

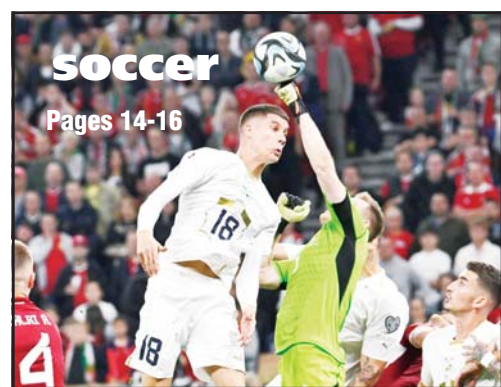


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soccer
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Gaza hospitals on brink of collapse



Smoke rises following an Israeli airstrike in the Gaza Strip, as seen from southern Israel, Sunday, Oct. 15, 2023. Inset: Outside al-Aqsa hospital in Deir el-Balah, central Gaza Strip, a Palestinian woman kisses the sheet-covered body of a child killed during an Israeli airstrike on Sunday. (AP)

Israeli offensive looms

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip, Oct 15, (AP): Medics in Gaza warned Sunday that thousands could die as hospitals packed with wounded people ran desperately low on fuel and basic supplies. Palestinians in the besieged coastal enclave struggled to find food, water and safety ahead of an expected Israeli ground offensive in the war sparked by Hamas' deadly attack.

Israeli forces, supported by a growing deployment of U.S. warships in the region, positioned themselves along Gaza's border and drilled for what Israel said would be a broad campaign to dismantle the militant group. A week of blistering airstrikes have demolished entire neighborhoods but failed to stem militant rocket fire into Israel.

U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said late Saturday that the U.S. was moving a second carrier strike group, the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower, to the eastern Mediterranean, in a show of force meant to deter Hamas allies like Iran and Hezbollah from seeking to widen the war.

Continued on Page 4

Gold shines amid ME conflict, prices up 3%

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15, (KUNA): Gold has achieved a significant price jump of over 3 percent at the end of last week's trading, reaching USD 1,933 per ounce amid escalating military tensions in the Middle East.

Gold recorded its best weekly performance since the beginning of this year, as demands increased as a safe haven amid the increasing conflict in the Middle East and the absence of any kind of calm currently, the Kuwaiti-based company Dar Al-Sabaek said in a report Sunday.

Gold futures for next December rose by 2.5 percent, or the equivalent of USD 5.58, to reach USD 1,942 an ounce, achieving their best weekly performance since last March, the report added.

Gold ended losses that extended more than two weeks due to the increase in geopolitical tensions, it explained.

This coincided with US economic data indicating that there was no need to raise interest rates in both short and medium terms, which led to a slowdown in US Treasury bond yields and thus an additional rise in gold prices, it stated.

It underscored that the prevailing trend among investors is gold amid the times of uncertainty that the global economy is experiencing, explaining that despite the rise in gold, there are still new buyers, especially with increasing fears that the conflict in the Middle East may extend to other regions.

Safe haven assets are remarkably popular, which provides gold with the opportunity to reach USD 2,000 per ounce, it pointed out.

Regarding the local market, it mentioned that the price of a 24-carat gram gold was KD 19.35 (about USD 59), while the 22-carat gram was KD 17.5 (roughly USD 53), whereas the silver price was KD 271 (approximately USD 826) per kilogram.

NewsWatch

DOHA: Qatari Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammad bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani discussed on Sunday the latest developments in Afghanistan with UN Under-Secretary-General and UN Special Coordinator for the Independent Assessment of Afghanistan Feridun Simirioglu.

Al-Thani renewed Qatar's firm and supportive stance towards the Afghan people in order to achieve their aspirations for progress and prosperity, as well as its support for the United Nations efforts aimed at restoring security and stability in Afghanistan, a Foreign Ministry statement said. (KUNA)

CAIRO: The 69th meeting of the Scientific Technical Committee of Arab Council for Housing and Construction began Sunday at the Arab League, with senior officials and housing ministries' representatives attending.

Chief of the Department of Environment, Housing, Water Resources and Sustainable Development at the Arab League Shahira Wahbi said in her opening speech that the committee will discuss over three days the preparation of the draft agenda for the 88th meeting of the Executive Office of Arab Council for Housing and Construction, slated for next Wednesday. (KUNA)

BRUSSELS: The European Union (EU) Saturday strongly condemned the suicide attack on a Mosque in Pul-e-Khumri, Baghlan province in Afghanistan targeting worshippers during Friday prayers and killing at least seven of them. "Attacks that deliberately target civilians are violations of fundamental human rights and international humanitarian law.

The human rights of all Afghans, including the right to life and the rights of all ethnic and religious communities, have to be protected and respected," said EU spokesperson for foreign affairs and security policy, Nabila Massrali, in a statement. "Our thoughts are with the victims of Friday's attack and their families," she added. (KUNA)

ISLAMABAD: A powerful 6.3 magnitude earthquake struck western Afghanistan on Sunday, just over a week after strong quakes and aftershocks killed thousands of people and flattened entire villages in the same province.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the latest quake's epicenter was about 34 kilometers (21 miles) outside Herat, the provincial capital, and eight kilometers (five miles) below the surface.

Save the Children said four people have died and that Herat Regional Hospital has received 153 injured. Everything in the Baloch area of Rabat Sangi district has collapsed. Several villages have been destroyed, according to the aid group. Authorities have given lower casualty numbers. (AP)

PESHAWAR, Pakistan: Pakistan security forces killed six militants and wounded eight others in a shootout during an overnight raid in the country's northwest, the military said Sunday.

Security forces conducted an intelligence-based operation in the Mir Ali area of the North Waziristan District when they exchanged fire with militants, the military said. One soldier also died and troops recovered weapons and ammunition from the militants' hideout. (AP)

Opinion

We need a grievance office quickly

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah
Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

THERE is no use in crying over spilled milk. Instead, it is necessary to be careful and work on preventing the crisis through a vision based on one principle, which is justice.

Therefore, whoever reads the story of "Pain" by the Russian writer Anton Chekhov will realize that a lost opportunity may be the end, as the writer talks about the conditions of the Russian Empire in the second half of the 19th century through the story of an old farmer and his sick wife.

He wrote that an old farmer carried his sick wife in the back seat of his old carriage drawn by an emaciated horse, and was heading to a distant city for her treatment.

On the long road, the man began to speak as if he was revealing what he was suffering, or communing with himself, while at the same time, he was consoling his wife who had lived with him for 40 years in destitute, misery, suffering and struggle by helping him in the field and bearing the burdens of the house by herself.

He felt he had been cruel to her throughout those years, and now had to treat her kindly and gently, and speak kind words to her. He told her that he had wronged her, and that life had also wronged her because he did not find the time in his life to say a kind and sweet word to her, or give her a pure and gentle smile, or give her a moment of tenderness!

The man kept speaking with sadness and sorrow all the way, saying words that would carve a path for her in the human soul, just as water falling on rock carves deep lines, to compensate her with words for what she had lost during the past 40 years of love, tenderness, and the warmth of married life. He began to make promises to her that he would fulfill for her everything she wants and wishes for the rest of her life.

When he arrived in the city and got off his seat to carry her from the back seat in his arms, for the first time in his life, to the doctor, he found her a cold corpse, as she had died on the road.

She died before she heard his sweet and compassionate talk, so the consolation was no longer useful - it lost its meaning!

The condition of the Russian Empire during that period did not differ from that of some Arab countries; perhaps it was similar in some details. In Moscow at that time, the Kremlin, with its high walls, obscured the view of the people and their suffering. The emperor couldn't hear their groans, and the courtiers and aides were busy having fun, acquiring as much wealth as possible, and plundering.

This is why the emperor, who in the story is portrayed as the peasant, did not hear the pain of the people, whom the

Continued on Page 4

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Prices in check

Co-ops strive for affordable goods

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15, (KUNA): The Kuwait Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies (KUCCS) affirmed on Sunday that it was keen on keeping prices of commodities in check, providing consumers with goods at reasonable prices.

Speaking to KUNA on the issue, chairman of KUCCS Abdulwahab Al-Fares said that the union had recently launched a platform where consumers could be updated about the prices of different commodities, saying that a hike or decrease in prices would be available for the masses to see.

He affirmed that the co-operative societies movement in Kuwait was unique, noting that the union had always backed nationally produced products whether in Kuwait or after being exported.

He reiterated KUCCS stance on countering monopoly and making sure that prices were in check, affirming that nobody above the law in this regard.

On his part, chairman of the board for the Al-Rawda and Hawalli Cooperative Society Mohammad Al-Kanderi said that there was a solemn effort to keep prices reasonable for consumers, adding that the board had taken necessary measures to ensure the quality of goods and availability.

He affirmed that KUCCS had proven itself to be a major player in providing consumer goods in the region.

Regarding the hike in price for certain commodities, Al-Kanderi revealed that sometimes goods increase in price due to global disturbances such as the one created by the COVID-19 pandemic; however, the State of Kuwait had made sure that consumers would get their products during crises.



Al-Fares

Investigation nears conclusion

Anti-corruption efforts target armament deals

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: MP Dawoud Marafie has submitted parliamentary questions to the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Essa Al-Kandari and to the Minister of Finance Fahad Al-Jarallah about the total number of employees in each ministry including the full-time employees, the employees appointed on contract basis, Kuwaiti employees, non-Kuwaiti employees whose mothers are Kuwaitis, illegal residents (Bedoun) and non-Kuwaiti employees.

He said he wanted to know the real demand for employees in each ministry, the number of Kuwaiti graduates who have been appointed in each ministry from the year 2010 till date and the annual strategy of the ministries to hire new graduates. He asked if there are any vacant supervisory positions, and if these vacancies have been advertised.

The lawmaker wanted to know the number of Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti consultants in the ministers' offices, the undersecretaries' offices and the assistant undersecretaries' offices.

Meanwhile, MP Adel Al-Damkhi, who is the chairman of the fact finding committee formed by the National Assembly to investigate the alleged corruption in the armament deals concerning the Eurofighter and Caracal helicopters, stressed that the report on this issue will be ready soon and will be referred to the National Assembly by the beginning of the upcoming parliamentary term.

Al-Damkhi disclosed that there are some parties who are involved in the issue and have been attempting to interfere in the investigations with the aim of changing the conclusion of the

committee.

He indicated that the committee had earlier called for suspending some senior officials in the relevant institutions because of their attempts to divert the investigations, adding that the committee is working hard to prevent their illegal interference in the investigations.

The lawmaker said those individuals resorted to using fake accounts on social media to distort the facts but such attempts will not succeed.

Also, MP Adel Al-Damkhi hailed the popular, parliamentary and governmental position towards the Palestinian issue and the support for the right of the Palestinian people to resist the Israeli occupation.

He praised the statement issued recently by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Khalid Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah through which he affirmed the constant and strong stance of Kuwait based on the religion and Kuwait Constitution.

MP Al-Damkhi also hailed Sheikh Talal Al-Sabah for highlighting the Amiri Decree issued in 1967 which considers Kuwait to be in a status of war with the Zionists, stressing that the decree is still valid.

In Cairo, a number of Kuwaitis affirmed on Saturday that actual and practical actions and steps were needed to support the Palestinian people in their struggle against the oppressive Israeli occupation regime and its inhumane treatment of them.

This came in statements to KUNA by Kuwaiti National Assembly MPs Khaled Al-Otaibi, Ahmad Lari, and Hamdan Al-Azmi who are in Cairo partaking in Arab Parliament meetings.

Kuwait will always stand against the Israeli occupation of Palestine, the chief and main cause for the Arab and

Continued on Page 4



KUNA photo

The Ministry of Education initiates 'Green Awareness Week' to emphasize the significance of maintaining clean and eco-friendly public spaces. — See Page 2

Tremors in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15, (KUNA): Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) announced on Sunday that an earthquake with a magnitude of 5.1 on the Richter scale hit west of Iran.

KISR stated that the earthquake took place at 2:15 p.m. (GMT +3), estimated to have occurred 10 km underground. It added that it took place 244 km from Kuwait City, and a number of Kuwaiti citizens felt the tremors.

Meanwhile, a 5.3 magnitude earthquake struck Moshraheh city in the southwest Khuzestan region of Iran on Sunday, the Iranian Seismological Center (IRSC) reported.

According to a report by IRSC, the quake struck at 14:45 local time and was felt throughout neighboring cities. Governor of Ramshir City, Abdul Reza Ehsani Nia, announced there have been no reported human casualties while also confirming rescue and relief teams are in a state of emergency.

Prayer Timings

Fajr 04:30 Asr 14:51
 Sunrise .. 05:48 Maghrib .. 17:18
 Zohr 11:34 Isha 18:35

Local

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

Provide financial, technical support: Al-Humaidhi

Kuwaiti inventors who obtained international patents honored

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15, (KUNA): The Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity recently paid tribute to 11 accomplished Kuwaiti inventors who have secured global patents from the United States of America, Europe, and the General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council. This recognition serves as an acknowledgment of their significant scientific contributions.

Badr Al-Humaidhi, Chairman of the Center's Board of Directors, expressed his pride during a press statement at the ceremony held on Monday. He emphasized that honoring these Kuwaiti inventors reflects the nation's deep admiration for its creative and innovative talents. It also conveys a message of support and encouragement to all innovators, encouraging them to offer more valuable inventions to the world and contribute to Kuwait's advancement in global innovation standings.

Al-Humaidhi underscored the Sabah Al-Ahmad Center's commitment to providing financial and technical support to inventors, guiding them, and fostering their creativity. Additionally, the center

grants patents for inventions and closely monitors the progress of inventors and their ideas to ensure their global registration and recognition.

He expressed his appreciation for the diverse and innovative inventions presented by these honorees. These inventions include a device for extracting broken tools (files) from the nerve canals of tooth roots, which earned a patent from the US Patent Office, as well as a tool for carrying and lifting mobile phones and portable devices, also patented by the US Patent Office in the General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

The list of honored inventors also includes individuals who developed a handheld device for removing radioactive contamination from surfaces, earning a patent from the US Patent Office, and an inventive method for detecting bone fractures using light scattering, recognized with a patent from the European Patent Office in Germany.

Nada Al-Daihani, the Director General of the Center, expressed her admiration for the innovative and creative ideas presented by these inven-

tors, which led to their global patents. She emphasized the significance of these patents as valuable additions to Kuwait's record of creativity and innovation, further enhancing the country's standing on the global innovation stage.

Among the distinguished honorees were Muhammad Al-Anazi, Intisar Al-Shahima, and Muhammad Al-Anazi, who secured a US patent for their device for extracting broken tools from tooth roots. Jihan Al-Quraini received recognition for her invention to carry and lift mobile phones and portable devices, obtaining a patent from the General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council. Noha Al-Maya was honored for her handheld device designed to remove radioactive contamination from surfaces, which received a US patent. Ali Hajiya, Ibrahim Sultan, Kawthar Al-Majadi, Sarah Al-Omran, Shamukh Al-Failakawi, and Sarah Burjib were recognized for their invention involving a method for detecting bone fractures using light scattering, obtaining a US patent and a European patent in Germany.

Weather

moderate northwesterly wind to	Abdaly	40	22
northerly wind with speeds of 10-	Jahra	43	27
35 km/h.	Salmiyah	36	29
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	39	28	31
Kuwait Airport	40	22	24
			41
			22

'Civil society vital for development'

'Global Day for Disaster Control' marked



KUNA photo

Kuwaiti Minister of Finance received Moroccan Minister of Economy and Finance Nadia Fettah Alaoui.

Minister seeks ways to boost Kuwait and IMF cooperation

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15, (Agencies): As part of a series of meetings during his participation in the annual meetings of the international financial institutions of the Board of Governors of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund in Marrakech, Minister of Finance Fahd Al-Jarallah met with the Director of the Middle East and Central Asia Department at the IMF, Dr. Jihad Azour, and discussed ways to enhance cooperation between Kuwait and the IMF in a number of projects included in the government's work program, reports Al-Rai daily.

The Minister then thanked the Fund's mission regarding consultations to review Article 4 on financial and economic reforms.

The meeting was attended by the Director of the Public Debt Department at the Ministry of Finance, Abdulaziz Al-Mulla, and the Director of the Macroeconomic and Fiscal Policy Department, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Osaimi.

On the other hand, Al-Jarallah received the Vice President of the World Bank Group for Middle East and North Africa Affairs, Farid Belhaj, during which Al-Jarallah stressed on the historical relationship between Kuwait and the World Bank, and the possibility of developing and improving it through the local office of the World Bank in Kuwait, providing consultations to local authorities, especially the programs included in Kuwait Vision 2035.

Al-Jarallah also met with the Secretary-General and Minister of Finance of the Sultanate of Oman, Nasser bin Khamis Al-Jashmi, where the two parties discussed the latest economic and financial developments within the framework of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

The Minister of Finance also discussed, in a meeting with the Minister of Planning and International Cooperation of the Hash-

emite Kingdom of Jordan, Zeina Touqan, ways of cooperation between Kuwait and Jordan to enhance the role of the Office of the Executive Director of the World Bank in serving its member states, which includes 11 Arab countries.

Kuwaiti Minister of Finance Fahd Al-Jarallah met separately on Saturday with a number of ministers on the sidelines of the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank in Marrakech, according to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA).

During his meeting with Egyptian Minister of International Cooperation Raniya Al-Mashat, Al-Jarallah, who leads Kuwait delegation to the meetings, praised the distinguished deep-rooted relationship between the two sisterly countries.

The meeting with Bahraini Minister of Finance and Economy Sheikh Salman Al Khalifa focused on the historical sisterly ties between the State of Kuwait and the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Al-Jarallah reaffirmed, during his meeting with Yemeni Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Wa'ed Ba-Theib and Minister of Electricity and Energy Mane' bin Yameen, Kuwait's support to efforts of the Yemeni government to restore security and stability in the country.

The two Yemeni ministers appreciated the role of Kuwait to end the Yemeni crisis and alleviate the suffering of the Yemeni people.

Al-Jarallah also received Moroccan Minister of Economy and Finance Nadia Fettah Alaoui where he affirmed Kuwait support to Morocco in its efforts to recover from the devastating earthquake of September 10.

He expressed wishes for Morocco to succeed in hosting the ongoing IMF-WB annual meetings which gathered representatives of 190 member countries of both institutions.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15, (KUNA): Iman Al-Enezi, Director of the Civil Associations Department at the Ministry of Social Affairs, emphasized the Ministry's dedication to supporting civil society organizations and institutions. She recognized them as pivotal partners in Kuwait's development, capable of enhancing community cooperation and partnership. Al-Enezi conveyed these sentiments while representing Minister of Social Affairs, Family, and Child Affairs Sheikh Firas Saud Al-Malik Al-Sabah during an event organized by the Kuwaiti Society for Environmental Protection. The event, held under the theme "Fighting Inequality for a Resilient Future," was a collaboration with the Kuwait Red Crescent Society, taking place on International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction.

She highlighted the integral role played by civil society institutions in development and their effectiveness in realizing Kuwait's vision for "New Kuwait 2035," which aims to transform the country into a global regional hub. Al-Enezi also specified that the Ministry of Social Affairs actively supports specialized civil societies, particularly the Kuwaiti Society for Environmental Protection, the Kuwaiti Society for Crisis and Emergency Management, and the Kuwaiti Society for Protection from Fire Hazards, acknowledging their pioneering representation of Kuwait on the international stage.

Addressing

Dr. Wijdan Al-Oqab, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Environmental Protection Society, addressed the event. She noted that this year's International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction centered on addressing inequality to build resilience for the future, with a particular focus on the interconnectedness between inequality and the severity of damage caused by disasters. Al-Oqab highlighted the society's long-term participation in activities and programs related to crisis management, emergency response, and disaster risk reduction. She emphasized the importance of the society's affiliation with the international network of public benefit organizations working to reduce disaster risks. The organization's seat in this network was secured through approvals from the Ministry of Affairs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In 2019, the association organized the first national workshop on disaster risk reduction, with the participation of government, research, private, and academic entities. The recommendations generated during this workshop were shared through the Raed network of the Arab Network for Environment and Development, presented to Arab environment ministers in the League of Arab States, aligning with the United Nations' call to celebrate this occasion. Dr. Al-Oqab also mentioned the formation of a National Committee to oversee the implementation of the Sendai Framework by Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Acting Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior. The Sendai Framework highlights the role of civil society institutions, volunteers, organized volunteer work organizations, and community groups in implementing local, national, regional, and global disaster risk reduction plans and strategies.

Anwar Al-Hassawi, Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society, discussed the devastating effects of disasters resulting from natural hazards and climate change on millions of people worldwide. He emphasized the importance of sharing practices to reduce disaster exposure and enhance disaster and climate risk management among individuals and local communities. Recognizing the gravity of these disasters, the society established an operations center that serves as a hub for national Red Crescent and Red Cross bodies and societies. It focuses on building the capabilities of its volunteers and employs cutting-edge techniques for disaster forecasting and early warning.

Jinan Behzad, Secretary-General of the Gulf Network for Community Environmental Associations, expressed the network's commitment to sharing knowledge and experiences with governmental and non-governmental entities and relevant international organizations. Their goal is to showcase the efforts of Gulf countries in environmental conservation and introduce the activities of institutions directly related to the environment. Behzad also highlighted the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, which originates from the high-level meeting held by the General Assembly to review the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction for the period 2015-2030. This meeting led to a political declaration by member states to accelerate efforts in strengthening resilience against disasters.



KUNA photo

Honoring participants in the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction celebration.



KUNA photo

Inventors Dr. Ali Hajiya, Sarah Bourjib and Shamukh Al-Failakawi are presented certificates of appreciation.



KUNA photo

Kuwaiti schoolchildren demonstrate solidarity with Palestinian people.

Solidarity with Palestinians

While marking the Greening Week on Sunday, Kuwaiti schoolchildren did not forget the Palestinian people, particularly children, in the Gaza Strip, who have been under continued Israeli occupation aggressions.

Children from different schools nationwide demonstrated solidarity with, and support for, their Palestinian peers

in face of the Israeli occupation's death machine.

They hoisted flags of the State of Palestine, paintings and portraits that reflect the strength and valiance of the Palestinian people in defense of their territory and rights, in addition to their resistance against the Israeli occupation. (KUNA)



KUNA photo

The National Guards Undersecretary, Lieutenant General Hashem Al-Rifai and the US Charge d'Affaires, James Holtsnider with other dignitaries and participants of the event.

'We care for all segments of society'

The National Guards Undersecretary, Lieutenant General Hashem Al-Rifai, affirmed on Sunday the squad support for all segments of the society namely special cases.

Lieut. Gen. Al-Rifai's remarks came in a statement released by the Guards after a fencing match for special challenges' cases, held under sponsorship of the National Guards Deputy Chief Sheikh Faisal Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, at the officers' club.

The match pitted the internationally acclaimed Kuwaiti Paralympic fencer, Tareq Al-Gallaf against the US fencer, Rick Swagger.

Al-Gallaf beat the American fencer 13-15 in the game, attended by the honorary chairperson of the Kuwaiti Club for the Handicapped, Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Khalifa Al-Sabah, and the US Charge d'Affaires, James Holtsnider.

It was also attended by the deputy director general of sports for all at the Public Authority for Sports, Hamed Al-Hazim, Ameerah Al-Hassan, the Head of the Office at UN-Habitat (United Nations Human Settlements Programme), and the chairperson of the military cooperation office at the American Embassy, Colonel Lamont Jupec. (KUNA)

MoE marks 'Greening Week'

'Vegetation effect on life positive'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: The Ministry of Education (MoE) has affirmed that its celebration of the Greening Week is aimed to raise awareness about the importance of preserving the environment and increasing vegetation cover, in addition to expressing societal responsibility to maintain the cleanliness and beauty of public places, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a speech during the start of the Greening Week yesterday, the Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Development and Activities at the ministry Dr. Ghanem Al-Sulaimani stressed the keenness of the ministry to promote a culture of environmental awareness by organizing these events that aim to pay attention to the environment and instill a culture of afforestation among young people.

Dr. Al-Sulaimani revealed that this celebration is held under the patronage of the Minister of Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr. Adel Al-Mana.

He explained that it also aims to instill

social values, disseminate environmental information, and preserve public property in a way that contributes to raising a generation that is aware of the importance of achieving sustainable development, which will reflect positively on the environmental system of the State of Kuwait.

The Greening Week is a national event that was launched by the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad based on his belief in the importance of vegetation and its positive impact on various aspects of life. The Greening Week reflects the extent of the Kuwaiti people's commitment to active participation in preserving the environment and improving its quality, and bears an indication of the country's vision of sustainable development through preserving nature and its resources.

A number of students of different age levels participated in the celebration to promote the culture of greening and preserving the environment.

Pharmacist selling drugs gets 5 years

7 years in jail for Kuwaiti forger

By Jaber Al-Hamoud
 Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: The Court of Cassation sentenced a Kuwaiti citizen, who was accused of forgery, to seven-year imprisonment with hard labor, and obliged him to return double the salaries he received, and the benefits he obtained through his employment in a government agency.

During investigations, it was revealed that the accused's father, who is a fugitive, had hid his son's actual nationality, which is Syrian, and placed his details, at the time of his birth, under the name of a deceased Kuwaiti citizen, so that he became a Kuwaiti citizen through forgery.

Among the evidence that contributed to convicting the accused and proving that he had falsified nationality was the testimony of the accused's uncle when he came for investigations and was asked if he knew the person in the picture. He replied by saying, "Yes, this is my nephew, who is a Syrian, not a Kuwaiti."

Pharmacist jailed: The Court of Cassation sentenced an Egyptian pharmacist, who is accused of selling psychotropic substances, to five-year imprisonment with hard labor.

According to investigations, the accused, who works in a pharmacy affiliated with a private company, sold Tramadol, which is a psychotropic narcotic pill.

Meanwhile, the Court of Appeals sentenced a psychological researcher to five year imprisonment on four charges.

According to the case file, he was caught bringing drugs into the Central Prison, instead of treating addicts and giving them advice and guidance regarding the harmful effects of drugs. He used to enter the prison to carry out his job of treating prisoners for addiction and rehabilitating them, but he instead introduced poisons to them, which was discovered after he was caught hiding pills of psychotropic substances and other narcotic substances.

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'What do we lack ... can't Kuwait regain its Pearl of Gulf status?'

