 12 points and five assists in 18 minutes for Los Angeles. Taurean Prince led with 17 points, sinking 4 of 5 3-pointers. Austin Reaves scored 16 and Anthony Davis pitched in 13 points, six rebounds and four assists in 22 minutes.

Podziemski hit a 3-pointer to cap an 11-1 run late in the third quarter, giving Golden State its first lead since midway through the first quarter, 99-98.

Meanwhile, Philadelphia 76ers star James Harden remained steadfast that his fractured relationship with the front office can't be repaired.

Harden has yet to play in the preseason. But he did attend training camp and continues to practice with the 76ers in the wake of the disgruntled guard's trade demand.

Harden in June picked up his \$35.6 million contract option for this season with the belief the team would try to trade him. He blasted team president Daryl Morey at a promotional event in China when no trade materialized, calling Morey a liar.

"It's not even about this situation. This is life," Harden told reporters Friday at team's complex in New Jersey. "When you lose trust in someone, it's like a marriage. When you lose trust in someone, you know what I mean? It's pretty simple." Harden has been one of the league's top players for the past decade, having won three scoring titles and the 2018 league MVP award. He led the league in assists last season.

Harden said he could try to play in the Sixers' preseason finale on Friday against Atlanta. Harden was evasive about the status of his trade demand.

Part of Harden's complaint stems from his belief he should have earned a long-term contract with the Sixers after last season. It never came, thus the trade demand.

Harden is a 10-time All-Star but essentially forced his way with trades out of Houston and Brooklyn and now still seems intent on adding the Sixers to the list, saying he showed up in large part to meet certain contractual requirements. It appeared playing as the second option behind NBA MVP Joel Embiid and chasing a championship in Philly is no longer seriously on the table.

## Winter Olympic host cities for 2030 and 2034 to be chosen at same time in July

MUMBAI, Oct. 14, (AP): Citing concerns about the effects of climate change, the International Olympic Committee said Friday it wants to pick two Winter Olympic host cities in July - putting Salt Lake City quickly into play for the

2034 edition. IOC president Thomas Bach said the Olympic body aims to confirm hosts for both the 2030 and 2034 Winter Games at its meeting on the eve of next year's Paris Olympics.

Sweden, Switzerland and France have been work-

ing on possible bids for the 2030 edition and Salt Lake City officials have long targeted 2034. That would avoid the United States hosting back-to-back Olympics after the 2028 Los Angeles Summer Games.

Picking Salt Lake City a decade in advance would give the IOC a trusted partner amid changing weather patterns and also could keep together people who have worked toward bringing the Olympics back to the city that

## OLYMPICS

hosted the 2002 Games.

The double award proposal by the IOC executive board still needs approval by the full membership at the Olympic body's annual meeting, which opens Sunday in Mumbai, India. That should be a formality.

The IOC has declining options for Winter Games hosts. Bach noted that only 15 countries on three continents currently meet the criteria of having at least 80% of existing venues for snow sports and a "climate-reliable" outlook to host events in future decades. A likely longer-term project for the IOC is deciding on a rotation policy of a small pool of regular Winter Games hosts.

## TGR-WRT clinch impressive podium finish at Rally Chile



TOYOTA GAZOO Racing defended Toyota's FIA World Rally Manufacturers' Championship title after clinching a podium finish at Rally Chile.

## Toyota win 3rd consecutive World Rally championship manufacturers' title

SANTIAGO, Oct. 14: TOYOTA GAZOO Racing World Rally Team (TGR-WRT) claimed an impressive podium finish recently at Rally Chile, with Elfyn Evans and Scott Martin securing third place in their No. 33 Toyota GR Yaris Rally1 Hybrid Electric Vehicle. The spectacular performance put on by TGR on the final day at Rally Chile witnessed the defending champions retaining Toyota's FIA World Rally championship manufacturers' title.

TGR made a triumphant return to Chile after a four-year absence, with their last appearance in 2019. The team stood up to the challenges boldly and

braved the odds posed by new roads and different conditions. The team's impressive climax, coupled with KalleRovanperä and ElfynEvans achieving a one-two position on the rally-ending Power Stage to claim the maximum bonus points available,

## RALLYING

was enough to safely secure Toyota's manufacturers' title with two rounds remaining.