"WHAT do we lack in terms of money and creative human minds to transform this small country, dear to the heart of every loyal person, to its golden age when it was a set of examples and an experience followed by others? Money is not scarce, nor is the human element incapable of creativity in the various fields of life and development necessary for construction, growth and development," columnist **Youssef Al-Shehab** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"What we lack is simply the determination to construct, the speed of resolute decisions, and the embracing of a principle that rewards genuine, wholehearted individuals for their dedication to their homeland and society, while penalizing those who undermine their duty towards their country, regardless of their professional or social standing. This should set an example for others and serve as a deterrent.



Al-Shehab

"During Kuwait's era as a Gulf and Arab jewel, there existed diligent labor and individuals who solemnly pledged to work with a sincere conscience. They did not prioritize personal gains over national interests, and the concept of working hours or evading responsibilities never crossed their minds.

"They persevered in their work even beyond specified hours, when work remained and the morning hours weren't sufficient. The late Abdulaziz Al-Dosari once recounted to me an instance during his tenure at the Electricity and Water Department before it became a ministry after independence.

"The late Sheikh Jaber Al-Ali, then the department head, inquired about his late-night presence at the office. Abdulaziz responded: "O honorable person, I have tasks I was unaware of. The morning hours won't suffice for completion, so I came at night to finish them."

"These are the examples of men from the past who understood their duties and fulfilled them without contemplating salary, selling leave, feigning illness to escape work, or prioritizing social engagements over their jobs and duties. They never sought promotions through favors or connections.

"Singapore's transformation is remarkable; initially lacking oil wealth and with modest annual income, it now ranks fourth in the world economically and third for the least economic corruption. It has become a global tourist destination, embodying respect for the law at work and in public spaces, cleanliness, and strict adherence to traffic rules, appointments, and job advancements.

"The citizens understand the value of their work, their roles in nation-building, and the significance of accountability in combating corruption and embezzlement of public funds. The decision to contribute to the nation's progress and development isn't swayed by moods, whims, or personal interests, but driven by the nation's prosperity and advancement. Through resolute decisions, unwavering determination, and diligent efforts at every level, Singapore exemplifies a country shining brightly among nations.

"There's no insurmountable obstacle in building any nation. Insufficient funds or a perceived lack of human potential aren't hindrances, provided there exists the will and unwavering determination to build the nation and combat corruption. This is a steadfast belief, impervious to changing circumstances

or directives. Reflecting on what we have become today, we often falter in our expressions regarding the Gulf's gem, a place we once took pride in for its economic, urban, and social achievements, not forgetting its sporting prowess.

"The distinction lies in a fine line that separates individuals who ardently and faithfully love their country and society, striving to elevate their status and advance it, from those who harbor an insatiable love for their country's wealth and seek to acquire it through unlawful means. The former benefits the country, while the latter merely seeks to augment their financial standing through ill-gotten gains. Which path do you choose?"

Also:

"Naturally, the announcement of the new corridor had to raise a state of widespread controversy, regarding its true goals, its economic feasibility, the possibility of its implementation, and its repercussions, especially on the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative, the Suez Canal, and the possibility of normalization between Saudi Arabia and Israel," columnist **Dr Noura Saleh Al-Majim** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"The signatory countries and experts assert that the newly proposed corridor will play a pivotal role in fostering significant commercial and economic growth. This corridor is poised to elevate the Gulf region's prominence on the global stage, particularly in the maritime sphere.

"Aside from strategic advantages such as facilitating the movement of both traditional and renewable energy like green hydrogen, it will also promote substantial development in data transmission and digital communication through advanced submarine cables and fibers.

"However, amidst the ambitious economic and developmental prospects of this corridor, there exist notable geopolitical considerations, especially among key initiators and promoters -- namely, the United States and India. During the recent G20 Summit in New Delhi, India's capital, an economic corridor linking the Gulf region, India, and Europe was unveiled.

"The corridor's objective is to comprehensively connect the Gulf region with two axes: one toward India and the other toward Europe. It encompasses railway lines, sea connections via ports, fiber and submarine cable connections, as well as extensions of energy supply lines.

"Prominent countries signing the memorandum of understanding for this corridor include Saudi Arabia, the United States, India, Germany, Italy, and France.

"This corridor stands as one of the initiatives put forth by the Biden administration, demonstrating its commitment to challenging the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative. The aim is to counter what Washington perceives as a significant threat to American hegemony in the international system. While Washington stands to benefit from the new corridor, particularly in the energy sector, its primary goal remains undermining the Belt and Road Initiative.

"India aligns with the United States in this endeavor but approaches it from different starting points. The "Belt and Road" initiative by China poses a major threat to India's influence in the Indian Ocean region and its political and economic ambitions in the Arabian Gulf region.

"Despite the comprehensive ambition of this initiative, it is anticipated to face challenges in becoming a strong competitor or completely undermining the Belt and

Road Initiative. This is attributed to several factors, notably the immense size and funding of the Belt and Road Initiative, estimated at around 3 trillion US dollars by 2050, its widespread infrastructure projects globally, particularly in the Gulf region, and China's sole responsibility for financing the initiative.

"In contrast, the new corridor's financing will be shared among its members, posing challenges to its desired implementation, akin to the Building a Better World Initiative that has yet to progress. The funding for the new corridor is unlikely to match the Belt and Road Initiative, not only due to its colossal funding but also owing to the severe financial crises faced by the corridor's member countries.

"Furthermore, key members of the new corridor, such as Saudi Arabia and Italy, are also major participants in the Belt and Road Initiative, making disengagement difficult due to the integration of the initiative's projects into their development plans.

"In conclusion, the new economic corridor is poised to engender positive competition with the Belt and Road Initiative rather than completely undermine it. This development is in the interest of all parties, particularly the Gulf countries.

"Ultimately, the corridor is anticipated to boost trade in the Red Sea and Arabian Gulf region, enhancing activity in the Suez Canal and maintaining its global significance, refuting claims of it becoming a historical passage of diminished importance."

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"High cost of living is one of the most prominent issues affecting the lives of citizens. While the living costs continue to rise, many find themselves struggling to meet the basic needs and achieve a decent living," columnist **Salem Al-Mohaiibi** wrote for **Aljarida** daily.

"The reasons behind the high cost of living are due to multiple factors. First reason is that the world is witnessing a natural and rapid inflation due to the COVID-19 crisis and global economic crises such as the global market crisis in 2008 and other similar crises.

"Second reason is that rapid economic growth and increase in the demand for goods and services have led to increased prices.

"Third reason is the disparity between incomes and expenditures among citizens, as many of them have limited income but the costs of living are rising at a higher rate.

"Fourth reason is the heavy reliance on imports, which leads to increased transportation and marketing costs. The actuarial deficit is one of the main economic challenges facing a country at the present time. This deficit is represented by a large difference between the goods and services that are produced in the country and what people consume. This deficit increases the dependence on imports and reduces the competitiveness of local companies.

"Addressing the issue of the high cost of living in Kuwait requires adopting comprehensive strategies to enhance social and economic sustainability. It requires improving job opportunities, increasing salaries, investing in infrastructure, encouraging local production to reduce the dependence on imports, and passing a law that maintains control over price increases and disparities, eradicates monopoly, and abolishes the concept of local agents."

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary

Other Voices

Novelists Dala'a, Badr, Garo

By Ahmad alsarraf

Over the past few days, I've been engrossed in reading three books. I'd pause at certain sentences, ponder deeply on others, and find myself captivated by certain paragraphs that I'd read over and over.



alsarraf

The experience was a mix of emotions and fears, but ultimately, it was enjoyable and enlightening.

In her novel "Midnight Sun," Dala'a Al Mofiti beautifully expressed, "Me and Shams cannot be more different as her environment, education and character are not like mine." Despite the differences, they shared a profound connection through the course of pain, experiencing feelings of depression, frustration, resistance, and stubbornness, ultimately finding themselves back together.

Dala'a's novel is powerful, filled with sincere emotions. It brought back memories of my early reading experiences, particularly a book titled "Our Sexual Life" by Dr. Sabri Al Qabbani that I read during my teenage years. I vividly remember feeling as though I suffered from the symptoms of every disease mentioned in the book, convincing myself that I was a patient.

Reading the "Midnight Sun" evoked a similar response, as I felt like I was accompanying the writer and her friend through their journey of pain. This sensation also occurred when I read Sherlock Holmes by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, to the point where I'd feel so scared that I had to leave my room and continue reading in the company of my brothers. "Midnight Sun" is intense, painful, and deserves to be read.

Lady Suad Al Buaijan kindly gifted me a copy of the encyclopedic book "History of Oil Refineries... Challenges and Achievements... Bio" by Badr Al Buaijan.

Approximately one-third of the book, around 200 pages, delves into Al Buaijan's career and his journey in Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) since its establishment. It recounts his progression through various oil refineries and offshore oil fields, providing invaluable insights for the new generations.

The remaining two-thirds of the book detail Al Buaijan's biography, experiences, and his instrumental role in establishing and monitoring projects. This book is a must-read to comprehend key aspects of Kuwait's oil exploration and refining history.

The third book, authored by my friend Giragos Kuyumjian, who goes by the name Garo, is titled "My Journey with Iron." This 330-page book delves into the history of iron and Garo's personal journey with it, spanning almost 60 years.

Garo, fondly known as an "iron lover," inherited this passion from his father. In the book, Garo vividly recalls, "I entered an iron store in Italy where I saw quantities of iron bars in different measures, with their lovely blue color since they had recently been brought out of the blast furnace. Actually, it was the best thing my eyes could see." The book is a treasure trove of historical, technical, and personal information, making it a rare and valuable read for those interested in the topic of iron.

Foot note: Greek Ambassador to Kuwait Konstantinos Piperigos and his wonderful family left the best ever cultural impact. I have received over 14 invitations to attend different farewell parties to say good bye to Piperigos who leaves Kuwait to occupy a senior position at Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

This number of events organized in his honor shows the special place of Piperigos in the hearts of those who have known him. Good luck to Mr. Piperigos and his family who were the best messengers of their friendly country.

□ □ □

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

Stricter 'penalties' needed to deter reckless driving, save lives: official

GTD initiates 'Black Points' project

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: Assistant Director General of the General Traffic Department for Technical Affairs, Brigadier General Muhammad Al-Adwani, shared concerning statistics about traffic accidents in Kuwait. He emphasized the need for stricter penalties to deter reckless behavior among vehicle drivers and ultimately save lives on Kuwaiti roads and highways.

Al-Adwani stressed that tackling the traffic issue requires a collaborative effort involving legislation and responsible driving. He pointed to the three primary causes of traffic accidents: the vehicle, the driver, and the road and added, alarming accident rates in Kuwait highlight the urgency of their efforts to improve road safety and minimize accidents, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Al-Adwani disclosed that a significant 92 percent of traffic accidents are attributable to the behavior of vehicle drivers and said he is confident that increasing traffic penalties will enhance public awareness and ultimately reduce recklessness on the roads, emphasizing that the aim is not to burden citizens financially.

In response to reckless driving witnessed in neighboring countries, he said, the Technical Affairs Sector of the General Traffic Department has initiated the "Black Points" project. This initiative identifies accident-prone areas, enabling a focused approach to address the root causes of accidents.

Al-Adwani acknowledged three prevalent traffic problems worldwide: traffic accidents, congestion, and environmental pollution, with accidents being the most concerning due to their severe consequences. Kuwait, unfortunately, ranks high in accident-related deaths within the Gulf Cooperation Council, highlighting the need for urgent action to address the issue.

He emphasized the role of the General Traffic Department in mitigating accidents and underlined the importance of comprehensive solutions involving legislation and responsible driving. Current penalties for traffic violations have proven ineffective, necessitating an increase to effectively deter violations and reduce accidents.

Drawing from experiences in other Gulf countries, Al-Adwani advocated for harsher penalties to reshape traffic behavior positively. He cited successful instances where increased penalties, alongside enhanced traffic control measures, notably reduced accident rates and fatalities in Kuwait.

Contrary to past trends, recent years have seen a decline in traffic accident deaths due to the implementation of stringent traffic control measures, such as increased surveillance and patrols. Al-Adwani also highlighted severe penalties imposed in certain Gulf countries to deter specific violations, further emphasizing the need for stricter regulations in Kuwait.

Addressing concerning trends, he pointed out the issue of underage driving, emphasizing the necessity of imposing significant penalties to deter this dangerous practice. The severity of penalties elsewhere serves as a model to discourage violations and improve road safety in Kuwait.

For example he said, there are severe penalties punishable by law and legal provisions that prevent them, such as crossing red lights, speeding, recklessness, and performing races. The GTD Assistant Director General revealed that there are severe penalties in one of the Gulf countries, indicating that this is intended to deter violations. He added that the penalty for anyone participating in car races without a permit from the police in that country is equivalent to about 8,000 Kuwaiti dinars.

As for the violation of someone driving a car who is under 18 years of age, which is one of our major problems and has reached the point of phenomenon, it was stated that the penalty in that particular country is equivalent of 4,000 dinars.



Inedible meat seized from one of the restaurants.

Eateries selling stale food shut

AIDS devices, abortion pills seized

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: The Commercial control inspectors at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry have seized 6 AIDS testing devices, large quantities of birth control and abortion pills, who worked as a representative and driver for a private medical clinic, reports Al-Rai daily.

The sources told the daily the suspect was arrested after receiving information that some people were selling prohibited medicines and unlicensed AIDS testing kits and birth control pills.

The sources indicated that upon consulting the Ministry of Health, it became clear that the seized AIDS testing devices were not licensed to be sold in Kuwait, and that the birth control

pills were used as abortion pills, in violation of the instructions issued by the Kuwait authorities, including the Ministry of Health.

The daily said, those arrested have been referred to the Public Prosecution.

On the other hand, Al-Rai daily learned that Commerce inspectors closed two restaurants -- one is Salmiya and the other in Mahboula -- for serving meals consisting of foodstuffs of unknown origin and using meat in preparation of foods whose dates had expired in clear and explicit violation of consumer protection instructions.

The sources explained 80 kilos of meat of unknown origin were seized from the two eateries.



KUNA photo
Kuwait Zakat House Chief, Dr. Majed Al-Azmi is honored by the UNHCR.

UNHCR honors Kuwait Zakat House Chief

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) on Sunday bestowed title of UNHCR Patron to Kuwait Zakat House Chief, Dr. Majed Al-Azmi, for the house's valuable contributions to supporting refugees through its partnership with the commission.

UNHCR representative to the country Nasreen Rubaian in a press conference stated that Zakat House provided support to more than 50,000 displaced people. (KUNA)

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Boos public support to Israeli occupation's aggression slammed

Kuwaiti publishing house withdraws from Frankfurt Book Fair

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15, (KUNA): The Kuwait-based Suad Al-Sabah publishing house for culture and creativity declared Saturday the cancellation of, and withdrawal from, Frankfurt International Book Fair due to the public support of its president and CEO Juergen Boos

in a statement to the Israeli occupation's aggression against "our people in Gaza". In a press statement, the house said that the move came due to Boos' backing of the "Israeli occupation which kills civilians and hundreds of children".

It noted that the fair allocated some

activities in support of Israelis and invited some of their communities to justify the Israeli occupation forces' attacks at a time when the fair announced the withdrawal of the prize of Palestinian writer Adnia Shibli.

It expressed regret at this dangerous trend, denouncing the biased stance for

the occupier and aggressor who turned Gaza into a mass grave and an open prison for more than 2.5 million people who deserve a decent life".

It affirmed its support for "the full Palestinian right and the return of Jerusalem as the eternal capital of free Palestine".

MEW to set up solar power station with independent supplier system

'Final 2 key transmission stations successfully activated'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: The Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy disclosed to Al-Rai that the ministry has successfully activated the final two key transmission stations in South Abdullah Al-Mubarak. This allows Kuwaiti citizens in that vicinity to utilize their plots for power access.

The sources elaborated, stating, "With the successful operation of

the last two out of four primary transmission stations, the ministry has now completed the operation of all main transmission stations, along with their associated secondary stations, to power all the region's current voucher holders."

They further mentioned that the expected number of locations set to receive power exceeds 700, marking the conclusion of the power delivery process to all designated areas in the region. They emphasized the ministry's and distribution networks sector's dedication to ensuring power delivery to plots in new areas, in close coordination with the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW).

230 employees likely to be referred for retirement

Minister Al-Jarallah determined to inject new blood in institutions under his care

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: While the Minister of Finance, Fahd Al-Jarallah, embarked on a large process of sending about 60 eligible employees into retirement from ministry, it appears he will not stop at this institution but is continuing to extend this trend to the institutions and entities affiliated with the ministry by referring eligible employees to retirement in accordance with the provisions of Article (76) of the Civil Service Commission, reports Al-Rai daily.

Informed sources told the daily there are about 230 employees who are likely to be referred for retirement at the Central Bank of Kuwait and the Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS), in addition to 27 senior



Al-Jarallah

employees from all sectors at the Kuwait Investment Authority who meet the conditions.

The sources pointed out that Al-Jarallah has asked the CBK and the PIFSS for a list of employees eligible for retirement.

The sources stated the PIFSS officials sought the opinion of employees who meet the retirement conditions and whether they preferred retirement or extension, indicating that a large segment of them expressed a desire for retirement.

Pursuing

On a different note, the sources indicated, "The ministry is actively pursuing solar energy projects following the Independent Power Provider (IPP) framework. They are engaging specialized companies in this domain to swiftly establish solar energy facilities to cater to the country's increasing electricity demands in the years ahead."

They emphasized that the ministry is accelerating its efforts to augment electricity production capacity, foreseeing an annual consumption rate increase of 5 to 6 percent, aiming to avert an energy shortage crisis by 2025.

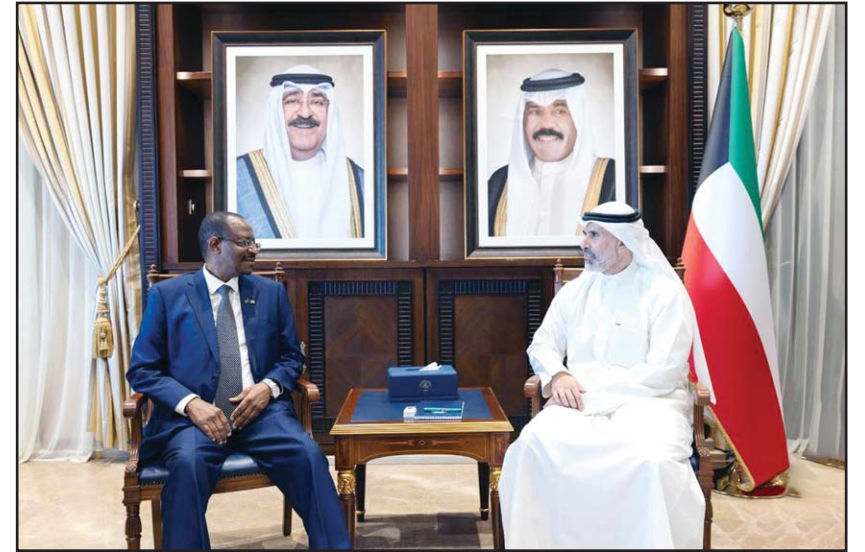
They added, "The ministry has elucidated its objectives to these companies, expecting them to present optimal proposals showcasing their capability to achieve the ministry's sought-after goals."

On a related note, the Supreme Committee for Partnership Projects between the public and private sectors is scheduled to convene this week to deliberate the feasibility study for the Al-Shaqaya project.

Crown Prince receives top officials

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15, (KUNA): His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Sunday at Bayan Palace Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Interior

Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. His Highness also received Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.



KUNA photo

Kuwait Deputy FM while receiving the outgoing Tanzania envoy.

Deputy FM meets outgoing Tanzania envoy

Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah met on Sunday with Ambassador of Tanzania to Kuwait

Said Shaib Mussa on the occasion of the end of his tenure as representative of his country to the State of Kuwait. (KUNA)

We need

Continued from Page 1

writer Chekhov chose to be portrayed in the story as the wife, because there is no state without people, for it is an eternal marriage between the ruler and the people.

Therefore, if he does not hear her moans, he is disconnected from reality, and quickly ruins the state, and the rulers are accused of corruption.

In many countries of the world, there is a "Board of Grievances". This was the practice in Muslim countries in the past, when the ruler was the judge, or rather the Chief Justice.

Indeed, to this day, there are countries that operate under this system, and choose experts who do not even take into account the interests of their people.

In those countries, there are also circles that work seriously to combat corruption, not with slogans alone. They have parliaments in which there is no political blackmail and the MPs are honorable people who put the interests of the state above everything else. There is a free press that enjoys the highest standards of freedom of opinion, and does not have four laws with flaws and loopholes, through which the journalists and the newspapers are punished if some of the elders and influential people become angry. These journalists are taken to prison as if they were a drug criminal, and the newspapers are closed.

In some countries, there are people who live in chronic darkness, and no one hears their groans. In fact, they must suppress their groans of pain because the ruler has withdrawn behind the walls of his palace.

On the other hand, there are some countries where there are field governors who do not leave any stone unturned without following up on it, which is why no citizen there complains. This is due to the fact that the councils - from the ruler to the youngest official, and the "Board of Grievances" - are open to complaints, so no one can fabricate any complaint.

Anton Chekhov's masterpiece talks about the pain and neglected injustice experienced today by some countries, whose rulers only hear false flattery based on the interests of the corrupt entourage that plunders the state's wealth and lives outside the borders.

Anti-corruption

Continued from Page 1

Kuwaiti people, said MP Al-Otaibi.

Al-Otaibi revealed that Kuwait had proposed that the Arab Parliament meeting should be held under the title of "In support of Gaza" due to the war of extermination against the Palestinian people.

Arab and Muslim nations should stand against the treatment of the Palestinian brethren, affirmed Al-Otaibi who condemned nations standing solidarity with the oppressive Israeli regime and its actions against innocent Palestinians.

Likewise, fellow Kuwaiti lawmaker MP Ahmad Lari said that the Kuwaiti leadership had and would continue to support the Palestinian people and their just cause regionally and internationally against the Israeli occupiers.

Since the launch of "Operation Al-Aqsa Flood" back in October seventh, Arab Parliaments had made it clear Palestine was an important issue to all Arabs, said Lari who indicated that Kuwait prior had issued a statement in support of Palestine and its people.

Also speaking on his part, MP Al-Azmi said that the current operation against the Israeli occupiers was a natural reaction to decades of injustice against the Palestinian people.

He commended the resistance of the Palestinian people and at the same time condemned the West's support of atrocities committed by the Israeli occupiers.

Al-Azmi said that no peace would be achieved without returning what was rightfully owned by the Palestinian people in terms of their land and also Jerusalem.

In another development, the National Assembly Speaker Ahmad Al-Saadoun received the Ambassador of Kuwait to Argentina Abdulaziz Mohammad Al-Beshr. In addition, the Deputy National Assembly Speaker MP Muhammad Al-Mutair received the human resources

consultant Dr. Abdullah Fahd Al-Abduljader who gifted Al-Mutair with a copy of his recently released book titled "Kuwaiti Consultant.. Observer of Economic and Administrative Events."

The parliament's coordination committee consisting of 48 MPs held a meeting on Sunday at the National Assembly building in the presence of the National Assembly Speaker Ahmad Al-Saadoun and Deputy National Assembly Speaker MP Muhammad Al-Mutair.

The meeting was held based on an invitation from MP Hassan Jawhar to add the final touches to the prior bills and issue them in the upcoming parliamentary term in prelude to be referred to the ministerial coordination committee.

Gaza hospitals

Continued from Page 1

The Gaza Health Ministry said 2,329 Palestinians have been killed since the fighting erupted, more than in the 2014 Gaza war, which lasted over six weeks. That makes this the deadliest of the five Gaza wars for both sides. More than 1,300 Israelis have been killed, the vast majority of them civilians killed in Hamas' Oct. 7 assault. An estimated 150 others, including children, were captured by Hamas and taken into Gaza. This is the deadliest war for Israel since the 1973 conflict with Egypt and Syria.

The U.S. State Department said Secretary of State Antony Blinken would return to Israel on Monday after completing a frantic six-country tour through Arab nations aimed at preventing the fighting from igniting a broader regional conflict.

Hospitals in Gaza are expected to run out of generator fuel within two days, endangering the lives of thousands of patients, according to the U.N. Gaza's sole power plant shut down for lack of fuel after Israel completely sealed off the 40-kilometer (25-mile) long territory following the Hamas attack.

In Nasser Hospital, in the southern town of Khan Younis, intensive care rooms are packed with wounded patients, most of them children under the age of 3. Hundreds of people with severe blast injuries have come to the hospital, where fuel is expected to run out by Monday, said Dr. Mohammed Qandeel, a consultant at the critical care complex.

There are 35 patients in the ICU who require ventilators and another 60 on dialysis. If fuel runs out, "it means the whole health system will be shut down," he said, as children moaned in pain in the background. "All these patients are in danger of death if the electricity is cut off."

Dr. Hussam Abu Safiyya, the head of pediatrics at the Kamal Adwan Hospital in northern Gaza, said it did not evacuate despite Israeli orders. There are seven newborns in the ICU hooked up to ventilators, he said. "We cannot evacuate, that would mean death for them and other patients under our care."

Patients keep arriving with severed limbs, severe burns and other life-threatening injuries. "It's frightening," he said. Shifa hospital in Gaza City, the territory's largest, said it would bury 100 bodies in a mass grave as an emergency measure after its morgue overflowed, with relatives unable to bury their loved ones. Tens of thousands of people seeking safety have gathered in the hospital compound.

Gaza was already in a humanitarian crisis due to a growing shortage of water and medical supplies caused by the Israeli siege. With some bakeries closing, residents said they were unable to buy bread. Israel has also cut off water, forcing many to rely on brackish wells.

Israel has ordered more than 1 million Palestinians - almost half the territory's population - to move south. The military says it is trying to clear away civilians ahead of a major campaign against Hamas in the north, where it says the militants have extensive networks of tunnels, bunkers and rocket launchers.

Hamas urged people to stay in their homes, and the Israeli military released photos it said showed a Hamas roadblock preventing traffic from moving south.

The U.N. and aid groups say the mass exodus within Gaza, along with Israel's complete siege, will cause untold human suffering. The World Health Organization said the evacuation "could be tantamount to a death sentence" for the more than 2,000 patients in northern hospitals.

October

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Above: Some of the photos from the National Day celebration. Photos by Leahab Qurtal

Spanish Embassy celebrates National Day

Spain plays an 'active role' in global battle against climate change: envoy

By Paul Francis X. Fernandes
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: On the occasion of the National Day of Spain, the Spanish Ambassador to Kuwait, HE Miguel Moro Aguilar, talked about the depth of relations between the European Union and Kuwait.