The latest victory marks Toyota's third consecutive title win - the fourth since the formation of TGR and the seventh since 1993. The astonishing efforts of Rovanperä and Evans and their respective navigators, Jonne Halttunen and Scott Martin, have assured their fifth consecutive drivers and co-drivers-

champions titles for the year.

Akio Toyoda, TGR-WRT Chairman, commented, "To all the team members of TGR-WRT, congratulations on winning the manufacturers' title! This year, Elfyn was the driving force behind the manufacturers' title with six podiums, including two wins out of 11 events so far. Elfyn and Scott, thank you for getting third place, which became the deciding factor to conclude the title today. And Kalle and Jonne's three victories were, of course, a big help as well."

Toyoda added: "As a team, we secured the title in the 11th round, which is one round earlier than last year. I think it says that the team has become even stronger. I would like to thank Jari-Matti Latvala from the bottom of my heart for continuing to work with everybody to strengthen the team after winning the manufacturers' title in his first year as the Team Principal. I am really looking forward to seeing everybody in

Japan!"

Over the years, Toyota has participated in many different motorsports forms, including Formula One, the World Endurance Championship (WEC), and the Nürburgring 24 Hours endurance race. Toyota's participation in these events was overseen by separate entities within the company until April 2015, when Toyota established TOYOTA GAZOO Racing (TGR) to consolidate all of its motorsports activities under one in-house brand. Representing Toyota's belief that "the roads build the people, and the people build the cars," TGR highlights the role of motorsports as a fundamental pillar of Toyota's commitment to making "ever-better" cars. Harnessing years of experience gained under the extreme conditions of various motorsports events, TGR aims to forge new technologies and solutions that bring the freedom, adventure, and joy of driving to everyone.

## 'Take your opportunity when you are on the pitch'

## England pip Australia, Watkins hot streak continues

LONDON, Oct. 14, (AP): In the absence of Harry Kane, Ollie Watkins continued his hot goal-scoring form to lead England to a 1-0 win against Australia at Wembley Stadium.

Watkins has already scored two hat tricks for Aston Villa this season and seized his chance to make an impression ahead of next year's European Championship as Three Lions coach Gareth Southgate named an experimental team for the friendly match.

In his first appearance for his nation in 19 months, he slid in to convert from close range in the 57th-

## SOCCER

minute for the only goal of the game as England warmed up for Tuesday's Euro 2024 qualifier against Italy with a win. "I knew I wasn't going to come off this pitch without the goal, that was in my mind," Watkins said.

Southgate showed his appreciation by greeting the striker with a hug when he was substituted later in the match.

Watkins is one of a host of forwards hoping to make Southgate's squad for the Euros, should England qualify for the tournament in Germany. Along with the likes of Cal-

lum Wilson, Eddie Nketiah and Ivan Toney, he is competing to take up the role of understudy to Kane, England's captain and all-time leading scorer.

That is why games like this, with Kane among a host of regulars rested, take on extra meaning for the players who need to make a point to Southgate. "It has been a long time coming. I have been waiting a long time for the next call up. I was looking forward to it and I wasn't going to let this opportunity slip," Watkins

said. "There's so many good forwards around scoring goals and it is about taking your opportunity when you are on the pitch."

Watkins had scored on his England debut against San Marino in 2021 and then again on his first start for his nation against Ivory Coast the following year. He hadn't played for England since then, but his impressive club form earned him a second start and he was on the scoresheet again for his third international goal.

Watkins capitalized when Trent Alexander-Arnold's diagonal ball into the box found Jack Grealish, who drove a low cross to the far post. Watkins slid in to meet it, break the deadlock and ultimately secure the win.

The 27-year-old striker has now scored eight goals for club and country in 14 appearances this season. His England call up came after hat tricks for Villa against Hibernian in the Europa Conference League and Brighton in the Premier League. "There was a few times before I got called up and didn't think I deserved it, but now I am coming in confident in myself off the back of good form," he said. "I was not nervous and just tried to perform in front of all these fans. I scored, it was a good night."

Watkins was part of a much-changed England team against Australia that included a senior debut for Chelsea defender Levi Colwill. Sam Johnstone, Lewis Dunk, Fikayo Tomori and Jarrod Bowen were also named in the lineup as Southgate benched many of his regulars.