Speaking on the occasion in the presence of Assistant Foreign Minister for European Affairs Sadiq Marafi, and a large crowd of diplomats, citizens and the Spanish community he reminded that Spain holds the presidency of the Council of the European Union for a period of 6 months, and pointed to the principles, values and commonalities with Kuwait, as well as the smooth cooperation between Spain and Kuwait in international forums.

Spain is one of the oldest nation-states in the world, with more than five centuries of common, fruitful existence, a nation with deep historic links with the Spanish American countries and with some Asian and African ones as well. The result is a culturally rich, vibrant community of nations on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean and beyond. I have to say that we, Spaniards, are very proud of those pages of our history and we vindicate nowadays their value and meaning. "I emphasize the value of the

EU-Kuwait relations in a moment that Spain, is holding the six-month Presidency of the Council, when we are trying to give an impulse to the EU-GCC and EU-Kuwait relations, with events as the recent EU-GCC Ministerial Conference in Oman, the visit last week by the EU Special Envoy for the GCC to Kuwait, or the recent approval last September of some more open visa regulations to the Schengen area for Kuwaitis.

Proclamation

"On the third anniversary of the proclamation as Amir of HH Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and of the Crown Prince, H.H. Sheikh Mishal, let me convey personally, and on behalf of my Government, our warmest congratulations, as well as our best wishes for Kuwait and the Kuwaiti people."

The Spanish envoy stressed that his country plays an active role in the global battle against climate change, and is ready to cooperate with Kuwait and other Gulf Cooperation Council countries in confronting environmental challenges.

He also revealed that work is underway to activate the opening of a new air route to Barcelona within two weeks, after Kuwait Airways officially opened last

September its first direct flight between the two capitals in nearly 40 years, which is a real distinctive feature in our relations and will contribute significantly to boosting our already excellent tourism numbers.

He disclosed about 400 Spaniards live in Kuwait and work in the education, business, sports, health, and engineering sectors, and they contribute importantly to consolidating the relationship between our two peoples.

"We are glad to be marking this important day for all Spaniards and sharing it with our Kuwaiti friends and many of our country fellows, gathering together in this elegant Ballroom at the Saint Regis Hotel," he said.

It is always necessary to highlight this important occasion as it helps us, Spaniards, to remember where we come from and what the long road has been in history for us as a people to reach this point.

On a bilateral basis, our relations are strong, strengthened by the traditional friendship between the two Royal Houses.

Next year we will mark the sixtieth anniversary of the establishment of our official diplomatic relations, which will be conveniently highlighted and celebrated with some events in both countries, the Spanish envoy said.

Municipality panel approves 19 sites for spring camping season

One of previous sites near Al-Oyoun area canceled

By Inass Awad
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: During its meeting yesterday, Kuwait Municipality's committee for studying and updating the sites where camping is permitted finally approved 19 sites for setting up camps, and canceled one of the previous sites near Al-Oyoun area this year. The camping season starts from November 15 this year to March 15 next year, and will be allowed in two areas - area 10 in the north and area 9 in the south.

On a related level, Kuwait Municipality's Public Relations Department revealed the installation of 167 "Mobi" billboards for its special media campaign. It was launched under the title "Your Hands... In Our Hands" and the hashtag "#The_Plan_Clean" to educate wilderness pioneers about maintaining the cleanliness of the sites that are allowed for setting up spring camps for this year's camping season.

Explained

The department explained that the billboards were installed in all governorates on streets, roads and intersections, including 42 in the Capital Governorate, 25 in Ahmadi, 22 in Mubarak Al-Kabeer, 16 in Jahra, 23 in Farwaniya, and 39 that are being installed in Hawally Governorate.

It is worth noting that the Public Relations Department launched this campaign, and are using these billboards to educate citizens and residents about maintaining the cleanliness of the wild environment, in addition to not doing things that would damage and destroy the natural environment and harm wildlife and its aesthetic value.

GTD issues 22K citations, seizes 98 vehicles

Policemen 'arrest' Kuwaiti outlaw in his 40s following security chase

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: A 40-year-old Kuwaiti citizen was arrested in an unresponsive state by Jahra police officers following a security chase and collision with several vehicles. It turned out that he had a criminal record. He had also threatened to commit suicide during his arrest.

According to a security source, when police officers received a report about a person stopping motorists on the road and impersonating a detective. Immediately, patrols headed out and after seeing the officers he fled the site. He was chased until the noose was tightened around him. He got out of his vehicle in an abnormal state and threatened to commit suicide, but he got arrested by the security officers.

It was found that he had a criminal record. He was referred to the concerned authority where legal actions will be taken against him.

Based on instructions from the Director of the General Traffic Department Major General Yousef Al-Khadda to intensify traffic presence in all governorates and arrest violators and outlaws, officers of the General Traffic Department were able to issue 22,000 traffic citations,



Maj. Gen Yousef Al-Khadda

impound 98 vehicles, and dealt with 1,818 traffic accidents, including 187 serious accidents.

The weekly statistics of the General Traffic Department showed that the department issued 22,678 traffic citations, impounded 135 vehicles and 11 motorcycles, referred 34 people to the traffic police, seized 98 judicially wanted vehicles, referred 22 juveniles to the juvenile prosecution, and caught 19 residency law violators. Also, 24 arrests were made and two people were seized in an abnormal condition.

A security source affirmed that traffic campaigns will continue in all governorates to control the traffic situation and deter reckless motorists.

MoC under scrutiny for corruption suspicions

By Mohammed Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: According to informed sources in the Ministry of Communications, five cases of corruption and suspicions of infringement on public funds had been monitored in the ministry. These cases are under investigation by the Public Prosecution. If the prosecution does not refer them to trial, the Fatwa and Legislation Department will be contacted to claim civil rights.

In a related context, the sources

revealed that the Ministry lost 40 cases in the last five years, costing it KD 82.9 million.

They indicated that the procedures related to these cases and other cases pending before the judiciary are being followed up in coordination with the Fatwa and Legislation Department.

The sources affirmed the ministry's keenness to combat financial and administrative corruption on three main axes - prior oversight, fact-finding, investigation, reporting, and holding corrupt people accountable in all sectors of the ministry.

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Company main partner of CODED Academy's 'Kuwait Hackathon' competition

Zain contributes to upskilling national talents in cybersecurity

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: Zain joined the closing ceremony of Kuwait Hackathon, the nation's biggest cybersecurity competition of its kind that was hosted at Kuwait University's Cultural Center. The much-anticipated Hackathon was launched by CODED Academy and the National Cybersecurity Center (NCSC) and witnessed the participation of many aspiring Kuwaiti programmers and coders.

The closing ceremony was attended by H.E. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Al Khalid Al Sabah, National Assembly members Abdulaziz Al Saqabi and Abdulwahab Al Eissa, Director of the National Cybersecurity Center (NCSC) Major General Mohammed Bouraki, Director of the Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT) Dr. Ammar Al Hussein, Zain Kuwait Corporate Affairs Department Manager Hamad Al Mosaibeh, Co-Founder and CEO of CODED Academy Ahmad Marafi, and top officials from the public and private sectors.

Zain's support as a Main Partner to this competition came in continuation of its efforts to raise cybersecurity awareness in the community and encourage aspiring Kuwaiti coders. The company was keen on contributing to upskilling national talents in cybersecurity, data protection, and testing the efficiency of government systems. The competition was joined by many programmers, and winners of the top three places were presented with large cash prizes. Those who showed promising talents were also offered special career opportunities in cybersecurity.

CODED launched this competition in response to the parliamentary



Sheikh Talal Al Khalid honors Al Mosaibeh in recognition of Zain's support.



Many aspiring Kuwaiti coders joined the competition.

initiative proposed by National Assembly members Abdulaziz Al Saqabi and Abdulwahab Al Eissa, which was adopted by Sheikh Talal Al Khalid. The competition was the biggest of its kind in Kuwait and aimed to increase awareness of cybersecurity and the protection of data, test the efficiency of sensitive government systems, and up-skill national talents in cybersecurity.

Zain is proud to be one of the top strategic partners of CODED Academy throughout the years, a fruitful partnership that has contributed to empowering thousands of aspiring programmers and developers into the local market through numerous programs and initiatives for all age groups.

Many of Zain's initiatives center around youth and education develop-

ment, and as digital skills are gaining accelerating importance in the future of education and the economy, the company has put the development of programming and digital competencies of the youth at the forefront of its priorities. Zain is keen on contributing to preparing the next generation of local talents with the skills required by modern markets, most important of

which are cybersecurity skills. The Kuwait Hackathon competition aimed at increasing awareness of protecting data and digital systems, as well as encouraging local programmers to develop their skills in order to competently face the highly increasing cybersecurity threats. The competition offered optional workshops for those who wished to refine their skills before

entering and competing. The competition presented large cash prizes for winners to encourage every Kuwaiti programmer and coder to participate in defending the nation's cybersecurity ecosystem. The first-place winner received KD 20,000, while the second-place winner received KD 10,000, and the third-place winner received KD 5,000.



Sheikh Talal Al Khalid with top guests and the three winning teams.

Acting PM emphasizes vital role of tech proficiency in cybersecurity challenges

Reinforcing commitment in banking service

ABK employees undergo special program training in sign language communication

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) recently organized a special program to train its employees in sign language communication. This initiative is part of ABK's ongoing commitment to foster inclusivity, enhance its customer service experience for individuals with hearing and speech impairments, and develop the skills of its workforce.

Attended by a group of ABK employees, the training course took place at Symphony Style Hotel in collaboration with Dr. Mohammed Al-Ramzi. The sign language instructor brought a wealth of experience and expertise in the field, having worked extensively with various organizations to promote accessibility and effective communication.



Alarbash

"We are delighted to organize this special program," said Afrah Alarbash, General Manager of Human Resources at ABK. "By equipping our team with sign language skills, we are taking a significant step towards ensuring that all our customers receive the same level of excellent service."

The comprehensive training program provided ABK employees with essential knowledge to effectively communicate with customers. It covered key areas such as greetings, basic conversations, transactional interactions, and emergency situations to facilitate future interaction.

In addition to the practical training, the program focused on raising awareness and sensitivity towards these individuals. Participants gained a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by this community and developed the empathy needed to provide a more accommodating experience.

ABK's commitment goes beyond this program. The Bank continuously works towards improving accessibility across its branches, ensuring that all

customers have an equal opportunity to access banking services. As such, ABK has incorporated various leading assistive technologies in the industry, such as in their ATMs, availability of Braille material, and more to cater to the needs of individuals with different abilities.

"We aim to empower our employees to bridge communication and create a stronger environment for all. This is part of our broader goal to make ABK a model of inclusivity in the banking industry," concluded Alarbash.

ABK's sign language training program is a testament to the Bank's commitment to fostering diversity as well as its adherence to Central Bank of Kuwait instructions. By equipping their employees with sign language skills, ABK is not only enhancing its customer service but also sending a powerful message of support to the broader community.

Since its establishment in 1967, ABK has progressed to become one of the leading Kuwaiti banks in the region that offers a wide array of personal, corporate, and private banking products and services. ABK also provides a broad range of local, regional, and global investment solutions and services through its subsidiary, ABK Capital.

Across the region, the Bank offers individuals and corporates the convenience of comprehensive banking and financial services in the Egyptian market through ABK-Egypt's network of 44 branches. This is in addition to ABK's three branches located in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) in the United Arab Emirates, servicing both Kuwaiti and Emirati individual and corporate clients.

ABK is a strong supporter of Central Bank of Kuwait and Kuwait Banking Association's 'Let's Be Aware' awareness campaign. Through its various initiatives, the Bank aims to promote financial inclusion by educating Kuwaiti society about customer rights, responsibilities, and the different types of banking and special needs services. Additionally, ABK consistently provides strategic information on how to avoid banking and financial fraud, loan application requirements, digital services, and more.



Photos during Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait's special program in sign language communication.

Need for tech-savvy cadres

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15, (KUNA): Kuwait's Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah highlighted the importance of preparing technological proficient cadres to address the mounting challenging in the age of digital technology.

"Modern information technology is usually associated with cybersecurity challenges," he noted in an address to the closing ceremony of "Kuwait Hackathon" competition on Saturday evening.

Cybersecurity

The cybersecurity competition was held under patronage of Sheikh Talal by Kuwait National Cybersecurity Council (NCSC) at Kuwait University in collaboration with Code Academy. Sheikh Talal praised the competition as "a first important step towards building the capacity of our national cadres to protect our security of information systems." He reaffirmed the commitment of the Kuwaiti government to fostering the technologically proficient cadres.

He urged the participants in the competition to improve their skills in cybersecurity and contribute to the protection of the information security of their homeland.

On regional developments, the



KUNA photo Kuwait's Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Interior addresses the closing ceremony of "Kuwait Hackathon" competition.

Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Interior reaffirmed Kuwait's support to the struggle of "the brotherly people of Palestine against the brutal Israeli occupation," taking pride in the stance of the Kuwait leadership and people. "We are proud of

the Amir Decree of 1967 proclaiming that Kuwait is in a state of war against the Zionist gangs in the occupied Palestine," he said, noting that the proclamation is still in effect, which signals Kuwait's steadfast support to right and justice.

Sheikh Talal prayed for Allah the Almighty to protect "our faithful brothers in Palestine," grant mercy to their martyrs, and free the holy Al-Aqsa Mosque from the brutality of the Israeli occupation forces.

Works set to benefit areas in Jahra

PAHW announces tender for 3,345 homes and infrastructure projects

By Abdel Nasser Al-Aslami
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: The Public Authority for Housing Welfare in Kuwait has initiated a tender for the construction, completion, and maintenance of 3,345 residential units in sectors BP-3 and BP-1. This extensive project also encompasses the development of public buildings, the installation of asphalt surface layers, the supply and installation of low and medium-pressure cables, as well as road lighting in the Al-Naayem area. These works are set to benefit areas like Taima and Sulabiya in the southwest of Jahra.

The tender opens on the 17th of this month and closes on the 5th of December. Interested parties can acquire the necessary documents for a fee of 10 dinars, and an initial guarantee of 2,000 dinars, valid for 90 days.

The Corporation invites local and foreign companies engaged in public building projects to apply for the tender. Specific requirements must be met, and all documents must be submitted in accordance with the specified criteria.

Local contractors classified by the Central Tenders Agency in the first category for public buildings, along with foreign contractors specialized in public building works, can participate. Bidding documents can be obtained from the Documents and Contracts Department at the Corporation's headquarters in South Surra, provided that all conditions and requirements are met.

Local companies must submit

several documents, including registration certificates, articles of incorporation, and certificates from the Central Agency for Public Tenders. They should also supply a valid national labor completion rate certificate from the General Authority for Manpower.

For foreign companies, a registration certificate with the Central Agency for Public Tenders in Kuwait is required, along with tender documents and an irrefundable fee. The Corporation insists on compliance with specific regulations related to the articles of incorporation, authenticated by relevant official authorities in the home country.

An authorization letter from the company's authorized representative, accompanied by a copy of the representative's civil ID and a signature approval certificate, is mandatory. Companies that have received penalties will not be allowed to participate in state tenders and projects. The same applies to companies with current contracts that are significantly delayed in project delivery.

The last date for inquiries regarding the tender is November 7, and inquiries must be submitted in Arabic to the Documents and Contracts Department. The Corporation has set the submission deadline for bids at 1:00 PM. Companies that do not meet general conditions for executing tenders will be excluded from the awards and will not be eligible for a refund of the tender document purchase fee. Bidders acknowledge their acceptance of the Corporation's decisions in this regard.

'Future of the Cloud in Kuwait'

solutions by stc backs Kuwait EGOV10 Forum for second consecutive year as its platinum sponsor

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: solutions by stc, the specialized business arm of Kuwait Telecommunications Company - stc, announced its platinum sponsorship for the second consecutive year of the 10th eGovernment (EGOV10) Forum in Kuwait under the motto 'Future of the Cloud in Kuwait'. The forum will be organized by the Kuwait Federation for Engineering Offices and Consulting Houses (KFEOCH) and managed by Razen Events under the patronage of His Excellency Fahad Ali Zaided Al-Shuala, Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Communications Affairs.

Reflecting a critical stage for the future of computing in Kuwait, the EGOV10 forum will be held from October 22nd till the 24th at the Al-Baraka Ballroom in Crowne Plaza Hotel - Kuwait. Considering its reputation as a key ICT player in the region and one-stop shop for business and wholesale solutions, solutions by stc's sponsorship of the initiative directly aligns with the core objectives the Company aims to achieve for its clients. With the development of the cloud solutions space, in line with international standards, Kuwait can strongly align with the quality and breadth of solutions found in developed countries.

The event will dive deep into the "Future of the Cloud in Kuwait," offering insights into global cloud computing trends presented by leading global and local Cloud service vendors. It will also provide business development opportunities for

cloud vendors from around the world. Discussions will encompass the advantages of cloud adoption, the challenges faced during the transition, and the best risk mitigation practices. The forum also serves as a platform for local tech companies and investors to be part of this transformative journey, with participation from numerous government agencies, information centers, and major private sector enterprises.

Through its strategic partnership with the Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT), the forum will cover some of the projects planned by the agency to promote the ICT sector in Kuwait and the ongoing development of the eGovernment

program itself. Additionally, the forum will highlight cloud computing, its dimensions, and technical benefits to automation systems in Kuwait. Key points will include the return on investment from cloud computing in terms of rationalizing spending and raising the productivity of government agencies. During the forum, attendees will have the opportunity to study the planning, executive, and legislative aspects of the transition to cloud computing. The event will also demonstrate the best cloud computing companies, systems, and services from global, regional, and local vendors. This initiative aims to strengthen Kuwait's image as a promising market for high-tech companies and

highlight investment opportunities for cloud computing service providers.

solutions by stc expressed in a statement that its sponsorship and active participation in the forum is essential to the Company's ongoing commitment to drive innovation in the Kuwaiti market and support the Kuwaiti government throughout its digital transformation journey in line with its Kuwait Vision 2035. Through the forum, solutions by stc will showcase its B2B capabilities in cloud computing technology, its range of advanced products and portfolios, vast achievements within the cloud computing space, discuss success stories and its strategic partnerships with renowned global experts. The Company also highlighted that events, such as the EGOV10, play a significant role in accelerating the adoption of new and evolving technologies on a large scale throughout Kuwait, which is why solutions by stc was keen on sponsoring the forum.

It is worth noting that solutions by stc participated as a main sponsor in the previous editions of the eGovernment Forum, considering the important role the conference plays in showcasing the digital development and national strategy plan towards innovation and digital transformation. solutions by stc will continue to sponsor such initiatives that aim to accelerate and enable digital transformation, as well as the application of modern solutions using the latest technology available today.



solutions by stc platinum sponsorship of EGOV10 Forum in Kuwait poster.

World News Roundup

Politics

'Historic election'

GOP Landry 'wins' La. governor's race

BATON ROUGE, La., Oct. 15, (AP): Attorney General Jeff Landry, a Republican backed by former president Donald Trump, has won the Louisiana governor's race, holding off a crowded field of candidates.

The win is a major victory for the GOP as they reclaim the governor's mansion for the first time in eight years. Landry will replace current Gov. John Bel Edwards, who was unable to seek reelection due to consecutive term limits. Edwards is the only Democratic governor in the Deep South.

"Today's election says that our state is united," Landry said during his victory speech Saturday night.



Landry

"It's a wake up call and it's a message that everyone should hear loud and clear, that we the people in this state are going to expect more out of our government from here on out."

By garnering more than half of the votes, Landry avoided an expected runoff under the state's "jungle primary" system. The last time there wasn't a gubernatorial runoff in Louisiana was in 2011 and 2007, when Bobby Jindal, a Republican, won the state's top position.

The governor-elect, who celebrated with supporters during a watch party in Broussard, Louisiana, described the election as "historic."

Landry, 52, has raised the profile of attorney general since being elected in 2015. He has used his office to champion conservative policy positions. More recently, Landry has been in the spotlight over his involvement and staunch support of Louisiana laws that have drawn much debate.

Landry has repeatedly clashed with Edwards over matters in the state, including state finances and the death penalty. However the Republican has also repeatedly put Louisiana in national fights, including over President Joe Biden's policies that limit oil and gas production and COVID-19 vaccine mandates.

Served

Landry spent two years on Capitol Hill, beginning in 2011, where he represented Louisiana's 3rd US Congressional District. Prior to his political career, Landry served 11 years in the Louisiana Army National Guard, was a local police officer, sheriff's deputy and attorney.

During the gubernatorial election season, Landry had long been considered the early frontrunner, winning the endorsement of high profile Republicans - Trump and U.S. Rep. Steve Scalise, who was nominated to be the next House speaker on Wednesday - and a controversial early endorsement from the state GOP. In addition, Landry has enjoyed a sizable fundraising advantage over the rest of the field throughout the race.

Landry has made clear that one of his top priorities as governor would be addressing crime in urban areas. The Republican has pushed a tough-on-crime rhetoric, calling for more "transparency" in the justice system and continuing to support capital punishment. Louisiana has the nation's second-highest murder rate per capita.

Along the campaign trail, Landry faced political attacks from opponents on social media and in interviews, calling him a bully and making accusations of backroom deals to gain support. He also faced scrutiny for skipping all but one of the major televised debates.

Among other gubernatorial candidates on the ballot were GOP state Sen. Sharon Hewitt; Hunter Lundy, a Lake Charles-based attorney running as an independent; Republican state Treasurer John Schroder; Stephen Waguespack, the Republican former head of a powerful business group and former senior aide to then-Gov. Bobby Jindal; and Shawn Wilson, the former head of Louisiana's Transportation and Development Department and sole major Democratic candidate.

Increase

Wilson, who was the runner-up, said during his concession speech that he had called Landry to congratulate him on his victory. The Democrat said during their phone call, he asked the governor-elect to keep Medicaid expansion, increase teacher pay and "educate our children the way they need to be educated."

"The citizens of Louisiana spoke, or didn't speak, and made a decision," Wilson said.

Also on Saturday's ballot were five other statewide contests and four ballot measures.

Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser won reelection Saturday night, but other races won't be decided until November.

One closely watched race is attorney general, which holds the highest legal authority in the state's executive branch. Liz Baker Murrill, a Republican who currently works at the Attorney General's Office and Lindsey Cheek, a Democrat and trial attorney, have advanced to a November runoff.

Also advancing to a runoff in the state treasurer race is John Fleming, Republican, and Dustin Granger, Democrat.

In the secretary of state race, Nancy Landry - the First Assistant Secretary of State and a Republican - and Gwen Collins-Greenup, a Democrat and attorney, will advance to a runoff. Whoever is elected in November will take on the task of replacing Louisiana's outdated voting machines, which don't produce the paper ballots critical to ensuring accurate election results.

Also:

SPRINGFIELD, Ill: Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker has so many fans and friends that he receives a \$30 gift at the rate of one every three days, but because of his job he accepts none of them, and rarely even sees them.

The second-term Democratic governor and multi-billionaire has been lavished with hundreds of gifts from around the world, ranging from a \$950 bottle of Japanese drink to 35 cents: a quarter and dime, to be exact.

The state's 25-year-old Gift Ban Act prohibits public employees such as Pritzker from accepting presents, with broad exceptions. Therefore, the high-priced hooch delivered compliments of the Japanese embassy and three bottles of drink valued at \$450 have remained untapped.

Most are stored in Springfield and Chicago, with a staff member responsible for thank-you notes. Together, they comprise 4-1/2 years of gratuities totaling 561 gifts valued at \$16,890.14, according to a log provided to The Associated Press in response to a public records request.

Perishable food is shared with office staff and visitors. The rest will eventually end up in an appropriate charitable home, gubernatorial spokesperson Jordan Abudayyeh said.



US President Joe Biden speaks at the Human Rights Campaign National Dinner on Saturday Oct. 14, 2023 in Washington. (AP)

Ukraine

Kyiv continues drone counterstrikes

Six killed in Russian attacks on Ukraine

KYIV, Ukraine, Oct. 15, (AP): Six people have been killed in Russian attacks on Ukraine in the past 24 hours, local officials reported Sunday.

Two people were killed and three more injured in the Kherson area after more than 100 shells bombarded the region over the weekend, local governor Oleksandr Prokudin wrote on social media.

Two guided bombs later hit key infrastructure in Kherson city, sparking a partial blackout and disruption to the area's water supply, reported the head of the city's military administration, Roman Mrochko.

Local officials said two more people had died in the Donetsk area and that a 57-year-old man and a 54-year-old woman had been killed by an airstrike that destroyed their home in the Kharkiv region.

Meanwhile, the Russian defense ministry announced Sunday that Ukraine had launched 27 drones in an overnight attack on western Russia.

Officials said that 18 drones were shot down over the Kursk region, leading to speculation in the Russian press that the attack could have been targeting the nearby Khalino military airfield.

Images on social media showed burning debris just 1.5 kilometers (a mile) from the airbase, which was previously attacked by Ukrainian forces at the end of September.

Writing on social media, Kursk governor Roman Starovoi said that debris had fallen in the region's namesake capital and the nearby village of Zorino. No casualties were reported.

Officials also said that two more drones had been shot down over Russia's Belgorod region, but did not confirm the fate of the remaining seven drones.

Ukrainian officials reported intense combat as Russian forces relentlessly assaulted the eastern Ukrainian city of Avdiivka.

City leader Vitalii Barabash reported that Moscow was deploying additional forces to encircle the strategically important city in the eastern

Donetsk region, situated just north of the Russian-held regional capital, also called Donetsk.

"The enemy hasn't stopped either assaulting or shelling positions" around Avdiivka, Barabash said on Ukrainian television.

Around 1,600 civilians remain within the city, a stark contrast to its prewar population of about 31,000. Russian President Vladimir Putin launched his war against Ukraine in February 2022.

Barabash's comments came after Russia's UN ambassador, Vassily Nebenzia, told a UN Security Council meeting on Friday that the intensified attacks in the east amounted to a new stage in Moscow's campaign in Ukraine.

Switched

"Russian troops have, for several days now, switched over to active combat action practically throughout the entire front line. ... The so-called Ukrainian counteroffensive can therefore be considered finished," he said.

But Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said earlier this week that Ukrainian forces were keeping Russian troops at bay and "holding our ground."

Donetsk's acting regional governor, Ihor Moroz, said Saturday that 22 civilians were wounded in Russian shelling in the region over the previous 24 hours.

Further north, fighting along the northern stretch of Ukraine's eastern front has "significantly worsened" in recent days, Gen. Oleksandr Syrskyi, commander of Ukraine's land forces, wrote on Facebook Saturday.

Syrskyi, who visited troops in the area, said that Russian forces had regrouped following losses and were mounting attacks around the village of Makiivka and pushing toward the city of Kupiansk, with the goal of encircling Kupiansk and reaching the Oskil River.