Watkins might have added another goal when he was fractions away from opening the scoring in the first half after taking the ball around Australia goalkeeper Mathew Ryan and hitting the post.



England's Jarrod Bowen (left), duels for the ball with Australia's Mitchell Duke during the international friendly soccer match between England and Australia at Wembley Stadium, London. (AP)

## Vacancy Announcement

Embassy of Nepal in Kuwait is hiring "Office Secretary" on contractual basis. Number: 1

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## SPORTS



The winner Ghazi Al-Jariwi with other jockeys.

## Al-Jariwi reigns at Show Jumping Champ'ship

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: Kuwait Equestrian Club's rider, Ghazi Al-Jariwi, clinched the prestigious title at the Kuwait Equestrian Center Show Jumping Championship. The event took place at the Center's Subhan track, just two days ago. Al-Jariwi secured first place in the fifth main round, scaling impressive heights of 130 cm in just

## EQUESTRIAN

80.35 seconds, without incurring any penalty points. He also captured second place with a time of 85.20 seconds. Shaker Al-Kazemi, an accomplished rider, claimed the third position, while Fawaz Rashid took fourth place.

During the fourth round, Hamad Al-Hajri, a skillful jockey, emerged as the victor in the 120 cm category. In the third round, at a height of 110 cm, jockey Fawaz Al-Ghunaiman showcased his prowess and secured the top position. The beginner category, featuring heights of 70 cm and 90 cm, saw numerous riders participating in fiercely competitive rounds, indicating a promising future for Kuwaiti equestrian sports in the times ahead.

The tournament's refereeing committee, led by Nadhar Al-Mustafa, included members Lama Abdel-Aal, Tala Barakat, and Anna Choprinova. Walid Al-Jassim, the technical director of the Kuwait Equestrian Federation and a member of the Asian Federation, had the honor of recognizing and celebrating the victorious riders.

## Al-Flekawi to head committee

## New Volleyball Training and National Teams Committee formed

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: In preparations for the upcoming 2023-2024 sports season, the Board of Directors of the Volleyball Federation has established a new Training and National Teams Committee. This decision follows the dissolution of the previous committee last month. Heading the newly formed committee is Nayef Al-Flekawi, a member of the Federation's Board of Directors. Joining him are Abdul Redha Al-Wayli as vice-president, Moataz Al-Moumen as the rapporteur, and Talal Al-Jassim and Jaber Al-Sharif as committee members. The primary task of this committee is to evaluate and recommend suitable coaching candidates to train our national teams in the upcoming period. These recommendations will be submitted to the Federation's Board of Directors for consideration.

Meanwhile, in the fourth round of the Al-Ittihad Volleyball Refresher Championship, Kuwait secured a 3-0 victory over Kazma (with scores of 25-14, 25-23, 25-22). Similarly, Al-Qadsia triumphed over Al-Tadamon, also with a 3-0 score (25-15, 25-14, 25-17), while

Burgan won 3-1 against Yarmouk (25-22, 25-22, 19-25, 25-12). Additionally, Al-Arabi emerged victorious against Al-Shabab with a score of 3-1 (25-27, 31-29, 25-22, 25-22).

As of now, Al-Qadsia lead the championship's team standings with 9 points, followed by Kazma in second place, Burgan in third, and Al-Arabi in fourth. Kuwait and Al-Shabab each have 6 points, while Yarmouk, Al-Sahel, and Al-Tadamon have yet to secure any points.

## VOLLEYBALL

In a scheduling update, the Al-Ittihad Competitions Committee has moved the match between Al-Sahel and Al-Tadamon, originally scheduled for tomorrow, Monday, to be held today, Sunday, at Al-Ittihad Hall in the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex at 6:30 p.m. The rest of the teams will compete in their matches as per the current schedule in the upcoming fifth round.

## Kuwait judo team officially launch their training camp in Spanish city

MALAGA, Oct 14: Kuwait judo team officially launched their training camp in the Spanish city of Malaga. This intensive camp serves as a crucial preparatory phase for two significant events: the Grand Slam Championship, scheduled to take place in Abu Dhabi at the end of this October, and the highly anticipated 2024 Paris Olympics.