Also on Saturday, two women - ages 60 and 42 - were killed in two Russian shelling attacks in the city of Beryslav

in Ukraine's partly-occupied Kherson region.

In another development, the White House said on Friday that North Korea has delivered more than 1,000 containers of military equipment and munitions to Russia for its ongoing war in Ukraine.

Speculation about a possible North Korean plan to refill Russia's munition stores drained in its protracted war with Ukraine flared last month, when North Korean leader Kim Jong Un traveled to Russia to meet President Vladimir Putin and visit key military sites.

White House National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said that the US believes Kim is seeking sophisticated Russian weapons technologies in return for the munitions to boost North Korea's military and nuclear program.

The White House released images that it said show the containers were loaded onto a Russian-flagged ship before being moved via train to southwestern Russia. The containers were shipped between Sept. 7 and Oct. 1 between Najin, North Korea, and Dunay, Russia, according to the White House.

"We condemn the DPRK for providing Russian with this military equipment, which will be used to attack Ukrainian cities and kill Ukrainian civilians and further Russia's illegitimate war," Kirby said, using the initials for Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the country's official name. "In return for support, we assess the Pyongyang is seeking military assistance from Russia including fighter aircraft, surface to air missiles, armored vehicles, ballistic missile production equipment, or other materials and other advanced technologies."

The US unveiled the intelligence determination as North Korea lashed out Friday at the arrival of a US aircraft carrier battle group in South Korea, calling it a provocation and again raising the specter of using nuclear weapons to defend itself.



A woman holds a child to cast her ballot during parliamentary elections in Warsaw, Poland on Oct. 15. (AP)



Hemingway



Broadnax

America

State Fair of Texas evacuated:

Three people were injured Saturday night in a shooting resulting in the evacuation of the State Fair of Texas in Dallas, police said.

Police responded to a report of a shooting in the fair's food court at about 7:45 pm, the Dallas Police Department said.

Investigators determined one man shot at another man, resulting in three victims being shot and sustaining non-life-threatening injuries, police said.

The conditions of the victims were not immediately known.

A suspect, who was not immediately identified, ran from the scene but officers located and arrested him. A gun believed to have been used in the shooting also was found, police said.

Dallas City Council member Adam Bazaldua, whose district includes the park where the shooting occurred, posted a message saying he was briefed on the situation by Dallas City Manager T.C. Broadnax. Bazaldua said the shooting involving two people who knew each other. (AP)

3 dead in shooting at party: Three people are dead after a shooting early Saturday at a party in Denver, police said.

Denver police were called to a party at an industrial storefront where officers found someone dead with gunshot wounds, police said.

Another five shooting victims were taken to local hospitals, where two of them where pronounced dead, police said.

The names and ages of the victims weren't immediately available.

Police said in an email to The Associated Press that they're awaiting information from the medical examiner's office but the three dead appear to be men. (AP)

Ex-officer suspected of crimes:

A former Connecticut police officer is suspected of being a serial burglar and committing 30 or more thefts in three states, including the community he had patrolled until recently.

A newly unsealed warrant says former Glastonbury Police Officer Patrick Hemingway is believed to have targeted safes and cash registers at restaurants and businesses in Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts. The warrant, cited in multiple news reports and released Thursday, says surveillance videos show a suspect possibly resembling the former officer. Hemingway, 37, was charged last

month with computer crimes and making a false statement. A judge at his arraignment said more charges were expected. (AP)

Man pleads guilty to murder: A man



Dallas Fire-Rescue EMS loads one of the wounded onto a cart after a shooting at the State Fair of Texas on Oct. 14 in Dallas. Police responded to a report of a shooting in the fair's food court at about 7:45 pm., the Dallas Police Department said. (AP)

has pleaded guilty to third-degree murder in the death of a Philadelphia steakhouse chef prosecutors say he intentionally killed during a drug-fueled, hit-and-run spree that caused injuries and damage in two counties.

Kareem Welton, 43, also pleaded

guilty Friday in Montgomery County Court to attempted murder, three counts of aggravated assault and robbery of a motor vehicle in the violent pre-dawn 2021 joyride that started in Philadelphia's Center City and ended 30 miles (48 kilometers) away in neighboring Montgomery County.

Prosecutors dropped a first-degree murder charge in exchange for the plea, which does not include any agreement on sentencing.

Authorities alleged that Welton stole a car left running by a woman in July 2021 and then went to a family friend's home and stole a 5-year-old poodle, hit two people on a motorcycle and then struck and killed 31-year-old Adriana Moreno-Sanchez as she walked home from her restaurant shift. (AP)

Ariz tribe protests decision: The Tohono O'odham Nation in southern Arizona on Friday blasted the decision by the US Attorney's Office not to prosecute Border Patrol agents who shot and killed a member of the tribe after they were summoned by tribal police.

Body camera footage released in June by US Customs and Border Protection shows that the agents who fatally shot Raymond Mattia were concerned the 58-year-old may have been carrying a handgun. But no firearm was found.

The tribe's executive office called the decision not to file charges "a travesty of justice."

"There are countless questions left unanswered by this decision. (AP)

Asia

Lawmakers hit

Australia 'rejects' Voice referendum

CANBERRA, Australia, Oct. 15, (AP): Australia will look for new ways to lift Indigenous living standards after voters soundly rejected a proposal to create a new advocacy committee, the deputy prime minister said on Sunday.

Every state and mainland territory apart from Australian Capital Territory voted against a proposal to enshrine in the constitution an Indigenous Voice to Parliament to advocate on behalf of the nation's most disadvantaged ethnic minority.

Deputy Prime Minister **Richard Marles** said his government remained committed to improving Indigenous welfare to close the eight-year gap in average life expectancies between Indigenous Australians and the wider community.



Marles

"In terms of exactly what the precise steps forward are from here is a matter that we need to take some time to work through and I think people can understand that," Marles told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

"Coming out of this referendum there is a greater call for action on closing the gap," Marles added.

Indigenous Voice campaigners were flying Aboriginal flags at half-staff across Australia on Sunday as a mark of their disappointment.

Proponents had hoped that the Voice's advice would lead to better government service delivery and improved outcomes for Indigenous people.

Accounting for only 3.8% of the population, Indigenous Australians have a suicide rate twice that of the national average, are more likely to be incarcerated than other Australians and suffer from diseases in the remote Outback that have been eradicated from other wealthy countries.

Latest counting on Sunday found more than 60% of voters had opposed the Voice. There was majority support for the Voice in Outback polling booths in the Northern Territory. That part of the country has Australia's highest proportion of Aboriginal residents and the result suggests the Voice was popular among Indigenous Australians.

Many Voice supporters accused opposition lawmakers of spreading misinformation and disinformation about the Voice.

Helped

Marcia Langton, an Indigenous academic who helped draft the Voice proposal, said opposition leader Peter Dutton through his "no" campaign had "cemented racism into the body politic."

"The nation has been poisoned. There is no fix for this terrible outcome," Langton wrote in The Saturday Paper.

Dutton accused Prime Minister Anthony Albanese of dividing Australians by holding the referendum.

"This is the referendum that Australia did not need to have. The proposal and the process should have been designed to unite Australians, not to divide us," Dutton said.

Albanese blamed Dutton's campaigning against the measure for the failure. No referendum has ever succeeded without support of the major parties.

"When you do the hard things, when you aim high, sometimes you fall short," Albanese said after conceding defeat.

Minister for Indigenous Australians Linda Burney, who is Aboriginal, told Indigenous people that the recent months of referendum campaign had been "tough."

"But be proud of who you are. Be proud of your identity," a tearful Burney said after conceding the referendum had been rejected.

"Be proud of the 65,000 years of history and culture that you are a part of. And your rightful place in this country. We will carry on and we'll move forward and we will thrive," she added.



SEOUL, South Korea: South Korea on Friday said it had expressed its concerns to China after assessing that it recently returned a "large number" of North Koreans, including escapees, back to their homeland.

Koo Byoungsam, spokesperson of South Korea's Unification Ministry, which handles inter-Korean affairs, said Seoul did not have information on the exact number of North Koreans repatriated from northeast China or how many of them were "escapees, medical patients or criminals."

His comments followed several media reports based on activist sources that alleged China recently returned hundreds of escapees back to North Korea where they would face the risk of persecution and harsh treatment.

"It appears to be true that a large number of North Koreans were repatriated to North Korea from China's three northeastern provinces," Koo said. "(Our) government's position is that there should be no circumstances in which North Koreans living abroad would be forcibly repatriated back home against their will."

Koo said Seoul "sternly raised the issue with the Chinese side" but did not specify how it communicated its concerns.

Human rights activists had warned that Chinese repatriations of North Korean escapees could increase as North Korea slowly reopens its borders after a prolonged COVID-19 shutdown. Some activist groups believe that the number of North Koreans detained as "illegal immigrants" in China could exceed 2,000.



SEOUL, South Korea: North Korea lashed out Friday at the arrival of a US aircraft carrier battle group in South Korea, calling it a provocation and again raising the specter of using nuclear weapons to defend itself.

Emboldened by its advancing nuclear arsenal, North Korea has increasingly issued threats to use such weapons preemptively. But the North is still outgunned by US and South Korean forces, and experts say it is unlikely to use its nukes first, though it will continue to upgrade those arms without returning to diplomacy for the time being.

The North's latest nuclear threat came a day after the USS Ronald Reagan and its battle group arrived at South Korea's southeastern port of Busan, following US-South Korean-Japanese naval exercise in international waters earlier this week.

South Korean defense officials said the carrier is to be docked at Busan for five days as part of an agreement to increase the temporary deployments of powerful US military assets in response to the North's growing nuclear program.

On Friday, the North's official Korean Central News Agency called the aircraft carrier's arrival "an undisguised military provocation" that proves a US plan to attack North Korea is being realized.



North Korean defectors and human right activists stage a rally demanding Chinese government to release North Korean defectors captured in China, near the Chinese Embassy in Seoul, South Korea on Sept 22. South Korea on Oct 13 said it had expressed its concerns to China after assessing that it recently returned a 'large number' of North Koreans, including escapees, back to their homeland. (AP)

Lat/Am

Mexico rejects US-funded migrant transit centers

Hackers attack Guatemala govt webpages

GUATEMALA CITY, Oct. 15, (AP): In what Guatemalan authorities described as a national security incident, hackers affiliated with the activist group Anonymous disabled multiple government webpages Saturday.

The attacks were in support of demonstrations led by Indigenous organizations in the Central American country.

For almost two weeks, demonstrators have been calling for the resignation of Guatemalan Attorney General Consuelo Porras, saying she has tried to undermine the popular vote that made progressive Bernardo Arévalo the president-elect.

Posting on the social media website X, formerly known as Twitter, hackers under the handle @AnonGTReloaded announced, "This October 14 #Anonymous will attack the Government of Guatemala, but this time we do not come alone."

Targeted

The hackers targeted government webpages with floods of automated traffic until they crashed, a technique known as distributed denial-of-service attacks.

Webpages for Guatemala's judicial branch, Department of Agriculture and the General Secretary of the president were targeted, among others. Some pages were quickly reinstated, but others remained down.

Guatemalan authorities said the hacking was a matter of "national security" and they are responding.

The attacks come after 13 days of protests and road closures. Thousands of Indigenous people have demanded that Porras and prosecutors Rafael Curruiche and Cynthia Monterroso, as well as Judge Fredy Orellana, all resign, accusing them of endangering the country's democracy.

Demonstrators maintain that after Arévalo's victory in the August runoff election, Porras mounted an undemocratic challenge against Arévalo, his left-wing Seed Movement party and electoral authorities.

A representative of Anonymous involved in the cyberattack, who agreed to talk about the hacking only if not identified to avoid legal repercussions, said, "Everything we do is to support humanity and, now in Guatemala, in support of the people who are in the

streets, fighting against corruption and impunity."

Also on Saturday morning, Miguel Martínez, former official and personal friend of current President Alejandro Giammattei, was surrounded by a throng of protesters as security officers escorted him from a Mass in Antigua, Guatemala.

In footage posted on social media, protesters appeared to accuse Martínez of corruption. He is not currently known to be under investigation by the prosecutor's office.

Also

MEXICO CITY: Mexico's president has said that he rejected a US request to set up migrant transit centers in Mexico. Neighboring Guatemala has set up one such center, where migrants can apply for U.S. work and refugee visas.

But President **Andrés Manuel López Obrador** has so far rejected a US request to set up sites in Mexico, noting he would prefer to have such centers in countries that are the sources of migration, despite the fact that a considerable number of migrants enter the United States from Mexico.

López Obrador said that he would raise the subject in a meeting of Latin American leaders he will host later this month, suggesting that the countries might agree to a common plan on such sites.

"We have been looking at setting up sites in Mexico, because they (the United States) have asked for it," López Obrador said. "We have not accepted it, first we want to talk to the presidents," referring to the Oct 22 meeting with the leaders of 11 countries that are on migration routes.

The meeting will be held in the southern Mexico city of Palenque. Among those expected to attend are Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Haiti, Cuba, Costa Rica, Panama and Belize.

Migrant transit centers financed by the United States have been set up in Guatemala to receive applications from Central American citizens seeking to apply for work visas, family reunifications or refugee status.

The centers are part of a larger migratory strategy aimed at reducing the large number of migrants from Latin American and the Caribbean to the

United States.

Eventually, applicants with scheduled appointments will be received at offices to be opened in eight places across Guatemala.

The influx of migrants has caused tension between the United States and Mexico.



MIAMI: After receiving death threats for openly opposing Venezuela's socialist government, **Victor Macedo** and his wife fled, staying for a time in Spain before coming to the US.

For nearly two years, they have lived in Florida with the support of family and friends as they tried to build a better life for their two children.

They are among several hundred thousand Venezuelans living in the US whose lives could change now that President **Joe Biden's** administration is offering them temporary legal status making it easier for them to get authorization to work in the US.

"We have 18 months of peace of mind, without the fear of being deported. That is the greatest benefit, and the greatest fear," said Macedo, 38, who dreams of opening a bakery like the one his father had in Venezuela. "We can now begin to earn income as God intended. We no longer depend on the relatives we have here."

To qualify for Temporary Protected Status, Venezuelans must have arrived in the US by July 31. Meanwhile, the Biden administration also recently announced it would restart deportation flights to Venezuela for those without authorization to be in the US.

Immigration experts and lawyers are urging Venezuelans who qualify to apply for TPS.

"It can provide some kind of security and some stability for people in the meantime while they are here in the United States," said **Hissa Mira**, an immigration attorney at Catholic Legal Immigration Network.

Like many Venezuelans living in the US, Macedo and his wife have applied for asylum, but the process is long and does not guarantee success. Between October 2022 and August 2023, immigration judges completed more than 3,800 asylum cases for Venezuelans and nearly a third were denied, according to the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse at Syracuse University.



A woman drops her ballot into a box at a polling place in Redfern as Australians cast their final votes in Sydney on Oct 14 in their first referendum in a generation that aims to tackle Indigenous disadvantage by enshrining in the constitution a new advocacy committee. (AP)



Mnangagwa



Chamisa

Africa

27 dead after boat capsizes: A boat capsized in Congo's northwest killing at least 27 people, and more than 70 others were missing, a senior government official said Saturday as rescuers searched frantically for survivors.

The locally made boat capsized late Friday in the city of Mbandaka in Equateur Province as it transported more than 100 passengers along the Congo River to the town of Bolomba, according to Taylor Nganzi, deputy provincial governor.

"Already 27 bodies of victims have been removed from the waters (and) transported to the morgue of the general hospital in Mbandaka," said Nganzi, adding that an investigation to find out the cause of the accident had begun.

The New Civil Society of Congo, a local civil society group, said 49 people died in the accident, which it said occurred after an engine failure. "Everything started to sink," Jean-Pierre Wangela, president of the group, told reporters.

The contradictory death tolls, which is common in such incidents in Congo, could not immediately be reconciled. (AP)



Journo appeal rejected: A journalist in Algeria targeted as part of a broader crackdown against pro-democracy protests will remain imprisoned after the country's Supreme Court rejected his appeals.

Defense attorneys for Ihsane El Kadi, the owner of a media company that oversaw Algeria's now-shuttered news site Maghreb Emergent and radio station Radio M, filed two appeals asking the court to overturn the journalist's sentence for taking foreign funds for his media outlets and "inciting acts susceptible to threaten state security."

El Kadi is one of hundreds of people associated with Algeria's pro-democracy movement who have faced criminal charges and imprisonment, including Mustapha Bendjama, another journalist. El Kadi's website and radio station emerged as key channels during the North African nation's 2019 Hirak protests.

In April, a court in Algiers gave him a 7-year sentence that included three years in prison and ordered his website and radio station shut down. The sentence was part of a growing list of criminal penalties given to journalists, reflecting the increasing difficulties they face throughout North Africa.

Khaled Drareni, Reporters Without Borders' North Africa representative, said

press freedoms had regressed in recent years throughout the region as journalists face imprisonment or fines as they try to do their jobs. (AP)



'Reinstate lawmakers': Zimbabwe's main opposition leader urged the Parliament speaker to reinstate 15 of his party's lawmakers, saying they were removed from their positions because of a fraudu-

lent letter.

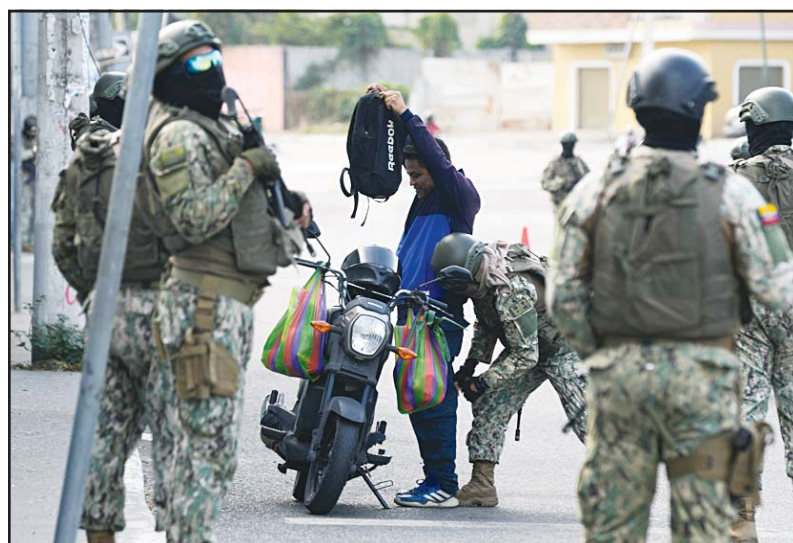
Opposition leader **Nelson Chamisa** said the lawmakers' removal was part of an attempt by the ruling ZANU-PF party "to silence us."

The issue has added to the political tension in the southern African nation since President **Emmerson Mnangagwa** won a second term and ZANU-PF retained its parliamentary majority in disputed elections in August. Chamisa rejected the results of the elections as a "blatant and gigantic fraud."

The lawmakers from Chamisa's Citizens Coalition for Change party were removed Tuesday after a man claiming to be the secretary-general of the CCC sent a letter to Speaker of Parliament Jacob Mudenda saying they were being withdrawn.

Chamisa told Mudenda the man who sent the letter had no authority in his party and was an impostor, and his letter should be disregarded. But Mudenda, an official from ZANU-PF, still removed the lawmakers and declared their seats vacant. That led to a protest in Parliament by other CCC lawmakers, who were ejected by police.

The CCC has said it will boycott parliamentary business until the 15 are reinstated, widening the post-election political cracks. Chamisa has also accused Mnangagwa and ZANU-PF of post-election intimidation and violence. (AP)



Soldiers frisk a man at a security check ahead of Sunday's run-off presidential election in Duran, Ecuador on Oct 13. (AP)

Turkiye eager to become gas, electricity, minerals ctr

Minister of Energy and Natural Resources of Türkiye Alparslan Bayraktar said that Türkiye was eager to become a center of natural gas, electricity, and minerals center for commerce.

This came in a statement by Bayraktar, transmitted by Anadolu Agency (AA), during his participation in the Russian energy week held in Moscow.

Bayraktar affirmed his intention to become such a facility especially via the Istanbul financial center, noting that efforts would continue

forward in this regard.

On the relations with Russia, the Turkish Minister said that relations with Moscow in the energy sector was exemplary, adding that such cooperation also extended in the nuclear energy domain, oil and its derivatives as well as the coal mining sector.

Cooperation in the natural gas field extended to over 40 years revealed Bayraktar, adding both countries were eager to continue cooperation in this domain. (KUNA)

IMF allocates another exec board seat to Africa

The IMF member countries voted on Saturday to expand the membership of Fund's Executive Board to 25 by giving Africa a third seat while keeping the voting quotas unchanged.

The 48th Meeting of the IMF Financial Committee (IMFC) decided also to boost funding for the developing and least developing countries, Chair of the Committee and Spain's Finance Minister Nadia Calvino said in a joint symposium with Managing Di-

rector Kristalina Georgieva.

On her part, Georgieva hailed today's vote, saying, "I will finish with what warmed my heart the most: uniform support for a third African chair on our executive board."

"That is so important for meetings that take place on African soil," Georgieva said, adding "Despite all the difficulties I can only praise our members for finding this pathway to solidarity on which hundreds of millions of people depend." (KUNA)

Market Movements

13-10-2023

Region	Change	Closing pts	Region	Change	Closing pts
PHILIPPINES - PSEI	+3.28	6,266.34	UK	-45.18	7,599.60
↑ JAPAN	-178.67	32,315.99	EUROPE	-62.11	4,136.12
			FTSE 100		
			Nikkei		
			Euro Stoxx 50		

Business

UK GDP m/m has shown a growth of 0.2% in Aug

Investors see end of US interest rate hike cycle

By National Bank of Kuwait

World

International Monetary Fund

The IMF and World Bank held an annual meeting in Marrakech on Tuesday where the divergence between country groups economic recovery was addressed, as well as the financial risks associated with "higher for longer" interest rates. The IMF sees that there is a higher probability for central banks to tame inflation without causing a recession in the global economy, and is now expecting global economic growth to slow down from 3.5% in 2022, to 3% in 2023, and to 2.9% in 2024. Meanwhile, global inflation is forecast to decline to 6.9% this year from 8.7% in 2022, and down to 5.85% in 2024. IMF chief Economist Pierre Olivier Gourinchas added it was too soon to tell how the conflict in the Middle East "could affect economic growth in the region and the rest of the world."

United States

Producer Price Index

US September PPI data was released on Wednesday, showing a higher than expected increase as final demand rose by 0.5% from the previous month, and 2.2% from the previous year, marking the third consecutive monthly increase. While the cost of gasoline increased by 5.4%, PPI excluding food and energy showed a 0.3% monthly increase, while core PPI was up 2.8% from the previous year. This news release came in line with a drop in the 2-year and 10-year treasury yields as investors seek safer investment options and expect a pause on further tightening policies.

FOMC Speakers

The FOMC meeting minutes and recent speeches by Fed and FOMC members emphasized the intent for Fed officials to keep rates unchanged for the time being as they forecast a slower pace of rate cuts to counter the stronger than expected economic activity. Fed Chair Jerome Powell stated that the primary driver for the decision of another 25bp rate hike would be dependent on the GDP growth, labor market conditions, and inflation, where GDP is currently expected to be at 2.1% for 2023,

Highlights

- Global inflation is forecast to decline to 6.9% this year from 8.7% in 2022.
- US September PPI data rose by 0.5% from August.
- FOMC members emphasized the intent for Fed officials to keep rates unchanged for the time being.
- US CPI y/y came in at 3.7%, unchanged from the previous reading.
- UK GDP m/m has shown a growth of 0.2% for August, substantially up from July's figure of -0.6%.
- The latest CPI data to come out of China shows that y/y inflation is at 0.0%, increasing worries of a possible recession.

and to 1.5% for 2024. Meanwhile, on Friday, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia President Patrick Harker said that "absent a stark turn in what I see in the data and hear from contacts... I believe that we are at the point where we can hold rates where they are." Additionally, Harker emphasized that "it will take some time for the full impact of the higher rates to be felt."

Consumer Price Index

The latest CPI y/y data released from the US shows that inflation has been unchanged from August, as September's figure came in at 3.7%. Economists believe that even though the latest numbers have been encouraging, especially when comparing inflation to covid levels, it is still going to be a while before inflation returns to normal levels. Gas prices rose by 2.1% in September, playing a key part in the latest inflation figure.

Core CPI on the other hand fell from 4.3% in August to 4.1% in September on an annual basis. The index for shelter was the largest contributor to the monthly all items increase, accounting for over half of the increase. Meanwhile, the indexes for used cars and trucks and for apparel were among those that decreased over the month.

Unemployment Claims

Unemployment claims came in at 209,000, unchanged

Rates - 15th October 2023

Currencies	Previous Week Levels				This Week's Expected Range		3-Month Forward
	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	
EUR	1.0561	1.0494	1.0639	1.0509	1.0400	1.0800	1.0560
GBP	1.2225	1.2120	1.2337	1.2141	1.2000	1.2400	1.2156
JPY	149.07	148.15	149.86	149.55	147.00	150.00	147.30
CHF	0.9100	0.8985	0.9123	0.9020	0.8900	0.9100	0.8934

from last week's figure. The labor market remains to be tight in the US, adding to the worries of Federal Reserve. Employment continues to remain robust and seems to be able to withstand any "trigger" deployed by the Fed. The ever so tight labor market is the main reason behind the "soft-landing" narrative, as it shows that a recession might be avoided.

UoM Consumer Sentiment

The latest data to come out from the University of Michigan shows that consumer sentiment in the US dropped to 63 in October from 68.1 in September, well below the expected 67.4 figure. The outlook of consumers on the US economy has become more negative, with the expectations index falling from 66.0 all the way to 60.7. Additionally, the one-year inflation outlook rose from 3.2% to 3.8%, while the five-year inflation outlook also rose from 2.8% to 3.0%

United Kingdom

Gross Domestic Product

Activity in the UK services sector continue to lift UK economic growth. GDP m/m has shown a growth of 0.2% for August, substantially up from July's figure of -0.6%. In the three months leading to August, GDP increased by 0.3%, showing growth in all sectors. The main driver

behind the increase in GDP for August was the services sector as its output rose by 0.4%. On the other hand, production output continues to fall in the UK. After dropping by 1.1% in July, production output dropped by 0.7% in August. Similarly, the construction sector also fell by 0.5% in August.

China

Consumer Price Index

Almost a year on from China's reopening post covid, the outlook does not seem any more positive, sending signals of worry to the global economy. The latest CPI data to come out of China shows that y/y inflation is at 0.0%. The world's second largest economy is still flat lining after it was initially hoped that the reopening of China would replenish the global economy. Moreover, China's trade activity has been trading lower with trade reports showing that imports and exports both fell for a fifth consecutive month. Despite expectations on China being downgraded, the economy continues to underperform, increasing fears that this might lead to a global recession.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti Dinar

USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30870.

What Google's 'antitrust trial' means for your search habits

WASHINGTON, Oct 15, (AP): If government regulators prevail against Google in the biggest U.S. antitrust trial in a quarter century, it's likely to unleash drastic changes that will undermine the dominance of a search engine that defines the internet for billions of people.

As the 10-week trial probing Google's business practices nears its midway point, it's still too early to tell if U.S. District Judge Amit Mehta will side with the Justice Department and try to handcuff one of the world's most dominant tech companies.

If Mehta rules that Google has been running an illegal monopoly in search, the punishment could open up new online avenues for consumers and businesses to explore in pursuit of information, entertainment and commerce.

"The judge can compel Google to open the floodgates so more startups and third-party competitors can put greater competitive pressure on Google, which will create higher quality online services," said Luther Lowe, senior vice president of public policy at Yelp. The online business review site has been one of Google's harshest critics while spending more than a decade railing against a strategy that favors its own services in search results.

Google's search engine earned its huge market share by almost instantaneously presenting people with helpful information culled from the billions of websites that have been indexed since former Stanford University graduate students Larry Page and Sergey Brin developed the technology during the late 1990s.

In addition to its technological wizardry, Google also pays billions of dollars each year to ensure its search engine is the default choice for answering queries entered in the world's most popular smartphones and web browsers.

These agreements don't preclude users from switching to a different search engine in their settings, but it's a tedious process that few people bother to navigate. This reality is why Google is willing to pay so much for the privileged position, according to the Justice Department.

Google's payments for preeminent search placement - including an estimated \$15 billion to \$20 billion per year to Apple alone - are at the head of the Justice Department's case, making it probable the judge would prohibit them if he rules against Google.

Should that happen, experts believe the most likely remedy in the U.S. would be a requirement for smartphones and web browsers to display a palette of different search engines during the setup process. That's something already being done in Europe, where all indications, so far, are that most people are still opting for Google.

That could be because they believe Google truly is the best search engine - as Google argues in their defense - or they just trust the brand more than rival options such as Microsoft's Bing or the privacy-focused DuckDuckGo.

Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella asserted Google has an almost hypnotic hold on users while testifying earlier this month during the trial.

"You get up in the morning, you brush your teeth and you search on Google," Nadella said. He then added that the only way to break the habit is by changing the default choice.

As long as a ruling doesn't exclude Google's rivals from paying to be the automatic search engine on smartphones and web browsers, Microsoft could buy the default position for Bing - an opportunity Nadella indicated he would seize.

"There's defaults - the only thing that matter in terms of changing search behavior," Nadella testified.

Florian Schaub, associate professor of information at the University of Michigan, believes the fairest outcome in the trial would be an across-the-board ban on all default agreements between two companies.

"The current environment is being shaped by an architecture that's designed by the big companies that control the space," Schaub said. "What the government can do is inject some neutralism into this and give consumers some actual choices. If people still choose to use Google, that is at least a consumer choice, which would better than having people stick to a default because they are conditioned to that default."

In his testimony during the trial, Apple executive Eddy Cue said the company has embraced Google as the preferred search engine on the iPhone and other products because it provides the best experience for its customers. That stance has raised speculation that if Apple is blocked from using Google as the default search engine on the iPhone, it might flex its muscle as the world's richest company to develop its own search technology.

However, a blanket ban on default search agreements that have been highly profitable for Apple and other companies such as wireless provider Verizon could trigger unintended consequences, such as raising prices on other popular products.

"If Google is no longer paying big bucks to Apple and other companies, they might raise the prices for their devices," said David Olson, an associate professor for the Boston College Law School who is following the antitrust trial. "I don't think they will be big, but we could see some price increases because Google has essentially been subsidizing the cost of devices like the iPhone."

Another offshoot of a ban on default search agreements is that Google still could have a dominant advantage in search if people continue to proactively choose it and the company would have billions of dollars more to spend in other areas that it once devoted to deals that it really didn't need at all.

"Google must think they getting a great benefit from those default agreements, but maybe they're really not worth that much," Olson said. "Maybe their cost/benefit analysis is off and they will wind up more money and just as much dominance. That would be ironic."

Although the trial is focused on Google's search engine, a government victory could have more sweeping consequences across the technology industry if Mehta decided all default settings are anti-competitive and outlaws all defaults in the settings.

Local banks see 68.8% 'drop' in public services sector financing

Total credit facilities for all sectors up

By Ahmad Fathi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff
KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: During the first eight months of 2023, local banks in Kuwait provided significantly less financing to the public services sector, with a sharp decrease of 68.8%, totaling 48 million dinars. This marks a substantial drop from 69.7 million dinars during the same period in 2022.

Notably, in August, financing for the public services sector was only about 100 thousand dinars, while there was no such financing provided by local banks in July. The decline in funding to the services sector coincides with a broader drop in new credit facilities provided to all sectors, falling by approximately 93.1 million dinars, or 0.6%, from 15.76 billion dinars in the first eight months of 2022 to 15.669 billion dinars during the same period in 2023.

However, there was an increase in total credit facilities for all sectors during August, surging by 3.2% or roughly 63.6 million dinars compared to July, reaching 2.012 billion dinars. In comparison to August 2022, this is a considerable increase from 1.354 billion dinars.

The cumulative balance of financing provided by local banks to the public services sector experienced

Experts 'underline' need for increased investment in Kuwait oil and gas sector

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: Statements made by the Secretary-General of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Haitham Al-Ghais, during the "ADIPEC" energy sector conference in Abu Dhabi, align with the recommendations of local oil experts. They emphasize the need for increased investment in Kuwait's oil and gas sector to boost production. These experts advocate for raising Kuwait's oil production from 2.8 million barrels per day to over 3 million barrels, with a long-term goal of reaching 4 million barrels per day by 2040. "Al-Hayat" gathered insights from these experts, including Dr. Ali Al-Hababi, former oil advisor, who stresses the importance of expanding factories that rely on oil derivatives and increasing Kuwait's share in OPEC to meet global oil demand. He notes that the era of oil remains

notable growth, rising by 11.8% or 33.8 million dinars since the start of 2023, amounting to 319.3 million dinars in August. On a monthly basis, this represents an 11.7% increase of 33.6 million dinars compared to July. However, on an annual basis, it decreased by 17.2%, equivalent to approximately 46.9 million dinars compared to August 2022.

The overall balance of total cash credit facilities provided by banks for all sectors experienced a slight decrease of 0.3%, amounting to 163.2 million dinars during the first eight months of 2023. It decreased by 0.06% or about 34.4 million dinars in August, compared to July. However, it increased by roughly 1.264 billion dinars compared to August 2022, demonstrating an an-

surpluses from higher oil prices to increase oil investments, particularly in petrochemical industries. He emphasizes Kuwait's right to demand an increased OPEC share but asserts that the Ministry of Oil and its subsidiaries should advocate for expanding drilling rigs and leveraging financial surpluses to enhance various industries.

Financial analyst Muhammad Ramadan insists that Kuwait should raise its OPEC production share to over 3.2 million barrels per day by the end of 2024, in line with the recent statements by the Oil Minister. He believes Kuwait's ability to produce 4 million barrels per day is achievable but requires substantial expansion of oil investments, similar to Saudi Arabia's significant investments in the oil sector. Ramadan finds the Minister of Oil's statement regarding a \$300 billion investment by 2040 modest and calls for more substantial oil investments.

Legal financial analyst Salem Al-Hamoud suggests utilizing financial

annual growth. The dominance of the government over the public services sector in Kuwait is a significant reason behind the decline in private sector investments in this field. The state's control over the majority of services, including education, healthcare, and social services, has resulted in reduced financing from banks to this sector.

Expand North Star 2023 kicks off in Dubai

DUBAI, Oct. 15, (PR Newswire): Expand North Star, the world's largest start-up show, opened in Dubai Harbour today (15 October), its largest ever edition featuring more than 1,800 start-ups from 100 countries looking to connect, fundraise and share experiences with global peers. Hosted by the Dubai Chamber of Digital Economy, Expand North Star takes place from 15-18 October 2023 at the

Middle East's biggest superyacht hub, where more than 1,000 investors from a combined total of over US\$ 1 trillion under management are ramping up the start-up investor momentum in one of the world's most dynamic and diverse scale-up ecosystems.

Expand North Star is the powerhouse start-up show of GITEX GLOBAL, the world largest tech event, which opens tomorrow (16

October) at the Dubai World Trade Centre (DWTC). The blockbuster duo, organised by DWTC, comprise a combined 2.7 million sq. ft of exhibition space, a 40 percent increase over the previous year, inviting the world to the year's most anticipated dialogue and deep scrutiny into a new tech paradigm experimenting in AI, the cloud, Web 3.0, and a sustainable digital economy.

Expand North Star 2023 fea-

tures AI Monday, showcasing fast-scaling AI startups; India Central, the biggest gathering of over 200+ Indian startups ever assembled outside of the country; as well as Asia Fast 100 and Africa Fast 100, the event's largest showcases that bring together 100 leading startups from each continent for nearly a week long program of conferences, networking, and dedicated pitch competitions.

BUSINESS

Advent Tech joins EU's Clean Transition Dialogue on Hydrogen

Advent Technologies Holdings, Inc. (NASDAQ: ADN) ("Advent" or the "Company"), an innovation-driven leader in the fuel cell and hydrogen technology sectors, actively participated in the inaugural Clean Transition Dialogue on Hydrogen organized by the European Commission in Brussels, Belgium last week.

This very significant event, which addressed the vital hydrogen sector's role in ensuring Europe's energy independence, brought together key figures from the EU and top executives from companies and

organizations engaged in the European hydrogen value chain. The event opened with an address by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and featured a keynote speech by Executive Vice President Maroš Šefčovič. Specialized thematic sessions followed, during which participants explored ideas and best practices to strengthen the industrial dimension of the European Green Deal and expedite the growth of the hydrogen sector throughout Europe.

Dr. Vasilis Gregoriou, the Chairman

and CEO of Advent Technologies, who also chairs the Coordination Group for the Important Project of Common European Interest ("IPCEI") in hydrogen technology, "Hy2Tech," had the opportunity to brief President von der Leyen on the progress of projects endorsed by the EU under IPCEI Hy2Tech. Dr. Gregoriou also addressed the length of time that it is taking to secure funding for Advent Technologies' EU-ratified Green HiPo project in Greece, reiterating the Company's resolute commitment to executing the project

efficiently.

The Green HiPo project is among the 41 initiatives under IPCEI Hy2Tech, collectively prepared and reported by fifteen Member States. Its implementation is a pivotal step towards fulfilling the EU's goal of producing 10 million tonnes of renewable hydrogen in Europe by 2030. In July 2022, the European Commission officially ratified Advent's Green HiPo project following a notification by the Greek State in June 2022, securing total funding of up to EUR 782.1 million.

The Green HiPo project focuses on the development, design, and production of HTPEM fuel cell systems and electrolyser systems for the production of power and green hydrogen, respectively. Located in Kozani, Greece, this project is expected to play a crucial role in transitioning the Western Macedonia region from a coal-based economy to a more sustainable economic model. A state-of-the-art facility in Kozani will serve as the production hub for fuel cells and electrolysers, contributing significantly to the region's economic development. (AP)

CEO says geopolitics and gov't inaction have led to 'dangerous time'

JPMorgan third-quarter profit jumps 35% from last year

NEW YORK, Oct 15, (AP) JPMorgan Chase's third-quarter profit soared 35% from last year, fueled by a rapid rise in interest rates, but the bank's CEO, Jamie Dimon, issued a sobering statement about the current state of world affairs and economic instability.

"This may be the most dangerous time the world has seen in decades," Dimon wrote in the bank's earnings statement.

Dimon laid out a laundry list of major issues: the Russia-Ukraine War, the new war between Israel and the Palestinians in Gaza, high levels of government debt and deficits, high inflation, as well as the tight labor market, where worker demands for increased wages have led to high-profile strikes in manufacturing and entertainment.

"While we hope for the best, we prepare (JPMorgan) for a broad range of outcomes so we can consistently deliver for clients no matter the environment," he said, adding that these conflicts could disrupt global trade once again similar to what happened in Ukraine in early 2022 or after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dimon often weighs in on global and economic issues that go beyond the scope of banking. He's often seen as the banker that Washington and global leaders can turn to for advice, solicited or unsolicited. His comments are likely to reverberate through Washington and Corporate America.

In a call with reporters, Dimon said he was in regular contact with his major

competitors on Wall Street regarding the geopolitical and economic situation.

Despite the uncertainties, the bank remains optimistic on both the U.S. consumer and the U.S. economy. Jeremy Barnum, the bank's chief financial officer, said the bank was not observing any "acute pain" in consumer's finances from higher interest rates so far, although it is seeing higher levels of delinquencies and charge offs in its credit card portfolios.

Profit

JPMorgan reported a profit of \$13.15 billion, up from \$9.74 billion in the same period a year earlier. On a per-share basis, profit rose to \$4.33 a share from \$3.12 a share a year earlier. The result beat analysts' forecasts, which called for a profit of \$3.95 a share, according to FactSet. JPMorgan shares rose 3.6% in late-morning trading on Wall Street.

The bank is no longer forecasting a recession for the U.S. economy, saying instead that the Federal Reserve's higher interest rate policy to combat inflation will successfully result in what has been referred to as a "soft landing," where inflation slows and economic activity cools, but economic growth doesn't contract.

JPMorgan is also currently integrating First Republic Bank into its operations, after buying that bank earlier this year when it failed during a banking panic in the spring. JPMorgan earned roughly a billion dollars in profit from

the First Republic division.

Total revenues in the July-September quarter were \$39.87 billion, up from \$32.7 billion a year ago. That was largely driven by higher interest rates, which has allowed JPMorgan to charge customers significantly higher amounts of interest on loans compared to a year ago.

Two other big Wall Street banks reported their results, which both showed Wall Street earning hefty profits as consumer kept spending and putting more and more expenses on their credit cards.

Wells Fargo & Co. said third-quarter profit rose to \$5.77 billion, or \$1.48 a share, from \$3.59 billion, or 86 cents a share a year ago. Earnings, adjusted for pretax gains, were \$1.39 per share, above analyst estimates of \$1.25 per share, according to Zacks Investment Research.

The California bank's net interest income rose 8% from a year ago to \$13.11 billion, although that figure was little changed from the second quarter. Wells Fargo set aside an additional \$333 million to guard against potential losses on commercial real estate loans. Its shares rose 3.7%.

Citigroup reported a profit of \$3.55 billion, up a modest 2% from a year earlier, or \$1.63 a share. The bank is currently going through a restructuring and winding down some less profitable parts of the financial conglomerate's business, which impacted the bank's profits this quarter. Citi shares gained 3.4%.

GECF against the misguided calls to halt investment in natural gas

Group recognizes the resilience of global gas supply

ALGIERS, Oct 15, (KUNA): The Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) welcomed the continued growth in natural gas demand, warning against calls for halting investment in the gas industry.

Wrapping up its 25th Ministerial Meeting in Malabo, the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, the Forum adopted a statement, emphasizing GECF's steadfast objective of supporting the permanent sovereignty of its member countries over their natural resources.

The member states have a sovereign right "to independently and sustainably plan, develop, manage, utilize, and conserve their natural gas resources for the benefit of their citizens," according to the document.

The GECF member countries have a prominent role in the energy landscape, collectively representing 70 percent of global natural gas reserves and 42 percent of marketed natural gas.

The Ministerial Meeting welcomed the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to the GECF as the newest member, and extended its best wishes to the leadership and the people of Mauritania as they embark on their journey as an LNG exporter.

Examining recent short-term gas market developments and immediate prospects, the Ministerial Meeting noted with satisfaction the continued growth in natural gas demand, and number of LNG importing countries, and despite a mild winter season, expanded renewable and nuclear energy output, and policy-driven demand reduction measures in some countries.

It also recognised the resilience of global gas supply, as well as the sustainable gas output of GECF member countries, which contributes to strengthening global energy security, the statement pointed out.

While prices have markedly softened in comparison of last year's summer levels, and volatility has declined, gas markets will nevertheless continue to be tight should the upcoming winter be colder than normal in the Northern Hemisphere.

The Ministers also noted that in the medium term, market tightness will begin to ease after 2025 when the majority of new LNG projects are set to be commissioned, with GECF member countries spearheading this expansion.

The Meeting took note of the updated version of the GECF Global Gas Outlook 2050, which foresees a sustained increase in primary energy con-

Mexico takes mining company to court

MEXICO CITY, Oct 15, (AP) Mexico is pursuing a criminal complaint against the country's biggest copper producer seeking to force a new remediation effort for a toxic mine spill in the northern state of Sonora nine years ago, an environmental official said Thursday.

The complaint, which was filed in August but announced only on Thursday, centers on remediation funding for eight polluted townships in Sonora.

Mining company Grupo Mexico closed its remediation fund in 2017, arguing that it had met legal requirements.

The government contends that was premature and is asking the courts to order a new fund be established.

"The people, the environment are still contaminated and there are sick people," said María Luisa Albores González, who heads the government's Environment Department.

Albores described the August 2014

sumption over the next three decades.

This growth is underpinned by a rising global population and a doubling of the global economy's size by 2050.

The Outlook projects a natural gas consumption increase by 36 percent and anticipates natural gas's contribution to the global energy mix from the current 23 percent to 26 percent by 2050.

This leadership position establishes it as the dominant energy source, surpassing coal, oil, and even renewables, despite the latter being the fastest-growing energy sector during this period.

The Meeting welcomed the efforts of GECF member countries in reducing gas flaring, methane emissions, and the carbon footprint of natural gas operations.

It also underscored the crucial role of technology in making natural gas even cleaner, such as carbon capture, utilisation, and storage, as well as low-carbon hydrogen and ammonia.

The Ministerial Meeting resoundingly affirmed its unwavering support for African nations in their resolute pursuit of eradicating energy poverty, recognising the profound urgency of this mission in the face of grim statistics.

It is a stark reality that over 600 million individuals in Africa still lack access to electricity, while more than 970 million do not have access to clean cooking.

Moreover, the Meeting underscored the pressing role of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN

SDGs) and the imperative of implementing them in a comprehensive and harmonious manner, considering their economic, social, and environmental dimensions.

This holistic approach resonates with the concerns highlighted in the recent UN SDG progress report, which regrettably reveals that nearly half of the targets are behind schedule.

The Meeting also asserted the essential role of investment and the necessity of fostering an environment that encourages unrestricted investment and promotes financial cooperation across continents.

It also emphasised the importance of ensuring equitable access to all technologies. These actions are instrumental in safeguarding the stability of both energy demand and supply, taking into account national circumstances, capabilities, and priorities.

In this context, the Meeting cautioned against misguided calls to halt natural gas investment.

"Such actions could lead to supply shortages, inflated prices, and a potential return to coal, as seen in 2022, undermining emission reduction objectives," the statement stressed.

Furthermore, the Meeting reiterated the crucial significance of safeguarding critical gas infrastructure, both on a national and international scale, to facilitate the seamless flow of natural gas.

It underscored the imperative of protecting these facilities from natural disasters, technological mishaps, man-made threats, and deliberate attacks.

metaverse and Web3.

The Dubai government also launched "Dubai AI", a generative AI-powered digital city concierge. The city-wide digital platform will offer comprehensive information and services, covering health, business, and education, to residents and visitors. It will transform government services, the assembly heard.

The assembly also heard how the global banking sector could benefit by as much as USD 400 billion from the boom in generative AI.

The global platform heard from experts from international tech corporations and consultancies. PwC said automation in the workplace is

emailed request for comment on Albores' announcement, but in a statement it issued last week in response to the government study it said its remediation efforts were successful and legally complete.

The government study "lacks any causal link with the event that occurred in 2014," the statement said. "They fail to point out other current sources of pollution," like farm runoff, sewage and other mining, it said.

Albores acknowledged Grupo Mexico's response speaking to reporters Thursday. "They say: 'Close the trust, because it has already complied.' It did not comply, it did not fulfill its objective," she said.

Activists in the affected area were cautiously optimistic after hearing about the government's legal action. "May there be justice for the people very soon," said Coralia Paulina Souza Pérez, communications coordinator for local advocacy group PODER.

The Meeting stated full support for the United Arab Emirates, the host for COP28, for its exemplary preparations for the forthcoming UN Climate Change Conference.

It stressed the need to highlight the significance of orderly, just, and equitable energy transitions that leave no one behind.

It reaffirmed the pivotal role that natural gas plays in meeting climate targets, eradicating energy poverty, and the attainment of UN SDGs.

Conferees approved Javad Owji, Minister of Petroleum of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as President of the 2024 Ministerial Meeting, and Rt. Hon. Ekperikpe Ekpo, Minister of State Petroleum Resources (Gas) of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, as Alternate President for the same period.

Furthermore, the Meeting appointed Sheikh Mishal bin Jabor Al-Thani, the Executive Board member from the State of Qatar as the Executive Board Chairman for 2024, and Agustín Mb Okomo, the Executive Board member from the Republic of Equatorial Guinea as the Alternate Chairman of the Executive Board for the same period.

The meeting, chaired by Antonio Oburu Ondo, Minister of Mines and Hydrocarbons of Equatorial Guinea, celebrated GECF's silver jubilee

It gathered energy ministers and senior officials from member countries Algeria, Bolivia, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Iran, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, Russia, Trinidad and Tobago, UAE, and Venezuela.

The Conversation

2 energy experts explain

What's the 'social cost of carbon'?

By Jim Krane, Rice University and Mark Finley, Rice University

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

□ □ □

When a power plant runs on coal or natural gas, the greenhouse gases it releases cause harm - but the power company isn't paying for the damage.

Instead, the costs show up in the billions of tax dollars spent each year to deal with the effects of climate change, such as fighting wildfires and protecting communities from floods, and in rising insurance costs.

This damage is what economists call a "negative externality." It is a cost to society, including to future generations, that is not covered by the price people pay for fossil fuels and other activities that emit greenhouse gases, like agriculture.

To try to account for some of the damage, federal policymakers use what's known as a "social cost of carbon."

The social cost of carbon, a dollar figure per ton of carbon dioxide released, is factored into the costs and benefits of proposed regulations and purchasing decisions, such as whether the Postal Service should buy electric- or gasoline-powered trucks, or where to set emissions standards for coal-fired power plants.

That extra social cost can tip the scales for whether a regulation's costs appear to outweigh its benefits.

The Trump administration slashed the social cost to between \$1 and \$7 per metric ton of carbon dioxide - low enough that the administration could justify rolling back EPA regulations on power plant emissions and vehicle fuel efficiency.

The Biden administration temporarily raised it to \$51, close to its pre-Trump level, and has been preparing to finalize a new social cost that might encourage regulators to push for emissions cuts in everything from agriculture to transportation to manufacturing.

One of Joe Biden's first actions as president was to reverse the Trump administration's bargain-basement accounting of the "social cost." The Biden administration returned it to the Obama-era level, adjusted for inflation, by setting an interim social cost at \$51 per metric ton of carbon dioxide that would rise over time.

If that were a carbon tax paid by consumers, it would raise gasoline by about 50 cents per gallon.

But the social cost of carbon has no direct effect on the price of gasoline, electricity, or emissions-intensive goods like steel. Instead, it influences purchasing and investments by the government, and indirectly, by private companies and consumers.

A higher social cost of carbon signals to companies that the government sees big benefits to cutting greenhouse gas emissions. Figuring in damage from emissions also helps it justify investments in green technology.

For instance, the U.S. Postal Service asked Congress in 2022 to approve \$11.3 billion for a new fleet of gasoline-powered mail delivery

trucks. Those vehicles would burn through 110 million gallons of gasoline a year. At \$51 per ton of emitted carbon, that purchase implies a social cost of \$1.1 billion over 20 years. Incorporating such costs might push the government to consider including electric vehicles in the future postal service fleet.

Currently, economists calculate the social cost by using integrated assessment models that bring together long-term projections for population, economic growth and greenhouse gas emissions. These models use emissions scenarios to estimate future climate change, and then calculate the effects on the country's - and the world's - GDP, and they can vary widely depending on the assumptions used.

For example, damage estimates for 2100 produced by the three models currently used in the government's cost-setting process range from \$80 to \$290 per ton. The Biden administration set the interim social cost to rise to \$85 by 2050 to account for greater impact of climate change over time.

Using models to produce such estimates have become a routine part of policymaking, but they are also massively uncertain.

The Trump administration's estimate was lower for two reasons: It accounted for climate damage only within U.S. borders; and the administration placed a lower value on future costs by setting a discount rate of 7%, more than double the 3% used by Obama and Biden. Economists use different rates to "discount" future benefits versus the cost we pay today to get there. A high discount rate on climate means we put a lower value on damages that occur in the future.

Unsurprisingly, discount rates are contentious. New York state uses a 2% discount rate to produce its current social cost of carbon of \$125 per ton. Some analysts argue for a 0% discount rate because anything higher places a lower value on costs borne by future generations.

Several Republican state attorneys general sued to try to block Biden's interim increase, and a federal judge in Louisiana agreed with their argument that global damages could not be considered in social costs tailored for U.S. regulations. The judge issued an injunction blocking Biden's interim increase. But an appeals court, allowing the higher social cost of carbon to again be used while the ruling was appealed, and the U.S. Supreme Court in May 2022 declined to lift the stay. A similar lawsuit in Missouri was dismissed, and the Supreme Court declined to review it.

Some scholars debate whether a social cost of carbon should be used at all.

The United Kingdom uses a "cost effectiveness analysis" instead to determine the value of carbon removal. That method uses a target - net-zero emissions - and calculates the cheapest route to get there. Some prominent scholars are recommending the U.S. adopt the U.K. approach, while others object.

There are other ways to account for the costs of climate change. (AP)

UAE calls for global consensus on AI governance

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates, Oct 15, (Business Wire): The UAE's AI minister on Wednesday urged countries to come to a consensus on AI governance sooner than it came to the Paris Agreement, which took years to take shape and come into force.

His Excellency Omar Al Olama, UAE Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy & Remote Work Applications, said at the Dubai Assembly for Generative AI that countries need a fresh approach to governing AI.

"I think the current global discussion on AI governance is a non-starter. Instead of attempting to govern the technology, we can govern the

use cases," he said.