Faisal Al-Hamad, the Treasurer of the Judo Federation and the leader of the delegation, emphasized the importance of this training camp as a pivotal opportunity to elevate the skill levels of the judo players and assess their readiness for upcoming tournaments. He underlined the camp's significance, noting that it

features the participation of approximately 400 athletes hailing from diverse countries around the world.

Al-Hamad also stated that this training camp is an integral component of the federation's strategic plan to prepare the national team for upcoming competitions, with a particular focus on the 2024 Paris Olympics. It offers a valuable platform for interaction with teams renowned for their extensive experience in the sport.

The national team's delegation is comprised of coach Adham Jamalov, and outstanding players including Fahd Al-Anzi, Saud Al-Amiri, Hadi Al-Azmi, Khaled Al-Barrak, Muhammad Al-Barrak, and Shehab Al-Salman.

## Best of the Rest

## Cook announces retirement:

Former England captain Alastair Cook announced his retirement from cricket on Friday after deciding against seeking a renewal of his contract at Essex, his long-time county team.

The left-handed opener had already retired from the international game in 2018 after hitting 12,472 test runs, the most by any English batter and fifth on the all-time list, behind Sachin Tendulkar, Ricky Ponting, Jacques Kallis and Rahul Dravid.

Cook's contract expired at Essex at the end of the recently completed domestic season.

"For more than two decades, cricket has been so much more than my job," said the 38-year-old Cook, who has done media work on TV and radio since ending his England career.

In a statement announcing his retirement from top-level cricket, Cook put his hand up to continue at the lower end of the game.

"I hope the Bedfordshire Farmers will find space for a has-been 'all-rounder' somewhere in their lower order," he wrote.

Cook played 161 tests, 59 of those as captain. The England and Wales Cricket Board described him as a "titan of the game."

His "legacy will not just be

embodied in the numerous run-making records he achieved, but also in the leadership and grace that he always displayed during a long and distinguished career," ECB chief executive Richard Gould said. (AP)

## Stroll apologizes for conduct:

Aston Martin driver Lance Stroll apologized to Formula One's governing body and received a written warning Friday for his conduct at the Qatar Grand Prix, where he shoved a member of his team in frustration after an early exit in qualifying.

Stroll was knocked out in the first qualifying session last Friday and then angrily threw his steering wheel on the ground as he got out of his car, before pushing personal trainer Henry Howe out of the way as he exited the team's garage.

In his TV interview moments later, he responded to questions about his performance with an expulsive and a few terse words.

The FIA said Friday that its compliance officer had received an apology from Stroll "regarding his actions" in Qatar and that the Canadian driver had received a written warning "reminding Lance of his responsibilities as a competitor bound by the FIA Code of Ethics and other FIA ethical and conduct guidelines set forth by the sporting regulations." (AP)

The FIA added that it "maintains a zero-tolerance stance against misconduct and condemns any actions that may lead to physical harassment."

Stroll went on to finish 11th in Sunday's race, which was won by Max Verstappen.



Cook



Bowlers take part in the competition.

## Bowling WC draws to close in Kuwait

'Sheikh Talal leadership has elevated Gulf bowling'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: The final day of the World Bowling Championship for both men and women has arrived, after being hosted by Kuwait from October 4th to 15th. The championship saw 400 male and female players from 36 national teams in intense competition. The grand conclusion is marked by the group competition, regarded as the most formidable and competitive event, as all participants vie for the title, attracted by the significant financial and moral rewards and the chance to ascend the podium at a tournament renowned for its technical and organizational excellence.

Ahmed Khamis Al-Ali, a member of the UAE Bowling Federation and director of the teams, expressed his satisfaction with the championship's smooth progress, highlighting the exceptional organization, which has set new standards in the history of world bowling championships.

## BOWLING

Al-Ali praised Kuwait's significant contribution to the sport, emphasizing how it has showcased the Gulf's distinct presence in the world of bowling, a factor that led to Sheikh Talal Al-Mohammad's appointment as the leader of world bowling.

He underscored that Sheikh Talal leadership has elevated Gulf bowling to an international level, offering support to engage with the world's finest players and training programs.

Sheikh Talal's selection was the result of the General Assembly's deep belief in his leadership, spurred by the tangible progress witnessed during Kuwait's recent leadership of the sport.

Furthermore, the President of the International Federation is tirelessly working with representatives and members of the World Bowling Federation to promote and advance the sport significantly.

Musa Badr Al-Maimani, a member of the Omani Bowling Federation, also lauded Kuwait's outstanding presentation of the World Bowling Cup, affirming that it represented one of the sport's finest moments on the global stage."

## Dupont 'returns' as France face SAfrica

PARIS, Oct 14, (AP): A broken cheekbone won't keep France captain Antoine Dupont out of a definitive game for his country at the Rugby World Cup.

Wearing a protective scrum cap, Dupont will return from injury to lead the host team in a quarterfinal against defending champions South Africa on Sunday. France

## RUGBY

coach Fabien Galthie has described it as a "magnificent" opportunity that will spark "pleasure, joy, happiness and determination" in a French team seeking a long-awaited first title and relishing the chance to seize it on home soil.

Forward Charles Ollivon anticipates something else given France's last, brutal meeting with the Springboks in November.

"Violent is the right word," Ollivon said. "We're expecting the same kind of match."

In the bigger scheme, it's only a last-eight game and whoever wins at Stade de France is still two massive matches from lifting the Rugby World Cup.



Al Kuwait player returns as Kazma players look on.

## 'Significant moment'

## Over 100 federations back Saudi Arabia WC bid

RIYADH, Oct 14: The number of football federations pledging their support for Saudi Arabia's bid to host the 2034 FIFA World Cup has exceeded 100 international associations, with the latest endorsements confirmed as of last Thursday.

This milestone comes just one week after Saudi Arabia officially declared its candidacy to host the World Cup. The Saudi Football Association formally submitted a letter to the International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) on the previous Monday, expressing their intent to host the 2034 edition of the

alongside Sierra Leone, Mali, Seychelles, and the Cayman Islands, collectively pushing the tally of endorsing federations beyond 100.

The President of the Saudi Football Federation has emphasized that this announcement marks a significant moment, showcasing

Saudi Arabia's commitment to the continued growth and progress of football. It reflects the nation's passion for the sport and its aspiration to host this remarkable event, aligning with the dynamic developments taking place in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia."



A file photo of the World Cup.

## SOCCER

global football tournament.

The list of supporting federations now includes five civil football federations who have joined in backing Saudi Arabia's bid to host the 2034 World Cup. Notable among these new supporters are China Taipei,

## Pegula beats Wickmayer to reach Korea Open final

## Rublev advances to final against Hurkacz

SHANGHAI, Oct 14, (AP): Seventh-ranked Andrey Rublev had mixed feelings after advancing to the final of the Shanghai Masters by beating Grigor Dimitrov 7-6 (7), 6-3 on Saturday.

The fifth-seeded Rublev has not dropped a set this week but was pushed to the brink in the semifinals by the 18th-seeded Bulgarian in a high-tempo first set. Rublev saved a set point before eventually clinching a 76-minute opening set in a tiebreaker.

The Russian player then rallied from 2-0 down in the second set to win six of the last seven games and advance to his fourth Masters final and a meeting with Hubert Hurkacz on Sunday.

Earlier, Hurkacz served his way into the final with a dominant 6-3, 6-4 win over Sebastian Korda.

The 17th-ranked Polish player was untouchable on serve and didn't face a break point.

Hurkacz sent down 14 aces and denied Korda, who beat compatriot Ben Shelton in a quarterfinals thriller, any chance of finding his rhythm. As the pressure

Jessica Pegula advanced to the final of the Korea Open by beating Yanina Wickmayer 6-4, 6-3.

Fourth-ranked Pegula held off a late challenge from the Belgian to seal the win and will face No. 128 Yuan Yue in the final.

A late break in the first set gave the American the lead, and she extended the advantage to 4-1 in the second set to all but end the contest against the 83rd-ranked Wickmayer.

Pegula, with titles at Montreal and Tokyo already this year, is looking to capture her second title of the tour's Asian

swing when she meets Yuan for the first time on Sunday.

The 25-year-old from China rallied to beat Emina Bektas 6-7 (3), 6-4, 6-2. It will be Yuan's first tour final and she will also be the first Chinese player to contest a Korean Open final.

Leylah Fernandez advanced to her first final in 19 months after a 6-2, 7-5 victory over fifth-seeded Anna Blinkova at the Hong Kong Open.