During the assembly - which witnessed over 2000 attendees coming from big tech companies and consultancies such as Microsoft, Deloitte, PwC, IBM - Dubai Future Foundation launched the Dubai Generative AI Alliance, a new alliance of tech companies, to help Dubai accelerate the adoption of emerging technologies and build one of the world's most advanced and effective tech-enabled governments.

Khalfan Belhouli, CEO of DFF, called on companies and innovators to join the alliance, which will focus on developing innovative technology pilots by leveraging AI, the

Iranian film director and wife found stabbed to death at home

TEHRAN, Iran, Oct. 15, (AP) — Noted Iranian film director Dariush Mehrjui and his wife were stabbed to death in their home by an unknown assailant, state media reported Sunday.

The official IRNA news agency quoted Hossein Fazeli, a judiciary official, as saying that Mehrjui and his wife, Vahideh Mohammadifar, were discovered dead with knife wounds in their necks.

Fazeli said the director's daughter, Mona Mehrjui, found the bodies when she went to visit her father Saturday night at the home in a suburb about 30 kilometers (19 miles) west of the capital, Tehran.

The report said authorities were investigating and gave no speculation on a motive, though the wife had complained about a knife threat on social media in recent weeks.

Mehrjui, 83, was known as cofounder of Iran's film new wave in the early 1970s that mainly focused on realism. He received many awards, including a Silver Hugo from the Chicago International Film Festival in 1998 and a Golden Seashell at the San Sebastián International Film Festival 1993.

Mehrjui studied in the cinema program at the University of California, Los Angeles in the early 1960s.

Piper Laurie, the strong-willed, Oscar-nominated actor who performed in acclaimed roles despite at one point abandoning acting altogether in search of a "more meaningful" life, died early Saturday at her home in Los Angeles. She was 91.

Laurie died of old age, her manager, Marion Rosenberg, told The Associated Press via email, adding that she was "a superb talent and a

wonderful human being."

Laurie arrived in Hollywood in 1949 as Rosetta Jacobs and was quickly given a contract with Universal-International, a new name that she hated and a string of starring roles with Ronald Reagan, Rock Hudson and Tony Curtis, among others.

She went on to receive Academy Award nominations for three distinct films: The 1961 poolroom drama "The Hustler"; the film version of Stephen King's horror classic "Carrie," in 1976; and the romantic drama "Children of a Lesser God," in 1986. She also appeared in several acclaimed roles on television and the stage, including in David Lynch's "Twin Peaks" in the 1990s as the villainous Catherine Martell.

Debut

Laurie made her debut at 17 in "Louisa," playing Reagan's daughter, then appeared opposite Francis the talking mule in "Francis Goes to the Races." She made several films with Curtis, whom she once dated, including "The Prince Who Was a Thief," "No Room for the Groom," "Son of Ali Baba" and "Johnny Dark."

Fed up, she walked out on her \$2,000-a-week contract in 1955, vowing she wouldn't work again unless offered a decent part.

She moved to New York, where she found the roles she was seeking in theater and live television drama.

Performances in "Days of Wine and Roses," "The Deaf Heart" and "The Road That Led After" brought her Emmy nominations and paved the way for a return to films, including in an acclaimed role as Paul Newman's troubled girlfriend in "The Hustler."

For many years after, Laurie turned her back on acting. She married

film critic Joseph Morgenstern, welcomed a daughter, Ann Grace, and moved to a farmhouse in Woodstock, New York. She said later that the Civil Rights Movement and the Vietnam War had influenced her decision to make the change.

"I was disenchanted and looking for an existence more meaningful for me," she recalled, adding that she never regretted the move.

"My life was full," she said in 1990. "I always liked using my hands, and I always painted."

Laurie also became noted as a baker, with her recipes appearing in The New York Times.

Her only performing during that time came when she joined a dozen musicians and actors in a tour of college campuses to support Sen. George McGovern's 1972 presidential bid.

Laurie was finally ready to return to acting when director Brian De Palma called her about playing the deranged mother of Sissy Spacek in "Carrie."

At first she felt the script was junk, and then she decided she should play the role for laughs. Not until De Palma chided her for putting a comedic turn on a scene did she realize he meant the film to be a thriller.

"Carrie" became a box-office smash, launching a craze for movies about teenagers in jeopardy, and Spacek and Laurie were both nominated for Academy Awards.

Her desire to act rekindled, Laurie resumed a busy career that spanned decades. On television, she appeared in such series as "Matlock," "Murder, She Wrote" and "Frasier" and played George Clooney's mother on "ER."

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This image released by Neon shows Sandra Hüller in a scene from 'Anatomy of a Fall.' (AP)

Film

Justine Triet's film explores doubt and ambiguity

Hüller's burden of proof in 'Anatomy'

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 15, (AP) — Since Justine Triet's "Anatomy of a Fall" premiered at the Cannes Film Festival where it won the Palme d'Or, Sandra Hüller has been dogged by a question: Did she do it?

In "Anatomy of a Fall," Hüller plays a well-known novelist, also named Sandra, whose husband (Samuel Theis) is found dead outside their chalet in the French Alps after plunging from a top-floor window. Did he fall, or was he pushed?

There are no witnesses except, possibly, a border collie named Snoop. The couple's 11-year-old son is blind. Authorities charge Sandra with murder. When the trial commences, "Anatomy of a Fall" twists a legal procedural into a thorny marital drama, putting the couple's tumultuous relationship — all the fights, resentments and affairs — on the stand.

It is a staggering showcase for the German actor Hüller's cunning intelligence and rigorous intensity as a performer. Is Sandra's frank testimony convincing because she's innocent or is it that Hüller is just that good?

"I answered the questions that were posed to her in the most honest way that was possible, but I don't know the complete truth," Hüller said in a recent interview. "I decided to believe her. I decided to play her as someone who's telling the truth, even if it's just that she believes she's telling the truth. At the same time, I wanted her to be someone whom I could think capable of doing such a thing."

"She should be a dangerous person, in a way," Hüller added. "Not dangerous in a way of threatening people but dangerous in the way of: You don't mess around with her."

"Anatomy of a Fall," which Neon releases in theaters Friday, has been widely hailed as one of the finest films of the year. But by an even wider margin, no film this year has left more moviegoers turning to each other afterward to ask: "So, what do you think?"

Triet, who wrote the film with her husband Arthur Harari ("It's OK, he's alive," she chipperly notes), wanted to use the conventions of a courtroom drama — with its expert witnesses and cross-examinations — to dig into the subjective nature of relationships.

"For many years I was tormented by the ways in which relationships I had been in, whether with men or in friendships, could be so deformed in time by the

telling of them," Triet says. "And this indignation of: 'No, it was real.'"

"In some ways, maybe that's why I make films at all, so that we create an object that, once it's made, doesn't move anymore," she adds.

"Anatomy of a Fall" is getting a major awards push from Neon in multiple categories, including best picture, though not in the one category it was expected to be favored. While Palme d'Or winners are typically chosen as a country's best international film submission, France picked Tran Anh Hung's also celebrated "The Taste of Things."

In discussing the snub for "Anatomy of a Fall," already a hit in French cinemas, some noted the fiery speech Triet gave when accepting the Palme d'Or in Cannes. Triet spoke out against what she called government repression of pension reform protests in France and "the commodification of culture" under President Emmanuel Macron.

"I don't know exactly what happened," Triet, who became just the third female filmmaker to win the Palme. "But I don't want to be the bad loser. I think now it's OK for Tran Anh Hung. Of course, at the beginning we were disappointed but now it's OK. We're staying in the race."

Breakthrough

That's especially true in the case of Hüller, the 45-year-old who, after an international breakthrough in Maren Ade's 2016 comedy "Toni Erdmann," has emerged as one of Europe's top actors. She also stars this fall in Jonathan Glazer's acclaimed Holocaust drama "The Zone of Interest" as Hedwig Höss, wife of the Nazi commandant Rudolf Höss. The double whammy of the two films prompted Hüller to be declared "the Queen of Cannes" this May.

But if the spotlight is getting brighter on Hüller, it was clear on her recent trip to the New York Film Festival, with family in tow, that she has only so much interest in it. Hüller was most comfortable praising her fellow actors or talking about weekend plans with her kids. When Hüller wraps a film, she's typically content to let the character go.

"At one point, it's really enough," she says, smiling.

"I really enjoy the lower energy of life that normally goes on around me."

Hüller's entry into a role is just as organic. For her, even the phrase "getting into character" feels too clinical for a process she describes as instinctive and subconscious.

"Whenever I connect with an idea or a person or a story — and that's something I can't control — my perception of the world changes a little bit," says Hüller. "I tend to see things I didn't before that are connected to the person or the story. It's kind of a psychological but dangerous thing."

In the case of "Anatomy of a Fall," Hüller knew immediately after reading the script that she wanted to play Sandra. Triet, whose 2019 film "Sibyl" co-starred Hüller, had written it with her in mind. But Triet refused to tell her whether the character had committed murder or not.

"I decided precisely in my head. But it's a secret," says Triet. "For me, the most important thing to say is: 'You need to play it like an innocent.' It was important for me that the movie would bring a spectator to think: She might have killed him. She might have pushed him to suicide. She might be responsible without having actually killed him."

Triet has said she'll share her version of the story in 10 years. But whatever the answer, "Anatomy of a Fall" is about accepting and living with doubt. The couple's son is ultimately forced to decide about his mother for himself.

"You have to decide," says Triet. "You have to have a position before knowing something in full."

While Hüller felt deep affection, even a protectiveness for Sandra, her relationship with Hedwig in "The Zone of Interest" was radically different. Hüller had previously never wanted to play a Nazi but she was coaxed into doing it for Glazer's film, a formalist portrait of a family living alongside Auschwitz, seemingly unperturbed by the horror Rudolf oversees next door.

"The more I knew about her — which wasn't very much — the less respect I had for her," says Hüller. "I decided not to give her any empathy or any of my normal pool of feelings. Just to go on without it, to try to show somebody who's just doing her thing and doesn't care."

de los Deportes. (AP)

NEW YORK: LeVar Burton will host next month's National Book Awards ceremony, replacing the original choice, Drew Barrymore, who was dropped because of her decision to resume taping of her show during the writers'



Madonna



Burton

strike.

The National Book Foundation, which presents the awards, announced Burton's selection Friday. Burton, a longtime advocate for reading known for his roles in the TV miniseries "Roots" and in "Star Trek: The Next Generation," also hosted the ceremony in 2019.

"It's an honor to return as host of the biggest night for books, especially in a moment when the freedom to read is at risk and literature both needs and deserves our recognition and support," said Burton, who earlier this month served as honorary chair of Banned Books Week, when stores and libraries highlight works that

have been challenged or censored. The National Book Awards will take place at Cipriani Wall Street in New York City on Nov. 15, when winners will be announced in five competitive categories. Oprah Winfrey will be a guest speaker and poet Rita Dove will receive a lifetime achievement medal. (AP)

People & Places

Music

New artistic era

Offset returns to rap roots with 'Set It Off'

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 15, (AP) — On Friday, Offset released his ambitious second solo album, "Set It Off." In doing so, he also announced a new era.

"My goal changed," the Migos rapper told The Associated Press over Zoom.

It's been four years since Offset released his debut solo album, "Father of 4."

"'Father of 4' was giving you the inside of me, but I wasn't really focused on doing solo stuff," he says. "So, for this one, it was just a process of me learning for myself and pushing myself more as an artist."



Offset

And specifically, as a soloist. Last year, rumors circled around a second album tentatively titled, "Blame It on Set," that would be released in late 2022, seemingly delayed by the fatal shooting of his Migos bandmate and cousin, Takeoff, late last year.

Offset says some of the songs written in that time made it onto "Set It Off" — but the title was just gossip.

"'Blame It on Set' is just a song. People just, like, ran with that narrative," he says. "I had not put no album name out because during that time I ain't have an album name figured out, to be honest." He's grateful to have waited to put out his sophomore release.

"Some of the songs I made within them two years is, like, magical," he says. "I feel like with this album you can just ride it through, top to bottom, one to 21."

In that way, he thinks of "Set It Off" as possessing a kind of theatricality.

"Instead of it being a movie, it's a series," he says. And one with a lot of players: His wife, Cardi B, drops bars on two tracks, "Jealousy" and "Freaky." Elsewhere, Latto, Young Naddy, Chlöe, Mango Foo, Don Toliver, Future and Travis Scott feature.

Entertainer

That may very well be the result of a mindset change. Offset is interested in being a well-rounded entertainer these days, like his hero Michael Jackson. The influence is apparent on the album's cover, where Offset wears a single white glove, and certainly in the MJ parodies throughout the music video for his single, "FAN." But there are other connections, too: MJ left The Jackson 5 to embark on a solo journey, like Offset's work in a world after Migos.

"Creativity - I wanted to push myself there," Offset says. "And I'm in my Mike bag right now."

He's also acutely aware of the power of strong visuals, one of the many things Jackson mastered, and how that extends to content creation in the modern era.

"I don't want to put myself in a box. I would challenge myself - that's why you see me pulling out choreo, just taking it to the next level of entertainment without being scared of thinking about what people are going to think," he says.

That multimedia approach is also one of the reasons why the video of his interview with social media personality Bobbi Althoff went viral. She's known for a particularly dry, uninformed, sometimes combative hosting style, which he met with similar humor. He now calls the interaction a "win-win," for both, and for promoting his album.

"People fell in love with my personality and my jokey side," he says of the clip. "We needed that laugh."

Online shenanigans aside - On "Set It Off," Offset offers 21 tracks of real rap records - a change of pace in a genre currently led by a trend of rappers who, well, sing.

"I wanted to bring rap back, not so much melody," he says. "Metro (Boomin) was telling me, 'Hey, bro, people wanna hear you rap, dog. The singing s-- is cool, but people want to hear you, specifically, rap.'" He took the advice to heart.

As for Migos, the familial group that started it all, Offset considers his performance of "Bad and Boujee" with Quavo at the 2023 BET Awards, celebrating 50 years of hip-hop, as "a great way to close that chapter."

He also doesn't consider "Set It Off" to be an homage to his late cousin, either, unlike Quavo's solo record "Rocket Power" released in August. That album featured posthumous verses from Takeoff.

"I'm going hard for him, but this is not a tribute," Offset says. "Me, personally, I don't want to do that because it is reminding me, he's gone."

Though references to Takeoff do appear on a few tracks, like "Say My Grace" with Travis Scott and "Night Vision," where Offset raps, "Thinking 'bout spinnin' bout my brotha Take that s-- been eating me (crazy) / I can't get no peace when I be sleep be seeing."

He pauses: "I'd rather just have his legacy keep going. Take is that guy, like, I don't want to lean on that."

And on "Set It Off," he doesn't - instead, Offset reintroduces himself.

Also:

LOS ANGELES: What was the music world before Cheryl "Salt" James, Sandra "Pepa" Denton and Deidra "DJ Spinderella" Roper became Salt-N-Pepa? Tracking their legacy is much simpler: Salt-N-Pepa's no-nonsense femininity and agency, coupled with their activism and unabashed sexuality, opened the floodgates for all that followed. So, this year, celebrating both 50 years of hip-hop and the 30th anniversary of Salt-N-Pepa's famed fourth studio album, Universal Music Group is re-releasing "Very Necessary" with bonus tracks, alternative mixes and beyond. Streaming this one is a no brainer - and for the record, "Shoop" hits every bit as hard in 2023 as it did in 1993.



Tanya Tucker performs during the second weekend of the Austin City Limits Music Festival on Saturday, Oct. 14, at Zilker Park in Austin, Texas. (AP)

Art

Health issues slows 'Casino' actress' acting career

Stone turns to art to express herself

NEW YORK, Oct. 15, (AP) — During the pandemic, a friend sent Sharon Stone a paint-by-numbers set to keep her busy, a gesture that has led to a new path of creative expression for the actor.

Known best for roles in films like "Casino" and "Basic Instinct," Stone has discovered a love of painting and launched a show of her giant canvases at the C. Parker Gallery in Greenwich, Connecticut, this week.

Stone got frustrated staying within the lines and colors in that first paint set and started creating her own abstract paintings using acrylic on canvas.

Over the past several years she has carved out studio space in her home where she works both inside and outside and says she loves it because she always needs to be moving.

The show, titled "Welcome to My Garden" is only her second outing and features 19 of her brightly colored works. Stone, 65 and the mother to three sons, recently spoke with The Associated Press about artistic inspiration, battling health issues and whether she will act again. Answers have been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: How did you get inspired to be an artist?

Stone: Museums allowed me to come when they were closed so I went to museums all over the world on Mondays. That was unbelievable. I lived all over the world and worked all over the world, both in my life as an actress and my life as a peace activist and human rights activist. So I've seen so much extraordinary art that it's almost like I got this sort of side degree in art and art

history, which has just been magnificent. And that has been unbelievably inspiring to me.

AP: This passion for painting started with paint-by-numbers and then went quickly to 6-by-8-foot canvases?

Stone: I love the bigs. It just sends me to paint on a big canvas. If I could get bigger ones... (laughs.) I love painting in the big scale and it's opened something in me. It's moved something inside of me. My first show was called "Shedding" because I started realizing I was shedding a lot of oppression. A lot of 'You have to do it this way. You're allowed to be creative, but it has to be like this.'

AP: How do you know when a painting is finished?

Stone: That's the biggest discipline. Because in the beginning, you can't stop. Because you never feel like, 'That's it.' When this stuff was being wrapped up for this show, I put it all outside so I can see everything, all together. And then I was running around with this pallet. 'Oh! Oh, my gosh! (gestures paint strokes) But then I was like, 'You got to cool it.' Because you can destroy everything, and you can just ruin your art if you don't stop. You can go past a point of no return.

AP: How do you feel when you're painting?

Stone: I feel valuable. Disciplined. I like work. And I like purpose. Art is purposeful. Art is greatly purposeful to me. And we do know that when we teach young people art, there is less recidivism in the prison system, and yet we're taking art out of schools.

AP: Do you still want to act?

Stone: I don't get much work as an actress. And the system hasn't really supported me. I had a massive stroke when I was 41 and I walked away alive. I had about a 1-to-5% chance of survival. Everyone thought I was going to die. So many, many, many bad things happened to me because people presumed that I was dead. My bank account somehow went to zero while I was in the hospital, my money disappeared. I lost custody of my child. My career ended. All these things happened. I have a brain seizure condition that's very serious. And I tried to hide that for many years because I wanted to make my way back in the business. And if you have a disability, that doesn't really work in my industry. And so I hid in my condition for many, many, many years. And that's who I am. I'm a woman with a brain seizure condition. I have a disability, and painting has helped me not have the anxiety I had. I was just so anxious... that I wasn't going to be OK and I couldn't be accepted. And I was able to shed all that fear and trauma that I wouldn't be accepted, I wouldn't be able to work in my community. And you know what? They didn't really want me anyway. They weren't going to let me back in and I'm OK with that.

AP: You paint almost every day, what motivates you?

Stone: I love it so much and I love that it brings so much joy to people. It just does. It brings such pleasure. And I love when people come to the studio and they're like, 'Wow — we didn't know!'



Actress Piper Laurie arrives at the Women in Film Crystal Lucy Awards, Friday June 12, 2009, in Los Angeles. Laurie, the strong-willed, Oscar-nominated actor who performed in acclaimed roles despite at one point abandoning acting altogether in search of a 'more meaningful' life, died early Saturday, Oct. 14, at her home in Los Angeles. She was 91. (AP) — Details Page 11



Wallace



Crow

Variety

CHILlicothe, Ohio: For 400 years, Indigenous North Americans flocked to a group of ceremonial sites in what is present-day Ohio to celebrate their culture and honor their dead. On Saturday, the sheer magnitude of the ancient Hopewell culture's reach was lifted up as an enticement to a new set of visitors from around the world.

"We stand upon the shoulders of geniuses, uncommon geniuses who have gone before us. That's what we are here about today," Chief Glenn Wallace, of the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, told a crowd gathered at the Hopewell Culture National Historical Park to dedicate eight sites there and elsewhere in southern Ohio that became UNESCO World Heritage sites last month.

She said the honor means that the world now knows of the genius of the Native Americans, whom the 84-year-old grew up seeing histories, textbooks and popular media call "savages."

Wallace commended the innumerable tribal figures, government officials and local advocates who made the designation possible, including late author, teacher and local park ranger Bruce Lombardo, who once said, "If Julius Caesar had brought a delegation to North America, they would have gone to Chillicothe."

"That means that this place was the center of North America, the center of culture, the center of happenings, the center for Native Americans, the center for religion, the center for spirituality, the center for love, the center for peace," Wallace said. "Here, in Chillicothe. And that is what Chillicothe represents today."

The massive Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks - described as "part cathedral, part cemetery and part astronomical observatory" - comprise ancient sites spread across 90 miles (150 kilometers) south and east of Columbus, including one located on the grounds of a private golf course and country club. The designation puts the network of mounds and earthen structures in the same category as wonders of the world including

Greece's Acropolis, Peru's Machu Picchu and the Great Wall of China.

The presence of materials such as obsidian, mica, seashells and shark teeth made clear to archaeologists that ceremonies held at the sites some 2,000 to 1,600 years ago attracted Indigenous peoples from across the continent. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: On Dec. 1, A&M/UMe will release Sheryl Crow's career-making major-label debut album, August 1993's Tuesday Night Music Club, on vinyl as part of the ongoing celebration of the album's 30th Anniversary. Propelled by the play-

fully descriptive Grammy-winning No. 2 hit single "All I Wanna Do," Tuesday Night Music Club has also been certified as 7x platinum in the United States, and it is Crow's best-selling album to date.

Tuesday Night Music Club's was not actually released on vinyl upon the album's initial 1993 release. But now, this highly influential, best-selling, 11-song album properly appears as it should as a 140-gram black and also a beautiful 140-gram limited-edition sea blue vinyl with white marbling. The new LLP set also comes in a gatefold sleeve. Bernie Grundman, who originally mastered Tuesday Night Music Club, recently used the original 1/2 inch

flat master tape to create a new master for this special LLP edition. He then cut the lacquers for it himself at Bernie Grundman Mastering in Los Angeles. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: A historic recording of "Get Up, Stand Up," one of Bob Marley's best-loved and most powerful songs, recorded live at the Wailers' legendary performance at the Sundown Theatre in the village of Edmonton, North London, is available on his YouTube page from Friday, Oct. 13. This historic recording was previously only available as a bootleg. "Get Up, Stand Up" is from The Wailers' last album together, "Burnin'," which also celebrates its 50th anniversary on Oct. 19. It is also believed that both "Burnin'" & "Catch A Fire" were recorded at the legendary Harry J's in Kingston at the beginning of 1973.

A brand-new merchandise suite will also be launched on Friday, which will include an exclusive print by Arthur Gorson, who spent two weeks in Jamaica shooting pictures of Bob around the time this seminal album was recorded. The special 50th Anniversary Reissue of "Catch A Fire," Marley's first album for Island Records, will be released on Nov. 3.

A hugely anticipated new film, Bob Marley: One Love, celebrating the life and music of an icon who inspired generations through his message of love and unity, is in theatres on January 12, 2024. Produced by Ziggy Marley, Cedella Marley, and Rita Marley, and with Stephen Marley as the music supervisor, the film tells the inspirational story of how Bob overcame huge adversity to become one of the world's most revered musical and cultural giants through the power and beauty of his revolutionary music. Produced in partnership with the Marley family, the film stars Kingsley Ben-Adir as Bob and Lashana Lynch as his wife, Rita. (AP)



Courage Award recipient Sharon Stone poses at 'An Unforgettable Evening,' benefiting the Women's Cancer Research Fund, in Beverly Hills, Calif., on March 16, 2023. Stone's collection of paintings are on view through Dec. 3 at the C. Parker Gallery in Greenwich, Conn. (AP)

HEALTH/SCIENCE



Some photos from the 'Your Health is Your Capital' campaign held in the Mubarakiya Market to raise awareness about breast cancer.

KUNA photos

'Early detection can improve recovery rates by 30%'

Cancer awareness contributes to one-third of cure rate: CAN chairman

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15, (KUNA): Dr. Khaled Al-Saleh, Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Cancer Aware Nation (CAN), emphasized the critical role of awareness in cancer prevention. He stated that awareness contributes to approximately one-third of the cure rate for cancer, with early detection increasing the chances of recovery by up to 30%. Speaking at a festival held in Mubarakiya Market as part of the "Your Health is Your Capital" campaign to raise awareness about breast cancer, Al-Saleh expressed the campaign's dedication to achieving the best results in the fields of awareness and early detection. He highlighted the importance of cooperation and experience-sharing to achieve integration and reach all segments of society.

Al-Saleh noted CAN's collaboration with Gulf associations affiliated with the Gulf Federation for Cancer Control. He also acknowledged the challenges posed by current events in Gaza, particularly in providing treatment for cancer patients. The Patient Relief Fund Association in Gaza expressed willingness to cooperate and extend immediate assistance, but it was hindered by the ongoing blockade.

Dr. Hessa Al-Shaheen, a board member and initiative leader, stressed the significance of partners' support for educational programs promoting women's health. She underscored the importance of prevention and physical activity appropriate for all age groups, emphasizing CAN's efforts in

organizing teams for both men and women.

Dr. Mona Al-Qattan, Secretary of the Women's Voluntary Society for Community Development, emphasized her organization's commitment to raising awareness about cancer. She stressed the importance of providing detection and examination services to enhance recovery rates. She cited World Health Organization statistics indicating a 40% reduction in death rates between the 1980s and 2020.

Al-Qattan highlighted the global impact of breast cancer, with 1.83 million new cases and 458,000 deaths annually. She also pointed out the risks associated with obesity and the campaign's focus on raising awareness about its dangers,

urging the maintenance of a balanced diet.

Majid Mohammed, Executive of Advocacy and Scientific Affairs at the Friends of Cancer Patients Society in Sharjah, conveyed support from participating Gulf countries for the Federation's efforts. He emphasized the importance of joint work in health awareness, providing care, and supporting cancer patients and their families. Mohammed recognized cancer as a significant health challenge in Gulf societies and called for intensified awareness programs and cooperation to reduce the burden of the disease.

Overall, the festival highlighted the dedication to raising awareness, promoting early detection, and improving the quality of care for cancer patients in the Gulf region.

The Conversation

New treatment option

Helping liver to 'regenerate' itself offers hope to patients with end-stage disease

By Satdarshan (Paul) Singh Monga
University of Pittsburgh

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

The liver is known for its ability to regenerate. It can completely regrow itself even after two-thirds of it has been surgically removed. But damage from medications, alcohol abuse or obesity can eventually cause the liver to fail. Currently, the only effective treatment for end-stage liver disease is transplantation.