The 21-year-old Canadian raced through the first set before No. 37 Blinkova improved in the second set. Fernandez found the match-clinching break in the 12th game to seal the match in 78 minutes and advance to Sunday's final against Katerina Siniakova.

Fernandez last played a final at Monterrey in March 2022, when she went on to win the title.

## TENNIS

In the other semifinal, Siniakova eased past sixth-seeded Martina Trevisan 6-4, 6-2. Siniakova has four career titles, the most recent coming in July at Hamburg.

Fernandez beat Siniakova in straight sets at the 2022 French Open in their only previous meeting.

Zheng Qinwen eased past Jasmine Paolini 6-2, 6-3 at the Zhengzhou Open to advance to her first final on home soil.

Zheng had 19 winners to Paolini's seven and converted six of her 10 break points. She will play Barbora Krejickova in the final.



Belgium's Jeremy Doku (left), challenges for the ball with Austria's Konrad Laimer during the Euro 2024 group F qualifying soccer match between Austria and Belgium at the Ernst Happel stadium in Vienna, Austria. (AP)

# Sports

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## India rout Pakistan, extend winning run

Bumrah, Yadav trigger stunning Pak collapse

**AHMEDABAD, India, Oct 14, (AP): Jasprit Bumrah and Kuldeep Yadav triggered a stunning Pakistan collapse and shared four wickets in India's dominant victory over their archrivals at the Cricket World Cup on Saturday.**

The seven-wicket win in front of a crowd of more than 100,000 fans at Narendra Modi Stadium was India's eighth consecutive victory over Pakistan in World Cups in a streak that began in 1992.

Bumrah took 2-19 in seven overs and Yadav picked 2-35 in 10 overs as Pakistan crashed from 155-2 (29.3 overs) to 191 all out in 42.5 overs.

Then, Indian skipper Rohit Sharma blazed a 36-ball half-century as India raced to the victory line.

Sharma scored 86 runs off 63 balls, including six fours and six sixes, as



India's Kuldeep Yadav celebrates the wicket of Pakistan's Iftikhar Ahmed during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup match between India and Pakistan in Ahmedabad, India. (AP)

India finished with 192-3 (30.3 overs). India lead with six points - ahead of New Zealand on net run-rate - after three straight wins. Pakistan, after their first loss of the tournament, have four points from three games and are fourth in the points table.

Chasing 192, fit-again Shubman Gill set a hectic pace as he struck four boundaries to score 16 off 11 balls. His timing was impeccable before Shaheen Afridi (2-36) cut short his comeback innings, and he was caught at backward point.

### CRICKET

Sharma and Virat Kohli then added 56 off 42 balls for the second wicket. They didn't offer any chances for Pakistan to make the game interesting.

Kohli was out against the run of play - a false pull shot off Hasan Ali caught at mid-on in the 10th over.

Sharma added 77 off 71 balls with Shreyas Iyer for the third wicket, as India reached 100 in only 13.5 overs.

The Indian skipper fell 14 short of an eighth World Cup hundred - caught at midwicket off a slower delivery from Afridi. Iyer and Lokesh Rahul (19 not out) didn't suffer any further hiccups, adding 36 runs for the unbeaten fourth wicket.

Iyer eased his way to 53 not out off 62 balls, including three fours and two sixes, the last of which rang in India's victory.

Earlier, put into bat, Pakistan got off to a steady start even as the jam-packed stadium full of Indian fans waited for the first breakthrough.

Abdullah Shafique (20) and Imam ul Haq (36) added 41 runs for the first wicket, before Mohammed Siraj provided the breakthrough in the eighth over. He trapped Shafique lbw for 20 runs.

Another 4.3 overs passed before the next wicket came through, while Imam and skipper Babar Azam added 32 runs for the second wicket.

Hardik Pandya had Imam caught behind, which brought Azam and Mo-



India's captain Rohit Sharma plays a shot during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup match between India and Pakistan in Ahmedabad, India. (AP)

ammed Rizwan together. The duo defied Indian bowlers for 103 balls, during which they picked easy boundaries and kept the scoreboard ticking.

It was the best passage of play for Pakistan through the day.

Azam-Rizwan put on 82 for the third wicket, which included two DRS reviews involving Rizwan. He appealed against Ravindra Jadeja's lbw call in the 14th over, and the decision went in his favor. Then, in the 25th over, he was lucky against Yadav as the review stayed not out owing to umpire's call.

At the other end, Azam hit seven

fours as he scored 50 off 58 balls. Then, came the turning point, as Siraj returned to the attack and bowled the Pakistan skipper.

The capacity crowd burst into joy and there was no looking back for India thereafter as Sharma rolled the dice.

He changed ends for Yadav, who choked Pakistan with his wrist spin. In the 33rd over, he trapped Saud Shakeel lbw for six. Four balls later, Iftikhar Ahmed played a slower delivery onto his stumps.

An over later, Bumrah bowled in some magic. An off-cutter seamed in

and bowled Rizwan through the gate, and then eight balls later, Shadab Khan was bowled for two runs.

Rizwan was out for 49 off 69 balls, including seven fours, and his dismissal was the point of no return. Pakistan had lost five wickets for 16 runs in the space of 34 deliveries.

At 171-7, India went in for the kill and the last three wickets fell for 20 runs. Jadeja picked 2-38, while Pandya too finished with 2-34.

In total, Pakistan lost their ast eight wickets for 36 runs - a collapse that only spelled defeat.

Political reasons constantly obstruct the teams' bilateral series. They haven't met in a test series in 16 years and one-day international and Twenty20 series in 10 years. As recently as last month at the Asia Cup, India refused to go to host Pakistan, so Pakistan accommodated by sharing hosting duties with Sri Lanka.

Pakistan have never beaten India at the Cricket World Cup. Even when Pakistan won their only title in 1992 they lost to India in Sydney. The trend continued in 1996, 1999, 2003, 2011, 2015 and 2019.

Netherlands remain in third

## Belgium, France and Portugal qualify for Euro 2024

PARIS, Oct 14, (AP): Kylian Mbappé and Cristiano Ronaldo both scored twice to help France and Portugal secure a spot at next year's European Championship with a perfect record in qualifying, with Belgium also clinching a berth in Germany.

The three European powerhouses all needed a win to qualify for the tournament and their star strikers made sure they got them.

Mbappé's two goals - including a long-range strike for the second - helped secure a 2-1 win over the Netherlands in Amsterdam for a perfect sixth win in Group B.

Mbappé opened the scoring in just the seventh minute when he beat Lutsharel Geertruida to a cross from the right by Jonathan Clauss to volley past Brighton goalkeeper Bert Verbruggen, who was making his debut for the Netherlands.

It was Mbappé's 41st international goal, drawing him level with France great Michel Platini.

Mbappé doubled the lead in the 53rd minute when he exchanged passes with Adrien Rabot on the edge of the Netherlands' penalty area before curling a shot over Verbruggen.

Feyenoord midfielder Quilindschy Hartman, in his first full international appearance, made it 2-1 with 10 minutes to go. It was the first goal France has conceded in the campaign.

Greece moved up to the second

place with 12 points after Giakoumakis and Giorgos Masouras scored a goal a piece to beat Ireland 2-0 in Dublin.

The Netherlands remain on nine in third with a game in hand.

The top two teams in each group directly qualify.

Ronaldo's double improved his record tally of international goals to 125 in 202 appearances and led Portugal to a 3-2 win over Slovakia.

Ronaldo converted from the penalty spot in the 29th minute, sending

Slovakia goalkeeper Martin Dúbravka the wrong way to double the lead to 2-0.

Forward Gonçalo Ramos had given the hosts the lead with a header 11 minutes earlier.

### SOCCER

After David Hancko pulled one back for Slovakia in the second half, Ronaldo restored a two-goal advantage off a low cross from Bruno Fer-



Slovakia's Denis Vavro heads the ball in front of Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo during the Euro 2024 group J qualifying soccer match between Portugal and Slovakia at the Dragao stadium in Porto, Portugal. (AP)

nandes that found him at the far post. He jumped high in his trademark celebration in front of the roaring fans in Porto after his seventh goal in six qualifying games.

Stanislav Lobotka scored the second for Slovakia in the 80th.

With three games to go, Portugal have 100% record after seven straight wins with a 27-2 goal difference, the best-ever performance in a European qualifying campaign. Slovakia were the first team to score against Portugal.