However, there is a dearth of organs available for transplantation. Patients may have to wait from 30 days to over five years to receive a liver for transplant in the US. Of the over 11,600 patients on the waiting list to receive a liver transplant in 2021, only a little over 9,200 received one.

But what if, instead of liver transplantation, there were a drug that could help the liver regenerate itself?

I am the founding director of the Pittsburgh Liver Research Center and run a lab studying liver regeneration and cancer. In our 2022 study, my team and I found that activating a particular protein with a new medication can help accelerate regeneration and repair after severe liver injury or partial surgical removal in mice.

The liver performs over 500 key functions in your body, including producing proteins that carry fat through the body, converting excess glucose into glycogen for storage and breaking down toxins like ammonia, among

others.

Liver cells, or hepatocytes, take on these many tasks by a divide-and-conquer strategy, also called zonation. This separates the liver into three zones with different tasks, and cells are directed to perform specialized functions by turning on specific genes active in each zone. However, exactly what controls the expression of these genes has been poorly understood.

Over the past two decades, my team and other labs have identified one group of 19 proteins called Wnts that play an important role in controlling liver function and regeneration. While researchers know that Wnt proteins help activate the repair process in damaged liver cells, which ones actually control zonation and regeneration, as well as their exact location in the liver, have been a mystery.

Technology

To identify these proteins and where they came from, my team and I used a new technology called molecular cartography to identify how strongly and where 100 liver function genes are active. We found that only two of 19 Wnt genes, Wnt2 and Wnt9b, were functionally present in the liver. We also found that Wnt2 and Wnt9b were located in the endothelial cells lining the blood vessels in zone 3 of the liver, an area that plays a role in a number of metabolic functions.

To our surprise, eliminating these two Wnt genes resulted in all liver cells expressing only genes typically limited to zone 1, significantly limiting

the liver's overall function. This finding suggests that liver cells experience an ongoing push and pull in gene activation that can modify their functions, and Wnt is the master regulator of this process.

Eliminating the two Wnt genes from endothelial cells also completely stopped liver cell division, and thus regeneration, after partial surgical removal of the liver.

We then decided to test whether a new drug could help recover liver zonation and regeneration. This drug, an antibody called FL6.13, shares similar functions with Wnt proteins, including activating liver regeneration.

Over the course of two days, we gave this drug to mice that were genetically engineered to lack Wnt2 and Wnt9b in their liver endothelial cells. We found that the drug was able to nearly completely recover liver cell division and repair functions.

Lastly, we wanted to test how well this drug worked to repair the liver after Tylenol overdose. Tylenol, or acetaminophen, is an over-the-counter medication commonly used to treat fever and pain. However, an overdose of Tylenol can cause severe liver damage. Without immediate medical attention, it can lead to liver failure and death. Tylenol poisoning is one of the most common causes of severe liver injury requiring liver transplantation in the U.S. Despite this, there is currently only one medication available to treat it, and it is only able to prevent liver damage if taken shortly after overdose. (AP)

NASA livestreams spectacular show

'Ring of Fire' eclipse wows the Americas

CANCÚN, México, Oct 15, (AP): First came the darkening skies, then the crescent-shaped shadows on the ground, and finally an eruption of cheers by crowds that gathered Saturday along the narrow path of a rare "ring of fire" eclipse of the sun.

It was a spectacular show for millions of people across the Americas as the moon moved into place and blocked out all but a brilliant circle of the sun's outer edge.

Hundreds of people filed into the planetarium in the Caribbean resort city of Cancún to watch the eclipse. Some peered through box projectors, while others looked through telescopes and special glasses.

Excited children whistled, as some adults raised their arms toward the sky as if to welcome the eclipse.

Shadows

Vendors selling plants outside observed the dance between the moon and the sun in a more natural way - with the help of trees as the shifting sunlight filtered through the leaves, casting unique shadows on the sidewalk.

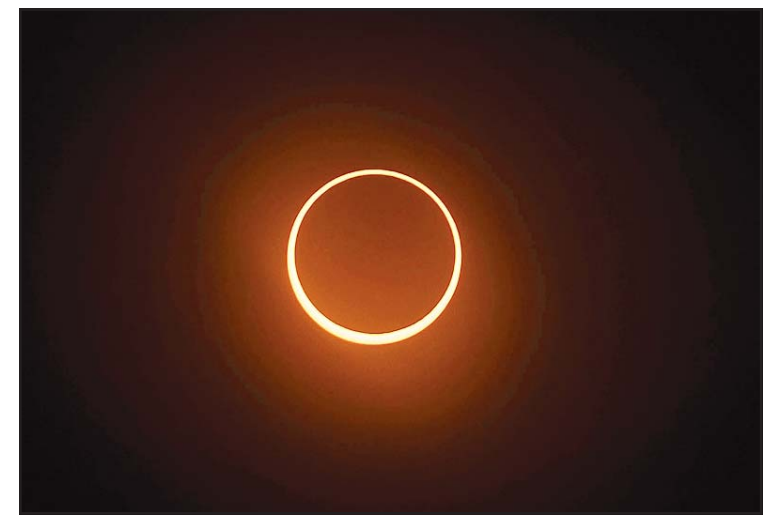
"There was silence and like a mist, as if it was dusk, but only a few minutes later the birds were singing again," said Carmen Jardines, 56, one of the vendors.

Artemia Carreto, was telling passersby about her experience as a child in southern Mexico, when they were told to look instead at the river where it reflected beautifully on the sand beneath the water.

While she wasn't near a river this time, Carreto said she was carried away by the sensations induced by changing temperatures and a feeling of heaviness that she pegged to the rotation of the Earth.

For Pilar Cáceres, there was a sense of energy.

"It is something that nature brings us and that we must watch," said the 77-year-old retired elementary school teacher who watched the eclipse by following its shadow through a piece



The 'ring of fire' annular eclipse during the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta in Albuquerque, N.M., on Saturday, Oct. 14. (AP)

of cardboard.

Ancient Maya astronomers who tracked the movements of the sun and moon with precision referred to eclipses as "broken sun." They may have used dark volcanic glass to protect their eyes, said archeologist Arturo Montero of Tepeyac University in Mexico City.

Unlike a total solar eclipse, the moon doesn't completely cover the sun during a ring of fire eclipse. When the moon lines up between Earth and the sun, it leaves a bright, blazing border.

The entire eclipse - from the moment the moon starts to obscure the sun until it's back to normal - lasted 2 1/2 to three hours at any given spot. The ring of fire portion was from three to five minutes, depending on the location.

Saturday's US path: Oregon, Nevada, Utah, New Mexico and Texas in the US, with a sliver of California, Arizona and Colorado. Then: Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, Belize, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia and Brazil. Much of the rest of the Western Hemisphere got a partial eclipse.

NASA and other groups livestreamed the event.

In the US, some eclipse watchers traveled to remote corners of the country to try to get the best view possible while those in Albuquerque got a double treat as the eclipse coincided with an international balloon fiesta that typically draws tens of thousands of spectators and hundreds of hot air balloon pilots from around the world.

There were hoots, hollers and yelps from the balloon launch field as the moon began to cover the sun. Some pilots used their propane burners to shoot flames upward in unison as the spectacle unfolded.

"It's very exciting to be here and have the convergence of our love of flying with something very natural like an eclipse," said Allan Hahn, a balloon pilot from Aurora, Colorado.

At Bryce Canyon National Park in Utah, enthusiasts hit the trails before sunrise to stake out their preferred spots among the red rock hoodoos.

With the ring of fire in full form, cheers echoed through the canyons of the park.

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Bach urged by members to extend term limit and seek 4 more years

IOC warns countries that block athletes for political reasons risk harming bids

MUMBAI, Oct 15, (AP) — Countries that exclude athletes from competing for political reasons risk harming their plans to host an Olympic Games, the IOC said Sunday.

The “growing politicization of sport” was flagged as a problem by International Olympic Committee member Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, the former president of Croatia, in an update to global sports leaders about countries who want to host the games in future.

Though she did not identify problematic countries, Poland and Indonesia have expressed interest in hosting the 2036 Olympics. It is the next Summer Games available to be awarded.

Poland refused to let Russian athletes compete in the European Games this year and Indonesia was stripped by soccer governing body FIFA of hosting the men’s Under-20 World Cup in May because the Muslim-majority nation did not want to stage Israel games.

“We have witnessed more and more government restrictions being placed on athletes’ access to international sporting competitions,” Grabar-Kitarović said in Mumbai at the IOC’s annual meeting. It opened Saturday with India’s Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying his country wants to be the 2036 host.

The IOC panel that liaises with potential Summer Games

bidders, which Grabar-Kitarović chairs, “must take any infringement of the Olympic Charter into consideration at all stages of the dialogue,” she said.

“It is important that all interested parties and preferred hosts commit to abide by the IOC’s code of ethics and rules of conduct,” she said.

Indonesian soccer federation president Erick Thohir also is an elected IOC member though was announced absent Sunday at the start of the meeting.

OLYMPICS

A decision on the 2036 Olympics host should be taken “not before 2026 or 2027,” Grabar-Kitarović said, in a new process that avoids public campaigns and a contested vote. Olympic hosts were traditionally picked when a slate of candidates were put to the 100-strong IOC membership.

Instead, potential hosts now work behind the scenes with the IOC, which leads to a preferred candidate getting an exclusive negotiating period to fine-tune its plans.

The 2032 Olympics host Brisbane was the first chosen this way two years ago when IOC members simply approved a recommendation from the executive board chaired by their

president Thomas Bach.

Grabar-Kitarović added that the 2036 pick should be made under “new IOC leadership” - because Bach’s 12-year presidential term limit expires in 2025.

IOC president Thomas Bach was urged by several members Sunday to change Olympic statutes on term limits and seek four more years as president through 2029.

Bach’s presidency is due to end in 2025 - a 12-year maximum agreed in anti-corruption reforms passed after the Salt Lake City bid scandal broke in the 1990s.

However, citing the recent years of global crises, several of the 99 International Olympic Committee members opened their annual meeting Sunday suggesting they needed more of Bach’s leadership that started in 2013.

The Olympic movement needed “to go through this period of torment with a president who has proved his mettle,” said the Algerian leader of African Olympic bodies, Mustapha Berraf.

“We really need to be able to rely on the leadership you have shown,” said IOC member Luis Mejia Oviedo of the Dominican Republic, in praise echoed by colleagues from Paraguay and Djibouti.

Though Bach has never publicly sought a term limit-busting third mandate, the option has been spoken of in international sports circles since he was re-elected in 2021 at a

meeting held remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic. The IOC gives its president a first term of eight years.

“I cannot hide how that went straight to my heart,” Bach told IOC members of their support at its meeting being held in Mumbai, India.

Bach neither encouraged nor dismissed the proposal though noted the presidential term limit is enshrined in the IOC’s book of rules and principles.

“I’m very loyal to the Olympic Charter,” the German lawyer said. “Being a co-author of this Olympic Charter drives me to be even more loyal.”

In a later update on Winter Games hosting, IOC members approved as expected a proposal to choose the 2030 and 2034 hosts at the same time in Paris.

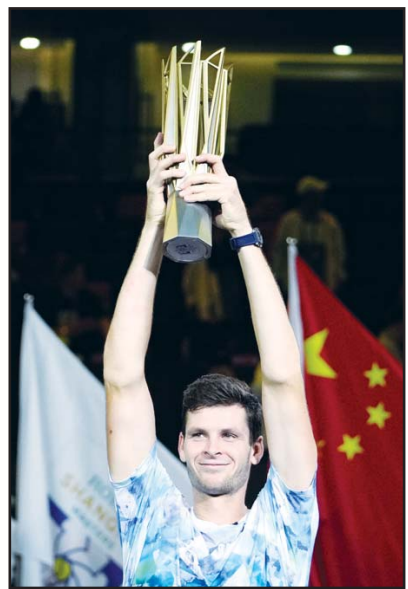
Sweden, France and Switzerland have been preparing bids for 2030. In the United States, Salt Lake City has targeted the 2034 edition though IOC members voted Sunday that organizers in Utah are available for 2030 if needed.

Swedish sports bodies have opposed Russian athletes and teams being reintegrated to international events during the war in Ukraine. Both the Swedish and Swiss soccer federations last year refused to play Russian opponents before the country was excluded from, respectively, men’s World Cup qualifying and the women’s European Championship.

Pegula beats Yuan in Korea Open final

Hurkacz claims Shanghai Masters title

SHANGHAI, Oct 15, (AP) — Hubert Hurkacz claimed his second Masters title in a dramatic final at the Shanghai Masters on Sunday, saving a match point before prevailing 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (8) against Andrey Rublev.



Hubert Hurkacz of Poland holds up his winning trophy after defeating Andrey Rublev of Russia in the men’s singles final match of the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament at Qizhong Forest Sports City Tennis Center in Shanghai, China. (AP)

Like he did in his impressive semifinal win over Sebastian Korda, the Polish player’s serve was again his strike weapon as he sent down 21 aces and won more than 80% of his first serve points.

Hurkacz struck the first blow of the final with a forehand winner to break Rublev in the sixth game, which proved decisive in taking the opening set.

It was the first set that the 25-year-old Russian player had dropped in the tournament but it seemed to spur him on, as the No. 7-ranked player found his range in the second, hitting 16 winners to force a decider.

As the match tightened, Rublev saved one match point on serve at 4-5 before taking a 5-2 advantage in the third set tiebreaker. Hurkacz responded by firing back-to-back aces before forcing a Rublev error to level at 5-5.

Rublev then earned a match point at 6-5, which Hurkacz saved, before he converted on his fourth chance to take the title after two hours and nine minutes.

TENNIS

“It was such a battle,” Hurkacz said. “Especially emotionally. I had a match point and Andrey hit an amazing serve and then he had a match point and then I had some match points. It was back and forth and such a tricky match. Andrey was playing some great shots. I was trying to respond. It was one of those matches and I kept believing and I am super happy with how I managed at the end.”

“It is such a big tournament and so much tradition. It is a huge event and I am really happy now.”

The 26-year-old has now won seven tour-level titles, with his triumph in Shanghai joining his Masters title win at Miami in 2021.

Jessica Pegula beat Yuan Yue 6-2, 6-3 in the final of the Korea Open on Sunday for the fourth title of her career.

The top-seeded Pegula dropped only one set through the tournament and becomes the first American since Venus Williams in 2007 to win the title in Seoul.

“My mom is Korean and she was adopted from here so it’s really special to be able to win here,” Pegula said. “In the last few years, as my ranking has gone up, I’ve definitely felt so much more support from the fans, a lot more than I expected coming back here from five years ago. So it’s really special.”

Playing in her first career final, 128th-ranked Yuan showed no signs of nerves and earned a break point in Pegula’s opening service game, which the American saved with a forehand winner.

The world No. 4-ranked player then won eight consecutive games to take the first set and build a 3-0 lead in the second as a quick victory looked likely.

Yuan then rallied to get back to 4-3 but Pegula’s power from the baseline propelled her to her first title since Montreal earlier this year and her first outside of North America.

Leylah Fernandez rallied from a set down to defeat Katerina Siniakova 3-6, 6-4, 6-4 and win the Hong Kong Open for her first title in 19 months.

It is the third title of the 21-year-old Canadian’s career and first since winning at Monterrey in March 2022. After the win, she will also move back inside the top 50 in the rankings next week.

“We had a very, very hard past couple of years,” Fernandez said. “My family, my parents, my coach, and my performance coach stayed by my side.”

“They motivated me to keep going and the hard work is paying off. Hopefully, we can keep going this way.”

NZ stay on course for record 4th title



New Zealand’s Richie Mo’unga, (bottom), and Ireland’s Peter O’Mahony vie for a high ball during the Rugby World Cup quarterfinal match between Ireland and New Zealand at the Stade de France in Saint-Denis, near Paris. (AP)

Argentina reach semis

PARIS, Oct 15, (AP) — New Zealand withstood three comebacks from top-ranked Ireland and two yellow cards to win a gripping Rugby World Cup quarterfinal 28-24 and stay on course for a record fourth title.

The All Blacks come back to Stade de France to meet Argentina next Friday, after the Pumas rallied to beat Wales 29-17 in Marseille earlier.

RUGBY

Ireland goes home after falling short again with an eighth Rugby World Cup quarterfinal defeat. The Irish trailed 13-0 and 18-10 in the first half, and by 25-17 in the second half before a penalty try made it a one-point contest with a little more than 15 minutes left. Hooker Codie Taylor was sin-binned for collapsing the maul, leaving New Zealand a man down for the second time.

The tension rose again when Jordie Barrett missed a penalty, but he slotted his next penalty kick to give New Zealand a slender four-point cushion with 10 minutes left.

New Zealand resisted a huge maul

on the tryline with a few minutes left and then incredibly withstood 37 Irish phases on the last all-for-nothing Irish attack for a monumental victory.

New Zealand’s first-half tries came from left winger Leicester Fainga’anuku and No. 8 Ardie Savea; Ireland’s from center Bundee Aki and scrumhalf Jamison Gibson-Park, both New Zealand-born.

Right winger Will Jordan’s brilliant try early in the second half, expertly set up and then converted by flyhalf Richie

Mo’unga, gave the All Blacks a 25-17 lead.

The first half was cagey. Fainga’anuku’s early try helped the All Blacks to 13-0 and gave him his fifth try of the tournament. But a penalty from standout flyhalf Jonathan Sexton and Aki’s well-taken converted try dragged the Irish back to 13-10.

Aki took a high catch from James Lowe and ghosted inside center Rieko Ioane and Shannon Frizell, slipped two weak cover tackles, and crashed over.



Germany’s Robin Gosens, (right), plays the ball as United States’ Joe Scalley defends during an international friendly soccer match at Pratt & Whitney Stadium at Rentschler Field in East Hartford, Conn. (AP)

Reyna plays under Berhalter for first time since feud

Germany rally to beat US in exhibition

EAST HARTFORD, Conn., Oct 15, (AP) — Niclas Füllkrug and Jamal Musiala scored three minutes apart early in the second half, and Germany rallied to beat the United States 3-1 in an exhibition as Gio Reyna played under American coach Gregg Berhalter for the first time since their family feud erupted.

Christian Pulisic put the 11th-ranked U.S. ahead in the 27th minute, and Ilkay Gündogan tied the score in the 39th. Füllkrug got the go-ahead goal in the 58th, and Musiala padded the margin in the 61st as No. 15 Germany won its first match since Julian Nagelsmann replaced Hansi Flick as coach.

Reyna, his hair newly dyed blond, played the first half in his first start since fracturing his right leg in a CONCACAF Nations League match against

Canada in June. The 20-year-old midfielder had been limited since the injury to a 27-minute substitute appearance for Dortmund in the Bundesliga on Oct. 7.

Berhalter said during a management conference after the tournament that he nearly sent a player home from Qatar for lack of effort during training, remarks clearly about Reyna.

SOCCER

Reyna’s parents, former U.S. captain Claudio Reyna and midfielder Danielle Egan, contacted the U.S. Soccer Federation about a three-decades-old domestic violence allegation involving Berhalter and the woman who later became his wife. Berhalter was replaced

by a pair of interim coaches and, after a law firm retained by the United States Soccer Federation determined he did not improperly withhold information when he was hired in 2018, was rehired to resume coaching in September.

The U.S. went ahead when Pulisic accelerated around Jonathan Tah, cut to the center and turned around Antonio Rüdiger, then lifted a shot to Marc-André ter Stegen’s upper left corner for his 27th goal in 63 international appearances.

Gündogan tied the score with his 18th international goal and first since the World Cup. Leroy Sané spun left back Sergio Dest, cut across the top of the penalty area and twice exchanged passes with Gündogan. After goalkeeper Matt Turner committed.

Inter 'strike' deal to play exhibitions

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla., Oct 15, (AP) — Lionel Messi is evidently going back to China, after Inter Miami took advantage of not making the Major League Soccer playoffs by signing a deal to play two exhibitions there next month.

The team said it would play a pair of friendlies against Chinese Super League teams, first in Qingdao, China against Qingdao Hainiu on Nov. 5 and then against Chengdu Rongcheng in Chengdu, China on Nov. 8. Those two stadiums can both hold between 50,000 and 60,000 fans.

Those dates coincide with the first round of the MLS playoffs. Inter Miami was eliminated from playoff contention earlier this month.

SOCCER

Inter Miami’s announcement of the deal did not specifically mention Messi or any other player, though it would be surprising if Chinese officials agreed to the games without some sort of guarantee that the seven-time Ballon d’Or winner and the team’s other best-known standouts - Sergio Busquets and Jordi Alba among them - would be making the trip if physically able.

“This will be a great opportunity to continue building on our 2023 campaign, in which we achieved our first-ever trophy,” Inter Miami sporting director and chief soccer officer Chris Henderson said in a release distributed by the team. “We will take this as an opportunity to begin our preparations for 2024, as we look to build on last season and find more success moving forward.”

If Messi - who led Argentina to the World Cup title last year - play - it would be at least the eighth time he has traveled to China for exhibitions for club or country since 2005. Ticket for all previous Messi appearances have sold at a wild pace in China, a nation that has a massive soccer following even without much in the way of global success by the men’s national team. China’s women made the World Cup final in 1999, falling to the U.S. in a penalty-kick shootout to decide the title at the Rose Bowl in California.

Messi has played in China as recently as this past June, shortly after he stunned much of the soccer world by announcing that he was signing a 2 1/2-year contract worth around \$150 million to come to MLS and play for Inter Miami.

Best of the Rest

Herbst scores 1st career win:

Riley Herbst scored the first NASCAR national series win of his career in dominating fashion at his home track.

Herbst led 103 of 201 laps Saturday to win at Las Vegas Motor Speedway, the home track for the third-generation racer. His grandfather, father and uncles are considered the first family of desert racing and inductees into the Southern Nevada Sports Hall of Fame.

The family also owns a large chain of convenience stores and service stations dating to 1937.

Herbst, who is 24, has ventured beyond the desert into asphalt and has been plugging away in NASCAR since 2018. His Xfinity win Saturday was Herbst’s first NASCAR national series win in 154 starts across the three series.

“Oh my goodness, you don’t even know what this means, what this takes off my chest,” Herbst said. “I can’t believe it. I love you, Las Vegas.”

He beat Xfinity Series championship leader John Hunter Nemechek by nearly 15 seconds. (AP)

11-time PGA Tour winner, dies:

Andy Bean, an 11-time PGA Tour winner and three times a runner-up in the majors, died Saturday after complications from a double lung replacement surgery, the PGA Tour said. He was 70.

Bean had lung replacement surgery in September. His friend, Alan Pope, posted on Facebook at the time that Bean’s lungs had been damaged from COVID-19.

Bean was a giant of a man on the PGA Tour at 6-foot-4, and he once earned the reputation for wrestling an alligator at Q-school, a story he explained a few years later was little more than swatting it on the tail while playing alongside a player who had never seen a gator.

“I walked over to the gator, who was more scared of me than I was of him. I grabbed his tail, and he jumped back into the pond. That’s all there was to it, but the story got out that I’d been wrestling this gator and threw him into the pond.” Bean said at the Doral-Eastern Open in 1977.

FIA to review Hamilton's actions at Qatar GP

LONDON, Oct 15, (AP) — Formula One’s governing body is reviewing a penalty giving to seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton

for crossing the track after climbing out of his car following a first-lap collision at last Sunday’s Qatar Grand Prix.

Hamilton tangled with his Mercedes teammate George Russell after making a flying start and went spinning off into the gravel trap when trying to overtake him. He jumped straight out of the cockpit and crossed the circuit, which is a breach of regulations.

Following a stewards’ investigation, he was issued his first reprimand of the season and fined 50,000 euros (\$52,560), with 25,000 euros (\$26,280) suspended pending any further breach this season.

But given his role model status within the series, and the danger represented, governing body FIA feels this may not have been enough.

Hamilton reached the inside edge of the Lo-sail track shortly before Russell arrived at full speed having exited the pit lane.

“The FIA notes that Lewis was apologetic during the subsequent stewards’ hearing into the incident

and acknowledged that the crossing was a serious safety breach,” the FIA said in a statement Sunday. “However, in view of his role model status, the FIA is concerned about the impression his actions may have created on younger drivers.”

MOTOR RACING

Hamilton is F1’s record holder with 103 wins but has not won a race since the penultimate race of the 2021 season in Saudi Arabia. He is third in the F1 standings behind Red Bull drivers Sergio Perez and Max Verstappen, who clinched his third straight F1 title in Qatar.



Hamilton

Lost Original MBA Degree Certificate for Karan Oberoi

I Karan Oberoi, holder of Passport no. N5194726 have lost my original MBA Degree Certificate in Kuwait issued from Indira Gandhi National Open University, India (Enrollment no. 179100329). Last seen in a brown envelope folder

If found, please contact me on 99266801 or email at oberoisony@hotmail.com. Your assistance is greatly appreciated!

SPORTS



Ibrahim Al Amir prepares to shoot

Kuwait release roster for Oly qualifiers

Khaled El Anzi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: The Handball Federation's training body and national teams have officially released the roster of players who will compete in the Asian qualifiers for the 2024 Paris Olympics. This event is scheduled to take place in Doha, Qatar, from the 18th to the 28th of this month.

The published list, as shared by Al-Ittihad on their social media platform, features the following players: Muhammad Al-Sanea, Muhammad Qambar, Muhammad Boyabes, Fawaz Mubarak, Abdul-Rahman Al-Shammari, Saleh Al-Moussawi, Muhammad Al-Hindal, Haider Dashti, Youssef Daif, Hassan Safar, Abdulaziz Al-Shammari, Mishaal Al-Harbi, Abdullah Al-Khamis, Abdulaziz Salmeen, Fahd Salbakh, Muhammad Al-Erian, Ibrahim Al-Amir, Muhammad Ghazanfar, Hussein Al-Kandari, and Mahdi Al-Haddad.

In the Paris 24 qualifiers, our national team will compete in the second group alongside Iran, Bahrain, Japan, and Kazakhstan. Meanwhile, the first group consists of Qatar, Saudi

Arabia, South Korea, the United Arab Emirates, India, and China.

As per the qualification system, the champions of the qualifiers secure direct entry to the 2024 Paris Olympics, while the second and third-place teams earn a chance to qualify for the Olympic qualifying round.

The Kuwait delegation departed for Doha last Friday, and the team had a practice match against the Saudi Green.

HANDBALL

In line with the qualifying schedule, Kuwait will kick off their campaign with a match against Iran next Thursday. They will then face Japan on the 21st and Bahrain on the following day. The preliminary round will conclude with a match against Kazakhstan on the 24th of this month.