"The objective has been achieved, the first half was extraordinary and in the second we could have scored more goals," Fernandes said. "Being in the European finals is the fulfillment of another dream."

Slovakia remain on 13 points in second with Luxembourg trailing by two in third after holding Iceland to a 1-1 draw in Reykjavik.

Bosnia won 2-0 at pointless Lichtenstein and are fourth on nine with Iceland another two back.

Romelu Lukaku scored again and Dodi Lukebakio added two more for Belgium, which had to hang on with 10 men to beat Austria 3-2 in Vienna and secure advancement from Group F.

Lukaku beat goalkeeper Alexander Schlager to make it 3-0 after collecting a precise pass from Jérémy Doku in the 58th, just three minutes after Lukebakio scored his second.

Lukaku tops the scoring table in qualifying with nine goals from six games to take his international tally to 79.

Lukebakio broke down the right before netting inside the far post from a tight angle to put the Red Devils ahead in the 12th. It was the first international goal for the Sevilla forward.

"I was waiting for these goals for a long time," Lukebakio said. "I could not have thought of a better moment for my first Belgium goals."

Konrad Laimer pulled one back for Austria in the 72nd and Belgium then went down to 10 men six minutes later when midfielder Amadou Onana was sent off for a second booking. Marcel Sabitzer netted Austria's second from the penalty spot in the 84th but the hosts couldn't find an equalizer.

Belgium have 16 points from six games, with Austria three points behind after their first loss in qualifying.



Rashid Al-Kandari and Sufyan Al-Khalil with the triathlon champions.

## Double gold triumph for Kuwait triathlon team at the Arab Cup

CAIRO, Oct 14: In another remarkable addition to Kuwait triathlon team's growing list of accomplishments, they seized two prestigious gold medals at the Arab Cup Championship held during the African Championship in the Egyptian city of Hurgada.

### TRIAHLON

The honor of these gold medals goes to, Hamad Al-Khalidi and Ali Dashti, whose outstanding performances demonstrated their exceptional skills and determination. Furthermore, the Kuwait

Triathlon Federation and club athletes showcased their mettle in the Bahraini Triathlon Federation League Championship, securing remarkable results:

Lulwa Al-Rifai clinched the gold medal in the age group category for 16-29 years.

Abdulaziz Al-Duajj displayed a fantastic performance, earning a well-deserved silver medal in the 16-29 years age group.

Hoda Al-Saleh and Mubarak Al-Juma made their mark with impressive achievements.

Dalal Al-Rayes added to the pride of our team with her performance.



Kuwait Olympic team hold training on the eve of their friendly game.

## KFA vies for Best National Federation award

DOHA, Oct 14: Kuwait's Olympic team have been warmly received by Al-Annabi as they gear up to play Qatar at the Thani Bin Jassim Stadium within Al Gharafa Club. The friendly encounter is a part of both teams' preparations for the upcoming Asian Cup finals set to be hosted in Doha in April 2024.

The coaching staff, under the guidance of Portuguese coach Emilio Peixe, is determined to prepare the team meticulously for this important match.

### SOCCER

Peixe selected a roster of 24 players, featuring both experienced and new talents. The new additions to the squad have been given an opportunity to showcase their skills as some players have moved up to the senior team. Notable inclusions in the squad are Abdul Rahman Al-Fadhli, Fahd Al-Azmi, Othman Al-Dosari, Moaz Al-Anzi, Hassan Hajjiya, and many others.

Meanwhile, the first-team coach of Kuwait, Portuguese Rui Pinto, has intensified the squad's training as they prepare to face the Syrian team in an upcoming friendly match during their camp in the Emirates. The team had a day of rest following their recent match against the UAE national team, where they were beaten 1-0. Coach Pinto is keen on addressing the errors made during that game to ensure better results in the future.

In a related development, the Asian Football Confederation has unveiled a distinguished list of nominees for the 2022 annual awards, to be held in Doha, Qatar, making a return after a four-year hiatus. The Football Association of Kuwait is in the running for the "Best National Federation" award in the gold category, competing with the Hong Kong and Nepalese federations. Additionally, the platinum category features the federations of Iran, Japan, and Uzbekistan, while the diamond category includes the federations of Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, and Vietnam.