It's worth noting that the Kuwaiti national team delivered outstanding performances during the 19th Asian Games held in China this month, securing a well-deserved bronze medal.

Koepka defends title in Saudi Arabia

Al-Attiah wins 5th Bahrain Amateur Open Golf Championship

KING ABDULLAH ECONOMIC CITY, Saudi Arabia, Oct 15, (Agencies): Brooks Koepka held it together at the end for a 2-under 68 and defended his title at LIV Golf-Jeddah with a birdie on the second playoff hole to beat Tator Gooch on a day when both had reason to celebrate.

Koepka had to birdie two of his last three holes to finish at 14-under 196 and tie with Gooch, who closed with a 62. With his playoff loss, Gooch moved past Cameron Smith and won the season points title and the \$18 million bonus.

Koepka not only won \$4 million from the tournament, his victory bumped Bryson DeChambeau out of the top three in the season standings. Koepka picked up an additional \$4 million for finishing third in the points race.



Koepka

DeChambeau fell back Sunday with a 70. Smith had a 66 and tied for 24th.

The LIV Golf League wraps up its second season next week at Doral in South Florida with the team championship.

Koepka ends his year with two LIV Golf titles, along with his fifth major at the PGA Championship. He was the only LIV player to get picked for the Ryder Cup team.

Saudi golfer Khaled Attiah secured victory in the fifth edition of the Bahrain Amateur Open Golf Championship Cup, held at the Royal Golf Club from October 12 to 14. The event featured a competitive field of 85 players.

Khaled Attiah delivered a remarkable performance showcasing his exceptional technical skills. He outperformed his competitors

GOLF

by the conclusion of the third round, amassing a total of 203 points, earning him a well-deserved spot on the podium and a coveted ticket to the DP World Tour scheduled for next February.

In the final standings, Khaled Attiah was ahead of Qatari golfer Saleh Al-Kaabi, who claimed the second position with 210 points, and Emirati golfer Sam Mullin, who secured third place with 212 points.

The awards ceremony took place under the patronage of Major-General Ali Al-Nuaimi, the President of the Bahrain Golf Association. He commended all the players who participated in the tournament, recognizing their contributions to the success of the championship.

The Bahrain Golf Association, through hosting this tournament, aims to foster competition among the participants, showcasing the elevated level that the sport of golf has reached not only in the Kingdom but also across the Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

Angel Yin wins LPGA Shanghai tournament for maiden tour title

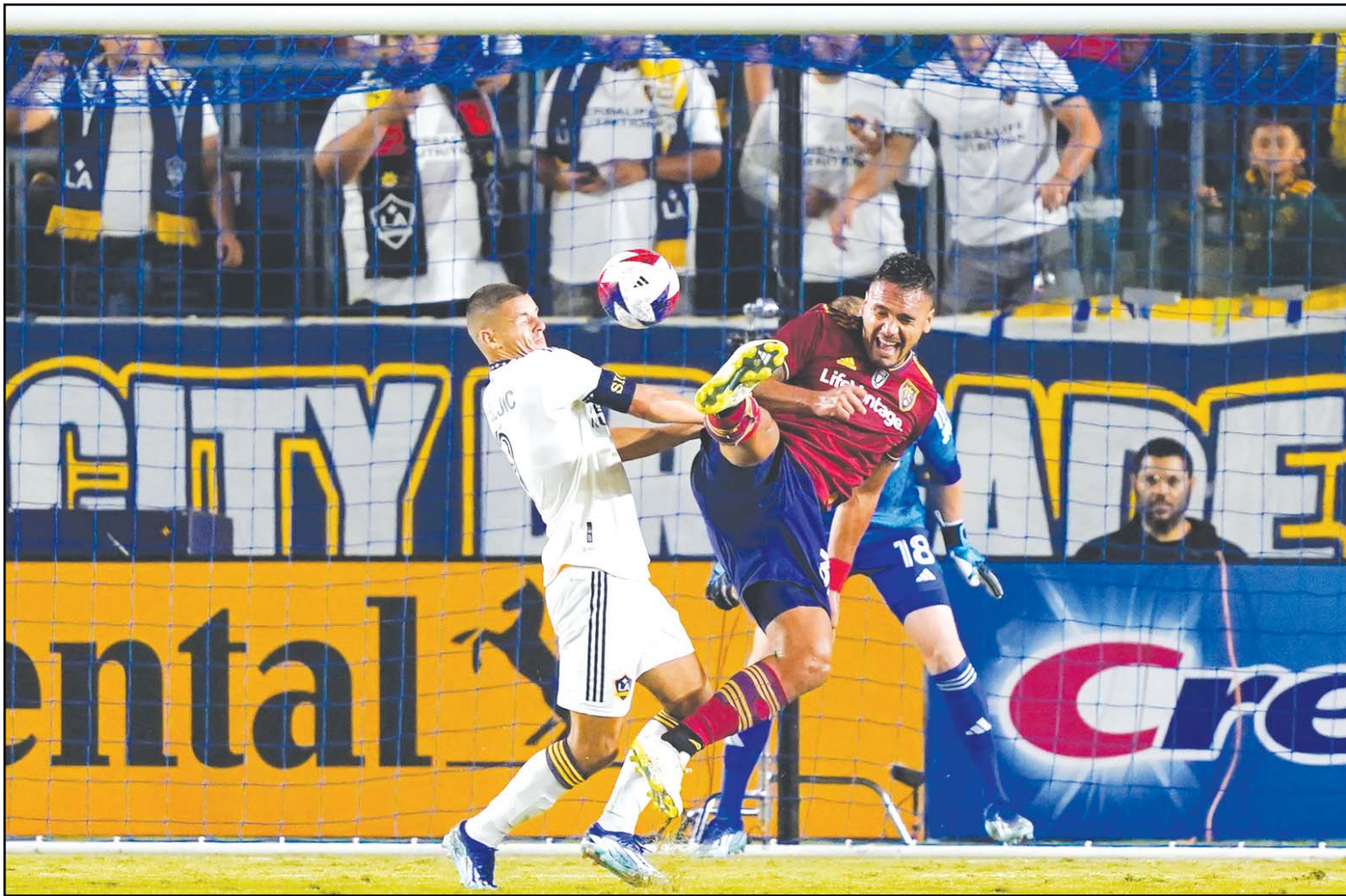
American Solheim Cup player Angel Yin defeated top-ranked Lilia Vu on the first playoff hole to win the LPGA Shanghai tournament on Sunday for her first tour win.

Both Yin and Vu finished at 14-under 274 on the Qizhong Garden Golf Club course forcing a playoff, where Yin made a birdie at the par-4 18th after Vu had narrowly missed her 20-foot birdie putt.

It was 25-year-old Yin's first victory in her 159th start and she shared a warm embrace with compatriot Vu on her breakthrough win.

Yin was tied with Maja Stark for the overnight lead at 12 under and on Sunday shot a 70, with three birdies and a lone bogey on the 6th.

Vu shot a 4-under 68, with six birdies and two bogeys, and was the clubhouse leader at 14-under, until Yin birdied the par-5 17th and then made par on the final hole to force a playoff.



A Galaxy forward Dejan Joveljic, (left), attempts to head the ball as Real Salt Lake defender Marcelo Silva defends during the first half of an MLS soccer match in Carson, Calif. (AP)

Notre Dame hands USC first loss in 48-20 drubbing

Walker snags 3 TD catches to help UNC remain perfect

CHAPEL HILL, N.C., Oct 15, (AP): Devontez "Tez" Walker kept getting a step on defenders, snagging catches and breaking loose to the end zone for No. 12 North Carolina.

"His presence is a game changer," coach Mack Brown said.

Walker caught three of Drake Maye's four touchdown passes and UNC took over after halftime to beat No. 25 Miami 41-31 on Saturday night, extending what has been the program's best start in 26 years.

Walker had 132 yards on his six catches in his first start for the Tar Heels (6-0, 3-0 Atlantic Coast Conference), with that start having been delayed after a long eligibility fight with the NCAA.

The Kent State transfer didn't play the first four games when the NCAA wouldn't grant a waiver for immediate eligibility, citing tougher restrictions on athletes regarded as two-time transfers, before unexpectedly reversing itself last week.

Walker had six catches for 43 yards in a last-minute rush of preparation to get on the field last week against Syracuse. This time, he had a full week of practice to be fully integrated into the offense, then showed his ability as a game-breaking downfield threat for the Tar Heels' star passer.

FOOTBALL

"I was able to have a full week to prepare ... (getting) some of that chemistry back we had in the spring," Walker said.

Omarion Hampton scored two short TDs - one on the ground, one through the air - to go with 197 yards rushing for the Tar Heels, including a 60-yarder with UNC working on the clock in the fourth quarter with a two-touchdown lead. Maye threw for 273 yards and overcame early pressure from Miami's defensive front.

The Tar Heels trailed 17-14 at the break after a penalty-filled half, but ran off 24 straight points in the third quarter to push ahead for good.

Tyler Van Dyke threw for 391 yards and four touchdowns for the Hurricanes (4-2, 0-2), with two of those scores going to Xavier Restrepo. Jacoby George and Brashard Smith also had TD catches for Miami.

But a week after a crushing last-second loss to Georgia Tech, Miami struggled badly in the third quarter, both in moving the ball and slowing down the Tar Heels. Miami managed just 32 yards in the third, which included Miami losing a fumble on a low snap and Van Dyke throwing an interception.

Walker got loose on a deep route



Hassan Hamdan and Badr Tariq in action.

over the middle for an 18-yard touchdown grab in the first quarter. He struck again on Maye's perfectly placed deep ball - flying over the outstretched arm of Jaden Davis - that hit Walker in stride for a 56-yard TD in the opening minutes of the third.

Walker's third came when Maye hit him for a 34-yarder that had him cutting through the middle of the Miami defense and breaking into the clear for

a 28-17 lead.

With its season in danger of spiraling, Notre Dame harassed the Heisman Trophy winner and knocked its fiercest rival from the rankings of the unbeaten.

Xavier Watts intercepted Caleb Williams twice and returned a fumble for a touchdown as No. 21 Notre Dame handed No. 10 Southern California its first loss in a 48-20 victory on Saturday night.



Southern California quarterback Caleb Williams (13) attempts to throw the ball as Notre Dame linebacker Jaylen Sneed, center, and defensive lineman Howard Cross III, right, pressure him during the second half of an NCAA college football game against Southern California in South Bend, Ind. (AP)

Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

DUBAI, Oct 15: The Kuwaiti national team wrapped up their training sessions this evening at their camp in the UAE, making final preparations for their upcoming friendly match against the Syria. This friendly is part of their groundwork for the 2026 World Cup and 2027 Asian Cup qualifiers.

In their first friendly match, Al-Azraq suffered a narrow defeat against the United Arab Emirates.

The team's Portuguese coach, Rui Pinto, has been focused during recent training on rectifying the errors made by certain players. He has urged the team to meticulously follow instructions, put their performance against the Emirates behind them, and strive to deliver a convincing and standout performance. This is especially crucial as this will be Al-Azraq's final match before they kick off their qualifying campaign in mid-November.

SOCCER

On the other hand, the Syrian national team's Argentine coach, Hector Cuper, has called up Youssef Muhammad to join the squad due to the injury sustained by Omar Maidani in their recent match. After a thorough examination by the national team's medical staff, it was determined that Omar Maidani had a strain in the adductor longus muscle of his right thigh, requiring a 10-day period of rest and physical therapy.

Cuper has unveiled the list of players who will take on Al-Azraq, including Ibrahim Alama, Ahmed Madaniyah, Amjad Al-Sayed, Maxime Sarraf, Amr Janiyat, Abdel-Rahman Wais, Moayed Al-Kholy, Thaer Kroma, Saad Ahmed, Moayed Al-Ajan, Khaled Kardghli, Mahmoud Al-Mawas, Ammar Ramadan, Mohamed Hallaq, Fahd Youssef, Omar Al-Somah, Omar Khribin, Mardik Mardikian and Yassin Samia.

Dallas draw

Galaxy clinch top-four seed

CARSON, Calif., Oct 15, (AP): Diego Luna scored in the second half to help Real Salt Lake rally from two goals down to a 2-2 draw with the Los Angeles Galaxy on Saturday night.

Defending-champion Los Angeles FC clinched a top-four seed in the Western Conference with the tie by Real Salt Lake (13-12-8).

The Galaxy (8-13-12), with 21-year-old Novak Movic making his first career appearance in goal, grabbed a 1-0 lead in the 7th minute when Dejan Joveljic took passes from Daniel Aguirre and Douglas Costa and scored his sixth goal of the season.

Joveljic returned the favor, picking up an assist on Costa's netter in the 34th minute to put the Galaxy up 2-0. It was Costa's third goal this season.

Real Salt Lake pulled within a goal by halftime when Anderson Julio used a pass from Nelson Palacio in the first minute of stoppage time to notch his fifth netter of the season.

Luna netted his fourth goal of the season to tie it, scoring unassisted in the 76th minute.

Zac MacMath totaled five saves for Real Salt Lake. Movic saved three shots for the Galaxy.

Los Angeles improves to 9-1-3 in its last 13 home matches with Real Salt Lake in all competitions.

SOCCER

The Galaxy close out the regular season at home on Saturday against FC Dallas. Real Salt Lake travels to play the Colorado Rapids in its finale.

Alan Velasco scored late in the first half and FC Dallas settled for a 1-1 draw with the Colorado Rapids when a victory would have clinched a spot in the postseason.

Rafael Navarro scored his first career goal, finding the net unassisted in the 25th minute to give Colorado (5-16-12) the lead. It was Navarro's ninth career appearance - all starts.

Velasco answered with his fourth goal of the season, unassisted in the 37th minute to get Dallas (10-10-13) even.

Maarten Paes finished with four saves for Dallas. Marko Ilic saved one shot for Colorado.

The Rapids entered play having won four of the previous five meetings with Dallas, including the last two - but all four wins were at home. Colorado is 0-5-4 in its last nine trips to Frisco.

Colorado snaps a 10-match losing streak on the road in all competitions, one shy of the club record. The Rapids were outscored 30-6 during the skid.

Dallas has played to five straight draws and has finished in a tie in seven of its last eight matches. Dallas is 4-1-10 in its last 15 matches in all competitions.

Dallas end regular-season play on the road on Saturday against the Los Angeles Galaxy. The Rapids will host Real Salt Lake on Saturday in their finale.

Newcomer Sam Surridge scored two straight first-half goals and Nashville SC gave New England rookie goalkeeper Jacob Jackson a rude welcome to the league with a 3-2 victory over the Revolution.

Nashville (13-10-10) snapped a four-match winless streak, a club-record three-match scoreless streak and won for just the second time in its last 12 matches. Nashville allowed only three goals in its previous seven matches but managed to go just 1-1-5.

New England (14-9-10) is now winless in its last 13 road matches (0-7-6) in all competitions. Only one of the seven defeats was by multiple goals.

Jackson, 23, finished with a whopping seven saves in his first career match. Joe Willis saved five shots for Nashville.

Nashville jumped out to a 1-0 lead on Dax McCarty's first goal of the season, unassisted in the 19th minute.

Surridge made it 2-0 with his first career goal in his fifth start and eighth appearance since coming over from Nottingham Forest of the English Premier League as the club's designated player. Surridge, who Nashville paid nearly \$6.5 million to acquire, scored again in the third minute of stoppage time to put Nashville up 3-0 at halftime.

Surridge used assists from Jacob Schaffelburg and defender Daniel Lovitz to score his first goal. Hany Mukhtar and defender Shaq Moore assisted on his second goal.

The Revolution got on the scoreboard four minutes into the second half when Tomás Chancalay took a pass from Gustavo Bou and found the net for a fourth time this season. Chancalay scored unassisted in the 71st minute to get the Revs within a goal.

Nashville, which entered play having been shut out in nine of its previous 14 regular-season matches, takes a 2-1-3 lead in the series. The Revs' lone win came at home. Both teams have already clinched playoff berths with one match left.



Italy's Giacomo Bonaventura (front), celebrates after scoring the opening goal during the Euro 2024 group C qualifying soccer match between Italy and Malta in Bari, Italy. (AP)

Sports

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

Afghans celebrate only their second-ever win at World Cup

England's title defense in trouble after stunning loss to Afghanistan

DELHI, India, Oct 15, (AP) — England's title defense at the Cricket World Cup is in real trouble after losing to Afghanistan by 69 runs on Sunday in one of the biggest shocks in the tournament's history.

Afghanistan were dismissed for 284 with one ball of their innings remaining in New Delhi, but bowled out England for 215 with 9.3 overs left. Only Harry Brook offered serious resistance with a 61-ball 66 at Arun Jaitley Stadium.

The ninth-ranked Afghans celebrated only their second-ever win at the World Cup, the other coming against Scotland in 2015 in their first appearance.

England have lost two of their opening three group games, having been thrashed by New Zealand in the tournament opener.

It was Afghanistan's first-ever ODI win against England.

Off-spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman spun his side to victory with a stunning return of 3-51 in 10 overs. He had also scored a quick-fire 28 off 16 balls in an impressive all-round display.

Afghanistan opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz had smacked the English bowling for 80 off 57 balls with eight fours and four sixes before being run out, after England chose to bowl first. Wrist spinner Adil Rashid took 3-42 as Afghanistan's 284 runs seemed like an under-par total on the tournament's best batting track.

England's campaign is now on the brink with tough games ahead including South Africa, India and Pakistan.

CRICKET

Sri Lanka captain Dasun Shanaka is out of the Cricket World Cup because of a thigh injury and has been replaced in the squad by Chamika Karunaratne.

Shanaka sustained the injury during Sri Lanka's six-wicket loss against Pakistan on Tuesday.

The ICC said Saturday that Shanaka's injury "needs three weeks to recover" and that the technical committee approved Karunaratne, also an all-rounder, as his replacement.

In the absence of Shanaka, vice captain Kusal Mendis will lead the side. He led Sri Lanka in one of the two warm-up games when Shanaka was rested.

Karunaratne, who has played 23 ODI games, is already with the Sri Lanka squad in India as a traveling reserve and will be available for selection in Sri Lanka's next game against Australia on Monday.

Sri Lanka also lost their opener against South Africa by 102 runs.

New Zealand captain Kane Williamson has a fractured thumb but will remain at the Cricket World Cup in hopes of playing next month.

An X-ray revealed an undisplaced fracture, New Zealand Cricket announced Saturday.

Williamson had returned from seven months out with a knee injury and scored 78 in the eight-wicket win.

Tom Blundell will travel to India as backup. Williamson will remain with the squad and is aiming to be available for the final pool matches next month.

"While it's disappointing news, the initial diagnosis has given us some optimism he can still feature later in the pool play following a period of rest and rehabilitation," coach Gary Stead said.

"Kane is clearly a massive part of our side and a world-class player and captain, so we'll look to give him every opportunity we can to return in the tournament," he added.

New Zealand will next play Afghanistan in Chennai on Wednesday.

Italy put scandal-ridden week behind them to rout Malta in Euro qualifying

Slovenia, Denmark maintain tight fight for top spot

MILAN, Oct 15, (AP) — Italy put a scandal-ridden week behind it to beat Malta 4-0 in their European Championship qualifier.

Giacomo Bonaventura set Italy on its way with his first goal for the Azzurri and Domenico Berardi ended his goal drought in style with a goal in each half. Substitute Davide Frattesi netted in stoppage time to continue his scoring streak.

Italy moved within three points of Group C leaders England, which they play on Tuesday at Wembley. Ukraine, which have played one more match, were level on points with Italy after beating North Macedonia 2-0.

North Macedonia had been level on points with Ukraine heading into the match in Prague. Georgiy Sudakov opened the scoring in the 30th minute and Olesandr Karavaiev sealed the match in stoppage time, shortly after coming off the bench.

Italy's preparations for the match in Bari had been interrupted midweek when police questioned Sandro Tonali and Nicolò Zaniolo at the national team's Coverciano training center in a betting investigation. The Premier League players later left the camp.

SOCCER

Italy was also hit by injuries so Bonaventura made his first Azzurri appearance in three years and he became the oldest player to score his first goal for the national team when he broke the deadlock in the 25th minute. Moise Kean tried to dribble into the area but he was blocked and the ball fell to Bonaventura for a magnificent curled effort into the top right corner.

It was the 34-year-old's first Italy goal, in his 15th appearance for his country.

Berardi had already scored six goals for Italy but hadn't found the back of the net in more than two years. He ended that on the stroke of halftime with an effort that went in off the inside of the far post.

And Berardi doubled his tally in the 64th minute following a move that was started by goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma. Giacomo Raspadori crossed the ball from the left and Kean missed it but it came through for Berardi to rush onto at the back post.

Frattesi came on a minute later and went on to score his third goal in his last two matches for his country to cap a morale-boosting win for Italy, although the Azzurri will be expecting a sterner test against England.

Pjuss Sirvys netted twice to help Lithuania win 2-0 at Bulgaria in Group G.

Both teams needed a win to stay in contention for an automatic qualifying position for Euro 2024 but Sirvys scored either side of halftime to end



Ukraine's Vitaly Mykolenko (left), and North Macedonia's Bojan Miovski (right), challenge for the ball during the Euro 2024 group C qualifying soccer match between Ukraine and North Macedonia at the Epet Arena in Prague, Czech Republic. (AP)

Bulgaria's hopes.

Fourth-place Lithuania still have a mountain to climb. They are eight points behind leaders Hungary and five below second-place Serbia. Montenegro have three more points than Lithuania.

Hungary moved solo atop the group with a 2-1 win over Serbia, having played a match less than their opponents.

In the 33rd, Serbia defender Strahinja Pavlović canceled out Barnabas Varga's opener but Roland Sallai restored Hungary's lead a minute later.

Slovenia and Denmark both won again to maintain their tight fight for top spot in Group H.

Slovenia beat Finland 3-0, while Denmark saw off Kazakhstan 3-1.

There has been little to separate both teams which are level on 16 points. Both have also conceded six goals in seven matches, with Slovenia having scored one more than Denmark.

The first tiebreaker is head-to-head results. They drew 1-1 when they met in Slovenia in June. They play again in Denmark next month. Neither team have secured qualification yet from the six-team group.

Finland and Kazakhstan are four points behind and six above Northern Ireland, which beat San Marino 3-0.

Al-Dawas clinches championship title

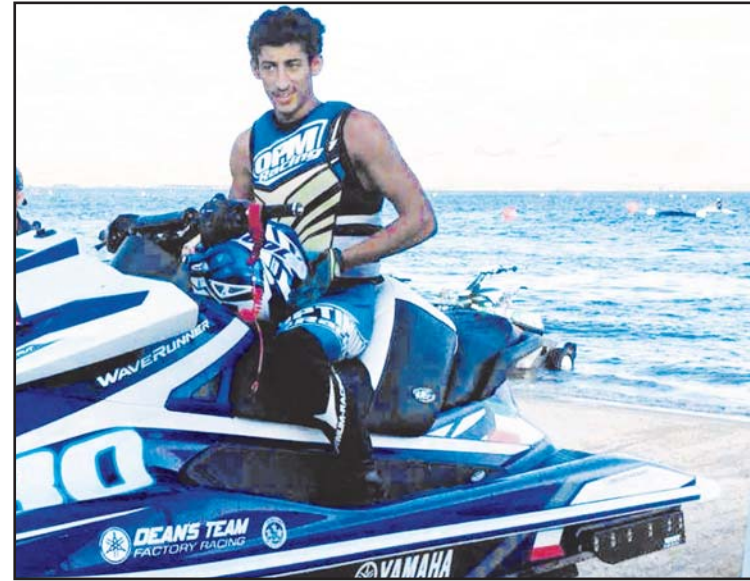
FLORIDA, Oct 15: Kuwaiti racer Rashid Al-Dawas clinched the championship title in the World Cup for Drag Racing in

the stock category. This prestigious event took place in the Lake Alfred region of Florida, USA.

Al-Dawas expressed his immense joy at this recent accomplishment in such a fiercely competitive tournament, where he competed against a formidable field of international racers. The event concluded just yesterday.

He mentioned that he participated in two categories, the "Stock" and "Super Stock," and pointed out that there were approximately 70 participants, with many of them taking part in multiple categories. The competition featured a total of five categories.

It's worth highlighting that Rashid Al-Dawas had recently secured second and third place in the 2023 World Championship held in Lake Havasu, Arizona, USA.



Rashid Al-Dawas

Hawks, T-wolves improve to 3-0 in preseason

COLLEGE PARK, Ga., Oct 15, (AP) — Onyeka Okongwu scored 18 points and the Atlanta Hawks stayed unbeaten in the preseason with a 110-105 victory over the New Orleans Pelicans on Saturday.

Zion Williamson had 16 points in 25 minutes, but New Orleans fell to 0-3.

Okongwu shot 8 for 10 from the field and grabbed six rebounds in the game played at the home of the College Park Skyhawks, the Hawks' NBA G League affiliate. Trae Young had 15 points and five assists, while Dejounte Murray and Jalen Johnson each added 12 points. Murray finished with seven rebounds and four steals.

Young and Murray checked out for good early in the third quarter, when the Hawks (3-0) led by 29 points.

First-round pick Jordan Hawkins from national champion Connecticut made five 3-pointers and scored 17 points for the Pelicans.

Timberwolves 121, Knicks 112
Naz Reid scored 22 points off the bench, Anthony Edwards and Karl-Anthony Towns each had 17 and Minnesota beat New York to improve to 3-0 in the preseason.

The Timberwolves were playing



Utah Jazz guard Jordan Clarkson (00) lays the ball up past Portland Trail Blazers guard Shaedon Sharpe (left) during the second half of an NBA preseason basketball game in Salt Lake City. (AP)

their first game in the U.S. after opening their preseason with two victories

over the Dallas Mavericks in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. They made 20 3-pointers, led by five from Reid and four from Towns.

RJ Barrett scored 23 points in 26 minutes for the Knicks, who fell to 1-1. Miles McBride had 16 points and Evan Fournier, who fell out of the rotation entirely last season, came off the bench for 15 points and three 3-pointers.

BASKETBALL

Jazz 138, Trail Blazers 133

Lauri Markkanen had 26 points and nine rebounds in 25 minutes to lead Utah.

Rookie Keyonte George scored 17 points off the bench, while Collin Sexton added 16 and John Collins had 15 for Utah (2-1).

Anfernee Simons was 12 for 15 from the field and scored 29 points for the Trail Blazers (1-2). Jerami Grant scored 24 points and Shaedon Sharpe finished with 20.

Scot Henderson, the No. 3 pick in the draft, had 17 points and eight assists.



Afghanistan's Rahmanullah Gurbaz plays a shot during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup match between Afghanistan and England in New Delhi, India. (AP)